



The Official Student Publication of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila

# ANG PAMANTASAN

## APT dominates PLM-SSC Election 2019

BY RAVEN VILLALUNA

Ang Partidong Tugon (APT) secured all positions in the Pamantasan ng Maynila's Supreme Student Council (PLM-SSC) on "Boto '19 Boto Natin: Eleksyon 2019" held last February 22, 2019. APT SSC garnered majority of votes of University's student populace; John Benedict C. Bien, APT SSC President garnered 994 votes; Hannah J. Enriquez, APT SSC Vice President with 1,041 votes; Kenneth D. Aawitin, APT SSC Secretary with 1,354 votes, Regine Louise D. Mendoza, APT SSC Treasurer with 938 votes, Arnin Aaron D. Mendoza, APT SSC Auditor with 843 votes, and Joebert Patrick S. Obien, APT SSC Public Relation Officer (P.R.O.) with 908 votes.

On College Student Council (CSC) Elections, Sweet Alannies Corre, APT College of Business and Government Management (CBGM) President; Edwin Karl Basa APT College of Science (CS) President; Diane Kimberly Mapoy, Independent College of Law (CL) President; Yoel Reyes, APT College of Nursing (CN) President; Francis Mazo, APT College of Education (COED) President; Precious Morano, Independent College of Physical Therapy (CPT) President; Samantha Gayle Santos, APT College of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) President; Renz Cometa, APT College of Engineering and Technology (CET) President; and Raven Ferry APT College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) President were elected.

In an exclusive interview with APT-SSC, they shared their



APT SSC candidates deliberating on stage during HARAPAN question and answer.  
Photo by Dwight Justley Ulep

experiences, missions, and visions for PLM and its students.

### Up Close of the Incoming SSC

The opponent slate, Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights (STAND), considers principles as their basis in forming their line-up. Meanwhile, according to APT, it was their vision and technical skills, but also taking principles into consideration.

"No'ng unang araw na nakumpleto kami, nakapag-meet kami, 'yun naman talaga 'yung una naming pinag-usapan, 'di ba? Ano 'yung magagawa natin? Ano 'yung mas equipped tayo as a person? Ano 'yung kaya nating gawin with also our visions—personal visions for PLM? So ayon parang tie and tie rin 'yun, 'yung principles and technical skills," said Obien.

Standard-bearer, APT SSC president-elect John Benedict Bien,

mentioned that he did not focus too much on training for the position technically during the preparation for the election because he already had the experience as a student council during the term of the former SSC President JJ Battung. He recently worked as the Chapter President of UAPSA-PLM Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

"More than the technical skills syempre do'n papasok 'yung, 'yung training mo as who you are. Kumbaga discipline and knowledge sa bagay-bagay na kailangan," he added.

He said that he was offered with the position around November and thought twice before accepting it, "Important position tong kukuhain natin; dapat sigurado tayo na kakayanin nating gampanan."

Meanwhile, according to Hannah Enriquez, SSC Vice President, during the preparation,

she intended to know the qualities of the other members of the slate, "Magiging alam ko kung pa'no sila mag-work, alam ko 'yung quality ng work nila, alam ko 'yung... hindi maganda sa kanila kapag nagwork, para alam ninyo kung pa'no kayo mag-a-adjust sa isa't isa, 'di ba?"

Aside from knowing the "working dynamics" and personalities of her slate members, she also mentioned her training for public speaking.

"Kailangan mong makuhang 'yung trust ng tao kasi hindi naman lahat ng students makikilala ka sa work mo, sa ginagawa mo," Enriquez said, "kailangan ma-sell ninyo 'yung sarihi ninyo in a way na hindi mo in-over sell pero hindi mo rin in-undersell," referring on training on how to deliver her words and herself during the campaign.

However, according to SSC P.R.O., Jobert Obien, it was his first

time to campaign to the students. Despite of being an incumbent P.R.O. on his organization, United Architects of the Philippines Student Auxiliary (UAPSA), he never campaigned since selecting an officer in his organization is by appointment.

"I think, it's just the right time na matutunan 'yon kasi nagamit ko siya agad, tapos I think naging okay naman din 'yung ano... 'yung campaign ko," he stated.

Like the other APT SSC officers, Arnin Aaron Mendoza, had not been a constituent of APT until he was invited.

Mendoza has been a member of this year's SSC Directors under Mass Media Committee which motivated him to run for the position.

"Kaya ko naman. Syempre pinag-isipan ko muna ng kaunti kasi 'di ba nga malaking role --sobrang laking role tapos eventually nagconclude ako sa sarihi ko na 'sige, try ko'," reiterating his experience in SSC as an advantage:

According to them, bearing the well-known and long-established name of APT, their tough grind in room-to-room campaign, their slate's "chemistry," their publicity, and support from APT officers are the factors that brought them to victory.

APT-SSC Treasurer Regine Louise Mendoza and APT-SSC Secretary Kenneth Aawitin were not present during the interview.

However, Mendoza was currently Director for Information Dissemination in PLM-SSC under Mass Media Committee.

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## CSW causes delay on canvassing of votes

BY MAUREN MERCA

The canvassing of votes for Eleksyon 2019 was delayed due to the activity exceeding the permitted time in the Completed Staff Work (CSW) held last February 22, 2019 at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) University Activity Center (UAC).

It was initially proposed as an overnight activity but the University only approved till 11:59 PM on the same day of election.

According to the PLM Commission on Elections's

(PLM COMELEC) Facebook post, the delay was only to conform to the University's rules and regulations.

"Despite all efforts of all the CECs and Commissioners to finish the canvassing, we run out of time and have both CBGM and CS be subjected for recount," they pointed out.

The post also explained how the ballots were securely put back into the ballot boxes with padlocks and placed in a CCTV secured room which was both observed by the Watchers and

Ang Pamantasan.

Due to the unavailability of the supervising faculty members on February 23, the resume of the canvassing of votes was held at the Bukod Tanging Bulwagan at 9 AM at February 26 and was completed later in the evening.

Furthermore, the proclamation of candidates for the Supreme Student Council (SSC) and College Student Councils (CSCs) will be held on March 1, 2019 at the UAC.



Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson, Sr. receiving an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa on PLM 51st Commencement Exercises at PICC.

Photo Courtesy: PLM Official Facebook Page

## Accountancy student tops PLM Batch 2019

BY MAUREN MERCA

With an overall general weighted average of 1.31, Ivan Jefferson A. Azanza, a BS Accountancy student from the College of Business and Government Management (CBGM), Magna Cum Laude, led as the Class Valedictorian in Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's (PLM) 51st Commencement Exercises last March 27 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City, Manila.

"Not a few believe that the greatest questions one could ask himself are: "What is the meaning of our existence?", "How can we be relevant to the society where we are a part of?", and "How can we help

one another to make our country in particular, and the world in general become better places to live?" Azanza stated before his fellow graduates to ponder on as the introduction of his valedictory speech.

He also reminded the other graduates to give back to society by upholding the University's guiding principles. "Accordingly, wherever we are, whether as graduates or as future leaders of our careers, we should use what we learned from PLM," stating that graduates, altogether as a collective action, should think critically and fight for what is right.

In the event attended by the Board of Regents, the University also conferred the degree of

Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa of Senator Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson in recognition for his commendable public service.

In Sen. Lacson's commencement address, he apologized on behalf of his generation for not considering the generations after them and then encouraged the graduates by quoting this year's commencement exercise theme, "Karunungan, Kadakilaan: Patungo sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan," reiterating to not only strive for excellence and integrity, but also for public service.

This year, 56 graduates were given Latin Honors; 10 of which are Magna Cum Laude, and 46 Cum Laude.



## PLM mobilizes Scholars' e-Card

BY SHAIRA OCA

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila began to implement the use of PLM Scholars' e-Card in February to reinforce the security measures of the university.

The radio-frequency identification (RFID) system was first proposed in 2015 by then-running Supreme Student Council President, Enrique "Boogie" San Juan, in close collaboration with the Information and Communications Technology Office (ICTO) and student-programmers Team Kimpossible.

The development of the project stopped in A.Y. 2017-2018, as the printers to be used for the production of the RFIDs were broken and was unable to be fixed due to lack of funds and other internal and more urgent problems that needed to be prioritized at that time.

The project has been rekindled this year as the ICTO has already circulated the printers' repairs and started issuing RFIDs during the second semester.

## Students gather in PLM Job Fair 2019

BY SHAIRA OCA

Maynila (PLM) participated in the PLM Job Fair 2019 organized by the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs (OVPPA) held last February 8 at the University Activity Center (UAC).

Forty-three company exhibitors from different industries such as marketing, communications, engineering, information technology, etc. set up their booths and prepared freebies for the students. Participants who were interested to apply for a position in a company were required to submit a resume and fill up forms.

Aside from graduating students, students from different year levels were also invited to come as some exhibitors offer internship programs and summer jobs.

## PCACS Recital exhibits PLM students' talents

BY MECALEA GUMADE

A culminating concert of Presidential Committee on Arts, Culture, and Sports (PCACS) performing groups showcased the diverse talents of PLM students at Justo Albert Auditorium (JAA) last February 21, 2019.

Presented by the PLM Musikahan, the recital consisted nine performing student groups along with the PLM Executive Chorale: the PLM Guitar Ensemble I, PLM Guitar Ensemble II, PLM Recorder Ensemble, PLM String Ensemble, PLM Flute Ensemble, PLM Piano Ensemble, PLM Pop Vocals Ensemble, PLM Broadway/Classical Ensemble, and the PLM Society Chorale.

"Our ensemble has a strict policy when we were preparing for the upcoming recital", Jyanika Lobaton, member of the PLM Broadway/Classical Ensemble, shared their preparations for their performance in the said event. "We make sure that we are always putting all our efforts and passion when we start our performance even if we were still in practice."

The said recital was the second performance of the PCACS performing groups for the school year of 2018-2019.

## News from page 1 "APT dominates..."

On the otherhand, APT-SSC Secretary and incumbent CBGM Representative to the SSC, Kenneth Aawitin has filed an appeal to withdraw on PLM-COMELEC last March 12 and was officially withdrawn from the SSC on March 15.

According to him, "he wasn't really himself" and he was mentally unstable throughout the campaign and election period due to the pressure that he has experienced during the time of trial of the case filed by the administration to the incumbent SSC's term.

"During that time, I really wasn't feeling myself [and] I believe that the students deserve better than that," he said "pero ngayon, thankfully, okay naman na ako," reiterating that PLMers deserve a leader that is fully ready.

Nonetheless, he expressed his gratitude for the votes and trusts of the students that led him to victory despite not being able to campaign.

He also mentioned that he is not a member of Ang Partidong Tugon anymore as well but will continue serving the country and the Pamantasan.

He plans to serve as an official of an organization for LGBTQ+s in the next academic year.

### Cultured and Well-Rounded PLM

Building an identity and culture through establishing a sense of community in PLM is one of the major goals of the newly elected SSC.

According to Enriquez, team spirit in all members of the University is not evident thus making PLM a University without a culture and distinct character.

"Kasi sobrang nawalan ng solidarity 'yung PLM. So from not having solidarity, hindi tayo magkaro'n-karo'n ng identity. Hindi tayo magkaro'n ng something that we, as a community, is known for," she stated.

Obien added that PLM does not seem to be a socially responsible community in his past four years of studying in the University.

"I mean, meron naman ako nakikita pero relatively, mas malaki siya ngayon," he expressed his satisfaction in the growing political discourse among PLMers, and

specifying social responsibility as one of the cultures that they want to instil in the University.

Hence, the new SSC firmly claims that collective action is the pivotal factor that will establish PLM's culture and identity.

"So siguro 'yung job ninyo as a council and even as a part of the entire student body, anyayahan natin na 'yung students is magkaro'n tayo ng collective action towards something na lahat tayo magbe-benefit," said Enriquez, referring on establishing a culture in PLM.

Moreover, the slate targets to organize activities and programs that will ensue a "well rounded Pamantasan" or PLM 360, APT's trademark during the campaign.

They plan to establish inclusivity to all the students of PLM in all fields such as athletics and academics since according to them, the past SSC have focused on raising awareness on external issues and overlooked what is happening inside the campus.

In order to attain their objective, APT plans to execute a "warmer" welcome to the incoming freshmen in the next academic year as part of their GPOA.

"Parang 'yung gusto naming gawin this time is 'yung—pagpasok mo pa lang maramdaman mo na na you're already one of us," said Enriquez.

According to Obien, "Parang ang hirap kasi na mag-start tayo ng revolution na scope natin lahat. Why not simulan natin sa mga punta tapos mag-grow siya through the year?"

However, he explained that the welcoming program is not yet final

and to be publicized since there are areas that are still in need for consultation.

### Positive Activism

During the HARAPAN, questions were asked regarding their political ideology which they answered "positive activism", their main objective along with their flagship program, PLM 360.

Enriquez clarified that positive activism is not a "smart way" of activism.

"Yung conventional activism, iyan 'yung 'taking it to the streets'. Ayun, hindi na kailangan i-explain basta alam na natin, and the difference lang din siguro sa kanilang dalawa, siguro una 'yung positive activism, 'yun nga 'positive', do'n siya nagroot," she stated.

According to her, conventional activism triggers the "negative side" of the constituents, citing anger upon knowing the issue, and guilt if the constituent does not do something on the issue.

"Siguro si conventional activism, pinapakita niya what we should move away from, si positive activism, pinapakita niya what we should move towards," she said, explaining their objective in comparison with conventional activism.

Nonetheless, they pointed out that they do not close their doors on mobilizing protests if all diplomatic avenues are exhausted and did not function just like the mobilization of students against the administration's "repression" last February 14 in PLM.

"Hindi siya actually positive activism pero siguro may times talaga 'no? May certain times na one kind of activism works better

than the other," Enriquez added.

According to Bien, they have thrived to crusade for the objective, positive activism, because they believe that it is what the Pamantasan needs during the issue of repression that also happened simultaneously during the campaign.

"Kasi 'yung aggression din 'yung factor kung bakit siya lumaki (...) ang dami, ang laki no'ng series of actions na hindi dapat napunta do'n kung sakaling umpsa pa lang mayaos na siyang nagsimula," said Obien referring to the issue of the past SSC and the administration.

In addition, they have mentioned that they would also consider joining mobilizations outside Pamantasan.

"Ito 'yung activism na gagawin ko sa Pilipinas eh, iba 'yung kailangan ng PLM," said Obien, telling that they are labeled with their objective, in which the whole slate agreed.

"It's not really a magkalaban type of activism eh," he added regarding conventional and positive activism.

Also, they mentioned that they plan to conduct educational discussions (ED) to the students which is a social responsibility.

Moreover, to break the invisible wall between "the radicals and the regulars" and make all students feel and be involved, is another role of positive activism.

### Laygo Hopes for a Bolder and Wiser SSC

According to the former SSC President, Maria Patricia Laygo, her council was a success but has significant lapses.

She admitted that they have fell short in sustaining their main objective which is to uphold students' rights and welfare because there is

an indiscretion inside the council individually and fundamentally.

"By fundamentally I mean, 'yung principles kasi hindi siya naka-align sa dapat na prinsipyong ng council. Let's say you're competent, kaya mong gumawa ng pubmats. Let's say, kaya mong mag-organize ng events, pero kung wala 'yung political will mo, to change the system or even kahit policies lang at least, wala pa rin," Laygo pointed out.

She mentioned that traditional politicians were also present in the SSC; traditional in the means of directing more on organizing events and aesthetic facade rather than the actual issues inside the campus.

Some members of the council already have their own principles and beliefs before they entered the council which is not easy to mold according to their political actions, she said, and that she only considers few members with firm political principles.

"Kahit gaano ka-progressive 'yung ulo ng isang konseho kung 'yong iba hindi, wala eh," explaining that a political colleague in the council is a strong factor of her confidence as the SSC president, adding "tandaan natin na nasa bilang 'yung kapangyarihan."

Ergo, she considers the straight victory of APT as an advantage for the new council.

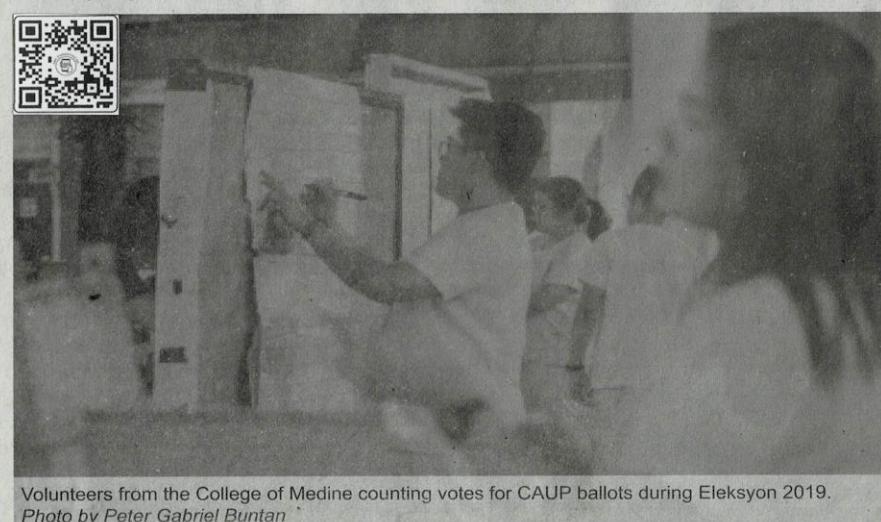
According to her, now that the PLM students have elected their new SSC, the duty of everyone is to help them, "kahit na sa tingin ko 'yung iba hindi naman nararapat sa position, wala ka nang magagawa kundi tulungan."

"Pero next year, sana mas maging matapang sila sa amin, saka mas matalino," she said.

Laygo is also expecting the elected officers to be familiar with the system inside and outside of the University, and to equip themselves since they still have five months before actually subjecting themselves as the SSC officers.

She added, "Hindi lang naman sa kanila nakasalay ang PLM. Now na nangyari na'ng lahat, may mga umusborg na movements."

Furthermore, she expressed her delight in the growing responsiveness of the PLMers regarding the issues inside and outside the Pamantasan which, according to her, is a good start.



Volunteers from the College of Medicine counting votes for CAUP ballots during Eleksyon 2019.  
Photo by Peter Gabriel Buntan

## Year of Everything but Traditional

EDITORIAL

Gino at Binibining Pamantasan's absence in this academic year may have started a backlash on lack of "student-centered" activities in the university. A beauty pageant which was traditionally held yearly across all colleges spurred attention as to why programs and projects which should have built the "culture of identity" of the university are seem to be set aside. This fluctuation from the conventional student events in the university, despite the eyebrows raised, can actually be regarded as a statement of tearing down the old system of student projects and events that do not promote social development beyond the walls of the university; either that, or the presence of bureaucracy in the university offices is really just a redundant thing that student councils have to endure.

It's not the Pasko sa Pamantasan or the Organization Fair that PLMers should most remember when reminiscing about this academic year. We can always have those for the next years or so; the celebration of Christmas and something that would promote and act as fund-raiser for organizations are always just around the corner. Gino at Binibining Pamantasan or any beauty pageant, above aboard, materializes physical appearance and the standard set behind them. One could argue that it promotes confidence and self-esteem, but the measure of beauty is still universally relative and feeds on different norms. What this academic year should be remarkably remembered for is how we started to cultivate a new generation of students who proved that more than academic excellence, the students, or some of the university is not blind and immobile to remain mute and passive on the violation of rights being held by the higher ups.

Student protests in PLM go a long way since time immemorial. In 1992, led by Ang Pamantasan (AP) Editor-in-Chief Ma. Cecilia Leano and Supreme Student Council (SSC) President Mayonello Yanilla, along with students, protested against a released memorandum by the university which stated that Ang Pamantasan (AP) fee was non-prerequisite for enrollment, which would have greatly affected the printing of newspapers. In 2002, some AP staff and SSC officials, along with students who were mostly

members of Bukuran Student Alliance and Sanlakas Youth, mobilized a protest reprimanding the proposed zero collection policy by an SSC Candidate; this later on led on a three-day suspension of students who took part therein. In 2003, a "Black Saturday" protest in the university was done, wherein students wore black clothing as form of dissent in response to the complaints filed by the administration against AP because of the articles released by the pub, headed by then-EIC Ma. Cecilia Villarosa, that condemned the alleged unfair policies and misuse of funds of the university. This protest mainly criticized the administration's action of putting the AP Fee on the last part of the enrollment process and stating that it was not the former's responsibility to collect funds for AP and SSC. The rally was supported by Fr. Robert Reyes and the Sanlakas Partylist.

The University President during the protests was Dr. Benjamin Tayabas, who was charged with graft and corruption complaints during his term.

After more than a decade, protests against student oppression were once again done by students of the university. Led by Anakbayan-PLM, the said protest was done against the "acts of oppression" by the university administration to the student body. The officers of the Supreme Student Council received memorandums of complaints violating the following: (1) PLM Student Manual, Sec. 6; (2) SSC Constitution Art. 13, Sec. 2; and (3) PLMSSC Resolution No. 1, s. 2018. The complaints were filed through memoranda, as follows: (1) OSDS-2019-0125-01; (2) OSDS-2019-0129-01; and (3) OSDS-2019-0201-05. Nevertheless, the seemingly primary cause of the issue was when the University posted on its official Facebook page a poster of PLM's outstanding performance for the past three (3) years under the leadership and administration of Mayor Joseph "Erap" Ejercito Estrada, which was counteracted by an official statement released by the SSC also on their official Facebook page.

The aforementioned statement was posted with a disclaimer and acted as a challenge for the students of the university to be critical in taking

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## Bare Minimum: PLM's Campus Politics as Training for Future Oppressors

BY MILES ERICHILLE SINFUEGO | KEANE ANDRE ESCOBAR

Harapan 2019, aside from being a platform for the students to get to know their candidates for the student council, became evidence of how out of touch the general population of PLM is from the reality of campus politics. Even just from the absence of the majority of non-partisan students during the said annual miting de avance, it is already enough to make one think if student elections are really for the student body or for the benefit of the political parties involved. Aside from the lack of participation from the student body, Ang Partidong Tugon's (APT) stance regarding neoliberalism, or lack thereof, and the usage of Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights' (STAND) of the student body's socio-political detachment to their advantage paint a grim picture of our education system and the level of political discourse inside the university.

A commercialized, colonial, and fascist education system—whose only goal is to be a diploma mill to supply cheap labor for the global workforce—has the tendency to hone students who are made to be apathetic and incapable of being critical of the world at large. Most of them become pacified, turned into robots, always aiming for academic excellence at the expense of a holistic development. From this, it is evident that the grassroots of oppression is in the individual's education; and since the student is molded to be the oppressed in an educational setting, they tend to bring that quality out in the real world once they graduate. Until then, there will always be this individualistic tendency to climb higher in the social hierarchy, and real issues tend to be ignored in

favor of self-interest starting in the micro scale—in their early years as an individual starting in the educational setting.

The apathy that lies within the student body will be held still given the traditional events we have, it takes only a knowledge of the difference between what student council is should be in college versus in high school to start for us not be viewed as ignorant scholars of the city. And for that to happen, a change in the system in the way we elect our student-leaders is a big step for us to be adequately represented and lead unconventionally towards social awareness. It is even emphasized by the incumbent SSC President, "Yung problema ng estudyante, problema rin 'yon ng mga magsasaka; 'yung problema ng estudyante, problema rin 'yon ng workers. So, gano'n, hindi siya napaghiiwaleys talaga... kasi masyado nang matagal 'yung thinking na personal politics lang, even identity politics lang 'yung mga nandian—masyado nang mababa, kasi alam mo 'yon, gusto nating lahat, mataas 'yung diskurso sa PLM when it comes to politics, pero 'yung mismong SSC, ang baba ng diskurso nila."

This apathetic quality and low level of political discourse by the student body will now be taken advantage of by opportunistic candidates and the complicit administration: ones who limit the purpose of student council members to event organizers and the positions as resume fillers. Without an ideological backbone, a student political party would not be able to address a school-based issue at its root cause and only provide band-aid solutions to problems. This poses a problem to

students, who have all the right not to settle with the bare minimum, but still choose to. Once a student is conditioned under a leadership that is not willing to increase the level of political discourse from the student level, if their political consciousness is formed earlier at the school setting, what more could they do as an individual? The university can turn into a jungle filled with political animals, one might say, enunciating flowery unprogressive platforms which no one knows until when the student body will continue to be satisfied.

On the other hand, coming to the end of her term, incumbent SSC President Maria Patricia M. Laygo's leadership can be described as revolt and progressive, but impulsive and nonstrategic. The strongest point she executed as a leader, however done impulsively and non-strategically, was holding to her own words fighting for students' rights and welfare until the end. Surprisingly, when asked why she thinks she won last year's election, Laygo who is an infamously opinionated person, cannot think of any clear reason why. For starters, being a writer was undeniably one of her strongest suits in winning the elections, she had her arguments well-articulated and had a good grasp of playing with words which led to a successful building of connection with the student body—unlike the ear-deafening "tunog TraPo" set of words we are sick of hearing. Even if she did not have any leadership experience prior entering college, she said she took part in their school publication in high school. Using her profound communication and public speaking skills, she reiterated her three

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## "Bare Minimum: PLM's Campus Politics..."

flagship projects, which were (1) Magna Carta for Students, (2) Student Manual Revision, and (3) Leadership Seminars—which amused the students because those were unconventional compared to her competitors' rolled out traditional platforms. Second, her "PR team" did well on spreading the "Strong Independent Woman" campaign which lead to her high road towards the position. Publicity materials, banners, flags, and other PR strategies were executed very well and systematically by which according to Laygo, started out only with the help of her friends, but later boomed out to be like a university-wide campaign. Third, and what seems like one of the primary factors why she won is her running with no colors. She was expected to bear the name of Ang Kampi, but she chose to run independently because as for her, the named party was being rebuilt at the time of the election. Furthermore, she was also asked to be the standard-bearer of the offers, and still chose to run under no political party. All of these constituted to her landslide victory, garnering almost 75% of the total voter turnout.

However, the 'strong independent woman's term fell short on the aspect of accountability and unity in the council internally. Of the three (3) aforementioned flagship projects she promised at last year's Harapan, only the last one which is the leadership seminars, also the 'traditional' one, was fulfilled. When asked why in an interview, she had a hard time admitting if it was her fault as the president, and instead, attributed it to her co-officers, explaining that she duly assigned tasks to the other members of the council, but most of them did not deliver well. Her defense is valid as having to implement long-term projects like Magna Carta for Students and Student Manual Revision do not take just overnight to be finished, but the irony comes

when she was asked if she initiated any plans for the execution of those aforementioned, and came again a round of running around the bush, ending with an answer of "Wala, kasi siguro hindi ko naforesee na kailangan pala muna ng ganito, ganyan, before executing Magna Carta." When asked again if she takes this as her failure as the leader, she stands still on her lack of sole accountability. Laygo, who claimed that she is low on self-awareness, may be the most articulated leader one can meet, but she can also be the leader who is having the hardest time own up flocks in her work. As a person who seems to have a say in everything she criticizes, she ironically lacks the openness to take criticisms when it is her work that is being scrutinized.

It is inevitable for any council or group to have disputes, but the internal problem of this year's SSC was summarized into one phrase, "Siguro walang political will talaga mentioned statement posed by Laygo was surprising considering that what the incumbent council seems to be remarkable for is their non-reluctance in voicing out their stance on pervasive social issues; which gets us to the recent dispute between the administration and the SSC because of their released statement regarding the post on the university's official Facebook page of the achievements of PLMers which are "misleadingly" attributed to Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada. Unexpectedly, majority of the members of the council are politically non-participative particularly in the said issue. The "bravery" that the university has seen of the council accounts still almost solely of Laygo, who is known to be an activist outside the campus. The posting of "unpermitted" political posters and social media release of statements were not entirely consensus, but were merely just initiated and favored by Laygo. The

aforementioned statement may have also been manifested with the two (2) impeachment complaints that were supposed to be filed against Lois Araullo and Alexandria Cruz, PLM-SSC's Vice President and Secretary, respectively, due to negligence of duty. Changing a system means having to get into the system itself, that was what she reasoned out when asked why she ran for presidency in last year's student elections, but maybe being outnumbered by which of most are members of APT, whom she made innuendo but did not finger-point, made it hard. Their unitedness may have contributed colors to their members until the end—until it is no longer unity; until it is already what can be called as ignorance or maybe is on the contrast of their "Positive Activism."

In the recently-concluded student elections, the APT completed their slates in every college and of course, in the SSC. Surprisingly, Bukluran, did not have any slate to represent them. But the breakthrough in 2019 PLM's a new political party, the Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights (STAND), whose slate members all came from Anakbayan-PLM. In the Harapan 2019, STAND's red-colored bands flooded and the loud banging of APT's drums roared in the audience which consisted mostly only of their supporters; as staged and programmed as it is to bash the opposite party whenever it was their turn to answer. It was observable that the questions threw by STAND and their supporters to APT's slate were about socio-political issues. One of Harapan's highlights was when APT attempted to answer STAND's question for them to give a neoliberal policy in the education system in the country, in which they beat around the bush, before Hannah Enriquez (APT's SSC Vice Presidential Candidate) told the audience that they are not aware of what Neoliberalism is, and that, "learning does not stop." On the

other hand, APT seemed to question STAND regarding their leadership experiences as credibility for them running, and other technicalities to the opposing party's General Plan of Action (GPOA). It was when Reign Wenceslao (STAND's SSC Presidential Candidate) refused to tell the audience about his leadership experiences, and when Jacqueline Ruelo (STAND's SSC Treasurer Candidate) received rebuttals when she tried to explain why and how there is a need for budget increase in the university whilst being accused of not having a thorough research on the subject matter.

The condescending ways of both parties to prove that they are far better than the other reflect how low campus politics in PLM could get. STAND-PLM using their "socio-political awareness" and APT flagging their "leadership and technical experiences" to almost humiliate each other in a meeting de avance where most of the non-partisan students did not even attend to is just an unasked plain extension to the yearly spectacle is the participation of the "elders" or former members of political parties, who could even stoop down to a level where they, most of which are perpetrators of cyberbullying, lambast a candidate of their opposing party.

Adding more weight to this bare minimum way of politics in the campus is having candidates who claim that they represent the principles of this or that party, only finding out that they were as if cherry-picked only the day before the filing for certificate of candidacies end. Having the audacity to parade their political party's banner in their room-to-room campaigns, almost robotically trained to answer the common election questions. One of which is the long-running Harapan question, "Political party's ideology or personal ideology?" one can say that the safest answer a candidate should respond is that one is running under a political party, but

certainly still bearing his/her own jurisdiction; this "technique" is as good as it gets, giving plus points to the respective candidate, but what's comical is that, what they usually answer is the opposite of what they manifest once they are already seated in their positions.

One can proclaim that council officers are one of the unsung heroes of Pamantasan because of their willingness to take pressure on the elections and face the bureaucracy present in all offices once elected. However, a student-leader's main purpose, which sadly is often forgotten, is for the students to have an adequate representation that will be enough to stand up to the administration and promulgate what being city scholars really mean. At the same time, it is our duty as the major stockholders of the university to utilize our right to vote to choose leaders who are far more than because they are our friends or because they include concerts or fun fairs in their GPOAs. And until self-interest is favored on top of public service, we are all or a community who will then be future servants of the country.

*It is because of this bourgeois tendency that political discourse is always set aside, or worse, put down. No matter which social class they come from, the students are taught to be future oppressors, not knowing that they themselves are oppressed.*

Add to that the fact that as part of the petit bourgeoisie, students are not directly affected by systemic inequalities, then you have individuals who prioritize self-interest—individuals This conscious choice to be uninvolved with campus politics is a reflection of privilege, and how the student body takes the title of being an "Iskolar ng Bayan" for granted. It is us honing campus leaders who may end up as leaders of this nation in the future to be bare minimum in service, and it is us only staring back at them satisfied for this kind of leadership; perpetrating for a country with a problematic governing system.

Opinion from page 4  
"Year of Everything but..."

taking in political discourse that may pave way for PLM being a platform serving the interests of the few. A more elaborate article regarding the dispute between the Supreme Student Council (SSC) and the university was published in Ang Pamantasan, the official publication of the university—Sinfuego, M. E., & Escobar, K. A. (2019, February 21). PLM witnesses first militant protest in

over a decade. Ang Pamantasan, pp. 6-6.

Though it's still early to say that the whole university is open to militant protests or to student activism, this collective action of PLMers was a start of the process in standing up not just against an oppressive administration, but towards social consciousness starting in the way student councils lead the students on what to focus more on that what is not. The received criticism of this school year regarding the lackness

of "student-centered" programs blocks our progressiveness not just as students but more importantly as citizens of the country.

We may not have tasted the traditional events that we are used and questionably satisfied—and we still do not know if this was intentionally planned to be that way it is, or technical problems have really experienced—it is a proud beginning after years of just gritting our teeth and keeping our mouths shut by apathetically obeying the system.

## Ang Pamantasan

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## GOOD LIAR

BY NICOLE CARIG

Here's why you are a good liar:

All the unspoken truths  
are hidden in those eyes.  
Your eyes were never a good liar,  
but your mouth is.  
It flexes and stretches;  
it casually forms a grin.  
There you are again,  
Forcing laughter, faking smiles.  
What a liar you have become.

You'd tell me, "I'm a liar."  
I know you are –  
but a different kind.  
You'd act all tough and strong,  
but you are just another lost boy,  
waiting to be found,  
hankering to be heard,  
and yearning to be understood.

In the depth of your heart  
lingers fear and distress;  
You hide the pain away,  
but your sadness I can attest.  
You hide behind a mask,  
a façade that conceals what's real.  
I always wish I can see you raw,  
but you are giving me a piece of you  
similar to what others also see.

Behind the jokes you utter  
are the untold sad stories.  
Behind the smiles you fake  
are the tears you try to hold.  
It is not about winning the battles,  
but choosing what's worth risking for  
just like how pain is always present,  
you just choose who's worth suffering it for.

I hope you know how much it saddens me  
to see you keeping everything in to yourself;  
I hope you know that it's perfectly okay  
not to be perfectly okay;  
I hope you know that you can cry  
when life gets tough and difficult;  
I hope you see a friend in me,  
willing to listen to all your worries.

I hope you realize that there are people who cares,  
passively or little do you know;  
I hope you are reminded that you are loved,  
and you are beyond deserving of it;  
I hope you see the goodness in everything  
as much as how I see the good in you;  
I hope you perceive sadness as a fleeting challenge to overcome,  
and not a home to dwell in;  
And I hope you don't forget that you are human, too,  
and the feelings you never show are valid.

For all these reasons,

You are a liar  
- a good one.

And I always wish that to me,  
you try not to be.



## CHARGED FOR CHANGE

BY SHARMAINE MARARAC

My life's worth of efforts up to now has come to an end. Two minutes ago, I was a cranky adolescent who didn't quite exactly get why a piece of paper took me fifteen years only for the triumph of it all be momentarily crushed as another student waiting in line approach to take my place. As I began to descend into the void of the uncertainty of the 'real world', I felt my insides tighten as I keep myself from looking back at the stage, knowing I left there pieces of my youth and thrill, and I realize my life will never be able to stay the same again.

But maybe... it still can....

I took my seat, shut my eyes to take the moment in, and patiently waited until all names were called. Felt like years before the end, maybe more. But I knew I had the time, I'll spend all my time waiting if necessary. When I opened my eyes, it's three months later.

Now, the blinding lights filled with make-up and tears are nowhere to be found. My mom's nervous grip on my shoulders to keep me still are nonexistent, my best friends' hugs aren't as tight as I remember them, and I am completely alone.

I'm alone. My daily cooked meals didn't use to be so awful, nor did my brother Phil's crazy antics to annoy me ever bother me as much until now. The end feels terrible, more so the more time passes. When I was twelve, there was nothing more I wanted than to earn that expensive piece of proof of my achievements. Little did I know, I'd regret rushing it all later. Anticipation fooled me into ignorance, and I was antagonized.

They say it all eventually passes. But sometimes, when the time comes that you finally know where you want to go, you're already lost. I didn't think I'd fail so much even after getting this far, but the reality of unemployment knows otherwise. Now, there is only one answer: to go forward. But I could only wish I could turn back. I've stumbled enough to lose my way, and if I could rewind my chances, I would've learned better.

It's not easy to start anew. My dad knows better than to fret, but I know everyone's worried if I'm ever going to be anything more than the obedient pupil who earned good grades. Tears won't do, so I can only grit my teeth every time I go out and seek a livelihood of my own. I leave with guilt, with the witnesses as my family, along with their good faith that I will return with positive news. I almost never do, and so they'd give in to frustrated sighs, but not when I'm around. The cycle went on as I wore myself out, and soon enough I only slept to survive.

Eventually, the end begins again. Nostalgia has long left me, and reaching the end no longer leaves a gaping hole in my determination. I thought of my favorite memories, of which were mostly from being a student, but none of them was able to mask the fact that I was a different person then, and I can only focus on the future from now on. This time, no longer as the girl behind my notebooks, shy and hopeful in her uniform.

On the day I received my hard-earned diploma, I promised to devote myself into motivation and commitment, and to continue being a spirited student at heart. I hoped that the world as I knew it at first will stay the same, but perhaps it shouldn't, and it won't.

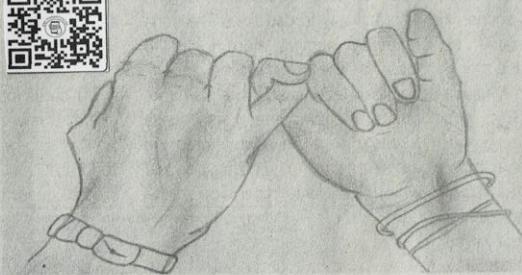
Change is inevitable, and to overcome change means to grow as a person. I am a graduate now, but I will never cease to learn.

The eyes are the window of the soul,  
As a child I was told as a quote  
And so when I hid I close my eyes  
To conceal the lie, to disguise the act  
That the world is as is, and not but a mere phony

The adults resent the tricks I play  
And so they tell me that if I get caught I'll pay  
To apologize and do better my mother says  
To never do it again and repent  
She teaches me over and over

I learn to be the righteous one as she promised  
Never again did I lie, nor thought of it  
When I left home and fended for myself  
I saw others' truth and in it found misery  
The outside lacked the sincerity I was raised on

Built on empty words and flowery reassurance  
The truth isn't what is seems to be  
Seats are claimed suspiciously  
Through their eyes, the window to their scheme  
If only we open our own, we can see



## BORN LIARS

BY SHARMAINE MARARAC

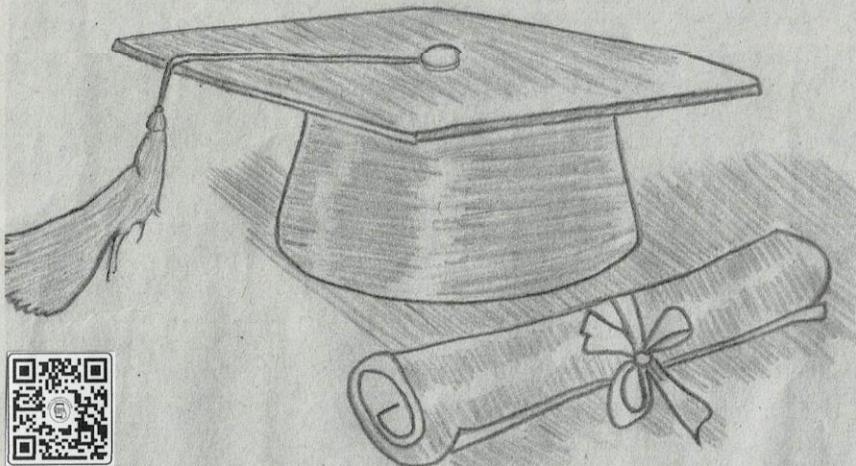
All around the city posted promises  
Some empty, some with depth  
And although I have yet to meet  
those that spoke and wanted to be heard  
The rotten are not easily mixed with the fresh

Every few years new liars revealed themselves  
With their melodic lies and their flamboyant gestures  
The crowd is fooled and forever preyed upon  
As liars themselves, they miss the façade  
With one mistake, they ruin the chances at stake

But we are not all liars  
We are not all bound to succumb to defeat  
We know to scream truth when we are silenced.  
We are not all blind nor we are careless  
Some of us are as courageous as we are genuine.

And the truth still exists  
The good is within us, somewhere beyond the mishaps  
When we open our eyes, then we would we see.

We could pick the promises that are trustworthy



## ENDINGS

BY NICOLE CARIG

The first of March has befallen;  
Sad partitions are around the corner  
and the diplomas are within the reach.  
This season used to be her favorite  
not until she knew that time was not absolute.

Time has become her constant endeavor,  
a loathsome enemy she wants to vanish  
as she strives to hold on to at once.  
To transcend time, she tried  
but invincible, it goes until it is out of her reach.

The present is a home she wishes to dwell in forever  
for the past was a long labyrinth  
of dead ends, dark alleys, and dire straits,  
and the future holds the uncertainties of reality.  
In this time, she wishes to stay.

She's not after the course of infinity  
nor for a pact of eternity,  
but she holds on to that last straw of hope  
that perhaps, time is just an illusion that appears to exist  
and good bye is merely a concept heeded upon the stigma.

"We can just always meet whenever,"  
words she fools herself to believe.  
But the world does not work like that,  
Time is no longer under the prowess of her bare hands;  
and she could not save the present from vanity.

Before it sinks in,  
she'll first fall into the deepest well – farewell  
because time failed to fulfill her one wish,  
and time will persist and eventually will end  
despite her lonely wails for a bit more of it.

## ROPHE

BY NICOLE CARIG

Someone not good enough.  
I can't tell myself that I am  
worthy of my life  
Today, I still feel  
crushed by the hefty weight of unspoken distress,  
trapped in the dark caverns of my intuition, and  
devoured by the figures of forlorn,

Despite being  
known as the epitome of strength  
I am  
persistently withstanding to win my battle,  
I have always been like this;

I wanted to heal  
because  
to hide behind a mask of a transient smile  
to conceal every ounce of pain, and  
to fight the snares of the devil,  
exhaust me

Now, it doesn't anymore

When I gaped upon the mirror and look at myself, I just smile.

My sad reflection is there,  
it is never fleeting,  
my will to live  
is slowly fading.  
Sadness

there stood at the brink of a barren moor,  
I was deluded with a train of thoughts,  
The cliff is waiting for my free fall,  
vanish into oblivion

I can not  
stay alive now,  
I need someone to please tell me to  
"Believe in the goodness of life."

(now read from bottom to top)

## Sibal Biyong and the Nature of Today's Work

BY KEANE ESCOBAR

A tweet made by writer Jeongmin Kim made its rounds on social media recently, highlighting an interesting phenomenon among South Korean millennials: how young Koreans (and ultimately, millennials all over the world) are into shortsighted splurging. In Korean slang, it is called the "ssibal biyong" phenomenon, directly translated to "fuck-it expenses", which talk about those relatively shortsighted expenses you make for the sake of self-care or immediate relief without thinking about its long-term implications (i.e. how expensive it really is). The original tweet gained traction from users in other parts of the world talking about their own ssibal biyongs: be it a tray of expensive sushi after a long week in a low-paying job, \$15 cab rides instead of going on a long commute, and a bucket of chicken after a week of eating cheap fruit, among others.

Ssibal biyong as a phenomenon was first formally noted by publication Korean Bizwire as the slang began to emerge among young Korean consumers, signifying the growing discontent among the youth with the economic landscape and thus, using impulse spending as a coping mechanism. Apparently, the slang began as a neologism from two words: "shibal" being a curse word and "biyong" meaning expense or cost. They attributed its prevalence to the toll the economy is taking on South Korean's mental health molding citizens with learned helplessness. The phrase, despite its Korean origins, is a widely universal phenomenon—Western media portrays it well in movies such as "Confessions of a Shopaholic", through the consumerist self-care industry of bath bombs and face masks, and in the Philippines, "bahala na."

While in retrospect, the attitude is frowned upon, it is not so much as a bad habit as opposed to being a response to present economic affairs. Individuals continue to prioritize instant gratification over long-term investment due to the rational assessment that any future that is comfortable enough is unattainable given the

global economic landscape. In the Philippines, where the economy continues to be dominated by business compradors and local landlords, more and more Filipinos are geared towards service jobs serving said (masters) or overseas, as opposed to entrepreneurship. Although employment rates might increase, suffice it to say that a majority of employees, or even the run-of-the-mill college student, view their current circumstances as "dead ends," hence the attraction to short-term expenses. As writer Kang Yoon Hee puts it, "Just because you don't drink that cup of coffee, does that mean you can get a car or house?" Why would an individual even save a fraction of their salary for a housing loan knowing that land prices are constantly skyrocketing? Why would anyone go for a 20k-peso therapy session when they could eat their hearts out in samgyupsal instead?

This phenomenon being extremely rampant did not begin in a vacuum: this widening trend of ssibal biyongs can be attributed to the condition of workers worldwide, on how the current neoliberal framework of capitalism functions and how it takes a toll on the personal space. In the most recent survey taken last 2019, lesser and lesser Filipinos claim to be generally satisfied with their life, a huge dip from the 2017 values that were at around 92%.

The root of the problem seems to be neoliberalism—that is, the illusion of infinite growth from finite resources fed to us by neoliberalism, being the framework that our economy moves in. Its origins trace back to the large-scale upheaval in economic policy during the 80s, where Thatcher and Reagan implemented political and economic reforms designed to decrease government intervention in the market. This essentially trickled down to Philippine policies, where its effects were amplified by the political crisis that was in place after the overturn of the Marcos regime.

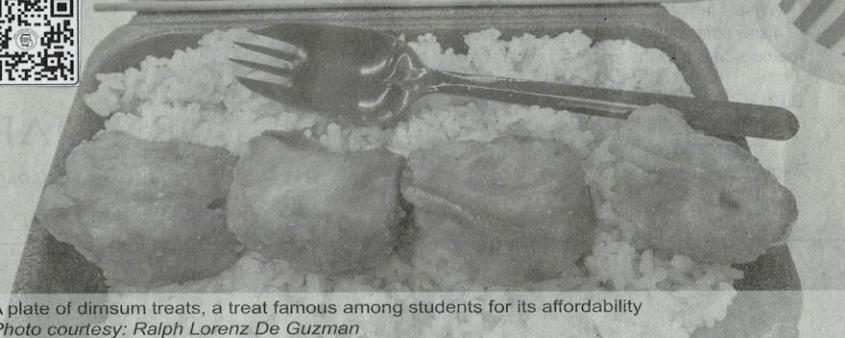
Due to these economic reforms, the market is now more ruthless, competitive, and overall cutthroat when it comes to standards its workers are trying to meet. With continuously rising prices and

relatively stagnant wages, everyone is practically forced to make ends meet by juggling more than two jobs, all while adequate mental healthcare continues to be far from our reach. Everyone is essentially forced to take their own share from an increasingly minimizing pie, and when we manage to fail to do so, the

very things that would comfort us are sold back to us, which are also made in the same circumstances that made us be.

To date, job security continues to be elusive as the Philippines continues to be the one of the worst countries for workers according to the International Trade Union

Confederation, wherein the Philippines received a score of 5, indicating that there is no guarantee to rights for workers. These results are backed by countless cases of trade unionists being killed and/or arrested, violent strike dispersals, and the continuous implementation of contractualization in the country.



A plate of dimsum treats, a treat famous among students for its affordability  
Photo courtesy: Ralph Lorenz De Guzman

## Siomai Rice, anyone?

BY ALAIZA MANANSALA

With the implementation of TRAIN law, the prices of goods became higher than usual. Transportation fares have risen, soft drinks and juices became more expensive and budget meals are no longer budget-friendly. This has proven to be unfortunate for students, for only the expenses increased, but their allowances did not. Finding an affordable meal turned into a daily struggle of students alongside passing their examinations and juggling numerous projects. The good thing is, siomai rice is here to save the day!

Recently, a song entitled "Siomai rice" made by Denzel Tomagos also known as \$ucc, went viral on various social media platform. In the song, he talks about buying siomai rice in their school cafeteria whenever he gets hungry. It became a trending topic among Filipinos especially on students who found it very relatable, for it has been a popular habit among those who are running out of allowance to buy siomai rice meals for 20-pesos apiece. Not only is it cheap, it is also a well-loved food by most Filipinos because of its unique taste.

Shumai (also known as siomai, shaomai, shui mai,

siomay), is a kind of traditional Chinese dumpling that came from Huhhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia in the north of People's Republic of China. Usually it is served in small bite-sized portions also known as "dim sum snacks". The currently popular siomai came to the Philippines between the 10th and 16th centuries from when Chinese traders first sailed into the island, following culinary art as one of the major influences and contributions of China to the Filipino culture. Some of the techniques that were taught by Chinese include sautéed dishes, rice cakes and noodle dishes like pancit. Lumpia, siomai, siopao, hopia, pancit and batchoy are among the famous Chinese food influences that are still part of our culture today.

Various Asian countries also have their own versions of siomai. Japanese shumai has shrimp as the main ingredient and neither pork nor beef is used in the dough.

On the other hand, Indonesian siomay is usually made from fish like mackerel tuna and is served with steamed potatoes, tofu and hardboiled eggs. Vietnamese xiu mai is cooked in tomato sauce and has minced pork, onion and scallion. Lastly, the Philippine version of siomai/siomay is often ground pork, beef or shrimp.

Combined with extenders like garlic, green peas and carrots, siomai is wrapped in wonton wrappers. Dipped in the infamous "toymansi", a combination of soy sauce and squeezed calamansi juice and sometimes added with chili-garlic oil.

Through the years, Filipinos have developed various siomai flavors. Aside from the classic pork, chicken, beef and shrimp siomai, a food stall in Pasig City created their very own embutido siomai, burger siomai, lumpia siomai and chicken nugget siomai. In a city district called Tisa in Cebu, siomai has become their specialty. Known as "siomai sa Tisa", these are no-frills siomai consisting of chopped pork, salt and some secret flavoring and spices, usually accompanied by limonsito or vinegar soy sauce and chili garlic oil.

Indeed, siomai has become one of the go-to meals of the Filipinos. A student-friendly meal that is sure to make you full and satisfied each time you have it. It is enjoyed everywhere—on street food carts, canteens, carinderias, and restaurants. That being said, siomai is no longer just a cultural influence, for it has surpassed years of being in Filipino food menus and slowly becoming one of our own.

## Foreign Natives

BY JEROME TRESVALLES

Chinese and Filipino relations have been shaky for the past year for a plethora of reasons; questionable alliances, territorial encroachment and shady loan deals are only part of a smorgasbord of issues, and these alone have done enough damage to merit the hate and hostility both nations have for each other. The problem in question for today is not new, nor is it unusual, but

it is on the rise and our place as Filipinos (in our own country) may be threatened. That problem is the rise of Chinese aliens coming here in the Philippines, the majority of which are workers who are brought over from mainland China.

Allowing foreign nationals to work here is welcome, our country has been surviving on the economy that OFWs sustain; however, the issue now is that these Chinese

workers have arrived with questionable papers under questionable grounds. The fact that these aliens were chosen instead of local workers are frustrating for our fellowmen, because not only are we driving ourselves into a corner by accepting a loan deal with China, but we are also prioritizing their people instead of our own.

The problem Filipinos face today is their own government, the

government that has curried favor in China in exchange of selling opportunities to grow in the Philippines. The government has turned their back on the (average Filipino workingman) people who only ask for work to appeal to a country that intends to drown them in debt.

The animosity between the Filipinos and the Chinese did not come instantly—it took a couple of islands, a hostage taking and

a loan for the problem to get this bad. It got worse when the Filipinos main necessity to live was given away by the same people who are sworn to make their lives bearable.

Tension between our two countries will continue as long as the Philippine government does not recognize who they should be serving and if China continues to humiliate the Filipino's in their own land.

## Inside the Mind of The Filipino Consumer

BY NICOLE ANNE MENDOZA



People crowding in front of a fast-fashion retail shop

*Photo courtesy: SCMP*

of globally produced garments exceeded 100 billion for the first time in 2014. In this regard, the contemporary term "fast fashion" or disposable fashion refers to the most recent clothing trends which are designed and manufactured as quickly as possible in order to be sold at extremely low costs. While this self-sustaining chain does not charge the consumers much, it comes at a very costly expense. This underlying cost lies in the extended working hours and hazardous working conditions of garment workers. As a result of globalization, large companies retail these products in bulk across the developing world allowing them to take advantage of lax directives in terms of factory labor costs thus, coining the phrase "sweated labor."

Aside from its political and economic impact on the Philippines, US marketed its highly Eurocentric cultural standards urging consumers to continuously buy and patronize these garments, and large-scale retailers to supply clothes following these trends gradually. The supply reached a peak at 2014, with the industry being able to produce 100 billion garments ] In a research conducted by Remy, Speelman, and Swartz last 2016, the number

the environment. Due to short-lived awareness with regards to these issues, its roots and primary dilemma are still not properly addressed. In the contemporary setting, various cases have shown outsourcing labor exploitation among famous large-scale retailers. In Cambodia, almost 8,000 H&M sweatshop workers have reportedly collapsed since 2010 while meeting the stocks for the company's collaborations with famous artists. The collapses are believed to be linked with malnutrition, unstable room temperature, excessive working hours and stiff stock targets. Another popular example is the fashion retail giant Nike which was revealed to have been routinely exploiting workers across a handful of countries. Grim reports claim that having an income of \$1.25 is severely insufficient in exchange for exhaustion, undernutrition and extreme fever after working for long hours and barely resting or eating. Aside from

providing abusive low-cost wages and hostile working conditions, the fast fashion industry has also sacrificed thousands of lives in tragedies such as the one on the 24th of April 2003. The eight-story Rana Plaza factory along Dhaka collapsed with an unknown number of workers inside. The BBC News reports that the death toll of Bangladesh' most ferocious industrial accident has elapsed to 1,021 as the recovery teams continue their search for bodies buried in the wreckage. In addition, some survivors attested that a number of fatal infrastructure cracks urged them to immediately evacuate the building the day before the incident. However, they were later told by the owner to return back to the premises soon after.

Going back to the Filipino consumerist attitude, the country is flooded with an increasing number of shopping malls and great demands for foreign-branded clothing trends. Filipinos

have come to conclude that foreign products have better quality than local ones, and in fact, they have grown to love foreign brands such as Nike and H&M. However, this is not only limited to clothing alone. They have perceived "Gawang Pinoy" as mediocre and second best. They are engulfed with a culture that they have adapted to and conformed with—a lousy system they almost can't escape from.

However, instead of challenging what's right before their eyes, they consistently add up to its expanse, not knowing that the dagger they have aimed will pierce their back soon after. This calls for a revolutionary action capable of defending itself from repression and sustaining itself for its unavoidable lapses.

With their awareness campaigns, understanding the reasons behind the persistence of labor exploitation today permeates exploring matters of global competition, government legislation, simultaneous immigrations, economic practices and social stratification. Paradoxically, this issue cannot be reshaped by positive activism, organized labor reformations and short-lived awareness alone. When boycott is not the solution, it demands consumers to ask ethical questions and think of radically fascinating solutions. Up to this moment, it is still and will be a burning necessity to wake your senses and appeal for an epic refashion. Perhaps, one could start with the question, "Is colonialism still to be blamed?"

## Haribons withdraw fate in ALCU Games 2019, ALCU turns LCUAA

BY KENT MARVIN MOJICA

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's student-athletes lost the battleground experience in this year's Association of Local Universities and Colleges (ALCU) Games due to the intensive preparation of equally most-awaited university intramurals and the interschool tournament preceded finals week at the same time.

PLM's stint in ALCU Games last happened on April 2018 at Malabacat City, Pampanga where optimistic Haribons battled out against equally competitive local universities. PLM clinched gold, silver and two bronze medals as products of their unfailing athleticism and hardwork.

Unfortunately, PLM Haribons weren't able to kick off a comeback and defend some titles in this year's ALCU. The university's intramurals coincided with the preparation of the aforementioned huge tournament resulting to some conflicts with schedules. Likewise, student-athletes' focus on academics were undoubtedly prioritized in the first place.

"Representing our school is an amazing opportunity and experience for us. But sadly, we weren't able to compete this year. Nakakalungkot lang kasi [na] we've been looking forward to training and conditioning ourselves para maging maganda yung outcome for this year's ALCU. Kaso we didn't have the chance to

do that", said Abigail Simon, former captain of PLM Women's Volleyball team.

Moreover, freshmen were also expecting for this off-campus event. "This year could have been a better [time] for [us] kasi there are freshies who have potential in strengthening the teams", Simon added.

It was also a moment of truth during this year's awarding at University of Makati as Association of Local Colleges and Universities-Athletic Association (ALCU-AA) Vice Chairman Dr. Sigfredo Adajar brought out that ALCU won't exist as its name will be altered.

"I regret to inform you that this will be our last ALCU Games", said Adajar. "But every cloud has a silver lining. ALCU Games is out because it has been renamed LCUAA or Local Colleges and Universities Athletic Association".

The student-athletes and coaches felt the heart-throbbing moment as they thought that ALCU had finally come to an end. As Dr. Adajar had uttered the reason, the awarding ceremony was covered with excitement as the people applaud and cheered the big reveal.

"Sa akin, it's good na they will change the name of the league kasi parang it looks like in line siya sa UAAP, NCAA at SCUAA. So it's good", stated Jun Orpilla, former PLM Badminton Men's Varsity Team

Captain. "Actually we don't know talaga yung concrete reason kung bakit hindi nakasali and PLM. Pero naka ko yung [isang] concrete reason na finals week. Pero kung hindi pa rin magpaparticipate ang PLM, I think the problem is in the administration".

According to Dr. Adajar, LCUAA has been registered to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and can now operate independently.



HEIGHT DOESN'T MATTER: CPT Pirate escapes opponent's defensive wall to orchestrate a basket.

Photo Courtesy: CSR Progress Notes

## CPT Pirates sail dauntingly in Palarong Rehab 2019

BY KENT MARVIN MOJICA

De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute hosted this year's CRS: Palarong Rehab 2019 as an annual event promoting camaraderie through sports with the participating schools from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, University of the Philippines-Manila and St. Dominic College of Asia to battle out for this year's crown at the Animo Center, DLMHSI on March 23-24, 2019 spearheaded by DLMHSI College of Rehabilitation Sciences-Student Council.

Palarong Rehabilitasyon 2019 was the second inter-rehabilitation sciences tournament of CRS after the premiere league last year

with the same host, DLMHSI. The event premiered last year with two recognized medical schools from University of the Philippines-Manila and University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Inc. joining DLMHSI. This year's addition in the friendly bout were Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila and St. Dominic College of Asia with the absence of UERM.

PLM-College of Physical Therapy snared third spot in the overall ranking of the tournament after claiming gold in Chess, and being hailed as 1st runner-up in Volleyball (mixed), 2nd runner-up in Women's Badminton, Singles (bracket B), and 3rd runner-up

in Men's Badminton, Singles (brackets A and B), Women's Badminton, Singles (bracket A), both Men's and Women's Badminton, Doubles and both Men's and Women's Table Tennis, Singles.

The host, DLMHSI, reaped the golden crown after being hailed as this year's CRS: Palarong Rehab Overall Champions while University of the Philippines-Manila bagged the second spot. It is expected that the tournament will continue leading students to show their athletic enthusiasm with the events to be pushed through annually.

## PLM'S student-athletes flaunt sports adroitness in Intramurals 2019

BY ANNE NICOLE CARIG

The recently held 2019 PLM Intramurals had showcased the competence of PLMers in a vast array of sports like volleyball, chess, table tennis, and badminton.

### Volleyball

College of Business and Government Management (CBGM) Jaguars were hailed as champions in both Men's and Women's division

of Volleyball. Knights from College of Engineering and Technology (CET) had obtained the 1st runner-up spot in women's category and the 2nd runner-up spot in men's category. Meanwhile, College of Science (CS) Sharks had procured the 2nd runner-up for women's, and College of Nursing (CN) for men's.

### Chess

CET Knights swept a double win in both the women's and men's division of chess. Followed by CBGM Jaguars who took the 1st place spots, also both in women's and men's, second place went to CS Sharks both in women's and men's category respectively.

### Table Tennis

CET Knights evinced their aptitude in Tables Tennis as they have dominated the women's and men's doubles as champions, as the 1st runner up in women's singles, and 2nd runner up in men's singles.

Likewise, CS Sharks graced their strength through winning the women's singles division, and earning the 1st runner up streak

in men's singles, women's singles, and mixed doubles categories.

College of Physical Therapy (CPT) Pirates had also fought for victory, reigning as the champion in mixed doubles category, and taking over the 1st runner-up spot in men's singles.

Further, CBGM Jaguars scooped the 2nd runner-up places both in women's singles and men's doubles.

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CHASS) Blue Ravens aced the men's singles, and was declared as the champion. In another angle, College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) and College of Education (CoEd) obtained the 2nd runner-

up position in women's doubles and mixed doubles categories respectively.

### Badminton

CET Knights had yet again proved their prowess as they had been lauded as the champions in women's singles, men's doubles, and women's doubles in badminton. The college had also secured a safe spot of 1st runner-up in the men's singles division.

Moreover, CS Sharks claimed victory being the champion in men's singles, 1st runner-up in men's doubles and mixed doubles, and 2nd runner-up in women's singles.

CBGM Jaguars also prevailed as the champions in mixed doubles, 1st runner-up in women's singles,

and 3rd runner-up in men's singles.

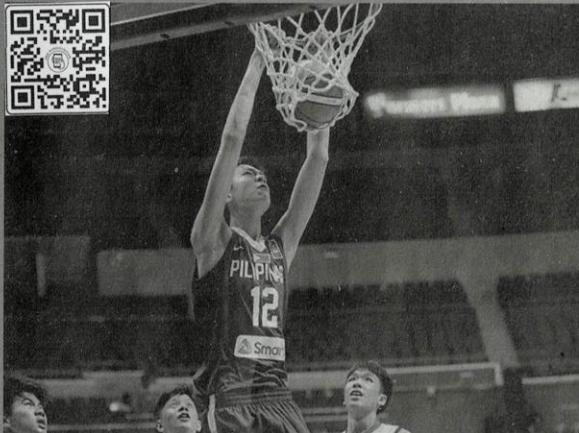
CoEd Titans gained the 1st runner-up spot in women's doubles, and 2nd runner-up spots in both men's doubles and mixed doubles.

Finally, CHASS Blue Ravens attained 2nd runner-up.

Strengthened by the theme, "Building Camaraderie and Unity through Sports", the student-athletes proved that honor is achieved not just by winning the game but also by establishing good ties with teammates and even opponents, and accepting the certainty of defeats in some games. At the end of the day, win or lose, what remains significant is the fact that one has fought and never surrendered.

# Batang Gilas' Sotto eyes NBA career, takes chances through Europe

BY KENT MARVIN MOJICA



**RELENTLESS TOWER:** Kai Sotto executes a two-handed breakaway slam over Thailand in the SEABA Under-16 Championship at the Smart Araneta Coliseum  
(Photo Courtesy: philstar.com)

Ateneo Blue Eaglets' 7'1"-foot stalwart has decided to chase his NBA dream in 2021 or 2022 but chose to take the route in Europe first after being pursued by five European ball clubs such as Real Madrid, Baskonia, Alba Berlin, FC Barcelona and Movistar Estudiantes although the decision among these teams haven't narrowed down yet.

Sotto was aiming for this developing springboard after realizing that many powerhouse teams in NBA are lined-up with Europeans.

"I'll be leaving soon to start training full-time", Sotto posted in his Instagram account. "I want to devote the next two to three years to single-mindedly focus on my goal of joining the NBA by 2021 or

2022", he added.

Kai's father, Ervin, told an interview that his son won't be like Zion Williamson and Kobe Paras who are really athletic and he believed that learning and competing in a European style of play will benefit his son in the long run and will make a mark of his own.

"After a lot of effort by me and my Dad to assess all the opportunities presented to me, I strongly feel that leaving immediately to start my training and getting the right exposure will go a long way to help me realize my dream", Sotto said.

These thought of ultimately deciding to take his talents west started during Batang Gilas' stint in FIBA U16 Asian Championship in Foshan, China last year wherein Kai stood up with his overall play

having the tournaments's highest efficiency rating. It was his first experience in FIBA competition but he still hugely brought the young team to a semifinals finish and book a ticket to the FIBA U17 World Cup in Argentina.

Offers from international teams then started to arrive when Sotto competed in his third Batang Gilas duty of the year during the FIBA U18 Asian Championships in Thailand last August.

After his exceptional stints in international tournaments, Kai's next chapter will be in Atlanta. From then on, it'll hopefully be a playing ground on a European club, then soon after that, he'll try to be the first homegrown Filipino in NBA.



CBGM Jaguars go fearless to cop third place finish in the cheerdance competition. Photo Courtesy: PLM

## CoED Titans seize cheerdance crown

BY MECAYLA GUMADE

"We are here to win, no matter what..."

Dominating the Cheerdance competition on the Sports Intramurals 2019, the College of Education (COED) was hailed as the champion on the sport during the closing ceremonies of the university event held at Rajah Sulayman Gymnasium last February 13, 2019, sweeping other similarly competitive contenders.

Running close behind the championship, the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) snatched the 1st runner up title, followed by the College of Business and Government Management (CBGM) which was crowned as the 2nd runner up.

The awards, including trophies and medals, were handed to the winning teams by PLM President Ma. Leonora Vasquez-De Jesus along with the Management Team headed by Executive Vice

President Jose Silerio.

### CAMARADERIE OVER GLORY

Amidst their well-deserved triumph, Ruffa Sosa, member of the COED cheer dance team, emphasized that their collective willingness and commitment to perform as one served as their group's motivation. Their preparations for the competition consisted of practices and rehearsals. "Almost everyday kaming nagpapractice after class or kapag may free time kami sa isang araw."

Aside from bringing the championship with them, they faced the crowd with the drive to perform to the best of their capabilities, showcasing their talents as a group. "It is an honor [to win] syempre kasi nasa isip naming yung cheer dance, manalo man o matalo. I am happy na nagkaroon ng magandang result yung pinaghirapan namin."

## HUNGRY FOR GLORY CET Knights rule Intramurals 2019

BY KENT MARVIN MOJICA

Unstoppable College of Engineering and Technology Knights established a scintillating teamwork as they dominated PLM Intramurals 2019 with huge 990 points from all entries and finally hailed as this year's overall champions on February 13, 2019 at Rajah Sulayman Gymnasium.

CET Knights started the tournament with a huge mark as they surmounted CoED Titans' fierce challenge in the opening game of Men's Basketball after dominating the first three frames, 34-16, 41-26, 52-38 respectively before finally reaping the first victory of the tournament with a rattling score of 79-65.

The defensive and offensive tactics of the Knights had paid off a lot as they claim the most-coveted title in men's basketball after winning

by a nose, 34-33 againsts well-prepared College of Business and Management Jaguars in the finals. More exciting face off happened and CET had come along a tough battle against equally competitive colleges in seizing the prestigious over-all champion title.

College of Business and Management Jaguars did what it takes to finish the intramurals with a high note after winning gold in both men's and women's volleyball, and in badminton mixed doubles but only fell short to bag the over-all title. It was the same story for Coed. CAUP, CPT, CN, CS, and CM who wished to make a more remarkable finish next year.

Relentless CET Knights garnered 990 points after victoriously battling out for the golden crown in men's basketball, badminton women's

singles, both men's and women's doubles, table tennis men's and women's doubles, and in chess of both category. Likewise, they ranked second and third in other sports adding to their overall points.

### Team's Chemistry

According to CET Men's Basketball headcoach, it was the chemistry that made the Knights dominate every game, not only in basketball but in every battle that they played out. "Kahit papaano, we were able to see how the players react during games", said headcoach of CET Knights Men's Basketball team".

In addition, it was their individual athleticism and team communication that brought them an edge against other hopeful teams.



**POWERHOUSE:** CET Knights unite as the Overall Champs in the PLM Intramurals 2019.  
(Photo Courtesy: CET SC)

## ANATOMYA AT BALANGKAS NG ISANG GRADUATE

Sa tuwing sumasapit ang buwan ng Marso hanggang Hunyo, iba't – ibang unibersidad na ang nagsisimulang magsagawa ng isa sa mga pinakamahalagang araw ng pagiging estudyante. Ang iba ay naghahanda, ang iba'y nagpapauwi pa ng mga kamag-anak at mga magulang para lamang masaksihan ang araw na ito. At ang mga mismong mag-aaral ay lubusan ang paghahanda para lamang dito.

Ngunit, hindi maiwasang mapansin na kahit saan mang paaralan, may natatanging kasuotan na isinusot lamang para sa espesyal na araw na ito. Mayroong ibang kulay, mayroong ibang desenyo, subalit kahit saan mang unibersidad, makikitang ito'y para sa mga espisipikong mag-aaral lamang – ang mga Graduate.

### BIRETE

Katulad ng mga karaniwang kabataan, marating tigyawat ang tumutubo sa aking noo ng wala man lang pasintabi o permisyong lumago at bumuo ng pamayanang sa aking pagmumukha. Subalit, dumating na naman ang panibagong araw kung saan ako ay nangangailangan magdasal sa mga tigyawat gods upang magbakasali na sa pag-suot ko sa isang birete hindi ko alam kung sino ang huling gumamit, ay hindi magdiwang ang sebum at pawis sa aking mukha.

Sa parusikat na hugis, pabilog nitong kawayan, at sa nakalawit na tassel na sukbit sa gitna, kahit ano mang antas at gulang ay sino nga ba ang makakahalili sa isang makabuluhang kupyang tanging isinusot sa Graduation? Nagsimula sa Inglaterra noong ikalabindalawang siglo hanggang sa maitala sa Pilipinas, ang tinatawag na mortarboards, square academic caps o Oxford caps, na marahil ay lingid sa kaalaman ng nakararami, ay nagsisilbing simbolo ng katalinuhan at higit na kahusayan para sa mga nagsusuot nito.

Hindi mawala sa aking alaala ang paghanga at pagtaka sa aking isipan noong unang beses akong nakakita ng birete nakapatong sa ulo ng aking ina. Bagama't apat na taong gulang na ako nang siya'y magtapos sa kolehiyo, ang galak sa aking damdamin noong ito'y aking nasubukan ay bumabalik ngayong sa huli at pinakaimportanteng pagkakataon, ako naman ang magsusuot ng birete, kahit na napakahirap makaisip ng hairstyle na babagay saakin ng suot ko ito.

Marahil lunalabong na ang populasyon ng mga tigdig na nabububo ang aking noo, mas nanaisin ko pang makipagsapalaran kaysa mawalan ng pagkakatulad atoan na makadalo sa seremonyang mag-huhudyat at tutulong sa pagbago sa aming buhay.

### TASSEL

Mula kanan, pakaliwa.

Isa lamang itong simple subalit simbolikong kumpas na nagbibigay ng ibayong kahulugan para sa rurok ng mga seremonya sa pamantasan. Katulad ng ibang mga tradisyon at kinagawian, ang bawat rito ay nagbibigay ng ibayong antas ng kagalakan at nagpapahati ng huday na pagkatapos ng ilang sandali na lamang, akyo'y isang ganap na Graduate na.

Kahit mainit, hindi ko pa rin maiwasan mapangiti sa pagtingin ko sa salamin, sapagkat sa malalimang pagtingin, ang bawat hibla ng sinulid na ginamit upang ito ay mahabi'y katulad din ng bawat araw na linalabanan ko ang antok at pagod para lamang makapasok sa pamantasan kong mahal. Oo na, aaminin ko na, mahal ko na ang pamantasan. Sino ba naman ang hindi mapapamahal sa paaralan na kinailangan akong padaanin sa butas ng karayom at pagapangin ako upang makapa ko lamang ang tagumpay?

Ngunit, sa kabilang lahat ng pagsubok, ang bawat rito ng seremonyang ito ay sapat na upang unti-unting mapawi lahat ng pagod at suliranin na aming hinara. Marahil para ito sa kapakanan ng mga larawan, o dahil sa simbliko nitong kahulugan, subalit ikinagaglak ko na ilang rito na lamang at ganap na akong maka-kauwi at masasabing tapos na sa kolehiyo. Yaon nga lang, undergraduate to unemployed, real quick.



### DIPLOMA/ SCROLL

Papel.

Simula noong pinakaunang araw ng pagpasok sa day care hanggang sa pinaka-hulihing araw ko sa paaralan, ito pa rin ang hawak ng aking mga kamay. Ang simpleng produktong gawa mula sa bahagi ng puno ay ang isa sa mga pangunahing pangangailangan na hindi maaring mawala sa piling niinumang mag-aaral.

Ilang daang klase ng papel na rin naman ang dumaan sa aking mga kamay; lutut na parchment paper, bagsak na mga test paper, laminadong mga certificate, yellow paper na puno ng bura, mga pahina ng aklat na nasasabyun ng notes, blangkong notebook, maruming bond paper, magarborg scrapbook, isinaulang papel na puno ng pulang marka, thesis na ilang ulit ipinresinta at napakarami pang iba. Bawat isa ay nagpapaalala sa lahat ng mga baitang at taon na ang mga papel ay aking kaagapay sa bawat lumilipas na araw, hindi lamang para sa academics kundi imaging sa pagpunas ng luha.

Subalit, anunang uri ng papel ang dumaan sa aking mga kamay, ang bawat layunin ng mga ito ang tumulong at humubog saakin upang akyo'y dumating sa araw na ito. At ngayon, ang bawat hakbang patungo sa aking pagakyat sa entabladong nababalik ng mga alaalam 'pagkat ay mahirap, may kaakibat na saya at ngiting hindi mapapantayan.

Sa kabuuan ng aking akademikong daalalakhay, ikinaaoaalak ko na ang hulihing klase ng papel na aking hahawakang mula sa kamay ng aming punongguro, ang siyang magpaputunay saakin na tapos na ang unang laban - naitawid na ang lahat ng nakalululang pagsubok at nasagutan na ang lahat ng mga pagsusulit. Wala na ang mga araw ng pagmamadali paakyat sa GL, tapos na ang mga kakaba-kabang umagang gigising ng walang review, lumipas na ang mga gabing nakalulumbay at idinadaan sa serbesa, at wala na rin ang mga group meetings at projektong hindi titutulungan upang maipasa lamang sa takdang oras.

Hindi maikakaila ang lahat ng hirap na aking pinagdaanan, lalo na sa pamantasan, subalit sa pagtanggap ko nitong papel na makapal at mariiing inilikha upang maging inilimbang na katiyaban ng tagumpay, lubos pa rin akong nagpapasalamat sa bawat tumbalik na segundong aking ginugol sa loob at labas ng pamantasan.

Hanggang sa muli, kahit ayaw na kitang makita muli.

### TOGA

Itim, makapal at maalinsangan sa pakiramdam. Hanggang ngayon pa ba naman, ganito pa rin? Simula sa pagpasok sa pamantasan hanggang sa pagmartsa sa pasilyo ng bulwagan, ang telang makapal pa rin ang bumabalot sa aking pangangatawan.

Ang puting uniforme at ang aming mabikas na pagkaayos sa tuwing pumapasok sa paaralan ang nagpapanyag sa aming pagkakilanlan. Ngunit sa mainit na araw na ito, isang pamilyar ngunit gayundin ay kakaibang pakiramdam ang nagpanginti sa akin sapagkat sa paglipas ng napakaraming buwan, ilang libong pagsubok at milyun-milyong pagbangon mula sa pagsubok ng bawat araw, nasuot ko na rin sa wakas ang tanging telang titiisin kong isuot sa halip ng init ng panahon.

Sino ba naman ang hindi mahahalinang magsuot ng toga, kahit napakainit sa buwan ng Marso at tila may pagtitipon ng mga lundong prayle kahit nasa modernong panahon na? Kahit parang ako ay magkokoro, hindi malalis ang galak sa aking isipan na akyo'y narito na, naglalakad patungo sa entabladong tabi ng aking mga magulang upang tumawid patungo sa bahaging magpaputunay na akyo'y hindi na estudyante. Ilang hakbang na lamang at ilang punas na lamang sa pawis, akyo'y isang ganap na adult na maari nang maging posibleng employado at maari nang magtrabaho para sa lahat ng hindi napagod magtrabaho upang makatawid lamang ako sa kolehiyo.

Sa nagsala-salabat na itim na sinulid na naging telang tinupi-tupi at ginutip hanggang sa mabuo ang isang simbolohikong balabal, ang bawat modipikasyong ginawa ko sa sarili ay nagpapaalala na walang araw ang lilipas na hindi ako madadaplisan ng isang telang itim na alam kong akyo'y hindi lamang isusuot.