

Vote wisely on March 4 & 5

Celadon elections—Page

celadon

Chinoy

an official publication of the ateneo celadon

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Volume 1 Issue no.



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CELADON'S "OTHERJO-AN from Jubilee," this former high school EIC has stood out as *Chinoy's* most enthusiastic interviewer. Nothing fazes her, not an interviewee who didn't want himself identified (January 1999) or five hours of transcribing her interview with Mr. Wilson Sy. However, her boss's blood pressure once hit the ceiling when her partner worked on a marketing list from Jo-An Darlene Chua by mistake instead of an interview transcript from Joan Ang Chua. Small and smiling, Joan is also active in Strains. ☺



Editor's NOTEBOOK BY OSCAR TAN

Editor's Letter

IT IS ELECTION TIME ONCE AGAIN, AND CELADON HAS adopted a new structure that aims to allow greater member empowerment. The new department-based system is a reaction to members drifting away under the current project-based organization.

Chinoy is directly affected because it will now be placed in its own Communications Department. There is, however, one grave but unnoticed flaw in this plan: candidates for the head positions of this new Celadon super media arm are not required to know about publication.

The formation of the Comm Department is a response to *Chinoy's* exceptional showing this year. It is welcome recognition



Candy Suezette Bata
Projects Editor

Is it too much for the *Chinoy* staff to ask that the Comm VP and AVP possess the requisite publication skills?

for a project team whose editors (except Oscar Tan) are not even recognized as officers within Celadon. However, it becomes a backhand compliment when a group that has worked so hard this year is made vulnerable to resume-hunting and popularity contests that do arise in elections.

Chinoy cannot afford to answer to someone without any media-related skill. It has happened before. *Chinoy* began under then-EVP Ritchie Ri (ME '98), and there were many initial problems caused by misguided preplanning. This year, *Chinoy* under EVP Gary Quiec (ME '99) also experienced problems related to poor planning of structure and recruitment of members. Ri and Gary were very dedicated and highly respected officers, but they could not be blamed for failing to plan for something that they did not have adequate knowledge of.

Chinoy has existed for barely a year and in its crucial formative stages, it needs a highly skilled and experienced VP-AVP duo to guide it, or else the bulk of the work will unfairly fall to the *Chinoy* editors. Take another look: The Comm Department will be home to *Chinoy*, the documentation team and the web team, but *Chinoy* is the only one currently in existence (documentation is done by the project heads and any web sites that exist are personal undertakings). *Chinoy* requires P80,000 to P100,000 annually compared to the cost of clear books and free web space. And, by nature, a web site will draw its material from *Chinoy* and the *Chinoy* staff already shoulders part of documentations. Is it then too much for the *Chinoy* staff to ask that the Comm VP and AVP possess the requisite publication skills?

Chinoy is not just a line in a resume, we believe it is a dream. We believe that we stand for something important in the Ateneo. We believe we need leaders who can continue the vision we have carried for the last two years. We believe that we need leaders who can sympathize with the kind of pride and discipline only writers can understand.

We hope, for our sake, that when you vote on March 4 and 5, you have exactly these qualified leaders in mind. ☺

celadon Chinoy STAFF

Mission: To serve as the venue of artistic expression and official organ of the Ateneo Celadon, and to define the identity of the Chinese-Filipino subculture within the beauty of the Filipino culture

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A former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange shares a glimpse into a broker's life.

King of the Hill

by Joan Chua, Patricia Ngochua and Oscar Tan
Photos by Juni Gotamco



The Outperformer. This was the title conferred to Wilson Sy (ME '75) in the June 1997 issue of *Portfolio*, a local stocks magazine. The gentle former Philippine Stock Exchange Chair impresses one as a rare combination of ambition and conscience, and the title is apt for a man who has carved a name for himself in the volatile capital market. For all the praise this single word represents, however, it falls short of capturing the contribution this man has spent half his life making to the local stock market.

Stocks all the way

"My wife keeps on saying that my first love is the stock market... [she claims] she's just second," laughs Sy. He looks at the flows of money that are the stock market not as

mere numbers or peso signs but as part of something he has come to love. "Sometimes, it is no longer about the money, but about being right [about your call]," he shares. This from a man who can talk about 12-digit losses in the same tone as the weather.

Sy knew the moment he graduated that finance was the career he wanted. "The [financial] institutions at that time were Ayala and Bancom," he recalls. He began his career in Bancom Development and was assigned to the stock brokerage firm it was setting up, Barcelona Roxas Securities. Here, he studied investment hands-on for the first seven years of his career, eventually becoming general manager. He then transferred to IB Gimenez Securities and became part of its management operations for three years. "So, my background was really stock brokerage," Sy concludes. "It's something that I love to do: trading in stocks, trading in currencies and other commodities."

In 1986, Sy set up his own brokerage firm, Wealth Securities and afterwards set up his mutual fund, PhilEquity. He proudly states: "Right from the start we were one of the top ten groups. We were number one in 1987." They are still part of the top ten, no mean feat, Sy opines, after foreign brokers such as Merrill Lynch began entering the picture during the 80s and 90s. "It's a source of pride for me to be able to compete with foreign institutions whose clientele is worldwide," he beams.

Opportunity in adversity

According to Sy, Wealth caught the eye of the market players because in the middle of

the recent economic crisis, they were buying the stocks of local companies. "Because of the Russian crisis, nobody wanted to touch emerging markets," Sy explains. "The foreigners were dumping their shares, [but] I was buying." He had investments in Brazil, but pulled them out. He firmly states his mindset at the time: "We came back here. I stay here, I live here. We were willing to lose our money here. We went so low and if worse came to worse, the Central Bank could pay me in pesos, not in dollars."

How does a former PSE head quantify the Asian currency crisis? "Looking at volume, we used to trade about 6 to 8 billion [pesos]," he begins. "We went down to less than a billion in 1997. Basically, the composite index that represents the top 30 stocks listed in the exchange went down by 80%. Individual stocks went down by 90% to 95%. For example, Belle, of which I was a director, from P9, went down to 75 cents. Metro Pacific fell from P7 to 50 cents. Metrobank went down from P750 to P150." For big investors such as Lucio Tan and George Ty, this meant losses of tens of billions of pesos. How fast did all this happen? Sy answers: about a year, with the situation bottoming out September 1998.

Stock brokers themselves were hit hard. "Some brokerage houses over-expanded," he opines. "There were a lot of retrenchments." This was aside from the simple fact that brokers had their own accounts aside from the trading they did for clients. However, while the market was depressed, the thought in Sy's mind was: "opportunity of a lifetime." He cites a book he was reading, *The Bear Hook*. "It discussed that the biggest gains are



We were willing to lose our money here. We went so low and if worse came to worse, the Central Bank could pay me in pesos, not in dollars.

to be made when bear markets are turning around," he states. "It showed Mexico and the US in 1929. That was the first time you made 500, 600, 700% because the market dropped 80% and that was the first time it

happened." Sy's insight is: "Our market dropped 90%. Just imagine the gains that we will be making..."

Exporters benefited from the crisis, but there are very few exporters listed. Sy focused

on industries such as food which he thought would be less affected by the crisis. It was property and banking that were hard-hit. "We just went into any liquid stock, stocks that are easily traded," he recalls. "We knew that even if a company's balance sheet didn't look good, as long as we felt it would not go bankrupt, the major stakeholders would put in more capital for the company." He believed that companies would eventually recover as long as they remained prudent and did not overleverage. "That's why Henry Sy just kept on expanding his malls," he opines.

Many of those local companies eventually did turn around, which also meant Sy was financially rewarded for his faith. "It was scary for a while there," he says. "The same case happened all over the world. They [investors] went back to their home countries and invested there." Prices have tripled and quadrupled from the bottom, and the foreigners are coming back. "It's going to be a long [recovery] process because there was damage done, but we're on the right track. We'll see it as a lesson to be learned."

Sy is glad he is not one of those people who borrowed dollars they could not repay and lost their fortunes. "There is lots of money to be made and years from now, those who did their homework are going to reap their rewards," he ends. "The Philippines can only improve."

A broker's life

During workdays, Sy normally wakes up at around 10 minutes before 9:00. "I'm a late riser," he confesses. He asks his dealers to wake him up and he receives his morning briefings regarding US and local prices in bed. "I just lie down and they tell me [their reports]," he shares candidly. Living in Corinthian Gardens, he can still catch the stock market's opening at 9:30 AM.

Sy considers his desk peculiar. A visitor will notice the three terminals on top of it, through which he monitors stock and currency prices worldwide. Sy appreciates advances in technology and predicts that, as in the US now, most local clients will be trading over the Internet in a few years. Most growth in the US, he observes, has been computer- and Internet-related. Cable TV is also a broker's friend. "Maybe you [youth] should watch CNBC instead of MTV," he chides. "It's very informative. If you want to be involved with equities and investments, it's a big help."

Sy's mornings are spent talking to clients and other brokers, and instructing his own people. Daily trading stops at 12:10, but Sy stays in the office until 12:30. Afternoons are spent reviewing studies, monitoring other stock exchanges and trading in currencies.



WILSON L. SY

b. s. management engineering

Acgis 1975

ALMOST A QUARTER CENTURY AFTER HE GRADUATED FROM IT, Wilson Sy still doesn't know why he got into Management Engineering. He was part of the honors section in Xavier and belonged to the top 5% of his batch. Their priest-mentor placed the cream of Xavier's crop in Reverend Campbell's new course (as "guinea pigs," he jokes), except for those people who were decided on medicine. Thinking it was a better pick than Business Management, they went along. He emphasizes: "Not knowing any better, we went into ME. It's not something we really chose."

And so young Wilson Sy found himself stuck with the city's valedictorians and students from the science high schools. "*Ang sisipag pa*," he recalls. What he didn't notice until it was too late was the heavy math load. He relates, "For a while when I was in third year, I wanted to shift already because I saw my contemporaries who were not doing too well in high school getting honors. They were all having an easy time in their courses—Economics, Business Management..." But something held him back. "*Kahiyaan na... di mo na kaya* so you're going to shift course..." Left with no other choice but "to study," Sy finally graduated in 1975 in a batch which started out with four sections but ended up with only one.

Looking back, though, he is thankful for the skills and discipline he picked up and for the liberal arts foundation he built up in Xavier and in the Ateneo. He cautions Ateneans not to take their Philosophy and Theology subjects for granted.

"You feel that ME is useless?" Sy asks. "That's how I felt, too." He then goes on to talk about the backgrounds of people brokerages would hire: "Maybe economics. But a lot of leaders now have a lot of emphasis on math. It gives you discipline." Implied somewhere is the fact that until last year, the ME curriculum was just a few courses shy of a BS Math degree. "Some people who are good took ME," Sy says proudly. "My treasury people in I-Bank took ME. The Asian Bank people are ME."

Brokerages, then, are open to people with math backgrounds. But are they open at all? "We've always said that the stock market has bottomed out," Sy reassures. "It's the stock market that will always be ahead and recover before the property [sector] or even the economy. So, I think there are lots of opportunities for new graduates as dealers, sales people, researchers, and in other roles."



STARTING YOUNG Ateneans like Aisa and Liza Yap (II ME) get a headstart on the stock market with games like AIESEC's Blue Chip.

"I'm also on the boards of several companies and that takes a lot of my time," he states. He is home by 7:00 in the evening, but the New York Stock Exchange opens on the other side of the world at 9:30 PM, depending on whether or not the Americans are using Daylight Savings Time.

"I used to trade until two, three o'clock in the morning but *hindi ko na kaya*," he says, admitting he is not as young as he used to be. "I get colds." He does sleep and just wake up again on days the US market is active, though. He was also one of the first people to trade in currencies. "I hook up a terminal in the office," he narrates, "and ask somebody to stay in the office overnight and watch the

rates for me." And, after all this, Sy maintains that it is important to watch TV and read newspapers and magazines. Knowing the news is critical in his line of work.

This hectic routine, however, barely prepared him for his nemesis: Xavier School's *Araling Panlipunan*. His wife teaches their daughter while he tutors his son Kevin. "So deep 'yung Tagalog!" he laments. "That's one thing. In the mornings, I'm a big shot. *Pero pagdating ng gabi, nagtuturo lang pala!*" Apparently, managing millions is no excuse for missing dinner in the Sy household. "They [children] kept on complaining that

for the past two years that I was PSE Chairman, I did so many things that there were some times I didn't come home at night," he remembers.

Sy and the family go out whenever there is time. "Sometimes we go to Tagaytay Highlands and play golf," he shares. "But other times, I just want to stay home, have lunch or dinner with the kids, and read a book." He catches himself and sheepishly adds: "Then again, the books I read are non-fiction...also about stocks."

Inside story

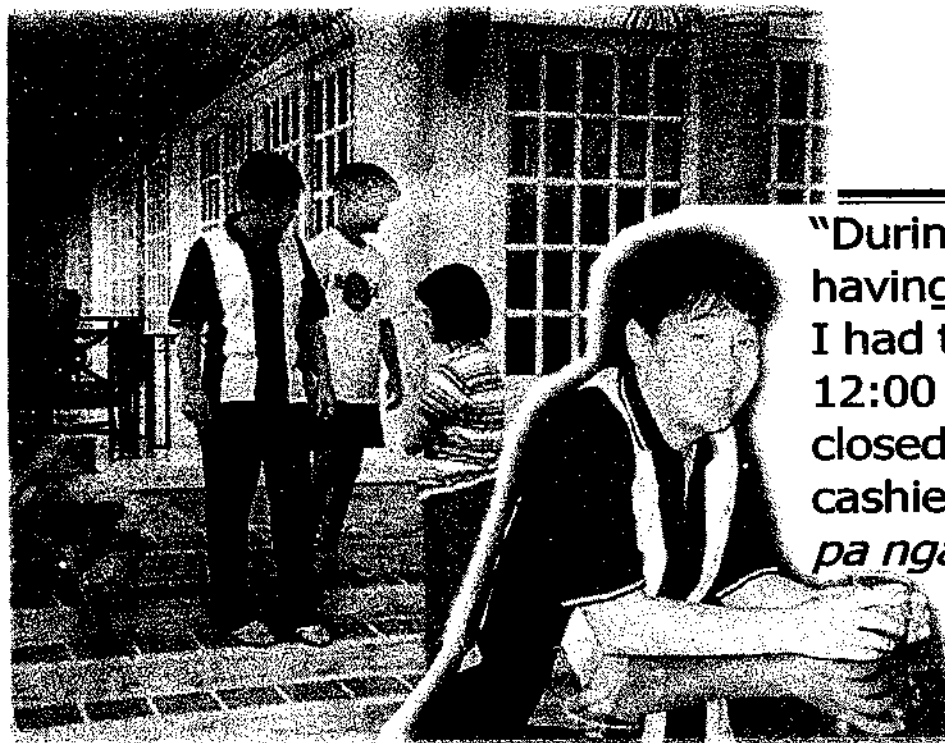
Sy was actually the chairman of the Manila Stock Exchange before the formation of the PSE. When the chairmanship of the

PSE was first offered to him, he declined though he was governor at the time, then became treasurer. "It was my colleagues in the industry who pushed me to be chair because they felt that some changes and reforms had to be done," he confides. After he declined the chairmanship a second time, friends became upset with him. He promised that he would accept it the following year, and he got it, though not unopposed.

"Way back, there was this power clique," Sy explains on why reforms were needed. "There's always this person that holds the exchange because a lot of members have some sort of *utang ng loob*." He cites the example of initial public offerings, or the first stocks a newly listed company sells to the public. Before, the distribution of IPOs among brokers was decided upon by the chairman. Sy opines, "He chooses [to distribute some to] all his friends and he keeps the rest...he's the kingmaker and I thought, 'Hey, that's not correct.'"

One of the first things the new chair had to do was fight incumbents. "I asked the companies to leave it [IPOs] to the exchange and to distribute it among all the brokers equally. *Kunyari*, 100 million shares, 100 brokers. One million shares each broker. Divide *mo* among the [broker's] clients so there's a fair distribution." He finds this more equitable than having the shares distributed among, say, just 20 out of the 100. Another scheme he implemented was to allow the public to buy IPOs directly and to distribute more shares to the public.

His term is over, though, and Sy is content to concentrate on his own firm away from the public eye. Aside from being a stock broker, he is also a fund manager with Equity Fund. He is also building his own fund of about P300M. As a broker, though, his main role is to advise clients, or to simply suggest what to buy and what to sell. "Given a choice," he shares. "I'd rather invest my own funds. If I lose money, it's not someone else's money."



"During Christmas, instead of having parties and going out, I had to stay till 11:00 PM or 12:00 midnight until the store closed. I used to study at the cashier. One time, *nanakaw pa nga 'yung bag ko.*"

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"One thing, *siguro*, I'm quite confident that I'll make it back even if I make a mistake. You have to be confident in this." He continues, "I'll tell you a story. I started investing in the stock market in 1975. At the time, my savings were only P200,000. I wasn't born rich, you know. It has grown from that because of investing in the stock market. It's just the confidence to try to do well."

And how does one get confidence? "I already know all the stocks," Sy answers. "It's in my blood already; day in, day out, from morning till night. We also listen to analyses of other investment outlets." Sy gamely adds that there is also a lot of gut feel involved.

I believe

Sy's personal investment style is to go for the long term. He keeps his shares as long as he "likes" the company. To him, the stock market is more than just numbers. To him, buying a Jollibee share means helping a homegrown fast food chain expand and compete against McDonalds and Burger King. "The director said that the company [Jollibee] needed funds because it was \$40M in debt," he narrates. "The peso devalued so what we did was take up warrants to sell to foreigners to put up \$100M plus, about P4B. We sold our shares. It strengthened the company, helped it to expand further to the south and into the provinces. This is the role of the stock market."

Sy feels that stock exchanges are a natural development because they make selling more efficient and transparent. He says that even communist China is developing its stock exchange. He adds, "People like me or Warren Buffet, my idol, can put their money in companies that run properly." This creates jobs while making money for investors and shareholders.

He talks about Belle, a company he and a group of friends put up. "We went to Tagaytay," he begins, "and saw this property that was nothing but *bundok*. We're gonna develop the Beverly Hills of the Philippines, the Forbes Park of the South." They thought about the weather and the view of Taal Lake and the volcano. "We started by putting up enough public money to put up Tagaytay Highlands Club," he continues. Sy wants to create something the country can be proud of, something "first class." He envisions, "When foreigners see it, they wouldn't have imagined that we have something like that."

Philosophies

Sy's upbringing probably has a lot to do with how he thinks. "I think I grew up with stalwart ethics because my family didn't start out rich," he recalls. They were not poor, but he did have to spend Saturdays and Sundays

tending the store. "During Christmas," he continues, "instead of having parties and going out, I had to stay till 11:00 PM or 12:00 midnight until the store closed."

"I would help wrap and talk to customers. I used to study at the cashier. One time, *nanakaw pa nga 'yung bag ko*. The next day, I had no books." He feels that this was his training. These experiences taught him the value of money and other values. "I always told myself that I have to be fair with people so that people will realize it and be fair to you," he goes on. "That's how you'll build up your reputation because if you always take advantage of people, people will avoid you." He believes people can see through any dishonesty or hanky-panky. "They can see that you're fair and honest in your dealings whether you're superior, colleague, or employee. I think this is very important. It contributes to our success. Work ethics, proper moral values...these are very important." Sy emphasizes the values the Jesuits inculcated in him in Xavier and in the Ateneo.

"I think it's a cliché, but people always identify the Chinese as having strong work ethics," he opines. "They work hard, study, and strive for what they want to achieve." A good proportion of brokers are Chinese. However, Sy cautions, "We don't look at ourselves as Chinese. We look at ourselves as stock brokers, as capitalists and as investment bankers. We've assimilated. I think of myself as a Filipino helping the industry."

Sy winces, however, when asked about an alleged Xavier School mafia in the PSE. The rumors began after he gave a speech in his alma mater. He said, "Rumor number 1: there's a Xavier mafia because out of 15 PSE directors, 7 or 8 are Chinese and 3 or 4 are



"In the mornings, I'm a big shot. Pero pagdating ng gabi, nagtuturo lang pala!"

from Xavier. That's not true." Of course, he noted that he appointed his batchmate Bayani Tan as corporate secretary of the PSE. He also ended up encouraging more rumors by noting that Lance Gokongwei and Henry Sy, Jr., Harley and Hans were all from Xavier. "During one of the board meetings wherein we were choosing a color for iBank," he jokes, "we were insisting that it should be Xavier blue rather than Ateneo blue." But, he still insists that the mafia rumors are just rumors.

Mr. Wilson Sy proves to be a welcome antithesis to the fast-dealing stockbroker stereotype Hollywood has constructed. He ends by going back to his stint as PSE chair: "We had a lot of Filipino brokers and international brokers and they voted for me as chairman. I don't think it's because of the nationality, but I think that it's because they saw me as a broker who knows the business, who has the industry at heart, and who wants to help the industry." ☉



LEADERS OF MEN

HE IS A BIG MAN with a big voice, an imposing, intimidating fellow. Add the fact that he is the Senate Majority Floor Leader, and you can understand why heads turn as Franklin Drilon walks to a table in Gloria Maris Shark's Fin Restaurant near his house in Greenhills North.

People half-expect the man who stepped out of the elevator to be a *ninong* in the wedding reception taking place. Frank Drilon, however, sits down in his secluded corner table and laughs a disarming, hearty laugh that marks the beginning of an interesting conversation with a gentle, gregarious personality.

Making things easier

One of Senator Drilon's present concerns is the passage into law of Senate Bill No. 1178, entitled "An Act providing for the acquisition of Philippine Citizenship for certain aliens by administrative naturalization and for other purposes". The explanatory note of the bill which he authored reads: "One of the perceived inadequacies of the existing law is its failure to give due consideration, regard and recognition to aliens born and residing in the Philippines." The Iloilo-born Drilon aims to correct this by shifting the responsibility for facilitating naturalization from the courts to

administrative offices, mainly the Department of Justice.

"The present system discourages qualified applicants since it has overly stringent rules," he says. "Among other things, the present system requires a 2-year waiting period." Drilon, however, explains that the requirements for naturalization will still remain the same; for example, someone who cannot speak Filipino will not benefit from the bill.

Aside from aiming to speed up the process and generate funds, the bill seeks to "enrich the body politic and assure the continuing inter-racial evolution of the country." Drilon explains, "The major beneficiary of this new process will be the Filipino-Chinese, but this is for everybody." The Chinese are the largest cultural minority in the country, and Drilon was encouraged by long-time Chinese-Filipino friends led by Peter Yu and Danny Laogan, former officials of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "I believe that the bill, once it becomes law, can hasten the integration of Philippine-born Filipino-Chinese into the Philippine society," Drilon states. "If legitimized, they will surface instead of being 'non-existent'. They will pay taxes, for example."

After the recent theft of a large number of blank passports was reported in the papers, one cannot disbelieve the existence of illegal aliens. "There are stories from the Bureau of Immigration wherein illegal aliens are the major source of extortion by the agents," Drilon explains. Thus, the law also stands to

eliminate a rich source of graft. The money that used to line agents' pockets will now go to the government in the form of application fees.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Justice chaired by Senator Renato Cayetano and hearings are expected to begin soon. Senator Drilon estimates that his bill will benefit thousands of aliens who are at least second-generation immigrants but has no concrete figures yet. "Once the hearings start, that kind of data will surface."

Senator Drilon has proposed other bills relating to immigration in the past. Among those now laws include one that allowed former natural-born Filipinos to purchase land for residential purposes and to trade and invest in the country.

Generation shift

"Certainly, if I look at Chinese businessmen thirty years ago, the present Chinese community is more integrated," Drilon opines. "There is no barrier. None at all. I have friends who are pure Chinese and I feel no barrier." The senator has been invited to many social gatherings with a Chinese-Filipino atmosphere, from traditional Chinese weddings to speaking in the double ten celebration of China. "You name it, I've seen it," he notes.

"I like Chinese food, for one," he jokes when asked what he appreciates about the Chinese-Filipino culture. More seriously, when he was a practicing lawyer, he handled



POWER COUPLE Senator Frank Drilon and Mrs. Milla Drilon

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a lot of Chinese accounts. He began his career with the late Alexander Sycip of the Sycip, Salazar, Luna Marcelo and Feliciano Law firm. "Mga kliyente namin, the big Chinese," he notes.

"Twenty-nine years ago," Drilon narrates, "if you look at SEC records, I handled the incorporation of Pagkakaisa sa Pag-unlad, Inc. I can remember very well that was for the integration of second-generation Filipino-Chinese." This NGO was the forerunner of the present Kaisa Para Sa Kaunlaran, an umbrella group the visible Chinese-Filipino leader Mrs. Teresita Ang-See is very much identified with.

The view from the top

"It gives me an overview of the entire bureaucracy," Senator Drilon shares



EATING IN Senator and Mrs. Drilon enjoy having people come over.

regarding his job. "I am exposed to every facet of the government." What does a typical day sound like? Off the top of his head, he ticks off, "You attend committee hearings. You prepare reports. You study bills. You meet people almost non-stop." A senator has a very hectic daily routine, but during his

lawyers in other government offices to appear in *pro bono* cases and have this credited as part of their government service. However, there were other priority measures on the part of the Committee on Justice." Though his proposal did not reach the floor during the last Congress, it is still waiting in line.

first term, Drilon was recognized as a neophyte senator with a sterling attendance record. "Senators are very conscientious about attendance," he downplays. "There are only 24 of us, so it is very obvious when someone is absent."

Legislation takes time to draft, and the pace precludes the enactment of all bills proposed. Drilon shares, "I proposed to create more courts in the Philippines and to allow

Tiko Frank's Morning Club

Jogging is this group's recipe for friendship.

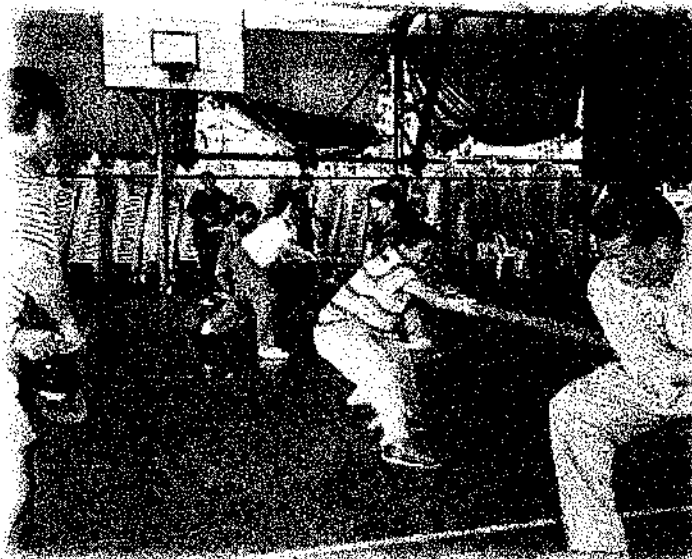
FRANK AND MILA DRILON ARE PROUD TO COUNT MANY Chinese-Filipinos among their close friends. These friends pitch in and contribute to Senator Drilon's charity campaigns. When he removes his coat and tie and goes back to being plain Frank, however, these friends spend lighthearted moments with him. His morning jogging group, in particular, is made up of about ten other couples, all Chinese except for Mila and himself.

"Jogging is a very effective but very boring exercise," he admits. He used to walk around his subdivision, but to sustain his interest, he extended his route to the nearby Greenhills commercial area. "*Talagang may grupo sila ryan*," he shares. "I am just a guest, an honorary member." Drilon and the group would see each other while walking around the shopping areas in the morning. Introductions were made, and Drilon has been a part of the *barkada* for the last two years.

Their morning 5-kilometer walks cover Jollibee, Sugi, Taiwoo and McDonalds. Then, they have coffee in Jollibee. "They even have a common fund for coffee, *pero ayaw nila akong mag-contribute*," Drilon says. "On Sundays, we have a heavier breakfast at the Gloria Maris dimsum house or in somebody's house." The Greenhills parking lots are used as exercise floors by many early risers ranging from *tai chi* practitioners to Xavier School CAT cadets. "Our group only walks," replies Drilon, however, when asked about *tai chi*.

"I have fun with them," Drilon beams. "It's nice. I get a brief of the business news. They tell me, for example, about the current prices of cement or which company just closed down. They're my CNN in the Chinese community." While his friends treat him with the respect due to a senator, they kid around and laugh. "They ask for *tsismis* in the Senate," Drilon smiles.

Drilon's friends are businessmen who live near the Greenhills area and aside from jogging, they also invite him to dinners and birthday parties. Drilon had wanted to have a Valentine's Day breakfast this year,



On Duty He is just another parent at Ateneo High's Family Day.

but unfortunately, a number of his friends had to attend weddings. "*Hindi daw kasi masaya kung kaunti lang*," he says.

His "walking friends" are also among the first to send goods when a calamity strikes. The one thing he feels they do not do, however, is abuse his friendship. "They do not ask for help with the BIR," Drilon begins. "They do not ask me to release goods from customs. This group does not ask any favors from me, and I like it that way."

After two years of walking, though, Drilon opines that he has not noticed anything peculiar about his Chinese friends. "Sometimes, they get embarrassed when they talk in Chinese in front of me and I can't understand them," he laughs.

Has he picked up anything? "*Kung Hei Fat Choy*?" he attempts with a mock-pained smile. ☺

Compliments of:

Celadon Week 1999 Photos by Jamie Ferrer and Kimberly Pabilona



A friend of Oscar Tan and Elinore Lim



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ROAD WORK A se

"I am in a position to help people...to draft policy," Drilon states proudly. Some things, however, need not be left to legislation. "Last year, I fed Grade 1 kids in a hundred public schools all over the country," the senator recounts. Funded by "my pork barrel", the milk distributed through the Department of Education reached out to 16,000 youngsters for 120 days. "The kids are so poor, they just learned to use straws for tetra packs [when the free milk was distributed]," Drilon notes. On a more inspiring note, however, he shares that after the program began, the absentee rate in the school dropped to a minimum. Apparently, the children started looking forward to milk every morning.

One outreach program that has especially struck him is his gift-giving in the children's cancer ward of the Philippine General Hospital every Christmas. "I didn't want to go back to the cancer ward," he says. "Nakakaawa. The patients are afflicted with cancer at so young an age. You try to cheer them up, but you end up depressed yourself." Nevertheless, those are the times when it pays to be a senator with a lot of friends. The behind-the-scenes Santas for the young cancer patients, for example, include Chinese-Filipino toy and novelty manufacturers who are his friends or friends of his friends.

Having a lot of friends, though, also means having a long Christmas list. "My gift list is about 500 items," he laments. "When I go out and I see something I like, I order them by the hundred... a hundred bags, five dozen picture frames. Once, after I visited a store in Bangkok, the girl [owner] rested. She had completed her sales during my 3-day weekend there." He notes that in politics, one tries to reach as many people as one can. "That's the kind of thing we have to do," he jokes.

A senator's mind

"The Visiting Forces Agreement is a very emotional issue," Drilon recalls. "The biases of the senators for or against it is manifested in the committee hearings, though it is difficult to say how many are in favor and

how many are against at this point." On the death penalty, no hearings have been held yet. Drilon continues, "There was a very spirited discussion among senators as to the correctness of the action taken by the Supreme Court which was reflected by the divided country you saw at the time." This resulted from the resolution that requested the Senate to review the death penalty law.

Senator Drilon is careful in articulating his personal stands on these national issues. "I am open to a review since I was not part of the Senate when the law was passed." His stand is "willing to listen" and he expects hearings on the matter once public sentiment has calmed down.

He is firmer on the Marcoses, however. "I am not in favor of granting them immunity from criminal prosecution. I am, however, in favor of settling the civil aspect." Drilon would be in favor of any equitable settlement that would give a fair share of the wealth to the human rights victims.

Asked for his guiding philosophy, he emphasizes only one value: integrity. "That's the key to being able to survive in political intrigues." He half-jokes about receiving more than just black propaganda at times. "They bombed my house in 1990," he recounts. "They lobbed four bombs. It was part of the [unstable political] environment at the time. I was Secretary of Justice. I was prosecuting the coup plotters."

Still family first

Despite the prestige associate with being a national figure, Drilon states candidly, "Public service is sometimes unforgiving." His wife Mila sighs about how tiring the job is sometimes. "Sometimes, when I am under a lot of pressure," Senator Drilon admits, "I find myself staring at the ceiling, asking 'What am I doing here?'"

Senator or not, Drilon tries not to be a workaholic. "I go home to my family," he states and reserves weekends for them, though he has had to accommodate many weekend speaking engagements in the past weeks. He says he enjoys



Senator Drilon teases, "She has no choice. She has to fit!" Mila feigns annoyance upon hearing this. "Masyadong macho yata 'yun, a," she rebuts.

simply spending time at home reading his favorite books and listening to classical music, and points to a CD of a favorite tenor on his coffee table.

Asked how his wife fits into the picture, he teases, "She has no choice. She has to fit!" Mila feigns annoyance upon hearing this. "Masyadong macho yata 'yun, a," she rebuts. "But he knows my reaction, that's why he can say that. Tell him I will fit in whatever or wherever it is because I am happy with him and I find him easy to be with."

Does Drilon see his children following in his footsteps? "Up to them," he declares. "I don't want to interfere in what would interest them." He shares his frustrations: "At this stage in our development, I don't know if I would want to encourage kids to go into public service. You'd want to do more things, but there are constraints: budgets, our present level of development and people with different agendas."

He will not, however, stop young people who are interested from pursuing public service, his own children or otherwise. "Ateneo is a leading educational institution," he ends. "It plays a key role in the development of future leaders. The social values taught by the Jesuits are something more people should be exposed to."

With the importance family plays in his life, it is not surprising that he exhorts the Ateneo to maintain its standards. As the Philippines grows and spreads its wings, conscientious young leaders will play an increasingly crucial role in charting the country's direction. The future of today's youth is what this diligent legislator keeps in mind as he reviews and drafts the many bills that come under his scrutiny, he who is the big man with a big heart. ☺



ROAD WORK A senator's job takes him to all kinds of places and people.

A Tribute to the Graduates

by Valentina Khoe Photos by Kimberly Pablona



Karen Marielle Ty Cheng

MIS '99 VP-Operations

Dimpled KC is the simple, wholesome type guys love to show to Mama. When asked what project made the greatest impact on her life, she immediately answers, "The Rose Sale! *Kasi feeling ko na na-express ko frustrations ko do'n. Super dear yung project na yan sa kin.* I was left to come up with my own system and up to now, we're still revising it." She also loves flowers and sees them as a medium to express her artistic side.

Her motto? "Leadership by example!" she exclaims. KC does have her faults, though. "Well, I'm forgetful at times..." she admits with a smile. Once, she forgot where exactly Paseo de Roxas was but had to go there because she forgot her purse in a bank there. "I was so scared at that time... it was getting dark na," shares she.

She also loves to bake and cook. Her specialties range from chowders to appetizers such as tuna, egg salad and fajitas. She also collects stamps, loves to watch movies and "Videokey." She basically likes people who are God-fearing, trustworthy, most especially in keeping secrets and hates people who practice the "crab mentality." She says that she is like an open book, albeit a little philosophical, and plans to put up a restaurant someday. That's KC, Celadon's achiever who never goes against her principles—most especially when she knows she's right. ☺

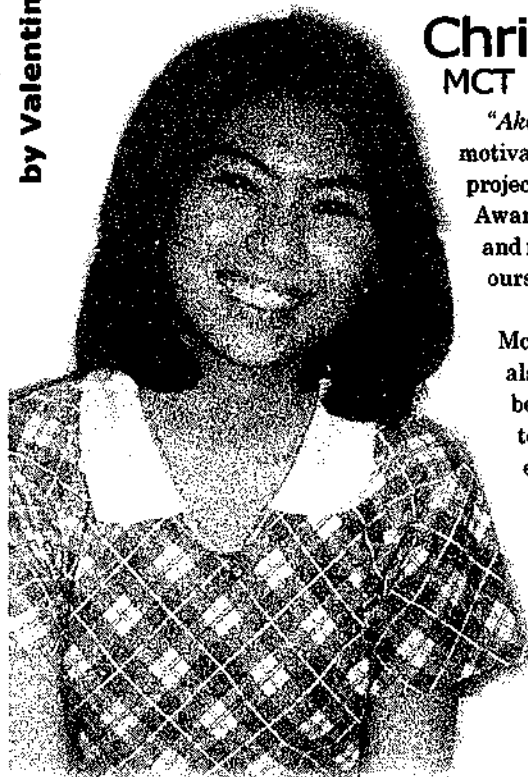
Dorothy Mae Nubla

ME '99 VP-Projects

Asked which project made the greatest impact on her life, Dotty, after some deep thinking, answered the "field trip" to Binondo, Celadon's ACP contribution last year. "*Kasi umuulan at malayo!*" she jokingly answers. Kidding aside, it was because, "Celadon was able to bring people to see the historical sights of Binondo and at the same time, let the people enjoy themselves."

She, as VP-Projects, stresses, "*Pagkapumalpak (ang projects mo)... mabigat ang damdamin! Masakit!*" It was CO, last year's VP-Projects, who encouraged her to run. Dotty, the epitome of cheerfulness, was able to handle everything and more. It's hardly surprising that her hobbies include various sports such as squash, badminton, golf, table tennis and even bowling! How does she do all that? "At the start of the day, I make a list which I have to finish..." she shares. "If not... I can't sleep!" she added.

She lives with a motto adopted from Tita Chit (of the Placement Office): "Don't wait for things to happen... make things happen!" Asked about the one thing she'll never do, she declares, "I'll never jump from the top of the Eiffel Tower!" Why the Eiffel Tower? "*Para mas-saucy!*" Bright, cheeky, and colorful... well, that's Dotty! ☺



Christine Venuzza Tan Ong

MCT '99 President

"*Akala nga nila guy ako* because of my [nick]name," laughs CO. The initiator, motivator, and "mother" to the Executive Board, managers and members says that the project that had the greatest impact on her was *Right Next Door*, Celadon's Indonesian Awareness Campaign last year. "This project made me realize why Celadon exists and made me aware of everything that's happened all around us. We should not limit ourselves to campus activities," she shares.

She reveals that she is also an Ally McBeal freak. "Favorite *ko manood ng Ally McBeal*. I never miss an episode... *kahit na reruns. Nakakarelate ako sa kanya.*" She also loves to have a good cry, take long walks, commune with nature and dreams of becoming a famous broadcast journalist. "The media is a powerful industry, I can try to make the world a better place," she added. And if given the chance to be someone else, she would be: "Ally McBeal... with a boyfriend!"

Her motto? "If you believe in something, do it." *Chinoy* owes special thanks to CO for her encouragement from *Right Next Door* to the Dean's and COA Awards. "Don't be afraid to dream cause dreams DO come true," CO ends. ☺

Managers Batch 1999

Katrina Lim (LM '99) • Rani Ruth Chan (MIS '99) • Desmond Chua (MCT '99) • Catherine Lim (Mgt '99) • Jerilee Cu (MEco '99) • Harvey Dychiao (LM '99) • Jane Kingsu (MIS '99) • Carl Ong (MCT '99) • Stewart Ong (MgtH '99) • Marlon Pasion (MCT '99) • Kathryn Yap (MIS '99) • Gilbey Dy (MIS '99) • James Julian Lim (MIS '99) • Michelle Gan Sy (Comm '99)



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Her hobbies watching Ally M plans to own a b unique, "1+1=2" enigmatic smile

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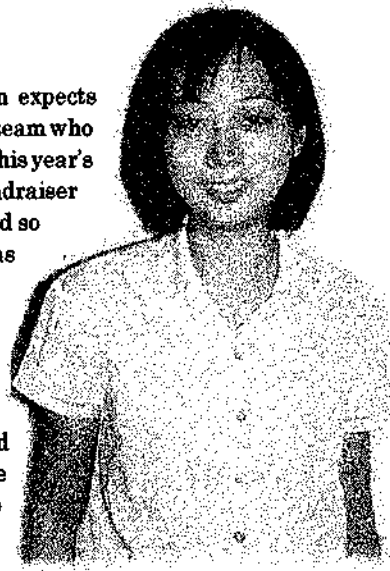
Nats) *ka*, keep y many ach her mom McBeal."

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Kristine Tan

99 VP-Finance

cribed as a hard-worker and dedicated officer, Jan expects a lot from her subordinates. For her, a good team is a team who can do their own jobs and meet their requirements. This year's election made a great impact on her: "It is the biggest fundraiser in Celadon, kaya it's a big responsibility for me. I worked so hard for its success," she expresses. She says that she was able to have a good team to help her. One of the most difficult things that can ever happen in a job is when she has to cope with managers who don't do their jobs. But, at least she gets to interact with a lot of people. Her hobbies include playing the piano and the organ and watching Ally McBeal and she considers liver delicious. She dreams of owning a big company someday, and her motto is the "1+1=2" Why? She answers with a shrug and an enigmatic smile. ☺



Pol Derrick Alcazar

ME '99 AVP-Operations

Pol is one guy you look up to not only because of his height, but also because of his attitude. As he says, "Sometimes, you have to be the one to create something out of nothing." He's also the guy Celadon has to thank for incorporating all the applications into one "super" secret file. No use asking him for info about your Celadon crush, it's "accessible only to Celadon's private eyes." He gives new light to his motto, "Be the best!" because for him, a great achievement is "something that is excellently done from start to finish."

One friend relates, "*Palagi akong naaaliw kung nakikita ko si Pol. Seriosong-serioso pero kung i-greet mo, he always greets you with his trademark smile.*" Pol spends most of his leisure time reading biographies and magazines like TIME. He sees life as a big training ground for people to develop their fullest potential. Not surprisingly, he likes clean blue skies, windy days, and bright sunlight. Rosanna Roces, irritating lights, and rooms with unopened windows are part of his list of peeves. For now, he is still thinking of studying further. "*Pero, I still have the option of working for someone else or start my own business...*" he thoughtfully adds.

If ever, he would like to live back to the olden days when life was simple and would like to "be as funny as Eddie Murphy, as slick as Christian Slater and a business success like Henry Sy." For him, a romantic moment is "sitting in the park, just talking with the one you love and looking at nature." One thing for sure, Pol is your all time Mr. Nice Guy: He helps everyone in need and is a true friend indeed. ☺

Gary Albert Tiu Quiec

ME '99 External Vice-President

Gary initially thought his job would be easy. What he didn't know was that he would have to attend the Alliance of Filipino-Chinese Students (of which he is Vice-President) meetings every Sunday. "Hassle 'yung meetings! It wasn't an easy task, though I've learned a lot from it," shares he.

Gary started being active in Celadon during his second year. He first gathered experience as finance manager of the premiere of the movie, *Love and War*. "It was a challenge to me because I had to raise a large amount of money in a month's time," he relates. He learned patience in the process and how to "make *kulit* to your managers and the companies."

"When people see me, they seem to get the impression that I'm aloof...I'm not! I'm really down-to-earth!" says he. Many would love to discover that he likes rosy cheeks and that his idea of a romantic evening is set in a clear sky ambience, complete with a full moon, open-air patio and candlelight dinner. Finally, Gary is a self-confessed computer buff and plans "to have a career that would allow me to travel at least four times a year where I can meet new people and do work that is computer-related." ☺



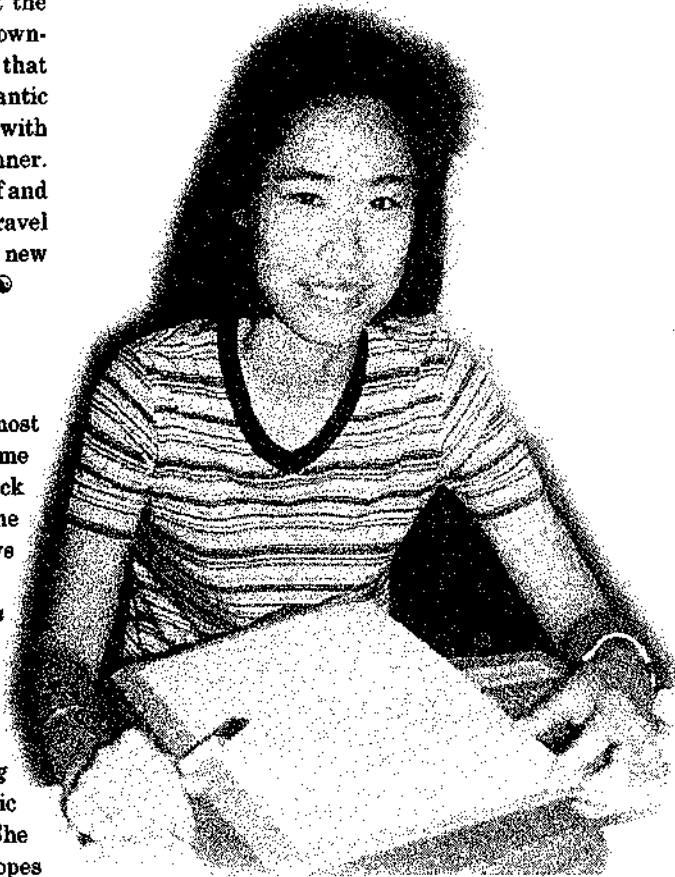
Natalie Diane Lim

MIS '99 AVP-Projects

"Well, baby project *ko'yon*... I was first hand in everything and sa *pagaayos*. I most specially love its theme of a concert and fashion show all in one." It was during the time when Nats was an Operations Manager when she first handled the "pioneer" Blue Rock and she still monitors it every year. She feels that her most difficult challenge was the transition from Operations to Projects. "*Alam kong mahirap, pero kakayanin*," she says with a hint of a smile.

Nats herself believes in self-reliance and asks people to never give up. "*Pagnadapa ka, keep yourself up*," declares she. For her, life is considered a challenge and with her many achievements, she sure gives life to her motto, "Fly high and soar!" She considers her mom as her source of inspiration and likes to watch Dawson's Creek and Ally McBeal. "*Mahilig rin akong kumanta!*" says she.

She is a total romantic. "I'm so sentimental, *madali ako ma-touch at lalo na akong nasmadaling madala sa mga emotional stuff*," she discloses. Her idea of a romantic evening includes the traditional *harana*, a bouquet of flowers and a candlelight dinner. She plans to work in a banking or manufacturing firm and like many other girls out there, hopes to marry and live happily ever after. ☺



Beauty is Skin-Deep

by Teena Cam, Paula Celicious and Elinore Lim

"Oh no, I have a pimple!" Every teenager must have uttered this worrisome phrase at one time or another in his life. Those little red dots have led to the creation of vast arrays of facial washes, astringents, blemish sticks and facial creams—tools dermatologists prescribe to eradicate pimples. Despite popular perception, however, dermatology and skin care involve more than just the removal of facial impurities and imperfections. Enter Doctors Que and Laurel.

Dermatologists at work

Jasmin Que and Joy Laurel are both resident dermatologists at the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center, a government hospital and one of the biggest dermatology training centers in the Philippines. Dr. Que is currently the chief resident of her department. "I am a little above in terms of responsibilities," she shares. She has found that her position also has its share of intrigues. She continues, "There are many conflicts... between befriending patients or consultants or in making decisions. All in all, *medyo mapulitika* at showbiz."

A botany graduate of UP Diliman and medicine graduate of UP Manila, Que initially had no interest whatsoever in becoming a doctor. "During high school, I really did not want to go into medicine," she reveals, "but when I saw *na nagpre-med ang brother ko* and *magma-med rin ang boyfriend ko, nag-med na rin ako*."

Dr. Laurel, on the other hand, had always been interested in the sciences and in caring for sick people. "I have good memories of being well taken care of while being sick and I wanted to do the same," she confides. However, her path was not quite smooth. "I had a cousin (orthopedic) doctor who was actually discouraging me from getting into medicine," she begins. "He said that I would have no social life." Though many share this misconception, it did not dissuade Laurel.



Dr. Jasmin Que (left) and Dr. Joy Laurel

"I still went on with my gut feel," she continues. "Of course, you would have less time for yourself and family but it doesn't mean you wouldn't have any social life." She adds, "Time

management skills really matter." Armed with a UP Diliman biology and a UP Manila medicine degree, Laurel currently belongs to her department's Allergy and Contact Dermatitis group. This group investigates the causes of chronic allergies and provides patch testing of different allergens. Laurel is planning to set up her own private practice sometime this July.

All in a day's work

For these *doktoras*, life can be pretty hectic. For Laurel, a regular day starts from eight in the morning and ends at five in the afternoon. "I see patients most of the time," she recalls, "except for Friday mornings when we either have our journal report or grand rounds (a detailed presentation of an interesting or rare case). We also have different rotations. Depending on your current assignment, you may also be doing dermatologic surgery, assisting in laser surgery, or studying microscope slides of the skin, among other things."

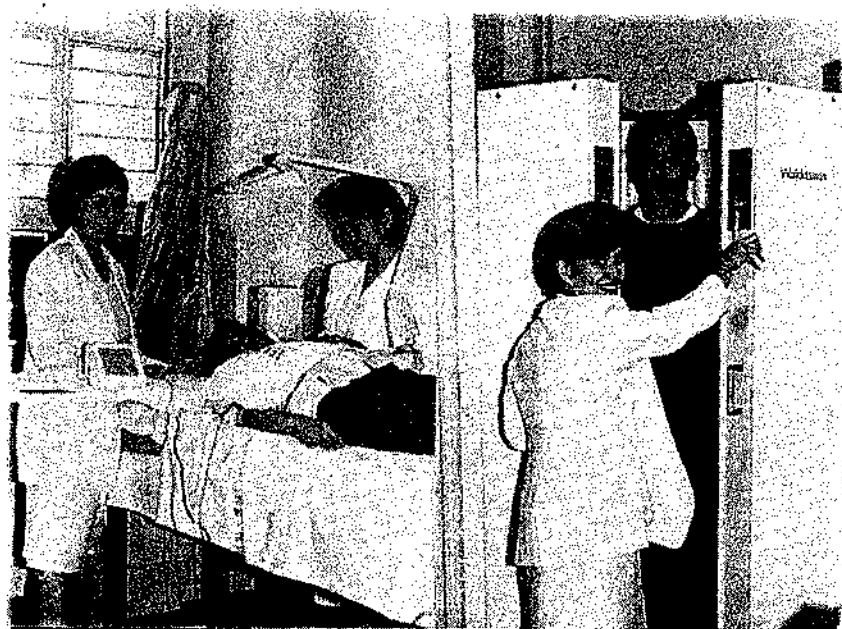
They are hardly free during their free time since this is only time they can do their research. Nevertheless, Laurel says, "Research is also another aspect that makes one's work unique." She is currently researching two momentous-sounding subjects: the iontophoresis of lidocaine anesthesia and clinical practical guidelines for various infectious diseases as part of a project for the Philippines Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. On top of all this, Laurel, being a senior resident, also has the added task of supervising the first- and second-year residents.

"I handle more of the technical stuff," Que explains. "I'm sort of the rep of the chairman and the PR person. I also coordinate postgraduate studies, study cases of leprosy (which was 1% *lang* last year) and take part in the *kilatis kutis* week (in collaboration with the Department of Health)."

Dermatology today

Although Philippine dermatology is not that far behind that of countries like the United States, in terms of technology, there are still a lot of improvements that can be done. "We have good training programs, yes," Laurel points out. "However, we are still behind in the field of research. Aside from being financially unrewarding, there is also a lack of support from the government, which is why we rely heavily on foreign medical books not necessarily applicable to some of our problems."

Philippine dermatology is nevertheless continually expanding. According to Que, "Dermatology is not merely limited to cosmetics. It has expanded to include pathology." However, in order to get sufficient training on more advanced procedures and techniques,



SERIOUS TOYS Jose Reyes's CO₂ laser (left) and phototherapy (right) are heavy anti-pimple artillery. (Actually, they are used for more complicated skin problems.)

she advises more moderate treatment. "A more moderate exposure," she says, "and point of the treatment chair Dr. Li from the Philippines." friends and gratefully maintain th

Unusual

These doctors, however, have advanced skills that gave the world her boyfriend. She struck me with money to use and she even

That way goes on, "S therapy, my patience in Laurel sum. Que has once had a p.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSE R. REYES, DERMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT. GRAPHICS BY OSCAR TAN

she advises one to study in the United States where the facilities are more modern.

A more recent addition, though, to Jose Reyes is its phototherapy treatment. "The patient just steps into our unit for ultraviolet exposure," says one of the residents' mentors, Vice-Chair Dr. Jesusa Tan, and points to a booth-like device with bulbs inside. Tan learned of the treatment after attending a seminar in Korea. She, former chair Dr. Lisa Venida and the department set up their facility in the Philippines with the help of a Korean friend, Dr. Seung-Kyung Hann from Yonsei University in Seoul. "Dr. Hann even visited with Korean friends and repaired several bulbs on our machine," she shares gratefully. The present chair, Dr. Lillian Villafuerte expects to maintain this and other initiatives.

Unusual sessions

These *doktoras*' jobs are not just about intimidating Latin names, however. Laurel once had a female patient who was already in the advanced stage of mycosisfungoides (a kind of skin cancer). This gave the woman a large ugly growth on her right thigh, which moved her boyfriend to leave her. The patient never gave up. Dr. Laurel recalls, "She was initially down when told about her condition. What struck me most was her fighting spirit. She did not have enough money to undergo chemotherapy, her family was not that supportive and she even had a six-year old daughter to support."

That was her condition two and a half years ago. Today, Laurel goes on, "She has undergone chemotherapy and electron beam therapy, made possible through the help of some doctors and her patience in asking for help from various charitable institutions." Laurel sums up, "Life goes on because she wants it to."

Que has a funnier experience to share. A consultant under her once had a patient who was so harassed that when she asked, "O, ano

ang problema?" the patient, instead of consulting about her skin problems, told her all about her personal problems and cried her heart out. A normal derma session then turned into a crying session. The consultant did not know how to console the patient, but the tension in the room dissipated after that.

Amidst the success and respect these young, modern *doktoras* enjoy, they are still deeply rooted in their Chinese-Filipino heritage. Laurel is very proud of it, "I am Chinese because of my heritage, and yet I feel very Filipino. When it comes to beliefs and philosophies, the immigrant culture of drive, thriftiness, filial piety and so on are important to everything I do, though I am not sure if you can identify them as being exclusively Chinese." Certainly, she adds, being able to see both Filipino and Chinese cultures broadens the mind.

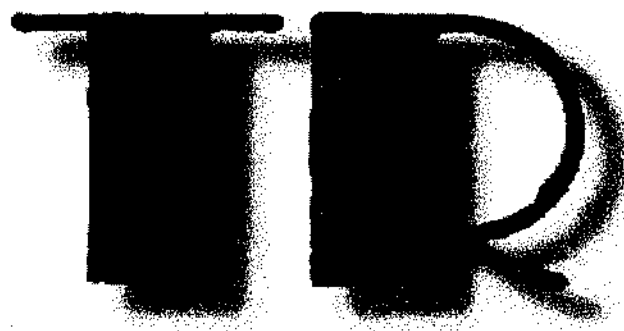
Being a doctor has its unique challenges and rewards. Laurel opines, "There are a few things I have learned that are not taught in medical school. For example, when a patient comes to you for consultation, the doctor must not only be able to diagnose his condition and give the proper treatment, but you must also be able to answer his other implied needs which may not be readily apparent. These include unvoiced fears and worries, and a good doctor must be able to comfort and give hope."

Medicine is a very dynamic field. Laurel continues, "The doctor must not stop studying and must constantly pursue knowledge. There is the constant opportunity to discover and have what one author has put as the 'Ahaa' feeling." And the rewards? For them, the reward is simple: knowing that one has contributed positively to society. This is especially pronounced in Jose Reyes, a hospital that caters mainly to patients from the C and D classes.

If there's one thing the dermatologists of Jose Reyes have realized, it is that most of their patients have more pressing problems than pimples. ☺

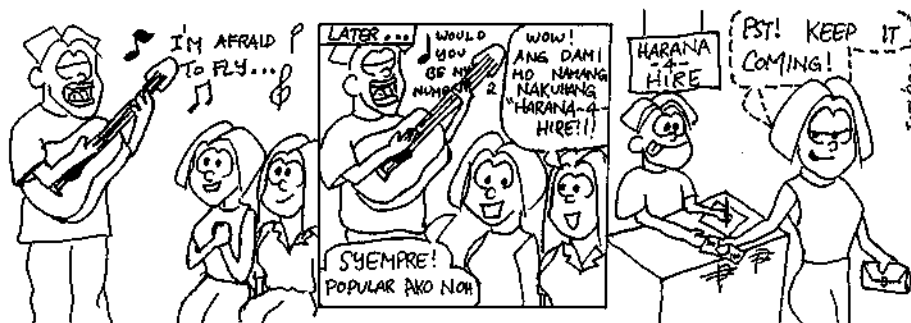


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W the dot paper, goes. If some p oceans

What do people like Commission (I ME, ME, Victoria An Rep and #2 Evangeline President- Christine O ACLC Unit Head), an President)?



Abi

Toyang

BY KIMBERLY PABILONA AND EUNICE LIM
PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY PABILONA

Too good to be true?



When you look at a piece of paper with a dot, you see the dot and not the paper, or so the cliché goes. If people were dots, some people would be oceans of blots.

What does the average Atenean make of people like Abigail Go (II Ch:CE, Comelec Commissioner, ACheSVP-Acads), Karen Cua (II ME, MEA EVP-elect, AJMA HR Officer), Victoria Ang (III BS Psy, 3YC Sci Legislative Rep and #2 ranked debater in the country), Evangeline Chua (III MEco, Celadon President-elect, AJMA Externals Sec), Christine Ong (IV MCT, Celadon President, ACLC Unit Head, Placement Reps Team Head), and Mae Yao (IV ME, AJMA President)? Simple as it may seem, this question is quite capable of

eliciting a variety of impressions, qualities, and the like, myriad descriptions that eventually add up to a crystalline image of the perfect student.

How

much of their stories, though, do titles and impressions really tell?

Just like you and me

To familiarize a fresh freshman with Victoria Ang, one will probably start with: "Di mo kilala si Toyang? Yung sa debate..." Though this seems a natural and easy way to do it, it also has its negative connotations. In ticking off their ideal traits, many forget that these all-applauded individuals are persons as well.

As Mae, puts it, "I'd like to be seen as the person I really am, but most people see me as too profit or business oriented, so my personal level suffers." Nicknames such as "Quattro Kid Toyang" easily degenerate from compliments into convenient stereotypes sometimes, "But this is understandable *namane*," according to Toyang. "It's a common thing, actually and I don't take offense in it. I just wish they wouldn't do that. It causes people to unconsciously put up barriers and prevents them from really getting to know me." Karen, an ICA valedictorian like Toyang, echoes, "They don't know me," with an unvoiced, "I'm not perfect!"

Loving what you do

In reality, these people do not make a big fuss over their jobs. They apparently just possess a certain knack for the things they do. "Okay lang naman sa akin 'yung

information dissemination," Karen expresses. "I like to be involved and informed about everything that's going on sa org and sa members." As MEA's outgoing SecGen, she was responsible for spreading news, and she worked regularly on her one-woman, one-sheet bulletin called *M&M*. One of her first projects was to clean MEA's FAME room in Faura, "Pero *mabilis lang naman iyon*," according to her.

Of course, having high-ranking positions involves a lot of work but they knew what they got into and loved every minute of it. Abi shares, "It's fun. I get to see things happen. It's work that has an actual purpose and not the sort of activity you can forego *kapag tinamad ka*. In a way, it's a public service, but I'm not a public servant. I do it because I like it. Doing service and being a servant are not the same."

"I was reading the last few votes," Abi recalls about the overnight counting of ballots that ran until 6:00 AM the following day. "It was too funny for words. I knew it was close. They told me before I read the last 40 or 60 ballots that Pollie [Deza] was only ahead by one vote. And everybody crowded in. Afterwards, I asked Harvey [Keh] if he won and he's like, 'I don't know.' He just shrugged his shoulders and shook his head." Abi and company managed a 64% voter turnout, but little did they expect the excitement that accompanied Keh winning as Central Board





Secretary-General by only four votes.

Despite Abi's job description of "I panic all day and lug tables," what these people love about their jobs is the meaningful work they get to do. According to CO, "To serve is *nakakalaki ng puso*," because this is the kind of work that gives one the ability to take part in doing something for the plight of the majority, if not the oppressed. "Before I joined, I felt so helpless against problems in the Philippines," Toyang expresses about the Central Board. "I couldn't do anything in my position then. But in my present position, I found out that the government really listens to us. It's really nice because I feel like I'm doing something that matters."

However, life isn't always a bed of roses. There are things that need to be done, and times when leaders have to step back and distance themselves to stress their authority. "Sometimes," CO relates, "people say *na mataas sobra* expectations *ko, but kailangan talaga nu'n* for the good of the org. We have to aim for the best." Sometimes, these people give their all for their respective orgs and sometimes wind up getting painful remarks in return or are misinterpreted as "power-trippers." "Ayokong sinasabi na, 'You're in it for the position and not fit for the job,'" Evan remarks. "It's like saying *na hindi ka* worthy *sa job mo*."

CO, though, confesses that she does not feel as authoritarian as she sometimes looks. "Hindi ko feeling *na* president *ako*," she discloses. "Feeling *ko na* Mommy *ako*, tapos marami akong anak tapos kailangang kong i-make sure *na* lahat sila masaya sa org." Looking back, she wants to get college over with, but at the same time, would like to do things all over again. "Pero ayaw kong i-repeat kasi may natutunan din ako sa mga boo-boos," she concludes.

On the job

Mae is a self-confessed obsessive compulsive person who schedules her day from the moment she wakes up until the time she goes to sleep. "The work they do," she opines, "particularly in AJMA, affects the school atmosphere and has an intangible way of affecting the community. People talk about AJMA. It's good being a part of it." This thinking must be what sustains a lady on top, a lady who can fall asleep in the Lib Periodicals section and suddenly wake up mouthing something about the next AJMA project. Where was Mae on the first day of her Finals Week? In the Kostka Extension, manning AJMA's elections booth.

"College life isn't complete without extra-curricular activities," Toyang relates. True. Participation in orgs is one's training ground for the real world. Karen, though, feels right

at home—literally at home, because *shoti* (little brother) Laurence is her classmate. "Everyday, going to school, I ride with him," Karen begins in a singsong voice. "*Lahat lahat ng* classes *pareho*. I go home with him. At home, I see him again. So usually, in the classroom, we sit in opposite ends of the room. But, we try to study together at times. We even dissected our frogs for Zoology together in our kitchen." The two are sometimes mistaken for twins, and Karen ran unopposed for MEA External Vice-President while Laurence ran unopposed for Internal Vice-President.

"It's no big deal, actually," Abi remarks. "Every Atenean has to do it *naman*. School and orgs mix. I know people who have like seven, eight orgs and they still do very good *parin*." That seems to be where some problems begin, though. "Sometimes, I think *na* if I wasn't doing this certain project for the org, I would have done better in this test," feels Karen. "More or less, *naka-aral ka naman... Mas gusto ko kung dalawa nakukuha, mas nagau-gauge* abilities *mo*. Feeling *mo, lucky ka na lang kung kailan ka mas busy, doon pa mas gumagaling work mo*."

College life is supposed to be academics first, but when push comes to shove and there is no one left to pass work to, as Evan puts it, "*Kahit hindi kaya, nagiging kaya*." CO, though, breaks the melodrama, "You have to live up to expectations na president *ka*. *Gusto ko maging childlike ulit*. Parang tumanda na ako tapos hindi na ako makapag-relax."

Perfectly imperfect

Though a noticeable chunk of their lives are consumed by extra-curricular activities, this part that we see is but a glimpse of their personalities, the tips of their icebergs. Perhaps only a select few would be able to recognize their friends underneath the tough-guy mien these people maintain.

For instance, who but her friends would know that it generally takes Abi fifteen minutes (more or less) to decide between having coffee or iced tea and whether or not to eat in the caf? That Evan actually hates talking and shows more interest in extra-curricular activities than her studies? Or that Karen dreams of being just an ordinary student who doesn't excel as much and can afford to hang loose and go partying "whenever *na lang*." (And one'd think being ordinary was dull!)

How many people know that Mae doesn't start studying before midnight because she can't stand the *slightest* noise. And when she does go to sleep, she sleeps in the couch—to ensure that she'll really get up the next day.

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Evan

was my seatmate first sem, and I wanted to have a good start here in Ateneo."

Culture and being

Surprisingly, Abi, Karen, Evan, Toyang, CO and Mae generally agree on the impact of their Chinese-Filipino backgrounds. They realize the need to strike a balance between the different cultures and make the best of both worlds. They have their Chinese and Filipino heritage to thank for a number of things: their Chinese parts for the value of money and discipline and their Filipino parts for being *cariñosa*, warm and friendly.

Abi ponders, "We all have to admit that you encounter drawbacks wherever you go. In Chinese culture, there's a bigger drawback on being a girl against being a guy. Values make you what you are; denying it would mean denying tradition. I guess the need to reconcile value and tradition partly has to do with why I do things."

There seems to be a spectrum of Chinese girls, and Laurence Cua places his sister on the more liberated end. Karen has a more practical approach to her upbringing. She, for example, enjoys drinking tea, but upon realizing that it had caffeine like coffee, she pondered on how healthy tea is. But consciousness of her roots can be fun. "A classmate of mine did bring *tikoy* to class on Chinese New Year," she shares. Her mother raises her children conscious of their heritage. Karen even jokes, "Yung ibang girls,

palalayasin daw sila ng Mommy nila kung magka-boyfriend sila na hindi Chinese. Ako, Mom ko raw ang lalayas sa bahay..." She emphasizes that it was just a joke.

Evan, on the other hand, shares that her mother actively encouraged her to work in her *hwa seng hwai* (Chinese student association). "Sabi ng iba na mas okay pa raw ang maging VP sa business org kaysa maging president ng Celadon," she says. "Pero inisip ko, tama si Mama. Ito 'yung sa atin." Evan came from St. Jude and may be considered more traditional than ICAns and Xaverians who are generally perceived to be the more liberal Chinese-Filipino students.

"Ready na ako para sa Celadon next year!" she exclaims. "Sabi ng Mama ko na maganda ang attic ng bagong bahay namin para sa mga meeting!" She has gone so far as ordering the *Chinoy* editors to teach her layout and buying a scanner so she can help them with the Comm Department next year.

First impressions last, as another cliché goes. These girls, though, discourage the impression that they need to be put on pedestals. Being a leader, after all, doesn't mean one must be "way up there," it means being able to relate to people. Though their achievements may seem intimidating, one must look beyond these and note the rich, interesting lives that go with the achievements. These girls would not mind being called role models, but being looked at just like any other girl is fine. ©

Talk about discipline! Perhaps Toyang can pick up a few tips because she finds it so hard to wake up in the morning.

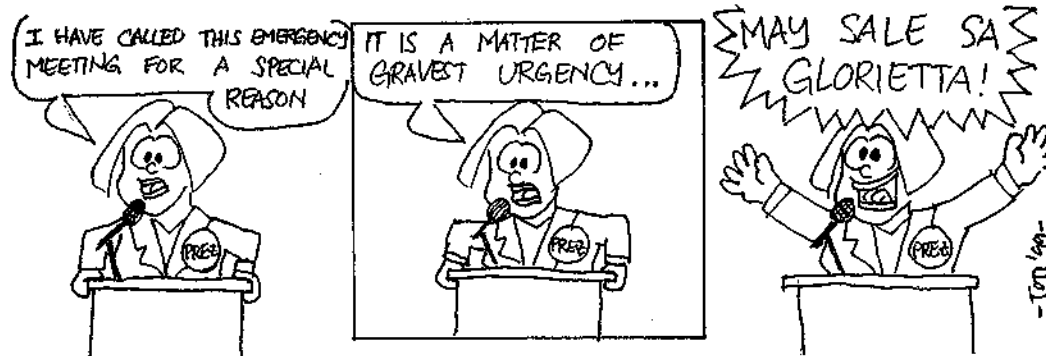
CO is an even worse sleeper. "Sobrang daldal ako na I talk in my sleep," she confides. "Pag sobrang tired o happy ako, lumalabas kapag natutulog na ako. Ang mahirap, kapag may roommate ka, kagaya ng silent retreat sa ACLC. Di-siguro na-imagine ng roommate ko na minsan sumisigaw pa ako. Minsan nagigising pa ang lahat ng nasa bahay." Once, her mother even had a short conversation with her while she was asleep.

No sampling of their quirks is complete without touching on their loves lives—despite CO and Evan's persistent gripes claiming the lack of any. Asked about the subject, an embarrassed Karen shares a trademark, "Kainis!" and refuses to reveal anything. CO teases, "Masarap maging president ng Celadon kasi ako lang ang girl na president sa Alliance of Filipino-Chinese Students." However, she adds, "Meron yatang curse sa pagiging president ng Celadon. Lahat kasi na naging president, walang lovelife o nagkaroon ng break-up."

On the other extreme, Abi confided that she once slammed the phone down on a certain guy for an entire year. Did she ever make up with him? "I had to," she sighs. "He



JUST BEAUTY AND BRAINS? There are more to our student leaders than meets the eye... much more.



Mass



Celadon Week opened last February 8 with a mass celebrated by Fr. Johnny Go, SJ.

Leaping Towards a New Millennium!

Celadon Week 1999 in pictures

PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY PABILONA, JANIE FERRER, DICKEN PENA AND OSCAR TAN
STORY BY JOHANNES SIA, JONATHAN CUSTODIO AND CANDY BATA



Cartoon Network recently featured a standoff between Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny. Should 1999 be called the Year of the Duck or the Year of the Rabbit, they asked?

In the Ateneo, the rabbits apparently won. Celadon Week '99 and its trademark bunny mascot jumpstarted the Chinese New Year celebration. With the theme "Leaping Towards a New Millennium," the cultural showcase took place from February 8 to February 12.

As early as May of last year, Celadon Week '99's "skeleton" was already conceived by project heads Jerilee Cu (IV MEco) and Michael Roque (IV Eco). Planning did not come easy, as Je puts it, "Iba-iba dapat kasi ang features." Final brainstorming went on from September to October and committee meetings began as early as December. "Mahirap talagang mag-plan and mag-implement. But since everybody was willing to help, naging mas madali," continued Je. Mike and Je were ably assisted by their subordinate heads: Jo-An Darlene Chua, Talks (II MEcoH, Fin), Christine Tan, Promotions (III MIS, Promo), Sheryl Cu, Finance (II MIS, AVP-Fin) and Desmond Chua, Operations (IV MCT, Ops).

Christine Ong (IV MCT, President) adds that Probe Team featured the Dragon Dance and interviews of some members in their Chinese New Year segment aired 11:00 PM last February 16.

A tired CO shares a last message, "It's been a wonderful year. Thank you very much for all those who supported Celadon and made our projects successful. Let's keep on making Celadon the best!" Opo, Mommy. ☺

Dragon Dance



The Week ended with a bang—a dragon and lion dance and martial arts exhibition at 2:20 and 3:20 PM last February 12.

The crowd's favorite moment was when one of the dancers stood on a partner's shoulders to create the image of a standing dragon. Some in the crowd wondered out loud, "Kaya kaya nilang gawin 'yan kung wala sila? Tapos sa taas ng puno mo isabit yung ang pao?"

The much-awaited dragon dance was easily the most visible part of the celebration. An ME freshman commented: "Celadon Week is a good idea because it does make people aware of other cultures. I live in Quezon City and I never get to see those dragon dances."

Jeet Kune Do

Jose Singco
Joey describes
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Leslie Lee (II Cor)
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Jeet Kune Do



Jose Singson (III SoS) tries out some moves from Sifu Joey Perico. Joey describes Jeet Kune Do as Bruce Lee's modern martial art. It does away with sportlike trappings and rituals and adds physics, geometry and physiology. "And, if all else fails," adds Joey, "you still have Theology."

Painting



Mr. Felix Chan Lim shared the nuances of applying pressure on brushes and of mixing colors for traditional Chinese paintings. (left) He painted birds for his demonstration, and afterwards, presented the finished piece to Celadon for good luck.

Rose Sale

*Help me I'm falling, falling,
Falling fast again...*

"*Kulang nakulang!*" is how one member commented on the Rose Sale—Celadon practically ran out of roses each day.

This year's Rose Sale at the Doghouse coincided with Celadon Week, and featured, along with roses, chocolates, candy flowers and stuffed toys. Celadon Week Project Head Jerilee Cu (IV MEco) had an excellent sales pitch: "Two years ago, P50 *ang rose*. Last year, P40. This year, P30 *nalang ang benta namin!*" The trademark fund raiser lasted from February 10 to 12, though taking of orders began February 8.

Minstrels Harvey Dychiao (IV LM) and Jonas Khaw (II ME) stole the show from the volunteers wrapping bouquets in the Celadon Room. Their senti selection included *You, Gotta Believe in Magic, I'll Always Love You, How Can I Fall?* and their most-requested *Fallen*. Common reactions were long sighs from the girls and hoots from the boys—culminating in the profuse blushing of the girl being serenaded.

Harvey recalls some lighthearted moments during their serenading. "One girl was so nervous," he shares, "she covered her face with her hands and turned so red I had to whisper to her gently to calm her down. I told her not to worry." Another time, Harvey was forced to render a piece alone. "I had butterflies in my stomach!" apologizes Jonas. But, he adds that it all paid off. "When they clap, the experience is gratifying. It feels good to know that you are making a contribution for others."

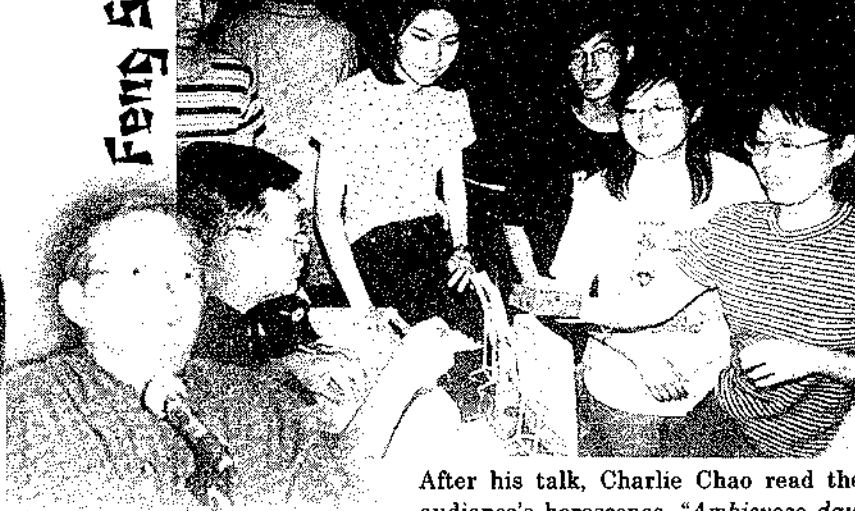
Hats off to Project Head Coleen Chua (III MIS) and her team. These people prepared since October last year, got their fingers pricked while wrapping roses and had to deliver bouquets in between classes. In that time of the year when romance floats in the air like the scent of early dawn and when puppy love becomes as palpable as the roses resting in many a girl's arms, the project members gave service from the heart. ☺

Week-Long



Lie Lee (II Comm) and Kenneth Basa (III MEco) man the *kiamoy* and a minor food sale. (right) Project Head Jerilee Cu awards a lucky *ang finder*. Also featured were showings of *Rush Hour* and *Mulan*.

Feng Shui



After his talk, Charlie Chao read the audience's horoscopes. "*Ambisyoso daw ako,*" shared Talks Head Darlene Chua after presenting him with a token.

Same Blood, Different Time

Chinese schools do not teach you history.

A I 165 IS ENTITLED "RIZAL AND THE EMERGENCE OF the Philippine Nation", but I never expected that the Chinese of Philippine prehistory would occupy a good chunk of Rev. Jose Arcilla's lecture time. The place of the Chinese-Filipinos in history, he says, is not very emphasized.

Trade and survival

Skimming through Fr. Arcilla's textbook with the same name as the subject and published by the Office of Research and Publications, the first mention of the Chinese is quite dramatic: "The first years of the colony were difficult. But the arrival in 1572 of a few Chinese junks with cargo from China saved the situation. Since then, a pattern was set up by which Chinese and other oriental goods were shipped to Manila and transferred to another bottom for Mexico." Fr. Arcilla cites statistics: "1637, Income: 243,700, Expenditures: 850,734" The taxes from what we call the galleon trade kept the colony afloat.

The Chinese-Filipinos come up when the economy is discussed. "When commercial agriculture opened the way for large-scale farming," Arcilla states, "the Spaniards and Chinese mestizos grabbed the opportunity to acquire more lands." The Chinese traders became the *towkay*, rich trading agents. "In the 1600s," his book says, "an average of 30 or 40 Chinese junks arrived each year, besides other craft from the neighboring Asian countries.... The most numerous of these traders were the Chinese."

The social structure during the Spanish time reflects: "The peninsular Spaniard at the top, followed by the *criollos* (Spaniards born in the Philippines), the Chinese, Chinese *mestizos*, and *indios*." The early Chinese-Filipinos had to pay heavy taxes to reside in the country, but their numbers increased over the years. "For every Spaniard in Manila, there were about 50 Chinese," estimates Arcilla. These early Chinese-Filipinos were hardly all rich; most emigrated to seek their fortunes here. Not all were businessmen. Arcilla describes, "Until the middle of the nineteenth century, the bakers, the carpenters, the smiths, and the artisans were all Chinese."

Fr. Jose Arcilla has one very important point in his lectures: Technically, the Jesuits set up the first university in the Philippines, but they left the country for some time and could not continue running it.

Eye openers

Their increasing numbers were a cause of concern for the Spaniards. "The Spaniards looked down on them as a despicable race," Arcilla states, "although the documents cannot hide the Spanish admiration for the greatness of the Chinese empire." Spanish prejudice formed against



Chinoy nominated to Dean's, COA Awards

Printing volume quadrupled

CHINOY HAS EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS IN ITS second year.

"She found it energetic," Editor-in-Chief Oscar Tan quotes Dr. Doreen Fernandez. "The Chinese *daw* are very energetic about their culture." Dr. Fernandez, Comm Chair and GUIDON moderator, endorsed *Chinoy's* successful nomination to the 1999 Dean's Awards. *Chinoy* was Celadon's lone entry.

Chinoy was also recently nominated to this year's COA Awards along with Celadon Week. "We said we are trying to set new standards for campus journalism," said Associate Editor Elinore Lim, who coordinated with Celadon President Christine Ong (IV MCT) in preparing *Chinoy's* documentation for the nominations.

The staff believes it has been successful in maintaining its standards. In a writing seminar conducted by *The GUIDON*, veteran journalist Lorna Kalaw-Tirol cited "When God bears a different face" by Elinore and Candy Bata (*January 1999*) as an example of good feature writing along with select GUIDON articles. Tirol opined that the article was an eye-opener on a subject one encounters everyday but fails to notice. Also cited was "The torchbearers of Francis Xavier" by Oscar Tan (*September 1998*).

Chinoy is expected to restructure, pending this year's Celadon elections, due to personnel rotations, including the graduation of one-woman army Jamie Ferrer (IV AB Psy). Recruitment is ongoing.

Long-term sponsorship contracts are already being negotiated for next year. Photo Editor Kim Pabilona is also looking at better coordination with project heads for documentation purposes. ☺

Jews and Moors was brought to the Philippines "against a minority group superior to them intellectually and economically."

For reasons ranging from their being non-Christians to envy over their control of trade and small industries, the Spaniards took measures against the Chinese-Filipinos. "They confined the Chinese to special sectors called *parian* in Manila and in Cebu," Arcilla gives an example. He lists Chinese rebellions as part of a threat with the Moro pirates and Dutch raiders. "Three times—in 1603, 1639, and 1661—they took up arms against the government," he continues. "But ill-planned and with inadequate arms, the Chinese lost to the Spanish military, with native help."

However, the economy is just one side of the Chinese influence in Philippine history. "The patronal feasts of Santa Cruz and Tondo were characterized by unusual lightings from the innumerable lanterns put up by the Chinese," Arcilla depicts. The Chinese cultural contribution is also more extensive than food and additional words. A further paragraph of the book reveals a surprise, "After it had been introduced by the Chinese, kite-flying became a favorite pastime among the children (and adults)."

I am a Filipino, and therefore, centennial or no centennial, I should take Philippine history to heart. However, were I an Ilocano or a Bikolano, I would naturally be interested in the events in Ilocos or in Bicol. Since I am Chinese, I naturally want to know how the early Chinese entered Philippine history.

It is funny, actually. I studied in Chinese schools as far back as kindergarten, and all I got was little-understood lectures in Mandarin on Imperial China. I can appreciate a quirky mentor-priest for giving me a more useful picture of my roots—and impassioned tirades that the Philippine Revolution was not *masa* led. BY OSCAR TAN ☺

20 Chinoy

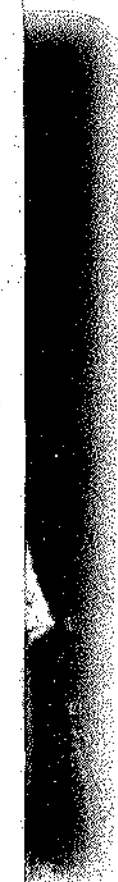
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