



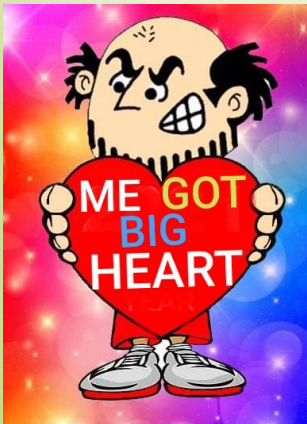
# Tumbleweeds



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



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**HAPPY VALENTINES TO ALL**

## LAUNCHING OF OPERATION BIG BROTHER IN 1975 by Ric Bartolome '73A

Excitement! Apprehension! Joy! Anticipation! Happiness! These words best describe the emotions that ran through the brotherhood as it was poised to launch a new activity. This would be the first time that the fraternity would give some underprivileged children the opportunity to experience the joys of the Christmas season - toys, food, fun, games, and laughter.

After carefully deliberating on what institution to adopt, the committee finally chose the children of Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, an orphanage that was managed by nuns.

Subsequently, the orphanage was informed of its having been chosen as the beneficiary of the activity and the specific date. After securing the approval of the management of the hospice, the brotherhood immediately started raising funds through

- Solicitation from alumni brods;

***Continue next page...***

## **OPERATION BIG BROTHER**

- Solicitation from companies (in the form of advertisements in the souvenir program that would be published); and
- Solicitation from the sister sorority, Sigma Beta, and other organizations.

It took the frat three months to prepare for this activity. The brotherhood made an inventory of all that we had collected and planned for the day's activities.

- There would be 300 children plus the nuns, so we provided 3 buses for them from Manila to Los Baños and back to Manila;
- Upon arrival at Baker Hall in UPLB, there would be a field trip to the Botanical Garden and mini-zoo at the College of Forestry;
- Snacks would be distributed to the participants;
- Lunch would be served at Baker Hall;
- After lunch, games for the children would start with corresponding prizes for each game;
- Food not consumed, cans of biscuits, and other dry goods would be given to the nuns to take back to the hospice;
- Whatever cash left would be donated to them.

During the event, some of the friends and girlfriends of the brods helped and of course our sisters from the Sigma Beta Sorority. The event ended at 4:00 in the afternoon and our guests left for Manila tired but happy.

The experience gave joy, inspiration, and fulfillment to the brotherhood. That was when we resolved to continue Operation Big Brother (OBB) on a yearly basis.

This activity was not an accident or just a whim on the part of the brods. Praise God, it must have been His hands that guided us to undertake this noble endeavor.

### **Editor's Note:**

*During the incumbency (1964) of the late Brod Gabby Viterbo'63b, our Fraternity showered Christmas joy to the wards of Elsie Gaches Village in Alabang. OBB, therefore, continued the fine legacy of our Frat looking after the disadvantaged... by Brod Larry Santiago'64a*

## 1975: THE BEGINNINGS OF OPERATION BIG BROTHER by Obet Oliva '74E

It was shortly after the Frat's Anniversary in August of 1975 when I was appointed to be the Chairman of "Operation Big Brother". This was supposed to be one of the impact projects launched by the Fraternity to increase visibility at the University and recruit more members. The GP then was Del Ganapin.

The fraternity was so excited of this project that I remember having weekly meetings "sa likod ng Tambayan sa Coop" to plan the activities. Everybody seems to be "in na in sa activity". This was also my initiation into real leadership as I have been told that the success of this project will mean a lot to the fraternity.

With my co-batch Chito Protacio (74-E Bagyo) as my Co-Chair, we went a couple of times to the Hospicio de San Jose near Malacañang, Manila to finalize the arrangements. We proposed that we will bring to UPLB about 300 juvenile children to be given food, toys, fun and laughter by the brods. Medyo hirap din ang mga meetings na ito dahil ang mga kausap namin ay mga madre na nangangasiwa ng mga bata sa Hospicio. Marami siyang mga tanong tungkol sa aming layunin. Madalas kaming nagkakatinginan ni Brod Chito because the nuns were so prim and proper. Kung mas marami kaming madadala na mga bata, mas gusto nila, at kailangan lang ay siguruhin ang kaligtasan ng mga bata.

After these visits to Hospicio, Brod Wow and I would roam around Quiapo and we were even bragging that if only the people we see all around us would know that we were Betans, then they might ask us for autographs – hehe . We were so proud of being Beta Sigmans. Needless to state, because of the almost weekly meetings, our frequent visits to the Hospicio de San Jose, and the energy dedicated by the brods, – Operation Big Brother which was held in December of 1975 became a huge success.

I remember the children running and playing at Baker Hall and grounds enjoying the food and the toys, with the brods likewise happy about being "Big Brothers". It was a day when UPLB became big brothers as well as the other constituents, who did not only attend the event, but likewise chipped in. Today, we are proud that Operation Big Brother still lives on! Long live the Beta Sigma Fraternity.





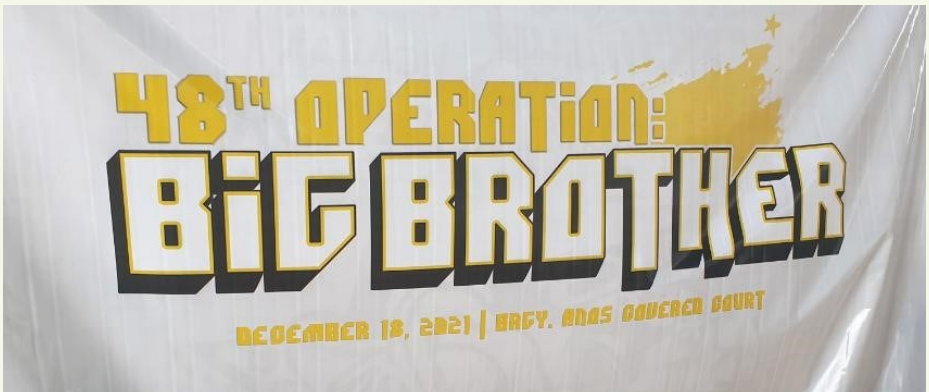
## FIRST OBB

by Nonoy Tagaro '77B

It is almost Christmas in 1975, where I witnessed 300 special kids from Manila who were treated a whole day of fun and joyful gifts. As a joyful 4th year student, a Betan Elite, I shed tears of joy to witness how happily they received their gifts from the Brods/Kuyas. I didn't know what they call this activity but the brods were all wearing violet Malmon T-shirts. Imagine more than a hundred Brods plus the Sisters occupying the entire stage of Baker Hall. Great to witness these kind of activities. Marami pang sumunod...

## 2021: 48th OPERATION BIG BROTHER

Cheers to UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity residents. The 48th OPERATION BIG BROTHER held at Brgy. Anos, Los Baños, Laguna



### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief:** Tony Frio

**Managing Editor & Lay-out:** Leo Balagot

**Contributing Writers/Editors:**

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**Alumni Association Reps:** Plato Tirol, UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association, Inc.; Alice Quicoy, UPLB Sigma Beta Sorority Alumnae Association

**E-group Circulation:** Keith Tidon

### EDITORIAL BOARD OF ADVISERS

Dong Rasco, Vic Tupaz, Norms Fajardo, Maan Botengan, Tony Frio (ex-officio)

## Alumni Board of Trustees for 2022-2023

by Mark Nubla '79D

The election of the new set of members of the UPLB Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Board of Trustees for 2022-2023 was held last 11 December 2022 at the Resort of Brod Obet Oliva in Umali Subdivision, Los Baños. The election committee, led by Brod Thad Lawas, with resident Brods, Grand Princep Mico Acosta and Second Vice Nathaniel Domoguen, conducted the online voting and tallying of the results. There were only 11 nominees to fill up 11 seats, thus the process was just to formalize the proclamation. The following were elected and proclaimed as BOT for 2022-2023:



Nick Angel 83B	Dutch Aragoness 78B
Romulo Eala 79A	Freddy Fajardo 64A
Jonaz Labastilla 95A	Mark Nubla 79D
Gil Buddy Quililan 78D	Mike Quilitis 92A
Manuelito Tagaro 77B	Lito Tetangco 82B.
Plato Tirol 78D	

The new set of BOT also elected the officers last 18 December 2021 at Brod Mark Nubla's residence in Tadalac, Los Baños. Brod Plato Tirol was re-elected as president, meanwhile Brod Mike Quilitis was elected as new vice president. Brods Romulo Eala and Mark Nubla were re-elected as secretary and treasurer, respectively. The election committee proclaimed and confirmed the election via online.

This is the first time we elected an alumnus abroad, with Brod Dutch Aragoness in the U.S. With this, we are hoping to gain connection, interaction and support from our abroad based brods.

On behalf of the current Board of Trustees, we are hoping that our active alumni will gain in number in the coming years to be able to sustain its various planned activities concerning our resident brods, our senior alumni in need, (lifeline), families of departed brods and other socio-civic projects.



BOT Zoom meeting last January 15, 2022

## A LOOK AT OUR CHARTER BATCH MEMBERS

by Dutch Aragonés '78B

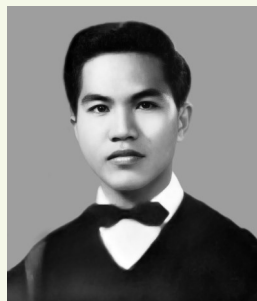
I wanted to put a face on our charter batch brothers. From the 1951, 1952, and 1954 Philippinensian issues, I was able to gather most of the profiles of these pioneer brods. Bernie Bituin'74, Freddy Fajardo'64, Alex Jasmin'78 and Olrac Malaban'77 were able to provide missing ones.



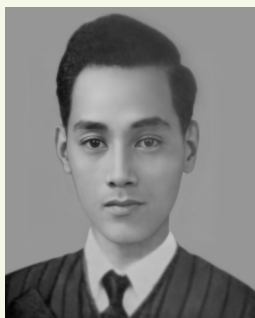
BERNARDO C. AGALOOS '50  
Kamuning, Quezon City  
College of Forestry



BENJAMIN D. ALMONTE '50  
Liliw, Laguna  
College of Forestry



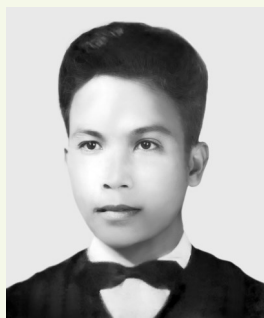
DOROTEO U. ANTONIO '50  
San Marcelino, Zambales  
College of Forestry



JULIAN L. AVELLANO '50  
General Nakar, Quezon  
College of Forestry



JUAN S. BALLESTEROS '50  
Bugallon, Pangasinan  
College of Forestry



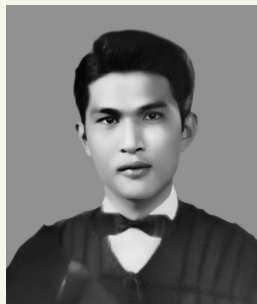
FRANCISCO C. BANDONG '50  
Los Baños, Laguna  
College of Agriculture



ARTEMIO A. CALEDA '50  
Tuguegarao, Cagayan  
College of Forestry



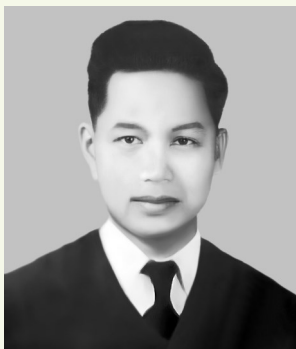
LOURDIO L. CLAMOHoy '50  
Lopez Jaena, Misamis Occ.  
College of Agriculture



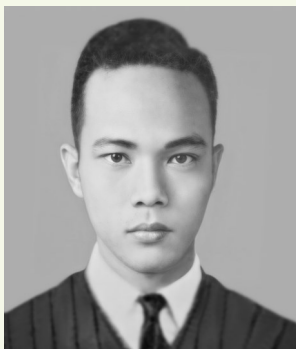
VICTORIANO M. CORPUZ '50  
Aritao, Nueva Viscaya  
College of Forestry



JOSE ANTONIO C. CRUZ '50  
Los Baños, Laguna  
College of Forestry



JOSE R. DEANON Jr. '50  
San Juan, Rizal  
College of Agriculture



BASILIO N. DE LOS REYES '50  
Los Baños, Laguna  
College of Agriculture



TAUTI R. DERICO '50  
Lumbatan, Lanao Del Sur  
College of Agriculture



AMANDO D. DIASANTA '50  
Perez, Quezon  
College of Forestry



LAZARO G. DYCAICO '50  
Angeles, Pampanga  
College of Agriculture

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CHARTER BATCH MEMBERS



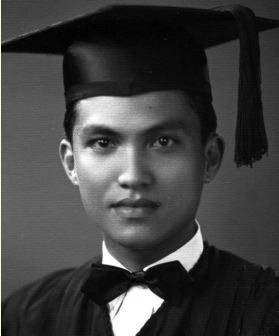
DIONISIO M. DYCHIOCO Jr. '50  
Angeles, Pampanga  
College of Agriculture



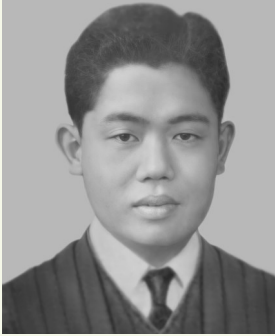
MANUEL C. ESGUERRA '50  
Los Baños, Laguna  
College of Agriculture



EMMANUEL M. ESTACION '50  
Bacolod City, Negros Occ  
College of Agriculture



ROMUALDO V. EUSEBIO '50  
San Carlos, Negros Occidental  
College of Agriculture



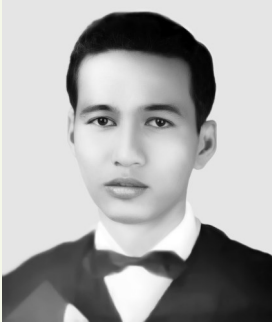
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Manila  
College of Agriculture



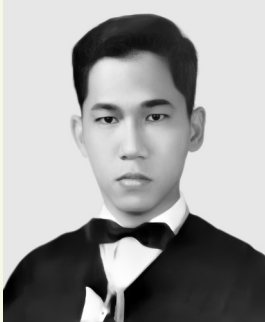
ISIDRO P. FERARRIS '50  
Manapla, Negros Occidental  
College of Agriculture



BENJAMIN C. GANA '50  
Malate, Manila  
College of Agriculture



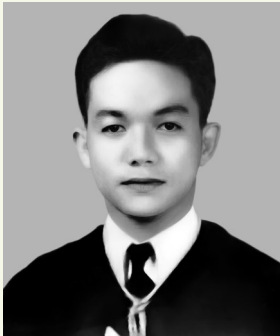
BIENVENIDO V. GARCIA '50  
San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte  
College of Agriculture



ANDRES D. GOSECO Jr. '50  
Guagua, Pampanga  
College of Agriculture



ONOFRE T. GRIÑO Jr. '50  
Pontevedra, Negros Occidental  
College of Agriculture



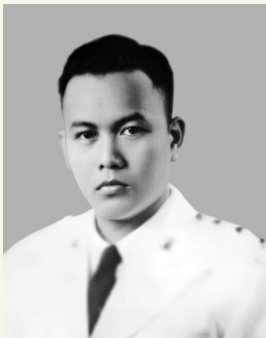
MANUEL C. IÑIGO '50  
Ermita, Manila  
College of Agriculture



BERNARDO B. JASMIN '50  
Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya  
College of Forestry



TEODORO M. KATIGBAK '50  
Lipa City, Batangas  
College of Agriculture



CLARO A. LIZARDO III '50  
Bangued, Abra  
College of Agriculture



RAUL L. LOPEZ '50  
San Juan, Batangas  
College of Agriculture



CHARTER BATCH MEMBERS



EDGARDO O. MABESA '50  
Manila  
College of Forestry



APOLINARIO L. MALABANAN '50  
Lipa City, Batangas  
College of Agriculture



EVANGELINO L. MALACOCO '50  
Sta. Cruz, Laguna  
College of Forestry



DEOGRACIAS V. MALIGALIG '50  
Los Baños, Laguna  
College of Agriculture



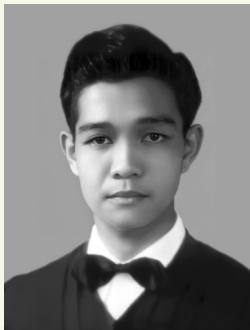
RAFAEL A. MARTELINO '50  
Malate, Manila  
College of Agriculture



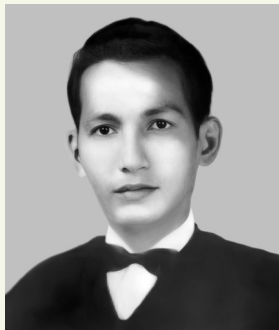
LINO E. NAZARENO '50  
Loon, Bohol  
College of Agriculture



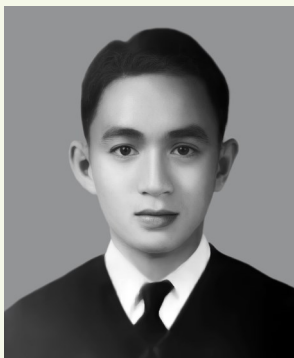
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Sampaloc, Manila  
College of Agriculture



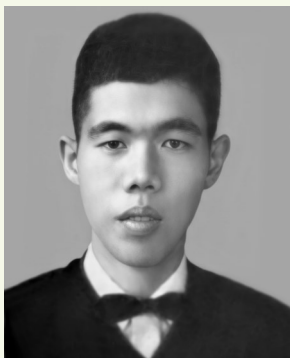
DOMINGO B. PROTACIO '50  
Daliao, Davao City  
College of Agriculture



REYNALDO C. RODRIGUEZ '50  
Cuyo, Palawan  
College of Agriculture



VICTORIANO P. RODRIGUEZ '50  
Brooke's Point, Palawan  
College of Agriculture



MAXIMO J. SAGRADO '50  
Jagna, Bohol  
College of Forestry



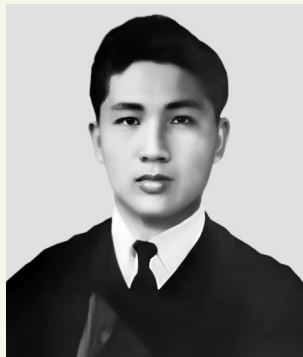
PEDRO B. SALVADOR '50  
Ballesteros, Cagayan  
College of Forestry



JAIME A. SANDIQUE '50  
Muñoz, Nueva Ecija  
College of Agriculture



AMADO C. SARDIÑA '50  
Binalonan, Pangasinan  
College of Forestry



INOCENCIO H. SARIO '50  
Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya  
College of Forestry



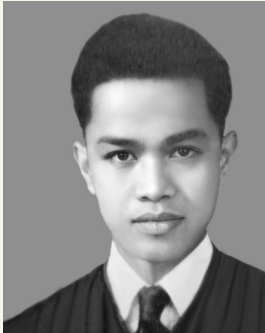
CHARTER BATCH MEMBERS



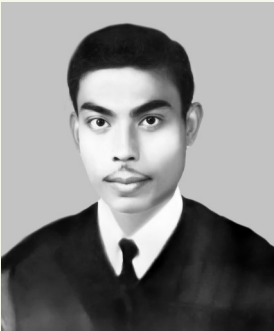
JUANITO S. SARMENTA '50  
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija  
College of Agriculture



PACIFICO J. SEQUERA '50  
Sta. Cruz, Laguna  
College of Agriculture



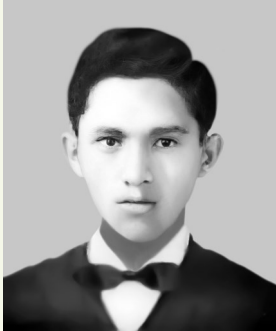
CIRILO B. SERNA '50  
Talungatung, Zamboanga City  
College of Forestry



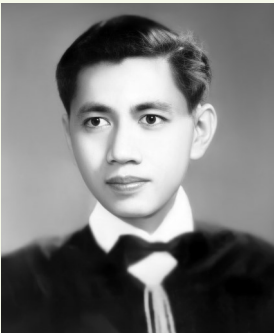
JESUS R. TADENA '50  
Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur  
College of Forestry



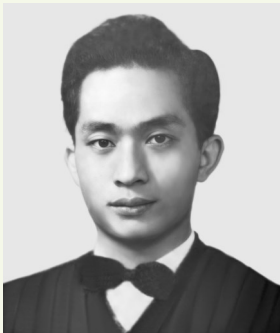
LUDOVICO N. TAYAG '50  
Angeles, Pampanga  
College of Agriculture



DOMINADOR M. TOMBO '50  
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija  
College of Agriculture



MARIO O. VALENCIA '50  
Carcar, Cebu  
College of Agriculture



IRVING P. VILLASOR '50  
Bacolod City, Negros Occ.  
College of Agriculture



QUIRINO N. VILLAVIZA '50  
Aliaga, Nueva Ecija  
College of Agriculture



RODOLFO C. YLARDE '50  
Bongabon, Nueva Ecija  
College of Agriculture

We may never know how these 62 pio-  
neers came together as a group. But  
clearly, they transcended the barriers of  
wealth, region, creed and prejudice:

Los Baños local boys - Francisco Ban-  
dong, Jose Antonio Cruz, Basilio De Los  
Reyes, Manuel Esguerra, Deogracias  
Maligalig & Apolinario Maligaya

Tagalog areas - Benjamin Almonte, Julian Avellano, Jose  
Deanon, Amando Diasanta, Evangelino Malacoco & Pacifico  
Sequera

Batangueños - Teodoro Katigbak, Raul Lopez & Apolinario  
Malabanan

Manila boys - Bernardo Agaloos, Pablo Feliciano, Benjamin Ga-  
na, Manuel Iñigo, Edgardo Mabesa, Rafael Martelino & Em-  
manuel Pili

Continue next page...

CHARTER BATCH MEMBERS

Kapampangans - Lazaro Dyaico, Dionisio Dychioco & Ludovico Tayag

Nueva Ecijans - Juanito Sarmenta, Dominador Tombo, Quirino Villaviza & Rodolfo Ylarde

Nueva Vizcayons - Victoriano Corpuz, Bernardo Jasmin & Inocencio Sario

Cagayanos - Artemio Caleda, Claro Lizardo & Pedro Salvador

Ilocanos - Doroteo Antonio, Honorato Esteves, Bienvenido Garcia, Amado Sardina & Jesus Tadena

Ilonggos - Emmanuel Estacion, Romualdo Eusebio, Isidro Ferraris, Onofre Griño & Irving Villasor

Visayans - Lourdio Clamohoy, Lino Nazareno, Maximo Sagrado, Gregorio Santos & Mario Valencia

Mindanaoans - Tauti Derico, Domingo Protacio, Reynaldo Rodriguez, Victoriano Rodriguez & Cirilo Serna

We can posterize our charter brothers and have it on public display on special occasions or post in social media as a video clip. Prospects may gain a sense of affinity and therefore, be motivated to join our fold.

Please share photos of the following charter members if you have them in your memorabilias...

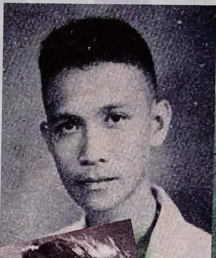
Romeo V. Aquino  
Marcelo M. Catalan  
Honorato D. Esteves  
Felix Y. Laguna Jr.  
Apolinario L. Maligaya  
Enrique Rivera  
Gregorio L. Santos

OFFICERS:

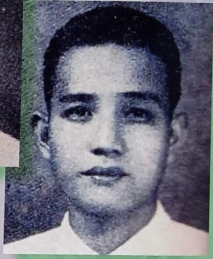
President -Rodolfo Ylarde  
Vice-President -Edgardo Mabesa  
Secretary -Andres Goseco  
Asst. Secretary -Victoriano Corpuz  
Treasurer -Reynaldo Rodriguez  
Asst. Treasurer -Jesus Tadeña  
Business Manager -Manuel Iñigo  
Press Relation Officers - Bienvenido Garcia  
Benjamin Alonte  
Sergeants-at-arms -Jose Cruz  
Apolinario Maligaya

Faculty Adviser -Dr. Dioscoro Umali  
Sweetheart -Miss Josephine Calma

Josephine Calma  
Sweetheart



Rudy Ylarde  
President



Dr. Dioscoro Umali  
Adviser

If you have as much free time as I do, you will undoubtedly be spending some time reminiscing about the good old college days, the Fraternity, the fond memories with our brods, adventures and misadventures, girlfriends, etc... As I was going over old photographs, I came across a group picture of the Cream of the Crop, comprising members from the UP College of Agriculture (UPCA), who joined the fraternity in 1956, brod Virgilio "Boie" Atienza caught my attention.

I remembered that Boie and I were assigned to a group of freshmen who graduated at the top of their classes and were admitted as UPCA entrance scholars. Boie was class valedictorian. I was not at the top of my class but I had a scholarship from the Philippine Packing Corporation.

The first friendly faces that freshmen met when they arrived in campus were student volunteers who welcomed and assisted them navigate the cumbersome registration process. I soon learned that the volunteers were members of the Beta Sigma Fraternity. I also found out later, while they were providing assistance, they were also carefully identifying potential members to invite to join the fraternity. The Betans immediately identified Boie as a prime candidate for recruitment. He was very personable and possessed many of the characteristics the fraternity was looking for.

During his freshman year the fraternity invited him to social functions and other campus activities. Then he was asked by the Duty Above all Party, the student organization of the Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Sigma Beta Sorority, to run for freshman class president. He won that election. Boie joined the fraternity in 1956 during his sophomore year. Undoubtedly, his friendship and close association, from the day he arrived in campus, with members of the Beta Sigma Fraternity, played a significant role in his decision to join the fraternity.

He was elected sophomore class president and in his junior year, elected to the U.P. Student Council, representing the UPCA (I don't remember if there was another representative for the College of Forestry).

Boie appears in the directory compiled by brod Francisco "Frankie" Cornejo as a member of Batch '56 "Cream of the Crop" and in the Book of Brotherhood published by brod Daryl "Dutch" Aragonas as a member of Batch '58.

***Continue next page...***

## THE SAGA OF VIRGILIO "BOIE" ATIENZA



Ed C. Quisumbing

This is not a mistake, actually Boie joined the fraternity twice, and was fully initiated both times! To my knowledge, no one else has done this.

What were the circumstances that led to Boie joining the fraternity twice? Let me recount the series of incidents that led to the unusual events. As the election of officers of the 1957 U.P. Student Council

election was coming up, the Greek Societies decided to challenge the dominance of the UP Student Catholic Action (UPSCA) for control of the student government. The University Student Council was dominated by UPSCANS for the past years. None of the fraternity and sorority organizations were strong enough to challenge UPSCA on their own, so they agreed to form an Alliance and field a common slate of candidates against UPSCA. The race for U.P. student council president was dead even. All votes were crucial. Boie's vote was very crucial.

The Beta Sigma Fraternity committed Boie's vote to the alliance and its common presidential candidate who happened to be an Upsilonian. The fraternity instructed Boie to vote for the candidate of the alliance.

On the eve of the election, UPSCA somehow found out that Boie was struggling with the idea of voting for someone belonging to a fraternity which was a bitter rival in the university. During those exciting times, the Betans and Upsilonians competed on anything under the sun - campus politics, theater arts, debating teams, scholastic performance, and who were more handsome. The rivalry was more intense at the Los Baños campus. And to add to the pain, the Betans had more Sigma Deltan girlfriends than the Upsilonians. Don't get me wrong. We love the Sigma Betans too. The fraternity holds the record for number of brods and sis getting married to each other than any other organization!

UPSCA operatives were able to find out where Boie was staying in Manila before the elections and invited him to spend the night at their headquarters where they wined and dined him. I believe that Boie found out he was more comfortable with the UPSCANS and this was what decided his vote. He just could not vote for an Upsilonian.

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THE SAGA OF VIRGILIO "BOIE" ATIENZA

UPSCA won the election by one vote, Boie's. The Alliance wanted Boie's head and the Beta Sigma Fraternity obliged by expelling him from the fraternity. Cream of the Crop, Boie's batch stood by him but the majority, including those from Dili-man felt that he should be punished not only for his insubordi-nation but also for making the fraternity lose face. Boie accept-ed his expulsion, stayed out of the limelight and focused on his studies. In 1958, he decided to apply for membership in the fra-ternity again. He was initiated, survived the finals, and admitted into the fraternity again. After that, Boie faded into the sunset. After graduation he did not keep in touch with the brods.

What went through Boie's mind when he decided not to vote for the candidate of the Alliance and vote for UPSCA's candidate instead? The limited information I have came from Brod Anggie Angliongto, who had the unique experience of having been initi-ated by Boie in 1957 and who in turn initiated Boie when he re-joined the fraternity in 1958. He asked Boie why he did what he did – vote for the UPSCAN candidate. Boie told Brod Anggie that never in his wildest dreams did he ever think the fraternity would expel him for refusing to vote for an Upsilonian. Well he thought wrong and accepted the consequences. But he loved the fraternity so much that he decided to prove it by becoming a Betan again knowing the difficult and painful ordeal he must overcome.

I hope that anyone who reads this chronicle will get back to me with any information they may have of Boie. What province did he come from, what high school did he graduate from, who were his parents, did he have siblings, what career did he pur-sue after graduation? I would like very much to have this infor-mation to paint a full picture of this brave, loyal, honorable and extraordinary member of the UPCA Beta Sigma Fraternity batch 1956 (Cream of the Crop) and batch 1958.



Boie



Batch Cream of the Crop '56

## ***Prologue***

The mid-fifties were a very significant period in world history. The Korean war just ended. In a little known country in South-east Asia, Vietnam, the French suffered military defeat in a remote valley called Dien Bien Phu and were subsequently kicked out by the communist Viet Minh. The Philippines' recently elected president, Ramon Magsaysay, had instituted changes in the government and was focused on developing agricultural resources. He called on the youth of the country to go back to the land and cultivate it. President Magsaysay's exhortations attracted a lot of young Filipinos to study at the UP College of Agriculture.

At the University of the Philippines, both at the Diliman and Los Baños campuses, the Greek-letter organizations, as the fraternities were commonly referred to, were the main players in campus politics and extracurricular activities. At the Diliman campus four to five fraternities were active players. In Los Baños it was a toe to toe fight between the Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity.

Meanwhile, in Manila, a certain personality was emerging who would influence the life of the Greek-letter societies in the UP campus. He was Father John Delaney, SJ, who was then the chaplain of UP Diliman and parish priest of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice composed of the whole Diliman campus and the Balara community. He was also the adviser and spiritual director of the newly organized UP Student Catholic Action (UPSCA) and wrote a column for the influential Catholic newspaper *Sentinel*. The very outspoken Jesuit priest openly criticized the Greek-letter societies' method of recruiting members and their method of settling differences (meaning the rumbles).

Father Delaney seized the opportunity to ride on the events occurring in Manila. The hazing incidents at the Philippine Military Academy were being blown out of proportion by certain political interests and were then being discussed in Congress. His exposures did not produce the desired effect of eliminating or castrating the activities of the fraternities in UP. However, his efforts caused the UP administration to scrutinize the initiation procedures of the fraternities. These events, either by design or accident, propelled the UPSCA into the political arena at the Diliman campus where it became a major player in student politics.

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## **TRAVELS WITH MY BROTHERS**

At the Los Baños campus, politics and other extracurricular activities were still being contested by the Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Upsilon Sigma Phi Fraternity. Meanwhile UPSCA was feebly trying to enter the political arena by supporting individual candidates. UPSCA had a lot of members because its only requirements for membership were that- one was a *bona fide* student of the UP College of Agriculture and a Roman Catholic. No grade requirements, no sponsors, no screening and no initiations, UPSCA was a coed organization. At this point of the game we courted their votes. Their political support depended on the charisma of the candidate, the ethnicity of the voters, and the persuasive powers of the campaigners.

This was the prevailing climate when the Beta Sigma 1955 Agriculture “Aggie” chapter came into being.

### ***The Batch of 1955***

In 1955 the naming of batches was not yet practiced in Los Baños. Our batch, Batch of 1955 Agriculture Chapter, was the last unbaptized batch. The following year, 1956, was the birth year of the Cream of the Crop batch. This name was bestowed on the batch by then president, the late Ric Abejuela '54.

That year 1955 there were 160 formal applicants to the Beta Sigma Fraternity (formal means they had written applications and were qualified to go to the first screening). After 5 screenings 30 were short listed and answered the roll call at the cow pasture behind the bungalows and ran the first gauntlet. Batch '55 had a 7-week initiation period, 6 weeks of which were of “fun and games”. The slaves of the Beta Sigma Fraternity were called neophytes and wore identifying tags with their slave names. The more colorful names stuck even after the finals up until the brods' last rites. Interestingly Frankie Colanta's *Hopya* was not a slave name. It was given to him by Ning de la Paz when Frankie refused to divulge what his middle initial *H* is.

The first 6 weeks of the initiation period was open season where one could be kidnapped. The seventh week was for rest and recuperation because the administration wanted the candidates for membership to be examined at the infirmary before the induction (that's what they called our finals). However, the one week of no touch did not exempt the slaves from assignments like cleaning toilets, shining combat boots, downing copious amounts of Betan cocktails, and activities termed by

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Chop-chop Siasoco as parlor games. The physical and medical examinations that the administration wanted did not materialize and so we had our finals.

Despite this we were instructed to prepare an explanation for the marks on our bodies. Brods at the College of Medicine were consulted and medical scripts were readied to prove the veracity of the explanations by the brods as regards the green to black marks on their thighs

and buttocks, or the limp, or a sore right hand. We even convinced the good looking Boi Doneza to use his mestizo charm on the male nurse at the infirmary should the examination take place. Our finals were held at the Farm Machinery Building on a hot and humid Saturday afternoon. It was followed by dinner at the YMCA.

After 7 weeks or so of slavery which could be likened to the process of forging raw metal with the hottest fire to make the hardest steel, from the 30 short listed applicants only 26 metamorphosed and emerged as Betans. They were:

Arthur Abierra	Angel Espinosa
Ismael Ala	Juanito Gibe
Isabelo Alcordo	Sofronio Gonzales
Arturo Boncato	Angel Mendoza
Porfirio Castañeda	Vicente Momongan
Francisco H. Colanta	Edwardo Nabong
Francisco Cornejo	Conrado Nora
Reynaldo del Castillo	Serafin Opinion
Romeo Dilag	Abericio Pasco
Delfin Divinagracia Jr	Julius Quimpo
Romeo Dizon	Pedronio Ramos
Salvador Dolar	Amado Rances
Juanito Domingo	Manuel Villaflares

Last night (a Sunday night) we had a caucus. Besides talking about the preparations for the pinning ceremony for the frat ball, the coming Student Body election was discussed. We agreed to start the campaign. We Betans of the bungalows, as agreed upon the previous evening, had an early breakfast and at 8 am 15 of us got together at the back of Men's Dorm. We were joined



## TRAVELS WITH MY BROTHERS

by the brods from YMCA and Paskie Tantengco who resided up the hill. Together, off we went to the campus. We were instructed by Boi Doneza to be pleasant, to greet everybody we know - no rowdiness, no swaggering around as we went on our way to the library (the present Humanities Building).

Our walk was timed to hit the crowd of students going out of the Chemistry Lecture Hall, the freshmen going out of Entomology at the end of their zoology lecture, and the stream of students coming from their lecture at Animal Husbandry. There, in the morning sunlight, we sat on the steps of the library. We of Batch '55 wearing borrowed berets identified ourselves as the new Betans. There were no Malmon or Betan t-shirts at that time. Betans then had to project themselves as Betans. The library at that time had the Coop in its basement and the editorial office of Aggie Green and Gold, the College newsletter. The building was opened the year before and was cleaned by Batch '54 for use and occupancy. Betans always gravitated towards that building and the library front steps became the Tambayan. During inclement weather brods would go down to the Coop. Eventually we treated the Coop as an informal meeting place. When the Coop moved to its present location the brods followed suit.

In 1955 we lost the elections. Cesar Ramos won over our own Buddy Dolar. We made a comeback the following year when our candidate Dalmacio Cruz won over the Student Party-UPSCA candidate. Despite this victory the fraternity concentrated more of its efforts in cultural activities. We presented musical concerts at Baker Hall, small songfests at the Chemistry Auditorium, and Broadway productions also at Baker Hall.

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## TID BITS

by Stephen Tay '78B and Al Piedad '77A

### Contagious gays



Today I will tell you the story of a hit man (that's what he claimed to be). Now this guy had been imprisoned for quite some time and he started to have intimate relationships with gays. This phase was what I called ASSociation and the hit man was now an ASSasin.

Sometime in August 2020, we were surprised to hear that the ASSasin tried to molest a younger inmate. This was now the second phase I called ASSimilation. That was really ASStounding considering that the gay contagion was insidious and could turn a hardcore hit man to a literal asshole lover and finally to hitting on men. Gays not only could give you HIV and other STD but literally change you into their likeness.

That was not the end of the story. The very next day another asshole lover slit his own neck because his gay lover left him for another asshole lover. The warden asked me how bad the wound was and I told him that guy lacked sincerity. Warden nodded his head and said oh superficial only. ASStonishing isn't it. But come to think of it, most gays don't have progeny but their numbers are increasing not by multiplication but by extrapolation. Ever wonder how? Hmmm is there really something in the chicken? Nahhhh, I still think it is by infection. What is your input on this? One last question, if you manhandle and rape a gay would the offense be called ASSault and BUTTery?

### Introduction

Sometime between mid and late 1930's, a man was just starting to doze off on a small cot. The cot was located inside a small room with a window high above head level. The window was lined with thick steel bars. There was only a single door in the room and the lock was a heavy bolt lock located outside the room. The man suddenly jumped up, reached behind and into his pants and was able to fish out his tormentor. The culprit was a bedbug with a bloated abdomen. The man shouted invectives at his tormentor and slowly dismembered the trapped bug limb by limb. Finally, when all the limbs were dismembered the man gleefully squeezed the life out of the poor bug. The satisfaction the man had was short-lived for the bug had given the man its last revenge. The man paced his room furiously while at the same time scratching the intense itch on his butt.

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**TID BITS**

After some time, the itch subsided and the pacing on the floor slowed down. The man started stroking his moustache and the odor on his finger seeped from his olfactory gland into his central nervous system and permeated his whole being. This gave him a jolt of energy and a eureka moment on the purpose of his life. His mind was lucid when he decided to write a book which would become a guide for the National Socialist Party of Germany. He decided to call his book “MEIN HAMPF”.

As the cliché goes the rest is history. The man rose to power and, like a fart, he gave off a strong obnoxious presence that lingered for a short time before wafting into oblivion leaving behind unpleasant memories of the stench. His poor penmanship caused his biographer to rename his work “Mein Kampf” because the letter **h** was mistaken for the letter **k**.

Now, what has Das Fuhrer anything to do with this book? Well for a start, I was lying on my “tarima” inside my cell, when a darn bedbug bit me on the butt and gave me the itch. Of course I squeezed the bug and of course I scratched my butt but I did not get my enlightenment to write a book from an olfactory inspiration. Neither is this book written for the purpose of guiding a political party. I started writing this book out of boredom and to record in something tangible my experiences when I was in jail.

Originally, I was planning on a book about a couple of teenage gay detectives’ investigation into exotic coffee which was to be titled “The Hardly Boys in Fancy Brew”. This did not pan out because I found it truly difficult to decipher the gay lingo. Hence I decided on the second option, Mein Hampf.

### **Repurposed instrument**

The Bureau upgraded the infirmary by issuing us with a portable pulse oximeter. A pulse oximeter can check the oxygen saturation of your blood and take your pulse rate. This small gadget is very useful in monitoring health conditions and in detecting pulmonary and cardiac conditions.

Now I am going to tell you another use for pulse oximeter. Something strange had been going on for quite some time. Things (usually money) kept disappearing. One day my cook came to me and started to complain about how he was missing some money. His suspects were our two psychiatric cellmates.

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He told me it was either one of them. He set out a trap hoping to catch the thief in the act. Not a smart move, I may add, because his money disappeared all the same. This time the thief was even considerate because he left behind some pocket change. My cook was now desperate and asked me for advice. That night I announced that there was a thief in our dorm and the victim would conduct an interrogation with the suspect attached to a lie detector.

Early in the morning, I told the two suspects that they were the most likely candidates and they would both undergo the lie detector test one at a time. I suspected my previous cook but asked my current cook to interrogate the other suspect first. We brought Suspect Number 1 to the infirmary and I attached the pulse oximeter onto his finger. I explained to him that each time he deceived us the numbers in the meter would indicate he was lying. After the interrogation I sent him back to the dorm telling him that we would call the second suspect later as we had yet to evaluate our findings.

The real reason was to give the true suspect time to simmer. I had already asked another cellmate to observe the reaction of the second suspect. On the return of Suspect Number 1, the second suspect started to ask a lot of questions about what happened. He started to lose his smug composure and became very uneasy. At the height of his nervousness, I asked him to come to the infirmary for the lie detector test. When he walked into the infirmary, he was so nervous that when I tried to put the pulse oximeter on him his hand was shaking so hard I had to hold it down while my cook interviewed him. He spilled the beans and admitted his guilt plus more. I stopped my cellmates from beating him but even though he promised to change he was still evicted from our dorm.

Plenty utility china quality pulse oxi.



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### Sildenafil (Viagra) a life saver

M is an inmate with Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COLD). He is also a survivor of myocardial infarction. During the last exacerbation of his COLD he was brought to the hospital where he was intubated. When he looked around there were seven other intubated patients and one by one those patients died. He decided to extubate himself and returned to jail against medical advice.

One particular night, he suddenly developed severe chest pains and difficulty in breathing not relieved by nebulization nor inhalation of oxygen at 5L per minute. He was immediately rushed to the infirmary. Initial examination revealed that his BP was up, breath sounds were harsh but no wheezes. Veins were distended and his description of chest pain was that of a heavy object pressing down on his chest. He was immediately given beta blocker and calcium channel blocker but his BP remained elevated. I also gave him 400 mg of powderized aspirin. Chest pain was not relieved and I was at a loss on what to do next as we were not stocked with medicines for such a condition. I recommended hospitalization but M refused saying that he would only be intubated there and he could not survive if hospitalized. Suddenly I remembered that there were 2 packs of Sildenafil 100 mg gel brought in by a newly remanded inmate. I sequestered the Sildenafil and gave M titrated doses starting from about 25 mg. There was an immediate alleviation of chest pains. I gave a second dose after 30 minutes and further alleviation was observed.

Sildenafil was originally intended as a heart medication because its action was to increase nitric oxide which is a very potent vasodilator. In M's case it increased the blood flow to the heart muscle as well as decreased the work load of the heart. Thank God for Viagra although for M it was a no boner.

