



From L-R: Mr. Dominador Manlincon, the Dean of Student Affairs, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan, O.S.B., the Rector-President, and Rev. Fr. John Paul II Plana, O.S.B. applaud the student performers at the Football Field.

Photo by Jannine Salinas

SBU CELEBRATES ‘GRANDEST’ PISTA YET; DEDICATES FESTIVITIES TO LAUDATO SI’

▼ Vol. 81 writers

IN WHAT IS considered to be its “grandest and largest” celebration of the annual feast yet, the entire San Beda University (SBU) community united to honor the Holy Infant of Prague, endeared to Bedans as the Sto. Niño de Praga, at the 2024 iteration of the *Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda* last January 26 to 28.

With the theme “Sto. Niño *Huwaran sa Pangangalaga ng ating Likas na Tabanan*,” derived from the papal encyclical *Laudato Si’*, the entire campus glistened with festive garb as the Bedan community gathered to celebrate the feast day of the Sto Niño de Praga. It is commemorated every fourth Sunday of January, with a variety of activities involving the participation of the student body and school administrators.

Describing the entire affair as a “unique Bedan tradition,” the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Prefect of Student Activities, Prof. Marvin Reyes, PhD., says that despite this year’s

“all-out” programme, the 2024 Pista “can’t be compared with the previous years” since each year has its own “individuality.”

“Yung color, yung fun nandiyan...*pa-bongga nang pa-bongga yung opening...may mga distinguishing characteristics ang barwat taon*,” Dr. Reyes added.

DAY ONE

The first day of the Pista began with the students from the various schools and colleges of the University gathering in front of the school’s main gate to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony that would signal the beginning of the three-day-long

Pista. Mr. Benjamin Sonajo Jr., the Prefect of Student Affairs of SHS-Manila, said that “this year... *ang dami talagang nag-submit ng activities. So ang expect natin ngayon ay napakakulay, napakagulo, napakasaya*.”

Following this, the Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED) performed along with their crafted indigenous costumes and danced to the rhythm of the steel drums while marching throughout the vicinity of Mendiola. Through their costumes, the performers represented different regional festivals that honored the various images of Sto. Niño, namely: Sinulog, Dinagyang, and Ati-

Atihan.

Afterwards, the Bedan community then gathered at the University Football Field for the opening program. In his welcome remarks, SBU Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan, OSB, inspired the community by emphasizing the importance of following the guidelines set by Pope Francis and the Church, saying, “*Kaya naman patuloy ang ating pagsunod sa alituntunin na binibigay ng ating mahal na papa, Pope Francis, at sa tulong ng ating mahal na Simbahan, ating itaguyod ang tunay na pagmamabalan lalong-lalo na dito sa San Beda University... kaya ang pagkakaroon*

ng iba’t ibang kulay... ito ay ating ginagarwa sa ating pagbibigay-pugay sa mahal na Sto. Niño.”

Subsequently, guided by the Campus Ministry Office (CMO), various images of the Sto. Niño were exhibited along the ground floor hallway of the St. Bede’s Hall. These images were blessed by Fr. Maranan with the presence of the institutional Dean of Student Affairs, Mr. Dominador B. Manlincon, LPT and the Vice President for Academics, Dr. Divina M. Edralin. The exhibit showcased multiple “devotional and venerated” images of the Sto. Niño, including Sto. Niño de Paz, alongside

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Bedans face long queues, enrollment woes for second semester

▼ Alvin John Acayen & Paolo Ornos

LONG LINES, HIGHER fees, and portal woes plagued Bedans during the second semester enrollment period for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), with only a week allotted for it spanning from January 8 to January 12.

Students with lacking documents, unsettled accounts, missing grades, and gathering scholarship requirements were instantly confronted with long queues at the Accounting Office, the University Cashier, and the Registrar’s Office.

Because of these woes, Jomari Dofeliz, the fourth-year representative of the Junior Financial Management Association (JFINMA), said that “long queues in the cashier led to [a longer] waiting time for payment and back” and that “failed courses requiring consultation with Department Chairpersons first” resulted in a busy enrollment period.

“Since the original plan of the CAS was to finish the enrollment in just a week, it turned out to be hectic for both the students and the staffs,” added Denise Diaz, the second-year representative of the Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC).

As an influx of batch concerns regarding forms and documents were required to be complied with the Registrar first, unsettled accounts in the Accounting Office and unpublished grades were missing in the pre-registration forms that are necessary prior to enrollment.

Moreover, even after their payment for tuition, students were still bound to encounter long queues in other offices as continued validations of payment and the release of certificates of registration in the five-day enrollment period proved to be a surmounting amount to handle.

For students who did online payment and validation through email, a lot of student emails were overlooked, necessitating them to line up for personal validation,” Dofeliz noted. Because of these, course invitations in the online class platform Red Canvas were also delayed.

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The Repvblc shakes up organizational membership; announces new Prexy, VP

▼ D.S. Elijah de Castro

IN A SURPRISE turn of events, The Repvblc’s (TR) President, Louis Dominic Nipas, stepped down from his position last January 17, and appointed the Vice President for Internal Affairs Krystelle Doce as his successor.



Photo courtesy of The Repvblc

In a letter published through TR’s official Facebook page, Nipas expressed his gratitude to TR, the professional organization of the Department of Political

Science, saying that “The Repvblc has been my home for four years... I am eternally grateful and appreciative for the opportunities and lessons that

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»» SBU celebrates...

Nuestra Señora de Guia, the oldest image of Mother Mary in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the San Beda University Alumni Association (SBUAA) also actively participated in the celebration by commemorating the Golden Jubilarians of Batch 1974 and Silver Jubilarians of Batch 1999. The Association acknowledged the administration of the colleges, offices, and academic departments in SBU through an exhibit at the Lydia Tan Sy Building lobby. This exhibit featured every batch member of the Golden and Silver Jubilee celebrants, spanning from preparatory to the graduate schools, as well as administration members.

On the other hand, the University Plaza also teemed with students, administrators, teaching, and non-teaching personnel as they gathered for the “Community Feast,” organized by Mrs. Malou Divinagracia, the head of the food committee for the *Pista*. The event featured a diverse selection of Filipino food, including *tabo*, *lugaw*, and various snacks, all offered free of charge. Ms. Tessie Barte, the Health Sciences Librarian, underscored the significance of the feast, stating that “the feast is important in instilling renewed faith and love for God” as well as “fostering solidarity and togetherness among Bedans.”

In addition, PATHFIT1 and PATHFIT2 students from the CAS, alongside other Bedans from the various colleges of the University, gathered at the Manuel V. Pangilinan (MVP) Gym for a “Dance Fitness” event, organized by the San Beda Sports Science Association (SBSSA) and Dr. Bayani Matitu, the chairperson of the CAS Department of Human Kinetics. The Dance Fitness event also served as a culmination of the street dance event held earlier in the day,

Throughout the event, patrons also lined up for the “*Peryaban sa San Beda*” at Plaza Montserrat as it opened its gates to the public. The carnival featured staple rides provided by GoodGround Amusement Parks Philippines, such as Go-Karts, its Viking Swing, and Airforce Swing, adding an extra layer of enjoyment for Bedans and non-Bedans alike. The mini-carnival, organized by the CAS Student Council (SC), paid homage to traditional Filipino carnivals, aiming to make the experience “fun and memorable for everyone.”

Moreover, the SC, through its Vice President for Internal Affairs, presented a stage play entitled *Ahon*, in partnership with *Kulturang Laya Bedista* (KLB), San Beda Red Lens (SBRL), Bedan Pastoral Ministry (BPM), SBU Chorale (SBUC), and Bedan Musicians’ Guild (BMG). Directed by Arvin Camariño and Reychel Panganiban, *Ahon* is a musical stage play narrating the lives of three children with high hopes, despite their impoverished circumstances. In an interview with Panganiban, she shared that the play is a “depiction” of Catholic teachings, emphasizing the importance of putting family first no matter what.

In line with SBU’s celebration of the *Pista ng Sto. Niño*, various school organizations also initiated events aligned with the feast. One was “Waste Disposal: Learning About Laudato Si’, One Game at a Time” at the Lydia Tan Sy Grounds. Organized by the Society of Operations Management Students (SOMS), the event aimed not only to inform Bedans about Laudato Si’, but also to involve every student in the common objective of stewardship and ecological teachings. The event also incorporated fun and collaborative games to achieve its goals.

Moreover, during the festivities, the Bedan Scholar’s Guild (BSG), *Kulturang Laya Bedista* (KLB), and the Bedan Volunteers (BV) accumulated various books in their donation drive event entitled “A Bedan Tale for Joy” at the Fr. Juan Sabater Garden. Carl Angelo Casilag, President of the Bedan Volunteers (BV) and the activity’s chairperson, said in an interview that the collected books would be passed on to the children of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Student Catholic Center in Sampaloc, Manila.

(written by D.S. Elijah de Castro, Mika Isidro, Shelly Bocabel, Phoebus Villanueva and Veronica Balbin with Nate Soriano, Jennifer Gwyneth Fabros, Lawrence Rosales, Jake Evangelista and Manssel Latonero)

DAY TWO

For the second day of the *Pista ng Sto. Niño*, the Psychology Society of San Beda University (PSSBU), in partnership with the University’s Community Engagement Center (CEC), organized an event entitled, “*Puhon Kaugmaon: Larong Labi’y Kalinga Sa Kalusugan*,” at the Psychology Laboratory. It aimed to “install



environmental consciousness” among the children of San Lorenzo Ruiz Catholic Center and the CEC’s partner community in Pandacan, Manila. In the second event, “*Puhon Kaugmaon: Indak Sa Panibagong Kalikopan at Lahing Labi’s Kalinga Sa Kalusugan*,” PSSBU participants disseminated the importance of sanitation and conserving energy to the senior citizens of the CEC’s partner community.

Apart from this, an event themed “*Linis Kapaligiran, Alay Kay Sto. Niño*” was also organized by the institutional Human Resource Management Office (HRMO). It was in collaboration with the San Beda Employees Association (SBEA) and the student-led Kapisanan ng Agham ng San Beda (KASB) along the school premises with the aim of promoting “a cleaner and greener” San Beda as a Laudato Si’ University. Prof. Liwayway H. Acero, Ed.d, the moderator of KASB, shared how the event was conducted “in order to reduce carbon emission or carbon footprints inside the campus through proper waste segregation.”

Moreover, the San Beda Economics Society (SBES) held its “Ecolympics” at the Robert Coyiuto (RC) Jr. Gym. The participants of the event mainly comprised of first to fourth-year economics students vying for basketball and dodgeball. The winners of the basketball competition were the juniors, while the sophomores placed as the first runners-up, followed by the seniors. On the other hand, the dodgeball competition had the junior economics students as its winners, the seniors as first runners-up, followed by the sophomores.

On that same day as well, the University’s Athletics Office, the SBUEA, Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, and the HRMO also put together a bike exhibit entitled, “A Carbon Free Transport,” at the Centennial Plaza. Ranges of bicycles were put on display, such as mini velo bikes, mountain bikes, and folding bikes. The rest were an arrangement of bicycle designs over the decades like Japanese city and British bikes. Mr. Anton Flores, CPA, the event organizer and the Director of Institutional Benedictine Mission and Identity Office, explained how the bike “is a very efficient means of transportation which will not require any fuel and therefore will not cause any pollution.”

For the day’s main, approximately 4,000 people sprawled throughout the Football Field as the campus opened its gates for “*SIBOL: Himig ng Bagong Simula*” concert featuring renowned artists such as KAIA, Shane G., Syd Hartha, DEMI, Autotelic, Nobita, Munimuni, and The Itchyworms. KAIA kicked off the concert with a performance of their song Turn Up. And after a series of performances by other acts, “The Itchyworms” closed the program, to which Jugs Jugeta, introduced the band’s bassist, Kelvin Uy, as an alumnus of the University. Cleverly, they played the first part of the Bedan Hymn and fused it with their number-one hit, Beer. They ended the evening with a performance of their other hit song, Penge Naman Ako N’yan.

(written by Alvin John Acayen, Veronica Balbin, Rizian Balleta, Gian Marcel Chiu, and D.S. Elijah de Castro with Paolo Vital, Jennifer Gwyneth Fabros, Lawrence Rosales, Nate Soriano, Prince Tagarino, Rcee Tenefrancia, and Thirdy Pabilico)

DAY 3

During the third and final day of the *Pista*, the SBUEA and HRMO brought together SBU’s non-teaching personnel for “Beda Fit, *Palarong Pinoy*, at *Salo-salo*” at the RC Gym of the St. Placid’s Sports Complex. The festivities took a healthy turn with fitness instructor, Coach Anne Purca, leading the Zumba sessions that got everyone moving to the rhythm. The day further unfolded with Pinoy street games, sparking laughter and friendly competition among participants.

Moreover, the Pawshion Pet Show, arranged by the SC with SBU-Collective Action Towards

Strays (SBU-CATS), took place at the Lydia Tan Sy Building Lobby. Various pet owners, both Bedans and non-Bedans, participated in the event to showcase their pets clad in various trim styles and costumes. The event opened with owners showcasing their pets down the stage, all of which were dogs such as a corgi, shih tzu and schnauzer, to name a few.

Another highlight of the event was the Bedan community’s tradition of convening a solemn procession to honor the Sto. Niño de Praga around the vicinity of the San Miguel district. Traversing the immediate vicinity of the campus, this activity reaffirmed the community’s devotion to the child Jesus. The IBED gathered at the image of St. Bede the Venerable, while the CAS’ Business Cluster was led by carroza of the image of St. Anselm. The CAS’ Arts Cluster, on the other hand, convened at the image of St. Placid. Meanwhile, St. Scholastica stood as the patron of the College of Nursing (CON), while St. Benedict of Nursia was ahead of the College of Law (COL), and St. Maur was part of the College of Medicine’s (COM) delegation.

To end the day and the three-day festivities, a Eucharistic celebration, led Fr. Maranan marked the culmination of the *Pista* at the University Football Field. In his homily, the Rector-President encouraged Bedans to “grasp the essence of religious piety, preserve the communal love for Jesus, and accomplish the initiative of caring for the environment.” Following this, a fireworks display lit up the night sky. The evening was then capped off by a raffle organized by the Accounting Office, with prizes that included an Apple iPhone 15 Pro Max, a Honda Beat Premium, an Apple Macbook Air, and other cash prizes ranging from Php2,000 all the way to Php20,000.

(written by Alvin John Acayen, Rizian Balleta, Veronica Balbin with Dianne Magallon, Paolo Vital, and Prince Tagarino)

With the numerous events and activities organized during the three-day event, Dr. Reyes mentioned that the most essential part of the *Pista* was the procession and the mass. No matter how vibrant the other events were, he says that these will “not replace” the two core events, as they hark back to the time when the *Pista* was merely celebrated through Mass.

(written by Anne Julia Francisco and Paolo Ornos)



»» Bedans face...

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Bedans queue for enrollment-related payments outside the SBU Cashier.

Photo by Zia Robles

Nonetheless, the offices, department chairpersons, and the batch representatives strove to speed up the process of enrollment by accommodating the students with concerns wholly during the period.

“I was constantly in contact with personnel such as the Registrar Office and CAS Central Office. I collated all the information to be sent to the batch for the purpose of minimizing those who will reach out to the offices concerned hence, less work for all parties,” shared Diaz.

Recognizing the need to accommodate the students who have yet to finalize their accounts and other concerns, at the supposed final day of enrollment last January 12, Dean Christian Bryan Bustamante released a memorandum extending the enrollment period until January 19 “in consideration of students processing their applications for overload, scholarships, accountabilities, and payment.”

The Dean also stipulated that all “unpaid pre-registration forms” would be already deleted by January 20.

Frs. Plana, Cruz celebrate mass at Quiapo for Traslacion 2024

▼ Gian Marcel Chiu

TWO BENEDICTINE MONKS from the Subiaco-Cassinese Congregation, namely Rev. Fr. John Paul Plana, OSB and Rev. Fr. Pedro Ma. D. Cruz, OSB, helped celebrate the daily “fiesta masses” at the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene last January 8, on the eve of the Feast of the Black Nazarene, with the theme, Traslacion 2024: “Ibig po naming makita si Hesus - Juan 12:21.

Traslacion is derived from a Spanish term defined as the “transfer from one place to another.” In local context, this refers to the passage of the image of the Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno, otherwise known as the Black Nazarene, from the Quirino Grandstand to the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, also known as the Quiapo Church.

There was a total of 33 fiesta masses celebrated in honor of the Black Nazarene, starting from the first vigil mass at 3 p.m. on January 8 and ending at 11 p.m. the next day. Ultimately, the travel time of the procession lasted for over 15 hours, following an exceeding mark of more than six million devotees who attended the celebration.

Fr. Cruz led the celebration of the mass at 9 p.m. on January 8. In his homily, Fr. Cruz reminded

everyone that a devotee should be known for their “loving kindness and service to others.” Moreover, he added that the people’s devotion should not be limited to Fridays (known as “Quiapo Day” to the devotees) and in processions only, given how “ang pagiging deboto ng mahal na poong Hesus na Nazareno ay dapat nakikita sa pang-araw araw na buhay, sapagkat makikilala na ikaw ay tunay [na] tagasunod ng poong Hesus Nazareno kung paano ka magmahal sa iyong kapwa.”

He was followed by a mass presided by Fr. Plana, who also serves as the University’s Vice President for Administration, at 10 p.m. He spoke about his sentiments on the True Cross to the devotees. In his homily, Fr. Plana described the cross as having a horizontal line—similar to the negative sign used to subtract in mathematics.

However, a cross cannot be deemed so when it does not have a vertical line; hence when added, this would turn the cross akin to the plus sign of mathematics. The Benedictine monk then further expounded that when the cross becomes tilted, it will turn into a multiplication sign—indicating that Christ will not just “add” blessings to our life but can also “double or triple” the graces being received.

He added that the true symbol of love isn’t the heart, but the cross: “Hindi lang kung anong klaseng krus, kundi ang krus na pasan-pasan ng mahal na poong Nazareno. Sa krus na iyon makikita ang pagmamahal ng Diyos, sa krus na iyon makikita natin ang pagpapatawad ng Diyos, sa krus na iyon, makikita natin ang ating kaligtasan,” he exclaimed.

Fr. Plana ended his homily



Photo courtesy of Quiapo Church

noting that only “Christ can change the meaning” of the symbol of the Cross, saying that “from shame, it becomes

a symbol of hope, forgiveness of God, and finally a symbol of victory.”

(with Rcee Umali Tenefrancia)



Photo courtesy of VERA Files



Photo courtesy of the CHED official Facebook page

Ombudsman reinforces CSC’s dismissal of ex-CHED Commissioner Libre

▼ Phoebus Villanueva

THE OFFICE OF the Ombudsman has ordered the dismissal of Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Commissioner Jo Mark Libre, who used to teach as a part-time faculty member of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), for various offenses, including “nepotism” and “grave misconduct.”

In an announcement from CHED’s website dated January 17, the Commission said that they were “ordered by the Ombudsman” to implement its decision, finding the Commissioner “guilty of nepotism and grave misconduct”

in OMB-C-A-APR-23-0049 entitled, “Field Investigation Office vs. Jo Mark M. Libre.”

Dr. Libre was appointed as CHED Commissioner by then-President Rodrigo Duterte on February 9, 2022. He obtained

chairmanship in 24 different state universities and colleges (SUCs). At the same time, Dr. Libre was also a part-time faculty member of the CAS’ Department of Political Science and taught until the end of the first semester of academic year (A.Y.) 2023-2024.

Found guilty of “misconduct,” the Ombudsman prescribed Dr. Libre’s penalty as the following: “dismissal from service which will carry with it cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits except for accrued leave credits, and perpetual disqualification for re-employment in government service.”

Prior to the Ombudsman’s decision, the Civil Service Commission-Davao Region (CSC 11), back in 2019, found the former commissioner guilty of various malpractices during his tenure as a faculty member at a Davao SUC back in 2016. This also includes the offense of appointing relatives in his own office. After dismissing Dr. Libre’s appeal, the CSC has also upheld its 2019 decision finding him guilty of the aforementioned malpractice.

According to SunStar, Dr. Libre filed his first appeal back in March of 2020. CSC 11 then treated his appeal as a “petition for review” and while the case was ongoing, he was appointed as CHED Commissioner by Duterte, thus not being subject to penalties until the verdict was finalized.

As a result of the dismissal, CHED Chairman Dr. Prospero “Popoy” de Vera has issued a memorandum dividing the chairmanship of the 24 SUCs under Dr. Libre between him and three other commissioners.

(with Nate Soriano)

SC Finance Committee stages financial literacy seminar

▼ Veronica Balbin

AIMING TO “INSTILL financial literacy” among members of the Bedan community, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Council (SC) Finance Committee staged “PROJECT FLIP – From Pockets to Portfolios: A Financial Literacy Expedition” at the Jonathan Sy Auditorium, January 17.

The CAS Prefect of Student Activities, Dr. Marvin Reyes, PhD, delivered the event’s opening remarks, where he said that he “hoped the activity would help students and teachers, alike, in managing finances.”

Open to many attendees including students from the Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED), the activity featured two speakers, one of which was a Registered Financial Planner and esteemed columnist at Manila Times and Business Mirror, Ms. Janice Sabitsana,

and online personality and “Pambansang Wealth Coach,” Mr. Chinkee Tan.

In her discussion, Ms. Sabistana shed light on the importance of budget-setting, tracking expenses and sources of income, saving, investing, and managing risks, emphasizing that “it’s never too early to start saving for your retirement fund.”

Moreover, when prodded about her thoughts on the conduct of the seminar, Ms. Sabitsana was ecstatic. “Grabe,

very empowering... it really makes my heart jump with joy *kasi talagang magagamit*, this is a life skill.”

Following Ms. Sabitsana, Mr. Tan shared his own tips in being financially successful by highlighting the traits “*sipag, tiyaga, karunungan, at diskarte*” as a means to earn money honestly. “After all,” he said, “the moment you stop working, you stop earning, but you don’t stop spending.”

Prior to delivering his

speech, Mr. Tan highlighted the signifiance of “applying what is learned,” adding that it also depends on “how you process, how you do critical thinking, how you manage your emotions, how you interact, how you adjust, how you adapt” in pursuit of becoming financially successful.

Enrique Bonete, the current SC Treasurer and this program’s Activity Chair, commented on how the event “went unexpectedly well” especially with the number of attendees that this event was meant to happen last October of last year.”

Anticipating a future sequel of theevent,Bonetecheered onfuture organizers while exclaiming the “possibility of doing everything with a supportive and competent team behind you,” crediting the Finance Committee behind the success.

“If we’re blessed with a part two, if *kaya pa ng* budget, why not? Because there are external partners offering San Beda with regards to this program. So, let’s just wait and see for the possibilities in the future,” said Bonete.



Bedans buying a copy of Chinkee Tan’s “My Ipon Diary” at the Jonathan Sy Auditorium. Photo by Nate Soriano

»» The Repvblc shakes up....

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this organization has taught me throughout the years.”

Moreover, his letter elucidated what caused his resignation, citing how he wanted to “focus more on his studies,” considering his status as a graduating student, along with a desire to “[improve] his business,” which he cited as his main source of income. Aside from this, Nipas also added how he wanted “to prioritize my physical and mental health, which have regrettably fluctuated for the past months.”

At the time of his resignation, Doce assumed Nipas’ role, leaving her own position vacant for the rest of the academic year.

But in an exclusive interview with The Bedan, the former TR president revealed another reason behind his sudden resignation as well as lamenting on how his journey as president began, and what prompted him to assume the position.

“Leading has always been my passion... I served The Repvblc as the organization’s Auditor and Treasurer, assuming the Presidency would be a significant step to exhibit my leadership skills further and challenge myself to go beyond it...It was never about the title; running for this position was always about rendering service,” he said.

Regarding his resignation, Nipas said that was able to receive support from his closest friends and family. “They know me more than anyone in the organization, so they know I don’t give up easily, or in that case, not at all, especially without good reason.”

Additionally, Nipas also reflected on what became of TR during the time of his presidency. “I have seen how passionate, dedicated, and talented the members of The Repvblc as they are (were) willing to answer the call of leadership even beyond

school hours...However, conflicts arose between the Repvblc’s executive board later in my term. There were so many things to do and accomplish at this time, which is what we kept looking for common ground for us to be able to push through with the projects lined up for the first semester but failed to do so.”

When asked about the reason for his resignation, Nipas reiterated those that are stated in the letter and revealed that “The continuous clashing has created a toxic environment for everyone, making it harder to communicate and work together. Furthermore, I can no longer surround myself with power-hungry individuals.”

For her part, Doce declined to share her thoughts behind the former TR president’s resignation. Given the turn of events, Doce instead expounded on what’s in it for TR for the upcoming semester. “The

Executive Board for The Repvblc has realigned its activities for [the] second semester, considering the inputs during Organization Selection and Evaluation as well. Also, we are looking forward to working with the brilliant and talented members of the Executive Committees in promoting Solidarity, Truth, and Commitment... Our plan is to make the department even more vibrant, through the creative and brilliant minds of the members of The Repvblc.”

When asked about her aspirations for The Repvblc,Doce said that she wants to protect the “heart of TR.” She learned that, for her to lead, “valuing” her peers must also be important. The current TR president stressed as well that the current members of TR had great personalities, skilled, and are visionaries. Her aspiration is rooted in protecting her member’s colors and sparks so that they wouldn’t lose it—so that

she could properly lead TR.

Both Nipas and Doce had few words to say to The Repvblc moving forward. “May you continue to serve the organization and the whole Political Science community with great passion, dedication and pride. All for the Repvblc,” Nipas said.

As for Doce, she has this to say: “For The Repvblc, despite all the pitfalls, you became the reason why I should remain firm. I see the beauty and the potential of every member and that’s why I’m hopeful that there would be a bright future that lies ahead of us...Always remember that always aspire yourself as to how you visualize your future self; that’s when the real responsibility comes in and that’s when the exciting journey awaits us. Onwards and always, for The Repvblc.”

(with Manssel Jianne Latonero)



John Francis Gangcuangco (left) and Einna Clare Tan (right) crowned as Mr. and Ms. CAS respectively. Photo by Zia Robles

Mr. and Ms. CAS makes grand return

▼ Daphne Zenarosa

DESPITE A FLUB in the announcement of the Third Runners Up during the latter part of the coronation night, candidates from the different departments of the College still managed to showcase their wits and their looks for the Mr. and Ms. College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) 2024 at the Abbot Lopez Hall, January 24.

After previously taking place online back in 2022 during its first iteration, the pageant transitioned this year to an in-person format. Zakiah Valmocina, the President of the San Beda Elite Circle of Ushers and Usherettes (SBECU) said that they had originally wanted to hold the pageant as a part of the celebrations for the Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2024.

“Gusto namin siya isabay sa pista and also, wala [kasing] Mr. and Ms. San Beda so si Dr. Marvin [Reyes] in-encourage niya kami na ituloy ‘yung Mr. and Ms. CAS. Since walang Mr. and Ms. San Beda, ‘yung department na lang natin,” said Valmocina.

She also highlighted certain differences in terms of preparation and execution of the event compared to its previous iteration. An example of this was in the production of the advocacy video, which was previously an

effort wholly of the candidates but is now a joint effort with SBECU. Alongside this was also the provision of resources necessary for the pictorial and the training of the candidates.

However, an error was made during the announcement of results for the top 4 finalists. Initially, Hugh Orfinada from the Department of Psychology was announced as the third-runner up. It was then corrected by the hosts that the actual third-runner up was Brien Ugaddan from the Department of Political Science.

“This occurred because of a mispronunciation of the emcee, as the tabulated results of the judges were accurate. On our part, we have given the right results with the guidance of the judges and we did not lack on that part. We have computed and double-checked it many times before giving it to the emcee. However, the emcees read the woman’s top 4 winners

instead of the men’s and we already reminded them about it, even before the event started.” Valmocina stated, elaborating on the incident that occurred.

John Francis Gangcuangco from the Department of Political Science took home the crown and the title of Mr. CAS 2024 while looking back by stating: “I prepared for the pageant, first for my advocacy, I was able to go home back to Subic Bay to film with the indigenous people, and then for my Q and A I was taught by Attorney JV; for the catwalk, that was all me.” He also bagged two other special awards: Best Advocacy and Most Photogenic.

On the other hand, Einna Clare Tan from the Department of Accountancy and Taxation was crowned as the Ms. CAS 2024. “I believe my winning moment was every moment I was in, especially when I was entering the question. When I answered the free speech competition, I knew for a fact that I would be able to make it to the top 4 already. I was that confident in my abilities.” said Tan. She also won the Most Photogenic Award alongside Gangcuangco.

dapat namin i-prepare,” marking what was to become another successful discourse.

SBDS assembles debaters for 14th Animo Cup

▼ Gian Marcel Chiu

COINCIDING WITH THIS year’s Pista ng Sto. Nino, the San Beda Debate Society (SBDS) continued the 14th iteration of its annual Animo Cup entitled, “Ripping Dialogues: Unveiling Perspectives for Environmental Actions,” held at the St. Anselm’s Hall last January 26-27.

Teams hailing from both San Beda University (SBU) and San Beda College - Alabang (SBCA) competed at the debate tournament. Included in the teams competing on behalf of SBU were The Repvblc (TR), the Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC), San Beda Debate Circle, and SBDS. Moreover, SBCA was represented by a club from its Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED), the SBCA Debate Chamber.

Moreover, the Cup’s adjudication pool was comprised of SBDS, the Far Eastern University (FEU) Oratorical and Debate Council, University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD),

and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) School of Debaters.

Alexandrea Chloe Baylon , the tournament director for the 14th Animo Cup, spoke to The Bedan about how the present Animo Cup hosted a number of attendees that topped last year’s event, from having four to 14 teams.

Baylon stated how last year’s event was basically a “prelude” to returning to a face-to-face setup after years of being held online due to the pandemic. Now on its second year of having a physical tournament, she said that they have now “adjusted na from that, we’ve learned na rin kung ano



Newly-minted Mr. and Ms. CAS title-holders pose for a photo opportunity Photo by Zia Robles

Meanwhile, Cenio Padilla from the Department of Political Science and Mari Okol from the Department of Psychology were hailed as the First Runners Up, respectively.

The question-and-answer portion was one of the most important parts of the competition, as stated by Luiz Kyle Pagnamitan, a member of the audience, “Some of the highlights that really stood out for me are the candidates’ impromptu speeches and the question and answer portion because it really showcased their wit and intelligence which is the most crucial part as candidates, and they proved that they could uphold the responsibilities that the title asked them of.”

As for the special awards, Ma. Beatrix Lareza from the Department of Psychology won the most awards with

Best Advocacy alongside Gangcuangco, Best Modern Filipino Casual Wear alongside Edriane Timothy Tabor from the Department of Legal Management, and Best Evening Wear alongside Robert Dylan Dela Paz from the Department of Political Science.

Meanwhile, the Mr. and Ms. Congeniality Awards were given to Hugh Allistair Orfinada from the Department of Psychology and Mika Kikuchi from the Department of Political Science.

To end her interview, she asks “that all of you educate yourself on what is currently happening around our country and around the world as well, and focus on taking small steps so that we can practice sustainable ways wherein we can take these small steps into a larger impact,” Tan shared.

(with Paolo Vital)

Applying the Asian Parliamentary debate format, the tournament had three preliminary rounds, a Semifinals, and Grand Finals for both the open division and highschool division, wherein motions revolved around questions sparking environmental concern, adhering to SBU’s commitment to the papal encyclical Laudato Si’.

Making it to the Open Grand Finals were Tricia Millenas, Gabriel Santos, and Aaron Geronimo, collectively known as the Team B of SBDC, who assumed the role of debating as the government. They were up against team SBDS, namely: Sam Unabia, Kyle Benedict Omadto, and Roswell Kerby Dela Cruz, who were up against Team B as the opposition. They were assigned the motion, “This house seeks the deprioritization of the Environment in the Philippines,” in which the opposition prevailed after a heated exchange of arguments .

At the awarding ceremony, Lourenella De Leon was awarded the first place out of the top 10 best speakers. Moreover, Aprylle Amparo was awarded the first place out of the top three best

judges while Unabia was also awarded first place under the Open Grand Finals Best Speakers.

Baylon deemed the overall event as “success,” stating that amid administrative challenges and issues involving time management, as well as lack of manpower, she, together with members of the Executive Board of the SBDS, were able to realize their goals for the tournament.

The tournament director also noted the positive reactions of participants of the tournament with Millenas from (SBDC) sharing “This year’s Animo Cup is really exciting... The handling of the event was highly professional... I gained a lot of insights from this event especially with how I construct my speech properly.”

Inspiring members of the Bedan Community to join SBDS, Baylon broke the ice by saying how “unshackled” debating is when it comes to topics that are up for discourse. “Debating is not scary, it’s actually really fun and the people in the debate community are actually really nice, and very fun to be around,” she said.

(with Nate Soriano)



(From L-R) Roswell Kerby Dela Cruz, Kyle Benedict Omadto, and Sam Unabia participating during the 14th Animo Cup. Photo by Gian Chiu

BBS gathers car enthusiasts for 29th Motor Motion

▼ Rizian Ballela

FOLLOWING DECADES OF gathering Bedan car enthusiasts and industry insiders under one roof, the Bedan Business Spectrum (BBS) organized another edition of the University’s annual motor motion car show last January 27 at the University Plaza.

For its 29th edition, this year’s show was entitled “The REVolve: Revamped Auto Evolution,” which again was made part of the official festivities for the Pista of Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2024. It was held in collaboration with BBS’ official partner, Kalsado, and other major sponsors, namely, ALMNA CORP and Speedworks Engineering, alongside minor sponsors Ziebart, Kazham, Toyota, Queen V Fragrance, RMS Cars, and FlowerStore.ph.

A special acknowledgement was also extended to the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Council (SC), the University of Sto. Tomas Auto Society (USTAS), Lasallian Auto, and the staggering turnout of participants that went above and beyond in showcasing local talent, businesses, and startups driving innovation in the industry.

A significant aspect of this year’s car show, however, was its



■ The Bedan Business Spectrum celebrating its annual car show.

Photo by Rizian Ballela

philanthropic focus in aiding Public Utility Vehicles (PUV) drivers, who have been impacted by recent events and protests regarding PUV phaseouts.

The BBS President and Activity Chair, Anthony King Navarro, emphasized the event’s overarching cause which “breathed life into the event,”

saying that they wanted to help the “PUV drivers *na* partners ng San Beda University (SBU),” raising awareness about the effects of the PUV phaseout on drivers.

Moreover, as one of the pioneering Laudato Si’-oriented institutions in the Philippines, through this event, the University demonstrated its “commitment

to sustainability and community engagement” through the activity.

Leveraging SBU’s Community Engagement Center (CEC), BBS proactively reached out to their partner communities in order to foster “meaningful connections” and participation for the event.

The car show was not just a delight for car enthusiasts, but

it also featured renowned Bedan alumni, Kathe Labayo and Jasper Jovellanos, who brought their flair as the hosts for the event. The attendees also enjoyed performances from SAPANTHA, Vasileia, the SBU Chorale, Bedan Dance Theatre (BDT), and the Bedan Musician’s Guild (BMG), adding an extra level of excitement and entertainment to the endeavor.

An expert panel, consisting of Ramon Tanchiatco, VTEC Rrenz, Marco Bautista, and Kenneth Bencito, judged the automobiles on display.

Under the motorcycles category, the Best of Show accolade was bagged by Decal Number 44 – Yamaha Xmax 300, while the SBU’s Choice Award was given to Decal Number 52 - Ducati Paul Smart 1000 LE.

Moreover, the coveted Best of Show title was seized by Decal Number 10’s sleek Mugen Civic FC. Decal Number 34’s striking Maroon Honda Civic ESi clinched the Laudato Si’ Award. Winning the hearts of the attendees, the People’s Choice honor went to Decal Number 51’s luxurious Maybach.

In an interview with participant Champion Iguid, he shared his perspective on his consistent involvement in the annual event. He said that winning was not his primary goal. Rather, it was about honoring a sworn oath to Sto Nino. “*Sumasali kami rito bilang panata namin kay Sto. Nino,*” underscoring the deeper meaning behind his participation.

In its 29th edition, BBS’ Motor Motion hopes it can continue to inspire the Bedan community to embrace the University’s dedication to responsible innovation and nurturing a brighter future for generations to come.

(with Lawrence Rosales)

SBCAF advocates stewardship for environment during 2024 Pista

▼ Mika Isidro

INVOKING THE SPIRIT of the papal encyclical Laudato Si’, the San Beda College Alumni Foundation (SBCAF), along with the San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA), the San Beda Student Council (SC), and the Kapisanan ng Agham ng San Beda (KASB) launched the “Katutubong Puno” initiative during the opening day of Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2024.

The activities under the initiative all fall into the theme of environmental consciousness, starting off with a talk on the importance of Laudato Si’ and the global problems brought about by climate change, some opening remarks from the project’s head, Prof. Jojo Villamin, as well as

words from SBCAF Board of Trustees members Mr. Mukesh S. Advani and Atty. Constantino L. Navarro III, and the University Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan, OSB.

TREE PLANTING EVENT

A Pamiyoten tree, a small

native tree in the Philippines, was planted along the main flagpole at the University Plaza. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed guests such as the respective deans, administrators, and student-leaders from the colleges of the University.

According to the chairperson for the Katutubong Puno initiative, Edriane Tabor, the spot where the Pamiyoten tree was planted used to be home to the Mangkono tree, the official tree of San Beda University (SBU), which is also known as the “Philippine Iron Wood.”

The goals and the vision for planting this tree are part of the long-term actions of the University anchored towards its initiative for Laudato Si’. The University and its administration shared hopes for the tree to become a reminder on the importance of stewardship and the protection of God’s creation, especially in succeeding years.

KATUTUBONG PUNO EXHIBIT OPENING

The tree-planting event was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Katutubong Puno Exhibit at the Sabater Lobby. The exhibit featured photos of the native trees found in the Philippines and the special connection SBU has with them. The pictures were taken from the photo contest hosted by the SBCAF.

The trees highlighted in the exhibit were the Alagaw tree, Antipolo tree, Malabulak tree, Mangkono tree, Chinese Banyan tree, and the Alstonia Scholaris or Blackboard tree.

The exhibit also gave background on the “Kalikasan Program” by the initiative, featuring the program’s beginnings in 2009 up until its last implementation back in 2015.

SBCAF KATUTUBONG PUNO SEMINAR

Featuring a panel discussion with guest speakers such as Ms. Ma. Edcy Talavera Dayon, Ms. Imelda Sarmiento, and Mr. Mhark Ian Abrias II, MBA, the seminar focused on the importance of Katutubong Puno to the Bedan community, along with the panel’s knowledge and insights on implementing environmental conservation and cultural preservation.

This was done through a roundtable discussion mainly attended by the students from the Department of Marketing Management.

The seminar was held at the Pamanang Bedista and was livestreamed through the SBCAF Katutubong Puno Facebook page.

At the program’s conclusion, Tabor expressed his thanks to the SBCAF, SBJMA, and KASB for their management and organization of the event. He concluded by sharing that “each and every one of us” who follows stewardship for our native trees is contributing towards our “legacy as Bedans.”



■ SBU and SBCAF administrators leading the Tree Planting event.

Photo by Zia Robles



■ Students, SBCAF officials, and University administrators witnessing the ceremonial planting at the St. Benedict’s Hall.

Photo by Zia Robles

SBJMA’s “Mic Check” turns spotlight on music marketing

▼ Rizian Ballea

ATTEMPTING TO “AMPLIFY the power” of the marketing industry in the domain of music, the San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA), in collaboration with the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Council (SC) and SONY Music Entertainment, proudly presented “Mic Check 2024” at the Jonathan Sy Auditorium last January 27.

After a year of dedicated planning by SBJMA, the event stands as a “major intercollegiate program,” presenting a compelling series of workshops and talks by distinguished guest speakers from the industry of music marketing. Designed with a competitive edge, the activity sessions aimed to provide participants with insights into the dynamic realities of music marketing in the Philippines today.

SBJMA’s Vice President for External Affairs and Activity Co-Chair, Rafael Joshua Tanteo, offered valuable insights into the conception of the event showcasing the broad applications of marketing beyond traditional products and services. “People think that marketers just sell products, they sell items, they sell services, but in fact, we can also sell music, we can sell artists, we can help promote these artists,” said Tanteo.

The event opened with remarks from the Chairperson of the Department of Marketing Management, Asst. Prof. Greg Borja III, asserting that we “cannot deny how powerful music is,” emphasizing the global potential of Original Pilipino Music (OPM).

This was followed by Prof. Marvin Reyes, PhD, the CAS Prefect of Student Activities, who delivered some introductory remarks. This was succeeded by a brief icebreaker led by the hosts, Tommy Tanchanco, President and CEO of 12 Stone Records, Business Development and

Artist Management Consultant from Sony Music Entertainment Philippines, and Mint College Management Professor, who took the floor to facilitate the first talk of the session.

Giving prominence to the flourishing array of Filipino artists in comparison to Western and K-Pop genres, Tanchanco highlighted “prime investment opportunities” in today’s local music. Grounded in timeless marketing principles, he delved into the history of music marketing, exploring various income sources within the industry.

Succeeding Tanchanco’s presentation, Clark Cunanan, Senior Client and Marketing Manager of The Orchard, discussed the relevance of advertising campaigns for musicians across different platforms such as Spotify and TikTok.

Subsequently, a roundtable discussion, moderated by panelist Prof. Edgar Timbungco, took place between Tanchanco, Cunanan, and Filipino indie singer-songwriter, Bullet Dumas.

Cunanan delved into how artists track their analytics on music-streaming platforms to better understand their market, touching base on the understated connections between producers, musicians, and labels, noting the pro-artist stance of labels in today’s music scene.

Offering his perspective as an artist, Dumas recognized the



Officers and members of the San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA) pose for a photo opportunity after the Mic Check 2024 program.
Photo by Rizian Ballea



From L-R: Prof. Edgar Timbungco, Bullet Dumas, Tommy Tanchanco and Clark Cunanan and Asst. Prof. Greg Borja III.
Photo by Thirdy Pabilico

gravity of establishing a strong foundation in music marketing to maximize audience engagement, redefining what it takes to make a “hit.” Reflecting on his over-a-decade-long journey in the industry, Dumas draws attention to the influence of such a discourse for both emerging and seasoned artists, also illuminating upon the willingness of people in the industry to provide assistance, “People are willing to help. So, just make it known, if kailangan mo ng tulong,” he advocated.

As the event unfolded, it not only provided valuable insights into the dynamic realities of music marketing but also fostered

a community where voices are considered, and ideas are shared, contributing to the vibrant and evolving landscape of music marketing in the Philippines.

One of the participants, Prof. Lawrence Sibayan, shared his perspective on the vitality of the event. Being in the academic field guiding students through the intricacies of practical marketing, he lends weight to the magnitude of exposing students to the nuances of marketing within specific industries, like the dynamic realm of music and entertainment.

Furthermore, Prof. Sibayan also bared that he was

enlightened by the ways in which such a democratized industry can empower artists to market independently, breaking free from the constraints of traditional labels and distributors.

SBJMA then wrapped up the session by presenting certificates of appreciation to keynote speakers. In harmony with the Feast of the Sto. Niño, SBJMA’s Mic Check 2024 resonates as it is grounded on the value of benevolence and collaboration, shaping the Bedan community into exemplary stewards of a shared enthusiasm – music.

(with Thirdy Pabilico)

“The Church is us,” says Rector in final Pista 2024 mass

▼ Rizian Ballea

BEARING WITNESS TO the Bedan community’s renewed faith and eco-consciousness, a Eucharistic Celebration, presided over by San Beda University’s (SBU) Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan, OSB, marked the culmination of the Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2024 at the University Football Field last January 28.

After a solemn procession, the Bedan community came together for a euphoric Eucharistic Celebration wherein Fr. Maranan delivered a compelling homily, giving prominence to the value of faith in education—a commitment integral to the institution since its establishment.

In his homily, the Rector-President encouraged students to “seek more than entertainment” in celebrating the Feast of the Sto. Niño. He hoped that the festivities strengthened Bedans’ relationship with God and each other, fulfilling SBU’s mission to guide its people toward attaining the kingdom of God in their daily lives.

In his message, Fr. Maranan also highlighted three essential points. Firstly, he urged Bedans to grasp the essence of religious piety stating that “...what is

crucial, my dear Bedans, is that in our observance of religious piety—devotion to the Sto. Niño, Black Nazarene, Blessed Mother, and all saints, they are manifestations of genuine faith in God’s love. Hopefully, our religious piety does not end in devotion...and may it bring us closer to God through the sacramental celebration of our life.”

For his second call, the Rector-President accentuated the vitality of communal love for Jesus, underlining the Bedan community’s “synodality” with each other and the entire Church, expressing, “As I tell you, the Church is not the building, not the hierarchy; the Church is us, faithful children of God through Jesus celebrating the Eucharist in faith and love.”

Lastly, Fr. Maranan stressed the imperative to care for the

environment, aligning the institution and its people with Pope Francis’s Laudato Si’ initiative. Beyond caring for our common home, he emphasized holistic stewardship, saying, “Let’s protect our environment not only externally but also when our hearts are clear of sins, when there is no anger, when there is no hatred, when there is no tampuhan—when everything is made in peace and love. That’s when we truly begin to love our environment.”

The Rector-President ended the mass and the celebrations with a call for the mantra, “Ako ay Bedista, ako ay maka-Diyos, ako ay maka-tao, ako ay makabayan, at higit sa lahat, ako ay maka-kakalikasan,” which was followed by what was followed by a spectacular fireworks display illuminating the sky.

(with Dianne Radel Magallon)



Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan holding an image of the Sto. Nino.
Photo by Jannine Salinas

PANGULONG TUDLING

Huwag umindak sa saliw ng “Cha-Cha”

NOONG IBINABALANGKAS NG mga komisyoner ng Philippine Constitutional Commission of 1986 ang Saligang Batas ng 1987, naging pangunahing konsiderasyon nila na maibalik ang kapangyarihan sa taumbayan. Matapos ang dalawang dekada ng kawalang katarungan at laganap na kultura ng impunidad sa ilalim ng rehimeng Marcos, ang pagkakamit ng pagkakaisa at hustisyang panlipunan ang naging silinyador ng mga tagapagbalangkas.

Ngunit matapos ang mahigit tatumpu’t pitong taon, ang bulok na sistemang padrino at palakasan, pati ang laganap na korapsyon sa bawat sulok ng burukrasyang pampamahalaan at ang patuloy na pagpapalakas sa mga dinastiyang politikal, sentro pa rin ito sa diskurso ng lipunang Pilipino. Hindi maipagkakaila na ang mga pangarap at pag-asang pinanghawakan natin matapos ang pagpapabagsak sa diktadurang Marcos ay unti-unting nang naglalaho sa kaisipan ng napakarami nating kababayan. Marahil ito na ang naging sanhi ng muling pagbabalik ng pamilyang Marcos sa poder noong 2022.

Katuwang si Sara Duterte-Carpio bilang Pangalawang Pangulo, itinuon ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ang kanyang unang taon sa pagpapabango ng pangalan ng kanyang pamilya sa pamamagitan ng muling pakikipagdayalogo sa mga komunistang rebelde, pagsusulong sa 2016 arbitral ruling ukol sa West Philippine Sea, at ang pagtalikod sa madugong giyera kontra iligal na droga ng nakaraang pamahalaan. Taliwas ang lahat ng ito sa kanyang naging retorika noong halalan, kung saan ipinagdiinan ni Marcos Jr. ang kanyang pagtalima sa mga naging polisyang nang noo’y si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte.

Bagamat kinikilala na ngayon ng liberal na oposisyon ang unti-unting panunumbalik ng sigla ng demokrasya sa ilalim ni Marcos Jr., mayroong maituturing na isang malaking dagok sa kanyang pagsusumikap na makumbinsi ang kanyang mga kritiko. Ito ang pagkilos ng Mababang Kapulungan, na siyang pinamumunuan ng kanyang pinsan na si Ispiker Martin Romualdez, na repasuhin umano ang mga “probisyong pang-ekonomiko” ng Saligang Batas. Kasabay ng pagsusulong nina Romualdez sa pag-aamyenda sa Saligang Batas ay ang pangangalap naman ng mga personalidad na konektado sa kanya ng mga pirma sa iba’t ibang mga distrito ng bansa para sa paggamit sa People’s Initiative bilang paraan ng pagrerepaso ng Konstitusyon.

Mariin namang kinondena ng mga kasapi ng Senado ang umano’y mga “baluktot” na pamamaraan ng Kamara upang maisakatuparang ang pag-aamyenda sa Saligang Batas. Bagamat naghain din siya ng resolusyon upang pasinayaan ang proseso ng pagrerepaso sa Konstitusyon, binatikos ni Senador Juan Miguel Zubiri, ang Pangulo ng Senado, ang umano’y pagtatangka ng Kamara na pahinain ang kapangyarihan ng Mataas na Kapulungan kapag nagpulong na ang isang constituent assembly.

Sa mga panahong tulad nito, kung saan tila ba nasa isang sangangdaan ang ating bayan, matandaan sana natin ang mga aral ng Batas Militar. Isang Marcos din ang nasa poder nang unti-unting naglaho ang kalayaan sa bansa. Huwag sana nating hahayaan na magamit ang mga lehitimong pamamaraan ng pag-amyenda sa Saligang Batas upang mas lalo pang pahinain ang lakas at diwa ng ating demokrasya.

Ang ating pagiging mapanuri, mapanagot, at maalam sa mga isyung panlipunan ay mahahalaga sa pagprotekta ng ating demokrasya mula sa anumang pwersa na maaaring magtaguyod ng kanilang mga pansariling interes. Ito ang panhon para magsama-sama tayo upang ipagtanggol ang mga prinsipyong nagtataglay ng diwa ng ating bayan.

Drummer by the Flagpole is a long held and deeply cherished *The Bedan* tradition. Drummer Boy is celebrating his 34th anniversary this year.
Who is Drummer Boy?
The answer may be found in the September - October 2007 issue of *The Bedan*: “Many have asked who he really is. But more than the question of who writes Drummer Boy the question we must ask is why he writes. And what will happen if he stops to write. He writes because we need him to write for us. He writes because some of us are ashamed to question the wrongdoings around us. He writes for freedom. He writes for you. He writes for us. Drummer Boy is each and everyone of us.”
Contact: <https://thebedan.com/contact-us/drummer-boy/>

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY KATHY DELOS REYES





In necessariis, unitas; in opinnabilibus, libertas; in omnibus, caritas

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TUGSTUGSTUGSTUGS!!! Psh. Tik. Tak. Tik. Tak. Booooooom!

What’s up mga taga- San Bedizzzzz?!!! Your t4mb0l1st4ng qti3, who collects chika every month for U is vak! H4ppY 2024 mga Bedist4S!!! butttt hep hep hep!! Happy nga vah for every1???? Hihi your fav0r1t3 ch1k4d0r4h got sUm gud t34 4 3v3r0ne! sit back, relax, and bc0s diz tea, will be served sizzling hot!

1sT sa 4t1ng ch3kl1st! So-called pr3-l4w course nagkawarla-warlahan sa mismong kownsil nila! Forda resignashion ang prexy and then forda ‘no comment’ ang current prexy! Hmp! Showbiz huh! Then the sudden pl3b1scit3 pa nga to r3vis3 the const1 and by-l4ws of the “top org”! however, dili nag succeed ang sulong forda change! Dahil only 30 percent larngs ng entire TR population ang nag vote, sadszs pano na the change? Does this mean that suko na ang kownsil about their point? Or nag fail lang ba to explain to the studentchisz ang reason kaya konti lang ang nag-vote?

2nd! Hayyy another! T0P coUrs3 umano forda gamit ng AI sa exam! Jusmiyo marimar por pabor! How will you defend your client sa court, mimah? Like will you say ba “wait a minute, your honor, imma chatgpt lang hehe” ganorn? Another! Jusko nai-bagsak mo pa bbq! Saying ang effort!

Hihi but wait! There’s moreeeee, still from the same course, AI notes during class? Everyone saw it including the proffeszur! OOMF! Make abang next month about it!

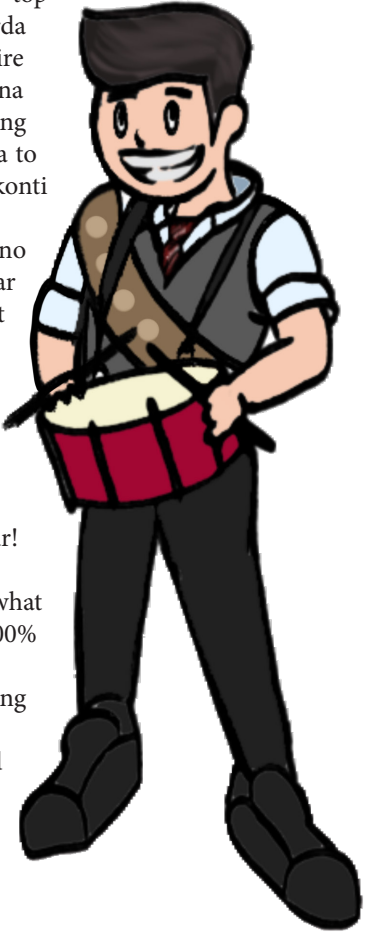
Anyway highway, always remember that what you’ve read are definitely facts onleewey! 100% guaranteed no dagdag and no bawas!

Give me some chikas naman para sulit ang kwento ko next tayms!

Give drummie some chika, so you, me, and everybody happy!

Just email me thru <https://thebedan.com/contact-us/drummer-boy/>

Buugh! Tugs! Kapish! Toodles! Bye bye for now!



TO A COUNTRY already so desensitized to change and quite numb to the prevalence of upheaval, the closure of ABS-CBN’s free-to-air operations back in 2020 seemed to be the gravest and most potent threat ever to the free press in the country. But just when we thought that we have reached the crescendo, well, guess again.

Last January 25, Media Newser reported that Nine Media Corporation, the entity which had entered into a licensing agreement with CNN to bring the media outlet’s brand to the country, mutually agreed to no longer pursue their contract due to “significant financial losses.” It was recently renewed back in 2019 and was due to expire at the end of this year, following a five-year agreement between the two companies.

The news reverberated across the country. Social media was abuzz with tributes to the anchors and staff of CNN Philippines, with many netizens crediting the network’s presidential and vice-presidential debates as the reasons why they were able to make up their minds during those tumultuous campaigns. It can

also be remembered that in the 2016 vice presidential debate hosted by CNN Philippines, then-Senator Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.’s testy exchanges with Senator Alan Peter Cayetano and then-Camarines Sur Representative Leni Robredo made the rounds online. During the 2022 presidential campaign, the clips of these exchanges again made headlines following Marcos Jr.’s failure to attend the network’s presidential debate.

Despite being a relatively younger competitor to already-established news bureaus in the country, such as GMA Integrated News, News5, and ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs, CNN Philippines was able to field its own lineup of veteran anchors and correspondents. It boasted the likes of Pia Hontiveros, Pinky Webb, and Rico Hizon, among other experienced journalists, as its hosts. It also provided comprehensive wall-to-wall

At a crossroads



TAGAMASID PAUL ALEXIS ARGAS

“As the fourth estate braces for a bruising decade ahead, it is sitting at a crossroads... whether to embrace the tide of change... or to just trust that all of these developments are fads merely passing us by.”

coverage during elections, sent its reporters to crisis areas, and covered major natural disaster events as they came.

For its efforts to contribute meaningfully to Philippine broadcasting, CNN Philippines has under its belt several accolades, with

Webb’s The Source and Hizon’s The Final Word hailed as the country’s national winners for Best Current Affairs Programme or Series and Best News Programme, respectively, at the 2020 Asian Academy Creative Awards.

But what CNN Philippines reaped in international recognition, it lacked in revenue, with substantial financial losses amounting to Php5 billion since its inception in 2015. In a report, Rappler detailed the daunting fiscal troubles faced by the network, citing an official audit by Reyes Tacandong & Co. mentioning that the losses “indicate a material uncertainty which may cast a significant doubt about the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern.”

Across newsrooms worldwide, the same concerns over the viability of journalism to remain profitable has spread. According to CNN, at the start

of 2024, the Los Angeles Times “slashed its newsroom by more than 20%,” TIME “cut dozens of staffers,” and Business Insider announced that it would “trim its workforce by 8%.” Changing patterns of information consumption, paired with the huge cuts in ad revenue, have significantly impacted the feasibility of the traditional model of broadcast journalism to stay alive. Even print media, which has already been embracing increased digitalization as its model, is still struggling to keep afloat in a landscape that prioritizes speed and expediency over accuracy, not to mention the threats posed by artificial intelligence and large language models (LLMs).

As the fourth estate braces for a bruising decade ahead, it is sitting at a crossroads, pondering whether to embrace the tide of change and adapt to the evolving media landscape—maybe at the peril of ethical journalism, or to just trust that all of these developments are fads merely passing us by. Whatever path industry leaders choose in these next few months will be crucial in determining the fate of journalism in this century.

BONJOUR, JE M’APPELLE, Anne. In terms of surprises, you can categorize them into two: the good and the bad. But what do they have in common? Both can make your heart pound like it needs to come out of your chest, just like an unsaid truth that needs to be set free.

One of my favorite poets in the Victorian era, Christina Rossetti, has this poem entitled, “What Are Heavy?” and it only consists of a stanza.

“What are heavy? sea-sand and sorrow:

What are brief? today and tomorrow:

What are frail? Spring blossoms and youth:

What are deep? the ocean and truth.”

What does this passage have to do in connection with what I am trying to say about surprises? These lines talk about how our lives dwell

instantly into so many details and unnecessary explanations. Just a general overview, however, like the sharp snapping of one’s fingers when someone wants to make a point or catch your attention.

Heavy. A surprise has its own weight. Especially, because it’s unexpected. The inevitable act of surprise might be heavy on the heart because it aches with happiness. It might also be heavy because of the intense overload of feelings that you can’t decipher due to being overwhelmed.

Brief. The momentary rush of emotions happens during the surprise. Hmmm, however, no one knows if it will bring extreme joy or sorrow to a person who’s at the receiving

Amidst surprises and ignorance



PAPILLON ANNE JULIA FRANCISCO

“No one knows how deep an ocean is, but anyone knows how deep their truth can go.”

end of this action. Rossetti pictured a moment into time—today and tomorrow, a short amount of time being dragged upon is

still time being wasted through the 24 hours of the day—ultimately carrying over to the next 24 hours of tomorrow. Hence, a moment that can be stretched into bigger and wider lengths, as such, a whole story.

Frail. Like how Rossetti swiftly described it, like Spring blossoms and youth—so fragile, so delicate, and so true. A surprise can be considered a party popper or a time bomb. It might pop and provide extreme joy and then when you clean up the colorful pieces of foil paper, you’re still happy because it’s a joyful event. On the latter though, if it’s a time bomb, nothing, after it explodes; there’s nothing left to fix nor clean up.

Deep. The ocean can get

darker and darker as you go deeper. The truth unfolds even more as you dig for other pieces of information or as you construct your truth, you might even beat the depths of any kind of body of water there is. No one knows how deep an ocean is, but anyone knows how deep their truth can go.

Therefore, what’s the whole point of all of these? Was it really the intricate details of a surprise? Actually, yes but more on something else. Mon ami, do not waste your time in making something, and most importantly, someone feel the depths of sea-sand and sorrow. Do not disrupt the brief hours of the day and the plans for tomorrow, just because. Do not crush nor abuse the frail kindness that was gifted by God. Do not drown people with you with your own truth. Because that’s unfair, mon ami, to the people you’ll drag, drown, and disturb. Time is valuable, use every second sagely and make joyful surprises.

THE GREATEST MAGICIANS have something to learn from Mr. Mistoffelees’ Conjuring Turn - PRESTO! In a reality that is so complex, one begs to ask: what if it’s you? And what if it’s me? And what if that’s all that we needed to be for the rest of the world to fall away? What do you say?

And then the breeze sang her most melodious song. As what a wing woman ought to do, she then gently tapped over the man’s trembling shoulder, encouraging him to take the risk. There was harmony all around with the weather being fine, flowers dancing gracefully, and a young man standing shakingly before his beloved—an unusually perfect day, as if everything were under his behest. Taking the chance of a lifetime, the man held her hand and bent on one knee while quivering as he let out the words “will you marry me?”

The earth stood still with time seemingly losing all control. There was a deafening, eerily silent silence in-between. In that moment, they were alone, but they were alone together - which was the only thing that he ever wanted, to have a world

where there is her by his side. “I promise to protect, cherish, and love you forever,” he declared.

“But how precious is a vow if it is measured in mere 299 Philippine Pesos?” she replied, disappointingly.

Arriving at the second act of the musical Dear Evan Hansen (DEH), Zoe Murphy, in a conversation with Evan, gave certainty to their relationship through letting out an impactful line “you don’t have to be scared you’re not enough, ‘cause what we’ve got going is good.” Needless to say, a fiction is truly as such. Rarely will there be occurrences where the lines of reality and fantasy intertwine as both are literally of different worlds. Hence, in this case, a price is a price. It defines the worth and value of a product while taking into account the work behind-the-scenes and the demand and supply phenomenon of a given context. I thought for sure that a price defines the value of what’s tangible, after all, the abstract

Only us



MR. MISTOFFELEES GIAN MARCEL CHIU

“...why is there a heavy price tag for everything—including that bag, to live, and the ones that can’t be seen?”

is imperceptible, more so immeasurable. But now, why is there a heavy price tag for everything—including that bag, to live, and the ones that can’t be seen?

Ceteris Paribus, which is the Latin word for “all other things being equal,” applies to the phenomenon of the law of demand and supply. Basically, the law states that “if a product has a high demand and low supply, the price will increase. Conversely, if there is low demand and high supply, the price will decrease.” Everything is connected,

and taking into our discussion the issue of the Php299 engagement ring. What can we infer of this? From the price alone, is it safe to surmise that there exists a high supply of rings but a low demand of love? The dilemma is further heightened when quality is considered—with how such is dependent on the rings’ craftsmanship, the materials being used, and the like, it opens up another query on whether love should be measured through the superficial and the mundane.

Such a predicament became the heated subject of dispute within the virtual community. While some have wielded that the issue was a portrayal of romanticizing the barest minimum at best, others, on the other hand, sought to look deeper on the matter by considering the factors surrounding it, most popularly on the financial and personal aspects of the proposing party.

Looking into the issue,

many have overlooked the fact that a proposal through a ring is an act of giving, per se, a humbling endeavor of looking beyond the personal and transcending the confines of self-interest in an effort to embrace the needs and aspirations of others. Especially if the act was made with an intent to marry, an engagement ring is vital to determine whether there exists a dedicating factor to unite as one. It should be emphasized that finding the perfect engagement ring is never done to flaunt one’s stature nor is it even a criterion to measure affection. Rather, to reiterate, it’s a show of one’s effort to become one—after all, you can love without having the intent of marriage.

Essentially, whether or not the intent of marriage is on discussion, establishing rapport is key. Just as the act of giving an engagement ring transcends self-interest, the receiving party should also carry with it the value of empathy toward his/her partner whatever the circumstances may be. While a ring of high caliber adorns the finger, love transcends beyond the glamor.

Oh! Well, I never! Was there ever a cat so clever as magical Mr. Mistoffelees?

THE NAME'S AKIRA and boy do I have something to tell you. Well, this is not just any opinion but more of a rant to what is currently happening right now in the Philippines: with a political drama that has happened between two "unified" dynasties (Marcoses and Dutertes), it seems as if unity is the only platform that the Marcos-Duterte tandem failed to establish. And not only that, but there are people who seem to be enjoying it like a teleserye while others are very concerned that their problems would not be resolved soon: and that's a clear disconnect which is very worrying.

First off, for the people who are calling for the government to focus on the problems at hand such as the PUV modernization and the continuous increase in price of essential needs, they are really at the center of it all, the victim of the government's mismanagement and prioritization of political policies.

Hence, there was this one time where there were certain groups who were at the front of the House of Representatives, carrying placards that presents the real problems the government is facing while the lawmakers are continuously pushing for charter change or cha-cha. Remember the meme "we are not the same"? Well, this applies to the situation the affected citizens are in, and it's disappointing when you think about it.

Secondly, to the current government, unity is literally the only thing that the Marcos-Duterte tandem has repeated many times throughout their campaign and yet they even failed to do so. It's bad enough that we have no clear and practical plans for the Philippines in the future, it's worse to realize that the only

The Clear Disconnect



AKIRA
ALVIN JOHN ACAYEN

"...unity is literally the only thing that the Marcos-Duterte tandem has repeated many times throughout their campaign and yet they even failed to do so."

purpose of these two leaders from political dynasties joining forces presents a display of self-interests only – it was never about the

people to begin with. And now, both Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and former president Rodrigo Duterte did not hold back in throwing shades against one another. This includes Duterte's son Baste Duterte even telling Marcos Jr. to resign as president. Alongside the whole issue of "people's initiative" a political rift between both houses of congress: the senate and the house has started.

Third and finally, to the people who are very much against the tandem to begin with, let alone, longtime critics of former president Duterte, are enjoying the sight of what they are seeing right now. With the real colors showing among the members of UniTeam, it's like a drama from a teleserye that entertains the haters of the administration, claiming

that they were right all along, to the point of telling the people who voted for Marcos-Duterte of "told you so" or "you should have listened." While I understand that part, even I will admit in doing the same thing, it's not the right way of making a united front against another strong political domination in the upcoming 2025 elections. Political groups should take this as an opportunity in making a genuine opposition that does not use deliberate shaming towards people in contrast to their beliefs but be more welcoming to gain more mass support.

As the political story continues to unfold for Bongbong Marcos and Sara Duterte, only time will tell if the people have truly learned their lesson by choosing the leaders who would be willing to step up as opposition or fail to realize it by choosing either one from the dark side. But as of writing this, there is already a cracking in the so-called "UniTeam."

CONCERTS HAVE BEEN an integral part of the fandom culture. The unparalleled ability to create a sense of community, evoke powerful emotions and provide a unique and unforgettable experience for artists and fans alike. Imagine the collective excitement once inside the venue and meeting new companions bound by a common interest. However, what follows this musical euphoria is a phenomenon that many concertgoers are all too familiar with – post-concert depression.

Let's start with the facts. Following the lifting of restrictions in 2022, K-pop concerts have become an extremely popular event due to their growing fanbase. As a result, tickets sell out incredibly quickly. Due to its popularity in the Philippines, demand has never been greater, prompting concert organizers to propose a "stadium tour" for the artists. This led to the concert craze at the Philippine Arena and the Philippine Sports Stadium.

Performing in stadiums is a great honor for artists as it indicates they

have a large fanbase, making them a household name in the industry. For instance, the K-pop boy group Seventeen became the first group to hold a concert in the Philippine Arena and Philippine Sports Stadium, a massive achievement for them. Thousands of fans attended, making it a sold-out concert, especially since the group is famous in the Philippines.

Furthermore, the tiring experience of attending these concerts is due to the need for public transportation from these two common venues. Imagine these two venues are just near the long highway of NLEX, and the struggle of booking a Grab or finding a train station or jeepney is the cons of attending. Luckily, event organizers are now moving to organize a shuttle bus so that fans in different areas can get to the venue without hassle, which is helpful for me, who came from Rizal and attended a concert in Bulacan.

Post-concert "longing"



HANNIE
DAPHNE ZENAROSA

"...after the final encore, fans will be left grappling with a mix of nostalgia, longing, and a sense of loss."

But what is striking during every concert is the aftermath of what happened. Post-concert depression, or "PCD," is the state where, after the final encore, fans will be left grappling with a mix of nostalgia, longing, and a sense of loss. It's the result of the profound joy that we experienced during the concert now replaced by a palpable void.

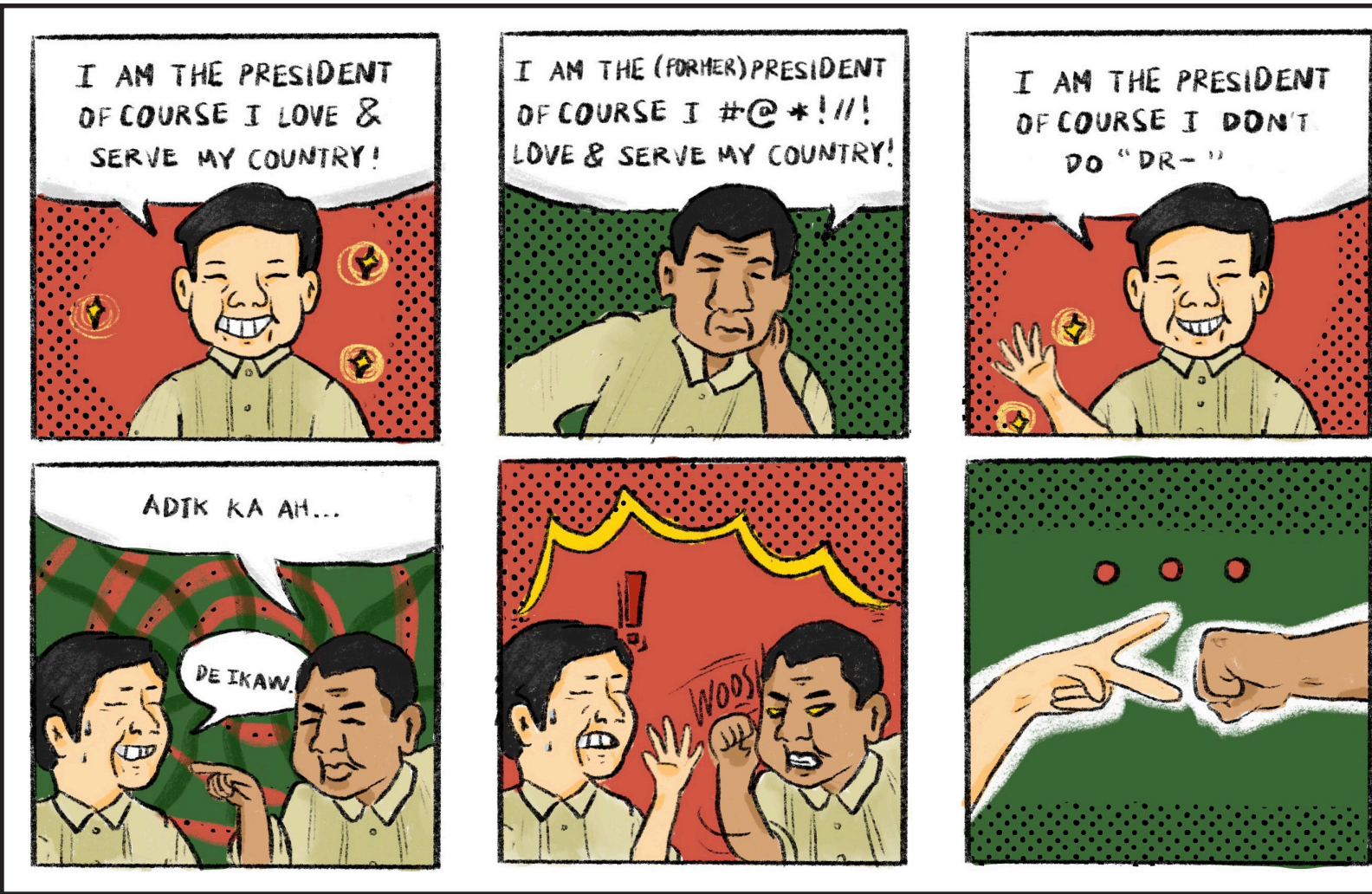
That feeling when the final beat is struck, fans are now back into the routine of their everyday existence, going back to their normal life.

As a fan, I can't even explain how this stops. I went to my first concert on April 30, 2023, as a belated birthday present to myself, and thinking about it now makes me want to cry and go back to that event all over again. Also, I went to another concert on January 21, which was surreal. I've been dreaming about it since I was 18, and now I'm 22, and it feels like a dream come true. People say that my post-concert "longing" would only last for a day or a week, but I still have it up until now. After concerts, we would watch the "fan cams" of our favorite artists and even post them on Instagram to the point where our stories would become a PowerPoint presentation.

Will we only post about the concert for one day? No,

it doesn't end there. We also share our experiences and repost videos from other fans, causing some of our mutuals to mute our story or unfollow us. I mean, if my favorite member saw the banner I raised or even waved "Hi" to me, I would brag about it nonstop on social media – which I did. But wait, it still does not stop there. Fans will continue to talk about the concert nonstop, and you may feel the urge to cover your ears. However, if you have a friend who attended the concert and is experiencing PCD, let them talk and relive their experience.

Experiencing feelings of loss after attending a concert is quite common. However, it is important to acknowledge that the memories created during such events can be cherished forever. The connections made with fellow fans and the energy channeled during the concert can help one overcome the post-concert blues and develop a renewed appreciation for the magic of live music. After all, music can evoke strong emotions that transcend time and space, making it so special.





BATO-BATO PIK
BY JANNINE SALINAS

LIONS' MENTOR:

Behind Doc Larry's Journey to the Den

▼ Francesca Zia Robles

WITHIN THE GROUNDS of San Beda University (SBU) lies a mainspring of knowledge where educators, students, and administrators work together to foster a community marked by a dedication to work, transparency in communication, and love of God. One of these educators is Assoc. Prof. Larry Ambion, Ph.D., who has been serving SBU for fifteen years and currently presides as a herald of competence accompanied by camaraderie.

In an exclusive interview with Prof. Ambion, let us witness his journey from his fateful beginnings to his responsibility as the Chairperson of the Department of Languages and Literature.

Road to success

Prof. Ambion graduated with a Master's degree in Arts at the De La Salle University (DLSU) in 2008. Even before Prof. Ambion set his sights on SBU, he was already teaching part-time at a language school in Quezon City from 2004 to 2008 after the completion of his graduate degree. His employer immediately hired him upon completing his On-the-Job Training (OJT). But his fateful journey in SBU began when he was contacted by his former workmate, Prof. Lui Macapagal's wife, who had informed him that the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) was hiring English teachers.

He began working in the English Department in November 2008. "When I applied as an English professor at SBU, I received offers too, to teach at a university on Taft Avenue and one in Katipunan. But I chose SBU at the time," said Prof. Ambion.

The enrichment of learning

Throughout Prof. Ambion's teaching career at SBU, he considered the ability to "impart his knowledge in English and Literature to thousands of students" as the rewarding part of his career. "My training and interactions with them have shaped my approach to communication and information sharing in ways that are consistent with many principles of good teaching and office management," he said.

Prof. Ambion also added that, while he "does not have conventional approaches" to teaching, it also means that he is very "adaptable" as he takes every opportunity to learn. Thus, he views teaching as not only a way to bolster his students' knowledge, but also a cycle of self-improvement in his fields of study.

But his role as a mentor does not end there. He has also written and published several papers and creative books. One of these works, entitled "Fusion: Papers on Language and Literature" is a compilation of various research papers to guide students on topics such as speech, articulations, and phonetics, to which he was able to present this work internationally. Additionally, he presented his work at the Research Summit alongside his co-authors for four years in a row.

Prof. Ambion's commitment to his work is admirable. "One of the best parts for me is that, for fifteen years, I have always been the 'earliest bird.' Since 2008, I have managed to arrive at school before 5:30 a.m. consistently," he said. Through his dedication to his craft, he set up for success that followed his years of being a mentor.

Additionally, Prof. Ambion's friendly disposition has made him very approachable fellow faculty members and students. He himself as the "friendliest." He also shared, aside, I have been holding the title of the Carnival

toward his considers "Modesty "Spirit of Kween."

Beyond the classroom walls

His responsibilities include the role in the Office of Linkages and International Affairs (LIA), wherein "he was the associate for international research" for three years. "I was able to work with my dear mentor and second Mom, Doc Tita Evasco-Branzuela," he stated.

Prof. Ambion also shared that he was one of the Editors-in-Chief of The Bedan Today, the official publication of SBU under the Rector-President, which he had served from 2016 to 2019. This emphasized his mastery over writing, and taking on an organizational role in the publication made him better equipped for future managerial positions.

Problem-solving through adaptability

In 2020, he was appointed as the Chairperson of the Department of Languages and Literature by the Dean and Vice Dean of the CAS to whom he extends his gratitude. Taking on the position, Prof. Ambion confessed to have experienced difficulty "since the pandemic began that same year, and I had to make numerous adjustments not only as a professor but also as the head of the department." Ultimately, this displays the unwavering resolve he possesses, that despite being faced with unknown and arduous challenges, he was able to overcome them.

Among the challenges that Prof. Ambion faced were disagreements with faculty members. "There were some disagreements among faculty members which I find quite challenging to deal with, especially when they involve differing academic views," he admitted. But despite these issues, he was able to adapt through practicing "engaged listening, maintain open and courteous conversation, and prioritize finding solutions that benefit the entire department." This served to hone his responsibility as department chair. He learned how to properly delegate tasks, establish clear boundaries between work and professional life, and seek guidance from colleagues and supervisors.

The recurrence of success

Prof. Ambion highlighted the department's accomplishments through the many alumni and students who have been a huge part of its success. "The department's greatest achievement may be alumni who are now successful in their respective industries, students who continually contribute creativity and innovation to their work and life," he said. Furthermore, he also noted the students who have produced exceptional research papers. All of this was done while maintaining the utmost camaraderie among the department's faculty members, thus promoting a healthy work environment and a competent one. Through the proficiency and work ethic with which he carries himself, Prof. Ambion eventually became the recipient of the prestigious "Distinguished Professorial Chair" award which was awarded by the San Beda College Alumni Foundation, Inc. (SBCAF).

Thus, over the years, Prof. Ambion had achieved great mastery in directing affairs within the classrooms as a professor and Chairperson of the Department of Languages and Literature; and in essence, providing the College with a beacon of warmth, astuteness, and reliability that leaves us hopeful for the years to come.

(with Manssel Latonero and Paolo Vital)

‘PURRFECT’

GUIDE TO SBU STRAY CATS

▼ Daphne Zenarosa and Carl Angelo Casilag
Photo courtesy of SBU-CATS

IT’S ALWAYS A delightful experience to come across our furry feline friends while strolling on your college campus. Fortunately, San Beda University - Collective Action Towards Strays (SBU-CATS), one of the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) youngest student organizations, is proactively taking measures to offer guidance and support to Bedan students for interacting with our adorable campus cats.

Witnessing such considerate and empathetic initiatives being taken towards the welfare of our feline companions is truly heartwarming and commendable.

In an interview with Yzabella Gayanelo, the President of SBU-CATS, she shared with us the organization’s recent project, “How to Make Bedan Strays Love You,” which seeks to establish guidelines for a better and safer way of interacting with the Bedan strays on campus.

PROMOTING COEXISTENCE

The primary goal of “How to Make Bedan Strays Love You” is to “foster and protect” the sense of coexistence between the Bedan community and the campus cats. Gayanelo emphasized the importance of understanding and respecting the boundaries between humans and animals to create a harmonious environment, stating, “We are all aware *naman po na maraming nga talagang cats dito na present sa* [San] Beda and we coexist with them. And it is something *na* we want to protect *sana...*’ *yung* coexistence *na* ’yun.”

PROTECTING ANIMAL WELFARE

Admittedly, problems have since arisen, including campus cats displaying aggression, leading to bites and scratches. Moreover, reports were received regarding some individuals intentionally leading the campus cats astray. The proposed project seeks to address concerns about the well-being of the cats and the community by introducing guidelines on responsible interactions.



The SBU-CATS hopes to achieve this by displaying informative publication materials on campus and online. By educating the Bedan community

on proper conduct, the organization aims to reduce instances of students, faculty, and staff getting scratched or bitten, promoting the overall welfare and amicable environmental conditions of humans and animals.

“We want to be able to create a community within the Bedan community. We want to create a safe space *na, alam niyo* ’yun, *nagkakaintindihan tayo* as ‘furdads’ and ‘furmoms,’ ‘furparents’ *na* it is our moral duty to protect the welfare of these animals,” Gayanelo expressed.

NAVIGATING ADMINISTRATION APPROVAL

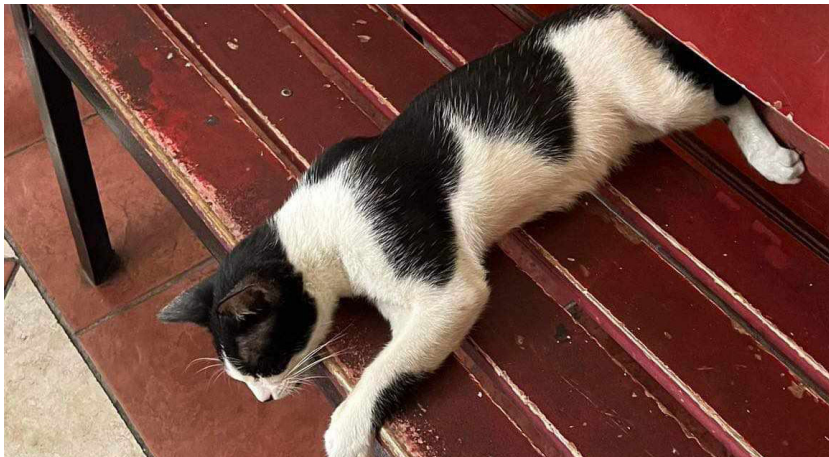
While rooted in compassion, gaining approval from the administration has presented challenges. The project faced hurdles as the administration discouraged the physical display of publication materials around the campus. Understanding these concerns, the organization remains committed to sharing the guidelines through its social media account to align the project with the University’s policies.

THE FELINES OF SAN BEDA

Last December, the organization conducted a census to determine the number of cats living on campus. According to Gayanelo, there were 15 cats at the time of the census, including Brus and Jumong which were named by one “Tatay Amor,” the cats’ caretaker. However, the organization was informed that some cats gave birth while others were caught—which was a common occurrence last year. Additionally, the organization are still deciding on what name will they gave to the other cats.

Because of the incidents occurring in the cats, the organization wants to implement

a project that revolved around making an ID for the cats. “So now, we want ‘*yung* by implementing *sana* ’*yung mga* projects *namin na mapa-ID-han* ’*yung* cats, we want *na... maging... parang... tulong na lang rin namin siya sa* Bedan community *na ayun nga*, since okay *unti-unti natin subukan na ma-pet sila, ganu’n*. It’s some sort of *parang* comfort *din na*,” Gayanelo emphasized. Nonetheless, this project would create a safe space for the Bedan community, especially for the ‘furparents’ who are morally responsible for protecting their cats’ welfare.



Gayanelo also mentioned that the cats can be found in the dark alleyway behind the nursing building. They are also seen in Tatay Amor’s office.

“*D* ’ *u n kasi sila nagtatago kasi nga di’ba*, before *nga may nangyayaring mga hulihan and meron kasing mga spots doon na pwedeng pagtaguan*,” Gayanelo shared.

SO, HOW DO YOU MAKE BEDAN STRAYS LOVE YOU?

The next time you see a cat on campus, follow these simple yet effective steps to make them love you: Avoid touching the cats even if they approach you first. This includes hand feeding or giving them food anywhere near you or a friend. “Only authorized personnel are allowed to feed the cats,” Gayanelo shared.

Refrain from harming and startling the cats and playing “friendly” pranks on these furbabies. This includes lifting, scaring, or kicking the cats, as such behaviors can induce stress and anxiety, potentially resulting in aggressive reactions.

Always remember to maintain your distance and learn to admire them from afar. Gayanelo emphasized how “perfectly fine it is” to observe them, but the decision to touch them is entirely up to your discretion. Gayanelo mentioned, “*Pwede mo naman silang tignan ganun*. If you want to touch, to your discretion *nga*. Just make sure *na-vaccinan ka na ganun*.”

Only authorized personnel are permitted to handle the strays. The SBU-CATS and other maintenance staff like, Tatay Amor, are the only ones allowed to handle the trays and are responsible for their food, upkeep, and health.

As we embark on this journey to make Bedan strays feel loved, let’s remember to follow the outlined guidelines and contribute to a campus culture that respects and cares for our furry friends. Together, we can create a community within the Bedan community that values the welfare of these animals and celebrates the unique bond we share with them.

(with Jennifer Gwyneth Fabros)

DO NOT THE CAT:



AVOID TOUCHING THE CATS EVEN IF THEY APPROACH YOU FIRST. THIS INCLUDES HANDFEEDING OR GIVING THEM FOOD ANYWHERE NEAR YOU OR A FRIEND.



REFRAIN FROM HARMING AND STARTLING THE CATS, AS WELL AS PLAYING "FRIENDLY" PRANKS ON THESE FURBABIES.



ALWAYS REMEMBER TO MAINTAIN YOUR DISTANCE AND LEARN TO ADMIRE THEM FROM AFAR.



ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ARE GIVEN PERMISSION TO HANDLE THE STRAYS.

ENSURING OUR SAFETY IS CRUCIAL, BUT AS STEWARDS TOWARD ALL LIVING BEINGS, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND PROVIDE A SAFE, CARING, AND REASONABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE STRAYS.

*San Beda University is not intended for housing animals.

12

IN THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY: IMMERSION IN THE PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

▼ Ryan Julianne Monzon and Rizian Veniz Balleta

“UT IN OMNIBUS Glorificetur Deus” is a phrase every Bedan knows by heart, and it was genuinely embodied by the students of the College of Arts and Sciences’ (CAS) Social Justice course (THED04). These students were enlightened through immersing themselves in communities, nurturing a social consciousness that flourishes beyond the academic setting.

Graced with the opportunity to uphold their advocacies beyond the classroom boundaries, Bedans under THED04 persisted in breathing life into the Benedictine hallmarks of Community and Conversatio. Whether taking part in local development projects or seeking refuge in the everyday lives of underprivileged demographics, their efforts resonate in the heart of communities that often remain unseen or unheard.

In an interview with Asst. Prof. Neilia Ramirez, fondly known by her students as “Ma’am Yang,” in her almost two decades of service to San Beda, she affirmed that these student-led initiatives aren’t just mere segments in the curriculum for they epitomize the school’s mission to foster socially responsible individuals.

“The immersion is aimed at making students aware, but more than awareness, it’s about experience,” said Ma’am Yang in elaborating on the program’s foundational principles. “The primary reason why students are encouraged to go to the community is not to give community service, but to be in solidarity with people—*makipamuhay*,” she added.

As Bedans witness the socio-economic disparities and confront the challenges these communities face, their perspectives widen, fostering a more profound and organic sense of social consciousness.

To this, Edriane Timothy “Iane” Tabor, a third-year Legal Management student, shared that through this program, he was able to live among communities affected by recurrent flooding near Laguna Bay and face their daily lives.

Tabor conveyed that “the primary objectives outlined for me at the beginning of the program was to immerse myself with how they live. It was not to provide help or to conduct community engagement projects,

but to genuinely and candidly live like how they live.”

The program emphasized immersion over intervention. Tabor recalled the guidance from the Barangay officials, a local fisherman, vendor, and shoemaker, even those who live far from civilization, making it hard for them to receive ayuda from the government. All the insights they shared amplified Tabor’s immersion, enriching their experience with stories of struggles, expertise, and self-discovery.

Tabor’s narrative is a testament to the core of the THED04 Immersion Program at SBU. His encounters pave the way for the transformative potential of community immersion, exemplifying the institution’s commitment to nurturing socially conscious leaders.

In line with that, Ma’am Yang stated that part of social transformation is for the students to experience social issues. “You have to know, and be aware, [of] the organic experience of social issues. *Para* not only theoretically, but *‘yung* action *ng* students *sa* social transformation *hindi pilit*.”

The University deeply invests in this immersion program, as Bedans are enriched with experiences and ready to mold a future where empathy, community, and social action flourish hand in hand.

Through Ma’am Yang’s guidance and the Department’s collective efforts, this program continues to drive Bedan students to dedicate their time and efforts to be one with the people, embodying the essence of compassion, solidarity, and responsibility—values that resonate profoundly during this festive season.

As part of his learning, Tabor concluded, “It is in immersing oneself in how they live do we truly get to know the gravity of their plight, especially during times of calamity. From living out what I’ve learned, it is also essential for me and my group to advocate for the needs of those that we [are] immersed with.”

Being their professor, Ma’am Yang proudly mentioned that the THED04 Immersion program not only aligns with the Bedan formation of fostering a profound sense of service, empathy, and communal responsibility among Bedan students but it even goes beyond as long as the students don’t forget our mission and vision.



THESIS DEFENDED:

GRADUATING STUDENTS' JOURNEY TO A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH PAPER

▼ Mika Isidro

Artwork by Jannine Salinas



EMBARKING ON A new chapter in the life of a college student, writing a thesis is one of the remarkable experiences during the graduating year—from the process of crafting the paper to the part of defending the study.

Learning from the experiences of others is one of the best sources of knowledge, particularly on how one overcomes the crossroads and gaps along the process. Recognizing the efforts made and pieces of advice shared by our seniors, we will go on board as we further gather data from the stories of our graduating students.



“ALWAYS DO EACH CHAPTER RIGHT AFTER IT WAS DISCUSSED BY YOUR RESEARCH PROFESSOR”
-LAURELL DON DE VERA

Being hands-on and doing things on time, Laurell ensures that she starts working once the details for the assignment are provided to make sure that everything is ready beforehand.

Applying her study habits to thesis making, Laurell shared tips for fellow graduating students on their research journey. “Always do each chapter right after it was discussed by your research professor. If you’re advised by your professor to start gathering data, do it immediately to avoid cramming and feeling stressed,” said Laurell.

While being aware of how to write a thesis and its preparation, Laurell shared that the lack of inspiration is already different once the actual moment of writing a solo thesis is on. To deal with such feeling, she shared solutions like going to a coffee shop, taking a short walk, and playing with cats.



“DO NOT EXPECT THAT YOU WILL BE GOOD AT EVERYTHING AS IT TAKES TIME TO MASTER SKILLS SO BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF.”
-ANDREA GAELE CANTOR

Applying patience and embracing the process of growth in learning, Andrea manages her time and takes track of her priorities with academics. Having discipline in terms of schedule, reminders of deadlines, and time management is the formula she applies in handling tasks.

Talking about her experiences with thesis making, some of the challenges she experienced were sleepless nights,

anceled plans, and the time consumed by commuting. Despite this, she recognizes the role of having a support system that would provide feedback and constructive criticism of her work.

Andrea empowers fellow students and emphasizes the things to consider when conducting a study: “Read lots of articles, be patient, and choose a topic that you are really interested in.”

Moreover, she added that researchers should “propose as many topics as possible, since there are important things to consider in choosing a topic such as materials and measures needed to conduct the study. Don’t be scared to ask questions to your thesis adviser, they are there to guide you and accept criticisms positively.”



“WHEN YOU’RE PASSIONATE ABOUT SOMETHING, YOU’LL EVENTUALLY KNOW YOUR PAPER. YOU’LL EVENTUALLY VISUALIZE WHAT YOU WANT AT THE END.”
-KRYSTLE TACPALAN

Indeed, doing what you love increases your passion and motivation to work hard. Mentioning the role of our interest in the topic, Krystle considers what she is passionate about. As there would often be times where the will of writing cannot be felt, nonetheless there would always be a reason to pursue it—rooted in the purpose and why the topic is selected.

Moreover, as a graduating student, she mentioned the constraints caused by class schedules in having time to work on her thesis. To overcome this challenge, Krystle utilizes Google Calendar with her daily schedule and agenda. Given the workload she experienced, she mentioned that moderation is also necessary to avoid being overwhelmed and sacrificing health.

While making thesis requires a lot of time and effort, Krystle promotes a work and life balance to fulfill both, while reminding her fellow peers to do so.

“Do not be afraid to enjoy life while studying *kasi* at the end of the day, life isn’t about studying but also exploring things outside of those four corners. Second, *habang nagsasaya ka hurwag mo kalimutan mag-aral*. Study and enjoy life in moderation, trust me, you can achieve both,” she shared.



“YOU NEED TO HAVE THE GRIT, BOTTOMLESS DEDICATION, AND ENDURANCE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN WRITING THE PAPER.”
-ALEXIS RESERVA

To succeed in research, one must be well-prepared in diving into a sea of topics, developing an argument, and coming up with an analysis. Alexis applies all of the above to manage her thesis.

Anticipating from the beginning that writing and defending a thesis is not a walk in the park, Alexis sees the silver lining from all the challenges encountered and how it can help one’s growth. Sharing advice with her fellow students, she reminds us that there is beauty in the overall process.

“You may find term [research] papers as a heavy and sleep-depriving kind of requirement, which is true to some extent; there is beauty and advantage in it. I believe that this is a way to grow in writing and researching.”



“IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEVOTE YOUR TIME IN WRITING YOUR THESIS, BUT DO NOT FORGET THE IMPORTANT ASPECT: SUCH AS YOURSELF - YOU ARE A HUMAN, NOT A ROBOT.”
-JESTONY LUMABI

Approaching his thesis one step at a time, Jestony ensures a balance between work and rest. He applies this to his study habits by catching some breath and not rushing things.

He also believes that research is transformative, as the topics expand given the rising problems that need to be researched. In his thesis, Jestony practices discipline by being strictly devoted to his schedule, especially in meeting the time for deadlines.

While it may be difficult, Jestony continues to embrace the process of writing his thesis. “Enjoy doing it. It may be hard and totally will take a toll in your life because you are a graduating student, but at least enjoy writing your thesis. Because at the end of the day, it will become worth it.”

Jestony’s key considerations for thesis-writing include being productive, avoiding procrastination, and having strict criteria. Furthermore, it is best to remember that quality always wins over quantity.

On the journey of thesis-writing, the things that can be acquired are not limited to academic growth. Particularly, there are also learnings from the experiences and challenges as one crafts a research paper. Just like in the stories of Laurell, Andrea, Krystle, Alexis, and Jestony, no matter what year level we belong to, there are things that we can attain to improve and learn. Above all, thesis-writing is remarkable in one’s college life as the final pages turn. After all the effort from writing and presenting to a panel, fulfilling one is a milestone.

(with Marc Joseph Felix)

STO. NIÑO IMAGES IN THE PHILIPPINES: A TAPESTRY OF DEVOTION AND CULTURE

▼ Daphne Zenarosa, Gian Marcel Chiu, and Paolo Ornos
Artwork by Jannine Salinas

THE PHILIPPINES, KNOWN for its rich cultural heritage and traditions, is also home to a wide array of religious practices. Catholicism, the largest Christian denomination in the country, has been the cornerstone of Filipino identity for centuries. This identity was born from the arrival of a prominent Holy figure that started it all—the Sto. Niño.

The Sto. Niño represents the Child Jesus, and its arrival led to the foundation of Christianity in the country. It has greatly impacted Filipino Catholics, which is why various festivals are celebrated throughout the archipelago dedicated to the Holy Child. With that being said, let's explore the different images of Sto. Niño, along with its background and festivals that honor this beloved religious figure.

Sto. Niño de Cebu: The Most Venerated

This figure is a well-known representation of the Child Jesus in the Philippines. In 1521, Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan gave it to Rajah Humabon and his wife, Queen Juana, making it the oldest Catholic relic in the country. The image is believed to measure 12 inches tall and is made of dark wood in a Flemish style that depicts the Child Jesus as a king dressed like Spanish royalty.

The colorful and joyful Sinulog Festival, held every third Sunday of January, symbolizes the Cebuanos' devotion to the Sto. Niño. Millions of people flock to Cebu City to pay homage before the Sto. Niño de Cebu, while also participating in the festival that includes colorful parades, street dancing, processions, and many more. The festival emphasizes the profound influence of Catholicism in the Philippines.

Sto Niño de Praga: Czech Influence

Also called the Holy Child of Prague, this reflects the influence of Czech Catholicism on Filipino religious practices. The Sto. Niño came to Prague from Spain after 1555 as a

wedding gift for one of the Spanish princesses who married a Czech nobleman, Vratislav of Pernstejn. Her daughter, Polyxena, received the statue as a wedding gift from her mother and donated the Infant Jesus statue to Prague during the Thirty Years' War. The statue was made of wax, measured 48 cm high, with its right hand extended in blessing while its left held a golden globe.

In the Philippines, devotees pray to Sto. Niño de Praga for blessings, protection, and healing. While it may be less well-known than the Sto. Niño de Cebu, the devotion to this figure showcases the Philippines' openness to integrating various religious influences into its cultural tapestry.

At San Beda University (SBU), the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat was dedicated to the Holy Infant of Prague when consecrated in 1926. The image of the Holy Infant, created in 1905, was positioned above the altar's throne. Since then, SBU has incorporated the devotion to the Holy Infant of Prague into its traditions. The yearly triduum-novena and procession held on the last weekend of January are highly anticipated religious activities for both the Bedan community and followers of the Holy Infant throughout Manila.

The wooden image of Sto. Niño de Praga was nestled in the chapel on November 4, 1904, at the chapel of the Benedictine Community in Tanduay. The image was carved by Maximo Vicente and is believed to be a copy of the venerated image in the church of the Salesian Sisters in Barcelona, Spain.

Sto Niño de Tondo: Faith and Heritage

Ami Manila's bustling streets and lively communities, the historic district of Tondo stands. Here, the Sto. Niño de Tondo holds a special place in the hearts of the faithful. According to historical accounts, the figure was transported to the Philippines by a wealthy trader from Acapulco, Mexico, in the early 1570s. It was then enshrined in a church built by the Augustinians in Tondo, Manila, now called the Tondo Church, since 1572.

An incident that remains etched in people's memory is the theft of Sto. Niño de Tondo's image from its shrine on July 14, 1972. According to Fr. Lorenzo Egos, with the figure in their hands, the robbers fled the cathedral after the church doors were locked at 8 p.m. The theft coincided with one of the most devastating calamities that hit the country, Typhoon Gloring, causing heavy rainfall for days that claimed millions of lives besides causing widespread destruction. The theft of the miraculous image of Sto. Niño de Tondo resulted in a disaster that most Filipinos attributed as the cause.

A suspect was taken into custody three days after Manila's Finest sought help from informants in a theft case. Reynio Rivera, a 24-year-old suspect, listed three accomplices, and a portion of the stolen figure was recovered at several residences. The famous Santo sculptor, Maximo Vicente, was able to put the figure back together.

The Sto. Niño de Tondo festival is observed on the third Sunday of January every year. The event commences with a nine-day Novena featuring street dances and parades on the ninth day. On the feast day, a solemn procession is held where numerous devotees walk alongside the Sto. Niño de Tondo to receive blessings for their homes and businesses.

Sto. Niño de Cortes: The Hidden Sto Niño

Estimated to be 150 years old or more, there is a Sto. Niño image residing within the town of Bohol, Cortes, that is not well-known to the public because of past incidents surrounding it. In the 70s, following the surge of stolen religious objects, including the said statue, it was kept hidden from the public. The image was seemingly forgotten for three years, up until 2013 when an earthquake damaged the parish church where the repository image of the Sto. Niño was kept. This caused damage to the statue, with its paint peeling off and some parts broken.

Notably, the image of the Sto. Niño, in contrast to other images of it, was unique due to its golden hair and mestizo-like appearance, bearing a close semblance to the Sto.

Niño de Malitbog (Leyte), which was also stolen and recovered for roughly ten years. With its defining features, the parish priest strongly moved for the restoration of the image. In coordination with the Parish's Pastoral Council, efforts to restore the image were underway, including new attires inspired by the images of Sto. Niño de Cebu and Sto. Niño de Praga. Just recently, on October 30, 2022, the image of the Sto. Niño de Cortes was finally enthroned back to its rightful place at the altar of Sto. Niño Church in Cortes, Bohol.

Recognized as the first patron saint of the parish of Cortes, Bohol, the Sto. Niño de Cortes continually stands to inspire devotees all around. Its feast is celebrated annually every January 16 with a nine-day novena prior to the event.

The Bedan file photo



The Bedan file photo



The Bedan file photo



Photo courtesy of Santo Niño Parish - Cortes, Bohol

»»» Sto. Niño images...

from P15



The Bedan file photo

Veneration is expressed through chants, gozos, fluvial processions, and dances inspired by the Sinulog festival. Just recently, on January 16, the Municipality of Cortes and the National Museum of the Philippines – Bohol reintroduced a dance unique to the town, dubbed as *Sajaw Ug Basaw Sa Sinu'og*, where its origins can be traced back to indigenous rituals or thanksgiving that have evolved into a religious devotion.

Sto. Niño de San Beda: CAS' own

Owned by the Office of the Prefect of Student Affairs (OPSA), the Sto. Niño de San Beda is a depiction of the Holy Child housed at the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) OPSA office, sporting the complete uniform of the College.

Sprung from popular religiosity, the Prefect of Student Affairs, Prof. Marvin Reyes PhD., shared the history behind the image that once went viral on social media earning funny reactions, while some found it to be distasteful.

“The supplier of the uniform asked us if she [could] have a tailor-made uniform for the Sto. Niño,” said Dr. Reyes. Since 2014, the significance of the image in relation to popular religiosity lies in it serving as a guide to the Bedan community, “*yung representation niya ay para mapalapit sa Bedans ang presence, kaya siya nakasuot ng uniform*,” he added.

The Sto. Niño holds a special place in the hearts of Filipinos, representing not only their devotion but also their cultural identity and uniqueness in tradition. It fosters a deep sense of spirituality and unity among Filipinos. The festivals dedicated to the Sto. Niño are not only religious celebrations but also vibrant expressions of the country’s rich cultural tapestry.

PISTANG STO NIÑO:

A celebration of Christian faith

▼ Shelly Bocabel

Artworks by Jannine Salinas

VIVA PIT SEÑOR! San Beda University (SBU) celebrates the feast of Sto. Niño de Praga, an image of Jesus Christ depicted as the Holy Child, every fourth Sunday of January. Essentially, this event is more than a mere commemoration of festivities.

But before we kickstart the lively activities, it begs the question—“Why do Bedans commemorate the Pista ng Sto. Niño?” After all, we are a Benedictine institution whose name comes from St. Bede the Venerable.

The celebration of the image of the Holy Child is deeply entrenched in the country and the University’s vibrant cultural and religious upbringing is not exempt from the Sto. Niño’s reach, with the original image going as far back as the pre-colonial period of the Philippines.

A Vibrant History

To begin with, the actual image of the Holy Child dates back to the year 1521, as a gift to Queen Joanna of the Zubu (Cebu) by the Portuguese-born Spanish conquistador Ferdinand Magellan.

While this only applies to the Sto. Niño de Cebu, other versions of this Holy Child are quite familiar to the average Bedan. We can distinctly see another image of the the Child Jesus in the form of Sto. Niño de Praga that seats at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat.

On January 17, 1904, El Colegio de San Beda commemorated the inaugural feast of Sto. Niño with a framed picture of the Holy Child used for the celebration. This event followed the establishment of the Confraternity of the Infant Jesus by Bedan students on December 13, 1903.

The Benedictine monastery was transformed in 1924 when it became an abbey. Subsequently, it was relocated to Mendiola, where a wooden image found its home in the Abbey of the campus in 1926. This image has remained in the Abbey to the present day.

Annual Celebrations

Since 1975, the Pista ng Sto. Niño in San Beda has remained true to its long-standing tradition, as showcased in a Triduum celebration consisting of an opening ceremony, Eucharistic

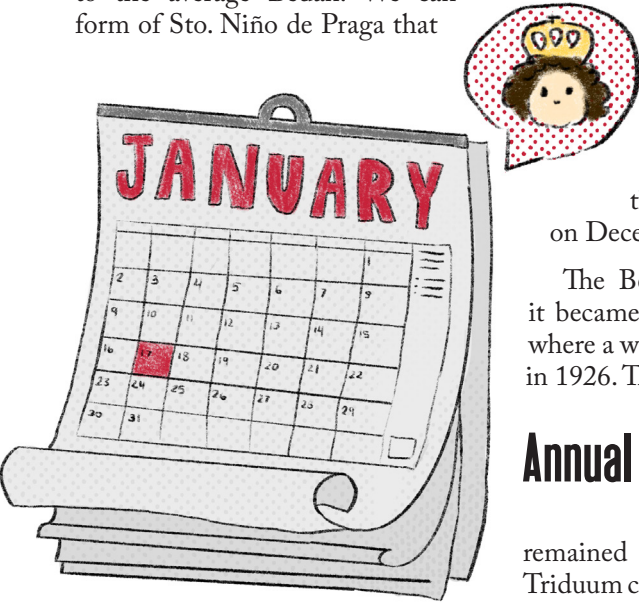
celebration, solemn procession, as well as activities spearheaded by student organizations within three days.

However, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, SBU held its Pista festivities virtually in 2020. But following the total easing of public health measures and restrictions last year, the University has again opened its gates for the 2024 celebration.

The depiction of Jesus as the Holy Child holds great importance in the Christian faith, symbolizing the virtue of child-like enthusiasm and the act of seeking divine blessings and prosperity through supplication. This representation highlights the significance of approaching God with a pure and innocent heart and serves as a reminder to maintain a child-like faith in the face of adversity.

As Bedans and Filipinos, the celebration of the Pista ng Santo Niño is a given. The image of the Infant Jesus has since become synonymous with the country’s unending devotion as a predominantly Christian country, also reflecting upon the University’s mission of inculcating prayer and work, *ora et labora*.

(with Thirdy Pabilico)



POUNCE CAFÉ MANILA:

A Pet Enthusiast's Sanctuary

▼ D.S. Elijah de Castro
Artwork by Lourdes Ordoña and Photos by D.S. Elijah de Castro and Manssel Latonero

DID YOU KNOW? Nestled at the heart of Mendiola is a haven for the weary, the carefree, and everyone in between. While it might be just another trendy spot for some, Pounce Café Manila, situated at 2nd Street of the historic San Miguel district stands out as a “paw-sible” sanctuary for those seeking respite from demanding academic workloads.

Known to many as “Pet Butler” before its rebranding, the family-owned business outgrew its offerings as a pet food store and hotel. After the rebranding, the new Pounce Café Manila switched its business model and built its reputation as the go-to pet café within Mendiola. This haven within 2nd Street is for aspiring fur parents, enthusiastic pet lovers, or regular everyday college students like us!

This is why we decided to embark and take a look at this “paw-sinating” haven!

A SANCTUARY AT THE HEART OF MENDIOLA





Nestled on 2nd Street, just off Concepcion Aguila St., Pounce Café Manila is conveniently located within walking distance of San Beda University (SBU) and other schools in Mendiola.

However, the current situation on Concepcion Aguila St. poses a significant challenge due to ongoing road reblocking and sewage enhancements by the authorities. This hinders students and visitors who wish to enjoy this safe haven, as they have to navigate through construction equipment and narrow sidewalks. Patience is advised when traversing this area.

Therefore, we give the location a rating of three paws out of five!

APPETIZING MEALS WITH CUTE FUR BABIES





With the “furry” environment as its main selling point, Pounce Café Manila serves various dishes at a relatively

decent price point, based on its classification as a pet café. For instance, you can order one of their best-sellers, their famous BLT Cheeseburger, for Php169, which is a hearty dish consisting of fresh vegetables such as lettuce and tomatoes, combined with crispy bacon partnered with an all-encompassing cheesy beef patty. This mouthwatering dish amused us as the meal was served, although, you might want to tone it down a little since it was quite salty. With its massive size and great taste, it still offers good value for the price nonetheless!

One of their appetizers, the Php65 Cheesy Bacon Fries, could have been more impressive for the price, and it did not help that it was far from being warm when served. On the other hand, their Coke Float worth Php65 was a reasonably satisfying experience, with the classic Coca Cola paired with a rich, creamy ice cream topped with generous amounts of chocolate - a balanced yet lighthearted drink perfect for the hotter days.

With this, we gave the food quality a total of three paws out of five!

BANG FOR THE BUCK?





For the average Bedan allowance, Pounce Café’s prices would convince you to spend a little more than your average meal. Prices were reasonable as they bring out a generous serving, especially for a solo meal.

Their pricing for hot and cold refreshers ranged from Php119 to Php179—which is quite expensive compared to other stores on First Street or within Legarda area. However, their variety of choices, such as coffee, non-coffee, and soda beverages, well-suited to your typical day-to-day comfort drink choice, puts them up against the competition.

Meanwhile, the food offers a price range of Php129 -

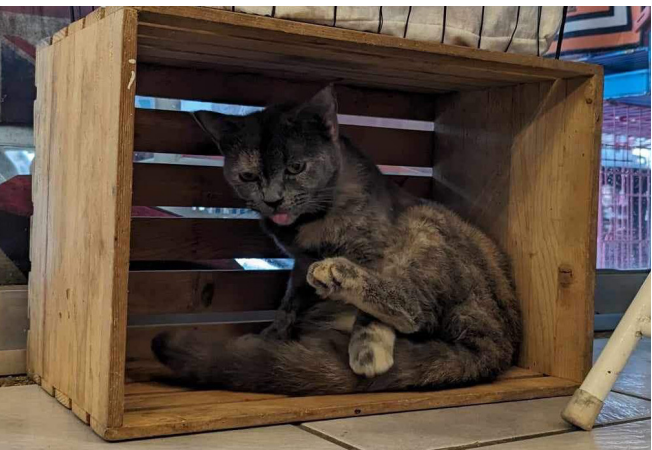
Php269. These include different kinds of burgers and side dishes such as fries, nachos, and quesadillas. While they don’t serve rice meals, the main and side dishes that they offer will surely satisfy a craving, perfect as a reward after a long day of classes.

In line with this, we gave the budget-friendliness aspect of Pounce Cafe Manila a total of three paws out of five!

THE PET SANCTUARY OF MENDIOLA



Last but not least, Pounce Café Manila pitched a home run with the ambiance it provides for its ‘hooman’ visitors and delinquent pet inhabitants. Perfectly suited to be a hangout spot for your friend group, it offers a variety of recreational activities such as card games and board games while also being suitable for personal consumption



with its selection of books and the like. However, none of these mentioned beats out the inhabitants of our pet haven. Featuring different breeds of cats and dogs, living in harmony, playing with each other, while simultaneously bonding with the ‘hoomans’ that come to visit them — they surely know what to do for students who are looking for a good time or those who seek relaxation from their comfort.

Although, with the limited space capacity, the place gets filled during lunchtime. Despite the presence of pets, the cafe’s staff ensures each customer is sanitized, even providing them with foot rugs before entering the place.

This is why we have given the ambiance rating of Pounce Cafe Manila, a four paws rating out of five!

Whether a pet lover or not, this place is ideal for a date or a hangout spot. It offers an all-in-all deal, with various food and beverage choices, adorable animal companies, and a comfortable place to unwind. So, what are you waiting for? Come and visit Pounce Café Manila today!

(With Manssel Jianne Latonero and Thirty Pabilico)

»» Cortez on...



Photo by Zia Robles

Despite bidding the Lions’ Den adieu, the departing “King Lion” is left with nothing but gratitude to the Bedan community. “Thank you for all the support, all the trust that you gave me since my first year here in San Beda. Unfortunately, *hindi tayo magkaroon ng* back-to-back [together] but I think they can do it without me.”

In Cortez’s absence, a plethora of new and equally-capable recruits will be suiting up for the Red Lions’ Season 100 title defense. These names include Bryan Sajonia, Joe Celzo, and Menard Songcuya—who all come from Far Eastern University (FEU), Collin Dimaculangan and Bismarck Lina from the University of

the Philippines (UP), Ronrei Tolentino from Centro Escolar University (CEU), brothers RC and Richi Calimag (who both have strong Bedan ties), as well as Penny Estacio, who recently transferred from the De La Salle University (DLSU).

(with reports from Anne Julia Francisco and Francesca Zia Robles)

from P19

San Beda inches closer to NCAA general championship

▼Veronica Balbin

PURSUING EXCELLENCE ON all fronts, San Beda University (SBU) is thriving once again in the 99th season of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), positioning itself with a strong chance to claim the NCAA General Championship for Season 99.

With dedicated athletes and a commitment to sportsmanship, SBU is poised for success in the various sporting disciplines of the country’s oldest collegiate league.

SAN BEDA AND THE NCAA

The NCAA is the oldest athletic union in the Philippines, established in 1924 by Dr. Regino R. Ylanan, the former head of the

Physical Education Department of the University of the Philippines (UP).

SBU was among the six other founding schools of the NCAA, which include the University of Santo Tomas (UST), Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), De La Salle University (DLSU), University of Manila (UM), National University (NU), and Institute of Accounts, now known as Far Eastern University (FEU). These institutions, except for the UM, are now part of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

The Lions’ Den has remained a steadfast participant in the league since its inception, standing as the last founding member as the 99th season unfolds.

Moreover, the NCAA is not merely a single race to the top, nor is it a mere win-some—it is a marathon. It pits ten member schools against each other, competing in a series of sports events, including basketball, volleyball (including beach volleyball), taekwondo, swimming, chess, badminton, table tennis, and football.

Teams from each school participate in their respective sports to bump their schools’ spots in the overall NCAA championship. And, in this Pokémon-like sports event where schools are trying to catch ‘em all, SBU is far from falling behind this season.

SBU LEADS THE PACK

The home of the Red Lions clinched its 23rd Seniors’ Basketball Championship in this season, securing the top spot among the ten schools competing in NCAA Season 99. With seven games completed and more action still to come, the culture of winning at the University shows no signs of ending.

San Beda has also achieved

success across different sports, claiming six gold medals in Basketball, Men’s Badminton, Men’s and Women’s Swimming, and Men’s and Women’s Taekwondo. Additionally, the University has secured five silver medals in Women’s Badminton, Women’s Beach Volleyball, Chess, Men’s and Women’s Table Tennis, totalling 11 medals.

In the NCAA general championship point distribution, gold medals earn 50 points, silver medals equate to 40 points, and bronze medals are worth 35 points. A fourth-place finish in sports with all ten schools participating fetches 30 points, with subsequent rankings earning 25, 20, 15, 10, eight, and six points for the eighth, ninth, and last positions, respectively.

As of writing time, San Beda has accumulated a total of 508 points, securing the top position. Following closely is De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB) with a total score of 405 points.

While the scores are already reflected in the tally, there are still upcoming sports events to anticipate, and the University must remain vigilant, especially with Benilde not too far behind.

SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY IS CRUCIAL

The success of Bedan athletes in the season is a testament to their talent, hard work, and dedication to their passion. They have the potential to sustain their winning streak and reach even greater heights in the future. However, this success is not solely based on their skills alone.

San Beda’s remarkable performance has not only reaffirmed its status as the home of the champions, but it also started to ignite the pride as the Bedan community delight in victory.

As long as the community continues to rally behind and support San Beda in the remaining sports such as football, men’s and women’s volleyball, track and field, cheerdance, and more, SBU stands a good chance of securing the general championship once again.

With unwavering support from the Bedan community, it propels the athletes toward victory, inspiring them to surpass their limits and represent the legacy of San Beda in the realm of sports.

(with Prince Piolo Tagarino)

Red Smashers outlast competition in UniGames 2024

▼Paolo Ornos

THE SAN BEDA Red Smashers nabbed a podium finish at the Philippine University Games (UniGames) 2024 as the Men’s team took home the championship title while the Women’s team bagged the first runner up medal last January 22-24 at Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte.

In the men’s division, the Red Smashers breezed through their day one competition, defeating La Salle University (LSU) Ozamis, Andres Bonifacio College Inc. (ABCollege), and Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) in a three-to-nothing sweep.

On the other hand, the Lady Red Smashers also claimed victory in dominant fashion as they smashed Iloilo Doctors College (IDC) and LSU Ozamis in a 3-0 sweep, and ABCollege, 2-1.

Proceeding to day two, the women’s team ranked first in their division as they swept the day’s competition again, defeating Jose Rizal University (JRU) and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), also in a 3-0 sweep. For its part, the men’s squad ended the eliminations in rank two after defeating IDC, 3-0, and bowing in their game against the PUP, 1-2.

On the third day, the Red

Smashers entered the semi-finals and finals matches of the competition, concluding their run as champions for the men’s division and as the first runner-up for the women’s division.

In the duration of their UniGames campaign, women’s team captain, Isabella Pollentes, shared the team’s excitement in playing against the players from IDC and PUP noting how the two teams were “their best competition in the UniGames.”

Recalling their domination in the eliminations, AJ Cruz shared their team’s fulfilment after coming off a break and less preparation into performing almost perfectly during the eliminations, “it’s really just the heart for the game and mental strength,” as they went on to win the majority of their first-round elimination games.

Pollentes, however, shared that the women’s team were defeated mentally after losing in the final’s matchup against the PUP.

Nevertheless, with all hopes up she pointed out that “we learned from it.”

Meanwhile, Cruz of the women’s team spoke about their outstanding performance in the eliminations despite being tired. “*Kasi* a day before the competition *lang kami dumating dito* and despite being tired, we played our best the following day *kabit na* three games per day *kami sa* eliminations,” she elaborated.

Hailed as champions in their division Arjay Lazareto, the Men’s team captain, credited their stay in Manila as the advantage against their competition. “From Manila, we have the different exposure *na na*-experience *namin*, and during that time *na*-feel *namin* ‘*yung* advantage *namin* in being a part of an NCAA team.”

“*Mas* more [exposed] *ang* team, *mas maraming* chances to play with more tournaments, it’s just that San Beda is so good to us *na binibigyan kami ng* chances



Photo courtesy of SBU Badminton Team

Lady Red Spikers donate portion of earnings to SBU Band

▼ Phoebus Villanueva

DEMONSTRATING TREMENDOUS SUPPORT for the San Beda University (SBU) Band, the Lady Red Spikers contributed its earnings to the former, presenting a donation amounting to Php100,000 last December 7.



Photo courtesy of SBU Women's Volleyball Team

The team has received a check donation from Shakey's Philippines, which they turned over to Dr. Diosdado Aler III, the University's Athletics Moderator. This was followed by a pledge to the band that the Lady Red Spikers would "share a portion" from the donation that they received.

According to Lady Red Spikers Assistant Coach Ray Rosales, the purpose of the donation is to "aid with new musical instruments and equipment for the band." Speaking about what made them push with such initiative, he said that it was to "show support and teamwork in every game."

"We support the [SBU] Band in its efforts to give the whole San Beda community, especially our student-athletes, promote school pride and camaraderie. We want to help the SBU Band highlight the colorful traditional Bedan cheers which we take pride

during our gatherings and NCAA games," said Coach Ray.

Allen Rogel, the Senior Officer and Pitstop Crew Chief of the Band, expressed his appreciation, exclaiming, "We are truly overwhelmed with gratitude as we reflect on the incredible generosity and support we have received from the Women's Volleyball Team. Your donation has not only touched our hearts but has become a vital force on how we can lead the pride in cheering during games and events."

The essence of the donation lies in its desire to show camaraderie and extend mutual assistance. The SBU Band has played a significant role in boosting morale during all games, offering support to Bedan fans and athletes alike. Ultimately, the donations and support provided to the band contribute to acquiring new equipment and serve as inspiration for the group.

(With Marc Joseph Felix)

Cortez on San Beda exit: "It was a personal decision"

▼ Phoebus Villanueva and Mika Isidro

FOLLOWING WEEKS OF persistent rumors, Jacob Cortez has officially announced that he will be leaving the San Beda Red Lions and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to compete in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP).

Making the announcement through his official Instagram account, the young point guard said that his "time as a Red Lion is closing" and that he needed to "get out of [his] comfort zone."

In his farewell message, Cortez also extended his thanks to the Red Lions' patron and San Beda University (SBU) Chairman of the Board, Manny V. Pangilinan, Team Manager Jude Roque, Head Coach Yuri Escueta, and his teammates, whom he considers to be as his "brothers."

In an exclusive interview with The Bedan shortly after making his announcement, Cortez, despite talk in online circles that his father Mike—who previously played for the De La Salle Green Archers—may have influenced his decision to transfer, emphasized that it was a purely "personal decision."

"After playing three years with

San Beda and after winning... finally winning a championship with San Beda in the NCAA, I just felt that it was time to step out of my comfort zone to help myself improve not only as a player, but also as a person," said Cortez.

Chatter that he would not be playing in the NCAA's centennial season began to emerge after the "Cool Cub" confirmed that there were offers for him to play for other schools shortly after helping the Red Lions claim its 23rd men's basketball crown in December of last year. He confirmed to The Bedan that he would indeed be transferring to Taft soon.

Despite having two playing years left in his collegiate career, Cortez shared how his remaining years of eligibility became another motivator for his decision. "That was also a factor in why I actually decided [to transfer]. Because if... I just thought to myself if I wouldn't

Red Lions alum, Season 100 roster face off in exhibition match

▼ Francesca Zia Robles & Phoebus Villanueva

DURING SAN BEDA University's (SBU) celebration of the Pista ng Sto. Niño 2024, Bedan alumni once again graced the court as the Dom Mark Salvaña Cup commenced alongside the exhibition game featuring former and current San Beda Red Lions last January 27.

RED LIONS ALUM VS. SEASON 100 ROSTER

The past and the present of the winningest college basketball program in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) shared the hardcourt in celebration of this year's Pista ng Sto. Niño. The friendly exhibition match ended in style as Calvin Oftana led the alumni team, outlasting the new set of Bedan cagers, 95-90.

It was a dream for every die-hard Red Lion, old and new, as they get to showcase their skill in the Lions' Den once again. After trailing widely in the half, the San Beda's Season 87 hero, Mar Villahermosa, led the squad in toning the phase down to their favor.

On the other hand, the youthful energy of the promising lions went toe-to-toe against their predecessors. While the former Lions trimmed the margin to single digit, versatile

guard Bryan Sajonia made it rain downtown while RC Calimag exemplified a consistent and ever-steady performance against the pros.

Season 95 MVP Calvin Oftana also stepped hard on the gas pedal as their team continuously pressured the young guns facilitating inside and outside the paint tallying impactful markers alongside Baser Amer's team-high 17 and Villahermosa with 15, routing the Season 100 roster, 95-90.

Despite their loss, the future still looks bright for the Mighty Red School as new faces nevertheless delivered an outstanding performance in the game, which seem to perfectly fit Coach Yuri Escueta's system. Sajonia, together with Calimag, delivered fantastic performances, tallying 21 and 17, respectively.

Fans were also in for a treat following a three-point

shooting contest that added an extra layer of excitement to the event, with Oftana leading the charts with 15 points, followed closely by Emman Tagle and Yukien Andrada with 14 points each, AC Soberano with 12 points, Damie Cuntapay with 11 points, and Zairose Mina with six points in a thrilling one minute and 30 second-showdown.

For Coach Yuri, this experience will serve as "an inspiration and a way to motivate our players" on where they could possibly end up in the future as they have faced a set of Red Lions who are successful cagers of their present leagues.

On his part, Oftana exclaimed how the event "feels like the old times, this is our own way to give back sa San Beda and sa Bedan community," as he looks forward to their next duels of their NCAA successors.

Red Lions alumni 95: Amer 17, Oftana 15, Villahermosa 15, Doliguez 12, Gamalinda 10, Jopia 6, Alfaro 5, Pontejos 5, Cuntapay 4, Soberano 3, Koga 3, Canlas 2, Pascual 2, Taganas 0

Season 100 Red Lions 90: Sajonia 21, Calimag 17, Lopez 9, Etulle 8, Gonzales 7, Tagle 7, Mina 5, Jalbuena 4, Andrada 4, Tagala 3, Celzo 2, Hawkins 2, Peregrina 1



Photo by Jannine Salinas

DOM MARK SALVAÑA CUP

On the other side of the court, Bedan alumni, administrators, teaching and non-teaching personnel, along with a new guest in San Beda College Alabang (SBCA), marked the start of the Dom Mark Salvaña Cup 2024.

The University's Athletics Moderator, Dr. Diosdado Aler III, opened the program with a short story narrating the origins of the tournament. He also honored Prof. Rogelio Baguinon, who was not only an avid supporter of the Red Lions, but basketball in general, in which he reminded the participants to "enjoy the game" and "remember their sense of brotherhood."

To end his remarks, Dr. Aler proposed that the next iteration of the tourney would be divided into age brackets those under 40 and over 40, as those over 40

"cannot keep up with younger players."

Following Dr. Aler's opening remarks, Senior High School-Manila faculty member Gabriel Maglunob, led the players in the oath of sportsmanship, while Rev. Fr. John Paul II Plana, OSB officially marked the start of the tournament thereafter,

followed by a ceremonial toast and a photo opportunity with Fr. Plana.

The tournament will go on for Wednesdays and Saturdays, starting January 27 and ending on March 16.

(with Dencel Mauri Fernandez and Rcee Umali Tenefrancia)



Photo by Zia Robles

ever take the chance, I would always regret it in the future. So, I wanted to take this opportunity to transfer."

Minted by his fans as the new "King Lion," Cortez, who committed to San Beda back in 2021 and has played three seasons with the Red Lions since, became a pivotal piece

in the Mendiola-based squad's Season 99 championship run, eventually ending their five-year championship drought.

Initially a reserve player, Cortez first suited up for the Red Lions in Season 97. He proved to be an instant spark plug off the bench, providing the team with offense when needed, logging in

5.8 points, 2.8 rebounds, and 1.4 assists in the five games that he played in that season.

Then nabbing a starting role in Season 99, Cortez proved to be a great lieutenant in the Red Lions' fierce comeback campaign, drastically improving his averages to 15.4 points, 3.7 rebounds and 3.7 assists.

Das Rheingold



VERGISSMEINNICHT

PHOEBUS VILLANUEVA

DEAR READER, I can promise to be candid however, I cannot be impartial. Covering sports this January has been a challenge, as news of transfers from both the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) left a bitter taste in the mouths of fans not only here in San Beda but across both leagues.

January's batch of transferees was headlined by our very own Jacob Cortez and Kean Bacalan from National University (NU) both transferring to play for De la Salle University (DLSU). While transfers are a common sight specially in high school and college basketball, reports from top sports journalists say that a vast sum of money is involved in recruiting these players away from their schools.

It is not a secret that teams with wealthy backers are a part of a winning formula especially in college. Wealthy patrons have taken over both leagues as they look to use their wealth to entice talents for the betterment of the program they support.



It is not a secret that teams with wealthy backers are a part of a winning formula...



An example of which is University of the East (UE) star Rey Remogat transferring to the University of the Philippines (UP) when UE cannot match UP's offer. This has caused an interesting debate in columns and the comments sections with regards to poaching talent and how to punish or discourage transferring by shaving off time in a player's eligible playing years.

UP has seen its fortunes turn as the former bottom feeders of UAAP basketball have clinched another championship after 36 years back in 2022 and have turned their program around partially due to a generous patron in Robinsons Retail Holdings backed by the Gokongwei family. Another example was NU whose majority owner is SM Group whose a perennial contender but still hasn't reached the heights of their 2014 championship. Meanwhile in the NCAA Colegio de San Juan de Letran also saw their fortunes turn as San Miguel Corporation's backing saw them three-peat a year after their partnership started.

But if we're talking about successfully backed programs, those could only dream of reaching the heights of the Ateneo de Manila University and San Beda who are backed by their patron Manny V. Pangilinan, with the two schools building a winning tradition through an impeccable program and maximizing the opportunities provided by their patron.

So what am I getting at? Well dear reader, money talks and people listen. Though money is not everything, like the Rheingold in Wagner's opera we will watch as the gods and the giants thief over and take as much gold as they can. And like the Rheingold there will be no peace in the world till the gold is returned to the river or in this case unless some degree of parity will be enforced in the league.



SPORTS

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Photo courtesy of SBU Tracksters

BEDANS WIN BIG AT PHILIPPINE NATIONAL GAMES

▼ Paolo Ornos and Kathy Delos Reyes

STUDENT-ATHLETES FROM THE San Beda Red Smashers and Red Tracksters stepped onto the national stage, serving as national delegates for their respective cities during the Philippine National Games 2024 held from December 19 to 22, 2023 at the Dragonsmash Badminton Center in Makati.

Arjay Philip Lazareto, Mel David De Vera, Krenz Valena, and Joaquin Pollentes of the Red Smashers competed in the Men's division, while Isabella Pollentes, Lharrene Sales, and Elayssa Morada participated in the Women's division. The majority of the team were endorsed by and represented Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, with the exception of Lazareto, who represented Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The Red Smashers demonstrated exemplary performance against their competition, with Krenz Pollentes and Valena making it to round 16. Lazareto advanced to the quarterfinals stage of the Men's double division, and Women's Team Captain Pollentes reached the Women's singles quarterfinals.

Ultimately, Men's team captain Lazareto secured a podium finish, bagging the bronze medal. Following his run, Lazareto shared a story about his National Games outing after being injured in a prior competition.

"Sabi n'ung PT Doctor 'ko, 'magpahinga ka,' so hindi talaga ko pwede maglaro sa National Games." However, he added that with the persistence of his coaches in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, he was able to compete. "So lakasan talaga ng loob, hindi ako prepared. Surprisingly, nakatalo kami ng mga big names and big schools," he shared in an interview. Overjoyed, Lazareto shared his emotions, saying, "Ang naging mindset ko during that time was to get ready and play the game at my best."

Meanwhile, sharing her thoughts on their competition, Isabella Pollentes was honored to have been endorsed by their city, along with her fellow Smashers, to be the representative for

the National Games. "It's an honor to have that support, to actually get to play in the Philippine National Games," she detailed, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to play against big names. "Nakatalo rin ako ng mga universities," despite falling short in the quarterfinals against the De La Salle University (DLSU), whose skills she commended.

On the other hand, the track team's hard work and commitment to the sport proved fruitful, after bagging a total of three gold medals, two bronze medals, and setting new personal records in numerous events.

Moreover, David Paul Matibag achieved two gold medals during the 800-meter run and 4x400m mixed relay, and John Rey Cano earned a gold medal running the 4x400m relay men under-20 category. In addition, bronze medals were also clinched by Jimmy Bas, as well as Matibag, who both ran the 4x400m relay, all in the "elite" category.

Breaking personal best records are athletes Patrick Bilches, who exceeded his past record in the long jump with a leap of 7:20 meters, and Bas, who set a new personal record in the 3000m steeplechase event.

Beyond the competition, Arjay shared that their Bedan camaraderie remained the same, "yung bond pa rin namin sa court is still the same," noting that for the Smashers, their main priority is their National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament, while the Red Tracksters await their turn.

(with Nathaniel Soriano & Prince Piolo Tagarino)

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