



# Tumbleweeds



The official publication of the Tumbleweeds Viber Groups of the UP Los Baños Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority, College, Laguna, Philippines



## 10-10-22 GRAND BETAN HOMECOMING by Vee de Vera '67B



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Sitting at the foot of Mt. Makiling, the UPCA Foundation site has a direct view of what once was a tropical rain forest but now home to a university with one of the best agricultural colleges in Asia and the Far East. To the first surveyors, engineers and government planners, a spot at the foot of the mountain became a historical site as a tent was pitched to serve as the first agricultural school with initial 5 instructors and 12 students under a curriculum meant to modernize Philippine agriculture. On October 10, 2022, a renovated foundation site will be rededicated for UPLB-College of Agriculture and Food Science (UPLB-CAFS) to be led by the Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority. The unveiling ceremonies are all in the planning stage as CAFS is promoting active alumni participation in the renovation effort.

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**10-10-22 GRAND BETAN HOMECOMING**

As always the traditional 10-10-22 Homecoming will be celebrated and is promising to be the grand-est.

**BIRTH OF AN IDEA**

Although it was a well thought of idea, for some reason it couldn't take form. It had been sitting for some time waiting for the form to take shape. The timing was perfect! It was Thanksgiving week of 2020 and the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity had just been given a "new lease on life" – it had been officially recognized once again, all sanctions lifted thus becoming relevant again. The resulting celebratory mood felt so inspirational that the flow of creative thoughts just came by and before the day was over, the idea took shape. In rapid succession, creative discussions, ideas and plans emerged. The Tumbleweeds Viber Group quickly set the timetable and everybody went to work. Organizational skills and smart decision making were in full display as the Foundation Executive Committee was set up. For the glory!

**FLASH NEWS**  
"Living descendants of First Dean (Copeland) and 4 original professors, and the 12 original students are being considered as 10-10-22 UPLB guests of honor during the rededication of the Foundation site"



**ENSHRINE YOUR NAME IN THE FOUNDATION MONUMENT**  
by Leo Balagot '69A

The 101022 Commission, prime mover of the monumental task to rehabilitate the UPLB-CAFS Foundation site is very thankful to our brothers and sisters who have responded by pledging donations to support the project.

In a very short period of time after we announced the call for donors we have received more than 1.5 M total pledges. The names of our generous donors will be etched on stone tablet (marble or granite) embedded on the inside walls of the monument for a minimum donation of PHP 20,000.00.

The Contractor works will commence first quarter of 2022 and we will rededicate the monument by October 2022. Recent cost estimates by our architect Brod Nap Cruz, Dil '73C projected a budget of 2.5 M to complete the project.

If you need a copy of the solicitation letter please send your request to email address: [leo@splashmountain.com](mailto:leo@splashmountain.com).

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**ENSHRINE YOUR NAME**

**FUND MANAGEMENT**

To guide our donors the project team has formulated guidelines to manage the funds. All donations should be deposited to this bank account:

**UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Assn, Inc.,**  
**Account # 0911 0162 57,** Bank of the Philippine Islands,  
Los Baños Highway Branch, Brgy. Batong Malaki, Los Baños,  
Laguna 4030; Bank Tel No. +6349 501 4550.

All deposits should be documented in our accounting list (**The Foundation Site Legacy List**). Donors should send via email the bank transaction confirmation to: [leo@splashmountain.com](mailto:leo@splashmountain.com). Upon confirmation of your bank deposit via telephone by our treasurer (Brod Mark Nubla) a corresponding **official receipt** will be issued to the donor.

Likewise, we will not allow expenditures not related to the construction of the project. As much as possible disbursements will be covered by cheques only. Expenses like permits, contractor's fee, purchase of materials and services and all other related expenditures should be paid thru cheques covered by a corresponding cheque voucher signed by the requesting party and approved by the Project Manager (Brod Leo Balagot).

Brod Norman Dumalag will be conducting on-site visits as often as possible being the Project Supervisor while our Project Engineer Brod Adrian Liberato will inspect accomplishments every Saturday. Both will supervise the progress of work closely coordinating with the Contractor. They will be reporting to the virtual "tambayan zoom" meeting updates of the project.

**MORE DONORS NEEDED**

Again, we are calling for more donors to reach our goal of 2.5 M renovation budget. Moreover, we need to produce the extra needed budget to maintain the site for 10 years or perhaps longer for as long as we are capable of handling the responsibility. This could be a lifetime legacy for the brotherhood and the sisterhood.

The following Finance Committee members are authorized to send out solicitation letters:

**Brods:** Vic Tupaz, Ed Quizumbing, Dutch Aragonés, Freddy Fajardo, Jojo Criador, Mark Nubla, and Jim Labastilla.

**Sisters:** Alice Quicoy, Josie Saddul, Grace Criador, Nonie Valdepeñas, Daisy Barradas, and Norms Fajardo.

## THE TEAM BEHIND THE PROJECT

by Leo Balagot '69A

Project Manager– Leo Balagot\*

Coordinators for UPLB Admin and UPLB-CAFS Alumni Ass'n

1. Plato Tirol\*
2. Alice Quicoy\*
3. Freddy Fajardo\*
4. Vic Tupaz\*
5. Thad Lawas\*- Liason for UPLB
6. Nonoy Tagaro\*- Liason-at-Large

Project Architect– Nap Cruz\* (Diliman)

Project Engineer– Adrian Liberato\*

Project Supervisor– Norman Dumalag\*

Project Cashier– Mark Nubla\*

### ZOOM TAMBAYAN THINK-TANKS (\*Regular Zoom Attendees)

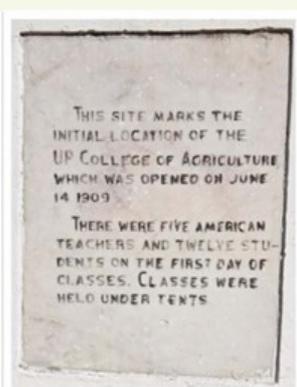
1. Vee de Vera\*
2. Caloy Belleza\*
3. Bing Garcia\*
4. Ed Quizumbing\*
5. Jim Gonzalvo\*
6. Rotsen Lawas\*
7. Jun Cornejo\*
8. Norms Fajardo\*
9. Dave Ramos\*
10. Dutch Aragonez\*
11. Jovit Marasigan\*
12. Nick Galvez\*
13. Keith Tidon\*
14. Mico Acosta\*
15. Abigail Zurita\*
16. Ching Paje Gomez\*
17. Josie Saddul\*
18. Jim Labastilla\*
19. Frank Mamaril
20. Orly Sacay
21. Popoy Castañeda
22. Anggie Angliongto
23. Ed Chiongbian
24. Grace Criador
25. Eric Punzalan
26. Manny Cayetano
27. Domans Dayrit
28. Corix Corvera
29. Danny Abad
30. Carlo Malabanan
31. Orly Basio
32. Cosme Santiago
33. JR Regadio
34. Art de Vera
35. Danny Labadan
36. Kuya Domingo
37. Aynna Carado
38. Ranier Ambrosio
39. Val Palattao
40. Aris Frio
41. Tony Frio
42. Maan Botengan
43. Edwin Antonio
44. Muloy Eala
45. Bob dela Torre
46. Lorna Paje Domingo
47. Angeles Remo
48. Nathaniel Domoguen
49. Ted Quijano
50. Lorna Cordero
51. Orlino Ancheta

# DESIGN OF THE MONUMENT

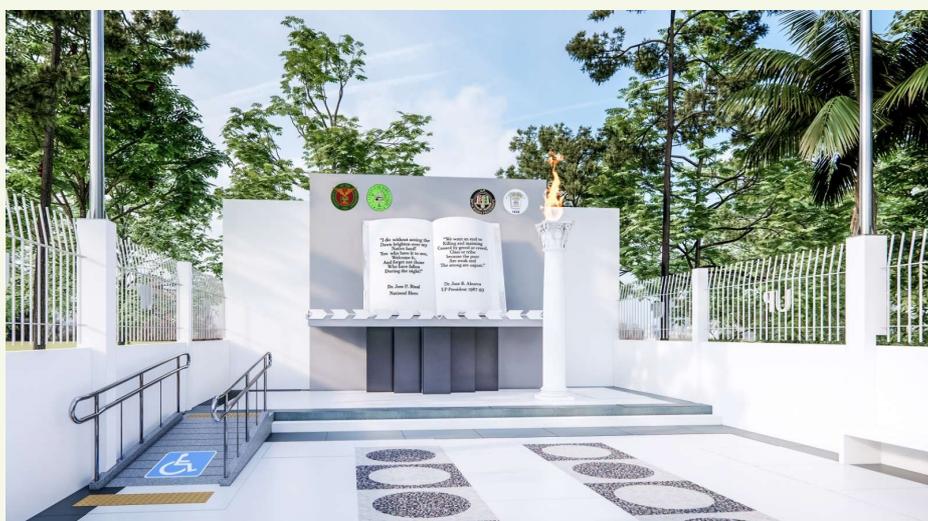
by Arch Nap Cruz Dil '73C

## THE PROJECT

### A. Present state of the UPCA (now UPLB-CAFS) Foundation Site



### B. The proposed Project Design



**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY: NOVEMBER 6, 2021**  
by Norms Fajardo '68

The groundbreaking ceremony for the rehabilitation of the UPLB College of Agriculture and Food Science (UPLB-CAFS) Foundation Site was held on November 6, 2021 at Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna.

The program started with the introduction of UPLB officials and alumni guests and representatives of the UPLB chapters of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity and UP Sigma Beta Sorority, the prime movers of the rehabilitation project. Dr. Cristino M. Collado, CAFS Alumni Association (CAFSAA) president, gave the welcome remarks and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the

BELOW L-R: Chancy Jose Camacho, Jr., Associate Dean Adeliza Dorado, Dr. Resty Collado, Dr. Eileen Mamino, Pres. Mannie Barradas, Mayor Antonio Kalaw, Brods Freddy Fajardo and Plato Tirol



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**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY**

two organizations' initiative. In his message, Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. lauded the continued engagement of the alumni of the fraternity and sorority with the affairs of the university specially in an undertaking that is of historical importance to the entire institution. The dean of the UPLB-CAFS, Dr. Elpidio M. Agbisit, Jr., was represented by Dr. Adeliza A. Dorado, Associate Dean for Instruction, who spoke of her college's appreciation for the rehabilitation of the foundation site. Mayor Antonio L. Kalaw of the Municipality of Los Baños gave the assurance that for as long as he is mayor, the municipal office will help maintain and ensure security in the site.

Chancellor Camacho and Associate Dean Dorado represented UPLB and CAFS, respectively, in the turnover rites. Accepting on behalf of the fraternity and sorority were Brod Plato Tirol and Sis Alice Quicoy, presidents of their respective alumni associations. The acceptance message was delivered by Brod Plato.

An unexpected attendee, Brod Orlando J. Sacay, was requested to speak as he was a member of the Board of Directors of the UPCA 1977-78 that implemented the restoration of the foundation site. His talk focused on his role in the facilities development program of UPCA. It was Dean Dioscoro L. Umali and his staff that formulated what became known as the Five-Year Development Program (FYDP). It was Brod Orly who played a principal role in negotiating for a US\$6.4 million loan from the World Bank in 1965 to finance the program. For the first time in its history the World Bank granted a loan for the development of a higher education institution. The Student Union building, the Physical Sciences building, the Biological Sciences building, the Agronomy, Soil Science and Horticulture building, to name a few, were constructed as part of the FYDP.

Captain Mauro W. Barradas, UPLB Alumni Association (UPLBAA) president, gave the closing remarks but before he did so, he requested the members of the fraternity and sorority who were present to stand in front of the audience. He expressed his profound gratitude to the fraternity and sorority for taking on the rehabilitation project. They in the alumni association could now heave a sigh of relief that a project that had been in the drawing boards for so long will finally see the light of day.

Brod Freddy Fajardo hosted the groundbreaking ceremony.

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**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY**





I was appointed as an Assistant Professor at the UP College of Agriculture (UPCA) to do academic, research and administrative work. I was assigned by Dean Dioscoro Umali, Dean of the college, to head the Technical Staff in his office. Our work centered on developing the academic, research and extension capacity of the college. With only about 1,000 students at that time, it was projected that the number would increase to 3,000 students.

Major attention was placed on upgrading of the infrastructure of the UPCA. The main campus had an area of 127 hectares and an additional 300 hectares of Agricultural Experiment Station. The existing buildings were old and limited in space having been built starting at the early part of the century. We hired two well-known architects to do the master plan and the architectural design of the buildings. Fourteen buildings were designed for the different departments and units of the college.

### **World Bank Loan**

Our objective was to obtain a loan from the World Bank to finance construction of the infrastructure of the college. This would be the first ever loan of the World Bank to finance an education project. We received a continuous flow of missions to look at various aspect of the project. Finally the plan was finalized and it was time to invite the Vice President of the World Bank to visit.

At that time, there was only one Vice President for the entire region of Asia. He was a British gentleman by the name of Peter Cargill who looked so serious, prim and proper and didn't smile. I told Dean Umali that we have to get him to relax and smile. I suggested that we serve him durian. For those who are not familiar with the fruit, you would either love it or hate it because its pungent smell. As soon the fruit was served to him and he smelled it, he broke into a smile.

The most difficult question he asked was what would be the economic impact of the educational loan to the Philippine economy. I was taken aback as I could not imagine the impact of college graduates to the economy. There were no research studies at that time. And when you say economic impact, you have to show economic figures which did not exist.

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I had a bright idea. Not very scientific but I was able to put the question to rest. I said: “Mr. Cargill, we have 62 million chickens in the Philippines that lay 60 eggs a year. If the development of the UP College of Agriculture can increase the production of these chickens by one egg per hen per year, this would pay for the loan over the 25 year period of the loan” He smiled again.

Dean Umali and I went to the President of the Philippines, at that time President Diosdado Macapagal. We proposed that the Philippine Government apply for a \$6.4 million World Bank loan to finance the project. But Presidential approval was based on one condition - that I work as the Director of the Agricultural Division of the Program Implementation Agency (PIA). This was the agency tasked to implement all the policies and programs of the administration.

I had no choice but to accept for the benefit of UP College of Agriculture. I was given the Presidential authority to negotiate for the loan. I was the Head of Mission and my members were my boss, the Dean, and a young lawyer Atty. Manny Zamora.

We left for Washington DC and checked into a hotel. The first meeting was on a Monday. Upon entering the meeting room, I was overwhelmed by the number of World Bank officials attending. There were eight experts headed by Vice President Jack Sagne.

I was surprised by the first question: “Is the UP College of Agriculture located at the foot of Mt. Maquiling? Is it an active volcano?” I answered somewhat sarcastically: “Mount Maquiling is an active volcano. It has no history of it ever erupting. But gentlemen, I assure you that it will not erupt during the 25 year period of the loan”.

Does the UP College of Agriculture have liability insurance? I answered: “The UP College of Agriculture does not have liability insurance. So does the main university in Diliman, Quezon City. I do not agree to obtain liability insurance for Los Baños and create a situation whereby students would rather break their leg in Los Baños rather than in the main campus in Diliman”.

They then presented a two page list of requirements. Knowing fully well that it would be difficult to meet requirements of the Philippine government, I told Dean Umali that I would not agree. I stated: “Gentlemen, considering this long list of requirements, it appears that you do not thrust me and Dean Umali. If you

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**BUILDING UPLB**

need to talk to us, just call us. We are just in the hotel”. I stood up and walked out of the meeting.

This was on a Monday. Tuesday no call. Wednesday no call. Dean Umali could not sleep. I said don’t worry, they will not just throw away a project that they worked on for two years. The group that we met will have to answer to higher management if the project did not go through.

Friday morning, the hotel phone rings. On the line was Jack Sagne who was inviting us for a meeting that morning. “What about”, I asked a little sarcastically. He said: “We will discuss disbursement procedures.” Apparently, there were no more requirements. We met and I signed all the legal documents for a \$6.4 million loan.

**Constructing the College**

I helped in constructing the college. For a while, I regretted my demand that no conditions would be required of the government as some problems were met with releasing the funds of the loan. These were resolved. The old buildings were demolished and 14 new buildings were built. The road network was rerouted along the border of the college rather than it passing through the center of the campus. The project was completed by 1969. The U.P. College of Agriculture eventually became the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB).

I entered the college in 1950 and became a proud Betan in 1951. I belonged to the first group of neophytes. I credit my contribution to the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity which followed the tradition of working for the betterment of our Alma Mater. This continues to this day with the renovation of the UPLB-CAFS Foundation Site.

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Tony Frio

**Managing Editor & Lay-out:** Leo Balagot

**Contributing Writers/Editors:**

Popoy Castañeda, Freddy Fajardo, Al Piedad, Dutch Aragonés, Stephen Tay, Norms Fajardo, Vee de Vera, Dong Rasco, Ed Quizumbing, Orlando Sacay

**Resident Reps:** Mico Acosta, UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity; Aynna Carado, UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority

**Alumni Association Reps:** Plato Tirol, UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association, Inc.; Alice Quicoy, UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association

**E-group Circulation:** Keith Tidon

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## THE COVENANT BETWEEN BETA SIGMA AND UPSILON SIGMA PHI

by Ed Quizumbing '56



When I first arrived at the U.P. College of Agriculture campus in 1955, I did not know much about fraternities except that my father and my uncles belonged to the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity. I only learned that there was another fraternity known as the Beta Sigma Fraternity when I started the registration process. Members of this fraternity provided much needed help to us freshmen to navigate the very complicated registration process. They were our first contact with students in the campus and also became our first friends. Many of us freshmen were graduates of Ateneo schools and being catholic, joined the U.P. Student Catholic Action. The fraternities did not recruit freshmen.

While I was leaning towards the Beta Sigma Fraternity, I also could not overlook my family affiliation towards the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity. What sealed the decision for me was the assurance of Ricarte Abejuela, the Grand Princep of the Betans, that he will make sure nobody “touches” me during initiations. That fateful evening at the Poultry Science Lecture Hall, when I signed the pledge to be a neophyte, Ric suddenly disappeared. Many “masters” knew about his promise to protect me and came looking for me. I barely survived that night but I had already endured so much “joy” that it was pointless to quit. The next day, I sought out Ricarte Bustamante, who was most unassuming and inconspicuous, and begged him to be my sponsor. I believe he was the reason I made it through the fun and games of the initiation process. He made sure I did not receive excessive “joy and attention” from the other masters.

During this time, UPSCA was starting to become a dominant campus organization. It no longer allowed fraternity members. So, many of us left UPSCA. The rivalry between fraternities and UPSCA encompassed all facets of campus life – student politics, scholastic achievement, theater arts, choral competitions, oratorical contests, etc.... But the rivalry was more intense between the fraternities that resulted in rumbles or “friendly and gentlemanly confrontations.” Unfortunately, these rumbles negated many of positive contributions of the fraternities through their presentation of stage dramas and musical shows. The Betans had a long record of presenting well appreciated dramatic plays and musicals. Surprisingly these presentations

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THE COVENANT

were mostly directed by Upsilonians, the most prominent being Leo Rimando and Edgar dela Cruz.

When I learned that the Betans and Upsilonians had agreed to



bury the hatchet after many, many years of contentious competition and non-productive campus activities, I could not believe it. A Covenant for Non-Violence,

Peaceful and Civil Co-Existence Inside and Outside of the UPLB Community between Beta Sigma Fraternity and Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity was signed on January 12, 1977 by both fraternities. That both fraternities have decided to work together and carry out constructive and mutually beneficial activities to benefit the campus community and the surrounding areas, was indeed very welcome news. This was a monumental decision!

The first joint project carried out was the fogging of all the student dormitories when there was an outbreak of dengue fever. This went on for several years and helped to minimize dengue infestation among students. They also sponsored a major blood collection drive in campus with the Red Cross. The Upsilonians displayed a banner congratulating the Betans on their anniversary in 2017. The Betans reciprocated by putting up a huge sign congratulating the Upsilonians on their Centennial in 2018. Nothing like this has ever happened before. Since the signing of the Covenant, there was peace and tranquility between the two fraternities. This harmonious relationship did not escape the community's attention.



So far, it looks like the Covenant between the Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity is holding up. I have high hopes that this relationship and camaraderie will continue and strengthen over time. In my own experience, I

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## THE COVENANT

maintain close personal relationships with Upsilonians. In addition to my father and uncles, Ruben Villareal, arranged for my return after I completed my PhD degree in Minnesota. He also provided funding for my research. Abelardo Samonte, obtained my release from the stockade of Camp Vicente Lim in Canlubang where I was incarcerated during the Martial Law regime. Edwin Magallona gave up his professorial position so I could return to UPLB after I lost my job in the department of agriculture. Gode Calleja and I continued our friendship in college, through graduate school and beyond. Our fraternities were bitter rivals but we were good personal friends.

I am very encouraged by the support the Upsilon Sigma Phi has shown recently, for the rehabilitation of the foundation site of the U.P. College of Agriculture located at Los Banos, Laguna. This project is being sponsored and financed by the Beta Sigma Fraternity and its sweethearts, the Sigma Beta Sorority. At the presentation of the project proposal on Sept. 16, 2021 Chancellor Villareal, Emil Javier, Dolores Ramirez, Resty Collado and Rex Navarro were very appreciative of the project. We also received the strong support of Chancellor Fernando Sanchez, Jr. who was one of the key proponents of the Covenant, and had earlier prepared a plan for the rehabilitation of the UPCA foundation site. Unfortunately, the plan was not implemented so Chancellor Sanchez was very happy that the rehabilitation of the site will finally come to fruition. The groundbreaking ceremony for the project was held in November 6, 2021, by the UPLB, Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority. Representatives of the Municipality of Los Baños and the Department of Education were in attendance. Construction is expected to commence before the end of this year.

Lastly, Dr. Sanchez, mentioned that it would be his dream come true, if the two fraternities would collaborate in staging plays and musical shows. As both parties begin to get acquainted and develop trust and confidence with one another, this is certainly a worthy activity worth considering. There will be hiccups during the implementation of the Covenant. There are diehards on both sides with deep rooted sentiments and animosities who will not agree with breaking bread with a long-time adversary. They may even attempt to undermine this noble and worthy cause of promoting peace and harmony in the community. In the end, however, many who believe in a more productive and mutually beneficial relationship between the two great fraternities for the good of the UPLB community will prevail over those who will try to hold them back. This is my hope for the future!

## 50 Years Ago (1966-71): Remembering College Days on Our Golden Anniversary

by Eufemio T. Rasco Jr., PhD '67B

Reprinted from the Loyalty Day SP 2021

### We planted the seed of student activism

It is no accident that the communist movement patterned after China took root at UPCA starting in 1966. In May of that year, almost coinciding with the first month of classes of our freshman year, China launched its Cultural Revolution, a movement that inspired similar movements in the Philippines. It was a time when young people in China organized themselves as the Red Guards, responding to the call by Chairman Mao to destroy symbols of the status quo. The Cultural Revolution lasted until 1971, the year we graduated. Thus our batch saw the entire course of a great historical movement that influenced student activism in the university. As in China, UPCA students had teach-ins in the campus at the time that the government was more tolerant of dissent. As in China, the little red book became a status symbol among student activists in UP.

But there is more to remember about student activism in the 1960s, the age of Aquarius, the Beatles and Jimmy Hendrix, of hippies and psychedelic music -- all influencing local culture, inclusive of overgrown sometimes kinky hair for men and bell bottom trousers for both sexes, miniskirts for women -- in the UPCA campus as they did elsewhere. Activism was at its high point in the USA, with students fighting the establishment to end the Vietnam war. The US bases in the Philippines used for that war became a magnet for local nationalists calling for their expulsion. It was widely believed that the US government then, as now, controlled local politicians to protect the US presence in the Philippines, inspiring the *tuta ng kano* label of President Marcos and subsequent Presidents, lasting to this day.

There were other issues that agitated students, targeting the Marcos government: delayed land reform, cheating in the 1969 elections, and corruption, among others. In the campus itself, the establishment of SEARCA in 1967 was an occasion for student protest. SEARCA was believed to be a US creation to strengthen its influence on the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia. Loyalty Day was not spared. Students protested that the annual celebration on October 10 was a constant reminder of our subservience to the USA. It was the day that students and faculty members of UPCA volunteered to fight for the USA and its

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allies during World War I. Thus, we can rightly claim that the seed of the student activism that reached its peak in the First Quarter Storm was cultivated in UP during our watch. Indeed, many of our batchmates tend to look at student mass action as the defining activity of their stay at UPLB.

### **Our batch watched the modernization of physical facilities in UPLB**

We often forget that there was a lot more going on in the campus during our time. Many of the UPLB landmarks today were built in the second half of the 60s. Among these are the buildings of old administration, the College of Development Communication, the Biological Sciences, the Physical Sciences, Student Union, Women's Dorm, Agronomy-Soils (now ICrops), Institute of Food Technology, Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Institute, the Umali Auditorium, and the new Administration Building (formerly SEARCA Library). Subsequently, the monument for the farmer and his carabao (till then the symbol of the UP College of Agriculture) was moved back from the main gate to where it is now, and a new, more modern-looking gate was constructed. It was a portent of more to come. In 1972, UPLB became an autonomous campus. New colleges were established, and slowly, agriculture and forestry students became the minority. After a few more years, the Oblation came to town.

We are often reminded today that the physical improvements of our campus became a model for other colleges of agriculture in developing Asia. For a while, UPCA was acknowledged as the most modern College of Agriculture in Southeast Asia. The secret was money borrowed from the World Bank. But apparently, physical improvements and other developments slowed down after that. In no time, the other Southeast Asian agricultural colleges were challenging the lead role of UP in agriculture.

### **Glimpses of student life during our time**

UP students take pride in the impression that UP life is a great equalizer. Students of all tribes, social and economic status mix and they are treated similarly by teachers and the community in general. Well, not quite in our time. The scions of *hacenderos* among us (such as those who hail from Visayas and Mindanao) drive around campus in their shiny convertible cars with push button roofs and windows. Those were the heydays of sugar barons and thousand-hectare ranches! The lesser mortals had **Continue next page...**

to do with motorcycles, which, like cars, were a rare sight during those days. The bigger the motorcycle, the more bragging rights. The bottom of the ladder (most of us, thanks to the automatic admission policy for honor students of any high school) had to run to the next class as the academic buildings were spread. It is still a puzzle why not many students took to bicycles, unlike the famous Soils professor (Dr. Igmidio Corpuz) who rode his head-turning small bike till past retirement.

General transport was provided by the few jeepneys, which charged an outrageous Php 0.10 per ride! Bus rides to Manila on BLTB buses with wooden benches (air conditioning in public transport was unheard of) cost Php 0.80. There was no SLEX, so the journey snaked through all the western towns of Laguna.

Communication was a luxury. To make a long distance telephone call, one had to fall in line at the PLDT office across the Church Among the Palms. Otherwise, home landlines were often out of order, busy, or otherwise being used by a party line who monopolized the few connections. You feel lucky to get a ringtone, and still luckier if the phone was answered by the party you were calling, and not by some stranger who happened to be in the cross line. If one wanted to save money communicating with far away parents, telegram was the cheapest way. But she had to be very creative in composing messages, because RCPI charged on a per word basis. One batchmate famously sent a message that read: "Need money. Send immediately. Sell the carabao." The parent dutifully answered: "Come home. Stop school. No money. Carabao dead."

Fun was watching a triple program Bruce Lee movies at Jerry, Doce or Chit Theaters at College Crossing. The wooden benches and absence of no smoking policy was an assurance that the experience was also an exercise in toughness of the butt and lungs. One gets out smelling like an ashtray with hitchhiking *surot* clinging to his trousers. Surely the movie theater was no place for dating among students.

The alternative was Eva Lanes with its dilapidated lane that made a strike a truly exceptional feat. During Mondays or the beginning of the month, bars at Grove were full. This was when students just received their weekly (or monthly) allowances.

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Forestry students were second class (taga bundok), while Agricultural Engineering students were first class with their status symbol, the slide rule, which was the computer of our time. Ag Chem students were the intellectuals, meaning they were the most conversant of Mao's teachings and served as the brain of student activism. I remember Willy Padolina among them, always walking seemingly in a hurry with his trademark glasses and black umbrella. Ochie Baes, Marly Cardenas and Fred Malicay were also prominent. Not to be outdone, animal science students had their day of glory every year during the rodeo, when they had the chance to show their toughness with the bulls. Jess Abeleda was the star of the show, with his record-breaking bull rides. As for the other students, they got the chance to be recognized when their names were posted among the top ten in exams. Names that were constantly in the list: Ed Ticzon, Arelyne Bustrillos and Federico Villamayor. The rest? They had to wait for life after graduation to make their presence felt.



The university library (now the CAS building) was both a place for serious scholarly work and for meet ups and dates. It was often so noisy that the librarian was obliged to hire a full-time staff whose job was to constantly remind everyone to be quiet. Books were so rare and expensive, and photocopying was still a dream. You would feel lucky to get the chance to borrow a book for overnight use. The rascals among us simply threw them out the window to be retrieved later; otherwise, they simply peeled out the pages they needed. The IRRI library was heaven.

Freshman year was tough for students from far away communities, during the time when there were no special schools such as science high schools in the regions. They found themselves competing with graduates of UP Rural High School, UP High School and other elite schools in the cities. Graduates of these schools breezed through tough courses such as introductory chemistry and mathematics because they already took them in high school. The less fortunate *promdis* had to study double time to keep up. A few had to repeat taking these courses all the way to fourth year! Nevertheless, the elite advantage quickly wore off, and the more hardworking among the *promdis* managed to catch up in the later years.

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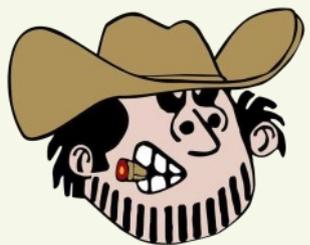
## Orgs, Fraternities, Sororities and Barbarians in the late 1960s

Social life among students started with regional associations as defined by their dialects: Ilocanos, Bicolanos, Visayans, Ilongos, Batangueños, among them. These organizations later became formalized as some sort of fraternities/sororities. Among the memorable ones were *Sarong Bangui* (for Bicolanos) and *Lumabay-labay* (for Ilonggos). Not to be outdone, the locals and their allies from the regions organized themselves into the *Espaleklek* (I did not get to know what that meant). Occasionally these groups found themselves duty bound to defend their tribal honor, and ended up hurting each other in their version of gang wars. With time, the regional flavor disappeared, but the organizations persisted based on camaraderie and love of fun together.

The less tribal organizations were the so-called academic and similar organizations: Chem Soc, Symposium, UPSCA, and Vanguarders were the prominent ones. Membership was commonly limited to serious scholars, Christians, and patriots. These organizations led in organizing extracurricular activities such as stage plays, concerts, debates, and of course, the glamorous parade in reviews and presentation of corps sponsors.

Greek letter fraternities and sororities were relatively few, but highly exclusive; the latter being assured by intensive indoctrination and brutal initiation rites. (The law against hazing came much, much, later). Anyone who was not a member of the Greek letter fraternity was called a barbarian. Unlike the other organizations, however, membership in these Greek letter organizations was more diverse, more open. Thus, it was not unusual for members of other organizations to join fraternities or sororities. There were Bicolanos, Ilocanos and Ilonggos in the same fraternity. There were scholars and *sinkolars*. Rich and poor. Their activities were also more diverse, ranging from student politics, to competing in rodeos and debates, and producing stage plays. Occasionally, they got involved in “rumbles” too, sometimes ending in serious injuries but no death was recorded during our time.. Among the many student organizations, loyalty to fraternities lasted beyond student days. A few get to celebrate Golden Anniversaries, just like our batch ‘71.

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50 Years Ago (1966-71)

The Los Baños Spirit Lives On

Every batch of UPLB students remember student days differently, each claiming to be unique. Batch '71's uniqueness is in our contribution to woman power! We produced the first woman Dean of the UPCA (Ayds Adalla), and the first woman Chancellor of UP Diliman and later, the first woman President of the University of the Philippines System (Emer Roman)! It is a tribute to UP's egalitarian tradition that one of them is a product of an elite high school (UP Rural High School), and the other, a lesser known high school (Lakandula High School) in Tondo.

In addition, some of our female batchmates excelled in academic work in the Philippines and elsewhere. Among them is Yoy Cruz who was recognized as one of the "USA's 300 Best Professors"; Teddy Amoloza who received the "DuPont Award for Teaching Excellence"; the highest such award at Illinois Wesleyan University; Baby Lapitan and Aida Lapiz who were given the Scientist rank by the Philippine Civil Service Commission; Linda Dizon who served as Director of the Institute of Food Science and Technology at UPLB; and Carmen Mateo who was appointed Emeritus Professor at UPLB. Truly, woman power is the legacy that sets us apart from other batches of students of UPLB.

But beyond all the differences among batches of UPLB students, there is one similarity that endures: the so-called Los Baños spirit. Wherever one goes, the UPLB identity is a sure bond that sticks; be it in the medical circles of the USA, the hinterlands of Mindanao, or the hallowed halls of the academe. This is especially true for the 1971 batch: OUR BATCH.

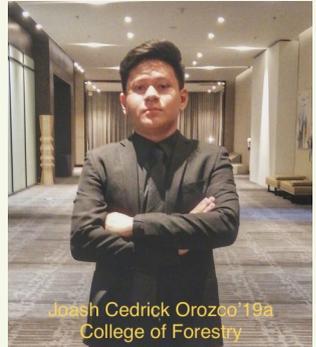
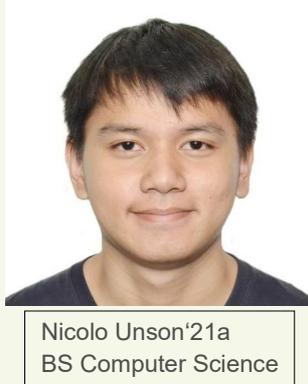
CONGRATULATIONS SIS:TOP 10 LICENSURE PASSER



**BIG BROTHERS BOUNTY**  
by Dutch Aragones '78B

**BBB SCHOLARS 1st SEM AY2021-2022**

Big Brothers' Bounty awarded 5 resident brothers for this semester, namely:



Each received Php15k. This was a collective effort from the following elder brothers:

- Ben Hur Aguila '63
- Mike Alcasid '79
- Jojo Alejar '79
- Orlino Ancheta '64
- Rogelio Ancheta '61
- Nick Angel '83
- Dutch Aragones '78
- Paolo Arejola '85
- Pat Atos '81
- Leo Balagot '69
- Philip Balagot '00
- Manolo Banzon '68
- Bernie Bituin '74
- Caloy Belleza '64
- Ryan Calma '98
- Cris Catalla '84
- Kire Catangay '02
- Ponch Chan '99
- Bernie Clemente '93
- Jun Cornejo '75
- Tomsac Criador '81
- Rene De Rueda '64

- Vee De Vera '67
- Julius Dimaano '99
- Jojo Flores '12
- Ivan Fojas '91
- Nick Galvez '69
- Don Ganchorre '56
- Bing Garcia '64
- Jim Gonzalvo '70
- Alan Hamoy '79
- Smiley Hernandez '74
- Yoyoy Hernandez '80
- Ely Hilario '69
- Mar Laguna '67
- Rotsen Lawas '66
- Thad Lawas '07
- Ned Leonor '79
- Rody Lintag '84
- Boying Liwag '75
- Darius Llanto '94
- Bob Lorenzo '78
- Alex Lustria '77
- Olrac Malabanan '77

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**BBB**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Joshua Malana'08   | Ed Quisumbing'56     |
| Jun Mamaril'80     | Danny Ramos'78       |
| Mario Manzano'85   | JR Regadio'66        |
| Chris Mateo'94     | Dindo Rivera'60      |
| Waldo Miranda'79   | Janus Rojo'90        |
| Mark Nubla'79      | Rex Rosario'99       |
| Jon Ocampo'03      | Bong Sabalvoros'80   |
| Adel Oviedo'78     | Erwin Salud'82       |
| Ting Oviedo'83     | Jun Samaniego'85     |
| Marvic Pacoma'00   | Nikki Samaniego'79   |
| Val Palattao'72    | Plato Tirol'78       |
| Ruben Panaligan'79 | Allan Torneros'89    |
| Ross Pangat'94     | Vic Valdepeñas'63    |
| Adrian Pinera'85   | William Valdez'81    |
| Eric Punzalan'65   | Darwin Valenciano'93 |
| Ted Quijano'67     | Ric Velasco'67       |

**SPECIAL GRANTS**



The recipient for the Grove Continental Togs BBB Special Scholarship Grant AY2021-2022 is GP Mico Acosta'18b (BS Agriculture). He received the peso equivalent of \$400 per sem. Last year's recipient was GP Rainier Ambrosio'12b.

GP Mico Acosta

To recap, this is a special scholarship grant initiated by Brod Dindo Rivera'60, in commemoration of the legacy of a group of brods who struggled academically but had the perseverance and fortitude to stick it out and earn their degrees. For the 4-year course they were enrolled, it usually took them an average of 5 years and most summers to finish. The "Grove Continental Togs" were Brods Eto Oliva '56, Jess Pido '57, Jimmy Lagdameo '58, Albert Chiongbian '59, Rudy Ortega '59 and Dindo Rivera '60, named so because they rented a house at Grove, where lots of brods used to hang-out.

Collectively, these brods were devoted members of the fraternity and despite being care-free, fully enjoying fraternity and college life, they did so in accordance with the principles of the Beta Sigma Fraternity. All these brods became very successful in their respective business, professional endeavors and lives after their college days.

Brod Dindo Rivera'60 is hereby honoring these brods and other

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Los Baños Betans who were not quite scholarly types.

This is a fitting reminder that grades of 5's do not close the door to a successful life after college. It is how you follow the principles of the brotherhood, how to be humble but street smart and apply these as we embark life after college.

This special grant was started in AY2019-2020, with resident brother, Brandon Velardo'15c as the first recipient.



**NATHANIEL ARIBEN L. DOMOGUEN**

Resident Brod Nathaniel Domoguen'19b has been chosen as the recipient of the Johnny Singh'68 Memorial Grant. This is a \$1275-grant to be disbursed on the following terms:

- \$400 - 1st sem AY2021-2022
- \$400 - 2nd sem AY2021-2022
- \$475 - 1st sem AY2022-2023

This special scholarship grant is in honor of a very dear brother, the late Johnny Singh'68, who tragically died in Sept 23, 2020. He was active with BBB, generous in helping brods in need or donating to noble endeavors of the Fraternity. Above all, Johnny was immensely loyal to UPLB Beta Sigma.

These elders, from various generations came together to make this Johnny Singh Memorial Grant possible:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jojo Alejar'79     | Mario Manzano'85   |
| Brandy Ancheta'61  | Ross Panggat'94    |
| Dutch Aragoness'78 | Eric Punzalan'65   |
| Vee De Vera'67     | Dindo Rivera'60    |
| Jim Gonzalvo'70    | Bong Sabalvoros'80 |
| Rotsen Lawas'66    | Erwin Salud'82     |
| Darius Llanto'94   | Jun Samaniego'85   |
| Frank Mamaril'56   | Allan Torneros'89  |

Eric Punzalan'65 best describes Johnny Singh, in Eric's posting from the Tumbleweeds viber group:

“He was a very caring and forgiving person and he did not think twice sharing what he had with others to a point where some people took advantage of his kindness. Many times, he would call me to share his bitterness to those people who took advantage of him. I just told him, you did your part helping them, so let them do their part. And these people knew who they are. Rest assured though that you were all forgiven by Johnny.”

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“To those who did not know him well, Johnny was a straight shooter. He was honest and forthright to tell you if he agree or disagree with you. In some instances, he was interpreted by others as being too harsh and brutally frank. We often disagree but we maintain respect for each other’s opinions. And you can always expect an honest opinion from him because he always spoke his heart and mind. Unfortunately sometimes, he lacked tactfulness in dealing with people although it was almost always done for a very justifiable reason. He believed in the saying that “a man should be given a dose of his own medicine” even just to simply straighten him up. This is a lesson he learned from his military service. On few occasions, he can be a loose cannon ball to make his point. He never back down and allow someone to put him down. And when he’s wrong, you can expect him to tell you, he was...”

BBB Memorial grants have been in place for active BBB brods who have passed on. The following have been the special grants and recipients:

Ernie Tremor Memorial Grant (2nd sem AY2017-2018 and 1st sem AY2018-2019) - Robert John Labalan'12c

Nong Fred Aquino'57 Memorial Grant (2nd sem AY2018-2019 and 1st sem AY2019-2020) - Rusdale Alcantara'14a

In the same token, Brod Dr. Bong Sabalvororo'80 is giving back to our fraternity and at the same time honoring his late father Dr. Eugenio Sr.'53 with a special grant administered through Big Brothers’s Bounty. This is open to a UPLB resident brod from the Bicol region. The recipient will receive \$300 per semester until he finishes college.

Recipients have been:

Dave Martinez'16e (2nd sem AY2018-2019)

John Gil Borela'12e (1st sem AY2019-2020 to 1st sem AY2021-2022)



**The first day of my life as a Betan**

The silence and the sun's reflection on the window panes woke me up that morning. Drilled into my brain were the routines of a slave for the six or so weeks when curfew was at 12 midnight at which time you could rest and sleep. The day started at 4 in the morning when one as a slave was under the power of the masters again. The six or more weeks being a slave of the Beta Sigma Fraternity had conditioned my mind and body to the routine and it took a few moments for me to realize it was all over and I was now a brother of the Beta Sigma Fraternity. My reverie was interrupted by Steve Castillo, my roommate, sponsor and former master, who woke me up with the aroma of black *kapeng barako* that he had in a mug he was offering to me.

"Brod Popoy *magkape ka na*. Sonny is waiting for you to go to mass". As I quickly dressed up Steve reminded me to make myself presentable since I was now a Betan. He gave me my pair of newly washed Levis that Oca confiscated from me last week during an initiation session on the pretext that he was going to burn it. Sonny came in to give me a playful whack with the paddle left in our room from yesterday's activities. I remembered the last time Sonny and I went to mass riding in tandem on his bike. It had been almost two months since I last went to mass with him. After dressing I gulped down my coffee and followed Sonny down to where he had parked his bike. Riding in tandem we went to the last mass at the chapel. John "Sonny" Mendoza was from Puerto Princesa Palawan. He had always been my big brother even during my slave days. And now, on the first day of my being a brother in the fraternity, he insisted that I begin it with a mass. (After graduation, Sonny returned to Palawan and after a short stint as a farmer went back to the university to take up medicine. He returned to his beloved Palawan to practice. He went on his rounds to the remote corners of Puerto Princesa. Puerto Princesa had 66 barangays, 31 of them in remote areas without roads. During one such round he had an accident and lost his right leg. Deeply religious, Sonny set up a free clinic for the poor at the cathedral.)

During mass I noted the presence of my *ka-batches* Frankie Cornejo, Arthur Abierra and Romy Dizon. After mass we exchanged pleasantries and notes on painkillers to take for our post initiation aches and pains. Later, Sonny and I went back to the bungalows. On the way we linked up with Angel Mendoza, Ric Abejuela and Pascual "Paskie" Tantengco who resided up

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**MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD**

the hill behind the Men's Dormitory. Ric, who was being groomed to succeed Pop Amador as president, would be occupying the place of Joseph Madamba who was moving out of the bungalow as he was already a faculty member. Ric Abejuela was a family man with wife and kids back home in Davao.

We walked leisurely and the conversation was lighthearted. When we reached Bungalow 4 Hawards Alonzo was on the balcony with Tony Bautista, Frankie Colanta and Ado Nora. We were told that there would be a caucus here at the bungalow for the new brods. Later, Oca Siasoco, Pol Elago and Rodolfo "Boy" Maslog came up for coffee and engaged the new brods in discussions about the fraternity ball pinning ceremony. Oca and Sonny advised me to ask the elder brods for help in getting me a partner for the ball and pinning ceremony. Ric then reminded us about the early evening caucus because the gathering of brods in Bungalow 4 was dangerously close to developing into a jug-a-lug. Before a bottle of rum could magically appear, we broke up for lunch. I went with Tony Bote who came for me because his mom was already asking about me. (I had been absent from their boarding house since the beginning of hell week that preceded the finals).

After lunch, on the excuse of going to borrow a book from Frankie Colanta, I took off alone to take a walk around the campus. Starting from Grove and then leisurely (despite the hot afternoon sun) towards the bungalows. I savored the feeling of walking on campus without fear of being kidnapped or shot. I had with me my old Airborne knapsack with 2 bottles of years old rum and a can of corned beef. At the Palma Bridge a jeepney slowed down and out jumped Tony Guzman and Mon Asaraga, both Betans and bungalow residents. Apparently they went to Manila after the finals for a date. They walked only part of the way with me as they had to get lunch at Molawin Mess Hall. I continued on and when I came abreast of the Men's Dorm Paskie Tantengco came out of the banana grove with bunch of ripe *saba* bananas. This was for the brods tonight. We would build a bonfire and roast the *saba* bananas. I would return with another bunch later that night. The caucus was well attended. It was held mainly to discuss the mechanics of the frat ball pinning ceremony. The dates were tentatively set for approval by the body and standing committees were formed. The second topic was the coming SBO elections where we were fielding Salvador "Buddy" Dolar from our batch. Everybody

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**MY JOURNEY TO THE BETAN BROTHERHOOD**

agreed that Buddy was our best bet. For the new brods, Ric Abejuela gave a pep talk on how to conduct oneself as a Betan in and outside the campus. Boy Doneza followed focusing on the coming elections where the other party was fielding Cesar Ramos, a new pepsi, as their candidate to run against Buddy. Afterwards the talk moved to partners for the frat ball. There were several of us new brods without lady acquaintances on campus. That time the proportion of male to female students at the Los Baños campus was estimated to be 5 males to 1 female. As a consequence, it was the practice of the Dean of Women to import student nurses from PGH for the monthly socials. During private parties on campus ladies were invited from neighboring communities such as San Pablo and Calamba. Thus, men or boys who wanted to experience the company of the gentler sex, Crossing was the place to go with its two cabarets. In those places and for 25 centavos you could dance with a cabaret girl. For the more adventurous, trips could be arranged with a friendly jeepney driver for a night's excursion to Sta. Rosa.

After the caucus I, with the help of Steve, attended to more personal concerns. I had to catch up with my laboratory reports and the contract drawings I was doing for Dr. Jose Vera Santos of the UP Diliman Botany Dept. Afterwards I joined Steve and Oca on the balcony to talk about me getting a partner for the pinning ceremony. Earlier in the caucus it was found that there were several of us new brods who had not done any ballroom dancing. Growing up in the convent with Belgian missionaries I had no training for that kind of skill nor in dealing with the opposite sex. Pol Elago and Bert Verano had set up a dance class at the bungalow and the culminating activity was to be at the cabaret in Crossing courtesy of Ric Abejuela. Oca meanwhile was taking me to the Women's Dorm the following Saturday afternoon during visiting time to introduce me to no one else but the daughter of the dormitory mistress. The only thing I had learned so far was how to hold my liquor glass. Ric Abejuela, who took over Joseph's place at the bungalow, was going to be Oca's roommate. He was good natured unlike the stern-faced Pop Amador. Like Boy Doneza, Ric gave me a pep talk on how to be a good Betan. "Always remember that anything you do, bad or good, reflects on the fraternity especially here on campus." On that note I went to our bedroom to prepare for tomorrow.

***Editor's Note:***

*Watch Part 6 of this journey in the forthcoming issue of this newsletter.*

### The sensible man



E.D. is an inmate with a psychiatric record who is in jail because of arson. This guy is a wide reader and used to work in a call center. Here in jail, he used to work in the kitchen before he was kicked out for hacking another inmate with a bolo. The victim offended ED because he entered the kitchen area and took some veggies without asking for permission to do so. The victim was shocked out of his mind but otherwise only slightly injured because ED hacked him a la *battousai* (using the none bladed side of the bolo). ED was kicked out of the kitchen but the victim never entered the kitchen area again.

One day I talked to ED about his case. He was jailed for arson for burning down his own house. This is his story. After the death of his parents, the house was bequeathed to him because he was the only child staying with them. However, all of his other siblings started to squabble among themselves over the house. In frustration ED set fire to the house to stop the infighting among his siblings. As ED stated “*now they can fight over a pile of ashes if what I’ve done did not stop them*”. That’s how he ended up here.

### Memory loss

I was browsing through the internet yesterday when I came upon an article about Alzheimer’s disease, memory loss and Molecule G. According to the article, Molecule G can prevent Alzheimer’s disease and memory loss by facilitating the cleanup of waste products from nerve cells. Molecule G can be taken orally but it will be useless because it is broken down completely before it is absorbed into the bloodstream. N Acetylcysteine (NAC), on the other hand, is a mucolytic agent that is rapidly changed into Molecule G inside our body when ingested.

I remember prescribing NAC effervescent tab to one of my patients because of pneumonia. The next day the patient returned with a not so pleasant expression on his face. “*Doc, ano ba ‘tong gamot na binigay mo, bumubula ang bibig ko pag iniinom ko ito?*”. That is memory loss on my part because I failed to give him a clear instruction on how to take the medicine. I took it for granted that because it is an effervescent tab preparation, the patient would know that it should be dissolved in water before it is taken.

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## Alcohol

Several yuletides before I came to DCJ, there was an incident in DCJ Main. This involved some inmates who tried to celebrate the yuletide season by mixing their own cocktail drinks. The ingredients consisted of rubbing alcohol, efficascent oil, toothpaste and Milo. Needless to say most of them ended up in the hospital and some gave up their spirits entirely. After the said incident alcohol was totally banned in DCJ.

It was yuletide season of 2017 and Christmas day was drawing near. There was a celebratory mood in the compound. One morning, I was walking in front of the bakery when I suddenly realized that the scientific name of the yeast used in baking is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Yep, the exact same banana used in fermenting your beer. I know yeast eats sugar, farts carbon dioxide and in the presence of air pee acetic acid but in the absence of air it will pee ethyl alcohol.

I was able to get my hands on yeast from the bakery and sugar from my cellmates before Christmas. And with the help of some intravenous tubings, Voila! Me and my cellmates did have a merry merry Christmas. In fact, it was 20 liters of merriness. BTW, remember that yeast farts CO<sub>2</sub>. I use it for carboxytherapy. Very useful. You can google it.

## The insanity plea

Now I had a cell mate who had been advised by his lawyer to act like crazy so that he could plead insanity. Every 2 to 3 months the cellmate was brought to the mental hospital for evaluation and his medical certificates were always the same - not fit to stand trial. I really didn't know if he could get away with an insanity plea but if he got away with it then he really did have the best defense attorney. You see, it is understandable if you use the insanity plea on murder cases but how can you plead insanity for human trafficking? *"Your honor, I had a traumatic childhood" or "Your honor I suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, that was why I pimped for this girl or that lady via the internet"*. To this day, I am still waiting to see the result of his attorney's tactics.

*"Yeah right, nice try retarded child"*. That is probably what the judge would say to the defense lawyer. But who knows?

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## Chapter 1 The first day

There was a mild afternoon shower on the 27th of November, 2017. I and two other companions were escorted by three PDEA agents. We were brought into a compound with high concrete walls topped off with razor wires. The compound had a massive grey-colored outer gate and a smaller inner gate. We entered the compound and were immediately ushered into the administration building. There we were made to fill up some papers. The PDEA warden unlocked our cuffs and we were now officially in the custody of this facility. We were then processed by some trustee inmates. After this I was called by the warden of the facility. He gave me a curt welcome and asked me to pick a cell of my choice for my stay here.

Cell number 5 is the HIV cell of the facility. I chose cell number 5 for three reasons. First, it is the least congested ward with only 15 inmates, 7 HIV positive and 8 non HIV inmates. The second reason is my desire to study HIV up close. After further processing, we were led to Building A where cell number 5 is located. Along the corridor on our way to our assigned cell a large dark man approached me, took my hand and shook it profusely. The man said *“Welcome to Davao City Jail Annex Doc. You don’t know how long we’ve been praying to have a doctor of our own. At last our prayers have been answered”*. I stood still for a while thinking *“\*&\*&@#@#”* so you’re the reason why I am here. But I kept my silence and proceeded to my cell.

The cell is a room with steel bars on one side of the wall and concrete walls on the other 3 sides. It was 5 meters wide, 7 meters deep and 4 meters high. It had one shower and one toilet. A typical cell held about 40 inmates. Most of the bunks were 3-tiered to accommodate those many inmates. A standard bunk or “tarima” was six feet in length by two feet in width. If you happened to inherit a tarima from a former inmate, then you inherit not only the tarima but also the former inmate’s pets. The very same pet that inspired Adolf Hitler to write his best seller.

As I settled down in my cell I thought *“so this is what it’s like to be in jail”*. Davao City Jail Annex was a prison facility for the infirm and aged. I was neither sick nor old, so what was I doing here? This was my first day in jail.

### **Editor’s Note:**

*More articles from Brod Dr. Stephen Tay will be published in the forthcoming issue of our newsletter!*