

政治

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politics

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Editor's note

When we were choosing among themes for this issue, it was the upcoming 2010 elections that inspired us to finally decide on politics. This time around, there seems to be greater effort put into getting Filipinos to register and vote, bolstered perhaps by the triumph of Barack Obama and his hope-filled message of "Yes We Can" in the 2008 presidential elections of the United States, and a sense of weary exasperation with the dishonesty and incompetence of those currently in power.

It used to be that politics was frowned upon as a topic of conversation over a meal because it generally led to debates that not everyone felt comfortable about listening to while tucking in, but that belief no longer follows as strictly. In fact, that wasn't the only thing we felt had changed. Chinese-Filipino attitudes about local politics seem to have evolved over the past couple of years, and appears to continue to do so even today. So now the question is, where does the Chinese-Filipino stand when it comes to local politics? This issue aims to answer that question, and to provide further insight on related topics like the passing of former president and fellow Chinese-Filipino Corazon Aquino, and the Chinese-Filipino presence in politics.

There is an unintentional second theme for the issue, and that's *dim sum*. In retrospect, it is fitting, given that it was the inspiration for Ateneo Celadon's motto for the school year, "Filled with the good stuff." This year, the organization's focus is on bringing out the best in the individual members, because much like the various types of *dim sum*, it's what's inside that sets each of them apart.

Enjoy the issue, and go ahead and have some *xiao long bao* along with it.



alexisdy

Alexis Dy
Chinoy Editor in Chief

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Chinese-Filipino + Politics = Taboo?

written by Aziel Chua and Esme Fong
art by Daichi Lim



WE OFTEN HEAR the worn-out cliché "politics is a dirty word" from people who are cynical or disillusioned about Philippine politics. Oftentimes directed at politicians accused of being "dirty," the phrase has been extended to include the entire political system of the country. As the 2010 elections draw near, the relevance of politics in our daily lives becomes even more profound. Despite its seemingly dirty image, politics is one of the greatest mediums through which participation in the future course of events in the Philippines is fulfilled.

How is Philippine politics viewed from the standpoint of Chinese-Filipinos today? From interviews, mixed reactions ranging from those who are actively concerned to those who are helplessly indifferent were gathered. Among the actively concerned, people search out everyday news and scrutinize each candidate's platform to vote wisely when election comes. From the opposite spectrum come those who simply shun politics because they think it is a hopeless affair. Voting is shunned because it only inconveniences them, thinking that one vote will not really matter. It is thus logical to conclude that there is no one dominant political slant or trend among the Chinese-Filipino community in the Philippines. However, the reactions above do not address the question of politics as being taboo or

not. At best, it only elucidates on the current way of thinking of some, but not the underlying reasons for thinking so.

Was politics really taboo in the first place to the Chinese-Filipinos? Professor Benito Lim of the Chinese Studies and Political Science departments here at the Ateneo answers this question by giving a historical account of the Chinese in the Philippines from the Spanish era onward. From history, it is known that the Chinese settled in the Philippines long before any European invader conquered the land. As such, they had established settlement before foreign invaders even solidified their hold on

Voting is shunned because it only inconveniences them, thinking that one vote will not really matter.

the territory. Despite their preexistent settlements, the Spanish considered the Chinese as foreigners to be ostracized and threats to be eradicated. They implemented a policy of isolation and great taxation. This was exacerbated by the fact that the Chinese did not convert to Christianity. Thus, the Spaniards, acting out of self-preservation, suppressed the rights of the Chinese as inhabitants of the land. This policy continued up until the American times.

The Americans are popular for bringing democracy to the archipelago while China is infamous for being a communist nation. This tension between Democrats and Communists contributed to the idea that the Chinese are unreliable in politics. While citizenship served as a prerequisite for entering politics, the Chinese were not allowed to vote, let alone run for office. Furthermore, as Christianity continued to be influential in Philippine society, the Chinese people's lack of understanding of this religion also discouraged their integration into Filipino culture as a whole.

However, external factors alone are not to be blamed for the apparent indifference of Chinese-Filipinos towards Philippine society and politics. As Chinese nationalists, the immigrants remained attached to their homeland despite settling on Philippine soil. Thus, Chinese immigrants created their own subculture and remained in that circle until ensuing events encouraged their participation in the political realm.

Full integration of the Chinese into Philippine society began in 1975 under the hand of then President Ferdinand Marcos. From that time onward, the Chinese, as Filipino citizens, were more actively participating in issues that touched on Philippine economy, culture and politics. By this time, a number of Chinese immigrants had converted to Christianity and embraced democracy. Shunning the idea that their hard-earned private property would be taken away from them in a communist society, Chinese-Filipinos saw the Philippines as more favorable and accommodating than their native China. With these changes, the Chinese gradually came into their new identity as Chinese-Filipinos.

Despite that bleak past, Chinese-Filipinos today

see a resurgence in their interest in politics. Examples abound ranging from the town mayor, congressman and even up to President – as our own late Corazon Cojuangco Aquino was partly Chinese. Therefore, the question of taboo remains a mere personal and not so much a cultural barrier in the participation in politics today.

In this light, Lim questions the term "Chinoy" or Chinese-Filipino as he said, "I am not hyphenated." He continued by saying, "I have Chinese blood; I am proud of my Chinese heritage, but since I decided to be here, I am Filipino."

Full integration of the Chinese into Philippine society began in 1975 under the hand of then President Ferdinand Marcos. From that time onward, the Chinese, as Filipino citizens, were more actively participating in issues that touched on Philippine economy, culture and politics.

By this he points out that those interested in entering Philippine politics "must think of the dreams and aspirations of the Filipino people 24 hours a day, [and] how to address those problems must be [thought of for] 48 hours." Since the challenge of leadership lies in the ability to identify

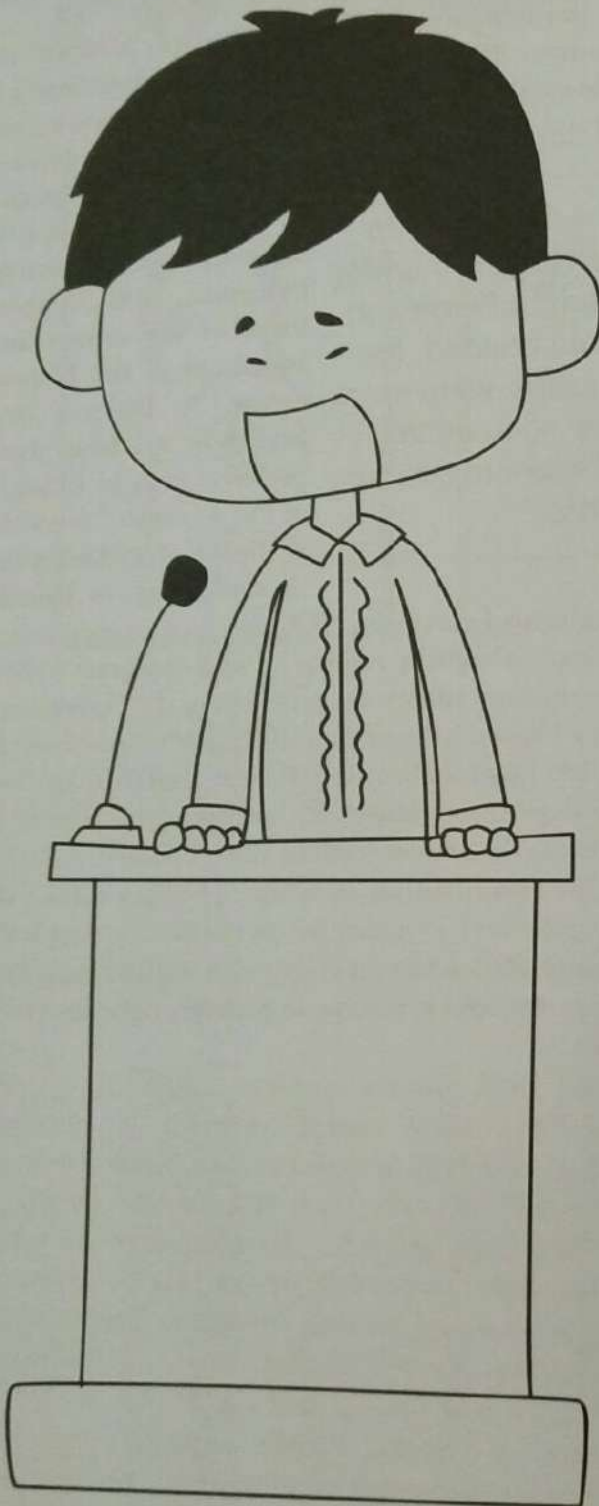
problems, Lim stresses, "[Chinese-Filipino politicians] must first begin by coming up with a program on how to solve and address the problems of the Philippines." In addition, he appeals to them not to give into the current corrupt situation. Rather, Lim pleads for them to show their sincerity by embarking on reforms to address the problems of the ailing country.

So it isn't a matter of whether politics is taboo to us or not – it's how much we decide to care. And as the 2010 elections near, it's a question we find nagging at our consciences, waiting impatiently to be answered.



Politicians Amidst?

written by Michelle Ty
art by Jessika Chan



Did you know that Ninoy Aquino is of Chinese descent? If you don't, then you are not alone. Many of today's younger generations are actually unaware that he has Chinese blood flowing through his veins. There are some, however, who assume he is Chinese because he married Corazón Cojuangco Aquino, who is of partly Chinese ancestry. Many say, "So what if he is Chinese? What do we care?" Sadly, that apathetic attitude is becoming a trend. But that does beg the question: *Why should we care?*

WE SHOULD CARE simply because we too have Chinese blood flowing through our veins. We are the youth, forming a significant percentage of those who will potentially lead this country into a brighter tomorrow; thus, it is significant for us to know who represents us in the political field of our country.

Now, can you name other Chinese-Filipino politicians other than Alfredo Lim and Panfilo Lacson? If you can, then be proud – you belong to the small percentage of people who actually care. Though Chinese-Filipinos comprise only a small minority of the population, they are mostly concentrated among the upper crusts of society. We Chinese-Filipinos are in the right position to make a difference in our country's future. One way for us to make a difference is to make sure that those who represent us in the political arena are the ones whom we trust to make the right difference.

You do not have to run for a national election to make a difference in your community. Every person, in his own little way, as long as he is determined to, can make that change possible. Anyone can learn about leadership and service simply by starting with his own self: influencing within his circle of friends, then being active in school organizations, and eventually going beyond that.

Ever heard of a Chinese-Filipino running not in

Every person, in his own little way, as long as he is determined to, can make that change possible.

a Philippine election but in a European election? Steven Cheung, a 19-year-old Chinese-Filipino who grew up in Hong Kong and migrated to England when he was 11, ran for a seat in the European Parliament last June 4, 2009. Sadly, Cheung did not win, but he serves as an inspiration today, especially to the Chinese-Filipino youth. Among his many political idols are "Winston Churchill for his courage, Ramon Magsaysay for his integrity, Nelson Mandela for his fight against apartheid, Mahatma Gandhi for his non-violent approach, and Dr. Sun Yat-Sen for his democratic ideal, and of course President [Barack] Obama for engaging the public in politics."¹ At such a young age, he is already very active in politics as a member of the British Chinese Council, which encourages the British-Chinese to participate in politics and promotes social awareness. He believes that "young people are an important part of our society...and that the youth is a generation that is marginalized, whose voice is unheard."²

Relyn Tan (II BA Film), a student from the University of the Philippines and a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) *Kagawad* in Greenhills, says that "Chinese-Filipinos have a lot to offer since they come from two different cultures."³ Because of this convergence of cultures, Chinese-Filipinos are very well equipped in dealing with situations that involve "choosing sides." Because they are aware of the lifestyle and way of thinking of their people, Chinese-Filipinos are also responsive to the key concerns of both the Chinese and Filipino communities. Knowing how it feels to be part of a marginal group ensures that there is empathy for others who are in the same position.

Upon graduation from high school, Tan felt the same desire as Cheung to continue serving. "I still wanted to continue putting my leadership skills to use. I believed I could contribute my time and effort to my community as an SK *Kagawad*, and at the same time become more active and aware of the things

However, Czarina Medina, a faculty member of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology in the Ateneo de Manila University, said, "Politicians, if they are of Chinese descent, do not play as much on this part of their profile compared to, for instance, if they come from a reputable school, or an elite family, or from a middle class background (or poverty at

that). The Chinese element in their profile is helpful to gain votes and support from Chinese communities, but it is not as attractive to voters when you consider the entire Philippine voting population."⁴

She admits that there are many Chinese, but according to Shiela Coronel's "The Rulemakers," an article that talks about the different profiles of politicians in the Philippines, being Chinese isn't exactly part of the typical politician profile. And this means that the politicians will use their Chinese background only when attending to a Chinese audience.

One of Cheung's political idols, Gandhi, once said, "If we are to reach real peace in this world... we shall have to begin with children." And we, the Chinese-Filipino youth, need to make sure that change begins with us. ☺

The Voice of a Chinoy

THE 2010 ELECTIONS will be an event of momentous change for Filipinos as they come together to select their leader from a throng of candidates coming from every background imaginable. With many candidates asserting their abilities, each Filipino must keep in mind that choosing a leader is not as trivial as picking a flavor of ice cream from a nearby stand, or selecting a title from a shelf of books. Each ink-stained thumb is a mark of hope for a better future away from a difficult yet insightful past – one that moves a nation forward.

More than half of the votes will come from the youth – getting their voices heard now matters more than ever. Here are what some young Chinese-Filipinos have to say.

1 Steven Cheung. (2009). Question U Ask. <http://www.stevencheung.com/>

2 Ibid.

3 Tan, Relyn. "Chinoy Article". Email to Michelle Ty. 21 August 2009.

4 Medina, Czarina. "Ma'am Medina. :D Reactions about the topic 'Are there chinoy in Politics?'" Email to Michelle Ty. 21 August 2009.

The Voice of a Chinoy

"The youth must take a stand to fight for a just and free elections."
- Adrian Go (De La Salle University), 18

"I want a candidate willing to get dirty for the good of our country. I'm tired of those who only care about their image, and what happens to them after their term ends. If Noynoy runs for presidency, he is merely riding on the emotional high the nation is feeling from his mother's death, which isn't a good thing from my point of view. He may get points because of this, but he will not get my vote."

- Bradford Dytoc (III BS MGT), 20

"I wanna be part of [the elections] because it is history. I want to make an impact on our nation's future."

- Fawn Yap (I BS PSY), 17

"Manny Villar will win because of the political machinery he has. In any election, it's not who is the more popular or better leader, [but] it's [the] one [who] has the biggest political machinery. You can't get a bigger political machinery than Manny Villar. Although Erap will run, and the *masa* will support him, he'll never beat Manny, because the cheating usually [occurs] in the counting [of] ballots."

- Matthew Cua (IV BS MAC), 21

"A leader is nothing without the people."

- Charles Herrera (University of the Philippines), 18

"More people are aware about the upcoming elections because of groups like *Ako Mismo*, but making these people aware will not stop the bad things currently happening within elections. It is still a person's prerogative to decide what to do with his vote, but some desperate people trade in their voting rights. If a person is desperate for food or money, does it matter to him if he can still vote?"

- Kimberly Go (II BS CTM), 19

"The only way our country will change is through radical improvements—a total overhaul of the system. Our system is not good in the first place, so why build upon that? For me, radical change is important. It's to weed the bad plants out so the better ones can be planted."

- Jessica Chan (III BFA ID), 19

"Even if we elect a good leader, it's the citizens who have to discipline themselves and follow the laws which the government sets."

- Charmaine Chan (I BS CS), 17

THE YOUTH OF today may not have known or may have forgotten the real meaning of the People Power Revolution and what the people who rallied in the streets fought so hard for. At present, we heartily enjoy the freedom that we have been born with, free of oppression and limitation. We do not know what it feels like to have something like freedom (which we take for granted) forcefully taken away from us – yet this experience is a part of our history. The lack of freedom of speech and other such oppressions which we endured are a part of who we are today. Today's Filipino youth simply need to watch the television, read the newspapers, or browse through the Internet to learn about our history and how it has led us to who we are today. What we need is the determination to learn history and be a part of making it.

Once upon a time, Corazon "Cory" Aquino cast a spell. It was here when Filipinos, deprived of liberty and oppressed by so many lies, were inspired to lead a revolution that resulted in no bloodshed. Her death relives that moment—this time with a casket surrounded with flowers and four honor guards whom her eldest grandson, Justin "Jiggy" Aquino Cruz, fondly calls his "Fantastic Four."



The Laban Effect

written by Christa Uymatiao and Desiree Tan
photos by Migs Limjap-Andres

A meaningful life, a beautiful death

"My biggest fear is, if my *lola* dies, maybe no one would care. *Paano kung lumabas kami sa road, tapos parang any other day lang siya?*" Eldon "Jonty" Aquino Cruz (III BFA ID) humbly says. Jonty is the second son of Maria Elena Aquino-Cruz, Cory's eldest daughter. It was when he saw the turnout of people on the streets (an estimated 750,000 Filipinos) all displaying the former president's trademark "L" (for "*laban*," or fight) sign, walking along her casket amidst the rains and heat, that he could not help but shed tears of gratitude for his grandmother with whom he had a close relationship.

Jonty, an Atenean clad in yellow or black shirts since his grandmother's passing, sees Cory Aquino as more of a grandmother or a "second mother" than that of a president. "If you ask me what policies she had when she was the president, I might only give a couple. But as a *lola*, I could tell stories for hours on end," he says.

The Philippines' first woman president never fell

short of exuding her great love to her family along with loving and leading the whole country. "What I feel about her as a *lola*, it's the same thing the country felt. They felt that *lola* was taking care of them too during her presidency," Jonty says.

She stood firm and showed admirable courage while witnessing her husband Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. suffer years of imprisonment, raising her five children by herself, and fighting for the nation's democracy. She dedicated all her hardships to God and never wavered in her faith. Jonty remarks, "Even though people might say it was not a perfect government, at least they couldn't say that she wasn't sincere in what she was doing."

Simple gifts, grand gestures

Jonty recalls how his late grandmother liked to give presents, even without occasions. "When she gets something, she'd rather give it to her *apos* or to someone else. When people would give her a bouquet of flowers, she would tell Miguel or Jiggy,

"Give these to your girlfriend, maybe they'll like it."

During the last months of her life, Cory stayed in her eldest daughter's home. Family dinners would result in a sharing of stories that would last for hours. Jonty would rush home from school every day and immediately go to see his *lola*.

Down-to-earth and modest, Jonty definitely inherited traits from his grandmother. He is not used to the new attention he gets from his peers and the media. "Personally, it has not really sunk in yet," he admits.

Yellow and Blue

The Atenean mobilization to Cory's procession on August 5 stood out with around fourteen buses carrying Ateneans from the grade school to college level, faculty, and even the alumni, most of whom wearing blue with yellow ribbons tied to their wrists.

Katrina Morales (IV BS PSY), Secretary-General of the Sanggunian, joined the mobilization and clarifies that the wearing of blue was for safety and "logistical" purposes. "We also had ropes, which we should hold on to while we were walking, *kasi* if someone gets lost, *mahirap na rin*."

Morales says that just seeing the former president for a few seconds was worth trudging through the rain and the hordes of supporters. "That was the highlight of my day, *nung hinahabol namin si Cory*," she says. Morales admires the former president's faith, values, and core competencies in life. "She really made me think that as a person, you have plans—plans that we have to double check if [we want to know that] what we are doing is still right," Morales says.

History in a modern age

People compare Cory's funeral to that of Ninoy's, which had both drawn crowds of supporters and lasted for long hours. Yet there are also major differences in the funerals of both Aquino's. While one funeral was held in a time when we fought for a freedom we did not possess and by a person who died fighting for our freedom, another was held in a time when we continue to fight for the freedom that we currently enjoy and by a person who stood as the rallying point for people to fight for their freedom. Also, only one station covered Ninoy's funeral, in contrast to an army of news stations, photographers, and journalists rushing to cover Cory's funeral—widely manifesting the freedom of speech that Cory fought so hard to recover for the people. In cyberspace, thousands of "Cory Tweets" on Twitter poured in, and blog entries commemorating her life and death were posted while the funeral rites were ongoing, giving the youth the chance to speak out in light of the death of a national icon.

Patricia Evangelista, a young writer and public speaker, wrote in her column in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*: "This is what a hero is—the man, or woman, who is confronted by the choice to do right, and who chooses it, not because of convenience, or power, or vengeance, but because it is right."

It's our turn

Since the former president's funeral, the crowds have long since gone back to their homes, politicians have begun getting ready for the 2010 elections, and workers and students have returned to their jobs and academic endeavors in a developing Philippines with much still left to be fixed. What is next now that Cory has gone and left the Filipinos who have been awakened to hope by her? "*Ginawa na niya ang role niya*. Now it's time to do yours," Morales asserts, as she hopes that the youth would use this "wake-up call" to spring into action, to register for the 2010 elections and to vote wisely, as well as strive to create change in themselves and for the country.

As for Jonty, what he wants to do for the country is straightforward, one that he has decided upon in gratitude to the people who will eternally honor his *lola's* legacy: "The smallest thing I could do for this country is not to leave. It's the least I could do after the love they gave to my *lola*."

We may not have experienced what it felt like to rally behind Cory as we fought for our freedom then, but as the youth of today, it is our responsibility to continue to fight for the freedom that we have long desired, and for which many have given their lives. This is the least we can do for our country, and for Cory, who was an inspiring example of how to fight with hope, strength, and faith. ☺





Coping with *Ondoy*

written by Andre Ty
art by Jan Quing

RAIN. IT'S A fact of life for those of us who reside in the Philippines. We've accepted it into our lives, and have prepared contingencies to try and minimize the damage caused by typhoons. Unfortunately, no matter how hard we try, preparations are still inadequate, and we end up in a hell of a condition afterwards. On September 28, 2006, such a disaster met us in the form of the typhoon Milenyo. The Philippines managed to survive that tragedy and hoped that nothing would ever be as bad. However, on September 26, 2009, almost three years later, many Filipinos' hopes came crashing down when typhoon Ondoy brought about the worst flooding in the Philippines in 20 years.

For those of us children of the '90s, we weren't even born yet the last time such terrible flooding occurred. Therefore, when places we've long thought impervious to flooding suddenly became flooded, a lot of us realized the gravity of the situation. The wonderful thing about this is that it drew the youth of their shells and we've finally started to take a more active role in helping out in the relief efforts.

"Nothing concentrates one's mind so much as the realization that one is going to be hanged in the morning!" This quote by Samuel Johnson fits our situation perfectly. Ever since Ondoy struck, the divisions between the rich and the poor among the Filipino people have blurred. Everyone began to realize that no one was immune to the vagaries of fate.

Many stories, one great flood

Such is the case of Celadonean Coleen Bunao (IV AB ChnS). Bunao lives in Samsonville, a village along Marcos Highway in Antipolo. After hearing from her uncle, a resident of the area for 11 years, that it seldom flooded there (and if it did, the waters subsided quickly, leaving minimal damage), she and her family moved there, thinking that they would be safe from floods. However, Ondoy proved history wrong. On that fateful day, the village she lived in was submerged in rainwater, providing a sight reminiscent of the ancient city of Atlantis.

... we've finally started to take a more active role in helping out in the relief efforts.

Allegedly to blame for the worst flooding the residents of the area had ever experienced is the decision of the government to open the nearby dam that was filled to the brim with water under the guise of the storm. "I just wish the [local] government gave warning that they were going to open the dams," Bunao says. "If they did, maybe we could have saved something from our house." Bunao says that the only appliance in her house they were able to salvage was their washing machine.

Bunao currently lives in her grandmother's house at Project 6 as she tries to recover what she can from the mess that was once her house. She credits many people for helping make the difficult experience more bearable for her, including those who took her family in during the storm, and friends who donated not just things but their time and effort in clean-up efforts.

In stark contrast are those who, while still in possession of all of their belongings, could not return home for weeks after the storm. Bradford Dytoc's (III BS MGT) house did not suffer any damage, but the village in which it is located remains flooded. As of the time that this article was written two weeks after Ondoy, Parkwood Greens in Pasig City is still flooded with knee-high waters. Outside the village, in Pasig City proper, some areas have water levels that are waist-high. He currently resides in Cedar Mansions, a condominium in Ortigas, awaiting the receding of floodwaters in his area so that he may return home.

On that fateful day, the village she lived in was submerged in rainwater, providing a sight reminiscent of the ancient city of Atlantis.

Showers of hope and kindness

Now what did the Chinese-Filipino youth do amidst all these? Did we just shrug it off as an unfortunate event and go on with our lives? Did we, with our usual nonchalance, mouth words of sorrow for those who were greatly affected? Surprise, surprise to those naysayers who think that the members of the Chinese-Filipino community do not care, for in this tragedy, we showed our determination to help out as much as any other person.

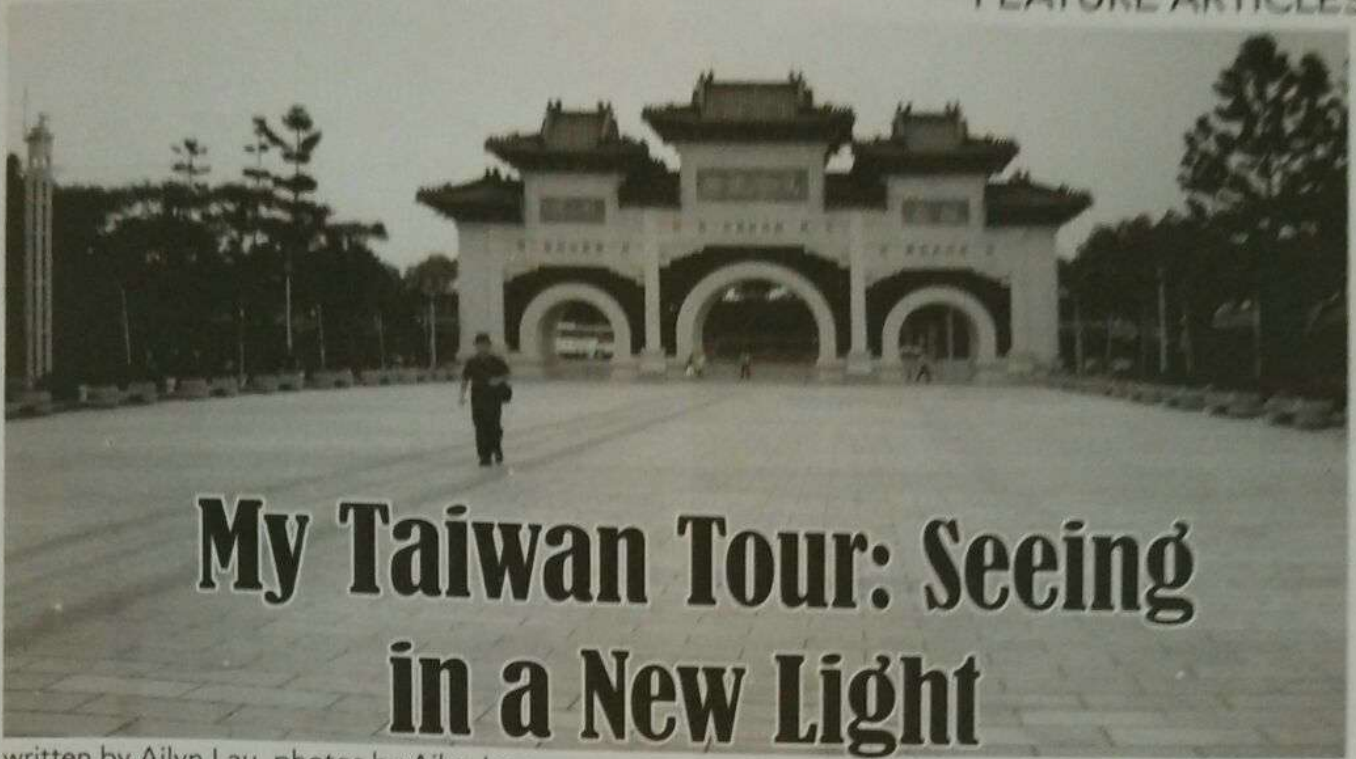
This can be seen first and foremost at the turnout of volunteers in schools like Xavier School, St. Jude Catholic School and Immaculate Conception

Academy. If one were to peek inside these schools in the days after the tragedy occurred, he would see an overwhelming number of volunteers helping out, and plenty of goods waiting to be packed and shifted out. From grade school students to the graduates of such schools, the desire of the Chinese-Filipino community to lend a hand is very much evident.

However, this is not the only way by which the Chinese-Filipino community helped out. Ondoy Relief Collection Aid (ORCA) is an initiative of a group of college students in Ateneo de Manila University. Ryan Uy (II AB MEC), Lence Chiusinco (IV BS ME) and Margaret Kawsek (IV BFA ID-CW), among others, realized that not everyone who wanted to help the victims of Ondoy could personally go to relief centers, so they came up with the idea of driving around and picking up donation goods from different houses and delivering them to relief centers for processing. In this manner, they showed their initiative in helping out and proved that anyone can help out in his own little way.

Tragedy indeed brings out the best in people. In the days following Ondoy, the Chinese-Filipino community was one with the rest of the nation in helping one another recover from the disastrous effects of the storm. Hopefully, we will all continue in helping build (and rebuild) the country in the years to come. ☺





My Taiwan Tour: Seeing in a New Light

written by Ailyn Lau, photos by Ailyn Lau
art by Hazel Tan

WHEN THE END of March 2009 came around, my mind was stuck between preparing for the finals week and planning my summer vacation. In need of my usual dose of traveling, I fell upon an invite from my Chinese teacher in high school encouraging me to join a youth tour: 21 days around Taiwan with a group of 17-27 year olds for a low price. She had me the moment she mentioned how cheap it was—the frugality in my blood is hard to ignore. Allergic to too much socializing, I dragged my younger brother along to sign up for the tour. Apparently, Dynamic Youth Philippines and the Overseas Compatriot Affairs, two of the sponsoring groups, had a different kind of tour in mind. The weekly “orientations” where they fed us with snacks, rules, and proper conduct should have been enough foreshadowing of the militaristic tour to come, but the wanderlust was strong enough to let me overlook that.

On May 3, 2009, my brother and I arrived at NAIA, trying unsuccessfully to hide our tacky tour uniforms with our best jackets. Finished with the maze of bag inspections, the check-in counter, and Immigration, we boarded the plane, ready to start our journey to the island southeast of Mainland China. We landed at the Taiwan Taoyuan Airport and were met by our smiling tour facilitators amid numerous faces covered by masks because of the swine flu scare. The one hundred or so youths that joined the tour were split into four buses, each facilitated by four “camp counselors.” I didn’t know that just as I was settling into my college life, the 21 days in Taiwan would be my high school days revisited.

The enforced demerit system kept the threat of deportation hanging over our heads. The following crimes rewarded us with a point: forgetting to wear our ID, staying out beyond the curfew, wearing the wrong uniform, arriving late during mealtimes,

being absent during the bed checks... The list went on for about four pages. I would know – they gave us each a copy, just so ignorance wouldn’t be an excuse.

The days flew by and the complaints of the mix of people—high school and college students, young professionals, Cebuanos, Manileños, those who were forced into coming, and those who were simply travel buffs—grew louder and louder. I didn’t blame them; we were at best all old enough to waste our life away by sleeping late, partying and having fun. The complaints did get in the way of hearing clearly—the beautiful history of the places we visited were muffled

“...just as I was settling into my college life, the twenty-one days in Taiwan would be my high school days revisited.”



"It is learning to see these slight differences that makes the best travelers."

been money and time down the drain.

This delight in seeing new things must have exuded from me, for people started asking for explanations. Nobody believed me when I said that I joined the tour for the sole reason of traveling. I joined not to find some quiet in leaving behind my nagging parents, or to search for my one true Chinese love, or to discover peace upon escaping some terrible problem back at home. I joined because I wanted to. Alain de Botton said it best: "Leave for leaving's sake." Maybe people would have believed me if I explained what I believed: traveling clears the dust that collects in one's eyes while staying in one place for far too long. The clearest indication of having fresh eyes the moment I arrived in the Philippines was missing the things I used to take for granted: the feeling of holding a spoon and a fork during mealtimes, the sound of Tagalog rolling from my tongue, and the sight of familiar faces that tell me I'm home.

by the constant sound of whining. Luckily, when I hear something often enough, I get so accustomed to it that I can block it out. The eternal buzz of complaints moved into the background and gave way for the beauty of Taiwan to come alive.

There is always a wow-factor to newness – even in just seeing something in a different light. The MRT in Taipei is no different from the MRT in Manila; it doesn't have flashing lights or out-of-this-world speed, but it is new because the train passes through different landscapes. It is learning to see these slight differences that makes the best travelers. If I had fallen for the trap of ordinary commodities sold in the Shi-Lin Night Market, the most accessible shopping place near our dorm, I would've missed the chance of tasting the real Taiwan. Delicacies like the stinky tofu, wine-dipped sausages, oyster cake, and milk tea sold in the night market are the cheapest yet the most authentic Taiwan food. If I went straight into the shopping experience offered by Taipei 101, I would have missed marveling at the architecture of the world's tallest building. If I had tainted my mind with prejudice about the Chinese Traditional Opera, I would've kept I would've kept myself from discovering that I actually enjoyed the Chinese theater because of its hidden symbolisms. If I had dismissed the Sun-Moon Lake as just another body of water, the Ali-Shan as just another mountain, the Taiwan aborigines as just another ethnic group, the National Palace Museum as just another museum, I would have wasted all of my 21 days in Taiwan looking, but not really seeing; hearing, but not really listening; touching, but not really feeling. It would've


There is one experience that happened during the Taiwan trip that I will never forget. During our stop in Ali-Shan, we were forced to wake up at 3AM the next morning to catch the sunrise. It wasn't fun shivering because of the freezing temperature and wanting to just crawl back into bed as we waited in the darkness. But when the first ray of sunshine hit our eyes and lit up every corner of our surroundings, it was all worth it. It felt like seeing for the first time.



Walking Through Ongpin Street

review by Samantha Bautista

Ongpin Stories, by R. Kwan Laurel
Philippine fiction (English), 122 pages
Published by Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, Inc., Manila, 2008

 Ongpin Stories
R. Kwan Laurel

AS THE TITLE *Ongpin Stories* reveals, R. Kwan Laurel's anthology of eight short stories promises tales set in Binondo, one of Manila's culturally-rich spots, where the famous Ongpin Street is found. This book takes the core essence of life in Chinatown and vividly inscribes it onto paper. He then takes a step further, going beyond painting a picture of the historical street to bringing to life the different personalities that reside in Ongpin through the startlingly honest voices of his beautifully crafted characters.

Hercules in Ongpin

Laurel, a doctorate degree-holder in English Studies (Creative Writing) from University of the Philippines, takes great care in breaking Chinese stereotypes that have plagued people's perceptions of today's Chinese-Filipino in his short story collection. By injecting both genuine humanity and vulnerability into each of his fictional characters, Laurel captures a feeling of authenticity in his creations. He introduces Ongpin locals one may easily empathize with, such as the young Chinese boy whose greatest challenge is learning Mandarin, and his friend, the unattractive but kind math prodigy in "The Math Wizard." He shows characters that readers could possibly be familiar with in their own lives in the stories entitled "Giat Co.," "Sir Jim," and "The Most Honest Man in the World." There is a money-minded policeman, Captain Cruzz, and a madman named Hercules from the story "Streets of Gold." In "Amah," the character aptly named the Grandfather tells an immigrant's story that is inspired by the experiences of the writer's own Grandfather. While some characters are more developed than others, each of them could be imagined as real people who have innate strengths and humble weaknesses.

Ongpin Stories tackles issues and depicts them in a way that seems overwhelmingly real. Both its comic and tragic situations never escape the realm of possibility and often even mirror events that could likely transpire in our own lives.



Finding oneself through a story

As a skillful fictionist, Laurel successfully explores the many challenges and issues the typical Chinese-Filipino faces in real life. He raises questions on cultural identity, isolation, conservatism, interracial marriages, and even the ongoing debate on modern versus traditional medicine.

Ongpin Stories reads like a walk through Ongpin Street where all houses have open windows. Peering through these windows, readers find people whose peculiar yet often strangely familiar lives can reflect their own. Laurel's intimate understanding of Chinese-Filipino culture and his mastery of saying much with only a few words make this story collection a recommended read. This work of fiction is for anyone who wants to revisit Chinatown or learn about the Chinese-Filipino lifestyle and the struggles they face.

The Chinese characters on the cover translates to "family," which may imply how the both Chinese and Filipino cultures value family ties. As the two cultures blend together, the importance of family ties is even more pronounced, which perhaps is another hidden message from Laurel's masterpiece. ☺

Journey to the West: Exploring Greenhills Dimsum Restaurants

written by Lence Chiusinco and Dan Caw

art by Kim Ng

photos by Miguel Anton Villaroel

YOU CAN'T REALLY be Chinese if you haven't had *dim sum*. Heck, you can't be human if you haven't had any of it. *Dim sum* is one of those things that irreconcilably travels around the world without the use of legs – a bit like...well, swine flu.

A quick description: *dim sum* is the Chinese equivalent of the Western "short order" or "appetizer." More often than not, dishes that fall under this category are small in shape and come in batches. This lets you pop one into the mouth in one bite, and makes it perfect for sharing among friends.

The average *dim sum* and teahouse is the centerpiece of any self-respecting Chinese *kung fu* movie. Mastery in *kung fu* involves mastery in multitasking – especially when it comes to eating *dim sum* and fighting ninjas. While obviously, we cannot actually simulate these conditions in order to actually figure out if *dim sum* tastes better in the midst of mortal combat, we can at least assume that there is something about it that encapsulates the Chinese culture the same way it does the juicy pork concoction within it.

This makes it all the more unfortunate that *dim sum* in the Philippines isn't as good as its foreign counterparts, especially given how present Chinese culture is in the country. For the most part, most Chinese restaurants offer little variation from the staples (partly because all of them go to the same Chinese store for supplies), and the only place you can really find creativity and innovation are at hotel-based

Chinese restaurants that offer some kind of fusion cuisine, which falls terribly far from expectations and hits wallets pretty hard.

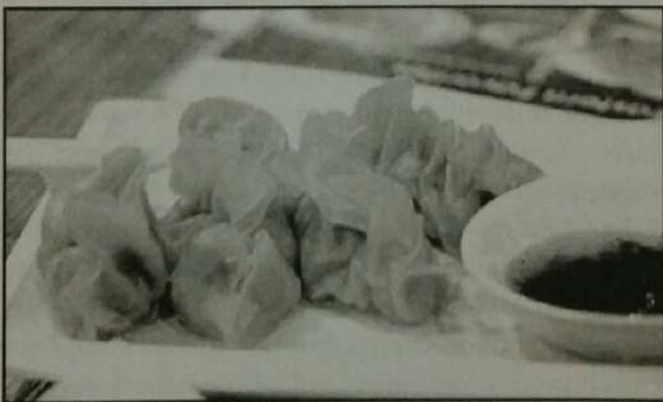
Compound to this the fact that Binondo, to the average suburban Chinese kid, is pretty far away from home. With these in mind, we have thus come to a solution to this problem that begins with this simple realization – good *dim sum* can be found nearby. Setting out on a pilgrimage to all the notable *dim sum* havens in the Greenhills area, our goal is to find the best places, no matter how well hidden, where one can get a *dim sum* fix.

In order to impartially decide how good a particular restaurant's *dim sum* is, we used the following rubric to assign an appropriate score. Firstly, Food (50 points) represents how well the restaurant's cuisine is prepared. Ambience and Service (20 points) represents the "feel" of the restaurant as well as the performance of its staff. Affordability (25 points) because good food tastes even better when it isn't hitting you hard on the pocket. And lastly, an X-factor (for 5 points) for a catch-all "secret advantage" score.

Mann Hann

Located deep inside the San Juan area, Mann Hann is actually the classic Chinese restaurant. Recently opened in its new and improved form, the restaurant is a fresh sight that draws quite a lot of new customers – as evidenced by the full parking lot.

We ordered Raddish Cake (P75), Shark's Fin Siomai (P85), Steamed Dumplings (P110), and Kikiam (P75). The time it took for the food to arrive was particularly long, which is unusual when only *dim sum* was ordered. The dining hall itself is particularly large, and there is a specific niche for private parties. The building followed Japanese-esque form of



architecture, which was pretty.

The Raddish Cake was served warm and broke into mush in the mouth – Dan found that with ketchup, it tasted like hash brown (with ketchup). Nevertheless, the consensus was that it could have been firmer in texture, given that it was freshly cooked.

The Shark's Fin Siomai was decent in flavor, but nothing particularly spectacular. What made it unattractive was that it was P85 for three pieces.

The Steamed Dumplings were abhorrent. P110 for six pieces means that it shouldn't taste like rubber – and yet it did! We find it particularly difficult to screw up dumplings, and yet Mann Hann had accomplished the improbable in this offering.

Lastly, the Kikiam was very good. It was served crunchy and flavorful – but the art of great-tasting Kikiam was something mastered by side-street vendors, and they sell it at a third of the price on average.

	Food (50)	A&S (20)	Affordability (25)	X-Factor (5)	Total (100)
Lence	30	15	5	0	50
Dan	40	15	15	0	70

In conclusion, Mann Hann is a nice place to go to if you're looking for a Chinese teahouse that doesn't serve a lot of *dim sum*. The exorbitant costs for its *dim sum* are unforgivable for the level of quality that their cuisine presents. Lastly, service was not up to par – an empty teapot on the table was not even noticed until we pointed it out to a nearby waiter.



Gloria Maris

Gloria Maris, on the other hand, is located along the restaurant-filled Wilson Street, which means that it meets stiff competition from its neighbors. The quaint little store is also a noodle-house extension of its much larger Shark's Fin Restaurant in the Greenhills Shopping District.

We ordered Kuchay Dumpling, *Xiao Long Bao*, Shark's Fin Dumpling, and Raddish Cake (all at P84). We found the restaurant itself a little bit tight, squeezing into our seats in the middle of a sea of tables. On the part of service, however, the restaurant manager was more than accommodating to his guests, welcoming us and going so far as to ask us of how our experience of the restaurant was. The food arrived in a reasonable amount of time.

The Kuchay Dumpling was surprisingly tasty. The wrapper was of the correct consistency, and even if it was just filled with vegetables, it was good to eat.

The *Xiao Long Bao* lacked the look and texture of a regular *Xiao Long Bao* – it lacked the soup inside and was a little bit misshapen. Nevertheless, it had the flavor of a regular *Xiao Long Bao*, and it did taste pretty good, if a bit cold.

The Shark's Fin Dumpling was comparatively excellent. According to Dan, this is what he remembered it to taste like in his youth.

The Raddish Cake was excellent – it was crunchy and flavorful, especially because it was bought from Diao Eng Chay, a small yet popular Chinese grocery store.

	Food (50)	A&S (20)	Affordability (25)	X-Factor (5)	Total (100)
Lence	40	15	23	5	83
Dan	45	20	20	3	88

In conclusion, Gloria Maris represents one of the better "Chinese Teahouse" concepts in the Greenhills area, perhaps a way of reminding the many Chinese families in the area of their roots in old Binondo. The food is excellent and reasonably priced, and is a taste that we had grown up with.

Emperor's

Emperor's is a somewhat newly opened restaurant along the same Wilson Street, just spitting distance from the aforementioned Gloria Maris. It boasts almost similar cuisine, focusing on the traditional *dim sum* with some emphasis on noodles and other classic main dishes.

The restaurant itself was incredibly spacious, and decorated with bright colors. It gave an impression of casual dining, and was busy with activity from both customers and waiters. The cooking area was also visible, and we suspect the food was hung there in order to further tempt customers, similar to the fish tanks up front. On the other hand, the staff was quick and on the button – tea was served even before the order was placed (this would be the reason why the restaurant is called a “teahouse,” no?) and the food arrived promptly. We ordered Shark’s Fin *Siomai* (P88), *Xiao Long Bao* (P88), Raddish Cake (P70), Beef Rice Roll (P95), and Bichu-Bichu Rice Roll (P85).

The Shark’s Fin *Siomai* was a little bit strange, it didn’t taste so much as Shark’s Fin as the dish should

of Rice Rolls, something that was once on the menu of its rival restaurant years ago, which is an advantage that would really prove to be a deal-breaker for most *dim sum* addicts.

Dimsum & Dumplings, 2nd floor, V-Mall

On the other end of the spectrum are the economical, affordable *dim sum* teahouses that offer the simplest meals. Dimsum & Dumplings (D&D) fills up this role, and sits approximately middle in the bustling V-Mall area. It should also be mentioned that another branch on the ground floor of the same mall offers a “bottomless” *siomai*-and-rice deal that works well with those with big appetites.

The restaurant is pretty small and tight, but somehow

All in all, the most important part of our dimsum experience was the company.

have. On the other hand, it was still decent with soy sauce to drown the strangeness out.

On the other hand, the *Xiao Long Bao* was served with a flourish – four large pieces topped with a strange orange powder. It was not to our expectation, and it didn’t precisely have the “home-style comfort” of the original recipe. Nonetheless, it offered an excellent treat, complete with the juiciness of the insides, as well as overall excellent preparation.

The Rice Rolls, on the other hand, were a new taste to one half of the judges. It wasn’t the best rice roll in a mile, but it was both a tasty new treat, and a refreshing old flavor from childhood. The Beef and Bichu-Bichu are both highly recommended to anyone willing to try them.

Finally, the Raddish Cake was surprisingly good, for something that was also freshly purchased from Diao Eng Chay. However, in terms of cooking and preparation, we unanimously agreed that there was something lacking in the flavor, in comparison to the one served by Gloria Maris.

	Food (50)	A&S (20)	Affordability (25)	X-Factor (5)	Total (100)
Lence	40	20	23	5	88
Dan	45	20	20	5	90

In conclusion, Emperor’s does deliver on the promise of “old-school” Chinese *dim sum*, one-upping even the classic Gloria Maris. It offers the taste

there was enough room to comfortably sit. However, because the restaurant was horribly understaffed, the service took quite a while, for serving food that was stored in steamers for quick presentation. We ordered Pork *Siomai* (P43), Shark’s Fin Dumpling (P58), and *Hakaw* (P89).

The Pork *Siomai*, the everlasting classic of D&D, always tastes good – however, it comes with the terrible cost of the MSG infused in the *dim sum*. It is definitely tasty in bottomless form, but be warned of the side-effects the day after.

The Shark’s Fin *Siomai*, on the other hand, was good without the sauce, but was very sloppily presented. More trouble could have been spent into making the dish presentable, as the meat inside was already exposed.



Lastly, the *Hakaw* was very nicely done – despite the fact that the skin was a bit too soft in texture. Nevertheless, it does deliver on the classic flavor.

	Food (50)	A&S (20)	Affordability (25)	X-Factor (5)	Total (100)
Lence	40	12	25	0	77
Dan	45	15	25	0	85

D&D satisfies the criterion for being an “affordable” teahouse. If you need a dimsum fix without having to spend big bucks, Dimsum & Dumplings would definitely be the place.



SuZhou Dimsum

Last but not least, SuZhou Dimsum is found in a back corner in the Greenhills area, along Malate Street. It has a food court branch inside the Promenade Mall, but we, the sentimental sort, decided to go to the original restaurant.

There are a few decorations in the restaurant itself—it does appear to focus more on the eating than the looking. (As a side note, we were able to find 5-6 different kinds of chairs in the eating area.) Similarly, service in the restaurant is a bit lacking, as the waiters took a while to prepare the tea and menus. We ordered *Xiao Long Bao* (P90), *Seafood Siomai* (P100), and *Man Tou* (P30).

The *Xiao Long Bao* is SuZhou's specialty, and the restaurant definitely delivers on them. This is the only *Xiao Long Bao* we've tasted so far that actually leaks the soup (although we note there wasn't a whole lot of it). The *dim sum* isn't particularly expensive, and it's good to share with friends. The sauce they use for the *Xiao Long Pao*, a combination of ginger and balsamic vinegar, is prepared fresh. Lastly, the texture of the *dim sum* was perfectly done—something not many *dim sum* restaurants in the area pay attention to.

The *Seafood Siomai* was filling, and was one of the best in the trip. It definitely has a full flavor, and feels and tastes the way we expected it to. While SuZhou

isn't very well known for it, it definitely did not do the *siomai* wrong.

As a bonus, the *Man Tou* is a very filling snack—we couldn't believe that it was just bread. They placed the right amount of sugar in the dough, not too much to overwhelm the taste of the bread. It was also cooked perfectly, not too much to completely overcook the bread, and not too little to taste strange.

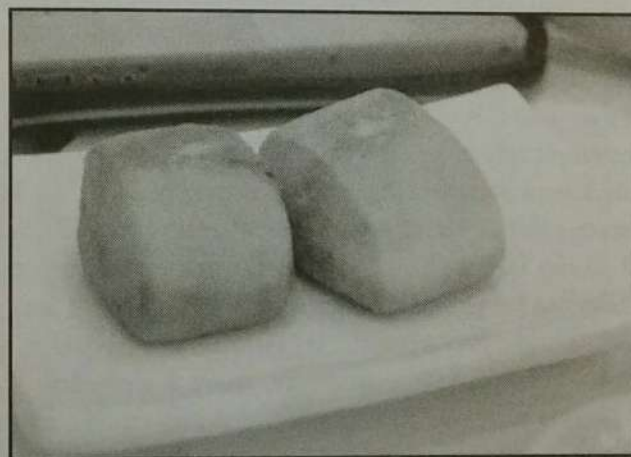
	Food (50)	A&S (20)	Affordability (25)	X-Factor (5)	Total (100)
Lence	48	15	25	5	93
Dan	49	18	25	5	97

As a whole, the experience at SuZhou was probably the best in terms of *dim sum* tasting we have had for this entire pilgrimage. It definitely fulfills the requirements to have the “look” of a teahouse – totally about the food and drink. While it did charge for the tea, the restaurant still delivered by giving actual tea and not flavored water.

Conclusion

All in all, the most important part of our *dim sum* experience was the company. Regardless of where we had our meal, it was always with a cup of tea in hand, and the casual conversation that made the whole “teahouse” *dim sum* experience come to life.

For all the readers out there, we truly recommend for you to kidnap your friends and take them out for the best MSG-laden affair of their lives. Trust us, it was well worth it. ☺



BUHAY Celadon

written by Hart Ang
photos by Miguel Villarroel

HUSTLE AND BUSTLE is expected of big time activities, and this year's Recruitment Week (RecWeek), held for the organizations of the Council of Organizations of the Ateneo (COA) to recruit new members, was no exception.

From July 22-26, 2009, and even stretching for three extra days in the organizations' respective rooms after the freshman Orientation Seminar (OrSem), marketing gimmicks ranging from professionally designed Gundam-inspired mascots to zealous members holding up simple sign boards advertising their groups filled the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership (MVP-CSL) Roofdeck, eager to welcome freshmen and other members of the student body into their fold. Booths busy attending to applicants, guys busy attracting groups of girls to sign up, and cluster heads (along with their teams) promoting the various organizations under them onstage – all these made the event an exciting and valuable experience.

That said, the Ateneo Celadon, the university's official Chinese-Filipino organization, with its own visually appealing booth and signage, made sure it wasn't left out of the party. With its dedicated team brimming with an unmatched level of energy out looking for new recruits, Celadon was able to haul in a good number of new members for this year. "This year we had three additional RecWeek days, so after the entire RecWeek, we were able to recruit 400 new members," says Celadon president Honey Lynne Sy (IV BS CS). However, despite great effort, this year's new member base is smaller than last year's. Still, Sy feels good about this year's expectations for the organization and for the upcoming projects: "I am confident that we're on [sic] a good start because I believe that quality is better than quantity. Internally, we're hoping to see a better and much more organized way of doing things; this involves the inner systems of the organization which will, ideally and hopefully, benefit not just the officers but also the members."

"I believe that quality is better than quantity."



**RECWEEK
2009:
FINDING
THE
GOOD
STUFF**



Zhandra Tam (III AB EU), the Associate Vice President for Human Resources, is also on the same page. "Most of the new recruits were [from] the lower batches, and compared to last year, we have less members. But I'd rather be optimistic about it – since there are less members, I'm hoping that we can tap more of them this year." Tam also explains a bit about this year's *dim sum* theme with the tagline "Filled with the Good Stuff" as the idea of continuing to foster a tight-knit community with fun and worthwhile activities: "We're kind of catering to the fact that we're a bunch of nice people, and we have great projects that are fun, and we want you (the members) to experience that." And with projects that can be engaging and at the same time fulfilling, there won't be any reasons not to join in. "You need to be open to trying out the *dim sum* (the experience), because if

you don't, then how will you know that it actually tastes good?"

Not only is the top brass of Celadon pleased with this year's results, but the members are happy, too. "My first impression of Celadon during RecWeek was that everyone was so friendly, so *parang may good aura na kaagad*. I felt like I belonged," says Ana Chua (I BS MIS). Returning member Charmaine Sy (II BS PSY) felt pleasantly surprised: "This is my first year to help out during RecWeek as a manager of Celadon. Even so, I have to say that I was impressed with the organization of the event."

So expect this year's batch of Celadoneans not only to make a name for the organization, but for each individual to give his best. "We're filled with the good stuff," Sy exclaims. It can't be put any better than that. ☺





Celadon Day 2009

written by Aziel Chua and Esme Fong
photos by Migs Limjap-Andres

ON JULY 25, 2009, Saturday, the organization held its annual Celadon Day, a whole-day event where members of the Celadon community got to participate in various activities aimed at introducing them to both their respective departments and to their fellow members. This year, the Celadon Day team incorporated the organization's *dim sum*-inspired theme for the school year, "Filled with the Good Stuff," into the theme they had already decided upon, which was "abstract." Human Resources manager Timothy Ocampo-Tan (IV BS MGT) explains that the "abstract" theme was inspired by the fact that Celadon is made up of individuals who have different abstract personalities that contribute towards a better organization – and this was indeed in line with the organization's theme, so it made sense to put the two together

The event kicked off with opening remarks from Celadon moderator Retcher Ching and president Honey Lynne Sy (IV BS CS). This was followed with an introduction of the school year's Executive Board and a video presentation. A number of activities that were popular amongst participants the previous year were reprised, such as the Amazing Race, which was held right after the members had gotten to know each other during the departmental general assemblies.

As in the planning of any event, the Celadon Day team had to overcome quite a few obstacles. Some of the difficulties encountered were related to logistical concerns. For instance, the organizers had to continually go back to the Office of Administrative Services (OAS) to check for the availability of air-conditioned venues. This was followed with the realization that one of the Celadon departmental general assemblies would be held at Bellarmine Hall – a problem that was not so much about the members hoofing it to the room, but rather that the logistics team had to carry the provided snacks and drinks all the way over there. Lastly, unlike most of Celadon's big events, this year's Celadon Day had to happen with no help from sponsors.

And yet despite these complications, as well as other difficulties such as the lack of manpower, Ocampo-Tan believed that "in the end, [the

... the true sign of success was the assurance that some members were sincerely inspired to become active in Celadon.

effort] was worthwhile," since Celadon Day still turned out to be "filled with the good stuff."

The secret? "Just go with the flow!" advised Justin Tuquib (IV BS MGT), one of the project managers of Celadon Day. And of course, much credit was due to the support of the whole Celadon community – from the Human Resources department to the Executive Board and managers, and down to the participants themselves. Indeed, the true sign of success was the assurance that some members were sincerely inspired to become active in Celadon. It is just a matter of putting your heart into it, just as the Celadon Day team – composed of Aileen Ang (III BS LM), John Cuartero (IV AB MECO), Ocampo-Tan, Lester Sy (III BS MGT), Mark Tan (III BS MGT), Tuquib, Keith Yap (IV BS CTM) and Anne Yu (IV AB COM) – had done so. ☺

Honey Goes to China

written by Fayerne King
photos by Honey Sy
art by Jerusha Ong



LAST AUGUST 4-8, 2009, Ateneo Celadon president Honey Lynne Sy (IV BS CS) accompanied Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, Ateneo de Manila University's president, to the 2nd China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week held at Guizhou University, Guiyang, China. The event was attended by university rectors from all over the world who wished to broaden their ties with China's many universities.

I was able to interview Sy about her role as Fr. Nebres' translator and gather information about the event, as well as talk to her about her feelings and experiences during the trip.

"*Kinabahan talaga ako nung una*, because although I studied Chinese for 13 years at St. Jude [Catholic School], I wasn't able to practice [speaking Chinese] anymore in college," said Sy, when asked about her initial feelings about being chosen as translator. Then she added, "*Siyempre, masaya ako na may reason para hindi pumasok sa class*, but at the same time, there was pressure. Aside from translating, I had to be able to answer questions about Ateneo when asked."

Sy recalled her first reaction to the place. "Very organized. *Yung roads makikita mong talagang maayos*," she said, her hand gestures emphasizing the smoothness of the roads. On the weather, "*Sobrang lamig doon, parang Baguio ng Pilipinas*. The air was cool, *umuulan pa nga noon, kahit na summer season nila nung pumunta kami*. And the atmosphere was great, no signs of pollution."

She also admired the simple stores, which were very different from the tall buildings and malls she saw in her previous trips to Beijing and Xiamen. While on a university campus tour, she noted how big and beautiful the campus was. "The campus was actually a lot like Ateneo's – *madaming puno, tahimik* – really conducive to studying. The dorms were easily accessible. *Pero yung pinakasikat sa kanila yung sports center. Sobrang laki*. They have this huge soccer field, and a separate one for track and field. There were also a lot of courts, and a ping-pong area and a volleyball area. Their facilities were very complete," she described enthusiastically. "Ateneo is even planning to send their athletes to train there," she added.

Sy really enjoyed getting full servings of the local food. She remembers one dish in particular: "There was one dish that was greenish [in color] *na parang Ho Fan* (Chinese flat noodles). Then they told me [that] it was a variation of tofu. I was really surprised because it wasn't like tofu at all; it was really firm, even firmer

than *Ho Fan*. And yes, *masarap!*" she exclaimed.

Another dish that surprised her was their version of *taho*. At the buffet table, she spotted the tofu pudding, which was separate from the syrup. So she took some tofu pudding and poured the syrup over it. Upon eating it however, she discovered that the "syrup" was actually soy sauce. "*Imbis na matamis na taho yung nakain ko, maalat na taho yung nalasahan ko,*" she laughed heartily while recalling the experience. "*Tapos nakita ko yung iba nilalagyan pa ng spring onions yung kanila.*" she continued, amused.

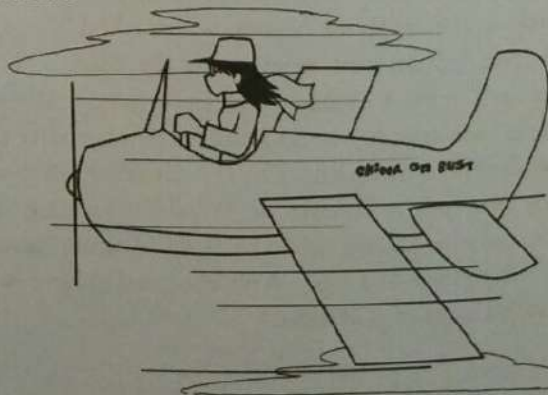
She also spoke highly of the locals. "The people were very accommodating," she said. "The student volunteers would really respond to our requests, and they even gave us *pasalubong* before we left – there were so many sweets! Specialty *daw nila yung nuts, lalo na yung soybeans.*"

Another thing she found amusing was the reaction of people towards her. "*Ako lang ung student representative doon. Kaya pinagkakamalan akong prof – either batang prof o looking young na prof! Kung hindi naman yun, akala nila I'm some sort of genius licensed interpreter. And the others even thought that I was one of the locals!*" she laughed even harder.

She admitted that it was quite hard to socialize with others because they were very fluent in Chinese, and there were definitely some terms, like theology and philosophy, that were really hard to translate. Thankfully, she discovered that those who were good in Chinese were not that good in English, making her realize that all of them were on equal footing. This thought eased her up a bit as she talked to them. She was interviewed twice for being the only student guest there; first was by a radio station, whose interviewer had a degree in Philippine Studies (they conversed in Taglish), and secondly by the local newspaper.

Despite the differences in language, Sy believed that she was able to communicate well with the people, especially with the individuals under the student union, a cluster organization comprised of the many clubs of Guizhou University. She was able to talk to them about Celadon's projects, particularly the fundraisers, and even gave them a copy of *Chinoy*. They were really impressed because they did not have the privilege to do such projects due to insufficiency of funds. Their clubs were also much smaller compared to the organizations of the Ateneo. That is why the student union of Guizhou University was willing to tie up with the Ateneo, a significant development in fulfilling part of Fr. Nebres' plan to further the Ateneo's relationship with the student organizations of the different universities across the globe.

All in all, Sy found this trip to be a really great learning experience. She felt like she was able to accomplish something special by being given the opportunity to talk in such a big event. It was pretty big exposure on her part to be able to represent the Ateneo and somehow help the school to develop ties with the student union in Guizhou University. Coupled with these are the many fun experiences she had – attempting to eat sunny side up eggs using chopsticks, being mistaken for a local, and getting to converse in Tagalog with a Chinese reporter. In other words, this trip to China was a fulfilling one indeed. ☺



Gratialections!

written by Don Michael Acelar De Leon
art by Katrina Tiu
photos from Miguel Villanuel

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN you put together your favorite teachers, a bag of gifts, a dice game, a night of awards and cultural performances, and a preview of the 2010 national elections? Your resulting concoction: the biggest and most fun-filled project of the Ateneo Celadon for the first semester, the Mid-Autumn Gratia!

Dubbed "Gratialections" in the spirit of the upcoming national race next year, the annual week-long faculty appreciation event was held on the week of September 21-25, 2009. Ateneans of all year levels voted for their favorite teachers to win specially tailored political titles, such as the Secretary of Legendary Affairs (the Legend), Minister and Ministress of Court of Appeals (male and female *Crush ng Bayan*), *Hindi Pala* Terror President, First Lady (Mommy Figure), among many others.

"We made sure that our faculty winners for this year would have political titles that suit their best characteristics," said Matthew Cua (IV BS MAC), Gratialections project manager for logistics.

Returnees, New Candidates

This year's Gratialections saw the return of the most nominated teachers since the inception of the project in 2006. As usual, professors Max Pulan (English Department), Fr. Adolfo Dacanay, SJ (Theology Department), Ambeth Ocampo (History Department), and Andrew Soh (Philosophy Department) easily found their way to the voting board.

New teacher "candidates" also found themselves under the voting spotlight, such as Cheryl Borsoto (Communication Department), Pamela Joy Mariano (Philosophy Department), Glenn Mas (Fine Arts Department), and Leloy Claudio (History Department).

Trading teachers

In partnership with the Corporate Financial Affairs (CFA) department of Ateneo Celadon, Gratialections also launched this year's collection of Faculty Trading Cards, with each card showcasing interesting facts, hobbies, and a portrait snapshot of the featured teacher.

At the helm of this year's line of trading cards is Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, making his debut appearance. Other noteworthy teachers in the collection are Stephanie Coe (History



Quick Mid-Autumn Festival Facts

- ☾ The Mid-Autumn Gratia was first launched in 2006 as a combination of two celebrations: the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Mooncake Festival, and Gratia, the annual faculty appreciation celebration.
- ☾ The Mid-Autumn festival dates back over three thousand years and is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month in the Chinese calendar. It is on this day that farmers celebrate the end of a good summer harvest and eat mooncake with their family and friends under the "harvest moon."
- ☾ Chang'e, the Chinese goddess of the moon, is the central character of the legend that inspired the Mid-Autumn festival.
- ☾ The actual day of the Mid-Autumn Festival this year is October 3rd.

Gratialections Winners

- ☉ Secretary of Legendary Affairs (The Legend):
Fr Adolfo Dacanay, SJ – 259 votes
- ☉ Minister of Court of Appeals (Male Crush ng Bayan):
Jamil Francisco – 210 votes
- ☉ Ministress of Court of Appeals (Female Crush ng Bayan):
Lucile Natividad – 62 votes
- ☉ Male Secretary of Fashion (Best Dressed Male Professor):
Geoffrey Guevarra – 243 votes
- ☉ Female Secretary of Fashion (Best Dressed Female Professor):
Missy Maramara – 305 votes
- ☉ Hindi Pala Terror President:
Edilberto Jimenez – 110 votes
- ☉ Governor of Music:
Andrew Soh – 37 votes
- ☉ Vice President of Humor (Funniest Professor):
Salvador Bernal – 253 votes
- ☉ Students' Best Prof Spokesperson (Best Professor):
Marc Pasco – 430 votes
- ☉ First Gentleman (Daddy figure):
Noel De Guzman – 201 votes
- ☉ First Lady (Mommy figure):
Terry Galura – 50 votes
- ☉ Speaker of the Youth (Young at Heart):
Karl Mina – 111 votes
- ☉ Teacher-politician look-alike:
Felix Muga/Ninoy Aquino – 95 votes



Department), Alyson Yap (Communications Technology Management Department), and Karl Mina (Mathematics Department).

Music and Games

At the end of the election period, Gratialections let the community in to the treat of the week—the Mid-Autumn Gratia Awarding and Game night, held at the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership (MVP-CSL) Roofdeck on September 25th at 6PM. The rain and strong winds did little to hamper the spirit of the night, as students and teachers alike were treated to musical performances by the Celadon band, composed of Kenrick Nocom (IV BS MGT) and Margaret Kawsek (IV BFA ID-CW) on vocals, Don Michael De Leon (IV AB COM) and Miguel Villarroel (IV BS LM) on guitars, Rollence Chiusinco (IV BS ME) on keyboard and bass, and Ryan Uy (II AB MECO) on drums, followed by the awards proper, hosted by Jacqueline Tanliao (IV BS MGT) and Mark Dychauco (IV AB IS).

Highlighting the night were the astounding cultural performances of students from the Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China. Arriving barely a day before Gratia night for a series of shows in Manila, the Sun Yat-Sen students had everyone standing, clapping, and cheering as they wowed the audience with an *erhu* (Chinese violin) solo; a soprano solo; a three-person dance interpretation of the Legend of Chang'e, the Chinese goddess of the moon; a fast-paced flamenco dance number, and finally, a tenor toast, where the male singer led everyone to raise their cups and shout, "*Kampai!*" (Cheers!)

Each table then turned into an arena of screams and cheers as teachers and students played the traditional dice game in celebration of the Mid-Autumn festival. Lucky winners received a wide variety of unique prizes, such as a toothpaste/tissue holder, a foldable box, a bottled umbrella, an eraser, a cellphone strap, a storage box, and P300 worth of Starbucks gift certificates.

Congratulations to the Ateneo Celadon Cultural Affairs department and project managers Cua, Mark Ong (II BS MGT-H), Anne Ong Lopez (III AB EC-H), Kristin Go (IV BS ME), and Scott Uy (IV BS MGT). To you, the faculty awardees, and the dice game winners, a loud and proud "*Kampai!*" ☉

Chuck
Tip!

art by Daichi Lim



ASK CHUCK

DO YOU WANT to court your Chinese friend but don't know how? Ever wonder why mooncakes are associated with the Lunar Festival? All these and more can be answered – just Ask Chuck! In this issue, Chuck tackles your questions about today's Chinoys learning Chinese.

Q: Why is it that these days, less and less Chinese-Filipinos take their Chinese classes in high school seriously?

A: Well, let's see where this problem is coming from. There are high schools in the Philippines that offer Chinese classes, presumably for the growing Chinese-Filipino communities that support or surround the schools. The students come from diverse backgrounds, but are more or less of Chinese-Filipino ancestry. That being said, it comes as no surprise that students seem to lack the energy and/or passion to study their native language.

In a society characterized by modernity and diversity, the seeming backwardness of Chinese culture and traditions play a less important role in the lives of young Chinoys. This does not help at all in their feelings about their Chinese studies. What's more, the various languages the students are exposed to – particularly English and Filipino – do not help in maintaining their focus toward their studies. They see the importance of these other languages more because they do not often communicate in Chinese. Also, the students have their hands full with other subjects and priorities. Not only do they have to study Chinese, but they also have to dedicate time to study English and Filipino, both of which are mandatory language classes. Pile in subjects like Math and Science, and they have even more to study aside from Pinyin and Chinese phonetic characters.

Still, judging by the next question, maybe young Chinoys ought to start putting a little more effort into these Chinese classes.

Q: Is it shameful for a Chinese-Filipino kid not to know how to speak or read Chinese?

A: It's not embarrassing for someone of Chinese ancestry living in the Philippines to be unable to study the Chinese language. There are already a lot of people who are Chinese-Filipinos yet don't speak or read Chinese. It depends on the environment where one studies or lives. Not all Chinoys study in schools with a Chinese curriculum. There are also homes wherein families not only speak Chinese, but English and/or Filipino (or even other dialects) as well. It shows that Chinese-Filipinos have integrated well into Philippine society, and that the country has become a melting pot of languages, ideas and cultures. Despite all that, it is still a good idea to try to learn a little Chinese – after all, it is our heritage.

I hope these answers were of help to you! E-mail more of your burning questions to chuckceladon@gmail.com.



LEARN HOW TO SPEAK MANDARIN!

written by Ailyn Lau
art by Jacqueline Tanliao



2010
ELECTIONS
VOTE
NOW!



ELECTION AND POLITICS

Are you ready for the 2010 elections? Here are some phrases to get you started.

1. The 2010 presidential elections are coming.

2010年总统大选即将来临。

èr líng yí líng nián zǒng tǒng dà xuǎn jǐ jiàng kǎi lín.

2. Have you registered for it?

你到选举署去登记了吗?

nǐ dào xuǎn jǔ shǔ qù dēng jì le ma?

3. Who will you vote for?

你要选什么人?

nǐ yào xuǎn shén me rén?

4. Who do you think is a good candidate?

你觉得谁是最好的候选人?

nǐ jué dé shéi shì zuì hǎo de hòu xuǎn rén?

5. It is a citizen's duty to vote.

投票是每个公民的责任。

tóu piào shì měi gè gōng mǐn de zé rèn.

6. I hope the next president will help the nation progress.

我希望下任的总统能帮助国家的发展。

wǒ xī wàng xià rèn de zǒng tǒng néng bang zhù guó jiā de fā zhǎn.

7. If you were the president of the Philippines, what law would you implement?

假如你是菲律宾的总统你将会执行什么法律?

jiǎ rú nǐ shì fēi lǎ bīn de zǒng tǒng nǐ jiàng hù xíng shén me fǎ lǜ?

8. The change must start within you.

改革应该要从本身做起。

gǎi gé yīng gāi yào cóng běn shēn zuò qǐ.

9. The government must fight graft and corruption.

政府必须抗拒贪污与腐败。

zhèng fǔ bì xū kàng jù tān wū yǔ fǔ bài.

10. The Filipino is worth dying for.

为菲律宾人牺牲是值得的。

wèi fēi lǎ bīn rén xī shēng shì zhí dé de.





The Celadon Room

Photos by
Migs
Limjap-Andres



HOROSCOPES

art by Paul Edison Kaw



Libra (September 24 - October 23)

The obligatory day that of which you are expecting and at the same time avoiding is coming. You're going to have to offer free nourishment to your closest friends, and some form of entertainment, be it in the form of beverage or recreational activities. Prepare a lot of money, and don't forget to invite me!



Scorpio (October 24 - November 22)

Getting a high grade in a quiz while your friends didn't does not give you the right to just keep quiet when they're talking about their grades, neither does it give you a right to proudly exclaim your sun-kissed score to the world. Offer help to those who need it instead. I'd gladly tutor you if you want.



Aries (March 20 - April 20)

You are unbearably cute, so cute that people naturally flock to you because they want a piece of your cuteness by scraping it off with their cheap flattery. Soon, you will have nowhere to go. People will gravitate towards you so much that strangers will start sleeping under your bed. Welcome to my life.



Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21)

If you lose something material, follow the adage "stop looking for it and it will come to you." ... That is, unless you lost something abstract, like your sanity or something. In that case, insanity just means being in-sane; everyone else is crazy and you're the only normal person. Now give me your money.



Taurus (April 21 - May 21)

Do not feel insecure around your friends. They love you as much as you love them. But then again, if they saw me they'll leave you in an instant. Unless you have them tied down with food, there's a high chance they'll run off to sing songs of my greatness. That's why I never come out in public.



Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Sounding smart equates to talking real fast without stuttering once. Feeling smart equates to keeping quiet while the other guy is talking real fast without stuttering. Being smart equates to studying while the two other guys are trying their best to do whatever's written here. Now buzz off, I need to study.



Gemini (May 22 - June 21)

If you start hearing voices without anyone around telling you you're beauty personified, it's not your twin, nor is it your imaginary friend. It's your schizophrenia acting up. Please consult with your nearest psychologist for further diagnosis, unless you want to hear the voices. I've grown tired of them.



Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Dry wit is applicable to old friends, use good-natured humor for new acquaintances. Do not immediately rush into social situations feeling that you're instantly close to everyone, no matter how good-natured the group is. This is what we like to call feelers. Please avoid, unless you want a public execution by me.



Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

Be aware of your surroundings, especially of stalker acquaintances that harbor intense hidden desires towards your best friend's best friend, also known as your child's parent, your mother's child, your father's offspring or the reflection in the water when you look at it, whatever applies. Like me, hire a bodyguard.



Pisces (February 19 - March 19)

Helping others is always a good thing, but if it conflicts with your morals, don't go doing stuff that you feel is intrinsically wrong for you. Don't let others take advantage of you as well, but always be ready to not merely play, but be a Good Samaritan. So, do you mind doing my thesis for me?



Leo (July 23 - August 23)

If you come across an old acquaintance, don't forget to catch up on things. If there's nothing to talk about, do something fun and you're going to enjoy the whole year. Friendships are the best things in life that come for free. Unless you're me, with legions of adoring fans constantly giving me gifts, then everything's free.



Virgo (August 24 - September 23)

If you have something new, don't use the pa-simple style of showing it off to your new friends. Inform them beforehand that you will be wearing something new. If not, they will brutally baptize it with marks that does not capture the beauty of baptism, and I'll be around to take pictures.

FUN PAGES

FUN PAGES

Dimsum Talks



Katrina Tiu



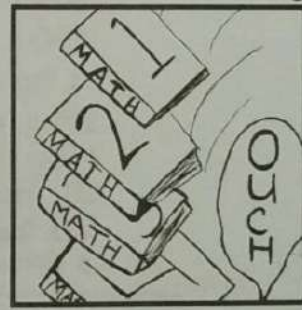
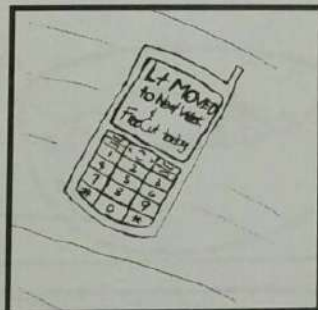
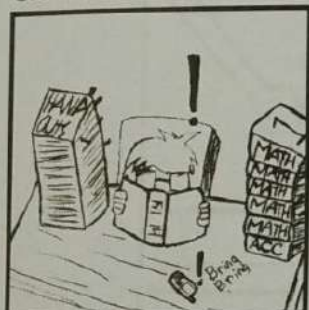
Favorite Characters =/= Role Models

Jerusha Ong



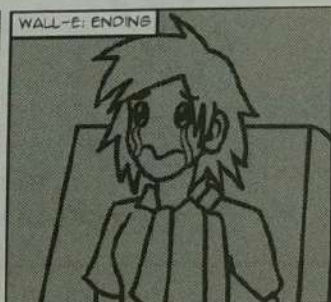
Cram Fail

Roberto Ong



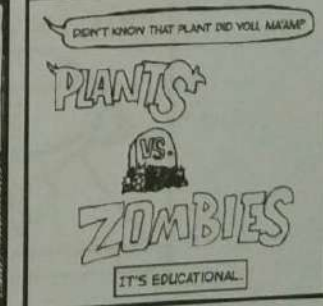
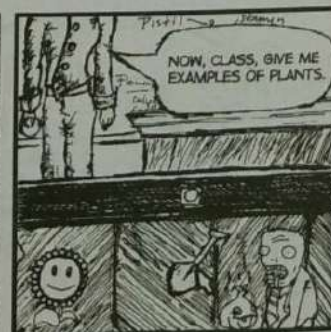
Pixar WaterWorks

Jerusha Ong



Educational Gaming

Mark Dy



FUN PAGES

MR. CHOW'S WANTON RECIPE

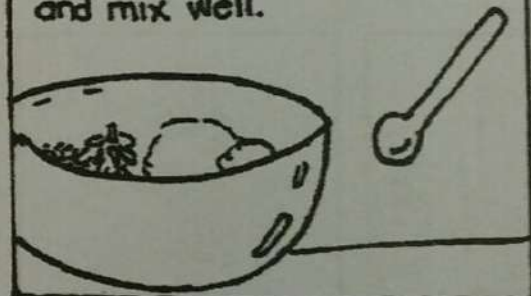


By Kim Ng

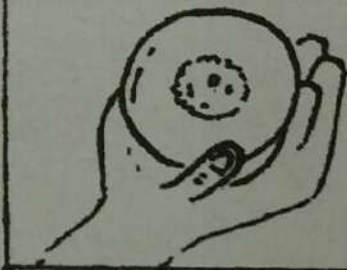
Ingredients:

Filling - 100 g water chesnuts
100 g minced pork
150 g wonton skins
1 tsp brown sugar
1tbsp chopped english parsley
1tbsp chopped garlic
1/2 tbsp chinese cooking wine
1 1/2 tbsp light soy sauce
3 deveiled, cubed prawns

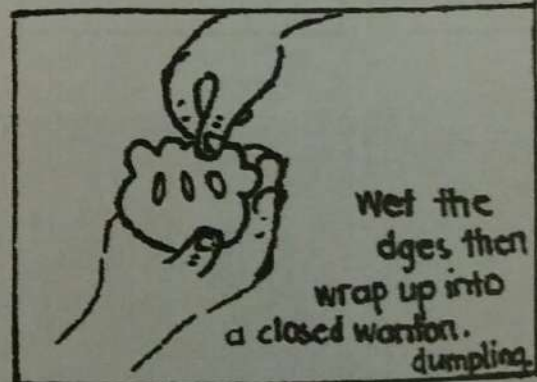
Put ingredients in a bowl and mix well.



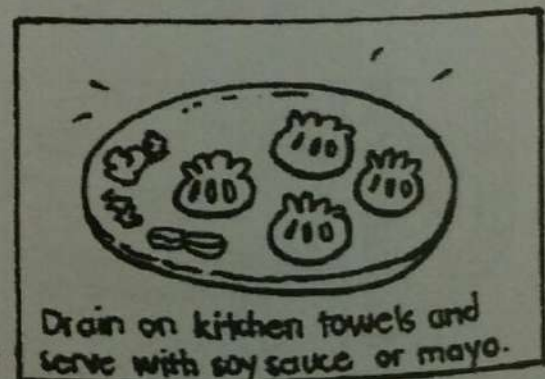
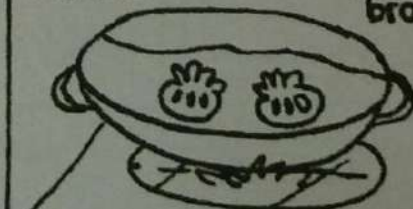
Place 1 tsp. of the mixture in the center of wonton skin.



Wet the edges then wrap up into a closed wonton dumpling.



Deep fry the dumplings in 170C for 2min./til golden brown.



Drain on kitchen towels and serve with soy sauce or mayo.

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