



Photo courtesy of San Beda University Band

SBU BAND RETURNS TO ACTION FOLLOWING DIALOGUE WITH UNIVERSITY ADMIN

▼ Jake Ellis Evangelista

FOLLOWING A DIALOGUE with the University administrators, the San Beda University (SBU) Band has now returned to performing at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) games, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dean Prof. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Ph.D., confirmed.

Last September 28, the SBU Band was “prohibited from performing at forthcoming NCAA games” and was limited to playing only at internal events. This then prompted the Bedan community to rally behind the organization, igniting the #LetSBUBandPlay drumbeat which called for the “allowance” of the band to perform once again.

Following recent developments, *The Bedan* has learned that the suspension of SBU Band Team Captain, Allen Rogel, was initially imposed due to an “unresolved

request for an apology related to a previous conflict with the San Beda Red Corps.”

Additionally, the “lack of communication” between parties as well as the band’s absence during the NCAA basketball game against Benilde “escalated tensions,” culminating in Band moderator, Steve “Kurt” De Guzman, imposing both sanctions of suspending Rogel and barring the band from playing in the NCAA games.

In an exclusive interview with *The Bedan*, Dean Bustamante, said

that said sanctions were simply part of a long-time practice done by coaches to impose discipline before their athletes. In this case, the call for proper discipline prompted Coach Kurt to impose the sanctions due to unresolved past issues as well as the band’s absence in a previous game.

Athletics Moderator Assoc. Prof. Dr. Diosdado M. Aler III, who facilitated the discussions, emphasized the importance of clear communication in resolving such conflicts, saying “as a family, misunderstandings are natural,

but it’s important to communicate openly.”

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation, the Band captain offered a personal apology on behalf of the current members.

Following this, Dean Bustamante, on behalf of the SBU administrators, clarified that the band has been cleared to perform again in the following NCAA games “siguro with some adjustments, unless any further issues arise.”

Addressing the

#LetSBUBandPlay calls that transpired in support of the band, Dean Bustamante also explained that, while the situation was perceived as a rights issue, it was more about establishing proper supervision over athletes. “I think it became a rights issue because they were suspended without any basis,” he explained.

Dean Bustamante also disclosed how the Band’s status was not properly addressed as it was simply a student organization in the past before the late Prof. Michael John Rubio **P7**

CAS sends off Class of 2024 in SBU institutional rights

▼ Mika Isidro

THE COLLEGE OF Arts and Sciences (CAS) sent off 538 of its graduating class of 2024 alongside graduates from the different colleges of San Beda University (SBU) during the Institutional Commencement Exercises held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Reception Hall last August 9.

A total of 267 graduates came from the Arts and Sciences cluster, with the Department of Political Science having the most graduates from the CAS with 92.

The Department of Psychology followed this with 84 graduates, while the Departments of Information Technology and Department of Economics and Public Policy each had 22.

Next, the Department of Human Kinetics Development had 21–20 Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Management graduates and one with a Bachelor of Physical Education Major in Sports and Wellness Management. The Department of Languages and Literature had six graduates each from the English and Literature programs, while the Department of Environmental Science had four.

On the other hand, the Business Cluster had a total of 318 graduates, with 90 coming from the Department of Marketing Management and 61 from the

Department of Legal Management.

The Department of Financial Management and Department of Entrepreneurship had 39 and 38 graduates, respectively. The Department of Internal Auditing and the Department of Accountancy had 30 and 19 graduates each.

Moreover, the Department of Operations Management had 16 graduates, and the Department of Human Resource Management and the Department of Management had 11 graduates each. Finally, the Department of Accounting in Information System had three graduates.

Serving as the 2024 Institutional Commencement’s speaker, Congressman Ciriaco Gato Jr. regarded the symbolism of graduation as a “celebration of achievements that paves the way for continuous growth and learning.”

He also urged graduates to be the “voice of the marginalized,” **P5**

SC pronounces Agbanlog as new First-Year Rep

▼ Paolo Vital

BEING ONE OF the highest-recorded voter turnouts in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) elections, Nationalist Youth and Progressive Democrats (NYPD) candidate, Akiah Loveighne Agbanlog, triumphed in the #BotoBedista2024 First-Year Representative Elections over San Bigkis Party’s (SBP) Katrina Bianca Carreon as per the final and official results tallied by the San Beda Electoral Board (ELBO) last September 26.



The San Beda Electoral Board (ELBO) and the Office of the Prefect of Student Affairs officially proclaimed Akiah Loveighne Agbanlog as the new First-Year Representative of the Student Council (SC) Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

With Agbanlog’s victory, NYPD has now won nine out of the 10 seats in the CAS Student Council (SC).

After the polls spanned for a total of eight hours, ELBO, in conjunction with

Bedan Information Technology Society (BITS), recorded a voter turnout of 75.23% which accounts for 498 out of 662 CAS freshmen. Out of 498, Agbanlog garnered a total of 53.82% or 268 votes over Carreon’s 37.15% **P10**

INSIDE

9 NEWS

WORKERS' GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS SLAM NEDA'S PHP64 FOOD-POVERTY THRESHOLD

12 OPINION

KUNG WALA ANG DILA NI NANAY

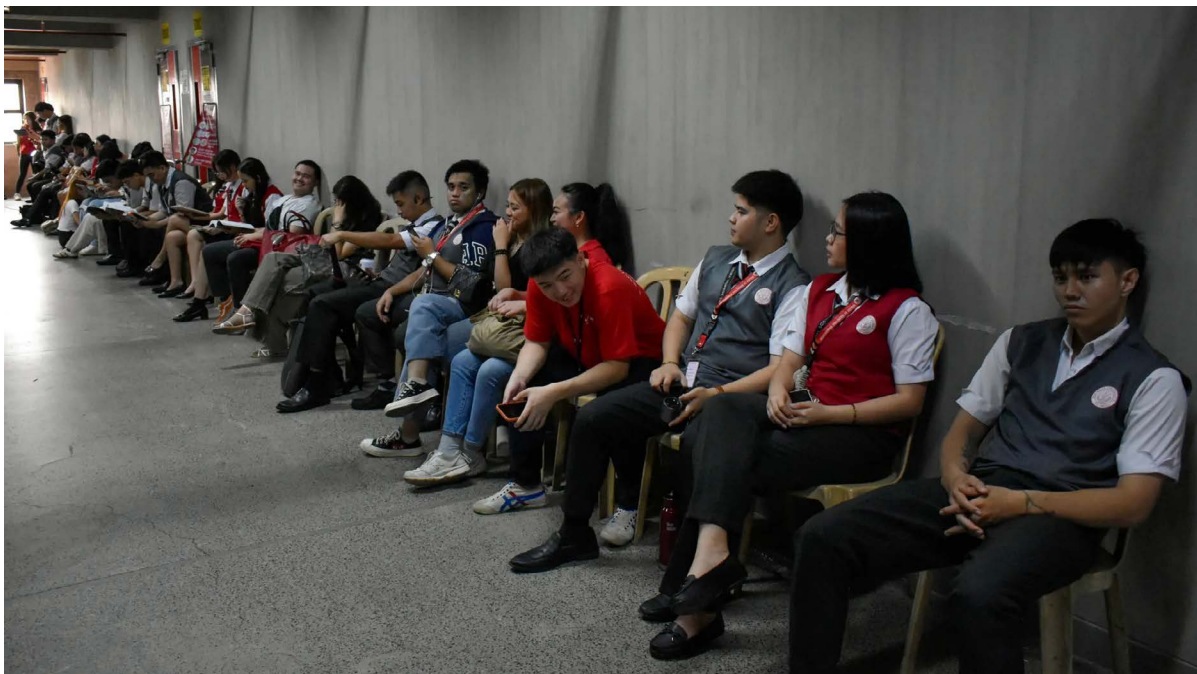
16 FEATURES

MORE THAN JUST CHILDREN'S STORIES: ISANG KAIBIGAN'S INJUSTICE AGAINST THE LUMAD STRUGGLE

Bedans express frustrations over ID processing

▼ Gian Marcel Chiu

LONG QUEUES AND a “resolute” Office of the Prefect of Discipline (OPSD) have triggered Bedans to convey their dismay over the dawdling system of processing the new Identification card (ID) ahead of the new Academic Year (A.Y.) 2024-2025.



Bedans queueing outside the ICTC office.

Photo by Rizian Balleta

Left “bewildered and irritated,” Bedans queued for hours outside the office of the Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC) to renew their ID. Yet, much to their dismay, the line would allegedly span for “over 20 minutes” before it

progresses. Moreover, to further aggravate the issue, the OPSD has also announced that, effective September 2, Bedans with outdated IDs will be “penalized through the issuance of a pink slip.”

Because of these concerns,

talaga.” She further added how, amid being given “ample time” to process her new ID, it was the OPSD’s announcement of issuing a pink slip that prompted a number of Bedans to renew their ID accordingly.

Aldrich Rivera, a senior from the Department of Legal Management and President of the Bedan Advocacy and Consciousness Enhancement Society (BACES), also expressed his grievances over the slow-paced queue, saying how the time spent waiting in line would “compromise their academic priorities, without even any assurances that the ICTC would cater to all Bedans needing to renew their IDs.”

In addressing the woes and pleas of the student-body, CAS Student Council (SC) President Mari Okol disclosed how “[Amir and I] (the Vice President for Internal Affairs) have been going to the OPSD trying to communicate for [an] extension.” But despite this, the admins were allegedly “adamant in the implementation of pink slips for no renewed IDs.”

While Okol understands

OPSD’s strict policy of renewing one’s ID for purposes of validation and security, she nonetheless, on behalf of the students, asked for “leniency” before the office considering other factors like: late enrollees, the number of students in the University, lack of equipments, facilities, and staff in the ICTC, as well as other uncertainties halting the immediate process of ID renewal.

One with the SC in their call for change, Rivera and Koizumi implored the OPSD to extend the renewal of IDs and “empathize more with the community,” considering the myriads of duties and responsibilities of being a student.

Finally, in amalgamating mandatory policies with the welfare of the students, the SC President asserts that “the admins should be more considerate in placing something mandatory. It was averred that this should be communicated properly and it should be communicated with the right amount of time for students to adjust,” highlighting the significance of proper information dissemination to cater to the needs of the entire Bedan community.

Fortunately, last September 2, the Office of the Prefect of Student Discipline has issued a memorandum extending the processing of the students’ ID. As stipulated “Beginning September 23, having no ID will be noted as an offense, while beginning October 1, the ‘No ID, No Entry’ policy will be fully implemented.”

(with reports from Thirly Pabilico and Rizian Balleta)

Upon the Scholars’ initial stages presentation of the proposal, a million-peso head start was given by the Board towards the Foundation. However, for confidentiality reasons, the real amount deposited was not disclosed.

Scholars pitch 1-billion-peso plan at SBCAF Meeting

▼ Veronica A. Balbin

AFTER PRESENTING AN initiative raising PhP 1,000,000,000 (one billion pesos) for 100 scholars, the San Beda College Alumni Foundation (SBCAF) Scholars, Officers, and Trustees convened at Greenhills, San Juan, last September 30 to detail their agendas for the upcoming months.

Among the scholars in the meeting were the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Council (SC) President, Mari Ernestine Okol, Vice President for Internal Affairs, Amir Jordan Hussin, and Secretary-General, Lourenella De Leon along with Edriane Timothy Tabor, a senior from the Department of Legal Management (DLM).

The proposal initially began as a “500-million-peso initiative,” Patricia Rivera, a first-year College of Law (COL) student and SBCAF Scholars’ appointed President, shared with *The Bedan*. However, after an evaluation of proposals, the Board’s Treasurer, Mr. Edgardo B. Favila, “suggested and recommended” a 1-billion-peso goal instead.

“Yung primary objectives namin is not just for the scholars,” Rivera explained. According to her, the Proposal was directed towards aiding “Scholarships, *Katutubong Puno*, and the Professorial Chair”—SBCAF’s main programs.

Other than that, the SBCAF Scholars aim to extend this project to 100 scholars from all the institution’s colleges. Moreover, it also considered the “annual tuition fee hikes that Bedan students experience.”

To achieve this, four of their teams must work together to “sustain” the project. The Fund Development Team, chaired and presented by Tabor during the meeting, ran the Board through the “Gameplan” towards the “1 billion by 2027 Proposal.”

From the month of October until January 2025, the scholars will be “preparing, making initial contacts and following up on their donors.” On the months of

February until October 2025 will be the second wave of preparations where Scholars will “re-engage with their donors for updates.”

The Administrative Communications Team, chaired by De Leon, planned for a Duty Attendance Check. Here, the Board can track “scholars’ attendance and performance” in carrying tasks through organized “Get Togethers.”

Next, the Multimedia Team,

headed by Angela Mae Ronquillo, a junior College of Nursing (CON) student, will serve as the Public Relations (PR) managers.

Maurice Lapira, a senior from the Department of Marketing Management (DMM), presented how the team will handle the Foundation’s Facebook page and official website to “help the SBCAF to be able to connect with different or potentials, donors or potential philanthropists that can help us achieve the goal to gain 1

billion pesos in 2027.”

Lastly, the Programs Team, headed by Jhuster Kai Dayandante, a senior from the Department of Legal Management, presented to the Board their plan of furthering the SBCAF’s “online presence” and “engagements” in SBCAF’s Facebook page and official website, engaging with companies in sponsoring the Professorial Chair’s academic excellence and further aiding projects spearheaded by “*Katutubong Puno*.”



The San Beda College Alumni Foundation (SBCAF) scholars together with the organization’s officers and trustees.

Photo by Veronica A. Balbin

CAS represents SBU in US Mobility Program

▼ Gian Marcel Chiu

ENVISIONING WHAT COULD be the first twinning program of San Beda University (SBU), students and faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) conducted its preliminary step of implementing a Faculty-Student Mobility Program in the United States of America (USA) last September 1.

CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 01, series of 2000, defined a twinning program as a “collaborative arrangement between one Philippine and one foreign university with the desire to build capability of both institutions; to operate, manage and administer an undergraduate or graduate program and to provide opportunity for students to have international diploma or degree.” This, as per the CAS Vice Dean of the Arts and Humanities cluster, Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, Ph.D., was the main objective of conducting the mobility, at least in pursuing the long-term vision of realizing a

twinning program.

The twinning program dream was already set in motion last year when Saint Vincent College (SVC), a private Benedictine college based in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, set their sights on “tying-up” with SBU, which merited the support of the Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB. Dr. Angeles further disclosed how the CAS Dean, Prof. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Ph.D., was given the “marching order to realize the initiative.”

While the preliminary program was initially set to

include other students and faculty from the different colleges in the University, the CAS was particularly “singled out because, if you will look into the programs offered by St. Vincent, *malapit [siya sa mga inooffer rin ng] CAS*,” said Dr. Angeles, emphasizing the necessity for both universities to have programs that both would “give” into. Yet given how the program was essentially a “baby step” in pursuing more intricate initiatives for the twinning objective, the Vice Dean of the Arts and Humanities cluster assured that more students will be given the chance to partake in this initiative in the future.



Photo courtesy of Vice Dean Moses

Former Bedan Marketer bags Valedictorian in 32nd AYA

▼ Rcee U. Tenebrancia



Photo courtesy of News5

UPHOLDING THE LEGACY of the Marketing Department in San Beda University (SBU), Mark Enriquez Cruz made history after nabbing the Valedictorian title during the 32nd Agora Youth Awards (AYA) last July 31 at The Westin Manila in Pasig City.

Sponsored by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the AYA is a prestigious competition in the marketing field that “recognizes exceptional

Filipino marketing students” and serves as a platform for them to showcase their expertise in creating “effective market plans.”

The annual program hosts marketing students from across the country to narrow down its applicants to 10 finalists. According to Asst. Prof. Gregorio

17 students and 14 faculty members from the CAS attended the student mobility program where, throughout their stay in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, continuously engaged in a dialogue with the students, faculty, and administrators of SVC. The latter ushered the CAS participants to explore the different facilities and programs offered by the Pennsylvania-based university.

In turn, Dean Bustamante introduced the academic life of SBU, while Prof. Marvin R.

Reyes, Ph.D., the Prefect of Student Activities, presented the University’s cultural aspect, activities, and organizations. But in addition to that, Dr. Angeles also stressed the “surprisingly impressive” role of the CAS students who took the initiative of promoting SBU and in explaining the political landscape of the country.

While the Vice Dean of the Arts and Humanities cluster confessed to have been “nervous” when SVC Political Science professors asked SBU students to



Photo courtesy of Vice Dean Moses

“describe and assess the politics of the Philippines,” his worry “curbed” thanks to the remarks of the students that “stirred much of SVC’s professors’ impression over SBU.”

Over the course of the mobility program, discussions were made on “potential future exchange programs” and potential areas where both universities could develop a “semester abroad program” that would create a seamless experience for students, allowing them to “take the same courses they would enroll in at SVC while studying abroad at SBU, and vice versa.”

Besides Pennsylvania, the CAS representatives were also given the opportunity to explore other sceneries in the USA—taking in the likes of the famed Washington DC, Philadelphia, Amish Farm, and New York to name a few.

Moving forward, while Dr. Angeles acknowledged the challenges in pursuing the twinning program since it is, in itself, a “costly initiative,” not to mention how its processes still have to be subjected to the “approval of CHED and the educational system of the US,” nonetheless, the Vice Dean of the Arts and Humanities cluster highlighted the significance of “continuity,” taking “one step at a time” in order for said efforts to reach fruition.

Following the recent interaction between the two Benedictine schools, SVC is cordially inviting SBU for a summer institute in Rome, Italy with a date that has yet to be disclosed. For further information please contact Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, Ph.D.

(with reports from Prince Piolo Tagarino)

G. Borja III, MBA, CPE, Chairperson of the Department of Marketing Management (DMM) and San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA) Moderator, the award had two main categories: the group category for the top Junior Marketing Association of the year, and the individual category, which honors the best marketing for the year.

In an interview, Cruz explained that to enter the individual category, participants must send a “minimum of 30-page documentation of the things the organization has done inside their schools, communities, and church.” Entering the individual category, Cruz submitted 42 pages that earned him his “cut for the semi-finals” where he made it into the top 15 last July 5.

His journey through the competition included a presentation for an Indonesian brand, “*Tolak Angin*,” wherein he faced a challenge of how “the name doesn’t resonate well with the Filipino market.”

However, he introduced “*Tol*,” a Filipino avatar that helped bridge the brand’s disconnect from the Filipino market, that earned him the “astonishment” of industry leaders with his innovative marketing strategy.

Later, it was Cruz’ ability to “connect with judges on a personal level” paired with his “storytelling” prowess that “moved” the industry practitioners, such as the CEO of AGC Power Holdings Corporation, the CEO of AQA, and many more.

Cruz’ involvement in P9

History Fest 2024 boasts lineup in enriching Filipino heritage

▼ Paolo Vital and Marc Joseph Felix

TO BE ENLIGHTENED on Philippine History, the Social Sciences and Humanities Association (SSHA), in collaboration with other organizations, spearheaded the “*Kasaysayan, Kaalaman, Kaunlaran* (KKK) History Fest 2024” that was originally set last August 19.



Photo by Marc Felix

However, the event was marred by an abrupt shift to an online modality, which, according to Sean Audric Uy, President of SSHA and Activity Chairperson of the event, was due to the paper processing for room reservations and rescheduling as a result of “the moving of the Ninoy Aquino Day commemoration, a Habagat suspension,” and the 2024 Bar Examinations that immediately followed after the delays.

Despite this, the event was still pushed through as “[SSHA] had to be flexible given the vital consideration to let students enjoy and experience our event, albeit online,” added Uy.

TO BE A HISTORIAN

Renowned historian and Assistant Professor from the

faculty of De La Salle University (DLSU), Michael Charleston “Xiao” Chua, Ph.D., led the webinar as the key speaker who delivered a lecture about historiography in the academe and its application in the context of Philippine history.

He first emphasized the qualities of a historian, explaining the expertise they should possess, like doing “in-depth research, having substantial insights, and thorough revisitations through historical accounts.” Asst. Prof. Chua then asserted the prevalence of historical errors and stressed the importance of history as a “part of national identity.”

According to Uy, the event served as a “platform for students to practice their knowledge and

creativity in history and in the *Buwan ng Wika*.”

Providing his remarks from what transpired on the activity, the President of SSHA stressed the importance of “understanding historical study for the college level,” while adding how “everything, from humanities to the hard sciences, should have contextual bearings to make for a purposive program that is socially conscious.”

TALASTASAN NG KATWIRAN AT ISIPAN

The *Bedistang Alagad ng Sining at Kultura* (BASK) commenced the second part of the activity with the “*Talastasang Katwiran at Kaisipan*,” a Filipino Debate Contest promoting the “effectiveness of media and

and Kiel Tenchavez from the Department of Legal Management, took the crown.

INK-PACT ESSAY WRITING CONTEST

Succeeding the debate was the Ink-Pact Essay Writing Contest spearheaded by The Spires under the theme, “*Pagsalaysay ng SAYSAY ng Kasaysayan: Para sa’yo, paano mo maipapamalas ang silbi ng kasaysayan sa kasalukuyan?*”

Arabelle Lamor, the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of The Spires, cited that it is “all about understanding history and why we, as young people, should always honor and remember it through sharing what we know of it to the world all while channeling our inner creativity,” further noting that “we should be critical of the past in order to move forward to a better future.”

In the contest, Jedrayne Junio, a student from the Department of Legal Management nabbed the gold.

CINESERYE

Lastly, because of the shifts in modality and scheduling, History Fest 2024 has yet to showcase the *CineSerye* film-viewing spearheaded by the Bedan Scholar’s Guild (BSG). However, Bedans can still look forward to the event this coming October 23.

In gearing up for the event, Via Jessica Clerigo, President of the BSG stated that activity is “*bindi siya simpleng film showing lang*.” Rather, in supporting SSHA’s goal of “promoting an atmosphere” of remembrance within the Bedan community, BSG organized the film-viewing as an opportunity to fit the KKK History Fest theme “*sa pamamagitan naman nun may madiscover din ‘yung mga Bedans na ‘ah may ganitong films nga pala,*” Clerigo explained.

While the spearheading organizations struggled from the modality shifts, Lamor found a silver lining in these shifts as activities have thus coincided with the same week as the Martial Law’s 52nd anniversary.

However, for Muñoz, she explained that the modality shift “diminished” the chance for the participants to “freely engage with the audience” and “foster teamwork among the debaters.” Nevertheless, BASK found the event to be a “success” because they were “able to deliver their advocacy of promoting the Filipino language to the Bedan community.”

Overall, Uy proclaimed that “all the learning and experiential objectives were met [despite the challenges], and the latent benefit of camaraderie was built between the members and officers of each organization. It is also a success for our learning experience to foresee better issues and problems that may arise in the future.”

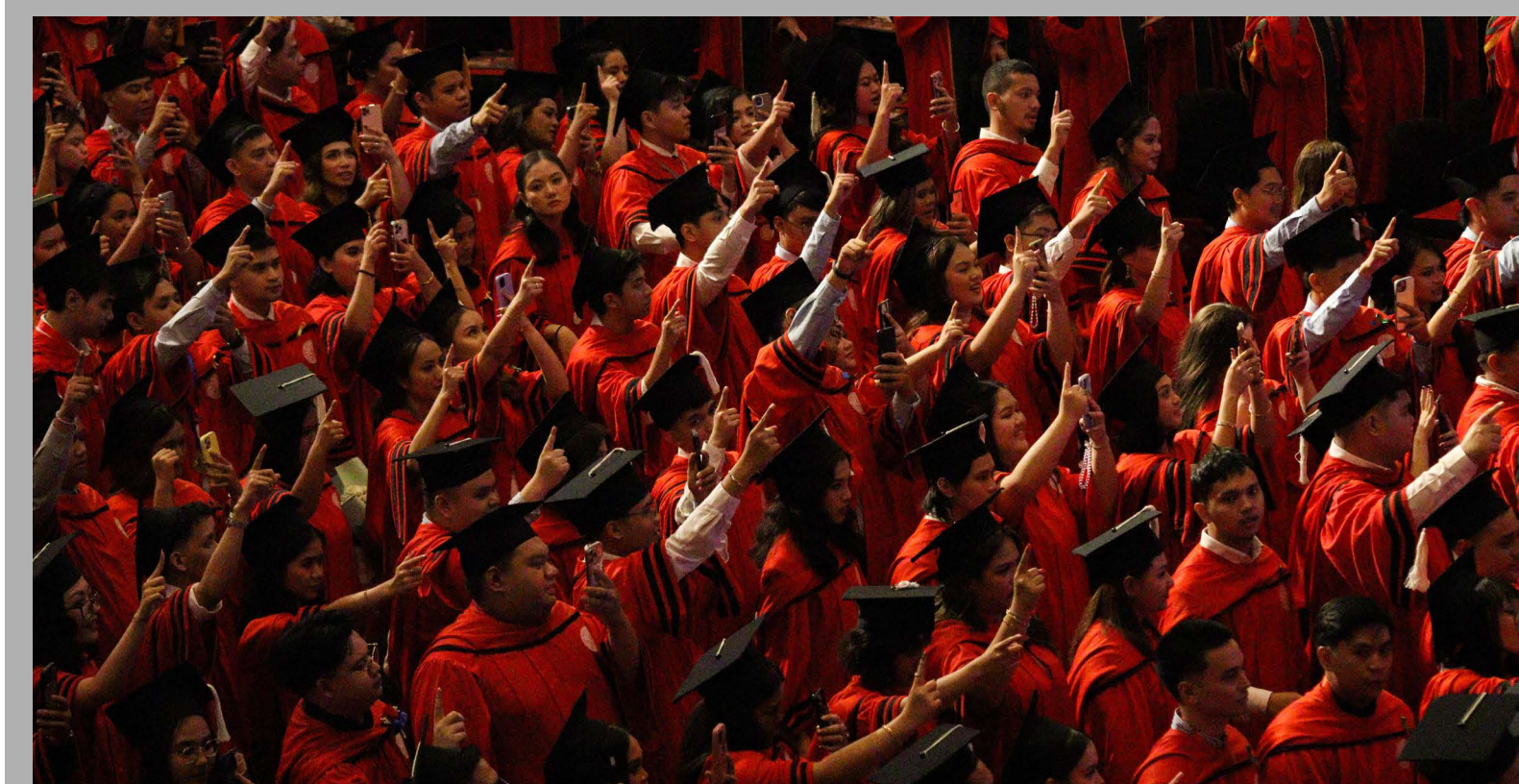
entertainment in promoting the Filipino language.” Originally scheduled last August 23, the debate, after a series of uncertainties, transpired last September 25.

Francheska Muñoz, President of BASK, explained how the theme “would lead to more engagement” of the Filipino language. “It can enable them *na mas gamitin pa ang wikang Filipino bilang midyum sa paglalabad ng kanilang ideya at nararamdaman sa mga kasalukuyang pangyayari sa ating bansa,*” she added.

In the ensuing debate, which followed a Modified Oxford-Style Debate format, Team Affirmative, comprised of Asbi Edding from the Department of Political Science

from P1

CAS sends off...



Bedans singing the Bedan Hymn during the 2024 Institutional Commencement Exercises.

Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

stating, “each step you take from this day forward is an opportunity to advocate for those who are unheard and to make a meaningful impact in the world.”

Reaffirming a call to action, “[s]a bawat hakbang tatabakin niyo mula ngayong araw na ito

ay pagkakaataon para isulong ang kapakanan ng mga malit, na mag kapuspalad sa ating lipunan. Kaya, sulung! Wag matakot; nagbibintay ang ating inangbayan.”

In an interview with The Bedan, Asst. Prof. Maria Pamela G. Tendero, MBA, Vice-Dean for the Business Cluster, spoke

about the following months of Academic Year (AY) 2024-2025 after the 2024 Institutional Commencement ceremony. “[F]or the schedule of the Academic Year, we have already made adjustments. If *napapansin ninyo, medyo siksik ‘yung activities natin* for the past academic year

since *na sabay ‘yung graduation preparation tsaka ‘yung classes.*”

She spoke about pushing through with the activities despite it being “more challenging” due to the “number of staff and administrators” to return the CAS’ pre-pandemic schedule.

SBELS hosts three-day celebration for Buwan ng Wika

▼ Veronica A. Balbin

THE SAN BEDA English and Literature (SBELS) took charge in spearheading the three-day celebration of Month of the Mother Tongue (Buwan ng Wika) entitled, “*Buwan ng Wika: Ipagpuniyagin!*” last August 15, 16, and 19.

To officially open the celebration of Buwan ng Wika, students and faculty from the Department of Languages and Literature (DLL) assembled at the ground floor of the Lydia Tan Sy building to witness a musical

busking session performed by the Bedan Musicians’ Guild (BSG), where they sang Original Pilipino Music (OPM).

SBELS’ Internal Vice President (IVP), Denver Provido, told *The*

Bedan that “[*Ang busking na ito*] ay para maging paanyaya sa ibang babagi ng ating pamayanan para makibabagi sa pagdiriwang,” further adding that “*Nagkaroon din ng munting salo salo kasama ang mga mag-aaral ng CAS.*”



Photo courtesy of San Beda Red Lens

The following day, a seminar was held at the *Pamanang Bedista* with the theme, “*Kwento at Pagsalin: Usapang Wika at Panitikan.*” Invited guests Dr. Christine S. Bellen-Ang and Dr. Imelda P. De Castro communicated the importance of Children’s Literature (*Panitikang Pambata*) and Translation (*Pagsalin*), respectively.

Post-event, Dr. Bellen-Ang explained that the *Panitikang Pambata* is not a “dying” genre. “*Dati, emerging siya. Emergent literature ito. Pero ngayon, developing pa kasi marami ng ibang mga libro para sa mga bata, marami ng mga publishers na nag-oveventure para sa children’s literature. Tapos, syempre, marami pa ring genre: comics, poetry and film [din].*”

Dr. De Castro, on the other hand, told *The Bedan* that students have a “narrowed view” of the Filipino language. As such, she presented her study about “Lexical Elaboration of Computer Terminology,” to show students that the Filipino language was not just for the “markets.” In giving this lecture, she was worked towards her primary objective to “intellectualize the Filipino language.”

Concluding the Buwan ng Wika celebration, a Community

Mass was held at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat under SBELS’ sponsorship on August 19. Here, DLL students and faculty convened while being adorned with Filipiniana and traditional Filipino clothing.

As an additional part of the program, SBELS held a Group Oration (*Sabayang Pagbigkas*) and individual Spoken Poetry competition last August 17. Instead of having a face-to-face competition, the organization shifted towards an online platform, letting participants submit their entries.

“*Need kasi ng time ng students to prepare their performances and pieces,*” Provido explained. As of now, no winners have not been announced but he explained that the entries are still to be “judged at a later time.”

For Provido, this celebration of *Buwan ng Wika* was one of the many events for SBELS’ to be “loud.” “*Yung ingay ng ganap na ito ay para makita ng pamayananang Bedista na mayroong SBELS na nagtataguyod ng mga gawaing wika at panitikan.*”

Moreover, he looks forward to the following events that SBELS has planned such as English and Literature week this coming November.

SBJMA Team wins gold at GMCF Business Planning Competition in Singapore

▼ Rcee U. Tenefrancia

SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE INTERNATIONALLY, the Red Merlions team from the San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA) secured gold in the “Business Event Planning Competition” (BEP) hosted by the Global Chinese Marketing Federation (GCMF) in Singapore last July 20.

Their win during the 32nd Agora Youth Awards—where they placed 2nd in the Group Category—secured them the sponsorship for the competition in Singapore, which was covered by the Junior Marketing Association (JMA).

The Red Merlions was comprised of Bedan Marketers Gabriel Joaquin Morales, Kobe Santos, Christelle Limbo, Patrick Enero, Joaquin Dilao, and Justine Angelo Pintuan.

Morales, SBJMA’s former President for Academic Year (AY) 2023-2024, and Asst. Prof. Gregorio G. Borja III, MBA, CPE, moderator of SBJMA, both shared to *The Bedan* the team’s “journey, hardships, and gratitude” in their participation during the BEPC.

Tasked to create “Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) plan for Singapore,” the Red Merlions created Stay in Asia (STAY-SIA)—enticing people to come to Singapore and immerse themselves in different cultures and heritages from Asian countries.

“So there, we came up with our own strategies where it revolves around both marketing and hotel and tourism management. We came up with our own strategies to come up with an event that would increase and boost tourism in Singapore,” Morales explained.

He then credited the rest of his team who “pushed themselves to go further,” creating their business marketing plans which, at the time, was new to them given that they “had no idea how to create actual MICE plan events.”

In presenting their business plan, Morales recalled a major

challenge during the competition. Firstly, the contestants were primarily foreigners whose first languages were not English. “We had a hard time conversing with them and explaining to them our strategies,” he described.

In addition to this major challenge, the team experienced a boarding crisis with their chosen airline. Morales shared, “[The airline] gave us a hard time boarding and were trying to prevent one of the participants from boarding the plane [due to] problems with their passport.”

As a result, one member missed their flight to Singapore. Nevertheless, the SBJMA team pulled through in the thick of their presentation’s major adjustments. “I think *na kabit papaano* we are able to get a hold of [the situation], *kasi madalas naman din samin nangyayari mga last minute, sanay na rin kami,*” said Asst. Prof. Borja III.

Regardless, the Merlions rooted themselves in “faith and hard work.” As Asst. Prof. Borja III expressed, “*Kabit nung na-awan siya dito sa Philippines, tumutulong pa rin siya,*” talking about the team member who unfortunately stayed behind for the competition.

This member, according to Asst. Prof. Borja III, resorted to utilizing the “online” modality to help the team, taking advantage of the digital advancements. Overall, Morales and Asst. Prof. Borja III were both “filled with motivation and passion” given SBJMA’s “promising career.”

Furthermore, SBJMA’s victory served as an “inspiration to both the organization and the Bedan community.” “This would start as a steppingstone for not just Bedan marketers, but all



Photo courtesy of Leah Guba Ayeng



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Morales

Bedans to get that experience and compete internationally,” Morales emphasized.

Finally, he left the newest members of SBJMA a piece of advice as a parting message,

saying, “Never fear the storm, learn how to dance in the rain.”

(with Jasmine Casadores)

Martial Law survivors recount tales of horror during BACES event

▼ Veronica A. Balbin

MARTIAL LAW SURVIVORS narrated accounts of torture, imprisonment and resistance during the Martial Law for the event entitled “Martial Law Noon, Ano na Ngayon?” hosted by the Bedan Advocacy and Consciousness Enhancement Society (BACES) at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani, September 27.

The roundtable discussion came as a part of the BACES tour where Bedans witnessed remnants from Martial Law such as newspapers, photographs, and Supreme Court documents featured in the Bantayog Museum. Additionally, artworks from realist artists in the likes of Gerry Roxas and Boy Dominguez were put on display in the exhibits.

Essentially, the event aimed to “foster discussions” among younger generations about the “significance of Martial Law and its lasting impact on society and combat the ongoing historical distortion about the dictatorship.”

Among the many survivors, Danilo “Danny” Dela Fuente, current Vice Chairperson of Samahan ng Ex-Detainees Laban sa Detensyon at Aresto (SELDA), narrated his life upon being arrested on February 25, 1982, where he would later be subjected to the tickling torture method called “tea party.”

Another survivor, Felix Dalisay, imprisoned from 1972-1974, narrated how he was brought to Camp Crame where he had endured severe beatings and other forms of abuse. Sid Bellica, also another survivor, shared that he suffered numerous tortures during his incarceration that caused his left ear deafness.

Compelled to activism, Nilda Fullon was initially a non-activist veterinary student arbitrarily taken into custody by the military for being a student-activist. She recalled how she was arrested after walking home from school close to a candle lighting rally, where her body would later be examined in search for supposed tattoos to “confirm” her affiliation to the Kabataang Makabayan.

Atty. Byron Bocar, an SBU graduate from the College of Law (COL), was compelled to leave the country during Martial Law after his home was raided in 1973. His friend who had welcomed him into his home later vanished, never to be found.

Although she did not go into further details about her tortures, Cristina Bawagan, a board member at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani, was also a survivor who experienced “sexual tortures during Martial Law.” She shared with Rappler how the military inserted sharp objects into her genitals and that she would keep screaming, “and it was like no one could hear” her.

Another survivor, Leonarda Tieng was initially an aspiring nun, but her life dramatically changed after she and her husband were arrested in 1974. While Tieng endured psychological and

criticisms. He later gained his freedom after the EDSA People Power Revolution in 1986.

In the official closing of the tour, both participants and Martial Law survivors held a candle lighting ceremony in honor of the 326—and counting—Martyrs and Heroes who died during the Martial Law. With their firsts up and their candles in the other, they collectively cried, “Never Again, Never Again to Martial Law!”

“This is a pilot event by BACES, particularly because we are now lenient to a more socio-

political stance since *parating na rin* ‘yong midterm 2025 elections, and I think it’s high time na we talk about these things, that the student body talk about these things,” said Aldrich Rivera, President of BACES and activity-chairperson.

He added that “By involving the youth, especially students, the event encourages them to make informed decisions, including voting for leaders who genuinely serve the people.”

(with Paris Isaac Falcone and Myrna Ydwina Xialca Pelayo)



A survivor lighting a candle to honor the victims of Martial Law.

Photo by Veronica Balbin



A martial law survivor detailing her experience.

Photo by Veronica Balbin

SBU updates security system; installs facial recognition feature

▼ Mansel Jianne Latonero

TO ENSURE AN “efficient and reliable means of security and attendance system,” the Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC), in partnership with the Vice President Administrative Board, installed a facial recognition feature to the security systems at the entrance and exit gates of the San Beda University (SBU) Manila campus, made accessible to the students and personnel at the beginning of the Academic Year (A.Y.) 2024 to 2025.

Debuting its functionality last September, students and staff were no longer required to have their Identification card (ID) scanned upon entering and exiting the campus premises, since the facial recognition system would immediately scan the person’s face as they come close to the designated screens.

Ms. Barbara Ann Yanga, Information Technology (IT) Development and Services Office Head, shared that “the San Beda University face access and attendance system has a range of features and security measures that may enhance campus operations.” Its development came about to “aid both the security and attendance-monitoring aspects of the school’s operations.”

“Additionally, the anti-spoofing technology enhances reliability by detecting and preventing attempts to deceive the system using photos or videos,” she added.

She then revealed that during the process of its implementation, they were met with the challenge on the technical side, centered on the “network configuration.” She expressed that, considering how “it is vital to establish secure and stable networks in successfully

“provided real-time monitoring, delivering live data on attendance for immediate verification and reporting.” On the management’s side, it also offers a “user-friendly interface” which makes it “more convenient” for the system administrators to navigate, streamlining operation and management.

With the privacy of the data being stored, Ms. Yanga assured that several strong measures were implemented to comply with the protection of the user data, specifically its data encryption ensuring that all biometric information being collected is safeguarded against unauthorized access.

“Moreover, the user enrollment process presented its own challenges, particularly in collecting and securely storing the biometric data of all employees and students,” added Ms. Yanga.

Nonetheless, they were able to execute the system carefully to “ensure accuracy and privacy and achieve smooth implementation.” She further regarded the new face access and attendance system as “more effective” in comparison with the traditional ID scanning system because of its “speed, accuracy, and contactless operation,” reducing waiting time and risk of human error while allowing “quick entry

implementing the system,” they have adjusted the University’s IT infrastructure.

To conclude, Ms. Yanga underscored the importance of implementing such facial recognition system not just in convenience, saying “This transition not only enhances efficiency but also strengthens security across the campus, contributing to a smoother experience for everyone at San Beda University.”

without physical contact.”

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Nonetheless, they were able to execute the system carefully to “ensure accuracy and privacy and achieve smooth implementation.” She further regarded the new face access and attendance system as “more effective” in comparison with the traditional ID scanning system because of its “speed, accuracy, and contactless operation,” reducing waiting time and risk of human error while allowing “quick entry

without physical contact.”

Bedans utilizing the new facial recognition feature before entering the premises of SBU.

Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

Bedans rally behind SBU Band; #LetSBUBandPlay movement gains traction

▼ Rcee Tenefrancia

FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC outcry in light of the news of San Beda University (SBU) Band’s ‘prohibition from performing’ at the forthcoming games of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 100, organizations have expressed their ‘show of support’ through the mobilization of the #LetSBUBandPlay movement across various social media platforms.

At the forefront of the movement was the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Council (SC), along with members of the Student Organization Circle (SOC), both in forms of professional and non-professional organizations.

Chriselle Tamares, the Vice President for External Affairs and Athletics Committee chairperson, stressed that it is “high time” for these concerns to be raised as these grievances and issues are “not only limited to the band,” but to other teams as well as “they may not be vocal of the issues that they experience internally.”

“Together, we must wonder what other decisions have been made without student representation. *Dito sa CAS pa lang, kailangan may student representation whenever there is a deliberation of any sanction and take note [na] wala pang memorandum itong sanction towards the SBU Band,”* she shared.

Moreover, she raised that this issue should not only be viewed as one that is “centered towards the band, but rather to the student-athletes of the University.”

Meanwhile, Amir Hussin, the Vice President for Internal

Affairs of the SC and the Student Organization Circle (SOC) chairman, shared that the moment when the issue about the band boomed, the SC encouraged the SOC to “support and rally behind the SBU Band.”

“They can always reach out to us. *Gusto ko lang din sabihin sa student athletes na we hear you and we are here to support you syempre bilang kapwa Bedista,”* she added.

Aside from student-led organizations, the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Association (CASFA) along with the SBU Alumni Association (SBUAA) also expressed its “solidarity” with the SBU Band.

CASFA President, Asst. Prof. Gerard Santos, shared his

sentiments regarding the SBU Band’s situation, saying “We were saddened because this is how it transpired,” further noting how these band members had once become their “students,” with faculty members serving as their “second parents” inside the campus.

“Hopefully, it can be discussed. We [CASEA] just want this to be resolved properly” added Prof. Santos, expressing the need to “promote an open dialogue with the persons involved,” added Prof. Santos.

Meanwhile, last September 30, SBUAA also released a statement in their official Facebook page, encouraging the community to “approach this matter with open minds and a spirit of dialogue,” while carrying the hope that “University authorities will implement improvements that would serve the best interest of the community.” Other alumni have also expressed their support in the *Tunay kang Bedista* private Facebook group.

The embattled team captain of the SBU Band, Allen Dominic Rogel, shared with *The Bedan* how the situation has “overwhelmed”



Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

them.

The “mixed emotions” started during the game of the SBU Red Lions vs. AU Chiefs wherein the Arellano University Drum and Bugle Corps performed one of their beats while the SBU Band was cheering at the lower box area of the FilOil EcoOil Center.

He mentioned that it was the “first time” another University played one of San Beda’s beats for them, emphasizing the fact that this happened even before the band released a statement. “*Siguro, they had an idea bakit nasa baba kami. They played one of our beats.*” he said.

Rogel also mentioned how the SBU Band had been “struggling,” for some time, “keeping quiet” and “enduring the situation.” However, with the onset of the “recent incidents” that took place, the SBU Band decided to “break their silence” which has led to the outpouring of support brought about by the #LetSBUBandPlay movement.

Made aware of the situation, other member schools of the NCAA showed their support for

the squad.”

Pressed for his response on the ongoing issue, Mr. Steve De Guzman, the current moderator of the SBU Band, declined to release a statement for now.

Showing their support for the band, Bedan students, professional and non-professional organizations from the Student Organizational Circle (SOC), as well as alumni, have rallied on social media to register their support with the hashtag #LetSBUBandPlay, urging the

the SBU Band. Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC) Drummers released a statement and posted a video of them playing the beat “Powerband” while performing the “Go San Beda Fight” chant. Moreover, the Lyceum of the Philippines (LPU) Drum Squad, Colegio De San Juan De Letran (CSJL) Band, and the San Sebastian College - Recoletos (SSC-R) Jammerstags also released statements in a show of support for the SBU Band.

Ultimately, the Band expressed “appreciation for the overwhelming support” that the different organizations inside and outside the University gave in their effort to “regain their rights to play outside of the University.”

“The Band [has] served for 92 years, supporting and cheering all Bedan athletes. All we want to do is serve them, serve the Bedan athletes and serve the Bedan community in showcasing our Bedan culture,” Rogel highlighted.

(with Denver Provide, and reports from Paris Falcone and Cass Manao)

University’s administrators to reinstate the band to its rightful podium.

While the reasons for the band’s restriction and the alumni’s participation, along with Rogel’s suspension, have yet to be disclosed, the team captain, speaking on behalf of his band, assured the Bedan community of their “continued support before our athletes, but not as a band for now.”

(with reports from Paris Isaac Falcone)

SBU Band “barred” from performing at NCAA games, says team captain

▼ Rcee Tenefrancia

EFFECTIVE TODAY, SEPTEMBER 28, the San Beda University (SBU) Band will no longer perform at the forthcoming games of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 100, The Bedan has learned.



Photo courtesy of San Beda Red Lens

Last September 10, eyebrows were raised as the SBU Band was noticeably absent during the San Beda Red Lions’ game against the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS) Blazers, leaving the Bedan community with speculation as to why they weren’t there in the first place.

Allen Rogel, the Band’s team captain, has finally disclosed to *The Bedan* how, starting today, September 28, the band shall only be limited to performing in “internal events,” while being prohibited to perform in the NCAA allegedly due to a supposed “review on the benefits acquired by the band.”

Moreover, the team captain

also revealed how, “two days prior to the opening of NCAA Season 100,” he was “unfairly” suspended allegedly without any official documentation or reason, “both in-house and in the NCAA games.”

In addition to that, although there is a “long-standing tradition” for the band to perform with its current alumni, Rogel alleged that there were also directives to “prohibit San Beda alumni from playing with

penalties and supervision. “This is the right time to create or formulate a manual for athletes so there are clear parameters for any penalties or punishments that may be given,” Dean Bustamante added.

The order to reinstate the band became effective immediately as seen in their spirited return

»» SBU band returns...

from P1

supported.”

With the band back in action once again, they are ready to continue uplifting the spirits of the entire Bedan community as they aim for victory in this historic 100th season of the NCAA.

(with Maegan Belicena)

GCO equips freshies with study habits in forum

▼ Veronica A. Balbin

A FEW WEEKS before the First Semester Midterm examinations, the Guidance Counseling Office (GCO) spearheaded a forum for freshmen of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) with the theme, "Access to Academic Success: An Improving Study Habits Seminar" at the Jonathan Sy Auditorium, September 18.

During the seminar, the Office's guest speaker and its former Guidance Counselor, Asst. Prof. Mark Christian M. Francisco, MA, RGC, tackled student learning styles based on the Visual, Auditory, Reading/Writing and Kinesthetic (VARK) learning styles after a short quiz. He later urged his audience to set a goal, identifying the "Goal, Reality, Options and Willingness to act (GROW)" in pursuing it.

Moreover, engaging more with the audience, he presented organizational techniques such as the "Promodoro technique, Eisenhower Matrix, Parkinson's Law, Time Blocking technique, and Eat that Frog technique," along with various note-taking methods like the "well-known Sentence note-taking method, Outlining note-taking method, Mapping note-taking method, Charting note-taking method, Cornell note-taking."

Leading to the end of his talk, Asst. Prof. Francisco gave "Test preparation and Test-taking Strategies" such as prioritizing sleep before an exam and

optimizing studying, listening and reading instructions carefully during the exam, recognizing the inner critic, and checking one's work post-examination. Post-event, Asst. Prof. Francisco confirmed his talk was based on his Masteral thesis which covered "study habits, correlating it with academic achievement," he told *The Bedan*.

The first step in developing study habits, he emphasized, was "self-awareness in terms of study or learning styles and preferences." Hence, such became the reason why he hoped for the freshmen to "consider and eventually adopt" the VARK assessment and for them to "take it one day at a time *na muna* in terms of the adjustments."

The Study Habits seminar, from its inauguration until its stunted annual operation during the pandemic, was initially focused on aiding student-athletes and students under academic probation. However, this year's newly redesigned program was a result of the observations coming from Assoc. Prof.



The Class of 2024 attends the Career Orientation Program whose speakers were in the likes of Ms. Joan Macrise Cora

Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

Jackqui R. Moreno, CPA, DBA, Chairperson of the Department of Accountancy and Taxation.

Ms. Ma. Lorena M. Galang, RGC, Head of the CAS GCO and one of the event organizers, explained that "parang [Asst. Prof. Moreno] suggested or requested *na kasi nga napapansin niya na 'yung mga freshmen may problema* in terms of academic. No, *sag-suggest siya na, 'could you please*

facilitate or *garwa ng* program for study habit seminar, particularly *para sa first year nga?*"

She also added that the seminar's objectives were based on the previous Academic Year's (AY) Student Needs Assessment, saying, "*yung mga sumagot kasi is 'yung previous students. So, parang nakita natin na applicable ito para sa mga freshman natin.*"

With more activities in the following months, Ms. Galang told the Bedan community that "if they have concern or experiencing, mental health concern, academic concerns, open *ang* guidance office to entertain them, facilitate *kung ano 'yung problem nila. And para matulungan natin sila sa magiging journey nila.*"

(with Prince Piolo Tagarino)

SC stress over 'defective' merch produced by SCDS

▼ Veronica A. Balbin

SINCE SIGNING CONTRACTS with two new suppliers—ProEvent Event Solutions on July 29 and Squirt Clothing Design Studios (SCDS) Textile Tradings on July 12—the Student Council (SC) has "twice received faulty items" from SCDS.

SCDS and ProEvent Event Solutions were chosen upon careful inspection and negotiations in their merchandise and audio-visual capacities by the SC alongside the Office of the Prefect of Student Activities (OPSA).

Additionally, before coming in an agreement with OPSA on the College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) official suppliers, potential suppliers went through a bidding process last July 2 and July 18 for merchandise supplier and audio-visual supplier, respectively.

"*In-invite namin sila dito sa school para may bid sila individually of their companies and then syempre nakipag-negotiate din kami on the spot whether parang, sinong may mga lowest prices, sinong may pinakamalaking discount na mambibigay samin all throughout the academic year,*" SC Vice President for External Affairs, Chriselle Marie Tamares narrated.

She added that "so far, nakakailang order rin kami from Freshman Welcoming Day to Pep Rally, and now sa Teacher's Day. [*Pero*] medyo nagkakaroon ng din talaga ng ibang mga defects or mga errors [*sa merchandise*]."

It was during the Freshman Welcoming Day (FWD) last July 31 that the SC received their first batch of defective merchandise of tumblers and notebooks which, upon careful inspection, "*medyo*



Photo courtesy of Chriselle Tamares

natatanggal 'yung mismong print dun sa [tumblers], so dun pa lang parang napansin namin na [may error] ... and pati pala sa notebooks during Freshman Welcoming Day. Bale, parang hindi pantay 'yung pagkaprint mismo dun sa tumbler and notebook, tapos hindi rin buo 'yung print," explained Tamares.

Fast forward, a day before the Pep Rally last August 16, the SC returned their second package of products back to SCDS. This time was a batch of over 20 blank pieces of caps meant for the student-athletes.

"*Blanko lang 'yung mismong cap which is dapat may print talaga siya. So binigay namin siya or parang ni-return namin siya. Mismong same day ng before the Pep Rally na nag-memersch packing kami,*" she recalled. Hence, as a result of the delay, distribution was re-scheduled to the very day of the Pep Rally.

In hindsight, however, Tamares said, "*Sakto lang din naman, pero sana nabawasan 'yung stress namin nung mismong day ng Pep Rally if nabigay na namin 'yung merch the day before pa lang para at least...*

morning ng August 16, wala kaming pinoproblema, only 'yung mismong event proper."

Meanwhile, ProEvent Event Solutions was "so far, so good," according to Tamares. Just like with SCDS, their first partnership with the SC happened during FWD. The company was "flexible in accommodating" the SC's adjustments during the program.

Furthermore, Tamares added that "*anlaki ng discount na nabibigay [ng ProEvent Event Solutions]*" and that San Beda

University (SBU) have also opted to contact the company for its recent institutional activity, the University's First Anniversary as a Laudato Si' institution.

So far, the SC has purchased T-shirts, tote bags, tumblers, stickers, notebooks, caps, small, customized orders, and umbrellas from SCDS.

On the other hand, ProEvent Event Solutions were tapped for FWD, Pep Rally, and SBU's Laudao Si' celebration.

»» Former Bedan Marketer...

from P3

the AYA began when he served as the host in the year prior. Inspired by the organization's culture of excellence, he then set his sights on competing for this year.

Despite SBJMA members bagging multiple salutariorians in the previous AYAs, Cruz was the first to secure the valedictorian title in eight years, marking a

milestone for both him and his University. Accordingly, Cruz emphasized that the award was not solely based on academic performance, attributing the success to "leadership, community work, and participation in competitions."

Moreover, he was "overwhelmed with gratitude"

upon receiving such an award at the event. "I was doing it for all of the people who believed in me, and for the organization that shaped me into the marketer I am today," Cruz said.

Following this, Asst. Prof. Borja III said that the tradition of excellence at SBJMA is "something that must continue," expecting future students to

surpass previous batches and carry the Bedan name with pride."

"That's why we always train them rigorously," Prof. Borja III added, highlighting how the association instills "passion and dedication to its students."

As Cruz stands as the new face of Bedan marketing excellence,

the chairperson left an inspiring message for future SBJMA students who aspire to join the AYA: "Keep the passion alive," encouraging them to learn from the "successes and challenges of their predecessors," and to "write their own legacy" in the forthcoming AYA competitions.

(with Prince Piolo Tagarino)

Workers' groups, organizations slam NEDA's Php 64 threshold

▼ Nathaniel Soriano



Photo courtesy of Alliance of Concerned Teachers Philippines

DURING A BRIEFING held by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) on the proposed 2025 National Expenditure Program at the Senate Committee of Finance last August 13, Arsenio Balisican, Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), deemed those expending less than Php 64 a day as "food poor."

Asked by Senator Nancy Binay on the food-poverty threshold, Balisican responded that, "As of 2023, a monthly food threshold for a family of five is Php9,581" which would account for a "Php 64 budget per person." The presented number was a stark increase from 2021 where the 'food poor' threshold stood at Php 55 per person. But since then, it has been adjusted for inflation.

Expounding on the rationale behind the incremental adjustments, Balisican said that the inflation-based modification was set for them "to monitor whether or not the government's poverty-related policies have been effective."

Following the senate briefing, the measly food-poverty threshold set by NEDA drew flak from numerous labor groups and organizations. Renato Reyes,

President of the *Bagong Alyansang Makabayan* (BAYAN), challenged NEDA officials to "try living on Php 64 per day for food for a year, before coming up with conclusions that such an amount does not make a person food poor."

Reyes further stated that the evaluation made by the NEDA Chief was "evidence" of the Marcos Administration's "detachment from the actual reality faced by poverty-stricken Filipinos who struggle to work for decent meals."

He also asserted that the given train of thought in computing the threshold "fuels anti-poor motives." "This is the kind of thinking that keeps wages low and covers up poverty in the country. Redefining poverty will not make it go away."

Further reverberating Reyes' sentiments were the Kilusang

Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP). Its Chairman, Danilo Ramos, stressed that a budget of Php 64 per day is "barely sufficient" to provide for the food needs of a daily wage worker.

Then, Sonny Matula, Chairperson of the labor coalition Nagkaisa, exclaimed that NEDA's assertion could "prove a risk to the lives of Filipinos." "Despite millions of pesos allotted to collect data, we are given outdated figures that do not reflect the current situation," he stressed.

Adding on, Fisher group Pamalakaya stated that the low threshold introduced by the government "allows them to justify the implementation of low wages."

Providing their incites on the Php 64 food-poor threshold, IBON Foundation, also

contends that it "really grossly underestimates" the poverty threshold within the country.

For IBON, there is a need to set a realistic threshold, expressing that "a realistic poverty benchmark is essential to monitor the effectiveness of government programs and policies to develop the country. On the other hand, unrealistic poverty and subsistence thresholds are powerful devices to hide their ineffectiveness."

In their calculation, the food-poverty threshold should have come out to "more or less than Php 90." This was based on a re-computation of the Family Living Wage estimated from 2008, adjusted for inflation and factoring in other influences behind family expenses.

Additionally, Sonny Africa, executive director of IBON,

advised NEDA's board to consider including non-food needs and additional expenses—transportation, education, rent, and the like—into the calculations to derive a more realistic poverty statistic. He said, "Definitely, even the poverty threshold will be much more beyond Php 91."

Agreeing to a needed revisit on the computation of the food-poverty threshold during the senate hearing, Balisican asserts that, "I think it's due for revisit of that poverty threshold *natin kasi medyo matagal na rin, more than a decade na 'yon* since it was set...the changes in the economy warrant a revisit already of the threshold."

Regardless, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) supported the threshold, providing a catalog of foods that fit within a Php 64 budget.

PSSBU launches five-part series on Suicide Prevention

▼ Rizian Ballata

“NAVIGATING THE PATH towards healthier conversations,” the Psychology Society of San Beda University (PSSBU) premiered a five-episode series last September 10-14 with the theme “Changing the Narrative and Starting the Conversation,” commemorating World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD).

Aligned with the global initiatives of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), PSSBU sought to “amplify greater social consciousness on the realities of mental health problems on individuals to encourage open and meaningful discourse within the Bedan community.”

PSSBU President, Precious Aira Encina, articulated the organization’s commitment to “leading initiatives addressing the stigma” around suicide whilst promoting collective progress and action in “fostering awareness of its alarming toll.”

Such advocacy led to the realization of the WSPD series and its foundational themes: Empathy, Awareness, Accessibility, Presence, and Responsibility. These, according to Encina, were the “frameworks” that fostered greater awareness on the subject of suicide.

Each episode of the series featured representatives from various student organizations with the collective aim to “gather diverse perspectives on how suicide prevention impacts and strengthens the foundations of the communities they represent,” Encina explained.

The Student Council (SC) and members of the Student Organization Circle (SOC), namely AIESEC San Beda, Bedan Advocacy and Consciousness Enhancement Society (BACES), and the Bedan Pastoral Ministry (BPM), were invited to partake in the series and offer their knowledge and insights.

PSSBU’s pilot episode, released last September 10, spoke on “safe spaces” as a manifestation



Photo courtesy of Psychology Society of San Beda University

of “empathy.” It answered the question of how one can become a safe space for others outside a student setting. “To become a safe space is to become an empathic person. And to become an empathic person does not require you to be enrolled in a specific degree or take licensure exam of some sort,” Encina expressed.

The next episode, in line with “awareness,” was released the following day. Janine Simbulan, AIESEC’s Vice President for Internal Affairs, voiced about the “ocean of problems” that student leaders also struggle with, and that their “problems don’t only encompass academics... [they also include] problems—family problems, personal issues, political issues... and many other factors.”

She stated that “in understanding these factors, we must campaign and... advertise the advocacy of mental health issue.”

Moreover, BACES’ Publicity Officer Julla Francisco, discussed the “accessibility” of materials and resources in the third episode posted on September 12. According to her, “there’s been research that...suicide and depression...can be related to... socio-economic status or SES. Apparently... poverty is associated with... suicide and pessimistic attitude especially in children and adolescence.”

As such, she explained their importance in creating effective strategies towards that point to suicide prevention, declaring the necessity of “including the marginalized and oppressed sectors” in the conversation to develop economic and social empowerment within these areas.

In the fourth episode released on September 13 under “Presence,” BPM’s Executive Coordinator for Worship and Liturgy, Jestony Lumabi, illustrated the role of

faith in suicide prevention.

“[The Church is] not just being mental health partners, but also they are giving you ways on how to view, as a person, to transform yourself and create a new life again,” he justified, adding that the Church is “creating ministries and organizations” that focus on suicide prevention.

“There really is no specific cure towards our mental health issues,” SC President, Mari Okol, emphasized in the final episode depicting “Presence,” that was aired on September 14.

And yet even despite having no clear cure, Okol affirmed the “presence and role” of the SC which “extends beyond spearheading events.” Rather, for her, they “embody the responsibility of building a community that actively participates in actions” that prioritize societal welfare, where mental health conversations are

“welcomed and encouraged.”

Even after the WSPD series, Encina shared that PSSBU “intends to spearhead activities that will create many opportunities for the Bedan community to expand their mental health awareness while also becoming active agents of mental health advocacies both inside and outside the San Beda.”

And truly enough last October 10 and 14, under Eunoia: Bedans as an Epitome of Optimism, PSSBU launched activities pertaining to Mental Health Day through posting publication materials related to the dedicated day, along with enjoining the community to “showcase the beauty of optimism, resilience, and hope” through a mobile photography contest.

(with Ma. Casandria Mallen Manao)

SC pronounces Agbanlog...

or 185 votes. Meanwhile, 9.04% (45) opted to abstain in this election. This was a stark increase from last year’s First-Year Representative Elections of 57.64%.

Given the “high voter turnout” for this year’s Year-Level Representative Elections, Rochelle Soriano, Chairperson of ELBO, considered the polls a “success” given how “everyone participated in the electoral process, and everyone practiced their right to suffrage.”

However, she acknowledged the hurdles faced in the polling of votes, citing technical difficulties such as “delays when it comes to opening the system” which was a result of “few accounts of the first-year level representatives from the ICTC” that were not registered.

But these problems were later

circumvented as Soriano cites, “*nagwaran naman ng paraan ng ELBO* and they were able to vote *naman* and submit their ballots on time.”

Following the official announcement of results along with her proclamation at the St. Anselm’s Hall’s, outside of the Office of the Prefect of Student Affairs, Agbanlog expressed her “shock” to *The Bedan* upon learning about the results, saying “[*Na*]gulat talaga kasi ‘di po talaga namin alam kung sino mananalo, and knowing *na* we are both competent leaders *talaga* it was very hard to tell,” while adding how she also observed that students “were having a difficult time choosing.” Nonetheless, the newly-elect first-year representative expressed her “gratitude” to the student body for the vote of trust.

With the NYPD securing

another seat in the SC, Agbanlog acknowledged this feat but asserted that “*Hindi siya nagmatter kasi ‘yung* Student Council *wala pong* political party ‘yan. We’re just here to serve the

people and that’s it.”

As the newly elected First-Year Representative, Agbanlog is setting sights on fulfilling her plans and platforms for her fellow

freshmen. “Looking forward *po talaga na matupad labat ng projects* and platforms first and foremost,” and “*na maging family talaga kami sa first-year level*,” she promised.



The Student Council (SC) for the Academic Year 2024-2025, with Prof. Marvin Reyes, PhD, pose for a photo opportunity after the proclamation of Agbanlog as the new First-Year Representative

Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

EDITORIAL

Deafening silence

EMBEDDED IN A Bedan’s identity is the Bedan Hymn—a powerful anthem that has echoed through the halls of San Beda University (SBU) to proudly flaunt its stirring lionhearted legacy. However, a disparity exists as the new Academic Year was met with a notable silence from administrators, fading the principles once so vividly captured in the timeless anthem.

SBU has made a name for itself within the local and international terrains, boasting a myriad of accolades and a rigorous curriculum that would prepare its members for the realities of life.

In fact, SBU’s hymn, itself, echoed how the community is undaunted, “fearing neither fire nor blood” in the pursuit of answering the clarion call and bringing honor and fame to our Alma Mater’s name. Yet in just mere months after the opening of the Academic Year, issues have transpired that, to say the least, are uncharacteristic of the lofty ideals of our academic institution.

For one, *The Bedan* had gotten compiled stories of complaints last August when a resolute Office of the Prefect of Discipline (OPSD) imposed sanctions through the issuance of a pink slip on students with outdated Identification cards (ID), even amid the evidently dawdling ID processing system. Faced with a number of backlash, students have raised their concerns over the matter, questioning the responsiveness of the administrators over the grievances of its students.

Fortunately, the aforementioned matter was rectified days later through a memorandum posted by the OPSD, extending the processing of the new ID. However, barely a month after, *The Bedan* went viral, once again, after the publication disclosed the issue on the SBU Band’s suspension of playing in the NCAA games, restricting them to only play in-house due to alleged miscommunication and supposed “review on the band’s acquired benefits.”

Following this, the band’s case sparked the #LetSBUBandPlay calls, urging the administrators to reinstate the band’s right to perform in and out of the school. Interestingly, this gave rise to other complaints over certain rights of students—which was backed by the student councils from all over the University, as well the organizations under the CAS Student Organizational Circle (SOC).

Confronted with a familiar issue, after the report, the administrators tried to mitigate the fire through censoring allegations, concerns, and pressures over the band’s issue, up until finally restoring the rights and bringing the band back together, while disclosing the reasons behind their actions under the guise of miscommunication.

While it is fortunate enough that these concerns have been addressed accordingly, it is still deeply concerning that, for an institution who would proclaim itself as fully human, there still persists alarming issues that are seriously detrimental to the development of its members. Halting Bedans from pursuing their interests is one of those issues, but can we say for certain that similar issues wouldn’t come back to haunt us once again?

Truly, the unlawful resolve to silence the band has created an evidently discordant note, highlighting the administration’s indifference and detached attitude toward promoting and protecting students’ rights—an issue they seem to address only when forced by public pressure to correct their misconduct.

But the work continues; that even amid the deafening silence of the administration, *The Bedan* would continue to speak volumes over these concealed issues in a determined effort to bring back the heartbeat of the University—one where actions speak louder than words, so much so that it is capable of reverberating through the halls and ultimately reshape and amend the misplaced status quo.

EDITORIAL CARTOON BY JAKE EVANGELISTA



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In necessariis, unitas; in opinabilibus, libertas; in omnibus, caritas
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TUGSTUGSTUGSTUGS!!! Psh. Tik. Tak. Chk. Chk. Boom!

Oi oi oi BediiiiZta fRenZzz! Kumustah pOhzz? ~BUG-LAGA-DUG~ Naririnig niyo ba yung ~BUG-LAGA-DUG~ naririnig kowwzz? Mga dagundong ng tambol na kay saraaapppp sa earssss ng inYong nagbabalik na t4mb0l1st4ng c00lkID, the gr8 collect0r of m0nthly CHIKAvality, who izzz here with a nu seT of piping h4wt chik4s all leg8 and ready to be served diz ~BUG-LAGA-DUG~ month para lngs za inyu.

SHHHHHHHH shimieeet ang sabi ng mga taga-San Bedazz na may so many question marksss about da recent first year representative elections na even be4 magstart and even until its last moments ay may oh so much dramaaaa. So dumi pa rin ba ng campus politics here sa iskuul, di pa memorize rules set by da hardworking siko? Kampeyning with a side of power tripping ang hinarap ng baby lionzz that are reaching out forda kagula-gulangang na premature campaigning of one of da candidates. Ito ba ang produkto ng senyor hayskul student leaderzz? Beating the red light on da other side, 4ever by urside na bang kasama ang irresponsible kampeyn management na kung hindi raw dahil sa time constraints and for da purposes of ‘an eventual elections’ ay magaganap na disqualification paa? Tsk tsk tsk. Laro! Kaya next time shut up tayo pag silent day ahh. SHHHHHH.

~BUG-LAGA-DUG~ Kung silencing lang rin naman ang labanan, ‘di mawawala sa eksenang ang red skuul dyarn! Eto naa ang da truth about da dramatic turn of events leading 2 da walang makatarungang pagsususpinda sa pinakamamahaling nating banda! If any! I knew what actually went on behind da KKkurtinaaa, kayo ay malulurkeyyyyy. Ayon sa factsss, it all boils downnn to da lack of acknowledgement and support forda needs and demands of da banda na humihingi lang naman ng help for new equipment. Jusko, umabot pa sa crazyyy levels due 2 da uninforming hiring of an external band and a misunderstanding wid anda sports team accusing da band of taking videos of deyr training when in factt, dinodocument lang nila ang kanilang stockroom na recenthy raw kinuhaan ng mga gamit ng unknown pipols. Dis hindi pagkakaaintindihan led to the admniss demanding da kapitan ng banda to write an apology letter na hindi naman kailangan! When questioned, boom! No more band-ing por yu. Hay naku... the banda’s lugmok feels got real, kaya nga di sila nakalaro sa lionzz veruzz blaazzers. Pero mga taga-San Bedazz, NOW the Bedan community has SEEN the real kulay behind da dirty handzz of SOME diktadors in da benchhh. As a t4mb0l1st4ng c00lkID myself, ako ay naki-#LetSBUBandPlay! Forda bongga ang movement! About time na makita muli ang mga taga-San Bedazz magkaisa like dissss. Where dis energy nung pag-commemorate ng proclamation of Martial Law tho? Have we forgotten our radical roots or too duwag na ba kayu for a bit of student activism? Saaurr disappointing.

Ba-dum-tss! That’s a wrap for da months of August and September! Always remember that everything you’ve read are definitely straight up facts onliiii! 100% leg8ibly no dagdag and no bawas! I swear on my scout’s honor, eks ma heart! Also, please fill in ur drummer with some juicy deets anytime cuz ur t4mb0l1st4ng c00lkID never rests in da pursuit of truth “wink wink” and para sa next chik4han taym, ready for showtaym! Just email me thru: https://thebedan.com/contact-us/drummer-boy/ Chk Chk Boom! Booghs! Skrrrt! Catch ya on the flip side, mga bedazz! Byeeeee!



Drummer by the Flagpole is a long held and deeply cherished *The Bedan* tradition. Drummer Boy is celebrating his 35th 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/

THE NEW GIRL IN TOWN

MR. MISTOFFELEES



GIAN MARCEL CHIU

THE GREATEST MAGICIANS have something to learn from Mr. Mistofflees' Conjuring Turn - PRESTO! But hey! Look out for that moving van driving down the streets! You better lock up your man before he meets the new girl in town!

There is a lot to know of this unfamiliar visitor in town. They say that this new girl seems to dance on air, has the coolest hair, while having the flair of making a boy act like a clown. It seemed like this girl had got it all—so much so that with just a mere snap of a finger the homecoming queen could lose her crown to the new girl in town.

It's indeed poetic, to say the least. Even despite having little to no knowledge of this stranger who came supposedly uninvited, she already has the entirety of the town in the palm of her hands.

What has happened to our community? Have we lost every bit of our principles and humanity to such an extent that we can easily be bewitched by mere shows of grandeur in the likes of beauty, fame, and power? Have we really become so desolate and obsolete to easily be dumbfounded and subjected by

someone we know so little of? Today, maybe this new girl could really steal the crown from the homecoming queen. But tomorrow lies a rage of uncertainties. Who knows? Today it's the crown, tomorrow she could be the next legislature in town.

In recent events, the Philippines was at a standstill as polar individuals from all over the country had resurfaced to file their candidacy ahead of the 2025 midterm elections. Sure, the diversity of these candidates was ever so booming—with some hailing from the modern parts of the country that we know of as social media, while others, on the other hand, came from the more traditional and elitist part of town, wiping their cobwebs off to make a grand comeback into the political arena once more.

Our town, in this case the Philippines, is so welcoming and unrestrained—a feature which I

violence, and corruption to name a few. Elections, therefore, have become so dehumanized that the privilege of suffrage has merely become a renewed effort for candidates to use the people as a leverage for political gain. The competitive and beautifully intricate aspect of elections vanished as voters have degraded to become so simple-minded who would easily be enthralled by money, misinformation, and fame to shield them away from the reality and the not-so-captivating truth.

Even the old petition to "vote wisely" has little to no effect in swaying voters to incorporate wisdom in every decision that they'd make. Why? Precisely because of how social media, or media in general, has this ability to view weak candidates in rose gold specs. It also doesn't help that candidates from political dynasties have a head start on the electoral race because of fame

and power. How then can we truly vote wisely when voters are so easily distracted and swayed by temptations instead of hard bound credentials?

In these troubling times, we must forge a system—one that would meticulously study and examine the new girl in town. Collaborations between researchers, civic groups, associations and the like must be made in order to provide a more detailed profile of this uninvited stranger. Check her background, assess her records, study her platforms in hopes that we can make certain of what truly lies beneath that rosy facade.

But still, just as how complicated and unpredictable the tides are, so are elections and the looming behind-the-scenes threads. We can never truly say that publicizing facts would increase the likelihood of forging a more profound nation, but at least, by promoting a well-informed environment, we have encouraged prospects of accountability and finally, on a deeper level, get to know the new girl in town—a fake or the real thing? That is the question.

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

FIRST AND FOREMOST, take this with a grain of salt. Last September 21, the Philippines commemorated the 52nd anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr., a period that significantly undermined the very institutions of democracy we enjoy today.

WHAT CAME TO PASS?

RIVERCHILD



THIRIDY PABILICO

Under this dark past, the nation's freedoms were put on hold—dissent was suppressed with impunity, rights were curtailed, and most of all, the tyrannical machinery of Marcos Sr. ruled everything, and everyone, with an iron fist. Subsequently, this era became the impetus for a nonviolent uprising known today as the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution.

Although 52 years have passed, the memories of those who witnessed firsthand the atrocities and violations committed by an authoritarian and personalistic regime continue to resonate to this day.

Yet, despite many who condemned the events that took place within Martial Law on the day of the anniversary itself, San Beda remained unnerveless quiet about the whole ordeal. Quite literally, it was as if an ordinary day took place—deprived of even a statement from the University acknowledging what had been. It continues to bother me even as I write this piece a month later.

Are we forgetting that, at the onset of Martial Law, it was the Bedan Rectors who kept the school open despite government threats and surveillance, boldly denouncing the wrongdoings of the dictatorship during liturgy? Have we not borne witness to the students and alumni who took to the streets in protest, fighting for the basic rights and

at the forefront of the fight against oppressive systems during Martial Law, including Benigno Aquino—whose death fueled the anger and resentment that culminated in the uprising—Rene Saguisag, Raul Roco, and Ramon Mitra

Even The Bedan played a pivotal role, as its office briefly served as the headquarters for protesters and student-activists.

Hence, for an institution that envisions its community as "fully human and truly Filipino"—one that once "held the line" in the face of tyranny—its stifling silence in remembering a tumultuous period in our history leaves many, myself included, asking: what happened?

In "The Book of Laughter and Forgetting," Milan Kundera warns

about "international forgetfulness," which he describes as the conscious disregard for past mistakes detrimental to a society's identity and moral compass. Inaction is deliberate, and being quiet in commemoration as heavy as this bears the possibility of allowing history to repeat itself.

Despite everything, a silver lining remains: the spirit of advocacy and activism is alive in us, the students. Both professional and non-professional organizations within the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) have harnessed their platforms to amplify the voices of past victims, doing all they can to champion a just and equitable society be it in their statements and projects.

We must continue to face the uncomfortable truths of our past through meaningful discourse, fostering a space for critical thinking that allows no room for complicity—something that our University must take into mind. Above all, let us never forget.

INULAN NG BATIKOS at samu't saring opinyon ang Republic Act (RA) No. 12027, isang panukalang nagtatanggal sa mother tongue bilang pangunahing midyum ng pagtuturo mula Kindergarten hanggang Grade 3, na kamakailan lamang isinabatas nang walang tahasang pag-apruba ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

KUNG WALA ANG DILA NI NANAY

G. GERILYERO



RIZIAN VENIZ BALLESTA

hindi lamang sa kalidad ng pagtuturo kundi pati na rin sa pagtanggap ng mga batang mag-aaral sa kanilang mga alituntunan.

Gayunpaman, ang sistemang hatid ng RA No. 12027, bagamat nakaayon at ipinagtitiyap ng masusing pananaliksik at ebidensiya na nagpapakita na mas mainam kung ang mother tongue ay gagamitin lamang bilang "pantulong" o alternatibong panturo sa mga monolingual classrooms, ay may malinaw na kawalang-galang sa mga realidad ng mga kabataang Pilipino, lalo na sa mga kanayunan at probinsyal na sektor.

Sa konteksto ng edukasyong pangkabataan, ang pagtuturo gamit ang sariling wika ay nagbibigay-daun upang makabuo ng koneksyon

Kung wala ang kapalagayang loob na ramdam sa paggamit ng wikang pantahanan, paano kikilalanin ng isang bata na may pamilya sa loob ng silid-aralan?

ang mga bata sa bagong mundong kanilang tatahakin. Ang mga mag-aaral na ito, sa gabay ng wika na

kanilang pagkatoto.

Tunay itong nakabalisa sapagkat ang talakayang ito ay hindi tungkol sa pagtugon sa hangarin ng mga tagapagbalangkas ng sistema ng edukasyon na maging globally competitive ang mga Pilipino, tulad ng karamihan sa mga batikos, kundi sa kabiguan nating isaalang-alang ang epektibong pagbuo ng isang sistema ng edukasyon na kumikilala at nagpapaunlad sa ating mayamang kultura at kawili-wiling mga pamamaraan ng pagpapahayag na binuo ng mismong wikang Filipino.

May halaga ang pagpapatuloy sa paggamit ng mother tongue sa ating mga paaralan. Sa pagpasok ng isang bata sa larangan ng pag-aaral, dadalhin nito ang payo ng kanyang mga kapamilya at hahanap-hanapin ang nakagiging-hawang tinig ng kanyang mga mahal sa buhay. Kung wala ang kapalagayang loob na ramdam sa paggamit ng wikang pantahanan, paano kikilalanin ng isang bata na may pamilya sa loob ng silid-aralan?

ONE BIG CESSPOOL

FURACÃO



VERONICA A. BALBIN

PAPAGAIO! In the first few months of being an editor, there's no denying the chaos I was thrown into. I've had my first few mistakes of taking a quote out of context, overlooking facts that could have been corrected at the section editor-stage, got names and titles wrong, but so is the life of a green horn editor. In that period, however, the biggest part of that chaos was this big Cesspool I struggled to wade my way through. Well, let's just say, I was in the mood to do some deep cleaning anyway.

One thing I carried from the previous Volume was an SBU CATS article. They were seeking help from The Bedan in their struggles with stray cat abductions around the campus last May. Alleged unidentified people drove their vehicles into the campus in the early hours of the day to whisk these poor animals to God-knows-where.

As the assigned writer at that time, I got to work. That

was a challenging task was an understatement because the witnesses refused to have an interview for fear of being ejected from the Laudato Si' Institution, so it was difficult to solidify the story.

Second, behind these alleged abductions were "big people" – people we weren't supposed to take lightly. Should a story such as this be released, it'll be like nudging a sleeping lion.

Even as a current member of the Editorial Board, I still find myself powerless to release this same story. It's been rotting in my files for months since the first time SBU CATS reached out for help and it's a let-down that I have to release a watered-down version of it if I chose to push through with it.

Biting the hand that feeds should not be an option, another part of the Cesspool that needs some cleaning.

I refuse to write a story clean of truth.

And speaking of truth, I refuse to write up a magazine section. To say that the months of August

and September have been eventful would be an understatement.

Long and ridiculous queues for ID-taking, a landslide 1st Year Representative election, the SBU Band's sudden silence during NCAA games, the Community erupting over last-minute Administration decisions—to name a few.

Stories like this solidify a News Section for the sole reason that they are written for the Community—not because they're meant to glorify some top figure.

If the Section does that job of praise, it would be overgarnishing a meal for someone who ordered a simple glass of water.

There are still numerous questions that need answers, but I fear that a publication dependent

on a bigger power will only overshadow them. Look at it like a child walking around eggshells around his father's angry moods at the dinner table.

It sounds like an excuse, but it's the truth. Biting the hand that feeds should not be an option, another part of the Cesspool that needs some cleaning.

While I am saying all this, these words come from the perspective of a narrow-minded, small, and very timid editor who still struggles to understand what goes around the Institution. The size, however small SBU is, is still overwhelming and I am surprised everyday.

There's always a newfound corner that I always find, and just like an insect to a flame, I am always curious to find out what murk and gold are hidden in them. So, please don't blame this poor News Editor if I find whatever pot of gold you have underneath the Cesspool.

THIS IS ME, TRYING

DICKINSON



MANSSEL JIANNE LATONERO

leading me to identify myself as a solitary poet, before a journalist.

"You'd fit right in with Features, Cultures, and Reviews (FCR)", The Bedan Volume 81's FCR Editor, Daphne Zenasora, told me, with other members of the Editorial Staff agreeing. I nod and smile, with the thoughts, "What is FCR?" lingering around my head. With frivolous scanning through the publication's website and page, I was able to get the gist of what it was, but not quite the hang of it. Not until I had a year's worth of experience.

As I navigate the unfamiliar terrain from being a freshman to growing into a sophomore is daunting to say the least. The once-ambitious, "I can change the world"-mindset I had in setting foot at the university have

As I bear witness to legacies-in-the-making of the most outstanding students I have ever met while I only ever try to survive, the haunting yet ensuring whispers, saying "This is me, trying" come in an echo.

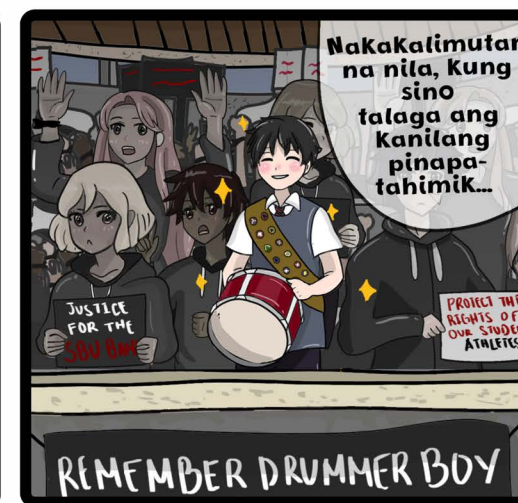
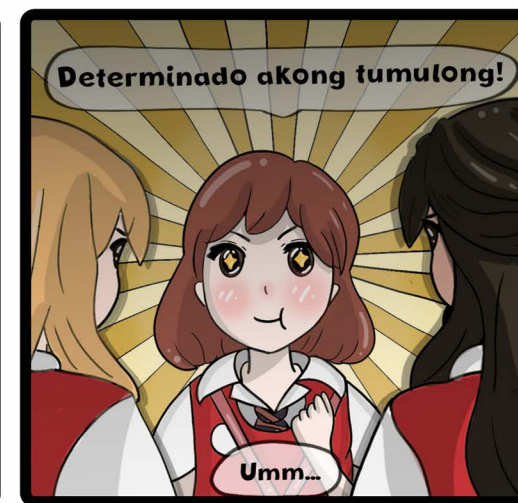
changed drastically upon actually entering the classroom. As I bear

witness to legacies-in-the-making of the most outstanding students I have ever met while I only ever try to survive, the haunting yet ensuring whispers, saying "This is me, trying" come in an echo.

When I joined The Bedan, not only did I have the desire to write, but also the desire to find a place to belong and excel in. Above all, planted in my heart was the desire to be of service to the people, through the skills I have to offer. Amidst the avalanches, I was able to morph the pressure into this profound sense of responsibility. Every now and then, self-doubt creeps in like a breeze during a

storm, questioning whether my voice was as loud as the others, only to realize that it only needs to be strong enough to resonate with them. As I continue to delve into my role during the precipice of my sophomore year, I've taken the time to reflect on the legacy I wish to paint, starting with the colors I wish to paint with.

Each article I wrote became more than just words on a page; they formed to become a bridge to the stories of the people in the community, the pulse of the university, and a reflection of the diversity that surrounded me. For what it's worth, it is only through embracing both my ambition and doubts would I truly prove my commitment to the community. While the future is yet to unfold, what's certain is that I will remain here, trying, along with each word I write, carving out a space where both I, my fellow scoundrels, and peaceniks can belong. Long live, Emily Dickinson; you would've loved being a spectator to this journey, just as I love the inked words of my own making.



NO MIKS

SBU Band, Nasaan?
ni Rozetti Jena De Leon



Let's B Real

BEDAN WORKERS WEIGH IN ON **PHP64 FOOD-POVERTY THRESHOLD**

▼ Nathaniel Soriano
Photos by Nathaniel Soriano

"HANGGANG SAAN AABOT ang Php20 mo?" a popular catchphrase of a particular ice cream brand in the Philippines popularized during the 2010's. But in recent years, given the steady increase of prices in different aspects of the economy due to inflation, we now ask ourselves, **"May maaabot pa ba ang Php20 mo?"**

Contextualizing the Bedan experience

Php15 to Php20. That is the usual price one would face when buying a cup of cooked rice in a typical karenderya. On the other hand, a kilo of regular milled rice or bigas usually sits at about Php55 to Php60. From the price of rice alone, the Php64 daily food budget suggested by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for three meals per day is already slashed by a significant amount.

Can the average worker actually survive on a Php64 budget for three meals daily? To contextualize the experience on ground, The Bedan asked a number of non-teaching personnel from San Beda University (SBU) on their thoughts about the suggested NEDA budget, along with their personal experiences in setting aside funds for their day-to-day meals.



After Dr. Arsenio M. Balisican, secretary of NEDA, delivered the controversial number of Php64 in a senate briefing on the proposed 2025 national expenditure program last August 13, the suggested budget received heavy backlash from the public. Criticism stemmed from its apparent detachment to the actual costs allotted by Filipinos to acquire their food needs.

When asked about whether the amount would suffice for three meals daily, Ms. Leila Talacson, a member of the Bedan Maintenance Staff (BMS) objected, arguing the "necessity for a person to have proper nutrition."

"Kung susundin natin 'yun, ano pong mabibili sa loob ng Php64 in three meals po in one day? Diba wala po talaga. Kasi, unang una po kape pa nga lang po magkano na po? Eh ang tinapay po, magkano na rin po? Hindi naman po magkakasya satin yung limang piso o sampung pingsong tinapay dahil bibira na po makabili tayong ganun halaga," Ms. Talacson shared.

On the other hand, Ms. Carolyn Ednalaga, the corporate manager of FoodBaskets Corporation who works at the Dom Felipe Cafe, shared how, while the Php64 threshold would "seemingly sustain ordinary Filipinos—" in the likes of the elderly and the children, "pero 'yung nasa adult lang na nagtatrabaho, mga workers, lalo mga construction workers kulang na kulang 'yung Php64."

Emphasizing on the purpose of the food and poverty thresholds in an article published by PhilStar global, Dr. Balisican clarifies that "it is not meant to set the budget for what is considered a decent standard of living, but are merely tools to measure the effectiveness of government policies in addressing poverty."

Despite this, there is still a necessity for said tools to accurately reflect and genuinely consider the costs of food needs for the everyday worker. This is given that the data collected from these tools have a direct correlation to public welfare—firstly, with respect to the development and implementation of policies and programs in providing solutions to poverty, and secondly, in that the thresholds are equipped for minimum-wage setting.

A low poverty threshold could be an influencing factor behind low wages, as well as contribute to the neglect in providing public education, health, and other forms of assistance. The "outdated" figure of Php64, fails to capture just that.

In the experience of Officer-In-Charge (OIC) Mr. Rovic Tatad of AGF Security Agency, serving as OIC of the guards stationed in SBU, the benchmark appears insufficient to sustain his 12-hour shift, saying "Actually kulang 'yun eh, kasi three times tayo kumakain. Depende kung matipid ka naman at nagbabaon ka, okay naman 'yung Php60. Pero kulang pa rin eh, kasi nag memeryenda tayo ganun, sa trabaho namin during security 12 hours and duty namin."

Genuine data, genuine solutions

It's about high time that amendments be made on the poverty threshold set by NEDA, if not a total revision of the poverty estimation methodology provided by NSCB Resolution no. 9 series of 2011. As argued by think tank IBON Foundation, the issue with the current poverty estimation is two-fold. First is the unrealistic food poverty threshold, and second is its failure to genuinely consider basic non-food needs and its appropriate costs.

An unrealistic benchmark contributes to the masking of root causes behind poverty. But ultimately, the setting of thresholds is at its core political. Even if laying out a higher threshold may result in a boom in poverty incidences, it will



serve as a stronger foundation for the government to lay out genuine solutions to address poverty.

A lower poverty threshold, as adopted by the current Marcos administration, results in millions of Filipinos struggling to meet basic standards of living, hidden behind unrealistic statistics.

Lastly, what is apparent is a need for the government to be more grounded on the experience of the day-to-day worker. And as aptly put by Ms. Talacson, "Siguro kailangan 'yung taga NEDA minsan try nilang lumabas, try nilang alamin 'yung presyo nung mga bilihan sa labas...kasi every year, every month nga lang eh tumataas yun bilihan eh. Siguro kailangan nilang minsan mag-survey. Mag...research [silila], para alam nila kung ano talaga 'yung tamang paggastos, kung magkano 'yung bilihan, kung ano pa kinakailangan ng isang pamilya."

LENDING A HAND

Suicide Prevention Month through the Philippine lens

▼ Manssel Jianne Latonero
Graphic Art by Irish Stephanie Macanang



AS SOCIETY DEVELOPS at a gradual but hopeful pace, discussions about topics that were once viewed as taboo and unimportant became relevant as a steppingstone to improvement. One such topic is the reality of mental health and the issues surrounding such. Suicide continues to be among the leading causes of death worldwide, with a portion of it involving the youth.

With this alarming phenomenon, the World Suicide Prevention Month, held during the month of September, serves as a medium in acknowledging a sensitive yet significant topic. As we commemorate this month, we have provided a list of local hotlines and campaigns not only to spread awareness, but to provide proper help and care to all the Bedans out there.

National Center for Mental Health (NCMH)/Crisis Hotline
(Landline: 1553, Phone Lines: 0996 351 4518, 0917 899 8727, 0908 639 2672)

The National Center of Mental Health (NCMH) was first established as the Insular Psychopathic Hospital, formally opening on December 17, 1928, through the Public Works Act 3258. Aiming to reach those who are in need of psychological help but do not have the means to do so, an hour session with a psychiatrist or psychologist at the NCMH can cost a minimum of Php400 at their outpatient department (OPD), with an additional Php20

for first-time visitors as they give out your Patient's Identification Card that would be needed with each visit

On the other hand, the NCMH Crisis Hotline provides free and confidential support and counseling through phone calls, available nationwide and operates 24/7. They would connect a trained counselor in assisting the caller, providing for an empathetic and compassionate ear.

In Touch Crisis Line (+63 917 800 1123, +63 922 893 8944, +632 8893 7603, +63 919 056 0709)

Established in 1980, In Touch Community Services provide mental health assistance through its volunteer-driven organization, varying in different community programs such as subsidized counseling, internship to those who wish to become part of their professional clinical team, and community support in local communities. Accordingly, they offer counseling and psychiatric consultations through video conference platforms or face-to-face sessions, either by the will of the client or as suggested by the attending

counselor.

In addition to these, their Crisis Line offers a free, anonymous, and confidential helpline for those in need of immediate emotional support. Available 24/7, only professionally trained responders assist the callers from the other line. With exemption for their Crisis Line, most of their counseling services are available from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during Saturdays.

Tawag Paglaum - Centro Bisaya (Landline: (02) 8804 4673, Globe: 0937 654 1629, Sun: 0939 937 5433)

Stationed in Cebu City, Tawag Paglaum - Centro Bisaya is a program run by the government, specifically the Department of Health Region 7, in collaboration with the Vicente Memorial Medical Center. Its core service is primarily to provide free counseling for Filipinos nationwide through their aforementioned hotlines. Callers are assured

to be attended by responders who are mental health professionals, responding from an empathic nature through active listening in a non-provocative and non-aggressive manner. In some cases, callers are being referred to support groups or available facilities nearest to their location.

Ateneo Bulatao Center for Psychological Services (Landline: (02) 8426 5924)

With the purpose of assisting Filipinos since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ateneo Bulatao Center for Psychology started offering free Brief Psychological Services (BPS) to Filipinos from different regions nationwide. Active since 2019, they deliver various services such as counseling and psychotherapy; psychological testing and assessment; psychological workshops; and intervention programs in assisting the mental wellness of those who contact them. This center also acts as the research center of the university's

Psychology department, integrating research findings into their clinical practice.

As of 2021, they have offered over 5,000 counseling sessions, both funded by the university and through donations. In the same year, they were recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with the 2021 Gawad Edukampyon Award for their contributions to public services and community engagement during the height of the pandemic.



Photo courtesy of Psychology Society

From the University's Lens

Mari Okol, the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Student Council (SC) President and a senior from the Department of Psychology, stated that despite the existence of these hotlines and campaigns, "there still is a gap between communicating with people that, of course, mental aids are available," emphasizing the need for the platform to be well communicated to the people for such to be accessible.

In terms of University-level actions, Okol revealed that several steps have been undertaken by the SC and Guidance and Counseling Office (GCO) when it comes to addressing the students' mental health issues. "Recently, we've also communicated with the guidance office towards *yung* available *na* measures *nila*, procedures *nila*, in counseling, and I think we're taking a step there," she added.

Okol also mentioned the role of the SBU Freedom Wall Facebook page in identifying the grievances of the students and its effects on someone's mental health. "As much as possible *ayoko dumidipende sa Freedom Wall...* I really don't wish to empower it any longer, and whilst I do support freedom of speech, the amount of negativity that's taken towards the Freedom Wall is something that should be stopped. *Hindi kami nag* popomote *ng* hate speech or cyberbullying. So, accessibility, ending stigma, and also ending the vicious cycle of cyberbullying that is very adamant towards the Bedan community."

Finally, she left a message of support to those who continue to deal with these issues and those who wish to be of assistance to people in need, saying "First and foremost, you're not alone...What I could say towards people who wish to help others is that there is no perfect and written way on how to give mental health support, but at the foremost, it's just being a good listener...At the end of the day, *yung mga* people *na* *nag*-struggle, *kailangan* talaga *nila* is *yung* taong *papakingsan* *nila*."

As we observe Suicide Prevention Month behind the local lens, it is important to acknowledge the existence of these campaigns and hotlines, not only for the sake of awareness, but as well as to be a steppingstone of its accessibility, leading to nationwide consciousness. By then, we would gain the ability to finally challenge the stigma and foster a country to be a safe environment for those who struggle.

In lending a hand, not only do we reach out to others, but we also bridge a gap between those in need and the potential safe space of a country to heal and grow in.

(with Samantha Calderon)



MORE THAN JUST CHILDREN'S STORIES

Isang Kaibigan's

INJUSTICE AGAINST THE LUMAD STRUGGLE

▼ Nathaniel Soriano and Mika Isidro Photos by Nathaniel Soriano

A STARK JUXTAPOSITION appears from the onset when faced with "Isang Kaibigan," a children's book authored by Vice President Sarah Duterte, who has overseen the closure of 55 Salugpungan schools during her tenure in local government, depriving approximately 10,000 Lumad youth of their right to education.

Children's literature has the power to shape the worldview of youth. It can introduce difficult topics in a long, arduous discussion through a more approachable and simpler medium. Therefore, it needs to be catered to genuinely teach children and students, especially about the peculiarities of their society—free from the malice of politicking and self-serving interest.

From being questioned on its indiscriminate budget proposal of Php10 million for publication, to being marred with factual inconsistencies and grammatical errors, and even accusations of plagiarism, Vice President Sarah Duterte's "Isang Kaibigan" faced controversy after it surfaced during the Senate budget deliberations for the 2025 proposed budget of the Office of the Vice President (OVP) last August 20.

The book itself is a derision to the experiences of Lumad people, who have been

victimized by its author as well as the administration she serves. Just recently, Kuni Cuba, a 16-year-old Lumad student and Manobo-Dulangan youth, was slain by the 7th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army last June 8.

In commemoration of the 7th death anniversary since the killing of 19-year-old Lumad Obello Bay-ao by paramilitary forces, and in remembrance of the victims of state-enforced attacks against Lumad communities, the Friends of the National Minority, a national network of youth organizations advocating the rights of minorities in the country, held a forum and workshop on children's literature at the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman, Palma Hall, last September 19.

The forum provided a situationer of the Lumad context in present times and discussed the importance of children's literature in forwarding the rights of the youth. The succeeding discussions are key takeaways from The Bedan.

LUMAD COMMUNITIES: MARGINALIZED BY THE STATE

The present realities of Lumad communities showcase the continued struggle of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the Philippines. Closed schools, poverty, land deprivation, and development aggression stand as deterrents to the future of Lumad communities.

Catherine "Katkat" Dalon, a member of IP rights group Sabokahan and a product of one of the forcibly closed Lumad Bakwit Schools, spoke on the current situation of Lumad schools and the access to education available for Lumad students.

Schools with curriculums designed and interwoven with the culture of children in these communities experienced forced closure and militarization. 10,000 Lumad youth have lost the right and privilege of education and 216 Lumad schools have been shut down. Among these 10,000 students, only three were able to continue their education in UP Diliman. Katkat is one of these three.

She further spoke about other forms of marginalization experienced by the Lumad communities, such as how their ancestral lands continue to face abuse by private and government sectors who "wish to profit from the resources available in these areas. This extends to commercial deforestation by companies such as "Alcantara and Sons," in which 20,000 hectares are annually deforested to aid mining and plantations.



Lumad leaders and members of the community who dare to speak out against these practices by private and government institutions are met with harassment and coercion, and in worse cases, even death.

A violent consequence of these incidents is the lives slain by state forces. Obello Bay-ao, Kuni Cuba, and Angel Rivas are among those whose lives were taken by state forces during the previous administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Thus, Katkat further talks about the importance of commemorating the lives lost, and the need to heed the call for justice.

"Mabalagang alalabanin mga kabataang estudyante ang bubay ni Obello Bay-ao dahil siya ay biktima ng pamamaslang ng estado siya ay biktima ng injustice system sa buong Pilipinas. Kasi hindi lang naman si Obello Bay-ao ang biktima ng Duterte regime, sobrang daming mga bata ay biktima ng Duterte regime."

Katkat added, "Ang pagkakatimot ay pagkalusaw ng pagpapalarawan ng hustiya. Ang lagi't-laging pagalala ng mga biktima nung extrajudicial killings ay pagpapalarawan ng hustiya. Sa, kung lilimutin natin sila ibig sabihin nilimot na rin natin ang ginawa nung estado sa mga komunidad. Mabalaga ng maalala sila. Hindi lang naman mga Lumad, kundi ang mga kabataang estudyante sa iba't bang mga sektor."

She also spoke on the continued abuse of human rights being perpetrated by the current Marcos Jr. regime, stating "May kaugnayan ang rehimeng Marcos [Jr.] dahil hanggang ngayon wala pa rin hustiya. Ang dami-daming mga batang pinatay, si Jerome Pangadas... at sa ngayon 'yung kay Kuni Cuba na 16-years-old na pinatay sa ilalim ng rehimeng Marcos mismo."

Further expounding on the call for justice, Katkat stated "Mabalaga na maalala sila at iugnay neto sa kasalukuyang rebimen, kasi... hindi naman nakukulong 'yung mga may sala, 'yung pumatay sa kanila... hanggang ngayon, militarizado pa rin ang aming mga komunidad... tuloy-tuloy siya eh... bangga't hindi masisingil ang rebimen, ilang bata pa 'yung mabibiktima nila."

MORE THAN JUST CHILDREN'S STORIES

Sara Duterte's controversial "Isang Kaibigan" opened the conversation on children's literature and its role in shaping the youth of our country. As per Jasnyl Drek Inocentes' article for the Philippine Collegian titled "Sa Panitikang Pambata, Gabay ang Teksto Upang Maging



Kritikal at Mapang-unawa," children's literature has been used as a tool for "self-glorification."

An example is Marcos' tale of "Malakas at Maganda" which retold the origin story by setting himself and the first lady as parental figures of the country.

A similar agenda can be seen today in Sara Duterte's "Isang Kaibigan," where she uses her book to refashion her own image.

Professor Jose Monfred Sy, an assistant professor of Philippine studies in the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature, University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman spoke on how children's literature can aid the plight of the Lumad.

Children's Literature has to cater to the contexts of children's books across different classes and communities. It is these realities that allow the Lumad experience and stories to be told for all to bear witness.

"Maraming saka sa kaso ng ilang mga pamayanang Lumad na nag bakwit ng ilang beses noong 2010s hanggang 2022. Isa sa mga layunin ng kanilang pag-bakwit ay makapag palawigin din sa kanilang kampanya... pumupunta sila sa mga iba't ibang mga institusyon para magbabagi ng totoong mga nangyayari sa kanila at dinaranas nila sa Mindanao," stated Prof. Sy on the spread of children's literature depicting Lumad stories.

He further spoke on the content of these books and their use toward depicting the stories of the Lumad, such as the case of Obello Bay-ao. "Sa maraming kaso, lalo na pag bata at estudyante... gumagamit sila ng mga iba't ibang aklat pambata. Halimbawa na nangyari 'yan si Obello, na nakita ko rin dati na ginamit ng ilan mga estudyanteng Lumad para ikwento ang kanilang dinadaan sa pamamagitan ng masining na kwento na mariwili ang mga tagapagkinig o mambabasa at syempre maapektuhan din at matutuban niya rin kung ano ba ang tunay na nangyayari sa mga katutubong pamayanan sa Mindanao."



CHANGE IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: TURNING PAGES WITH TIME

"Ang kwentong pambata ay kwento, at ang kwento ay kwento kung anumang target audience neto." Stories have the ability to materialize truth, and in the context of youth, it's best these stories reflect their personal lived experiences.

The concept of children itself is a social construct. Historically speaking, the concept of children back then is not what it is today. For example, as mentioned by Prof. Sy

in the book Noli Mi Tangere, Crispin and Basilio worked for the church; a century or so ago children were also viewed as workers. However, this is no longer the truth in this day and age. Children spend their time in schools attending classes for eight hours or so, which is also a relatively new concept not even a century old.

Views on children change, and with the turn of the pages in time, so should our views on how children's literature can be used to instill more than just the mundane aspect of Filipino values and tradition. Children's literature can peer into the social context of Filipino society and to reflect the lived experiences of readers.

No two children are alike. Reiterating the words of Prof. Sy, "Ang batang Pilipino ay hindi isa, nababati sa uri, nababati sa mga sektor, may mga batang anak ng manggagawa, may mga batang manggagawa, may mga batang anak ng magsasaka, may mga batang magsasaka sa murang edad, may mga batang katutubo na tinanggalan ng tabanan pinapaalis sa kanilang mga paaralan."

It's these experiences that children's stories should be composed of for one Filipino child and family to see through the lens of their kapwa Filipino. As aptly put by Prof. Sy, "kung masining, kasiya-siya 'yung sining ng isang kwento mainam na maging aklat ito, at mabasa ng makararami pa. Para maging tulay doon sa pagitan ng iba't-ibang mga bata mula sa iba't-ibang sektor at pinagdadaanan."

Through children's stories, it's possible to ignite consciousness and for the youth to forge a genuine understanding and yearn to stand for one another through the anvil of literature.

Dekada '70

Revisiting the Philippines under Martial Law

▼ Marc Joseph Felix

IN REMEMBERING THE dark past of the Philippines, we reminisce about the tragedies that shaped the history of our beloved nation. Among the worst, however, was when a broadcast announcement took place during the night of September 23, 1972, where the late President Ferdinand Marcos infamously declared Proclamation 1081, placing the whole country "under Martial Law.

Such implementation led to multiple controversies and human rights violations, with the Philippines falling under an oppressive regime marred with tortures, disappearances, imprisonments, and deaths. In an era marked by government repression, media outlets were also closed to establish censorship on the issues in the country. Ironically, the period was referred to as the "Bagong Lipunan" or New Society.

Every year, September 21 is a day to commemorate the signing of the Proclamation along with the continued calls for justice for the victims and survivors. Revisiting the moments and featuring historical accounts, here are some key parts of what transpired from this period.

On Primitivo Mijares' Account

Primitivo Mijares is known to have published the book entitled "The Conjugal Dictatorship" in 1976. Mijares was part of the Marcos administration, appointed as the media czar. The literature he produced is also used as his testimony on his exile in the United States. Unpacking the concepts from his book shows how then First Lady Imelda Marcos also enjoyed the power of an executive during their regime. Living a life of luxury, and power, and being a politician as the Governor of Manila.

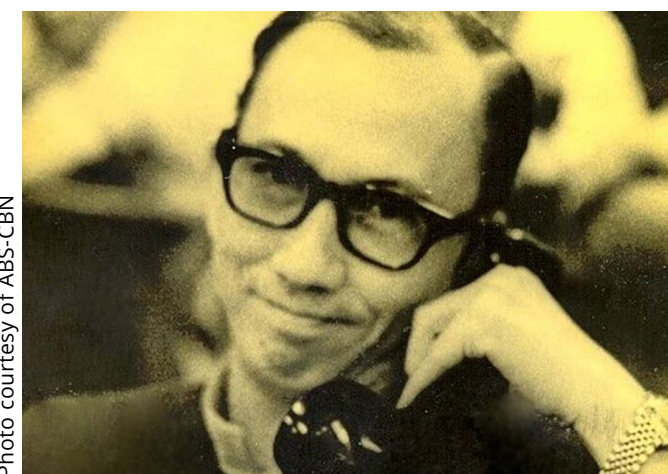


Photo courtesy of ABS-CBN

Torture and Human Rights Violation

The tagline "sa ikauunlad ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan," attempts to justify the strict implementation of the laws as a way for peace and order. The suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and warrantless arrests led to the rise of cases for human rights violations. Particularly torture, like the use of electric shock, pistol-whipping, animal treatment, truth serum, and the like.



Photo by Veronica Balbin

The Political Prisoners

Being an opposition to the administration during that period means that one foot is already in the grave, especially since the government is on a crackdown to eliminate its political rivals.



Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

Names like Nilo Tayag (Kabataang Makabayan Chair), Lilia Hilao (President of the Student Body of Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila), and Senator Jose Diokno are only a part of the many victims that were detained and tortured under the custody of the Philippine Constabulary.

However, the death of one key rival of the Marcoses led to the ignition of the First People Power Revolution—the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino. Ninoy Aquino, a Bonafide member of the Liberal Party (LP), was assassinated in the Manila International Airport upon his return from exile. While the perpetrator is yet to be truly identified, such an event ignited the built-up anger from the masses—a culmination of pent-up frustration because of the widespread abuses and corruption at the time.



Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

The 1986 EDSA People Power

After the death of Ninoy Aquino, it led to the onset of the revolution to overthrow the government. Through the radio broadcast of Cardinal Jaime Sin, he appealed for the people to unite and express their voices in power.

Because of this, the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) has now made a significant mark in the Philippine history—forever remembered as the historic place which witnessed one of the largest and peaceful social movements in the country. No casualties or major tension occurred, despite the presence of the army in a standoff with the protesters.

Meanwhile, Corazon Aquino, the wife of Ninoy, filed for candidacy as president to challenge the Marcos regime. On election day, electoral fraud is committed in the system, leading to the walkout of the members of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

With overwhelming events piling up, in the end, the Marcoses fled away from the country. Being the new president of the Philippines, the administration of Aquino led to the revival of democracy.



Photo courtesy of Rappler

Post-EDSA: Remembering the Martial Law

While decades have passed since the start and end of martial law, the memories continue to remain alive as people continually pay tribute to the victims of the haunting political persecution. With his son, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., taking the position of presidency last 2022, the Philippine society remains vigilant, by continuing to grasp onto the information being disseminated through the once-silenced avenue of journalism, both mainstream and its microcosm in universities today.



Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

The Bedan, as the school newspaper of San Beda University (SBU), also played a key role in the fight for freedom. Particularly, the publication office served as a secret headquarters for student activists to conduct meetings.

As the present moment intensifies the call for Filipinos to continue the fight against injustices, the need to safeguard rights like free speech and liberty grows ever more crucial. Though these struggles may seem like echoes from the past, the wounds of our country remain ever so visible, reminding us that the fight is far from over.

To remember history is to remember the victims of Martial Law, and to honor these victims is to protect the democratic institution of our country. As the political scene in the country continues to deteriorate, with incompetency spreading like a plague among government officials, one must remember that we, as Filipino citizens, have the power of changing this "doomed fate," through the right of suffrage.

Bells ringing early

WHY FILIPINOS BEGIN CHRISTMAS AHEAD OF TIME



▼ Paolo Vital

Art by Rozetti Jena De Leon

IT'S BEGINNING TO look a lot like Christmas...in September? Quite a peculiar notion, but whenever I see boys and girls selling lanterns on the street, I remember that as early as September, Filipinos seem to know what they want for Christmas, and all they want for Christmas is for you to join their Christmas parties. Christmas puns aside, this phenomenon isn't so strange for Filipinos.

But beyond the benevolent exchange of gifts and the warm embrace of family and friends, one might be curious to ask: what exactly is the reason why Filipinos celebrate Christmas months prior?

The extent of Filipinos' love for Jose Mari Chan's songs, particularly "Christmas in Our Hearts," is not just out in the public. Such love has also wept social media platforms, a recurring trend that starts just before the month of September. Truly, as Asst. Prof. Borja emphasized, "if Western countries have Mariah Carey singing "All I Want for Christmas is You," then the Philippines has Jose Mari Chan caroling using his famed song."

For the Christians. Gales further emphasizes "the Church does not start to prepare nor celebrate Christmas before the start of Advent."

While he still deems the early celebration of Christmas to be a joyful anticipation of holiday festivities and unites us towards the joy of coming along together, "it compromises the real and actual matters that Jesus and the Church wants us to focus on."

He highlighted Jesus as "really the reason for this season, and that the surge of commercialization and secularization of Christmas takes away the image and message of Jesus." Therefore, the meaning of an early Christmas may be rooted in commercialization, and "diverts the focus of people to only to the secular aspect of Christmas, and not the real activities that are being encouraged by the Church."

Rooted in anticipation

When asked why Filipinos start celebrating Christmas as early as September, Asst. Prof. Greg G. Borja III, M.B.A., the Chairperson of the Marketing Management Department, explains the curious phenomenon of "ber-months" which starts on, you called it, September!

Filipinos just love the chase—marking their calendars whenever something grand is about to happen. They don't cram when it comes to preparation for celebrating events that mean a lot to us, and Filipinos really love Christmas.

As such, as early as September, Asst. Prof. Borja emphasized the "tediousness" of preparing and decorating for Christmas. Hence, "sabi nga nila, you must prepare early so that you can be more festive when Christmas comes," Asst. Prof. Borja added. He further stressed how the start of September essentially means the start of a countdown, raring to get moving in eagerness for the special day.

Sociologist Bro. Clifford Sorita echoes this sentiment in a Rappler article, where he highlighted the practicality behind the early start. "By knowing exactly how much time we have remaining to complete a task, instead of stressing about it, we will be able to better allocate our time. In fact, a 100-day countdown also acts as a secondary motivator and reinforces us Filipinos to complete our Christmas tasks before the big day," Sorita explained.

The early countdown isn't just about festivity—it's about planning, allocating time, and ensuring that no detail is missed when Christmas finally arrives.

Signs of Christmas

It's not just about families getting ready for Christmas. The advent of ber-months also means that public spaces will really wish you a "Merry Christmas" as well—a far cry from a silent night as Prof. Marvin Reyes, Ph.D., the Prefect of Student Activities, shared the nature, and somewhat culture, of Filipinos, how "they would really look forward to Christmas, lalo na [kapag] kasabay mo pa diyan 'yung music ni Jose Mari Chan," booming in malls and radio stations all around.

Families and Bedan community

For a Catholic institution like San Beda University (SBU), the early celebrations reflect not just excitement for the holidays, but also the commitment to tradition and reflection of the Christian faith. SBU marks the season with special events and traditions, passed down from generation to generation like Christmas lighting and music videos—all the more reinforcing the values of faith and community.

For the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), Asst. Prof. Borja says that there are multiple events where they can manifest the Christmas spirit. "We do the usual thing that other departments are doing, which is the Christmas party."

"On our end, faculty members, meron kaming sariling Christmas party; and then meron kaming Christmas party din na Executive Board Officers lang; and then we have a particular Christmas party na kasama namin labat ng officers, 'yung 'yung malakihan," ensuring that no one gets left behind.

Obscurity in Meaning

However, based on accounts from Frank Simon Gales, the Internal Vice President of the Bedan Pastoral Ministry (BPM), "Christianity has little to do with this culture." He further cited that, based on firsthand teachings from a priest "It is a secular engagement that is being perpetuated by the industries to create a phenomenon. It exists in our culture not as a period of homage and spiritual preparation but as a season of festivity and celebration."

In line with this is the Yuletide Season, the four weeks leading to the day itself, is the period of spiritual preparation

In the contemporary world

While there are two sides to a coin, both Asst. Prof. Greg Borja and Dr. Marvin Reyes, however, don't see any downsides related to Filipinos celebrating Christmas early.

For Asst. Prof. Borja, he instead saw an upside as "if you're going to take a look at the economics perspective, it gets our social commerce going. It means that everyone is alive and there's an interactivity of business and exchange."

Meanwhile, early Christmas for Dr. Marvin Reyes means early relief amidst all challenges. "I think wala sigarong negative kasi ayun nga Catholic school tayo practicing religious activity and Christmas is very festive, very positive kabit may problema, pag may Christmas atmosphere parang nababawasan, so I don't see any negative," he explained.

While it's hard to pinpoint the roots of an early Christmas celebration, it certainly reflects the anticipation of the Filipino people for a holiday marked by the utmost love and generosity. In the words of Asst. Prof. Borja, "knowing Filipino families, they really want to be together, nagbabanda and all, lumalabas together, so as long as pag masaya 'yung pamilya wala namang problema."

As the calendar flips to September, the air becomes charged with anticipation and joy—a collective feeling that transcends the hustle and bustle of daily life. The early onset of Christmas celebrations for the Filipino community is not merely a seasonal quirk but a heartfelt embrace of a time-honored tradition.

For Bedans, it also revolves around religion and community. Christmas may start in September, but it's true magic lies in the love we share and the joy we spread throughout the year.

(with Dianne Radel Magallon)

Cinemataya 2024

A RED ALERT FOR TRUTH?

▼Veronica A. Balbin with Dianne Radel Magallon



NOW IN ITS 20th year, the Cinemataya Philippine Independent Film Festival (CPIFF), which ran from August 2 to 11, upheld the theme of “Loob, Lalim, Lakas” and featured 10 full-length and 10 short films. Highlighting the organization’s “Sineng Malaya” essence, the festival aired a variety of films that satisfied our movie-loving appetites at Ayala Malls Manila Bay.

However, in the wake of the CPIFF, the lineup of films that touched on topics that alerted the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) inevitably raised some eyebrows. On that note, here is your palate of four of the most controversial Cinemataya films, along with a glimpse of who they turned heads.

Alipato at Muog

Starting off hot, “Alipato at Muog” takes place in the year 2007, wherein activist Jonas Burgos mysteriously disappeared. This documentary navigates the experience through the eyes of JL Burgos, the director of the film and Jonas’ brother, and his mother as they search for their missing family.

JL Burgos, involved with filmmaking for 25 years, was already immersed in creating films centralizing on human rights. This submission for the 2024 Cinemataya was no different. The struggle for justice seen through unequivocal accounts and testimonials from people in real life—witnesses and specialists—have portrayed a reality so frayed, it warranted an “X” rating from the MTRCB because the film “undermines faith and confidence in the government and/or constituted authorities,” said the Board. It was also the reason it was banned from public viewing, reports from Inquirer, ABS-CBN and the Human Rights Watch write.

After much urging from the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, the director, and supporters, the Board finally rescinded the ban and instead, re-classified the film from being X-rated to R-16.



Alipato at Muog

Balota

Taking place in a small town, Director Kip Oebanda’s Cinemataya submission portrays the realities of fickle democracy easily manipulated by violence. The film, set during the 2007 mayoral elections, follows Emmy, a well-known teacher of the town, who was appointed as a member of the Board of Election Inspectors for her local precinct played by Marian Rivera.



After violence surges through the town, she flees into the thicket with the last ballot box of the elections’ results. In protecting it, she risks the lives of her community and her loved ones.

Oebanda explains that this film was a “response to the electoral lies, revisionism, violence and cheating we experienced firsthand – to satirize it without necessarily polarizing those who already belong to political echo chambers.”

He further recounted his painful experience during the 2022 elections, after having to be a “part of a government system so flawed.” “Corruption of our electoral system is a timeless tale, but it doesn’t have to be. So, we made a film about people who are sick and tired of having the rich and powerful take their power and voice away from them.”

The Hearing

A mother, a child, and a crime—all these ties together in Lawrence “Law” Fajardo’s film, “The Hearing” which narrated Lucas who was sexually abused by the influential Fr. Meyor and was later taken to court after Lucas’ parents came to know the truth. While they faced the obvious



obstacle of language, the family was fortunate enough to run into a sign language interpreter, Maya, who coincidentally was no stranger to the corruption embedded in cases similar to Lucas’.

Like the other Cinemataya films, Fajardo’s film sought to “give a voice to the voiceless.” “About 70 percent of deaf children are sexually abused in the Philippines regardless of their gender,” Fajardo emphasized.

Many are unreported and often dismissed because of the “barriers” such as the lack of sign language interpreters in the Philippines, “especially in the regions,” Fajardo said.

He added that a good number of deaf people in the country from the provinces are not trained in Filipino Sign Language, explaining that the “legal language is difficult enough to understand for the average hearing person, so how does one who cannot hear and express themselves understand and be understood as they fight for their rights as human beings?”

Accordingly, Fajardo hopes for the film to “properly address the need to change and improve our education system, laws and the justice system to protect and serve everyone, especially the most vulnerable.”

For Prof. Marvin R. Reyes, PhD, Prefect of Student Activities (OPSA), “social relevance and lessons” are the secondary principles taken from watching a film. What comes first, he said, is “entertainment.”

However, “...One good thing with Cinemataya is... they accept scripts or movies of any angle of any... genre,” adding that the festival is all about “magnifying the realities” of “what is happening in our society, but that does not necessarily mean that that is the truth.”

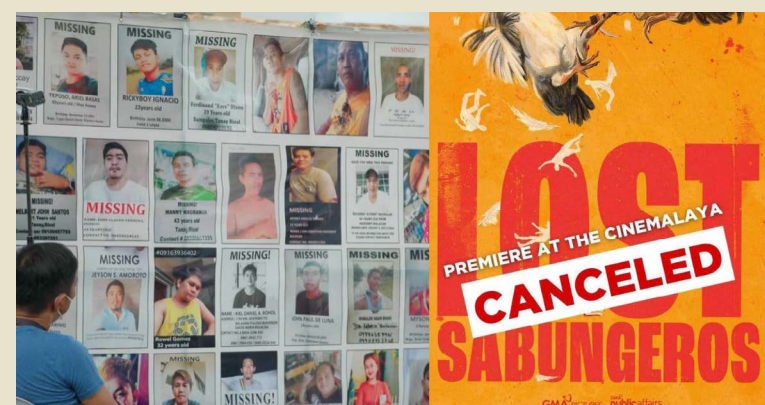
Finally, he explained how the truth is “somehow subjective” because what could be true to someone would be a different truth from someone else.

Lost Sabungeros

A GMA Public Affairs film, “Lost Sabungeros” is its “first-ever investigative documentary film,” according to a GMA article published last July 31. Like “Alipato at Muog,” the film revolves around the abrupt and mysterious disappearances of over 30 sabungeros or cockfighters during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In that period, cockfighting arenas were shut down, leading to Philippine gambling culture infiltrating the online scene, which became an easy-money operation for these sabungeros. Afterwards, within several months, more than 30 of these sabungeros were abducted “indiscriminately.”

Moreover, the film captures the waves of loss coming from families of the missing, portraying their harrowing fear overcome by their desire for justice, which was carefully put together by the film’s director, Bryan Brazil.



With two years of production for the film, everything went down the drain after Cinemataya canceled its screenings because of what the Festival said was “security concerns.” As a result, “Lost Sabungeros” never made it to the final line-up of films for this year’s Cinemataya. While the production team had expressed their grievances about the withdrawal, there is still a ray of hope for they have received “several invitations to screen the film at various venues and [are] exploring other opportunities as well,” GMA writes.

SAN BEDA'S ENDURING LEGACY IN THE NCAA: 100 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING EXCELLENCE

Marc Joseph Felix and Mika Isidro

AS SEASON 100 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) unfolds, the Bedan community proudly honors the legacy of San Beda University (SBU) and reflects on its remarkable athletic accomplishments. The indomitable Bedan spirit looks ahead to new triumphs while honoring past glories.

This centennial season serves as an opportunity to revisit unforgettable moments, honor the trailblazing athletes, and ignite a new generation to uphold the standard of excellence.

A CENTURY IN THE NCAA

The chronicles of SBU in the oldest collegiate sports league in the country starts with the NCAA’s formation in 1924. Part of the original six founding member schools along with the University of Manila, De La Salle College (now known as De La Salle University), Institute of Accounts (presently known as Far Eastern University), National University (NU), University of the Philippines (UP), University of Santo Tomas (UST), and Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). San Beda University (formerly known as San Beda College) remains the only remaining founding member still present in the NCAA.

Despite being the only remaining member of the original six, San Beda’s tenure in the NCAA was halted in 1984 due to a shift of internal policies that sought a focus on intramural-based athletics and years of hooliganism in the league. Regardless, San Beda eventually returned to the NCAA in 1986.

The University has hosted the NCAA nine times, pioneering the league’s broadcasting reach by initiating the transfer of broadcasting rights to ABS-CBN in 2002. SBU’s last hosting duties came in Season 92 of the NCAA, with the University celebrating the posthumous jersey retirement of San Beda and Philippine basketball legend Carlos “Caloy” Loyzaga.

RIVALS OF PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Looking forward to the upcoming matches, the anticipation of rivalry games adds an exciting edge to the spirit of sportsmanship. These highly anticipated matches are steeped in history and known for their intensity, making them a thrilling part of the game.

In the early days of the NCAA, the Ateneo Blue Eagles, one of the league’s founding members, were known as the fierce rivals of San Beda. The Blue Eagles had 14 championship titles in the senior basketball category, only to be later surpassed by the Red Lions.

The Red-and-White and Blue-and-White squads traded championship wins in the 1950s, with both teams ultimately contending for the Crispulo Zamora Cup, a trophy awarding the first NCAA school to win three basketball championships during the decade.

San Beda took the 1951 and 1952 basketball championships, while the Blue Eagles won in 1953 and 1954. The Red Lions cemented their place in the NCAA basketball royalty by winning the 1955 NCAA title over Ateneo and winning the Zamora Cup.

The rivalry reached its peak in the 1970s but came to an end when Ateneo left the NCAA. However, one of the most controversial moments was in 1977 when a game between the two teams was marred by a fan brawl, leading to objects being thrown onto the court.

This forced the championship’s game three to be played behind closed doors, ultimately resulting in San Beda winning the championship.

In Seasons 85 and 86, a memorable showdown unfolded between the Red Lions and the San Sebastian College-Recoletos (SSC-R) Golden Stags.

The championship game of Season 85 was supposed to be the Red Lions’ opportunity to secure a four-peat winning streak against the Golden Stags, but they fell short. Looking ahead to Season 86, the Red Lions made a remarkable comeback in the second championship game against the Golden Stags, reclaiming the crown once again.

In the current league setting, the intense rivalry between the Colegio de San Juan de Letran (CSJL) Knights continues to captivate fans. With a record of 20 basketball championship titles, the Knights stand out as one of the

most decorated teams in the league.

The most recent showdown in the finals was during the NCAA Season 95, where the Knights managed to halt the three-peat streak of the Red Lions in a thrilling three-game series.

Looking ahead to the ongoing season, the Red Lions are preparing for an exhilarating new chapter of competition and eagerly awaited matches.

They are poised to go head-to-head with fresh rival teams like the Benilde Blazers, which includes a notable number of players who were previously part of the Red Lions; and the Mapua Cardinals following an intense three-game championship series in Season 99.

BEDAN WINNING TRADITION

The name San Beda has been synonymous with winning for the greater part of a century. Bedan teams and athletes served as trailblazers in Philippine sports, with the University being the breeding ground of legendary athletes of then, now, and forever.

The Red-and-White fielded multiple Olympians throughout its sporting history, with the majority of the University’s representation coming from basketball. Jesus Marzan and Charles Borock were Bedan basketball players during the pre-second World War era who were part of the 1936 summer games.

Loretto Carbonell, Rafel Baretto, Eduardo Lim, Antonio Genato, Ponacio Saladaña, Melito Santos, and the FIBA Hall of Famer Carlos Loyzaga represented the Philippines during the iterations of the summer games during the 1950s.

In recent Philippine basketball history, NCAA Season 95 MVP and former King Lion, Calvin Oftana was part of the 2022 Asian Games basketball roster that brought the country’s first gold finish in the event after a 61-year drought.

San Beda’s success in honing world-class athletes reflects the University’s sports programs’ winning tradition. San Beda boasts nine NCAA general championships in the senior’s division; the most recent general championship victory coming in season 99. In basketball, the Red Lions hold an NCAA record of 23 championships.

The San Beda Swimming Team, or the Red Sea Lions, has won 25 championships for the men’s competition and 11 champions for women’s; the men’s team is currently in the midst of a 20-peat championship streak and the women’s team is in a 10-peat.

Meanwhile, the San Beda Men’s Football Team or San Beda Red Booters remains the winningest team in the NCAA with 25 championships. The Red Jins Taekwondo team holds the most total championships with 15; 11 for the men’s and three for the women’s seniors’ competitions.

In Lawn Tennis, the Red Netters hold the most championships with 19, while table tennis holds 14 with the men’s and women’s teams winning seven each. The Red Woodpushers chess team currently holds three championships to end the tally of sports program successes.

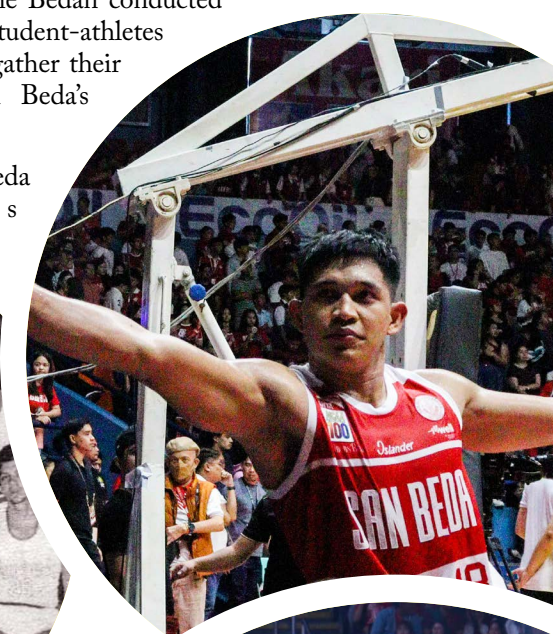
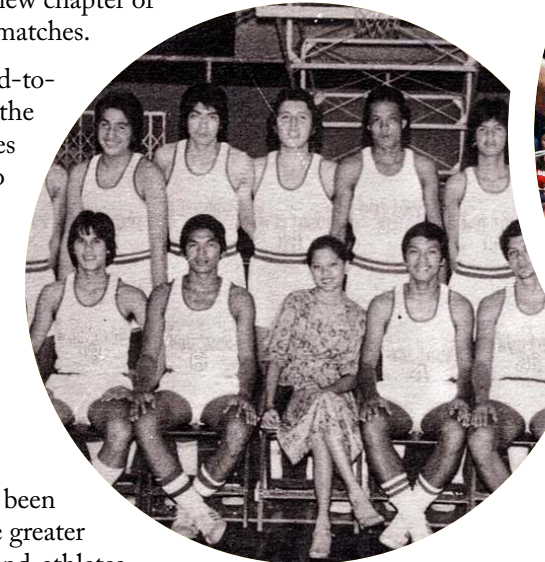
In achieving a century-long championship culture, Bedan athletes have proven that despite title droughts and rebuilding years, San Beda will never be a poverty franchise.

THE BEDAN SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP

Every sporting event derives its energy from the unwavering support of its fans and supporters. It is imperative to cultivate a culture of wholehearted backing for our teams, proudly displaying the colors of our esteemed institution.

In this regard, The Bedan conducted interviews with student-athletes and students to gather their insights on San Beda’s enduring legacy.

As San Beda begins



NCAA Season 100, student-athletes and supporters are reflecting on the significance of this historic milestone. Angel Lynn Docabo of the Red Sea Lions emphasized the importance of “legacy, dedication, and teamwork,” highlighting their determination to leave a lasting mark despite challenges. “Our journey as a team this season may not seem to be perfect, but we will always find ways to push ourselves to contribute to this historic moment.”

Meanwhile, Isabella Dominique Pollentes, women’s captain of the Red Smashers, expressed her “determination” to lead the women’s squad to their first championship. “I am proud to have earned this opportunity to play for the San Beda badminton team, as a captain and as a key player,” she said. This year, the women’s team of the Red Smashers feel all the more pressured to “clinch their first-ever title in the NCAA, having been under multiple first runner-up finishes.”

From the Bedan community, Angelina Kaye Ong shared how the season “strengthens school spirit and inspires support” for the athletes. Which also “motivates” students to do their best not only in sports but also in other aspects of life.

Meanwhile, Shenny Ann Fajardo noted that this centennial celebration does “not only honor past achievements, but it also reinforces the pride, discipline, and sportsmanship” that define San Beda, while citing that the season holds great significance as it celebrates the achievements and victories in the league.

San Beda has left an indelible mark on the sports industry in the Philippines, consistently clinching titles and etching their names in NCAA history. Moreover, the athletes’ journeys extend far beyond their collegiate years, promising a bright future in the professional leagues. As such, the fighting spirit transcends athletics and sports, preparing Bedans to triumph over academic and life challenges. As the Bedan Hymn proudly declares, “Bring out the challenges, we’ll win them all.”

Red Booter answers national team call-up for AFC U20 Asian Cup Qualifier

▼ Shelly Bocabel

SAN BEDA RED Booters midfielder Sylvester Edzon Pormento recently joined the 24-member delegation of the U20 Philippine Men's National Football Team (PMNFT) that competed in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U20 Asian Cup Qualifier 2024 last September 21 to 29 in Buriram, Thailand.

During the Qualifiers, the U20 PMNFT was drawn into Group H together with Iraq, Thailand, and Brunei Darussalam. While the team suffered a 0-2 loss against Iraq and 0-5 defeat against hosts, Thailand, the young booters ended their run on a high note with a 4-0 drubbing of Brunei.

This stint marks Pormento's second consecutive appearance for the national team, as he played for the PMNFT in the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) U19 Championship which took place in Surabaya, Indonesia last July 23.

In an interview with *The Bedan*,

Pormento shared how his chance to suit up for the Philippine team went about. "Sobrang damping

nag-tryout. May mga players silang kinuba [from] Luzon, Visayas, [at] Mindanao... Siyempre meron pang mga foreigners, mga call ups from other countries na mayroong Filipino genes or blood," Pormento shared.

He shared that, because of the tedious selection process, the try-outs lasted a week

until the PMNFT could finalize the 24 delegates that competed in Indonesia and Thailand. "Halos one week ata na tryouts 'yun, and then [unti-unti nilang nabuo] 'yung 24 players na magco-competo sa Indonesia at Thailand."

Along with the tedious hours of training and his competitions being only a month apart, Pormento disclosed that his experience in competing internationally for the Philippines was quite "calm and composed," despite him being "eager to do his best in every game."

Keeping his feet on the ground, Pormento recognized his humble beginnings on the streets of Muntinlupa with his mother club, Tuloy FC. At an early age of seven, he remembered how his mentors instilled in his mind that one day, when they grow up, football will help them in life.

After years of playing the sport, he was given the opportunity to play for San Beda and as well as to compete internationally for the first time at the U-16 back in 2019. Pormento elatedly exclaimed, "Sila nag-alaga sa akin, nag-provide sila [ng] labat. Hanggang sa makarating ako sa ibang bansa, ganun, sila 'yung nag-provide ng labat ng kailangan ko," describing his experience with his previous club.

As indebted as he is to his mother club, Pormento also relished his opportunity to be able to play for the Red Booters, leaving his former club to pursue his dreams at San Beda. "Ang goal kasi nila nun ay makapag aral din ako. Pero ngayon, wala na ako dun sa [Tuloy FC] kasi [pinaprioritize ko] na mag aral."

Pormento also plays for Mendiola FC, a professional club that traces its roots from San Beda's

football program and competes in the Philippines Football League (PFL).

Finally, he shared some words of encouragement for his fellow Bedan athletes, especially those who plan to excel internationally, saying "...sipagin lang nila. Araw-araw naman 'yung training dito sa [San] Beda so give it one hundred percent—labat ng kaya nilang ibubos sa training."

Pormento also took into heart the words of Red Booters Head Coach Christopher "Nhiboy" Pedimonte, "Walang relax kasi ayun nga 'yung sabi ng coach namin, walang relax sa training kasi wala namang mangyayari kung mag rerelex ka lang. Kung tuloy-tuloy ang trabaho mo, aangat ka nang aangat."

(with reports from Myrna Ydwina Xialela Pelayo)



Photo courtesy of Philippine Football Federation

Amaro and Cuyong were both included in the PAI's 16-strong delegation for short course after conquering the selection of the swimming event with 682 and 664 points, respectively.

"Despite being only 17 years old, I will be competing against older world class swimmers from around the globe," Amaro expressed in an interview with *The Bedan*. He timed exactly 50.92 seconds in the 100 meters freestyle, breaking the 50.93 record which he himself set. With this, Amaro hauled in a total of 682 points, securing rank 13.

On the other hand, 20-year-old Cuyong timed 2:17.71 in his pet event, the 200-meter breaststroke, bagging a total of

664 points and securing rank 16. Later on, he chose to participate in the 200m IM, 200m, 100m, and 50m breaststroke for the World Cup qualifiers. For Amaro, his preparations rest on "believing in oneself." "The training is ultimately about getting ready to go and show the world what I can do."

"I'm doing good in every training session, and I could also say that I am mentally ready for the competition," he added.

Meanwhile, Cuyong emphasized the normalcy of his training, saying "My preparations prior to the competition were, honestly, they were no different from the rest of my teammates."

Nevertheless, his preparation was rooted in the "discipline" he developed during his training. "I just did what our coach said, which is the same as what they tell my teammates. Basically, what I'm saying is there is no special ingredient or nothing special in my training. It's what I do, it's what the team does."

Both of the athletes had nothing but gratitude for the Bedan community, who continuously extended the warmth of their support throughout the two Bedan swimmers' journey. Moreover, Cuyong expressed his desire for more appreciation and widespread recognition for every athlete with world-class or nation-class talent within and beyond the Bedan community, regardless of the popularity of the sport they are contending in.

Finally, he conveyed his words of encouragement for the local athletes as he depicted the wider spectrum of the picture of how these homegrown talents are "capable of standing toe-to-toe with foreign athletes that have better equipment, facilities, and overall training."

Their competition will officially commence with the qualifiers from October 2 to 26 in South Korea and will carry on from October 31 to November 2 in Singapore. Should they qualify to advance, their final stop would be in the World Aquatics Swimming Championships from December 10 to 15 in Hungary.

(with Samantha Calderon and Jasmine Casadores)



Photo courtesy of Edzon Pormento

Two Bedan swimmers qualify for Swimming World Cup

▼ Thirdy Pabilico

GOING ABOVE AND beyond, two Bedan swimmers—Albert Jose "TJ" II Amaro of the San Beda Junior Sea Lions and Lucio II Cuyong of the Red Sea Lions—passed the initial Philippine Aquatic Inc. (PAI) qualifiers last September 4, securing their spot to represent the Philippines in the forthcoming World Aquatics Swimming World Cup 2024.



Photo composite by The Bedan

Bedan alumni unveil season pass for Red Lions' centennial campaign

▼ Thirdy Pabilico and Veronica Balbin

TO COMMEMORATE SAN Beda University's (SBU) centenary year as a founding member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) while supporting the University's athletic programs, especially the San Beda Red Lions' title defense in the Seniors' Basketball Tournament, a group of proud Bedan alumni launched the SBU Red Lions Season Pass Project last September 7.



Photo courtesy of Ryu Policarpio

This initiative was inspired by the Red Lions' championship win in NCAA Season 99 and the desire to find "innovative ways to support the team."

Mr. Ryu Policarpio, the project's Program Director and an administrator of *Tunay Kang Bedista*, SBU's biggest closed

Facebook group for alumni and students, explained, "So we thought of this plan carefully since last year, since our championship [last Season], what can we do since high pa 'yung Bedan Animo? Of course, we're champions."

"Everyone was telling us how we [can] support the team in our

small, little ways. [Kaya] naisip namin [ang] season pass," he added.

The project's passes aim to give their holders "premium seats" to every Red Lions' game in season 100 for PhP 20,000 "with a minimum of 18 games and a maximum of 24 games." On top of that, holders are entitled to merchandise, pins, and a general assembly with the Red Lions themselves.

Contrary to its initial name since release, Mr. Policarpio reassured that the season pass "is open to the general Bedan community," saying, "kung Bedan parent ka lang, student ka lang, kung Bedan educator ka or you're part of the staff of San Beda, this is open to you, [it] does not matter kung alumni ka."

Moreover, the season pass also aims to support not just the Red Lions' but also San Beda's athletic programs in general. "We will also support one minor sports program na we will select talaga na kailangan na kailangan ng tulong, 'yung hindi masyado napopondohan but [are] doing well. And that's going to be one of our considerations," the Program Director added.

While Mr. Policarpio and the rest had announced 100 passes, that was allegedly "not the initial case" in the planning. Originally,

the group opted for only half the number of passes due to doubts. But with the centennial NCAA Season "looming," they finalized 100 passes.

In addition, Mr. Policarpio also told *The Bedan* that the passes were not only realized to commemorate the centennial marker, but also "to represent the 100 years of San Beda as the founding member since 1924."

"We are the only remaining founders of the NCAA. All the other [founding members] went to the other league. So sabi namin, 'ang ganda ng pagkakataon na season 100, and we'll be introducing this 100 for die-hard Bedans," he explained.

Upon being publicized, the project immediately became a spectacle after being published in several media outlets, with Mr. Policarpio sharing how, in just three days after the articles were published, "nag-seventy percent kaagad 'yung pledges. Right now, nasa 90% na kami."

However, he would later explain that, given how the passes are still new, the program is taking it "one step at a time." "We have to finish the season kasi syempre trial and error 'to. This is our first time [and] hopefully it goes well."

Regardless, given the "positive reception" from the Bedan community, Mr. Policarpio remains "optimistic" about the possibilities of extending the pass to future NCAA seasons as well. "When I say it's not yet secured in the next seasons of the NCAA, syempre we'll never know what the future holds. Pero ayun nga, if we hit the numbers, definitely this program will continue in the next seasons."

Finally, he expressed his gratitude for the outpouring support of the Bedan community, saying, "maraming salamat po for supporting. Continue to support the program [and] the school. We have a lot of surprises and exciting things that we will announce in the coming days."

»» San Beda ignites...

from P20

was actually really challenging for the Student Council to compress everything in just a span of two weeks," added Tamares.

But despite this, she extended her "gratitude" to the Athletics Committee for spearheading the overall event and to Student Council Executive Committee (SCEC) Volunteers for their "hands-on" assistance during the event.

Tamares further emphasized how Pep Rally was among the "most anticipated events" in the University, as it is a time for the students, the freshmen specifically, to meet and show support to the Bedan Athletes. "May this annual event serve not only as a key platform to support our student athletes, but also foster a sense of camaraderie and school spirit in our Bedan community," she

added.

Providing a message to the Bedan athletes competing this NCAA season 100, Dr. Aler highlighted the importance of "training and discipline," imploring the athletes "to sharpen the sword," meaning that "during times that you are not playing, practice, practice, practice, and be disciplined," he added.

Moreover, he further stressed the necessity to focus on academics as well, saying, "Attend your classes because you are student athletes."

Concluding his send off with full confidence, Dr. Aler calls to the Bedan athletes to "give it their all" this NCAA Season 100, "Show the stuff that you are made off, and make the SBU community proud, and so that you will bring home glory."

for the season, saying, "Kabiti sinong mag laro sa amin magiging fit naman yun eh. So trabaho na naming Coaches na mag fit yun."

Moreover, he also recognized Sajonia's commendable NCAA debut, citing his "talent and skill level."

San Beda boasts form over Lyceum in NCAA Season 100 opener

▼ Shelly Bocabel

AFTER A HISTORIC opening ceremony for the centennial Season 100 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the San Beda Red Lions touted their reloaded roster with a statement 79-63 victory over hosts Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) Pirates to open their back-to-back title defense in Round 1 of the seniors' basketball tournament on Saturday, September 7, at the SM Mall of Asia (MOA) Arena.

Following a set of performances from SB19's Justin de Dios and P-Pop group G22, the NCAA also celebrated its historic centennial marker by paying homage to each member schools' decorated athletes who "contributed to the development of Philippine sports." Most notably, the league honored San Beda legend Baser Amer (represented by current Team Captain Yukien Andrada), who led the Red Lions in winning four NCAA titles.

Bryan Sajonia, a prized recruit

from Far Eastern University (FEU), led the revamped Lions in their debut win against the Pirates with a game-high of 18 points and five rebounds. San Beda also found success in reliable stalwart Yukien Andrada, who tallied 13 points and six boards.

The Red Lions, with a mix of new recruits and key holdovers, proved themselves as the title contenders in their quest to defend their NCAA Season 99 crown. Right off the bat, Nygel Gonzales scored the first points for this season with a contested three from deep, steering the momentum in favor of the Red Lions.

The Mendiola squad would continue to punish the Pirates with offensive power, securing an 18-point lead to end a dominant first quarter, 29-11.

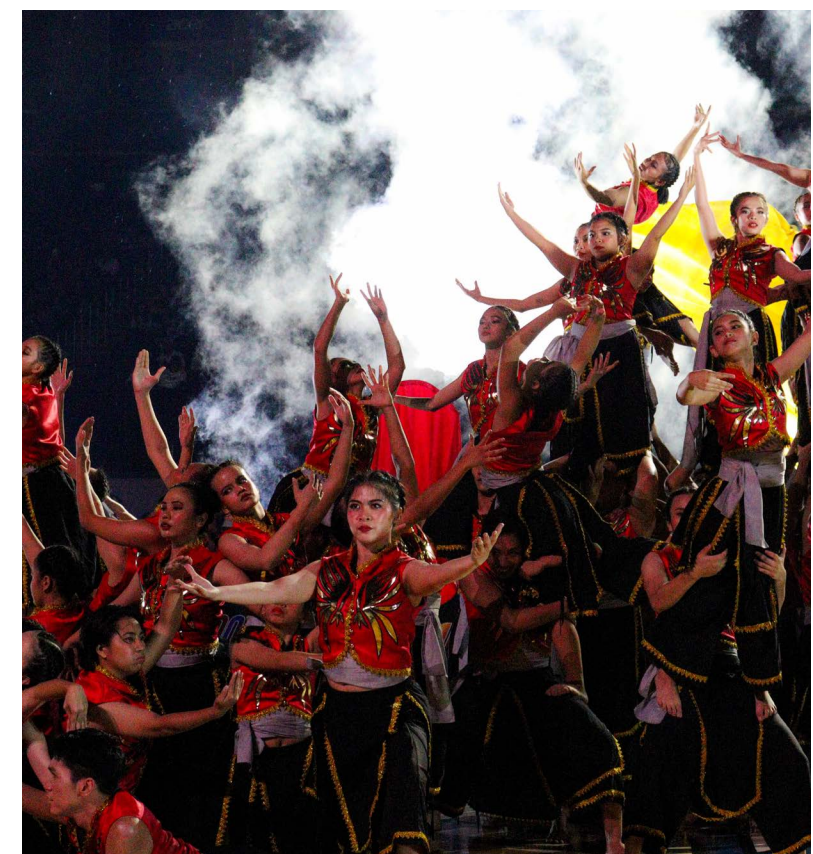
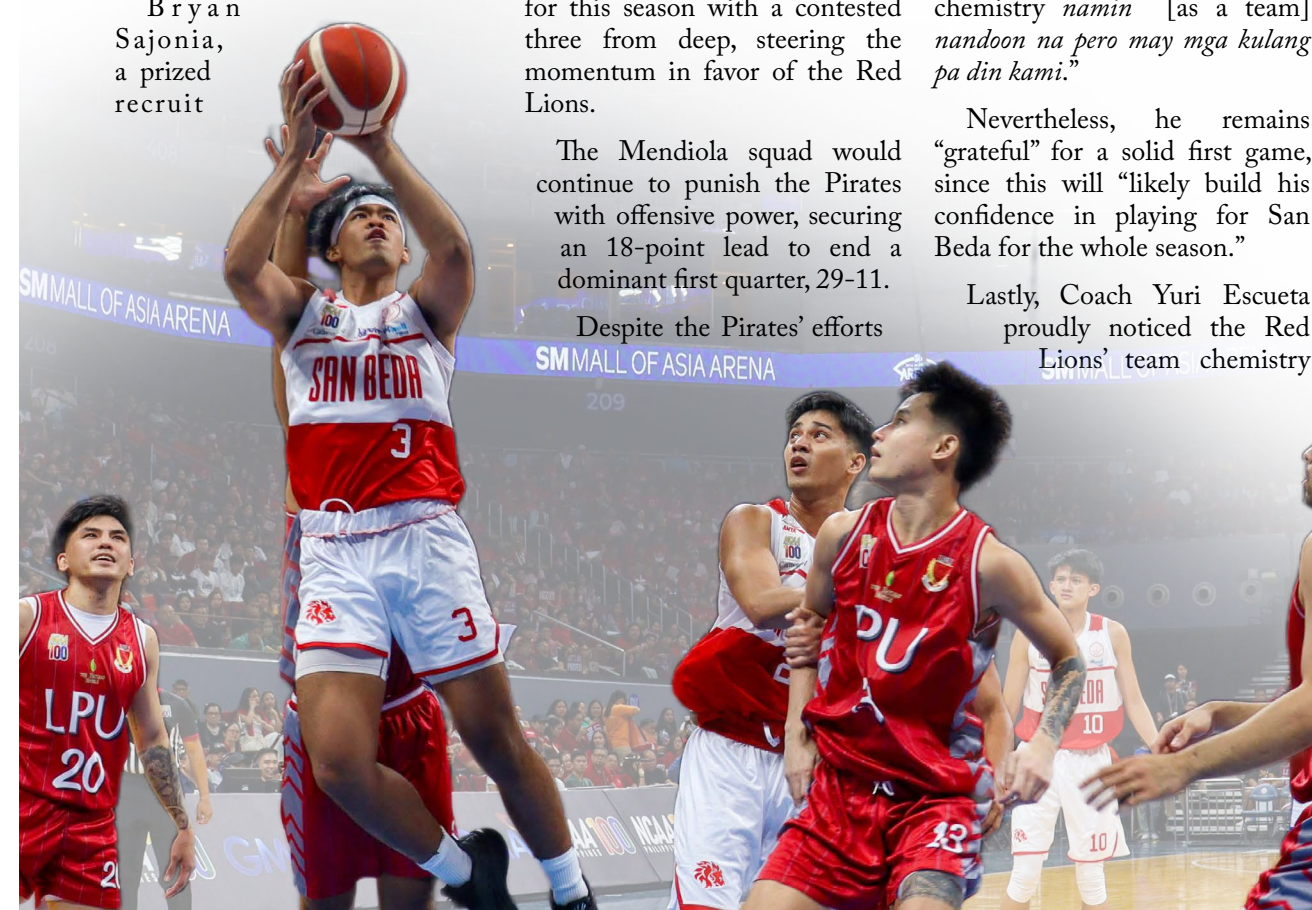
Despite the Pirates' efforts

to cull the deficit, they would prove to be no match against the Red Lion's mastery from downtown, shrugging off a valiant attempt from Lyceum as they capped off the game with a 16-point display of prowess against LPU, 79-63.

Humbled as the top scorer of the game, Sajonia believes that there is still more to improve for the Lions, saying "Masaya kami na nakuba namin 'yung panalo. Pero hindi pa tapos [ang season at] marami pa kaming aayusin nina Coach Yuri... and ayun nga, 'yung chemistry namin [as a team] nandoon na pero may mga kulang pa din kami."

Nevertheless, he remains "grateful" for a solid first game, since this will "likely build his confidence in playing for San Beda for the whole season."

Lastly, Coach Yuri Escueta proudly noticed the Red Lions' team chemistry



Photos by Nathaniel Soriano

BEFORE WE MOVE TO GREENER PASTURES



**RIVERCHILD
THIRTY PABILICO**



...the path to greener pastures must be paved with humility and respect, where dignity is upheld—never tarnished.

FABLED RIVALRIES AND telenovela-esque storylines are what make the collegiate sports scene, especially in the NCAA, exciting. However, beneath the banter and playful exchanges lies elitist and derogatory remarks, reminding us that we still have a long way to go before we can truly move on to greener pastures.

Last month, under one of the comment sections in a post made by *The Bedan*, a concerned alum made a case about why San Beda should make the move to the UAAP.

There, the concerned alum outlined the usual reasons for why the University should transfer—more revenue, exposure, and development for our athletes—but what irked me the most was how in doing so, they managed to call other member schools of the NCAA as “beneath our level.”

I wouldn't go further into detail as a lot of things were said. Pointing the obvious, this is not an isolated case, as you will most likely encounter this type of remark in regular season games or in social media.

Case in point, the storied San Beda versus Letran matchup has long been a platform to label students and patrons of the latter school as “squammy,” an anti-poor remark used to degrade those living in informal settlements.

While it's understandable that we wish only the best for our beloved institution, such as the desire to move to the UAAP, I will never agree with how it has become the norm to bring shame to others through elitist statements. These are baseless statements that do not contribute anything meaningful to the conversation.

It is true that more opportunities lie ahead in the prospects of San Beda moving to the UAAP, and it will not only boost our reputation but also allow our athletes room for greater development. If you want to be the best, you have to beat the best. But the means taken to “be the best” should not come at the cost of humiliating others.

Emotions run high when the passion and pride burns bright, and it's never wrong to take into heart the achievements of our school. However, comments dismissing other NCAA schools as “inferior” and resorting to remarks with elitist undertones is not an extension of the Bedan pride, for it echoes the long-standing culture of exclusivity where other schools are just seen as superior to others.

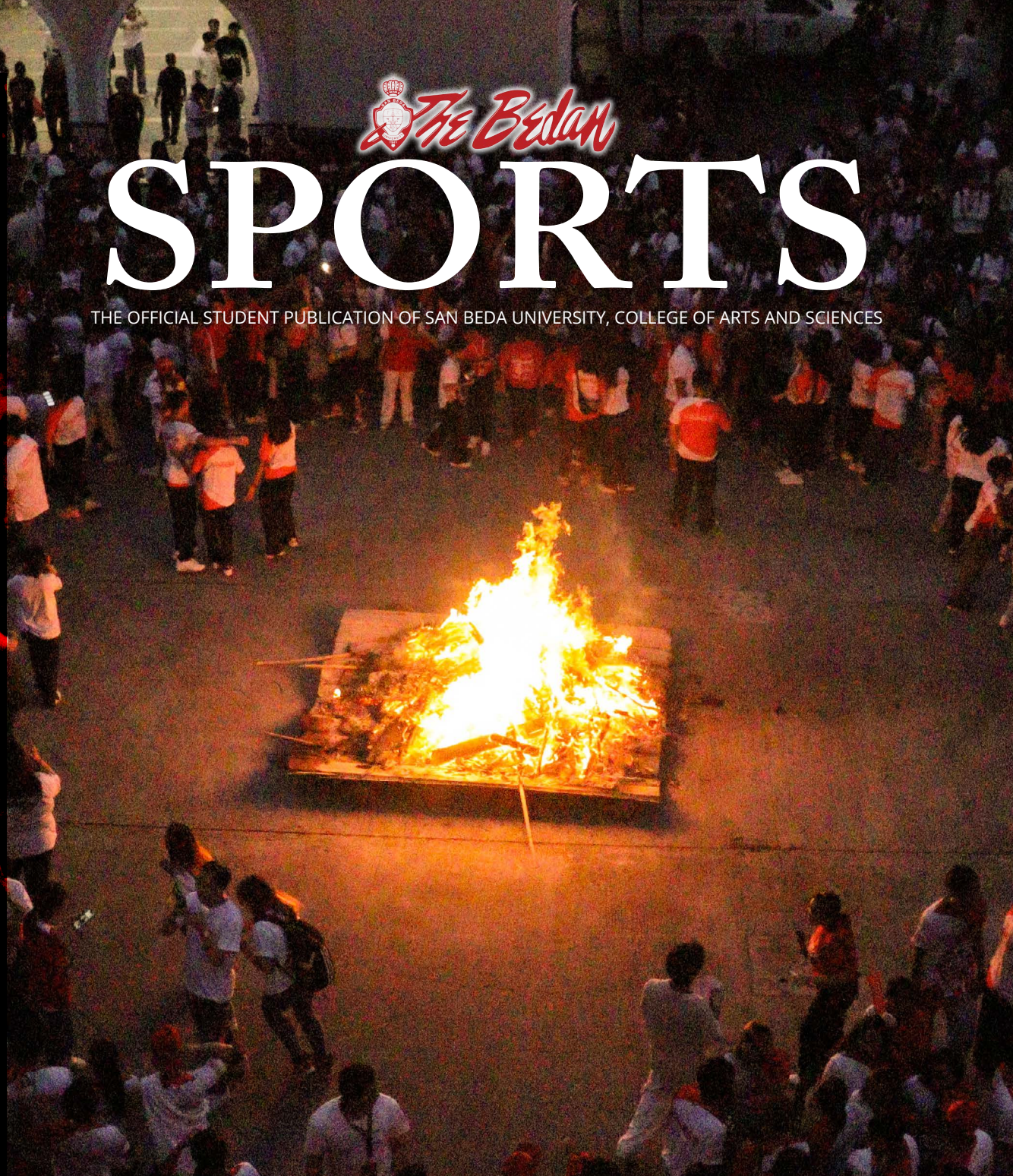
We are taught in our early years to embody the values St. Benedict, taking to heart *Ora et Labora* (prayer and work) that guides the conduct of our lives. Accordingly, we must continue to live by these teachings, as doing anything but sets a dangerous precedent that undermines our very character as Bedans.

Call me a snowflake, but the path to greener pastures must be paved with humility and respect, where dignity is upheld—never tarnished.



SPORTS

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



Students convene outside of the St. Placid's Sports Complex during the concluding bonfire.

Photo by Nathaniel Soriano

SAN BEDA IGNITES UNIVERSITY SPIRIT AT 2024 PEP RALLY

▼ Mansel Latonero and Nathaniel Soriano

SENDING OFF ITS Bedan athletes in blazing glory, the Bedan community celebrated its annual Pep Rally in preparation for the upcoming National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 100, August 16.

Given San Beda University's (SBU) current standing as the general champions of NCAA Season 99 after winning the championships in seven different sports, a weighty obligation is placed on the shoulders of its athletes to bring in the same level of performance, if not, go beyond last season's achievements this NCAA 100.

Heading into the historic centennial season, stakes are higher, and with it, rival universities are revved up to capture the current spot of General Champions. As aptly put by Dr. Diosdado Aler III, the Athletics Moderator of SBU, a stark difference was seen between last year and this year's Pep Rally, “We all know that SBU was the best performing school during season 99. So, all the other teams are preparing hard to beat us this season 100.”

Despite this, Dr. Aler remains optimistic about the possible performance of SBU's NCAA 100 athletes saying, “hopefully we'll bring out the challenges and we'll still win them all.”

The annual Pep Rally is a long-standing tradition in the Bedan community, with the purpose of “fostering a sense of camaraderie and support for SBU's athletic representatives.”

In speaking further of the purpose of this year's pep rally, Dr. Aler added how the celebration “would bring out the community spirit, and during the playing of the drums, the parade of teams, the adrenaline level reaches the maximum... the sense of community again would be manifested.”

For this year, the Pep Rally was comprised of

three main parts—beginning with a mass celebrated by Rector-President Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan, O.S.B, followed by a program proper which introduced the numerous teams competing in the centennial season, and ending with the trademark community bonfire held outside of the St. Placid's Sports Complex.

Regarding the overall conduct of the event, Prof. Marvin Reyes, Ph.D, the Prefect of Student Activities, mentioned that there were no issues faced from preparations to finish, commending the CAS Student Council (SC) for its “smooth execution.”

Moreover, Prof. Reyes also highlighted how this year's Pep Rally captured the “spirit” of previous year's insofar as “bringing the excitement and supporting the Bedan athletes.” He later described how this year's celebration still retained “the hype, the color, and the glorification of the athlete.” “*Ganun pa rin 'yung* intensity and the force that pep rally has from that time to this time.”

Looking behind-the-scenes, Chriselle Tamares, Vice President for External Affairs and Activity Chairperson for Pep Rally 2024, revealed that they only had “two weeks” for the preparations and to execute all pre-event deliverables. Moreover, she shared how the Pep Rally was initially scheduled for August 21. However, abrupt changes prompted otherwise, and the SC was instead “given the dates August 16 or August 19.”

“Since we had major preparations for the Freshmen Welcoming Day last July 31, it **P19**

INSIDE

22

RED BOOTER ANSWERS NATIONAL TEAM CALL-UP FOR AFC U20 ASIAN CUP QUALIFIER



21

SAN BEDA'S ENDURING LEGACY IN THE NCAA: 100 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING EXCELLENCE

