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NATIONAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM

by

Nelia R. Paculan

- * 404,009 high school seniors are scheduled for graduation in 1974.
- * *Of these graduates, 323,531 will take the National College Entrance Exam on Sunday, November 25, 1973—the last Sunday of November.*
- * The date was set—originally—for Saturday, November 24. It was moved to Sunday at the request of the Seventh Day Adventists, who observe Saturday as the sabbath.
- * The examination will be administered simultaneously, all over the country.
- * There are three purposes for the exam:
 - To insure quality in education, by regulating the admission of students into college
 - To promote national development
 - To maintain a balance of workers in the manpower of the country
- * *Greater Manila has the largest group of examinees. The number is estimated at 66,000.*
- * Manila alone will have 32,068.
- * The exam will be a decisive factor in fashioning the future of the boys and girls who take it.
- * *In Japan, the national college entrance examination is a crossroad in the student's life. Among those who fail, there is a high incidence of suicide.*
- * This exam—for the Japanese—determines not only their possible educational attainment, but their economic position, and their place on the social ladder, for life.
- * It determines the kind of work the Japanese student will do for the rest of his days. It fixes his place on the salary scale.
- * In the Philippines, it was conceived principally as a way of channeling our manpower into the areas where that power is needed.
- * *Integrity is the key to the success of this examination.*
- * It is in the hands of two organizations:
 - The Department of Education and Culture
 - The Fund for Assistance to Private Education
- * Because the job is so big, and because it means so much to the students who take it, these two controlling organizations have enlisted the help of:
 - The Philippine Guidance and Personnel Association
 - The Psychological Association of the Philippines
 - The Junior Psychological Association of the Philippines
 - The Philippine Constabulary
 - The National Bureau of Investigation
 - The Metrocom
 - The Philippine Air Force
 - and many others

* On examination day Rainbow Communications will be used—to help the students find their test sites, and to report any irregularity.

* Rainbow Communications is an association of citizens, each one of whom has a car with a transceiver in it—a two way radio. When properly organized they are an effective network for relaying instructions swiftly.

* During Typhoon Yoling, they kept entire communities informed.

* Directly in charge of the examination is the Secretary of Education: Doctor Juan L. Manuel.

* The program director is Dr. Abraham Felipe, the officer in charge of the Fund for Assistance to Private Education.

* Doctor Felipe has three main assistants:

Melvin Viray
Remigio Gumban
Julieta M. Ramos

* Remigio Gumban is in charge of test research and development.

* Test questions, and problems, were formulated by psychologists and test specialists. Each one worked independently, without knowing even the names of the other members on the team.

* Testing officials collected all the questions and problems. They chose the best. These were included in the national college entrance examination.

* Those who composed the questions do not know if their entries were included in the exam.

* The officials who compiled the final draft of the exam have been under tight security.

* The printers are under quarantine. From the moment that the test booklets went to the press, even the janitors and security guards were not allowed to go home.

* The job was finished—and the booklets were delivered—during the last week of October. But all those involved in the process of printing will be kept incommunicado until the examination is over. Their internment covers a period of two months.

* The plans for the security of this examination look like the plans for the Normandy invasion.

* NBI and Metrocom guarded the printing house for the entire duration of the work on the booklets.

* They escorted the delivery vans which transported the booklets to a secret warehouse.

* The Philippine Constabulary guarded the shipping of the booklets to the test centers all over the country.

* Many of the booklets were flown to their destination by the Philippine Air Force.

* There are 307 test centers.

* 854 test sites.

* At the test centers, and in the test sites, the local police force is in charge of security.

* Mrs. Julieta M. Ramos is in charge of the test service. Examiners all over the country have been given seminars on how to administer the test.

* The seminars were designed to prepare the examiners to cope with any situation: fainting, fire, hysteria, earthquakes.

* There are 8,600 examiners.

* Approximately one examiner for every 37 students who take the test.

* Each examiner will be provided with spare booklets, to replace any that may be spoiled through nervousness of the student.

* The examiners are trained to answer questions, to insure uniformity, and to maintain control.

* Personnel from the Fund for Assistance to Private Education will be fielded as spot checkers.

* They will report regularly from each test center.

* The plans are complete. The Department of Education expects a smooth flow of operations.

* Like any human thing, the national college entrance exam lies open to failure on all fronts. The team is as strong as its weakest man.

* In any human endeavor, as big as this, affecting so many lives, it is inevitable that the event will be followed by howls of protest. It will certainly cause pain.

* But the goals are good, and necessary.

* For the Philippines, it is a new thing, a herald of change, a sign of life.

* It is an heroic effort, through education, to direct the nation's manpower.

PRAYER OF A PRIEST

by

G. Perico, S. J.

Dearest Lord,

Teach me to grow old gracefully.

Help me to see

That my community does me no wrong
When gradually it takes my duties from me;
When it no longer seems to seek my views

Rid me of my pride in all the wisdom I have learned.
Rid me of the illusion that I am indispensable.

Help me

In this gradual detachment from earthly things,
To grasp the meaning of your law of time.

Teach me

In this turn-over of work and workers,
To see a striking expression
Of life's constant renewal
Under the impulse of your providence.

And please, Lord,

Let me still be useful,
Contributing to the world my optimism,
Contributing my prayers
To the joyful fervor and courage of those
Who now take their turn at the helm

Let my life-style

Now become one of humbly serene contact
With the world in change,
Shedding no tears for the past;
Making of my human sufferings
A gift of reparation
To all my brothers.

Let my leaving the field of action

Be simple and natural,
Like a glowing, cheerful sunset.

Oh, Lord, forgive me

If only now,
In my tranquillity,
I begin to know how much you love me,
How much you've helped me.

And now, finally,

May I have a clear, deep understanding
Of the joyful destiny you have prepared,
Guiding my every step
From the first day of my life.

Lord, teach me to grow old

Just so.

THE FOURTH WAY

by

Elizabeth Farley, R.S.C.J.

* Conservative, conscientious Catholic theologians have—on various occasions and in various places—given official approval to four ways of controlling conception.

* All four ways make use the natural rhythm in the body of the woman, the cycle of fertility.

* All four ways require periodic abstinence.

* All four ways are reversible—that is, exactly the same procedure may be used to promote conception, when the husband and wife want to have a child.

* All four ways have these two things in common:
They never suppress ovulation.
They have no unhealthy side effects.

* The four ways make use of:
The calendar
The thermometer
The signs of ovulation
The tablet

* The calendar. For thousands of years it has been known that women are fertile only on certain days in a monthly cycle. In 1929 Knaus of Austria, and in 1930 Ogino of Japan—making independent studies—calculated the patterns of fertility and developed the original rhythm method.

* The principal difficulty with the calendar calculation is this: even the most regular women experience variations in the pattern of fertility.

* The thermometer. The basal body temperature method uses the symptom of increased temperature during definite days in the cycle. This makes it possible to keep an exact record of the fertility pattern.

* The thermometer method is not easy, but it has proven to be extremely effective, when properly taught. There has been remarkable success with this, in Bukidnon.

* The signs of ovulation. This is a form of rhythm discovered in 1964 by an Australian—Doctor John

Billings. Most women, with proper instruction, can detect these signs. It makes possible a high degree of accuracy in predicting the fertility pattern.

- * *The technique of Doctor Billings was approved by the Catholic hierarchy of Australia. It was introduced in the Diocese of Los Angeles, California, in 1972. It has had great success among Catholic mothers in India.*
- * **The tablet.** This method was developed by Doctor Harold M. Groden, an American, between 1963 and 1967. It was officially approved in the Archdiocese of Boston.
- * *The Groden method has drawn fire in some quarters, because it uses a medication, prescribed by a doctor. The medicine is a pill.*
- * Doctor Groden himself has argued, publicly and privately, that this tablet is not contraceptive. *It does not suppress ovulation — it merely regulates it.* He calls the method: **Secure Rhythm!**
- * **The tablet is taken for eleven days—from day 15 to day 25 of the feminine cycle. It assures that ovulation will occur on day 14 of the next cycle.**
- * **The married couple must practice voluntary abstinence for seven days. If they follow this faithfully, the Groden method has an extraordinarily high rate of efficiency.**
- * **The ordinary pill is taken for twenty-one days, and renders the woman completely infertile throughout her cycle. Ovulation is suppressed. Conception is almost impossible. No abstinence is necessary.**
- * *Doctor Groden's tablet merely overcomes variability. Ovulation takes place, but on the day expected.*
- * **The Groden method has been published, in the Philippines, under the title: **The Catholic Way.****
- * **But when inquiries came—from Korea—to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, there was no record of official approval by the Philippine hierarchy.**
- * *Doctor Groden believes that the symptomatic techniques—temperature, and signs of ovulation—are never certain.*
- * **Doctor Knaus, forty years ago, believed that ovulation occurred exactly fourteen days before the next menstruation. Doctor Ogino found that ovulation could occur from the thirteenth to the seventeenth day. This variability is what Doctor Groden has tried to overcome.**
- * **Some women are always irregular, and almost all women are occasionally irregular.**
- * *The eleven day administration of Doctor Groden's tablet guarantees that ovulation will take place on day fourteen.*
- * **Tests have shown that rhythm—practiced by the calendar—has failed about 70% of the time.**
- * *The Groden method pinpoints the fertile days exactly.*
- * **Medical supervision is required for the Groden method. It should not be used by mothers who are breast-feeding, because the hormones in the tablet are not good for infants. It can be used by the mother only after her baby has been weaned.**
- * **The pill prevents conception by arresting the growth of the egg into a mature ovum, capable of fertilization. This is temporary sterilization.**
- * *The tablet of Doctor Groden merely controls the day on which the egg presents itself for fertilization.*
- * **The contraceptive action of the pill consists precisely in suppression of the ripening hormone FSH—follicle stimulating hormone—by the pituitary gland. No ovulation occurs. All the days of the cycle are infertile.**
- * *The Groden method merely regulates, and has been used by childless couples precisely in order to have children!*
- * **The main argument against the Groden method is this: "A pill is a pill is a pill is a pill is a pill . . ."**
- * **The main argument for the Groden method is that it brings to natural rhythm a new degree of efficiency.**
- * *Doctor Groden is a dedicated scientist who is trying to give Catholics an efficient method which they may use with a good conscience.*

Paul E. Sheehan, S.J. • Elizabeth Farley, R.S.C.J. • Aurelle Cortes, S.P.C.

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