

issue no. 3  
february 2003

up journalism club's

# BEYOND PROTAGONISTS



love,  
laughs  
and life



University of the Philippines  
**Journalism  
 Club**  
 Since 1954

*from our hollow muscular  
 organs located between  
 our lungs...*

**gr@48**

The UPJC Anniversary Week  
 feb. 17 - 21, 2003

- monday: crime in mass media (photo exhibit)**  
 2nd flr. MassComm building
- tuesday: politics: pinoy style (symposium)**  
 10 a.m. MassComm Auditorium
- thursday: one night stand (an evening of  
 poetry and music)**  
 6 p.m. FC steps
- friday: all-out war (a trivia game show)**  
 4 p.m. MassComm Veranda

life and love has never been fair to us. Challenges and changes come to us everyday, each unique in confronting us. Yet these are similar experiences that teach us the same lessons. *Dejá vú* as what we may call it. We continue to commit the same mistakes until the lesson is finally learned and realized. When we should have realized that we must move on forward, it is when all things become fair and acceptable to us. We have to take things in stride. Sometimes we have to cry. More important is to have some laughter, some joy, to the challenges lest we destroy ourselves.

The best reward we get from struggle is the fulfillment of achieving something we have always dreamed of, of something we have visualized and hoped for. Not every dream can become a reality. It is only when you have it meet halfway can it nourish you to further face other challenges. It is when we raise our heads up high, smiling, knowing you have done something good for yourself and for others.

This is a tremendous undertaking for the contributors for our third Beyond Propaganda. And we are thankful for the desire to write stories about love, laughs and life.  
**(PGOM)**

up journalism club's

# beyond propaganda

Love soft as an easy chair... you know what's next.

At first I was hesitant about this project that I assigned an Issue Editor at once. Why would a publication that has already released issues devoted to the President's State of the Nation Address, the country's social problems and other serious matters release something "shallow" as this human (or animal...or plant) relationship called "love."

But the rest of the club has never been enthusiastic about Beyond Propaganda. The articles came in like mail from Hogwarts' owls. Blame these lovesick (or loveless) members.

And now the project is finished and there is no stopping it. As the editor, I have only one justification for pushing through with this magazine - Love is a national issue.

Stupid. (EGL)

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Beyond propaganda is the official publication of UP Journalism Club.  
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# to be QUEER

By Donna Lampa

We are in a crowded house, and it's a slow Tuesday night. Alex (not his real name) and I are slacking it off and talking about the men in his life while we wait for Jean. I got two of my closest friends together, both of them consider themselves *queer*, for three hours of rekindling and knowing more about them. The real thing was, I needed an article for class and this was a great excuse to get together. Jean (also not her real name) arrives and we begin.

I know their stories quite well. Technically, Alex is gay and Jean is lesbian. I keep saying *technically* as both my friends still have issues with being called as such. Although Alex is proud of his sexual orientation, he says he wants to break free from the social label. "Ayokong nagpapakahon at ayokong nalilimitahan," he blurts out to me.

Jean, on the other hand is not sure about her sexual orientation. Both her past

relationships have been with women. Still, she doesn't dare come out of the closet. "Hindi ko naman feel na lesbian ako. Wala naman akong paki-alam sa gender ng tao. Basta 'pag mahal ko, mahal ko. Bi-sexual siguro, pwede," she argues to me.

Despite their issues with their sexual orientation, they have led queer lives. I have heard their stories of *kilig* and of pain and they do not care if they are called queer.

## ALEX

Alex is now on his third year and has been an out-and-out gay for almost two years. He started to realize that he preferred men over women when he was in a junior high school student.

"Mas cute para sa akin 'yung mga kaklase kong lalaki. Nagka-crush naman ako sa babae noon, kaya lang iba talaga, lalaki ang gusto ko," Alex explains. He came out of his closet

during his second year in UP. He came out because he wanted to be more comfortable with himself.

"Dito kasi sa college, mas maraming pagkakataon para mag-out. Noong high school, wala masyado. Mas receptive kasi ang tao dito. At tingin sa akin ng mga nakikilala ko dito na bading ako, so bakit pa ako magtatago, 'di ba?" he explains. Matters are bit different back home. Alex has told his friends and classmates already, but his family doesn't know yet or pretends not to know.

"Kung ano naman ang ayos ko dito, ganoon din naman sa bahay. Pero siyempre, yung mga bata kong kapatid, walang alam. Minsan, ang sarap tanungin, 'Ma, manhid ba kayo o manhid kayo?"

Alex can imagine himself falling in love with a woman, but

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gay love

