



# Tumbleweeds



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



## NEWSLETTER 2nd YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Our Newsletter was first published in April 1, 2021. This current issue of April 2023 is entering the third year of this bi-monthly publication.

To all our brothers and sisters who have provided content to our newsletter, the editorial team is extending its heartfelt gratitude for your time and efforts. Your memorable experiences during your residency years and other news worthy stories that you shared to everyone especially to the young generation are valuable information about Betan traditions spanning 75 years. Your stories have rekindled the unique Betan camaraderie.

We are encouraging our young brothers and sisters especially the new recruits to write articles for our newsletter. The editorial team wants to focus on articles about current events in the campus involving activities of the fraternity and sorority that encourages recruitment of new members.

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**GP KEITH TIDON'S 2023 REPORT**  
by Dutch Aragones

Dear Brods,

Hereunder is the report of our GP on his academics, being one of the recipients of our BBB program. He also reported on the accomplishments of the residents for this semester.

Cheers, cheers, cheers to our resident brothers! Great job, GP!

Dutch78b

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February 9, 2023

To: The BBB Boosters

Through: Brod Daryl "Dutch" Aragones '78B Alpentone

Regarding: Status Update of the 1st Semester, A.Y. '22-'23

Good day, Brod Dutch, and to the BBB Boosters!

It is with gladness that I report that I have passed all my subjects last semester except for PE which I incurred an INC status. Both of my lab subjects, APHY101 and APHY102, got the highest grades due to my diligence in my lab reports. My theory subjects, APHY155 and PHYS131, only got a 3 since I had technical problems with my device. For my thesis, I got a satisfactory grade which will allow me to proceed with my thesis proper, hence, my thesis defense this coming semester.

With this, I only have 19 units left before graduation but since there are scheduling problems, I will only be able to take 10 units next semester (APHY200, PHYS151, PHYS132, APHY199) and 9 units the following semester (APHY191, NRC 140, HUM3).

To give an update to the BBB boosters of the last semester, here are the achievements of the residents under my term:

\*We have secured and transferred our concrete tambayan to a temporary location just across the old COOP.

\*We have preserved the tradition of assisting Freshmen in their UHS checkup.

\*We participated in the Freshie Fair, setting the momentum of the Brods and the relevancy of the Fraternity in the post-

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**GP KEITH TIDON'S REPORT**  
by Dutch Aragones

pandemic era.

\*Our Loyalty Day celebrations included a Golf Cup

\*This year marked the biggest Operation: Big Brother of the Fraternity; a medical mission that catered to over 1500 patients.

\*We were able to organize a Tumbleweeds rodeo team after years of inactivity.

\*We were able to welcome four new Brods, a record high since 2018 and an achievement since the current active residents are significantly less than what we had in 2018.

Overall, I could say that it was a very successful semester and that the residents were able to acquire good momentum in terms of activities and recruits. The support of the Board of Trustees and the BBB Boosters definitely had a big role in the success of our operations. With this, I would like to sincerely thank all the Brods who supported us last semester. The residents are looking brightly ahead next semester for the Fraternity.

For a stronger Beta Sigma, I shall forever remain.

Betanly yours,  
Keith Philip L. Tidon  
2015C – Kabanatan  
Grand Princep  
A.Y.2022-2023

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## BETA SIGMA'S FEBRUARY FAIR 2023

by Ralph Cauilan 22a and Joaquin Posadas 22b

February Fair 2023 marked the first February Fair since the Pandemic. As per tradition, the Fraternity usually hosts Battle Royale, the largest Amateur MMA Event in Laguna. However, the residents decided to hold a different event due to logistical complications. Numerous brainstorming sessions and SWOT analyses produced several activities which range from E-Sports tournaments, live cooking exhibition for dormers, shootfests, and rodeo games.

After a myriad of setbacks, The Fraternity decided to capitalize on our rich culture and revived its Rodeo culture by organizing Tumbleweeds Week from February 15 to 17, 2023. For only PHP 20, players were given the chance to play three games: lassoing, horseshoe pitch, and cornhole game.



In total, there were 36 players who participated and some even played multiple times to raise their points and win prizes. Before proceeding to the actual rounds that they paid for, the games were demonstrated as a form of a tutorial by resident Brods who already had prior training.

To kick off the Tumbleweeds week, on February 14, 2023, the resident Brods serenaded our beloved sisters from the UP Sigma Beta Sorority Los Baños Chapter and distributed flowers in celebration of Betan Valentine. To further share the feeling of Valentine's day, the resident Brods serenaded various student organizations. These organizations are the UPLB Forestry Society, UP Isabela Society, and the UP Agricultural and Applied Economics Circle. This gave The Fraternity exposure especially on social media as many of the recipients posted photos and

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**BETA SIGMA's FEBRUARY FAIR 2023**  
by Ralph Cauilan 22a and Joaquin Posadas 22b

expressed their appreciation online.



For this year, the residents also secured a favorable spot in the fair where our Seal tarp can be seen easily by all fair-goers. This year is also the first time that the Fraternity erected a 4-storey booth and may even be the first time in the history of Feb Fair that a 4-storey structure was built. It garnered so much attention that the residents can hear the passersby whispering our name in awe. Some even took pictures and videos including a group of Koreans that expressed their interest in the Fraternity. There were also friends of residents who climbed and enjoyed the view deck.

In the culmination of The Fraternity's February Fair 2023 event, many alumni Brods joined the celebration at our booth on February 17. This gave the resident Brods, especially the new ones the opportunity to converse with and to get to know them. As usual, alcohol was overflowing and there was still so much more to drink even after we were told to egress due to the curfew.

The Residents are ever grateful to the generous support of our alumni. Many thanks as well to all the residents who made this

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**BETA SIGMA's FEBRUARY FAIR 2023**

by Ralph Cauilan 22a and Joaquin Posadas 22b

year's Feb Fair successful. Now, more than ever, the Fraternity needs to uphold our legacy as new challenges present themselves in the post-pandemic era of the University.

CHEERS...



## SIGMA BETA's FEBRUARY FAIR 2023

by Mary Louise Castillo

Last February 14-18, the UPLB's annual February Fair, with the theme "BIGKISAN: Pagkakaisa para sa Tunay na Kalayaan, Kapayapaan, at Katarungan", was finally held at UPLB's Freedom Park after two years of holding the event through online platforms. This year's February Fair was one of the most anticipated events by the entire Elbi community, — especially the students. Due to the pandemic's two-year lockdown, this would be the first time for the majority of them to attend the event.

With the mother tarp on display, illuminated by a bright spotlight, along with the purple and lavender decorations in the booth, the booth was a showstopper, to say the least. Strangers were so fascinated by the booth's appearance that there were always people who would stop and take a photo of themselves in front of the booth.

For the whole week, the sisters had different outfits planned out each day. A lavender and white colored outfit on the first day, floral outfit on the second day, glittery or shiny outfit on the third day, a black dress on the fourth day, and a white top paired with denim skirt on the last day. Photos were taken each night, documenting the beautiful sisters in their coordinated outfits. Another showstopper moment, if I may say.

To commemorate the sorority's 91st anniversary, on February 14, the resident sisters decided to hand out free cotton candies to women and children that night. We were also serenaded by the brods, and every sister was given a beautiful carnation flower.

Sis Aicelle, who experienced UPLB's Feb Fair for the first time, said "With sisters, naging masaya and memorable talaga ang first Feb fair experience ko! Sila ang ka-date ko during Valentine's Day so I wasn't alone. To celebrate our anniversary, namigay kami ng mga purple cotton candies to women and children. I also got to enjoy different dishes shared by sisters, pero nothing beats yung spicy sweetcorn na natikman ko from Sis Krish, hahaha. We also got to meet and chika with alumnae sisters. Overall, the Feb fair was a total blast! It was actually the perfect opportunity to bond with Sisters, indulge in delicious food, and soak up the energetic vibes from the bands and performers."

Everyone was glad to finally be able to experience once again, or experience the UPLB February Fair for the first time. From

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**SIGMA BETA's FEBRUARY FAIR 2023**

by Mary Louise Castillo

the planning of the event, down to the egress of the booths, the sisters were able to bond, enjoy and make life long memories with not just the resident sisters, but as well as with the alumni who visited the booth throughout the event. Truly, that week was a week filled with joy and memories the sisters will cherish forever.





## BIKE RACKS FOR UPLB

by Keith Tidon

### A Green Mobility Initiative

UPLB has been the home for students and even passersby where they can be one with nature. To see people running, walking, and biking around the campus isn't surprising at all. In fact, biking is the most convenient transportation for students who jump from one department to another to attend their classes. Aside from health benefits, it is a pollutant-free mode of transportation and occupies less space than any other vehicle.

Hence, when UPLB Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs, Roberto Cereno, proposed a bike rack project partnership with the U.P. Beta Sigma Fraternity during the Operation: Big Brother, the Fraternity didn't hesitate and proceeded to look for the most suitable location where it can be placed.

This joint project of the University and the Fraternity was introduced to the Board of Trustees, where it got a go signal. This started the operation by looking for a welding shop to do the necessary procedures for creating the rack. Through the help of Brod Nok Unson - 95A, we found a shop in Victoria that specializes in bike rack making.

The Board of Trustees and the Batch 78D funded the Bike Rack project to produce the racks as soon as possible. On the day of the inauguration, March 20, 2023, the resident Brods and alumni had a photo opportunity together with Chancellor Jose Camacho and Vice Chancellor Roberto Cereno.

This project will greatly contribute to the UPLB community as this promotes a safer and greener space. This is a step to continue preserving our home-- Elbi.



## MY SUDDEN LIFE STYLE CHANGE

by Aynna Carado, Batch '16B, Ut Petram Duris

Pre-pandemic, my college life was a journey filled with adventures with my sisters in the fold. We had fun over meetings and event planning, and we made lots of memories over socials and even over the outcomes of those random “san ka?” or “may class ka?” chats you would receive.



I remember going on trips to nearby swimming attractions like Splash Mountain or Bato Springs even when it's a weekday and we all have early classes the next day. Studying and doing some schoolwork in the jeepneys or buses wasn't really a problem to us as long as we got to spend time with each other. It was so much fun that until now I still remember so vividly how hard we tried to stay awake during the trip back to campus just so we won't miss our stop. Aside from this, when exams and school works are piling up, me and my sisters would spend time at a café near campus studying until late at night, only to get picked up by our other brods and sisters just to go on a spontaneous trip to San Pablo or Tagaytay – even if it meant losing a few hours of sleep. It was worth it anyway. I also won't forget all the times we would chill and stay at each other's apartments and just cook food and eat together, which was also very common after we hold our meetings. We would also attend parties and go to karaoke places together so often that we almost got our faces switched, lol. We did all this without compromising our academics, of course. That's one of the many things I love about the sorority. Above all else, academics would always be a priority to the sisters. Looking back, it just brings me joy to reminisce how carefree my life was. How my time was mine, and how all I had to think about was myself and how to finish my degree.

However, all this changed the moment my 11-year-old brother fell ill in 2020. It happened all of a sudden and I couldn't go back to campus anymore since I had to be there for my family, and I had to be a responsible adult instantly. My once carefree life ended in the blink of an eye. I had to be strong, I had no right to complain. I have to bear the pain because no matter how hard it was; I just know it must have been harder for my brother who I love so dearly. At that time, I couldn't really absorb what was happening, the sudden changes in my life wasn't sinking in. But was I alone? Definitely not. I remember the sisters who visited me the whole time me and my family were in

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**MY SUDDEN LIFE STYLE CHANGE**  
by Aynna Carado, Batch '16B, Ut Petram Duris

the hospital, offering their comfort and giving me strength through words, and... okay, maybe through food as well. They were there at my highest and they were there too, at my lowest. The sorority never left my side especially with the UP Sigma Beta Alumnae Association helping me in ways I couldn't even imagine. Aside from that, not only my sisters, but some brods also reached out and offered a helping hand. For that, I am forever grateful.

So for the past 3 years my brother has been recovering from Meningitis. I've lived having the same routine of juggling my academics and fulfilling my filial duties. Everyone at home had to work to pay the bills and maintenance medicine for my brother, while I had to stay home and try to finish my thesis along with balancing all my other responsibilities at home, and as an MIS at that time as well; and we all know that staying at home, means more household work, let's face it. But I had no choice since I was the only one that could do it. I admit, balancing these all at once took a toll on my mental health. I felt like I had to be someone nurturing like a mother, someone strong like a father, and someone reliable as an older sister to my younger siblings. It wasn't easy, but I had to do it. So, as a way of coping, I make sure I make time to go out for coffee, for drinks, for a walk, for a jog, meet up with people, and sometimes just do things that make me happy and change my environment every once in a while. Was the sorority still present in my life? Most definitely yes!

My sisters' thoughtfulness has always filled my heart. I remember, as an effort to temporarily help ease my struggles of being a "responsible adult" at home, my sisters in Manila would randomly pick me up just to take me out on dates, or staycations, and just let me enjoy every moment I am with them. Meanwhile in Los Baños, the residents would always welcome me with open arms and with open apartment doors whenever I need that *breather*. We would go out for coffee, do movie marathons and sleepovers, and of course sometimes go out for socials. That was how it was when I was living in Luzon... So the moment me and my family decided to move to the province, I was filled with worry knowing that I can't do those things anymore since we live far from the city... or so I thought.

Life in the province isn't as bad as I thought it would be. As

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someone who's active at night, I actually enjoy my peaceful mornings here while eating my "dinner", followed by a slightly busy half day running errands or doing chores at home, then going to sleep and waking up again at sunset just to start another day. Having "breakfast" at dinner time was something I got used to. Night comes, and making sure my brother eats his midnight and early morning meals, and drinks his maintenance meds, slowly became my routine. All that while doing my online job, finishing my thesis manuscript, and homeschooling our *bunso*. This goes on until the sun rises once again and I'm back to my peaceful mornings. Once I got the hang of how I balance my time with everything, it doesn't seem that hard anymore. Although my time for myself has greatly decreased, and I couldn't do things or activities as I please anymore, I actually enjoy looking out for my family and making sure that they are well taken cared of.

What about the things I thought I couldn't do anymore? Well, that wasn't really the case. Here in Mindanao, I would also do my best to make time and meet up with my sisters in Davao where they would 'adopt' me for 2-3 days and just enjoy the weekend with me. Do note that trips like this would usually require a 3-week preparation just to make sure everything's alright when I'm not at home but anyway, Sigma Betans are really everywhere! And travelling isn't even as scary since although Davao is 4 hours away from where I live, I always travel feeling safe knowing that the bus line I would usually take is owned by a brod too! How awesome is that! The presence of the Sisterhood and the Brotherhood really is apparent in our everyday lives.

So, when someone would ask me about my home, I used to not know how to answer actually. I've lived in Davao, Taytay, Taguig, Los Baños, Sampaloc, and Koronadal. So many places for so many years. But if you ask me now, I probably know the answer this time – I realized it's all of them! I call all of these places and all of these moments home. Who says you can only have one?

*"Home is not where you are born,  
Home is where all your attempts to escape cease"*

Even with the ups and downs, it is in these places and during those moments, where I felt most alive. If it wasn't for the fold, I

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don't think I would be here right now, and I don't think you'd be reading this article as well. I will always be a Sigma Betan by virtue, by value, and by heart and I believe this is what made me able to get through all of these challenges. This is all thanks to my sisters who have always been there for me and to the sorority who have honed me to be strong, resilient, and resourceful as a person and as a Sigma Betan. Cheers!



## MY LIFE IN MINDORO and MY FIRST DEER HUNT



This deer hunt is a fulfillment of a boyhood dream since my uncle who was a guerilla during the last war took the responsibility of training me about the rudiments in handling fire-arms which at that time was a prerequisite for a male Caviteño. He took me with him hunting for snipes in the marshes of Bulacan and wild ducks in Sta Cruz, Laguna where I learned to shoot the 20 gauge shotgun. He took me several

times on his annual deer hunt at Sta Ines at the slopes of the Sierra Madre mountain range but I was just a camp guard the last time he took me. I accompanied him on the actual hunt as a gun bearer once but was only his gun bearer. He promised to take me in his next trip but later that year the Belgian fathers accepted me as Sacristan of the Parish and simultaneously my uncle was promoted in his company and has to transfer his family to Quezon City. City life didn't suit him and he weakened and succumbed to the plethora of fevers and wounds he sustained during world war II. I was then at UPLB when he passed away. It was that time also when my grades were not good and then I had that disciplinary problem when I was involved in a physical confrontation with a faculty member of the other fraternity. I elected to leave the University in consideration for my father who was then the dean of the College of Fine Arts and Architecture (an arrangement made thru the kindness of Prof Gapud, the father of Brod Joe Gapud).

Eddie Nabong, UPLB 55, told me thru a letter that he is leaving Mindoro and going back to the university. I volunteered thru him that I will take his place and the arrangement was ok with brod Johnny Quijano, UPLB 52, who manages the farm. Eddie Nabong offered me the opportunity which fitted well with Johnny Quijano's life plans. As for my remuneration I will get a percentage of the net harvest and I will get free board and lodging. Johnny did not holdback anything about telling me the difficulties and risks involved in living in the frontier that is Mindoro.

My plans before the invitation of Eddie Nabong was to start a cattle ranch. During that time the Government was encouraging interested individuals to start cattle ranching thru a loan program incentive. My grades were not good then so I considered this government incentive and I started looking for potential ranch areas. My initial plan was in Bukidnon and the biggest

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**TRAVELS OF A BIRD PAINTER... A continuing series**  
by Popoy Castañeda



ranch there which belongs to the Fortich family was currently bossed by the matriarch of the Family of Doña Remedios Fortich, Doña Meding, whom I approached with Joseph Madamba's introduction, and she was willing to employ me as a start (she has already been helping Joe Masibay, LB 53). My 2nd plan was to get a start in Palawan which was enthusiastically welcomed by Johnny Mendoza (LB 54 and Boy Maslog, LB 54). As a head start in Palawan I applied to work with the National Resettlement Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) with the assistance from my maternal uncle who was a guerilla in the unit commanded by Jaime Ferrer who was then currently secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

My ranching plans did not materialize. I decided to go to Mindoro and accepted the invitation of Eddie Nabong. My first day in Mindoro was a tour of the farm with the assistance of Mang Marcos, the farm's security officer. He was a WWII veteran and a survivor of the Death March. He was also the hunter responsible for providing meat for the farms' personnel and during the day I was able to show him my knowledge of firearm by shooting 2 bullets on a monkey. We also visited early in the morning the newly opened area adjacent to the great forest that extends to the foothills. An area had been cleared 2 weeks earlier and the grass had started to shoot up and wild life like deer and tamaraws love to graze on the young grass. Yesterday we verified that deer was grazing in the area. The presence of wildlife needs to be confirmed since our farm is highly populated by people and wild animals are very wary of human beings. For this reason deer or tamaraw have become nocturnal.

Now just on the 3rd day in Sablayan I was gearing up for my first deer hunt. In the morning of the appointed day Mang Marcos and I went to the mentioned clearing to update the activities of wildlife. Mang Marcos said that the deer herd which numbered about 5 are grazing on the fresh grass shoots which were emerging from the burnt area opened by Enteng. Before going Mang Marcos asked me to wear my old clothes I had been wearing (at least the Jacket). He then proceeded to rub my jacket to his riding carabao, a form of camouflage to mask our scents.

That same day after lunch at about 2PM we went to prepare for  
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by Popoy Castañeda

the evening hunt. He had previously pre-selected a site for the blind spot. He also had a stick wrapped with tin foil to serve as the aiming point. He also had with him the saddle blankets used with our riding carabaos to mask our scents.



I had with me the farm's ITHACA 12 GAUGE AUTOLOADING SHOTGUN but Mang Marcos only loaded 1 buckshot shell. He told me to bring my "dahon palay" bolo which is always honed to razor sharpness. Our blind spot was a stubborn clump of talahib left standing which Enteng left unplowed 2 weeks ago. The talahib grass here are not the same with what we usually see here, in the Diliman or UPLB campus. Their stems are generally 1 inch in diameter and they are two to three meters tall and the game trails are tunnels thru the fields of this tall talahib. The talahib stand was located approximately at the center of the field. Mang Marcos had positioned me in the blind spot and covered me with the saddle blankets then planted the aiming stake at 25 feet. At that range the buckshots will have a spread the size of a dinner plate .

Mang Marcos then left after covering me with the smelly saddle blanket which were several layers of jute sacking used to contain copra that was not only smelly but itchy. It was half past 3 and the sun was still hot and the air was humid and insects took the opportunity to feast on me and I am sure this hunt is just a sort of initiation so I philosophically accepted the whole situation and I gritted my teeth for the long wait.

I focused my eyes on the spot where the game trail emerges into the cleared area. Staring at the area made my eyes ache and the water and the heat and the humidity made rivulets of sweat running down my face. I must have dozed off and was hypnotized by the heat and it seems I have lost my sense of time before I realized the light was fading when a pair of wild chickens started scratching for worms at the clearing. When a flicker of light caught my attention back to the game trail the light was fading fast and I stared hard on the spot seemingly seeing nothing when the deer flicked its ears and there standing by the edge of the clearing is an antlered stag and for a moment I was mesmerized and started trembling and my heart was thumping. I started to thumb the safety of the Ithaca when I remembered Mang Marcos' instruction to shoot when your prey

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is within the 25 feet range. I willed myself to be calm but my heart was pumping double time and I can feel its throbbing on my head. The stag took a few more steps and started to feed and it must be the all clear signal for his herd of 3 does and a fawn following him out to the clearing. I glanced back at the stag and remembered Mang Marcos repeated instructions to shoot only when the stag is within the 25 feet range. The stag is now feeding near the aiming stick. I thumbed the safety, aimed on his chest and slowly squeezing the trigger... the muzzle of the 12 Gauge flashed and blinded me for a split second and I heard the buckshot hitting the flesh and the dying bleat of the stag. I stood up, drew my knife, trembling with excitement and I can smell the acrid scent of chordite (gunpowder) and the coppery smell of fresh blood and I knew I hit the deer. I went to the dying stag still in its death throes, held its antlers and cut his jugular vein as an act of mercy and respect.



In the short time that I pulled the trigger to the moment I cut his jugular vein I was on a high. I felt the high a hunter feels, a thrill coming from a primal instinct that some of us in this modern times still feels and long for, even now as an old man of 86 years when I hear gunfire or the smell of chordite my blood rushes and my hand trembles with excitement.

Mang Marcos who is already on my side dipped his hands in the blood and ordered me to lick it, a ceremony to make sure that I kill again. In a short time the boys from the farm had the stag trussed on a pole and carried to the mess hall where it was butchered and shared by everybody.

Thus, I began my life in Mindoro where hunting for meat for my farm co-workers became one of my preoccupation, a very strange beginning for somebody who later in life will be an advocate for wildlife conservation. Very strange as it may seem, my hunting gave me an intimate view of the wildlife and the wilderness around me.

I became attuned to the flow and cycle of life in the Wilderness in the Rainforest, the Mangroves and even the Reefs. I began to notice the trees and the different kinds of plants the animals eat. I became more aware of the weather and the changes of the season. I learned to observe and watch birds. It is while

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hunting that I saw the most wonderful scene in my whole life.

In another hunting occasion, I was following the spoor of a wild boar down a forested ravine in the pasture lease of Teofilo Villarosa in the inner SEBACOY river and I was concentrating on the tracks when I noticed that the forest floor was matted with blue green glow. I looked up and around and caught my breath... before me was a giant dipterocarp festooned and covered by wraths of JADE flowers. I have seen and studied the jade vine during my Horticulture subject in UPLB. But this is my first time to see it in its full glory the whole tree is so blue that it reflects the color around the surrounding trees. I returned to the site the following month with a borrowed camera but the flowers are gone and lost in the anonymity of the green leaves of the Apitong tree.



Omran Aboali

Omran Aboali

A Mother had 3 virgin daughters. They were all getting married within a few weeks of each other. But Mom was a bit worried about how their sex life would get started. So she made them all promise to send a postcard from their honeymoons with a few words on how marital procreation felt. The first girl sent a card from Hawaii two days after the wedding. The card said nothing but 'Maxwell House.' Mom was puzzled at first, but then went to the kitchen and got out the Maxwell House coffee jar. It said: 'Good 'til the last drop.' Mom blushed, but was pleased for her daughter. The second girl sent her postcard from California a week after the wedding, and the card read: 'Benson & Hedges.' Mom now knew to go straight to her husband's cigarettes, and she read from the Benson & Hedges pack: 'Extra Long King Size.' She was again slightly embarrassed but still happy for her daughter. The third girl left for her honeymoon in the Caribbean. Mom waited for a week - nothing arrived. Another week went by and still nothing. Then, after a whole month, a card finally arrived. Written on it with shaky handwriting were the words: 'British Airways.' Mom took out her latest Harper's Bazaar magazine, flipped through the pages fearing the worst, and finally found the ad for the airline. The ad said: 'Three times a day, seven days a week, both ways.' Mom fainted.

An elderly man had owned his large farm in Louisiana for many years. Right at the back of the farm there was a large pond that was ideal for swimming. The old farmer had fixed it up real nice with picnic tables, horseshoe courts and some apple and peach trees. One evening the farmer decides to go down to the pond, to look it over, as he hadn't been down there for a while. Before setting off, he grabs a five-gallon bucket as he decides he'll bring back some fruit. As he nears the pond, he can hear voices shouting and laughing with glee. Clearly someone is having a good time. As the farmer gets closer, he can see a bunch of young women who are clearly skinny-dipping in his pond. He makes the women aware of his presence, and immediately they all swim over to the far end. One of the women then shouts, "We're not coming out until you leave, mister!" The farmer replies, "Ladies, I didn't come down here to watch you swim naked or to make you get out of the pond." The wily old timer then holds up his bucket and says, "I just came down here to feed the alligators!"

