



## FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

By: Jay Ashley Icayan

**Joseph Estrada's ouster: Was it the right answer?**

Earning the most number of votes ever in the history of presidential elections in the Philippines, Estrada proved that he is really the favorite of the masses. Yet after only more than two years as President, he was ousted and replaced by his Vice President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. What started as Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson's accusations that he was receiving huge sums of money from *Jueteng* triggered unplanned events and crises. He was the first to undergo the process of impeachment that was not finished and just led to another People Power that toppled him from power last Jan 20. Now that we have gotten rid of him, are we sure that it is the right answer to solve the numerous problems that we are facing now?

If you'll ask me, well, yes. It was proven that his stay in power has really been the biggest problem. This is what the silent majority composed of the poor never learned to understand. It is pathetic that until now, many people in depressed areas refuse to accept that ex-President Joseph Estrada is a bad leader. One reason could be found in the answer of an old man when asked why he would still support Estrada. He said it's because Erap almost single-handedly defeated the Japanese soldiers. This old man has not separated the reel Erap from the real Erap.

Right after his replacement, the peso gained strength and soared, and so did the stocks. Many couldn't believe that an economic problem can be solved by a political action.

Now after nearly 2 months since his ouster, he



is still in the headlines. It is believed that he has amassed some \$300 million during his stay in power. He now faces 13 charges of corruption pertaining to the misuse of funds, graft, perjury, bribery and possession of unexplained wealth. The charges of plunder are non-bailable and a conviction for economic plunder could mean death penalty for him.

It seemed that the number 13 has continuously haunted Estrada. Last year, the House of Representatives passed the articles of impeachment against Estrada on Nov. 13. Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson appeared before the impeachment court on Dec. 13. and Clarissa Ocampo, Equitable PCI Bank executive who testified that Estrada and Jose Velarde were the same person was the 13th witness of the prosecution panel. Last March 2, the Supreme Court voted 13-0 which affirmed the legitimacy of the Arroyo government and stripped him of criminal immunity.

There is no place for a corrupt leader in a country like the Philippines. Now that he is gone, I believe that to support the new government would be the biggest priority. After all, Pres. Arroyo really deserves the position. With her academic background in economics together with the support of the people, I know that healing for this suffering nation will be achieved. We should all tear down the walls that divide our nation.



## TIT FOR TAT

By: Kimberly Luceda

**Politics et. al.**

The Philippines is now recovering from its worst political and economic crises. Under the leadership of our new president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, our country is starting anew. Many people, including myself don't believe in her capability to make our country peaceful and prosperous again. But as concerned citizens, we just have to accept, trust and support her in every way we can, because the success of a country does not depend on its leader alone but on its people as well.

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Actors in politics, do they deserve the votes? Nowadays, many actors run for positions in our government. They say that they should be given a chance to prove that they are worthy of the people's votes, but I don't think that we can afford to take risks at this present situation of our country. Being a nation's leader is not a simple thing that we can do trials and errors on. There are also no take twos in real life that they can rectify their mistakes. Each of us has his own line of work wherein he/she can do his/her best.

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Many students graduate from high school without enough knowledge and preparation for college life. They go to quality schools but don't learn much because either the teachers are inefficient or the students themselves are not earnest enough to learn. But if there would be cooperation between the teachers and their students, quality education will be acquired.

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As another school year ends, the Senior batch 2001 bids goodbye to Atheneum, our Alma Mater. I, as one of the Seniors will be definitely sad. We will part ways, live different lives and pursue our own ambitions. But before we leave, we want to thank the people who have been part of our lives during our stay in this institution. Those who have patiently taught us most, if not everything they know, from our lessons up to their own values and experiences in life. Thank you for giving us the chance to prove ourselves and for spending your time to get to know us and learn who we really are. We know that as we leave Atheneum, many will be happy and relieved because we have always been known us as the worst batch ever in our school's history. As a way of showing our gratitude and appreciation and at the same time to prove ourselves to all of you, one day, we will make the Atheneum community proud of us, the infamous Seniors of batch 2001.



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## THOUGHTS

By: Nadia Bautista

**All those times, all those years**

Everything in this world has an ending. Graduation marks an ending of our time spent in the school, those mind-boggling tests, eye-popping quizzes and never-ending seat works. Yet, it seems it is only a short time that has passed and now, we are entering a new level of learning. All those days, teachers and friends we hold dear in our hearts will be replaced by new ones we will meet in our long journey in college. Still, these past years have been one of the happiest years of our lives. It will surely be hard to forget.

We've met friends and foes. These people kept us excited to go to school. Our friends who never left us alone helped us along the way. They cared, loved, comforted, cheered and stayed by our side all the year round. We cried and whenever one is lonely, we were there for comfort. Friends we've met here will be treasured forever. Of course, in our life we've met foes whom we cannot get along with at first but became friends afterwards. Truly, life is ironic. These are the people we will never forget even if we meet new people in other places. Friends in Atheneum are truly irreplaceable. They have been part of our lives that made us strong for they are

## EDITORIAL

**Success in Life**

**Our dreams are worthless, our ambitions are impossible, our plans are meaningless, and our goals are absurd, unless we make an effort to strive for these things. No man who is unwilling can ever go beyond the walls he himself has built around him.**

**To each one of us, God has given the abilities and potentials, that if we exercise, will help us succeed in life. Unfortunately, most people, most of the time tend to prevent themselves from taking their first step towards their goal because of the fear that they might meet failure along the way. We always consider our failures as some things that tell us we are not good enough and that we can never do things right. Although some times we make mistakes, who doesn't, anyway? They make us wiser as we go on further in life. The hindrances we encounter are challenges which make us more eager to succeed and more focused on our aim.**

**We are here in this world not by chance but for a purpose, and that purpose is to rise as high as we can be, fulfilling our dreams and ambitions in life. Living life is a matter of taking courage and proving ourselves what we can do. It is conquering our fears and weaknesses, trying to be the best that we can be. Doing our best and still failing is part of our lives. Attempting and striving to accomplish something is a sign of courage, a proof that we tried.**

**Success is something that gives us a feeling of life worth living. Frustrations often discourage us, but we should remember that every time we fail, we should never stop demanding from ourselves to do better. Success is never final, and failure is never fatal.**

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always there, waiting, ready to catch you if you fall. Even though our lives will be changed and our paths divided, we will always remember those things that we've shared and bonded us together.

A school is not complete without the teachers who taught us and gave their every ounce of patience even though we were uncontrollable. These teachers whom every morning walk inside the classroom, would greet us "Good Morning," proceed to the board to write something, stand in front of the class to explain something about the lesson and of course, shout or serve scolding to us, whenever the class gets noisy. No class is perfect, so we admit that we have become the source of headaches for some teachers but still we always tried to be good but things just can't change that easily. For all those shortcomings, mistakes, wrong doings and violations, we seek and ask for apology. You always stayed with us and you really were open-minded. We owe our heartfelt gratitude to these teachers who have taught us all the lessons we need to know to prepare us for college. These teachers will never be forgotten. Your handwork will shine as we become (hopefully) better individuals.

It is so hard to leave but everyone should be brave to face the future. But even though our world will soon be different, the time spent in this school will always serve as an inspiration to us.

Through all these years, we'd like to thank all the people who stayed with us and even the people who really want us to go. Thank you to our Alma Mater, Atheneum, to our teachers, classmates and friends. We will be leaving with deep regrets. But we will always be strong and we promise to uphold the name of our school. Hope that you will never forget us and we will never forget you, too. One thing we've realized, graduation is never ending; it is just a beginning. Even though the future may seem bleak and unsure, our lessons learned here will serve as our guiding light.