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WHAT I Remember Most About LVT

**A compilation of testimonials from people
whose lives he touched**

On the occasion of the 65th birthday of Dean Luis V. Teodoro

August 24, 2006
Balay Kalinaw
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

Warmest Greetings to Prof. Luis V. Teodoro on the Occasion of His 65th Birth Anniversary

Jose Maria Sison
August 18, 2006

I am delighted to join the close comrades, colleagues and friends of Louie in conveying to him warmest greetings on the occasion of his 65th birth anniversary. This is a time to salute him for all his achievements and wish him to enjoy many more years of good health and productive life.



At the age of 65, one may be assailed at times by intimations of mortality. But there are more than enough inspiring examples of greater creativity and even virility beyond that age, even for those less accomplished. In the case of Louie, he has a great stock of accomplishments to further build on. I do not think that soon he will turn to full time gardening.

I presume that a number of us can try to present in a structured way his best qualities as a progressive, as a teacher, as an administrator, as a journalist, as a creative writer, as a man of honor and possibly as a lover. I prefer to play the role of the slightly older man who initiates reminiscences in order to draw some chuckles from him.

It was Joe Burgos who popularized through *Malaya* the nick name “Joma” in the early 80s. But it was Louie in the early 60s who had originally baptized me as “Joema” in the same way that he called Jose Nadal Carreon “Joecar”. I do not know if Louie still remembers this creative act of his. But I cannot forget it and I always remember it as a term of endearment.

I became close to Louie in the course of discussion groups of the Student Cultural Association of the U.P., weekly press work when he became editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Collegian*, informal get-togethers of campus writers and frequent conspiracies with Pete Daroy in the early 60s.

I became so close to Louie that I knew when he had an upset stomach just because a

certain pre-med student whom he fancied seemed to ignore him (in the first place he was only “ligaw tingin”) or because he was having serious trouble with the faculty adviser of the Collegian. He was only a bit worried when there seemed to be no contribution for the features section of the Collegian. But he could always tell me to pull out an article from my “baul”.

So much for the anecdotes. It was during the consecutive terms of Reynato Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing and Louie as editors-in-chief that the Philippine Collegian became an outstanding and consistent vehicle of the ideas of the national democratic movement against US imperialism and the local exploiting classes. Since then, most of the time the editors of the Collegian and the student council leaders have been staunchly patriotic and progressive.

After his Collegian editorship, Louie was with me in the editorial board of Progressive Review. He was an active supporter of Kabataang Makabayan and the Movement for the Advancement of Nationalism. He edited the book, *Struggle for National Democracy*. At the same time, he was editor of a national commercial weekly. He did much more for the national democratic movement than I can mention here. Suffice it for me to say that unwittingly the Marcos fascist regime honored him when it arrested and detained him.

When I myself was under detention, he was active in the committee to seek my freedom and helped edit the publications of the committee. I was happy and thankful to meet him again after my release from detention in 1986. Since then, I have watched and admired from abroad his successes as a teacher and dean of mass communications and as a practicing journalist in the patriotic and progressive tradition of Marcelo H. del Pilar.

From the archive of Jose F. Lacaba

10 March 2000

The Search Committee
University of the Philippines

Re: CMC Deanship

This may be late in the day, but I would like to add my vote to those who have nominated or endorsed Prof. Luis V. Teodoro for a third term as dean of the College of Mass Communication.

Prof. Teodoro is a highly respected journalist whose views on a wide range of issues, from culture to politics, have enlightened generations of readers. We have known each other since the 1960s, when we both started our professional writing careers, and the columns and commentary he contributed to magazines I worked for or edited were always distinguished for depth of insight and elegance of style.

As dean, he has helped make the College of Mass Communication, despite its limited resources, a recognized center of educational excellence. The prestige and respect that the CMC enjoys among media practitioners and communication specialists can be attributed in no small part to the prestige and respect that the dean himself enjoys among his peers in the media.

I am convinced that Dean Luis V. Teodoro is the best qualified candidate to usher the College of Mass Communication into the new millennium. He has the openness of mind and the requisite credentials to prepare the College and its wards for an era of rapid changes in information technology, changes that even now are transforming the face and shape of mass communication and the mass media.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jose F. Lacaba
Professorial Lecturer
Journalism Department
College of Mass Communication
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

From the archive of Dr. Georgina R. Encanto

Introduction to Prof. Luis V. Teodoro (Guest Speaker)

UP CMC Graduation Ceremonies

24 April 2005

Cine Adarna, UP Diliman

Our guest speaker this morning is no stranger to us. That the students of Batch 2005 chose him to be the guest speaker at this Recognition Program is itself a recognition of his professional achievements and what he has come to stand for as a journalist and as a mentor of journalists.

The ideal faculty member for this College is a practitioner with extensive journalistic experience who also has the academic training, dedication, and commitment to impart what he or she know to young minds. Such a person is not easy to find. Our guest speaker is a rare combination of the seasoned journalist and the academic, one whose extensive experience and has given him keen insights into the specific conditions, ethical problems and issues of Philippine media as well as the challenges that the media have to respond to if they are to help the Filipino people make sense of their society, which, in his own words, “has moved through historic passages of subjugation, revolution and sovereignty,.. been ruled by foreign powers, by freely elected leaders and homegrown dictator.”

At the same time, he is someone committed to the life of the mind, who does not tire of asking questions and seeking answers to them through research, reflection and debate with his peers and students as well as his prolific writing.

An A.B. English graduate of the University of the Philippines, major in Journalism and Creative Writing in 1964 he was editor of the *Philippine Collegian* in his senior year. He attended the Master of Arts Program of the Asian Center of the University of the Philippines, was a research fellow at the East West Center in Honolulu, and a senior fellow of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Among the publications he worked for early in his journalistic career as a book reviewer and book editor were *Review Magazine*, *Asia Philippines Leader* and *Graphic*. When martial law was declared in 1972, he was among the journalists who questioned the legitimacy of the declaration of martial before the Supreme Court together with the then militant lawyer now Senator Joker Arroyo. He was among the journalists who were detained for being critical of the dictator.



During the post-martial law years, he became sub-editor of *The Manila Chronicle*. In 1987, he began his career as columnist, with “Vantage Point” in *The Manila Standard* and “Interesting Times” in *The Manila Times*. He also became editor and columnist of *National Midweek Magazine*, and chief contributor of *Philippine News and Features* print edition from 1983 to 1989. The former was a publication committed to the alternative press, the latter a news agency which supported alternative journalism through its production and distribution of articles to local newspapers on a wide range of topics that were not being covered by the controlled press during the martial law years: political corruption, land grabbing, including that of ancestral lands of

indigenous tribes, health and environmental problems, women’s issues, the devastating effects of the continued presence of the US military bases in the Philippines such as prostitution, toxic poisoning the plight of overseas workers, injustice and exploitation of marginalized groups, and killings of journalists.

His columns steadily built a reputation for him as a fearless and independent columnist whose analysis of political issues, though laced with tongue-in-cheek comments, were always characterized by a profound understanding of current events and situations. Aside from this, they also stood out not only for the logic and brilliance of their arguments, but also for their elegance and felicitous expression which earned for him, among others, a nomination in the short list for the “Titus Bransma Award for Best Opinion Writer for 2000.”

After 2000, he became editor of *The Philippine Journalism Review* and *Journalism Asia*. Until recently, he was a columnist for *Today*, and now contributes articles to *ABS-CBN Online* and *Gulf News*, *Diyarista*, the publication of the Union of Journalists and *Business Mirror*.

Since he joined the then Institute of Mass Communication in 1976, he has taught courses on press history, introduction to journalism, magazine editing and writing, opinion writing, media criticism, and journalism ethics which have shaped the training

and orientation of Journalism majors of this college. Whether he is tracing the two traditions of the Philippine press – what he calls the revolutionary and acquiescent traditions – that have influenced its role in this country’s struggle against the foreign powers and its continuing resistance against any attempt to control or muzzle freedom of expression by foreign powers or authoritarian Filipino leaders explaining what news is, teaching journalistic skills, or discussing ethical issues that journalists are bound to encounter in the practice of their profession, our guest speaker is known to speak with authority and passion.

I am told that he delivers very lively lectures spiced with his characteristic humor and irony, and resorts to all kinds of teaching techniques, from snapping at students who chat with their seatmates while he is struggling to drive home a point, to vigorously shaking his head, or even occasionally sticking out his tongue and making funny faces to show the absurdity of our national dilemmas and problems, the corruption or ineptitude of our political leaders or the military – just so the lesson is learned and remembered!

Among his more memorable sound bytes are his exhortation to journalism majors that when they become practitioners, they must learn to draw the line: “you can draw the line early or you can the line later, but don’t forget that you must draw the line” or “journalism isn’t a craft for the fainthearted, it’s the pursuit of truth requiring imagination and persistence as well as courage.”

He is a stickler for accuracy of facts and correct grammar, and being the first rate editor that he is, lapses in both of these are not bound to escape his eye!

Yet, despite his apparent sternness, student flock to his classes and some of them regret that the 17 week semester has come to an end. He also conducts-on-line courses in opinion and column writing for that other University in Katipunan, for which a number of his former students sign up for, proof, it seems, that they never tire of learning from their mentor. Many of them have even become his textmates, asking him questions about journalism, or passing on jokes to him.

He has authored numerous books on journalism, among them, *Media in Court* (1988) and co-authored *Mass Media Laws and Regulations in the Philippines* (1998) and is working on several others, like *Manwal ng Peryodismong Filipino*, *Investigative Reporting* and *If a Man Bites a Dog: essays on Contemporary Issues in the Philippine Press* as well as *The Craft of Journalism* for the PCIJ.

Like the Indonesian journalist who was named Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism Atmakasumah Astraatmadja, he is a much sought after speaker, resource person or trainer for innumerable organizations of journalist, NGOs and people's organizations committed to empowering citizens, and often agrees to lecture or give workshops *gratis et amore*, sometimes traveling to far flung places, not even knowing exactly where the venue of the training will be, and even shelling out his own money and paying for office equipment of the organizations he joins to support their various causes because the training of journalists is his "life work" or personal advocacy.

Colleagues, parents and guests, and members of the graduating class, it is a pleasure to introduce our quest speaker: former dean of the college, and distinguished columnist, editor, highly esteemed Professor of Journalism, Professor Luis V. Teodoro.



Excerpt from Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera's introduction to Prof. Luis V. Teodoro's book *The Undiscovered Country* (UP Press, 2004)

Luis V. Teodoro, as the best of his fiction attests, stood apart from his generation in going back to the tradition represented by journalist-artists of the early twentieth century. We would have wanted him to stay with fiction so that he could help readers view with analytic eyes the social realities of the years that followed the 1960s. But he seems for the moment, to our great loss, to have chosen journalism over fiction. Perhaps the publication of his stories in book form would persuade him that if, in the 1960s, he had linked up with a most vital tradition, in our time, the need of our milieu is once again for creative writers who do not apologize when their fiction or poetry partakes of the concerns and functions of journalism. Teodoro does not have to give up journalism to be an artist. He has already shown his readers that he is indivisibly journalist and artist.

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Bienvenido Lumbera
2004

There was this Collegian exam controversy in the mid-90s. And there was this news story that came out in a prominent daily claiming that the Collegian exam was rigged because the declared winner was allegedly picked by Luis Teodoro (chair of the selection committee for that year), after receiving a phone call from Joma Sison, who reportedly told Luis who the winner should be. What I remember was not the incredibly moronic accusation. What I remember was the flak those accusers got from the most respected members of the Philippine media and literary community. That was the year I saw same-day columns of Adrian Cristobal and Conrado de Quiros defending LVT in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. And that was just for starters. *Ganun ka-respetado si Luis Teodoro.*

Psyche Roxas-Mendoza

It was one of those busy days towards graduation and I went to the faculty room to see my thesis adviser. There was Sir Teodoro, sitting on Ate Raquel's seat, boasting to other students there that there is not a single cockroach in his house. "We use Baygon," he said, swearing on the repellent like he was paid to endorse it. That is Sir Teodoro's solution to one of the Philippines' biggest problems—the cockroaches. It was the first time I saw him chat with students like that. I'm sure he wished there was a Baygon to straighten up the corrupt media practitioners and he will start with his former students!

I took at least three subjects under Sir Teodoro and I can tell you about his passion in teaching journalist wannabes in the hope that they'd make a good mark in the industry someday. But we all know that. What I didn't use to know—because I've always looked up to him as a professor and I was so intimidated by him—was that he could be a friend, too. I see that side of him when I would occasionally interview him for my stories in Newsbreak or see him in book launches or seminars. To know him beyond the walls of the classroom is rewarding and there is always something to learn. Always be professional and ethical, of course, and make sure you always have Baygon ready for the crawlers at home. I may not have Sir Teodoro's credibility but believe me it works on teeny-weeny mice, too!

Carmela Fonbuena

Isang Tauhan sa Isang Madilim na Kasaysayan

Jerald Uy

Isinulat para sa isang kurso sa Peryodismo

Kung umaga man o tanghali ang pangyayari ay hindi na niya matandaan. Basta sa mga panahong iyon, ang tanging mahalaga ay kailangan na nilang umalis – umalis nang mabilis nang hindi maabutan.

Ilang ulit na hindi na nagtatagal sa kanilang tirahan sa Gusaling Jacinto sa Quezon Avenue ang 31 taong gulang noon na Luis Teodoro at ang kanyang asawang kapwa manunulat na si Ninotchka Rosca. Iniwan na rin nila ang kanilang dalawang taong gulang na anak na lalaki sa kanyang mga magulang upang hindi madamay.

Sampung araw na ang lumipas noon nang ideklara ng dating pangulong Ferdinand Marcos ang batas militar sa bansa. Sa parehong gabi, napabilang sila sa National List of Target Personalities at plano na silang hulihin dahil sa pagsusulat ng umano’y mga artikulong kritikal sa pamahalaan.

“They’re incompetent,” bulalas ni Teodoro. Hindi sila nadakip dahil wala sila sa bahay.

Subalit sa araw na sila ay akmang paalis, apat na armadong taga-Philippine Constabulary, bersyon ng kasulukuyang kapulisan sa bansa, ang sumalubong sa kanilang pintuan. Dala ang isang *arrest order* mula kay Juan Ponce Enrile, ministro ng Tanggulang Pambansa noon, inutusan silang magdala ng ilang damit at saka dinakip upang ikulong sa Camp Crame.

“Kinulong kami para sa wala,” sambit sa wikang Ingles ni Teodoro, guro ng pamamahayag at dating dekanong Kolehiyo ng Pangmadlang Komunikasyon ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas. “Walang demanda, walang paglilitis, walang hatol.”

Instruktor na noon sa Kagawaran ng Wikang Ingles sa Kolehiyo ng Arte at Literatura si Luis Teodoro. Manunulat siya at ang kanyang asawa sa Philippine Graphic, Philippine Free Press at Asia Philippine Leader. Subalit sa pagpatupad ng diktadurya sa Pilipinas, ang lahat ng peryodikong ito ay pinasara.

Kakatwa para kay Teodoro na mapabilang sa mga dahilan ng pagkakakulong, bukod sa mga sulating umano’y laban sa pamahalaan, ay ang mga rebyu ng mga aklat na kaniyang sinulat para sa Asia Philippine Leader. Ang mga aklat raw na kanyang sinusundan ay may mga Leninist, Marxist at komunistang pananaw.

Sa piitan, bagaman hindi sinasaktan, saksi naman si Teodoro sa pang-aabuso ng mga otoridad sa mga bilanggong karamihan ay nasa haiskul pa lamang. Bugbog na mata, namamagang mukha, baling braso at pasa-pasang katawan ng kanyang mga kasamahan ay mistulang kakambal na ng pagsikat ng araw sa piitan. Nakita niya rin kung paano na lamang bugbugin ang isang kaibigang kakatapos pa lang kumuha ng *Bar exam*.

Habang tumatagal sa kulungan, wari'y dinadala ng hangin sa kanilang lugar ang iba't ibang kwento ng kalupitan mula sa labas. Isa dito ang kwento tungkol kay Lilia Hilao, 17 taong gulang na mag-aaral na ginahasa at pinatay. Sinabi ng militar na nagpakamatay raw si Hilao sa pamamagitan ng pag-inom ng muriatic acid, ang kanilang panlinis ng kubeta.

Ang mga kwentong tulad nito ay sadyang nakapanghina kay Teodoro. "Hindi namin alam kung kailan kami palalayain o kung palalayain nga ba kami," sambit niya sa wikang Ingles.

Subalit isang gabi, pinalibutan ang kanilang lugar ng mga trak ng sundalong may mga machine gun. Inilawan ng mga nakakasilaw na search light ang bawat sulok ng kanilang piitan.

Puro tanong na walang kasagutan ang naisip nila. "Papatayin na ba nila tayo? Papatayin na nila katulad ng ginawa ni Suharto sa Indonesia? Pagsasamahin ang lahat ng bilanggong pulitikal sa isang *concentration camp* sa Corregidor para barilin?" Sa unang pagkakataon sa piitan, natakot si Teodoro. Ito ang gabi na pinagtangkaan ang buhay ng Unang Ginang na Imelda Marcos.

Hindi natupad ang pangamba nila. Subalit ang gabing iyon ay isa sa mga kahindik-hindik na karansan para sa kanya.

Isang tawag naman mula sa taong nakapirma sa kanilang *arrest order*, anim at kalahating buwan na ang nakalipas, ang dumating para sa kanyang asawa. Nakapanayam na kasi dati ni Rosca si Enrile bago nakulong. Tinanong ang kanyang asawa kung ano ba ang kailangan nito.

"Wala," ang tanging sagot ni Rosca.

Di alam ng mag-asawa na may kahulugan ang tawag na iyon ni Enrile. Pinalaya ang kanyang asawa dahil dito.

Lumapit naman ang kanyang asawa sa mga “judge-advocate generals” upang mapalaya siya. Dito na nagtapos ang kanyang pitong buwang pagkakabilanggo kasama ang aral na ang lahat ng mga bagay pa rin ay nadadaan sa “lakad.”

Dahil sa sinara na ang mga dating publikasyong pinagtrabahunan, pumasok siya sa Daily Express na pag-aari ni Roberto Benedicto, taong malapit kay Marcos. Subalit umalis rin siya kaagad dahil lahat ng kanyang sinusulat ay kailangan pa niyang ipagpaalam sa *Office of Civil Relations* dahil dati siyang bilanggong pulitikal. Bukod dito, nakakarindi ni rin ang mga samu’t saring bawal isulat ayon sa dikta ng kaniyang patnugot.

Kahit ang pagbalik niya sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas taong 1977 ay nadehado dahil sa kanyang pagiging dating bilanggo. Tinanggihan siyang tanggapin ng dating departamentong kinabibilangan. Upang wala nang gulo, nilagay na lamang siya ng noong pangulo ng UP na si Salvador Lopez sa dating *Institute of Mass Communication* bago lumipat bilang puno ng publikasyon ng *Philippine Center for Advanced Studies*, ngayo’y *UP Asian Center*.

Umalis si Teodoro patungong Iowa sa Amerika dahil na rin sa kagustuhan ng kanyang asawang makapagsulat ng malaya. Mula noon, ilang beses rin siyang bumalik – para lamang makita na ang sitwasyon ay mas lumala. Taong 1982, taong iniisip nang lahat na wala na ang batas militar, marami pa ang mga taong pinaslang. Bukod kay Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino, naalala ni Teodoro ang naging estudyanteng makata na binaril sa ulo sa Davao, si Emman Lacaba. Ang naging kaklase naman niyang *cancer surgeon* na si Juan Escandor ay natagpuang dinukot ang utak malapit sa gusali ng ABS-CBN.

“Hanggang ngayon, hindi ko maintindihan kung bakit kailangan nilang tanggalin ang kaniyang utak,” sabi ni Teodoro.

Tatlong dekada na ang nakaraan, ang kanyang karanasan bilang isang tauhan sa isang madilim na kabanata ng ating kasaysayan ay nagkapagbigay sa kanya ng pagkakaunawa sa kasalukuyan. “Mabuti pa noon kumpara ngayon,” sabi ni Teodoro sa wikang Ingles. “*At least*, alam natin kung sino ang kalaban natin.”

Some people wear a WWJD (What would Jesus do?) bracelet, believing the accessory can help them make better decisions. Should I give money to the old beggar? Should I confront my enemy? What would Jesus do?

The things I learned from Sir Teodoro's ethics class are like a WWJD bracelet. Every time I am faced with ethical dilemmas, I will my mind to return to room M209 in Plaridel Hall and listen to Sir Teodoro explain why I should honor my source's request to remain anonymous, or why I should think twice before attaching the word "Muslim" to the name of a convicted criminal.

I will never forget Sir Teodoro's commitment to the ethical practice of journalism. Professors like him inspire me to work hard not just for career advancement, but also to serve fellow Filipinos better.

Cyril L. Bonabente

I will keep this short. I don't want to use something like a thousand words, because a thousand words might give the reader the idea that I'm being comprehensive. With Professor Teodoro you can never be comprehensive. I don't even want to attempt such a task, because I am sure to miss something. I don't want to leave gaps. I don't want my spaces to scream. I don't want the unwritten words to glare too much, and blind. So I will keep this short.

Last year, Prof. Teodoro sat as my enlistment adviser. He looked at the subjects I've taken so far and said "What's J151?"

Advertising po, I said. He gave me a look. Students know this look: lower lip sticking out, eyes peering over the top of his glasses. This look could mean anything. "Why did you take such a subject?" he said.

I don't know what he wanted to hear from me, so I just smiled. I gave him my Form 5A, where it shows that I've enlisted in J152 that semester. Public Relations. He gave me the same look.

"Do you want to pursue a career in Journalism?" he asked as he signed my paper.

"Ah," I said.



“Hmm?”

“Maybe,” I said.

He gave me the paper, I stood up. I was just about to leave the department when he said, “Journalism needs good people. So you better think about that.”

He said it so matter-of-factly, like it’s nothing, like it’s just any ordinary remark. Now I wonder if he was even serious. Of course this is something to brag about, but I’ve never told this to anyone because it’s too unbelievable. It’s like seeing an elephant fly.

So the elephant flew, and I held on to this, to this memory. Prof. Teodoro may not be serious and what he said may not even be true, but I held on to it, nonetheless. He expressed belief in me, and I treated that dearly because no one has ever done that, not even myself. When I went off to pay my tuition that day, I thought, I may fail in the future, but this moment will always be there to pick me up, to redeem me. I can say, Once upon a time a professor that I admire and respect told me that I should think about pursuing a career in journalism, because he believes I’m one of the “good” ones.

It may not be true, but perhaps I can make it true.

I’ll consider this as my duty to him, and my gift.

Eliza Victoria



Rage. It's something you pick up as you go along, something that builds up inside you whenever you hear of broken election promises, botched infrastructure projects, or the latest nugget of wisdom from Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. It's not something usually taught within the confines of the classroom. Unless, of course, it's a classroom presided over by Luis Teodoro, who despaired over apathy more than anything else. He sought to instill in his students the seething but analytic mind of one who could change the world. He stressed that it was not grammar and syntax that ultimately mattered (though, of course, they help), but ethics, heart, and one's capacity to seek the truth.

Jamie Alarcon

And now, the daunting task of having to write about somebody of Luis Teodoro's stature has come. Many would probably remember him best for being the ethics professor. I consider myself blessed that I had been able to take Journalism Ethics under him in my third year.

Actually, there are a lot of things I remember from Sir Teodoro's classes. After all, I had taken a couple of subjects under him (the other one's opinion writing). But since I hold this man in highest esteem, I find myself unable to spill the necessary beans. Hehe.

Sir, may you continue to have the strength to share your wisdom with more generations of Journalism majors to come, because I know they need someone like you as a mentor and inspiration as you still are to someone like me.

Maraming salamat po, lagi po kayong nasa aking mga panalangin. Maligayang kaarawan!

Kate Pedroso

I remember Sir Luis as a...a...

Wait, I'm having a senior moment.

That line is a trademark of Sir Luis. He says it when he suddenly forgets something in the middle of a class discussion; he would stop talking, look down at the floor or up at the ceiling, then stroke his forehead.

Seeing that never fails to me make smile in fascination. Then again, almost everything about Sir Luis fascinates me. I am so proud of having been a student of The Luis V. Teodoro that I boast of every moment he personally addressed me in class—even of that time he asked me to get out of the classroom (it's a long story).

Sir Luis seems fond of throwing witty one-liners—statements of, say, contempt for the government. Those lines never would've been as fascinating if it weren't him who said them. During bonding sessions with peers we'd casually recall something Sir Luis said. Then we'd go, “aaaw, Sir Luis is so cute.” It's true. My friends and I talk like colegialas—which we are, come to think of it—when he's the topic of discussion.

Sir Luis used that “I'm having a senior moment” line quite a number of times, but truth be told I think he has one of the greatest memories ever. I remember being so amazed at him as I heard him recall the events that led to the 1971 Diliman Commune. I remember thinking about what a great journalist he is—so immersed in his craft and in his country. I remember wondering whether I'll have the same passion for journalism as he does, because, senior or not, you can still see the fire in him.

I doubt that it will ever fade away.

Johanna Camille Sisante

Hindi ako malapit kay LVT nung unang dalawang taon ko sa Journalism department. Malamang ito'y dahil hindi ko siya naging guro sa Journ 101 o 102. Mas nauna kong nakilala ang dalawa sa kanyang mga kaibigan, sina Dr. Encanto at Prof. Arao.

Gayunpaman, natutuwa ako tuwing nakakasalubong ko siya. Matagal nang biruan sa aming magkakaibigan na masarap sigurong lolo si LVT – matinik magsulat at magaling magmaneho ng asul na Vitara.

Noong huling taon ko sa CMC, pinilit ko talagang makuha ang Ethics class ni LVT. Huling pagkakataong maging Teodoro baby – at masaksihan ang mga tatak-LVT na ugali niya:

Ang “anyway” na tumutuldok sa mga diskusyon.

Ang mga facial _expression kapag may narinig siyang nakakatawa o kakaiba sa mga ulat naming. (Pinahalang pagkunot ng noo at ngiti na hindi sagad sa tenga.)

Ang paggupit ng kuko.

At siyempre, ang mga pamatay na pagsusulit na nakakangalay sa kamay.

Hindi ako ganun kalapit kay LVT, hindi gaya ng asaran at tsismisan namin ni Danny Arao. Laging mananatili ang respectful distance ko kay LVT.

Gayunpaman, si LVT ay isang simbolo, isang paaalaala, na lagi kong binabalik-balikan sa tuwing pagbisita ko sa CMC.

Na ano man ang trabaho, dapat may sinusunod na patakaran – ethics, sa madaling salita – hindi lang para hindi makasakit ng iba, ngunit ito ang dapat at tamang gawin.

Na sa pagbuo ng isang istorya, dapat balanse ito at may panayam mula sa bawat panig.



Dapat maging sensitibo sa paggamit ng mga salita. Na ang kapangyarihan ng salita ay malawak, at hindi dapat isawalang-bahala.

May mga akong nakilalang reporter (hindi nila gaanong ginagamit ang “mamamahayag”) na ang tingin sa ethics ay isang Utopia. May iba namang reporter na naiinis sa pagiging holier than thou at self-righteous ng mga nagtuturo ng ethics.

Madali daw kasing magsabi kung ano ang dapat, pero kapag nasa sitwasyon na, hindi ganun kadalang gawin ang natutunan sa pag-aaral. Na ang pagtanggap ng pera’y hindi naman ganun kasama.

At hindi minsan ko na ring narinig na armchair journalist si LVT dahil sa kanyang pagtuturo ng ethics.

Nakakalungkot isipin na ganoon ang tingin nila. Hindi ba’t mas mainam na may nagsisilbing konsiyensya ang midya?

Sabi ng isang editor na kakilala ko, masyadong mataas ang standards ni LVT. Mahirap daw abutin.

Ang sagot ko naman, “Standards are meant to be high.” At para sa isang baguhan sa industriya na gaya ko, kailangan ko ng mataas na pamantayan na itinatak ni LVT sa akin noong nag-aaral pa ako.

Para hindi ako matuksong mahulog at magkamali. Para hindi ko mabigo ang iilang mga guro sa CMC na ginagalang ko. Para hindi ko mabigo si LVT at masabihang kinain na rin ako ng sistema.

At sa tuwing pagbalik ko sa CMC, naroon man si LVT o wala, lagi kong maalaala ang mga aral na tinuro niya – na tiyak kong hindi ako ipapariwara.

Julie Aurelio

I had four subjects under Sir Teodoro. The first three, J 101, J 192 and J 198, every Journ student was required to take, but the last class I had under him, J 103, or Interpretive Reporting, I took by choice. I had long resigned myself to the fact that I suck at opinion writing, but since Sir Teodoro was teaching it, I signed up for the class, knowing that with him as the professor, I would definitely learn something. And sure enough, after trying on their shoes for a semester, I gained a new respect for op-ed writers.

One day after that class, as I was heading towards the door, he suddenly said, “Ms. Anonuevo, your second name is Iskra?”

“Yes sir,” I answered.

“Do you know what it means?”

“Sir, it means ‘spark’ in Russian.”

“But do you know what it was?”

“Yes sir, it’s the name of Lenin’s newspaper.”

“Yes, that’s good.”

Now, everyone who knows me will attest that I detest my second name. But for the first time in my life, I didn’t cringe when I heard someone say it. In fact, since that day, I have been allowing people to call me by my second name if they so pleased.

That’s what I remember most about Sir Luis V. Teodoro. That he had a big effect on his students, enough to make us like what we initially disliked at first. That even without him knowing it, he made us see old stuff in a new light.

One of my non-journ friends asked me once, “*Di ba nakakasawa yun?* Having the same prof for four classes? Why’d you do it?”

My answer?

“*Eh si Sir Teodoro yun eh.*”

Klara Iskra Añonuevo

Efficient in words. Effective in meaning. Ethical in practice.

These invaluable lessons come to mind whenever I remember my journalism classes under Prof. Teodoro. Well, apart from his cowboy boots.

Returning to my ethics and internship classes some four years ago is not that hard at all: sessions with Prof. Teodoro are among the most memorable I had in college, courses where I gained many of the ideals I hold on to up to now.

For between the frequent “anyways,” Prof. Teodoro sincerely relayed wisdom on journalism only a man with his experience could give the younger ones.

He could switch roles from being an outsider looking in to an insider looking even deeper into the practice of journalism, all in his effort to make concrete concepts and situations that could only be hypothetical to a journalism student.

And he made sure his students got his drift, however short their attention span may be. Never let the streaks of white hair on his head fool you: Prof. Teodoro can speak the language of anyone, from clueless college freshmen and stubborn seniors to, well, his fellow senior citizens.

“Never, never let your trainer tell you to run an errand, photocopy or make coffee,” I remember the professor telling our internship class (J 198) in the summer of 2002.

By giving high regard to the journalist despite the industry’s many flaws, Prof. Teodoro strengthened my conviction that I could, and should, pursue my dream to become one.

And then, he prepared me for it.

He was the first to tell me the three words no journalism practitioner should forget: “Accuracy, accuracy, accuracy.”

Through his lectures, he turned the concepts of accuracy, truth, fairness and balance into something tangible – from a mere enumeration of journalistic standards into an indispensable set of values which could mean the fate of a nation when lost in a media practitioner.

Best of all, he taught me how to be responsible and accountable to the reader through having the humility to admit mistakes and the decency to correct them.

Philippine journalism owes so much from Prof. Teodoro for he has helped shape countless of practitioners with values strong enough to repel anyone who would attempt to destroy them, from corrosive colleagues to scheming spin-doctors.

And I am proud to say, because of the professor, I could not be shaken.

Tarra V. Quismundo

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