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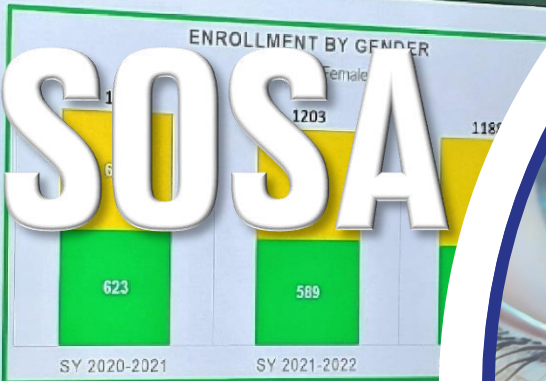
ILUSYON'S Esterorista

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Bunagan delivers first SOSA



ADDRESS TO PROGRESS AND SUCCESS.
The new MSHS principal Dr. Felix delivers the State of the School Address (SOSA) to the stakeholders at the AVR, aiming to elaborate and dive deeper on the topics and issues of late surrounding the MSHS community.



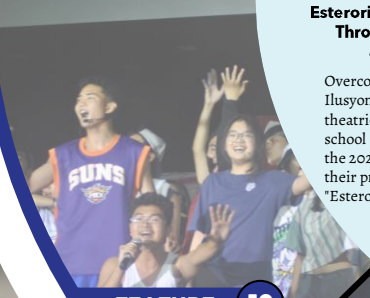
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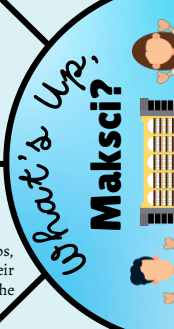
ChatGPT: Humanity's gateway into danger or the future?
With the rise of artificial intelligence applications, is there still an ethical use for ChatGPT?

Esterorista: A Journey Through Struggles and Successes
Overcoming hardships, Ilusyon makes their theatrical comeback at the school grounds with the 2023 run of their production, "Esterorista."

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Creative and Collaborative: MakSci steps up integrative projects
MakSci students showcase their skills, knowledge, and talent in enhanced integrative assessments for the Third Quarter.



The Pilot Episode of NASA's Return to Moon: Artemis I Mission
NASA launches the Artemis I mission, laying the groundwork for future trips to the moon.

SCIENCE 11



WRITER

Mickaela A. Aspuria

Dr. Felix T Bunagan, Principal III of the Makati Science High School (MSHS), delivered the State of the School Address (SOSA) to the stakeholders at the Audio Visual Room on May 13.

During the SOSA, Dr Bunagan presented the current condition and performance of the school in terms of access, quality, governance, and equity. He also emphasized the future programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) of the school.

He informed the stakeholders that Honorable City Mayor Mar-Len Abigail S. Binay signed the City Ordinance Number 2A23-040 titled "An Ordinance Renaming Makati Science High School (Makati West High School) to Makati Science High School, Subject to Existing Laws, Rules, and Regulations" on February 22, 2023.

He explained that the renaming of the school is considered necessary to facilitate the recognition of the said school as a separate educational institution, having a separate identity for the

purpose of planning and budgeting actions/concerns of the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Budget (DBM).

Dr. Bunagan also elaborated various topics and issues concerning the school, including the number of enrolled learners from Grade 7 to 12, the current performance of the school in terms of dropout and promotion rates, the health status of students, and the seminar and trainings attended by teachers.

Additionally, he also expanded on the awards and recognitions received by learners in various local and international competitions, the number of Grade 12 learners who passed in various prominent universities, and the MPS of the school by learning area in the Third Quarter Examinations both in the junior high school and senior high school levels.

Dr Bunagan also enumerated the projects of the school for access, which include the Project

Information Dissemination (ID), Guidance Services on Mental Health, establishment of Inclusive Learning Resource Center (ILRC), and conduct of Science & Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) talks.

Meanwhile, the other PPAs of the school in terms of quality include Project STEPs in Science, Project MIP in Mathematics, Project Kalidad and Project LINGAP in Filipino, Quest for Science Student Research, Proliteracy Program in English.

Those that are in the pipeline include the research center, designing model classrooms, and the improvement of the robotics program and the school garden.

For the last part of the SOSA, he presented the strategies of the school to address its priority improvement areas in terms of programs, projects, and activities, which are aligned with the MATATAG agenda of the Department of Education (DepEd).

Dr Bunagan ended the address by encouraging the full support of stakeholders to create more educational opportunities for learners and to continuously develop the school.

MSHS FORMS

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

WRITER
Jillian B. Tuazon

In an effort to ensure that every voice will be heard, Makati Science High School (MSHS) formed the School Governance Council (SGC), on Oct. 27, 2022 at the school conference room.

The SGC is a board consisting of the school principal, discipline head, faculty president, head teachers, School Student Government (SSG) president and vice president, a MakSci alumnus, and other representatives who give valuable input and feedback for the constitution and bylaws of the school.

It was established so that potential changes in the school regulations will receive feedback from all sectors of MSHS.

"I feel like in the previous years a lot of voices were drowned out in the midst of inequality, and this opportunity gives a stand to those who wish to be heard," SSG President Lee Ramses M. Ibañez said.

According to Ibañez, the creation of the SGC is a great step towards making MakSci a progressive school that is safe and healthy for everyone in its community.





RECONNECT. Makati Science High School students relish the chance to interact face-to-face once more after several months of online learning.

Back to the school grounds!

MakSci returns to full F2F classes

WRITER

Denise Marie V. Ruiz



On Aug. 22, 2022, students of Makati Science High School (MSHS) attended face-to-face (F2F) classes for the first time in over two years.

Prior to this, the school actively engaged in this school year's Brigada Eskwela to ensure a smooth and safe transition from online learning.

Before entering the campus, everyone must go through temperature checkers by the main entrance. Staff can also be found on standby with an alcohol spray bottle in hand, making sure that whoever enters will get his hand disinfected. Classrooms also have alcohol dispensers beside their doors, as well as air purifiers at the back.

With the resumption of F2F classes, students share different sentiments. The tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders this school year have experienced in-person classes before the pandemic hit.

Asked about any particular changes compared to their experiences before and now, Lex Capistrano, a senior high student, mentioned changes in dismissal times.

"Before the reopening of F2F learning in school year 2022 to 2023, school services often stayed up until 5 to 5:30. Shaving the time down to 4:10 to 4:30 allows a majority, if not all of us who take the service, to get home earlier more consistently," he noted.

Regarding academic requirements, Capistrano shared that group projects became more difficult due to certain limitations. "Even with the protocols already in place, oftentimes group meetups are discouraged amongst the students, putting a strain on group projects that require physical components," he said.

Capistrano also noticed that there are more seatworks compared to homework assignments. "In my experience back then, I often had to do something as soon as I got home for the majority of my freshman and sophomore years. It probably changed for senior high but it's more oriented towards integrated assessments between subjects and performance tasks."

As for MakSci's first-timers, batches of Grades 8 and 9 students only had online school experience to boot – until August 2022.

"The biggest change Grade 8 brought to me was the need to be physically present since I have to be in school and wake up really early just to get prepared for the day. Living in Paranaque, I'd have to wake up an hour and a half earlier just to get to school on time. I'd also get home around 5 or 6 depending on the traffic situation, leaving only a few hours to do my assignments. Because of this, I rely on coffee to stay awake during class because I'd usually end up going to sleep around 10 pm, if I'm lucky," Manaog said.

Despite these adjustments, Manaog pointed out the upside of F2F classes.

"The transition from online to face to face classes has brought positive changes, too. I have a closer relationship with my classmates now and I participate and listen well during class compared to when I was in Grade 7. So overall, it was very stressful and there were a lot of ups and downs, but I'm having fun which I think is good enough," he shared.

The smooth transition from online to F2F classes was made possible through sufficient preparation and coordination of school officials, parents, and teachers.

MAKSCI STUDENTS REAP AWARDS IN IMC - SINGAPORE 2022

WRITER

Patricia S. Tan



Rayver T. Cruz and Rosemary B. Kyle Santos bagged awards in the 18th International Mathematics Competition (IMC) - Singapore conducted on Sept. 18, 2022.

Cruz and Santos won silver in Primary 6 and bronze in Secondary 1 of the competition, respectively.

"I felt happy and surprised when I saw my name in the list of winners," Santos said in an interview with the Makati Science Vision. "I didn't expect to win since

most of the questions in the exam were difficult."

She added that the Mathematics Trainers' Guild (MTG) Philippines gave them practice sheets to solve in preparation for the IMC.

The awardees had undergone a rigorous selection process where only 236 MTG trainees were chosen to represent the country in the competition, after which they swept a total of 188 awards.

Held online for the third consecutive year in 2022, the 18th IMC drew in more than 3000



participants from the Philippines, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Every year, the IMC - Singapore organized by the International Mathematics Competition Union is participated in by over more than 10 countries.

2022 to 2023

August to October

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MakSci returns to full F2F classes

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MSHS forms Student Government Council

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MakSci conducts 2022 Brigada Eskwela

November to January

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Ilusyon's short film garners awards in DokyuBata 2022

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DOST recognizes MakSci achievers in YES Awards

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NGOs hold 'Paskuhang Maralita' for Laperal compound residents

February to May

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JFM holds observation for MakSci's Nihongo Special Program

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Bunagan begins tenure as new MakSci principal

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MakSci learners set out on field trips



Ibañez elected as President of FESGOM 2022-2023

The Federation of Student Governments of Makati (FESGOM) elected Lee Ramses Ibañez, current MSHS Supreme Student Government President, as their president for S.Y. 2022-2023 last Sept. 27, 2022 at the Schools Division Office of Makati.

Out of the 13 presidents that compose the FESGOM, 12 were present for the elections.

As MakSci has held the presidency for six years already, Ibañez felt pressured to "live up to MakSci's name." However, the assurance from his friends and good communication with fellow officers helped him cope with the pressure.

His "core value" revolves around listening to every student and accommodating everyone—a step to inclusivity as DepEd, according to him, is now more open-minded. Additionally, Ibañez considered this advocacy as the main factor for his victory.

His plan for the whole student body of Makati City is mainly to eradicate the prevalent issue of sexual harassment inside school campuses.

WRITER

Erik Y. Lenon



According to Ibañez, there is a lack of sanctions against the offenders, who frequently avoid punishment through technicalities.

As such, he is pushing for sanctions on particular grounds with proper due process. This involves drafting the major and minor offenses written in school handbooks that include sexual violations.

Ibañez hopes for more face-to-face interactions with fellow student government presidents in FESGOM.

Aside from the division-level participation, Ibañez also joined meetings with the Regional Federation of Supreme Student Government, screening and scrutinizing some of the recently approved DepEd policies. He also participated in the first aid training for student government presidents.

His next step, according to him, is preparation for the Philippine Youth Congress.

BUNAGAN BEGINS TENURE AS NEW MAKSCI PRINCIPAL

WRITER

Mickaela A. Aspuria

Makati Science High School (MSHS) warmly welcomed Dr Felix T. Bunagan as its new school principal on March 21, 2023.

Prior to Bunagan, MSHS was temporarily headed by Mr. Michael M. Mercado, SDO-Makati Araling Panlipunan Education Program Supervisor, who served as the school's OIC-Principal from July 18, 2022 to March 20, 2023.

Dr Bunagan said he is honored and humbled to be the current principal of MSHS. Moving forward, he said he wants to emphasize the importance of fostering a positive and collaborative working relationship among all members of the MakSci community.

"My vision for our school is one that is committed to academic excellence, research and innovation, and the development of well-rounded, holistic students," Dr Bunagan told the Makati Science Vision.

"To achieve this, we must work together to create a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that values innovation, creativity, and critical thinking," he continued.

According to Bunagan, he aims for the pursuit of academic excellence and personal development through improving academic

programs, encouraging faculty and students alike to engage in meaningful research, as well as providing opportunities beyond the classroom for students to not only be intellectually curious, but also emotionally intelligent and compassionate individuals.

In 2022, Bunagan won the Rotary Club of Makati Dasmariñas Search for Most Outstanding Principal during his tenure at Makati High School.

Before taking office in MSHS, Dr Bunagan had served as principal in three Makati secondary schools over the span of nearly seven years.

His previous job as principal at Makati High School started in 2019, preceded by his time at Pitogo High School starting 2018, and prior to both were his beginnings as principal at Bangkal High School in 2016.



The Scouts are back in town! MSHS-GSP CONDUCTS INVESTITURE AT SCHOOL GROUNDS

WRITER

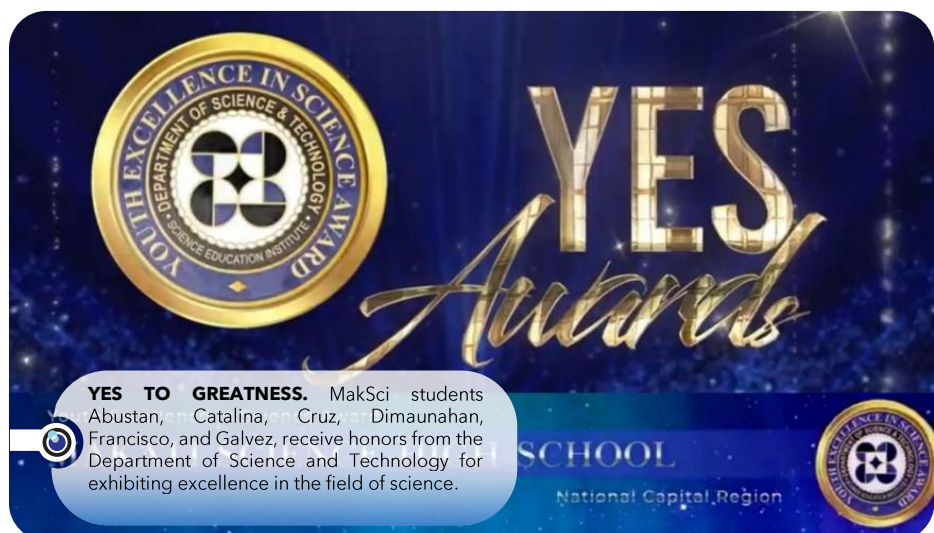
Jacquelyn Viel S. Turner

The Makati Science High School Girl Scouts of the Philippines (MSHS-GSP) held their investiture in person on May 5, 2023, 4:30-5:30 p.m., at the MSHS grounds.

All the new Girl Scouts were officially welcomed to the GSP during the investiture ceremony, which included a candle-lighting ceremony, a pinning ceremony, and many other events the Scouts worked hard in.

They also pledged their adherence and commitment to upholding the Girl Scout promise along with the Girl Scout law during the event.

The investiture featured motivational messages delivered by School Principal Felix Bunagan, an alumna, and Marilou Landicho as part of the investiture ceremony, which also included a doxology performed at the investiture by the MSHS Choral.



DOST recognizes MakSci achievers in 2022 YES Awards

WRITER

Mickaela A. Aspuria

The Department of Science and Technology Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) bestowed the Youth Excellence in Science (YES) 2022 Award to six students of Makati Science High School during an online awarding ceremony on Nov. 25, 2022.

MakSci's recipients of this award are Ron Aldwyn B. Abustan, Dennis V. Sta. Catalina, Jairus G. Cruz, Christian R. Dimaunahan, Samantha S. Francisco, and Matthew Ivan R. Galvez

As part of the 2022 National Science and Technology Week, DOST-SEI conferred 1,802 YES medals to students from different parts of the country for bagging 5,060 international medals in 2021.

The DOST YES Award is a medal of distinction given to Filipino elementary and high school students who have won bronze, silver, and gold medals, whether individually or by team, in the international scene of science and math competitions during the past year.



BRIGADA ESKWELA 2022: Tugon Sa Hamon ng Ligtas na Balik-Aral

WRITER

Maxyne Ysabelle K. Academia
Matthew Ezekiel N. Quimora

Last August 1-26, Brigada Eskwela 2022 was officially kicked off with the theme: "Tugon Sa Hamon ng Ligtas na Balik-Aral" aiming to create a safe learning environment for learners and personnel amidst the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This year, Brigada Eskwela at Makati Science High School was held with the participation of multiple student organizations, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents, and volunteers from outside of the MSHS community in numerous activities. Said activities included the parent's orientation per batch, floor repairs by AFP volunteers, hygiene materials donation, MSHS Wash-In-School, Gulayan sa Paaralan, and Fire Safety Training.

Makati Science High School's official Brigada Eskwela Kick-Off Parade was held last August 15, 2022, starting at 6 AM. The program included a message from Mr. Michael M. Mercado, the school's OIC, inspirational messages from Dir. Wilfredo E. Cabral, Regional Director of DepEd NCR, and Dr. Rita E. Riddle, CESO V Schools Division Superintendent and Concurrent OIC-ARD of DepEd

NCR, and messages of support from the GPTA, Supreme Student Government, Faculty Club, Techshare, Google, and AFP.

The MSHS Wash-In-School program last August 11 was another event held during the 2022 Brigada Eskwela with the participation of the school's Science and Technology Organization (Sci-Tech Org.) and Youth for Environment in Schools - Organization (YES-O). Activities included a seminar on handwashing with Nurse Janine, DIY hand soap-making with the participating organizations to be used in comfort rooms across the school, and finally the ribbon cutting for the turnover of a non-touch handwashing facility at the MSHS court donated by Manila Waters and Safeguard.

Clubs such as the Science and Technology (Sci-Tech) Organization, Youth for Environment in Schools - Organization (YES-O), School Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (SDRRMC), as well as the Girl and Boy Scouts of the Philippines lead the Gulayan sa Paaralan held last August 12, 2022.

The said event was aimed at the rehabilitation of the school garden, as well as cleaning the school grounds. After being assigned with their respective tasks, the volunteers started with planting flowering plants and vegetables of different varieties such as. In addition to that, the volunteers assisted in repainting plant pots and other parts of the garden and in cleaning up.

Last but not the least, Fire Safety Training was given by the firefighters from BFP Makati to the members of Sci-Tech, YES-O, SDRRMC, BSP, and GSP. These students were given a seminar about different fire hazards, what causes fire, and how to put out fire. There was also hands-on training on putting out fire using a damp cloth or fire extinguisher, and how to turn off the LPG in a gas cylinder fire.

Last August 2022, Brigada Eskwela was finally able to be held on-site after more than two years. As a result, Makati Science High School was able to open its gates for School Year 2022-2023 in a full face-to-face modality thanks to the active support and participation of students, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents, and other members of the MSHS community.

MAKSCI MATHLETES WIN AWARDS IN TIMO 2022-2023

WRITER

Maxyne Academia



Last Oct. 23, 2022, a total of six students represented Makati Science High School at the Thailand International Math Olympiad (TIMO) National Heat Round 2022: Rayver T. Cruz - Bronze Award in Secondary 1, Patricia Nicole S. Tan - Bronze Award in Secondary 2, Frances Deborah H. Arcalas - Bronze Award in Secondary 3,

Rhianna Mikaella V. De Sotto - Bronze Award in Secondary 3, Denise Summer P. Bajar - Merit Award in Secondary 3, and Samantha Mykhyle S. Francisco - Silver Award in Senior Secondary.

For the safety of the participants, the competition was held online with the requirement of

a camera and a microphone. The examination included five categories: Logical Thinking, Algebra, Number Theory, Geometry, and Combinatorics. Each category was composed of five questions, each carrying four marks. There were no points deducted for incorrect answers. Additionally, the use of calculators and creating a new tab was prohibited.

"The exam had a time limit of 60 minutes, therefore I was fired up as I answered the questions. In an effort to complete the questions as quickly as possible, I was racing against the clock" said Frances Arcalas, who won the Bronze award in Secondary 3.



FROM JAPAN, WITH LOVE. Mr. Kawashima gives out hearts to Nihongo students on Valentine's Day as a part of MakSci's partnership with the Japan Foundation Manila.

Japan Foundation Manila holds observation for MakSci's Nihongo Special Program

WRITER

David Lance V. Paez



On February 14, 2023, Makati Science High School held its yearly Nihongo observation in collaboration with the Japan Foundation Manila, wherein students had the opportunity to showcase their proficiency in the Japanese language.

The NIHONGO Partners Program dispatches Japanese citizens as NIHONGO Partners, primarily to secondary schools in Asia in order to assist the local Japanese-language teachers and students.

NIHONGO Partners aims to support the educational endeavors of the local Japanese language teachers while promoting the beauty of the Japanese language and cultures and extracurricular cultural activities both in and outside the classroom.

Spearheaded by the Nihongo Special Program teachers Ms. Marissa Razon and Mr. Aruto Kawashima, a series of activities and exercises centered around Valentine's Day were held, directed

at improving the adeptness of Nihongo students with their use of the language.

Ms. Razon has been teaching the Nihongo Special Program class since 2019 and has been a teacher at Makati Science High School since 2006, while Mr. Kawashima is currently a university student whose first year of teaching Nihongo kicked off this year in Makati Science High School and Mandaluyong Science High School.

The event was observed by a total of eight panelists, including Makati Science High School teachers Mr. Owen Ombid and Mrs. Darish Gamit, as well as the director of Japan Foundation Manila, Mr. Suzuki Ben.

The preparation for the observation was meticulously planned with the collaboration of Ms. Razon and Mr. Kawashima for the lesson's sequence to ensure that every single activity would properly and smoothly be executed during the entirety of the observation.

Along with this, the Nihongo class students were given adequate

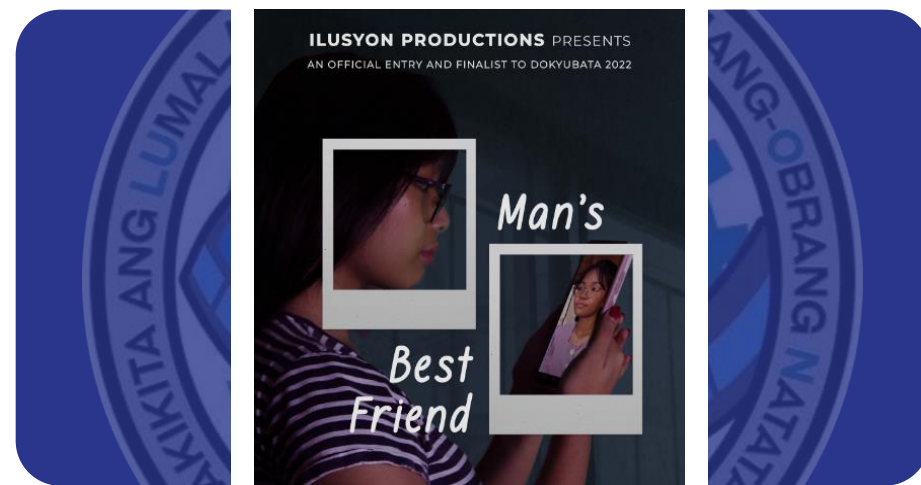
time to arrange preparations for the observation through rehearsals and practices, both during their Special Program time as well as after classes.

During the observation itself, the students were able to showcase their proficiency in Nihongo and rigorously accomplished all the activities planned for the hour, including the pairworks and groupworks incorporated into the lesson.

The Nihongo class also reviewed their previous topics with the assistance of Mr. Kawashima in helping students with their pronunciation, writing, and speaking skills, while the observation itself culminated with the class singing the song "Spring Thief" by Yorushika.

Despite all the time constraints, Ms. Razon and Mr. Kawashima were still able to successfully execute their lesson plan and accomplish the objectives of the observation.

Ms. Razon considered the event a success, with the students "displaying the eagerness and dedication to learn the language of Japan," wherein the observers also gave positive remarks on the students' proficiency in Nihongo.



Ilusyon's short film garners awards in DokyuBata 2022

WRITER

Jillian B. Tuazon



Ilusyon, the official performing arts club of Makati Science High School (MakSci), won "Best Story" and "Best Gender Sensitive Documentary" with their production "Man's Best Friend" in the Children Division of the DokyuBata 2022 Video Documentary Contest held by the National Council for Children's Television (NCCT).

Ilusyon's documentary received these awards during the Virtual Awarding ceremony on Nov. 11, 2022 after landing among the Top 10 Finalists of the competition with the theme, "Sa Mundo ng Social Media, Ligtas Ka Ba?"

DokyuBata is an annual video documentary contest started by NCCT in 2017 with the aim to promote the creation of quality child-friendly documentaries.

For the 6th DokyuBata, participants were able to choose from four major topics: cyber wellness, cyberbullying, digital citizenship, and children's rights.

The documentary made by MakSci's students was about digital citizenship, specifically about how social media can have a positive impact on one's life.

It revolved around Gail Nikola F. Salor, a MakSci alumnus who has been diagnosed with Stage 3 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and how she has been helped by this age's so-called "Man's best friend:" the digital world, social media, and our cellphones.

Last 2020, Salor posted online about her desperate need for a large sum of money for her expensive cancer treatment in the midst of the pandemic.

This garnered a positive response from her family, friends, and the MakSci

community, who virtually came together to help her through social media.

The MakSci Supreme Student Government saw her post and conducted an online benefit concert on their Facebook page called "Agapay: Tungo sa Tagumpay" with performances by the school's students and alumni.

They raised almost ₱100,000 in this fundraising event, in which all proceeds were donated to aid in Salor's treatment.

A short film highlighting how social media can be used for the benefit of the youth, "Man's Best Friend" was directed by Maria Anastasia G. Ybiernas with screenwriting by Selina Yvonne S. Peralta, videography by Angela Jean G. Mendoza, and editing by Lance Jacob G. Yabut.

The award-winning documentary was produced under the supervision of Ilusyon's moderator, Jayfel L. Balingasa.

"Making the documentary was hard. First of all, none of us really have experience making a documentary," Ybiernas said. "Even if I had been a long time member of Ilusyon, you'd know that it's more of theater that we do there. So this experience was a first for us."

Despite their inexperience in such film-making and going up against schools specialized in media, the Ilusyon team was able to successfully pull off this project and win multiple awards in their category.

For their entry winning "Best Story," Ilusyon garnered a ₱10,000 prize along with a certificate and trophy, while for the "Gender Sensitive Documentary" award, they received a special citation, plaque, and certificate.

WE for Women!

WRITER

Denise Angel F. Evasco



MAKSCI CELEBRATES WOMEN'S MONTH CULMINATING ACTIVITY



EMPO(WE)R WOMEN! Makati Science High School celebrates Women's Month Cultivating Activity and gives recognition to students who participated in multiple activities held by the Social Studies Club.

Makati Science High School celebrates Women's Month Culminating Activity (WMCA) with the theme "WE For Gender Equality and Inclusive Society" at the Audio Visual Room of MakSci from 1:00-4:00 PM on March 29, 2023, led by Gender and Development (GAD) Core Group and Social Studies Club.

According to Ralmond Roca, MSHS GAD focal person, the theme

emphasizes women empowerment (WE).

The theme is also aligned with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, which aims for "deep economic and social transformation to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction by steering the economy back on a high-growth part."

The program includes the sharing of Mx. Alyssa Marie R. Alita, spokesperson of WMCA, of her experience at MSHS and Young Men's Christian Association related to the challenges that women faced and overcame in the school and association.

"You have a power to make a difference so stay strong, stay confident," said Mx. Alita.

Prizes were also awarded during the said activity to the winners of poster, essay and video making, as well as the songwriting competition launched for the whole month of women's celebration.

These activities are held to promote women empowerment and to acknowledge women's achievements.

This month-long celebration aims to raise awareness about women's struggles for gender equality and their rights such as domestic violence, sexism and other hardships that women face daily. This is the time to honor and appreciate the significant contributions made by women to society.



THE WHEEL'S ON THE BUS! MSHS students travel on free educational tours, with Grades 7 and 8 visiting Rizal, Grades 9 and 10 going to Pampanga, and Grades 11 and 12 seeing Antipolo.

OUT AND ABOUT!

MakSci learners set out on field trips, funded by Makati gov't

WRITER

Denise Marie V. Ruiz



TStudents of the Makati Science High School (MSHS) have been all set to go on educational tours free of charge, thanks to the City Government of Makati.

The city's public schools can enjoy field trips for free as part of the government's expanded benefits. Mayor Abigail Binay recently said she lobbied for the allocation of P100 million in the city budget for off-campus activities of their beloved schools.

Within the MakSci community, the first to conduct their educational trip was Grade 10 on February 28, followed by Grade 11 on March 2, Grade 12 on March 4, Grade 8 on March 24, and Grade 7 on April 22. Grade 9 students will have theirs on May 11.

Grades 7 and 8 traveled to the same destinations - the National Museum Angono-Binangonan in Binangonan and the Blanco Family Museum in Angono, both in Rizal province.

The National Museum Angono-Binangonan is home to one of the Philippines' oldest known artworks: the Angono-Binangonan Petroglyphs. This rock-engraved piece found on the wall of a shallow cave of volcanic tuff is an assemblage of 127 human and animal-like stick figures, dated 3000 B.C.

The Blanco Family Museum, on the other hand, was put up in 1980 by a renowned muralist from Angono - Jose V. Blanco - widely known by his folk name Pitok Bunggan, along with his family. Apart from memorabilia, the private museum showcases around 400 artworks crafted by each member of the Blanco family in a decade. Their artworks depict rural life in Angono, colorful fiestas, and religious celebrations.

For their part, Grades 9 and 10 also share identical sites to venture - all situated in the province of Pampanga: the Sandbox in Porac, San Guillermo Parish Church in Bacolor, and the Clark Museum and 4D Theater in Clark.

Sandbox is a two-hectare destination promising adventure with its outdoor attractions and facilities. It is

home to the Giant Swing - the tallest in the country - which can handle three guests at once, and swing back and forth at 10 meters above the ground. It also has the Aerial Walk Challenge - a high rope course of nets and rope walkways which an active guest can accomplish in about 30 minutes.

Moving on to Clark, the Clark Museum and 4D Theater brings you along the stories significant to the history of Clark and its surrounding areas through its galleries. Gallery 1: Between Arayat and Pinatubo - a Geo Hub for the Filipino Spirit presents the geophysical environment of Clark; Gallery 2: People's Industry and Ingenuity Filipino Spirit in Craft and Ritual showcases towns in the vicinity of Clark, Arayat, and Pinatubo as networks for industry and trade; Gallery 3: Interregnum: Clark Air Field - The Filipino Spirit Rechanneled features the Clark Air Field as a US military facility, and finally, Gallery 4: Clark Freeport: Celebrating the Filipino Spirit Renewed and Rising displays the Clark Freeport and how it is a testament to Filipino greatness.

Meanwhile, Grades 11 and 12 went to Mt. Purro Nature Reserve and Pintô Art Museum, both found in Antipolo, Rizal.

Family-run Mt. Purro Nature Reserve began as a small bahay kubo - a suitable venue for get-togethers after hiking in the forest and swimming in the river. Named after the massive reforestation efforts in Mount Purro, it has become a social enterprise, providing alternative and non-destructive forms of livelihood to those otherwise engaged in environmentally damaging practices.

Founded in 2010, the Pintô Art Museum is an exhibition space for Philippine contemporary art. It is increasingly becoming well-known in the country, especially among Filipino youths due to its marked modernism. Visiting this museum was especially relevant to the Grade 12 students, who have Contemporary Philippine Arts in the Region as one of their subjects.

Armed with learnings from these field trips, MakSci students expressed gratitude for the opportunity to visit various interesting locations and enjoy a quick break from their academic responsibilities.



PUTTING THE MERRY IN CHRISTMAS. Volunteers from Krayola PH play a series of games with resident children of Laperal compound in time for Christmas.

NGOs hold 'Paskuhang Maralita' for Laperal compound residents

WRITER

David Lance V. Paez



On Dec. 21, 2022, Krayola PH and other non-governmental organizations held "Paskuhang Maralita" at the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, striving to benefit the socioeconomic status of Laperal compound residents.

In collaboration with UMak IIHS-SC, College of Governance and Public Policy-SC, UMak CTHM-SC, Kabataan Partylist, Anakbayan, and Panday Sining, Krayola PH organized said event, dedicated to commemorating the season of love and giving while simultaneously discovering Laperal residents' experiences and stories to tell.

Following the event's theme of "Kapit, kalabit ka, kapatid!," volunteers played a series of games alongside the resident children of the Laperal community at Guadalupe Viejo.

The event organizers set up a morning gathering for the adults to better comprehend their existing situations and heed their pleas regarding housing.

A number of speakers were also invited to discuss House Bill No. 5, also known as the "Onsite Development, People's Plan Bill."

The signing of a petition took place after the talk, addressing all the attendees and event organizers.

Additionally, several Makati Science High School students participated in the event, including various students from Grade 10 - Fermi whose "eyes, mind, and heart were opened" through the meaningful experience.

They served as volunteers and joined the different committees that collectively played a part in shaping the event's success.

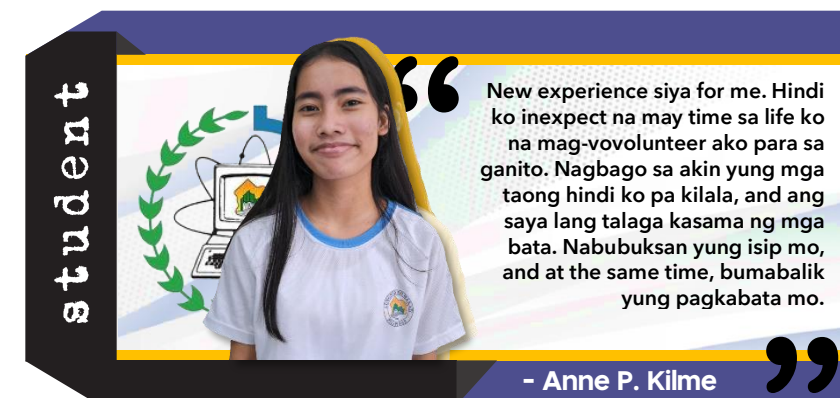
Among which was the marshal committee that supervised and interacted with the resident children, while the food committee handed out coffee, pandesal, and packed lunch near the venue's entrance.

Grade 10 - Fermi student Anne P. Kilme also took part in the event by playing exciting games with the children, as well as simply getting to know them and their situations better.

The second Paskuhan event welcomed hundreds of families and children which featured performances, gift-giving, raffles, and even more exciting activities from different organizations during the afternoon.

Despite this, the organizers and volunteers alike experienced minor complications, including a food shortage with some residents taking more than what was originally allotted.

Nevertheless, the coordination of the NGOs and volunteers led to the success of this event which was specifically organized to fight for food security, wage increase, government assistance, and housing rights.



- Anne P. Kilme

MAKSCI MARKS MATH WEEK 2023

WRITER

Zach Villegas



CONGRATULATIONS!
to
OUR MAKSCI MATHLETES!



Mathematics teachers of Makati Science High School, with the help of the Mathematics Society Club, held several activities within the school from April 26-28, 2023 as part of the school's annual celebration of Math Week.

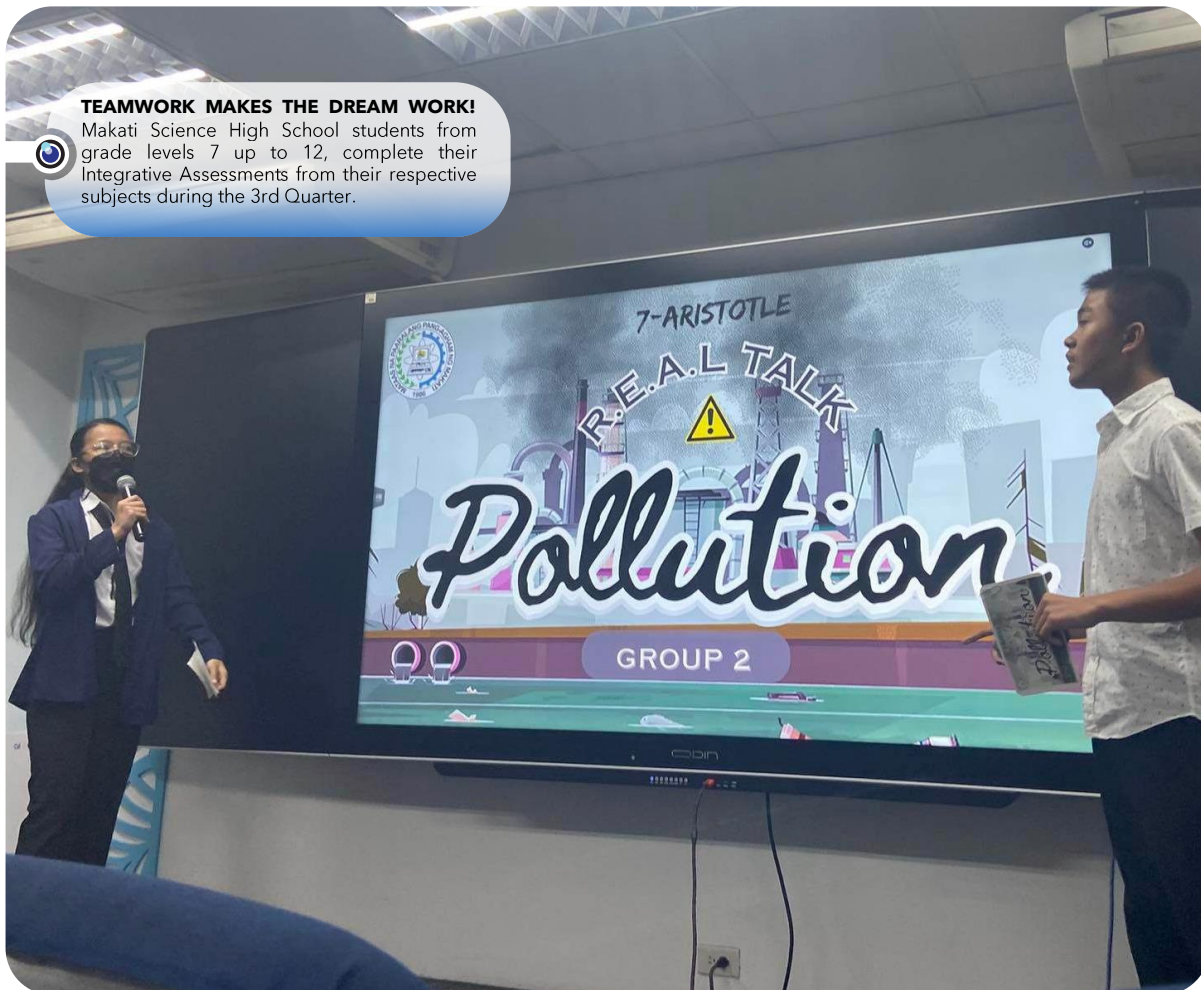
The first day saw the start of Mathira Mathatag, a Mathematics-themed quiz bee, Lost Will: Chasing Clues, a game of finding clues around the school, and Dungeons and Dragons, where students would rate the recently built Math-themed booths by Grade 10 students.

During the second day, the final round of Mathira Mathatag, was commenced for students per grade level that passed the elimination round the previous day, and the three highest scorers were awarded.

On the final day, prizes were handed out to the top three winners of each of the three remaining games: Lost Will, Dungeons and Dragons, and Math Race, a game with similar mechanics to Lost Will.

Math Week 2023 was an especially anticipated event for the students of MakSci, as it was the school's first face-to-face celebration since the pandemic.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!
Makati Science High School students from grade levels 7 up to 12, complete their Integrative Assessments from their respective subjects during the 3rd Quarter.



MakSci students showcase integrative assessments

WRITER

Mickaela A. Aspuria



Bridging the collective learning outcomes of various subjects, Grade 7 to 12 students of Makati Science High School (MSHS) presented their respective integrative assessments for the 3rd Quarter of S.Y. 2022-2023.

Standing for "Research. Environment. Asian Life," the Grade 7 students' culminating event entitled "R.E.A.L Talk" was held at the audio-visual room from April 12 to April 14, 2023. The learners were tasked to conduct oral group presentations that provide accurate information on environmental issues in South and West Asia, particularly the Philippines, as a collaboration between their Earth and Beyond, English, and Araling Panlipunan subjects.

On April 12, the Grade 10 students also exhibited the final outcome of their integrative assessment, which was to feature different games of chance with prizes of varying value in creatively designed booths. This project involved their Math, Science, and MAPEH subjects. In their games, the learners were able to apply the concepts of the central dogma of molecular biology, specifically how the different kinds of mutation can cause changes in an entire organism.

The next day, April 13, 2023, Grade 9 conducted their debate entitled "World War Z," the first Asian Parliamentary debate to be held at the MSHS grounds. This integrative assessment aimed to develop the learners' potential in

persuasive speaking through a debate festival and hone their analytical and logical organization of evidence through research. It was a collaboration between their English, Science, Research, EsP, AP, Mandarin, and Journalism subjects. The adjudicators of the debate were head teachers Ms. Darish Gamit and Ms. Laarni Illao of the English and MAPEH departments, respectively, as well as MakSci alumni Angelo Alcudia and Jan Theo Isaac, the special guests for this event.

As for the Grade 8 students, their integrative assessment from April 3 to April 18, 2023 was to create a board game with three levels. Level 1 encompassed Filipino culture, Level 2 dealt with the Renaissance period, and Level 3 consisted of treasure card questions on triangle congruence and special right triangles.

Other components of the project included the instructions, which utilized parallelism, and the design and playability of the board game. The students were also graded for the sportsmanship displayed while playing by group and the documentation of the assessment by creating a website with CSS. This integrative assessment was made possible with the collaboration of eight subjects: Filipino, AP, Mathematics and Geometry, English, MAPEH (specifically PE), and ICT.

Meanwhile, Grade 11 held their I-Amazing Race at the school grounds from April 3 to April 4, 2023. Each subject involved in the

assessment had a station with a designated task the students had to accomplish. The Grade 11 students first had to finish the table tennis station for HOPE, then calculate the probability of events based on table tennis for General Math. For Chemistry, the learners solved problems, while for Biology, they completed puzzles on evolution scientists. At the Basic Calculus station, the students solved derivatives.

In comparison, Grade 12 showcased their integrative assessment ahead of the lower batches from March 28 to March 30, 2023. Presented at the school grounds, their culminating activity was an exhibit consisting of an art gallery, a trailer, and a live performance based on their own short story. Each section wrote a short children's story revolving around a specific hazard and the role of media and information literacy in disaster preparedness. Based on their story, the students then made and displayed artworks made from local materials, as well as created a musical play adaptation with an accompanying video trailer. This integrative assessment incorporated four subjects: Contemporary Philippine Arts in the Region, 21st Century Literature, Disaster Readiness and Risk Reduction Management, as well as Media and Information Literacy.

This 3rd Quarter, the MSHS teachers opted to give out integrative assessments with the aim to lessen the students' workload. Despite no planned integrative assessments for the 4th Quarter, the teachers are still eyeing its implementation in the future with further improvements based on feedback from the students.



Appreciation no matter the situation Maksci celebrates World Teachers' Day

WRITER

David Lance V. Paez

organizer for them to use, a David's Salon gift certificate worth ₱700, and a Puregold gift certificate worth ₱1,500.

In addition, Oct. 7, 2022 was reserved for the recreation of MakSci teachers through a series of activities to guarantee their recuperation.

The teachers were given a complimentary breakfast at the Feeding Room and lunch at the Conference Room, as well as offered beauty and wellness services in the form of manicures, pedicures, and foot spas.

Mr. Ralmond Roca, a Mathematics teacher who has been teaching in MakSci for 15 years, felt overwhelmed by all the surprises held for teachers, albeit grateful for the appreciation shown.

Furthermore, Roca reassured that no matter how difficult studies in MakSci become, teachers will always be there for students to listen and accompany them through all their hardships.

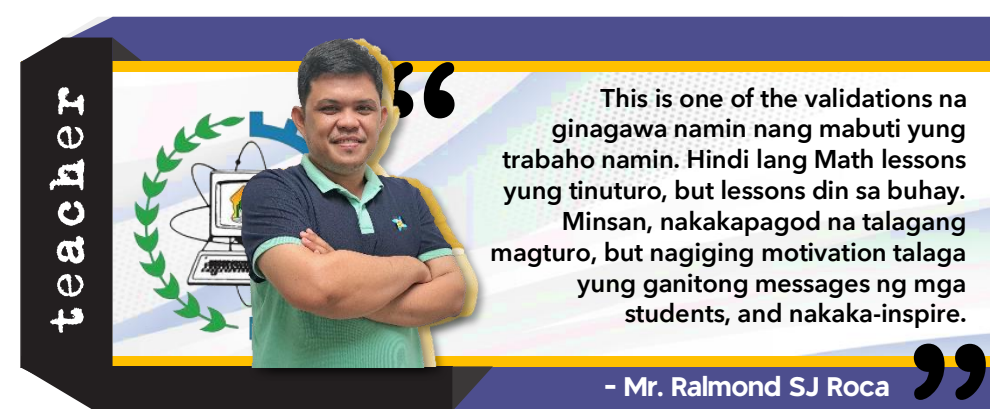
Last Oct 5., 2022, Makati Science High School (MSHS) celebrated World Teachers' Day without a hitch despite classes being held online at the time due to the two-week period allotted for the school's renovation.

This day also culminated the National Teachers' Month, celebrated from Sept. 5 to Oct. 5, 2022, following the theme "Gurong Pilipino: Dangkal ng Sambayanang Pilipino."

To honor MakSci teachers for their diligence and perseverance, the MSHS Supreme Student Government posted messages of students on their Facebook page, dedicated to expressing gratitude towards every teacher in the school.

Moreover, teachers were showered with the praise and gratitude of students and alumni through private messages to recognize their efforts as educators and remind them of the importance of what they do.

The Makati City Hall also provided teachers with a package containing an



- Mr. Ralmond SJ Roca

ILUSYON RETURNS TO THE STAGE WITH 'ESTERORISTA'

WRITER

Jillian B. Tuazon



Ilusyon, the official performing arts club of Makati Science High School (MSHS), showcased their third musical play entitled "Esterorista" last March 4, 2023 at the school grounds after over three months of preparation.

It follows the journey of Juvani, played by Grade 12 student Kim Oliver M. Santiago, and exhibits the hardships his character had to go through to make ends meet.

The musical play included original songs that gave life to the performance such as "Kaibigan Lang Pala" and "Foxtrot."

"Esterorista" was originally meant to be conducted last March 2020 in the Grand Theater of the University of Makati but was unfortunately canceled due to the COVID-19 lockdown.





CHAT-GPT: Humanity's gateway into danger or the future?

WRITER

Princess Joyce P. Tavas



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is taking the world by storm, with recent developments allowing users all over the world to access, not only, a variety of information, but as well as new ideas in an instant. Take for example the current talk of the town, Chat-GPT. A Generative Pre-Trained Transformer Language Model, developed by 'OpenAI', one of the forefront researching companies leading the AI revolution; a program that can be used by everyone on the Internet. Chat-GPT has risen in popularity ever since its launch in November of 2022, and now, people have started noticing its unique communicative style when generating text.

Chat-GPT is a knowledgeable program that can recognize patterns in text, and use that to learn our language, culture, and media to mimic human thought processes. You can think of it as an assistant, that can give you their thoughts and opinions on any matter presented to it, as if it were sentient. This demonstrates astounding progress in the field that could potentially change the landscape of industry and education. It has the potential to be the source of inspiration and insight, which academics in our country could benefit from and be able to use efficiently, right?

Alas, there is still growing concern from educators and scholars alike about the abuse of intelligent tools like Chat-GPT. With its ability to generate human-like and 'factually' sounding responses, the main problems would be the spread of misinformation and plagiarism. But are these real setbacks in the progress of students? Firstly, it is crucial to note that the CEO

himself, Sam Altman, has admitted that the software does not produce 100% accurate responses all the time. He called it "A hallucinations problem"—he observed that people tend to trust the AI's responses wholeheartedly even when the information provided may be false. Additionally, the chatbot was trained using data scoured from the internet up till 2021, meaning it is highly likely that some of its data is outdated information as well. Even Chat-GPT warns us that, "The responsibility for verifying information and forming opinions lies with the individual, and it's important to exercise critical thinking and judgment when using any source of information."

This leads us to the next ethical problem that still plagues the young minds of students: plagiarism. With AI being this convenient, there are natural risks that come with its uses, which include its ability to write full comprehensive essays in a matter of seconds. Both the developers of the AI and the educational institutes are to be held responsible for ethical disputes that arise with implementing chatbots into society. With the inevitable advancement of technology, academic institutions must be aware of the inherent risks software like this can bring to the future of education. Therefore, it is necessary for our educational system to update its protocols and take robust measures to counter the problems that arise when facing the future of automation. And with the weight of the future on their shoulders, the developers have considered the eventual misuse of their product, they trained the AI to as much of their ability to refuse any inappropriate and unethical requests, as well as created counter

measures for the problems mentioned previously.

There is always a right way of using tools to our advantage. According to the chatbot, "It's important to use me as a source of inspiration and not a definitive answer." This means that users like us have the responsibility to use GPTs for ethical purposes and not for shortcuts or malpractice. As scholars, we can use AI as support for developments in our respective fields. And what could be considered an ethical and useful purpose for chatbots? Well, for example, the purpose of teaching, which Chat-GPT is most definitely able to do. Questions and prompts are the very foundation of meaningful learning which is why chatbots enhance and help students progress by letting them think of significant questions. Educational institutes should recognize the possibilities of AI use when done correctly, especially when it has proven time and time again to be a helpful resource. Currently, institutes like Northern Illinois University, have been slowly but surely integrating Chat-GPT in their method of teaching, recognizing its potential.

Despite the risk, this endless potential for AI is both breathtaking and terrifying. But the tool is not something to be feared—in fact, students would benefit from the use of AI in the educational system. As long as the youth is provided with proper guidance on the ethical use of chatbots such as these, they could gain inspiration and new insights while still keeping themselves responsible. With great power comes great responsibility, and rather than hesitating and resisting the inevitable change that is the rise of chatbots and more to come, we should learn to adapt and embrace it. If the point of scholars is to further expand the body of knowledge, who are we to stop this progress?

THE MAKATI SCIENCE

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The Makati Science Vision is the official student publication of the Makati Science High School, a public secondary school located at Kalayaan Avenue, Barangay Cembo, Makati City. Mr. Felix T. Bunagan is currently serving as the school principal. With our motto "Veritas, Aequitas, Libertatem," which translates to "Truth, Justice, Liberty," we aim to deliver the freshest news to the public while observing accuracy and fairness at all times.





SOGIE BILL: A step forward to equality or a step backward to inequity?

MYRA
A. Dela Cruz



writer

Discrimination has long been a sickness of those people responsible for it, and a major headache for everyone, especially its victims. Specifically, discrimination towards the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) community, which can even resort to violence at some point. Debates about the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Expression (SOGIE) Equality Bill have been here and there for two decades now, ever since the bill was passed. For the past few years though, most people have given their full support but a few are still upset. Calls for the passage of the proposed law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression have become louder in the past months, not only because of more people celebrating Pride Month but also due to the multiple incidents of discrimination recently experienced.

The murder of transgender woman Jennifer Laude was one of the most well-known cases of murder brought on by prejudice against LGBTQIA+ people. In a hotel in Olongapo, she was murdered by US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton. Pemberton initially denied killing Laude, but finally admitted that he killed her once he knew she was transgender. This case was one of the few early wake-up calls for the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole. Many people were appalled and afraid for themselves as they watched those beautiful souls be cruelly murdered based on their gender identity because they knew it could happen to them any day, and there was little

legislation in place that would protect them from it.

Respect and equality: In the interest of human decency, shouldn't it just be given voluntarily? The newly elected senator Risa Hontiveros introduced the SOGIE Equality Bill which affirms the fundamental rights of every individual regardless of their sex, gender, age, class, status, disability, religion, or political convictions. Contrary to some people's beliefs, the bill preaches equality to and for everyone while defending the LGBTQIA+ group from all forms of prejudice and discrimination. It accords everyone - cisheterosexuals and LGBTQIA+ members alike - equal duties and rights, rather than being limited to the LGBTQIA+ community.

The late senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago introduced the legislation for the first time in Congress in 2000. The SOGIE Bill has been continuously submitted to Congress for the past twenty years, but it has yet to be passed. Does the bill's failure to advance stem from the fact that those who sign and enforce laws are also those who the bill forbids?

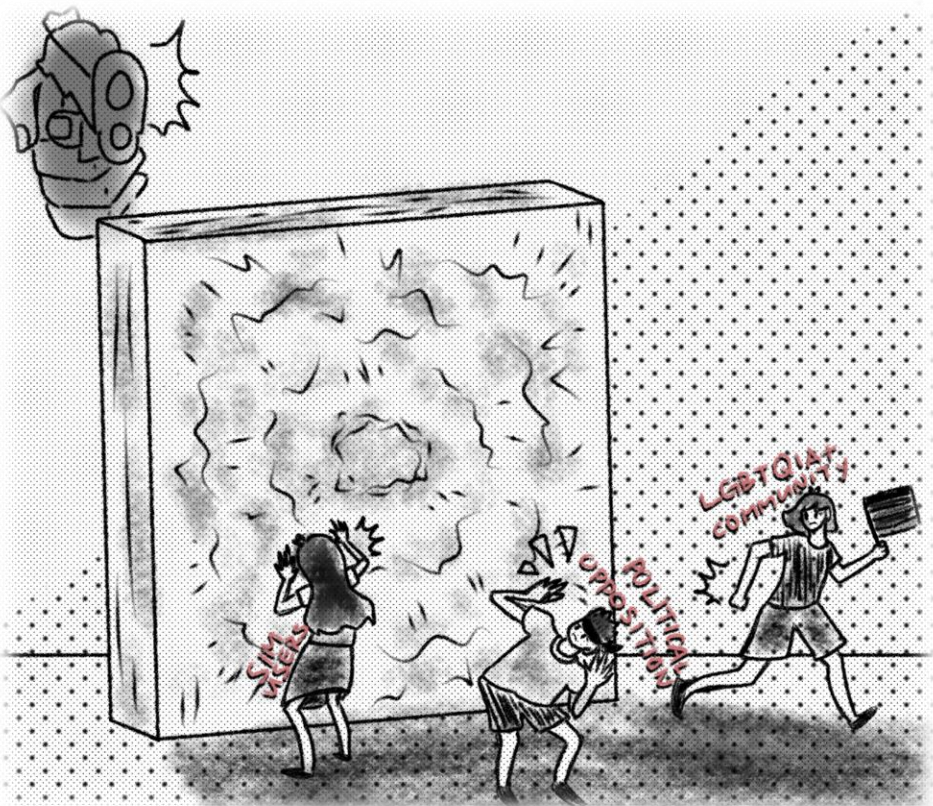
Along with the wildfire spreading about the SOGIE bill, terrible misconceptions have resurfaced. Misconceptions are not just about the bill, but also about the whole LGBTQIA+ community itself. Just this November 2020, an online hearing was held by the House of Representatives committee on women and gender equality.

The SOGIE Bill was brought up during the session, prompting the lawmakers in attendance to

offer their opinions. The bill has been questioned, including whether it simply elevates the LGBTQIA+ community above straight individuals. Unfortunately, other representatives have made comments that have nothing to do with the bill and are outright insults to the community. A "psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual rehabilitation" was also suggested for homosexuals, along with the idea that they merely wanted to stand out.

Finally, this June 2022, Sen. Hontiveros ought to fight for the revival of the SOGIE Bill. She ought to finally give everyone the law they deserve. "I'm ready to get back to work. We will use this 19th Congress to carve the runway to pass the SOGIE Equality Bill at long last. We will use this as a fresh opportunity to renew and prioritize our fight for all sexualities and genders. Yes, we are with heterosexual cisgenders in our fight for our LGBTQIA+ siblings," she said. "As the country faces the difficulties of navigating the ruins of a post-pandemic world, this is our chance to build something good and lasting. This is our opportunity to make our institutions right and fair."

Countries like Taiwan and France have already been progressive with this issue by having laws protecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Why then is it that the Philippines cannot? Even Spain, a Catholic country like the Philippines, legalizes same-sex marriage and has a bill for LGBTQIA+ rights. How is it that the Philippines is still here, stuck in the belief that homosexuality is a sin against God? Two decades and many lives have already been wasted. Is it okay to risk more lives and continue living life normally, knowing that so many people out there are still suffering from discrimination? It has already been long overdue, but the change that everyone has been waiting for can start here, projecting and protecting everybody's equal rights. After all, doing something is better than doing nothing, right?



THROUGH A
Bulletproof Glass

Scam messages have been rampant for the past months, from phishing links for identity theft to fraudulent job offers. Some instances are worse, where scammers reveal the names of mobile banking users in these text messages. With no concrete knowledge about these frauds, Filipinos may fall victim to these cyber crimes. In response to this, the government has finally signed a law requiring citizens to register their SIM cards for fast identification of scammers. While the law may strongly prevent these types of incidents, it is debatable whether it is for "protection" or "surveillance."

Last October 10, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. signed the Republic Act 11934, or the SIM Card Registration Act into law. It is fairly straightforward—the measure aims to stop scam messages, cybercrimes, and fraud. The law requires Filipinos to register their existing SIM cards and numbers with their corresponding public telecommunications entities (PTE) within 180 days after the law takes effect. The government may also require a valid ID with a photo for further verification.

Despite these efforts to block the spread of scammers, the law is questionable enough, given the current circumstances in society; its implementation might bring more harm than good.

First, in times of vulnerability against hackers, telecommunication companies might not fight off cyber criminals, giving away sensitive and confidential information about SIM card users. Cybersecurity analyst Mary Grace Mirandilla-Santos reported that mandatory registration of SIM cards put users at a heightened risk. Storing personal information and data in one main database makes it a good target for hackers—the National Privacy Commission (NPC) is aware of it.

Next, the government might weaponize this law and use it as mass surveillance. The Bahaghari group stated that the law can put an end to political enemies by using their sensitive information to track them down. Additionally, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines



writer

ERIK
Lenon

(NUJP), the law may prevent anonymous sources and tip-offs from bringing crucial information about reports. It may also restrict the freedom of journalists and put them at risk since the government may strictly monitor the flow of communication between journalists. From a bigger perspective, the law merely looks like an excuse to hunt down government critics.

In addition, it may violate the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. The Bahaghari group criticized some provisions of the law. Penalizing fictitious names will prevent its members from expressing their true selves. It may also force transgender people to adopt their deadnames — those that are obsolete and not used anymore. Therefore, they become more vulnerable to discrimination.

Instead of signing a law that may put sensitive information at risk and may restrict the citizen's freedom, the government must focus on practical solutions at hand. Strengthening the Data Privacy Act and incorporating various agencies and task forces to combat online fraud will create a strong defense against these cybercrimes. Putting the "intelligence funds" to good use may also be beneficial — the administration can track these scammers down quickly.

Data breach risks and privacy invasion make RA 11934 or the SIM Card Registration Act impractical. While text scams already enforce sufficient damage and hassle to all citizens, Filipinos will not want additional problems regarding their cyber security. No law should look like an excuse to intrude on its citizens, covered in the façade of protection for everyone to believe.



Kaliwa Dam:

A Threat to Philippine Biodiversity



Writer

It is undeniable that water is a basic necessity among people to remain healthy and productive. However, to adhere to such needs in a manner that exploits the scarce remains of environmental barricades is insensitive and privileged. The Kaliwa Dam Project is said to cover parts of Tanay, Antipolo, Teresa of Rizal Province, and Gen Nakar and Infanta of Quezon Province. It is an expensive project costing 12.2 Billion, proposed to address concerns for portable water demands and catalyze an increased water supply in the constantly growing populous, metropolis — Metro Manila. This project, portrayed to be a progressive step to the improvement of the convenience of our daily lives, directly affects the Kaliwa Watershed in the Sierra Madre mountain range. This said watershed houses various threatened wildlife as well as 12, 147 hectares of residual forests. Not only are these mountains habitats to wildlife, it's also a refuge for the people, protecting the islands of Luzon for years from strong winds and heavy rains.

While the initiative is to meet the country's basic needs, this multi-billion infrastructure project desolates the home of thousands of plant and animal species. The project runs through the Sierra Madre mountain range, particularly in an area

within the National and Wildlife Sanctuary (NPWS). The dam's full operation entails irreversible ecological changes, displacing thousands of animal and plant species. This will disrupt the ecosystem and the biodiversity of the only remaining rainforest in the Philippines. The extent of its environmental compromise is neither logical nor reasonable as there are far less destructive alternatives, such as recycling wastewater or investing in the restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of our already existing dams to their fullest capacities. Policies on the conservation of water can also be enforced more strictly. It is not necessary to pay billions to destroy a shield that already protects us for free. Sierra Madre is more than just one of the many treasures of the Philippines. The Sierra Madre feeds, protects, and nourishes. It is a home, a shelter, a refuge, and a shield.

A petition made for people who feel the need to express their concerns for the environmental effects of the Kaliwa Dam Project has been signed by over 200,000 citizens yet on April 11, 2023, the Kaliwa Dam is 22% complete according to MWSS. The destruction of vital ecosystems of the Sierra Madre Mountain range will endanger communities that rely on this ecosystem. Indigenous people living in the mountains are likely to lose their ancestral domain and eventually, their identities. Nature is irreplaceable. It endures more than most man-made infrastructures do, they last more than lifetimes. There have been countless times when the Sierra Madre has protected us from typhoons and natural disasters, so let us return the courtesy by protecting her from man-made destructions.



Farming or Importing?

In the Philippines, the prices of goods, products, and basic services continue to increase. Many Filipinos, especially those who are less financially stable end up having a hard time trying to cope with the rising prices. According to an article by Rappler, last year's average inflation rate is estimated to be 5.4%. However, last October 2022, it nearly spiked to an almost 14-year high, standing at 7.7%. A month later, on November 4, Dennis Mapa, a National Statistician, stated that this figure was the highest ever since 2008's 7.8%, which was caused by a global financial crisis. The food inflation rate in the country is even worse, standing at 9.4% during October, from September's 7.4%, that year. The officer-in-charge of the Department of Economic Research at the BSP, even stated last November 2022 that inflation is expected to continuously increase, as there are still some inflammatory pressures caused by storms, disruptions in the global supply chain, the Covid-19 Pandemic, and a weaker Peso compared to the Dollar.

This year, the first month of 2023 showed a continued increase in inflation, however, recent months have shown a slow decline. January showed an increase from December 2022's 8.1%, standing at 8.7%. Last February, the inflation rate stood at 8.6%, before declining to 7.6% last March. April continued this trend at 6.6%. However, this is still much higher than the government's targeted 2-4%. This downward trend has been attributed to slower inflation in food products, electricity, and gas prices. Contrary to this, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) stated that the risk of an increase in



Writer

JOSHUA
B. Busiños

inflation is still high. The possibility of a hike in transport fares, wage adjustments, as well as constant pressures on the food supply adds to this risk.

To combat this continuous inflation, the government seeks to continue the importation of products. Benjamin Diokno, the Finance Secretary, recommended that the government sustain the importation of certain goods to contain "inflammatory pressures and their cascading effects on the economy." He also recommended to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., to uphold the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL). Secretary Diokno stated last July 8, 2022, during the 182nd Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) Press Briefing that the RTL "really is a good law. It has a major contribution to our desire to control inflation, so I think it's not smart to go back to the old system."

However, importation is not the solution to inflation. While the influx of cheaper goods may momentarily ease inflation, this isn't beneficial in the long term. Instead, the government needs to focus on improving and developing the country's agricultural sector. Helping farmers in the transportation as well as the production of agricultural goods is

important to stop inflation. Aid given to the agricultural sector should not just focus on the production of goods, but also on the people who produce said goods, the farmers themselves.

The national manager of the Federation of Free Farmer Cooperatives Inc. (FFFCI) and private sector adviser to the Department of Agriculture (DA), Raul Montemayor, stated that "this production-oriented approach does not seem to be working, because it is directed toward the commodity and not the farmer who produces the commodity." In fact, in 2021, the amount of rice produced in the country reached a historical high of nearly 20 billion tons, but farmers still lost about Php 22 billion or Php 4,500 per hectare, caused by the drop in farmgate prices because of over-importation. This shows that even when production is increased, farmers still get the short end of the stick.

All in all, the government needs to develop the agricultural sector of the country as well as give aid to farmers instead of continuing to import goods. While importation may seem like a good solution to inflation, the ease is only temporary. Instead, it makes the food security situation in the Philippines worse and harms farmers and the agricultural sector.



WRITER

Jianna Franzine Lagman



"Narinig niyo na ba?", Have you heard about it?

Ilusyon, the official theater organization of Makati Science High School, recently concluded its production of "Esterorista", a play diving deep into the struggles of the lower class following the main character, "Juvani" and his companions, as they face the odds of a poverty-stricken and discriminating society. The play was a success, but little do people know about the time, preparation, and effort that went into the production. Behind the curtains, the cast needed to overcome challenges that tested their creativity and resilience.

The play was not an easy feat. "Difficult is an understatement," said a cast member. The difficulties that the club/cast experienced ranged from time constraints, performance, and financial and technical problems. According to another, "It was not easy

preparing for the play, we came across

a lot of problems.", the members also mentioned, "[a] problem the club faced was the lack of funds. Esterorista almost faced cancellation due to this reason." Showing that having this production push through meant immense sacrifice and continuous support from the whole production team and school body. Also, balancing Ilusyon and academics was not easy for the members. To this, one cast member says, "Hindi birong magpractice ng anim na beses sa isang linggo at ginawa namin 'yun for two months. Not to mention the workload that we had to balance along with our personal lives. You can only imagine how busy our schedules were."

With these difficulties, the cast would also like to thank the directors, moderators, alumni, and the Government of Makati for the continued support and understanding that they provided in the preparation and execution of the play. According to Mary Esther Deocampo, who played "Tricia", "The directors were very patient with us and kindly helped us to get the hang of everything we were having a hard time with. They also provided clear instructions and opened their ears to the concerns and worries of the club members."

They would also especially like to thank Sir Jayfel Balingasa, the adviser of the club, for his continuous guidance and advice, and for overseeing the whole production of "Esterorista" since 2020.

Additionally, unbeknownst to some, the Ilusyon play was also set to perform on the stage of the University of Makati (UMAK) back in 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic happened, and the club was forced to remain

inactive. Two to three months of preparation and rehearsal had supposedly gone to waste if it weren't for the play's comeback in 2023.

Nevertheless, despite the struggles, the cast and crew performed without fail. Emotions filled the room and stirred the hearts and thoughts of many. In fact, students see this in the message and performance of the story. According to one student, "Every scene in the musical [was] phenomenal and gets its brilliance through all its symbolism and meaning behind each and every line and each little detail."

When asked about their take on the play, the cast and crew expressed how the play impacted them as individuals. "It definitely taught me a lot of things, especially knowing how to enjoy the spotlight and give my best out there on the stage." According to Dax Dacara who played the story's unexpected antagonist, "Negro". According to another cast member, Angela Lorejo who starred as the beloved sister of Juvani, "Maymay", said, "isa itong performance kung saan bukod sa maipapakita ng bawat students yung galing nila, lumalago rin sila as a person pati mga talents na binigay sa kanila ni God. Most importantly, mas umiigting yung pagtitiwala ng bawat isa kay God, sa sarili nila, at sa org mismo."

Aside from this, officers and members alike said that the play was an eye-opener for them.

For the alumni who attended the production, the play brought back memories of their own struggles as members of Ilusyon. Since the play was canceled in 2020, It delighted them to be part of the whole process and see the final product of their efforts come to

life again. According to Jira Anne Furio, the former president, and director of the club, "I think if I were to describe how I felt in one word, it would be "proud"...they were able to pull it off very well and tumatak talaga sila sa audience. Personally, I think that play itself rekindled my passion for theater arts," she continued.

Another alumnus, Alec John, who mentored the famed dance group in the play "Foxtrot", explained that he saw the hard work of the original production. At the time of preparation, he could only hope that the 2023 production would give justice to the efforts of the previous play. To his group, he says, "I'm proud of them kasi they really showed their best nung performance day, and that's what's important naman." and to the rest of the club, "This was years of hard work pero at the same time crammed into months of prep, and for that sobrang kudos to the current members of Ilusyon."

Finally, for the students who watched the play, it was truly an interesting and eye-opening experience. According to one student, "The play was outstanding especially given that it was a school-based production. It touched upon topics that one would least expect to be tackled in a school environment, showing the heavy realism of the world, albeit in a tone that minors can digest." and, "Esterorista is really actually the first musical I've ever watched in my entire life, which is why although I immensely enjoyed every single musical number", said another.

In conclusion, the production of "Esterorista" was not a perfect path. It did not go on without flaws. But because of this, they were able to become better. Clarence Jay Tamaca, as part of the cast, says, "Despite encountering numerous

challenges and obstacles throughout the staging process, the joy of delivering a production in order to entertain, inspire, and stimulate contemplation for the audience members overshadows all of them. Because of these struggles though, each and every member of the organization became more determined than ever to pull off a successful production," he continued.

Allena Erica Cruz, the current president of Ilusyon also shared her compliments and favorite moments during the production. She says, "Personally, I saw the passion of each of my members and I can tell that they really wanted to deliver their best in the performance." Also, if you couldn't pick every moment as a memorable moment, she would choose the curtain calls. To this, she mentions, "Seeing everyone in the audience cheer for us and seeing the members hype each other up as their names get announced served as a very wholesome moment for me since it reminded me again of how much I love what I'm doing with ILUSYON."

In the end, "Esterorista" wasn't just a play, but a journey through the struggles and successes of the cast and crew. It was about the blood, sweat, and tears that were put into this production. It taught unity, chemistry, resilience, and above all, the truth of our society, and what we must do to make a difference.

So, "narinig niyo na ba?"

ALEXA ALERA

Gloria Diaz take on Pageant Inclusivity

WRITER

Jhazmine B. Perez



Everybody thinks inclusivity is great, until, of course, we have to do the including. In the face of uncomfortable modern realities, we tend to cling to our old-world biases for comfort.

For more than 70 years of Miss Universe, the competition has only included single women who have never been married, nor had a marriage annulled, nor given birth to or parented a child.

In 2012, the Miss Universe Organization made a groundbreaking announcement that it would allow transgender women to compete in its pageants. Recent changes in the Miss Universe qualifications now welcome single mothers, married, divorced, and trans women as candidates. While the move towards inclusivity and acknowledgement of diversity in beauty has been lauded, there are some who are against it.

Gloria Diaz, the first Filipina to win the Miss Universe title in 1969, recently shared her thoughts on the new rules allowing single moms, wives, divorced women, and trans women to compete in



Miss Universe. The beauty queen believes that there should be a separate competition for them, and having such gives people more chances.

Some pageant fanatics agree with Gloria Diaz's opinion. They said she's the Philippines' first-ever Miss Universe, after all. For them, Miss Universe is the embodiment of a single woman as she is Miss

AFAB (assigned female at birth), and that single moms, married, divorced and trans women should create their own pageant and compete accordingly.

However, there are also some who oppose Gloria, saying that trans women are real women, and that single and unwed mothers exist. According to them, queer women and mothers have been overlooked for centuries partly because dominant culture upholds beauty standards rooted in misogyny and heteronormativity. Shutting them out of big competitions that provide platforms for discussing advocacies only discriminates them further. For them, everyone should be allowed to join the sisterhood and compete for the crown, because every country deserves the chance to have more wins.

The 72nd Miss Universe pageant will unfold toward the end of 2023 in El Salvador, and supporters can only wish for the best outcome.

Stay tuned!



Zoe Davad bags Recognition at the Nick Joaquin Literary Awards

WRITER

Frances Charis C. Pascual



The date is May 4th, 2023. One writer sticks out among those on stage at the Manila Resort and Casino. With her are 48 other writers presented with a sheer piece of paper, attesting to their latest literary achievement, the Graphic Salute. Their work was also published in the Philippine Graphic Reader June Edition.

To most people in the room, she is the youngest to ever earn this recognition. At Makati Science High School, she is a 12th Grade student and the Vision Editor in Chief.

Zoe Davad explores the complexity of familial relationships in her now published short story, *Flowers: For Sale at Any Time*. The story delves into lengths a parent would through for children, even if it calls for more fantastical means to bring them back. Her creatively inventive take on a timeworn contemporary theme displays her artistry with her language and storytelling.

Nevertheless, Davad claims that nothing in particular inspires her writing despite the vivid imagery. Her creative

process involves significant planning before diving in. When prompted on the capacity of her improvisation, she gives out a laugh, protesting against it. In her writing, she needs to know how the story ends before it even begins.

Zoe is currently focused on completing the latest Vision issue. In the future, she aims to publish more of her works in just as or even more prestigious publications. Her ultimate goal, however, is to receive a Don Carlos Palanca Award for Literature, nicknamed the Philippine Pulitzer Prize.

Before that, she had never considered winning an award for her works. She claims her achievement was a bolt from the blue. Her aunt simply sent her a link, asked if she was interested, and, thinking nothing of it, she submitted her latest work. The submission was on the backburner for a quite some time until she receives an email attached with an invite and news unexpected to her but no one else: That she has made history.



PM PESO:

I GET SO WEAK

WRITER

EL Zechariah C. Gamez



The Philippine peso has earned a reputation as one of Southeast Asia's most powerful currencies during the past several years. The peso, on the other hand, has lost most of its value in recent years as a result of a series of economic crises, and it is expected to decline even further as we deal with the fallout from the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine crisis, and other global economic troubles.

NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

Our imports have been increasing, and the fundamental cause of this increase is products that are purchased by producers rather than consumers. As a result, more industries are sprouting up, and more machinery, notably electrical equipment, is being imported. But as far as we are aware, because the majority of our decisions are driven by the market, particularly our buying behavior, we will be immediately impacted by any effect it may have.

In times when the peso is weak, we sell our products and services at a lower cost in the international market, and other countries reap the benefits of the lower prices by buying more of our country's products and services. As a result, both employment and productivity rise. On the other hand, the weakening of the peso would be one of the primary causes for domestic inflation to accelerate, burdening Filipinos with

rising prices for basic necessities on top of their precarious earnings and salaries. Thus, we may claim that rising inflation is a major indicator of economic imbalances.

LOW IMPORTS,

HIGH PESO

The spread of COVID-19 has, according to sources, halted imports of capital goods and raw materials, both of which are required for production. As a result, as long as imports remain low due to the current economic crisis, demand for dollars will decline and the peso will strengthen. Aside from weak import demand, there is less demand for dollars since Filipinos aren't traveling or investing overseas as often as they used to. In all of these ways, a strong peso reflects the economy's vulnerability.

Since we all contribute to the state of our economy today, it is critical that we analyze the state of our financial sector in this respect.

What really matters most

A strong peso raises the cost of exports, reducing our country's market or trading competitiveness. A weak peso, on the other end, makes imports more expensive, raising prices for basic necessities for Filipinos. So the optimal course of action is to keep our currency balanced and avoid substantial changes. By maintaining balance, our government can keep the underlying currency's demand and supply under control.

We must continue to encourage the government to resolve the pandemic. The extermination of the virus dictates the stability of our economy. At the same time, we need the government to focus actively on economic aid to help not just displaced workers and the poor but also challenged businesses on the brink of failure.

Once the old normal returns, we may refocus our attention on the currency value. The cost of basic necessities will inevitably rise in the near future; therefore, it is prudent to start saving now and set up contingencies in place for budget overruns.

IS 4/4 AUTOMATICALLY EQUAL TO A 100% CHANCE OF SUCCESS?

WRITER

Ana Zoe V. Davad



It's college application results season, and graduating students are assessing their options. For us, the most appealing options tend to be the Big 4 of the Philippines: Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), De La Salle University (DLSU), University of Santo Tomas (UST), and the University of the Philippines (UP). Given their competitive application processes and the opportunities they can provide, it's no wonder many start seeing these universities as a ticket to guaranteed success.

It's been a trend for many years running to post on social media when an aspiring college applicant is accepted into all 4 colleges, usually with the caption 4/4, as if the applicant is ticking off boxes on a checklist or picking up ingredients for a recipe.

While it's hardly a bad thing to celebrate achievements, is proving you can enter these top universities really all you need to succeed?



Violet Psyche

Education has always been a tricky issue, especially in the Philippines. According to UNICEF, only 78% of children complete their basic schooling. Even fewer children finish tertiary education, especially after the pandemic made it hard for many to keep up with online classes. Given the low investment of the Philippine government into education in recent years, the playing field is heavily tilted towards those born with the resources and money to study.

It wouldn't be wrong to say that these universities are top-notch in the Philippines. This perception of them does have truth to it, given their strong track records in terms of graduates, board exam passing rates, and prospective employers tending to perceive Big 4 graduates as being a cut above the rest.

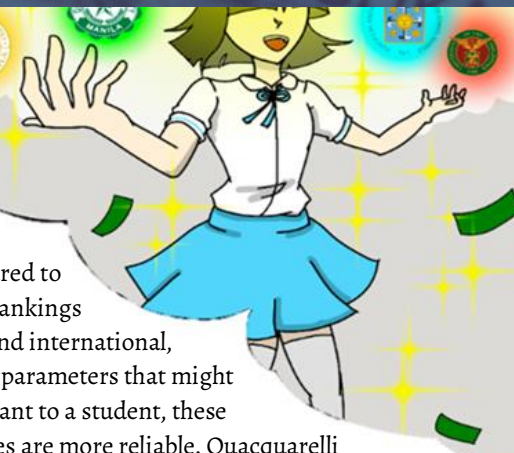
However, this belief is usually only true on a case-by-case basis. While they do offer quality education, they all happen to specialize in different fields. This is the same for other universities not part of the big 4 that specialize in trades or niche career paths. So, it's best to do your research first and not walk into tertiary education blindly.

A good place to start is looking at licensure/board exam passing rates. For example, Philippine Normal University (PNU) is reputed to be the prime university for aspiring teachers, as their passing rates for first-timers in the teaching licensure exams consistently rate above 90%. Another good resource to use is to check which universities have been recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as centers of excellence in the field.

Compared to university rankings both local and international, which have parameters that might not be relevant to a student, these passing rates are more reliable. Quacquarelli Symonds, a higher education think tank that releases yearly university rankings, has been criticized in recent years for overemphasizing the university's reputation and previous rankings when calculating the score. These rankings aren't as objective as they may seem.

When it comes to finding work, it's true that some employers may be more biased toward fresh graduates from the Big 4. The university you graduated from might be able to land you an interview or connections in the industry. Despite this, though, it isn't the make-or-break factor for an applicant. Other parts of your resume, such as skills and experience, can boost your credentials.

So, take heart. Going to a prestigious university does not assure your success. The converse is true as well; not going to a well-known university doesn't mean that you are doomed to obscurity. Many different circumstances come together to create a successful career and life.



HEADS OR TAILS

by Clara Marela Clarin

Violent behaviors, and deep insecurities are often two sides of the same coin—sometimes, not.

Like yin and yang, there is always an opposite side to everything.

What makes one bad—or good? Relying on the head you're bound to fail, What makes one understood? Not running after a shadow, rather, after your tail.



What is more risky than having to bet on a side you're unsure of? Is it wrong, or is it not?

Everything was far from clear and yet, we did agree.

Opposite but complementary. Different, but not.

Geometrical, blazing, Deathless. How can we be so different and still get along?

Like clockwork, my eyes brightened up and a soft smile set on my face.

A cherry on top of the baked good, catching the eyes of any passerby.

A treat for someone's rotting sweet tooth, but I just can't help it.

All the smiles, woah's, and ooh's; all the satisfaction completed me.

Though over time their stares slowly became a bombardment, looking at me in a certain way.

Aching the same way when I was set aside as they dug into the spongy delight, without another glance at my direction.

It must've been something I did, wasn't it? A hair out of place? Smile not wide enough?

Something, something that upset the customer. I just need to know so I can kneel down to their feet and ask for forgiveness.

Isn't it ironic? How one's mindset can begin to sap at your own view of yourself.

I begin to claw at my own skin, all I want is for all to be glad; desperate to make them happy as my being melts into oblivion.

Even if it means to become too sweet for one to ingest.

To the point where people begin to foam at the mouth in my presence.

I guess in the end, I was nothing but a shell of sugar, it was my fault for expecting too much.

Akin to the moisture of the icing tainting the outer shell I worked so hard on—putting an end to the "me" I knew best.

Flower Confection

by Marybless Avegayle B. Lumawag

I, too, hope to end me.

THUNDER MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE HEAVENS

by Marybless Avegayle B. Lumawag

Thunder strikes on a serene midnight, rumbles lashing as the whimpers of the wild echo—it never faltered, sporting a proud snide. Ribung Linti holds such a power, the power of a god. The strength of a titan, the light of a celestial being, the loyalty of a warrior. It doesn't matter who you are, they never miss. Their resilience and determination could never be broken as they stand mighty like a tower. Ribung Linti's light shone through the darkness like a stun grenade.

No one was safe, nothing left unscathed; leaving its marks with every flash. The flare is ever so blinding as the aftershocks ripple, evident in the way the colors in my eyes dissipate as it blends in with the white. It began to litter my skin, disguising its traces with shades of red, purple, and hints of silver—running all over my arms, legs, neck, and chest.

The deity left me thereafter, he'd done his part as he fought the harsh summer heat with the pouring rain as he blessed the

overworld with his presence. My signal that the waters were presently unsafe for travel. Rendering me to reschedule my trip, but not without having to think over and over again why such a god that dawns the world with their eminent power to be only faced with sacrilege—would leave its people in a state of misery. As the subtle petrichor is left in his tracks, I am left to wonder just so. When the cries of the creatures and rustling of the trees died down, it had been silent; most continued to live life as they do. But why am I left here? Abandoned when the traces have reached the point of no return; as it covers the surface of my skin like faint ink.

After years of voyages, I have finally understood why Ribung Linti chose me. Never again will I view them as "extraordinary" or an "outlier", as they began to blur as a stranger on my body—but rather, an acquaintance.

IS IT A LIFE WORTH LIVING?

by Joan Gabrielle Alegario

I love my life which escapes no tragedy
Drowning in its saltwater river
And crashing into the establishments
Of my future

I love my last few friends
My confidantes, fidus Achates
In my fragile hubris
I have lost a great deal of them

I love wide-eyed nights of overdue sleep
Spent in sunless accommodation
I loved the midnight girl
And lost our midnight conversations

I love the Anderson movies
And the films of saddening bore
Dysfunctional families and Murray
Hooked on the silver screen for more

I love the music of my childhood
And the music of my last teen years
The margin of the strains
My pride, my indifference, my fear

I love life which embraces tragedy

Of Pawns and Kings

by Gabriel O. Ganir

Gunshots and explosions echoed throughout the jungle, as men yelled for help and called for their Creator. Blood mixed with mud, and grime splattered all across the canopy trees. Men yelled in foreign languages, profanities, anger and wailing were heard in the midst of the speeding bullets and booms from the grenades and mortars.

Men cried for their mothers, as medics fell to bullets. Screams calling for a retreat were heard, yet a retreat did not happen. Men dropped like flies. In just a few hours, a whole company-sized unit of hundreds of men would fall lifeless to an ambush.

Sounds of crunching leaves and footsteps could be heard in the dark, dense forest. A man struggles to breathe, clutching his side as he sits down and leans on a tree. He places his rifle to the muddy ground beside him, as he assesses the damages on his

person. A gunshot wound to his side. He coughed, and looked up at the clear night sky. The moon illuminated his face and the sky altogether, as little stars sparkled in the midst of the dark heavens.

It was beautiful. He didn't get much time to appreciate it before. He felt a twinge of pain coming from his side. He didn't have much time at all. He coughed again. It was the end, it was nearing, he was at its doorstep. He let out a bitter, painful chuckle. To an army Lieutenant like him, life was just a game. A game of chess. And he was the king, or so he thought. After all, what king would he be, if he's just like the rest of his pawns. Expendable. He was a pawn.

As he coughed, blood spattered all over his closed fist. His eyes felt heavy and tired. He was exhausted. Why must men fight other men? Why must pawns take other pawns? Why must two sides kill to make amends? Why must they fight for people who can't? His bitter last thoughts raged through his mind like a tsunami wave hitting a shoreline. It felt hard to breathe, he wanted to stop. With a cough, he looked at the night sky one last time.

And he prayed to the Heavens, wishing that not another boy be taken from their mama. That not another boy's life be taken away from him. That not another boy be left to rot in a jungle far away from home. That not another boy be turned into a pawn – just like him.

**BECAUSE IN THE END,
THERE'S NO REAL
WINNER IN WAR.**

What can really be defined
As acceptable or not?
Everything seems defined by a coin tossed
Up in the air and then caught

I oversleep,
It's called lazy
You do the same
You say "the alarm must've gotten crazy"

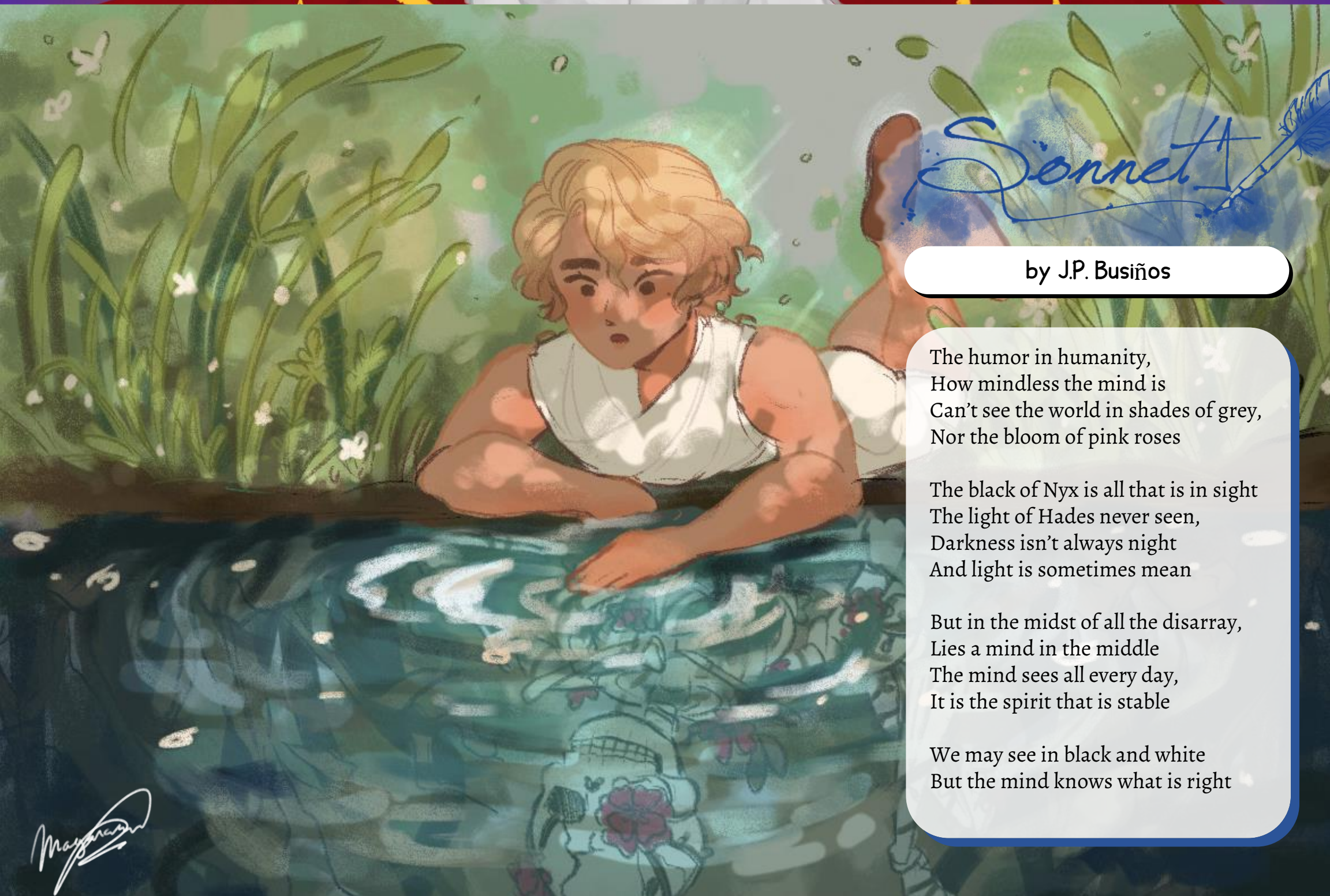
You and I both popular
Yet you're called cool and I'm flirty
You and I both leaders
Yet you're called assertive and I'm bossy

I make a mistake
And it's an unforgivable error
You make a mistake
Now you claim it's just your clumsy hour?

Do you know what is defined as right?
Hopefully with fairness you pay.
Black or white,
Perhaps a mix of both but not gray.

ZERO or Hero?

by Sandrinne Christina Pacifico



by J.P. Busiños

The humor in humanity,
How mindless the mind is
Can't see the world in shades of grey,
Nor the bloom of pink roses

The black of Nyx is all that is in sight
The light of Hades never seen,
Darkness isn't always night
And light is sometimes mean

But in the midst of all the disarray,
Lies a mind in the middle
The mind sees all every day,
It is the spirit that is stable

We may see in black and white
But the mind knows what is right



PAINTED TO KILL

By Erik Y. Lenon

It is a cliché to say that the technology humans created made lives more convenient. But no one can deny its validity; from the first steam engine to artificial intelligence, these inventions were symbols of societal progress. Several industries and fields use technology to make tasks and jobs easier: factory machinery for better production and the Internet for faster information transmission, to cite some examples. However, it's not the case for modern artists.

Recently, there has been a rise in the use of AI-generated art, sparking a trend among social media users. By typing a simple prompt in these generators, AI can show never-seen-before pictures in various styles and aesthetics—or so people thought. While convenient for the general public, it is detrimental to the potential of future artists. Moreover, it paves the way for the issue of plagiarism and copyright infringement. AI-generated art is not art but a mere replacement of art itself.

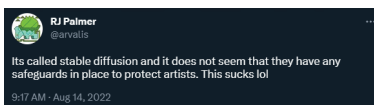
Developers of these platforms compile various artworks (traditional or digital) in the AI's database and let the users type any input to combine art data and transform them into a generated image. However, owners of these art generators use existing works to “train” the AI—the creations of others is what forms the database of such technology. This method makes it easier to acquire someone's art without their permission.

One prominent example is the DALL·E 2 software developed in 2022 by OpenAI, an upgrade from its first version in 2021. DALL·E 2 learned to pair images and their text description from almost 650 million pictures across the Internet. It mastered natural editing by making realistic modifications to pictures. Additionally, the software filtered out sensitive content such as pornography. Despite these considerations, OpenAI admitted that the software imitates trademarked and copyrighted content—a few inches away from breaking intellectual property laws.

Consequently, art plagiarism is now more convenient in the



Pictures depicting how AI generators imitate signatures and trademarks.



Screenshots of RJ Palmer's tweets concerning the “too realistic” AI generated art.
TWITTER.COM/ARVALIS

field. When users get a result from the AI that resembles preexisting works, artists lose the opportunity to defend their rights to that content ownership—developers get a free pass from copyright laws. In contrast, the so-called defenders of AI-generated art claimed that using existing art to develop AI art generators is the same as finding inspiration from various sources when creating “traditional art.” Fair enough, but if the art piece resembles someone's ideas, can the developers ensure that the original artists are well-paid and compensated? The Design and Artists Copyright Society, a British private organization responsible for standing up for visual artists' rights, expressed their worry about the possibly bleak future for artists. The head of policy, Reema Selhi, confirmed that there are no safety nets for artists; identi-

fying their work on AI databases is challenging. Copyright laws do not include those created by non-humans; there is no way to defend ownership in this case.

RJ Palmer, a concept artist based in California, expressed his dismay over the meticulously designed generators, quoting it as “anti-artist.” In one of his tweets, with almost 90 thousand likes as of February, he emphasized the fear-inducing power of AI art, showing pictures as evidence of how well these innovations mimic artist signatures. According to him, a process called “stable diffusion” enables AI to copy works from others—it adds and removes noise to images to generate seemingly perfect results.

Realistically, ceasing AI art generation is impossible, impractical, and uncontrollable. Soon, chances are these artificial artists will have the upper hand against huge industries and fields—they

will keep on growing until their existence has been ingrained into society. It is important to note that everyone has the freedom and right to utilize them in their way, as long as it is reasonable. Those finding inspiration using AI-generated art must use them ethically; as artists themselves, they should know the “basics” of copyright laws and intellectual property.

Better put, no one must patronize this innovation too much—it motivates AI developers to seek more hideous ways to steal someone else's art.

Sometimes, it is better to admit that modern innovations and technologies become a nuisance when they try to replace the creativity and perseverance of the present artists. With nothing to protect the works of modern maestros, how will artists adapt to modern advancements? Were these art generators with artificial intelligence created for convenience or handcrafted to kill art?



Photo created using NightCafe Studio. Prompt used in the AI art generator was “Makati Science High School Vision.” NIGHTCAFE STUDIO

A LATEST GAME-CHANGER:

The 3D Philippines Information System

By Leilah Kunkel

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched the 3D Philippines information system, an online mapping platform for surface and subsurface data, on November 15, 2022, at the Novotel Manila Araneta City in Quezon City, according to Philippine News Agency.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) collaborated with the De La Salle University (DLSU) and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (DOST-PHIVOLCS), and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) monitored it.

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said on the hybrid launch, “We need risk-informed and evidence-based data to better understand risk and to prevent and manage risks more effectively”. He also claimed that this online mapping tool assists in the management and 3D analysis of borehole data. Surface and subsurface data will be stored and accessible through the web-based application.

In an article published by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), the Executive Director of DOST-PCIEERD, Dr. Enrico C. Paringit, said that “This event highlights the importance of working together in building a more resilient Philippines by coordinated efforts towards maximizing the use of science and technology in mitigating the effects of climate change”. In addition to his remarks, Dr. Paringit supplied the roadmaps for their agency's support of technological innovation in the construction and disaster risk reduction sectors and urged stakeholders to work together on the creation of initiatives such as the 3D Philippines Information System. Dr. Jonathan R. Dungca, the Vice President of DLSU, the Dean for the Laguna Campus, and the Project Leader for the Geotechnical Mapping of Metro Manila Subsoil (GEMMMS), then delivered a speech in which he emphasized the value of digital maps and the need for a centralized data repository for a better understanding of a region's subsoil characteristics.

Moreover, according to DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr., this project would aid the government in “proactively identifying and selecting suitable locations for project sites, way before project proposals are submitted.”. Thus, engineers, scientists, community developers, and others can benefit from the DOST 3D Philippines information system.

The 3D Philippines Information System is a remarkable innovation with the potential to transform the way we see and interact with geographic data. The technology enables for more correct and efficient planning and decision-making by offering a full and thorough image of the country's geography, structures, and natural resources in three dimensions. The 3D Philippines Information System has a wide range of applications, including urban planning, disaster response, and natural resource management. With continuous investment and development, this groundbreaking innovation has the potential to help the Philippines significantly and contribute to the country's overall economic and social development.





View of the northern Sierra Madre (from peak of Mount Cagua, Cagayan Province). PHOTO: LJW/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS CC BY 3.0

By Leilah Kunkel

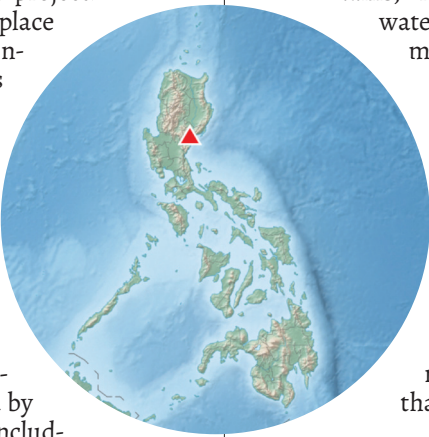
Super Typhoon Karding (Noru) made landfall on September 25, 2022, with winds of about two hundred kph. It was the strongest storm to hit the Philippines this year and weakened mainly because of the Sierra Madre, which stood up to Karding's wrath.

The island of Luzon, including the capital, Manila, has long been protected from the most severe storms that form in the Pacific Ocean. With a length of about five hundred kilometers, Sierra Madre is the longest mountain range in the Philippines and is commonly referred to as "the backbone of Luzon." It is referred to as the "backbone of Luzon" since it runs down Luzon's eastern coast, looks like a spine, and supports the entire country. Among the provinces included within the area are Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Aurora, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Quezon.

However, the Sierra Madre loses 1,400 hectares of forest annually on average, according to the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (DENR). It is alarming that the mountain range lost more forest in twelve years between 1998 and 2010. As stated by the DENR, illegal logging, slash-and-burn farming, fuelwood collecting, illegal hunting, and the expansion of human settlements are some of the primary causes of the loss of forest cover. One of these is the Kaliwa-Dam project, which will displace thousands of Indigenous peoples and breach legal procedures. It will harm the Sierra Madre's ecosystem permanently and wipe out its biodiversity. This is the reason it is opposed by many people, including a government agency itself, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, the commissioner of the CHR, stated on November 2nd, 2019, "There is no justice in quenching the thirst for water if it is at the ex-



pense of destroying communities." CHR does not ignore the necessity of addressing Metro Manila's water scarcity. Every Filipino should have access to a clean, sufficient water supply because it is a fundamental human right. CHR also urges the government to rethink all alternative solutions, including finding new locations for water dams, restoring existing water dams, and promoting watershed conservation, among others, and to make the public and Indigenous communities aware of these options if building new dams results in more problems than they solve.

Furthermore, efforts by certain organizations are made to stop the destruction of Sierra Madre by advocating against the building of the Kaliwa Dam. Concerning a news report from the Philippine Star published on the 26th of September 2022, the STOP Kaliwa Dam Network

started an ongoing petition on Change.org and listed several issues they feel will arise if the project is allowed. These include the displacement of 5,000 Indigenous Dumagat-Remontados who reside in the foothills, the destruction of three hundred hectares of the biodiversity of the Sierra Madre and 126 species' habitats, the possible danger of devastating floods to 100,000 people who reside downstream, and the unneeded P10.37 billion loan from China.

In conclusion, safeguarding the Sierra Madre is necessary for preserving this ecologically significant region's unique biodiversity and natural beauty. The Sierra Madre offers biological services such as climate regulation, wildlife habitat, and water supply to numerous people. However, human activities such as deforestation, mining, and illicit logging endanger this vulnerable ecology. It is necessary that we move quickly to conserve the Sierra Madre and guarantee its sustainability in the future. We can preserve this ecosystem for future generations by implementing conservation measures and promoting environmentally friendly behaviors.

South-South Project: The Future of Philippine Climate Information Exchange

By Dexter Jelar G. Bassuit

The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) South-South Collaboration on Climate Information Services (SSCIS) Project Team led by Dr. Bjoern Surborg, Principal Advisor of the SSCIS Project and Cluster Coordinator for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for GIZ Philippines Office, paid a private press with the Climate Change Commission (CCC) Vice Chair and Executive Director(OPD) on Jan. 13, 2023.

The meeting aims to discuss the next steps in implementation of the SSCIS in pursuit of providing climate information services to pedant, academic and local government, nation-wide.

Climate Change commissioner Albert dela Cruz Sr. said in a press statement on Feb. 14, 2023, "Climate action in the Philippines must address both extreme and slow onset events. Adaptation and mitigation actions, some of which are already underway in the country, would reduce vulnerability and future losses if fully implemented," to which, the GIZ-supported bill of PHP 298.8 billion aims to solve.

"The GIZ Philippines, through the South-South Project, remains committed to work with the Philippine government in promoting data-driven climate action to enhance local knowledge on climate change," Surborg said in support.

The SSCIS, supported by OPD, expects the project to further deepen the engagement of the Philippines to the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) promoting a whole-of-world approach in enhancing climate resilience of communities anticipating an international partnership of countries highly vulnerable to a warming planet.

Borje says an ideal for the project is to further enhance knowledge and capacities in data management, including collecting, generating, and analyzing climate data as a basis of climate action highlighting the opportunity for the Philippine Government and the CCC, alike.

SSCIS shows a promise to establish a South-South Center of Excellence as a venue for knowledge exchanges among climate-vulnerable countries.

The Pilot Episode of NASA's Return to Moon: Artemis I Mission

By Sandrinne Christina E. Pacifico

As our comprehension of the universe grows from exploring, so does our curiosity. The NASA Artemis I marks the beginning of a series of increasingly complex missions to build a long-term human presence on the moon for decades to come.

50 years ago, the older sibling of the Artemis project, the Apollo mission was launched merely because of political objectives: beating the Soviet Union to the Moon and put America first in terms of space and technology. This time, Artemis I will begin a sustainable exploration beyond Earth's orbit.

Artemis I serves as a test run for the rocket system, spacecraft, and ground systems. It is a criti-

cal step towards landing people on the Moon by 2025. The mission is laying the foundation for future trips to the Earth's natural satellite. The spacecraft is expected to travel the Moon, deploy satellites, and settle into orbit. NASA wants to practice operating the spacecraft, test the conditions the future crew would encounter on and around the moon, and ensure a safe re-entry, descent, and recovery prior to the first flight with crew on Artemis II. Other than that, NASA has more ambitious and long-term goals for the program; it will help prepare for future exploration of Mars, In Situ Resource Utilization which means using resources at hand like water and lunar soil to produce food, fuel, and building materials. The program also assists in establishing a lunar and space economy



Artemis spacecraft arrival at Mansfield Lahm Airport on board the Super Guppy aircraft. IMAGES.NASA.GOV

due to the fact that anybody with financial resources can send spacecraft to the moon thanks to technological advances that make space transport much less expensive and technologically feasible.

Launched last November 16, the mission lasted 25 days, 10 hours, and 53 minutes, and splashed down on December 11, 2022, with a total of 2.3 million kilometers (1.4 million miles) trav-

eled. Artemis I is the first flight of the new Space Launch System (SLS), a more powerful rocket than Apollo's Saturn V that carried astronauts to the moon 50 years ago. The new rocket system is equipped with liquid oxygen and hydrogen main engines and two strap-on solid rocket boosters derived from the space shuttle. This makes the new SLS a hybrid between the space shuttle and Apollo's Saturn V.

The Artemis program does not end there. With future plans of initiating Artemis II and III, NASA will soon launch a crewed flight to the moon. Seeing that Artemis I is only the stepping stone to NASA's return to the moon. As the universe is continuously expanding, this serves as an inspiration to engage the new-or the Artemis Generation rather-to never stop exploring.



OBIENA'S 2023: A GOOD HEAD START

THE KICK OF ANTICIPATION. EJ Obiena makes a clean jump. IMAGE SOURCE: BUSINESSMIRROR.COM.PH

By Cristopher B. De Vera

EJ Obiena snatched his first gold of 2023 – the indoor pole vault, after clearing 5.82 meters in his first attempt and attempting to clear 5.90 meters thrice. Obiena edged out the silver medalist, China's Jie Yao who cleared 5.75 meters and attempted to clear 5.82 meters thrice, and the bronze medalist, France's Ethan Cormont who cleared 5.65 meters.

It is yet another year with a good start for the 27-year old Filipino pole vaulter. Given the anomalies with Obiena and the Philippine Athletic Track and Field Association (PATAFA) last January 2022, Obiena still maintained his composure after being dropped out of the National Team due to an alleged falsification of li-

uidation reports. Obiena shared his phone conversation with his coach Vitaly Petrov wherein he was ranting about his frustration and anger. He suddenly calmed down after hearing these five words from his coach: "I am waiting for you". He never thought that a coach with other options would still want a broken-legged Obiena.

"I was not happy with how I performed because I felt like it is not where it should be, and I missed two attempts in 75. When you are an athlete you know when you are already in sync with your body, I am still not there, I am still struggling, and there is going to be good jumps, there's going to be bad jumps." Obiena said in an interview expressing his wants to be able to pull off a good jump whenever he wants to. "I wanted to really stay

healthy throughout the season and win all of these," he added.

Obiena easily cleared his first jump at a 5.55-meter clearance. He cleared the 5.75-meter clearance after he missed his first two attempts, and cleared a 5.82-meter clearance in his first attempt. However, he was unable to clear the 5.90-meter clearance in his three attempts.

As the third world pole vaulter, Obiena is still lined up for the 2022 IAAF World Indoor Championships on March 18 in Serbia, Vietnam SEA Games in May, World Athletics Championships starting July 14 in the USA, and Asian Games in September in China. Obiena shared his preparations for the 2024 Paris Olympics and his hopes to get a medal which is his main target for 2024.

UP Fighting Maroons bag their third trophy in UAAP Basketball Championship

By Alex Lasian

It's been a long time coming. UP Diliman's basketball team, UP Fighting Maroons, sets a new record after the battle against Ateneo's Blue Eagles at the 84th season of UAAP Men's Basketball finals championship with a 72-69, dethroning Ateneo's 3-year win streak. The tournament was held on May 13, 2022, at the SM Mall of Asia Arena.

The Fighting Maroons lead the final first game with a score of 81-74 in an overtime game with Ricci Rivero from the UP team having the most points from all of the players. After three days, the Blue Eagles tied the winning series with Fighting Maroons having a score of 69-66, leading both teams to a close match until the final game.

It was a close battle in the final game between the two teams, leading them to overtime 5 minutes after a regulation score of 59 points. During the heated game, ADMU leads the game with the score 69-64, until JD Cagulangan shoots a three-point shot cutting the leading points of ADMU.

The Blue Eagles failed to score on their next ball possessions, making the Fighting Maroons lead the game after the two-handed slam dunk of Malick Diouf from an assist by Cagulangan. With



UP AT THE SUMMIT: The UP Fighting Maroons celebrate their triumph against the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the 84th season of the UAAP Men's Basketball Finals. PHOTO FROM THE UAAP MEDIA BUREAU

a few seconds remaining with a tie-score from both teams, Cagulangan breaks the tie as he shoots his winning step-back triple, giving the UP Fighting Maroons the crown from the Blue Eagles.

It was a new record for UP Diliman as their last title was in 1986, defeating the powerhouse University of the East's Red Warriors. UP Diliman always failed to succeed in the final Big 4 ever since 1997-2018. In the year 2018-2019, UP Diliman was back at the final Big 4 during the 81st season of UAAP, which lead them to the finals battling the same team, Ateneo's Blue Eagles. However, Blue Eagles still bags the trophy, winning their second consecutive title.

With the impressive performance of Malick Diouf, he was named the Final's Most Valuable Player (MVP). Meanwhile, Xavier Lucero and Carl Tamayo as part of the "Mythical Five" of the UAAP Season 4, along with Ange Kouame from Ateneo's Blue Eagles which is also the Season MVP, Justine Balazar and Micheal Phillips, from De La Salle's Green Archers. Carl Tamayo was also awarded Rookie of the Year.

Ricci Rivero mentioned that winning the game is all about knowing how good and how capable the team is. UP Fighting Maroons stayed together as a team and trusted their coach leading them to a successful win after a long time.



GLORY ON THE WORLD STAGE: Casey de Leon brings home the gold medal as she proudly represents HER nation. PHOTOS COURTESY OF CASEY DE LEON

De Leon strikes gold in 4th Asian Cadet Taekwondo Poomsae Championships 2022

By Marybless Avegayle B. Lumawag

Casey de Leon, student of Makati Science High School (MSHS), won gold with her team in the 4th Asian Cadet Poomsae Taekwondo Championship 2022 that took place on August 22, 2022 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

De Leon competed alongside Julianna Uy and Acey Oglayan under the Recognized Female Team category.

Their final scoring for the competition was 7.499 leading by 0.150 from the Taipei team and 0.199 from the Vietnam team who placed 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In preparing for the contest, they were guided by their coaches, Rani Ann Ortega, Dustin Jacob Mella, and Rodolfo Reyes Jr.

De Leon shared how she was guided by Coach Dulce Perez and Coach Patrick Perez ever since she was 6 years old and how thankful she is for them practically allowing her the opportunity to get into the national team and into national competitions like the Asian Tae-

kwondo Championships.

When she passed the evaluations on June 11, 2022 they were beyond proud and happy for Casey.

She also opened up about how nervous and scared she was considering this was her first time competing internationally face to face, "It wasn't familiar... and I didn't know what to do. In my head, [I told myself,] I just need to perform to the judges."

The interview ended with a message for those who see her as an inspiration: "Though I'm not that great, I don't consider myself as super up there pa... I still think there's a lot I need to improve and work hard on. But, for the people who look up to me as a national team member, and who aspire to become one like me, I'm very thankful and grateful. Kasi meron ako actually na naka-encounter na people who look up to me...like nagpapa-picture; they're so nice. So, super thankful ako dun kasi mas namomovotivate din at na-iinspire ako to work harder talaga... para mapakita ko na maganda maging national team, masaya naman. Though hell yung training hahaha."

