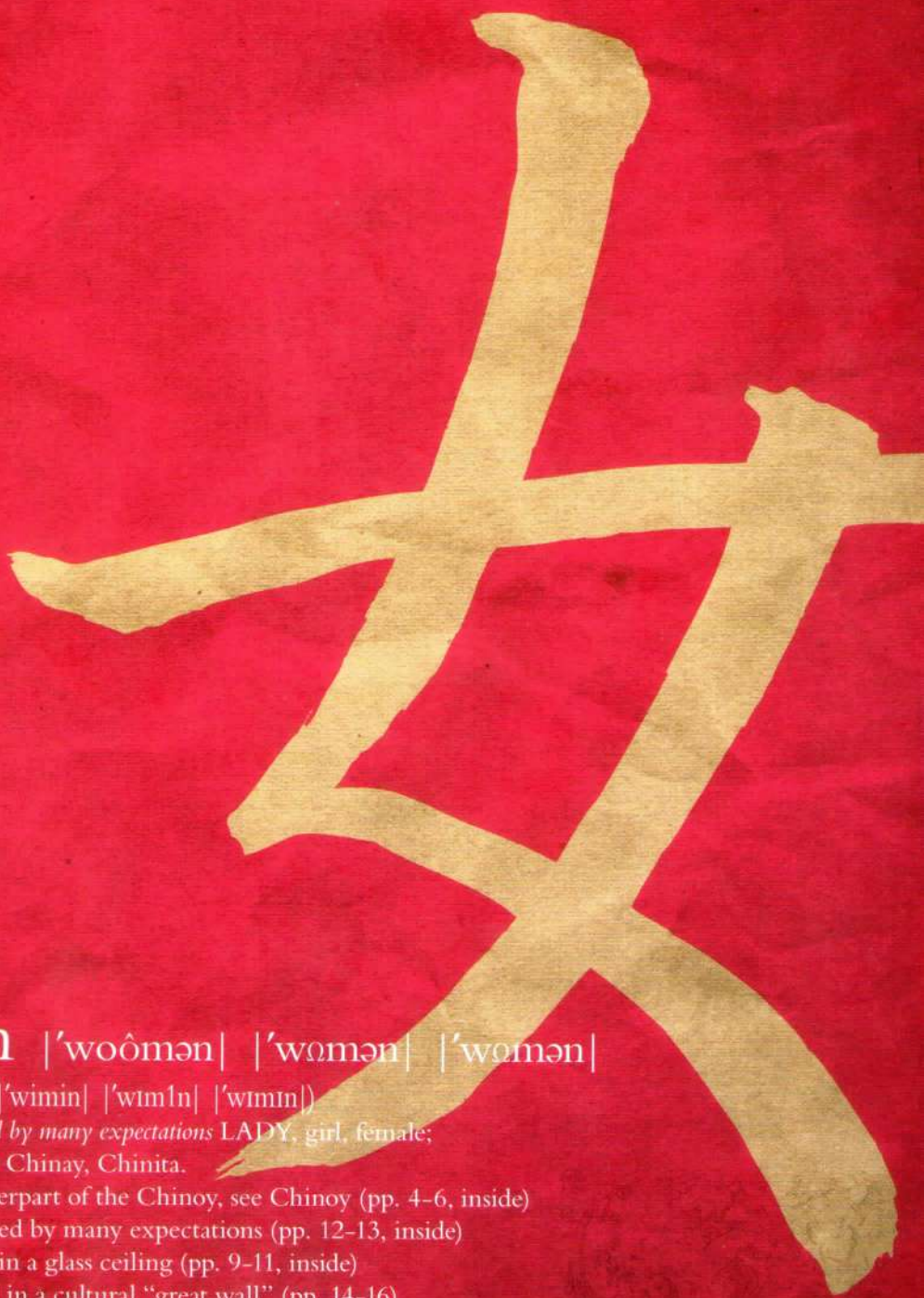


Chinoy

Volume 10 Issue 2, 2008-2009

The Official Publication of the Ateneo Celadon



wom•an |'woômən| |'wòmən| |'womən|

noun (pl. **wom•en** |'wimin| |'wimɪn| |'wimɪn|)

1. *A woman is plagued by many expectations* LADY, girl, female; Chinese-Filipino Chinay, Chinita.
2. The female counterpart of the Chinoy, see Chinoy (pp. 4-6, inside)
2. One who is plagued by many expectations (pp. 12-13, inside)
3. A gender trapped in a glass ceiling (pp. 9-11, inside)
4. A person enclosed in a cultural "great wall" (pp. 14-16)
5. One who rejects stereotype with love and understanding (pp. 7-8)

ATENEO DE MANILA
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Editor's note

Ours is a culture of change in a changing world.

Culture is not a sixties' fashion revival. It is not an image that we attempt to conform to or a look that we desperately try to imitate. In fact, when it all comes down to mere mimicry, a culture no longer exists. A culture comes with the people, for the people, and as such, it changes with the people. In line with this, Chinoy continues to illustrate the Ateneo Celadon's ideals of culturally-oriented leadership and promote its appreciation for this changing Chinese-Filipino culture. Indeed, we have come a long way from the society that thought it could survive by itself and decided to shut itself off from the rest of the known world.

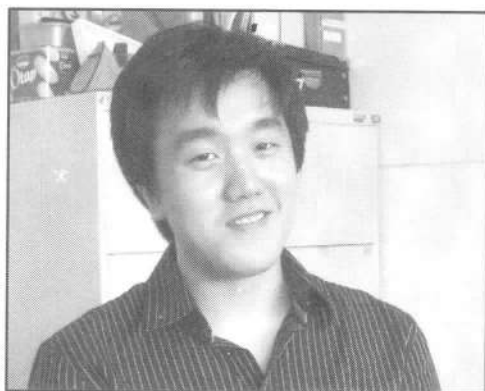
Ours is a culture of change in a changing world... or is it?

The topics discussed in this issue may not be new to you. In fact, they have been tackled in the very first issues of Chinoy back in 1998. So, what does this issue have to offer? Let us venture into the random by looking at aviator sunglasses. In a nutshell, they were trendy, then they died out, but after a few years, they became trendy again. It is important to note that, in its "second coming," it was fashionable because Vintage revival was on the rage, not for the same reasons it was popular the first time. The world of fashion does this often by putting old twists in new things. Mixing and matching. Copying and pasting. Nothing is "new" anymore, but they persist and evolve out of necessity. In this sense, culture is like fashion because it is not so much the item as it is its context. The aviator sunglasses carried the same style but not the same statement in their second run. In the same way, looking back at old issues only serves to prove that, with the passage of time, the nuances of our culture do not fade, we are only given more options to deal with them.

This issue goes out to the ladies. Not a retrospective or a revival, I invite you to take a fresh look at the Chinese-Filipino woman, the Chinay, and immerse yourself in the culture she was born into. One that has slowly become more open, and yet inevitably remains as closed as it has ever been.

Ours is a culture of change in a changing world, but ultimately, its every defining aspect remains thankfully, or sometimes unsettlingly, the same.

Enjoy the issue.



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Defining “Chinoy”: Giving meaning to a name

by Dominique Du
photos from celadon0809.multiply.com

“CHINOY” IS NOT a real word. It does not appear in any official dictionary or guide to the English, Chinese or Filipino language. It probably won't for a long time to come. Technically, it has no definition. It is a colloquialism, slang, lacking denotation and therefore defenseless against any connotation it may attract. How, then, do we know who or what people talk about in magazines like this one and websites like Tsino.com?

The word Chinoy (alternative spelling: Tsino) stems from the fusion of the modifiers Chinese, or the local Tsino, and Pinoy (another non-official word, a product of the local nicknaming practice of adding a y to the end of a name ending in o). This directly implies a fusion of whatever the two words entail. Wikipedia defines Tsino as a synonym of Chinese-Filipino, a “person of Chinese ancestry but raised in the Philippines.” This definition both limits the term to use in the description of only those with Chinese blood, and broadens it to include all those with Chinese blood.

There are many kinds of this Chinoy. Pre-colonial Philippines was already very much involved in trade with Chinamen. The sangley (pure Chinese) and mestizo de sangley (part Filipino) were economically prominent figures during the Spanish era. Throughout Philippine history, Chinese immigrants have come to find better opportunities in our country than in China. In the 20th century, a large number came to escape the war and the Japanese. This group of people became known as the 1st generation Chinese-Filipino. Their children are KNOWN as the 2nd generation Chinese-Filipino. Their children's children are the first generation of Chinese-Filipinos. Because the Chinese have been part of the population for so long, it will be impossible to tell who is or isn't a little bit Chinese. If blood is the qualifier, then attempting to narrow down the definitive field has the opposite effect.

Perspectives

To find out what the word “Chinoy” meant to people most likely to be categorized as such, a survey was sent out to several subjects asking them to rank, on a scale of 0-5, how Chinese, how Filipino, and how Chinoy they, their parents and their upbringings were. Of course, this wasn't exactly the most scientific of studies, just one meant to gauge how people viewed certain concepts. The numbers were not expected to reveal any general truths. It was notable though, that there were no 0's or 5's.

Certain similarities arose when they were asked to explain their rankings. Almost all seemed to automatically associate degree of “Chinese-ness” with speaking the language. A similar majority seemed to connect Chinese-ness or Filipino-ness with food. Other common responses include family traditions of feng shui and celebrations, marriages and funerals. Distinctly Chinese values listed were loyalty and respect for family. Some fairly common stereotypes, including

some families' insistence on exclusively Chinese marriages, the preference for business careers, the unluckiness of the color black and the wearing of red during celebrations.

Shared practices bring us together. In fact, even stereotypes have some basis and help give us a basis for our actions, for purposes of preserving what is strictly Chinese. But what we do is only a part of who we are. Being Chinoy cannot be restricted to seeming Chinese, to ourselves, or to anyone else. The question remains: What does Chinoy mean?

For me [being] Chinoy is having Chinese and Filipino blood, with or without heritage.

—Angel Tio Cuison, ADMU

Nature vs. Nurture

A small but definitive portion of the Chinese-Filipino community is composed of pure Filipinos studying in Chinese schools. Arianne, who spent grade school and high school in a Chinese school and is currently going to UP, says it was only at college that she became "more Filipino", even if technically, she wasn't a drop Chinese. After practically growing up among Chinese children, learning to speak in Mandarin, playing dice games, celebrating Chinese New Year, she proves that nurture plays as much a role as nature. "Minsan, mas may alam pa ako tungkol sa mga Chinese traditions kaysa sa ibang mga pure Chinese (Sometimes I know more about Chinese traditions than some of the pure Chinese)," she says.

At the same time, people of pure Chinese blood breathe Philippine air, drink Philippine water, and share with the Filipino people, the common experiences of the Philippine citizen.

My interests lie within the country. I've grown up here, so nationalistically speaking, in terms of seeking a great future for the country and its people, I am a Filipino. Also, I don't think that I would ever 'fit in' in China as well as I do in the Philippines, even when some would still see me as an outsider here."

—Jackie Chan, ADMU

It's the immigrant thing.

We live in a country that is not China, but we are Chinese. That makes us unique. We are not American Chinese, Malaysian Chinese, Singaporean Chinese. We are Filipino Chinese. We are the product of an intense chemical reaction between Chinese culture and the Philippine environment. "There's a difference between the Chinese from the mainland and the Chinese here [in the Philippines]," says Katherine, a Hong Kong native who recently returned there after more than a decade living and studying in the Philippines. She points at a certain

"For me [being] Chinoy is having Chinese and Filipino blood, with or without heritage."

guardedness that exists within the immigrant community here, in contrast to more of an openness back in the mainland. "The Chinese here are more protective of themselves. In China they are generally more open to other cultures." There they live in a safe Chinese zone, where anything they do is Chinese, or where they at least have enough Chinese people there to be Chinese for them. Here they live in smaller, more isolated groups. Their Chinese-ness is threatened and they feel the need to preserve it. Evolutionarily speaking, a colony isolated (separated from others of the species by a large body of water, for example) will most likely evolve adaptively to the environment, in a different way than the rest of the species situated elsewhere. Because Chinese immigrants had nowhere to turn to in a foreign land, their options were either to adapt or not to adapt (and consequently seclude themselves). A family may be Chinese by descent, but so well integrated into the Filipino community that they remain Chinese only in name (with a few Chinese New Year celebrations on the side).

You may ask yourself, where is this going?

I think that some people are really full of Chinese culture because it's sort of forced on them. They resort to rebelling against their own cultural identity.

— Anonymous, ADMU

I asked myself if there was any way to escape our pasts; if how we're brought up makes us what we are, how can we be true to ourselves and free from anyone else's at the same time? Then I realized I was making it sound like I was being held against my will, which is hardly the case. We are aware of what we are and where we came from, aware of the difference between what we've been told and what we've actually learned (whether they're the same thing or not).

Celadoneans Speak

on being Chinoy...

"I don't quite think that we have to choose which one to pick. It's probably just a matter of how we were brought up, and which side we're more inclined to, and even so, if there's any effort at all to try to reconcile the differences. Most of the time, however, both the Filipino and the Chinese sides blend and people just pick and remove the parts that aren't convenient."

— Phyllis Te, ADMU

"The Western, Filipino and Chinese influences in my life are so intermingled that defining myself with a distinct cultural "identity" doesn't have much use. I'd like to think that by being a Chinoy, I get the best of both worlds."

— Jackie Chan, ADMU

"I guess what makes Chinoy unique is the fact that they can get the best of both cultures and become better people than they would if they were just pure Chinese or Filipino. Chinoy can end up feeling impartial when a typical area of concern is strictly Chinese or Filipino. They also tend to appreciate their Chinese heritage more, since they are amidst many Filipinos. They can relate to both the Chinese and the Filipinos, and sometimes even reconcile conflicts between the two cultures."

— B, University of the Philippines Manila

For me the essence of the word Chinoy is more of a perspective that the individual of his own will believes in. Like you can be subjected to all these traditions and really Chinese ideas, but the whole thing still depends on the individual and whether he wants to follow them.

— Charpe

We aren't strictly Chinese living in the Philippines. We aren't just Philippine residents of Chinese descent. We aren't more or less Chinese or Filipino than any Chinese mainlander or pureblood Filipino. We are simply of a different kind. Not less. Not more. Just different. We're changing, but blood and history (not necessarily together or in that order) don't change. We have the foundations and the roots. We decide what direction to build towards or grow in. It is the same building, the same tree. It only gets bigger. You don't have to cut off some part of it for it to grow (in fact, doing that kills it). You let it grow. We live, we hear and we breathe. We learn and grow here. Okay, so maybe we don't specifically go to college and work in the name of Filipino patriotism. But that doesn't make us any less a part of this country. Our everyday dealings with the people, culture, land, economy, and etc of this country affect it, and vice-versa. We're the link between two races, but not one in the past. They don't branch from us. We stem from them. We are part of the future. We are taking being Chinese and being Filipino into a different direction, and because we are Filipino, and we are Chinese, we have every right to do that. It is our birthright.

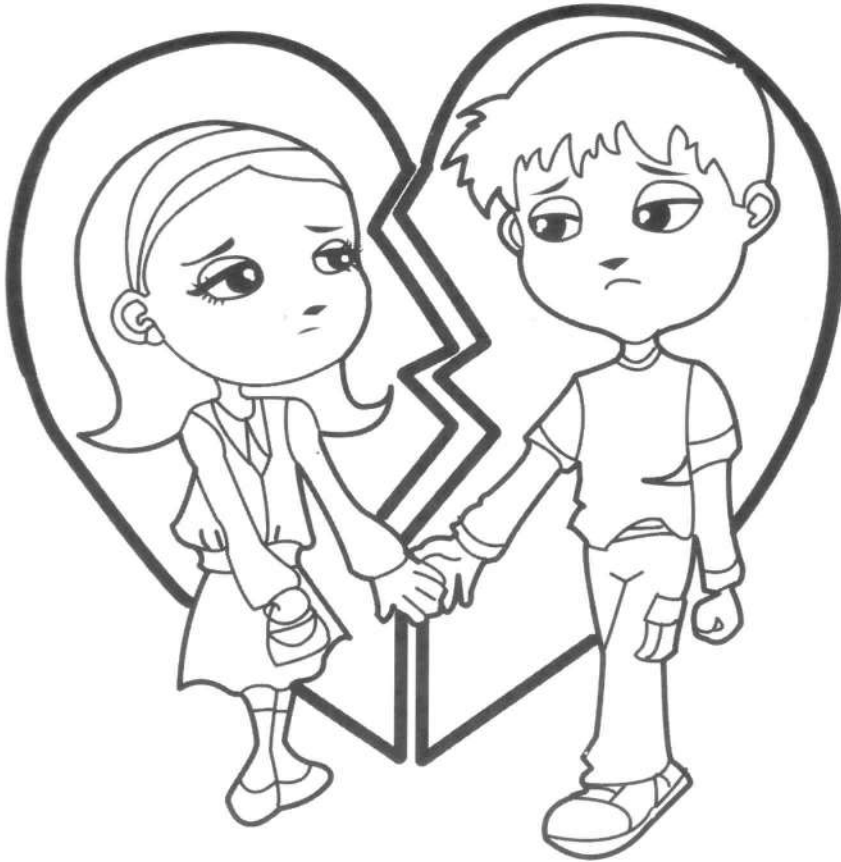
I want Chinoy parents [especially those who think their children are failures at being Chinese] to see that they had a role in their children's outcomes.

— Jackie Chan, ADMU

Some sentiments of disappointment linger. And while it is unfortunate that being away from China has made the younger generations less adept at the Chinese language and in a sense less appreciative of Chinese culture, we are in control of the future. What has not been learned can be learned, what has not been taught can be taught. By venturing away from the strictest, oldest Chinese tradition, we have created new tradition on its foundation, a testament to the power of people to adapt. We haven't lost the past, and we are on the brink of the future. We are Chinoy, a new breed entirely. ☺

A Chinese and a Filipino: Forbidden Love?

by Bernadee Uy, Jason King Li
art by Lesly Anne Yiu



THE CHINESE MAY have been in the Philippines earlier than the Spaniards were, but somehow there is still an invisible line that separates the two races. This line best manifested most especially with marriage. In a Chinese-Filipino family, the marriage of their children holds a heavy bearing on the future of their business and reputation. Thus many traditional Chinese-Filipino families would resort to *kai shao* (In Fookien this literally means to introduce but usually connotes introducing a suitor to their children) or arranged marriages where the children will have little to no choice but to marry the person the parents picked – typically someone who is also Chinese.

However, younger generations of Chinese-

Filipino parents are becoming more liberal. Instead of the traditional notion of forbidding someone of Chinese blood to marry Filipinos, they are now more willing to accept (albeit with much hesitation). Thus there are couples who now defy the common ethnocentric convention of the Chinese-Filipino. However, do these pairings really work or do the warnings of the conservatives ring true? We interviewed two couples to find out. One is Ana*, a Chinese woman married to Juan*, a Filipino. The other is Christian* (Chinese) who is currently engaged to Isabella* (Filipino).

* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the individual.

"Hi Dad, This Is My..."

Usually when Chinese-Filipino parents find out that their child already has a relationship, they would ask about the significant someone's race. When they find out that the other person is Filipino their first reaction is shock or utter disapproval. "They opposed [the relationship] because they had a bad opinion of Filipinos, such as being *magastos* (spendthrift) or *lansenggos* (drunkards)." Ana admits. "They thought of him negatively before they even had the chance to get to know him." In Christian's case, his parents were wary and scared and probably never understood how people court nowadays because his parents met through *kai shao*. Yet through time the parents of both couples learned to accept the relationship of their children despite the difference of ethnicity.

"At the end of the day, they are not only Filipino, not only Chinese, they are Filipino-Chinese."

"So, Where Do We Eat?"

Of course there comes a time when couples would have to make small decisions soon together such as, which restaurant to eat or where to spend their vacation. From our interviews we found out there of course were differences in their decisions. Isabella admits that their decisions reflect their different beliefs. Isabella was the adventurous type while Christian was the more cautious one but despite this difference both of them were able to come to a compromise. Isabella would come up with new ideas for their vacations or explore new places while Christian would handle the accommodations and schedules. In the situation of Ana and Juan, their contrasting perspectives sometimes led them to struggle on making decisions. It was a difficult process when Ana and Juan decided where to send their children to school. "In the end we let them study in a Filipino school, but teach them as much Chinese as we can." It is important, according to Ana, to let their children be aware of the culture of both countries, and create a balance between the two. "At the end of the day, they are not only Filipino, not only Chinese, they are Filipino-Chinese."

Like many couples, they need to communicate with one another to resolve differences between them. Having a relationship of different ethnicities

will naturally result in many clashes. Since they have different backgrounds, they would not always see things eye-to-eye. In spite of this, it is still possible to achieve harmony between them in making minor and major decisions.

"Ni hao what?"

It is inevitable that a couple of different backgrounds will have clashes in their relationship especially if the other family speaks in a different language. Ana mentions, "I [taught] my husband how to communicate and mingle with [my family], to make things work out fine." Isabella also admits that it was awkward for her to listen to Christian's family when they speak in Fookien and Christian would translate everything to her. She also tries to keep up with the conversation by taking note of the context and body language.

Honestly, the Chinese-Filipino culture has the tendency to be complicated and people who are not Chinese may find some traditions or values to be strange. In spite of this, Isabella did not find the traditions as a hindrance to her relationship with Christian since she has already heard about these traditions with her Chinese friends before. She also finds that certain values that she found in Christian's family to have had a positive effect on her. She mentions that she became more aware of how she treats her elders in her family since Christian's family values the importance of respecting their elders.

At the End of the Day

Couples in general naturally have to settle their differences and adjust to each other to maintain a good relationship. As for couples coming from two different ethnicities, they are still able to adjust to their differences and habits that they picked up when they were younger. The process is hard and challenging but nonetheless possible, as proven by the two couples. "Just learn to love selflessly and look not on your cultural differences," Ana advises, "There's nothing more important than loving your partner as you love your self. Respect comes along [with] unconditional love." ☺

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

by Desiree Grace Tan

art by Daichi Lim

WHEN TWO CULTURES clash in values and beliefs, people's choices and ways of life are affected greatly, while some feel trapped under the barriers we have built. The strong-willed Chinese-Filipino women are not an exception.

"If you wake up at a different time, in a different place, could you wake up as a different person?" internationally-renowned novelist Chuck Palahniuk asks. A very interesting question to ask, especially since we are always searching inside ourselves, treading the road to "self-discovery" in our perplexing lives. Aside from inborn qualities, we must have noticed we are shaped and defined by the kind of culture we are brought up in, by people around us, as well as where we live, the food we eat, the books we read, and the movies we watch – noticeable yet discreet clues as to why we act, feel, and think the way we do.

Do we then, as a modernized generation, tend to limit ourselves by the opportunities the world has to give because of what culture and norms dictate? Today, we live in a borderless world, wherein the wonders of the World Wide Web, blogging and other trendy ways to communicate bring people of every nationality and race together. Despite this fact, some still somehow fail to fully embrace diverse cultures in all their unique perspectives, therefore building a seemingly invisible gap, shielding us from differing beliefs and closing our minds to other great possibilities.

One example is the gap faced by Chinese-Filipino women in this country's multi-cultural society. Women are judged based on appearances, skillfulness, and even ethnicity with greater bias than their male counterparts. Chinese-Filipino women are greatly influenced by conservative parents deeply rooted in Chinese customs and traditions as well as their own Chinese blood, unknowingly creating social and emotional barriers, restricting them from opportunities available beyond the glass ceiling built above them. The question now is: how are we going



to break that glass ceiling? What are these barriers in the first place? Here are some of them, most of which you may recognize already.

"It's a Business Thing"

Chinoys are prominent for their fabulous entrepreneurship skills and business-oriented mindsets, running flourishing enterprises in the country. From selling sumptuous *hopia* to manufacturing cement, they know what it takes to succeed in the business sector. In fact, many Chinese-Filipino students these days are taking up courses related to business, influenced by their parents in the hopes that their sons and daughters would acquire the necessary skills needed to run the family business, or because of the recognized impression that a business related course would bring more financial stability over other courses.

There is nothing bad about learning how to invest money, knowing what it takes to sell one's products, and venturing into the business world, but what if this is not the path some want to tread?

This kind of pressure is even more widely distinguished among Chinese-Filipino girls, especially those who have yet to discover what they want to do in the future. Such is the case of Katherine Lim (I BS CTM), whose parents have had a strong influence over her current course. "Actually, I did not have a choice. My parents want me to take up a management course because it will give me more job opportunities in the future. I also think it's more practical this way," she said in a mix of English and Filipino. Katherine added that she is also interested in taking up other fields of study, aside from her current major. "I will save that for next time," she said.

As for Lindsay Ang, a sophomore student, she did not follow the trend but rather chose a different path, currently taking up AB Psychology, planning to pursue a law degree in the future. "I sometimes think twice about my course, seeing that a lot of my Chinese friends are taking up management courses," she admitted. "But I am happy with my decision, and I will make the most out of where I am right now," she said, in a mix of Filipino and English. Her parents also fully support her with her decision.

Forbidden Love

It is already a recognized truth that there is a continuing disapproval of marriages between Chinese-Filipino and non-Chinese. The fact that ethnocentrism exists is to blame, the belief that one's culture or ethnicity is deemed more "superior" than others. Chinese-Filipino girls who choose to go out with non-Chinese men are generally frowned upon, because of parents being extra protective of their daughters. Furthermore, traditional Chinese families fear that the partners of their sons or daughters would not be willing to adjust to their culture and practices.

Then again, Chinese-Filipino women today, in spite of growing up in traditional Chinese settings, know what really is important when it comes to relationships and marriage. Mae*, when asked if her parents would allow her to marry a non-Chinese, says, "Preferably Chinese, but if it happens, it happens." When asked whether she herself prefers men of Chinese descent, she replied, "I don't have a preference. Love comes from anywhere and anyone!

It does not mean because his race is different, he would love me less than a Chinese guy would."

Interracial Friendships

Chinese-Filipino women often face stereotypes other people have of them, which may lead them having a tougher time relating with those who are not Chinese. Examples of these are stated by Nina*, a girl who has plenty of Chinese friends. She says, "They prefer Chinese guys. Also, there's the impression that they're more conservative and reserved than pure Filipino girls. More often than not, they're of the silent and shy type."

Whether one admits it or not, different impressions of Filipino-Chinese women like what Nina mentioned do exist, and somehow, some of them might have a tougher time from easily making friends or getting along with non-Chinese people.

For Jill*, a pure Chinese girl who studied in a Chinese school all her life, she is quite apprehensive at first with making friends with non-Chinese people as she started college. "For me, the culture is just really different. I am really more comfortable hanging out with Chinese people but now, I am adjusting [to the Filipino culture] already," she said in a mix of Filipino and Chinese. When asked whether she notices something different when she hangs out with her Chinese and non-Chinese friends, she says, "I notice something different mainly because of the fact that I was raised in a conservative Chinese family. The conversations I have with Chinese and non-Chinese [friends] are really different [from one another]."

Being used to speaking in Taglish and Chinese, Jill is still getting used to hanging out with people who speak in a way different from hers. "What I miss most studying in a Chinese school is that I don't have to worry if people around me would understand me or not if I speak in three different tongues all at the same time," she laughs.

In the face of these hindering constraints, Chinese-Filipino women must shatter these glass ceilings, defy existing stereotypes, and not let their traditional Chinese backgrounds hinder them from living the life they have always wanted. With the openness to celebrate the diversity of both Filipino and Chinese cultures, confidence, and having the courage to stand up for what one believes in, breaking the glass ceiling may no longer be the "Great Wall" people envision it to be. ☺

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy

BREAK THE GLASS!

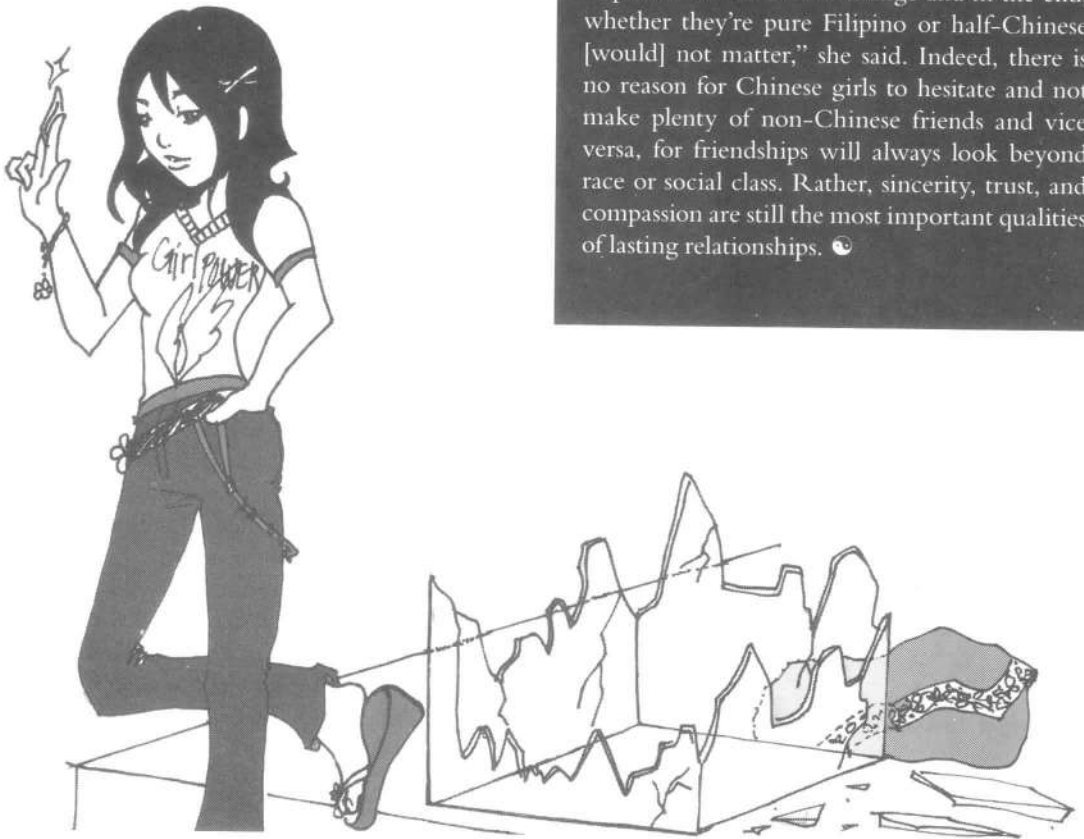
Desiree shares her message for those constrained by the proverbial "glass ceiling"

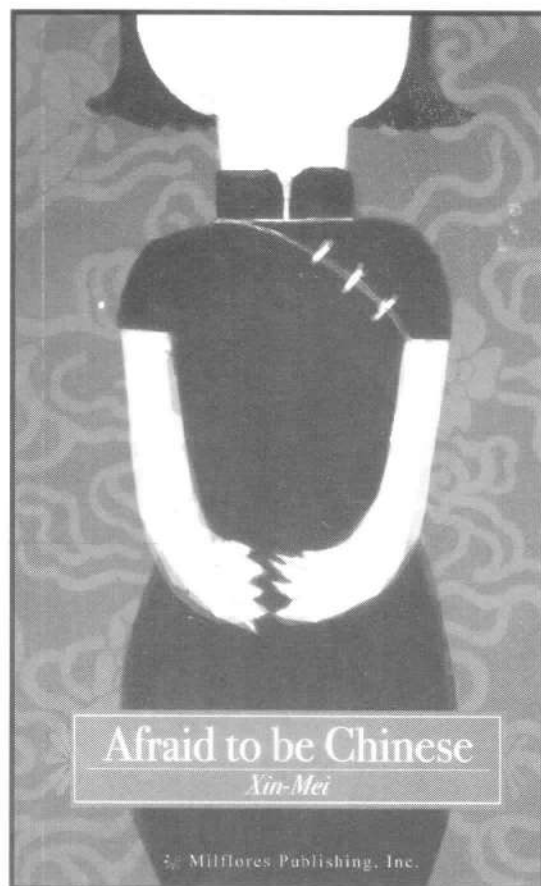
WHEN YOU HAVE no choice but to listen to your parents' desired path to the business world, do not think that you would just have to go with what they want and stop considering your own aspirations. Make your parents happy and at the same time do not hesitate fulfill your own dreams, however crazy or "unpractical" they may seem. Whether you want to become a theater actress, a journalist, or a graphic designer, go ahead and take the necessary steps to pursue it. Join organizations that match your passions, read up on books about your current interests, or sign up for classes on subjects you are eager to take up. Only you can choose to be whoever you want to be, not anybody else.

Ethnocentrism may still exist in some form, but the good news is, more and more Chinese families are becoming increasingly open-minded

about their concept of marriage. Just look at the interracial marriages happening all around us. Many Chinese-Filipino women are beginning to open their hearts not only exclusively to Chinese guys, but also to non-Chinese ones as well. So to guys out there aspiring to catch the heart of a Chinese girl, there might be more hope than ever. This is a world where possibilities are endless after all. Clashing cultures may someday stop getting in the way of loving relationships. Until then, keep an open mind, and hope that the person you like does the same.

Of course, not everybody faces the troubling dilemmas when it comes to interracial friendships. The key to getting along well with those of a different culture or race is to accept them for who they are and celebrate each other's diverse cultural backgrounds. When asked whether she gets along differently with her Chinese and non-Chinese friends, Nina says she does not – "I get along with them the same way. The stereotypes are usually just first impressions about them that change along the way. Once you get to know the person better, those impressions about them change and in the end, whether they're pure Filipino or half-Chinese [would] not matter," she said. Indeed, there is no reason for Chinese girls to hesitate and not make plenty of non-Chinese friends and vice versa, for friendships will always look beyond race or social class. Rather, sincerity, trust, and compassion are still the most important qualities of lasting relationships. ☺





Book Review

Fear and the Chinay: Exploring the Other in Xin Mei's "Afraid to be Chinese"

article by Don Michael Acelar De Leon
illustrations taken from the book

Author: Xin Mei

Title: **Afraid to be Chinese**

New Manila: Milflores Publishing, Inc., 2006

111 pages

IN THE EYES of those unexposed to the Chinese-Filipino way of life, submitting to ancestral traditions that appear to be excessively

conservative for the present times may be difficult to grasp and understand. Faced with the questions of "why"s and "why not"s, many Chinese-Filipinos would often begin an answer with the faint "Kasi sa Chinese..." and conclude with the passive "...ganoon lang talaga," thus unintentionally concealing the matter behind a thick veil of cultural ambiguity.

Xin Mei's "Afraid to be Chinese" highlights a soft departure from that age-old way of explaining sensitive cultural themes in hushed, unclear tones. Xin Mei leads the reader, regardless of race or cultural orientation, to an intimate glance of the experiences and trials of arguably the most restrained segment of the Chinese-Filipino community: the Chinay. Equipped with simple wordplay, rich verbal narratives, and unique personal experiences, "Afraid to be Chinese" provides an earnest treatment of the Chinay as she struggles with the issues of "family, honor, shame, and otherness" in a patriarchal Chinese society.

Confusion and Contradiction

The book is introduced by the voice of Xin Mei herself, who, in her own eyes, saw that growing

up with Chinese blood in the Philippines meant "confusion and contradiction" and "being the Other"—singled out as different in the community. The reader then comes across ten short stories that are based on actual experiences of Chinese Filipino women, collected and retold by the author using light, almost naïve language and easy storytelling.

Each story carries a distinct voice of the Chinese-Filipina—a toddler, a high school student, a mother, and a daughter-in-law, to name a few. Through these voices, a variety of sensitive issues concerning the Chinese-Filipino community and its women are raised. "Singkit," for instance, describes a student's bitter taste of discrimination because of her Oriental features. "Bad Dreams" shares a mother's plight over adoption within Chinese families in the interest of wealth and favor with her in-laws, while "Entries

from my Journal" depicts a high school student's encounter with the "Great Wall," an unspoken rule that forbids romantic relationships between Chinese and Filipinos.

Lessons in Culture and Language

Apart from issues in culture and gender, the book also introduces the reader to customs and traditions unique to the Chinese-Filipino way of life that are relatively unknown in popular culture. In "The Gifts," Xin Mei vividly describes an extravagant dowry from the family of a Chinese bride, typically composed of family heirlooms, home appliances, dinnerware, beddings, clothing, shoes with matching bags, jewelry, and a new car, among many others.

Readers will also find themselves learning some basic Chinese vocabulary while reading each story. Generously sprinkled with words like Ama (paternal grandmother), Angkong (paternal grandfather), Diko (father's second sister), Atsi (eldest sister), ambao (red envelope), and the positive interjection Hao, hao, the book absorbs the reader into rich and colorful narratives while keeping the context of the Chinese language intact.

Strengths and Risks

The strengths of the book lie in its noteworthy use of languages, unique illustrations, and vivid yet moderated humanization of the Chinay—of being Oriental, of submitting to an ambiguous culture of silence, and more significantly, of being a woman kept in a glass box; her thoughts, voice, and actions ominously restrained by her surroundings.

However, "Afraid to be Chinese" also runs the risk of being read as a pessimistic storybook built on fragile foundations. Its main weakness as a method of portraying Otherness sits on the underlying premise of fear. All the major characters exhibit fear over the issues embedded in their culture, and when empowerment would have served as an effective device for constructive change, they were equipped with the same weak tones and acts of resignation as with their real Chinay counterparts. The reader is thus left with no positive resolution to the conflicts that the women experience, only the sinking sense of being afraid to be Chinese. At the book's end, Xin Mei's Chinays remain Othered — silent and submissive to the confusions and contradictions that overpower them.

Catalyst of Representation

In a time when constructive hope is given more premium than submissive fear, when the current scheme of life calls for positive change, fostering human understanding, growth of character, and self-fulfillment regardless of race or gender, "Afraid to be Chinese" is found wanting. Yet, as a catalyst of representation of the Othered Chinay, Xin Mei does justice in constructing the framework of the past, upon which the foundations of future literature focused on exploring constructive possibilities for the Other may be established.

Nonetheless, whether as a simple storybook or as literature for studying and understanding gender issues and the Other, the book excellently offers readers of all ages and races a unique and honest multidimensional portrayal of the Chinay trapped between the conservative old and the unpredictable new. "Afraid to be Chinese" is, and will always be, an enduring testament of what the Chinese-Filipina must overcome in order to surpass her limits, break her silence, and transcend all communal, religious, and racial barriers. ☺



How to Court a Chinese Girl

article by Kevin Tsai

art by Jan Christopher Quing

COURTING A CHINESE girl is just like courting any other girl – the bottom line is: they are girls who crave someone who can satisfy them emotionally and is preferably tall, rich and good-looking and would make everybody else envious of her. In belonging to a Chinese-Filipino family, it just gets slightly complicated due to the language, the family and traditions among other things.

I never claimed to be a dating expert because I'm not, or at least, not yet. I am, however, quite knowledgeable in what goes on in a Chinese-Filipino clan and household, and that I can share. To begin with, not all Chinese individuals and families are alike, mind you. Not all are as rich as people believe them to be; in fact so many belong to the simple, frugal middle class. Not all are fair-skinned. Some even have bigger eyes than some Filipinos. There are some Chinese families who strictly commit to adhering to certain practices (such as regularly visiting a Chinese temple, even flying to China to do so); whereas there are those who don't do such things but still celebrate events like the Chinese New Year and the Mid-Autumn Festival. There are also those who reside in Binondo and Sta. Mesa; others in New Manila and Greenhills. It's up to you to do a background check on which one your girl belongs to in order to act accordingly.

Survey Says...

For the purposes of this article, I put up an informal survey online with the first question being "What kind of boys would you want to date / be a couple with / marry?" and asked a number of girls, both Filipino and Chinese, to anonymously answer it. As it turns out, Filipino girls are less choosy than Chinese girls since they really don't mind what their suitor's race is. On the other hand, most Chinese girls (quite unsurprisingly) are a little pickier because they have a preference for Chinese boys. Says one Filipino girl, "What matters most is the inside. I know it's a cliché, but maybe it's repeated so often because it's true."

Another says, "It's not a guy's race but his personality that makes him attractive. I don't really care what his race is. However, it's hard to date Chinese boys because their families are picky."

The Chinese girls however, had this to say:

"I want a pure Chinese guy."	36%
"I'm fine with someone who's only part Chinese."	36%
"As long as it's a guy we're talking about, I'm good."	18%
"I want a Filipino boy."	9%

Interesting responses include one girl who specifically stated that she wanted "respectable, rich and responsible Filipino boys." I quote another who said: "Whatever the nationality, it's the personality that counts." It even rhymes.



As for the reason why some girls chose Chinese boys, sixty-one percent did so out of their own conviction, either because they found Chinese boys to be more attractive or believe they share the same values or culture. The rest of the respondents however, said something along the lines of "I don't want my family to kill / disinherit me if I picked otherwise." Clearly, their choices for a potential boyfriend or husband are restricted by their parents and family.

Another important question raised was, "Did your parents (ever) specifically and explicitly tell you that you should, must, and by all means, eventually marry a Chinese boy?" A significant eighty-one percent answered yes. It only goes to show that either the parents of the remaining few are quite lenient, or it goes without saying that they should marry a Chinese guy.

Not very friendly odds, but don't be intimidated just yet, you might still be able to turn the tables! Here are some useful things to remember in your bid to win her heart!

Marrying into the Family

When courting a girl, you aren't just courting her *per se*. You are also courting her overly-conservative if not narrow-minded grandparents, her scary dad, her accommodating mom, her mean older brother and her little sister who has a crush on you. This has even greater bearing when it comes to a Chinese family, as made evident by the survey above, where roughly one-third of the female Chinese respondents pick their boys based on their parents' criteria. Below are some of the tips you might consider taking to heart if you plan to, or are already courting a *chinita*.

Tricks of the Trade

Sadly, despite having learned Mandarin in the Ateneo or in their respective elementary and/or high schools, Chinese households in the Philippines speak the dialect Hokkien (sometimes called Fukien or Min Nan Hua in Mandarin) at home or among themselves. However, there is also a small percentage of Chinese who do not, and speak English or Tagalog instead (Tip: These are the parents who usually are not particular as to the race of their child's boyfriend/girlfriend). A significant number of families including their children are actually poor in Mandarin, so you won't have much use for it. Hence, familiarize yourself with some basic Hokkien familial terms and expressions. Ask your Chinese friends for some help

with the proper accent for even more brownie points. By practicing these basic terms, the girls' parents are sure to recognize even the smallest of efforts' you put into this, in light of courting their daughter.

The Color is Red

Ever been to a Chinese wedding? Just drop by Gloria Maris in Greenhills during lunchtime, on a Sunday, and you'll know exactly what I'm trying to say. You'll have a hard time telling people apart – everyone's wearing the same color: RED (except for the bride, groom, bridesmaids and groomsmen of course). Red dresses and gowns for the women and red long sleeves and polo shirts for the men. For the Chinese, it is a plus to always show up in red even when you are just dropping by their house. It is also a sign of courtesy. Red symbolizes celebration and is said to bring luck. ☺

more do's and don'ts

DO NOT laugh or even snicker when you hear Chinese terms which sound funny in Filipino.

DO address your girl's parents as "Uncle" and "Aunt."

DO NOT ask why it smells like lit incense because that's probably what it is in some homes.

DO NOT make your girl choose between you or her family, because chances are she might choose the latter. But if she does choose you, imagine the conflicts and hatred (towards you) that would arise with the parents', not to mention her possible disinheritance. Again, it's all about the parents. If you plan on proposing to their daughter, just prove that you are not an incompetent chap and the wedding bells will become more audible.

DO work your way into her parents' hearts. Start off by being nice to your girl's siblings. Play basketball or DotA with her brother. Buy her kid sister a stuffed toy. It's all about making them like you so that they want you to come over to their house a lot. Next, broaden your scope by reaching out to your girl's cousins. Try to hang out with them as much as possible (only if your girl permits you to). If you have a lot of her family to back you up and sing your praises to her parents, everything is going to be smooth sailing from then on.

DO be an expert or at least fairly knowledgeable in playing mahjong. Knowledge of the game is practically an invitation to their home whenever her dad or uncles or cousins need a fourth. Gambling, or should I say recreational games, is always a great way to socialize and to get to know each other, and to show them what a nice boy you are.

DO familiarize yourself with the varieties of dimsum and other menu items in a Chinese restaurant (Chowking, Super Bowl and Big Buddha don't really count, trust me). Think more along the lines of restaurants such as Emerald Garden, Le Ching Teahouse, Gloria Maris and Hap Chan. It helps when you are out with the family and you actually know and like what you'll be eating.

DO offer appropriate gifts for certain occasions. (Tikoy for Chinese New Year or Moon Cake when partaking in their Pua Tiong Chiu, the dice game celebrated during the Mid-Autumn Festival). Who knows, you might even receive an Ang Pao from your parents-in-law-to-be.

THE WALL-CLIMBER'S SURVIVAL HOKKIEN!

ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY

ahia	elder brother
atsi	elder sister
shoti	younger brother
shobe	younger sister
angkong	paternal grandfather
ama	paternal grandmother
guakong	maternal grandfather
guama	maternal grandmother

GREETINGS

ho tsaki	good morning
ho epo	good afternoon
ho ami	good evening

BASIC EXPRESSIONS

ho/si	yes
um si	no
bo	none
be le	not yet
ya ho chia	very delicious!
gua/gun sui kia lo	I'll/We'll be leaving



MILK or MELAMINE?

—AAAAAA
AAAAH!

by Alexis Dy

art by Jessika Chan

photo from google images

A SIGN PROPPED up against the cash register of a frozen yogurt stall at a local mall assures customers that its products are melamine-free. Amidst the cups of yogurt, cans of baby formula, and packages of cheese lining the dairy aisle of supermarkets, statements from the different companies expressing a similar sentiment are easy to spot. Clearly, the China melamine scandal has the Philippines – and the rest of the world – spooked, and everyone is trying their best to avoid the consequences.

A fact that many people find surprising is that melamine isn't toxic; it just causes a lot of damage once inside the body since it cannot be broken down. Melamine, a compound comprised mostly of nitrogen, is primarily used in flame retardants, dishware and colorants. The early 2000s found China rising in both the production and consumption of melamine, but by 2006, the country had it in surplus. Unfortunately, some manufacturers decided to decrease the supply using less than desirable ways.

Since melamine is high in nitrogen, it has the ability to fool certain protein-checking tests into finding the item of poor quality better than it actually is. Companies that create livestock feed, pet food, and milk saw the melamine surplus as an opportunity to produce more while spending less – at the price of

quality. Before the melamine-laced dairy products sickened more thousands in 2008, the United States Food and Drug Administration tackled the problem of contaminated wheat gluten that was causing pet deaths. The wheat gluten, a thickening agent in wet pet food, was found to have granular melamine in it, and melamine's crystalline form was discovered in the kidneys and urine of the affected animals. The melamine was also found in pet food containing rice protein, and caused similar renal failure to the pets that ingested it.

September 2008 was a time when the nation should have continued enjoying the success of the recently concluded Beijing Olympics. Instead, a scandal hit. Several companies, particularly Hebei-based company Sanlu, were accused of adding melamine

Since melamine is high in nitrogen, it has the ability to fool certain protein-checking tests into finding the item of poor quality better than it actually is.



to diluted milk in order to fool the protein-checking tests. More than 53,000 people fell ill, with some 300,000 needing hospital care and four babies losing their lives because of such fraudulence. Like the animals who had consumed tainted pet food, the melamine caused its victims to have kidney problems, including the formation of kidney stones and discolored urine.

It seemed as though things couldn't get worse, but they did. Melamine was soon found in other products that used dairy, like chocolate and White Rabbit candy. In October, Hong Kong announced the discovery of melamine in eggs imported from China, thanks to contaminated feed given to the chickens. Japan soon followed suit with news of tainted sauce. Countries from all over the world, including the Philippines, scrambled to place a ban on dairy products from China, and authorities confiscated those that were already in the country in order to run tests.

Call it *déjà vu* if you like, but just a year ago, China faced a similar problem, with countries from Panama to the United States to the Philippines finding issue with China-made toys, toothpaste, candy, cough medicine, and tires, among others. The Chinese government handled the issue as best as it could, staunchly defending their manufacturers from the world's criticism and even going as far as to executing the former head of the State Food and Drug Administration for accepting bribes from

pharmaceutical companies.

It's surprising that 2008's melamine scandal even happened, because one would think that they'd

Countries from all over the world, including the Philippines, scrambled to place a ban on dairy products from China.

have learned from their earlier mistakes. There's no denying that the manufacturing industry contributes greatly to the Chinese economy, so it's disappointing to consumers worldwide that the government hasn't done anything to ensure better quality control. "I think [the melamine scandal] did affect [China's] credibility," Ailyn Lau (I AB ECO-H) says, "but it doesn't seem to be something that can be fixed. Instead, [the government] should let it pass and impose stricter regulations so something similar doesn't happen again."

The situation is perhaps even more devastating to the Chinese people, who have made such strides in the recent years with the outside world and whose ancestors were responsible for numerous innovations, for it seems that every time they show the rest of the world what they are truly capable of, something comes along to ruin it.

What's worse is that that something is usually themselves. ☹

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BUHAY Celadon

ON A BRIGHT sunny Saturday in mid-November, the spacious social sciences conference room is a sight to see as backpacks, pillows, and the occasional sleeping bag can be seen strewn on the floor. An adorable stuffed tiger hat is being passed around as ecstatic Celadoneans scan the room for old friends. Others choose to introduce themselves to unfamiliar faces. Corporate and Financial Affairs Vice President Patricia Regine Chung makes sure to capture every moment with her trusty camera.

Ounces of Fun Mixed with a Dose of Leadership: LDP '08

by Desiree Grace Tan
photos from celadon0809.multiply.com

Spending an entire weekend at the Ateneo campus together with a group of excited and lively Celadoneans is more than enough to create priceless moments, bond with newfound friends, and walk away geared with lessons on leadership.

The Leadership Development Program 2008: Igniting the Torch is themed after the 2008 Beijing Olympics, aiming to encourage and develop young members into igniting the passion in their hearts to become the organization's next crop of project managers and officers, while integrating moral values and principles that they will be able to apply in everyday life, all with a Celadonean touch. This program is also made for those truly passionate about becoming real leaders and agents of change in society. More than thirty active members attended the two-day program this school year, which included an overnight stay in the campus where they spent the night in dormitory rooms located in the Institute of Social Order (ISO) building.

Leadership in Action

Associate Vice President for Human Resources Paul Edison Kaw (III BS PSY) started the day right as he greeted the participants with a warm welcoming speech. He then proceeded to introduce the year's Executive Board members and the LDP project managers. They lit up the mood by striking model poses and cracking hilarious witticisms. After a few icebreaker games in which the participants got to know their fellow Celadoneans in an attempt to remember each other's names by heart, they were then challenged to a series of tasks loosely patterned after the Amazing Race. The challenges were designed with the vision of empowering attendants to discover and develop their leadership abilities. From the balcony of the old Social Sciences building, a raw egg is ingeniously wrapped in newspaper, and then dropped down from a height of two stories without breaking it. Meanwhile, out on the grassy field are anxious Celadoneans trying to carry one another over a thin rope around four feet high, tied

from two bamboo poles. Participants blindfolded, huddled together with arms crossed around each other did their best to wiggle their way out of a mini obstacle course. Displays of triumph and euphoria were manifested on each of the participants' faces as they succeeded in their tasks. The participants clearly had a great time with the group dynamics, in part because the managers and facilitators did a remarkable job in making them feel at home. Everybody seemed to enjoy each other's company.

Nevertheless, this was not the case at first with some of the members. Group facilitator and Celadon project manager Coleen Bunao (III AB Chns) says, "One of my fears was that we would still have to force them (the group) to interact with each other. At first the participants were a bit quiet and hesitant to open up. I felt so happy during the time when I left the group alone together

for a few minutes, then I came back and saw them laughing and having a great time together. It felt very fulfilling."

Aside from group activities, three different talks were also arranged for the participants to learn more from the program. A representative from the World Youth Alliance Philippines gave insights and tips on being leaders of an organization. Office of Student Activities director Christopher Castillo shared personal anecdotes about how to ignite one's passion. The following Sunday morning, a downright hilarious talk that perked up the participants was led by former Celadon Executive Vice President Trina Coleen Ong ('08 AB Eu), who spoke about the topic of heritage, based on her experiences in her college and working life, as well as how Celadon has shaped her into the bright and spirited young woman that she is now.

The Makings of a True Leader

"The Leadership Development Program held at school is one of the most unforgettable and moving experiences I had. Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity, all thanks to my friends who urged me to join in the first place," says Nyssa Kho (II BS Mgt)

When asked what leadership means to her now, Nyssa says, "The overnight seminar was a big help because it introduced me to concepts related to leadership, not to mention its applications in real-life situations. Leadership is what I identify now as 'to serve'. It doesn't only entail authority but it means being the best that you can be for the welfare of others. It will definitely require skills, most of which are people-oriented, as well as having self-confidence and being a risk-taker."

"I think leadership can be difficult because it really takes an effort to do small tasks. Handling so many things can be very frustrating and failures can be devastating. Optimistically, success can be promising but then leadership is not all about success and glory," she added.

Charmaine Sy (I BS Psy) says, "After having participated in the LDP, I think that leadership entails not only leading other people but also learning how to follow others. A leader alone can only do so much, but with his or her followers, only the sky is the limit. Leadership is not only being able to make others follow you but also a reciprocation of trust between a leader and his or her followers.



I felt so happy during the time when I left the group alone together for a few minutes, then I came back and saw them laughing and having a great time together.

Breaking Barriers, Shaping Leaders

Apart from the participants, the project managers, the Celadon Executive Board, and the facilitators played a crucial role in ensuring that the potential leaders will learn worthwhile and meaningful lessons, while making sure they were having a great time throughout the program.

Margaret Kawsek (III AB ID), when asked about her experience in facilitating the participants, "It was fun, they were all very cooperative. I felt so proud

Some were kind of shy but in the end everyone got along great. I liked the Amazing Race part the most because it's there when I saw who can really become leaders among them, they were those who knew how to step up. I saw them grow more as a person."

Asked about his expectations from the program, Paul Kaw replied, "For this year's LDP, I wanted it tailored to be as serious as possible, because after all, a 'leadership development program' is supposed to espouse leadership qualities into people, but the LDP

Leadership is what I identify now as 'to serve'. It doesn't only entail authority but it means being the best that you can be for the welfare of others. It will definitely require skills, most of which are people-oriented, as well as self-confidence and being a risk-taker.

my group did such a great job during the last part of the program, the one wherein they have to make a skit and perform on stage without help from the facilitators. I learned that the best way to deal with people is to let them be. It is also good to get to know the people you're handling in [sic] a more personal level."

Mark Dychauco (III AB IS), also an LDP facilitator, was also satisfied with the members' performance. "I think they did really well. Most of them stepped up.


has always been a tradition of being a venue capable of bonding people together, while at the same time exposing them to the core competencies that leaders should possess."

"At the end of the day, when I saw the results of the LDP, with happy people, and of course with the job of the HR LDP team, I was really glad. The participants were bonded, and learned something out of the seminar. For short, it was a resounding success, for me at the very least." ☺



The Journey to Passion: a Road Map

by Desiree Grace Tan



FINDING YOUR LIFE'S passion is to travel a twisted path towards self-discovery. A good starting point in this journey is to ask yourself with conscious effort, "What am I passionate about?" Some who do not take time to ask this might not even begin this exciting journey at all. "As simple as that step is, it is very crucial," says Christopher Castillo, the director of the Office of Student Activities of the Loyola Schools, who gave an inspiring talk about passion to the participants during the Celadon Leadership Development Program. If you (and like many others) have yet to discover your life's purpose, then now may just be the right time to ponder about it. To guide you along the way, here are some signs and detours given by Sir Chris himself, which may lead you directly on the path to discovery.

1 Tap into your interests – one of them might become your passion.

Begin to consider your many interests – surefire hints of what your life's passion may be. Being interested in something does not automatically mean you are passionate about it, although chances are, one of them might be it. Develop your God-given gifts and be aware of the things that catch your interest. Do you consciously have a strong urge to write a sudden idea or thought down on paper or in your blog? Does daydreaming of being a news broadcaster one day make you feel giddy and excited? Whether it's fashion, movies, politics, literature, molecular biology, swimming or mountain climbing that you like to do and feel an intense curiosity about, keep in mind that one or more of these may not just be mere recreation, but also something you would love to do for the rest of your life.

2 Listen to what others say about you.

Strangely enough, sometimes you do not notice you are good at something until someone tells you so. While you may have realized what your special traits and talents are, you come to recognize more exceptional qualities you possess when hearing them from another point of view. At times you would come across unsuspecting remarks and uncalled for words of praise that would come from a friend, family member, or a stranger. A usual reaction is, "...but I didn't do anything," implying that what you are doing naturally in turn unexpectedly affects others – one more hint pinpointing you in the right direction.

3 Gauge your interests: What do you spend more time on?

"The time you waste on your rose is what makes your rose most important," according to Antoine de-Saint Exupery's world-renowned children's book *The Little Prince*. So much time is incredibly spent "doing" and thinking about something you deeply love than you usually would in other things. It keeps nagging you in the back of your mind and you cannot shrug it off completely until you start doing it. Passion is an irresistible urge to do something and you want to do it so badly that it hurts. When you finally start to do it, immeasurable happiness and fulfillment will engulf you completely thereafter.

4 Take risks and face your fears.

Being passionate about something provides the sheer strength and will to do it, where nothing would come close to stopping you in doing what you really want. Known to bypass practicality and logic, you simply feel an irrepressible need to accomplish it. Passion entails taking risks, huge ones – plus the will to sacrifice and lose other things in order to pursue your passion. When you come to make huge leaps and fight your greatest fears to go after the things you believe in, then you are even closer to realizing your true purpose in life.

5 Have faith.

Pray hard and fiercely hold on to the belief that one day, you will discover what your passion is. Whatever your religion, the exercise of communing with a higher being is essential. You might find your passion next week, next month, or ten years from now. Whatever it is, it will come to you as long as you are purposefully, intentionally, deliberately, looking for it. When it comes, you'll know because everything will start falling into place.

6 Realize what you can do to others and how it can make a difference.

Look for the intersection between your passion and the desire to leave a mark on the world and the people around you. That is when your passion becomes validated as a worthwhile one. It need not be altruistic or service-oriented; however, having a significant impact on others is what makes a passion more significant. Keeping it wholly to yourself is selfish, whereas in sharing your gifts and your love for something, whatever it may be, to touch people's lives, makes it all the more meaningful.

7 Cherish the road of discovery. Never stop looking until you find it.

The search for your passion is a combination of a natural driving force that is already within you and a conscious choice to make it happen. The problem with a lot of people in the world is at a certain point in their lives, they stop looking. Many dreams are shattered. They may be great in doing things but are never fully satisfied. In contrast, there are people facing difficult circumstances but are still incredibly content and show an ardent determination to go on. The difference between these two kinds of people is that one found what he or she is passionate about. Like breathing, filling your body with the oxygen it needs to survive, pursuing a passion keeps your spirit filled with love and the energy to be the best that you can be.

Finding your passion is such an exciting task to do which may very well define who we will become in the future. So keep looking and never give in. Challenges and huge roadblocks will come your way for sure, but nonetheless, the rewards and the accomplishments you will reap in the end is certainly enriching. Nevertheless, you are never in this alone. Be with people who are also seeking their own

passion, share your aspirations with those you love and seek inspiration from many influential, amazing people already doing great things and pursuing their passions. As the great philosopher Goethe puts it, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Follow your passions, live your dreams. After all, we have only one life to live, let's make it as meaningful as we can. ☺

Don't wait until everything is just right. It will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. So what. Get started now. With each step you take, you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident and more and more successful.

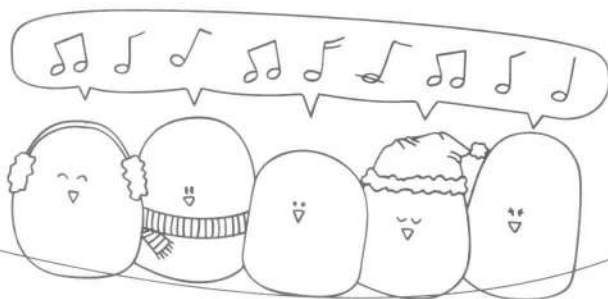
– Mark Victor Hansen



Writer with Christopher Castillo on Ash Wednesday

Celadon Caroling: The Musical Bonds

written by Kenrick Nacom
art by Jessika Chan



IT HAS BEEN said that "singing, is praying twice." While this famous quote by St. Augustine may probably apply to all the different Christmas caroling sessions held annually in different places around the world, what quote or saying can best describe the uniqueness and splendor of one of Celadon's most enchanting activities during the month of December?

For six whole nights, the Celadon Choir serenaded different families with various melodies designed to help spread joy and cheerfulness all around during the yuletide season. From the very first caroling session held last December 5, to the final session held last December 21, 2008, one could definitely see that the Celadon Choir was much, much more than "any other choir group". Where else in the Ateneo can one hear "Hark the Herald" and "Jingle Bells" sung in Chinese? Christmas Medley, O Holy Night, Christmas in Our Hearts, Jingle Bell Rock are examples of other Christmas songs the Choir performed, just to name a few. Yet, one interesting thing to note is the fact that the Celadon Choir is not just limited to performing Christmas songs. A Whole New World (as heard in Disney's Aladdin) and Someday We'll Know (Mandy Moore featuring Jonathan Foreman) are also included in the Choir's song roster!

So what else makes Celadon Caroling special? Miguel Villarroel (III BS LM) says, "It's not just a one day project. You have to give a lot of time and effort!" Meanwhile, Choir head Sherlyn Chang (III BS CS) emphasizes the fact that the "The Celadon Choir is not just a mere choir group; we are also a family."

True enough, the bonds tying the people in the Celadon Choir together are indeed incredible! Choir Co-head Earvin Go (III BSM AMF) mentions that the Choir frequently goes out on gimmicks to hang out, bond, and watch a movie, among many other activities. He even mentions in his blog: "I never expected to spend a lot of time in this project with marvelous and fun people. Looking forward to attending practices every day that ended almost past six was normal for me, because it's the cheerful

atmosphere that brings me closer to it."

Andrea Levinge (III BS CS) also gave an interesting testimonial: "I wasn't a member of Celadon when I joined the Choir in their practices. I met them by accident in Dairy Queen at Gateway. They seemed like they were having a lot of fun! Sher [Choir Head] 'hired' me, and when I joined them, I also had a lot of fun! Ever since, I'm with them everyday! They're like my extended family."

When asked about their unforgettable experiences, many mentioned the Celadon Choir recording of the Christmas CD containing most of the songs included in the Caroling song roster. The CD features thirteen tracks, inclusive of the introductory remarks. Villarroel comments, "Unforgettable experience? Probably the recording of the CD because it is the first ever CD I've recorded my voice in. It feels great to be given the opportunity of singing and recording in a real studio." One of the Caroling Heads, Jezze Jao (II BS ME), agrees that the recording was a special experience, especially since many Choir members showed up at the studio. Almost everyone who participated in the recording revealed that it was their first time being in a recording studio. "But if I had my way, I'd say every moment was unforgettable!" she adds excitedly.

How well did Celadon Caroling fare this year? "... when it comes to relationships formed, we think that the singers got to be more than just choir mates. We can say that the bonds they have formed have lasted even after the project." declares Caroling Heads Jezze Jao and Charlene Chua (II BS LM).

What quote may we then use to describe this year's Celadon Choir and Caroling? One quote comes to mind. "The family that sings together, stays together!" ☺



by Alexis Dy
photos from celadon0809.multiply.com
art by Daichi Lim

THE THREE DICE were spotted passing through EDSA Walk, posing next to the statue of Horacio dela Costa, and racing each other outside Rizal Library. The guard stationed by Xavier Hall saluted them as they walked by, and people took pictures as they weaved through the crowds on the Red Brick Road. Never before had three walking dice made an appearance in Ateneo – and let alone cause such a stir.

Behind and Before the Festival

Not that Celadon created the three dice on a whim. They were simply part of an extensive campaign created to promote 2008's Mid-Autumn Gratia Festival (MAGF), a yearly event that not only includes the playing of the traditional dice game, but teacher appreciation in the Awards Night as well. MAGF is Celadon's way of celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Chinese holiday that celebrates the summer's harvest.

The organizers – Leonard Chua (IV BS ME), Jeffrey Chuan (IV BS ME), Matthew Cua (3 BS MAC), Bea Lao (II BS MGT-H), Anne Ong Lopez (II AB ECO-H) and Kendrick Wong (IV BS MAC) – aimed to make this year's MAGF bigger and better, and the creative promotional material (including the in-cafeteria commercials that featured the adventures of the dice) was just part of their plan. Keeping the 2008 Beijing Olympics in mind, the MAGF's logo featured five dice, colored and laid out similarly to the Olympic rings, atop a burning torch. Celadon offered free photocopying at the Doghouse during the week of September 15-19; while waiting in line for their readings, students had the opportunity to cast their votes for their favorite professors in the different categories, and purchase tickets for MAGF night and collectible trading cards featuring the Loyola Schools faculty.

Even before the actual MAGF night, their hard work was paying off. Of this, Cua says: "Last year, [the MAGF] was [held for] two weeks, while this [year's] was only [for] five days, so we are very proud...[because] we were able to match up and ultimately beat the [number of] votes collected last year."



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THIS YEAR'S AWARDS NIGHT WINNERS!

CRUSH NG BAYAN (MALE)

1ST: TJ YUSUN
2ND: IRWIN CRUZ
3RD: ATANACIO PANAHON

CRUSH NG BAYAN (FEMALE)

1ST: VENUS IBARRA
2ND: STEPHANIE COO
3RD: MAITTL LADRIDO

FUNNIEST PROF

1ST: YOL JAMENDANG
2ND:
CHRISTIAN CHAN SHIO
3RD: JOEY TUASON

STUDENT - PROF LOOK-ALIKE

1ST:
RALPH YU - ROBERT PANGILINAN
2ND:
DARWIN ASUNCION - CHRISTIAN CHAN SHIO
3RD:
VANESSA VERGARA - JEMA PAMINTUAN

STUDENT'S BEST PROF

1ST: CLINT BENETT
2ND: CLARK KENDRICK GO
3RD: JOSE TIROL

BEST DRESSED (MALE)

1ST: HANS YAO
2ND: MARK CAYANAN
3RD:
CHRISTIAN CHAN SHIO

BEST DRESSED (FEMALE)

1ST: PIA RAMOS
2ND: LAILANI GOTAO
3RD: STEPHANIE COO

DADDY FIGURE

1ST: JAB NABLE
2ND: JERRY RESPETO
3RD: MODESTO CHUA

MOMMY FIGURE

1ST: DIDITH RODRIGO
2ND: BENILDA SANTOS
3RD: LUCILLE NATIVIDAD

TEACHER WANNA-HAVE

1ST: ROBBIE REYES
2ND: EXIE ABOLA
3RD: CHRISTIAN CHAN SHIO

FAVORITE STAFF MEMBER

1ST: ATE JULIE
2ND: ATE ALMA
3RD: XANDER SORIANO

CELEB - PROF LOOK-ALIKE

1ST: MILO THATCH - DAVID LOZADA
2ND: PO (KUNG FU PANDA) - JOSE TIROL
3RD: JESUS CHRIST - ICE PASCO

THE MUSICIAN

1ST: ANDREW SOH
2ND: ARCHIE GUERRA
3RD: J.C. UY

HINDI PALA TERROR

1ST: FR. DACANAY
2ND: J.C. UY
3RD: CHRISTIAN CHAN SHIO

THE LEGEND

1ST: CAROL NUNEZ
2ND: AMBETH OCAMPO
3RD: MAX PULAN

MAGF night

On the night of September 19, the Leong Hall Roofdeck was teeming with people excited to try their luck at playing the dice game. The Celadon Choir opened with the National Anthem and a sung prayer, and then hosts Osmond Go (IV AB COM) and Honey Lynne Sy (III BS CS) took the stage to announce which professors had garnered the most votes in the different categories. Breaks in the awarding featured the Blue Repertory and the Ateneo Musicians' Pool serenading the teachers after the surprise performance from the all-teacher band Gene Pool.

After tucking into dinner, the night was soon filled with the sounds of delighted shrieks, dice rattling cheerfully against the sides of glass bowls, and laughter. Looking back on that night, Vice President for Cultural Affairs Christiane Chan (III BS MGT) says, "I do think this year's MAGF was more successful [than previous ones]. Attendance was up, and teachers gave feedback that this was the best Mid-Autumn Gratia Festival they've been to."

Judging by how great MAGF was overall, it seems like it'll be hard to top, but you'll just have to come next year and see. ☺



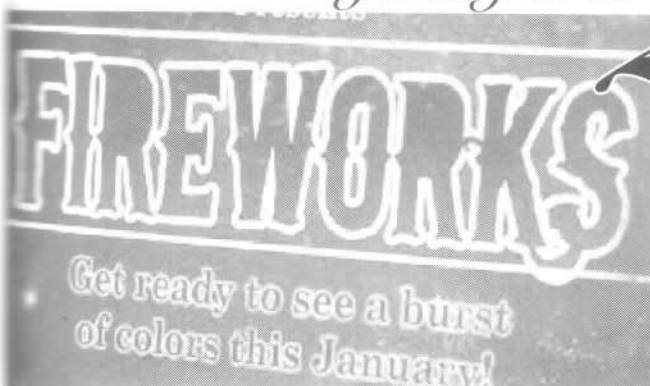
AS THE 2009 Chinese Lunar New Year was celebrated this past January 26, the 2008-2009 Ateneo-Celadon Executive Board decided to introduce a brand new event, Celadon Month. The month of January was transformed into a festival composed of nine exciting projects: the 2nd General Assembly, Art Exhibit, Chinese Tutorial, Spring Film Festival, Strokes, Red Tag Sale, Celadon Week, and the Celadon Elections.

Did you know that the origin of fireworks could be traced to China more than 2000 years ago? Just this past January, Celadon released its own array of Fireworks. Fireworks, which was originally the theme of the yearly event Celadon Week, was incorporated as the theme for the entire month. With the help of 10 managers led by Jessika Chan (III BFA ID) and Abigail Chua (IV BS ME), the Celadon Month team aimed to present the different colors of the organization. By participating in the project line-up for the month, one can experience the different aspects of the organization as each project was hosted by a certain department. This served as an opportunity for members and non-members alike to see the hard work each department had placed to promote Chinese Culture. Furthermore, because of the broad scope of the entire project, even non-Ateneans were able to experience the Chinese Culture extravaganza as a number of projects were held at the Shangri-La Plaza.

Celadon Month

January 12-30

2009

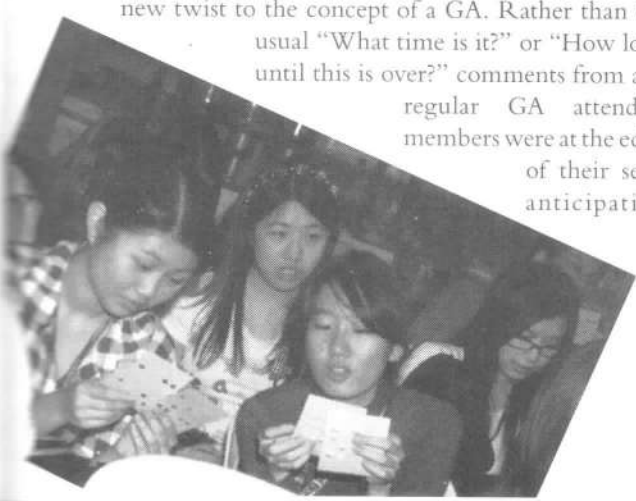


by Scott Uy
photos from Patricia Chung and
celadon0809.multiply.com

2nd General Assembly

What better way to hold a GA than to have a game of BINGO?! Yes, that's right! This year, Celadon's 2nd GA entitled "Celadon Pavilion" introduced a new twist to the concept of a GA. Rather than the usual "What time is it?" or "How long until this is over?" comments from any regular GA attendee, members were at the edge of their seats anticipating

for the next big game. With a free pair of BINGO cards, all Celadoneans who participated in the event had a chance to win a handful of cash prizes. Hosted by Kathleen Go (III AB COM) and Denis Ragos-Ty (IV BS CTM), one can expect that every number played was awaited for with bated breath. But because this is still a GA, in between Bingo games, Celadon briefly presented to its members the various projects they can partake in for the rest of the school year. With presentations powered by Animoto, members had a glimpse of how exciting these projects would be. Not only were members treated to an event full of surprises and presentations, but stalls of food were available in the event. Not to mention, all these food and drinks were offered to Celadon members free of charge! ☺





Chinese Tutorial

IN THE ATENEO Celadon, one does need to be Chinese to join. In fact, there are also Filipinos and a number of Koreans in the organization. But generally, not everyone knows how to speak or understand the Chinese language, which is why Celadon has provided the Chinese Tutorial. Focusing on idioms, attendees will be able to understand some of the things people might say when they attend classes in Ateneo, go shopping in Binondo, or touring in China. The aim of the project is not just to teach a part of the language but also provide a venue in order to pique one's curiosity for the Chinese language. ☺



Art Exhibit

WITH THE PROJECT entitled, Chinese Contemporaries: A Fresh Look at Chinese Art, Celadon aims to present attendees a new way to look at art. Rather than looking at artworks of older generations of artists, Celadon's Communications and Publications Department provided Celadoneans an opportunity to get themselves noticed. With many different paintings, sculptures and photographs by Celadon's members, artists and art enthusiasts alike had a memorable taste of Chinese culture in the Ateneo. ☺

Chinese Painting and Workshop

IF THE ATENEO-CELADON'S artworks aren't enough to bring out the art enthusiast in you, the artworks of Doctor Alex Chan Lim and the students of Confucious Institute, exhibited at the Shangri-La Plaza's annex, will definitely leave you wanting more. Not only do they have paintings to inspire one's creativity, but they also have art workshops for you to develop them. With elegant and awe-inspiring paintings, one can only begin to describe the detail and spirituality these paintings express by experiencing it for oneself. ☺

Spring Film Festival

THIS YEAR, CELADON'S Spring Film Festival came to Shangri-La as well. Preparations began as early as last October, which took much time and effort from project manager Randolph Cobankiat (III BS MGT), and his team. He mentions that "Several malls that were considered included Greenbelt and Mall of Asia but among them Shangri-La received Ateneo-Celadon the most eagerly." In lieu of this, this year's Spring Film Fest lasted a week, two days more than the previous year, with a ticket price of P100. Featuring box office hits such as A World Without Thieves, Electric Shadows, Luxury Car, and All the Way, a lot of foreigners and well-known officials, such as Senator Miguel Zubiri, attended the...



Spring Film Festival cont'd...

...event. During the event's Gala Night, the St. Jude Chinese Orchestra serenaded the crowd as they made their first appearance for this year's Celadon month.

According to Cobankiat, "the best part was that members were actually the ones following up and eager to be part of the event. Many wanted to be ushers." Apart from films, the Spring Film Festival is also a grand showcase of the vibrant enthusiasm of Celadon's aspiring members. ☺

Strokes

REACHING OUT TO younger audiences, Strokes is a Chinese painting and calligraphy contest for Chinese high schools throughout Manila. According to Jessika Chan, "Strokes provide a venue for students of Chinese Grade Schools and High Schools to present their skills." Whether the task is to create a chinese painting or chinese characters using the traditional chinese "mopit", participants can always expect to have a great time. ☺

Article on page 31



Red Tag Sale

HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH the Celadon elections and Celadon Week, one could get the best bargains just by visiting the SEC Field. With stalls from Negativitee, Abubot, Just Claying Around, Jewels in my Bag, Perfect White Shirt, and Filed!, the Red Tag Sale offered various novelties at affordable prices. Great finds such as shirts, pins, accessories, dresses, and even school supplies were available for purchase, attracting students and teachers alike to the Celadon Week bazaar. ☺

Elections

WITH EVERY SCHOOL year comes a new set of officers to lead the fray. After visiting the bazaar, Celadon members were urged to vote for next year's Celadon Executive Board. ☺

The Celadon Executive Board 2009-2010!



President: Honey Lynne Sy
EVP: Paul Edison Kaw



Human Resources
VP: Angelo Julian
AVP: Zhandra Tam



Externals
VP: Lence Chiusinco
AVP: Sharmaine Lee



Finance
VP: Sherleen Chua
AVP: Angelica Lim



Culturals
VP: Lesly Yiu
AVP: Lexie Dizon



Comm and Pub
VP: Jackie Tanliao
AVP: Charles Chua

Celadon Week

IT HAS ALMOST become a tradition that Celadon Week is to be celebrated on the week of the Chinese Lunar New Year. True enough to its Chinese-Filipino roots, Celadon celebrated the event with a blast of activities and fun-filled booths, capping a month long Chinese extravaganza. Booths brandishing all sorts of items were positioned all over SEC field, from food booths "Papa Rotti" and "Fish and Chicken" to Celadon's very own marriage "kai-shao" booth. Indeed, there was no other place to spend an idle afternoon. According to Janine Chua (I AB Chn) "The whole week was memorable, you can see many happy faces especially the weddings where people begin gathering around the newly-wed couples as they look really happy."

To end Celadon Month with a resounding bang, Celadon Week's culminating activity had

presentations from model and TV host Janeena Chan, who performed a number of Chinese songs. The Ateneo Wushu Team also gave an exciting glimpse into the world of Chinese martial arts. The newly formed Celadon band composed of Miguel Villaroel (III BS LM), Ryan Uy (I AB MEC) and Kenrick Nocom (III BS MGT) had their debut performance, with renditions of Everything's Magic, Wu Le Bu Zuo and Jeepney. The Saint Jude Chinese Orchestra also executed a musical medley conducted with an ensemble of different Chinese instruments while the Ling Nam Athletic Association raised the spirits of the cheering audience with the ever-iconic and popular lion dance.

Even with an event so great in magnitude, the project heads still see more room for improvement. Jessika Chan mentions that "preparation only began last October and if more time was allotted, the event could have been much bigger." ☺



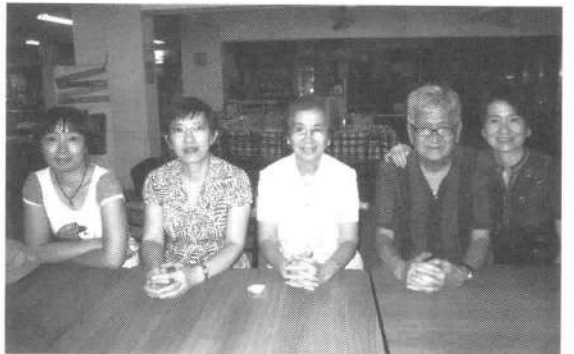


by Genevieve Chuachiaco
photos by Lesly Chua

DISCIPLINE. CREATIVITY. PATIENCE. DYNAMISM. PRECISION. These five values essential to the art of calligraphy were all evident in the participants of Strokes, Celadon's Calligraphy and Art competition last January 24, 2009.

Despite coming to existence four to five thousand years ago, Chinese calligraphy still remains to be one of the most celebrated and revered art forms of the modern world. Today, students know and fondly call it as "mopit". As the clock struck 12noon last January 24, the doors of the cafeteria opened for various participating grade school and high school students to come filing in. Pretty soon, the initially empty-on-a-Saturday cafeteria was teeming with chatter and buzz as the excited students took their seats on their assigned tables. Representing their respective schools, hey proudly donned their uniforms, a practice that has already become all too unfamiliar to us Ateneans. The attendance this year turned out to be more than satisfactory. There were a whopping 49 participants from Immaculate Conception Academy, 5 from Philadelphia High School, 6 from St. Stephen's High School, 9 from Grace Christian High School, 11 from Quezon City Christian Academy, 23 from Chiang Kai Shek College and 25 from Saint Jude Catholic School, making for a total of 128 contestants.

Armed with black ink, a traditional Chinese



WINNERS!

CALLIGRAPHY

Category A

3rd Place

Stacy Go

St. Jude Catholic School

2nd Place

Regine Li

Chiang Kai Shek College

1st Place

Johanna Go

St. Jude Catholic School

Category B

3rd Place

Bernadette Tong

St. Jude Catholic School

2nd Place

Juan Paolo Chua

St. Jude Catholic School

1st Place

Arwin Layson

St. Jude Catholic School

ART

Category A

3rd Place

Austin Ong

Chiang Kai Shek College

2nd Place

Vance Tiu

St. Jude Catholic School

1st Place

Sharleen So

St. Stephen's High School

Category B

3rd Place

Lynette Chung

Chiang Kai Shek College

2nd Place

Diane Ching

Immaculate Conception Academy

1st Place

Tiffany Chan

St. Stephen's High School

brush and years of practice and experience from submitting "mopit" home works, the participants were eager to put their skills to the test. The contest formally started at 1pm, after everyone had gotten settled in. The competition had two categories: calligraphy and art.

The competition proper began without any further delay and pretty soon all the chatter and conversations gradually subdued as the students got busy and focused on their respective tasks. With an assortment of coloring materials were spread across their tables, the participants were quick to let their creative juices flowing. Initial sketches swiftly became finalized colored drawings and not before long, the students were deftly adding their finishing touches.

Calligraphy, on the other hand, required more patience and precision. From start to end, the participants were bent over their sheets, working steadfastly on their Chinese characters, with the look of pure concentration on their faces. Slowly but surely, their brushes danced across the sheets of paper to reveal intricate yet meticulously written characters, making it seem so effortless. Anyone looking over their shoulder would notice the dynamic hand movements and graceful brush strokes and would remark that calligraphy appears to be a fusion of both writing and drawing.

The Saturday afternoon ended with a snack session, a game of human bingo and of course, the judging and awarding of the calligraphy and art contest winners. Medals and cash prizes were given to the winners. The other participants did not leave then event empty-handed of course; they were allowed to bring home their artworks as a remembrance of their participation. Indeed, Strokes was yet again a successful event this year, proving that Chinese Calligraphy is a distinguished art form that fosters timeless appeal because of its inherent beauty and the values and discipline that it fosters. ☺



Congratulations to this year's winners!

Faculty Trading Cards

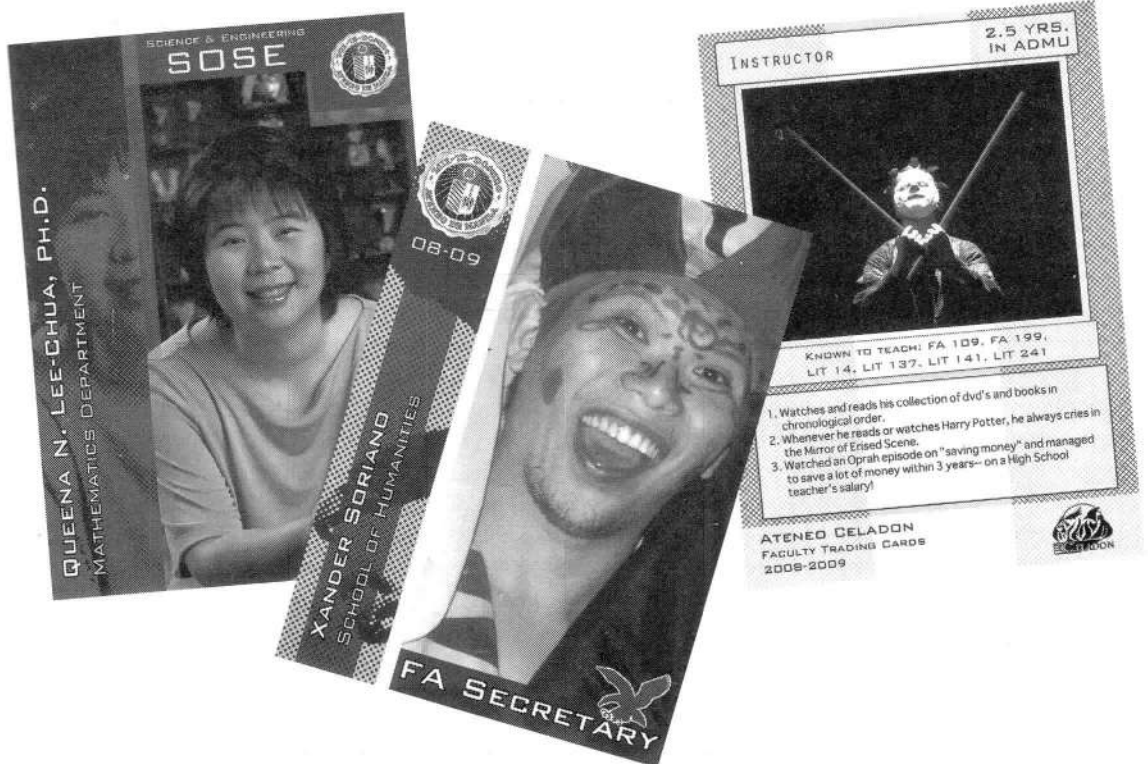
article by Alexis Dy

THEY'RE ALMOST LIKE Pokémon – you have to collect them all while you still can.

No, we're not talking about stamps or keychains, but Celadon's faculty trading cards. Project manager Angelica Lim (3 BS MGT) explains what they are: "Basically, the faculty trading cards were created [in] appreciation for all that the teachers have done for Ateneans. Prominent teachers are invited to join, and if they agree, we feature them on the cards. So it's like showing teachers that their hard work does not go unnoticed, [especially] since students, other teachers, and even alumni buy their cards, and at the same time allowing students to get to know their teachers even more thanks to the trivia provided at the back of the cards."

Designed by Denise Yap (3 BFA ID), the faculty trading cards currently feature the following professors: Anton Sevilla, Andrew Soh, Jethro Tenorio, Ice Pasco, Mike Asis (SOH); Stephanie Co, Neville Manaois, Ambeth Ocampo, Clark Alejandrino, David Lozada, Jose Tirol (SOSS); Darwin Yu, Carmelo Lopez (SOM), and Queena Lee-Chua, Karl Mina, Joey Tuason (SOSE). "We're still contacting other professors [to ask if they would like to participate], but it does take a while before we get their replies [because] everyone's so busy these days," Lim says.

The faculty trading cards made their debut the week of the Mid-Autumn Gratia Festival (September 15-19, 2008) at the Doghouse, selling at P20 per card. They are available for sale at the LS Bookstore in the MVP Basement. 🐾



ASK CHUCK

by independent_woman & Chuck
art by Daichi Lim

Want your letter to be featured in the next issue?
Email us at askchuck@yahoo.com

Dear Chuck,

Everytime I see a couple together, it irks me so to see the guy holding the girl's handbag. I want to shout out loud, "Hello?!" We can carry our own bags, thank you very much. We don't need guys to carry our handbags! It's just plain stupid! Won't that make the guy look stupid too, holding a fluffy, flowery, overly-decorated pink handbag with beads and pearls? But some of my girlfriends say otherwise. They think that having a guy carrying their handbags for them is like "the luckiest thing in the world evurrr."

Please Chuck, tell my stupid girlfriends they're wrong! Please?!

– independent_woman, III BS CS



Dear independent_woman,

There is nothing wrong with a boy holding his girlfriend's bag, except for the awkwardness it may invoke from observers. One has to understand why he would do so in the first place in order to properly evaluate the situation. No straight guy would hold a handbag if they had no reason. The reason they hold their girlfriend's handbag is not because they think their girlfriend can't carry it, they carry it because they want to project that they can take care of her. Most guys, especially Chinese guys, have a hard time expressing themselves, and the most common way this inhibition manifests itself is through being overprotective. Even if the girl's handbag is overly-decorated, fluffy, flowery, and pink, it usually doesn't matter to the guy, because it's not the object that's in his mind, it's the girl.

Personally, when I go around, I would see boys carrying their girlfriend's bags and other belongings, but I think nothing of it at the moment. It is a common gesture, but it's one that's more significant than what meets the eye. If the pair is only dating, some girls would keep their bag in between her and the boy to create a physical barrier, if the handbag was big enough. If the guy would notice this, he would most probably ask the girl if she wants to let him carry her bag, thus removing the physical obstruction. If yes, then it would mean a more mutual interest to keep physically available to each other. If no, then it's a queue for the guy to keep his distance. If the couple is already together, then the need for a physical barrier is non-existent, and the guy would most likely try to keep any and all distractions away from the girl, including her handbag.

However this will be interpreted by girls is beyond my capacities, but it is not necessarily a good thing for them. The idea of a boy willing to carry your handbag, even though it may embarrass him, is hollow. At your age, especially when you start interacting with the opposite sex, people shouldn't focus on the handbag the guy is carrying; they should focus on who owns that handbag. The usual reason why that handbag annoys a viewer is not because the guy looks stupid. Rather, it is because you are not the one who owns that handbag. Believe me, if someone else is willing to carry your handbag, you'll stop caring why guys carry silly handbags. The only thing left to worry about then is why you would let your boyfriend carry a frilly handbag instead of something less emasculating. But by then, you wouldn't want to spend the time looking around judging people, instead, you'd either take care of the person holding your handbag, or if he doesn't, why doesn't he carry your handbag? Maybe your handbag doesn't look that heavy. Maybe the handbag keeps you apart. In the end, bags don't matter as much as the two people walking together along the Red Brick Road. ☺

– Chuck

Chinese Pickup Lines!

article by Kevin Tsai
art by Lesly Anne Yiu



NEED TO IMPRESS a Chinay? Look no further!

10. 你的嘴唇好像很孤单的样子。它们想会见我的吗?

Your lips look so lonely. Would they like to meet mine?

Ni de zui chun hao xiang hen gu dan de yang zi. Ta men xiang hui jian wo de ma?

9. 我的手机有问题。

There is something wrong with my cell phone. (What?)

Wo de shou ji you wen ti.

它没有你的电话号码。

It doesn't have your number in it.

Ta mei you ni de dian hua hao ma.

8. 如果美眉是光阴，你就是永久。

If beauty were time, you'd be eternity.

Ru guo mei mei shi guang yin, ni jiu shi yong jiu.

7. 你可不可以拿着我的手? 我想告诉我的朋友我被天使触摸。

Could you grab my arm? I want to tell my friends I've been touched by an angel.

Ni ke bu ke yi na zhe wo de shou? Wo xiang gao su wo de peng you wo bei tian shi chu mo.

6. 你有没有运动衫?

Do you have a jersey? (A jersey? Why?)

Ni you mei you yun dong shan?

因为我想知道你的名字和号码。

Because I need your name and number.

Yin wei wo xiang zhi dao ni de ming zi he hao ma.

5. 你就像一本字典，你在我命中加意思。

You're like a dictionary – you add meaning to my life!

Ni jiu xiang yi ben zi dian, ni zai wo ming zhong jia yi si.

4. 你有没有孪生姐妹?

Do you have a twin sister? (No, I don't)

Ni you mei you luan sheng jie mei?

那么你就是世界上最漂亮的女人!

Then you must be the most beautiful girl in the world!

Na me ni jiu shi shi jie shang zui piao liang de nu ren!

3. 字典里没有一个字能形容你多么漂亮。

There isn't a word in the dictionary to describe how good you look.

Zi dian li mei you yi ge zi neng xing rong ni duo me piao liang.

2. 你的发烧如何? ...

How is your fever? (What fever?)

Ni de fao shao ru he?

你只是看起来很热辣的样子。

It's just that you look so hot to me.

Ni zhi shi kan qi lai hen re la de yang zi.

1. 如果你是我眼中的一滴眼泪，我绝对不会哭。我怕失去你。

If you were a tear in my eye, I would not cry for fear of losing you.

Ru guo ni shi wo yan zhong de yi di yan lei, wo jue dui bu hui ku. Wo pa shi qu ni.

How to use this survival guide:

1. Pick the phrase you wish to learn.
2. Read the Pinyin (romanized) version of the Mandarin phrase out loud
3. Repeat the phrase 10 times or until mastery is achieved.
4. If all else fails, visit the Celadon Room at MVP 208 for assistance!

Horoscopes

horoscopes by Margaret Kawsek
art by Kim Ng



Ox (1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009)

The Ox is a very hardworker, and will continue to work hard this year. Water and going away to foreign countries for the summer would comfort the Ox enough to make up for the hard semester ahead. Because of his go-get-it attitude, the Ox will make many friends this year, but he must be careful of those who might intend to use the Ox precisely because of his hardworking ability. The Ox will be very lucky this year overall except for health. Take care not to eat too many strange things-- it might lead to indigestion or worse. Stay away from suspicious birds.



Tiger (1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998)

Don't play too rough with the other children; they might gang up on you later on. Stay positive!



Rabbit (1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999)

Hopping around, jumping, and other cardio exercises suit you. Keep away from playboys! :(



Dragon (1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000)

Stay in the sun to be happy, but don't forget to drink water to stay healthy! Shave often.



Snake (1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001)

Be careful of what you say to others! Don't stay on the ground too long or someone might step on you.



Horse (1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002)

Wide open spaces give you feelings of peace. Keep away from people who you suspect are using you.



Sheep (1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003)

It is good to let people take care of you once in a while. Yellow is a good color for you this summer!



Monkey (1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004)

Being a TNT for you would be a very good idea, it would help you meet new people and be confident.



Rooster (1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005)

Avoid waking up too early; you might be disturbing other people who are trying to sleep.



Dog (1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006)

People love your company! Just be sure that they don't take you for granted: nudge them constantly.



Pig (1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007)

Eating too much is always bad for you, but enjoying the other good things in life isn't. :) Be happy!



Rat (1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008)

Avoid crawling in small holes and dangerous-looking things with pieces of cheese. Ox friends are good!

FUN PAGES

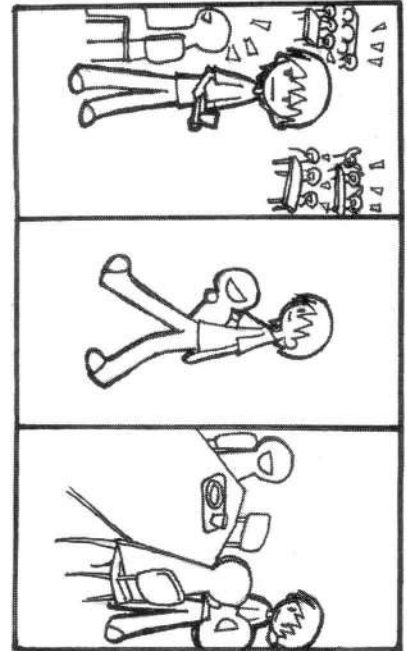
ON THE WAY TO THE COV COURTS

BY JANINE CHUA



TOO MUCH WUSHU

BY JANINE CHUA



IN THE CAR...

BY JANINE CHUA

Ending Promises

We used to be happy
And so full with glee
'Cause we know we have each other
Every time we are together

But now, things had turned upside down
You seem to always frown
Aren't you happy with me anymore?
Then why didn't you tell me before?

And so you walked away
Leaving me a gloomy day
You didn't even think of what you said long ago
That you would be the one to let go

But I was the one to let go
'Cause you want me to do so
You told me before to hold on
But now I can't seem to move on

And as the time passes by
I realize your intention was a lie
You can't stick to your own words
An unbroken melody without chords

Looking back is a hard thing to do
Hearing your words again will crush me too
All these things seem to fade
These ending promises you made

by Nyssa Michelle D. Kho
art by Jan Christopher Quing

Senior's Letters

Musings of an Outgoing President

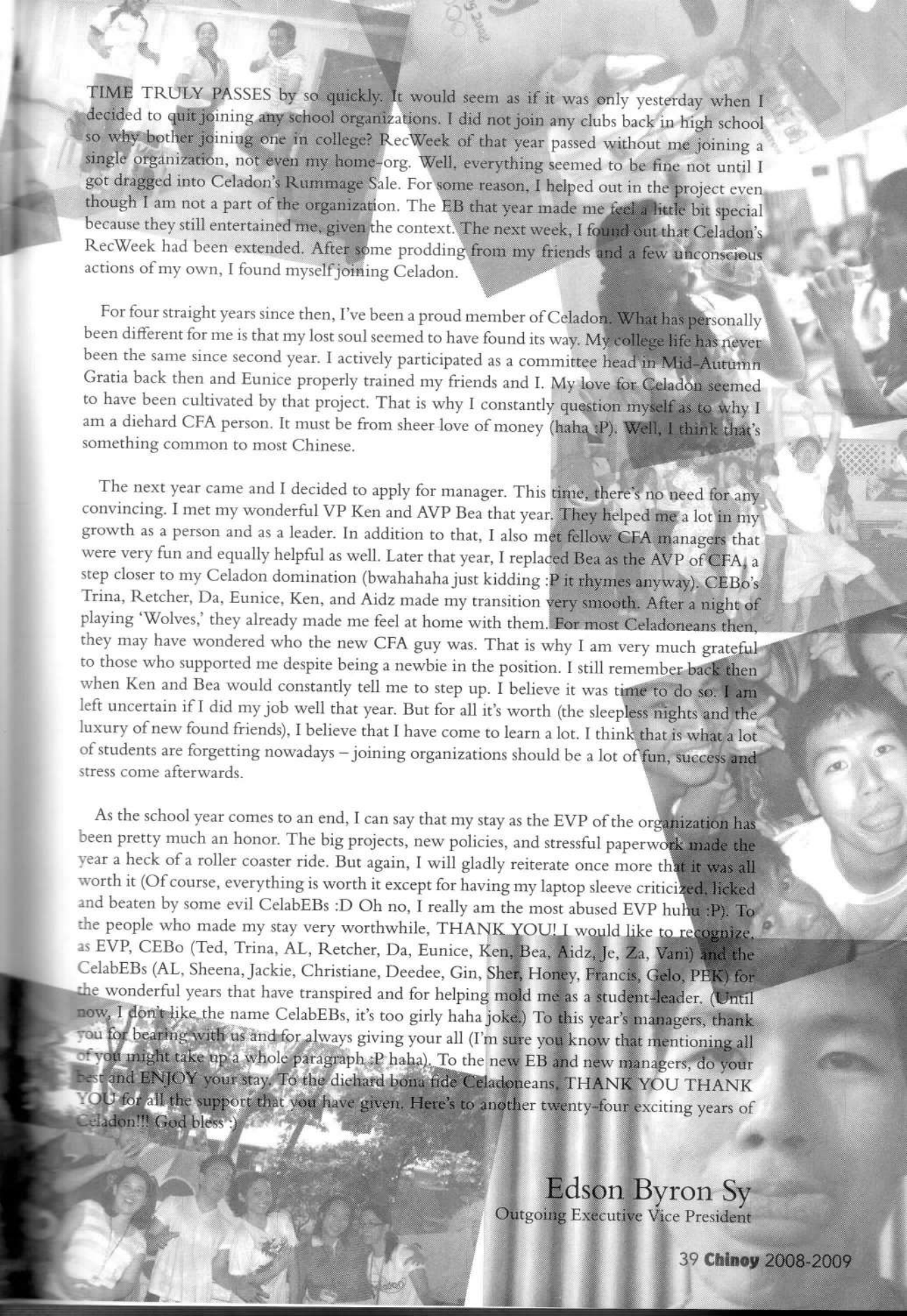
I REMEMBER THE first time I encountered Celadon was five years ago, on my fourth year in high school when Daphne Uy (PresidentSY0607) first ran for Vice President for Human Resources. She told me to join Celadon once I entered Ateneo, because according to her, it was the best Ateneo organization ever. Five months later, I did. Things were never the same again—for my org life, at least.

As most people know, I am quite active in various Ateneo student organizations. However, no organization has made an impact in my life as much as Celadon has. It was a beautiful accident to begin with. At the end of my freshman year, I wanted to quit Celadon to focus on my other organizations (me being an inactive Celadon freshman and all that), but somehow, Fate had a funny way of turning things around. I applied for project managership just to give the org one more chance, got accepted, and the rest was history. Here I am, three years later, leading the organization at its helm. For the past four years, I grew up with Celadon. It became my family, my home. I've had my share of triumphs and disappointments, of memorable randomness and sleepless nights, and of laughter and tears. At the end of the day, despite the craziness of it all, I found myself falling deeply in love with this Chinese-Filipino organization. No amount of money in this world can ever replace the time, effort, experience, sweat, tears, and love I have for Celadon. I hope you all find it in your hearts to fall in love with Celadon the same way I did—better yet, fall harder. :P

There will be no tearful goodbyes or sad regrets—just blissful see-you-laters and beautiful memories to hold on to. Thank you, Celadon, for four wonderful years. I definitely can't imagine how my college life would have been without you. To my dear CelabEBs, CelaManagers, and CelaKids, I love you all. It has been quite a ride, hasn't it? And a crazy and joyful one at that. We've moved mountains, crossed oceans, and made this year a success. Thank you for being my 563 reasons for smiling each day and striving to make Celadon a better org. To Honey and the EB SY0910, I wish you all the best. This year was a great year, but I know and believe that next year will be so much better, especially with you guys and gals leading the way. You have my full support in your future endeavors. God bless! :)

Until we meet again.

Much love,
Your CelaMamma, A.L.
Outgoing President



TIME TRULY PASSES by so quickly. It would seem as if it was only yesterday when I decided to quit joining any school organizations. I did not join any clubs back in high school so why bother joining one in college? RecWeek of that year passed without me joining a single organization, not even my home-org. Well, everything seemed to be fine not until I got dragged into Celadon's Rummage Sale. For some reason, I helped out in the project even though I am not a part of the organization. The EB that year made me feel a little bit special because they still entertained me, given the context. The next week, I found out that Celadon's RecWeek had been extended. After some prodding from my friends and a few unconscious actions of my own, I found myself joining Celadon.

For four straight years since then, I've been a proud member of Celadon. What has personally been different for me is that my lost soul seemed to have found its way. My college life has never been the same since second year. I actively participated as a committee head in Mid-Autumn Gratia back then and Eunice properly trained my friends and I. My love for Celadon seemed to have been cultivated by that project. That is why I constantly question myself as to why I am a diehard CFA person. It must be from sheer love of money (haha :P). Well, I think that's something common to most Chinese.

The next year came and I decided to apply for manager. This time, there's no need for any convincing. I met my wonderful VP Ken and AVP Bea that year. They helped me a lot in my growth as a person and as a leader. In addition to that, I also met fellow CFA managers that were very fun and equally helpful as well. Later that year, I replaced Bea as the AVP of CFA, a step closer to my Celadon domination (bwahahaha just kidding :P it rhymes anyway). CEBo's Trina, Retcher, Da, Eunice, Ken, and Aidz made my transition very smooth. After a night of playing 'Wolves,' they already made me feel at home with them. For most Celadoneans then, they may have wondered who the new CFA guy was. That is why I am very much grateful to those who supported me despite being a newbie in the position. I still remember back then when Ken and Bea would constantly tell me to step up. I believe it was time to do so. I am left uncertain if I did my job well that year. But for all it's worth (the sleepless nights and the luxury of new found friends), I believe that I have come to learn a lot. I think that is what a lot of students are forgetting nowadays – joining organizations should be a lot of fun, success and stress come afterwards.

As the school year comes to an end, I can say that my stay as the EVP of the organization has been pretty much an honor. The big projects, new policies, and stressful paperwork made the year a heck of a roller coaster ride. But again, I will gladly reiterate once more that it was all worth it (Of course, everything is worth it except for having my laptop sleeve criticized, licked and beaten by some evil CelabEBs :D Oh no, I really am the most abused EVP huhu :P). To the people who made my stay very worthwhile, THANK YOU! I would like to recognize, as EVP, CEBo (Ted, Trina, AL, Retcher, Da, Eunice, Ken, Bea, Aidz, Je, Za, Vani) and the CelabEBs (AL, Sheena, Jackie, Christiane, Deedee, Gin, Sher, Honey, Francis, Gelo, PEK) for the wonderful years that have transpired and for helping mold me as a student-leader. (Until now, I don't like the name CelabEBs, it's too girly haha joke.) To this year's managers, thank you for bearing with us and for always giving your all (I'm sure you know that mentioning all of you might take up a whole paragraph :P haha). To the new EB and new managers, do your best and ENJOY your stay. To the diehard bona fide Celadoneans, THANK YOU THANK YOU for all the support that you have given. Here's to another twenty-four exciting years of Celadon!!! God bless :)

Edson Byron Sy
Outgoing Executive Vice President

Greetings to
the Ng Family



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