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GULAYAN SA PAARALAN, FEEDING PROGRAM REAP BOUNTY

Writer | **Joshua Busiños**

FROM SMALL SEEDS SPROUT SUCCESS! Makati Science High School students take part in the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP) by planting seeds of different crops in the school garden on August 15, 2023, to be used in the school's feeding program. | David Paez

The Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP) implemented last August 15, 2023, has reaped benefits for Makati Science High School (MSHS) learners, according to the Feeding Program Coordinator.

The GPP, headed by Mr. Abraham Bolangaita Jr., was conducted during the 2023 Brigada Eskuwela in partnership with the MSHS Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP), MSHS Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP), MSHS School Disaster-Risk Reduction Management Council (SDRRMC), Sci-Tech, and Yes-O.

The GPP is a sub-program of the National Greening Program (NGP), aiming to promote the production of nutrient-rich foods

and emphasizing the growing of vegetables used to sustain the School-Based Feeding Program and food security via self-help food production activities and values, as well as the appreciation of agriculture as a life support system.

Mr. Bolongaita stated that GPP's main goal is to provide vegetables for the feeding program – a sentiment that is turning into a reality as confirmed by Feeding Program Coordinator Ms. Laarni Illao.

Ms. Illao noted in an interview that despite most ingredients for the food provided in the school's feeding program being sourced outside as the current capabilities of the garden still cannot sustain the school, they

do source some vegetables such as Calamansi from the garden.

“There was a time where
dun kami kumuha ng
ingredients for our
Menudo, so ok na din
naman,”

she stated.

The feeding program itself has already reaped benefits – Ms. Illao mentioned a 41% increase in student turnout in the feeding program as last year only 25 of 50 students ate at the program, compared to 42 of 46 students attending this year.

She added, “Two weeks ago we started weighing the students, kasi requirement yun after three months. Ang program kasi magtatagal ng six months, and after three months we have to weigh the students in order to know kung merong progress, and I'm so happy na may improvements kasi most of the students na kine-cater namin sa feeding syempre sila yung mga severely wasted [and] nag-increase na yung weight nila.”

Moving forward, Ms. Illao said that they plan to expand, improve, and sustain, the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program, in collaboration with other programs so that in the future, the harvests from the garden would be enough to supply the needs of the school.

MakSci celebrates Club Fair 2023



CLUBS GALORE! Makati Science Supreme Secondary Secondary Learner Government (SSLG) adviser Mrs. Joline Fontanilla leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the start of Club Fair 2023 in the school grounds on November 08, 2023. | Wynchelle Arcenal

Writer | **Zach Villegas**

Makati Science High School students from Grades 7 to 12 participated in the school's Club Fair 2023, partaking in the club booths within the first and second floors on November 8 and 9, 2023.

This year's roster included all participating clubs from the previous year, as well as the newly sanctioned Interact Club, Oral Communication Club, Sports Club, and APOLLO.

Led by the Supreme Secondary Learners Government, a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at 1:00 PM on the first day marked the start of the festivity.

For an hour each, Grades 10 to 12 were allowed to roam the first and second floors for their

desired group on November 8, while November 9 was allotted for the exploration of Grades 7 to 9.

To appeal to the student body, each club constructed unique and themed booths and thought of gimmicks to entice their soon-to-be members

Clubs were given ample time to plan, with construction starting a day before the event and finishing by the first half of the club fair's day one.

“Kahit nagingmahirap yung naging process niya kasi maraming naging aberya, ano, masaya kasi natuloy siya. See you next year,”

SSLG Treasurer Ydran M. Espiritu said in an interview.

MakSci ranks 3rd in nationwide 2023 Grade 10 NAT

Writer | **Molly Panaguiton**



TRULY NAT-ATANGI! Makati Science High School Principal Dr. Felix Bunagan receives a certificate of recognition during an awarding ceremony in STI College Academic Center on February 23, 2024, for the school's outstanding performance in the 2023 National Achievement Test after ranking 3rd nationwide. | David Paez

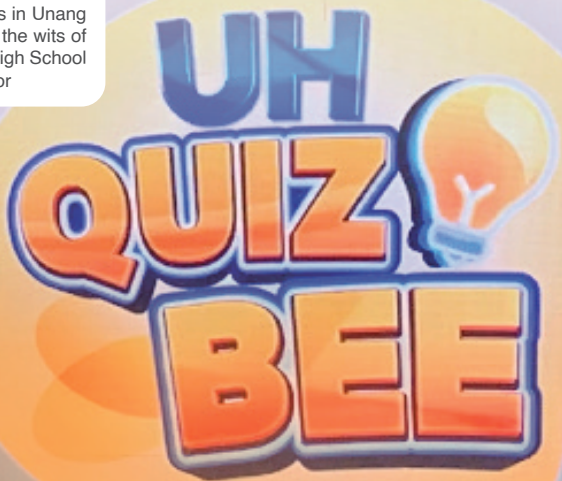
The Department of Education - National Capital Region (DepEd-NCR), through Regional Director Jocelyn DR Andaya, awarded the Makati Science High School for ranking third in the National Achievement Test (NAT) for Grade 10 on February 23, 2024, at the Awarding Ceremony conducted during the Second Joint Regional Executive Committee and Management Committee (RExRexanCom) Meeting at the STI College Academic Center in the City of Las Pinas.

The National Achievement Test (NAT) is a standardized set of examinations taken to determine the student's academic levels, strengths and weaknesses, as well as their knowledge learn in major subjects throughout the year.

In the 2022-2023 NAT ranking of Schools Division Offices, the Makati Science High School ranked first in the NCR and third at the national level with an average score of 77.78 in English, Science, Mathematics, Filipino, and Araling Panlipunan.

The MSHS has consistently ranked among the top 100 performing public and private schools in the country.

BATANG MAKSCI. John Clarence Cruzado and Ivan Matthew Galvez participates in Unang Hirit Quiz Bee segment to showcase the wits of MakSci students at Makati Science High School on January 17, 2024. | Ana Agraviador



CLASH OF WITS!

CRUZADO, GALVEZ BATTLE WITS ON NATIONAL TV

Writer | Jonver Rada

John Clarence Cruzado and Ivan Matthew Galvez participated in GMA Network's Unang Hirit Quiz Bee segment hosted at Makati Science High School (MakSci) on January 17, 2024.

The quiz bee consisted of an easy round and then a difficult round, both having their own respective point scoring systems of 10 points and 50 points to where the contestant

with the most points in the quiz bee would win a cash prize of ₱5,000, while the runner-up would obtain ₱3,000.

The program started to air on GMA's Unang Hirit Program early at 6:30 A.M. with hosts Jenzel Angeles and Sean Lucas introducing the program's viewers to the school, contestants, and MakSci head staff.

The hosts tested the knowledge of the

two contestants through a series of questions of broad topics asking five questions for the easy round and six questions on the difficult round. Cruzado and Galvez scored 80 points and 70 points respectively, leading to Cruzado's victory.

Despite it being the duo's first time on national television, both of the contestants described the questions to be "easy to answer" in an interview, noting that

the topics questioned were already discussed in the school's curriculum.

Cruzado stated that the Unang Hirit Quiz Bee is a way to showcase the prowess and skills of MakSci students.

Galvez stated,



Ivan Matthew Galvez

“

I hope that Unang Hirit would come back again to Makati Science High School, and feature not only 2 intelligent students, but also explore the holistic talents present in the diversity of the student body.

”

ATTITUDE DEFINES ALTITUDE!

United Airlines inspires future MakSci aviators

Writer | Denise Ruiz

In a collaborative effort with the Rotary Club of Makati-Dasmariñas (RCMD) and the Makati Science High School (MakSci) Interact Club, United Airlines (UA) held the Fly High Career Talk Project for Grade 10 and 11 students in the school grounds on November 10, 2023.

The event featured a wide panel of aviation experts from pilots and flight attendants to operational aircraft agents. aviation professionals delved into the diverse opportunities that the aviation industry has in store for the MakSci students present, aiming to fuel their

passion and awareness on the numerous career paths.

Beyond discussing job prospects, the UA speakers navigated the skies of aviation professions, including the turbulence that came with the jobs mentioned in the seminar.

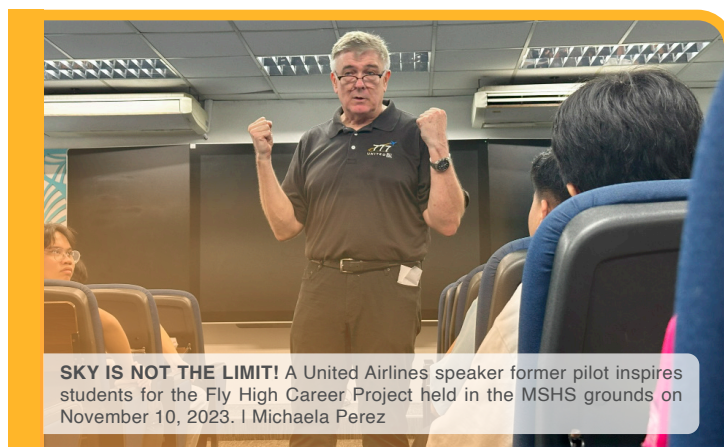
Moreover, they also provided in-depth information on the technical aspects of airline operations, underscoring the importance of roles like flight attendance and management.

The UA representatives emphasized the significance of passion-driven determination, echoing the slogan,

“Your attitude defines your altitude.”

As the talks concluded, the students were equipped with a newfound perspective on their career aspirations.

Reflecting on the event, Customer Service Supervisor Anna Keoho expressed optimism on the potential of MSHS students.



SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT! A United Airlines speaker former pilot inspires students for the Fly High Career Project held in the MSHS grounds on November 10, 2023. | Michaela Perez

“

They're very inspired to do something better for their lives,

”

she stated, adding that their intelligence and talent will propel them to the greatest heights.

DIGGING INTO DRUG PREVENTION WITH DEBATE ACTION!

Makati Science High School celebrates Drug Prevention Month in the AVR

Writer | Denise Evasco

Makati Science High School celebrates Drug Prevention Month as the Students Against Drug Abuse Council (SADAC) orchestrated the "KKK: Kahusayan Kontra Kapahamakan" program held in the AVR, revolving around the theme "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention."

Debaters from Grades 9 and 10 showcased their communication skills, delving into contentious drug-related issues. The debate tackled two motions: whether incarcerating individuals with drug addiction should precede rehabilitation, and whether Oplan Tokhang was the appropriate strategy for addressing drug abuse in the Philippines.

OCC Club Auditor Bullet Santiago awarded the "Best Speakers" accolade to Prime Minister Reign Somera and Opposition Reply Speaker Jandore Habana. The Opposition, led by Mercy Grace Maccay, emerged victorious in the first motion, with Yves Roi Calaboso, Christian Cheizel Garin, and Jandore William Habana contributing to their success.

The "Best Speakers" accolade was awarded to Prime Minister Reign Aljean Somera and Opposition Reply Speaker Jandore William Habana. In the subsequent round, the Opposition team, led by Kleiza Janelle Atienza, Maximus Nadal, Satrina Wahid, and Patricia Nicole Tan, clinched victory. Prime Minister Althea Sky De Guzman and Leader of the Opposition Kleiza Janelle Atienza were honored as "Best Speakers" for the motion on "Oplan Tokhang."

Following the debate, the club organized a school-wide quiz bee, testing students' knowledge on illegal drug use and its related laws. Amidst the competition, Lance Prado emerged victorious after breaking a tie in the clincher round, securing 3rd place overall.

SADAC closed the Drug Month celebration with a brief program, awarding certificates to debate winners. The APOLLO club provided entertainment with their rendition of the original song "Alice," written by Carissa Breis and Princess Joyce Tavas for the Makati Anti-Drug Council (MADAC) songwriting workshop.

“

Look up instead of giving up.

”

said Mat San Juan, reemphasizing the event's theme.

MAKSCI STUDENTS'
Opinions
on Public
Officials **VS**
Results of
RPMD Survey

VICE PRESIDENT
Sara Duterte

78%

RP-Mission &
Development
Foundation **results**

35%

Makati Science
Highschool
students' **trust**



Source | Manila Standard

PRESIDENT
Bongbong Marcos Jr.

80%

RP-Mission &
Development
Foundation **results**

22%

Makati Science
Highschool
students' **trust**



Source | Reuters

THANK YOU, TEACHERS!

MakSci celebrates Teachers' Day

Writer | Joshua Busiños

The Makati Science High School held a Teachers' Day Celebration on the MSHS Grounds last October 5, 2023.

The event was kicked off with a mass led by Fr. Lari Adaco of St. John Mary Vianney Parish. At around 8:40 am, a sports activity by the MSHS Sports Club, titled "Ready, Set, GURO", was held on the school court, with teams of a mix of teachers and students playing games of basketball, volleyball, and "larong lahi".

"Nabuhay uli yung pagiging volleyball player ko kasi volleyball player ako nung kabataan ko, and fulfilling siya para sa akin" said volleyball player Mrs. Marites Esquejo. A speech was given by Dr. Felix T. Bunagan, launching the program as teachers were provided with a catered lunch sponsored by the School Parent-Teacher Association (SPTA).

Mrs. Laarni Illao awarded the winning teams of the earlier games with certificates of recognition and cash prizes and Mrs. Joline Mae Fontanillia presented certificates commending teachers with perfect attendance for September along

with those working in education for 10, 15, to 35 years.

The School Supreme Learners' Government (SSLG) then presented the awards 'Most Disciplinarian,' 'Most Well-Groomed,' and 'Walking Wikipedia' to the teachers of each grade level whom students previously voted for, and a raffle and BINGO were also facilitated by the SPTA.

The SPTA stated in an interview that together with the participation and contribution of the MakSci students' parents, they were able to sponsor the raffle, prizes, mass, and food for the teachers.

The event saw intermission numbers from the clubs Chorale, who sang their renditions of the songs Irreplaceable, You Changed My Life, and Very Special Life, Tempo, who presented a dance routine to the song Mona Lisa, and Ilusyon, who performed a merge of scenes from their play Pantomina.

"[The event was] Hindi lang successful but very very successful because nabigyan kasiyan ang teachers on their day," noted Dr. Bunagan in an interview.

Taguig Love Caravan Sets Foot in EMBO Barangays

Writer | Iris Dizon



LOVE IN EMBO! Embo residents smile for a photo with Mayor Lani Cayetano as they receive free health services in Barangay West Rembo on October 7, 2023. | Gab Aglahian

The Taguig Love Caravan kick-started in Embo Barangays on October 7, 2023, through its first stop in Barangay West Rembo with around 2,000 residents receiving free health services, according to the city government.

Free services offered by the mobile health center included consultations, tooth extractions, ear examinations, obstetrics and gynecology (OB-GYN) services, as well as laboratory tests such as complete blood count (CBC), urinalysis, random blood sugar (RBS), blood typing, chest X-ray, electrocardiogram (ECG), and ultrasound.

In addition to health services, supplements including maintenance medicines, hearing aids, flu quadrivalent vaccinations, and HPV vaccines for children aged 9-14 were also provided.

Moreover, residents were given vegetables, as well as demonstrations on how to cook healthy meals.

Along with the Love Caravan, the Office of the Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) and Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) were present to coordinate the registration and distribution of identification cards for senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The City Social Welfare and Development (CSWDO) distributed wheelchairs and facilitated the registrations for PhilHealth and funeral arrangements.

For those in need of medical assistance, particularly regarding treatment costs, there were representatives from the Lifeline Assistance for Neighbors in Need (L.A.N.I.) Cares Program.

The Love Caravan is scheduled to assist more barangays in the long run.

Following the turnover of the ten EMBO barangays on January 1, over 200,000 residents are no longer entitled to the benefits of Makati City's yellow card, which included free supplements and free hospitalization at the Ospital ng Makati for treatments under P5,000.

RPMD PERFORMANCE SURVEY

PBBM and VP Sara gain high trust ratings in RPMD Survey, MakSci Disagrees

Writer | Maxyne Academia

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte gained 80% and 78%, respectively, in the RP-Mission and Development Foundation Inc. (RPMD) "Boses ng Bayan" 2023 survey, released on February 4, 2024.

RPMD announced that President Marcos and Vice President Duterte excelled in the 2023 "Boses ng Bayan" survey along with other top government officials, particularly Senate President Migz Zubiri (75%) and House Speaker Martin Romualdez (77%).

A survey was conducted at Makati Science High School in February to determine the students' opinion ratings on the president and vice president.

Twenty-two respondents answered a three-question survey asking their rating of the president and vice president on handling policy issues, their trust in them in leading the country, and their competence at their jobs.

For President Marcos, 60.9% of respondents disapproved of his handling of policy issues, 78.3% said they distrust him, and 73.9% found him incompetent.

Only 8.6% approved of his handling of policy issues, 4.3% said they trusted him, and 4.3% found him competent, with the rest being neutral.

For Vice President Duterte, 60.8% of respondents disapproved of her handling of policy issues, 65.2% said they distrust her, and 56.5% found her incompetent. Only 4.3% approved of her handling of policy issues, 4.3% said they trusted her, and 8.6% found her competent.

"The country's top officials are dominated by political clans and families that each seek to further their interests by silencing dissent and theft of the country's resources," said one respondent.

Source | Manila Standard

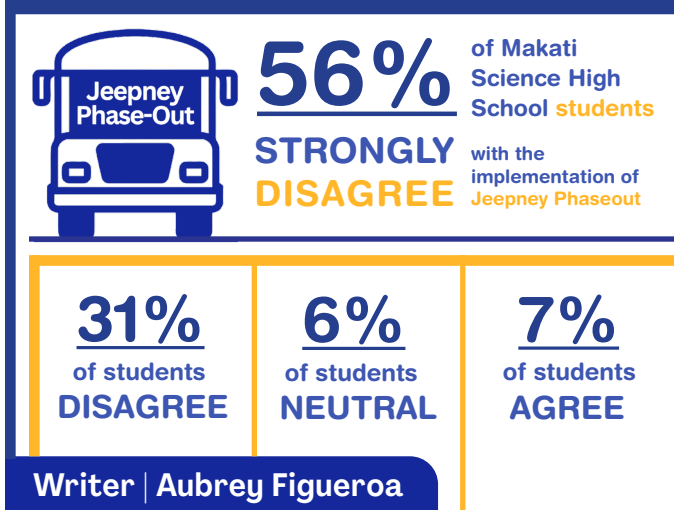


200,000

Residents receiving

Free health services





56% of MSHS students “strongly disagree” with Jeepney Phaseout



Most Makati Science High School (MSHS) students disagree with the implemented Jeepney Phaseout, according to a survey conducted by the Makati Science Vision.

Results of the February 18-21 survey showed that 56% of students voted “strongly disagree”, 31% voted “disagree”, 6% voted “neutral,” and the remaining 7% voted “agree” with the phaseout.

The survey also asked respondents for their thoughts regarding several factors that affect their view of the phaseout. On whether or not the jeepney phaseout was eco-friendly, 38% were “neutral,” 9% “strongly agree,” 28% “agree”, and the remaining 25% “disagree.”

In terms of whether the jeepney phaseout is the most eco-friendly solution to the pollution caused by traditional jeepneys, the survey showed that 31% “strongly disagree,” 44% “disagree,” 13% are “neutral,” 9% “agree,” and the remaining 3% “strongly agree.”

Concerning allegations of anti-poorness,

53% “strongly agree,” while 16% “agree,” 12% are “neutral,” 16% “strongly disagree,” and the remaining 3% “disagree.”

Regarding whether the phaseout benefits jeepney drivers, 72% “strongly disagree”, 13% “disagree,” some 10% are “neutral,” and the remaining 6% “agree.”

About whether the phaseout benefits commuters, 47% “strongly disagree,” 25% “agree,” 13% are “neutral,” 9% “strongly disagree,” and the last 6% “disagree.”

Regarding whether students perceive the phaseout as a program that will eradicate part of our culture, 66% “strongly agree,” while 22% “agree,” 6% are “neutral,” and 6% “strongly disagree.”

The survey also included inquiries about aspects that impact the everyday lives of students, particularly those who commute. Results have shown that 75% of students commute regularly, while the remaining 25% do not.

As to the difficulty of finding a jeep, 38% were “neutral,” 33% answered “easy,” 25% found it “hard,” and 4% answered “really easy.”

Pertaining to the difficulty of commuting, 33% answered “hard,” 29% answered “neutral,” 25% answered “easy,” and the remaining 13% found it “really hard.”

Concerning the personal preferences of students, 67% preferred the old jeepney, 29% were neutral, and the remaining 4% preferred the modern jeepney.

Regarding expenses, 88% answered the traditional jeepney as a more affordable option, while the remaining 12% remained neutral.

The survey also asked the opinions of students concerning their regards and comments about the phaseout, with the predominant comments highlighting the financial strain faced by jeepney drivers, the accumulation of discarded scraps, the potential self-promotion of politicians, and cover-ups of misused public funds.

DISCONTINUATION OF SHS IN SUCs: CHED’s policy shift

Writer | **Mark Libarios II**



The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) issued a memorandum on December 18, 2023, directing all state universities and colleges (SUCs) and all local universities and colleges (LUCs) to stop offering senior high school (SHS) starting next school year (2024-2025).

The CHED Memorandum stated that its involvement with DepEd should have been only during the K-12 transition period which was from 2016-2021.

Considering that, SUC presidents/officers-in-charge (OICs) are all directed to discontinue SHS in their respective SUC Board of Regents (BOR)/ Board of Trustees (BOT).

The reason stated was that there was no more legal basis to fund the SHS program in SUCs and LUCs.

In the memorandum, it is also mentioned that there would be no more Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) beneficiaries from SUCs except for the students entering Grade 12 in SY 2023-2024 to finish their basic education.

It is also discussed that SUCs with laboratory schools can

still accept enrollees but will no longer be accepting vouchers.

CHED had allowed SUCs and LUCs to offer SHS beginning SY 2016-2017 until SY 2020-2021 to support the country’s shift to the K-12 basic education system during those transition years. This was facilitated through CHED Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 32 Series of 2015.

The CMO also stated that SUCs’ authorized to offer basic education through their laboratory schools shall be allowed to accept up to 1,000 students during the K-12 transition period, but once the transition period ends, the cap must go back to 750.

“Considering the foregoing, SUC presidents/OICs are directed to bring to their respective SUC BOR or BOT the discontinuance of senior high school in SUCs as there is no longer a legal basis to fund the same,” said De Vera.

CHED chairman De Vera addressed the regional directors to manage and monitor the SUCs and LUCs’ compliance with the memorandum.

Based on DepEd data, around 17,751 Grade 11 students enrolled in SUCs or LUCs may be affected by this decision.

Philippines’ Successful Ayungin Shoal Resupply Sparks Controversy

Writer | **Felix Parica**



The Philippines completed a rotation and resupply mission to their outpost in Ayungin Shoal, the BRP Sierra Madre on February 02, 2024.

A since-deleted X post from Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) spokesperson Colonel Francel Padilla confirming the success, read, “Mission accomplished! Today, we executed a flawless rotation and resupply operation for BRP Sierra Madre. Teamwork, precision, and dedication at its best.”

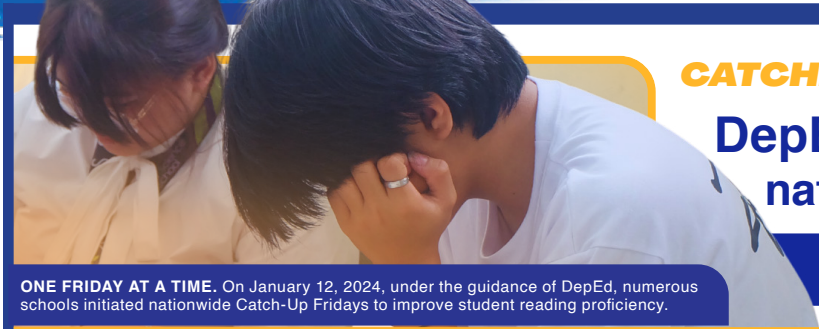
It was the first completed resupply by sea in 2024 following a meeting between the Philippines and China, where an agreement was reached regarding an improved communication procedure between the two nations’ foreign ministries and coast guards.

However, on February 3, China claimed that the resupply ship had “illegally placed itself on the beach” of the Spratly Islands Atoll, an area that both the Philippines and China claim.

In the past, Chinese Coast Guard ships have attempted to scare off Philippine ships with water cannons, shadowing, and harassment.

Furthermore, authorities have reported collisions, as seen in the ramming of a Philippine Coast Guard vessel last December 10, 2023.

Ayungin Shoal is positioned a mere 200 kilometers from Palawan and is nestled within the Philippine Economic Exclusion Zone in the South China Sea, which remains a focal point of contention.



CATCHING UP TO CHAPTERED COGNITION: DepEd launches **Catch-Up Fridays** nationwide to address reading gaps

Writer | **David Paez**

ONE FRIDAY AT A TIME. On January 12, 2024, under the guidance of DepEd, numerous schools initiated nationwide Catch-Up Fridays to improve student reading proficiency.

In an effort to enhance the low reading proficiency levels based on national and international assessments, countless schools across the nation came together in the launching of Catch-Up Fridays on January 12, 2024.

Following the Department of Education's Memorandum No. 001 s. 2024, Catch-up Fridays will be implemented nationwide for all Fridays throughout the school year across elementary and secondary schools, as well as community learning centers.

DepEd specifically intended the launch of this program to "strengthen the foundational, social, and other relevant skills necessary to actualize the intent of the basic education curriculum."

This was also done in light of the recent Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2022 rankings, with the Philippines ranking 77th out of 81 countries globally in an evaluation of 15-year-old learners.

Spearheaded by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), this assessment served

to measure the proficiency and competence of students in mathematics, science, and reading.

Through a series of complex problems, PISA challenged the aptitude of Filipino students in thinking critically and communicating effectively.

PISA 2022's results especially highlighted the performance gaps of 15-year-old Filipino students in contrast to the performance of students from other countries, showing little improvement compared to the 2018 results when the Philippines first participated in PISA.

The unsatisfactory performance of the Philippines necessitated DepEd to devote the implementation of Catch-Up Fridays toward addressing learning gaps, in line with the MATATAG Education Agenda to better equip students with significant competencies applicable to lifelong learning.

Moreover, the establishment of Catch-Up Fridays is aligned with the intent of furthering the achievement of

educational objectives through DepEd Order No. 013, s. 2023 entitled Adoption of the National Learning Recovery Program (NLRP).

Following the learning issues posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the sudden shift to digital learning, DepEd issued the NLRP to address the learning gaps heightened by the abrupt closure of schools, reinforce the learning recovery in the shift back to face-to-face classes, and improve student numeracy and literacy.

"Ibig sabihin, we need to innovate. We need to do something else. Ano ang gusto nating makita? Mga batang matatag, marunong magbasa, at makabansa. Kailangan natin ng isang araw upang humabol sa kung saan kailangan nating dalhin ang mga bata," Vice President Sara Z. Duterte remarked in her speech during the 2023 National Reading Month.

DepEd continues to remain steadfast in its commitment to delivering quality, relevant, inclusive, and responsive basic education, as stated in the memorandum for this program.

PALESTINE IS IN DANGER! Israel-Palestine conflict gets worse by the day

Writer | **Ronan Dublin**

On October 7, 2023, the issue between Israel and Palestine resurfaced as the Hamas Militant group killed 1,139 people and took 253 Israelis hostage in an attack against Israeli forces.

United Nations (UN) experts have said that this decades-long conflict is turning into a genocide, as there is evidence of increasing genocidal incitement.

According to Relief Web, an information service provider powered by the UN, Israeli forces have reportedly caused the deaths of 23,843 Palestinians and left approximately 60,317 wounded, further solidifying these concerns.

Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR) also reports evidence of war crimes, as Palestinians in Israel's captivity are being subjected to torture which they call "enhanced interrogation techniques."

Currently, Palestinians are facing severe shortages of food, electricity, and clean water, attributed to the restrictions imposed by Israel on their access to these necessities.

Reports indicate that Palestinians only have access to 1-3 liters of water daily, which is significantly less than the average human consumption of 101.5 gallons a day.

In addition to this, Right-wing Israeli activists are also blocking humanitarian aid towards Palestine.

On the Israel ports right now, 1,049 shipping containers of food that were sent out to aid 1.1M people are currently being held sitting for weeks.

Many of these casualties have been recorded and posted through social media, and due to the conflict being so public, many have shown their support for Palestine by boycotting companies that support Israel.

TRIAL OF STRENGTH: Magnitude 7.5 quake jolts Noto, unleashes devastation

Writer | **Jacquelyn Turner**

Recovery and strength were put to the test in Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa Prefecture after a magnitude 7.5 earthquake hit Japan on New Year's Day at 4:10 P.M. JST, unleashing chaos, aftershocks, and tsunami warnings.

The Cabinet Office of Japan's monthly economic report for January showed that the event is probable to have a lasting impact on the economy and requires "full attention."

The earthquake severely affected manufacturing, tourism, and consumer confidence by disrupting supply chains and damaging infrastructure. Additionally, the report revealed how the

government downgraded its evaluation of Japanese exports for the first time in a year, observing shrinking demand from European markets.

"There is a lack of volunteers and staff who listen to and coordinate the needs of the victims dutifully," stated Kumamoto Gakuen University Professor Hideaki Takabayashi, who assisted evacuees in the 2016 Kumamoto earthquake. Over 27,700 people were sheltered in 336 evacuation centers across Ishikawa, facing uncertainty as necessities like water and shelter remain scarce.

Furthermore, the damage is extensive, with over 46,000 buildings and houses severely damaged or destroyed, including

places with the most violent shaking: Wajima City, Shika Town, and Anamizu Town.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged a relief package of \$1.02 billion for the devastated areas. On the Noto Peninsula alone, about 240 lives have been lost, along with hundreds more injured.

Tokyo Haneda Airport witnessed a collision between a Japan Airlines jet and a Japanese Coast Guard plane, claiming five lives.

The quake triggered tsunami alerts as far as eastern Russia, with tsunami warnings in six prefectures causing widespread damage to roads and buildings which resulted in limited access to affected areas.



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For years, the Makati Science Vision has proudly served as the official English school paper of Makati Science High School. Upholding its core values of "Veritas, Aequitas, Libertatem", Vision will continue to serve for countless more years as the Makati Science community's voice of Truth, Equity, and Freedom. Vision stands as a platform for growth and creativity for Makati Science students, with its diligent editors and staff committed to reporting the latest news accurately and objectively. Capturing school, national, and international events with the lens of a camera and the ink of a pen, the publication strives to bring the world to MakSci, and MakSci to the world.

CHA-CHA:

The Possible End of Democracy

Writer | **Jethro Legaspi**

Amidst the clamor for change, a sinister agenda echoes through the hall of power as the proposed charter change, or "cha-cha", wreaks havoc on the country's democratic landscape. The recent talks about charter change have been spreading throughout the country like wildfire. It aims to be a movement that supposedly unites the Congress under one banner and, on the other hand, provides economic change. Still, under this lies a facade—to unify Congress and collapse the underlying basis of this nation's democracy. But how can the current Congress, being the 19th, reach this point of possibly exterminating the sanctity of our democracy, and how can we, the people, act?

The current charter change, allegedly spearheaded by the supposed people's initiative, yearns for a unified Congress where the decision of which a law may pass would be a joint voting of the Congress' lower chamber, the House of Representatives or better known as "Kamara" and the upper chamber, the Senate. Normally, a bill would pass Kamara first, and when approved by a majority of votes, it will be deliberated in the Senate thereafter. This cha-cha would end the check-and-balance system of the legislation and ultimately eliminate the significance of the Senate.

Eventually, the political provisions via the people's initiative were rejected by the Senate after allegations of paid signatories with a powerfully worded manifesto. "While it seems simple, the goal is apparent: to make it easier to revise the Constitution by eliminating the Senate from the equation. It is an obvious prelude to further amendments, revisions, or even an overhaul of our entire Constitution," Senate President Miguel Zubiri said in an interview, shortly after presenting the manifesto.

Furthermore, the Senate and Kamara agreed to a joint resolution proposing economic amendments other than a political charter change, the political one being the aforementioned joint voting. Zubiri shared his concerns about abuse of power if control-centric congressmen do so in light of a convention.

While joint voting through cha-cha via people's initiative may look unfeasible now, the possibility of political provisions covered by a facade of a "genuine" call for change in the economy is entirely possible. Remember the Constitutional Convention of 1971? Marcos Sr. and his administration pushed for political provisions that altered the formation of the entire government to abide by his dictatorship. More than five decades

later, another Marcos is in Malacañang, with his allies dominating the chambers and pushing for a change in the Constitution once again.

As the threshold of this nation, we, the people, must ultimately decide on our fate and our country's future. And with the current situation concerning our constitution and the possible changes it may go through, we must act. There are many ways to develop our economic standards in this globalized world. Altering the 1987 Constitution that we fought so hard for with EDSA One is an offense to the power of the people in this democratic country—altering the charter is unreasonable, and the possibilities it may hold once a convention is held are daunting.

We are a democracy, as it says in the constitution. We are not a monopoly for cronies and oligarchs to hold on to. We are the people, and using us as a facade for an initiative for the government to hold on to more power is a threat to our democracy. The government and its agendas today are a threat to our nation's future. A charter change is a possible change in the ultimate power of this country, from the people to the government. A charter change, when not overseen by the people or the opposition, is and will be the end of our democracy.



Artist | Angela Bartholome

Source | PhilStar

EDSA Revolution: From holiday to history

Writer | **Althea Abioda**

The EDSA People Power Revolution, usually celebrated on February 25, is no longer a holiday according to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s Proclamation No. 368. His recent decision to remove the public holiday status from the EDSA People Power Revolution anniversary eliminates an annual celebration and reminder of the historic revolt that ended his father's dictatorship in 1986. This unexpected move, coupled with the rationale that it falls on a Sunday in 2024, raises concerns about the preservation of national history and the potential impact on civic engagement.

Proclamation No. 368, signed by President Marcos Jr. on October 11, enumerated next year's official national holidays, non-working days, and special non-working days.

The Office of the President (OP) explained that the event being a Sunday would have little significance to the public in the year 2024. Thus, they decided to remove the EDSA Revolution as a national holiday. The comparison with the Immaculate Conception Day,

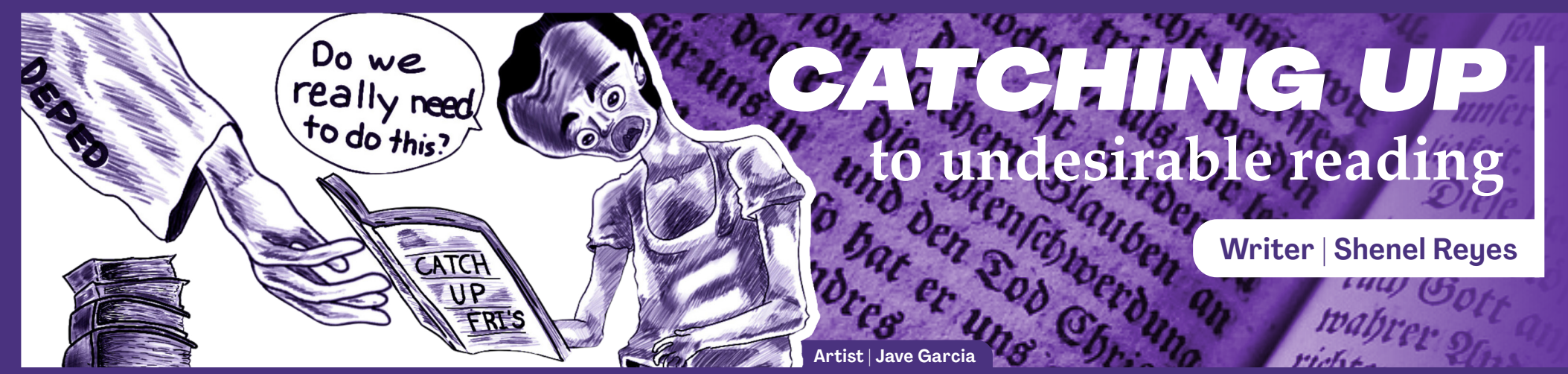
which also falls on a Sunday but remains a holiday, adds weight to the suspicion surrounding this decision. It is difficult to understand whether the president chose to disregard this holiday because it was a celebration that ended his father's administration or if it was to prioritize productivity and economic growth. The selective application of holiday status further stresses concerns about the Marcos administration's low regard for the historic significance of EDSA Revolution Day. By downgrading it to a regular workday, there's a risk of diminishing the understanding of the struggles that characterized 1986.

This decision not only severs the younger generation from the historical significance of EDSA but also questions the government's dedication to human rights and democracy. EDSA Revolution Day transcends being merely a historical marker; it symbolizes an ongoing struggle for justice and the shared responsibility citizens hold in defending national values.

President Marcos Jr.'s removal of the holiday status for EDSA Revolution

Day, particularly compared to other holidays falling on Sundays, requires careful consideration. Nonetheless, we must not be blinded and allow the importance of this historic event to fade. Instead, let this serve as an opportunity to reaffirm the dedication to the principles that EDSA represents, securing the endurance of the people's power spirit regardless of the government's decisions.

In response to these concerns, citizens, educators, students, and communities must step up. Although the day may no longer be a public holiday, it should be a period of heightened awareness, education, and contemplation. Actively participating in discussions and organizing events can ensure that the spirit of EDSA perseveres, undeterred by the government's decision. The past must not be forgotten, we Filipinos must all work together to avoid repeating the same mistake we once did. We can't change anything in our history. We can't bring back the lives that were sacrificed for our freedom, but we can learn from them



Writer | **Shenel Reyes**

Artist | **Jave Garcia**

What makes reading fun? Reading can expand a person’s imagination. While reading, they can imagine the scenario in their head. What if there was a day dedicated to reading? President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. urged the Department of Education (DepEd) to make more efforts to improve the Philippines’ PISA performance in 2025. In response, DepEd implemented a program called “Catch-up Fridays,” which dedicates every Friday to reading different types of books. However, by removing one day of discussion every week, DepEd shortened the academic time period for the School Year 2023 - 2024. This is further emphasized by the fact that Catch-up Fridays are supposed to be implemented for the rest of the school year. Will it be as effective as they want it to be? Or will it simply be an excuse for students to slack off?

In the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2023 rankings, Singapore took the top spot with a score of 575 in mathematics, 543 in reading, and 561 in science, while the Philippines ranked 77th out of 81 countries that took the test. The country scored 355 in mathematics, 347 in reading, and 373 in science.

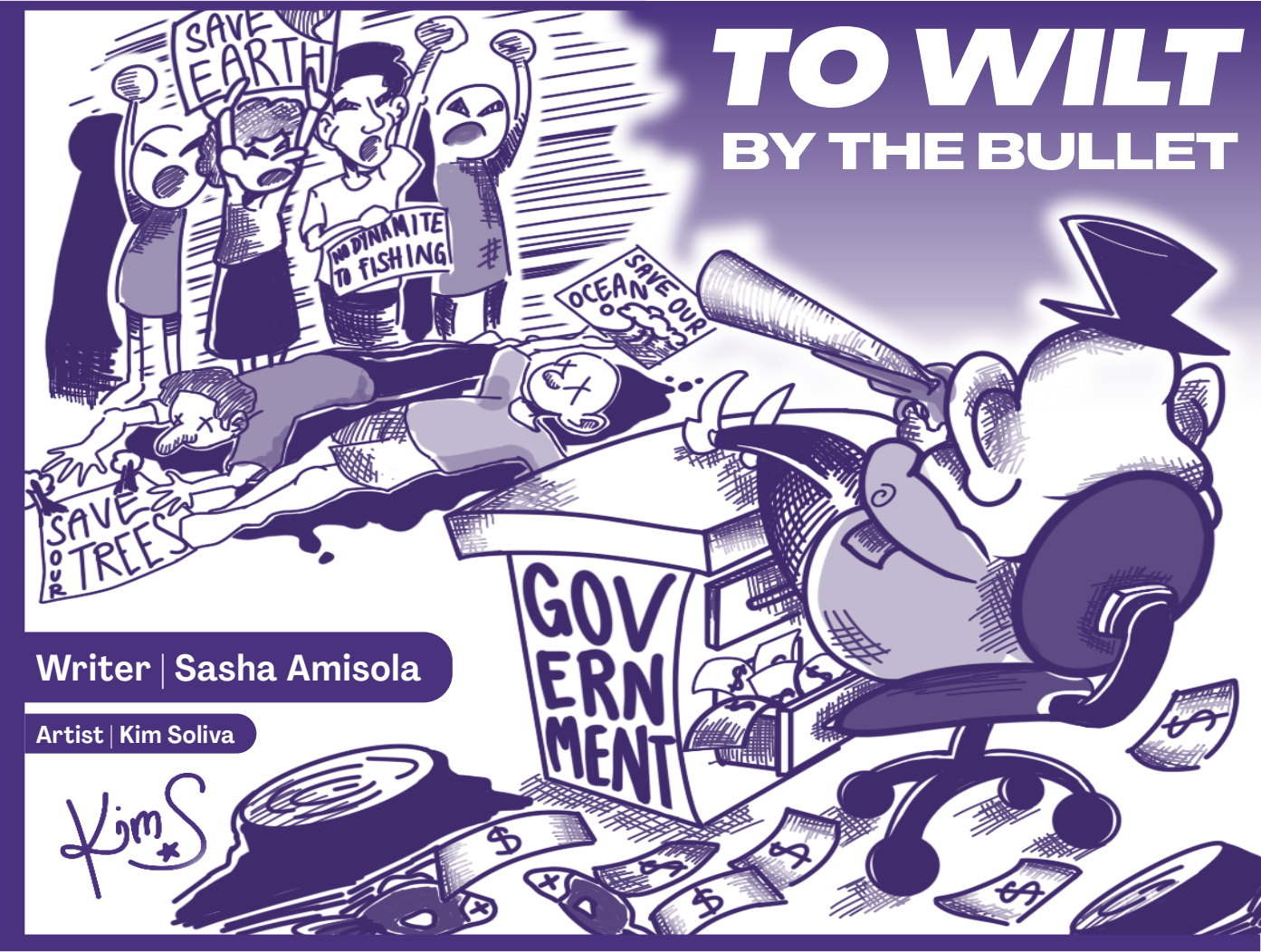
This means that 15-year-old Filipino students are five to six years behind students from other countries.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the learning of students, severely affecting their reading skills. DepEd imposed Catch-up Fridays to supposedly strengthen the students’ reading ability and other relevant skills to achieve the objectives of basic education. They say that it is also a way for them to take a break from academics, helping their mental health. Well, what if it just worsens it instead? Case in point, students need to do activities about the books they read. While students are reflecting on stories or making a slogan about it, they could’ve used that same time for lessons and other things.

Catch-up Fridays are also a reason for students to slack off. Some students don’t actually read books. They just talk with their friends, sleep, or play games during the day. This also affects their learning because the teachers lose time to explain the topics more thoroughly and in the end, the students are the ones left to struggle. Teachers would need to catch up on the lost time, so the students will be more stressed and have more things to do.

On the other hand, the Philippines is still in the bottom ten of the PISA rankings, meaning that Filipino students’ reading comprehension is not that impressive. If they only read all day, they might not actually understand what they are reading. They may need the help of their teachers to understand it. If you come up with a different understanding of a book but it is wrong, it might affect your academic performance. That is why teachers are there to help you with topics that you can’t understand even if you read the materials again and again.

Instead of reading the whole day, teachers should have a technique called “Read, Express, and Listen.” Teachers will give students a text that they will read and understand. After 15 minutes, they will share what they have learned. If they have any misconceptions, the teacher may educate them about it so that they don’t commit the same mistake twice. They can’t have silent reading the whole day because they won’t be able to correct misconceptions about a certain topic. Remember that reading is a tool to gain knowledge, but it isn’t the only thing you need to master that knowledge.



Writer | **Sasha Amisola**

Artist | **Kim Soliva**

Throughout the past two decades of fighting for our environmental rights, many activists from the Philippines found themselves in a spot far more rooted in danger than the state of our environment. It’s rather disappointing that their activism- in response to the neglect of our natural resources by the government, put a target on their backs instead.

Since 2001, 334 environmental defenders have been killed in the country. The most recent report was of the incidents that happened in 2022, with 16 attacks worldwide, 11 of which were from the Philippines. Included in the hit list were government workers who were also forest

rangers and municipal environmental officers who just wanted to protect their homes. Of the 334 slain, most killings were traced to the regions of Davao, Western Visayas, and MIMAROPA.

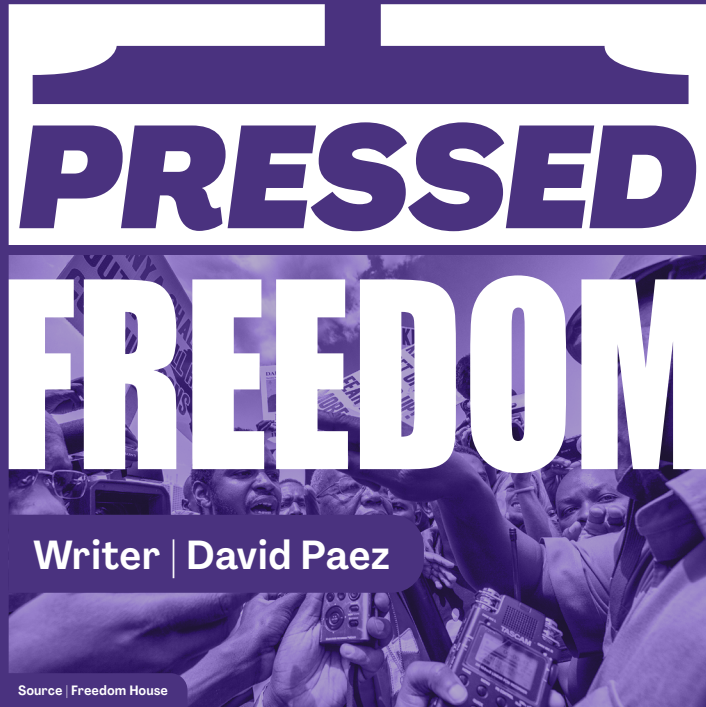
It was reported that their common reasons for activism stemmed from business operations that release pollutants and the conversion of forests and landscapes for commercial purposes. According to Rodne Galicha, the involvement of politicians and their families who hold businesses in mining and real estate is connected to the decision-makers who cut corners and prioritize laws and practices that will benefit their monetary interests.

Despite the large numbers of killings and the grim title, the country’s environmental advocates have voiced their concerns about the current government’s lack of action to put a stop to this bloodshed. The continuous existence of laws like the Anti-Terrorism Act and Executive Order 70 is one of the major threats to the safety of environmental defenders.

The Anti-Terrorism Act was described as dangerous and fundamentally flawed by Amnesty International Philippines Director Butch Olan for its broad definition of terrorism and for being susceptible to abuse in mis-labeling activists by the Anti-Terrorism Council. Similarly, Executive Order 70, which aims to establish inclusive and sustainable peace with a whole-of-nation approach to abolishing communist armed conflict, was criticized for stigmatizing activists through red-tagging.

Without action to revise or abolish these laws, advocates of our rights will continue to be criminalized. According to the Philippine Commission on Human Rights (CHRP), the constant red-tagging of human rights defenders can be considered a planned attack to undermine them. This not only threatens the well-being of environmental defenders, it also hinders their ability to effectively advocate for justice.

Seeing as this was the immediate outcome for our advocates, other citizens may hesitate to voice their concerns as well. The lack of platform can halt our ability to strive as a country, with our rights and freedom being pushed back. This stifles a progressive society where the public and the state are proactively engaging to address the needs and situations of the country’s people and its surroundings. Without the protestors, advocates, and activists fighting for change, progress is hindered, and our system remains unchallenged.



Writer | **David Paez**

Source | Freedom House



Artist | **Raine Gonzales**

In the crucible of a democracy, the pursuits of those in power within the legislative, judicial, and executive branches converge with the yearnings of those truly in charge: the people. Amidst the three pillars constituting a democracy, another pillar must stand to serve as the unwavering champion of truth: the press. However, in nations like the Philippines, the harshness of reality comes to ravage journalists across the nation, shattering the hypocrisy that lies with the concept of “press freedom.” Despite constitutional protection and international advocacies, the Philippines continues to struggle with a chilling paradox: the erosion of press freedom amid unceasing threats and violence against journalists. Where journalism meets impunity, one must question: were the press to be silenced, would democracy still be a power held by the masses?

Freedom of the media is not merely a privilege, but a right that must be exercised by the press. In spite of this so-called “freedom,” the Philippines plummeted down to 147th place out of 180 in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) spearheaded by Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontières or RSF). Why is this so? Why does the Philippines continue to be a dangerous place to practice journalism? Article 3 Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution assures that “No law shall be passed abridging

the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press.” Legally, press freedom is mandated by the law, but the laws protecting journalists tend to be inconsistent and ambiguous. This leads to a paradoxical dangerous haven, in that there is a lack of definite protection for Filipino journalists.

Consequently, if the press is truly “free,” then why are Filipino journalists continuously hunted down for simply communicating information? And that’s just it: within information lies the truth, and within the truth lies the ability to reveal, uncover, and divulge the lies that obscure; the malicious secrets deliberately hidden by transgressors from the public eye. This is what makes the press so “dangerous” in the eyes of those transgressors. Journalists threaten the ability of those malignant secrets to remain hidden. Similarly, journalists jeopardize the safety of those somber details simply waiting to be brought into light under the vision of the public eye.

According to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and Rappler, since 1986, 199 journalists have been killed in the Philippines as of 2022. Journalists continue to be persecuted in their undertaking of bringing the truth to light, and light to the truth. Even worse, they are ruthlessly killed simply for doing their jobs.

Just this November 2023, yet another journalist was ruthlessly murdered in cold blood. Two men unexpectedly entered the home of radio broadcaster Juan Jumalon, known as “DJ Johnny Walker.” News reports state that while broadcasting live, one of the gunmen suddenly barged into Jumalon’s studio and fatally shot the broadcaster. With this, Jumalon’s unsettling murder marked the fourth killing of a journalist since the claiming of the presidential seat by President Ferdinand Marcos in June 2022.

This, along with the countless journalist deaths over the years has been a sign for peers to simply “mind their own business.” Journalists are artificially “free” to do whatever their job necessitates and uncover whatever needs uncovering, but with certain repercussions. Certain retaliations. Certain acts of silencing from uncertain parties. In the end, the press is instead forced to play it safe, in fear of being the next victim of those countless killings, severely restricting their ability to communicate information freely and effectively. With this, one may go back to the definition of freedom. It is defined as the condition of being able to do, say, or think whatever you want to without being limited. Now, would it still be appropriate to call this phenomenon “press freedom,” or would it instead be more suitable to label it as “pressed freedom”?

LETTERS to the Editors



Source | Medium

I will admit I barely keep up with the events that take place at Maksci unless I am directly involved, which makes Vision a great resource to me. The Facebook page has actually remained in my top searches for that reason. As for the people within your club, I can really say that Vision is dedicated because I see how often you all work and even that you work on your parts during free times during class hours. I honestly believe Vision’s articles make the Maksci community more intertwined as they keep us enlightened about the projects and the accomplishments of all the school organizations and students in general.

From | **Rena Anorico**

Grade 10 - Faraday

Starting with the overall performance of Makati Science Vision. This club is full of memories and collections, as they have the power to capture every moment and golden hour in and out of Makati Science High School, from school events and projects to outdoor adventures and programs. Vision is a club consisting of hardworking and passionate members and officers wherein they show their talents and skills in terms of writing and how they also inspire others to write. Along with the members is their very own adviser, Ma’am Olinares. If the members are there to inspire others, Ma’am Olinares is the one who inspired those members in that they all combined their passion and talent into one objective and goal, making them united with a good vision.

From | **Hanz Tadeo III**

Grade 9 - Bohr

As a student of MakSci, I love being up-to-date with all of the events that happen during the school year, whether it be about what is happening in our school or a competition outside Maksci. I appreciate Vision’s work especially since I’m a SP Journalism student. Being a student journalist is hard, and that is why I appreciate the members of Vision. Your jobs are hard especially since you are all just students like me, juggling between schoolwork and club-oriented things. You inspired me to choose my SP. The articles you make are detailed and informative. I sometimes use them as a reference for my articles for the SP. I sincerely thank your members, and the club adviser, Mrs. Olinares, for keeping everyone up-to-date. I know you will keep up your good work.

From | **Antonio Narciso**

Grade 9 - Bohr

COLUMN

...when “**INNOVATION**,” becomes a **LIABILITY**

Writer | **Mary Deocampo**

As a student who has been a passenger of jeepneys since kindergarten, I am more than familiar with the inefficiency of traditional jeepneys and how their system needs improvement. Still, I am also more than familiar with how many people of all ages and classes rely on the availability and affordability of jeepneys. Our society has continuously progressed and constantly innovated along with the new additions of technology, but the issue of the Jeepney Phaseout encompasses more than just adapting to new changes. This is a matter that affects the livelihood of all Filipinos: from the jeepney drivers who spend more than 15 hours on the road, the students who go to school and back home through jeepneys, to office workers and employees who squeeze through rush hour every after 5 PM. If you live in the Philippines, you will inevitably be affected by the Jeepney Phaseout. No matter what approach you choose to view this matter from, be it economically, culturally, or socially, the Jeepney Phaseout is anti-poor and is a textbook example of how the government ignores the voices of those they are supposed to be helping.

The Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) modernization program, established by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Land Transformation Franchising Board (LTFRB), was proposed for the “innovation” of the public transport system and to make it “more dignified, humane, and on par with global standards.” Launched after the issuance of DOTr Department Order 2017-011, this program led to a week-long transport strike that was eventually cut short after discussions between the Malacañang and the involved transport groups. With the hiking inflation rates and the immense repercussions of COVID-19, it is outrageously unreasonable for the government to expect jeepney drivers to magically obtain the financial ability to modernize their vehicles. This has always been more than a problem of transportation; it is an economic threat and a capitalistic scheme that endangers livelihoods and becomes a liability to drivers and passengers alike. If the government aims to meet a certain standard, then it should be assured that the drivers would be fully supported rather than be forced into buying from large corporations. When the imposed solution to the problem is opposed by those affected by the problem, innovation becomes a liability.

While this modernization aims to create an alternative that is “safer, more efficient, and eco-friendly,” it ignores the deafening cries of poverty and exposes a fundamental problem of the government’s attempts to solve the issue of sustainability in the Philippine transport system. Sustainability is more than just saving natural resources. It means the ability to sustain not only a clean and good environment but also a healthy one. One where those below aren’t pushed down even further, and where no one is left behind.

Source | PhilStar

A HEAVY MERRY CHRISTMAS GIFT:

PUV Modernization

Writer | **Myra Dela Cruz**

The King of the Road. That’s what jeepneys have long been known as, and gradually became one of the Philippines’ trademarks. It served as a cornerstone of the country’s public transportation system. Nowadays, wherever you go, you see public utility vehicles (PUVs), such as jeepneys, buses, tricycles, and UV expresses. Can you imagine the Philippines without these? Without seeing all those smoke-belching public vehicles around the roads? Well, that’s what the PUV Modernization Program (PUVMP) suggests.

The PUVMP was launched as a plan in 2017 by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to achieve an efficient and environmentally-friendly public transportation system nationwide. Under the program, PUVs that are at least 15 years old are to be phased out and replaced with modern, safer, and comfortable models. LTFRB Memorandum Circular No. 2023-045 and DOTr Order No. 2023-018 provide transport cooperatives with the opportunity to borrow up to P280,000 for purchasing a Class 2, 3, or 4 contemporary PUV.

Meanwhile, those who purchase Class 1 may receive a loan subsidy of P210,000. Buying modern transportation vehicles, when done right, really does translate into a higher standard of living. However, many argue that it would not be efficient.

Protests coming from the mass, the transport groups, and the commuters had started ever since the project was launched. More so these past few months, where the government set a deadline of December 31 for jeepney operators to surrender their franchises and consolidate into cooperatives.

Modernization is good, but will the process be correct? Will the project be implemented properly so that it can ensure everyone their stagnant economic well-being? The P200,000 to P400,000 worth jeepneys would rise up to P2.8 million. How can one jeepney driver, who only earns P1,000, or even less sometimes, pay for the debt they will acquire when they get a modern jeepney? The current P13 minimum fare could rise up to P50 for the modern jeepneys. The country is already facing a crisis not just

in the transportation system, but the economy itself. How can the implementation of this project be of benefit when millions of people could lose their jobs, and experience the worsening transportation crisis due to the expected shortage of PUVs and higher fares charged by the operators? Is this really what the government wants to achieve?

Hundreds of thousands of operators and commuters are greatly affected by the PUV modernization. Protests, rallies, and multiple activities were already done, yet, the government still stands by themselves. Continuously turning a deaf ear on the cries of the people. They say that the first step to change is awareness. Awareness that should be brought upon to the higher-ups who have the power to oppose the anti-people and unjust program that the government keeps on shoving down people’s throats. So, let us join the hardworking operators as they fight for their livelihoods at risk and our rights as commuters with this program. Because as the saying goes: If not now, when? If not us, who?

Source | Medium

The Makati Science Vision OPINION.

NO TO JEEPNEY PHASE-OUT COALITION

NO TO JEEPNEY PHASEOUT

No To PUV Phaseout

AND THE AWARD FOR WORST COMEDY GOES TO...

Writer | Zylina Deoferio

If you think you're having a bad day, think about this year's Golden Globes host: Jo Koy.

Now, it isn't the first time an award show host has caught the watchful eye of the media in such a negative way. According to Time Magazine, David Letterman at the 1994 Oscars remains at the top of the list of the worst awards show hosts as his jokes fell flat among the audience. He even goes on to say years later that this gig was an "explosion of excrement." Recently, Jo Koy received backlash from his monologue at the 81st annual Golden Globes as it was very ill-prepared. We've learned throughout the years that the internet isn't forgiving and gentle; instead, it's rude and relentless no matter if you evoke a positive or negative impact. This is considered a mob mentality as everyone else echoes the same opinions on the matter. And the media certainly did not let the host live down his controversial jokes, rightfully so.

First, the flawed script was one of the main reasons everything went downhill. One of the problematic jokes Koy presented fell flat as it targeted the box office winner, Barbie, with sexist jokes that go against the key message of the film. To make matters worse, he got defensive over it when he received lukewarm reactions from the audience by blaming his writers and the short notice he was given for the hosting gig. According to his interview with Good Morning America, he was given 10 days to write, memorize, and rehearse those jokes. Yet, it was enough time not to write a distasteful comedy. For this reason, he addressed the bad reviews by admitting he was having an "off" night. However, the cheap jokes themselves were a testament to his incompetence.

Second, the audience of the award show isn't the usual target audience of his comedy career. Golden Globes acknowledged that the event will

be Koy's first hosting gig of an award show which is different from his usual line of work, hence the criticism of Alison Herman, a television critic on Variety, describing Koy's performance as "woefully unqualified."

Finally, it is very evident how social media can definitely exaggerate and influence public opinion. In this situation, it was necessary to call out Koy's mistakes to avoid such controversy again – and it is evidently working as seen from Trevor Noah's hosting gig at the 66th Grammys which was praised by Cosmopolitan and the media. There is no doubt that this caused a dent in Koy's reputation as hosting is not a skill that can be mastered quickly. Even if the media tends to be harsh on their critical opinions, it is truly up to the person targeted to take it humbly or not. May we all learn a lesson or two, especially in being respectful and even more so if this directly addresses a group of people constantly criticized by society.



Artist | Skye Lecitona

Source | ABC News



Artist | Raine Gonzales

A RUTHLESS GAME OF AGAWAN BASE

COLUMN

Writer | Myra Dela Cruz

"Kampi~han!," the voices of children still linger in my mind as I walk past them, already meters away. They were playing that game we would call "Agawan Base." I was chuckling as I remembered the current situation of our city right now, Makati. Or, dare I say... Taguig?

The issue is not particularly rare when you think about it, yet it's also uncommon for two known cities to have a territorial dispute with a scope that is almost half of one's own. For months, competition rose up between the two. Who gives more? Who helps more? And who will take more? It all just seemed like a grown-up version of Agawan Base to me.

'Cause you know what it felt like during the times when the Court was still making the final decision about the issue? It was like playing Agawan Base relentlessly. Gradually being caught by the opponent team and having to just stand there on the side, helpless, as you watch how your team frantically plans on taking you back. But in the end, your team loses as all of the members get caught, leaving only one person standing at your team's base.

The news of District 2 of Makati, or the EMBO barangays as some may call it, transitioning to become a part of Taguig City came as a surprise to me the first time I heard it. I was shocked. I was confused. I was afraid. Many questions popped into my head at that moment. But the most prominent one out of them was, "What would happen to us now?"

What would happen to those precious Makatizens? Many people believe that the benefits the government of Makati gave was unbeatable, even by a big city like Taguig. So, what would happen now? What will happen to the students, PWDs, senior citizens, and even just the ordinary people living a good life from those benefits provided by Makati? Will those things be better for them? Or... would it just be worse?

No matter what, it'll all just come down to how the local government chooses to prioritize the welfare of its citizens. To how they would ensure the well-being of their people, and how they would be able to look out for them and immediately seek a solution when necessary. The Court has already made a decision, and we are now a part of Taguig City. Everyone already has certain expectations for the future, both high and low. No one really knows what will happen next. I, too, wonder: will it meet everyone's expectations, perhaps even surpass them, or will it fall short? Well, despite it all, I hope it's the latter.

A GREAT TEACHER'S IMPACT

Writer | **Jhazmine Perez**

Source | Pinoy Wit



Accountancy was his first love, but he had a change of heart when his teachers suggested that he take Education instead. They told him that his explanations rarely need any clarification and carrying this advice to his heart, he shifted to Education.

A faculty member of Makati Science High School, Sir Borromeo currently teaches Grade 10 Filipino. He has many defining beliefs, but one that stands out is his mindset that any teacher can be an expert in his field, but if he lacks creativity, it won't make him stand out.

That is why whenever he sees someone lagging behind in his class, he gets them involved. He creates a stimulating environment of creativity for his students and goes out of his way to be approachable anytime anyone has questions. (How cool is that?)

His students know him

as someone with a deep love for literature; *El Filibusterismo* is— hands down— his favorite. It was evident when we had the chance to sit down with him for an interview. A mere mention of *El Filibusterismo* instantly puts him in high spirits, illustrating how it was such an ingrained part of his life, so ingrained that despite not having fully recovered, he badly wanted to return to school already just so he could teach *El Filibusterismo* to his students.

Led by our desire to know more about him, we went on with the interview. He happily obliged, answering every question with so much fervor. His cheeks glowing and his heart swelling with pride, we had a wonderful discovery - Sir Oliver Borromeo is such a happy soul and a joy to talk to. Being aware of the hardships encountered by students in Filipino subjects, he said he doesn't expect his students to master linguistics.

Communicative competence is more important for him. He is more after the performance.

Like all of us, he wants a happy classroom environment, but he expects output. During school activities, he wants his students to speak up and stand for what they believe in. He encourages an exchange of opinions because for him, this is what true learning is all about. We learn from other people, while they also learn from us.

In life, he describes himself as someone radical. He hates oppression and he will not allow it; just like Simoun, his favorite character from *El Filibusterismo*. He said he can relate to Simoun's character because he sees half of his personality in him.

Sir Borromeo is such a joy to talk to because you can feel the sincerity and truthfulness in every word he says. He has

this ability to communicate his message honestly and directly, while respecting the fact that others may hold a different opinion or expectation. He acknowledges the need for honesty, respect, appreciation, and recognition.

As a teacher, he treasures his students, and they treasure him in return. In fact, one of his former students who originally intended to take Engineering, shifted to Education because of Sir Borromeo's influence.

The course Sir Borromeo ended up getting into may not have been his first choice, but to us, one thing is definite: he was called for a greater purpose — to inspire and guide students and help them discover their passions, talents, and meaning.

We, as students ourselves, hope to see more teachers like you in this world.

ANATOMY OF A MAKSCI STUDENT

Writer | **Leeanna Bragais**



At the periodic element of Gold. I'm sure it's something most are familiar with. It is something of common knowledge- though if it is not the case for you, it will be soon. In this establishment? Common is the bare minimum. After all, gold is not common. Gold is shiny. The makings of a trophy. Picture of wealth and a bright future. Every student has reached for a medal gleaming like the sun.

First and foremost, Makati Science High School (Maksci) is, more often than not, introduced with awe by those who wish to get in and with pride by those who just got in. You can't really blame them; this school is quite known for excelling in most competitions and has proven their performance to be nearly consistent. This school has the students your parents/guardians point to and say, "You should be more like them."- which, by the way, is not encouraging at all.

This is why such a high reputation was established in the first place, and with high standards comes

expectations. And with expectations, comes the sleepless nights, the cramped hands, tired eyes, the cold food after being left waiting for hours, or the third cup of coffee in a desperate attempt to recharge. Nervous? Ha, you should be, because at this point, these come with the territory of being a student of this establishment. Unfortunately, these are the first signs of rust taking over.

Maksci comes with a lot of benefits...but with a price. There are competitions to win, grades to keep up, additional subjects to deal with, and of course, this little race we have in our head of who's at the front. It won't be long before your stomach rumbles as you ignore hunger every hour, your hands become dented by small calluses as you write on paper, or your eyes start to burn up and leave dark marks under. I mean it's not pretty - that's for sure, but it must be worth it to hear your name "With Honors!" or receive that medal as others look on with wonder.

RISING CROWNS AMONGST THE CROWD

Written by ||

Rica Isnani & Princess Tavas



Artist | **Psyche Dejaro**

The shimmering blaze of lights and deafening cheers of the beady-eyed youth; the stage is set and is waiting – for your heavy steps, pounding chest, and hopeful gaze, to speak your truth. Thus the MSHS Intramurals welcome the ethereal contestants, to battle wits and kicks along the catwalk. Gone are the days of silence within the confines of our homes and it is time to welcome back the humble platform in which these stars may rise. A chance to share an advocacy. This is Mr. and Ms. Intramurals 2023.

The bakunawa that swallowed all five moons. Ram Tolentino is the man who stood tall amongst his pride, succeeding at not only TV broadcast for the MSHS Ang Kadluan and a Bakunawa baller who destroyed the court – but he now cemented his place in the world of pageantry. Tolentino won a total of 5 awards as a Mr. Intrams representative. He has many achievements under his belt – and it follows that he advocates for taking chances and living your life, as it is only one.

A witty queen with a

golden smile. Naijel Lasquite, only 16 years old, has accomplished many feats in her lifetime, in her words – an “achiever”. Despite her poise, and elegant performance which the crowd determined a sure win, the humble winner herself claimed in an interview that she did not expect to represent- let alone take the crown. She encourages students to take risks- just as she did. She speaks wisdom in her last statement, “Do not take failure as rejection, as it is only a redirection”.

Lastly, the Raven who broke the mold, and seized an opportunity yet whose voice would not be foretold, Christopher De Vera. He who ran for Mr. Intrams left agape at his ravishing entrance – in a Filipiniana blouse? In an unconventional piece, he had students revel throughout his walk. He is known to be a firm advocate and volunteer, as a journalist and as a Project Sinag member, and with his involvement in modern issues – it is evident that his message speaks not with words, but through his actions.

Every king and queen wishes to serve their subjects in their own special ways, yet with every single contestant,

their compassion and humanity are ever so clear. The Mr. and Ms. Intramurals is not simply a beauty pageant held to celebrate the excellence of select students; it’s also a chance to promote confidence, sportsmanship, and most importantly, a community. Such is keen on promoting individualism, the freedom to highlight diversity within the students.

As the contestants raise themselves high above the stage, showing the courage to step into the spotlight, they lift the spirits of the masses, and through their voices, share their advocacy to resonate with the student body. It is meant to be student-centered, portraying any hardships and true experiences, revealed between every carefully curated word and well-spoken thought forged straight from the heart.

The event introduces the vast ocean of beauty that lies among the pupils themselves, and their distinct characters allow them to embody the crowns they have received, the crowns whose shine will reflect as a beacon of pure and positive energy for the roaring crowd.

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

Writer | **Charis Pascual**

“Saan kaya siya nakkamali?”
“Nako...kulang kasi ‘yan sa gabay.”

Hushed whispers grew even softer as Mother’s shoes clicked closer to the altar. Her Daughter smiled timidly, bony arms cradled a wailing infant as yet another well-wisher congratulated her for the newest addition to their now family of three.

The priest began the proceeding the second her Granddaughter’s tears muffled to soft sniffles. Another earth-shattering shriek, however, pierced the air once more when he poured the cold water on her head.

The sacrament ended five minutes later. The portly man offered her help, claiming that they had support groups for young girls who were in a similar situation. Another relative offered her more advice, and her foolish Daughter took it all with teary eyes and gratitude.

Mother sniffs at the men in distaste. Phonies, she thinks, all of them. Her daughter was old enough to know the consequences of her actions. She didn’t need help; she made her bed, she should lie on it.

Prior to 2022, the national age of consent was exactly 12 years old. Despite amending that number to 16, Filipinos ironically needed to wait two more years before legally availing contraceptives without their parents’ consent.

In 2023, Albay Representative, Lagman, pened House Bill 79, allowing minors to avail contraceptives on their own. Later in the year, he authored House Bill 8910 which passed with a unanimous vote. It establishes the Pregnancy Prevention Inter-Agency Council, which will have a say in all adolescent pregnancy-related matters, and will have

representatives from major agencies as well and adolescents themselves. But Mother disagreed.

The children should’ve known better; they were old enough to know the difference between right and wrong. Nevermind the fact that only 9% of students aged 14 and above knew basic reproductive healthcare. It was also irrelevant that by protecting her daughter’s “innocence”, said innocence turned into pure naivete on how the world works, on how to protect herself.

Mother’s heart clenched at the thought, but all traces of doubt and guilt disappeared as quickly as they came. Mother knows best. It’s always been this way and it always will be.

“What’s done is done,” she mutters under her breath, smiling

on cue as a distant relative presses a kiss on her cheek.

Yet, their poison-laced tongues wagged at the slightest whiff of blood, of weakness. They whisper their prejudices, lay out their judgment, and cry out of her daughter’s cruelty for bringing in a child to this world so young, so unprepared.

Dark circles rimmed her daughter’s eyes; it could’ve been from attending to a screaming baby every night. It could’ve been from meds which didn’t help with sleep or fatigue. It could’ve been from studying late every day, for the final exams she’ll be sitting for next week to receive a high school diploma.

They seem to forget, however, that she’s just a child, too.

THE PINOY ROMANTIC FLICK: MORE THAN A FILMING

Writer | **Ralph Mole**

Artist | **Pauline Ejercito**

Source | **FreePik mrsiraphola**



Lights! “Rewind”, starring Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera, recently became the highest-grossing Filipino film of all time. It’s an emotional tale of star-crossed lovers learning to appreciate what little time they were destined to have with each other. A romance drama clinching the top spot isn’t anything new. In fact, “Hello, Love, Goodbye” claimed the title in 2019, and “The Hows of Us” in 2018. Both were romance dramas starring Kathryn Bernardo, which begs the question: What’s with the local popularity of the romance genre?

Camera! Simply said, romance movies are films about love, whether it be the blossoming ins and outs or an ongoing romance. With enough popularity, the actors can develop into love teams with loyal fanbases like AIDub, KathNiel and DongYan. Such films have cemented the reputation of many actors like Piolo Pascual, Kathryn Bernardo, and John Lloyd Cruz, all of whom would go on to venture into more adventurous film projects outside of the romance genre.

As a testament to the lasting power of the Pinoy romance film, five out of the ten highest grossing films

locally have been under that genre. “Rewind” reached a box office of 889 million pesos. With the notoriously rabid fan bases and mind-boggling profit margins, it’s no wonder why studios keep producing such films.

Action! What can romance movies do? A study from the Lyceum of the Philippines University found that romantic movies influence how young people viewed love. Respondents expected their partners’ behavior to mirror those they watch on film. Virtually, all agreed that the media played a large role in shaping their perception and morals regarding the world. Knowing this, it can be dangerous if that power falls into the wrong hands.

A media studies paper by Elvin Amerigo Valerio from De La Salle University (DLSU) posits that Filipino movies prior to the 2000s imitated Hollywood alongside the American ideals it espouses. According to Virginia Wright Wexman from Princeton University, such ideals include love teams, traditional gender roles, and the gender binary. Paired with the general lack of representation for societal issues and minority populations, one

can observe this in earlier Filipino films. Frequently between men and women with stereotypical traits who usually end in marriage or some big ceremony, further ingraining these outdated ideals into Filipino movie watchers.

Cut! What’s unique with Filipino Romance Movies? The paper from DLSU commended the gradual shift in Philippine cinema, marked by moving the limelight from Hollywood towards Philippine society. Where else is it best mirrored but in contemporary Filipino romance flicks? Gone are the days of Laida Magtalas and Miggy Montenegro or Marvin Agustin and Jolina Magdangal. Since the 2010s, Filipinos served more and more diverse romance stories . Whether it be old age and homosexuality in “Rainbow’s Sunset”, late-stage capitalism in “Third World Romance”, and a growing female to female relationship in “Rookie”.

Philippine cinema is drifting away from traditional expectations to love. Where once it went just like in fairy tales, there is now a possible screenplay for every sort of situation in modern-day romance. The aforementioned films broke out of usual tropes and touched on social

issues beyond tradition. “Rewind” stars a depiction of Jesus Christ and ends tragically with a compromise between each lovers’ respective lives. “Hello, Love, Goodbye” highlights the plight of overseas Filipino workers struggling to achieve normalcy in their lives and breaks the “love team” tradition. “The Hows of Us” chronicles an ailing long-term relationship amidst a harsh economy. No longer do we look into each other’s eyes and speak words of endearment, we also have problems bigger than ourselves to confront; those sugary moments, it doesn’t always take a man and a woman.

Rolling in 1... 2... 3... The Filipino public turns to movies for a taste of idealized tales of romance, once masking grim realities. As time goes on and the sugary feeling subsides, Filipinos yearn for the simpler things which is mirrored in the increasing number of lower-budget movies taking cues from independent film. Introspection brings forth a more realistic portrayal of love. As tragic or minimal they may be, these quaint musings are filled with honest feelings affirming that it is all more than just a filming.

‘BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS’ ARE APOLOGIES ENOUGH?

Writer | **Jianna Lagman**

The senate hearing of the media. A wave of loss and a pang of grief set the tone. Hands and arms of bereaved parents raised pictures of their departed children lost to drug abuse, sextortion crimes, and mental abuse said to have been caused and facilitated on the social media platforms people know and love today. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta owning Facebook and Instagram, apologized publicly before the grieving crowd. In his words,

“I’m sorry for everything you have all been through. No one should go through the things that your families have suffered and this is why we invest so much and we are going to continue doing industry wide efforts to make sure no one has to go through the things your families have had to suffer.” - Mark Zuckerberg

Despite the apology, parents are still left in dismay. One said the apology “lacked any heart”, while another expressed feeling like their

children were but casualties and mere pawns in a game to make money.

In the room where it happened: On January 31, 2023, the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned the CEOs of five big tech companies: Jason Citron of Discord, Evan Spiegel of Snapchat, Shou Zi Chew of TikTok, Linda Yaccarino of X (formerly Twitter), and Mark Zuckerberg of Meta, about the alarming danger of their platforms to children. Behind the scenes, parents shared stories of the media’s involvement in the deaths of each child, the room saturated with people yet the mood cold and furious.

Looking into the lives of the lost: 15-year-old Olivia Prodromidis was connected via Snapchat to an adult stranger who exploited and took advantage of her. This adult then went on to convince Olivia to take a pill – pure fentanyl, a criminal act.

12-year-old Matthew Minor saw a “choking challenge” video on TikTok that taught kids how to choke themselves safely. According to his father, Matthew tried it and died, yet the video remained in circulation without holding the companies accountable.

On Facebook, 15-year-old Riley Rodee was haunted by a sexual predator who coerced him with inappropriate images, tricking Riley into sending explicit photos of himself. Riley was also extorted for money, blackmailed, and eventually died from suicide.

What’s worse, Olivia, Matthew, and Riley’s experiences are not exclusive. Parents continue to express concern for the safety of their children on such platforms. Although an apology was made, this is not enough. Platforms should further develop and investigate user agreements, privacy policies, and tracking, as well as make an effort to

ensure online child safety. As social media expert Christine Elgersma said, “Developers need to start building apps with the kids in mind.”

Despite this, parents also play a big part. Parents and children must communicate about the content on social media, and children must be willing to share this. Parents should also set limits and establish boundaries on phone use with proper explanation. Furthermore, although not fully developed, parents may use parental controls to stay aware of what a child might be seeing on social media.

In the end, it’s a collaborative effort. Neither the tech companies nor parents are the concern. In the end, it’s always the children. They are the future of the world and are vulnerable to serious harm, thus needing protection. For parents, it’s a matter of communication, but for tech companies, an apology is useless without definite action.



BRAINIAC 2024 Qualifiers clash minds at MakSci

Writer | Dexter Bassuit

BATTLE OF THE BRAINS! Selected Junior High School and Senior High School students compete in the BRAINIAC Clash of the Sci-Tech Champs 2024 on February 03, 2024 at Makati Science High School. | Gab Aglahian

Makati Science High School held the Cluster Qualifying Match of BRAINIAC: Clash of the Sci-Tech Champs 2024 for Muntinlupa, Taguig, Pateros, Parañaque, and Las Piñas (MUNTAPARLAS) on February 3, 2024.

BRAINIAC is an academic competition for high school learners from public and private schools within the National Capital Region, separated into the Junior High School and Senior High School Division.

MakSci also took part in the competition, with Angelo G. Ermino, Aurelio D. Luya, and Johann F. Ellamil representing the JHS Division while Clarence B. Cruzado, Dionne D.S. Canceran, and Ivan R. Galvez for the SHS Division.

The 1st Place for the Quiz Bowl and Robotics Competition JHS and SHS Division was snatched by Southville International School and Muntinlupa National High School respectively.

On the other hand, MakSci seized 2nd Place for JHS and 4th place for the SHS Division.

The Written Examination Round contained 30 prepared items for both divisions, consisting of 15 Science and 15 Math questions for JHS, as well as 10 Science, 10 Math, and 10 Research questions for SHS.

The Cluster Finals Round contains three primary categories: Easy, Average, and Difficult with a time limit of 10 to 60 seconds, 10 to 90 seconds, and 10 to 120 seconds with corresponding equivalent of 3, 6, and 10 points per item, respectively.

The event commenced with opening remarks and an acknowledgment speech from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (OLLH) representatives and Mayor Maria L. Cayetano during the morning assembly.

OLLH Chief Revenue and Marketing Officer Rea D. Guevarra extended BRAINIAC as part of the BIDA Lourdes Program committed to increasing learners' interest in Science, Mathematics, Research, and Robotics.

All 16 school representatives per cluster will advance to the Finals on March 16, 2024 at Philippine Science High School.

MSHS seizes spot in national round of Philippine VEX Robotics skills competition

Writer | Maxim Madriago

The Makati Science High School (MSHS) representatives secured their spots in the national round of the Philippine VEX Robotics Skills Competition at Xavier School San Juan last January 13, 2024.

The Philippine VEX Robotics Skills Competition challenges student teams to design and build robots for game-based engineering challenges.

In the middle school division, The Mavericks and MaksciBorgs, together with 21 other teams, competed in the Full Volume game.

The Mavericks, led by Captain Sandrinne Pacifico, Builder Angelo Ermino Jr., Programmer Yvann Arabit, and Driver Prinz Marquez, earned the prestigious Judge's Award and attained the 17th position overall.

Meanwhile, MaksciBorgs, consisting of Captain and Builder Mary Cruto, Drivers Reign Somera and Alonso Abanto, Builder Cielo Sawit, and Programmer Rafael Padayao, placed 6th in the skills challenge and 7th in the overall rankings.

Representing MSHS in the high school division on January 20 were Minokawa and

Bakunawa, who participated in the VRC Over Under game with 16 other teams.

Minokawa, with its members Captain Shawn Abuan, Programmer Lance Llorador, Driver Christian Mendoza, Builder Dwayne Rivera, and All-rounder Rafael De Leon, with their robot "Sabong," secured the 3rd overall ranking.

The second team, Bakunawa, with Captain Jayrick Ramos, Programmer Elizabeth Porca, Builder Luke Besas, and Driver Gene Espiritu, with their robot "Siopao," claimed the 5th overall position.

"Preparing for the qualifiers was really hard because we focused on building our robots," Cruto said. "For nationals, we really focused on the strategy and spent most of the time thinking of various possible ways to find the most effective strategy."

All four teams secured their spots for the national round under the supervision of MSHS Robotics Coordinator, Mr. Emmanuelle Vidallo.

The national round is scheduled for February 17 and 24 for middle school and high school, respectively, at Xavier School San Juan.

"DEPED'S 236K TREES" FOR A GREENER TOMORROW: MakSci tree planting activity

Writer | Leilah Kunkel

TREE-SURE NATURE! English Department Head, Mrs. Darish Gamit, cultivates a seedling at the Makati Science High School Garden as part of the Department of Education's tree planting activity on December 05, 2023. | Nicole Villanueva

In accordance with the Department of Education (DepEd) Memorandum No. 69 series of 2023, the Makati Science Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O) led the tree planting activity in the Makati Science High School (MakSci) garden on December 06, 2023.

The DepEd memorandum provided the objectives along with its guidelines for executing the project "DepEd's 236,000 Trees – A Christmas Gift for the Children."

The execution of the activity was made successful with the combined efforts of the High School YMCA (Hi-Y) and the Makati Science High School Disaster Risk Reduction Management Team (MakSci DRRM).

In the event proper, student and teacher volunteers from various grade levels actively participated in the planting of various trees such as narra, guyabano, dalandan, rambutan, lanzones, and calamansi.

Ms. Rollon emphasized that the event's importance was to nurture environmental care and plant 236,000 trees as a meaningful gift to future generations.

"In the level of Makati Science High School, I think more than the act of planting trees, it gives us awareness of the state of the garden, what trees we currently have, and what are the needs necessary for the improvement of the garden. And of course, it gives us an idea on how to become environmental stewards on our own," Ms. Rollon added.

YES-O President, Jann Rhyxczy Inocencio, stated that the importance and purpose of these events lies in allowing the volunteers to experience planting trees for themselves, as well as discovering their love for nature.

From the preparation phase, Ms. Rollon also mentioned that one of the difficulties in making this event possible was the availability of seeds.

Nevertheless, they were able to garner enough seeds with the help of the School Parent-Teachers Association (SPTA) to make the event more than just possible, but a success.

Hero of the Seas 2023 Para El Mar Honors Top Local MPAs and MPANs

Writer | **Nicole Villanueva**

A SEA-CCESS! Members of Calamianes Island Group Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network celebrate their win in the Para El Mar 2023 on September 28, 2023 at the Bai Hotel, Cebu. | Michaela Perez



The biennial Para El Mar (For the Seas) took place at Bai Hotel, Mandaue City, Cebu on September 27 and 28, 2023, hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Region VII and the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape – Protected Area Management Office, commemorating the success of the winners.

The Para El Mar awards aims to recognize and celebrate the top locally managed protected areas and networks in the Philippines. It is also a chance for LGUs, communities, and organizations to exchange good practices and promote cooperation. “It’s not just about conserving nature. It’s about securing the future of our coastal communities. Marine protected areas (MPAs) help fisherfolks increase their fish catch, boost their income, and put food on their table. They are not just places on a map, not

just coordinates or polygons on a shapefile. They are a lifeline for countless families,” says Roxie Diaz, one of the event’s hosts. Looking at the awards, the event offers three main categories, including the Best Mangrove Award, Outstanding Marine Protected Area Networks, and Outstanding Locally-Managed Marine Protected Area.

Finalists nationwide were evaluated according to the criteria unique to their respective categories, leading to the selection of one winner and three runners-up in each category, along with special awardees, with all receiving monetary prizes and plaques of honor. Highlighting the champions in each category, Leganes Integrated Katunggan Ecopark of Leganes, Iloilo won Best Mangrove Awardee, Kabankalan Himamaylan Ilog Integrated Coastal Management Council of Himamaylan, Negros Occidental bagged the

Outstanding MPA Networks Laurel Awardee, and Siete Pecados Marine Ecopark of Coron, Palawan was recognized as the Outstanding Locally-Managed MPA Awardee.

As for the special awardees, Siete Pecados Marine Park wins as Saviors of the Sea and Best in Enforcement alongside Bato Tagaytay Reef Fish Sanctuary, Province of Negros Occidental as the 1st Coastal Greenbelt Awardee, and Barangay Ermita Marine Protected Area as the 1st Largest MPA Awardee. The panels awarded and recognized the dedication of MPAs in conserving marine resources and ecosystems, aiming to inspire Filipinos to collaborate with LGUs and organizations in preserving the beauty of marine life. The Marine Support Network (MSN) National Coordinator and Father of Para El Mar, Dr. Porfirio “Perry” M. Alino noted,

“We in MSN hope that our learning through collaboration and partnerships will strengthen and support our conservation to the overall marine conservation agenda in the country and beyond.”

BEYOND CRISPR'S REALM: Future of Humanity Amidst Controversy

Writer | **Leilah Kunkel**

Source | **ISTOCK**

Nowadays, gene editing has become prevalent in scientific technology. Scientists have been able to modify the elements of life itself through a process called Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR). This technology has been commended for its precision and efficacy. It holds the key to treating hereditary disorders, increasing crop yields, and even preventing infectious diseases. Currently, there are ongoing discourses as it also poses ethical issues.

All people have different perceptions toward gene editing. In a study by the European Journal of Human Genetics, 68.6% of the Dutch population agrees with the use of human germline gene editing to prevent severe genetic diseases, but 8.5% oppose its usage for enhancement, and 39.7% disagree with its use for prevention of infectious diseases. Despite the ethical questions it presents and the number of people that disagree, CRISPR technology offers groundbreaking possibilities for treating fatal or lifelong diseases because of its accuracy and effectiveness.

Even though genetic engineering offers a multitude of potential for the future of humanity, the biggest concern that critics imply is the ethical issues of having unparalleled control over DNA. These concerns are emphasized by various sources, including an online journal article from the

National Library of Medicine. There are concerns regarding the importance of better methods and safety precautions to guarantee the moral application of this technology. The agriculture sector also raises other ethical issues.

According to Swissinfo, critics of gene editing claim that the process might alter a plant’s DNA in numerous ways that could endanger human health, soil and water quality, biodiversity, and production of organic food. They worry that these kinds of crops may replace native species and form wide monocultures, which would be catastrophic for ecosystems.

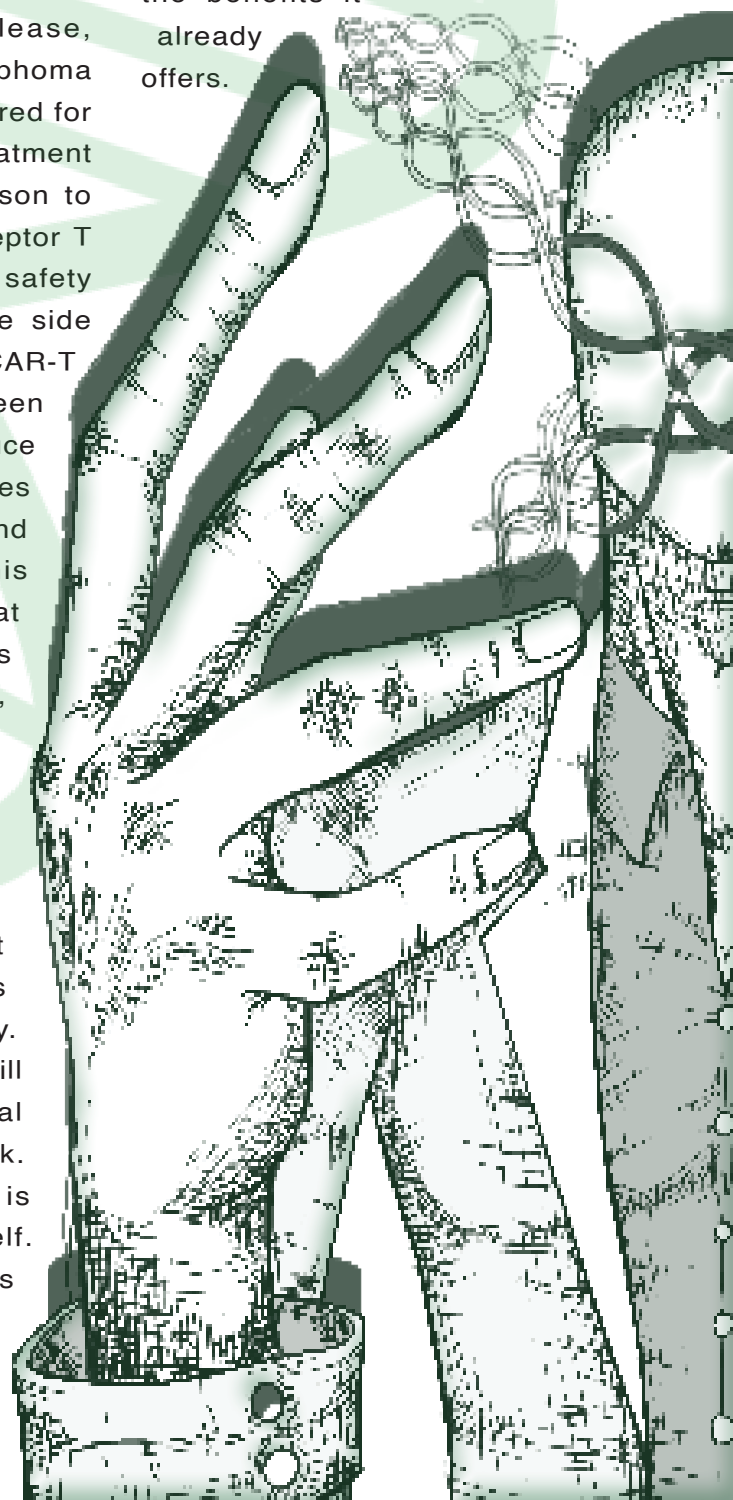
Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that CRISPR gene editing emerges as a ray of hope since it offers benefits that are proven by research and real-life success stories. It contributes a lot to the agricultural sector, contrary to what critics say. The Innovative Genomics Institute states that by editing the DNA sequences that are already present in the plant, CRISPR technologies can be used to “turn up” plant immune systems (non-transgenic).

Additionally, they can introduce new defensive systems from other organisms into plants (transgenic) or even shuffle defense proteins between different plant species (transgenic). As a result, it improves the plant characteristics itself.

In the medical field, Synthego indicated that by converting unsafe DNA variants into favorable ones,

CRISPR-based gene editing may be able to prevent or treat genetic illnesses. It could potentially treat non-genetic disorders as well. These statements do not just revolve solely around possibilities, but reflect realities. In a CRISPR Therapeutics press release, preliminary results for lymphoma patients treated and monitored for at least four weeks post treatment were provided. In comparison to other chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) products, the safety profile was better, and the side effects were not as severe. CAR-T cells are cells that have been genetically modified to produce a new receptor, which enables it to bind in cancer cells and destroy it. Data from this clinical trial also shows that almost 60% of the patients responded well to treatment, and 21% of them had no symptoms of the illness six months after receiving one treatment. Furthermore, with more clinical trials in the present and future, it will undoubtedly open doors in the scientific community. The CRISPR gene editing still remains as a controversial story of potential and risk. In the end, gene editing is not entirely unethical itself. Though it changes aspects of an organisms’ DNA, it helps alleviate the problems that humanity and other organisms suffer from. The future of CRISPR

lies within the hands of experts and the support people could offer to this new technology. If the general public will fully embrace the concept of gene editing, it will surely maximize the benefits it already offers.





Source | The Asian Business Review

PrimeWater's innovation takes home awards Asian Tech Excellence Awards in Bangkok

LEADING INNOVATION. PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation receives multiple awards for their Leak Tagging App and Asset Registry Software at the 2023 Asian Tech Awards last September 18, 2023. | Ana Agraviador

Writer | Angela Bartolome

PrimeWater Infrastructure Corporation received numerous awards at the 2023 Asian Tech Awards held last September 18, 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Their Leak Tagging App and Asset Registry Software is recognized across Asia, standing out from the rest of the companies' innovations.

"We are honored to receive this recognition, and this drives us to further innovate so that we can continuously improve our services to our customers,"

says Atty. Cezar Ong, vice president of the Joint Venture Operations.

The Leak Tagging App, developed in 2022, is a cloud-based developing application that enables branches to act promptly on leakages to reduce water losses.

Moreover, the app is said to have repaired more than 42,000 leaks, saving 6.77 million liters of water

everyday, helping over 50,000 individuals.

Another award-winning technology, the company's Asset Registry Software aims to record all the infrastructures, including the pipelines and their conditions.

The software has addressed a number of challenges of non-revenue water (NRW) brought by leakages and broken meters.

One hundred ninety million liters per day of recovered volume of water has been reported in December 2022, increasing water availability for consumer use.

Ernie Delco, Head of the Technological Audit Group for PrimeWater says "Water losses from leakages or broken meters... are indeed among the greatest challenges faced by water districts across the country; and we are proud that through our partnership with them, we are able to share our technology for the benefit of our served areas."

" 70% Of Earth's electricity comes from fossil fuels "

Said 22-year-old Patrick De Guzman. "Also, 70% of Earth is the salty ocean." Bridged together, these two ideas once raised a valuable question: If the Earth is primarily made of water, and the Philippines is enveloped by water, why don't we make use of this abundant resource to create electricity?

This was the thought that fueled the young inventor as he developed his prototype for a sustainable turbine. Passionate about ending climate change, De Guzman sought to find an energy source that was neither intermittent nor emitted from fossil fuels. He noted that solar and wind power were unreliable during weather fluctuations, while fossil fuels such as diesel were expensive and posed great risks to the environment.

Enter his solution: the Marissa Turbine, an innovative concept that emerged from De Guzman's determination to address the need for sustainable energy solutions. He first conceptualized the idea for a turbine at just 16 years old, but it was only in 2022 when he received the opportunity to bring it to reality. With the support of an international non-profit organization, the Department of Science and Technology, Ateneo de Manila University, and De La Salle University, De Guzman developed his prototype and watched his vision

A SAGA OF UNCEASING EARTHQUAKES

Source | temblor

Writer | Marybless Lumawag

Situated along the Ring of Fire, the Philippines is no stranger to natural disasters, with earthquakes being no exception. To put things into perspective, there are at least 20 earthquakes that hit the Philippines everyday. While most of these never go beyond light magnitudes or an equivalent of <4 on the Richter scale, the occurrence is almost never none. For the month of January 2024 alone, there were more than 40 earthquakes that had a magnitude of >4.

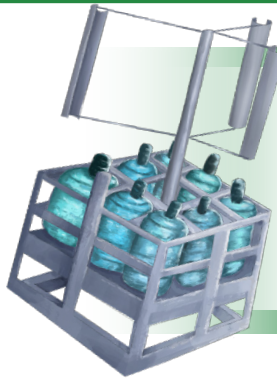
Just December of 2023, many netizens have pointed out how earthquakes were seemingly being "spammed" in Mindanao with the sheer high number of them that took place that month, and the statistics prove just as much. A majority of the significant earthquakes (with magnitudes ranging from 4.0 to 7.4) happened specifically in Surigao del Sur and Davao, with only five exceptions, one in Catanduanes, two in Eastern Samar, and two in Biliran. On December 2, Surigao del Sur was rattled by a powerful 7.4

magnitude earthquake, followed by a series of quakes exceeding magnitude 6 on the following day. The tremors persisted until the end of the month, mostly concentrated in Hinatuan of Surigao del Sur.

Surigao's high seismic activity is attributed to its location on the Surigao segment of the Philippine plate and its proximity to trench sites. DOST-PHIVOLCS stated, "The earthquake was associated with the subduction along the Philippine Trench," in reference to the 7.4 magnitude earthquake that shook Surigao del Sur.

These natural disasters are something that we can not predict, there might just come a day where they come and change the course of everything. Our hearts go out to those that have been taken too soon and were affected by the aforementioned earthquakes. Lives were taken and properties were damaged, so preparedness and vigilance is key.

SOURCE OF DREAD. A 7.4-magnitude earthquake strikes Surigao del Sur, claiming lives and damaging property on December 02, 2023. | Giuliana Montas



TIDAL TURBINES AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Writer | Sabrina Goyena

come to life at last. "Yung Marissa Turbine, in Latin, it means 'of the sea', so 'turbine of the sea'. It also make[s] a tribute to my mom's life," he explained in an interview with 24 Oras.

Named in honor of De Guzman's late mother, the Marissa Turbine is a vertical tidal turbine designed to generate electricity from tidal power. The prototype is 1.57 meters high and weighs 70 kilograms. Its innovation lies in the components that make it, which De Guzman says are more sustainable and cost-friendly as compared to similar turbines found abroad.

The Marissa Turbine is first spun by tidal waves, and the kinetic energy those currents produce is converted into usable electrical energy via a permanent magnet generator (PMG) within the turbine. Along with its high reliability, the benefits of PMGs include its durability, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness. The turbine is built with tenacity evident in its structure as its P-shape blades ensure that it can withstand tidal flow. Even in the face of harsh ocean currents, it was meant for long-term operation. Moreover, the Marissa Turbine's floater design allows for its placement at a location that maximizes the amount of energy received and generated.

Although still a work in progress, De Guzman's vision for the future of sustainability is a promising one, brimming with the potential to ease the country's issue of climate change, and the hope that this future would be arriving any moment now. With the spark of such inspiration and innovation, the road ahead of us looks brilliantly iridescent.

Source | PhilSports.ph

**DLSU GREEN ARCHERS
VS
UP FIGHTING MAROONS**

Quarter Results:

Q1: 22-21
Q2: 17-22
Q3: 16-15
Q4: 18-11

MVPs' Made / Attempts

Archers - Kevin Quiambao
Min: 34:35
Field Goals M/A: 6/21
2 Points M/A: 2/9
3 Points M/A: 4/12
Free Throws M/A: 8/10

Maroons - Malick Diouf
Min: 37:22
Field Goals M/A: 10/12
2 Points M/A: 10/11
3 Points M/A: 0/1
Free Throws M/A: 1/3

Writer | **Rusell Molleno**

DLSU completes the reverse sweep against UP, 73-69

DLSU CALLING THE SHOTS! The De La Salle University Archers prevails over the UP Fighting Maroons in University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Season 86 Men's Basketball with a score of 73-69 on December 06, 2023, at the Smart Araneta Coliseum . I Giuliana Montas

After a bloody battle, the UAAP S86 Men's Basketball title is back at Taft as De La Salle University Archers overpowered UP Fighting Maroons, 73-69, at the Smart Araneta Coliseum on December 6, 2023.

The Archers fired off the first 2 points of the Opening Quarter, as the two teams went toe-to-toe in an attempt to overpower the other, ending with DLSU getting away with a one-point lead and a score of 22-21 in favor of the Archers.

In the Second Quarter, the Maroons went on the attack, pressuring the Archers and gaining the lead with a halftime score of 43-39 in favor of UP.

By the Third Quarter, the Archers went on an aggressive campaign, trying to snatch the lead from the Maroons, who survived the La Salle storm with a 3-point lead, ending the Quarter with a score of 58-55.

The Fourth Quarter saw the Archers continuing their campaign as DLSU punished the

Maroons and started a scoring streak, snatching the lead.

The Archers continued their attack on the Maroons, not letting them score a single point in 6 minutes.

Ultimately, Archers Kevin Quiambao finished off the Maroons with a pair of free-throws and ended the match with a Lasallian victory of 73-69 – their first win since 2016.

Even though Malik Diouf of UP Maroons put up an astounding double-double with

21 points, it was still not enough to keep up with the Archers' hot hands.

Kevin Quiambao ultimately led the Archers to victory, amassing 24 points overall.

The UP Maroons took game point against DLSU Archers in Game 1, having a 30-point blowout, 97-67.

However, the Archers took Game 2 with an astounding 22-point lead on the Maroon 82-60.

Writer | **Christopher De Vera**

Casey de Leon, the pride of Makati Science High School, brought herself onto the national stage once more, bagging a gold medal recently at the Palarong Pambansa 2023, and the international stage, snatching a gold medal for the Philippines at the 4th Asian Cadet Poomsae Taekwondo Championships in 2022. De Leon has been eagerly representing herself, the Filipino Taekwondo athletes, and the Philippines throughout her quest.

At an early age, Casey de Leon has been seeing her cousin train in Taekwondo. As adventurous and curious as she is, De Leon started to join her cousin while practicing. At the age of 6, she started her Taekwondo journey, earning her first yellow belt in March

2015. After a couple of months, De Leon joined her first-ever Taekwondo competition, which was the National Poomsae Championship at Rizal Stadium in July 2015.

Moving on to the year 2024, De Leon now has her black belt, which she earned in November of 2019, and has accumulated an estimated 50 to 60 medals since she started competing back in 2015. De Leon has also competed both nationally and internationally.

However, behind every success, there are unseen struggles, sacrifices, hard work, and persistence. De Leon has to juggle two responsibilities simultaneously, which is not an easy task for her. "I have been an

athlete and a student at the same time for a very long time now, but it still has never been easy, and it remains a challenge for me," De Leon stated. "I just need to do what I need to do because nothing will ever happen if I keep on complaining." Despite the hurdles she has faced through the years, it did not stop her from achieving her goals.

For almost 10 years into her journey, Casey de Leon has expressed how she feels about her younger self. "Little me did not have a dream to begin with. But I am achieving the dreams of the current me," De Leon said during the interview.

"Have I achieved my current dreams? Some are yes, some are not yet,

so I feel eager to achieve them one by one,"

De Leon said as she expressed her eagerness to achieve her dreams. From having to train with her cousin to training in her local gym and now training under the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), De Leon has been grateful for the things and opportunities that came her way.

Today, Casey de Leon is constantly training hard for her upcoming competitions, which are the Smart/MVP Sports Foundation-National CPJ (Carlos Palanca Jr.) this first week of March and the 2024 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships around November of this year. Casey, your MakSci family is proud of you!



OBIENA SOARS TO SILVER: Duplicates record in World Athletics Championship

A LEAP OF FAITH! Obiena wins silver for the Philippines in the pole vaulting championship during the 2023 World Athletics in Budapest, Hungary on August 26, 2023. | Chloe Aclan

Source | GMA News Online

Ernest John “EJ” Obiena ascended to historic silver in the pole vaulting championships of 2023 World Athletics on August 26 in Budapest, Hungary.

Besting his record of 6.0 meters twice in an official tournament, Obiena raised the bar for the Philippines’ highest placement in the tournament: the bronze medal he won last year in Eugene, United States.

Reigning Champion Mondo Duplantis of Sweden remained the winner while Christopher Nilsen of the United States and Kurtis Marschall of Australia shared bronze.

Duplantis faced little to no resistance in defending his title as he flawlessly vaulted past the 6.10 meter jump.

Nilsen and Marschall failed to overcome 6.0 meters in their

attempts, posting at 5.95 meters.

Registering at 6.0 meters on his second attempt, Obiena qualified for the final showdown with Duplantis.

Moreover, Obiena failed to soar past 6.05 meters on his first attempt before he decided to skip to 6.10 meters to challenge Duplantis, exhausting his last two fouls and leaving the Swede victorious after clearing it in a single attempt.

Duplantis tried to eclipse his world record at 6.22 meters in the tournament but to no avail.

Obiena registered his first 6.0 meter jump in an official tournament on Bergen Jump Challenge in Norway.

The finals for Men’s Pole Vault in 2023 World Athletics Championships was live streamed at Youtube.

Filipino Gymnast, Carlos Yulo has once again made history as he successfully snagged the fourth spot in the World Artistic Gymnastic Championships on October 7, 2023 in Antwerp, Belgium

In a show of resilience and skill, Yulo managed to secure a score of 14,500 points by flawlessly performing four out of the five moves, landing just below Kazakhstan’s Milad Karini who scored 14,600 points.

Despite this, Yulo earned a coveted ticket for the Paris Olympics after becoming the highest-ranked eligible participant in his signature event, the World Floor Exercise, where he ranked first in the 2019 Gymnastics World Championships.

“I’m kind of disappointed, at the same time grateful, that I’m still here standing. It’s not like [a] really big accident happened to me today”

Yulo said in an interview with GymCastic after the competition, “... things happened. But yeah, I’ll get back, the most important thing is that you’re still healthy.”

Meanwhile, Israel’s Artem Dolgopyat secured the gold medal with a score of 14,866, while Japan’s Silver Medalist Kazuki Minami earned a score of 14,666.

The Championships was covered by Rappler and the Asian Gymnastics Union.



Yulo Snatches 4th Place Lands Spot in Paris Olympics

Writer | Zander Reyes & Gabriel Ganir

FLEX IT YULO! Carlos Yulo bags fourth place and secures a spot for the Paris Olympics in the World Artistic Gymnastic Championships in Antwerp, Belgium on October 7, 2023. | Maxin Abrenica



Cool Smashers sweep Flying Titans in 5-set thriller; wins PVL title

Writer | Dave Trinidad

Source | SunStar PH

ICY VICTORY! The Creamline Cool Smashers takes down the Choco Mucho Flying Titans in the Smart Araneta Coliseum on December 16, 2023, taking the Premiere Volleyball League (PVL) title once more. | Maxine Abrenica

The Creamline Cool Smashers are on top of the Premier Volleyball League once more as they took down the Choco Mucho Flying Titans in a five-five-set classic at the Smart Araneta Coliseum on December 16, 2023.

This has become a must-win game for the Flying Titans as the Cool Smashers dominated them in Game 1 in fourfour sets, and the venue was loud on that night with 24,459 fans in attendance according to the Premier Volleyball League.

In Set 1, Choco Mucho was scorching hot with a 21-13 lead, but Creamline made it close with a 9-3 run until Choco Mucho’s Sisi Rondina iced the set, winning with a final score of 25-22.

Set 2 spotted Choco Mucho initially leading with a score of 20-17, but Creamline was able to make a surprising comeback of 25-20, with an 8-0 run to even the game at 1-1.

In Meanwhile, Set 3 both teams, went toe-to-toe but Creamline pulled through with a 29-27 victory with timely points from Creamline’s Diana Mae “Tots” Carlos.

Set 4 was another tight set, but Choco Mucho was able to keep the game alive with a 26-24 victory.

Still, the match concluded with Alyssa Valdez delivering the final blow to seal the series, winning Creamline the match with a 15-12 victory.

Creamline’s Diana Mae “Tots” Carlos won the Finals MVP, with 26 attack points and she thanked the fans for their support, stating

“Yung panalo po naming ito, ay para sa inyo po ‘tong lahat. Maraming salamat po.”

Creamline’s Alyssa Valdez mentioned the team’s love for each other was the thing that makes them one of the premier teams in volleyball. At the same time, Jema Galanza also mentioned that the team’s love for each other helped them maintain their composure throughout the game.

Carlos led the way for Creamline with 26 points, while

Galanza (21), Pons (14), Panaga (11), Valdez (8), Gumabao (5), Bernardo (4), Sato, and Negrito (1) all contributed to delivering Creamline the title.

The Cool Smashers kept an undefeated record throughout the conference, with an 11-0 record in the preliminary rounds, a 2-0 record in the semis, and a 2-0 record in the finals, finishing with a 15-0 record.

In the conference, the Creamline Cool Smashers finished 1st place, the Choco Mucho Flying Titans finished 2nd place, while the Cignal HD Spikers finished 3rd place with a 2-0 sweep of the Chery Tiggo Crossovers in the Battle for 3rd series.

Makati Science Intramurals return in full swing

Writer | John Zara

Makati Science High School Intramurals came back for its 2023 edition after a three-year hiatus.

Six batches representing the six grade levels were introduced as they battled out for the crown: 7 Leopards, 8 Lynxes, 9 Lizards, 10 Sparrows, 11 Ravens, and 12 Bakunawa.

Intrams 2023 were organised by the Makati Science High School MAPEH Department and Sports Club.

A Smashing Opening Ceremony

MSHS TEMPO energised the crowd with their powerful dance moves together with special intermissions by the Mister and Miss Intramurals 2023 delegates and the MSHS Choral.

Their performances were followed by the torch-lighting and flag-raising ceremony in the school court where athletes took the oath of sportsmanship, ratifying their commitment to the values of cooperation, sportsmanship, and camaraderie.

MakSci Principal Dr. Felix T. Bunagan noted that the Intramurals is not just about the sport itself, but an avenue of skills in improving mental health.

Displays of athleticism raged on as the elimination round for ball games ended with a back-to-back victory by the Ravens in the Basketball and Women's Volleyball Tournaments.

Badminton, Chess, and Table Tennis Eliminations blazed up at the school grounds and library as students started to showcase their versatility toward recreational sports.

The Junior Butiqueens dynasty fell as the Sophomore Lynxes toppled the Lizards for the championship of the Girls' Volleyball Tournament.

The Raging Second

Butikings reigned a back-to-back annihilation of Freshmen Leopards in the Junior Basketball and Boys' Volleyball to start of Intrams Second Day.

The first and only five-setter match of the whole season was etched as teachers narrowly escaped the Sports Club in a thriller Exhibition Game.

Lizards commanded the dance floor in the Cheer & Dance Competition, covering "Lagi-lagi" by Bini.

Bakunawa trailed in a close 2nd while winning the "Best in Choreo" and "Best in Cheer" special awards.

Final Showdown

Lynxes claimed gold in Juniors Badminton as they dominated Girls' Singles and Doubles competitions.

Meanwhile, Leopards secured their single gold in Badminton in a commanding fashion in the Boys' Singles.

Sparrows flocked over the golds in Singles category in the seniors division, while Ravens acquired gold in Men's and Mixed Doubles.

Bakunawa rebounded in the Basketball Seniors Championships, edging out Ravens with an end score of 73-67.

Ravens soared to a back-to-back sweep in the Senior Volleyball finals as they defeated Bakunawa in straight sets for Girls and four sets for Boys.

Glitz and glamour ended the MakSci Intramurals Season with the crowning of Ram Tolentino of 12 Bakunawa and Naijel Lasquite of 10 Sparrows as Mr. and Ms. Intramurals 2023.

Building Blocks: MSHS Athletes Path to the Pinnacle

Writer | Jianna Mortera

"Paabot po!" my teammate shouted as the volleyball that we were playing with accidentally flew through the basketball players. It's a daily occurrence—volleyball and basketball players sharing one court. As the clock struck 5 p.m., everybody sighed as we heard the deafening whistle noise from our school guard. It was time to go home, but first, we'll have to get in line by the water fountain. As I approached our school gate, I was surprised to stumble upon my friends when I hadn't seen them in the court. They were holding their badminton rackets, table tennis paddles, and even chess boards!

As we left the campus, it was relieving to see that my co-athletes had fun playing different kinds of sports. Sweat was visible among us but so was the enjoyment. This is what builds up the Makati Science High School Sports Club. These athletes find peace and a sense of belonging in the MSHS

Sports Club, a symbol of togetherness and life since its establishment on July 13, 2023. Age is but a number, and skills fade into insignificance against a background of unity and support. The club's accreditation in early September, which was the result of the MAPEH Department's dedication, spearheading the Sport Wellness and Fitness (SWAF) project—to encourage student togetherness and physical well-being—was an important achievement for the department and the students.

Organizing the first post-pandemic Intramurals was a memorable event in the school year and a highlight of the Sports Club's inaugural year. "The Sports Club is a really active club that will take a lot of consistency and determination to run it," said MSHS Sports Club President Juris Hordejan, summarizing the difficult but rewarding process of leading a recently accredited organization in reflection on this milestone. He witnessed the students' commitment to excellence during the Intramurals, where they watched fierce competitions and court battles. Notwithstanding the difficulties, he took satisfaction in the occasion, highlighting the happiness and contentment attendees felt.

The dedicated adviser, Mr. Socrates Gardon Jr. offered insights into the struggles and victories of leading this new sports community. Obstacles during intramurals included a lack of facilities and equipment in addition to the ongoing need for funding. Mr. Gardon, however, emphasized the close-knit family ties that exist within the club, painting them as a united front aiming for shared goals.

As the MakSci Sports Club dreams of its course, it's clear that this new family is not just about competition but a shared goal of physical fitness, health, and a lasting legacy within the lively halls of Makati Science High School. Mr. Gardon reflected on the club and described it as "Family. Family ang description ko sa kanila kasi the team are working together to achieve the goals of the club."

Illustrations | Joaquin Aycocho