



DWCUAA Forum

January 8, 2002

FLASHBACKS continued..

Of all the extra-curricular activities introduced in school, one of the things I cherish the most is the Junior-Senior Prom. I recall when I was first or second year, I always watched the much sought after *rigodon* practice being held every afternoon at the basketball courts under the watchful eyes of Mrs. Ridao. Remember the part where the girls come around so that the boys get new dancing partners every minute or so until everyone has come full circle? I am pretty sure the boys were excited because this was their chance to hold hands with their secret love. And I bet the girls were too. I am sure there were sweaty hands among the participants. The JS Prom night that year was a success. I am pretty sure it was a romantic night for some of the guys - a night never to be forgotten

THE NATION, TERRORISM AND VIGILANCE

By Igoy Zaid

The tragic events of September 11 have so overtaken the whole nation that it has one way or the other changed the way of life of many, if not all of us. So many articles have been published in newspapers and a whole lot of talk have been uttered over the airwaves delving on the domino effect it has caused our nation. Fear and pessimism had started to invade the core of our social fiber. A pall of gloom and insecurity blanketed us as we struggled to get our bearings back. Despite this negative atmosphere that pervaded most of our nation since the tragedy struck, we did not crumble frustrating the hope of a whole nation's collapse as anticipated by those crazy-driven fanatics who crashed the four planes, including their cohorts. Instead, the incident galvanized the whole nation into throwing its support behind the victims and their families on the one hand, and the government on the other. Soon after, a three-pronged battle was being waged even before the dusts of the mayhem have settled: alleviating the plight of the victims and their families, fighting the evil that caused it all and getting the economy jump-started.

Not since the Pearl Harbor bombing in World War II had we felt such a tremendous outpouring of love, support and assistance from those governing and the governed. On that infamous day 60 years ago, wave upon wave of Zero attack planes incessantly bombed the country's prized naval armada, rendering it sunk or crippled. In an instant, men and women, young and old, rushed to the hellish carnage and waged a battle so eerily similar to the September incident: putting out scorching fires consuming the remains of the once mighty fleet of ships and pulling out bodies, dead or alive, from the decks and galleys of the burning inferno. We can draw so many parallels from that historic day to the events of 9-11, as many of us would now familiarly call the incident. What happened to the ships off the waters of Hawaii occurred on land to the structures that symbolized the financial and military prowess of the nation: the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Not to be forgotten also were the heroic efforts of the passengers of Flight 93, which crashed into the backwoods of Pennsylvania, foiling what could have been another deadly attack poised at our nation's capital. As in Pearl Harbor more than half a century later, many lives were lost, victims and rescuers alike and the death toll rose with each passing day. In reality, we will never know for sure the exact number and the identities of those still unaccounted for to this day.

The magnitude of the tragedy had hit us rock solid, just like in Pearl Harbor. Stunned and angered, the whole nation pulled together. Thousands of individuals and groups donated money and services for the thousands of victims and their families. Big or small, the money and efforts contributed reflects the true color and spirit of the nation in times of great danger and need such as this one. Outside of the efforts of the government to alleviate the plight of those directly and indirectly affected by the incident, the September 11 funds continue to be the most dominant source of financial support and assistance of the victims and their immediate families. These laudable efforts of both private and public sectors have so far steered the country into the path of normalcy. But, beware; let no one be fooled by this emerging sense of security and stability. The war is far from over. The bigger battle of jump-starting the slumping economy and more importantly, keeping the nation safe from the evil of terrorism, still has to be waged and has yet to be won.

We all have witnessed the promulgation of a spate of new laws designed to prevent a repeat of the incident. But as in the case of new regulations, countless fine-tuning would be needed along the way to make it more effective and efficient. What the government has done is inherent in its duty to protect the citizenry. But bottom line is, no amount of legislative agenda and thorough enforcement would help eradicate the new menace we all are facing today without the direct and active participation of the citizenry. It would take a concerted effort among the government and the people to make these new laws work.

While bureaucracy tries to hammer the right provisions to achieve a more effective and efficient laws, the country goes on with the business of living its daily life. As such, it could not stand to lose anymore human life to acts of terrorism. Vigilance and prompt reporting may yet be the biggest solution to averting any more attempts by would be terrorists to subvert our freedom and our way of life. Being aware of our surroundings and timely reporting may yet hold the key to success in our continued efforts to eradicate terrorism in our land. The citizen of this nation should act swiftly and not wither from this commitment. In the end, after all is said and done, it is still the citizens of this great nation who play a vital role in the war against the evil of terrorism.

A Fresh New Year!

Welcome to the New Years folks.

The past year is without question one of the most memorable years in the history of the United States. The events of September 11 certainly changed a lot of lives, yours and mine. Our way of life has changed. My life has changed in some ways. I have looked at life differently since then. I have learned that life is precious. There is so much to live for. The 9-11 events brought out the best in us. We have learned to be more compassionate and loving towards others while at the same time more vigilant. We have learned to be more patient and tolerant as evidenced by the long lines at the airports and at the international borders.

The Association in showing its civic mindedness has donated monies to the American Red Cross "Disaster Relief Fund" for the WTC Victims 9/11/01. With the donation, our prayers were with the victims and their survivors. These people will never be forgotten.

As promised by president George W. Bush the perpetrators shall be found dead or alive. And that if they are found alive, they shall be punished to fullest extent possible.

The men and women of our Armed Services are doing an admirable job defending our nation and our freedom. With them, the USA is still standing strong as ever. Let us pray that our beloved soldiers come home safely to their loved ones. God Bless America.

This year, 2002 hopefully will bring good tidings to us all. The Association has yet to decide what big event is going to happen this year. Whatever the event might be, the support of all members are always welcome. The officers cannot do the job by themselves. We are a team. It takes individuals to make up a team. Not one individual can accomplish anything without the support of the rest of the group.

If you have anything in mind as to what the Association should do, please let the President, Johnny Soriano know. He'll be glad to entertain your ideas.

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Staffers

Yogi Diaz, 1974 –
Editorial

Johnny Soriano, 1972 –
Contributor

Dody Bautista, PhD, –
Contributor

Lorenzo Suyat, Jr., 1972 –
Contributor

Raffy Bruan, 1972 –
Publisher

Bylines ...

BIRTHDAYS

Let's wish the following alumni the best on their forthcoming birthdays:

1. Renato de Vera -Jan. 21
2. Arsenio Consolacion - Feb. 13
3. Adolfo Bruan - Feb.14

If you happen to know who's celebrating their birthdays this year, please send an email to Johnny Soriano at SorianoJS@miramar.usmc.mil so that we can publish them.

Comments?

Your comments and views or even suggestions are always welcome. Please send email to Raffy Bruan at: Gerard1054@yahoo.com or to

Johnny Soriano at SorianoJS@miramar.usmc.mil

Sidelines
By IgoyC.Zaid

The Hypocrites Among Us

Numerous alumni, this one included, raised a sigh of concern when the old DWCUAA website went off the net. It took a while before it made its comeback, only this time bearing a new web address. For those who do not know yet and just in case you just stumbled upon this site, the new Alum website is: <http://members.tripod.com/dwcualumni/>. A few of us were elated with its return and with a new look to boot. Kudos to Raffy Bruan for his artistic flair. Let's not forget to give Virgil Manipon a big pat in the back too. He put together the first website which served as the foundation for the second one. A couple of alums unabashedly expressed their joy with new site posting messages on the Message Board to that effect. The fling I abhor the most though, are people saying they welcomed the website comeback professing it is one of the avenues where they could touch base with fiends, especially so during these trying times. But as soon as you send them words of comfort or greeting to that effect, you are out rightly ignored. That's hypocrisy in the highest order!

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That long sought after alumni newsletter project finally came to reality with the publication of its inaugural issue on November 8. Though only two pages in length it nevertheless proved that with much needed help from supportive alums, a forum was launched where every body and anybody within the association can share and identify with. The editorial staff is optimistic that more contributors will come aboard and that more interesting articles will be published on the next issue. The newsletter comes quarterly or every three months. That leaves us a lot of time to prepare and write articles for the next issue. Do not worry about style and presentation. Important thing is, the thought is there or the theme is interesting or if it's news, the facts are genuine. The editorial staff would do all the tedious task of editing your articles before they get published. Feature stories, short stories, stories of personal interest, literary pieces, etc. are welcomed. So, grab your pen and hone your writing skills. It's English Composition 101 once again folks!

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Let us pray for the safety and well being of all our men and women in uniform especially for those who are deployed in different parts of our country and throughout the world. We are not oblivious to the fact that we have co-alumni who are currently serving in the nation's uniformed services. They and the rest of our troops who are engaged in various missions in support of this war against terrorism deserve our moral support and prayers. As we live a more vigilant life, let us not forget that it is because of these gallant men and women that we still continue to enjoy today the unabated freedom and the bliss of peace and prosperity, which we have enjoyed throughout the centuries. So, the next time you meet a veteran, or someone you know serving in the military, or anybody wearing a military uniform for that matter, do not forget to thank him or her for the freedom that you and your family enjoy.

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With plans of a homecoming reunion in the Philippines for Class 1973, looks like the organizers are taking it to another level. I do support their efforts. This will be a "homecoming reunion" in its truest sense. I am not privy to the details of their plans but what won my approval is the fact that many alums who otherwise could nor make the journey here, due to exorbitant costs of flying and other related expenses, could directly participate and partake of the fun. Stateside alums are much better off making the trip rather than their contemporaries back home. What a noble idea of bringing the nostalgia closer to the hearts of those who can least afford it. Wouldn't it be nice to borrow a page from class '73's act and hold a grand reunion in the foreseeable future?

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FRIENDSHIP: SWEETENED AND SOURED BY TIME

Since its establishment, the DWCUAA has once more proven it can bridge the lives of its many alumni. Stories of former best friends being reunited again either in person or by way of correspondence are as heartening to hear as those tales of former foes burying the hatchet and reconciling for good times sake. Equally inspiring are anecdotes about secret crushes being revealed after a quarter of a century of being on the wraps. Amazing may be the word to describe how one comes to the reality that after all we treasure the friendship - and the memory that goes with it - even more, the years of absence from one another, notwithstanding. That time played a major role in this added flavor to the mix. Why such friendship is valued even more now as before is in itself a challenge worthy of study for the social scientist.

From an unprofessional perspective, it could be easily gleaned that time had aged the relationship and nurtured it through its passing. The thought and realization of not being able to turn back the hands of time and experience puberty and adolescence all over again, perhaps, perks up the excitement to recapture the past and live it once more in the present. Is it the human being's instinct to socially bond with his or her fellow human being or, is it the need to interact and feel secure in the company of tested friends and acquaintances that explains this social phenomenon? If we go by these amateurish views, it then comes as no surprise that many alumni reopened the corridors of their hearts toward friends and foes alike.

In stark contrast, a bewildering few had gone the opposite way defying the laws of behavioral relationship - if ever there is one. For how can one define the logic of these motley few in joining a social group, such as the DWCUAA, when they continue to betray the very foundation from which it was anchored upon? Stunning is the word that describes these individuals who remain adamant, cold and unreceptive to the many greetings and tidings of old acquaintances, obvious overtures from friends wanting to reclaim and recultivate a withered friendship.

Callous, insensitive, uncaring cold-hearted, hard, thick-skinned, and cruel; are just some of the adjectives we can ascribe to these alumni. So far, they have exhibited a complete reversal of the typical warm and welcoming alumni that pervade the association. Why they exhibit such attitude is again a good thesis for the budding social scientist.

Which now brings us to this point: that friendship must not be ascertained to be strong and unbreakable until it is tested. The passing of time, ultimately, will help serve as a good litmus test as to the genuineness and sincerity of a relationship. Like wine, it will unravel itself ready for the taking. Whether sweetened or soured, only time can tell. Look no further for proof of evidence. All we need to do is look and feel around us to know the answer. Friends! Anyone?

Class 1973 Reunion Update

The proposed reunion of Class 1973 is still on track as far as we can tell. The class reunion as proposed will take place in 2003 in the City of Urdaneta, Province of Pangasinan, Republic of the Philippines. Stateside coordinators are Rafael Soriano, Anecita Cavero-Rodil and Nancy Garcia. In the Philippines, Elpidio Angeles, Jr. and Shari Mamalio are the coordinators. The Class of 1973 alumni around the world are advised to contact the above-mentioned alumni if interested in helping coordinate this event. Please visit the DWCUAA website at <http://members.tripod.com/dwcualumni/> for more information or send an email to DWAUAA_73-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

FLASHBACKS
By: Igoy Zaid

I still remember the gardening tasks at the back of the school grounds male students performed as part of their vocational subjects? If you were not involved in the stealing imbroglio that rocked Mr. Manzano's classes, then you certainly had one of the most boring teenage lives on campus. The deed involved the theft of the biggest and healthiest *pichay* seedlings of neighboring plots and substituting it for your least desirable ones. This undesirable activity was so famous that boys with robust vegetables were always under suspicion of being involved in the caper. Much later, a new *modus operandi* was introduced in that it involved the stealing of robust ready-to-be-harvested "*pichay*" and substituted with a thin, unhealthy looking one. Oh, yes, the aggrieved parties soon became self-styled vigilantes. They hid behind tall cogon grasses ready to spring into action and apprehend would-be perpetrators. And would we ever wonder why Mr. Manzano lost his hair at so young an age?