Football champs for 3 years straight

Mañalac wins MOST 2010 award

Southridge Night School Formula for Success

MORE THAN BRAIN GAIN...
A SOUTHRIDGE EDUCATION

2 Letters to the Editor
8 Fathers’ Day
11 On Education
13 The Presidentiables
14 Reviews
16 Kaabay Christmas Party
THE RIDGE

We, the editors and staff of The Ridge, commit ourselves to the highest level of professional journalistic ethics. We promote among our fellow students a love for noble ideals and a desire to overcome personal egoism.

We foster an awareness of social problems and encourage fraternity in keeping with the school’s family spirit. We love the truth thus we report with facts, without judging intentions, upholding the legitimate diversity of opinions in a calm way, without resorting to personal attacks. We seek the truth, love it and humbly tell it.

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The Joy and Splendor of Learning

Education has been touted for many a year as “the great equalizer”. It is the means by which dreams are realized, and visions made into reality. But do we really know what education means aside from what is obvious to us? Is it merely spending countless days on end in the classroom with friends and companions, listening to lecture upon lecture, poring over books and passages till you can’t read another line? We often lumber on through the routine of school without ever pausing to think about what on earth we’re actually doing. How often do we seek the connection between such staid and academic learning in the classroom to our future professions and prospective careers? We merely pass the days in a state of contented, ignorant bliss.

Well, perhaps its time we educate ourselves about education. Perhaps we can seek to win for ourselves a deeper and better understanding of the concept behind our quest for knowledge, so that in time this richer comprehension of what we do and why will in turn lead us to appreciate in a fuller way the value of our time in school. In time we may even find a way to make our stay in Southridge, or any other school for that matter, all the more fruitful and beneficial.

Perhaps it’s time that we attempt to recapture the joy and splendor of learning, of the ardent and passionate love for the academe. Too often we students have forgotten the main purpose of the long, dusty years we spend in class, which is first and foremost, to learn. We spend the first twenty or so years in school to enrich ourselves in various fields of study and aspects of knowledge. To see us grow intellectually is the ‘raison d’être’, or the reason for existence, of any educational institution.

So guys, instead of having our parents see the money they spend on our tuition turn into babysitting fees, let’s do right by them, by our selves, and by our school.
The Issue That Was

By Gino Guevara, First Year

First off, let me say that the last issue of the Ridge was not only very artistic and imaginative in the sense of the double front cover, which if I may add is a truly brilliant idea, but the most recent issue contained a variety of articles and opinions as well. The Ridge tackled as their main issues the appalling typhoons that haunted the majority of the Philippines, the Rock 4 Life concert held in the Southridge auditorium, and other events as well like the “Debating Renaissance”, “The Student Council” and many others as well. I really appreciated the fact that Southridge had not forgotten to write about Cory Aquino. She did the Philippines a great honor and I think it was splendid that the Ridge remembered and allotted a whole page to her (though I am still for Gibo in the 2010 elections); another article I liked was about the typhoon victims and what SR had done to aid their suffering. This article really showed that Southridge does care about its environment and it was a great topic to show school pride after such an upheaval and a truly devastating predicament.

The other main issue highlighted in the newspaper was describing the Rock 4 Life concert for the typhoon victims. I am sorry to say that I did not attend, but I heard that the concert was a success mainly due to the heavily anticipated band “Ars Moriendis”.

With all these positives, I'd like to tackle the negatives or the concepts I am not too fond off, one is the lack of interaction with the students. I think there are too few puzzles and the like for the students, and as a child by heart I think we need more of these.

I'd like to conclude that the most recent issue of the Southridge paper is worthy of being a Southridge paper, the articles are very spot on, intriguing and reader friendly. My only criticism is that the Ridge lacks a sports section wherein we can exhibit school pride, through a sports section we can show that the Southridge varsity is top notch and formidable. We can illustrate all the championships and accolades a certain team or athlete has received. Aside from this, the most recent issue is certainly a must-have and a must-read—even for the other schools.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor

Congratulations to you and your writers for the latest double-issue of the Ridge. Your attention to detail and organization of ideas are evident in the improved presentation of articles. Our students can really be effective communicators with a ‘Ridge’ style of writing comparable to professional news-magazines. I personally liked the tribute piece on President Cory Aquino and the article on the power of social networking websites. Keep up the good work. May you inspire all students to write well.

Gino Luayon, Afternoon Session
High School Principal

I think that the double-issue touch for The Ridge was great; although surprising, it allowed more interesting information to be placed in one paper. The articles are well-written, especially the “Some Challenges on The Philippine Political Horizon”. An interesting one for me, however, was the “Apocalypse Later” article, as it seems to add a certain amount of levity to the publication, which focused mainly on the tragedy of Ondoy and the workings of Philippine politics. Overall, this edition lives up greatly to the name The Ridge has made for itself.

Xavier Lorenzo Garcia,
Third Year

Dear Editor of The Ridge

I have read the last edition and found the content very interesting. I really like the cover page because of the pictures and how they convey particular messages to people that Southridge students are out there helping. The idea of having one right way up for the Cory topic and the other side which was upside down was for politics is a bit confusing. I enjoy reading The Ridge but when it comes to the point that it’s the other topic all of a sudden it’s upside down. It is a new technique to display two topics but sometimes it frustrates me because I cannot continue reading. I would end up turning it all the way to the other side and read from the beginning. I suggest you keep the whole thing right way up and devise another way of distinguishing the two topics. I particularly liked Nicollo Ordonez’s work because it was convincing and it was really well organized. It was nice how he showed the instances of the church guiding the Filipinos. Overall as a high school student I thoroughly enjoy reading The Ridge; I am just concerned for our new high school members, the first years in particular. Their mindset might not be ready for such deep words and serious information. As a student I can recall moments when some of my classmates would rather use a copy of The Ridge as a paper plane instead of reading it. The pictures are nice and relevant. Well since I’m a varsity player it would be nice and refreshing if there was at least one page devoted to Sports, maybe have a varsity member write about it. Sometimes when teams of Soccer and Basketball win it’s not mentioned at all. It would also benefit the teams if they realize that the school appreciates their effort and hard work. It would inspire the varsity members to feel a sense of togetherness.

Ryan Fermin
Second Year

Continued on page 15 ...
Interview with Thomas Mañalac, #1 ranked Muntinlupa outstanding student 2010

Continuing a legacy of excellence

By Carlos Victa, First Year

1. What challenges or obstacles did you have to overcome for this achievement?

Just like the other competitors in this year’s search for Muntinlupa’s Outstanding Students, I faced a multitude of obstacles during the month long process that took its toll on my family, the faculty and, of course, me.

The MOST is composed of several parts: the Portfolio, an IQ test, an Interview and the Talent portion. Each component was different and difficult. Plus, I had the pressure of continuing Southridge’s exemplary legacy in the competition.

“The Portfolio”. My first order of business was to prepare a portfolio showcasing my high school achievements, extra-curricular and leadership activities... some sort of a high school autobiography of mine. Sound easy? Well, it definitely was not. My mom helped me through sleepless nights preparing this portfolio, trying our best to present my achievements in an eye-catching, creative yet organized manner. My teachers as well guided me in creating this “labor of love”. Preparing this portfolio became an eye-opener for me; rather than recalling miserable moments and seemingly useless lessons in high school, I remembered the values that were inculcated in me. I cherished my values that were inculcated in me. I cherished my values that were inculcated in me.

“The Talent, IQ and Interview portion”. With the portfolio finished and submitted, I spent a considerable amount of time preparing for the dreaded interview. Time was certainly not on my side as the participants also spent time answering an IQ test, another component of the selection process. Another criterion for the selection of the top 10, the interview is an IQ test, the students’ community service activities, the talent portion, and an interview by a panel of judges.

Southridge MOST achievers since 1994

1994 Jeffrey Espiritu 2nd Place
1995 Clemente Domingo III 10th Place
1996 Robster Evangelista 3rd Place
Randell Suba 7th Place
1997 Miguel Lim 1st Place
Aaron Paul Villaraza 2nd Place
1998 Michael Vincent Mate 8th Place
1999 Ralph Guzman 1st Place
2000 Juan Miguel Montes 4th Place
Francis George Carandang 6th Place
2001 Martin Jose Gonzales 3rd Place
John Glen Kilayko 5th Place
2002 Mario Lozano 7th Place
2003 Raymund Cuesico 1st Place
2004 Juan Armando Diaz 1st Place
2005 Steven Camiña 1st Place
2006 Miguel Paolo Ignacio Chua 1st Place
2007 Lionel Victor L. Belen 10th Place
2008 Raymund Andrew Figueroa 4th Place
2009 Carlo Francisco Adajar 1st Place
2010 Thomas Mañalac 1st Place

The final and most exciting portion of the entire selection process was the talent showcase. I delivered a persuasive speech entitled “7 and a Half Things That Will make You an Awesome Muntinlupeno”. Fatigue was the enemy. By the time I performed, my voice was on the verge of disappearing due to endless hours of intense practice. But I willed myself and delivered, what I still believe, to be the most passionate and powerful speech I have ever given.

2. How confident were you when you entered the competition? Which part of the competition did you feel least confident?

It was about early January when I was called into the Principal’s Office... yes, a very scary moment indeed. A few minutes later, all of my worries vanished in an instant... I was just informed that I had been chosen to be Southridge’s representative for the “MOST”. After a few seconds the elation and relief gave way to anxiety as I grasped the load I was just informed that I had been chosen to be Southridge’s representative for the “MOST”. After a few seconds the elation and relief gave way to anxiety as I grasped the load I was just informed that I had been chosen to be Southridge’s representative for the “MOST”. After a few seconds the elation and relief gave way to anxiety as I grasped the load I was just informed that I had been chosen to be Southridge’s representative for the “MOST”.

Fortunately, my edginess started to subside once I started to organize my portfolio and practice for the interview and talent portion. Additionally, the portfolio which my mom and teachers helped make was simply unbelievable. A moment came when I knew there was no point in being nervous.

Among all of the components of the entire search, I felt the least confident during the talent showcase. I delivered a speech whereas the majority...
Formula for Success

By Kharl Manlutac and Rafael Manalili

1987 was not just another year for PAREF Southridge School. During that year, the administrators of the school established the Night School, a scholarship unit for deserving but less-privileged students. The new high school unit received the full support of the school, but the first years of its existence were still not easy for its members. They had to go through a lot of challenges and obstacles. In 1992, the Night School produced its first graduating batch which consisted of 6 students. The numbers were small, but instead of stopping the members of the school unit, this gave them the inspiration to continue the Night School’s mission of providing premier education to poor but excellent students.

Because of the determination of the Night School’s members, the scholarship unit expanded and transformed into the Afternoon School. 23 years have passed since the school unit’s foundation, and throughout its 23 years of existence, it has produced more than 500 graduates. Some of these graduates are still pursuing their undergraduate and graduate studies, but most of them are now engineers, teachers, computer experts, and lawyers.

What’s in the Afternoon School that made these scholars successful? In order to know the answer to this question we interviewed two Afternoon School graduates. We asked them about their experiences in the Afternoon School and how these affected them after their life in Southridge.

The first alumnus is Ramon Cabrera from Batch 2007. He is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies in the University of Asia & the Pacific as a 3rd year student.

The second alumnus is J.A. de Lima from Batch 2009. He is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies in the Ateneo de Manila University as a 1st year student.

Interview with Ramon Cabrera

• In general, please explain to us what happened to your life after your stay here in Southridge.

Well, after Southridge, I went on to study college in UA&P under a full scholarship. I think I can say that I did pretty well in terms of my academics. I also participated in various extra-curricular and co-curricular activities in the university.

• During your stay in Southridge, you were heavily exposed to basic and complicated academic subjects. How did the academic program/curriculum of Southridge affect your life after leaving Southridge?

Well, it was really an advantage for me when I went to UA&P because, like Southridge, UA&P also puts a premium on Liberal Education, that is - education in subjects like Literature, Philosophy, History, Theology and the like. When I took up The Iliad in my freshman year, it was quite easy for me to grasp the work given that Mr. Hernandez already taught it to us in fourth year high school. Mr. Cruz’s religion class was even harder than UA&P’s Theo classes.

• During your stay in Southridge, you experienced its Personal Formation Program. How did the Personal Formation Program affect your life after leaving Southridge?

Basically the Personal Formation Program influenced me in two ways. First, it gave me a sense of purpose. Through tutorials and the VOM talks, you get to learn that all your work should be anchored to a purpose so that you can strive well. For me that purpose was helping my family someday and I guess it served as a good inspiration for me to really strive well in college. The other way in which it affected me was through the virtues. College is no walk in the park and you’d really need virtues such as Order, Study, Fortitude and Piety to survive.

• Life in the Night School/ Afternoon School is known to be difficult and challenging. What kind of challenges did you face during your stay here in Southridge? What are the things that you learned from these challenges?

I will never forget my first year in Southridge, when I used to be in the BIDOED list for my poor performance in Math. I really thought I wouldn’t be studying in Southridge come second year, but I, if there’s one thing that failure has taught me it’s the value of diligence and perseverance. The value of hard work and perseverance is something I will never forget.

• What is the most important lesson that you learned from Southridge?

I think in three words it would be “UNITY OF LIFE”. Even before I got that phrase in UA&P, I already saw the idea in Southridge. It’s basically the idea of keeping things whole - that all of your activities as a human being should be anchored upon one goal and that is ultimately for the greater glory of God.

• If in case you studied in a different high school, do you think you’ll be just as successful? Or possibly even more?

In all honesty, NO. Southridge taught me to dream big and work for that dream. Before Southridge, I dreamed big but working hard was not a habit in me.

Interview with J.A. de Lima

• In general, please explain to us what happened to your life after your stay here in Southridge.

I entered college and, of course, met new people. I also learned to live separated from my family since I’m staying in a dormitory. My first year in college is almost over but I think I’ve experienced a lot enough to say that college life is really way different from high school.

• During your stay in Southridge, you were heavily exposed to basic and complicated academic subjects. How did the academic program/
I chose UA&P (University of Asia and the Pacific). Back in first year, I was into the whole Ateneo phenomenon. The intense school spirit. The name. Its status as a top university in the country. The prestige of being an Ateneista.

In time, however, I realized that it’s not the name or the prestige of the school that will give you the education you seek because, in the end, it depends on your attitude in studying, the course, the teachers, and the culture of education found in the school.

During my senior year, I knew what I wanted in a college. It should stand out when it comes to the humanities course. I wanted the place where one could get the best values education (the most basic, most natural lesson necessary for any education), a well-developed liberal arts program, and at the same time, a strongly developed curriculum in research and communication.

As a relatively younger university can give these things that I needed and wanted. Their liberal arts programs for the first two years ensure that all students have sufficient knowledge on basic arts and sciences.

There is a greater number of students in other colleges as compared with UA&P. However, let us keep in mind, a bigger school does not mean a better education. It’s quality not quantity. When it comes to focusing on studies and student life, UA&P is a place for developing solid value formation and gaining prime knowledge in humanities and communication. Its teachers do not merely teach but also guide the student in the best way possible. Why still focus on values formation in college? After all, that is what makes one truly successful—people who are morally upright and God-fearing.

I chose the Ateneo because not only because it provides excellent education but also because of the excellent environment and its facilities and the values that the school promotes. It is no mystery that the education that one gets in the Ateneo is one of the best in the Philippines. This is because of their unique approach to educating its students that help them gain experience for when they are working already, and with my chosen course (BS Psychology) gaining praise and recognition over the past few years, I know that my future is secure so long as I learn the lessons the Ateneo has to offer me and try my best to excel. The quality of the education is evident with the success its students find after they graduate.

Then, of course, there’s the campus itself. It feels so open and free, yet there is an aura about it that tells you that is an exclusive honor to be able to study in such a place because you know that only the best of the best are able to earn the right to study in its hallowed halls. The facilities are excellent, and this is due to the fact that the alumni stay loyal to the school and continue to support it to ensure that the school can continue providing the best education in order to produce the best the country has to offer.

The values that the Ateneo promotes help form a student to be a positive influence on his community. The Ateneo is a university that was founded upon Jesuit ideals, and these values serve the students well later in life and help them become not only successful materially but also morally and spiritually successful.

The overall reason why I chose the Ateneo is because I know that by studying there and learning all the lessons they have to offer me, I will be able to reach my full potential because the university can bring out the best in me.

By Nicollo Orodioz, Fourth Year

University Picks

BY NICOLLO ORDOÑEZ, FOURTH YEAR

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Continuing a legacy of excellence

of the competitors showcased talents in the Arts: they sang, danced, and played an instrument or a combination of those. Some may have thought of my talent as boring, but that did not cause me to waver. I had reached so far that it would have been such a waste if I would have just handed this talent portion to my other competitors. I was determined to show the others my proficiency in public speaking. I was determined to deliver my speech in humorous, objective yet stern manner...which I believe I did. And it all paid off at the end as I placed 3rd in the competition and keep the “adrenaline” flowing. And finally, prepare as much as possible and as early as possible.

1. To what degree would credit your parents with your success?

BY NICOLLO ORDOÑEZ, FOURTH YEAR

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Sports

Football Champs!

By Daniel Kahn, Fourth Year

S i l e n c e filled the pitch. We trained
light that Friday afternoon. Simple instructions were told to us in passing. “Less dribbling and more passing” were the words that Coach Dolfo told us. “This is our game! Defenders clear the ball! Midfielders control the game and strikers score the goals”. Considering our coach told this to us, it meant so much. Our coach is a man of few words. But when he voices something, it is given the utmost respect. Not much was spoken in these moments. Immersed in concentration, we continued to train. What is ironic about this whole situation was that our assistant Coach, Coach Nolan, was wearing a “Tamaraw” shirt during the course of our training. Having coaches who have taught FEU College teams was a factor that we used to our advantage. Both of our coaches knew what we were up against and anticipated speed, aggressiveness and an offensive attack like no other team that we have ever faced. We parted ways full of determination and anticipation for what awaited us the next morning.

This is the last stretch. There are no words that come close to describing that championship game. This would be a mere tribute to what transpired on the pitch that overcast day of December 19, 2009. Tension rose as both teams gathered together at the Ateneo College field. Families and friends came to support their teams. We had a bunch of Southridge friends hold up cartolinas with words of motivation. “Greggy is sexy! Sure win with Erwin! Yes we Kahn!” were just a few of the many ones anticipated speed, aggressiveness and an offensive attack like no other team that we have ever faced. We parted ways full of determination and anticipation for what awaited us the next morning.

The academic program of Southridge generally prepared me for whatever difficult college has in store for me. So it’s something that I see more as an advantage than a burden from my high school teachers (hehe). It doesn’t mean that it made my life miserable and boring though. In fact, Southridge AS life was really fun because of the “heavy” academics. And I think I did receive such an academic formation from Southridge.

• During your stay in Southridge, you experienced its Personal Formation Program. How did the Personal Formation Program affect your life after leaving Southridge?

It’s something that separates me from the rest. No other school can impart the kind of personal formation Southridge (Afternoon School) has for its students. The program equipped me with the lessons, knowledge, and spiritual formation necessary in dealing with the realities of life, especially my relationship with God, family and other people, and college. I so miss my personal formation tutors and our chats.

• Life in the Night School/Afternoon School is known to be difficult and challenging. What kind of challenges did you face during your stay here in Southridge? What are the things that you learned from these challenges?

Challenges were of every sort. No one from our class was excused from the exhausting projects and requirements. Everyone experienced taking dreadful exams. We all had a hard time with the subjects, especially Religion under the legendary Mr. Ferdie Cruz! But the more significant challenges I thought were not just ordinary academic stuff. There were the things that really tested my character as a student, classmate, tutee, son, friend, and person as a whole. But what mattered was that these challenges made room for me to improve and become a better individual.

• What is the most important lesson that you learned from Southridge?

To strive to be a man of integrity and create an impact to society by living all the means necessary to perfect the virtues.
“Hey Kids... Go to Fathers’ Day!!”

By Thomas M. Manalac

Around the world, Fathers’ Day is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of June every year. But in PAREF Southridge, Fathers’ Day takes it on a whole new level of meaning as it digresses from the usual schedule of the holiday, it becomes not just a reason to acknowledge all the effort fathers worldwide have put in raising their children, but it also becomes a chance for fathers and sons, and even the rest of the family, to come together and bond over a whole day filled with games and activities. Fathers’ Day is PAREF Southridge’s venue for fathers and sons to strengthen their relationship with one another.

This year’s celebration was entitled “Ikanna mi Papa,” an African phrase which translates to “Strength of My Father” in English. The theme for this year’s Father’s Day was inspired by the “South African World Cup 2010”. The 2010 FIFA World Cup to be the 19th FIFA World Cup, the premier international football tournament. It is scheduled to take place between 11 June and 11 July 2010 in South Africa. This will be the first time that the tournament has been hosted by an African nation, after South Africa beat South Africa in the 2008 FIFA World Cup. Apart from that, Mark Cjau’s ABC show tagged them as the Asian band to most likely cross over to North American shores, and has been featured in numerous regional shows together with bands such as “Arcade Fire” (Canada) and “Blur Party” (UK). Their eclectic music gives them the leverage to stand above most local bands in the Philippines, enough to be featured in the July 2010 issue of Time Magazine. They performed for front act for Incabase “Light Grenades Pacific Rim Tour Manila” stop at Ateneo University March 5, 2008. In 2009, they received the “MNL Music Awards for Favorite Indie Artist”. Without a doubt, this is one band that PAREF Southridge will want returning maybe for years to come.

This year’s Fathers’ Day also took another twist as it invited the "Locals", a Filipino magazine known all around the country for his excellent magic tricks and his likable personality. Additionally, this year’s celebration featured a multi-color of frisbee and basketball games ranging from "Alumni vs. Alumni" to " Teachers vs. Students" to "Vinta vs. Helm". Plus, the presence of numerous food and non-food booths made the event much more fruitful.

Of course, the day would not be complete without music. Once again, one of the biggest artists of PAREF Southridge graced the school with their electrifying soulful music. Up dharma Down, Past Yen, a Southridge alumnus, as the group’s keyboardist. Each batch was led by a senior who carried a specific flag of a country during this opening event. What made this opener more amazing was the chance the entire school performed, led by none other than Mr. Reniel Tomasilo. Following this was a sequence of events that portrayed African "tribal music", played by high school students. In their pursuit of their goal, the Father’s Day Crew, Men’s Choir and Up dharma Down go out to Jomari Robles, Alquiros and Patrick Gonzales as these students led the way in organizing the never-before-seen parade.

Since the main event of the World Cup is athletics, then this year’s Father’s Day also took on a very sporty path towards fostering the love between a father and his son. The program organized by Nicollo Ordoñez was as impressive as it had ever been. There was the traditional tug-of-war which pitted alumni and Vinta against each other in a grueling fight of physical prowess. But the event was not only for the fathers and their sons. Mothers and their daughters were also given the chance to participate in the numerous sports activities around the campus. For example, women’s volleyball was one of the most watched games throughout the entire day. Mothers and daughters teamed up and battled one another in exciting sets of volleyball.

"Ikanna mi Papa" was also an avenue for photo-contests. This was the time the Evenement gathered in such a momentous gathering of opposing clans. The parade mesmerized the parents and guests by incorporating elements of South Africa and the World Cup. Many deemed this parade as so poignant to the point of making many "teary-eyed".

On the afternoon, the Student Council gave the attendees an avenue to participate in the numerous sports activities around the campus. For example, women’s volleyball was one of the most watched games throughout the entire day. Mothers and daughters teamed up and battled one another in exciting sets of volleyball. "Ikanna mi Papa" was also an avenue for photo-contests. This was the time the Evenement gathered in such a momentous gathering of opposing clans. The parade mesmerized the parents and guests by incorporating elements of South Africa and the World Cup. Many deemed this parade as so poignant to the point of making many "teary-eyed".

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THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST

BY VICO UBALDO, FOURTH YEAR

Pope Benedict XVI established the Year of the Priest last year on June 19, 2009, which was also the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It will end on June 19 of this year with a World Meeting of Priests in St. Peter's Square. This is the time for all of us to pray for the vocation of the priesthood, for all the priests of the world, and for those called to the priesthood, that they may perform their service of ministry well, and that their hearts may be set afire with the burning love of Christ. Here we give our sincerest gratitude for all the priests around the world, and may they guide us in the path of Christ and continue being a blessing to us all!

In celebration of the 150th death anniversary of St. John Mary Vianney, the Pope has declared him the patron saint of all the world’s priests. Also known as Curé of Ars, St. John Mary Vianney said, “the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus.” Thus the Pope relates in his homily in Saint Peter’s Basilica on June 19 of last year that the gift of the priestly ministry flows directly from Jesus’ heart. This is the reason for starting and ending the Year of the Priest on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as St. John Mary Vianney tells us that we must have a “heart to heart” encounter with Christ himself. The Pope continues by saying the “plan of the Father” consists of “making Christ the heart of the world.” Then, beginning with those closest to him—his priests—this plan may be accomplished. Through the priests, others may then be brought to Christ, and such is the sacred role of the priests in the world.

This year is not only the celebration of priesthood but the continuing formation of it as well. Earlier this year, on January 25-29, 2010, the Second National Congress of the Clergy was held, and over 5,000 priests from all over the Philippines attended. This five-day event, also meant to be a retreat for priests all over the Philippines, would be a time for great reflection regarding their ministry. The events include gatherings at the SMX International Convention Center at the Mall of Asia and World Trade Center, a pilgrimage, and a mass confessional of all the priests. Also guiding the spiritual retreat of these priests is Reverend Father Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household.

Halfway through the Year of the Priest, much has been done around the world, with events of spiritual formation of priests and the continuing prayers offered by the laity. While it is not over, we must take advantage of the time by sending our prayers and gratitude to the priests we know and reflecting on their holy role which they decided undertake here on earth. The year has also yet to end with the World Meeting of Priests, an international gathering of priests in Rome where the Pope will say his final remarks to the priests of the world. May this spiritual journey of the priests this year be fruitful and well.

SR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AN INTERVIEW
WITH FR. FRANK ANIBAN

BY MEIKO RUSTIA, FIRST YEAR

1) Is religion class a necessity in every school? If so, why?
Absolutely, because religion is the most important and fundamental dimension of one’s life. For public and non-Catholic schools, a possible solution is to make it available for those who want to attend. The parents have the duty of ensuring that their children attend the classes.

2) Why do we Catholics need religion class?
Catholics need Religion Class in order to know and understand what God has revealed to us so that we may respond to it freely. There are many Catholics who are ignorant about their faith because they did not have a chance to study it systematically as done in Catholic schools. For various reasons, very few are actually able to attend catechism classes given in the parishes.

3) What are all Catholics obliged to know about their faith?
The truths God revealed and how to shape their life according to those truths. Like what?
God loves us and that is why He created us and calls us to share His life. As proof of that love, He sent His Only Son Jesus Christ to redeem us by giving His life for us.

4) What do students learn in religion class?
They learn everything that God revealed to us as taught by the Catholic Church, such as our beliefs, the sacraments, etc. In Religion class, we learn the answers to many very important questions about our existence such as: where we come from, what is the meaning of our existence, what happens when we die, what is our goal, what is the meaning of suffering, how can we attain happiness, etc. These are questions that cannot be answered by science.

5) What do students learn about morals in religion class?
They learn how they ought to live as Christians, to live the new life they have received in Baptism. In short, they learn how to be holy, to be saints which is the same thing as being happy. Leon Bloy, a famous French poet once said: There is only but one sadness — that of not being a saint.

6) Why is it important for students to know catechism points?
Learning or memorizing some catechism points is important so that their faith is based not on feelings but on the certain and clear knowledge of the truth. Feelings or emotions are unstable and they easily change due to external events such as sickness, health, success, failures, etc. It is not a very reliable foundation for our faith nor for our Christian life.

Continued on page 11 ...
Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Woodrose

BY MARTY GONZAGA, FOURTH YEAR

Remember the days when girls had cooties? You know...the icky invisible stuff that boys are supposed to avoid? As early as our kindergarten years, the differences between the sexes have been shoved down our throat. Boys like blue; girls like pink. Boys can’t wear skirts; girls love to gossip. The list of stereotypes goes on. At least, that’s the way it’s been for decades. Girls are just...different from us.

However, in a liberal society that opposes gender binaries and regrets this false dichotomy between the sexes, the Philippines must truly be a backwards society. After all, I’m sure feminists would be appalled to hear that many of the Philippines’ most prestigious private schools, Ateneo, La Salle Greenhills, St. Pedro Poveda College, Assumption College, Xavier School or our sister school PAREF Woodrose, still stand by these “outdated” notions of single-sex schooling. Stereotyping the two sexes is just, well...sexist and downright wrong.

In spite of such powerful opposition, a very contentious debate still rages on, and the question still remains. What’s a better system of education: single-sex or coeducational?

To answer that question, we must first find out the difference between boys and girls, if any. While it might be true that it’s indeed sexist to say that girls are better at one thing and boys at another, there is a huge but. Northwestern University and the University of Haifa researchers found that the brain develops at different rates. Boys learn more effectively through sensory stimulation. That’s why studies show that in all-boys schools written tests prove to be more effective. On the other hand, girls learn more effectively by looking at things from a more abstract point of view, again, because, at that stage of development, that aspect of their brain is more developed than their male counterpart. It just so happens that, by age 20, it would have all evened out.

Because a school’s primary goal is to educate the youth, it would be prudent then for schools to specialize in teaching methods that would be most effective in dealing with each gender’s specific strengths and weaknesses.

On the other hand, others argue that a school is not merely a place for the books. The true purpose of a school is to prepare us for life outside of it. That means, a school has a duty to provide life skills like interaction with the opposite sex, which is difficult to impart in a single sex environment.

There are a plethora of reasons on why you should go to one school system over another. More than just what type of school it is, there are numerous other intangible factors that affect its quality like the quality of its teachers, breed character, and its ability to impart morals. I believe that there’s no such thing as a “best” school; it’s all a matter of value judgment on each individual’s part. One thing’s for sure, John Gray was on the right track —men are from mars, but women...they’re from Woodrose.

Interview with Fr. Frank Aniban

Continued from page 10...

7) Why is it important for students to know about the people and stories of the Old Testament? Those stories and characters are part of the history of salvation which culminates in the coming of Jesus Christ as man and will end with His second coming at the end of the world. They tell us about Jesus Christ, the center of history. We can understand the New Testament better and more deeply if we know the Old Testament.

The history of salvation is how God carried out His plan of redemption after the fall of our first parents. After the fall of man, God did not abandon us but promised to send a Savior to redeem us. The fulfillment of that promise is revealed in the lives of patriarchs, the prophets, all the way to the coming of Jesus Christ.

8) How is learning about the history of God’s salvation for mankind till the end of the world helpful for students? It is important because this is the history of salvation not of some abstract person, but of each and every one of us. It is your history as well as mine, the history of every human being. We are directly involved in this plan. The history of salvation helps us understand the origin, meaning, and goal of our life. We need that in order to live a meaningful life. That is why it is very important.

9) Can people get the benefits of religion classes (such as morals, doctrine, etc.) without religion class? With very great difficulty. The most practical way to impart these classes is by including it in the school curriculum. That is why the Church has always been interested in putting up schools.

10) Many schools, such as Southridge, are non-sectarian, wherein there are Catholics and also many other religions. How is religion class in such schools helpful for the non-Catholic students? It will give them knowledge of what Catholics believe in. And then they would have a chance to evaluate it and to judge it. The teachings of the Catholic Church, dogma as well as morals, are also useful for non-Catholics. They teach man how to live as human beings.

It can also awaken their interest in Jesus Christ and the Church and prepare them to receive the gift of faith or the full communion with the Catholic Church.

All men are obliged to seek the truth. Attending religion class, they learn about some knowledge that claims to be the truth. It is worthwhile for them to investigate it and to find out if it really is the truth. As Pascal said, “There are only two types of reasonable people in the world: Those who serve God with all their heart because they know Him and those who seek God with all their heart because they do not know Him.”

11) How does religion class develop students to become people of integrity and successful people in the future? To be a man of integrity means to live one’s life according to the Truth and that’s what religion class teaches us. In practice, that means having a good moral character and possessing the virtues that enables one to consistently do the right thing.

For some it may not be obvious why being a man of integrity also means being successful. That is because they measure success by what a man ‘has’—his wealth, power, etc, rather than by what he ‘is’. A man without integrity cannot really be happy no matter how rich or powerful or famous he may be.

12) Does religion class foster love for God and encouragement for students to seek holiness? Definitely. Love for God and holiness are the same. The saint is the one who loves God and who always does God’s will. I think that the best way to foster love for God is through example. In that sense, the religion class can foster love for God only if the religion teacher himself is in love with God. Nemo dat quod non habet. No one can give what he does not have.

On the other hand, it also requires good dispositions or attitudes on the part of the students—the desire to know God and to love God. In religion class you get to know about God, but to really love God, you must know God personally. And that is something that only you can do. In other words, in order to love God, it is not enough to know about God, one has to know God directly. Now that can only happen with God’s grace and if one cultivates a personal relationship with God through prayer.
great many scientists have repeated over and over again that “it isn’t about if another Baguio-esque earthquake will happen but when it will happen”. In light of the recent occurrences of massive earthquakes in South America, various countries have begun to take precautionary steps in trying to prevent another large scale disaster from occurring anywhere else in the world. Here in the Philippines, it is especially essential to be aware of what to do and what not to do in case of earthquakes because unfortunately, our country is situated on the along the Pacific Ring of Fire which means that we are that much more prone to a massive earthquake. In order to avert a major crisis in case an earthquake does occur, here are five things that one must remember:

1. **PANIC………………NOT!**

Panic spreads about a hundred times quicker than the latest rumors in school because unfortunately, it may shatter causing serious injuries. Also, you must be aware of the safety procedures set by your school or workplace with regards to an earthquake occurring. Remember, a system always works more effectively than a bunch of clueless people running about without an idea of what they are supposed to be doing.

2. **BE IN THE KNOW!**

As important as it is to be calm, it is equally important to be aware and know what is supposed to be done during an earthquake. It would seem silly to see someone standing dumfounded in the middle of such a disaster not knowing what to do. During an earthquake, ALWAYS PROTECT YOUR HEAD! The most advisable thing to do if you are trapped on one of the higher floors of a building is to hide under a desk so as to protect your head and your body from falling debris. Stay away from heavy objects that might fall on you and stay away from glass as it may shatter causing serious injuries. Also, one must be aware of the safety procedures set by your school or workplace with regards to an earthquake occurring. Remember, a system always works more effectively than a bunch of clueless people running about without an idea of what they are supposed to be doing.

3. **BE PREPARED!**

No one can tell when an earthquake will strike or where for that matter and as such it is imperative to always be prepared for an earthquake. Emergency supplies must always be at the ready in case of ANY natural disaster and as mentioned previously, all concerned parties must be made aware of what has to be done during an earthquake and after it as well.

4. **SPREAD THE WORD**

Being prepared for an earthquake is not an individual effort but rather that of a community or at least a lot of people. It is important that everybody is well versed of the actual dangers an earthquake poses and the many things that could potentially aggravate the situation during the earthquake (i.e. over-panicking, not knowing what to do, etc.). Because of this, it then becomes the duty of every citizen to inform his/her friends, family and relatives that an earthquake is no joke and that it can happen anywhere and at any time. Clearly many people and Haiti and Chile did not expect Mother Nature to unleash her fury on those fateful days and yet even for some reason, she did and one thing we should learn from this is that we can never really wait: we must always be ready…
Presidential Candidates Forum in Ayala Alabang

By JM Batuhan, Fourth Year

In keeping with the theme of the Ridge's previous issue, we have here another little political piece. Since the biggest story in the political world is our country's looming May 2010 presidential elections, it is to that topic that our focus will be likewise directed.

Perhaps unbeknownst to some of you, a forum took place on January nine of this year, where four of the most prominent and leading presidential candidates were gathered together in the auditorium of our neighbor school, de la Salle Zobel. The venue, which is situated within the Ayala Alabang village — reputedly the largest gated community in Asia, and home to many a Southridge boy — played host to a sort of “getting to know you” of the presidential candidates in attendance.

The group of four presidential candidates that made an appearance, will in all likelihood give us the next and 15th president of the Republic of the Philippines. The group consisted of senators Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III of the Liberal Party, Manuel “Manny” Villar of the Nacionalista Party, and Richard “Dick” Gordon of Bagumbayan, as well as former defense secretary Gilberto “Gibo” Teodoro Jr., the Administration’s candidate.

Finding, or rather fighting one’s way into the place was quite a challenge, owing to the sheer number of people trying to jostle their way in. The auditorium itself was filled to capacity with all available standing room in use. Looking out at the crowd of people in the seats was to see a sight not unlike a painter’s palette, with the ardent supporters sporting their chosen candidate’s campaign colors. The result was an ocean of hues, with bright splotches of yellow for Noynoy, orange for Villar, green for Gibo, and white for Gordon, all interspersed amongst one another. The building containing the auditorium seated even more people, who watched the presidential forum on screens erected for the event. The forum, entitled “Kilalanin”, was hosted by news anchor Mike Enriquez, and the event was broadcast live on radio, but was not televised. It proved to be a rather insightful and informative three hours spent to better understand the platforms of each candidate, as well as the motives, the ambitions, and the dreams that drive each one of them to aspire to the presidency.

Each of the candidates performed at the very least, adequately, in the sense that for the most part, their responses were coherent and answered the questions in a satisfactory manner. But then there were also some rather brilliant sparks in the dialogue, where their words and their messages really rang true and struck a chord in all those listening.

All four gentlemen present were very good orators, and spoke with a confidence, a passion, and an intensity that belied their otherwise composed demeanors. Each was a statesman of the highest eminence, all seeking the highest position in our land. The stage was a political battlefield, where each man strove to prove himself the best in words and promises to the people they hoped to serve.

Judging simply from what I had heard that morning from each of the candidates, I can say that it is my honest belief that each one means all the best for our country, and that if elected, would do their best to see our nation rise up from the rut into which it has fallen, and would rally the people to seek a brighter day. Each was very much the patriot, and their words left the people who they reached in no doubt as to their intentions and dreams.

Now it boils down to each of our individual opinions as to who is the best equipped to lead our country. Each candidate possesses virtues in varying degrees, be it perhaps academic learning, a solid track record, humble beginnings, or a most patriotic pedigree. The task of prioritizing what skills and traits will best be of service to our new president remains in our hands, and will guide our votes.

The beauty of a democracy is that you are free to cast your vote for the person who you believe will do the best by our country and by its citizens. You are free to make up your own mind and to see your decision through. The only prerequisite to an entire population of responsible voters, is that of informed choice. You must know your candidates to the best of your abilities; for that is the only surety you can have that you have chosen wisely. Trust your own judgment, yes, but allow it to make use of the greatest amount of information and knowledge to which you have access.

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FEATURE

longboarding down the road

By Jake Cureg, First Year

Have any of you guys seen people rolling around on what looks like a big skateboard? I’m sure you have. It’s called longboarding. I know some of you are thinking right now, “What is a longboard?” A longboard is similar to a skateboard but longer and sometimes wider. They are most commonly used for cruising, downhill racing, slalom racing, or transportation. The average skateboard would be about 31 inches long and 8 inches wide, while a longboard is, well, longer, but there are some longboards that are skateboard sized too. A combination of shape, length, and thickness all contribute to determine if it’s a longboard. Wheel size and placement are specific to longboards too.

So how did I get into longboarding? It all started when I noticed that there was an increasing number of longboarders around, a number of them from Southridge. Then I heard about events like the Gravity Games. I noticed too a get-together about longboards posted by Melave Study Center on a school bulletin board. It featured an alumnus, Rafe Arcenas, a champion longboarder who came to Southridge with his friends and showed various tricks, aside from explaining what was happening in the Philippines longboard scene. I figured that I would try it out and see what keeps drawing people in. I hung out with some of my friends who go longboarding and I tried out their boards. Then one of my friends lent me his board for a week, and I was hooked.

Pretty soon, I decided to start saving up for my own longboard. I did some canvassing on the internet, and I found a decent Sector 9 board that wasn’t too expensive compared to other longboards. I was confident that I could gather enough money to buy it in a few months. While I was in the process of saving up, I came across an old, slightly oversized skateboard lying around the house. I stared at it for a while, and then suddenly I had an idea — why not turn this old piece of junk into a mini longboard? For those of you wondering, yes, it’s still classified as a longboard given a design that fit the purposes of longboarding.

For a couple of weeks I asked some people for advice and researched on the internet for a good design for my soon to be longboard, but unfortunately I couldn’t find anything. It was during one idle Friday afternoon that something clicked into place. I would mount the trucks on the edges and make cutouts for the wheels. I immediately disassembled the skateboard and drew the design with a marker on the skateboard deck. I did the wheel cutouts at home then handed the deck over to my dad, who brought

Continued on page 15...
CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE 2

By Josef Singson, First Year

On November 10, 2009 Infinity Ward released Modern Warfare 2 as a sequel to their masterpiece. Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare. Modern Warfare 2 was released on the PS3, PC, and XBOX 360. According to Gamespot.com Modern Warfare 2 got a whopping score of 9/10 for the PS3 and XBOX 360 and an 8.5/10 for the PC. The game got an 8.5 for the PC due to its high price and limited multiplayer. In my opinion, it got the score of 9/10 for the PS3 and XBOX 360 because of its awesome graphics in which you really feel you are part of the game, for example when you jump from a quadroplane the screen turns completely white and you hear that irritating beeping noise. Also when you get shot, there are streaks of red which appear on the screen serving as blood. Also during an EMP (electro magnetic pulse) it jams all electronic equipment including the red dot sight and the radar, the whole screen sort of becomes hazy too.

On starting campaign mode, an option appears asking if you wish to skip the No Russian mission because this specific game play had raised a significant controversy due to its setting where the player takes the role of CIA agent Joseph Allen alias “Alexei Bondinin” who goes undercover with a group of Russian nationalist terrorists to massacre hundreds of innocent civilians in a Moscow airport. The Russian government wanted to have the game recalled and banned from all shelves. Infinity Ward responded to the perceived censorship by making that level optional worldwide.

The Modern Warfare 2 campaign picks up from where its predecessor left off, the campaign although is short, around five hours to finish but nevertheless has a wholesome story. You still play as Captain “Soap” MacTavish along with a handful of new characters such as Ghost and Roach. The campaign has a diverse setting from the claustrophobic streets of the Middle East where in which enemies seem to lurk around every corner, to the hectic slums of Rio de Janeiro which has an intense firefight, a tactical marine infiltration, an epic snowmobile chase, and many more.

The cooperative part of Modern Warfare 2 lies in its Special Ops mode that allows you to play extra missions solo or with another friend, either split screen or online. Missions in special ops cover a variety of objectives such as surviving waves of enemies, moving from point A to point B stealthily, and racing snowmobiles. You earn ratings based on completion time or difficulty level that in turn allows you to unlock new missions. Some missions though need two players to play, one player on land clearing enemies and another serving as air support via a chopper gunner.

After clearing the campaign and dominating the special ops, there is multiplayer, which in my opinion was the reason in which the score of Modern Warfare 2 scored so highly. In Multiplayer, you gain experience and level up as you kill other players. As you gain levels, you unlock better guns better equipment and better perks. In multiplayer you may also create your own custom classes, which allow you to choose your primary weapon, secondary weapon, and grenades. Perks in Modern Warfare 2 do a variety of cool things such as make your aim steadier, deal more damage, let you sprint forever, etc. Perks also later get upgraded and let them do much more much. There are also killstreaks and death streaks which make the game more exciting. Kill streaks allow you to call in mortars, attack helicopters and even an AC130 if you make a certain number of kills in a row. Deathstreaks on the other hand help you if the game isn’t going your way, for example in the “Martyrdom” deathstreak you drop a live grenade upon death after a certain number of deaths without any kills. You also earn emblems and callsigns for bragging rights.

Once reached the maximum level of 70, wait there’s more; you can unlock prestige mode which basically restarts your whole multiplayer career again in order to unlock better emblems, callsigns, and custom class slots.

Modern Warfare 2’s extremely competitive multiplayer is the one of the best available on consoles. The epic plot just keeps you at a cliffhanger waiting and wondering for a Modern Warfare 3. The cooperative missions provide a uniquely fun experience on the action that, making Modern Warfare 2 extremely entertaining, very rewarding, and definitely worth the long wait.

GET LOOSE, GET LOOSE: WEST RYDER PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM

By Derek Parnes, Third Year

Sweet, sweet Kasabian… For those who have kept their heads in ditches for the past decade or so, Kasabian is one of the bands that have been at the forefront of the burgeoning indie rock movement of the new millennium. This movement includes more mainstream acts such as fellow Brit band, Arctic Monkeys, The Killers, Franz Ferdinand, and Keane. Kasabian, behind underground hits such as “L.S.F.”, “Clubfoot”, and “Empire”, have been mixing their aggressive indie rock influences like The Smiths, Dinosaur Jr., Radiohead, and Muse with the more laid back and funky stylings of electronica. They have done so as notably heard in their self-titled debut album and their Empire album, thus breaking much innovative ground for other bands.

These tracks seem to belong not to any mainstream audience; an epitome of feelings and distant sceneries about familiar objects through their music. Kasabian’s creative mindset in this album merits West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum’s ability to create such a creation with sensational moods, the fans of this album will end up in hollows. Consecutive spins make it sound out of five. This album is downright amazing, ten tracks do astonishing wonders with the acid-laced music they made. (Think Jim Morrison and The Doors) The creative turn the band took with their music can be heard most in their first single, “Fire”. They mixed all those influences perfectly in a truly spine-tingling song. The repetitive and enchanting verses in the song make way for the goosebump-inducing chorus that screams, “I’m on fire!” All that spectacular musicianship and they still made it to number three of the British Singles Chart. Talk about no compromises with the mainstream audience; an epitome of their excellence, yet also well-loved by the masses. One can only wish that happened with Master of Puppets. Fans (Metallica’s another story: They compromised…)

The other outstanding tracks include the track made available through internet download last April, “Vlad the Impaler” or “Thick as Thieves”. Fans would have been led to believe that his voice would also be suited to Kasabian’s brand of rock, yet it also incredible musical acumen with the band being able to create feelings and distant sceneries about familiar objects through their music. West Ryder Pauper Lunatic Asylum does have its shortcomings though. The tracks “Ladies and Gentlemen (Roll the Dice)” and “Happiness” just don’t seem to mesh with the rest of the album. These tracks seem to belong not only to a different album but a different band altogether. This does not mean that the other songs on the album sound alike; it’s just that those songs feature the same excellent musical creativity and stylistic choices in musicianship.
I would like to commend The Ridge staff for putting out one of the best (if not the best) issue of Ridge (On Politics). It is about time that the whole Southridge community get a dose of what is really happening in our country in terms of our political climate. What better way is there for people to make wise decisions regarding politics than to tackle the issues head on just like what the last issue of The Ridge did! This is truly one sign that our Southridge students are not just ensconced in their mighty towers but are ready to come down from it and become true citizens of our country! Congratulations for such a mature issue!

Mr. Benjie Tortalba

Dear 3M,

Please accept my kudos to you and your editorial staff for coming up with an issue of The Ridge that is both substantial and entertaining. The “twin” issues discussed two very important and significant events in the life of our nation, and hence, one way or another, have touched the lives of its people. I must say that you and your talented staff, despite all the limitations and complications of your student lives, managed to put together poignant issues with relative depth and objectivity, without resorting to sensationalism and sentimentalism. The articles were perceptive and thought-provoking. Your editorial said them all. The article “Why do you complain?” by Simon Arciaga was arresting. The feature article on the life and times of our most beloved president, Cory Aquino, by GJ Aregado was moving. A reflective reader should be able to discern from these writings, as well as the other articles, what the issue was all about.

While taking The Ridge to a “national” level for dealing with “national” issues, you balanced the paper by providing your readers with “local” news. In fact, I would like to commend you for your handling of the issues: you did not deal with the “national” issues separate from the “local” scene. You made us realize that we have Southridge students who can be and are in fact sensitive to the goings-on in our country. The Rock4Life Benefit Concert and the Student Council’s Relief Operations were testaments to our students’ resolve and dedication for service and solidarity with the poor and the needy.

May you and your staff continue to develop your journalistic and creative writing skills as you also grow and mature as individuals. Again, congratulations!

Truly yours,

Mr. Jose Francisco C. Kawada
Religion Department Head

PS I noticed that we don’t have the date of publication and issue number for our school paper in the Heading. I was looking for it so I could use it to refer to that particular publication for this letter. Is this the new standard? Pardon me if I belong to an old school.

Like a Rooster...

I find it quite special how several of the articles of this issue are all linked to one of the most famous events of the year in the country—the double dose of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. The common theme of “what resulted out of this disaster” is shared by these articles. Put them together, and you have a chapter of Pepeng and Ondoy from the Southridge perspective. Pepeng and Ondoy came taking 858 lives and causing 21 billion Pesos worth of damage—tragedy. But, as in Sir Isaac Newton’s third law of motion, “for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.”

The third moral virtue as defined by the doctrine of the Catholic Church, Charity, was manifested with more clarity than I have ever seen in my life. One thing I saw was that this was literally shared by all in the country—even by those who do not have that impression. It is this that everyone puts in priority when tragedies like this happen. Then, out of this shared charity, arises the unity that disasters like these bring upon the people.

“These two bringers of destruction may not have been the strongest of storms ever to rock our socks off, but they certainly knew how to hit us where it hurts.” — quoted from Stormy Days. As said in Aftemath, “The timing of Ondoy and Pepeng could not have been worse”. The Philippines was still recovering from a financial crisis when these two gave it a very unwanted visit. Think about getting cut in the same spot twice—not very pleasant. You get a deep cut then it heals. But before it is ready, the scar gets pulled off and the same wound gets even worse. The only thing I feel that is understated would be the destruction that was brought about. But of course you do not need too much of that, hopefully.

As also said in Aftemath “But, if anything, the ruin and wreckage that our nation endured gave birth to a unified awareness…” As I had said earlier, the nation showed charity and unity as a whole. But this was emphasized from a Southridge perspective. As discussed in Making Waves, Southridge took action and contributed to the relief efforts. Although it was not the hugest, I believe the action is what God appreciates. As quoted there, “...we can probably do very only little to help, but it’s time for us to make some waves of our own.” Just like waves, the efforts given will still be felt. Probably the most successful of the efforts was the Rock for Life concert which I believe was very creative in terms of raising money. As something that was very enjoyable and yet very beneficial it became, as was said in Rock for Life, “a symbol or some sort of inspiration for the students to come together as one and to great things for the school and for the greater good…”

What really caught my attention was the article Why do you complain? In it, the nearly unimaginable inconvenience that the victims had to experience was shown just to contrast with what we common find inconvenient. The victims were prone to sharing catching diseases and shared a toilet with 999 other people. Despite this, they still had the optimism to go on without much grief. As quoted there, “Somehow tragedy has helped them to be mature.” That very statement caught me in wonder: does that mean that unless a person suffers, he will not mature? This also reminded me of personal experiences. This ironic realization was then followed by another one: If disasters unite better than any other event, do we really need some more of Ondoy and Pepeng in order to unite? That was a really deep insight that came to me after reading those articles.

I do not read recreationally. However, I never found myself so hypnotized. It was not very good at catching my eyes. But when it did, it held them longer than I had planned. The articles almost seem like they were written by professionals (probably that will be true). As opposed to the simple and staple articles that I used to read in the Junior Ridge, I sincerely enjoyed these. It is no surprise the Ridge has 9 CMMA Awards. These articles in particular that made this issue special were like one rooster that wakes up whosoever reads them.

Josen Guerrero,
First Year

Longboarding

Deck - the “body” of a longboard; where you stand on
Trucks - the turning system; the axes where you attach the wheels
Bombing - going really fast, usually down a hill
Carving - making tight, S-shaped turns, usually done to control speed

(For more terms, check http://www.silverfishlongboarding.com/option.com_glossary/func.displayLetterAll?Itemid=84&catid=38&page=1)

Where to buy

For those of you who are looking for a longboard, you can check Aloha Boardports and Stoked Inc., both of which are located nearby at the Alabang Town Center. There is also a shop in Quezon City called Skate of the Nation. They specialize in longboarding and carry a wide inventory of boards and other gear. You can check their site at www.skateofthenation.multiply.com

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 3...
I’m sure all of us look forward to Christmas—the break from classes, the excitement of opening presents, the many parties and gatherings we attend, taking a vacation in another country, among other things. With all these things to look forward to during the Christmas season, what is there that we shouldn’t be excited about?

But caught up in all these excitement, it is very good for us to remember also some people who have nothing to look forward to this Christmas.

Take for example the elementary students from Bagong Silang Elementary School, to whom the Kaabay Club volunteers teach Math or English lessons every Saturday. Many of these children’s families do not have some special celebration prepared for Christmas. In fact, I was talking to one of these kids, and I learned that his family did not really do anything special during Christmas; if they were lucky, they’d have a ‘special’ dinner—maybe an extra slice of bread or another serving of rice. Unlike us, Christmas for them is something that they don’t make a deal about.

That is why some Kaabay volunteers, myself included, decided to arrange a ‘Christmas Party’ for these students, and give them something to look forward to for a change. With the help of Mr. Francis Ong, our moderator, we organized a surprise party for them.

On the day itself, you could tell that the children were very happy and excited when they found out that we were going to have a party. We had made it a surprise. After giving them our usual lessons first, we had the party. First, we played some games. You could tell that the kids were enjoyed themselves playing these games—they were incredibly lively and very competitive. At the end of each game, we gave the winners prizes to take home.

We stopped playing games once the students were already tired. We had ordered Jollibee for them before the affair. The students were very thrilled, seeing this food.

Giving each student his or her share of food, it was really striking to see that a lot of them only ate a small part of the food, or even didn’t eat the food at all. They said that they were going to bring it home to share with their families.

This only goes to show how deprived they were of these things that many of us would take for granted, things that we get everyday. It also shows how, despite their situation, these children still don’t fail to share what they have with their family, even if they have very little. We can see that even if these kids are lacking in a material needs, they are not lacking in love and care for their family.

After lunch, we gathered the children to end the party. But before leaving, we had prepared a little something special for them. We gave them presents. We had bought things that the children really needed—school materials. We gave them things that they usually did not get, like expanding files, colored pens/pencils, and other things.

The children wore really big smiles on their faces after we gave them the presents. After all, they weren’t expecting anything like this to be given to them.

After we gave them the presents, we ended the party and said good-bye to them as we left. By how bright their faces looked, I could tell that this was one party that they were not going to forget. They were all very grateful to us and I’m sure that they were indeed thankful for the party that we had made for them.

Christmas is all about giving. But these children do not need money, clothes, or other material things from us. Really, the best thing that we can give these children is our time to spend with them—and I’m sure that this is what makes them truly happy.