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THE BEDAN ROAR

OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Art by Dorothy Duran

THE BEDAN ROAR

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CARTOONISTS

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WELCOME TO OUR VLOG!

Subscribe to the new media of society

5987 Views | Aug 9, 2022 | By Ylec Tabara

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Growing up in the digital age, it is no surprise that people have become more reliant on the world of social media. Thanks to this platform, information nowadays is easily accessible by citizens. The question as to whether each presented account is fabricated or not, somehow poses a newfound problem in the online world.

Vloggers versus Journalists

By definition, journalists possess the crucial role of collecting details concerning current events and organizing them to be included in the daily newspaper, posted in the social media pages of their respective industries, and broadcasted through television and radio. They follow a position hierarchy that include, but are not limited to, writers, editors, and publishers to make sure the submitted outputs follow an established system of their respective news bureau. Generally, after producing a write-up, the article must go through extensive double-checking from a line of editors for thorough editing and proofreading. Journalists have little freedom in what they wish to express their words would represent the image of their news companies.

In contrast, bloggers and vloggers work independently and are not affiliated with any official organization that produces news. Their write-ups do not follow an established system and may be published via online means. This means that upon creating content about a certain event, they have all the freedom to express their opinions and reactions without the risk of being held accountable due to their nonexistent credentials in the field. Moreover, vlogging does not require a degree in any college program related to media. Anyone who has enough materials and money is capable of being a vlogger, compared to the prerequisites of being a full-fledged journalist. Each content has a higher tendency of being opinionated, and oftentimes, biased towards a certain party.

Accreditation of Vloggers in the Palace

According to the recent proposal of Trixie Cruz-Angeles, the head of the Presidential Communications Operations Office, vloggers will be accredited in Malacañang Palace to cover its press briefings. Although its original intention is

to appear open-minded towards other forms of media outlets, this matter leaves many journalists aghast. Who wouldn't? After spending years of rigorous training in writing and disseminating information, considering nonprofessionals is truly a huge blow to morale in the industry. Then again, we should have expected this reaction towards an audience-centered media, in which Filipinos are inclined to support a platform that tells them what they want to hear. This is another case of deciding to listen to the pretty lies versus the ugly truth in the context of media.

Journalism, however, pays no regard to the feelings of everyone, because what you see is what you get. With the information at hand, journalists find a way to deliver it with utmost objectivity, accuracy, and brevity, no matter how uncomfortable people may be upon reading it, for the foundation of journalism is the pursuit of a practical and functional form of truth.

Following the accreditation of these vloggers into one of the most important venues will only lead to the birth of a worse political circus, where narratives are bound to be twisted and conferences barely focus on important matters. Furthermore, their criterion for deciding which vlogger is qualified to cover such events is unknown to many. The only factors one could think of is the number of followers, and a barely reliable qualitative assessment of their objectivity. Vloggers can barely practice fairness, and sources of their information is mostly unknown. Comparing to schooled reporters who earned their degrees, why provide the same level of opportunity to content creators whose sole objectives are profit and propagation of their absurd ideologies? Truth be told, to even put them in the same category for comparison should be unheard of.

Perception towards Filipino Journalism

With each winning presidency, and each election period, it is observed that the citizens' perception towards journalism continues to decline out of mistrust. The evidence is around us, the people, where unidentified and

unrecognized media outlets are more relied upon than established organizations who served for more than a decade in reporting current events of the country. The level of mistrust has reduced so much, that the government itself considered replacing journalists with vloggers, possibly to keep their image and reputation at bay knowing that no mistake nor incompetence gets past reporters. Due to vloggers focusing their content on their audience, these people, in return, subscribe for more of their content just because they hear what they want to hear. It is safe to say that only a few possess enough rationality to distinguish what content is reliable or not, regardless of their own opinion.

Additionally, journalism seems to gradually demote into a mere laughingstock of society, with netizens disregarding any disseminated information and attempting to debunk details with their poorly delivered evidence and speculations. Every news is considered biased, and each journalist is condemned for simply telling the truth, even by government officials who should consider journalism as their bridge that reaches the people they pledge to serve and vice versa.

It seems that Filipinos have lost respect to the face of truth and service, that its essence has been reduced to mere content creation. Despite the efforts of journalists to be the voice of those unheard and the face of those unseen, they are regarded so little in this country until they would eventually succumb to darkness and live in a world full of manipulation and tyranny.

Perhaps there is a ray of hope that could luminate in that darkness, and those are the people, especially the youth, who never forget the true goal of journalism:

To defend the freedom of the press and to defend the people's power.



Leave A Comment!

Public ▼



UPDATE

JESSICA-KAMPI BA?

BY CIARA JANE ABUGAN

ON THE ALLEGED BIAS

This election year has been arguably one of the most talked about electoral periods in the history of the Philippines. People looked forward to the candidates for the next administration, along with what they can bring into the table for the country. There are multiple mediums to which the people can know more about the candidates, one of which are the different media appearances held by different organizations, more prominently organized by the Commission on Elections or a major broadcasting system such as GMA, with their viral 2022 Presidential Interview facilitated by Jessica Soho last January 22, 2022.

The interview was met with multiple commendations from people all across the country, but was also met with call outs and criticisms of which majority are circulating the presidential candidate, now president elect, Ferdinand "BongBong" Marcos Jr. and his denial of attendance for the interview in question as well as his statement of it being biased in nature — which is true, though not in the sense the President Marcos is claiming.

President Marcos Jr. issued statements on his lack of attendance, claiming that the interview would have been biased against him if he attended, as was the case in his run for Vice Presidency in 2016. He cited the distaste for the probable negativity towards himself and UniTeam as a whole, preferring to be able to speak in a medium that allows for proper discourse without bias. In an interview by Neil Arwin Mercado of the Philippine Inquirer with Atty Vic Rodriguez, Marcos's spokesperson he said the Marcos camp will "continue our preferred mode of direct communication with the people



and engage them in a more personal face-to-face interaction that discusses real issues that affect them today, tomorrow, and in the days to come as this election is all about our collective future."

GMA has since then responded to each of President BongBong's statements of bias, but this should not be the only alleged "bias" discussed regarding the 2022 Soho Interview.

Advertised as a stage for the truth with all the presidential candidates in attendance, the Soho interview already falls short in at least one of those two aspects. President BongBong's lack of attendance aside, the interview lacked five (5) from the 10 total candidates, with only four (4) in attendance, namely: Former Vice President Leni Robredo, Senator Ping Lacson, Senator Manny Pacquiao, and Mayor Isko Moreno which are considered to be the prominent personalities in the presidential race.

Said prominent personalities are considered by the majority as the main contenders in the presidential race and already have enough means and platforms to be able to lay out their platforms with enough reach to the masses in contrary to the other half of the presidential candidates.

Soho had a mission in her pursuit of the truth and goal of uncovering the agendas of the presidential candidate with the five they had extended an invitation to; and while commendation should be given to where it is due with the host's tenacity and hard-hitting questions, the same opportunity and stage should have been made available to the other half of the official list of candidates.



APELYIDO SA DEMOKRASYA

NI JAKE EVANGELISTA

These rewrites – how elections are won in this country, hindi na kailangan maglatag ng plataporma sa mga debate, hindi na kailangan mag-grant ng mga interview. Kailangan mo lang siguro ng tanyag na apelyido, solid yung machinery mo, yung social media, and maybe your long history in politics.” –Vicky Morales mula sa panayam kay Professor Ranjit Rye, U.P Diliman Political Science Department (Mayo 10, 2022).

Patuloy ang paghahari ng Political Dynasty sa Pilipinas sa panahon ngayon at sa katatapos na Halalan noong Mayo, marami ang naging usapin patungkol sa iba’t ibang election violations kabilang na ang vote buying at troll farming. Ito ay upang masigurong maipagpatuloy ang tradisyon ng pamilya at hindi mawala sa mundo ng politika.

Kabilang sa mga pamilyang namamayagpag sa mundo ng politika dito sa bansa ang dalawang pinakamataas na pinuno ng bansa – na nabanggit ni Maria Ressa sa nakaraan niyang Noble Peace Prize Speech noong 2019, na sila ang dalawang tagapagmana ng pinakamakapangyarihang dinastiya sa bansa – sina dating Davao Mayor Sara Duterte at Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. – mga anak ng dalawang naupo sa pinakamakapangyarihang posisyon sa bansa na kilala sa paggamit ng dictator’s playbook at tanyag sa pagkakaroon ng makamandag na iron fist.

Ayon sa mariing pananaliksik ng Rappler matapos ang 2019 midterm elections, halos 160 political families na ang namamayagpag sa poder ng iba’t ibang sulok ng Pilipinas mula sa Politika. Kahit anong uri ng puwesto ay kukuhanin, ang mahalaga ay makaupo at maipagpatuloy ang tradisyon: mapa-senador, gobernador, alkalde, o opisyal ng kahit Local Government Units (LGUs).

Ayon sa datos, tumataginting na 51% ang pinakamataas na porsyento nito sa bansa

mula sa Maguindanao na sinundan ng Pampanga (49%), Bulacan (45%), Davao Occidental at Isabela (41%).

Sa kabilang banda, marami ring nagsasabi na hindi naman “daw” problema ang political dynasties sa bansa, marami

“Political Dynasty”

Generally refer to traditional political families or the practices by these political families of monopolizing political power.

naman “daw” ang nakakatulong at may nagagawa. Samakatuwid, masasabing kontento na ang mga Pilipino sa average na tulong mula sa kanila, at yung average na iyon, maraming malalaking problema na kinakaharap ng bansa ang hindi nasosolusyonan.

Subalit, ayon kay former Dean Ronald Mendoza of Ateneo School of Government, malaki ang kaugnayan ng Political Dynasties sa Bad Governance at Underdevelopment mapa-lokal o internasyonal. Ang dalawang ito: Bad Governance at Underdevelopment, ang pangunahing dahilan ng patuloy na paglubog ng ekonomiya ng Pilipinas at patuloy na pagkakabaon sa mahigit kumulang 13.42 trillion na utang ng bansa.

Hindi lamang ‘yan ang suliraning kaakibat ng Political Dynasty, sapagkat pinagmumulan din ito ng korapsyon. Mas madaling itago ang mga ninakaw na yaman mula sa kaban ng bayan kung ang susunod na uupo sa posisyon

ay isang kadugo at kaalyansa sa pag-asam ng yaman. Sa ganitong paraan, nasisira ang transparency ng isang nakaupo at nababalewala ang Freedom of Information (FOI) ng mga mamamayan patungkol sa mga operasyon, transaksyon, at impormasyong nais nilang malaman mula sa isang namumuno.

Kaya yung ibang magagaling na nais talagang maglingkod para sa bayan, ito ang pangunahing kalaban – ang kanilang Dinastiya. Hirap na hirap silang manalo dahil wala sa kanila ang machinery, money, at ang tanyag na apelyidong may auto-unlock na puwesto sa pamahalaan. Sa ngayon, hindi naglalaho ang panawagan sa Good Governance o makabagong politika na inaasam ng nakararami. Nitong nakaraang eleksiyon: may rosas, may berde, may pula, at may asul – lahat sila nag-asam ng puwesto, ngunit hindi lahat ay puwesto lang ang inaasam – kundi pagbabago at impluwensiyang makapagbabago. Apelyido na ang labanan ngayon para sa demokrasiya dahil sa nakalalasong social media – maraming nanunusok ng mata, namumutol ng dila, at tumataga ng tainga.

Pero kaya pa rin natin itong labanan at puksain sa hinaharap. Ang tanging panangga rito, pagkakaroon ng core values bilang isang botante, integridad bilang isang mamamayang may pakialam, at pagpili ng tamang lider na may principled leadership. Sabi nga ni Narendra Modi, “In a democracy, Political Dynasty is wrong. We need to free the state and nation from it”.

Hindi man maglaho ang Political Dynasty hanggang sa susunod na eleksyon, patuloy tayong bumuhay ng diwa. Gisingin ang mga nagtutulug-tulugan, imulat ang mga nagbubulag-bulagan, at magsalita para sa mga walang kakayahan.

SBU-R CELEBRATES

Pista ng Sto. Niño 2022

By Bea De Guzman

Last January 30, 2022, the annual Pista ng Sto. Niño with the theme "Sto Niño: Biyaya at Gabay sa San Bida at Sambayanan" was held virtually for the second year in a row, expressing San Bida University's steadfast faith as well as upholding its Benedictine Hallmarks. The feast was celebrated successfully, made possible by the dedication of the Pista's Steering Committee.

Starting off the program, Mr. Alvin Esperancilla led the Pagbabalik-tanaw, recalling the various Pista ng Sto. Niño celebrations in San Bida Rizal, followed by the virtual exhibit of the Sto. Niño images. The history and concepts of the Sto. Niño and feasts celebrated in their honor, from San Bida's past feasts and the different celebrations held around the country, were illustrated and explained by the presenters.

Meanwhile, talented Bedistas had the opportunity to perform in the Himigsikan as well as the Dance Presentation events. After a short break, the Himigsikan was presented by Mrs. Celeste Caliwara and Mr. Raymond Yadao of the Music Area, performing a song dedicated to the Sto. Niño, followed by the Dance Presentation of the Grade School, Junior High, and Senior High School representatives. The performers sang and danced their hearts out all throughout the program.

Last but not the least, the praying of the Holy Rosary and a Eucharistic Celebration led by Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. was held to officially close the event. Despite the online restrictions and the limited time allocation, San Bida University Rizal honored and gave meaning to the Sto. Niño and the Bedan community's unwavering faith and religious fervor.



PADABA 2022: PAGMAMAHALAN SA SALIW NG MUSIKA

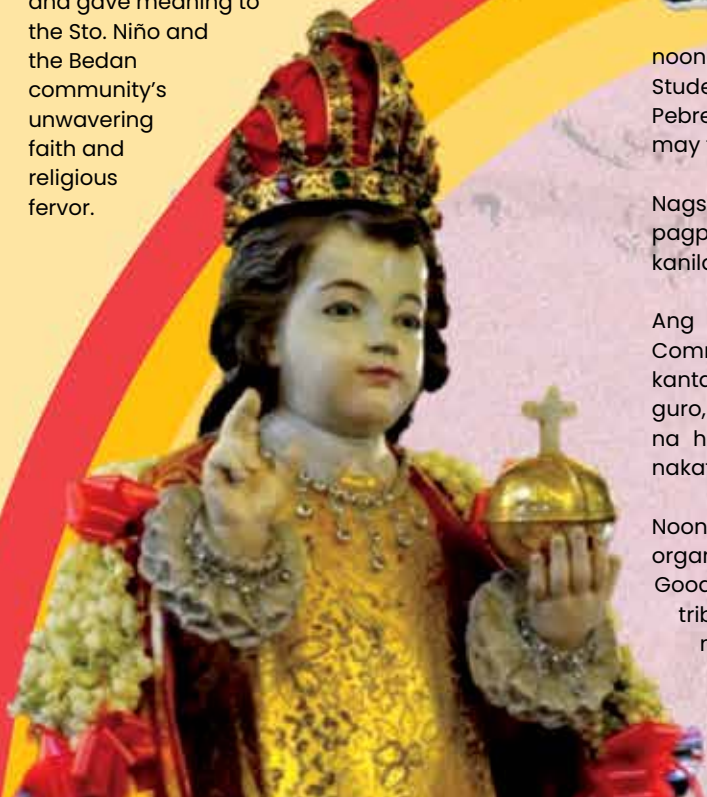
Ni Elmer Maronilla Jr.

GINanap ang taunang pagdiriwang ng Community Love Day ng komunidad ng Senior High School noong ika-14 ng Pebrero 2022; ang mga aktibidad na inihianda ng SHS Student Council kasama ang subordinate committees ay nagsimula noong Pebrero 8 hanggang Pebrero 16. Para sa taong panuruan 2021-2022, ito ay may temang "PADABA 2022: Pagmamahalan sa Saliw ng Musika."

Nagsimula ang selebrasyon sa pamamagitan ng social media. Una, ang pagpapalit ng DP Frames sa Facebook na sumisimbolo sa kalagayan ng kanilang mga puso at pangalawa, ang Himig ng Pag-ibig.

Ang Himig ng Pag-ibig ay pinamunuan ng Creatives and Marketing Committee (CMC) ng Student Council kung saan maaaring mag-alay ng kanta at mensahe ang mga Bedista sa kanilang mga kaibigan, kaklase, guro, administrador at ito ay ilalabas sa Facebook page ng Student Council na hindi binabanggit ang pangalan ng sender. Ang proyektong ito ay nakatanggap ng higit 150 na entries.

Noong Pebrero 14, 2022, Araw ng mga Puso, sa tulong ng iba't ibang organisasyon ay naganap ang inihandang programa ng Committee on Good Governance (CGG) ng Student Council. Sila ay naghandang video tribute upang ipakita at ipadama ang pagmamahal ng mga Bedista sa mga guro. Kasunod nito ang pagpapalabas ng Ikalawang Yugto ng Online Kapihang Bedista sa pangunguna ng Makatang Bedista at KATAFIL kung saan nag-alay ang mga tampok na mag-aaral ng kanta at tula sa buong komunidad.



SBU

HOLDS 4TH SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA MEMORIAL PUBLIC LECTURE ON PUBLIC POLICY

By Abidave Hernandez

The San Beda University holds the fourth venerable Bede distinguished public lecture series. The fourth Senator Edgardo J. Angara memorial public lecture on public policy with the theme: "Nurturing Holistic Health and Well-Being at Home and in the Workplace" was held last February 11, 2022 via San Beda University Zoom. This year's public lecture series was hosted by Asst. Prof Sybil L. Agreda, M. Ed. and it was started by the Medico Salto led by the San Beda University College of Medicine, followed by the opening remarks and overview of the Public Lecture Series headed by Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB.

It was followed by the inspirational message of Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara and after was the lecture of the first main speaker Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag, Jr., a professor emeritus of child and adolescent psychiatry of the University of the Philippines- PGH who discussed about

the Gen Z and particularly on mental health and managing anxiety during pandemic. One of the highlights of his speech was about the influence of mental health, in which he stated that anxiety can surpass the normal border and that the symptoms of toxic anxiety include persistent worrying, changes in sleep, changes in eating habits, and changes in emotion.

The second discussant was Dr. Blesile Suzette S. Mantaring, the director of office of student affairs on the University of the Philippines – Manila. The main point of her lecture was all about physical health and well-being at home and in the workplace.

The third speaker was Dr. Antonio Fernando, III, a former senior lecturer at University of Auckland psychiatry, sleep specialist.

He was able to talk about how people understand suffering and he stated

in one of his lectures that life is hard, and it is in our nature to experience suffering, dissatisfaction, and frustration. Aside from this, he was also defined suffering as not being at peace with the moment.

The last person to discuss was Rev. Fr. Carmelo A. Caluag, SJ, the vice president for academic affairs and formation at Magna Anima Teachers College. This lecture was all about nurturing holistic health and well-being at home and in the workplace, which was the main theme of the public lecture series.



STABILITY THROUGH SPIRITUALITY A WEBINAR ON HOLISTIC HEALTH THROUGH FAITH AND PSYCHOLOGY

By Roland Oscar Castañeda

The Senior High School Psychology Society, with the cooperation of Bedan Literary Creatives, Makatang Bedista, Peer Facilitators Group, Kalinangan ng Talastasang Filipino, and other Bedan organizations hosted a webinar entitled "Faith and Psychology: Finding Peace of Mind and Nurturing Holistic Health and Well-Being at Home Through Our Devotion" that aims to give students an idea on how they can still nurture their holistic health through devotion even amidst the current circumstances. The two-hour webinar was held via Zoom meeting last 9th of February, 2022.

The guest resource speaker for this event was Mr. Ray Anthony Bofill, who is

a Psycho-Spiritual counselor and life coach. His presentation on Faith and Psychology was the main focus of the webinar, as he discussed meaningful topics such as the importance of faith and its role in psychology, the essence of well-being and mental health, the sources of mental health problems, and how to cope with them.

The interactive and informative discussion not only paved the way for the students to better understand their holistic health and well-being, but it also taught them how to cope with mental health problems they may apply to their daily lives.

To end the event, the SHS Prefect of Student Affairs, Ms. Josephine Adriano,

presented her closing remarks by highlighting the event's main takeaway, which was that "only man with deep faith can express deep gratitude despite experiencing negative experiences."

The event itself has provided a lasting impression on its audience, as its essence and timeliness has truly highlighted one of the striking issues and factors of online distance learning, and by extension, the COVID-19 pandemic itself, which was mental health and well-being. From the meaningful discussions of Mr. Bofill, to the combined efforts of all organizations involved, the students have learned that even amidst the ongoing pandemic, it is not entirely impossible for them to still achieve stability through spirituality.

NATIONAL ARTS MONTH 2022

Para Sa Bayan, Para Sa Kaisipan

By Kalea Anais S. Oximas

In celebration of National Arts Month, the San Beda University Senior High School Psychology Society, a co-curricular club in the said institution, that has a common goal and primary interest in studying the mind, participated in the celebration held every month of February of the year with the title "Sining: Para Sa Bayan, Para sa Kaisipan."

The project's aim is to highlight Filipino art and teach principles in education using art in daily life of Bedan students who seek to express themselves through the medium of art. Further, the club collaborated with others, namely, Bedan Literary Creatives, Bedan Computer Society, Heritage Conservation and Arts Society, Makatang Bedista, Bedan Harmony, Bedan Theatre Guild, and Red Click Productions, to portray the talents of each member in the club.

The students were given the whole month of February to produce their specific art, and towards the beginning of March, the Psychology Society posted all the artworks on their Facebook and Instagram pages. During the month of March, the Psychology Society was able to post 14 videos, such as vlogs, music, playing instruments, and

the like, together with 25 images such as drawing, graphic design, and painting, where a total of 45 students participated in the said project.

Art is a broad category that encompasses a wide range of human activities involving the creation of visual, auditory, or performed artifacts—works of art—that express the author's imaginative or technical skill and are intended to be admired for the power of beauty or emotional power. Furthermore, the visual arts, which comprise pictures or objects in domains such as painting, sculpture, printing, photography, and other visual media, are the oldest known forms of art.

With this, Presidential Proclamation No. 683, signed by former President Corazon Aquino in 1991, declares February as National Arts Month to honor creative achievement and give attention to the richness and variety of Filipino heritage and culture. The National Arts Month seeks to acknowledge the arts as a source and expression of optimism and honor the richness and uniqueness of Filipino heritage and culture through celebrating creative excellence.



Back In Person

SBU-RIZAL HOLDS FACE-TO-FACE 5TH COMMENCEMENT RITES

By Ylec Juriel Tabara

The San Beda University–Rizal Senior High School Department held their annual 5th Commencement Exercises for the graduating students of Batch 2022 on July 1, 2022. The event took place in San Beda University – Mendiola Campus and students were present inside the venue after two years of organizing virtual graduation ceremonies.

The baccalaureate mass was celebrated inside the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, presided by the institution's rector president, Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB. After the Eucharistic celebration comes the main event, which is, the distribution of awards and diplomas to students who achieved exemplary marks and completion to deem them eligible for transferring to tertiary education. The graduation rites took place in the Jonathan Sy Hall, led by Integrated Basic Education Department principal Mrs. Teresita T. Battad along with Fr. Aloysius Maranan.

The program was then concluded by the traditional speech of gratitude by Ms. Angelu Mantilla, the batch valedictorian, and the grand procession of the now-graduates of 2022, who are undoubtedly entering a new chapter of their lives.



BBM starts plans for PH as president

BY LIANNE VILLENA

President Ferdinand “Bong Bong” Marcos Jr. started restructuring parts of the government and announcing his plans for the country from his first day in office last June 30, 2022.

Cabinet Secretaries

On his first day, Marcos did not have secretaries for the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD),

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Energy (DOE).

EO 1: Restructuring of Presidential Offices

BBM’s first executive order was to abolish the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and the Office of Cabinet Secretary and to create the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Military and Police Affairs, announced last July 7, 2022.

The functions of the PACC will be transferred to the Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs. For the Office of Cabinet Secretary, the existing Cabinet Secretariat will be transferred under the Presidential Management Staff.

After the abolishment of two offices, Marcos Jr. ordered the creation of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Military and Police Affairs, under the administration of the Office of the Special Assistant to the President.

Plans for Different Sectors

In his inaugural address, Marcos emphasized the urgency of fixing the issue of food insecurity. He simplified the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) mission: “To ensure food supply in the Philippines at a price that is

actually affordable.” Proposed initiatives include more support for local farmers and lowered importation.

Meanwhile, in his first Cabinet meeting last July 5, Marcos highlighted the transition back to face-to-face classes, to be led by Vice President Sara Duterte. Aside from in-person classes, plans for the education sector include more attention to vocational skills and the sciences.

Among others, BBM’s other mentioned plans are economic recovery, improvement of the Philippine energy supply via oil and gas reserves, transparency with the public healthcare system, and continuance of the infrastructure developments of late father and former president Ferdinand Marcos Sr., and presidential predecessor Rodrigo Duterte.

As of July 13, 2022, Marcos Jr. has appointed the following as secretaries of his Cabinet.

Department of Education:
Sara Duterte

Department of Environment and Natural Resources:
Toni Yulo-Loyzaga

Department of Energy:
Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla

Department of Transportation:
Jaime Bautista

Department of Agrarian Reform:
Conrado Estrella

Department of National Defense:
Jose Faustino Jr.

National Security Council:
Clarita Carlos

Office of Solicitor General:
Menardo Guevarra

Government Service Insurance System: Jose Arnulfo “Wick” Veloso

Commission on Audit Chairperson:
Jose Calida

Presidential Legal Counsel:
Juan Ponce Enrile

“

These are troubling times: giving up is not an option. We’ve been through times of bitter division. But united we came through to this when it shall begin again.

– President Bongbong Marcos

”

A FRESH CHAPTER OF HISTORY

Newly Elected PH National Government Officials

BY LIANNE VILLENA

Pres. Ferdinand “Bong Bong” Marcos Jr.

Vice Pres. Sara Duterte-Carpio

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Loren Legarda

Robin Padilla



“In this fresh chapter of our history, I extend my hand to all Filipinos. Come, let us put our shoulders to the wheel, and give that wheel a faster turn — to repair and to rebuild; to address challenges in new ways; to provide what all Filipinos need; to be all that we can.”

— Pres. Ferdinand “Bong Bong” Marcos Jr.

After the heated 2022 elections last May, the final national government officials were officially put into office last June. As our countrymen familiarize themselves with their names, the following politicians will be the face of the country for the next six years.



PH VACCINATES CHILDREN AGED 5-11

By Kalea Anais S. Oximas

Last February 7, 2022, the Philippines began administering Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination for children ages 5-11.

The children's COVID-19 vaccine is a 2-dose Pfizer-BioNTech shot. It has 0.2 ml per dosage, which is different from the Pfizer shots for 12-17 years old and adults. The Pfizer vaccination was proven to be both safe and effective, preventing 90.95% of symptomatic COVID-19 infections and having "no significant adverse events or fatalities associated to the immunization," based on a study from the New England Journal of Medicine.

In a statement released last February 4, pediatricians reminded parents that the vaccines were proven to be safe and effective for children aged 5 to 11, expressing their support for the government's immunization drive.

"We are pleased that, as a country, we are now able to extend the protection provided to adults and teenagers to children as young as five years old", the Philippine Pediatric Society and the Pediatric Infectious Disease Society Philippines stated. Additionally, the pediatricians encouraged parents and guardians of children aged 5 to 11 years to discuss vaccination with their healthcare provider and get their information from reputable sources with the necessary experience and expertise.

Additionally, the pediatricians encouraged parents and guardians of children aged 5 to 11 years to discuss vaccination with their healthcare provider and get their informa-

tion from reputable sources with the necessary experience and expertise.



According to the Department of Health (DOH), ***"During the Omicron wave, the proportion of children aged 0 to 11 years old in total pediatric cases is greater than during the Delta wave. In September, cases among children aged 0 to 11 years old accounted for 56 percent of all pediatric cases, rising to 69.2% in January."***

The COVID-19 vaccine aims to attain herd immunity through injecting an individual with a minimal dosage of material from the original virus, which then instructs the cells how to manufacture proteins to combat the virus. This means that children being vaccinated can substantially reduce the infections for both symptomatic and severe COVID-19 cases, especially given the more severe variants, Delta and Omicron.

4,315 PH SCHOOLS OPEN GATES TO CONDUCT FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES



By Mila Samantha F. Lee

As of March 2, 2022, 4,239 public schools and 76 private schools in the Philippines welcomed students back to their campuses in face-to-face classes.

The data was gathered last March 1, although Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones stated that these numbers may change daily due to the authority of local DepEd officials and regional directors to make independent decisions for their own communities.



More than 6,000 schools passed the criterion set by DepEd and the Department of Health (DOH) for conducting face-to-face classes, which was evaluated with the Schools Safety Assessment Tool.

According to Briones, *"We must comply with the requirements of the DOH protocols."* Some of these requirements include permission for schools to reopen granted by their corresponding local government unit (LGU) and the written consent of parents to send their children on-campus.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Director General Karl Chua asserted that the increase in children's vaccination rates led to the gradual opening of schools within areas under Alert Levels 1 and 2.



Holding face-to-face classes will not only develop the educational sector, but it will also play a role in the country's full economic recovery as several businesses such as transportation and bookstores are expected to experience increased activity due to the re-opening of schools.

HANGGANG ANG 500 P



Five hundred. Maaaring isang damit, isang disenteng pananghalian, o ilang pirasong aytem sa pamilihan. Subalit para sa dalawang bata at magpinsan na sina Justeen Ramasasa at Rhica Jane Gonzales, parehong iskolar ng Educational Assistance Program (EAP) ng Social Action Program (SAP) ng San Beda, malayo ang narating ng limandaang piso: mga pangarap na natupad.

Nasa baitang apat pa lamang ang dalawa nang maging bahagi ng Tutorial Program ng SAP. Sa halip na magpahinga, manood ng telebisyon, o maglaro sa labas kapag araw ng Sabado ay nahikayat ang mga batang ito na dumalo sa nasabing programa ng paaralan na kalaunan ay naging tulay upang maging benepisyaryo sila ng Educational Assistance Program na nagkaloob sa kanila ng limandaang piso buwan-buwan bilang allowance o baon sa paaralan.

Bilang panganay sa magkakapatid at nakikitira lamang sa kanyang Lola, hindi naging madali para kay Justeen na abutin ang kanyang pangarap. Kinailangan niyang pagsabayin ang pagraket sa paggawa ng basahan o paglalabada sa kanyang tiyahin upang matustusan ang gastos sa paaralan. Labis naman ang naging pagsubok kay Rhica nang nagkaroon ng pandemya dahil sa kakulangan sa kagamitan at hindi maayos na koneksyon ng internet para makapag-aral, dagdag pa na may quota grade ang kursong kinuha niya. Subalit ang anumang mga pagsubok ay kanilang napagtagumpayan dahil maliban sa limandaang piso na kaloob ng opisina ng Social Action Program masasabing nagkaroon sila ng matatawag na mga guardian angels sa katauhan ng kanilang mga sponsor na kadalasan ay mga guro at administrador ng San Beda at ng isa pang Nanay at Kuya sa katauhan nina Ginang Rosalina Ayonon (nagdaang SAP Coordinator) at Ginoong Christian Caro (kasalukuyang Coordinator ng SAP) na gumabay sa kanila upang higit na maging matatag, magsikap, at nagturo sa



SAANA ABOT PISO S MO?

Ni Janualyn Thea Suba

kanilang magtiwala sa Panginoon na hindi ka Niya pababayaan.

Kaya naman matapos ang halos 12 taon na pagiging bahagi ng Tutorial at Educational Assistance Program, nakapagtapos ng kolehiyo si Justeen sa digring Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in Biochemistry sa Cainta Catholic College at si Rhica sa digring Bachelor of Accountancy sa University of Rizal System- Binangonan. Sa kasalukuyan ay nagtatrabaho na sila sa kani-kanilang larangan, si Justeen ay natanggap na guro ng Senior High School sa isang

paraan sa Taytay at si Rhica naman ay accountant sa isang establisyemento sa Angono. Pinaghahandaan na rin nila ang pagkuha ng licensure exam para sa higit na paglago sa kanilang mga trabaho. Nais nilang maging mabuting halimbawa sa iba pa nilang nakababatang scholars at maging inspirasyon na sa pamamagitan ng sipag at tiyaga, pagpapahalaga at pasasalamat sa anumang mga bagay na mayroon ka, ang maliit na tulong mula sa kapwa ay maaaring lumaki at magbunga nang maganda. Isang magandang patunay na sa kabila ng mga nangyayari sa lipunan ay malayo pa rin ang mararating ng limandaang piso: makapagluwal ng isang accountant at isang guro.



RUSSIA'S FORWARD MARCH ON UKRAINE

BY DIEGO RAFAEL JOSUE

Russia began the full-scale invasion in Ukraine during the early hours of February 24, 2022. The initial march came from the southeast, in the historical and economic region of Donbas. The commander-in-chief of Russia, Vladimir Putin, has stressed that the conflict is not an invasion, rather a "Special Military Operation", with the goal of stopping Ukraine from joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in a statement made shortly after the initial attacks. An approximate number of 190,000 troops were taken into arms on the borders of Ukraine, accompanied by the usage of multiple artillery were some of Russia's preparations and methods for the onslaught.

Three months since Russia's initial advancement, there have been multiple updates and notable turning points for the conflict. The occupation of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant on the same day of the beginning of the assault by

Russia was the first major event for the conflict. To this day, multiple bombings have also occurred, wherein some have resulted in injuries and fatalities. One example of this is during the 9th of March where an airstrike destroyed a maternity hospital, leaving 17 people injured and 3 people dead.

Although, recent developments saw multiple peace talks being held between Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine. The first, held on the 28th of February. However, these are to no avail in terms of ending the war and lowering tensions between both countries as no party has given a compromise.

The conflict is ongoing with Ukraine continuing efforts against Russia with the help of the United States, with the latter providing aid through additional artillery and military assistance.

As of July 24, 2022, Kyiv Independent has reported a total of 183 destroyed

religious sites, 123 damaged medical facilities, and more than 50 wounded medical workers since the full-scale invasion took place.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Russia is seeking to overthrow the Ukrainian government with the sole purpose to free them from the current regime claimed as "anti-people" and "anti-history." The statement was then concluded with the Russian government revealing their vision that one day, the Russian and Ukrainian people will live together.

Despite Russia's intentions of continuing the invasion, Zelensky hailed the upcoming day of Ukrainian statehood on July 28, declaring that Ukraine will celebrate this annual holiday against all odds as the nation refuses to surrender to the demands of Russia.

Trap? or Trapeaughx?

BY LOVELLYN SALLIDAO

Vogue Runway featured an artist named Elise McMahon, the founder of the artist studio LikeMindedObjects, in their Instagram post last February 8, 2022. Said post has heralded McMahon in her "revolutionary" reuse of cloths or upcycling of discarded fabrics using a loom and presented the product in a woven textile pattern similar to cultural rugs often found in Asia, Latin and African countries to which both the brand and the creator have received major backlash from.

McMahon's LikeMindedObjects is a label that designs furniture, interiors, and accessories that use recycled objects such as discarded fabric and old tees. In Elise's post, she upcycled used fabrics to create an 18-inch by 18-inch woven textile made of old t-shirts to create a heavy, puffy material not dissimilar from quilted fabrics or weighted blankets, according to Vogue.

"It's not trapo anymore, its trapeaughx," -@ughh_bein, Twitter

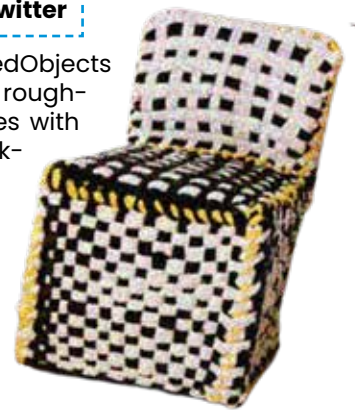
This woven textile by LikeMindedObjects is sold at around 200 dollars, roughly 10,000 pesos. The toolkit comes with looms and instructions on making the woven textile. According to the label, people can use this custom-designed loom to facilitate a potholder style weaving method; it is possible to upcycle endless t-shirts into 18" x 18" tiles. These woven tiles can be assembled for numerous functions of daily living, including upholstery fabric, blankets, pillows, and wearable items such as t-shirts and jackets.

Filipinos couldn't contain their thoughts about the said material.

According to one user, "Not an original concept. These are Philippine doormats/potholders,"

Another user said, "The Philippines has been doing this for YEAAAAARRRRSSSS...where's our feature?"

In the Philippines, a brand that is similar to LikeMindedObjects is present. Rags2Riches is a trademark that specializes in weaving pieces made from recycled fabrics. They were established in 2007 and has been selling handmade items since then.





MEET OUR BEDAN FRONTLINERS

BY CIARA JANE ABUGAN

It is common knowledge by this point that the strike of the Covid-19 pandemic has brought a lot of changes in the lives of everyone around the world. Multiple adjustments and precautions had to be taken to minimize the spread of the virus and it has affected the way people go about their day-to-day routine, most especially their occupational situations.

Educational institutions, such as San Beda University, are one of the places greatly affected by the changes made during the quarantine — with majority of its operations reliant on face to face (F2F) interactions. The shock of the pandemic, the transitional period, and a gradual return to a set-up similar to the one pre-pandemic is cleared in an interview with individuals appropriately coined as the Bedan Frontliners.

It came as a shock to everyone when the temporary suspension of classes became more permanent, and the lack of preparation has badly affected the staff and personnel, especially those who are reliant on F2F set-up. Schools closing also had its workers locked in their houses, with no source of income for some of the personnel with jobs not as portable to be taken into a work-from-home set-up.

The rising cases and death toll has affected each member of the personnel and has also interfered with their professional lives, with the school being strict on the protocols and its spread — leading an already ghost town San Beda into further desertion.

At the start of the gradual inclusion of onsite workers, such protocols were what was lived and breathe to ensure the safety of all personnel from the security, the medical staff, the BMS, and the Library and administrative offices.

“Mahirap at nakakatakot, especially considering the risks” said Ms. Nina the

Assistant Librarian in San Beda Rizal. This was followed by the fears of getting infected and infecting those close to you, especially with the exposure encountered in travel when on site work started again.

Although, when asked to why and to who they continue to wake up for considering the additional difficulty life handed to everyone with the pandemic, it was a collective agreement of for their loved ones and family — as well as the students, to which the San Beda community as a whole has tried their best in their services with the lockdown and the transition to Online Distance Learning.



Mahirap at nakakatakot, especially considering the risks

— Ms. Nina Torillos on the effect of COVID-19 on their jobs

CHANGING REALITY

BY JOSIAH RUE RAMOS

As the Information Age uproars at an inevitable pace, it becomes clear that humanity is reaching its limit. With the steadfast evolution of artificial intelligence, anthropomorphic robots, and virtual, augmented reality, society seeks more from the unimaginable. A noteworthy example is integrating innovation right inside the human system—made possible by a creation called human chips.

Behind the technology

Elon Musk, the multi-billionaire Tesla and SpaceX founder, started the first brain chip project. Many deemed the project ambitious, yet Elon Musk continued to break beyond the impossible. Under his supervision, the brain chips were first envisioned in the Neuralink Company and introduced in 2019—promising a future that would change medicine and reality possibly forever.

According to their statement, the chip would harness brain activity and possibly correct any neurological difficulties. During the production of the first chip prototype, it was molded into a coin-like figure, embedded with thread-like wires, containing 1,024 electrodes that would connect and stimulate the brain. Later in 2022, they formed a more humane and non-petrifying prototype. The current chip

sports a coin-like figure equipped with finer wires that would be less invasive, nearly invisible, and enhanced to hold more data than the previous. A Neuralink surgical robot would sew the chip onto the head with a stiff needle during the implantation process.

The ambitious chip's trialed effectuality

In 2020, the first implantation transpired onto a pig named Gertrude. The results displayed remarkable findings, enabling the team to properly analyze the pig's performance and visualize further improvements for the chip. However, Professor Andrew Jackson deemed the trial as “mediocre neuroscience.” He further stated that it looked odd and baffling to see wires poking out of its skin and suggested that downsizing the wires could improve its abilities. Advancing their trials, they tried implanting the revamped chip onto Pager the Monkey in 2021—leading to the discovery that the chip helps in playing video games solely by the mind.

Questions about human adaptability

Elon and his team have been eyeing to start the human clinical trials this 2022, which

was earlier than expected. These trials formed skepticism among experts and neuroscientists with claims that the interface was unethical, far beyond faulty, and not promising in the neurological field. Neurologists claim that this is ineffective for mental illnesses given the higher complexity and complication than most neurological issues.

Many things still need to unfold. In all eventuality, it would be just a matter of time until human chips reach their full potential and change humanity forever.



Leaders of Change

how women empower a brighter tomorrow

by Eryn Russell Berin

We take our first breath of air, almost always clutching our mother's arms.

Then nurses keep track of our well-being; doctors examine our footsteps in our attempts to recognize foreign surroundings. At one point, we take our school bags and greet first our teachers, then our classmates, and then our acquaintances. Years pass, and we meet co-workers, bosses, and random strangers.

We meet people that could shape us one way or another. However, a woman's effort in this cycle is often treated with inferiority or is left forgotten.

These words may not aim to highlight the importance of equality, yet a few thousand entries on the internet still exclaim the same thing—nor does it ignore the acclaimed fact: a woman can do as much as a man does. In our varying opinions, we raise our voices more over the latter—to the amplifying call over equality on which we can mutually agree on achieving.

EQUALITY

In light of our history, knowledge of new things, and acceptance of radical change, we take a step forward to fighting for the right to promote progress. March is a month to look forward to when it comes to celebrating the women who fought well in claiming the honor of our name.

Women's Month is a platform for advocating all-encompassing change and paying tributes to the women who changed lives themselves—may it be for ourselves or our country—one way or another. This month-long celebration reminds us to look back at notable women such as Gabriella Silang or Magdalena Leone and recall the sacrifices and victories they have proclaimed.

Though the representations of women in media still hold flaws, albeit slowly progressed throughout the gradual changes from history to the present, Women's Month emphasizes the importance of thanking the women that affect our lives. Whether they are women we meet every day or women that lead us, both actively or peripherally upon various walks of life, we celebrate them for the goodness and contributions they have accomplished and respectfully claimed.

LEADERS OF CHANGE

Being a woman empathizes with a chance to be a leader of change—to cross out all the borders, and accept womanhood as a stepping stone to freedom rather than something to be ashamed of. It invites us to realize that a woman is capable of empowering us towards a better tomorrow.

It would be too easy to mention various names of women who empower our lives and our country. Instead, this is an appropriate time to look back at our mothers, sisters, teachers, and grandmothers and encourage them to smile against hard times.

The celebration of Women's Month reminds us that there are women in our lives deserving appreciation for all that they do, just as much as everyone else does. Throughout March and past it, the advocacy of fighting for women's recognition and equal rights goes on.

We take a second breath out of relief, still in our mother's arms.

THE AMUSEMENT RETURNS: STAR CITY'S COMEBACK!

By Sid Arman Candido

Back on October 2, 2019, Star City was damaged by a large fire that burned nearly 80% of the main structure containing over 30 theme parks. Gabi ng Lagim, Dungeon of Terror, Bump Car Smash, and Snow World were among the games destroyed in the fire. But this year, the legendary leisure destination, Star City, has returned! After two years of being closed due to the fire and pandemic, the Filipinos' favorite and most affordable theme park is back!

Star City is one of the amusement parks that has left a lasting impression on the public; it is a fantastic spot to spend time with family, friends, and loved ones. With their iconic comeback that gave people excitement and joy, they are back with improved rides and parks packed with various amusements open for everyone's enjoyment.

If you, such as myself, missed Star City, you're here for a reminiscing trip since most of the park's famous destinations have relocated around the indoor-outdoor amusement parks. There have been additional rides for adults and children and even a few completely new attractions. Are you prepared to witness greatness? Prepare yourself smartly! Star City is now only accessible from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays through Sundays.

The park may accept up to 100% occupancy under Alert Level 1. Face masks are essential to be worn at all times. Social distancing is also used in conjunction with the use of COVID-19 health and safety measures. Adults (18 years and older) must be properly vaccinated to enter. Unvaccinated minors under age 18 are allowed to enter according to the current IATF criteria. Within the park, unapproved food and beverages are not admissible. You may look up their ticket prices and availability on their website.

The shine of the Star is back—now only with masks! The opening of the amusement park brings a lot of feelings—from the people's sadness on the fire to the exhilarating thrill of reopened rides to offer the public a breathtaking time of their life. The hype is incredibly up, so make sure not to miss it by planning your upcoming Star City visit!

PHILIPPINES RANKS 3RD AS TOP K-POP ENTHUSIASTS INTERNATIONALLY IN 2021 - TWITTER

By Emmanuel T. Iriola

As Korean culture continues to sweep the nation off its feet, the Philippines placed 3rd internationally as some of the world's top K-pop enthusiasts in 2021. Following the 10-year celebration of the K-pop community resonating on Twitter, the hashtag #KpopTwitter flew to the top of the trending chart. With it came interesting charts and statistics that show the world's standing in terms of engagement and activity.

With Indonesia placing 1st, Japan coming in at a close 2nd, the Philippines surprisingly surpasses even South Korea's 4th place with its 3rd place ranking. Following Indonesia, the Philippines took 2nd place with the most active tweeters in the world all due to Filipino stans fervently tweeting about their favorite K-pop groups and artists.



Unsurprisingly, the kings of K-pop BTS were at the top of the list of most talked about K-pop artists. They were followed by NCT, Enhypen, EXO, and BLACKPINK to sum up the top five. Twitter also released statistics on the top 10 globally rising K-pop artists based on their analysis. Notable names include Enhypen taking 1st place, followed by Tomorrow X Together, Treasure, aespa, and ITZY to sum up the top five.

K-pop fever has proven to be a hot topic on Twitter and other social media platforms because of its enticing choreography and captivating vocals. Around 7.8 billion tweets relating to K-pop flooded the microblogging platform in 2021, shattering the 6.7 billion record in 2020. With no signs of slowing down, the forefront artists of K-pop continue to take the world by storm.





WE DON'T TALK ABOUT BRUNO, DO WE? —

IRREVOCABLY ADDICTIVE, REMARKABLE, AND ON REWIND



—these are some words to describe the song We Don't Talk About Bruno from Disney's hit movie, Encanto. Despite having "no clouds allowed in the sky," people took over

clear favor towards the song by storm across various social media sites—their expressed sentiments and active association having raised its spot to the top of the Billboard Hot 100 since 1993 with A Whole New World from Aladdin. Past the upbeat tune leaving everyone hooked, Encan-

to's entire story tells much more than even the eye can see. For instance, Bruno stands for various representations of Colombian culture that the movie seamlessly projects—but how could one know, as we don't talk about Bruno, do we?

In today's age of promoting race-conscious environments, various social, ethnic, and cultural diversities make their way to the awareness and acceptance of people. However, the film industry, particularly Disney, struggled with depictions of non-Europeans and people of color. Moreover, Encanto's inclusivity and representation of Colombia with its setting and characters proved to be a thrilling and validating beginning—a rather refreshing turn of events from Hollywood's stereotypical representations of Colombia as the home of violence, slum dis-



A LOOK AT ETHNOCULTURAL INCLUSIVITY WITH DISNEY'S ENCANTO (2021)



By Hannah Grace D. Olavides

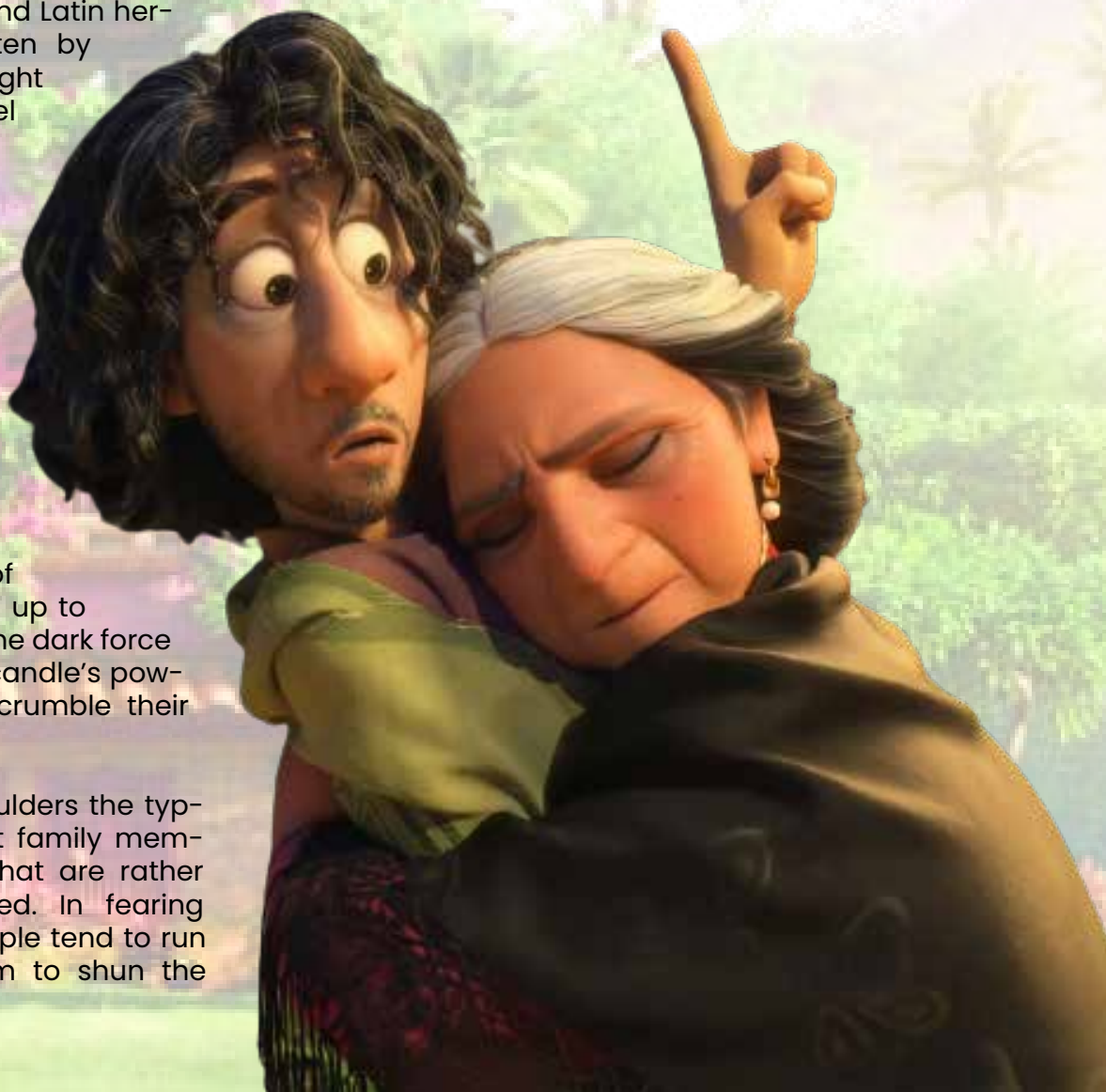
tricts, and jungle, drug cartels. *Encanto* shows just how any other Colombian family can be with the main Madrigals cast, breaking off stereotypes by showing how it is possible to conquer hardships and miseries with love.

The film's directors Jared Bush and Bryan Howard, along with writer Charise Castro Smith, made an immersive study to create the depiction of real Colombia in their movie. The traditional food, activities, language, guadua bamboo that built the casita, Afro-Colombian Black representations, and Latin heritage soundtracks written by award-winning playwright and musician, Lin-Manuel Miranda, celebrate diversity in Colombia and the joy of its nature, art, and people.

In the highlighted positivity of the representation, the film does not conceal the tough realities otherwise shown by the reigning tension between Mirabel and Abuela and contempt over Bruno's foretelling of the future. All these add up to the tension brought by the dark force challenging the magic candle's power and threatening to crumble their refuge and abilities.

Bruno, in particular, shoulders the typical views of a cast-out family member over trivial issues that are rather avoided than addressed. In fearing impending realities, people tend to run away from the problem to shun the

downfall and hurt. A loose basis on this matter makes way for the Colombian representation of hardships they face from prejudiced criticisms. Eventually, taking the courageous step of presenting oneself to achieve positive things does not stop the fruit of reconciliation, recognition, and admiration to reap upon everyone to see. Similarly, we can see this very situation upon the family Madrigal's acceptance of Bruno back to the family. That's why it may prove to be for the best to talk about Bruno.



ASA MILLER FALLS SHORT OF THE WINTER OLYMPICS 2022

By Raphael Miguel Gonzales



Filipino-American alpine skier, Asa Miller, falls short in the Winter Olympics 2022 held in Beijing, China. Miller is representing the Philippines and is the country's flagbearer. Miller slipped 36 seconds into his giant slalom run, where he registered a DNF (Did not finish) in the recently concluded Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 held between February 2-20.

The 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics saw Miller in his second Winter Olympics, previously participating in the giant slalom in the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, where Miller ranked 70th out of 110 participants. This year, however, Miller participated in both the giant slalom and sla-

lom of the Winter Olympics, where he registered a DNF on both the giant slalom and slalom.

Due to weather conditions, heavy snowfall, and his foot getting tangled where Miller stated, *"So the snow is very slippery and very hard, and I didn't quite feel 100 percent confident on my skis yesterday",* where Miller added that due to the conditions of the slope, Miller lost confidence during the run, attributing *"in ski racing, you have to be 100 percent confident in all you do."*

Both the slalom and giant slalom were won by Clement Noel and Marco Odermatt respectively. Noel, a French alpine ski racer, won the slalom, previously placing 4th in the 2018 Winter Olympics, and now acquires a gold medal for his win. On the giant slalom, Odermatt, a Swiss alpine ski racer, won the event, earning him a gold medal.

For Miller, however, despite having two DNFs, focuses more on redemption for the next Winter Olympics. *"We'll have to see how things go four years from now, but I'll certainly be a much stronger and much more developed skier if I continue skiing,"* he stated. After the Winter Olympics, Miller looks forward to the next 2026 Winter Olympics to be held in Italy.



TOKYO 2020



PATAFA'S HORRENDOUS MANAGEMENT OF POLE VAULTER, EJ OBIENA

By Roland Oscar Y. Castañeda

In the field of competitive global sports, every country has had its own champions and rising prodigies. But what use are the gifts and talents that sprout in every nation's athlete if not even utilized or taken care of properly?

The Philippines has been home to some of the world's most talented and gifted athletes. Some of these athletes, however, are those who have not been supported enough by the government for what they uphold. One athlete in particular, who has unfortunately bitten the dust at the hands of poor support for local athletes, is Ernest John (EJ) Obiena.

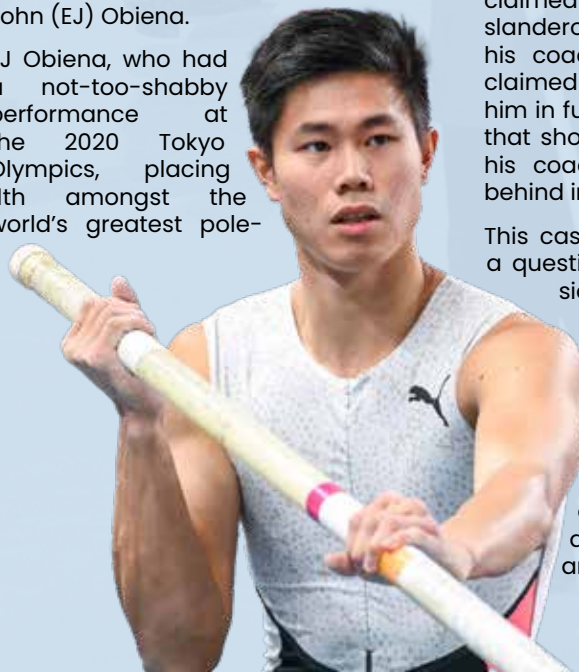
EJ Obiena, who had a not-too-shabby performance at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, placing 11th amongst the world's greatest pole-

vaulters, is no doubt a promising athlete that has wonderfully represented the country in global competitive sports. The future was looking promising for the rising athlete, but soon followed the curious "embezzlement" case after the Philippine Athletics Track and Field Association (PATAFA) accused Obiena of not paying his coach Vitaly Petrov his salary, as well as falsifying his liquidation reports. After these claims were filed out, Obiena butted back in an online conference, not only denying any of the accusations laid out against him, but also spoke about his poor experiences under the association. He claimed that the accusations were slanderous, which was confirmed by his coach, Petrov, who had already claimed that the pole vault athlete paid him in full, as well as an Inquirer report that showed that he had indeed paid his coach despite being admittedly behind in payment in a few instances.

This case as a whole has been quite a questionable one, especially on the side of PATAFA, who has not only seemingly falsely accused the athlete, but has given him more than a headache on top of everything else that the athlete has to worry about, especially being one that trains overseas. Is it not enough that these athletes are already struggling to train and compete against big-shot

countries who clearly have better government support and resources to shape their own prodigies? It does not seem ideal at all that on top of this, they have to deal with poor management and outlandish accusations such as the case with Obiena and Diaz. Not only are our athletes at a disadvantage, at least welfare and resource wise, against other countries, but with the lack of the needed support can really take a toll on their wellbeing and their training to globally compete.

While despite all of these, Obiena has still made his mark, placing inside top 11 in pole vaulting in the Olympics. It is commendable how he, and I'm certain a lot of other athletes, can endure all of that and still take the country to new heights. One can only ponder, however, on how much better our athletes would be performing if given the proper resources and way better management. Untapped potential in cases like these are wasted opportunities. Unfortunately this is only one of many cases, and I can only wonder for how long can our athletes continue to work through these conditions. I hope that our local sports organizations can learn from these moments. It is only a matter of time when other countries come knocking for their talents. We shouldn't wait for these athletes to call quits on a country that refuses to see their talents for what they truly are.





PANGAKONG TUNOG LATA

Ni Jhon Alray Angustia

Nakalulungkot isipin na magpahanggag ngayon ay kakaunti pa rin ang mga atleta natin na nakapokus sa winter sports, bukod sa kilala nga ang Pilipinas bilang bansang walang natural na yelo, ang kawalan ng suporta ng gobyerno ang nag-uudyok sa mga kabataang ilagan at isantabi ang pangarap na pumasok sa larangang ito sa kadahilanang wala silang kapasidad na pondohan ang sarili kahit na responsibilidad na ito dapat ng gobyerno.

Bilang paglilinaw, inihayag ng Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) ang plano nilang recruitment para sa mga atletang may potensyal na maging kalahok sa darating na 2026 Winter Olympics, sa tulong ng Philippine Ski and Snowboard

Federation at ng Philippine Skating Union, hahanap sila ng homegrown o overseas athletes na maaaring makadagdag sa hanay ng mga atletang ipadadala natin sa Winter Olympics.

Kung titignan, napakagandang pangako para sa mga atleta ang planong ito ng POC, ngunit tila ba nagmimistula itong pangakong tunog lata sapagkat kung nais talaga nilang mas palakihin ang hanay ng mga Winter Olympians sa bansa nararapat lamang na bigyan na ito ng suporta at pinaglaanan na ito ng pondo noon pa man.

Kung babalikan ang mga nakaraang taon, makikita kung paano binalewala ng gobyerno si Michael Martinez, mula sa pondo sa pag-eensayo hanggang

sa pondo upang makalaban siya sa ibang bansa. Sa katunayan, sa bawat kompetisyon ni Martinez ay nagsasagawa sila ng GoFundMe page para lamang matustusan ang kanilang mga gastusin. Kung naniniwala ang gobyerno na epektibo ang sistemang paghahagilap sa mga atletang homegrown o overseas, dito sila nagkakamali. Upang mas mahikayat ng gobyerno na sumali ang mga nagnanais maging winter athletes, nararapat lamang na pagbuhusan ito ng suporta at pondo at bigyan sila ng oportunidad upang lumahok sa mga isports na ito nang walang binabayaran.

Dagdag pa rito, mas makabubuti kung magkakaroon ng sapat na lugar kung saan maaaring mag-ensayo ang mga winter athletes sa bansa. Kung mapapansin, ilan sa mga figure skater dito sa bansa ay nag-eensayo sa mga pampublikong skating rink lamang, kung kaya't mas pinipili ng iilan na pumunta sa ibang bansa dahil sa mga facility na nakatalaga para sa mga tulad nilang atleta.

Makabubuti rin kung makakukuha ang gobyerno ng mga world-class coaches na magiging tagapagsanay ng mga atletang Pilipino, nang sa gayon ay maging progresibo ang paraan ng pag-eensayo ng bawat koponan, kung ikukulong ng gobyerno ang mga atletang ito sa tradisyunal na paraan ng pag-eensayo malabong-malabo na makakakita tayo ng Pilipinong makapag-uui ng medalya mula sa Winter Olympics.

Ang inilatag na solusyon ng POC para mas maparami pa ang koponan ng Pilipinas sa Winter Olympics ay maituturing na agaran at panandalian lamang ang epekto. Kung nais talaga ng gobyerno na sa bawat Winter Olympics ay parami nang parami ang mga atletang Pinoy ay nararapat lamang na magsimula na sila ngayon pa lamang na mag-invest sa mga kabataang may potensyal para sa mga palarong ito. Ang pagkilos ng gobyerno upang mabigyan ng buong suporta ang mga winter athletes dito sa Pilipinas ang kailangan upang maiwasan ang mga pangakong wala namang laman o pangakong tunog lata.



MALAKAS DIN SI MAGANDA

Ni Jhon Alray Angustia

**PAMAMAYAGPAG NG KABABAIHAN
SA MUNDO NG PAMPALAKASAN**



Hindi maitatanggi na nakaukit na sa isipan ng mga Pilipino na kalalakihan lamang ang kayang mamayagpag sa mundo ng pampalakasan o isports, ngunit hindi rin maikakaila na sa paglipas ng panahon ay unti-unting umuukit ang mga kababaihan ng kasaysayan sa larangang ito. Kung sa alamat ni Malakas at Maganda ay angat si Malakas, sa panahon ngayon kung kailan namamayagpag ang kababaihan sa isports, panalo rin si Maganda.

Sa isang bansa kung saan umiiral pa rin ang pag-iisip na nakaangkla sa paniniwalang mas magaling ang lalaki sa babae, nakagugulat malamang babae pala ang siyang mag-uwi ng kauna-unahang gintong medalya mula sa Olympics, sa ilang taong pagtatangka ng bansa na makamit ang ginto, babae ang namayagpag.

Para kay Hidilyn Diaz, batuhin man siya ng samu't saring pambabatikos dahil sa pinasok niyang isport, hindi nito mababawasan ang apoy na nagtutulak sa kanyang patunayan na hindi lamang lalaki ang nagtatagumpay sa larangan ng weightlifting.

“Palagi akong sinasabihan na babae ka lang or atleta ka lang, panlalaki itong isport na ito. Hindi pwede eh, we also have rights and abilities. I want to show that ang mga babae pwede maging weightlifter. Ang babae, pwede maging Olympic champion.”

Isa pang babae ang nagpatunay na kaya ring mamayagpag ng mga kababaihan sa larangang dinodomina ng mga kalalakihan, ito ang boxing.

Isa si Nesthy Petecio sa mga atletang bumaklas sa barikadang pumipigil sa mga kababaihan at LGBTQIA+ community na lumahok sa mga paligsahan na karaniwang suportado ang mga kalalakihan, bigo mang maiwi ang pangalawang gintong medalya, hindi nito mababawasan ang dangal na bitbit ni Petecio hindi lang para sa bansa, kundi pati na rin sa kanyang mga kapwa LGBTQIA+.

“I am proud to be part of the LGBTQ community. Sulong, laban! Para rin po sa LGBTQ community ang laban na’to.”

Patunay lamang sila Diaz at Petecio na usigin man sila ng mga tao dahil sa kanilang kasarian, hindi nito makukupas ang kinabukasang nagbukas para sa mga kababaihan pagkatapos nilang mag-uwi ng karangalan sa bansa, kinabukasan kung saan hindi matatakot ang mga kababaihan na pasukin ang industriyang dinodomina ng kalalakihan, kinabukasang uukit ng panibagong persepsyon sa kung ano ang kaya ng mga babae, kinabukasan kung saan angat naman si Maganda kay Malakas.





ALASKA ACES TO LEAVE THE PBA AFTER 35 YEARS

By Diego Rafael Josue

The Alaska Aces are officially departing from the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

"We thought long and hard before making this final decision. However, we believe that this will allow us to focus our resources on providing affordable nutrition for Filipino families," the team relayed in their official statement.

The team would make their debut in 1986 as the Alaska

Milkmen and win their first championship in 1991 with Jojo Lastimosa leading the way. Acclaimed rivalries with the Sunkist Orange Juicers, San Miguel Beermen, and Barangay Ginebra would further establish the team as a juggernaut in the PBA. Lastly, the Aces also served as a home for superstars such as Bong Alvarez, a place for newcomers such as Calvin Abueva to develop, and for Foreigners like Sean Chambers looking to make a name for themselves. Alaska's losing effort to the Road Warriors in

the 2021 PBA Governor's Cup quarterfinals marked the end of the franchise, one that will go out with 31 finals appearances, 14 championships, and a grand slam in 1996 where they won the Governor's, Commissioner's, and All-Filipino cup in one season.

On March 23, it was announced that Converge ICT Solutions has bought out the Aces and will now go under the moniker Converge FiberXers, with the team retaining the former Alaska players and coaches. They are set to debut during the upcoming 2022 PBA Season.



SAN BEDA REMAINS UNDEFEATED

BY RAPHAEL MIGUEL GONZALES

After nearly 2 years since the proper NCAA season, collegiate varsity teams are back again for NCAA season 97, hosted by De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, with both the San Beda Red Lions and Letran Knights remaining undefeated and sparking the San Beda-Letran rivalry once again.

The San Beda Red Lions continue their streak of victories, remaining undefeated, with a 5-0 standing, recently toppling the San Sebastian Stags. Despite its signature roster of Evan Nelle, Calvin Oftana, Donald Tankoua, and James Kwekuteye, the Red Lions continue to prove their might with a new and familiar roster. James Kwekuteye, a veteran of the Red Lions, is a returning player and goes on to lead the Red Lions this season. Kwekuteye, along with a roster of Nelle, Oftana, and Tankoua, bagged victories for the San Beda Red Lions,

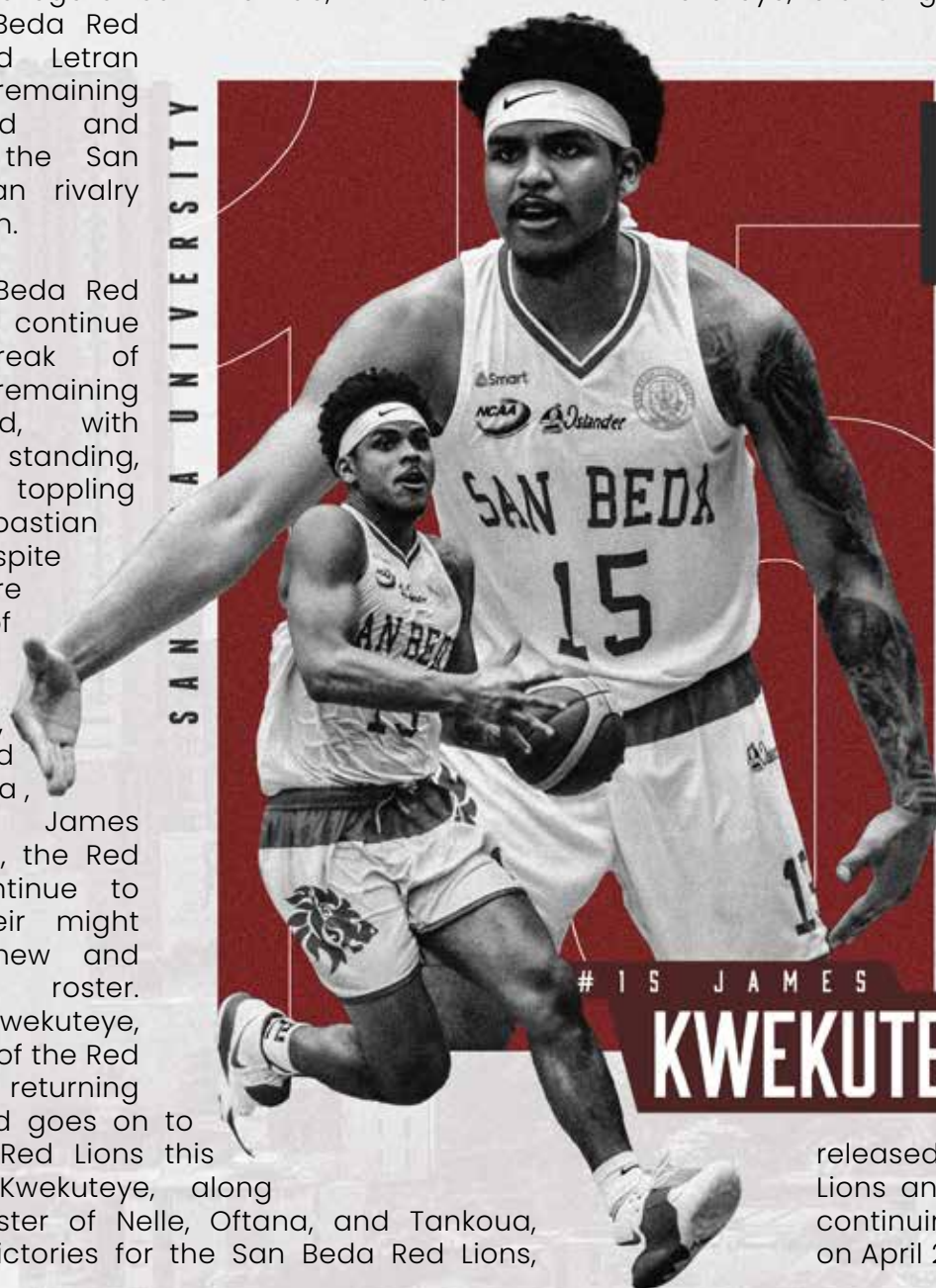
unfortunately losing the season to longtime rival, Letran Knights.

Kwekuteye, standing at 6 foot-2, averages 14.1 points in the past seven games, 5.3 rebounds, 1.6 steals, and 1.1 assists, as San Beda manages to remain steady even with one loss to the Mapua Cardinals. Kwekuteye is a seasoned player of the Red Lions, being part of the classic roster of Red Lions that competed in the previous NCAA seasons, once being dubbed "Bandana Kids" with Evan Nelle.

As one of the leading scorers during the previous face-to-face season 95, Kwekuteye, continues to become the leading scorer of the Red Lions this season, bagging three-pointers and penetrating tight defense from opponents.

In a recent schedule released by the NCAA, the Red Lions and Letran Knights will be continuing their long-time rivalry on April 29, 2022.

SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY



#15 JAMES

KWEKUTEYE

SAN BEDA-LETRAN RIVALRY AFTER 2 YEARS



Art. by
Graciele Torres
Rosario Delano
Domingo Duran

Graciele Torres
Rosario Delano