

WHAT MATTERS MORE IN CAMPUS JOURNALISM

by:
Donald C. Mariano
Teacher I, Tipo Elementary School

In a country where freedom of expression is not an issue, responsibility will follow as we exercise our rights and privileges. As mentioned by Mary Seantheim Chillin A. Patnubay (2021), “many would argue that press freedom is evident in the country due to the proliferation of social media (which is not press, by the way), data suggest otherwise.”

Age is now defined as “just a number” when it comes to raising our insights and ideas about a certain issue. As a campus journalism advocate, it is quite challenging on how to empower the campus press to become critical thinkers.

According to Rizalie Calibo (2024), campus newspapers provide a platform that serves as an excellent training ground for aspiring journalists. This proves that the future of professional media may start within the corners of the campus. Student publications are now taking action towards becoming active citizens of their generation.

In fact, Filipino campus journalists played a vital role in some historic events. There is a bigger fight outside the campus to preserve democracy. In an article published by Jodesz Gavilan (2018) in Rappler, he said that several campus publications stayed true to this role of shaping public opinion in the course of Philippine history for they’ve gone beyond the classroom and tackled the same issues hounding the country.

Imagine how young minds can become catalysts of change. These minds are fueled by a thirst for verity and accurate information. Campus journalism educators can become contributors to the success of these aspiring media professionals. With proper training and ethical values, the pursuit of truth can compel individuals to become nation-builders.

Campus journalism is undeniably influential in searching for stories that matter. When the campus media commits and dedicates itself to balancing the views, the skill for interviewing, research writing, and analyzing can also be developed.

Aside from academics, there are learnings beyond the four corners of the classroom. Just like how campus journalism education in the Philippines is very much alive (Hans Ethan Carbonilla, 2021). One evidence and living testament to its existence is the annual press conferences. As this event unites promising young journalists from different schools, it encourages understanding responsible campus journalism. However, the competitions should always be the way and not the end in igniting the students' senses to become accountable for positive societal change.

Campus journalism is a public service. As Walter Williams (1908) stated in *The Journalist's Creed*, he quoted "the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public." This principle can make a social impact if the campus press will embrace it.

In a country where freedom of expression is not an issue, obstacles may be found along the way. Change is inevitable, but campus journalism has a promising future with the help of educators who can embed a strong foundation among young journalists.

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