

= Oblation Run =

The Oblation Run ( sometimes referred to as the Ritual Dance of the Brave ) is an annual event held by the University of the Philippines ( UP ) chapters of Alpha Phi Omega ( APO ) in the different UP campuses . The runners are male , and traditionally run completely naked in public places , with their genitals fully visible , on a designated route . The event was first organized in 1977 at University of the Philippines Diliman to promote Hubad na Bayani ( Tagalog for Naked Hero ) , a film . It draws its name from the Oblation , a statue of a nude man located in every University of the Philippines campus , which symbolizes " a selfless offering of one 's self to the country . " The event is usually done on December 16 , and serves as a protest to contemporary national issues .

Participants of the Diliman Oblation Run are male APO members numbering 24 on average . Women participating in the event , however , is not unheard of . Runners usually bear masks to hide their identities , and may wear leaves to cover their genitals . They usually hand roses to a number of female spectators . Additional runs are sometimes held in special events , such as the Centennial Run in 2008 where 100 members ran to celebrate the 100th anniversary of UP .

The run has been criticized by Aquilino Pimentel , Jr . , a Philippine senator , calling it a " blatant display of male genitals " and a " wanton disregard of the rules of decent society , " and comparing it with exhibitionist behaviors that are prohibited by the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines . In line with this , he called for an investigation on March 2009 to determine if the event violates that law .

= = History = =

Alpha Phi Omega is a fraternity founded on December 16 , 1925 at Lafayette College in Easton , Pennsylvania , United States . The first Philippine APO chapter was chartered on March 2 , 1950 at the Far Eastern University in Manila . The Eta chapter was established on February 10 , 1953 at UP Diliman . UP Diliman is the main campus of the University of the Philippines , a Philippine state university founded in June 1908 . It is particularly known for its student activism .

= = = Inception = = =

Despite inconsistencies , sources generally agree that the Oblation Run started in 1977 . Also known as the Ritual Dance of the Brave , it takes its name from the Oblation , a statue of a nude man unveiled in 1939 . Originally completely nude , a fig leaf was added to cover its genitals during UP President Jorge Bocobo 's term ( 1934 ? 1939 ) . It is found in every UP campus , and has since become UP 's identifying symbol . The run has since spread to other UP campuses , including Baguio , Los Baños , Manila and Visayas , and non @-@ UP colleges and universities , such as the Polytechnic University of the Philippines , Far Eastern University and Bulacan State University .

According to a 1996 article published by the UP Diliman APO website , the run originated when an unnamed APO member ran naked inside the campus to promote an APO @-@ sponsored play called Hubad na Bayani ( Tagalog for Naked Hero ) . The play is dedicated to Rolly Abad , an APO member who was killed in a brawl a few months earlier . The run was a success so APO decided to stage it every year on the fraternity 's anniversary , December 16 . This view is supported by a GMA News and Public Affairs report .

A newer account by Oble , a student newspaper of University of the Philippines Baguio , gives a different story . According to a 2011 article of the paper , the first Oblation Run was done by Rolly Abad himself to protest the Ferdinand Marcos 's banning of Hubad na Bayani , a play detailing human rights violations during his martial law regime . Rolly Abad would be killed a few months later in a brawl . In his honor , APO decided to stage the run annually and voice contemporary socio @-@ political issues along with it .

Meanwhile , the Philippine Daily Inquirer notes an APO member , Menggie Cobarrubias , saying " We [ I and four others ] started it as a prank when the Marcos dictatorship did not allow the showing of the play , Hubad na Bayani . " The play was a political satire against Marcos .

An Associated Press article likewise details a different version of the story . According to Oliver

Teves who wrote the article , the run started as a stunt to promote Hubad na Bayani , a film that depicted oppressed plantation workers . Similar to the account by Oble , the film was banned by Marcos . Similarly , the Internet Movie Database lists Hubad na Bayani as 1977 film directed by Robert Arevalo . It reportedly won the 1978 Gawad Urian Awards for best picture , best production design and best screenplay .

= = = Participation of women = = =

During the December 2005 Oblation Run at UP Diliman , two unidentified naked women , reportedly Koreans , were seen tailing 30 members who were part of the event . This is the first ever instance that women took part in the occasion . The two , wearing masks to hide their identities , held banners promoting equal rights for women . After posing for photographers , they entered a car which then sped off . The act was condemned by APO .

We are condemning their act not on gender issues because they are women , they can do run naked if they want to . But the event [ Oblation Run ] was supposed to be ours .

= = = Centennial Run = = =

To celebrate the University of the Philippines centennial , 100 APO members ran half a mile around the Diliman campus on June 18 , 2008 . This is the largest Oblation Run in its history in terms of number of participants . The participants started running on 11 AM PST from Vinzons Hall to the Oblation statue in front of Quezon Hall , the UP administration building . Several runners carried placards stating " Serve the People " and raised social issues , including appeals for greater state subsidy of education and ouster of then @-@ President of the Philippines Gloria Macapagal @-@ Arroyo . The event was observed by senior APO alumni , including Jejomar Binay who was the mayor of Makati . He is currently the Vice President of the Philippines .

= = Event = =

The Oblation Run is usually held on December 16 , in honor of the international founding of Alpha Phi Omega on December 16 , 1925 . The date may be changed if December 16 falls on a weekend . The run may also be held in concurrence with other significant events , such as APO 's national anniversary on March , an APO chapter 's anniversary , and occasions significant to their home university . Runners usually bear masks to hide their identities , and may wear leaves to cover their genitals . They usually hand roses to a number of female spectators .

Contrary to popular belief , neophytes are forbidden to run .

All those who run are full pledged [ sic ] members who have volunteered . There is a misconception that the Oblation Run is something our neophytes have to undergo as part of their initiation . That ? s not true . We never allow our applicants to join [ the Oblation Run ] .

As a sign of protest , it has called attention to several national issues including appeals for the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada , justice for the victims of the Maguindanao massacre and the 2010 Philippine Bar exam bombing .

= = Themes = =

Themes at UP Diliman Campus .

2013 Better disaster risk reduction and management

2012 Free , fair and clean 2013 national elections

2011 " A Run for Philippine Rivers "

2010 Justice for the victims of the 2010 Philippine Bar exam bombing .

2009 Justice for the victims of the Maguindanao massacre

2008 Opposing Charter Change particularly to any extension of the term of President Gloria Macapagal @-@ Arroyo

2007 Ouster of President Gloria Macapagal @-@ Arroyo and others .

2006 Protest against the University of the Philippines tuition increase , Charter change , and the withholding of funds of the Philippine Collegian

2005 " Merry Christmas ? ? ? " , three question marks represent the budget cut for the tuition of the " Scholars of the Nation " ( " Iskolar ng Bayan " ) the backpay and cost of living allowance woes of the University of the Philippines employees ; and the implementation of the EVAT

2004 " Environment Restoration and Social Justice for Hacienda Luisita Victims "

2003 Clean and peaceful elections ( and others )

2002 " No to Budget Cuts "

2001 " Stop Corruption ! Transparency in the Government " / " Walang Ku @-@ Corrupt "

2000 " Erap Resign " / Ouster of President Joseph Estrada

1999 Calling attention to University of the Philippines Budget Cuts

1995 Stop Fraternity Violence

= = Criticism = =

On March 2009 , the Oblation Run was criticized by Aquilino Pimentel , Jr . , a Philippine senator , calling it a " blatant display of male genitals " and a " wanton disregard of the rules of decent society . " He noted that the Oblation Run , being a public event , was being viewed by young children and " innocent audiences , young and old , " comparing it with exhibitionist behaviors that are prohibited by the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines . He also said that it was discriminatory against women .

Pimentel 's position was supported by officials of the Catholic Church . For instance , Tagbilaran Bishop Leonardo Medroso identified it as " malicious " and " morally lacking . " Like Pimintel , he cited that " innocent youths " are among the spectators of the run . He said that " it could be done in a more decent way without showing their nude bodies " ( trans ) . Lingayen @-@ Dagupan Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz supports this view .

In line with this , he called for an investigation on March 2009 to determine if the event violates the said law . He sought " to sanction the parties responsible , including the university authorities , for failure to exercise their bounden duty to see it that the laws and rules of this country prevail . " The Oblation Run was defended by Senator Francis Pangilinan , a former UP Student Council president . He argued that the run is not obscene because the runners were merely exercising their freedom of expression .

In 2010 , Salvador Curutchet of the Institute of the Incarnate Word banned De La Salle Araneta University students from participating in the run . Two years prior to banning it in 2010 , the APO chapter of De La Salle held the Oblation Run after obtaining a permit from the city government of Malabon . This was in celebration of its 50th anniversary since the university recognized the fraternity . In response to the ban , the chapter held a luncheon on its 2010 anniversary instead of a nude run .

Similarly , there used to be an Oblation Run conducted in Taft Avenue , Manila in support of the APO members taking the bar examinations . However , it has been of prohibited since 2008 by the city government of Manila due to complaints from examinees and their guests regarding " the unnecessary noise and obscenity of the said oblation run . "