THE BATTLE OF CAMPUS PRESS

by:
Cyan C. Mangaoang
Campus Journalist, Magsaysay National High School

A campus journalist is free to say whatever he wants to say; what happens next after he says it is the problem.

The newspaper is a very influential medium. It is influential because it has the ability to persuade the way people think and act. The press, comprising of the journalists and staff writers, are known to be the informant of news, animator of democracy and revealer of genuineness.

As journalists, we have the responsibility to present what we see, to state what we heard and to write what we witnessed. In order to deliver the truth, we have to present every single statement based on just and honest discussions. There is only a thin thread that separates truth from faux, so we have to be careful. We have to determine the gravity of the information that we should give our readers.

The perilous life of a reporter offers no guarantee. They may be alive if they handle to survive the tribunal but they may die if they use their mouth in the wrong side.

All the way through historical decades which the Philippines witnessed, some journalists who had shown great courage in narrating the truth have also experienced great troubles, wherein, their lives where put into danger. In the Philippine setting, there are many press people who have been part of the history of our motherland because of their guts in the vindication of the truth.

In the time of the Marcos regime, Filipino journalists were silenced. Through martial law, the press has been controllable. After the 1986 People’s Revolution began the incremental change that let the press to come out of the shadows. However, the freedom that they’ve experienced came out against the awful consequences of the rigid political status quo.
The suppressing of the press is decipherable even in an international scale. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the Philippines, in 2013, ranked third in the world of impunity. In the report, 76 Filipino journalists have been killed in the country since 1992. A source for this indifference can be found in main occurrence: the Maguindanao massacre on November 2009. According to CPJ, the massacre is the single deadliest event for the press since 1992.

In a campus situation, student-journalists play the equivalent role as account writers of the school. Whilst the student councils draw and execute action into reality, student writers report about the results of their actions.

Just like the responsibility of the press in society, the student press provides pertinent information to students so that they could make knowledgeable and well-versed verdicts. There are numerous issues involving students. Campus press should aid to make sensible of the reality not only by giving the data but also the analysis.

As part of the school press, we have viewed the most tuneful triumphs and the harshest breakdowns of the most prominent and well-known persons in the school. Our eyes have seen the sorest reality and the most brilliant truth. Our ears have heard the painful actuality and the wonderful lies that came out of the extremely look upon and the exceptionally disavowed. Our mouths have spoken what they saw, whether amusing or disappointing. Our hands have printed the inerasable marks that our universities have accomplished through the years.

References: