

## *SSAUP Kulasa launched for Taal victims*



*Teachers, NTP, and the Benedictine sisters work together to organize the donations.*

By Marielle Olalia

On January 15, St. Scholastica's Academy launched a fund drive for the Taal evacuees.

This is due to the damage caused by the Taal Volcano during its emission of ash and steam on January 12, which greatly affected thousands of people living in Batangas, Cavite, Tagaytay, and nearby areas.

Students and teachers donated in cash and in kind. Several students brought bottles of water and other necessities for the displaced victims of the eruption.

The school was able to pack several boxes of goods such as diapers, canned goods, noodles, and biscuits and raised an amount of Php 191,495.25 from

the donations of the parents, alumni, employees, and students.

All of these were sent to the National Benedictine Social Center in Manila to be distributed among those who were affected by the ongoing eruption of the Taal Volcano.

Teachers reminded students to always remember to include in their prayers those who are affected so that God may give them the strength to overcome the challenges brought by this calamity and to continue helping those in need.

The administration, headed by Sister Rebecca Maglalang, OSB, thanked everyone who shared their blessings and for the kindness and generosity they showed during the fund drive.

## **SSA emerges Champion in 2 HAU competitions**

by Franchesca Calma and Sofia Rozul

St. Scholastica's Academy journeyed home to San Fernando bringing two championship trophies from Holy Angel University's 36th Pamicalugud celebration in Angeles City last January 29. The senior high school academic team victorious in the academic quiz bee won one trophy and two representatives from the junior high school glee club ranking first in the HAU Songfest snagged another.

### **Academic Quiz Bee**

The SHS academic team executed their academic prowess as they clashed with nine other schools in Pampanga, including Holy Family Academy, Don Bosco Academy, Chevalier School, Angeles University Foundation, Republic Central Colleges, and more. *Turn to p. 2*



*Mrs. Dionisio, Riona Bianca Basco, Franchesca Nicole Calma, Sofia Irene Rozul, Riana Beatriz Siron, and Jazmin Ann Songco are awarded the championship trophy and certificate for HAU's Pamicalugud Academic Quiz for Senior High School.*



Erin Tangiday, Ms. Vanessa Clemente, and Kristia Manalo holding their trophy and certificate for winning champion in HAU's Pamicalugud 2020 Songfest.

### SSA emerges Champion.... from page 1

They battled it out in three rounds (easy, average, and difficult) where they were tested in different areas: Mathematics (General Mathematics, Statistics and Probability), Natural Sciences (Earth and Life Science, Physical Science), Filipino, English (Language and Literature), and Social Science (Culture, Society and Politics; Philosophy, General Knowledge, and Current Events).

As the competition progressed, the SSA SHS academic team kept a consistent place at the top two, but having answered the last question of the difficult round worth five points, they emerged as the champion of the contest, having only one point more than the first runner-up. The final scores were tallied with 32 points for SSA and 31 points for HFA.

At the end of the Pamicalugud 2020, these three schools rose above the rest and triumphed as victors of the competition: St. Scholastica's Academy (Champion), Holy Family Academy (First Runner-up), and Angeles University

Foundation (Second Runner-up).

Consisting of team captain Sofia Irene Rozul, and members Riona Bianca Basco, Riana Beatriz Siron, Franchesca Nicole Calma, and Jazmin Ann Songco, the SSA SHS academic team braved the academic battlefield in HAU with their coaches Mrs. Agnes Maniago and Mrs. Murni Joy Dionisio.

### Songfest

Scholasticans are not only brilliant in academics, but also in the arts as well! This is evident as JHS glee club representatives went against nine other schools in a duet singing competition for the HAU Songfest. Other competing duos were from the University of the Assumption, Republic Central Colleges, Chevalier School, and more.

Dressed in white 1830s gowns, Kristia Manalo and Erin Tangiday sang their own interpretation of the Les Miserables hit "I Dreamed A Dream." The duo embodied the music's message of sorrow and yearning, as they added a little theatrical touch to the performance.

## Kulasas clinch first spot at HAU's SongFest 2020

by Hyacinth Singian

Glee Club duo Erin Tangiday and Kristia Manalo won a trophy and certificate for being the champion in the Duet Singing Competition at Holy Angel University Pamicalugud 2020 last January 29, 2020.

Both of them had mixed emotions when they heard the news that they will represent the school.

"I felt happy but nervousness sunk in me while we were practicing. Excitement was also building up and I learned to be grateful to be given this opportunity," said Manalo.

"To be honest, I felt pressured because of course, I am representing our school, St. Scholastica's Academy, but this is also one of my motivations to do my best and show how good the Scholasticans are," said Tangiday.

Nonetheless, they are both grateful to their mentor, Ms. Vanessa Clemente for always motivating them. They said that she never puts pressure on them instead, she would remind them that, they don't go to competitions just to win but also to share their gifts and show their love for music.

After their astounding performance, the venue was filled with cheers and the audience showered them with applause. They never really expected to win the said competition because they had a lot of competitors.

"Well, we did our best and made ourselves worthy to be the champions but never expected to win because we were competing with ten schools," said Manalo. Prior to this, Tangiday and Manalo, together with the other chosen Glee Club members have just won first place in the APSA Christmas Chorale Competition that was held at Walter Mart, San Fernando Pampanga on December 13, 2019.

## SHS academic team wins 1st runner-up in Aemulatio Ingenium

By: Marielle Olalia

On January 31, the Senior High School Academic team was declared 1st runner-up in the Aemulatio Ingenium 2020 held at Don Bosco Academy (DBA), Mabalacat.

Consisting of Sofia Irene Rozul, Riona Bianca Basco, Riana Beatriz Siron, Franchesca Nicole Calma, and Jazmin Ann Songco. The team was coached by Mrs. Agnes Maniago and Mrs. Murni Joy Dionisio. This year's champion is Holy Family Academy, followed by St. Scholastica's Academy (SSA),



*Mrs. Dionisio, with the Senior High School Academic Team, and Ms. Dy*

and Angeles University Foundation Integrated School, respectively.

Aemulatio Ingenium is an annual academic quiz bee organized by DBA Mabalacat for both Junior and Senior High School Department. The SHS division this school year covered the following topics: Filipino, Science, Mathematics, General Information, Current Events, English, and Arts and

Literature.

The academic competition had eight participating schools, this includes: SSA, Chevalier School, Republic Central Colleges, Angeles University Foundation Integrated School, Holy Angel University, Systems Plus College Foundation, Holy Family Academy, and Jocson College.

## SHS academic team bags 1st runner-up in Singkagaling 2019

By Rynna Estacio

The Senior High School Academic Team won first runner-up during the 2019 CS Singkagaling held at Chevalier School Auditorium last December 7, 2019.

Singkagaling is a quiz bee organized by Kapatirang Kalasag, an organization established in 2013 with an advocacy to promote environmental awareness among the youth, but it is their first time to host such event. The quiz bee focused on the branches of science. This includes: Earth Science, Ecology, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

Riona Bianca Basco, Jazmine Anne Songco, Sofia Irene Rozul, Franchesca Nicole Calma, and Riana Beatriz Siron



*Mr. Bacani, the SHS Academic Team, and Mrs. Maniago*

represented St. Scholastica's Academy (SSA) and took home medals and trophies, accompanied with a cash prize of P10,000. They were coached by Mrs. Agnes Maniago and Mr. Russel Agustin Bacani.

The quiz bee had seven competing schools including SSA, Angeles City Science High School (ACSHS), Pampanga High School (PHS), System Plus, Don Bosco Academy (DBA), University of the Assumption (UA),

and Chevalier School (CS). ACSHS was declared the champion, while PHS won second runner-up.

There were two rounds: the elimination round, consisting of easy, average and difficult; and the final round. In the elimination, only five schools advanced for the final round. And only three of those schools would become winners from that round. The champion was given a cash prize of P20,000 and the second runner-up was given P7,500.

## BQ bags 13 DSPC awards

by Rynna Estacio

The Blue Quill won 13 places during the 2019 Division Schools Press Conference held at San Fernando Elementary School last October 9.

The theme for this year's competition is "Empowering Communities through Campus Journalism."

Annually, campus journalists from public and private elementary and secondary schools from the Division of City of San Fernando gather to manifest their skills in journalism on this event organized by the Department of Education.

Thirteen participants of St. Scholastica's Academy won in their respective categories and six of them made it to the

top 3, which advanced them to the Regional Schools Press Conference (RSPC), held on November 27-28 in Capas, Tarlac. The school's campus journalists were coached by Mr. Harold B. Velasco, the Blue Quill moderator, for the English category and Mr. Jayemer O. Miranda, a Filipino teacher and adviser of 10-St. Gertrude, for the Filipino category.

The 13 awards were:

Best News Presenter – Radio Broadcasting – Bianca Arceo

2nd Place – Science Feature Writing – Sofia Irene Rozul

2nd Place – Copyreading and Headline Writing – Julia Diaz

2nd Place – Feature Writing – Maria Eleina Mishel Cruz

3rd Place – Photojournalism – Luis Ysabel Lacanlale

3rd Place – Copyreading and Headline Writing – Francine Louise Sanchez

3rd Place – Pagsulat ng Balita – Denniela Mamawan

4th Place – Pagwawasto at Pag-uulo ng Balita – Angelie Salac

4th Place – Pagsulat ng Lathalain – Julie Cristelle Narciso

5th Place – Editorial Writing – Angel Sibug

5th Place – News Writing – Rynna Estacio

7th Place – News Writing – Issabel Anne Baluyut

10th Place – Editorial Writing – Bea Maria Asuncion

Before the competition, the Blue Quill were given a talk on Basic Campus Journalism by members of the Holy Angel University Press Club.



Agatha Elysa Kho  
9-Peñafrancia



Reigne Vitug  
10-St. Hildegarde



Phoenela Trinidad  
9-Lourdes



Kim Lara Mariano  
10-St. Humbeline

## TRASHIONISTA, QUIZ BEE HELD DURING MATH AND SCIENCE WEEK CELEBRATION

by Bianca Quitevis and Phoenela Trinidad

The Math and Science week was launched at St. Scholastica's Academy City of San Fernando, Pampanga last September 23, 2019 with the theme: "Math and Science for the people, unity for the ecological sustainability".

In line with the celebration for the Math and Science week, the Math and Science areas of the school prepared different

classroom-based activities for each grade level.

The activities prepared were Bingo for the grade 7 students, composition and presentation of Math Jingle for the grade 8 students, t-shirt design making and printing for the grade 9 students and lastly, graph dance choreography for the grade 10 students.

Not only classroom-based activities were prepared but also competitions between different grade levels for the Math and Science Quiz Bee where different class representatives were able to showcase their intelligence and nurture their cooperation, teamwork and their sportsmanship.

The grade 9 and 10 students likewise, had their "Trashionista" where the students need to come up with their design

scientists and mathematicians that they picked randomly which were created using recycled materials. This activity of the Math and Science area helped nurture the students' creativity, teamwork, patience, sportsmanship, and their talent in modeling.

The quiz bee and the Trashionista costume showcase were held last September 27, 2019 at St. Cecilia's Covered Court. At last, out of all the hard works of the students, the awarding ceremony took place where 9-Peñafrancia and 10-St.Hildegarde representatives were awarded with the Best Model award and 9-Lourdes and 10-St. Humbeline's were awarded with the Best Costume award. Likewise the team Lovelace was awarded as the winner of the quiz bee.



## SSA OBSERVES ANNUAL ENGLISH WEEK CELEBRATION

by Raphaelle Mumoz  
and Marielle Olalia

On November 28, 2019, St. Scholastica's Academy concluded the celebration of the English week with the theme: "Words change worlds," at the St. Cecilia's covered court spearheaded by the English Area.

The teachers of the English Area wore costumes of the character of their choice.

The program started with an opening prayer led by Juliana Jose, a member of Speech and Drama Club. Mr. Alex Lising welcomed the students and an opening remarks was given by the Grade 9 English teacher, Ms. Antonette Cunanan.

The program was followed by the introduction of an English Quiz Bee (Quiz Bee Like No Other). Ms. Lucilyn Magbag served as the quiz master for the said contest. The competition has 5 levels: Easy, average, difficult, impossible, and the apocalypse round. These stages were competed by the Grades 7-10 and some of the faculty members, respectively. To determine the participants for a specific round, Mr. Lising picked randomly among the high school students and the faculty members.

For the easy round, six Grade 7 students were chosen to participate. After the said round, students coming from 7-Judith showed off their skills in chorale reading as they performed "1896" by Aurelio S. Alvero.

Another six students from Grade 8 were picked to compete during the average round. It was preceded by the performance of a group from 8-St. Bernadette. They presented an Egyptian folktale entitled "The Two Brothers" in a form of a chamber theater.



The difficult round was participated by six selected Grade 9 students. A student of 9-Guadalupe, Czarina Macalino did a poetry interlude about feminism. She presented a poem titled "Her Kind" by Anne Sexton. Another performance was done by Gayle Gloton and Phoebe Sagum from 9-Manaoag. They performed a piece written by Ella Wheeler Wilcox with the title "Love's Language."

Another batch coming from the Grade 10 students took part in the impossible round of the spelling bee. Three Grade 10 students, Cassandra Gonzales, Bea Cuballes, and Yezha De Guzman, delivered their own monologue compositions for the characters they portrayed.

For the most-awaited round of the spelling bee, Mr. Lising randomly selected six faculty members. Mr. Marlon Cuevas, Mr. Jayemer Miranda, Mr. Ireneo Dumas, Mr. Lester Bernardo, Mr. Rae Jan Carbonell and Mr. Regie Dampil were the lucky ones who competed in the said round. The winners of the spelling bee were announced after the last round.

To formally end the culminating activity of the English week, Mr. Jonathan Manalo gave the closing remarks.

Alongside the English week celebration, Book week was also commemorated on November 18-22, 2019. The Booktopia club along with the library staff, prepared

activities for each grade levels.

The winners for the Book Week activities are as follows:

Grade 7: Giant Bookmark Making Contest

1st: 7-Ruth

2nd: 7-Deborah

3rd: 7-Miriam

Grade 8: Giant Book Cover Making Contest

1st: 8-St. Bernadette

2nd: 8-St. Agnes

3rd: 8-St. Cecilia

Grade 9: Comic Strip Making Contest

1st: 9-Peñafrancia

2nd: 9-Lourdes

3rd: 9-Guadalupe

Grade 10: Miniature Library Making Contest

1st: 10-St. Humbeline

2nd: 10-St. Odilia

3rd: 10-St. Gertrude

Grade 11: On the Spot Theme Based Poetry Writing Contest

1st: Franchesca Calma (11-St. Aurea)

2nd: Chloe Faye Canlas (11- St. Beatrice)

3rd: Ma. Thea Isabela Dizon (11-St. Celestine)

Grade 12: On the Spot Theme Based Essay Writing Contest

1st: Lucia Dizon (12- St. Ehrentrudis)

2nd: Bea Siron (12- St. Martha)

3rd: Yka Tanguilig (12- St. Hildegundis)

One of the grade 9 performers was interviewed about her experiences during the English week culminating activity and she answered, "The best part about the culminating is the performances, we got to see the talented Scholasticans perform their act that they have been working hard on." Truly the celebration of Book Week and English Week enabled the students to show off their skills and appreciation for literature and the English language.



## October-January Activities



ENGLISH WEEK CELEBRATION



HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY COOKFEST



OPERATION JOY



STUDENT-TEACHERS' DAY

## SSA-SHS Conducts Research Immersion

by Denniela Mamawan

A research-based immersion was conducted by the 11th and 12th grades at

Sitio Bagong Sibol, Brgy. Quebiawan last October 18, 2019, Friday. The activity was in line with the series of research-related activities for senior high school students.

The students were tasked to conduct surveys of a few families in the community, from which answers are to be used for their future research endeavors. Questions that were asked during the community survey were related to the students' strands: ABM, STEM, and HUMSS.

The said activity aimed to determine the needs of the residents in the community,

and it was carried out to help the students to single out a research topic that would be beneficial not only for Sitio Bagong Sibol, but for other communities under the same situations.

Sitio Bagong Sibol is community in the City of San Fernando where people live in informal settlements.

Results from the conducted surveys were used on the succeeding research-based activity which was carried out last January 20, 2020, Monday.

## HS Faculty Retreat

by Julia I. Diaz  
and Abrielle Chelsea U. Ponce

A Faculty Baguio Retreat was enjoyed by the school's high school department teachers last October 28-30, 2019. The teachers all stayed in St. Scholastica's Retreat House in the so-called City of Pines. During the retreat, the teachers participated in different activities including self-reflection, problem sharing, and a chance to talk to a partner about their beliefs in God.

Throughout the duration of their stay, they were prohibited from using mobile phones or any form of gadgets. They were all given enough time to eat, relax, and have time to reflect with God.

When asked about what they have learned during the retreat, Ms. Kathleen Kate V. Taruc, a new math teacher and adviser answered, "Silence is important when talking to God. I have learned that people will always be there for you and God will never put you in a situation you cannot handle. There are many reasons to love God and your neighbors." Another teacher who joined the retreat, Ms. Pauline Resha Cunanan, an English teacher said, "During our sharing

activities, the most remarkable thing that I learned was that all of us go through similar situations and struggles in life and that we can get through with our own challenges." She also added that her personal, professional and spiritual life has improved because of the retreat. Ms. Cunanan also mentioned that, "the retreat has been an opportunity for me to expand my perspective and it helped to better understand the world around me". After all their reflections in silence and spending time with colleagues in a peaceful and scenic place, Ms. Taruc and Ms. Cunanan stated that objective of the retreat to relax and regain our faith was indeed fulfilled.



## Student Catechists: Young Influencers

by Katrina Kabigting

“We bleed blue, St. Scholastica! We bleed blue, St. Scholastica! O-o-ora e-et labora! O-o-ora e-et labora!”

The grade 10 student catechists of St. Scholastica’s Academy participated in a seminar held at Don Bosco Academy on November 16, 2019 with the theme “Catechists: Empowering the Youth for the Synodal Church.” Also, student

catechists from other schools such as Holy Angel University- College of Education, University of the Assumption, etc. attended the said seminar.

The program started with a talk given by the guest speaker, Mr. Kenjie Cortez. The focus of his talk was about catechists being great influencers of today’s time. Mr. Cortez gave significant points on how to influence with power, which are: talk less, relate more and stay young. He

also discussed the differences of each generation (Gen. Z, Millennial, Gen. X, Baby Boomer), how to influence them and that these are all unique and shouldn’t be compared with each other.

After which, the student catechists from the different attending schools had shouted their loudest cheers as the roll call began. And in order for the catechists to share their experiences, expectations and insights regarding their mission to serve others and God, they were grouped with other student catechists from other schools. A mass was also celebrated and was presided by Rev. Fr. Bong Feliciano.

Also, each school prepared their own creative performances, may it be dance or song number. And lastly, as catechists, they gave praises and sang worship songs as a sign of gratitude to the Lord.



## GRADE 8 GIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE YEAR OF THE YOUTH

by Stefani Garcia and Carlene Canlas

As another quarter of the school year awaits, St. Scholastica’s Academy conducted its yearly Interdisciplinary Schematic Webbing (ISW) project with the theme “The Youth as Builders of God’s Kingdom.”

This theme was chosen to basically further highlight the year of the Youth and let the youth be aware of their roles here on earth, which is fairly significant. Each grade level was assigned with a designated final output that was to be presented at the end of the ISW week. For the grade 8 students, they were tasked to produce a newsletter made up of a jingle taken care of the Math and Science area and a recount essay for

the English area. A poem was also made by the students during their Araling Panlipunan and Filipino classes and a blog for the Christian Living Education subject.

A newsletter was chosen to be the final output in the light of fact that it was actually the intended project of the grade 8 students to be done in their Technology and Livelihood Education, so the information and the newsletter were combined together. The lengthy process of planning and conducting the activity was already done during the first quarter.

Mrs. Dionisio, the High School Department’s Math Coordinator,

mentioned that it although the students had only a week to finish the task, they were still able to come up with excellent outputs.

The ISW project aimed to lessen the work of the students and to provide a good output that will help the students see the relevance of the project to today’s society. Its objective is for the students to value the output and most importantly, camaraderie among those who accomplished the given project.

All the given objectives were fulfilled therefore making this year’s ISW a success as said by Mrs. Dionisio.



## SCHOLASTICANS CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS THROUGH OPERATION JOY 2019

by Eleina Cruz and Jheiney Manalo

Last December 12, 2019, the Scholastican community shared love and joy to 240 students from San Isidro Elementary School and San Agustin Elementary School through giving goods and playing games with the selected students.

The program started with a prayer led by the selected grade 10 catechists and a doxology by the Dance Ministry. Afterwards, the crowd was energized by another dance



*Ms. Roxan Dungca gives instructions to the children as they participate in the activities and games during conduct of Operation Joy 2019.*

number of the Dance Ministry. The different grade levels then proceeded to their different assigned locations to continue the activity.

Each grade level brought 60 students with them respectively. The Grade 7 stayed at the High School Quadrangle, the Grade 8 at the Sacred Heart Court, the Grade 9 at Sister Margarita Covered Court, the Grade 10 at St. Cecilia's Covered Court. The Senior High School, on the other hand, went to St. Vincent of Quebiawan Integrated School.

During their interaction with the kids, they

played different parlor games to entertain the visitors. The goods brought by the Scholasticans were distributed as well. These goods contained a pack of spaghetti sauce and noodles, coffee, cheese, sugar, a kilo of rice and other sustenance that they can use for their Noche Buena.

The selected students enjoyed the activity as well as the Scholastican community. They were accompanied by Scholasticans until they bid farewell bringing with them the values gratefulness and generosity. This annual activity never loses its true purpose and continues to ignite the generous hearts of the community.

## GRADE 7 ISW: COMIC STRIPS THAT REFLECT BENEDICTINE VALUES

by Gabby Lansangan and Bianca Bondoc

The Grade 7 students were tasked to create a comic strip for their Interdisciplinary Schematic Webbing (ISW) during the 2nd quarter, serving as their performance task for their various subjects.

The ISW projects aim to balance the workload along with summative tests and quizzes.

This activity promotes leadership and cooperation, 21st century skills that students need to develop to prepare them for the future.

Different instructions were given from each subject area in the completion of the comic strip. The measurements of the story board was given by the Math teachers, while the concept of the story was given by the Science teachers. How the story flows was taught by the English teachers, and the cover page was made in their Information and Communication Technology (ICT) subject. The medium used for the dialogues was Filipino.

"ISW is a requirement that greatly affects their grades in all their subjects, especially, MAPEH—taking up 60% of their total

grade, while in other subjects ISW is considered as PeTa—taking up 40% of their total grade," Mrs. Karen Manalang, MAPEH coordinator, said.

The checking of the outputs was done after dismissal time by the Grade 7 teachers during the day of submission for the comic strips.

"St. Scholastica's Academy wanted students to participate in a curriculum where important values are being carried out. Respect, kindness and love are three of the vital values that can be shown through ISW," Mrs. Manalang said.





## Most Awaited Long Weekends of 2020

by Carlene Canlas and Faith Suba

It's 2020 and the next chapter of our lives has started. Surely you have been gifted a calendar by one your loved ones, and let's be honest, we all dive in straight to the long weekends and possible holidays that this year can serve us. Whether you had experienced the most amazing times in the first few days, or you haven't gotten your luck yet, we have compiled a list of the long weekends for the year 2020.

Check out this Long Weekend Guide for this year of 2020:

### December 28, 2019 – January 1, 2020

The 28th and 29th of December 2019 fall on a Saturday and a Sunday respectively, and so the does the 30th, Rizal Day, a Monday. The following day, December 31 is New Year's Eve and January 1, 2020 is New Year's Day, wrapping up a great New

Year's long weekend.

### April 9, 2020 – April 12, 2020

Here's another long weekend to look forward to. Araw ng Kagitingan and Maundy Thursday would both fall in on the 9th of April. Good Friday is on the 10th, Black Saturday is on the 11th, and the 12th is Easter Sunday.

### May 1, 2020 – May 3, 2020

For this year of 2020, Labor Day is a Friday, May 1, so both May 2 and May 3 would be a Saturday and a Sunday respectively.

### June 12, 2020 – June 14, 2020

Watch out for another long weekend.

June 12 which is the country's Independence Day would be Friday, thus June 13 and June 14 would fall on a weekend.

### July 31, 2020 – August 2, 2020

Eid al-Adha being on a Friday, July 31 is still tentative and can be still rescheduled by the Muslim Calendar. But if this is the case, watch out for another long weekend since August 1 and 2 would also fall in on a weekend.

### August 21, 2020 – August 23, 2020

This year's August 21 would be another Friday, and as most of us know, it is the

Ninoy Aquino Day. Again, the 22nd and 23rd of August would be a Saturday and a Sunday.

### August 29, 2020 – August 31, 2020

August 29 and 30 is a Saturday and Sunday respectively, meaning this year's National Heroes' Day is a Monday, August 31.

### October 31, 2020 – November 2, 2020

October 31st this year is a Saturday, so November 1, All Saints' Day is a Sunday and November 2, All Souls' Day is a Monday.

### November 28, 2020–November 30, 2020

This year's November 30, which is Bonifacio Day is on a Monday, thus November 28 is a Saturday and November 29 is a Sunday.

### December 24, 2020 – December 27, 2020

It's the most wonderful time of the year! December 24, Christmas Eve is a Thursday and December 27 falls in on a Sunday, concluding this Christmas long weekend.

### December 30, 2020 – January 3, 2021

The last long weekend for the year of 2020 starts on a Wednesday, December 30 which is Rizal Day, and ends the New Year's long weekend on a Sunday, January 3, 2021

## STUDENTS SHOW DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

by Rynna Estacio and Hannah Fenella Bacosa

St. Scholastica's Academy participated in dedicating the month of October to the Holy Rosary by praying for peace and unity through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

October is designated as the Month of the Holy Rosary because the celebration of the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is done annually on October 7.

The feast day was established by Pope

Saint Pius V on the anniversary of the victory at Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The naval victory was attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary whose intercession was entreated through the recitation of the Holy Rosary. The Church then proceeded to dedicate the entire month of October to the Holy Rosary so that individuals, families and communities would pray the Holy Rosary, if possible, on a daily basis for peace in the world.

The members of the Magnificat Club were in charge of leading the High School Department in reciting the Holy Rosary

every day so that the Scholasticans may participate in the month-long event.

At the same time, room-to-room visits of the images of the Blessed Virgin Mary were also done.

Both of these activities aim to deepen the devotion of Scholasticans to Mary and for them to intercede with our Mother in praying for their own intentions.

The Rosary is also considered as a means that can be used in order to be drawn closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of salvation.



## GRADE 9 ISW: BOOK LAUNCHING

by Hyacinth Singian and Caitlin Yambao

“I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book,” JK. Rowling once said. Indeed, something magical can really happen when you read a good book such as travelling to different places without even leaving your place. However, this pales no comparison to the magic of the lessons that we can learn from various books.

A book is the main reference of the teachers and even students to gather information. However, nowadays, we can rarely see people who read books. Who would even choose to read a lot of pages or paragraphs just for a particular topic? Let's all face reality that even us would rather use the technology we have today than read books just to finish our tasks quickly.

On the first week of October 2019, the grade nine students had their book launching. However, where would the books that they'd launch come from if not from them, right? That's why they were tasked to write their own stories that would capture the attention of everyone; kids or adults. This is not like the typical

stories that we grew up from because it would be about the different elements from the periodic table that were assigned to them. However, the challenge doesn't end there because it is included in the criteria that the readers should be able to learn something valuable from the story.

The grade nine students didn't back down and accepted the challenge wholeheartedly. There were some who already finished their plot on their first meeting with their corresponding groups. On the following meeting, there were already some who accomplished their stories.

The students were able to construct captivating and unique stories with the use of the elements assigned to them. They were able to relate it with different themes such as love and friendship.

On the day of the book launching, the strong emotion of the students cannot be denied even though it's still early. They had different ways of preparing: ranging from their simple food preparations for the visitors up until the simple ornaments on their tables, where the book they worked

hard for is.

A book wouldn't be complete without an author. That's why the introduction of the creative writers became a part of their program. The visitors had a chance to ask a question from the authors regarding the book they wrote. There were distinct questions because there were various professionals inside the classroom: a talent manager, journalist, and a publisher.

The students tried their best to catch the attention of the judges — they couldn't call their book launch a success if they weren't recognized for their efforts. Their spectacular stories were indeed, worthy of praise. Most judges were very impressed with their preparation and time management. Not only did they create their own story, but they also created their own book design and visual content. The purpose of the book design is to attract and enlighten the young ones and visually present the story and its lesson.

Reading books is a form of bonding and



it can be a link between the parental relationships between a parent and a child. Books can build and tighten connections between children and adults. What is the importance of a book for a child's growth? Books help children develop basic language skills and deepen their vocabulary. Regardless of the genre or not, the book expands their consciousness. It expands a child's vocabulary and develops his creativity and curiosity.

The 9th Graders were brilliant at finishing the plot of their story and visual content in a short amount of time. They had to manage their time well because after they finished the content of the story, they had to print it on A3 size paper. After doing

this, their work was not done yet because they had to prepare the book launch itself. While it may seem easy, making a book, printing it and launching it - is far from easy. It is a challenge, in fact. However, regardless of the fact that it was a challenge, it still helped the students in harnessing their skills in different areas. They went on an adventure in their imagination with their ideas to look for the perfect story to tell.

Not only did they demonstrate their creativity, but they also proved their confidence by presenting their book as if it was the best out of the rest of the ideas. Reading a great book transports you to another world, while on the other hand,

making one will show you the depths and adventures of your mind and imagination

Indeed, we can say that it was a wonderful challenge for the students because they learned a lot from it. They competed in terms of thinking an extraordinary plot, their knowledge in visual editing was utilized as well and most of all, they were able to make use of the small amount of time given to them. Likewise, their patience and perseverance were tested because not only one nor two groups from the grade nine printed their books in the ICT room, instead, all of the sections.

## THE DIARY OF A STUDENT CATECHIST

by Anne Mariell Aquino

Sense of fulfillment.

I remember the day when two Grade 10 students walked into our room to promote and encourage us to be like them, to be student Catechists or students who are instructors of faith. I was a grade 9 student back then and truthfully, I was mesmerized during that moment. From the stories that they told us, the experiences that they got, and the things that they did, I was like I think I wanted to be like them next year.

I took the courage to take the next step. Fast forward, the next thing I knew, this school year, I became a student Catechist. After a few sessions of training, I with my fellow students Catechists, faced the reality of our calling. The not-so-complex perception of teaching kids became not-so-simple.

Every Tuesday, we were tasked to submit our lesson plan for the week, prepare visual aids, and study the lesson that we will teach our pupils, just like what a teacher does. Not to mention the performance tasks, assignments, quizzes

and other stuffs that we also need to accomplish for our other subjects.

So comes Friday, we will go out of the school and go to the respective schools we are assigned to teach which are San Agustin Integrated School and San Isidro Integrated School. And that is it. We will now teach. No. It's not that simple.

As soon as we arrive there and teach, there are always these dilemmas that we encounter such as pupils fighting inside the classrooms to the point that we would not know what to do with them. Or instances like when some of our pupils keep on walking around the classroom and chatting boisterously while the lesson is ongoing. Also, in some unfortunate moments, the moment we arrive there, we were not able to have our classes because they were not present. In simple words, they had no class for that day.

The reality of our calling always faced us but have it never fazed us.

The sense of fulfillment we felt every time we taught and saw our pupils weighed more than those of all the preparations we had to make, the efforts we needed to exert, and the unfortunate circumstances we had to face.

What I had not mentioned earlier is that yes, teaching in public schools may be a little bit difficult but amidst that, the kids there are kind and pure. They may

be a little bit loud and naughty, which normally happens in a classroom set up, but their genuine smiles as soon as they see us melt our hearts and make them grow into us. Also, it makes us go back to the moment on why we even answered this calling; it's because of God and of them. Because while we were building a relationship with them, little by little, we were helping them to build a relationship with God. Slowly, they are starting to know Him more by understanding the simple things He have done for us and the simple things we need to do for other people in order to show our love for Him. One more thing is that although our lessons might be a little bit overwhelming to them, they try their best to comprehend what we teach and to remember the gist of it. And hopefully, they will apply these to their own lives. More than the memories we made with each other, we hope that our pupils will engrave in their heart how great and loving God is.

As a student catechist, what I can say is that being one is worth the time, the effort, and the experience. There are certain things that you will be able to understand only when you become one. And of course, this is a one step forward in knowing God more and how He really lets this world work.



## BENET 2019: EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS

by Ms. Juliet Tayag

“We are one, but we are many  
And from all the lands on earth we come  
We share a dream  
And sing with one voice...”

This song from a well-known Australian song could well capture our Benedictine Network (BENet) Conference held on September 30 – October 4, 2019, Sydney, Australia with the theme, “Benedictine Wisdom: Beneath the Southern Cross”. Such theme expressed the fusion of Benedictine tradition and the richness of Australian society and culture.

We all came with our own story, our song, our voice. It is always a blessing to come together from every corner of the world to strengthen the bonds among those working “in the school of the Lord’s service” and shared the center of our Benedictine education, the center of our mission - JESUS CHRIST as we strive to live HIS gospel.

The BENet experience made me realize how the ancient manuscript of the Rule of St. Benedict has endured and influenced numerous people from all walks of life around the world because of its wisdom and its insight into the importance of relationship. This BENet experience more and more cements, fortifies, and glues my Catholic Benedictine identity.

The BENet experience also helps me appreciate all the more our institution’s practices and policies.

The compelling challenge to live in a Benedictine way built around a fundamental discipline of prayer, work and yes, as emphasized in the conference built on relationships that is set forth in the Rule more and more calls us to take delight in God’s presence within us and in our community.

The Benedictine way, however structured and countercultural it is, would guide us, foster attention and call our attention to return to God as the source and purpose of our life’s endeavors and relationships. As Fr. David Ranson puts it, one of the new poverties we face is the “confusion between the breadth of connection with the depth of communication”.

He further said that if there be a crisis in meaning today, if there be a breakdown in faith, it is primarily because there is a breakdown in community for meaning emerges in the experience of relationship. The community reminds us that happiness is always shared, that we are never alone but always in companionship with others. The challenge remains, to let SSA – be a Catholic Benedictine school, a

school for the person and of persons.

We all came with our own story, our song, our voice. It is always a blessing to come together from every corner of the world and share the center of our Benedictine education. The different activities given to us in the conference – from the travellers’ Mass, to the different sessions and panel discussions, to our deaneries, to our own workshop sessions, to Harbour Dinner cruise, to walking workshops, to being with Benedictine sisters, to the celebration of the Mass, to bush dance, to walking the street along the street in Sydney, to going to the buses and crossing the street sometimes, not knowing the direction – made realize that there are always, always people coming, angels along the way who give directions, and even accompany us.

Let these be an inspiration to make the Rule of St. Benedict and our Benedictine tradition serve as our loadstar – our North star, a star that leads and inspires us to be a real Christian for this guides our choices as an institution and continually reminds us to care for ourselves and others, listen with our hearts, nurture and develop our communities and let God, our Sirius, the brightest star shine bright in our lives, so that in all things, God may be glorified.

## GRADE 10 PERFORM DANCE FOR PEACE

by Francine Louise Sanchez and Angel Sibug

A Dance for Peace was performed by the grade 10 students last September 27, 2019 at the St. Cecilia's Covered Court for their ISW in line with the Peace Month. Each section was given four minutes to present while a board of judges, composing of the faculty members, were grading each performances.

“The idea of dance as an ISW was originally the brainchild of Mr. Peter de Vera in collaboration with Mr. Marlon Cuevas. During our grade level meeting, Mr. Cuevas told the group about it, then we recognized the viability of the project and took it as ISW project for Grade 10,” Mr. Leonardo Barotac, the CLE Coordinator and one of the teachers for the grade level said.

The performances of each section were shown in the style of a program, with emcees from St. Mechtilde and documentation both from staff and students alike. Each section also had a video presentation to accompany the performances. The presentations highlighted the students' observation of peace in our current time in which it is currently challenged, with each



Grade 10- St. Elfreda poses for their final position in their dance presentation focused on the concern regarding war.

section showing their own perspective on the subject.

“I suppose that their perception of peace has changed. They have shown a lot of facets about peace. Such as peace not an absence of conflict rather, peace as an effort towards a lasting collaboration among communities in managing their differences,” Mr. Barotac said upon asked

how the students' perception of peace was showcased in their performances.

The awareness of what peace is can help in promoting a community with which harmony is valued and achieved. This understanding is vividly seen in the presentations of the students and through this, one may hope that peace may come to us all in this time.



Grade 10- St. Mechtilde conveys peace and unity through their dance number.



# Feb For Teen

by Caitlin Yambao and Eina Loux Ruiz

Can you smell it? Go on, take a whiff of the air. There's something lingering in it, something so sweet it's leaving a bitter taste in your mouth. It's not your mom's cooking, or the new scent she got for the revitalizer. No, just take a look at the calendar and you'll realize just what it is.

February 14. That's right, It's Love.

Arguably one of the most famous 'holidays', Valentine's Day celebrates the beauty of love, passion, and the likes. It's around this time that the popular phrase 'sana all' would most likely come into full force. After all, it's a day for couples to take pride in the love they share. Because of this, it has become a popular day for things like weddings all around the world. In the Netherlands, CBS reports that around 678 couples back in the Valentine's day of 2014 tied the knot (that's five times more than any other Friday of the same month). It's with the theme of love and relationship that makes this day so special for couples, and so bitter for single people.

As someone without a so-called 'better half', single people will most often become more conscious of their relationship status when the 14th of February rolls around. Everywhere they go, it's as if everyone's got a boyfriend or girlfriend while they're spending the day alone. From cafes and restaurants to perhaps every single social media post, they feel surrounded by romance and indirectly mocked for their loneliness. Perhaps, it may even give them pressure to find a lover of their own.

Students, you may feel called out, but we know you've felt it too.

You see some of your classmates gifting or getting gifted with sometimes even expensive things from their boyfriends and girlfriends. Maybe someone came to your classroom to publicly show their love for your seatmate. Whatever it may be, you've probably found yourself rolling your eyes before internally admitting that you wouldn't mind experiencing

the same thing. Eventually you'll find yourself wondering if it would be okay to split time with your education and give it to a special someone (that is, if you could actually get one).

We've been blinded by what we see on romantic comedies or advertisements on TVs — the way they try to make this propaganda image of love makes it hard for us to avoid the desire of feeling it. The romance that we dream of is becoming too commercialized and far fetched. Love isn't about the amount of chocolates you receive, or how expensive the gift is. Somehow, Valentine's Day has become a day earn brownie points from your partner. I love you's and heart shaped boxes, shouldn't this be given and said not just on February 14?

You may feel a bit pressured by the oogling couples that you passed by, but know that the right time will come for you to love. Don't give in to the temptation of settling for someone who you don't like, merely because you want to experience being loved. The consequences of taking a big dose from the bottle of peer pressure is a big one. It might be too much to handle, so have patience. Wait for spring to come.

Although your crave for affection is understandable, Valentines is not just about romantic relationships. There is no need for you scowl at every googling couple you past by. Newsflash, platonic relationships exist too. You don't need to keep your "I love you" hidden away, when you can say it to your family and friends. Instead of using your energy reserves to search for the perfect match as your valentine, you should spend time with your family or friends. This day of love wasn't originally just for "lovers", it's also a day to spend with our close ones. But it doesn't seem to be the same as before, since the concept of celebrating it with family and friends has been wiped off.

If they already have plans for the day, don't spend the day bawling your eyes out while lamenting about your past love. Treat yourself on a date. Go watch netflix by yourself, study for the test that you have or dance to your not-so-romantic playlist. Shower yourself with the love that you want to give to someone, and the love you want to receive.

After all, Valentine's Day is about love, so why not give a little to yourself?



## Inexplicably Diverse But Not Divided

by Ana Mikaela Gopez

Everything has an origin.

People are people. We may not exactly be knowledgeable about their ancestry, family history and general background, but we do know one thing—they're human, just like us. Skin color and certain physical aspects may give an idea of whence they've come in this unspeakably populated country, but that would never be enough to express an essential idea of a person's nature, characteristic, or ethnic descent. Our only way to ever find out is to ask them ourselves. In the end, communication would still be the only answer to our question. We use words, and when we do, which dialect or language do we use? Tagalog might be the safest answer since it's the most spoken dialect in our country, and that says a lot about the issue on the table.

Speaking Tagalog or Filipino is, of course, not bad at all as it is the very language we have in the Philippines officially, but sometimes, exchanging words by using only this and English as our medium, puts autochthonous languages in danger.

Autochthonous languages, or native languages, are the ways of speaking passed down from the very first peoples of a particular region to the generation living there today. The aboriginal people are the true roots of the Filipino, as are the native languages of their own are the roots of what we speak in



today even before the arrival of colonists.

We, Filipinos, can definitely be described as diverse, in a word. We are so diverse, in fact, that some of us may no longer be able trace just where our foremost origin is. There are 185 languages spoken in the Philippines that are not completely comprised of only indigenous languages, but just languages reflected from other countries' languages. Almost all are Malayo-Polynesian, and the rest may be from our neighboring countries and, of course, the colonists.

All of this, however, doesn't give us a reason to forget who we were or how we spoke. The Church, in particular, promotes unity among everyone, especially with the aboriginal people, using the culture of dialogue as a path to peace. 2020 is the year of Inter-religious Dialogue and Indigenous Peoples, its theme being Dialogue Towards Harmony. The time has come to not only appreciate and give importance to the culture of dialogue, but also utilizing it to unite all of us.

Everything has an origin, and sometimes undergoing a revolution isn't always the solution. Rather, it can be a way to bring everyone together as one.



# ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

Now is the time for the government to interfere and nationalize our water resource, amidst the controversies surrounding Manila Water and Maynilad for their unfavorable water agreements.

“If they sued us, I will not pay P7 billion.... Stupid, I’ll make them eat the money,” Duterte said. Last November 2019, Manila Water and Maynilad won before the Permanent Court of Arbitration which demands the government to pay the water concessionaires a total of seven billion pesos representing the losses they suffered from June 2015 until November 2019. Due to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System’s (MWSS) order to reduce the water charge by P2.77 per cubic meter, which resulted to their losses that prompted for the concessionaires to appeal and charge the government as agreed in the Water Concession Agreement.

The Concession Agreement drafted and formed in 1997 after the privatization of the national water resource in the administration of Former President Fidel Ramos has caused public disapproval because of onerous provisions under the contract. The Regulatory Office and MWSS have no power to regulate the rates whether to reduce it or not. In the basis of the concession agreement, the concessionaires have the power to impose penalties on the government if interferences are to take place. With this in mind, the government is indirectly stripped of its sovereignty over the water concessionaires. This just proves how weak the hold of the Regulatory Office and the government has in this matter.

In the time of Former President Gloria Arroyo, the concession agreement that were to be expired in 2022 was extended for another 15 years in 2009. How is it possible that such onerous provisions and discrepancies under the agreement had gone unnoticed for two administrations?

Reviewing the Water Concession Agreement, the two concessionaires have violated article 5 which obligates them to a continuity of water supply in their connected areas. The water interruptions that plagued Manila in 2019 purely demonstrate their violations. Under article 6 of the agreement, the concessionaires are obligated to pay income, withholding taxes and other forms of taxes arising from payments. In 2015, Manila Water and Maynilad passed their corporate income tax that should be paid by both companies to their consumers. This does not only violate article 6 of the agreement but violates the constitution itself.

The privatization of the water resource has proved to do more damage than good; it has become a huge business that exploits the right of every Filipino to a favorable water supply. It is time to nationalize this resource, though the main concern is the government’s inability to maintain a good and promising facilities, it is worth considering maximizing the current administration’s focus. Infrastructure. The BUILD BUILD BUILD project of President Rodrigo Duterte aim to create better facilities and infrastructure for the betterment of the country, it will not be a waste to spare a few millions or even billions of pesos to improve and advance our water facilities. This will not only give what is due to the Filipinos but also be a step towards national independence.

## Vape Ban

by Phoenela Trinidad

After DOH confirmed the first vape-related lung injury in the Philippines, President Duterte has ordered the ban of selling e-cigarettes in public places and importation of these products.

The confirmed case was a 16-year old girl from Visayas who had been using e-cigarettes for 6 months and at the same time, smoking regular cigarettes that made her condition worse.

Banning the use and selling of e-cigarettes is just a must for both minors and adolescents. Nowadays, a lot of minors are already starting to use vapes usually for pleasure and “to relieve stress”. This is alarming for learning to use vapes at such a young age can be more harmful and dangerous to one’s health. E-cigarettes or vapes shouldn’t even be accessible to minors in the first place. Once a person gets used to this, it becomes an addiction.

Though, some say that vapes are much better and safer to use than tobacco cigarettes but e-cigarettes still contain harmful substances like nicotine, an addictive drug, that can be dangerous to our body once inhaled. It doesn’t really guarantee us that we’ll have a less chance of getting an illness or a long life. FDA also said that e-cigarettes aren’t really the solution to quit smoking .

All e-cigarette users must seek immediate medical treatment and ask their doctors for ways on how to quit these dangerous products.

This issue has also been controversial to both smokers and non-smokers because ironically, e-cigarettes are being banned but not tobacco cigarettes which are more harmful and addictive.

To prevent another similar case from happening, the ban should pursue. But most importantly, we should be responsible enough to know what’s good or bad for our health.



## Empty Feeding You

by Ashley Mae Lugtu

In winter's chill or summer's heat, a farmer works so the world can eat. And so if you ate today, thank a farmer!

If the farmers are rich and so is the nation. But sadly, rice farmers consistently rank among the poorest in our country, and they stand to get even poorer because of the downward spiral in palay prices—a consequence of the overflowing of imported rice led by the “game-changing” rice tariffication law.

The impact of the shift in import policy on the heavily burdened rice farmers has been abrupt and painful.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), palay prices have been falling consistently since the law took effect. Thus, the farmer's profit has been cut, compelling them to earn just five pesos for every kilo. That meant barely enough for survival.

Opposing, economic managers and technocrats laud the rice tariffication law as something that would as Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III stated, “make quality rice more affordable and accessible to Filipino families”.

Precisely, it benefits us, but, how about the farmers? In every grain that we eat, does the person behind it eat the same way? They provide what we eat, yet, they themselves are starving. We're full, they're

empty. It's a privilege that they made decisions that benefit enough people, but not all people. We are all Filipinos and we live in the same country which is Philippines, therefore, we must lift up each other because everyone is not on the same place and not everyone has the same needs.

Clearly, at this point, farmers need immediate aid. They deal with awful hunger and loss of livelihood. In spite of that, I still believe that in due season they shall reap.

## Reasons Why SOGIE bill Wouldn't Work

by Rphaelle Muñoz

After Gretchen Custodio Diez, a transgender woman who allegedly experienced discrimination at the Farmers Mall Plaza, Cubao last August 13, 2019, the topic for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community was once opened again.

The discussion about the LGBTQ rights is sensitive in our country. Philippines has actually been open regarding this topic with various famous icon belonging to this community. However, the country continues to face discrimination with all the catcalling.

In response to stop the discrimination, the senate proposed the SOGIE bill or the Senate Bill 689.

The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Equality Bill, filed by Senator Risa Hontiveros, seeks to prevent and discipline discriminatory

acts against a person's sexual orientation.

Despite the renewed calls of the LGBTQ community to pass the SOGIE bill due to the experience of transwoman Gretchen Diez, the bill should not be passed.

The bill is being debated among Filipino citizens who were terrified that the law might be used to violate one's freedom of religion and to live out their faith and beliefs.

Majority of the women who have spoken out about transgender men using the women's toilets also conveyed fear that their privacy is being invaded and placed at risk.

While there are good intentions for this bill, the proponents must strike a balance between the needs of the LGBTQ and the majority.



by Freya Escaño

Besides there are a lot of existing laws that focus on the equality and equity of the citizens.

The problem doesn't lie with the bill. It lies with how the Filipinos enforce and treat it. Look towards the people whom are entrusted to the enforcement of human rights. If they cannot enforce the existing laws made for all Filipino minorities, who's to say they'll even glance twice at this one?



## Heavy Burden

by Rafaela Baluyut

The time has come.

Both of her parents are panicking as she is brought to the hospital. The nurses immediately assist her in the delivery room. Before the doors close, she takes one last look at the eyes of her mother, eyes filled with fear that she may lose her young daughter.

After hours of excruciating pain, it is finally done. The room is filled with the cries of the newborn as he is brought to his mother. Two pairs of eyes filled with tears look into each other. A girl too young for her new responsibilities is now with her child.

Every day hundreds of children are being born. Every day hundreds of young girls are burdened with a responsibility too hard for them to carry or comprehend. Girls are forced to no longer live out their

childhood so that they can raise their child. Their education is also cut short for the sake of their child.

Not only does teenage pregnancy force young girls to shoulder the responsibility of a mother, but it also puts their lives at stake since their bodies are still growing and cannot handle a growing child.

Teenage pregnancy is a big issue in our country as it affects the lives of many children, most who have a poor background. The issue is alarming as the rate of teenage mothers only continues to increase as the years go by.

One of the reasons why teenage pregnancy occurs in our country is because of poverty. Children who live in poverty do not have the means to receive proper education. They end up not knowing the effects and consequences of their actions. Because of their poor background, they do not have enough money nor the right environment in raising a child. This only puts more lives in danger.

Another reason is their environment. If a child does not live in a loving environment, they are bound to do something which they are not supposed to. Their peers can also be a reason. As a teenager, they always want to feel as if they belong, causing them to become much more vulnerable to peer pressure.

In the end, our community greatly affects the chances of teenage pregnancy. If children are raised in a safe environment and are given the proper education, they can avoid the responsibilities of being a mother at such a young age. They would then be able to live their childhood free from any heavy burden. They would be able to grow like any other child.

If we truly want to protect children from a responsibility too heavy for them to carry, then we must all work together. We must work together in creating a world where they can live normally. A world where they do not have to worry about carrying a heavy responsibility.

## A Single Community, a Diverse Singularity

by Raphaele Muñoz

Every person is different. A solid truth that no one can deny. No person has the same fingerprint. Even twins have in some ways differences. With this kind of truth, it's hard to believe that man can live with each other in a community in spite their differences.

A single person is the foundation of a community. Without one, there can never be two and so on and so forth. My grade school teacher used to say when we were doing group activities that there is no "I" in team. Yes, there may be no I's in team but there is "ME", a core ingredient to make a team.

A community needs people as much as it needs norms. The different people living together and functioning together form a single community. They may share a common perspective, race or religion. Somehow, differences seem to not matter

in a community that functions properly. It seems that people are all the same but when you come to start to think about an individual, the truth reveals itself.

Each and every person is different as I have said in the first sentence. People in a community though sharing some similarities are completely different from each other. A diversity that forms a single functioning community is quite difficult to comprehend but nonetheless true and is happening in our world. The differences of all people are what makes us the same and what makes us the same is that we are different.

By living together and by understanding the diversity of each other, the countless members come into a singularity that is the community. Man though different from each other need each other.

Differences are what connect each and every person in this world even though it seems that this is the main reason for conflicts, there are lots of instances that by being different, people act as one. Disasters and conflict sometimes are what trigger each person to break the boundaries of their differences and help each other. The earthquake in Haiti, war in Syria, and even the typhoon Yolanda here in the Philippines are some. Different races, different faiths work hand in hand to help those affected and in need. It is during in these times that there are no enemies between people, just co-members of a one whole community—the world.

It was Gabriel Marcel who said "To be is to be with". Man needs different people in order for him to realize his existence. We all live in a single community and our diversity is the reason we realize our singularity.



## Real-life Ghosting

by Sofia Martinez



Usually when we hear the word ‘ghost’, it reminds us of the friendly poltergeist Casper, or the creepy ones we see in horror films. But as time passes, the word has been associated with someone who seem to have the ability to disappear at will.

The word ‘ghosting’ appears to be of common use nowadays, especially on social media. In today’s connected world, it usually refers to someone who comes into your life and then all of a sudden disappear like a ghost cutting off all form of communication without the benefit of an explanation. Due to the rate in which technology is progressing nowadays, vanishing out of somebody’s life has become effortless.

The concept of ‘ghosting’ does not necessarily apply only to the formal and serious boy-girl relationship. The term is also applicable in the context of the very ordinary kind of friendship which almost every one of us is familiar with. Think for example of the times when you became friends with a classmate(s) during the previous years, but are now passing by each other along the corridor without even making eye contact. The warmth of friendship has been replaced by a cold disregard for the presence of a previous company. Such kind of withdrawal or inaccessibility, if happen so abruptly and without apparent reason may be considered as another form of ‘ghosting’ as well.

That said, it is therefore safe to say that most of us has, in a way, experienced being ‘ghosted’. The person who is ‘ghosted’ tend seek answers within themselves. The one ‘ghosted’ does not just question the nature

of his/her relationship with the one doing the ‘ghosting’, but also causes the ‘ghosted’ to question directly yourselves. What’s wrong with me? Is it my fault? Can I still fix this? There will be many questions. At the same time, answers can be difficult to come by. Depending on the strength of character of the person being ‘ghosted’ and the nature of his/her relationship with the one doing the ‘ghosting’, coping with a ‘ghosting’ experience can lead to anxiety and even depression. Though as painful as it may seem in the beginning, with the right frame of mind, such an experience can become a source of some valuable lessons in life. Likewise, with the proper support such as from other friends and families, the one ‘ghosted’ can potentially emerge as a better person in the end. Regardless of the outcome however, anyone who have experienced this can attest that being ‘ghosted’ is somewhat as frightening as having a real ghost experience.

For the person who does the ghosting, simply walking away could be the quick and easy way out. No drama, no hysterics, no questions asked, no need to provide answers or justify any of their behavior, no need to deal with someone else’s feelings. While the ‘ghoster’ may in the short run benefit from avoiding an uncomfortable situation, they have certainly done nothing to improve their own conversation and relationships skills for the future. In a way, they may have in the long run missed a very big opportunity of improving themselves or learning lessons from facing-up with a certain situation. With that perspective, one may wonder why would someone choose to simply disappear from another person’s life, rather than facing up with the challenge.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Marielle Olalia**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Anne Mariell Aquino**  
Associate Editor

**Ma. Katrina Kabigting**  
Managing Editor  
and Photographer

**Francine Louise Sanchez**  
News Editor

**Rafaela Marie Baluyut**  
Features Editor

**Angela Faith Dizon**  
Sports News Editor

**Angel Sibug**  
Literary Editor

### Staffwriters

Bianca Bondoc  
Julia Diaz

Anna Gabrielle Lansangan

Kiane Eryka Manalang

Sophia Elleign Pingol

Abrielle Chelsea Ponce

Carla Helene Yalung

Carlene Canlas

Rynna Estacio

Stefani Claire Garcia

Ashley Mae Lugtu

Ma. Faith Danielle Suba

Hannah Fenella Bacosa

Angela Faith Dizon

Ana Mikaela Gopez

Aiyana Ysabelle Gutierrez

Sofia Martinez

Raphaelle Muñoz

Eina Loux Ruiz

Hyacinth Singian

Phoenela Trinidad

Bianca Quitevis

Caitlin Yambao

Freya Escaño

### Contributors

Franchesca Calma

Sofial Irene Rozul

Denniela Mamawan

Jheiney Manalo

Eleina Cruz

Katherine Anne Pantino

### Moderator

Mr. Harold Velasco



# No One is Perfect

By Abrielle Chelsea Ponce

“Love yourself” they say but looking at the mirror, I see so much things I want to change. Stay and think positive they state but negativity surrounds me, so “How?”, I ask myself.

As the saying goes, “No one is perfect.” but there must be an exception to that quote because as I look at the television screen, I see women with gorgeous faces and somehow perfect bodies. Most people are out there living their best lives while here I am, drowning in insecurity and curiosity.

Most of the questions I ask myself start with “Why?” and “What if?”. What if I had 20/20 vision? Why am I not as pretty? Questions in which I know I will never have the answers for.

Why is my nose far from pointed? Can't it be like Emma Watson's or like those of famous models? I have to find the perfect angle when taking selfies and pictures just to be what I want myself to be- beautiful.

Why am I socially awkward and not friendly? Unlike those people who can talk to strangers like they're their friends. However, I only know one thing and that is, I can never be like them. I can't talk to others and be their friend unless they approach me first.

What if I had 20/20 vision? That would be great so that I won't have to deal with eyeglasses and contact lenses ever again. To be honest, my eyes are probably my biggest insecurity. I always wonder how it feels like to wake up every morning being able to see the world clearly and not having limitations in what things I could and could not do.

Most often I don't wear my glasses because I never feel confident while wearing them but when I did, I was able to, of course,

see clearly. Not just see but also realize that I am prettier without all those “What if?” and “Why?” questions that burden me from appreciating and loving myself for who I really am.

I understood that all human beings have an insecurity, even those who we look up to.

“I've realized that it's time for me to show my audience that you don't have to be perfect to achieve your dreams. Because nobody relates to being perfect. ... I'm okay with having bad dance moves. I'm okay with having horrible lower teeth. That's what makes me me, and for some reason it's worked out all right.” -Katy Perry said in Parade, 2012

Another example is Madonna who was able to show that being different isn't a bad thing from what she said at Harper's Bazaar last 2011- “The boys in my school would make fun of me. ‘Hairy monster.’ You know, things like that ... And then, going to high school, I saw how popular girls had to behave to get the boys. I knew I couldn't fit into that. So I decided I would do the opposite. I refused to wear makeup, [or] to have a hairstyle. I refused to shave. I had hairy armpits ... Straight men did not find me attractive. I think they were scared of me because I was different.”

Being odd or different and having insecurities is not a bad thing, as well as having flaws because it makes one unique and precious. Imagine if everyone was able to do the same thing and look alike. How can we tell who is who? How will we know who we really are?

While writing this article, I wondered if I'll actually be able to pull it off and give advices about insecurities because I myself don't know how to get over it but what I

realized is that I don't actually have to. The real challenge is for me to discover how to turn this negativity into something positive.

It doesn't really matter if I don't have a tall and pointed nose. I just get too self-conscious that I can't see what the real meaning of beauty is. It is more than just about the face or outside appearance of a person because it is more about attitude, which is ten times better than just having a gorgeous face.

I learned that having self-confidence and loving myself plays a huge role in forming my attitude. I've always been insecure with people who seem to be friends with everyone but I thought about it and realized that I can too. It is good to socialize with others because it is a part of growing up, as well as making friends.

I used to ask, “What if I had 20/20 vision?”, but now what matters for me is the fact that I can see. I can see the beauty of the world and all the creations that the Almighty made. I can see my loved ones who have always been there for me in times where I felt on top of the world and even on the times where I felt blue.

Attitude is greater than beauty. Insecurities are normal. Everyone goes to the stage where they don't feel comfortable in their own skin. Learn how to love yourself because when the time comes, whether you like it or not, you should know how to be independent and stand alone in your own feet yet that is impossible if you hate yourself. Think positive and if you can't, try harder because to live a happy life, you need to remove all of the negativities surrounding you first.



## How destructive is Australia's latest Bushfire?

By Julia Diaz and Kiane Manalang

The latest Australian Bushfire which started in September 2019 has destroyed an estimated 10.7 million hectares, 5,900 buildings including 2,204 houses, and killed 28 people as of January 2020. More than 100 bushfires burned on the east coast of Australia, stretching from the Blue Mountains to the boarder of Queensland, which has over 50 of its own blazes. The dry, windy and hot weather has already precipitated an early and grisly start to this year's fire season.

The New South Wales government has announced an emergency after observing record breaking temperatures

and prolonged drought. Almost half a billion animals in NSW perished by this devastating event. But including other animals such as bats, amphibians and invertebrates have set the record of over a billion.

Ecologists have declared many species endangered like the Cassowary, Tasmanian Tiger, Blobfish, Tasmanian Devil, Wombat, Giant Clam, Gouldian Finch, Quouka, Possum, Walaby, Dugong, Numbat, Snapping Turtle, Antechinus, Night Parrot, Greater Bilby, Bandicoot, Spotted Quill, and Koala to be in a more endangered condition.

Indeed, fire fighters in Australia are a big help in this adversity, they do not just help with extinguishing the fire but also risk their lives to save the animals involved. According to the Australian Institute of Criminology, most of the bushfires started by arson burn, the agency later stated that most of the arson fires were started by young people in disadvantaged areas.

## What Should You Know About The Year Of The Rat?

By Sophia Pingol and Carla Yalung

The Year of the Rat is the first sign in the Chinese zodiac cycle. According to the Chinese zodiac story, in the competition held by the Jade Emperor to decide the zodiac animals, the quick-witted rat asked the diligent ox to take him on a ride to cross the river and jumped down before the ox crossed the finish line, so the rat won the race and became the first of the zodiac animals.

2020 is the year of the rat, people born in 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, and 2020 are involved. Some of the following written below may be inaccurate but here are a few predictions for the people included in the listed years. There might be some challenges prepared

for you this year, but your career won't be one of them. Rats will encounter some trials in the first half of the year but will also reap benefits in their careers. Your hard work and efforts will pay off. As for finances, try to not spend too much money on unnecessary items or vacations, instead invest on simpler things like having a simple dinner with your family, going to the theme park, etc. Another thing to take note of is to avoid high-risk investments like gambling.

Rats are most likely to suffer emotional issues. They may be prone to psychological stress that might affect their work or studies. A good amount of sleep every night is important as well as a balanced diet and regular exercise. They may also be vulnerable to colds and fatigue. To stay healthy, eat more proteins and vegetables, adding vitamins in your diet to boost your immune system will be beneficial as well.

Luck might not be on your side this year for love. Though rats adapt easily to new



### THE RAT

First sign of the zodiac.

Creative problem solver, imaginative, hyperactive worker respected for its resourcefulness. Intuitive with ability in acquiring and holding on to things it values.

If you were born in:  
1900 1912 1924 1936 1948 1960 1972

Image from Ratical.org

environments and are good in making friends, the chances of finding a partner this year is very low. But don't feel down! Look on the bright side and enjoy the freedom of being single. There is nothing bad about that. For friends, families, or married couples, arguments will come from time to time. You will tend argue a lot, but better communication will help you avoid those.

The lucky colors for rats are: blue, gold and green. The unlucky ones are: yellow and brown. As for numbers, 2 and 3 are lucky while 5 and 9 are unlucky. Lily, African violet and valley lily are your lucky flowers this year.

If you are not contented, just remember that these are just predictions and your life still depends on your choices and decisions.



## Wake Me Up When September Starts

by Faith Suba

“Whenever I see girls and boys selling lanterns on the streets...”, probably one of the most played songs heard all over radio stations, shopping malls, or literally everywhere to officially welcome the present-day Philippines’ Christmas season, as soon as the month of September enters the year. You would even hear children holding their do-it-yourself tambourines and drums, merrily singing the song “Christmas in Our Hearts”. Now, while the rest of the globe is still busy celebrating other holidays such as Halloween and Thanksgiving, here we are Filipinos already inhaling the gladsome Christmas spirit in the air.

Philippines will never be hailed as the Christmas capital of the world for nothing! Unlike other countries, Christmas here is not just a day, but a season. I repeat, it is a season. The celebration starts as soon as the clock ticks midnight on the first day of September and lasts until the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. It is as if Filipinos are living proof that it is never too early for Christmas. With that being said, Philippines is not only well-known as the Pearl of the Orient Seas, but also as the country having the longest Christmas celebration in the whole world.

But of course, hearing the songs of Mr. Jose Marie Chan, who is known by many as the Filipino king of Christmas songs, is just a launch. Also, as all these memes of “September na naman...” make rounds all over the social media, is definitely just a glimpse of how it really is to celebrate the “Filipino Christmas”.

Aside from all these hints which make us realize that Christmas season is warming up; houses, stores and streets adorned with brilliant Christmas lights and decorations are also in sight. Christmas lanterns or parols are as well an important

part of the season here in the Philippines. Compared to the Western culture, they are as significant as the Christmas tree which makes Christmas “complete”.

Another sign that Christmas is really stepping near are the numerous bazaars and flea markets popping up in vacant spaces and massive parking lots. Christmas bonuses have been already released by this time, and so this is the time where shopping malls start doing Christmas sales.

Add to that, I’m pretty sure one could never escape the so-called “Christmas Party” held here, there, and everywhere. It is the perfect time to be dressed in your best Christmas outfits (except for those who are partying in their school uniforms, just kidding!). Exchange gifts will always be present too. Well, in our case Scholasticans, it looks like only Monitas will be picked out of a bowl containing our names.

Whenever Christmas arrives, the church also plays an important part considering the country being mainly Catholic. Simbang Gabi is a traditional event many Filipinos observe, which makes the yuletide celebration a lot more meaningful. It is a series of nine dawn masses, culminating in Christmas Eve. Usually, these masses start from 3:00 am to 5:00 am. On the other hand, some churches are now anticipating masses beginning on the 15th night of December. It is also believed by many Filipinos that if one wishes, and was able to accomplish completing all nine masses, thus, his/her wish comes true. After the mass, the smell of the purple rice pastry, topped with brown sugar and grated coconut, called puto bumbong, and bibingka, which is a rounded cake with cheese and salted egg on top, invites the people fresh from prayers, to satisfy their cravings.

Then comes the much-awaited part of the celebration, the perfect time to excuse yourself from the diet you have been doing for the rest of the year, the Noche Buena. During this Christmas Eve dinner where families stay up all night until Christmas

day, everyone indulges in a variety of traditional foods such as, hamon, quezo de bola, lechon, spaghetti, fruit salad, rice cakes, and many more.

Philippines may be included in the list of the Third World countries, but one thing is certain – our country is very rich in love. Do you remember the three devastating typhoons which made the country suffer? Decembers 2011, 2012, and 2013 has made the Filipinos’ Christmas spirit more strengthened and ever alive as typhoons Sendong, Ondoy, and Yolanda arrived respectively for three consecutive years.

These hapless situations made the nation unite. To assist the needs of the thousands of typhoon victims, many wish lists were ignored for some time. In the same way, instead of reheating the same food they had during Noche Buena for days, families learned to lessen the food to cook and donate to the homeless. Likewise, portions of Christmas incentives were collected by different companies and institutions to support those people in need of help. While charities and fund-raising activities were also conducted by many organizations to raise cash to be given to the less fortunate.

Maybe this is one of the reasons why Christmas in the Philippines takes that long to be celebrated. This season is a chance where we get to contemplate on the things eternal, to look back and reflect on ourselves. Christmas is also a joyous experience of a frugal yet meaningful life. It is a season where we get “seasoned” with values of compassion and pure love, molding us into better individuals.

Another reason lies in the family-oriented character of every Filipino. This principle of setting aside enough time for family is truly a great value Filipinos are practicing. Many expect that one should be heading back home and spend the Holiday together with their own clans. This lengthy season serves as a preparation time on how they are to celebrate all together and go back to what truly matters the most.

Surely, the Filipino society loves to extend the 12 Days of Christmas up to at least a hundred and twenty-eight days. It seems

like if Christmas here in the Philippines is a television show, it can beat FPJ's Ang Probinsyano on air, but I'll say that's a joke. We've been celebrating four Christmas holidays with Cardo Dalisay already! But, during this very lengthy period of time, let us not forget that Christmas is not all about the fun activities that we do.

Losing sight of the real essence of Christmas is easy in our modern-day world. More than the gifts under the Christmas tree, delicious meals, houses filled with lights, and all that we would encounter this season, let us remember the child born in Bethlehem and was laid in a manger, who showed the whole world what unconditional love is; Jesus Christ, the reason to celebrate Christmas. May all of us learn to invite Jesus in our hearts and truly, we'll be experiencing a very Merry Christmas.



Image from Dibulitoon

## Elcano at Magellan: Matuturing Bang Mga Bayani? ni Aiyana Gutierrez

Naalala niyo pa ba kung sino ang unang bayani ng Pilipinas? Hindi? Tulungan ko kayo, isa siyang Datu sa Mactan Island, at siya rin ang unang katutubo na kumalaban sa kolonya ng Espanya. Naaalala nyo na ba siya? Tama, siya ay si Datu Lapu-lapu.

Bilang mga Pilipino, mahalagang malaman natin ang kasaysayan ng ating bansa, kaya't maaga pa lamang ay tinuturo na ito saatin. Ang labanan sa Mactan na namagitan kina Lapu-lapu at Magellan ay isa sa mga unang kuwentong itinuturo saatin, at ngayon ay napaguusapan nanaman ito.

Sa Enero ng 2020, mayroong pelikulang ipapalabas sa mga sinehan na nangangalang "Elcano and Magellan: The First Voyage Around the World." Ipinapakita dito ang ekspedisyong ng mga Espanyol noong ika-16 na siglo. Ang

pelikulang ito ay umiikot sa storya ng paglalakbay ni Ferdinand Magellan at ni Juan Sebastián Elcano paikot sa mundo.

Madaming Pilipino ang nagpahayag ng kanilang mga opinyon sa mga social media platforms tungkol dito. Madami ang lubusang nagalit dahil ipinapalabas dito na ang mga mananakop ng Pilipinas ay mga bayani, samantalang si Lapu-lapu na ipinagtanggol lamang ang kaniyang bayan, ay ipinamukhang masamang tao. Dahil dito, madami ang nagsabi na dapat ay iboykot at huwag panoorin ang pelikulang ito, at mayroon ding mga nagpirma ng petisyon para ipagbawal ang pagpapalabas ng pelikulang ito sa Pilipinas.

Madaming kontrobersya ang nakapalibot sa pelikulang ito, at marami ding mainit na pagdebate kung dapat bang ipalabas ito sa mga sinehan sa Pilipinas.

Kahit napakadaming tao ang hindi pabor sa pagpapalabas ng pelikulang ito, mayroon paring mga tao na nagsasabing hindi naman masama ang intensiyon ng pelikulang ito.

Ayon sa iba, ang pinapakita lamang sa pelikulang ito ay ang kasaysayan sa perspektibo ng Espanya, kaya't hindi ito dapat i-ban sa Pilipinas. Dahil Espanyol daw ang mga gumawa ng pelikula, mayroon daw silang karapatan na ipakita ang pinaniniwalaan nila, kaya maaari naman nilang ipakita si Magellan bilang isang bayani.

Kung kayo, ang mga mambabasa, ay ang tatanungin, dapat bang ipalabas ang pelikulang ito sa Pilipinas? Matuturing bang mga Bayani sina Ferdinand Magellan at Juan Sebastián Elcano? Ano ang inyong opinyon sa pelikulang ito?



# Sportsmanship



by Katrina Kabigting

Ball is life! Can't we all agree with that? Most of us love playing sports or just love the thought of sports. Some may have great passion towards a particular sport just like me, I really like playing table tennis since grade school up until now. I have been a varsity player for 3 years and my experience was fun. On the other hand, there are people who have their favorite sport but don't actually play it, they are simply fond of it. And we can actually relate to this now that the Intramurals 2019 had happened.

Certain students were chosen to play their desired sport such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, and swimming. Sections per grade level were also teamed up to create groups which are the blue, red, green, and yellow team. And as we all prepare for the games, we made our own chants, made our own banners, shouted our hearts out, and supported our team big time. And the players made sure that they prepared 100% so that they can take home the bacon. But in the end, there will only be one winner. In the end, someone will lose. In the end, it's either you go home crying because of joy or because of sorrow.

And this is where an

important value is needed to function. Sportsmanship- known as the fair and generous behavior or treatment of others, especially in sports competition. We are all aware that in some games, may it be locally, internationally, or even just inside the school, it's not impossible to witness fights because someone was labeled as 'pikon' in the game. Some even go to the extent of having arguments because they took the match too seriously. That's why it is very significant to know some basic etiquettes before joining a tournament, one of which is sportsmanship.

In life, sportsmanship is also applicable. Actually, I can say that sports and life have something in common. Sometimes you lose, and sometimes you win. Can you imagine having a peaceful life without the value of sportsmanship? Having such scenario inside my head, oh, it's very chaotic. Why? Because people would always want to win. In real life, we always want to win, to be on top, to be number one. And if that will be our mindset for our whole lifetime, it won't be nice. We would always blame our loss to someone else, we would always have grudge against our opponents, we would build hatred in our hearts, and we would always find something wrong about others.

Sportsmanship teaches us, not only in sports but also in life, to accept our fate. If we win, then that's good, accept the victory but if we lose, then we lose, there's nothing we can do about it anymore, accept the defeat. There are a lot of people in the world who think that in order to survive this cruel world, there is the need to be the best. There's nothing wrong if you're aiming to be the best, if you're giving all that you have to be the best, what's unhealthy is the process you're going through in achieving your goal. Sometimes we push through our limits, we let ourselves feel exhausted just to be dubbed as excellent. Let us erase the notion of us, ALWAYS being the first. I would be lying to you if I say that no one's better than you, because there will always be someone who is way better than you, even if it hurts, that's the reality.

It is not a piece of cake to actually accept defeat but don't that we grow from our mistakes? We learn a lot of lessons from our downfalls. We find our worth. We acknowledge our capabilities. And that's the essential part in playing sports or living life. If you accept the loss and do not become bitter about it, then I can say that you have actually won the match. As what was said by Harry Sheehy, "It is your response to winning and losing that makes you a winner or a loser."





## Medals for everyone!

by Angela Faith Dizon

Pinks are for girls only; blues are for boys. Separate the muscly men for basketball because the most elegant women are reserved for ballet. Sweating is not very lady-like and colored nails for men are considered out of this world. Girls don't get gold medals but men immediately have them! Now this is what society fed us, this is what the years taught us but there is still a lot left until the 21st century ends. Our generation have at least 80 more years to remove society's standard. Fortunately, we are slowly doing progress and in sports too!

Do you tune in to the games of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines, better known as UAAP? If not, I require you to or else you are missing out on Manila's greatest athletes from the most prestigious schools. Have you heard that Usain Bolt's record of having the fastest to run got beaten by a woman who was pregnant and just had a baby? Take THAT men who are afraid of breaking their masculinity! Now in sports, it is oddly satisfying to watch a match in real life especially when you hear the squeaks of the shoes from your favorite player. Watching a sports match in real life can make you hear the beating of your heart despite the loud cheers of the people from the sidelines. The way the different banners inside the stadium represent a fiery desire to win; schools given a chance to give off a fiery sense of pride. The chants of the students echoing the inside of an arena filled with determination and fight. Ranging from the University of the Philippines to the University of the East, the players never fail to amaze. Starting from UP's basketball bet Juan Gomez de Liano, to UST's volleyball spiker Cherry

Rondina, they showcase the potential and passion of youths here in the Philippines. They give us inspiration to break records that defy the standards of society and make new ones. But in sports, passion and potential are not only limited in our country, obviously.

The passion of our athlete's ooze from their sweat, sliding to the barrier that pops the bubble our country is caged in and drifts slowly across the world, hungry for more. For the first time ever, the Philippine national anthem was played in the world gymnastics stage after Filipino teen gymnast Carlos Edriel Yulo made a historic mark of winning the Philippines' first ever world championship gold in gymnastics. Carlos Yulo made history and brought home glory and pride to the country! The shy kid turned celebrated teen gymnast's name has been making rounds not only in the national newsstands but also beyond the Philippine shores because "Caloy", as he is fondly called, is also the first Southeast Asian male gymnast to capture a gold in the world championships. A sport mostly known for women, has been dominated by a 19-year-old boy from Manila Philippines. Truly a proud statement. Carlos Yulo trained with a Japanese coach Munehiro Kugimiya who he met coincidentally! Talk about destiny! And also, talk about bad coaching and support from the country he himself is representing. Sheesh, a country that can be a slave to China but cannot even give proper training to our very own athletes. Nevertheless, the charming Carlos Yulo proved to the entire world that gymnastics is for everyone and limited training cannot stop the fire within. The passion doesn't stop there though.

Currently, the countdown for the Southeast Asian Games that will take place here in the Philippines is slowly ticking down. The start of the Southeast Asian Games, which will take place in the Philippines from Saturday, November 30, until Wednesday, December 11. The 2019 Southeast Asian Games will be the fourth time that the Philippines has held the biennial event after 1981, 1991 and 2005. The Philippines won 112 gold medals the last time the country hosted the event in 2005, enough to secure their first general title at the Southeast Asian Games. Our country's biggest athletes are being seriously considered for the prestigious role being the country's flag-bearer during the opening ceremonies of the 30th Southeast Asian Games on November 1. Our own pole vaulter Ernest John Obiena, lovable gymnast Carlos Edriel Yulo, that I want to keep in my pocket, the FEMALE skateboarder Margielyn Arda Didal, the FEMALE weightlifter Hidylin Diaz and veteran boxer Felix Eumir Marcial, I'm getting goosebumps just thinking about it. All of these people earned their way right to the top. Just imagine the blows our athletes will give out from the fire energizing them up. A fight worth to watch.

Sports have come a long way, diversity from around the world has come to play. Women have broken boundaries and men have shocked minds. People have opened their minds. Muscly girls represent in weightlifting, men have gotten away in gymnastics. Figure skating has always been for everyone with skate boarding's the same. Gold medals are for everyone if you want one.



## EVERYTHING THAT SUMMER

by Angel Sibug

It was never supposed to be  
As your heart found its way to me  
Limited as our time may be  
Wishing I could call you mine entirely

The breeze of France greeted me  
And the sound of Bach reminded me  
Of someone so long ago  
That took only one summer to let go

Your name that left my lips  
As I hold unto your kiss  
Is nothing but a distant memory  
In hopes that you still would remember me

Say my name so long as you please  
Never a moment I want it to cease  
Remember me and everything that summer  
When you called me yours and you my Oliver

It was never said nor spoken to you  
But in our hearts we both had knew  
That we were better an uncontinued story  
Than a love that ended a little too early

*Lilies*  
by Angel Sibug

## *I love to be loved*

by Marielle Olalia

I love to be loved.  
You're mine in the morning of summer  
But in the coldness of December  
You were gone my beloved

And I told myself  
"Just love to be loved"  
The pain was like a flood  
And so, I bid you farewell

I love to be loved  
I know that it's selfish  
But know that I really miss  
Your smile and sweet laugh

It was never enough, the time  
Nor your presence before  
I love to be loved...but ignored  
I gave you my heart but you declined

I did love to be loved  
But what did you even give me?  
A kingdom but you stole its key  
Locked me out, so I stopped

I love to be loved.  
But I guess I was not right  
So now all that's left is for me to write  
How it feels to be unloved

Even the locked door and our silent breathing couldn't hide us "Your son was involved in a case of rape," they said. It was Saturday of May 1997. The soft breeze of the wind kissing me softly as I run in the field of white lilies, my brother soon following after me laid down and closed his eyes shut. An agonizing scream shattered the tranquil air, "quick! Hide quick" my brother exclaimed, as he took my hand and dragged us into a big oak tree. I saw a lady clad in white, sweat dripping from her fair face as she panted and ran to seek fortress. The tattered clothes she wore are covered with mud and dirt. Three white men ran closely behind her, grins scarring their face ever slightly. They grabbed the lady in her arms and legs, pushing her down in the field of white lilies. She was begging for mercy and pity, nothing came out of it. Two of the men held her hands while the tallest of them grabbed her thighs and brought upon her misery and death. They left her after turns of defilement are done, her tears mixing with screams of resistance. Again, nothing came of it. Shots were fired, screams were heard and we were seen. We ran to our house hoping for safety. I have seen the lady once clad in white die, covered immaculately in crimson. Not even the locked door and our silent breathing can hide us. The story is destined to be unspoken. We are separated from justice by the color of our skin. The white men clean in the eyes of the law as we are not in the eyes of many. We are blacks. My brother a victim of oppression and authority, and I held captive by my conscience till I breathe my last.



## He Just Won't Die

by Katherine Anne Pantino

“Crap, it’s still this humid in Manila.”

You half-whisper, half-whine to yourself while wiping away the grime on your cheek with your sleeve. It’s hard adjusting to the glaring sunlight of high noon. Time is hazy, courtesy of the dark manhole you had to go through today.

Divisoria continues to live like grass between cracks in the pavement. The only thing different about it, is the massive magnetic field used for the “modern” skyway that makes cars fly now, sitting over the magnetic cables. Traffic’s still the same hell for vehicles below it though. You hear haggling customers still, despite being accompanied by a wireless speaker’s busted music, which is probably due to singing songs, day-in-day-out all week under the heat.

The wind’s wearing you out with how dry it is, but there’s no time to buy a drink at the next street today—you might get spotted or the occasional roaming Bantay might catch up to you. Nighttime’s creeping, best be careful. Getting caught in that scuffle 6 years ago meant getting caught in this life too.

You have only one goal here today. Go to that one store on the poster someone slid under your door at dawn earlier. It only had a place and time on it, saying someone important is coming. You have no idea what’s going to happen, but you can’t let this pass. You have a hunch this’ll lead to something bigger. You arrive at the place mentioned in the shady poster.

A few steps later and someone gestures for you to follow them. You go through a passage hidden by the store’s goods. The tunnel is cramped and the stairs are dusty. Inside, you are led to an enclosed space resembling a town square. You estimate more or less thirty people are gathered from the looks of the crowd you’re faced with. Some of them are holding the same poster secretly passed to you. You muster up enough courage to ask them about it. There’s no turning back now. You’re already here.

“So who’s this important person?”

Before they could even answer you, the guest of honor in question arrives, taking attention from the very front of the square. You can’t tell for sure from the back of the room, but did his shoulder just glint when the light hit it?

You hear the clanging of metal. “The rogue cyborg.” The stranger answers in a soft voice. The crowd whispers among each other. You catch the word tiwalag from the murmurs.

This guest was thought by many to be immortal. Until it was revealed he, quite literally, was half-human. He was a trusted sentinel of the government who went AWOL when he uncovered their next schemes—Cardo Dalisay.

### HAIKUS

by Hyacinth Singian and Angela Faith  
Dizon

### Autumn

You knocked on my door  
And filled my life with colors  
Colorless no more

### To stay

Sweet scents to inhale  
Soft lips to enjoy and feel  
Masks fade though you stay

### LOVE BURNS

We’re for each other  
I thought so, ‘til you met her  
I knew she’s better

### Knightinblack

You were just a star  
That I once wished from afar  
My wish just came true!

### A star's tail

On the skies above  
Two stars greet and shine the night  
To meet only once

### Love finds you

To envy the man  
Unafraid to wander long  
In search of his song

### Rebirth

Was tired of heartaches  
Promised not to love again  
Not until you came

### Too cold

Your hug is filling  
Inside a cold winter’s night  
Your hug seems choking



ANOMALOUS

by Ana Mikaela Gopez

hyacinth

by Caitlin Yambao

Hyacinth  
When I hear that name,  
a whirlwind of hues  
pop into my brain,  
cool and warm tones alike  
The blossoming colors waltz,  
as though your personality does  
From the hem of your skirt to your soul,  
your loveliness exists like a flower  
that is your name

A hyacinth rules with various colors,  
Grape-colored, sky-dripped,  
tintless and roseate

Purple, meaning royalty,  
sophisticated grace  
Is that why you stand with such  
credence and nobility?  
Being blessed with a name,

a name that has a meaning so deep

Blue, symbolizing sincerity,  
perhaps the reason why you do things...  
uniquely and whole-heartedly

Red, my personal favorite  
the color appears to be so strong,  
yet within it is a meaning so sweet:  
love and all the positive things you could  
think of

Yes, the exterior comes out strong,  
while interiorly the fluff shows

Bestowed to you,  
was a name so regal  
But I can say with great confidence that  
with or without that name,  
you are of royalty to me

A Letter to Myself

by Stefani Garcia

Hey, it's been a while since I've written about you  
It's been a while since I asked you if you were fine,  
I've been so selfish and kept asking others  
That I didn't even let you cross my mind

How ironic, isn't it?  
How you keep making people feel alright,  
How you keep saving them from the dark  
Yet you yourself haven't even found the light.

You smile and laugh and appear happy  
But are you really?  
There's a hole in your heart  
That you can't fill for an unknown reason

You try and cover that hole by making others happy  
Even if you yourself are actually dreary  
When will you ever realize that you deserve the world?  
I mean it, every single word

One day you'll realize that you are worthy,  
And you'll learn to love yourself fully.  
Right now, just be happy  
Love, yours truly.

You were different,  
I knew it from the start  
Perhaps you were too diffident,  
And took all I said to heart.

Every time I looked at you,  
It's only what you lack that I saw.  
And, all of this, I now rue,  
With sincerity so raw.

All this time,  
You were alone,  
While I was in my prime,  
With pride being the only thing I hone.

While my pillow was drenched with spittle,  
Yours was stained with tears.  
With hope fading little by little,  
You were left with nothing but fears.

Regret came sooner than expected,  
And I then came to understand your pain.  
Voices started to ring inside my head,  
And, all I ever thought I had started to wane.

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.  
Would you accept my apology?  
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.  
Though if I were you, I wouldn't have forgiven me.

You should be feeling animosity,  
And shout at me all day long.  
But, why would you just stare at me,  
And smile like there was nothing wrong?

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.  
Please know that I didn't mean it.  
I'm sorry, I'm sorry.  
For I let you fall to despair's pit.

Time flew by,  
And I went on living a lie.  
All I could do was sigh,  
And give a smile so wry.

Thank you, thank you,  
For forgiving though I may not make it up to you.  
Thank you, thank you.  
For being you.