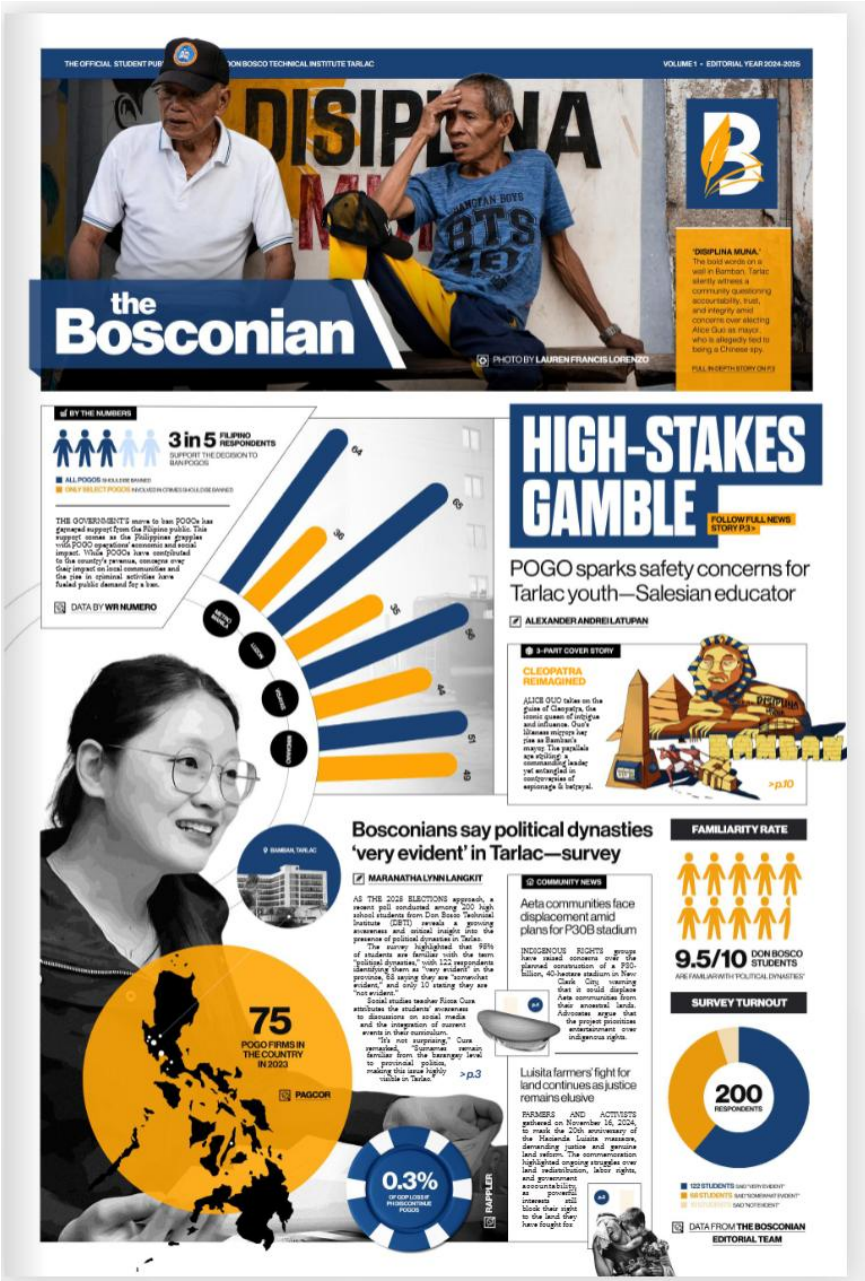


Basics of Editorial Writing





2025 Best in Editorial Section

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE - TARLAC
@thestarchebosconian

EDITORIAL

Unity Built on Impunity



CARTOON BY PAULO ALFONSO DAVID

The once-promising political alliance between President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte, built on unity and stability, has instead exposed the dangers of impunity.

Initially celebrated as a powerful coalition merging the Marcos and Duterte legacies, their partnership has unraveled into public disputes, accusations, and political turmoil that erode governance and public trust.

The Marcos-Duterte tandem was initially seen as a powerful and promising alliance that excited many Filipinos, especially during the 2022 campaign season. Their partnership symbolized a merging of political legacies—Marcos with his family's storied and controversial history, and Duterte with her father's populist appeal and tough leadership style.

Together, they painted a picture of unity with Sara Duterte actively defending Marcos against allegations of corruption and vouching for his character and good intentions for the country. This mutual support helped solidify their image as a cohesive team working towards a common goal of national progress, winning over voters who believed their combined leadership would bring stability and positive change.

In January 2024, signs of tension emerged when former President Rodrigo Duterte openly opposed the Marcos administration's push for Charter Change. Speaking at a prayer rally in Davao City, Duterte accused Marcos of being a drug addict and criticized the proposed constitutional amendments as a ploy to extend term limits.

This was followed by Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte's call for Marcos to resign, labeling him as "lazy" and lacking compassion. Although Marcos allies attempted to downplay the rift, it was clear that the once-solid partnership had fractured beyond repair.

The feud intensified when First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos openly criticized Vice President Duterte, and Duterte responded with defiance, attending anti-Marcos rallies and making inflammatory threats. Her remarks, including claims of a plot to assassin and plans to desecrate Ferdinand Marcos Sr.'s remains, forced the president to address the nation, condemning the threats and calling for accountability.

Sara Duterte's concerning public remarks in the middle of 2024 took the issue in a more dire direction. In one she was warned, she said, she had called an assassin to target Marcos, his wife, and House Speaker Martin Romualdez. In addition, she threatened to dump Ferdinand Marcos Sr.'s remains into the West Philippine Sea after exhuming them from the Libingan ng mga Bayani. After being written off as provocative overstatements, these remarks forced Marcos to speak in front of the country, calling such threats "troubling" and stressing the importance of accountability.

Adding fuel to the fire, Sara Duterte's use of confidential funds came under congressional scrutiny, raising questions about transparency and financial mismanagement. Despite mounting pressure and impeachment threats, Marcos opposed her removal, likely prioritizing political stability over accountability.

The growing public discontent is evident in their declining approval ratings—Marcos's numbers dropped to 61%, while Duterte's fell to 66%, reflecting the Filipino people's frustration with their leaders' failure to rise above personal disputes. Empty campaign promises, such as Marcos's pledge to lower rice prices to P20 per kilo, have only deepened the divide and disillusionment.

Multiple impeachment accusations were filed against Sara Duterte in December 2024. She was accused of corruption, mismanagement of funds, and threatening death. A lengthy process was anticipated even if the Marcos-aligned Congress started to review the accusations. Public sentiment remained split, with some Filipinos favoring her dismissal and others seeing it as politically driven. In private, Marcos encouraged Congress against pursuing the impeachment, describing it as a "waste of time."

As their relationship reaches a breaking point, the real victims are the Filipino people, left to face economic struggles and governance failures while their leaders engage in political theatrics. True leadership demands accountability and service to the nation—qualities both Marcos and Duterte have failed to demonstrate.

The Philippines deserves leaders who prioritize the people over personal interests, proving that genuine unity, not impunity, is the key to national progress. *

> "The real victims are the Filipino people, left to face economic struggles while their leaders engage in political theatrics."

As the 2028 elections draw near, the Philippines stands at a crossroad faced with a challenge that has long plagued our democracy. For decades, a select few families have monopolized power. It's a cycle that restrains real change, perpetuates inequality, and distorts the very essence of democracy.

A staggering 67% of seats in the House of Representatives come from political families, according to a 2023 study from the Ateneo School of Government. How did we let it get this bad? How did we allow a few select families to monopolize power, turning leadership positions into something inherited, instead of earned? This isn't just a problem with who holds office, rather, it's about our future, our opportunities, and our democracy.

Think about the provinces—87% of governors are from political dynasties, as revealed by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ). In the many regions of our nation, it feels like these families have been in charge for eternity.

What happens when power is handed by a few? Governance stops being about serving the people and becomes about maintaining the family's legacy.

The economic implications of dynastic rule are just as devastating. A 2022 study by the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE) found that areas with entrenched political families suffer from higher poverty rates, about that for a second.

In the very regions where dynastic families hold the most power, the people are the most impoverished.

This isn't a coincidence. When political families rule, their priority isn't to lift people out of poverty. Their priority is to stay in power.

Now, many times have we looked at the ballot, seen a familiar name, and voted for it without even thinking twice? This is the crux of dynastic politics. But why do we keep choosing familiarity over competence?

Ronald Mendoza's research, from the Ateneo School of Government, clearly shows that dynastic candidates enjoy an unfair advantage, thanks to their political machinery and financial resources. Independent candidates, the ones who could bring fresh ideas and genuine change, have little to no chance. The political playing field is so fundamentally skewed that we've given them the power to continue.

The time for ignoring this issue is long over. Why, when Congress is full of dynastic politicians, is there no urgency to pass this law? The answer is so clear in our eyes—they benefit from the current system.

Breaking free from political dynasties won't happen overnight. But it starts with rejecting the idea that this system is inevitable. It starts with rejecting the notion that we can't do better. And it starts with us by demanding a government that works for all of us, not just for the few. It starts with us realizing that our political landscape is far too long. It's time to reject the notion that leadership is a birthright and embrace the idea that it should be earned.

It's time to break the chains of dynastic rule. We cannot, in good conscience, allow our nation to be held hostage by a political elite that has no regard for the well-being of the people it vows to serve. We have the power to demand a government that represents all of us, and not just the privileged families who have been in power for far too long. *

PRESSING CONCERN

Democracy Beyond Bloodlines

JOSH CALEB CAPUDOY

POLITICS: Breaking free from political dynasties won't happen overnight. But it starts with rejecting the idea that this system is inevitable. It starts with rejecting the notion that we can't do better.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DONDI TAWATAO/GETTY IMAGES

Our yearning for a better system has led us to overlook the distort the perception of government-funded institutions as schools that are financially

TANGIBLE CONUNDRUM

University of the Privileged?

ADA CRISHA SAMSON

EDUCATION: By viewing the university through a lens of division, we miss the broader purpose of its existence: to empower those with the intellectual drive and passion to make a difference.

supported by the government.

The common misconception that the University of The Philippines (UP) is meant to be for the masses resides in the fact that UP is a so-called "state university," wherein the tuition fee of the students are primarily subsidized by the Philippine government.

However, according to Republic Act No. 9500, entitled the University of the Philippines Charter of 2008, UP is recognized and stated as the "national university" of the Philippines. The word 'national' fundamentally signifies the entire country and its citizens, who are all entitled to its protection.

Under the Democratic Access provisions of the Republic Act, it is also clearly emphasized that no student shall be excluded based on age, gender, nationality, religious belief, economic status, ethnicity, physical disability, or political opinion or affiliation.

However, a common question arises: Why do those who can afford expensive tuition fees often choose to study at a university that offers free education?

The answer lies in the exceptional education that UP offers. While some may choose UP for financial security or its prestigious reputation, their admission ultimately reflects their merit. UP's rigorous standards, like the UPCAT, measures intellectual capacity and potential—qualities that must not be bought. This meritocratic approach makes UP appealing to those seeking both an affordable and high-quality education. By prioritizing merit over privilege, UP remains dedicated to shaping the nation's intellectual future.

While the privileged may have an edge with private schooling and better resources, those who are driven by aspiration and ambition to learn can overcome these advantages.

Our perception of UP has become increasingly distorted. UP is not a school designed to create a divide between the rich and the poor; rather, it is an institution that seeks to cultivate and refine the intellectual potential of its students, regardless of their background. It is a place where merit, hard work, and academic excellence are the true measures of success. By viewing the university through a lens of division, we miss the broader purpose of its existence: to empower those with the intellectual drive and passion to make a difference. *

Called to Serve, Always

EDITOR'S NOTE

ALEXANDER ANDREI LATUPAN

As nations rise and fall across the globe, and as new challenges arise for our beloved Philippines, one thing remains constant - our determination to live and serve with holy joy.

As a body of student journalists, the Bosconian aims not only to amplify the voices of the young, but the voice of honesty and transparency in journalism, to garner respect for the integrity of the field of journalism, and to be the voice of the voiceless Filipinos that are seldom heard amongst our daily undertakings.

A nation's driving force is unequivocally its youth, and it shows - student journalists are able to report on the things that press organizations overlook, and call out issues that raise doubt in local communities.

This year, The Bosconian has gone to great lengths to cover stories that truly matter. From the exposition on governance to heartfelt human-interest pieces that highlight the resilience of our people, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to delivering the truth with accuracy and empathy.

Through all the white noise that surrounds our daily lives, the Bosconian stands as a voice that demands to be heard, and the force that drives it - the hearts of hundreds of Bosconians, dedicated to serving their country with full transparency, unwavering and unafraid.

We will continue to push boundaries, ask the difficult questions, and remain a beacon of truth and hope for the youth and the nation. *

The Bosconian
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THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF DON BOSCO TECHNICAL INSTITUTE TARLAC
EDITORIAL YEAR 2024-2025

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Will Duterte face the music?

THE SYMPHONY OF JUSTICE

RODRIGO CARLO PEREZ



ACCOUNTABILITY ON TRIAL: The ICC's probe into Duterte's drug war seeks justice for alleged crimes against humanity, but the government's refusal to cooperate questions its commitment to human rights and the rule of law.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DONDI TAWATAO/GETTY IMAGES

Despite this, the Marcos admin has shown unwillingness for the ICC investigation to push through. They have strived committed during the period when the Philippines was a member.

> "Over 20,000 individuals lost their lives, many without due process and losing justice along the way."

The pursuit of justice, coupled with the current administration's willingness to act as purveyors of peace is essential. This commitment is crucial for the victims and their families in securing the prosecution of the Philippines' former President Duterte. Despite being a controversial figure, his presidency is marked by the brutality of the legal system hinges on our ability to uphold these impartial investigations.

Duterte's willingness to face the ICC would either reinforce or tarnish his legacy. If he is indeed innocent, his decision to face the investigation can prove us wrong. But if he is guilty, it would prove otherwise. It's a reminder that no leader is above the law.

As the ICC's investigation progresses, the world watches. Will the Philippines embrace the pursuit of justice, or will it succumb to political pressure? The coming months will be crucial in determining whether the nation takes a step forward in accountability or remains mired in the shadows of impunity. *

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Somewhere inside of all of us is the power to change the world.

Every election is marked by the presence of individuals who symbolize change for the progress of a nation. The opportunity to have the right to create a positive change is one of the most significant privileges one can possess. Just like a farmer who plants seeds to harvest, these voters serve as key for the nation to

MINDFUL MUSINGS

What Goes Around, Grows Around

MARGERY ANN SAPLALA

WORLD AFFAIRS: Globalization, immigration, climate change, the economy, and the dispute over the West Philippine Sea are just some of the issues concerning different countries.

plant their hopes for the future.

The seeds of election has concluded, marking yet another historic moment in the United States. The Filipino-American name has come out on top as the next president: Donald Trump, who previously served as president from 2017 to 2021. Trump's victory over Kamala Harris, the popular vice, compared to his opponent Kamala Harris, who received about 48.3%.

Take us, the scents of the recently concluded election have become a form of "aya na" for Filipinos. For some, it brings back the emotions and perspectives of the 2016 election. For the majority of the Filipinos, where Bongbong Marcos faced off against Leni Robredo for the highest position in the country.

What comes next after the concluded election? The 7th election is extremely important not only for American citizens but also for Filipinos as well.

Former President Trump's many terms in the policies implemented during his administration, which could contribute Kamala's plan to maintain the policies that were in place during her time as vice president.

Globalization, immigration, climate change, the economy, and the dispute over the West Philippine Sea are just some of the issues concerning different countries.

Lastly, the dispute over the West Philippine Sea. Under Trump, there have been stronger protection for U.S. interests, but the United States' relationship with the Philippines remains uncertain. Trump's platforms are focused on his "America First" agenda, implemented in his previous term.

Will the Philippines continue to support Trump? Yes! It is due to the people's refusal to give a woman the chance to lead? Or perhaps some will remain blind to the truth? Well, I suppose the passion can be a powerful force, but it brings back the emotions and perspectives of the 2016 election. For the majority of the Filipinos, where Bongbong Marcos faced off against Leni Robredo for the highest position in the country.

There is no time left for regret, as we must focus on another critical news next. As a citizen of the Philippines, please be diligent and mindful of the election. I must close it because people are watching. Let's not forget the lessons of former President Duterte's term. I hope that my voice is enough to awaken those who are blind to the truth, reminding them that we ourselves are the solution to the change that will not only benefit us but also others. *



Why We Suffer From Leadership Disasters?

YSHA CHRIS AGUDO

CLIMATE ACTION: Year after year, disaster after disaster, we witness the same shortcomings, emergency responses arriving too late, supplies falling painfully short of actual needs, and systems buckling under pressure despite decades of experience in disaster management.

Many of the Philippines' issues itself for nature's wrath. Be it when the ground shakes, or does our trust in leadership.

The forest belong to, the only DOST is known to recognize stands for Dela Rosa's style of delayed aid, inadequate resources, and leaders assembling to work on solutions only after disaster has already struck.

Take the recent Typhoon Kristine, for example. Despite the fact that the Philippines is no stranger to typhoons, the same shortcomings, unnecessary suffering, and delayed aid plagued the country. Take the case of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Order No. 01-09 Series of 2009, which requires all local government units (LGUs) to maintain a minimum of 30% of their calamity fund allocation in evacuation centers.

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An Asymptotic Legacy

p.8

Through short-sighted decisions, then how can we expect the validity of those who lead us?

If others, some dreams are harder to reach. Interests should be aligned with responsibility and not be misaligned with weak testimonies that prove

SHOTS OF EXPRESS-ON

An Asymptotic Legacy

KARL WAYNE EURRI ANTONIO

STUDENT CONSTITUTION: The greatest common factor that separates chaos and order is laws. But if those very same laws were to be disregarded through short-sighted decisions, then how can we expect the validity of those who lead us?

If others, some dreams are harder to reach. Interests should be aligned with responsibility and not be misaligned with weak testimonies that prove nothing.

Punishing as a system, one must check the feasibility of the notion that someone us ad as Bosconians. However, some a time when we meet at the invisible line separating us from prosperity with reality, change is



Council President Kenji Hasegawa, our Student Council bothed its very first Constitution that provides a foundation for nurturing servant-leadership and student rights.

Despite the Constitution's founding success, flaws and misinterpretation plague the progress of both the Student Council and the student elections. In spite of a shock to me when the current Student Council administration presented its plan to amend Constitution's Election Order II, Sec. 6), on October 14, 2024, opposing utilities-in-charge (UIC) for the recent positions of Associate on Finance and Associate on Audio and Management.

It's completely normal for the Student Council to request and create positions that would ultimately fulfill the roles and goals of the institution. However, the process of appointing members to these UIC positions does not remain within the Constitution.

According to B.O. No. 1, the Student Council shall have the temporary appointment of the two CEOs vice president (1st Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and Secretary (2nd Deputy Chief Executive Officer).

The whole dilemma that the President does not have the authority to appoint executive positions except when the continued vacancies would jeopardize the Council's service delivery.

In an interview with Ijet at Aeme, Jayra Dan Jose, the Student Council did not have sufficient power to create positions that would ultimately fulfill the roles and duties that entail limitations to appoint special committees and task forces that they may assess under Clause 07, Section 12, of Article VIII. Because of this, we are left with a line of uncertainty. The Ijet at Aeme did agree that Section 6 of Election Order II, Series 2024-01 No. 01 on October 14, 2024, has not adhered to this policy since the creation of CEOs was a clear violation of Section 12 of Article VIII. Simply put, the Student Council's interest in strengthening the executive board did not comply with the authority established by the Constitution.

It is also recognized that the actions taken by the Student Council were an honest mistake. However, designing ignorance of a problem that should have been multiplied over a series of generations does not remove them from their responsibilities.

The greatest common factor that separates chaos and order is laws. But if those very same laws were to be disregarded

> p.9



When the Cage is Open...

FRANCES ANGELA SANTIAGO

SOCIETY: The unjust enforcement of the law prolongs a cycle of impunity, where the marginalized bear the brunt of injustice while the powerful escape accountability.

A bird, once freely roaming the sky, now slipped off its wings—placed in a cage that serves as its prison. A mayor who once held office now finds himself entangled in legal battles.

The connection between these two opened the seemingly months before the end of 2024—Alice Guo, former mayor of Bamban, Tarlac, was dismissed from her position and is under investigation due to allegations involving Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO), graft, money laundering, and human trafficking.

She was escorted back to the Philippines from Indonesia after fleeing to avoid facing the law. In her case, she's a different story. It's funny how her arrest seemed like more of a "homecoming"; she even managed to take photos with officials and basically face the cameras like a celebrity.

Come the day of her hearing, despite the overwhelming evidence pointing to her, her image of innocence remained unshaken as she continued to plead 'not guilty'.

The irony of current events is that the law seems to focus only on the wallets of those in power, while it becomes violent and oppressive towards those on the fringes of society. This so-called justice system seems to be selective, turning a blind eye to certain crimes and time again, like some high-profile cases in the country.

A clear example of this is former President Duterte, who recklessly launched the War on Drugs, which resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians without due process. Despite the ICC's probe into human trafficking cases, yet he was allowed to run in the upcoming elections.

Similarly, Vice Commissioner can be compared to Guo. The unjust enforcement of the law prolongs a cycle of impunity where the marginalized bear the brunt of injustice while the powerful escape accountability.

Guo symbolizes a tool confined in a cage, yet it remains free to escape at any moment due to the absence of a lock—an absence that reflects the lack of justice to ongoing issues of human trafficking.

If we truly want to remove the blindfold of justice, we need a change that will promote a fair system—a system that is impartial, unprocessed, and unafraid of power. As long as the cage has no lock, the tool imprisoned for its role will remain free, leaving us on the fringes to bear the consequences and continue to suffer. *

A Point of No Return

WILLIAM LAYNE LUMBA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: From all the political disasters that we've all endured all over the globe, it's only right to say that we've finally one step across the point of no return, and how we have decidedly doomed us all, and if we do not change ourselves clearly, more disasters will eventually come.

There is a certain flair when it comes to politics, something that demands attention, eludes responsibility and encourages passion in society. Politics is a game that we have to those in the political scene has dwindled to a point where we, the people, must ask: are we the problem, or is the system just broken? I haven't seen yet?

Think about it, for decades, of the same politicians are in a race. We let such petty power a sense of familiarity, forming a connection that they plan on using to gain support and an upper hand against their opponents.

But what troubles the heart of our society is human stupidity. Take the United States of America, for example. For almost 250 years, they have had a simple question of just yes or no: will you let Donald Trump, a divisive convict, one that is accused and proven to be such a criminal, be your president?

Many say that Donald Trump is in power once again, they should be more discreet to come, not just for their nation but for the rest of the world as well.

Now, it isn't only the world's problems. Take the Philippines as well — for many years, we have struggled to fight against corruption, and the year pass by, proven time and again that there's something that must change about our

> "Power is a risky business that would create a long-lasting legacy full of prosperity or of controversy. Nonetheless, that does not mean that we should deprive ourselves of tales of failures and values of shame."







The Student Council feels the need to provide a solution to a problem that should have never happened in the first place.

Power is a valid business that would create a long-lasting legacy full of prosperity or of controversy. Nonetheless, that does not mean that we should deprive ourselves of tales of failures and values of shame. If deserts and reality cannot meet in the middle, then change is necessary to alter our course for the future.

Removing the rules is the first sensible to consider when determining the formula for success. What good does the Constitution have for us when we don't know about it? Therefore, understanding the Student Council should be the main priority of the Bosconian.

Remember, Bosconian, as Mathematics as two sacred lines that simply approach but never meet - are more than capable of overcoming the hurdles that stand between us and our goals. One thing is certain — harmony is the ultimate solution to any problem.

Interesting interests with wide actions that pose a threat to our Constitution must be thoroughly investigated. If you want to be known as the Student Council that violated the Constitution, then be my guest. Our voices are powerful when we stand and speak together. Take heed of the line that separates our nation from tyranny; it becomes our nature, then an asymptote. Every race never meant to be. *

The Power (& Problem) of Popularity Politics

JOHN DARRYL MOLINA

PUBLIC FIGURES: Filipinos place celebrities on high pedestals, and very few do not place them on thrones. Is their fame equal to competence?

In our country today, political issues are nothing new: for us, now and then, there is always a political issue that is opining. Politics in our country has always been a hotbed of controversy, and in recent years, there has been a growing trend; trends in which becoming a politician seems to be something has taken seriously enormous, it is just a game for Filipinos' Celebrities who don't even have a background in politics nor even know what position you want to vote for.

The economy and state of our country are at stake, whereas now it is time to elect new officials. There's nothing inherently wrong with celebrities running for those positions, but the problem lies within voters who choose to vote incompetent people to be our officials.

Filipino place celebrities on high pedestals, and very few do not place them on thrones. Is their fame equal to competence? Is it right for us to vote for someone who has no competence and torch his mustache in the process? Or is it because he's a popular personality?

Maybe the Filipino people don't even care about the quality of our country right now; maybe all of this is just a joke to them and unfortunately not for us.

Our country is already having a hard enough time being ravaged by fake Gods who are entrenched in their own delusion; how to use the power that they hold and just end up destroying the country even more.

Politics in our country has been a game for the rich and powerful, and it's high time to change that. Only then will steer our ship to somewhere new, somewhere where we can call it our ocean and be in its deepest depths. *

Moreover, he allegedly forced his followers to solicit donations for a huge

The year 2024 was the year he was supposed to be released from prison, but due to his cunning ways and political movement. He is confident because of his connections to the higher position in the government and especially the 6 million followers.

This year 2025, he filed his Certificate of Candidacy (COC) for the 2025 midterm elections, allegedly entering the race. Starting this year, he has been campaigning for his wife to run for the seat of president.

And allowing Quiboloy to run for president, who is allegedly an alleged sex trafficker, rapist, and child abuser, is a huge concerning matter, do we trust the Constitution have for us when we don't know about it? Therefore, understanding the Student Council should be the main priority of the Bosconian.

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Throughout the years he's been running his organization, he was also involved in many scandals, such as allegedly abused of funds, money laundering, sex trafficking, sexual abuse, and illegal detention.

Apollo Quiboloy is the leader of the church he built called Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC). It has 6 million followers in the Philippines and around the world, and he runs the "son of Jesus Christ." He is also the spiritual advisor to former President Rodrigo Duterte.

Throughout the years he's been running his organization, he was also involved in many scandals, such as allegedly abused of funds, money laundering, sex trafficking, sexual abuse, and illegal detention.

Take heed of the line that separates our nation from tyranny; it becomes our nature, then an asymptote. Every race never meant to be. *

Quiboloy is a mastermind indeed, having connections to so many high-ranking officials, he has been accused of many crimes, but he still manages to get away. Quiboloy as a form of "God's Will," and if even the decisive the so-called "God's Will," he will declare that they will face "eternal damnation" according to Quiboloy's own and children because: 1 - 26 is chosen to do the apostle's work; him living morals to take advantage of people just to gain the benefit that you long for is the very essence of immorality.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD VOGEL / AP PHOTO

ALEXA LOUISE MANALILI

As a student and a devoted believer in our Lord Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life, I cannot accept such actions, as they go against my moral values and conscience. As for the bible, Romans 13:8-10 taught us that we should love because loving is God's greatest gift to us, and we should love it as it is supposed to be. People who use the church as a tool to gain political advantages and for their own personal gain are not loving God. However, this is not just about Quiboloy but other spiritual leaders. Preaching the word of God and then preaching the money, they are not loving God and other forms of corruption inside the church. Let us not be blinded by evil and just for the sake of power.

Of the 108,687,040 household population, 61,433,000 (56.5%) aged 10 and above, or 58,648,862 persons (79.3%) reported Roman Catholicism as their religious affiliation. It was followed by Islam with 6,981,732 persons (9.4%) and Born Again Christians with 2,006,824 persons (2.7%). We are a country that is predominantly dominated by the belief of Christianity. This issue concerning Quiboloy is a problem for us Christians because it goes against Christian values and teachings.

Though the world is full of mysteries, God is my only reality. Every saint taught us that we should love because loving is God's greatest gift to us, and we should love it as it is supposed to be. People who use the church as a tool to gain political advantages and for their own personal gain are not loving God. However, this is not just about Quiboloy but other spiritual leaders. Preaching the word of God and then preaching the money, they are not loving God and other forms of corruption inside the church. Let us not be blinded by evil and just for the sake of power.

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> "Using morals to take advantage of people just to gain the benefit that you long for is the very essence of immorality."

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Though the world is full of mysteries, God is my only reality. Every saint



Editorial, Anyone?

EDITORIAL

It is a type of journalistic writing that expresses the opinion of the publication on a particular issue.

EDITORIAL

Unlike news reports that are objective and factual, editorials are subjective, persuasive, and opinion-based.

EDITORIAL

It aims to influence public opinion, promote critical thinking, and advocate for change.



Significant Roles of Editorials

Significant Roles

1. Shape **public discourse** by framing how issues are viewed.

Significant Roles

2. Act as **watchdog** of government and society.

Significant Roles

3. Promote **civic engagement** and social responsibility

Significant Roles

4. Strengthen the **credibility and identity** of the publication



Fundamental Qualities of a Good Editorial



Effective editorials are just basically like Pinoy Hugot Lines



“Very tight na nga ang labanan natin ngayong PressCon...

Tapos pati ba naman sa puso mo, may ka-compete pa ako?”

Fundamental Qualities

1. BREVITY

It should be short.

Fundamental Qualities

2. INTEREST

It should be relatable.

Fundamental Qualities

3. FORCE

It should be striking .



Major Types of Editorials

1. Interpretation

- Explains the meaning and significance of news or issues.
- Provides background, context, and deeper understanding.

Types of Editorial

2. Criticism-Argumentation

- Evaluates and points out flaws in policies, actions, or events.
- Uses facts and logic to defend a stand or position

Types of Editorial

3. Crusade-Persuasion

- Goes beyond criticism by actively **advocating for reform or change**.
- Persuades readers to support a cause, join a movement, or take action.

Types of Editorial

4. Commendation

- Praises and recognizes individuals, groups, or institutions for good deeds or achievements.
- Encourages positive action by highlighting role models.

Types of Editorial



The Newspeg-Reaction



An editorial still follows the basic structure of a good essay or composition:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. BODY
3. CONCLUSION

NEWSPEG

the recent news event, issue, or situation that triggers the need for the editorial.



REACTION

immediate stand or response of the writer or editorial board to that event





NEWSPEG REACTION



This serves as the hook of the editorial, referring to the writer's reaction or stand on a current event or issue that serves as the starting point and justification for writing the piece.

CAN YOU SPOT NEWSPEG AND THE REACTION?

NEWSPEG REACTION

President Marcos' successful state visits stand as a triumph for Philippine diplomacy, showcasing the nation's renewed credibility abroad and promising greater opportunities for progress at home.

NEWSPEG REACTION

President Marcos' so-called successful state visits are nothing but wasted trips, flaunting prestige abroad while leaving Filipinos at home still burdened by poverty and unfulfilled promises.

NEWSPEG REACTION

The revelation of ghost flood control projects executed by anomalous contractors is a shameless betrayal of public trust. While communities brace for floods, unscrupulous hands pocket funds meant to safeguard lives.

NEWSPEG REACTION

Years after world leaders pledged to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, progress remains painfully slow; and unless we act now, these commitments will fade into empty words.

NEWSPEG REACTION

Donnalyn Bartolome's achievement at the 2025 Septimius Awards is a well-deserved honor that reflects her creativity, dedication, and her role as a proud Filipino who used her global spotlight to call for accountability in the country's flood control efforts.



SUGGESTED STRUCTURES FOR BEGINNERS

Editorial of Interpretation

1. Newspeg Reaction
2. Background or Context
3. Explanation of Causes
4. Analysis of Implications or Comparison or Perspective
5. Interpretation or Insight
6. Conclusion

Issue: SOGIE BILL PASSAGE

I.Newspeg Reaction: The prolonged inaction on the SOGIE Bill continues to spark debate in Congress and society. It is troubling.

II. Background or Context: For over two decades, the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Bill has been filed and refiled in Congress.

III. Explanation of Causes: The repeated delays stem from persistent lobbying of conservative groups, political leaders' fear of backlash

IV. Analysis of Implications : The absence of a SOGIE law leaves countless Filipinos vulnerable to exclusion, humiliation, and unequal treatment.

SOGIE BILL PASSAGE

V. Interpretation or Insight

At its heart, the SOGIE Bill is not about granting "special rights," but about institutionalizing fairness.

VI. Conclusion

Passing the SOGIE Bill is not just a legislative milestone; it is a moral imperative.

Editorial of Criticism-Argumentation

1. Newspeg Reaction
2. Background or Context
3. Concession
4. First Argument
5. Strongest Argument
6. Conclusion

Editorial of Criticism-Argumentation

I. **Newspeg Reaction.** The recent Manila SK officials' trip to Thailand has sparked public outrage. This foreign junket reeks of extravagance and misplaced priorities.

II. **Background or Context.** Reports show the trip was funded through public money intended for youth development.

III. **Concession.** Benchmarking and international exposure can, in principle, be beneficial for learning best practices.

Editorial of Criticism-Argumentation

IV. First Argument. This trip was poorly timed and poorly justified, especially when many Filipino youth face urgent needs at home.

V. Strongest Argument. The essence of youth representation is service, not luxury.

VI. Conclusion. The SK must be reminded that leadership demands accountability and frugality. True youth empowerment is measured not by foreign travels but by real, tangible change at home

Editorial of Crusade-Persuasion

1. Newspeg Reaction
2. Background or Context
3. Consequence of Complacency
4. First Argument /What Should be done
5. Strongest Argument
6. Conclusion (Call to Action/Warning/Quotations)

Editorial of Commendation

1. Newspeg Reaction
2. Background or Context
3. First Argument (Why is the person/action/undertaking commendable?)
4. Strongest Argument
5. Challenge to people/authorities/leaders to
   - support people with same passion as the commended person/
   - replicate the commended action /
   - promote or support the commended undertaking
6. Conclusion (Restatement/Saying/ encouragement)



Basics of Column Writing

column or op-ed

a recurring piece or article in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, where a writer expresses his own opinion in a **FEW COLUMNS** allotted to him by the newspaper organization. Columns are written by columnists.

Purposes of Columns

INFORM the readers

The columnist deals with topics that papers may have forgotten to report. He presents tidbits or stories that the reporter has failed to notice, providing background to front-page stories.

Act as INTERPRETER

*T*he columnist condenses the main news into clear, logical, and effective sentences or paragraphs to emphasize the meat of the story so as to influence the public or to expose fraud wherever it exists

Serve as FISCALIZER

The columnist acts as an arbiter. After analyzing and interpreting the facts, he could scrutinize programs , policies, or practices to ensure that they align with public good.

Kasuotang yari sa niresiklong materyales inirampa sa 'Lakan, Lakambini ng Kalikasan 2014'

ni SHANELLE CORNEL

NAG-UMABOT ANG hirwesan at palahyakan sa Tabli Brgy. Plara nang ganapin sa naturang liwasan nitong Setyembre 23 ang Search for Lakan at Lakambini ng Kalikasan 2014 na may temang "Immanation: Arming Science Clubbers with Healthful Defenses for National Wellness."

Pinangunahan ang naasbing patimpalak ng Pambansang Mataas na Paaralan ng Tubli (PMPT) sa inisyatibo ng Youth for Environment in School Organization (YES-O).

Suot ang kanilang Eco-friendly creative attire, rumampa ang mga kalahok "upang ipakita sa mga mamumuod na marami pang maaaring gawin sa mga bagay na akala ng iba'y patapon na."

Ayon kay Daniel Punza, ang kasalukuyang pangalawang pangulo at tagapagsalita ng YES-O, maganda ang pagkakataon umano ang search upang bilayatin ang buong pamayanan na ugaliing magresiklo.

"Yari sa mga sako, tayong dahon, lumang diyaryo, plastic bottles, gulong na CD, tansan at plastic bags ang damit ng mga kalahok. Hindi mo talaga aakalaing basura na ang mga iyon," ani Punza.

Iginiit naman ni Gng. Marinel San Juan, gurong tagapayo ng YES-O na paglamalibhasin lamang ang kalangang pairalin ng bawat isa upang makatulong sa pagbabawas ng basura sa komunidad.

"Kapag nagsimula na kasi ang community members, tuloy-tuloy na 'yan. All we have to do is to be an example," anang guro.

Ang paree ng korona napuyong taon ay inawit nina Ely Joshua Salvidar ng Baitang 9-Diamond at Kayce Tabinas ng IV-Hope, na pawis ring ginawaran ng Best in Kalikasan Attire.

Ang sumusunod ang iba pang magsasarai na nagwagi sa kompetisyon:

Sunny Sumulat at Hanna Jean Sebuano - Mr. and Ms Land 1st Runner-up; Al Christopher Cardino at Rizalyn Balbuena -Mr. and Ms. Fire 2nd Runner-up; Marvin Salvidar at Rica San Juan-Mr. and Ms. Water 3rd Runner-up; Alex Malimping at Alliah Lumbao- Mr. and Ms. Air 4th Runner-up.



SI Lakambini ng Kalikasan 2014 Kayce Tabinas suot ang kanyang innovative gown na yari sa mga sirang payong at nalagas na dahon ng biya. *KTabinay*

May hangganan nga ba ang kalawakan?

ni VINCE AGUILAR

MERON BANG hangganan ang kalawakan? Kung meron mang sukat ng kalawakan na makikita sa umaasang babasahin o panoorin pang-aghan, inaasahang ito ay pagtataya lamang ng mga eksperto bagaman sinisikap nilang gumamit ng mga makabagong sistema o instrumento para matukoy ang katotohanan.

Kaya nga, hanggang ngayon, nananatiling hiwaga ang kalawakan. Isa rin ito sa mga dahilan kaya mahirap managot ng tao kung sila lang ba ang nabubuhay na nilalang o mayroon pa kaya sa walang hanggang nilalang na nabubuhay sa labas ng Daigdig o sa ibang sulok ng buong kalawakan.

Ayon sa isang pag-aaral ng grupo ni Mark Reid ng Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics sa Cambridge (US), ang Milky Way na isa sa mga galaxy at siyang kinaroroonan ng sting daigdig ay mas malaki sa dating pagtataya ng aghan.

Kasinlaki lang daw ng Andromeda ang Milky Way o mas malaki ng 15 porsiyento mula sa dating kayaniwalaan.

Ginamit nina Reid sa pagrekot sa Milky Way ang Very Long Baseline Array na isang sistema ng 10 radio telescope na nakalatag sa North America.

Sinasbi pa sa kanilang pananaliksik na umabot ang Milky Way sa sentro nito sa hilo na 914,000 kilometro bawat oras. Mas matasa ito kumpara sa naunang pagtataya na 792,000 kilometro bawat oras.

Tinaya rin na ang mas ng Milky Way ay mas bigat pa sa 50 porsiyento sa naunang inasahan. Habo pamantay ito sa Andromeda na itinaturing na pinakamalaking galaxy.

Ayon sa wikipedia, ang Milky Way ay may diameter na 100,000 light years; may kapal na 1,000 LY; at naglalaman ng mula 200 hanggang 400 bilyong bituin.

At iyan ay ang Milky Way pa lamang. Isa lang sa mga galaxy sa loong kalawakan.

Sa kabilang dako, isang asteroid na pinangalanang 2014 RC na sinabi umano ng isang bahay ang napasilat na dadaan malapit sa daigdig sa darating na unang linggo ng Setyembre pero, ayon sa National Aeronautics Space Administration, wala itong mararanag banta sa sting planeta. Tinayang 25,000 milya ang magiging layo lang ng asteroid kapag napadaan sa daigdig.

Sanggunian: NASA Intel.org

Isa sa mga pinsalang dala ng pagbabago ng klima

Tulay sa Brgy. Mabini gumuho



NAPURNADA ANG LAKAD ng ilang residente ng Brgy. Mabini matapos gumuho ang kanilang tulay dahil sa paglambot ng kinatitirikang lupa na bunod naman ng nagdarang na pag-ulan at pagbaha. *KVPerote*

ni MARY GRACE TUBIS

WALA MANG bagyong dinikitang tumama sa lalawigan, magdulot pa rin ng pagbaha ang malakas na pag-ulan sa Brgy. Mabini, Carsarosan, Catandusanes, dahilan upang magiba ang tulay sa nasabing barangay noong Setyembre 7, 2014.

Bunod nito, ilang mag-aaral ang di-nakapasok sa paaralan at naantala rin ang paghahanap-buhay ng ilang tricycle drivers.

Ayon kay Gng. Marinel San Juan, guro sa Agham sa Mataas na Paaralan ng Tubli (PMPT) at kasalukuyang tagapayo ng Youth for Environment in School Organization (YES-O) gumkong pangyayari.

"Dati-rati, sa mga malalakas na bagyo lamang tayo natatakot pero ngayon, mas kinatatakutan na ang malalakas at di-inaasahang pag-ulang dala ng [Hanging] Habagat o di kaya'y [Hanging] Amihan. Isa itong kongkretong manipestasyon ng climate change na bunod naman ng global warming," paliwanag niya.

Sinabi ng guro na madalas ay inaakalang parehas lamang ang mga ito subalit hindi.

Tumutukoy umano sa pag-angat ng temperatura ng mundo ang Global Warming.

"Dahil sa tinit na nalikha ng mga produkto ng teknolohiya na tinatawag na greenhouse gases, nadipon ang mga ito na atmosphere ng mundo at nakapagdudulot ng higit na init," anya.

"Samantalang ang Climate Change naman ay ang pagbabago ng klima o panahon ng isang rehiyon ng mundo dahil pa rin sa greenhouse gases."

Ito umano ang dahilan kung bakit hindi na regular ang mga buwan ng tag-araw at tag-ulan sa sting bansa.

"Ang malalakas na buhos ng ulan kahit wala namang seryosong sama ng panahon ay sinasabi pa lamang. Tuloy-tuloy ang Habagat at hanggat ni Yolanda, marami pang darating kung hindi tayo magbabago," babala ng guro.

Kasinungalingan



KRISALIS

Edmar Abraham

NAPAKASARAP PAKINGGAN ang katotohanang maaaring magligtas ng maraming tao. Lalo na kung buong buhay mo itong pinagkakatiwalaan. Katotohanang siya mismong magbibigay sa mga taong nawawalan ng pag-asa.

Ngunit napakasaklap malaman na ang katotohanang iyon ay magiging kasinungalingan. Kasinungalingang maaaring dahilan ng pagkasira at pagkawalang-tiwala sa pinagkakatiwalaan.

Sabi ng iba, mabuti pa raw magsabi ng kasinungalingan upang mapasaya ang tao, kaysa sa katotohanang dulot nama'y kalungkutan at pagkagalit.

Pero mali iyon, dahil mabuti nang sabihin ang katotohanan, na ang epekto'y ang mapasaya at di pagkawala ng pag-asa ng isang tao sa kanyang sarili, kaysa sa kasinungalingan, na ang epekto'y pagkagalit at pagkawala ng tiwala sa pinagkakatiwalaan.

Mabuti nang magtiwala sa kikilalanin pa lamang kaysa sa matagal nang kakilala.

Taong 2008 unang beses na inatake ng Marburg virus na mas kilala ngayong Ebola virus ang Pilipinas at nagdulot ito ng pagkamatay ng maraming tao, bata man o matanda.

At ngayong 2014 ay muling naghahanda ang Pilipinas sa maaaring pagpasok ng virus sa bansa.

Dahil dito tatlong malalaking ospital sa Pilipinas ang binigyan ng mga kagamitan ng WHO(World Health Cegantization) para sa maaaring pagkakaroon ng biktima ng Ebola Virus. At gumawa rin ng mga isolation room sa naturang mga ospital.

Naalala ko ng mapanood at marinig ko sa balita sa telebisyon ang sagot ng isang kalihim ng isa sa tatlong ospital sa tanong na, "handa na po ba kayo kung sakaling may makapasok na ang ebola virus sa Pilipinas? ", tanong ng media. Sagot naman ng kalihim ,"handa na po ang lahat".

Nang marinig ko ang kanyang itinugon, nabigyan ako ng pag-asa na ang nasabing mga institusyon ay handing tumulong o mag-buwis ng buhay alang-alang sa kanilang bayan. Nagtiwala ako at hindi na ako umisip ng mga negatibong reaksiyon para sa sagot na ito.

Ngunit pagkaraan ng tatlong araw, lumabas sa mga pahayagan ang pag-iimbestiga ng mga media at narinig ko ang nadiskubre nila: na ang mga nars sa tatlong ospital ay hindi pa marunong gumamit ng mga kagamitan na ibinigay ng WHO at giit ng mga nurse ay isa lamang ang doktor nila para sa "infectious disease".

Nanlumo ako nang marinig ko ito, nagalit at nawalan ng pag-asa at tiwala. Pag-asa sanang makakatulong sa karamihan.

Napakasinungaling! Paano kung pumasok na ang Ebola virus sa Pilipinas at kung may mabiktima na tio? Ano ang gagawin nila?

Naging makasarili ang mga namumuno, itinugon nila ang isang kasagutang inaasahang totoo ng nakararami.

Dahil dito, dapat tayong maging mapagmatyag at listo dahil ang sistemang kinabibilangan natin ay mukhang nakubkob na talaga ng mga sinungaling.

Tama nga ang kasabihang " Mabuti nang magtiwala sa kikilalanin pa kaysa sa matagal nang kilala". Ang ganitong kasinungalingan ay pilit na itinatama na tao.

Ang kasinungalingan ito ay magdudulot ng kawalan ng tiwala sa mga taong itinago ang kaalaman at pagmamahal sa dilim at pilit na pinaiiral ang kasamaang siyang nanunukso na gumawa ng mali sa kapwa tao.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Kasinungalingan



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PINAKAMAHUSAY SA PAHINANG AGTEK (NSPC 2015)



2018 Provincial Athletic Meet Special Coverage

HAGUBUHOB

EDITORIAL

YET TO COME

For the past years, only four teams, Zone 1, 2, 3, and 4, were competing for the Palaro. Zone 1 was for Virac and San Andres; Zone 2 for Bato, San Miguel, Baras, and Gigmoto; Zone 3 for Viga, Panganiban, and Bagamanoc; and Zone 4 for Caramoran, and Pandan. This year, teams are no more the four zones but the eleven municipalities.

The new format for this year's Palarong Panlalawigan has added excitement to the "much-awaited" event and even before this started, it already gained positive response from the sports enthusiasts in our division.

This bold move made by the sports committee of the Division of Catanduanes headed by Dr. Mary Jean S. Romero, the Division Schools Sports Coordinator, opened the door to all municipalities to train their own players, form their own teams, create their own game plan, and possibly find players who may be diamonds in the rough.

Since the focus of the team is by municipality, more players are given the chance to play and showcase their craft in sports. Moreover, the new system of the Palaro brought sense of identity and ownership of the team is really in focus. This ultimately gives a big opportunity for the competition committees to scout players, especially in the team games, who will be playing for the Palarong Bicol 2019. The more players, the more chances of discovering homegrown talents. Going hand in hand with the new format are the different sporting events and trainings given to the coaches and trainers. These were both provincial and regional exposures. The goal is to capacitate the coaches on the X's and O's of the specific games they are in. This is to strengthen the proper approach in coaching and training the student-players in preparation for the Palarong Bicol.

Some of the notable moves made by the Division was the staging of the Grassroots Program - Coaching and Officiating, and Sports Science sponsored by the Philippine Sports Institute and the Philippine Sports Commission, which was participated by more than 100 teacher-trainers. The "Long Jump Queen" of the Philippines, Ms. Elma Muros-Posadas, graced the event and also trained the coaches in the track and field. The heptathlon champion and the former member of the Philippine Track and Field National Team is also part of the Philippine Sports Commission.

With all these changes made in the approach and in preparation, the question now is, could this be our saving grace after ranking last in the 2018 Palarong Bicol in Naga City?

While it's too early to say and predict, we could only hope for the best and it is yet to come.

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Schools Division Superintendent

Of Brains and Brawls

STREETSCAPE

DAVE S. TOLENTINO



I consider it a brutal punch in the jaw to discover that boxing gloves will be left unused.

"Utak. Paganahon ang utak!"

I could clearly recall these words quipped by the staunch sports advocate Rolando Romero, my former biology teacher who happened to be the coach of Catanduanes boxing team during the Palarong Bicol 2015. Yelling from the ringside, he was trying to tell silver-medalist John Michael Tabuzo to anticipate the next moves of his opponent by closely observing the latter's footwork and punching styles.

Covering the journey of amateur boxers from our island in their quest to be the best in Bicolandia was my first assignment as a staff writer of this publication. The stint, as well as Sir Romero, introduced me to the idea that boxing is more of a mind game and not just limited to sheer might and muscles.

Thrilled to witness action-packed bouts starring young local boxers, (like a kid who waits for his anime robot hero to appear in TV screen and smash colossal tentacular-alien villains), I consider it a brutal punch in the jaw to discover that boxing gloves will be left unused for this year's Palarong Panlalawigan.

San Miguel team, the only contender in boxing events, came off an excruciating month of training as it geared up for a gory battle for the gold, only to find out that the ultimate sports fest in the province will just be a stroll in the park for them. With no foes waiting on the line, the team easily pocketed nine gold medals which had helped the town to a 4th place over-all finish.

The absence of competitors from other municipalities insinuates that no matter how we idolize Manny Pacquiao (and patronize his songs), we still see boxing as a blood sport which requires extreme caution for it might put the lives of our athletes in serious peril.

Though some may view it as a picture of incompetence, it is understandable if our teacher-coaches show some sort of reluctance in grooming potential boxers under their wings. They are well aware of the hefty price to pay if something goes wrong or even deadly. In 2014, DepED scrapped boxing from the elementary division in Palarong Pambansa following the death of 16-year-old Jonas Garcia. The high-schooler died of internal hemorrhage after competing in Central Luzon's

OF BRAINS | PAGE 11

SPORTS COLUMN

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EDITORIAL



ZONING OUT

Since the pandemic, hordes of students enrolled at Casimiro Ynares Memorial National High School (CAYSMNHS), leading to congested classrooms negatively affecting morale among teachers and students alike—yet it remains inadequately addressed by the former administration.

Assuming that they passed every other qualification, CAYSMNHS originally only welcomed regular students hailing from Dolores, Taytay, alongside other barangays that are mandated their own school like Benjamin Esguerra MNHS or Simona NHS.

Several parents even go as far as falsifying their children's submitted requirements just to enroll in CAYSMNHS, mysteriously disappearing from their given addresses until the faculty finds out that the student actually lives in other municipalities (e.g. Binangonan, Teresa, Antipolo city) instead of a distant random aunt from Dolores.

Although the construction of Ynares 6 serves as the leeway to increase the pressing capacity problem, it does little to fit all incoming 4,351 enrollees this 2022-2023—the 8% increase a far cry in comparison to 2020-2021's 4,006 students.

While it's a solution all the same, it would take years to wholly materialize future adjacent expansion projects, seeing how it took 9 years (2013-2022) to complete Ynares 6, dating as far back to former principal Magno Abuerne's term; yet the new classrooms still exceed the maximum ratio of 60 students for 1 teacher, mandated by DepEd Order 32, s 2003—already not enough for tackling students as individuals, let alone 75 or so.

Back in the Online Distance Learning setting, taking in newcomers from different municipalities was not a problem, considering portable access to an audience of 100 and more inside Google Meets that didn't require physical space; in contrast, the consequent Face to Face modality forced these previous outsiders to flock inside cramped conditions with those who fairly enrolled from Dolores, Taytay.

It should be stressed that CAYSMNHS is the only regressive school in Rizal to still circulate the setup of 3 days F2F, 2 days on distance learning, whereas other schools are integrating the standard 5 on-site days; even with academia proving that social interactivity and first-hand feedback were perceived as significant by students in the effectiveness of their studies, knowing which areas they personally have to work on.

The lack of breathing room bled over to CAYSMNHS teachers as well, as 7 out of 10 teachers are evicted to hallways or delegated to different offices on short notice with no regard for their well-being, generating issues regarding confidentiality in instances where they need to quantify grades or when they need at least a moment of peace and quiet.

Not to mention that tables and chairs blockading straight halls are fatal hazards, especially in times of disasters (e. g. fires, earthquakes, etc.) where orderly evacuation is necessary in place of their clamoring rush to make hasty exits; makeshift facilities are a tripping danger along with the myriad of students most likely shoving each other.

That being said, Order 32 series of 2003 states that "as a rule, no public schools shall refuse admissions, or shall allow delisting of Filipino pupils/students..." requiring CAYSMNHS to make room for learners regardless of area, as the budget might also be inadequate for improvement since students should not be left behind, CAYSMNHS being a decent school that incentivizes outsiders to transfer.

But the same D.O., counters that given resource constraints, schools are to "prioritize admission" to local residents in nearer proximity (i.e Dolores, Taytay); and newly appointed principal, Sir Garovillas acknowledges this, planning a vision to firmly follow through the zoning policy and accommodations for those already integrated in the population, despite potential budget hits.

Overall, the initiative to have stricter background assessments on student profiles are necessary for long-term progress, instead of the previous administration's leniency and band-aid protocols which heavily pressurized the academic environment—compressing everyone to zone out in such a tense predicament; overpopulation also diluting the distribution of quality education to every learner.

NEGLECTED PILLAR



Social health itself is overlooked and forgotten, given the already bleak state of the economy.

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HUNGER FOR ACTION

Dei Doldolea

Price rates of daily expenses are alarmingly shooting through the roof, leaving Filipinos vulnerable to unstable lifestyles that would affect them and their psychosocial health in the long run.

Indicating comfort is the 'kaginhawaan' lifestyle of Filipinos, which is currently far from reach as the Philippine government continues to fail in effectively dealing with the inflation as seen from the inflation hike of 8.7% from 8.1% in just one month this January.

Money is the key driver of a person's wellbeing since it's involved in our daily lives; as Dr. Glenn Wilson, evolutionary psychologist, quoted: "If money doesn't necessarily make us happy, it does [however] powerfully affect our emotions".

An average lifestyle against continuous rising prices would mean inability to buy basic needs in this country; not enough for them to be socially healthy due to having their invaluable needs compromised—especially when social health itself is overlooked and forgotten, given the already bleak state of the economy.

Almost all the Filipinos are threatened with poverty with 58.4% coming from low-income households and average ones 40.2% while merely 1.4% are under high-income households.

The saying 'the poor only get poorer and the rich get richer' proves to be true with inflation worsening the severe inequality impoverished Filipinos continue to experience which evidently affects their lifestyle while wealthier households hardly feel any distress from the inflation.

The Philippine government had put another band-aid to poor Filipinos with their PHP 1000 ayuda supposedly 'helping them cope with the rising prices' when truly it barely covers the PHP 8379 food expenses per month of a family of 5 if based on the official per capita food threshold.

The underlying problem of Filipino workers' minimum wage of merely PHP 541 is already enough to prove that the government is lacking what the Filipinos really need—yet they pathetically continue to put up a facade of what's supposed to be a 'support'?

Inflation, however, is inevitable as multiple countries simultaneously experience it by law monetary policy being the inescapable root cause. Point being, the Philippine government would be no different as the other countries are failing to meet the needs of their population too.

This doesn't excuse the fact that there are no other countermeasures to minimize the effects of inflation and therefore aid the people's pleas—when in actuality, there are tons, including reducing government spending; instead of what the country does otherwise.

As a result of the inadequate support from the government, the satisfactory living conditions are slowly, yet concerningly declining for the worse; so, what more would it take to focus on one's social health—a neglected pillar of a person's wellbeing?

LIQUIDATED BUDGET

After backlash received by the Department of Education (DepEd) for liquidating Special Education (SPED) funds to zero, they settled with 581-M for 2023's budget; yet this seemingly hefty sum isn't enough to properly accommodate SPED.

DepEd requested a PHP 532-M budget for 2023, but was denied by the National Expenditure Program (NEP) due to a lack of documentation, leading to zero funding for SPED programs—this was then repealed after protests and appeals.

Casimiro Ynares Memorial National High School offers SPED programs for Learners with Special Educational Needs (LSENs) promising equal opportunities to struggling students—and deliver promises it did—notably financing and shouldering the bills necessary to maximize the aid of LSENs studies.

CAYS' SPED provides free assessment for the student body, despite initial evaluation from a developmental pedia ranging from PHP 4000 to PHP 8000; with waiting list hours even longer than the price, only for a 30 minute long initial assessment.

Not to mention hearing aids, prescription glasses for the visually impaired, Adderall and Ritalin, and everything else



The fact that SPED budget was scrapped shows where the government's priorities lie.

• • •

CUT THE ROPE

Rheanne Mogol

in between; proving that cold hard cash would make this help feasible.

"Eto, si Ma'am Jeasa. Ina-assist niya yung blind student natin, pero mamaya may klase din siya. So kung tinatanong mo kung ano pa gusto namin ma-improve, yung workforce sana namin ay madagdagan." said Ma'am Lisa Pantilanan, SPED teacher, about their department being understaffed with only 3 official teachers at hand.

Tutoring and classes for communication starts at PHP 3000 pesos, and it gets more expensive from there, taking significant training to learn how to tackle individual LSEN challenges that the usual curriculum would find hard to address with a catch-all, which further stresses why SPED needs funding.

While assets are "back", and is no longer a pending issue, the fact that the tentative P532-M budget was scrapped shows where priorities lie, even with the proposed solutions proving to be ineffective with the increasing demand of students that trickle to CAYS because of its SPED program.

If the money were to run out, and LSENs enrollees keep coming, the program would be obsolete and CAYS would be one of the schools affected.

Yet also consider the obligation rate of SPED according to DBM, wherein only 1.13% of projects (i.e. P6.35m out of P560m) are completed with their allotted money—begging the question of whether requested sums are even necessary, and in extension, whether it'd be actually put to fair use.

However, that's all the more reason to see the completion of these projects and accommodations, starting with government support and a larger committee, improving the 1.13%—if there's anything that interviews prove, it's that progress is possible in the hands of those who do want it.

CAYS' SPED is currently sustainable enough to remain at a status quo, but resources are limited since the lack of funds is already manifesting this early in 2023, as Ma'am Pantilanan confirmed the existence of deficiencies; and the mere idea that the rights of LSENs are in governmental scrutiny (or lack thereof) reflect how little is actually done to care for their education.

THE ECHOES
Ink is our blood, truth is what we hold

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Best in Opion Page (NSPC 2023)

LIQUIDATED BUDGET

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Ang Harayaa OPISYAL NA PAHAYAGAN SA FILIPINO NG MATALAS NA PALAKAD AMO PARA · AMALAY NG BINUBUCOD NG LIBRASYN DIBISYON NG LUNGSOD NG MINALUPI · RehiyonV – Bicol TOMO XIII: BILANG 1 AGOSTO 2022 – MARSO 2023

> Mas mapapanatili rin ang propesyonal na relasyon sa mga miyembro ng paaralan kung guguhitan ng linya ang relasyon sa pagitan ng mga guro at mag-aaral.

ESTATISTIKA

Sa isang pag-aaral na isinagawa ng UNICEF

17%

ng mga bata edad 13 hanggang 18 taon gulang ay nakaranas ng seksuwal na karahasan at pang-iigib

5.3%

ng mga naitalang kaso ay naganap sa mga paaralan



Pagguhit ng Linya



SAMBIT PUNTO
MARYJO NOYNAY

Balotang patuloy na Binubura

Mas mabuti pang bigyang-diin ang linya kaysa sa tuluyan itong mabura.

Nito lamang Nobyembre 2022, nagpatupad ang Department of Education ng bagong panuntunan na pagbabawal sa mga guro na magbigay ng mga takdang aralin sa kanilang mga gawain bilang mga responsableng mangagawa sa pamahalaan. Ayon sa DepEd Order 49 s. 2022 na pinagtibay ni Vice President at Education Secretary Sara Duterte, inaasahan ang lahat ng opisyal at empleyado ng kagawaran na umiwas sa anumang uri ng relasyon, interaksyon, at komunikasyon sa mga mag-aaral sa labas ng paaralan lalo na kung wala itong kinalaman sa kanilang pag-aaralan. Ang polisiyang ito ay alinsunod sa professionalism standard na nais panatilihin ng kagawaran kung saan mananatili ang "student-teacher" na relasyon sa pagitan ng guro at kanyang mga mag-aaral.

Batay sa Republic Act No. 6713, ang mga tungkod ng gobyerno na labag sa professionalism standard na ipinapairal ng iba't ibang kagawaran sa bansa ay mamumultahan ng hanggang anim na buwang halaga ng kanilang suweldo, suspensyon na hindi hihigit sa isang taon, o kaya naman ay permanenteng pagkatanggal sa kanilang trabaho. Ayon kay DepEd Spokesperson Atty. Michael Poa, ang pagpapatupad ng nasabing ordinansa ay simpleng pagpapaalala lamang sa mga guro ng kanilang responsibilidad bilang mga huwarang ehemplo sa kabataan. Ito ay para lamang maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng personal na ugnayan sa pagitan ng mga estudyante at kagunan upang mapanatili ang dalisay at walang kinikilingang pagtuturo sa mga mag-aaral.

Marami ang mga guro na umalma sa nasabing panukala ng DepEd. Matapos i-anunsyo ang pagpapatupad ng ordinansa, agad na binatikos ng Alliance of Concerned Teachers Philippines ang polisiya kung saan tinawag nila itong "ironic" at "kwestiyonable" lalo na't naunang nanawagan ng DepEd ang mga guro na gumamit ng social media platforms upang mas mapagiting ang kanilang pagtuturo at pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga estudyante sa gitna ng distance learning. Nag-alala rin ang mga guro na ito nalilimitahan ng panukala ang kanilang malayang pamamahayag lalo na't kalakip sa ordinansa ang paalala na dapat iwasan ng mga guro na i-bypass ang kanilang mga opinyon at reklamo tungkol sa kasalukuyang sistema ng edukasyon sa social media.

Ang kanilang pag-angan-angan ay agaran namang tinugunan ni Poa kung saan kanyang binigyang diin na ang layunin lamang ng ordinansa ay magsilbing batayan ng mga guro sa kung ano ang inaasahan sa kanila bilang mga propesyonal na miyembro ng lipunan. Hilnag ni Poa sa isang press conference na maaari pa rin panatilihin ang komunikasyon sa pagitan ng guro at mag-aaral kung ang konteksto ng kanilang pag-iinsap ay nakapaloob pa rin sa classroom setting. Ayon sa kanya, ang batas ay isa lamang sa mga hakbang na nais isulong ng DepEd upang maprotektahan ang mga Pilipino sa tumataas na kaso ng sexual abuse sa bansa. Sa isang pag-aaral na isinagawa ng UNICEF, halos 17% ng mga bata edad 13 hanggang 18 taong gulang ay nakaranas ng seksuwal na karahasan at panliligalig, kung saan halos 5.3% ng mga naitalang kaso ay naganap sa mga paaralan.

Nais rin bawasin ng kagawaran ang nakasanayang sistemang padrino na umiiral sa mga paaralan na isyung ugat ng hindi tapat na ebalwasyon at pagbibigay ng marka sa mga bata. Ang sistemang ito ay gagapairal sa pamamagitan ng pagawa ng mga paksyr at pagagakita ng espesyal na pakakitungo sa ibang tao dahil lamang sila ay malapit sa atin, isang sitwasyon na talagang malimit maobserbahan sa mga paaralan.

Ang pagpapatupad ng nasabing ordinansa ay isang malaking hakbang sa pagsupil ng ating maugong sistema ng edukasyon. Sa pamamagitan nito, mas magkakaroon ang mga mag-aaral ng pagkakataon na ipamalas ang kanilang taglay na kaalaman nang hindi kailangang isaalang-alang kung personal na silang pinapaburan ng kanilang mga guro. Mas mapapanatili rin ang propesyonal na relasyon sa mga miyembro ng paaralan kung guguhitan ng linya ang relasyon sa pagitan ng mga guro at mag-aaral.

Sayunpaman, ang panukalang ito ay kinakailangan pagtibayin at paigtingin. Masaring isalao ang propesyonalismo nang hindi isina-saktipisyo ang karapatan sa malayang pananalita. Kung nais kontrolin ng DepEd ang mga reklamo ng mga guro sa social media, dapat ay hapda sila na agarang tumugon sa mga hinaing na direktang ipinapaabot sa kagawaran. Ang ating kasalukuyang sistema ng mabagal umaksyon ay mas lalo lamang magiging makupad lalo na kung ang boses ng kaguruan ay unti-unti nang ipinapatahimik.



PAKIWARI
STEPHANIE MAE NACIONAL

Bilanggo sa Sariling Kasarian

Wala nang mas hihigit pa sa estudyanteng may dignidad at pagmamalaki sa kanilang mga uniporme nang hindi nabibihag ng sariling kasarian.

Mga paaralan ang nagsisilbing pangalawang tahanan ng bawat batang mag-aaral. Pagkatapos ng ilang taon ng kaginhawaan at seguridad sa mga bisig ng kanilang mga pamilya, isang bagong kapaligiran sa paaralan ang naghihintay sa kanila. Sa hindi pamilyar na lugar, nagiging limitado ang kanilang kalayaan.

Kilala ang Pilipinas sa pagkakaroon ng maraming uri ng pamumuhay na nagbibigay sa mga mamamayan nito ng kulay at kasiglahan. Pagdating sa kasarian, ito'y higit pa sa asul at kulay rosas o palda't pantalon. Ngunit maraming panahon na ang lumipas, ang mga palda sa babae at pantalon sa lalaki ay ginagamit pa ring pagkakakilanlan ng nakararami lalo na sa paaralan.

Ito ay nagtatakda ng balakid sa kalayaang mamahayag ng mga estudyante at kagustuhan nilang ipamalas kung ano at sino sila. Ang mga miyembro naman ng komunidad ng LGBTQIA+ ay nararapat na mabigyang pagkakataon na makapili ng anumang isusuot nila basta't iginagalang nila at hindi makahahadlang sa kanilang paraan ng pag-aaral.

Ang benepisyo ng pagsusuot ng uniporme ay matagal nang naitatag kung saan pinag-iisa ang mga mag-aaral tungo sa iisang layunin sa edukasyon. Nakatutulong din ito sa pagbabawas ng pagkakaiba sa panlipunang uri ng mga estudyante at naiiwasan ang mala-'fashion show' sa loob ng paaralan.

Ang kawalan ng kalayaan sa pamamahayag ng kanilang sarili ay may malaking epekto sa komunidad ng LGBTQIA+. Ayon sa LGBTQIA+ Charity Stonewall's 2017 School Report ay natuklasan nilang 64% ng mga transgender na estudyante ay nakararanas ng pangungutya at isa sa sampu ang nakatanggap ng mga banta sa kanilang buhay. Dagdag pa riyan, 20% ng mga kabataang transgender ay hindi magawang suotin ang mga damit sa paaralan nang naaayon sa pinili nilang kasarian.

Ang ating pagkakakilanlan ay may mahalagang papel sa pagbuo ng isipan ng mga kabataan. Ang kasarian ng bawat mag-aaral ay higit pa sa palda at pantalon na kanilang suot. Anuman ang kanilang kasarian, ito na ang oras para bigyan ng kalayaang pumili sa pagitan ng pantalon at palda ang bawat mag-aaral. Karapatan nilang maipahayag ang kanilang sarili at lumaya sa matagal nang pagkakabilanggo sa sarili nilang kasarian.

Dibisyon ng Lungsod ng Lagaylay | Rehiyon V-West
PATAASANG MAMAMAHAYAG NG MGA KABATAANG LUNGSOD
Ang Haraya
PATNUGUTAN
TOMO III | BILANG I | 2022-2023
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TIPS IN WRITING A COLUMN

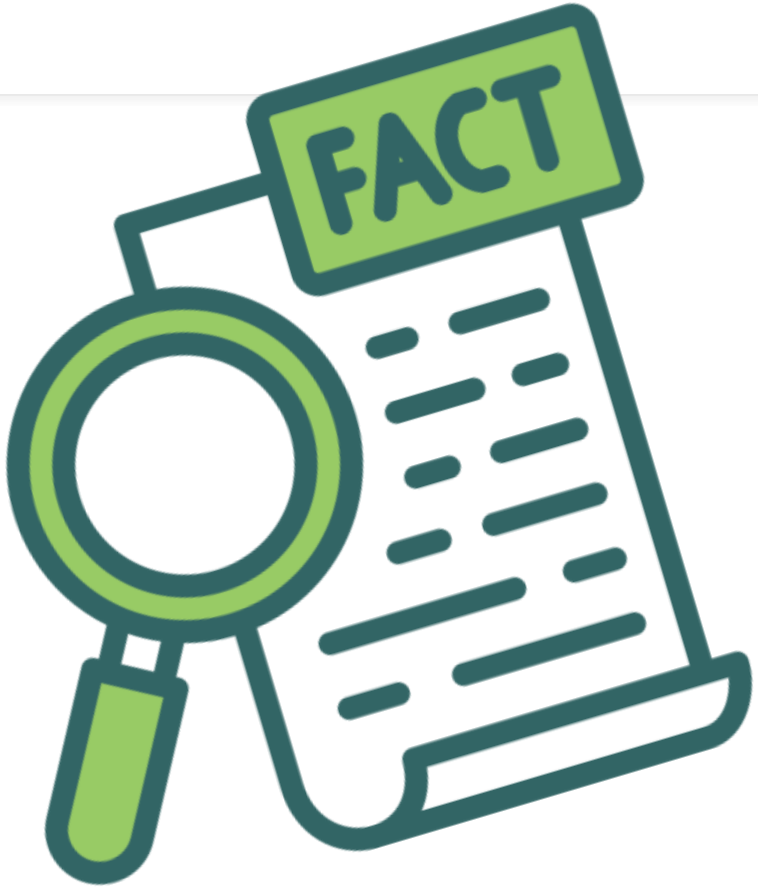
1. Localize and personalize.



2. Present opposing viewpoints.



3. State facts.



4. Keep it clear and simple.



5. Write with conviction.



EDITORIAL vs. COLUMN

AT A GLANCE

ASPECT	EDITORIAL	COLUMN
WHOSE OPINION?	The publication / editorial board	Individual columnist
VOICE	Institutional / collective	Personal
USES "I"?	Usually no	**Yes**, when appropriate
BYLINE	Usually **unsigned**	Has the columnist's name
TONE	Formal, measured, institutional	Personal, conversational, distinctive
PURPOSE	Present and defend the publication's position	Express and develop the columnist's perspective

THE HARD SIDE



EDITORIAL vs. COLUMN

AT A GLANCE

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THE HARD SIDE

