



Tumbleweeds



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



REVIVAL OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR BETANS by Leo Balagot, Batch '69

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For the love of our Brotherhood I felt the need to revive the newsletter for Betans. I see that this will provide a forum for reconnecting the brothers and sisters during this time that mass gatherings are not allowed. Having seen the successes of the 101010 and 101015 reunions, it is rather frustrating that the brotherhood and sisterhood were forced to forego the much anticipated 101020 reunion last year. The lost opportunity to celebrate our grand reunion has created the void that could have cultivated our unique Betan camaraderie.

Instinctively, the situation has awakened my Betan social responsibility to create an alternative in rekindling our Betan bonds. I decided to revive the publication we love so much during our college days — The Betan Newsletter. I envision that this newsletter will reawaken the ties that we need to sustain as

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REVIVING THE NEWSLETTER by Leo Balagot '69

Betans for life. This new publication being “online,” the expected readership is unprecedented as we are targeting all UPLB Beta Sigmans and Sigma Betans worldwide spanning a generation of 71 years.

I express my deepest appreciation to the brothers and sisters who helped me launch this maiden issue. As we face new tests I am challenging the young blood specifically the residents of the brotherhood and sisterhood to actively participate in producing relevant articles in this newsletter. Go and recruit potential writers and editors. Dedicate your talents and skills towards bringing pride to our respective organizations. You may have your ups and downs and lose your focus from time to time but QUIT NOT for the Betans are made of stronger stuff. Let us Work, Work, and Work...

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: Tony Frio

Managing Editor: Leo Balagot

Contributing Writers/Editors:

Popoy Castañeda, Rotsen Lawas, Al Piedad, Larry Santiago, Freddy Fajardo, Heugo Criador, Domans Dayrit, Jim Labastilla, Bike Catibog, Dutch Aragonas, Dianne Cunanan, Borj Bayot, Cyndie Hernandez, Jim Gonzalvo...

Resident Repts: Rainier Ambrosio, UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity, Aynna Carado, UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority

Alumni Association Repts: Plato Tiro, UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association, Alice Quicoy, UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority Alumni Association

Design and Online Circulation: Arvin Pedregosa and Keith Tidon

EDITORIAL BOARD OF ADVISERS

Dong Rasco, Vic Tupaz, Norms Fajardo
Maan Botengan, Tony Frio (ex-officio)

**SEND YOUR FEEDBACK
to the Editor:
asfrio@yahoo.com**

EDITORIAL
by Tony Frio, Batch '60

In October 2020, Brods Ed Carandang and Toto Sarrosa (both Batch '69) founded the Betan Tumbleweeds Viber Group (TVG). At present, the TVG has 142 members.

Significant postings of Betan memories and experiences shared in this internet group has spurred some Brods to create a new online newsletter for the brods and sisters. Foremost was Brod Leo Balagot (Batch '69) who then contacted some brods who could help in producing this newsletter. These brods responded and organized themselves into an editorial team.

Very recently, Brod Freddy Fajardo (Batch '64) posted in our Viber Group some copies of the old newsletters. These have practically awakened the UPLB Betan community. We realize

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that this medium provided us a strong sense of our boyhood and womanhood days as Betans growing up and maturing into responsible citizens of our society. In a sense, the newsletter has served to unify the brods and sisters in a unique and valuable way.

There was always a Betan newsletter during our student residency as brods and sisters of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority. While these newsletters came on and off due to lack of budget, lack of brod writers and articles, etc., they provided a huge and strong bonding mechanism for the brods and sisters, residents as well as alumni.

This newsletter also addresses the clamor in the TVG to record our legacy in another heritage book similar or following the fraternity's *Book of Brotherhood* produced by Brod Dutch Aragonnes (Batch '78) in 2010. It will provide a rich source of Betan information that can chronicle the rich historical heritage of our fraternity and sorority. Finally, this newsletter could be a precursor to the production of a documentary video about our fraternity and sorority.

Our Viber group membership spans several generations. We would like to reminisce and immortalize those Betan youthful days as we grew and mature, get busy with our professions and families, and continue on to our fruitful years as senior citizens.

Today, we find ourselves facing a very new and challenging present. The Covid 19 pandemic is greatly affecting our lives. Membership in our resident Betans is dwindling. Many of our



alumni members are trying to connect to long lost brods and sisters. There is a very sincere, growing concern to help members who are health-challenged. And much more can be achieved.

We hope that this newsletter will effectively fulfill our continuing vision for a vibrant Beta Sigma and Sigma Beta community.

Technical Tip



For cellphone users...

Rotate your phone to landscape position for a better view of the contents of this Newsletter.

THE TUMBLEWEEDS NEWSLETTER: PROPOSED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

by Editorial Board of Advisers

Editor's Note:

In February 19, 2021, Brod Leo Balagot called for some identified brods and sisters to participate as volunteers in reviving this Newsletter. These brods and sisters have shown some experience in writing and producing the Betan Newsletters during their residency days.

They then organized themselves into an *interim* Editorial Team. This Team is composed of an editorial staff and an editorial board of advisers.

In subsequent Zoom meetings, the Team felt the need to formulate certain policies and guidelines for this Newsletter. It was felt that the Editorial Board of Advisers should take the lead in formulating these guidelines. The Newsletter staff will adopt these policies to guide them in the production of this online medium.

The following are the proposed policies and guidelines. From time to time, the Editorial Team and the general readership will review these policies to suit current conditions and needs.

1. Name, Readership, Frequency of Publication

“Tumbleweeds” is the official name of the publication to be circulated online thru the Email-groups and Chat groups of the UPLB Fraternity and Sorority. Expected readers are the alumni and residents of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and Sigma Beta Sorority. This newsletter will be published every two months.

2. Composition of the Editorial Team, Responsibilities and Terms of Service

The Tumbleweeds Newsletter Editorial Team is composed of two bodies: the Editorial Staff and the Editorial Board of Advisers.

The Editorial Staff is composed of:

- a. An editor-in-chief and a managing editor who will have a fixed two-year term each.
- b. Several contributing editors and writers who, at the moment, have no fixed tenure. They can, at their convenience, voluntarily stop being contributing editors and writers at any time. The editorial team shall appoint their

Continue next page...

- replacements from the Newsletter reader membership.
- c. A graphic designer/artist who will be responsible for the layout, design and related aspects of the Newsletter.
 - d. The UPLB Beta Sigma Grand Princep (GP) and UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority Most Idyllic Sister (MIS) will represent their respective resident members. Their term of office is co-terminus with their term as officers of the fraternity and sorority.
 - e. The Presidents of the alumni associations of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority will also represent their respective members in the Newsletter editorial team. Their term of tenure will be co-terminus with their term of office in their respective alumni associations.
 - f. The Editorial Staff shall produce and manage the newsletter and implement all policies formulated and recommended by the editorial board of advisers.

The Editorial Board of Advisers is composed of five members, 2 each from the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority with a service term of 2 years. The editor-in-chief is ex-officio member. This Board is primarily tasked to formulate and provide recommendations on all editorial policy decisions and advice on sensitive issues that affect the publication of the newsletter.

3. Election and Appointment of Editorial Team Members

- a. The *interim* Tumbleweeds Newsletter Editorial Team will hold office until a new team is formed, but not later than one year from the date of the first issue of the Newsletter.
- b. The general readership of the Newsletter shall elect its new editor-in-chief and members of the Editorial Board of Advisers in an election to be held a month prior to the end of the terms of service of the current Editorial Team.
- c. The Editorial Board of Advisers shall create a Commission on Elections. This body shall formulate the rules of the election, venue, date, canvassing and proclamation of winning candidates.

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- d. The newly elected editor-in-chief shall appoint the new managing editor and graphic design/artist.

4. Guidelines for Contributors of Articles (this is an evolving document and subject to revisions with prior notice by the Editorial Board of Advisers.)

- a. Article contributors to this Newsletter are the UPLB Beta Sigma and Sigma Beta chapter alumni and residents. Contributed articles may be written in English, Pilipino, Tagalog and Taglish.
- b. Reprints of relevant articles from other sources like past souvenir programs, old issues of newsletters, etc. are allowed and these should be properly acknowledged by citing the sources/authors.
- c. The publication of an article should not risk the credibility of the publication.
- d. The article should not put in bad light the image of the fraternity or sorority or any of their members.
- e. The article should not cast aspersion on any individual or organization, particularly those who are not members of the fraternity or sorority.
- f. The Newsletter will not publish anonymous articles.
- g. Articles that deal on controversial issues such as those relating to politics, religion, and very exclusive internal matters to the UPLB Beta Sigma and Sigma Beta should be avoided.
- h. The Editorial Board of Advisers will resolve complaints regarding the content of the Newsletter with finality. No appeal will be entertained.
- i. Decisions of the Editorial Board of Advisers will be based on a majority vote. The Chair will break a tie.

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS

The Tumbleweeds Newsletter Editorial Team conducts its regular meetings thru the Zoom Platform
<https://zoom.us/pricing>

USD 149.90 per year/license

*Pls send your donations to
Brod Dutch Aragones (USA) or Brod Vic Tupaz (Phil)
You can contact them thru the Tumbleweeds Viber Group*

UPLB TUMBLEWEEDS VIBER GROUP – A LIFELINE DURING THE PANDEMIC

by Jim Gonzalvo, Protest '70B

As Beta Sigmans, being cooped up is very difficult to deal with because we are naturally social beings. So, when the COVID 19 hit causing a pandemic, most of us found ourselves in isolation. Wearing face masks, practicing social distancing, observing curfews and quarantine measures, and limiting individual movement were imposed to contain the spread of this virus.



The Philippines was not spared. The usual fraternity gatherings were suddenly cut off or the number of participants in these gatherings was curtailed. Everybody was starting to get distraught while asking, “How long can this go on?”.

After several months of feeling isolated, two UPLB Beta Sigmans, Ed Carandang and Antonio “Toto” Sarrosa, came up with the brilliant idea of forming a chat group to alleviate the stress. In October 2020, Brods Ed and Toto started gathering phone numbers from brothers scattered all over the globe. From the Philippines, USA, Canada, Australia, and the Middle East responses started pouring in and by March there were 137 Betans in the chat group. Appropriately, the chat group was named “Tumbleweeds Viber Group” (TVG). Tumbleweeds, a rodeo team, very close to the heart of every UPLB Beta Sigman. It brought back memories of the fraternity’s heydays in UPLB.

Amazingly, brods were suddenly re-connected just like a virtual



Brods at the Coop Tambayan

Co-op “*tambayan*”. The TVG was like a “time machine” transporting the brothers back in their UPLB days. Brothers of different generations came together. Long lost brothers were found. Batch-

mates who have not seen each other before are now having the chance to talk and fill the void of the years gone by. Brothers banter with each other. Topics vary from birthday greetings, condolences, prayers for the sick, jokes, tales and anecdotes of the past.

Brod Freddie Fajardo digs into his “baul” of memorabilia and posts old issues of “The Betan” newsletter triggering recollections and discussions of yesteryears among the brods.

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UPLB TUMBLEWEEDS VIBER GROUP by Jim Gonzalvo '70B

Brod Kiko Reyes shares inspirational phrases to live by uplifting everyone's spirit. Brod Dutch Aragones, will not be outdone. He posts black and white pictures passed on to him by the late Brod Orly Magistrado of the fraternity's past activities, mostly of the 60's and 70's. Pictures of the past showing brods 30, 40, 50 years younger.

And, of course, we cannot forget Brod Toto who conscientiously greets all the brods every morning (Philippine time), like the rooster crowing with a special mention of a brother or brothers celebrating his/their birthdays.

But it's not always happy. There are times when the group finds out that some brods have passed away several years back and the appropriate thing to do is to properly pay tribute by remembering them. Other times, recent news of a brother's passing comes across the chat group. With heavy hearts, the group celebrates the life of the said brother with joyful memories and remembrance of how he lived as a Beta Sigman.

Most recently, all the posting in the Viber group sparked interest to revive "The Betan" newsletter together with the UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority. Headed by Brod Leo Balagot, the editorial staff was formed, and a "strawman" issue was published in March 2021. The maiden issue will come out on April 1. The newsletter will be a more formal and structured means for brothers and sisters to write about subjects of interest to them and the fraternity/sorority. It will also serve as a repository of information to catalogue significant events in the fraternity's and sorority's rich history for future members to enjoy, appreciate and be proud of.

This year, 2021, the fraternity is celebrating its 75th Anniversary (1946 – 2021). The mere thought of getting together in person creates excitement within the group. Talks and plans of getting together are now in the works after the pandemic with the hope that

everyone would have been vaccinated by then. It will be a great gathering indeed of the GOOD AND NOBLE MEN of the UPLB BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY!!!!



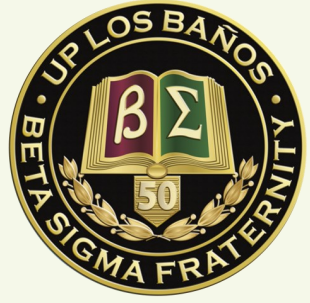
Brod Jim Gonzalvo is also President, UPBSI 2020 – 2022

TRACING OUR ROOTS: THE BRODS CIRCA 1950s

by Tony Frio, Batch '60

reprinted from the 101010 souvenir program

Much has been written about the establishment of the fraternity in 1950, with the UP Diliman brods coming all the way to Los Baños to initiate the founding members. After this historic occasion, what was it like in the Los Baños Beta Sigma Fraternity in 1951, the very first year of the fraternity's existence?



The following is a story published in the 1951 issue of The Aggie, the official student publication of the UP College of Agriculture about the founding and subsequent activities of the Betans during the first year of the fraternity:

"Flash.... A new fraternity was recently born!"

The organization of the fraternity, formal induction of charter members, Molawin Hall luncheon, Winter garden affair and the annual frat dance. These are the highlights of the activities of the U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity, Los Baños Chapter, for its first year of existence in the campus. Here are the details behind them. Not long had the Aggies and Foresters been digging into their books this school year when news about the birth of a young organization spread in the college campus. For, in a sultry yet exhilarating and yummy atmosphere inside the Molawin Hall on August 13, 1950, amidst cheers, hearty handshakes and fraternal chats, a new organization was born, indeed- the U.P. Beta Sigma, Los Baños Chapter. After a veritable luncheon of lechon, salad, fried chicken, etc., sixty-four charter members from the College of Agriculture and Forestry took their oath of loyalty conducted by Manuel Aliño, president of the U.P. Beta Sigma, mother chapter. Witnessing the affair were Dr. F.O. Santos, local UCCSOA representative, Mr. T.B. Ramos, Adviser of the Diliman Betans, Dr. D. Umali, adviser of the local chapter, Teodoro Padilla, president of the U.P. Student Council and some other Betans from Diliman.

Hazing? Being charter members, they were honorably exempted from undergoing such an ordeal.

What seem to be the most remembered social affairs to every local Betan were the Annual Ball at the Manila Hotel's Winter Garden, and the successful frat dance held in honor of the frat's graduating members and the fraternity's sweetheart, Miss Josephine Calma. Consisting of Aggies and Foresters, this fraternity is probably the strongest link ever established to strengthen the tie binding the interests of the students of Forestry and Agriculture. However, beset with innumerable problems common to all young organizations, coupled by its adviser's illness, the fraternity was forced to suffice with a limited number of activities, much to every Betan's regret. Nevertheless, it has gained remarkable progress during its first year of existence and succeeded in training student-leaders now occupying top positions in every phase of college political and social life. These and a score of praiseworthy plans awaiting action promise the frat a very bright future.

This year, the new-born fraternity is still at its brooding stage. It is for us to wait till it turns out, after this trying year, record-breaking individuals in the fields of leadership and service, en masse."

RECOLLECTIONS OF A FOUNDING UPLB BETAN

by Grine Griño, Batch '50

reprinted from the 101010 souvenir program

This Betan was initiated in 1950, one of some sixty brods who comprised the founding batch of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity. I now could count not too many of the original batch members. I have attended the wake of some who have gone, delivered the eulogy for others, even. The first untimely loss was Rudy Ilarde who spearheaded the organization of UP Beta Sigma Los Baños Chapter.



Some interesting facets in my sixty years of Betan life come to mind such as:

Unusual Initiation Rites

Sixty or so eager neophytes nervously awaited the arrival of UP Diliman brods headed by Manny Alinio for initiation rites at the Molawin Hall in Los Baños one sunny morning in August 1950. The group arrived in cars way past noontime tired and famished and was immediately treated to a sumptuous luncheon in traditional Los Baños hospitality. The filled-up Diliman brods, now reluctant to bring out paddles, decided to give thorough indoctrination talks, followed by a solemn induction ceremony, hearty greetings, hand clasps, hugs and big smiles. What a relief! I became a Betan with no paddling welts.

Loyalty Day Float

I was president (grand princep) in 1951 when the frat was tasked to coordinate the participation of UPLB student organizations in the October 10 Loyalty Day parade. We thought we had done a good job only to realize before the parade was to



Grine Griño, Charter Batch '50

start that Beta Sigma had no float of its own. We hurriedly washed up a Manila brod's rundown antique Ford jalopy, swiped some seedlings, fruits and vegetables from Agronomy which were placed in baskets on top of the car, tied a couple of goats from Animal Husbandry to the rear bumper and wrapped the car in canvass emblazoned with "OFF TO THE FARM TO DISSEMINATE BROTHERHOOD" and the Beta Sigma logo.

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In front of the parade reviewing stand, the dilapidated vehicle with curious put-ons blew off the loudest air horn one could ever hear which caught everyone's attention. It was the only parade participant which saw print in the special feature page of a national newspaper after the event.



Campus Politics

Beta Sigma had been ruling over the UPLB campus politics for years and in 1952 I was designated as the frat's campaign manager with the mandate to ensure a clean sweep in the forthcoming student government elections. Putting up a formidable line-up, we were confident of winning every post except the prestigious College Representative to the UP Student Council in Diliman. The rival frat had a pretty, brainy and popular Sigma Deltan as an undefeatable candidate. The frat challenged me to prevent her victory. Miss Sigma Deltan had been the object of my affection before then, which I intensified during the campaign days. I pleaded that she support my desire for a straight frat victory. A few days before elections, she quietly withdrew her candidacy to the chagrin and frustration of her party mates. The frat praised me no end for our total victory. For me it was a sweet double win.

Memorable Interview

Shortly before my graduation, a request was received by the UPCA dean from a large agribusiness firm to recommend a prospective graduate for a high-level management position. I was sent with some others, was interviewed by the top man of the agri-business firm himself and was advised to await further notice. On my next call, the top boss introduced me to members of his board of directors as one with rather so-so scholastic performance, with colorful grades in fact, but who have been an active member of most student organizations in campus, singling out my presidency of Beta Sigma Fraternity as an indication of



Original Betan Logo Circa 1950s

leadership which the firm needed. I was hired and had been with that firm to this day, rising to the positions of plantation manager, vice-president, director and (overstaying) president, serving with dogged loyalty inherent in a Beta Sigman.

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Stranger Betans



During my term as manager of a rubber plantation in Basilan, an impressive young agriculture graduate answered our advertisement for an agronomist. Asked during the interview to give three good reasons why he should be hired, he answered that he only had one- that he is a brod Betan from Mindanao State University. He got the job. Strolling in my Beta Sigma T-shirt along downtown Zamboanga City one day during martial law period, I got a tap on my shoulder from behind. Turning around, I was taken aback to come face to face with a young uniformed military officer and thought I was being arrested. With a broad smile he introduced himself as a Betan from the University of Nueva Caceres in Bicol. This made me more aware of the existence of Beta Sigma in other institutions and of Beta Phil.

Golden Jubilee Chairmanship

In year 2000 I was prevailed upon to chair the UPLB Beta Sigma Golden Jubilee Celebration. It was a large international affair- a big attendance, a total smash. I was, in fact, only a figurehead for the affair. Younger and more energetic brods with wider contacts did all the dirty work. I got much credit and praise, nonetheless, the prize for being the most senior of the lot.

Brotherly Assist

In my long years as agri-business executive, I have immensely enjoyed innumerable assistance and support from fellow Betans in the private and government sectors- UP as well as BetaPhil brods. I owe them all a huge debt of brotherly gratitude.

I now mingle with brods in my home City of Zamboanga where I enjoy high regard and admiration as the most seasoned of them all. This gives me much pleasure and pride and I drink to that with special 60-year vintage wine- smooth and soothing like a senior Betan.



1950s Brods posing with Fraternity Sweetheart Josephine Calma

RESIDENT'S SECTION

WHY I JOINED THE UPLB SIGMA BETA SORORITY by Patricia Isabel Llave, Amare et Servire '20A



During my pre-veterinary years, I never thought of joining organizations because I knew that I would find it difficult to manage my time. As years went by, I got the chance to have a close friend, a member of the UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority. From time to time, she would ask me to attend their orientation activities but I kept on rejecting her invitation.

Later I've seen her learn and grow as an individual and as a member of the UPLB Sigma Beta sisterhood. I saw her manage and juggle her time between academics, sorority, and personal life. Somehow it made me think if I could do that too.

Years passed, I joined a sorority within our college knowing that it would be a great experience and help for my academics. It took me years to decide to join an organization or sorority outside our college. I have always thought of an affiliation in an organization that would make me feel that I am home and welcomed. I considered a lot of things, I observed every affiliation, their activities, and even the members too.

Fast forward to November 2020, no second thinking, I finally decided that I wanted to be a part of the Sigma Beta sisterhood. It may seem that it took me a long time to decide but I know it is still and will always be worth it. I know that our sorority will help bring out the best in me, will help me grow as an individual, will help me promote my advocacies as a future veterinarian, and will always be with me as I become the person that I have always prayed that I want to be.

Sigma Beta Merchandise

for pre-order

 <p>SIGMA BETA JACKET available in S, M, L PHP 1000.00 (Free shipping nationwide + free face mask)</p>	 <p>SIGMA BETA NECKLACE PHP 899.00 (Free shipping nationwide)</p>	 <p>UP Sigma Beta Sorority, 1932</p>  <p>Sigma Beta is Home EB Car Stickers - PHP 99.00 EB Face Mask - PHP 150.00</p>
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For more details, contact our FB page - UP Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños Chapter or contact Princess Reyes on Facebook. You may also reach us at 09166941840 / 09083112926.

WHY I JOINED THE UPLB SIGMA BETA SORORITY

by Caitrianna Daniella D. Ke, Amare et Servire '20A



As a child, I never really understood why my Mom loved the shades of lavender and called the names of her friends beginning with “Sis”.

She would often bring me to various parties and meetings conducted by this group of women from different backgrounds and personalities. I could also remember that there was always a hint of lavender in every event motif and wonderful laughter that never fails to fill up the entire room. Later did I know that these lovely women were all part of the sorority group - Sigma Beta.

Personally, I had always been surrounded by Sigma Betans throughout the years, other than my Mom and Lola who are also part of the fold, Sigma Betan sisters have always warmly welcomed and cared for me. Not only did I experience such love but I also felt the good feeling of being able to care for others through the sorority. At a young age, I would help in Sigma Betan activities in preparing goodie bags for hospitalized children. From this, I began to love the sorority not only because of the women who are part of it but also because of what they can accomplish together.

As I began my undergraduate studies at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, I decided that I really wanted to become part of Sigma Beta as it had always been one of my goals. Last year, despite the many challenges and sudden shift to online learning brought by the Covid19 pandemic, I officially became part of the sorority. The process was conducted via online and was truly a new experience for me, my batch mate, and the resident sisters (whom we also addressed as Lovelles). I won't deny the fact that it would have been better if our process were done face-to-face but I could indeed conclude that it was a successful and very memorable event.

No words can express how grateful I am now that I am already part of this beloved sisterhood. Sigma Beta is very special to me and I will treasure it by striving to do my best through sharing my talents, skills, and agricultural knowledge to the sorority like our batch name; Amare et Servire which means “To Love and Serve” – just like how I have fallen in love with the sorority through its wholehearted service to women and the society.



BETA SIGMA RESIDENTS SET OF OFFICERS

by Ranier Ambrosio, Grand Princep

GP: Rainier A. Ambrosio
Course: BS Agriculture
Batch: 2011
Classification: Senior

1VGP: Brandon L. Velardo
Course: BS Agriculture
Batch: 2014
Classification: Senior

2VGP: Mico C. Acosta
Course: BS Agriculture
Batch: 2018
Classification: Sophomore

MOTR: Nathaniel Ariben L. Domoguen
Course: BS Chemistry
Batch: 2019
Classification: Sophomore

Coffers: John Angeles M. Remo
Course: Certificate in Forestry
Batch: 2018
Classification: Sophomore

Chamberlain: Giles Justin S. Labastilla
Course: BS Computer Science
Batch: 2015
Classification: Senior

WOTS: Joash Cedrick D. Orozco
Course: Certificate in Forestry
Batch: 2018
Classification: Sophomore

Chattels: Angelo S. Del Rosario
Course: BS Agricultural and Applied Economics
Batch: 2019
Classification: Sophomore

Herald: Gian Marco Y. Toledo
Course: BS Applied Mathematics
Batch: 2019
Classification: Sophomore

Scholastics: [Herald]

SOMA: [Coffers]

Socials: [Chattels]

Sports: Tyrone O. Balaguer
Course: BS Forestry
Batch: 2015
Classification: Sophomore

Advisers:
Brod Thad Lawas
Sis Alice Quicoy



SIGMA BETA RESIDENTS SET OF OFFICERS
by Aynna Carado, Most Idyllic Sister

MIS: Aynna Carado
Course: BS Agricultural Economics
Batch: 2014
Classification: Senior

ISP: Angel Suay Abiog
Course: BA Sociology
Batch: 2017
Classification: Senior

ISG: Mariela Beatriz R. Obciana
Course: BS Economics
Batch: 2019
Classification: Sophomore

SKS: Princess Kim B. Reyes [OIC]
Course: Certificate in Forestry
Batch: 2018
Classification: Sophomore

SSC: Christine Louise S. Lacanaria [OIC]
Course: BA Communication Arts
Batch: 2015
Classification: Senior

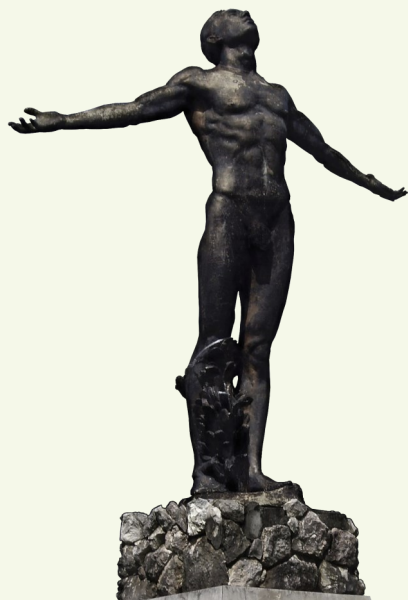
SR: Patricia Isabel S. Llave
Course: D Veterinary Medicine
Batch: 2014
Classification: 2nd year Proper

SV: Caitrianna Daniella D. Ke
Course: BS Agriculture
Batch: 2018
Classification: Junior

Advisers:
Sis Alice Quicoy
Brod Chito Protacio



*Strengthening
the
Foundation
of the
Next
Betan Generation*



BETAN SISTERHOOD: PROMOTING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SINCE 1955

by Sis Dianne Cunanan, Docendo Discimus '05

"The empowered woman is powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond description."

- Steve Maraboli



Being one of the most respected women organizations in the university, the UP Sigma Beta Sorority, Los Baños Chapter has maintained its graceful reputation for almost six decades today. The sorority continues to promote gender equality and women empowerment through its socio-civic activities to achieve excellence in academics,

social involvement, and political leadership.

This year marks the sorority's 66th year of existence. It was on August 15, 1955 when the Los Baños Chapter was organized with the assistance of our dear UP Diliman Sigma Beta sisters, who were faculty members in Los Baños that time.

Sis Cecilia V. Kalaw†, then an undergraduate student of the College of Agriculture, was destined to meet Sis Erlinda Quiaoit-Lawson, a Sigma Betan from UP Diliman. After being inspired by the Sigma Betans' objectives and principles, Sis Cely together with the other women students decided to establish the sorority.

Charter members Sis Corazon Basas-Colanta and Sis Linda Banzon-Madamba recall that many UP Diliman Sisters helped in organizing the Los Baños Chapter. UPLB faculty and Diliman Sis Ludivina Samson-de Padua† assisted in the documentation process for recognition of the chapter. Officers of the mother chapter went to Los Baños and graced the induction ceremony of the newly recruited members.



Resident sisters during the 101010 Grand Ball at the Bellevue Hotel

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Sis Cely emphasized that one of the things that made her join the sorority was its scholarship program. In addition to extra-curricular activities, the sorority emphasized education as its top priority goal. Sisters recruited talented ladies with good scholastics records and raised funds to sustain the scholarship project. The sorority also believed in its members and honed the Sigma Betans as future candidates in various political undertakings on campus.

For the sorority to survive for more years, UP Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños Chapter continues to innovate activities and strengthen its position as a women organization nurturing the values of excellence, integrity, and service among young



Sis Dianne Cunanan '05, 4th from left

women students. Exercising women empowerment since 1955, members of the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños Chapter are still standing together with fellow sisters, motivating and helping each other, and not letting anyone down. By standing up for equality, Sigma Betans have helped others speak up and promote women's sense of self-worth, and the right to influence positive change for themselves, for the future Betans and for the community.

Reference:

Cunanan, Dianne. 2010. *Reminiscing the olden time: A closer look at the sorority's history. Strengthening the foundation of the next Betan generation.* 10-10-10 UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity and UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority Commemorative Program. College, Laguna. Philippines. 145 pp.

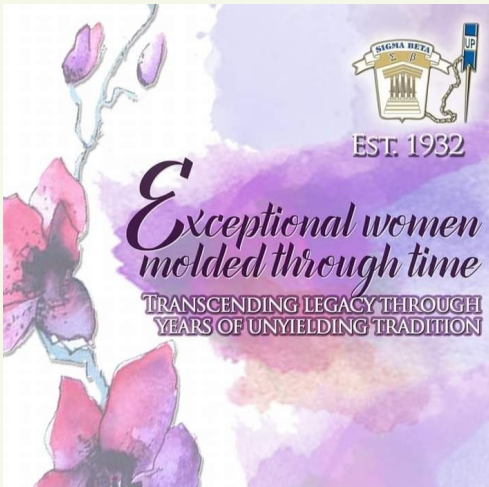
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UP SIGMA BETA SORORITY: ADVANCING WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE NEW NORMAL

by Sis Bike Catibog, Karilagan '78



The global pandemic is building up a new women empowerment landscape. The increase in domestic violence cases, instability of economic livelihoods and closure of schools and universities during various lockdowns created new challenges for women in promot-

ing gender sensitivity and in strengthening women's position in the society.

This year's International Women's Month Theme: "Choose to Challenge" implies that there are choices to change perceptions on women - to recognize the achievements and struggles, and to raise hands against discrimination and violence. What are these choices? Women dare to choose economic and academic independence, physical and mental soundness, and socio-political participation.

Economic Emancipation

While most of the new normal economic scenarios became an unavoidable bane, this pandemic became a boon for all the women of the world to unite and to be stronger in spite of threats while providing new opportunities for increased self-independence. There is now emerging markets for home-based business thriving among many communities. This is reversing women's economic focus to alternative, more adverse but subdued business lifeline. The steady incline for online platform paved for more opportunities to set up service-based businesses. This is a hopeful sign that such changes can overcome this economic slump, with the right support services available to help women succeed during the pandemic.



Sis Bike Catibog '78, 4th from left

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Academic Freedom

UPLB was revolutionary in that it is one of the first institutions to set foundations for women's education in agriculture, sciences and engineering. Along with this feat, women who all shared similar morals and beliefs on women empowerment founded the UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority. These women sought after academic freedom to express intellectual growth on social and even political grounds. Through the years, the Sorority has been instrumental in supporting academic advancement.

Even up to these difficult pandemic times, women students are faced with unfamiliar new platforms of education, and decreased family income to support their education. This was a long tradition of humble beginnings, challenging itself in fighting for women's academic rights.

A Healthy Physical and Mental State

The UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority continues to support the achievement of a greater physical and mental health among women. This is essential in dealing with the complexities of gender relationships under the new normal, in structuring interactions among people and in helping women navigate life inside the "virtual" university and once she steps out to face other challenges in the real new normal world. Employing the language of sisterhood, the members ensure that they are physically and mentally healthy to encourage strong bonds among sisters.

Socio-Political Awareness

The active participation of women in socio-political affairs of the state can provide an appropriate balance that can reflect the composition of the society where they belong. In addition, it can enhance the legitimacy of socio-political processes in the new normal by making these women think more democratically and be more responsive to the concerns and perspectives of all segments of the society.



Continue next page...

ADVANCING WOMEN by Sis Bike Catibog '78



The UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority takes this challenge by bridging gaps, if any, in raising and reinforcing awareness on electoral processes in available political platforms and social media networks to promote women participation in political activities. The stereotyping of women, specifically those from sororities, who are often tagged as the weaker sex not fit for electoral positions, must be criticized and denounced. Instead, there is a need to build empowering support systems, established to assist women in various political activities.

Under the new normal framework, there is a need for women to utilize broader measures in empowering themselves in both the home front and workforce. The UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority recognizes its steady and essential role in charities thru the Cheers project, in support mechanisms thru the Adopt-a-Dormer Project, and in sports development under the Road Rage project. Indeed, there is still a long way to go in promoting a unified women's voice -- that one voice for denouncing domestic violence, and that strong stance in advancing equal work opportunities. These are the new mission goals we need to work on under the new normal.



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UPLB BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY COVID 19 RESPONSE PROJECT 2020

by Jim Manuel Tucay Labastilla, Labyrinth 92B

A year ago the world stopped. Towns and cities were put on lockdown, establishments closed, and people stayed home. An unseen and unknown enemy was spreading rapidly and governments were scrambling to find the best way to keep the populace safe and the enemy at bay.

The enemy was Covid 19, a novel corona virus said to come from bats originating from Wuhan City in China and eventually made its way across the world. After 100 years, another pandemic had emerged.

People were scared, people were worried, people were confused, people were enraged and people were sad. How could this be? In this day and age of immense technology and artificial intelligence, who would have thought that another virus would lay waste to humanity?

As the world stayed home and face-to-face gatherings were not permitted, a group of UPLB Beta Sigmans, mostly from the 1990s generation would set up “*e-numans*”, the new term for online drinking sprees. It was during these *e-numans* that these brods got their “a-ha!!” moment = How are the UPLB students doing? How will they eat? How are the resident brods coping?

HOW CAN WE HELP?

As Beta Sigmans, it was ingrained into our DNA during our initiation and resident days: there is a right time to sit down and talk, and there is a right time to stand up and fight. The UPLB Community knows damn well who we are. Beta Sigmans never back down from any fight. This was not going to be any different. We were going to fight. We were going to help the medical frontliners fight. This was war and by the grace of God Almighty, we were going to take it to the enemy, unseen or not.

The 90s group then formed a core committee, with the blessing and cooperation of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association. The committee was made up mostly of the 90s brods, the UPLBBSFAA President and Treasurer, the GP and select LB-based resident members.



Continue next page...

COVID 19 RESPONSE by Jim Manuel Tucay Labastilla '92B

The plan was three-pronged and very simple:

Production of improvised face shields. Engage the stranded dormers to assist in making do-it-yourself (DIY) face shields for the frontliners whilst feeding them.

Procurement of complete personal protective equipment (PPE) sets. Distribute the face shields and PPEs to the medical frontliners within the UPLB Community starting with the UPLB Infirmary, then branching out to LBDH, Healthserv, and other hospitals in and around Los Baños, Bay and Calamba.

Aid stranded dormers: Help feed the 600 or so stranded dormers in cash or in-kind.

Initially, the 90s UPLB Betans had already raised PhP 28,000 in cash. The resident brods had 8 cartons of San Marino corned tuna and 10 cartons bottled water.

The target was:

- To generate PhP 200,000 from sponsors (Betans or not)
- Produce 1,500 improvised face shields
- Engage stranded dormers in the face shield production
- Purchase at least 100 complete PPE sets
- Distribute PPEs to at least 10 frontline institutions



Soc Med post asking for more face shield materials

UPLB Betans are bred to pour our hearts into whatever project or endeavor is thrown our way. It's in our DNA.

True to form, even the Committee itself had its own sub-Committees such as planning & finance, supply chain &



Brod Jonaz '95 instructing students on Face Shield Production

logistics, social media management as well as quality control. Little did we know this small project would snowball into something bigger that would put other rival fraternities in awe.

Continue next page...

COVID 19 RESPONSE by Jim Manuel Tucay Labastilla '92B

Meanwhile, the UPLB Chancellor and Administration had three on-going operations in place:

Oplan Lingap: Feeding / sustaining the students in on-campus dorms

Oplan Kawingin: Feeding / sustaining the students off-campus

Oplan Hatid: Bringing students stranded in their dorms back to their hometowns/provinces



UP Beta Sigma helps bring campus- stranded students home to their provinces.

True to our commitment to help serve the UPLB Community during this time, we donated cash and goods to both Lingap and Kawingin. We spent a large part of our funds to get our stranded dormers / off-campus students back safely to their families.

Our Covid 19 Response project was heavily engaged in helping out the UPLB Community on all fronts, feeding the dormers / students, bringing them home, supplying face shields to frontline institutions and lastly, providing complete PPEs to

medical frontliners.

It was also heartwarming to note that our fund drive exceeded expectations:

We were able to donate to 18 different hospitals/institutions.

Being the prime mover of this project, we were able to support other UP Beta Sigma Chapters with their respective Covid 19 Response projects as well. We gave 50 PPEs each to our chapters in Diliman, Baguio, Visayas and Mindanao which eventually was donated to UP Diliman Infirmary, UP Baguio Health Service, UP Visayas Health Service and the UP Mindanao Health Service.

What started as a small project to help our stranded dormers and the UPLB Community ballooned to something bigger touching countless lives of people in Los Baños and beyond.

The UPLB Chancellor and Admin officials acknowledged that the UPLB Betans were a great big help during the 1st few days and months of this pandemic.

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Bros in the medical field in and around the Laguna Province were doubly proud to wear the PPEs which had “UP Beta Sigma (hearts) Frontliners” written on the left chest portion.

The list could go on and on, the anecdotes, stories and acknowledgments more heartwarming than the other. But one thing is for certain. We made a big difference.

All in all the project was able to:

Raise PhP 654,511 in cash vs a target of PhP 200,000; PhP 86,162 in kind (canned goods, water, food)

We were able to produce 1533 Face Shields given to 26 different frontline institutions (hospitals / police / barangay etc.)

We were able to procure 650 PPE Coveralls and this was donated to 18 different Medical Institutions in UPLB, LB, Bay, Calamba, San Pablo, Calamba, Cabuyao, Sta Cruz (Laguna Provincial Health Office), Diliman, Iloilo, Baguio and Mindanao.

PhP 213,658 in Cash and Kind went to Oplan Lingap and Kawingin

PhP 115,652 went to Oplan: Hatid, bringing students back to their loved ones in provinces such as NCR, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Bicolandia (dropped off at Quezon Province)

Helped fund the Betan Elite Society's blood drive

Doctors who are members of rival fraternities, upon seeing this on the PPEs given to them would take a second look then say, “*Di bale na, tapos na yun. Salamat Beta Sigma!*”



Alumni members of other fraternities reached out to alumni brods and said, “*Grabe kayo, di namin kayang sabayan.*”

Students in the “Betan Vans” during *Oplan: Hatid*, also got free face masks and water during their rides home and would say, “*Salamat po, Salamat Beta Sigma.*”

PPEs in action Dr. Ritchie Flores of San Pablo City District Hospital

Continue next page...

COVID 19 RESPONSE by Jim Manuel Tucay Labastilla '92B

Brods from the other UP Chapters, upon learning that LB would be donating PPE coveralls to them said, “*Salamat sa mga matitikas na LB!!*”

In retrospect, people will not remember you for what you did or what you said, but how you made them feel. Imagine the feeling a frontliner would have upon seeing an additional face shield or PPE for them to help battle Covid 19. Imagine the feeling of a stranded dormer knowing he or she will have food to eat without reaching into a dwindling allowance. Imagine a stranded dormer getting back home into the loving arms of their family. Can you imagine that? Imagine.

This is what we do. This is how we are. This is how we fight.

I will end this write-up with a favorite line of mine from a speech given by then DENR Secretary Brod Vic Ramos (ghost written by Brod Fred Peñaflor), delivered circa 1995 during UPLB Beta Sigma’s 45th Anniversary and I quote, “*...Los Baños, nestled at the foot of legendary Mount Makiling, home of the most die-hard Betans....*”.

I still believe.



Women’s dorm residents start production



The brods with the head of University Student Housing and Women’s Dorm Manager

Below: Head of UHS (Infirmary) and Chief of the UHO extend their gratitude

“GRABE BAYANIHAN SPIRIT NYO! THIS IS SUCH A WORTHWHILE PROJECT. GINAMITAN PA NG KONTING TECHNOLOGY.”

DR JESSIE IMELDA WALDE
- UPLB INFIRMARY MEDICAL DIRECTOR



@UPLBETASIGMA



“
Lubos kaming nagpapasalamat sa U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association.
Thank you. Godbless!

Prof. Zollo D. Belano
Chief, University Housing Office

UPLBETASIGMA

PART 1 - GETTING TO COLLEGE IN THE LATE 50s

It was a humid sleepy Sunday afternoon the second Sunday of June when I rendezvoused with Pablo “Pabs” Burgos Jr. (Aggie Batch '53) at the Paranaque town plaza, just after a sumptuous lunch at home. That previous week I went with him to the UP College of Agriculture where I enrolled and arranged for a place to stay and have my meals. I was able to secure a place at the college bungalows that were administered by the Men’s Dormitory. It is also the place where Pabs and most of his Fraternity brothers stay. It is a row of seven cottages or bungalows on a narrow shelf overlooking the parade ground and behind the Poultry section of the Department of Animal Husbandry. The Dorm master was very genial and friendly with Pabs and accompanied us to Bungalow No. 1 where I was



Popoy Castañeda, '55

able to secure billeting. My meals will be at the nearby Molawin Mess hall.

No sooner was I at the plaza when Pabs came and we then immediately took a jeepney bound for Divisoria for a 30 centavo-fare. Since it was a Sunday, we were soon at the corner of Juan Luna St. and Azcarraga (now Claro Recto) in 30 minutes.

During the jeepney trip, Pabs educated me on how to commute by bus from Manila and surrounding environments to the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture

and Forestry at Los Baños, Laguna. At that time, the Laguna Tayabas Bus CO. (LTBCO) - Batangas Transportation Company (BTCO) was the only bus company with its own terminal.

Buses as mode of transport from Manila to Los Baños

Going to College (as it was called then, College, Laguna the registered postal address of the UP campus) one takes the LTBCO bus, BTCO buses only if one was going to Batangas destinations. There were bus trips for Laguna destinations every 15 minutes but you have to choose your trips. One was not to take buses with destinations like San Pablo via Cabuyao or San Pablo via Calamba or via Biñan. Buses with these trip itinerar-

Continue next page...

MY JOURNEY by Popoy Castañeda '55

ies go to the interior of the towns of San Pedro, Biñan, Santa Rosa, Cabuyao and Calamba. These trips took almost 2 hours. One must take the Express Bus to Pagsanjan or Lucena that takes this trip a little bit more than one hour. When asked for one's destination, he says "College" while old timers will say "Junction." The trip to College/Junction from any point between Divisoria and Zapote Junction (the point at Zapote where bus bound for Laguna turns left towards Alabang) cost 65 centavos.



Before the advent of the South Superhighway or the SLEX or SCTEX or the flyovers there was only one route south of Manila. This was called the Manila South Road. This route goes through Parañaque Poblacion thru Las Piñas past the famous Bamboo Organ to the Zapote junction where buses bound for Laguna and Quezon Provinces turn left and buses for Cavite and Western Batangas towns such as Nasugbu and Balayan proceed south and take the highway to what is at present the Aguinaldo Highway.

There were other buses that one could take to go to Los Baños. One was the Kapalaran Transit with destinations to the towns of Pagsanjan, Kalayaan or Lucban, Quezon. These buses were reputed to be faster than the LTBCO buses and whose drivers



were jokingly supposed to be trained to be kamikaze pilots. One can take the bus in Pasay near the city market or near the Cartimar market on Taft avenue. There was also the Biñan Transit but the trip destinations were up to Calamba only.

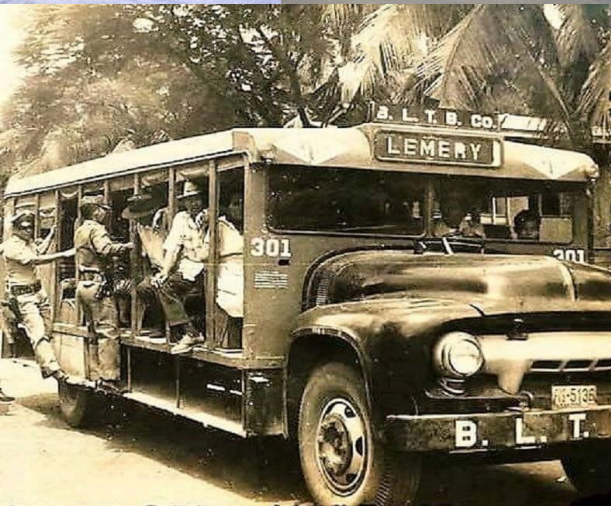


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shaped like shoe boxes. All the LTBCO-BTCO buses were painted red with white markings while the Biñan buses were

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yellow. Kapalaran buses were generally nondescript.



Almost all the buses especially the LTBCO-BTCO line used diesel fuel except the Kapalaran buses which were rumored to run on gasoline engines and which the drivers claim they can go faster. All buses had wooden slat seats arranged continuously from the right side of the bus to the left. Passengers boarded on the open right side of the bus. When it rains and one is seated at the right most end, one is protected from the elements by a canvas screen. Disembarking is a tedious and patience-trying affair. Passengers seated at the extreme left of the bus had to disembark also through the right side of the bus. Passengers also asked the bus to stop for their personal toilet needs.

At the rear of the bus is a cargo compartment, 2 meters long and as wide as the bus. Besides cargo, this “kitchen” carried casualties and sick persons to the hospital in town. Thus, the bus functioned as an ambulance but most of the time, the “kitchen” is the convenient place to ride for a person who has overindulged himself with *lambanog* (local rum).

Riding with Betans in buses to Los Baños

At the Juan Luna corner Azcarraga stop Pabs’ kabatch Leonardo “Hawards” Alonzo (Aggie ‘53) were already there waiting and who we would assist in carrying 7 reams of printed materials bound for College. We distributed the load among the three of us and proceeded to the bus terminal. Along the way Felipe “Boy Doneza” (Aggie ‘51) caught up with us. At the terminal, we selected a Lucena-bound bus leaving in 15 minutes. Our load of paper made us crowded in one passenger row so we chose to ride in the “kitchen.” No sooner have we settled down when Esteban “Steve” Castillo (Aggie ‘53) showed up. We hastily accommodated him in the kitchen.

At the appointed time, the bus conductor announced in heavily accented Batangueño that this was a Lucena Express and that there were no stops before Calamba. We are off. From Calle Azcarraga it went south via Juan Luna crossed Jones Bridge to Plaza Lawton where it picked up two passenger then proceeded south via Taft avenue. At the corner of Taft and Vito Cruz, Aristides Castro (Aggie ‘53) boarded the bus. From there the bus proceeded south to Baclaran, following the south road

Continue next page...



to Parañaque past Las Piñas then to Zapote junction where it turned right and stopped. Suddenly the bus was besieged by vendors selling cigarettes, peanuts roasted or fried for 59 centavos and a cornucopia of “espasol,” boiled peanuts in the shell, “puto seco,” “polvoron,” and sliced pineapple. At the stop, Pabs hailed another passenger, Ben Legazpi (Aggie '51) who got on the bus. We found room for him in the “kitchen.”

When we left the stop at Zapote junction, we seemed to have left behind civilization for the scenery was an endless landscape of ricefields, bamboo trees and mango groves punctuated only by the edifice of the Elsie Gaches Homes and the Alabang Stock Farm in Alabang. As soon as we left the Zapote stop, the bus conductor started the ticketing that required of him a strange acrobatic ability. He clambered from front to the rear rows punching the tickets while holding on to the bus that is running at around 80 km. per hour. After issuing the tickets, he swung and clambered back to the front and started collecting fares again showing another acrobatic performance. He collected passenger fares, counted and gave back change with one hand and at the same time again holding on to the speeding bus with the other hand. He also had to remember the destination and fares of each passenger. This conductor was also familiar with students commuting to College; he even remarked to Pabs about classes starting tomorrow.

The bus being an express ate up the distant route from Alabang, San Pedro, Binan, and on to Santa Rosa where we could see the lopsided silhouette of Mount Makiling on whose slope the College of Agriculture has its campus. When we neared Calamba the conductor (again, in a strong Batangas accent) blatantly warned the passengers that we have only a brief stop at Calamba and not to do anything more serious in the toilet than urinate, True enough we were off in less than ten minutes and in another 15 minutes I sighted Camp Eldridge which was my landmark for Los Baños and a few more turns and we were at the Junction to the UP College of agriculture.

Boy Doneza set us down at the Junction gas station where he left us to get his friend driver. In a few minutes, he was back with a gaudily painted jeepney driven by Boy's friend from the UP Rural High basketball team (Boy plays with the UP Agriculture varsity basketball team).

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The driver, Loreto "Etoy" Oliva (Batch '56 Cream of the Crop) was very familiar with all the brods of Pabs. At that time. Etoy was a senior at the UP Rural High School and he drove this passenger jeepney plying the Los Baños - San Pablo line. Etoy



brought us up to the UP Dormitory Bungalows that could be reached via a dirt road passing behind the Men's Dorm past the YMCA dorm. The UP Dormitory Bungalows had seven bungalows the first three of which were reserved and occupied by freshmen and the other 4 to 7 were for upperclassmen. I was then at bungalow no. 1 while Pabs, Boy and Steve Castillo stayed at Bungalow 4. At that time, Bungalow 4 was the informal Betan Frat house and slaughterhouse all unknown to me. There we unloaded the reams of propaganda materials for the coming Student Body Election SBO.

Taking the Bicol Express train - home to Manila and back

The second semester was one week old when we ventured on a new venue of transport from Manila to College. During the second semester, we had to attend to some academic matters on Saturdays like term papers or laboratory write-ups to complete and submit. And so we get to get home by Saturday afternoon. But this weekend at home was short lived. Our upperclassmen dorm mates who were members of the Beta Sigma Fraternity occupying the upper bungalows advised us to take the Bicol Express train on the Sunday evening to return to College. Another reason for the late evening return to College was that we wanted more time to hang around with newly made friends, go out drinking, or visit the girls at the Women's Dorm.

I for one would like to explore the nearby towns of Nagcarlan, Liliw, Paete and even Lucena. So we went home Saturday afternoon by bus and returned to College via the evening Bicol express. You can take the train at Tutuban where it departs and made stops at Santa Mesa Station then at Paco at 9:15 pm. For me the most convenient station was Paco since it was only a 5 to 8-minute jeepney ride from the corner of Taft Avenue and Herran (now Pedro Gil).

So on that particular Sunday I took off after a nice dinner at home at 8 pm. I was at the corner of Herran and Taft Avenue by 8:25 and there were jeepneys immediately available.

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I reached the Paco MRR (Manila Rail Road) station and queued up at the ticket counter before 9 PM. Fare to College was 1.85 PHP. I got my ticket and went to the platform and there I saw Frankie H. Colanta (Aggie '55). Previously, we had struck a friendship since we shared our plans to join the Beta Sigma Fraternity the coming year. We actually started this friendship while working as volunteers for the Beta Sigma during the Student Body elections last semester.



The train arrived on time and Frankie and I boarded the nearest cab. There was also a lot of passengers to College and they stood out among the common folks going to Bicol. Of course, the train had loads of provincial passengers but we were forewarned that short trippers like us could sit at the chairs of the bar in the train's dining car by buying and consuming two bottles of San Miguel Pale Pilsen. So at 80 centavos for two beers, one gets to sit on a bar chair the entire 90 minutes of the trip to College. Meanwhile, stores at the College's Grove sold ice-cold beer at 35 centavos a bottle.

Inside the cab, we were hailed by John "Sonny" Mendoza (Aggie '54) and Oscar "Chop-chop" Siasoco (Aggie '54). They were new members of the Beta Sigma Fraternity only the previous semester and were staying at Bungalows 4 and 5. We elbowed our way to the dining car and found seats on the counter near an elderly man. When the train was moving and we were having our drinks the man told us he was also a student of Agriculture. He was Conrado "Ado" Nora (Aggie '55). During the entire trip, Oca and Sonny gave Frankie and me pointers on joining the fraternity while Ado our new acquaintance seemed to be disinterested.



Continue next page...

On our second beer, my bungalow mate Angel Mendoza (Aggie '55) joined us. He and Frankie were already acquainted having been classmates in several subjects. By that time, the train reached the Calamba station. We finished our beer and shouldered our travel bags, ready for the next stop College. We made the College stop which is at Barrio Mayondon of Los Baños at 10:45 pm. By that time, there were no regular transport vehicles and there was only one or two colorum jeepneys waiting to take passengers to the College campus.

The rest of the transport service was provided by horse drawn "caretelas" at 60 centavos per pax. These horse-drawn rigs could not enter the campus, so the six of us boarded the second to the last caretela driven by Mang Arce. He is the groom who takes care of the horses at the Department of Animal Husbandry and who drives a caretela during weekends. It was a pleasant ride when we reached the UPCA Gate and some stores at the Grove were still open. Oca Siasoco suggested one for the road drink but Sonny vetoed it and we started the long walk home to our bungalow cottages.

PS. For Angel, Frankie and me that walk from the UPCA Gate to our bungalow residences will be the start of our journey to and with the brothers of the Beta Sigma Fraternity. That following week I submitted my application to the Fraternity...

Editor's note:

Watch Part II of this journey in the forthcoming newsletter issue. Popoy joins 150 applicants seeking brotherhood membership in the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity.



Brods belonging to Batches of the late 50s

BETANS IN CAMPUS POLITICS IN THE 1965 STUDENT ELECTIONS

by Larry Santiago, Exodus '64

This story must be told for the appreciation by the younger generations of UPLB Brods!

Brod Tony Frio's (South Pacific Batch 1960) successful run for the SBO presidency in the mid-60's cemented our fraternity's reputation for organizational expertise and student leadership.

Coming off successive election losses in the early 60s, Brod Tony F. was pitted against a hugely popular campus figure and a prominent member of the UP Varrons Ltd, a new student organization claiming that most of its members were university and college scholars. The political opposition figure was fielded by the combined might of some 15 campus organizations that included UPSCA, Upsilon, Scorpions and others.

Our Duty Above All Party (DAAP), which earned the derisive acronym "DAPA," (down and out) could only count on the Sigma Betans. To offset this big disadvantage, the frat leadership under GP Kuya Domingo (UPD batch 1958) mapped out a targeted campaign versus the scholarship-laced, curriculum



The Sigma Betans were the diehard partners of the Brods in the DAAP. Brod Ric Acabado (Exodus batch 64) campaigning for a Freshman class organization position. Top row: L-R: Flor Hernandez, Cora Santos, Elvie Dalogdog-Tan, Raquel Paras, Eden Piamonte, Violy Ramos and Ising Pontiga. Second row sitting – Glo Mejia, Ric Acabado and Lorna Paje-Domingo.

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CAMPUS POLITICS by Larry Santiago '64

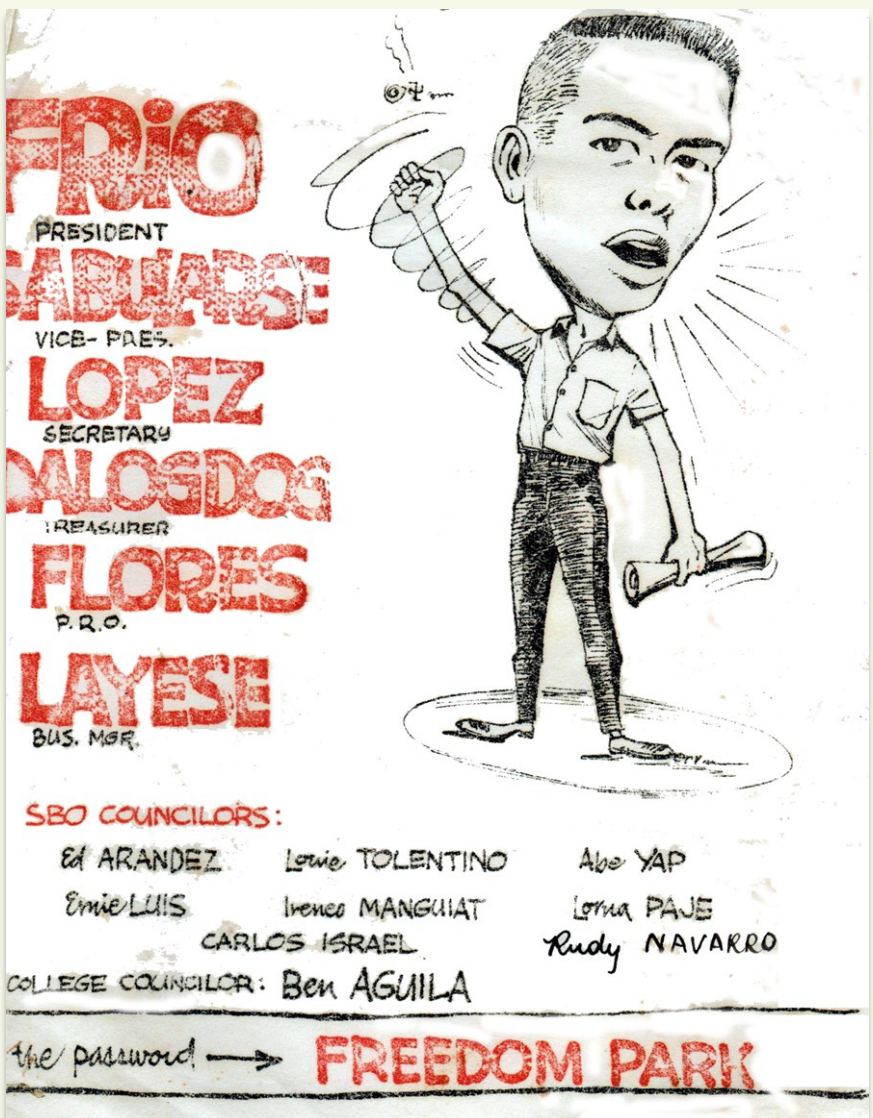
vitae-powered approach used by the other party.

This campaign strategy included establishing frat influence on non-frat/sorority organizations; identifying known supporters, vacillators, the Independents and the non-committed; projecting a position of strength and winning culture, and adopting a program that would resonate among the students.

Item 1. Influence the Non Frat/Sorority Orgs to Support DAAP

The Fraternity leadership under GP Kuys Domingo and Political Campaign Manager Art de Vera (Exodus '64) encouraged the Brods to become members and hold top leadership positions in region-based and special interest groups. This would enable these embedded Brods to steer decision-making and at the same time deny our political rivals from getting entrenched.

Thus, Brod Constante Tesoro (UPD 1960, stayed with the Forestry brods) secured the top position among the Ilocano Varsitarians.



Our election flyer we gave out to student voters during our house-to-house campaigns. Most of our candidates won in the 1965 student election.

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This contributor was elected president of the Bulacan Varsitari-ans. Brod Uly Lustria (South Pacific Batch 1960) used his influ-ence among the Ranchers membership where he served as an officer.

The International House-based Casanovans were firmly in the fold due to close Brods' personal relationships with its leaders, like Boy Munsayac. Not to forget, the Brods forged close friendships with influential members of the Thai Students com-munity, which later translated into some frat member-ships. Among the Bicolano and Cebuano speaking groups, Betan presence led by the late Bicol Brods Dario Sabularse (Batch 1965) and Ulysses Lustria (Batch 1960) was clearly felt. How-ever, the case with the Ilonggo studentry was mixed — where before the Lumabaylabays could be depended upon to deliver voter support to the DAAP, that year saw Betan Brods and Lumabaylabay members Pong Reyes (Exodus Batch 1964) and Gabby Viterbo (Batch 1963) declared persona-non-grata by the group.

Item 2. Identify the Known Supporters, the Vacillators, the Independents and the Non-Committed

As part of the campaign strategy, brods came up with what was then known as our own “Robot Statistics.” With over 3,000 stu-dents eligible to vote at that time, the brotherhood laboriously broke down this electorate- by classes of freshmen, sopho-mores, juniors, and seniors.

Next, the Brods cancelled out known members of the core groups in opposition (some 500 were clearly identified). What



Student campaigners and candidates with Brod Eric Punzalan (Batch 1965, sixth from left).

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CAMPUS POLITICS by Larry Santiago '64

remained were tracked down to their residences and acquaintances among the Brods.



L-R: Ed Trinidad (Batch 63)†, Minia Quilloyt†, Amy Elaida, Rudy Abad (Batch 1964)†

The Brods would then concentrate their election campaigning among these students within their immediate residence or dorm vicinities.

Intense regular meetings would be held to monitor progress on this person-to-person campaigning. Each Brod would be asked to report on the progress of his campaign among his targeted electors.

Item 3. Project a Position of Strength and a Winning Culture

All the Brods contributed time, talent and other resources to keep the name of the Fraternity in the limelight. Cultural affairs were stomping grounds of the Brods.

The rich baritone of Brod Joshua Fernandez (UPD Batch 57) swept singing competitions in addition to enriching church services at Church among the Palms. The artists among the Brods led by Tony Lu and Boy Flores (Alabang Batch 1960),



L-R: Thad Hamoy† (Batch 1962) and Mon Ronquillo† (Batch 1963) and some of our student candidates and supporters

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the late Ray Pastrano and Thad Hamoy (both batch 1962) and Ed Defensor (batch 63) put up election posters and streamers that bedecked the whole campus. The Betan debating team of Larry Santiago (Exodus Batch 64), Cris Vilar (Forestry Batch 1962) and Tony Frio trounced the Upsilonians in a well-attended event. The Betan Tumbleweeds monopolized winning events in the College annual rodeo.

The rest of the Brods captured prizes in other student competitions in public speaking, amateur singing which showcased the courage and talents of the Brotherhood.

Item 4. Adopt a Program that would Resonate among the Students

In that mid-1965 election, the Frat leadership came up with the catchphrase **“Freedom Park”** as the cornerstone of Brod Tony Frio’s campaign for the SBO presidency. This was adopted from the famous Hyde Park, London. The park was well known then for allowing students to freely air protests and grievances without any outside interference. Thus, the moniker **“Freedom Park.”**

At that time, little did anyone know that the changing political climate was already knocking at the doors of UPLB. Nationalist agitations were creeping into the campus. The **“Freedom Park”** slogan clearly reflected this sentiment.

However, for Brod Tony F’s campaign, it could be said now that **“Freedom Park”** served to frame the election into an issue-based contest, and not merely a popularity contest.

And the rest is history. Brod Tony Frio won, and ushered in for the rest of the decade a string of memorable events — from highly acclaimed stage plays to leadership positions in campus politics.



“Freedom Park” is the lowest part of an area with the beautiful scenery in the woods behind the Senior’s Social Garden

THE BETANS FIVE DECADES AGO

by Armando "Domans" Dayrit, Batch '66

Fifty years ago in 1969, the scenario before the proclamation of Martial Law in 1972 was the pro and anti-government factions were noticeably beginning to polarize based on their ideologies or beliefs. Nationalist Movements in campuses were taking shape.



The DAAP (Duty Above All Party), the fraternity's political arm during this time has seen its glory days. Campus students wanted no more of what they called "status quo." They clamored for change, for active, adventurous happenings. Popular slogans then were "Down with Imperialism, clerico fascism, feudalism, oligarchs, involvement of the Philippines in Vietnam war, Plaza Miranda bombing." Oplan Sagittarius was in the news where Muslim AFP trainees were massacred so as not to expose the government's initial steps to claim Sabah, igniting the start of the Mindanao War. Most of all, the students articulated their weariness of the incumbent reign of Ferdinand Marcos.

It is indeed the Age of Aquarius

Brod Nestor Lawas in our fraternity booth in the College September Fair coined the word "Hulabadigoojakapivaugogo69". It is all happening. Cannabis was an acceptable leisure where you got it in street corners. Woodstock was in everyone's imagination - what they did and how they did it. Brod Rene Tiamzon hummed the Beatles.

In 1969, the fraternity tested the campus activism waters, intending to make a stand. Inspired by this, this author interviewed two prominent UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity elder Brods Brods Nori Cariño and Feliciano Calora. These interviews were published in the then 1969 Betan Newsletter. Excerpts from this



Brod Domans Dayrit seated at the tractor

interview are reviewed below. The ideas and wisdom they shared with us during those times may put into perspective what our elders in 2021 may ponder in their rocking chairs.

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THE BETANS by Armando “Domans” Dayrit ‘66

“The fraternity’s constitution has not focused on social realities. For effectiveness, we need to motivate and closely affiliate the brotherhood to be deeply involved in social change and seek to remain relevant in the new order of things. Thus, the Fraternity shall undertake educational, cultural and other activities (a) to examine all ideas for the search of truth and in the honest desire to influence social reality. (b) To assist in national heritage so as to broaden social understanding, and (c) to develop international good will, leadership and a high sense of responsibility among its members.”



After the successful incumbency of Brod Dong Rasco as College Student Chairman, the fraternity’s political machine in succeeding election is best described as:

“The debacle of Pagkakaisa Party during the last election should serve as an eye opener to the fraternity if it still seeks to play a leading role in campus politics. Evidently the party failed to adopt a correct policy of attraction and concretize the issues on responsible leadership and in the movement of social change which it purportedly pursues.”

“While the fraternity is in the right direction, the members need tremendous intellectual sharpening. On the other hand, the fraternity in general was caught flat footed in its stand on the rise of student activism in the struggle for social change.”

Did the fraternity make a stand during those years? Some Dili-man brods took the left in the direction of Nilo Tayag and Ericson Baculinao’s Maoist thinking. UPLB Beta Sigma took a Nationalist position and thinking, following Christian Democrats and Philippine Nationalism. The clamor for activism and social change cannot be the monopoly of then so called “leftist”. Brod Maning “Daga” Arejola, Batch ‘57 led his Khi Rho movement and some Brods follow the Farmers Federal Movement.



Brods belonging to mid/late 60s Batches posing with Fraternity sweetheart Luchie Serrano-Trinidad

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THE BETANS by Armando "Domans" Dayrit '66

Most brods who were nationalists at heart supported the radical change and wished the dictatorship to end. When the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus was declared, Brod Pat Roman and some brods went into hiding in Cavite. Brod Ed Flores and our group reached as far as the Quezon Province and part of Bicol region spreading nationalism against feudal land ownership and oligarchy.

After a while Martial Law is declared

All the time during Martial Law, we extend our appreciation for those Fraternity brothers and Sorority sisters who continued the struggle in the fight for nationalism. I will not like to mention their names. Never to relinquish a desire for real change, the

best one way is to graduate and continue a never-ending desire for the struggle for change.



The UPLB Betan graduates of the 70s

After many decades when Martial Law was declared and toppled down by the next administra-

tion, did we really find that change to transform the Philippines into a developed country? What is that activism in the 70's? Who were the gainers and losers?

Millennial Brods your turn.



1968 Campus Election... No candidates from the Fraternity

UP NORTH HAS 24 UPLB MEMBERS

by Nestor Lawas, Batch '66

The University of the Philippines Beta Sigma Fraternity has been a global fraternity ever since the brothers set foot in different countries where their future families and professions blossomed.

In the United States, the fraternity has a Northern California Chapter, also known as UP NORTH. It is one of, if not, the very first organized Beta Sigma groups outside of the Philippines. It was established in 1983 in San Francisco, California, USA. The chapter took as members any Beta Sigman, inducted or initiated in a UP Beta Sigma Chapter, who decided to come over to Northern California USA seeking a better future with their families.

Of the 54 active members in its fold this year, 2021, UP NORTH has 24 UPLB Beta Sigmans. They are, Dutch Aragonés '78B, Manolo Banzon '68A, Ryan Calma '98, Jazel Frankera '90D, Ely Hilario '69C, Otto Kaufmann '67A, Mar Laguna '67A, Rotsen Lawas '66, Frank Mamaril '56, Val Palattao '72A, Greg Palis '71B, Ross Panggat '94A, Eric Punzalan '65A, Johnny Quijano '52, Ted Quijano '67B, Maeng Ramirez '68A, Johnny Regadio '66, Jovenal Serna '63, Ferns Silverio '67B, Rene Tiamzon '66, Allan Torneros '89C, Vic Tupaz '67B, Ric Velasco '67B, and Vee de Vera '67B.

UP NORTH's 38 years of existence is replete with stories that showcase true brotherhood uniquely observed among organized expatriate Filipinos in California. From its earlier efforts to support the fraternity's restoration of resident membership in all UP chapters, it continuously strives to uphold its proud history, legends and traditions through various social and cultural activities. Lately, the chapter is directing its activities towards a "transition from a group of individuals sharing kinship among themselves to a group of families sharing kinship with each other" (Abenes, GP 2011-2013).



UPLB Brods during our 36th Anniversary Ball May, 2019

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“Brotherhood and Beyond” has been its recurrent theme in all its activities including in its Founding Anniversary Ball held every odd year since, reunions, quarterly meetings cum birthday celebrations, and other traditional gatherings such as Halloween and Christmas Party.

In all these activities, the families have voluntarily and actively participated, even showcasing their individual talents, spending precious time and efforts.

Indeed, our recent experiences with our undertakings moving on to family-centered activities make the chapter stronger than ever. The Ladies of UP NORTH (wives and partners) have been doing much in their own way to keep the families together further strengthening family bonds. This has become evident during this on-going pandemic lockdowns in California.

Thru a phonebook/directory of UP NORTH Brothers and family, distributed to each member, the chapter has continued to be operational and connected despite the inability to get together and meet in person. There is also a 2021 calendar with the birthdates of each member/wife or partner marked to enable timely greetings to celebrants through the family’s email group. Probably a small thing but big for a celebrant during these times. The email is also being used extensively to exchange information about Covid vaccines, updates about state sanctioned protocols, and even information from the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco on matters that may have impacts/effects on Filipinos in the USA,

For UP NORTH, “Brotherhood and Beyond” is proving that it is the right direction for this continuing saga for Beta Sigma. Perhaps, this could be a good model to follow by our alumni groups out there. Love and support for each other’s family should be our cornerstone as we move forward into our future amid this ever-changing world.



UP North group of families sharing kinship with each other

THE LAST SHOT, (HULING TAGAY NG WHISKY) by Al Piedad, Batch 77a

Si Dr. Ben Banal ay isang doktor ng internal med sa PGH. Hindi siya naka graduate sa fine arts dahil ang gusto ng kanyang ama ay magkaroon ng doktor sa pamilya. Pero, buo pa rin ang pangarap niya na makabuo ng isang obra maestra. Ang mga simpleng obra nya ay binebenta ng isang dati niyang pasyente sa underpass ng Plaza Lawton, Quiapo, at minsan sa lobby ng Cash and Carry. Ang mga napagbentahan ay ibinibigay niyang tulong sa mga kapus palad na mga pasyente.

Minsan isang lalake, na kung tawagin si Dok Ben ay brod, ang isinugod sa ER at derecho agad sa isang isolation room. Dito si Dok Ben lang ang nakakapasok dahil siya lamang ang ni-request ni brod. Sa unang tingin ni Dok Ben, medyo tagilid na ang lagay ni brod. Si brod ay tinamaan ng Covid.

Lingid sa iba, may baong isang bote ng whiskey si brod na kung paano nakapasok ito ay di natin alam. Gabi-gabi, sumashot si brod nitong Jim Beam, minsan dalawa, para siya ay makatulog. Depressed si brod, malungkot, malalim ang inii-sip at malayo ang tingin kahit na 3m x 3m lang kwarto niya.

Pag bisita ni Dok Ben sa umaga, alam nya agad na umiinom si brod ng alak dahil amoy ito sa kulob na kwarto at isa rin siyang dating mang iinom. Pero hinayaan na lang niya, para makatulog si brod.

Kinuha ni Dok Ben ang bote at dinisplay si Jim Beam sa isang mesa na tanaw ni brod. "Bakit tol?, ani brod". "Dito ko ilalagay, at bago mo maubos ito, nakalabas ka na ng ospital," sagot ni Dok Ben. "Talaga tol?" buong may pag-asang sabi ni brod.

Lumala ang lagay ni brod at hirap ng kumilos. Ang nagpapalakas na lang ng loob nya ay ang binitawang salita ni Dok Ben na siya ay gagaling at ang mga dasal niya sa Panginoon. Lagi siyang nakatanaw sa bote ng whiskey, dahil sabi ni Dok Ben di niya mauubos ito at gagaling na siya.

February 27, 2021, dumating si Dok at ang mga nurse. Isinara ni Dok ang mga mata ni brod na nakatuon pa rin sa bote ng whiskey. Inalis ng mga nurse ang kanyang oxygen at si brod ay binihisan. Wala na si brod. Dinampot ni Dr. Brod Ben Banal ang painting ng Jim Beam na nasa mesa. Isang obra maestra na may isang shot pa ng whiskey.

Bumalik si Dok Ben sa kwarto nya at nagsalin sa baso ng whiskey. Ang bote ay kalahati pa laman... INI-ALAY ANG TAGAY SA LAHAT NA BRODS NA PUMANAW NA, NO CHEERS. . .

It's a Heartache

Last Feb. 17, taong ito, nag post si brod Raul Terso '74 (alyas Bobot) sa isang group chat ng National Assembly at naghahanap sya ng cardiologist na brod na malapit sa bahay nya sa fairview. So tinawagan ko..this is actual phone conversation.

Dinayal ko telepono :Kriing, kriiing!

Congress : Hellow? (chika sumagot) Community Development?

Al KKK : Can I speak to Bobot, este, sir Raul Terso, please?

Chika : Boss Raul, para sa yo sire (sire, nakup parang tinatalo Ni Bobot ito a, sire daw, sa isip ko lang, hi. . hi).

Bobot: (Low tone) yes?

Al KKK: Kumusta bot? Kita ko post mo, yung cardio ko mahusay, sa Cardinal Santos ang clinic.

Bobot : Gusto ko sana malapit sa bahay at gusto ko brod para kampante ako.

Al KKK : Anyare ba?

Bobot: Nag make love kasi kami nung teller..

Al KKK : Yung teller ng BDO yan?

Bobot : Wala na kami nun, yung teller ng Palawan to (hi hi hi hi).

Al KKK: Yung sa Cebuana wala na rin kayo? Lang ya ka inubos mo ang mga nasa Pera Padala.. Hi hi..

Bobot : Oo, para kapag nagsasangla mataas ang bigay, higpit ni Sitti e, walang pang extra (under pala si brod.. hi hi).

Al KKK : OK, bat cardio?

Bobot : Ganito, nag check in nga kami ni Palawan sa isang motel sa Quiapo at isinusunod ko si manoy sa tunog ng kampa-na ng simbahan.

Al KKK : Tapos?

Bobot :Eh biglang dumaan yung nagtitinda ng sorbetes. Wala akong nasabi kundi aray ko po, aray.

Ang Alamat ng Cute

Only star : Plato Tirol '78 - President, current, UPBSFAA and a cast of thousands.

Ipinanganak si Plato at ang laking tuwa ng mga magulang niya, kapatid at mga kamag anak, dahil sya lang ang naging cute sa kanilang angkan, maging sa buong lalawigan. Maging ang buong barangay ay nag saya.

Pero ang Alamat ay isang kathang isip lamang.. hi hi hi hiiii.

The Beta Sigma Celebrity Mismatch

Paulo Mercado - Paul McCartney
Arvie Caanca - Gerald Napoles
Jojo Alejar - Daniel Padilla
Frennie Sabularse - Carlo Caparas
Rotsen Lawas - ang hari ng Leps
to Leps, Tony Falcon agent X44

Raul 'Bobot' Terso - Bayani Agbayani

Freddie Fajardo - Tonton Gutierrez

Leo Balagot - Ace Vergel

Tony Frio - Gerald Anderson

(kailangan malakas sa Ed.) hi hi

Cirlo Nuyles - Coco Martin

Jim Manuel Labastilla - Wally Bayola

Ambrosio Lapis - Sylvester Stallone

Dodie batchmate Abano - Renz Verano...hi hi

Carlo Malabanan - Roderick Pualate

Jojo Montecillo - Juday.. hi hi

Danny Abad - Vic Sotto

Eduard Jun Cornejo- Vico Sotto.. Hi hi

Alfredo Bong Lorenzo Jr - Lito Anzures

...Tinawagan ako ni Bong Lorenzo

Phone Call.... Kring.. Kriiing

Al KKK :Hallu, Ngob bakit?

Bong : Potek Kurungkung,

gumagawa ka na naman pala ng

Joke... Ayoko kay Lito Anzures

ha?! Ibalik mo na lang ako kay

Romy Diaz, kahit kay Paquito Diaz,

hwag lang kay Lito Anzures, ayoko

dun! Pangit non.. Hi hi hi...hiiii

