

History of Campus Journalism in the Philippines

Reference: **Campus Journalism and School Paper Advising**

By Ceciliano-Jose Cruz

pp. 1-7

High School Publication- A Brief History

- The school paper is so much part of a student's life that he seldom considers how many student writers and how much cooperation and technical skill are necessary, before he receives from them the latest news, comment, feature stories and literary articles promptly.
- In the city schools of Manila, at least six issues a year, or one per grading period, is put out by selected staff members in both elementary and high schools.

- High school student publications are almost as old as the Philippine Public School system itself.
- For instance, the first Manila High School, now the Araullo High School, then under the editorship of Carlos P. Romulo, started putting out a mimeographed student paper named *The Coconut* in the school year 1911-1912.

- As an extra-curricular activity in the early Philippine public high schools, student publication was introduced in the country shortly after its wide adoption in the American high schools and colleges.
- It is believed that the first high school paper in the United States was published in 1851.
- However, it was not until the early 1920's that student journalism had gained acceptance in the American high schools.

- LA UNION TAB- the first regularly issued printed high school paper. It was published in 1923. Since then, pioneer high school papers came out after the other.
- Among these school organs were:
 - The Pampangan – Pampanga High School, 1925
 - The Leytean- Leyte high School, 1925
 - The Rizalian- Rizal High School, 1926
 - The Coconut- Tayabas High School, 1927
 - The Toil- La Union Trade School, 1928
 - The Samarinian- Samar High School, 1928

- By 1931, there were 106 high schools in the country
- Since then, although there had been no regulatory memorandum or circulars urging high schools to put out a school paper, newly organized high schools followed suit.
- Out of those 106 high schools, only 30 had school papers registered with the Bureau of Public schools.
- By 1950, this increased to 169; by 1954, to 253; by 1975, to 500, and by 1986 to more than 900 English and Filipino secondary school papers.

- Circular Letter No. 34, s. 1929- the first significant regulation governing the putting out of high school papers which set down certain requirements based on the Service Manual.
- Issued by the Bureau of Education (now DepEd) signed by Director Luther B. Bewley.
- Among the requirements were:
 - 1. capable teachers be available to supervise carefully all steps of the paper's production
 - 2. that finances be sufficient to avoid seeking subscriptions and to prevent financial embarrassment to the faculty

- 3. that a printer who has equipment to produce a creditable paper be available.

*The circular objected to the publication of school papers containing undesirable materials, poor printing, and faulty English.

* OCTOBER 22, 1945- Acting Executive Officer John H. McBride Jr. Of the Department of Instruction and Information sent a letter to all division superintendents quoting provisions from the Service

- Manual stating that the school papers should consist chiefly of articles treating of school activities, that they should be free from advertisements, from questionable jokes and cartoons and from worthless poetry and prose.
- It is stated further that articles purporting to be written by students should be solely the product of their efforts, the assistance of the teacher being limited only to criticisms.

The Birth of Manila City Schools Newspapers

- 1911-1912

- * The first school paper in Manila public high schools and incidentally in the country was born. (The Coconut)

- *²nd- Torres Torch of Torres High School- September 1930

- *³rd-Mapazette-Mapa High School

- The Chronicler- Arellano High School
(both in 1940)

- All the rest were born after World War II.
- The list of Manila High school publications with their Filipino paper counterparts, as of 1967 are hereby listed in chronological order:

*1911- The Coconut (mimeographed) later renamed The Wall in 1937, Araullo High School: Ang Moog, June 1957

*1930- The Torres Torch, Torres High School: Ang Sulo, June-July 1956

- 1940 (Sept.)- The Mappazette, Mapa High School: Ang Gabay, 1946
- *1940- (Nov.)- The Chronicler, Arellano High School: Ang Tambuli, November 1945
- *1946- The Power, EARIST: Ang Lakas
- *1947 (Sept.)- The Gazette, Abad Santos High School: Ang Tinig, June 1957
- *1954 (July)- The Evening Progress, EARIST

Formal Instruction of Journalism

- 1952- formal classroom instruction began
- Mrs. Sarah England- an American teacher of Mapa High School, experimented with the teaching of Journalism.
- Since it proved successful, the other four existing high schools in the city followed suit.
 - *Araullo
 - *Torres
 - *Arellano
 - *Abad Santos high schools

- They formally offered journalism as a vocational subject holding classes on a daily double period throughout the school year.
- Since then, journalism has been under the supervision of English Supervisors, but the grades are considered vocational subjects.
- 1964- Mrs. Clehenia San Juan, then the department head of English in Araullo high School, was appointed journalism supervisor.