

TAHIP

THE ONLINE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOIL TILLER



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Red-tagging undermines free expression

Classifying critics of the current administration as revolutionists is ludicrous. As the Anti-Terror law has been approved, armed forces officials see another loophole to manipulate and make use of their authority to oppress activists who are allegedly connected to the communist movement, giving grounds to the rascal campaigns of 'red-tagging'.

Red-tagging is the act of linking legal reformist groups into the communist movement, calling them terrorists and part of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) or its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

Duterte's administration lingers to wreck the rights of the detractors who are opposing the current run of the government. Year 2020 is not an exemption as another law, which purposes to shut every critics' ability to speak has been approved and ratified—the Anti-Terror Law—which now has been the alas of

armed forces officials to push them into grave abuse of authority to clampdown reformist groups. Red-tagging has worsened over Duterte administration, incidents in opposition to the hundreds of journalists and critics.

In line with the issue of selected officials oppressing the progressive groups with the use of red-tagging, Lieutenant General Antonio Parlade, Jr. and Press Undersecretary Lorraine Badoy received an administrative complaint from The National Union of Peoples' Lawyers (NUPL). The complaint pursued by NUPL pushes Parlade and Badoy to face charges by committing grave misconduct, conduct prejudicial to the service, and grave abuse of authority, all under Republic Act 6713 or the Code of Conduct of Public Officials.

Governor of Cavite, Mr. Juanito Victor Remulla, Jr. lay charges against Parlade on social media of backing the

anti-communist promotion, notwithstanding, Gen. Parlade, without a smidge of evidence publicly accused lefties of being communist.

Gen. Parlade was seemingly visible on social media platforms for public accusations to selected celebrities like Liza Soberano, Catriona Gray, and Angel Locsin, and the actress' sister Ella Colmenares linking them to the communist and

“*Year 2020 is not an exemption as another law, which purposes to shut every critics' ability to speak has been approved and ratified—the Anti-Terror Law—which now has been the alas of armed forces officials to push them into grave abuse of authority to clampdown reformist groups.*

therefore dubbed as terrorists. Parlade's red-tagging without evidence provoked the dismay of the groups fighting for the advocacy of the frontrunners.

Why would someone who are exercising humanitarian rights like Soberano and Gray needed to be warned in a forum that organized by Gabriela, a party-list standing on behalf of women? Yet, the two actresses were ceased and held back from being in touch with the group.

Being a communist has ceased to be a crime as the authority will classify it as being terrorist that pose a threat for the nation. However, as the criticisms contend, those who are red-tagged ended up being halted on false charges covering with illegal possession of firearms and explosives, worst, murder. Frolicking on the shadows of the jail, possibilities of red-tagged individuals that are surveilled, harassed, and killed cannot be outcast.



CHILLING TALENTS. Institute of Management paved it's way as they conuered SSC's Chills and Thrills with their talents. Photo | BASC Supreme Student Council facebook page.

IM rules SSC's Chill and Thrill 2020

 REYNALDO A. GUMABON

TAKING over the Supreme Student Council's Chills and Thrills competitions, Institute of Management bagged nine wins out of 15 places announced November 2.

Rovielyn San Juan, from Bachelor of Science in Business Administration-3A won two categories which were DIY Costume Making Contest (2nd place) and Face Mask and Face Shield Decorating Contest (3rd place), respectively.

"Hindi ko po in-expect na mananalo ako kasi alam kong maraming estudyante na magagaling na sasali sa pa-contest ng SSC," San Juan said. She added that her purpose of joining the contest was to gain experience.

Moreover, San Juan said that she thinks that their institute clinched most of the winning spots due to the inclination of the students.

"Maraming nanalo sa Institute of Management dahil siguro gusto nilang ilabas yung talent na meron sila, pansin ko rin na mas maraming IM students ang nag-send ng kani-kanilang entries kumpara sa ibang institute/college," San Juan said.

Furthermore, Christian Jay Porciuncula, SSC President said that "this event aims to

showcase the talents of BASC students in various arts and to take a break from stress and enjoy the event."

The list of winners were as follow:

Tiktok Video Contest

1st Place: Reneiamarie H. Balacania (IEAT)
2nd Place: Angelo Dela Cruz (IM)
3rd Place: June Andrew M. Enciso (IM)

Make-up Transformation Contest

1st Place: Evalin Marie P. Oliva (IEAT)
2nd Place: Aljhon D.C. Gimeno (IM)
3rd Place: Carol P. Baguisa (IM)

DIY Costume Making

1st Place: Jane Mary D. Bulanadi (IM)
2nd Place: Rovielyn O. San Juan (IM)
3rd Place: Marjorie S. Alito (IEAT)

Face Shield and Face Mask Decorating Contest

1st Place: Jayvee G. Mendoza (IM)
2nd Place: Chriezel S. Juachon (IM)
3rd Place: Rovielyn O. San Juan (IM)

Short Film Making Contest

1st Place: Christian Reyes (IEAT)
2nd Place: Rizah Mae Gumabon (CA)
3rd Place: Lloyd Dafydd R. San Pedro (IEAT).**

BASC grants students three-day academic break

 LLOYDD DAFYDD R. SAN PEDRO

BULACAN Agricultural State College administration approved the students' three day academic break starting Monday, November 16 to 18, upon the proposal of the Supreme Student Council.

SSC President, Christian Jay Porciuncula said that the

Student Council proposed an academic break for the students after hearing the concerns during the Online Kamustahan on Facebook, an effort of the council to check on BASC students.

"Doon namin nakita yung struggles sa sitwasyon ngayon dulot ng pandemya.

Syempre estudyante rin naman kami kaya ramdam din namin 'yon. Isa pa, kinonsider din namin 'yong Mental Health Awareness Month last October," Porciuncula said.

The said academic break was planned by the SSC along with their recently completed

event Chills and Thrills, yet per advise of the College President Dr. Jameson H. Tan, the minibreak was moved right after midterms in light of giving students leisure time after the exam week.**

IEdSC recognizes future educator's talents



TALENTED EDUCATORS. Institute of Education Student Council helped the future educators of BASC to showcase their creativity and talents through their "Hauntistic Halloween Contest: Tricks not Treat". Photo | BASC IED Student Council facebook page.

 **ASHLEY P. PANGILINAN**

INSTITUTE of Education Student Council (IEdSC) conducted a make-up and photography contests to recognize the creativity of their associate students themed "Hauntistic Halloween Contest: Tricks not Treat," October 30 to November 3.

The purpose of the contest was to encourage education students to showcase their creativity and talent, and to provide assistance for students in their online classes through giving prizes to the winners.

In addition, contestants were given five days to submit their magnum opus in accordance to the rubric given. BASC-IED (formerly IEAS) alumni namely: Ian Joshue P. Solitario, R-Jay M. Valmadrid, Elisa Jane M. Castro (former IEAS Governor) were

invited together with Mr. John Edward Y. Cruz (Camera Obscura Adviser) and Christian Capulong (former SSC President) to evaluate the entries submitted.

The winners of Hauntistic Halloween Contest: Tricks not Treats were as follows:

Halloween Photography Contest

1st Place: Lloydd Dafydd R. San Pedro (BEED 2A)
2nd Place: Jocelyn M. Profunga (BSEd Eng 2A)
3rd Place: Mark Jaynell I. Bautista (BEED 1A)

Make-up Transformation Contest

1st Place: Jerlyn I. Bautista (BEED 1A)
2nd Place: Mark Jaynell I. Bautista (BEED 1A)
3rd Place: Mark Jaywell I. Bautista (BEED 1B).**

Dr. Bautista: "Be quick to care and slow to judge!"

 **MELANIE N. HIZON**

ENDING the stigma and driving the youth of Bulacan Agricultural State College to prosper with resilience, Dr. Angelie D. Bautista of University of Santo Tomas (UST) disseminated awareness on juvenile delinquency and mental health, November 27.

The webinar themed "Juvenile Delinquency and Mental Health: Thriving in Resilience in the New Normal" was one of the webinar series prepared by the Student Welfare and Services Unit (SWSU) of BASC to help students to continue to striving amidst adversities this pandemic.

Dr. Bautista shared the findings of Philippine Statistics Authority in 2016 which stated that mental health illnesses were the third most common morbidity

for Filipinos, and one in four families has at least one member with a mental illness.

"The magnitude is really high and the rate has been increasing very very fast. Pero ang mga Pinoy accepting that there is a mental health problem, is very low, very slow; and the stigma on mental health is still very high," Dr. Bautista said regarding the statistics findings.

"Stop stigmatizing mental health because it is important that we help each other really maintain mental health, promote mental health by reducing stigma," she added.

Dr. Bautista believes that even if a person was diagnosed with mental health disorder, yet can manage it and be able to bounce back and be

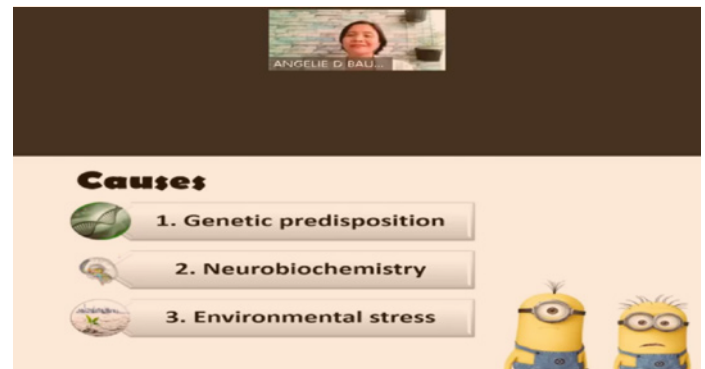
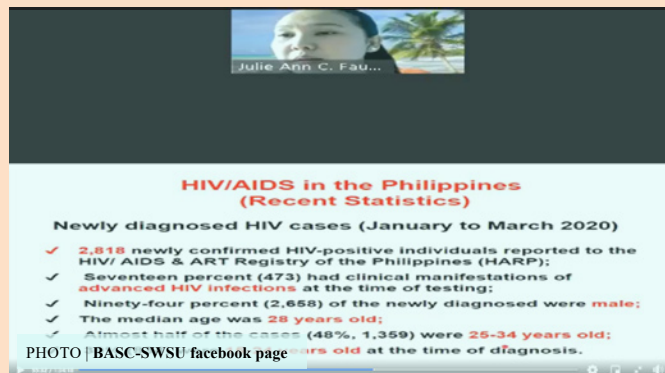


PHOTO | BASC-SWSU facebook page

able to contribute to the society significantly, the person may still be able to possess mental health.

At the latter part of her discussion, Dr. Bautista emphasized six REs on how to be resilient which meant RELax and REfocus, REframe, REalign, REset, RESolve and RELate well. These six factors are the avenue towards resiliency.

In conclusion, the webinar enlightened with causes and manifestations of mental health, common mental health problems, statistics on mental health in the Philippines, ending the stigma, resilience competencies, and how to be resilient.**



We are yelling for HIV/AIDS Awareness! - BASC

 **WENDY A. GUERRERO**

BULACAN Agricultural State College - Gender and Development (GAD) Office, together with the Student Welfare Services Unit (SWSU) and a resource speaker discusses the HIV/AIDS Awareness for the first year students through webinar last November 27.

According to Prof. Julie Anne C. Faustino, MABS, Rpm, resource speaker of the said webinar, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are viruses that attacks the white blood cells called CD4 cell which is responsible to fight disease, yet until now it does not have a cure; but there are just treatments like antiretroviral therapy to slacken the virus from spreading rapidly.

"There is no cure but there are treatments we can use," Prof. Faustino said.

Faustino also said that "sex" is not a moral issue but a public health issue, and a gift from God since it is one of the modes of transmission of the virus and need to be discussed for everyone, especially for teenagers who are active on exploring and discovering their sexuality.

"It has to be in the right place, right time and situation and right person," forenamed Faustino to the students.

Based on the recent statistics in the Philippines, a total of 2,818 new HIV cases reported nationwide during the months of January - March 2020, and Central Luzon has the total of 304 cases or 11% and ranked 3 for the largest number of reported cases while CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) was the top 2 for having a total of 517 cases or 18%, and the National Capital Region (NCR) got the highest recorded cases of 852 or 30%.

Mr. Herbert Anthony V. Roberto, Head of Student Welfare Services Unit mentioned that the last wave of webinar to discuss and promote awareness on HIV/AIDS will be a guide for the students of BASC to avoid and prevent of having the said virus.**



BASC – GAD launches webinar series

 **R. C. HAGAD & R. GUMABON**

CONVEYING the importance of gender equality, Bulacan Agricultural State College – Gender and Development (GAD) Office together with Philippine Commission on Women initiated a series of webinar in connection with Gender and Development, November 3 – 25.

The first part of the said series of webinars talked about the Introduction to Gender and Development.

Atty. Kristine Rosary Yuzon-Chaves, Executive Director of Philippine Commission on Women, said that the pandemic will not be a hindrance to their advocacy and thanked the people behind this webinar.

"Since the start of the lockdown in March, there is a big clamor from PCW for technical assistance and gender mainstreaming using online platform. This proves that even in the times of pandemic, our work as GAD advocates never stops," Atty. Chaves said.

Mr. Dan Villanueva Liongson, GAD specialist, PCW – Technical Services and Regional Coordination Division, resource speaker for SOGIE emphasized the importance of SOGIESC for everyone and not for LGBTQIA+ alone.

"Tandaan na kapag hindi pa handa ang isang tao na i-disclose ang kanyang sexual orientation, hindi po natin siya dapat madaliin, dahil may kanya-kanyang oras po ang mga tao sa

pagco-comeout," Liongson said.

Atty. Eric Paul D. Peralta, Director, UP Los Baños Gender Center and Member, PCW, National GAD Resource Pool discussed the third part of the webinar, Policy Imperatives on Gender and Development. Meanwhile, Mrs. Nharleen Santos –Millar, Chief GAD Specialist, PCW-Technical Services and Regional Coordination Division talked about the Fundamentals of Gender Mainstreaming.

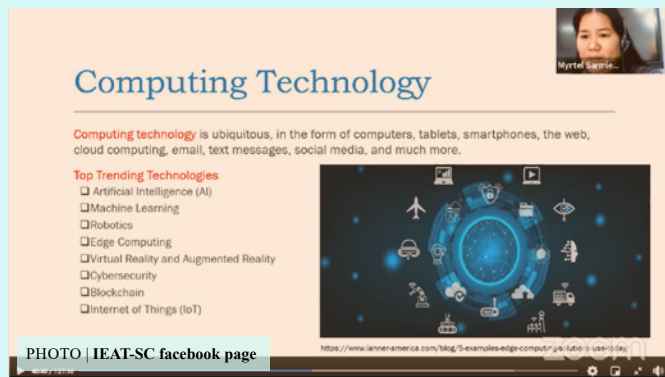
"Ang development dapat ay shared responsibilities regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity or saan ka man galing na rehiyon, probinsya or pinanggalingan mo," Millar stated.

Millar defined Gender as something that deals with how men and women are being perceived.

"Sa atin, tayong mga GAD practitioners, tayong mga GAD focal point ito 'yong dapat nating tandaan na tayo naman ang nagba-box, society ang nagba-box, therefore we can un-box that's why you're in GAD work," Millar said.

Moreover, the last webinars tackled discussion of the "International Men's Day" with Mr. Christian E. Jordan, RGC as the resource speaker.

The purpose of the series of webinar was to raise awareness to the community about the gender equality, policies and fundamentals.**



IEAT-SC, Faculty steers second wave of Flexible Trainings

MARK JOSHUA D.S. SUNGA

INSTITUTE of Engineering and Applied Technology Student Council and faculty spearheaded another set of webinars intended for IEAT students on November 4, 10, and 27.

Following the collaboration of IEAT-SC and IEAT Faculty webinars through Zoom conference and Facebook live, the institute achieved the goal of conducting another series of webinar that incorporated flexible training for IEAT students with the aim of catching up with the fast-changing mode of learning on our Educational System, to adapt in the new mode of learning, and to give us information about Gender and Development learning.

Ms. Myrtle S. Bernardo, first speaker for the second wave of webinars, said “we have critical thinking, creativity and innovation, collaboration, cross-cultural understanding, communication computing technology, and career learning,” as she discussed Discord application that the students can use online for academic purposes.

Meanwhile, to administer the discussion of emerging trends in E-Learning, Dr. Ma. Melanie A. Cruz took her part being the second resource speaker for the webinar series.

Dr. Cruz encouraged students to be engaged in E-Learning system and further explored the advantages of the new mode and the digital service that helped the learners respond easily to the changes introduced by the new normal framework.

On November 27, Ms. Ericka Bautista led the webinar on “Violence Against Women in the Digital World” and pointed out that this was part of the 18-day campaign on violence against women that began on November 25 to December 12.

“In relation to that, I will be discussing about the different violence encountered by women and children with regards to internet,” Ms. Bautista said. She also showed a brief video clip of how technology is used to perpetuate abuse against women including cyber VAWC.

Ms. Bautista addressed cyber stalking, prostitution and cyber trafficking in the latter portion of the session. She also spread the awareness about the electronic VAWC that could occur in cyberspace.**

SSC persists virtual Paskong BASC 2020; reunifying BASC community

MELANIE N. HIZON

BULACAN Agricultural State College’s Supreme Student Council sparked hope to BASC community as they shifted the annual tradition of Paskong BASC celebration into a virtual merrymaking, December 1-16, bearing the theme “Mukha ng Pag-asa, Pagbangon ng Sama-sama.”

The purpose of the event is first, to give inspiration and rekindle the spirit of Christmas; second, for students to exhibit their talents through different contests; and lastly, to impart assistance to the beneficiaries of Project SAKA and to selected students of the college.

According to Christian Jay D.G. Porciuncula, SSC’s Interim President, the plan to pursue the annual tradition of Paskong BASC started as early as November, despite the fact that last year’s Paskong BASC was more keenly alive.

“Mas prefer sana namin ang katulad ng Paskong BASC 2019 na mayroong Christmas Tree Lighting, Puto Fiesta at gayundin

yung mga patimpalak na may mga live audience kung saan makikita talaga na nag-eeenjoy ang mga estudyante,” Porciuncula said.

He added that they did their best to make this year’s celebration meaningful despite being not as lively as the past year.

Porciuncula also mentioned that despite the disunion brought by this year’s pandemic, the purpose of the event were still accomplished.

Meanwhile, Jayvee G. Mendoza, BSHM 2B, who bagged first place in Parol Making Competition, both in Indigenous and Recycled Category expresses his inspiration for participating in the event.

“Ang naging inspiration ko sa pagsali sa content for this year’s Paskong BASC is my family. Alam naman nating lahat na wala nang mas hihigit pa sa mga magulang, I want to help them kahit sa ganitong paraan, kase they are both unemployed at matanda na rin sila para makapagtrabaho pa,” Mendoza said.

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PHOTO | Lloyd Dafydd San Pedro

TST targets to build engagement of student leaders through webinar

 **WENDY A. GUERRERO**

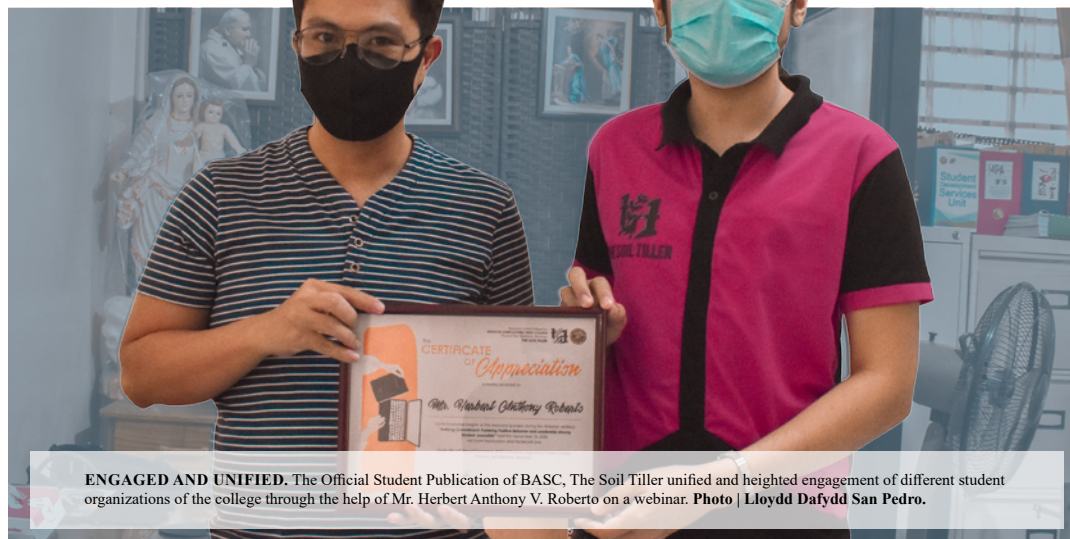
“WE need to understand our very own personality and the personalities of other people because we wanted to build and sustain relationships with them.”

This has been the words of Mr. Herbert Anthony V. Roberto, resource speaker during the very first virtual seminar of The Soil Tiller, Official Student Publication of Bulacan Agricultural State College, December 16 via Zoom Conference and Facebook Live.

Bearing the theme “Unifying Commitment: Fostering Positive Behavior and Leadership among Student Journalists”, TST, like the other student organizations of BASC utilized the virtual platform to convey their goals and objectives.

The publication intended to strengthen the engagement in responsibilities among the members of different student organizations and the publication.

“The way the Editorial Board executed this webinar is



ENGAGED AND UNIFIED. The Official Student Publication of BASC, The Soil Tiller unified and heightened engagement of different student organizations of the college through the help of Mr. Herbert Anthony V. Roberto on a webinar. **Photo | Lloyd Dafydd San Pedro.**

on a bit rush, even the proposal and the notice for the speaker, yet, since we already planned to make this webinar happen, we really pushed through things and deliberated the series of topics to be presented on this webinar, and thankfully, sir Ebet really gave us time and effort to commit with this webinar,” Lanch Lenard Delos Santos, Editor-in-Chief of TST said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Roberto emphasized in his discussion the importance of open communication in an organization to build stronger relationships.

He further acknowledged TST as the voice of all the students of the college and advised the publication to keep motivating the studentry.

“It is very timely to double your efforts, double your

time to give relative information to help them to increase their motivation to stay and study. Make use of your power, make use of the authority to motivate them,” he said.

In addition, a personality test was conducted on one part in the discussion prepared by Mr. Roberto.

ESDC engages few contestants; suspects sched of event culprit

 **ALEJANDRA VINCULADO**

English Speech and Dramatic Club (ESDC) 7-day English Fair themed “Reshaping Culture and Judgement on English in the New Normal” gathered very few contestants which the club’s President Ralph Deneil Mangalino suspected was due to the scheduled date of the event.

The said fair started December 2 was extended until

December 8 which was also almost the same schedule for the final examinations and the contests of the Supreme Student Council in line with the celebration of Paskong BASC.

“One of the factors we consider why few of students have joined was the contest the SSC conducted, plus the season that our event was conducted is before

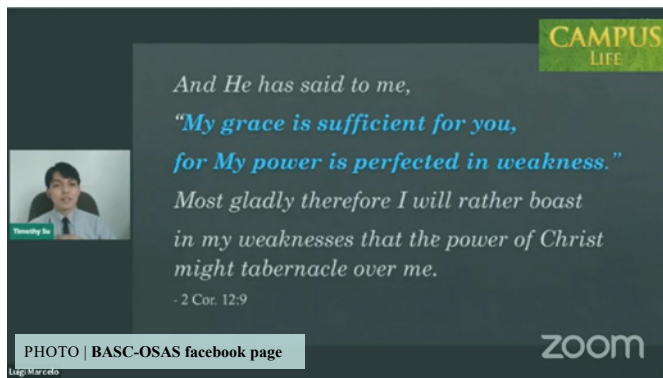
the finals, so we concluded that students that time are busy with their requirements,” Mangalino said.

On the other hand, the event was conducted to emphasize the importance of English language use as an effective means of communication, to cultivate the talents of the students and “to educate the students about

the English language in these changing times through the event.”

“Our club supports the students with their crafts and through the event we are able to help them improve it,” he added.

Furthermore, Mangalino said that “English is such a beautiful language. Though us, Filipinos, has our own language,



2nd Leadership Webinar pushes through despite holdbacks

 **MARK JOSHUA D.S. SUNGA**

IN spite of the delay due to the typhoons, Office of the Students Affairs and Services (OSAS) in collaboration with Campus Life with a special participation of Overcomers Club held its 2nd Leadership Campus Life Webinar 2020 anchored with the theme “Leadership in Crisis — Grace under pressure”, December 11.

Dr. Jennifer P. Adriano, Director of OSAS said that this webinar is very timely and relevant considering what happening today. “Marami tayong crisis na nararanasan, so as a leader, dito natin talaga malalaman kung papaano talaga tayo magiging leader,” Dr. Adriano said.

Moreover, Mr. Benjamin Sabado, one of the resource speaker shared that pressure comes in all kinds, it could be environment, academic, social, personal and subjective pressure and insisted that leaders must not be afraid of intense pressure because it brings transformation.

“For a diamond to produce, it takes time, it takes pressure,” he mentioned.

Furthermore, Timothy Su, second resource speaker stated that by just calling the name of our Lord we can overcome all the pressure, it’s like ATM that have access in a heavenly bank.

“Whenever we face so many pressures, whenever we know that we cannot make it, we can actually simply just come to the Lord and let our request made be known to him,” Su said.

Different student leaders and instructors of the college attended the seminar which was administered via Zoom meeting and Facebook Live.**



from SSC persists virtual...

Moreover, winners for the different competitions and raffle draw on the duration of the said celebration were as follows:

Tala ng Pag-asa: Paggawa ng Parol

• Indigenous Category

1st Place: Jayvee G. Mendoza

2nd Place: Rovielyn O. San Juan

• Recycled Category

1st Place: Jayvee G. Mendoza

2nd Place: Ian Edrey I. Cruz

Salamat, Frontliners!:

Christmas Card Competition

1st Place: Melanie N. Hizon

2nd Place: Rodney Darren G. Dela Cruz

Kwento ng Pasko, Kwento ng Pagbangon at Pag-asa: Music Video Competition

1st Place:

Renzville B. Vizconde

Misael Genita

Angeline Papa

Christian Reyes

Clarisse Ann A. Asuncion

2nd Place:

Lloydd Dafydd R. San Pedro

Victor Jhon Dionisio

Reynaldo A. Gumabon

Aileen Masong

3rd Place:

Jeric Del Valle

Mervin Mariñas

Rose Ann Castillo

Angelica Maglaque

Michelle Angela Pengson

4th Place:

Ashley Balmore

Shane Angela Serrano

Athena Vanguardia

Ervy Jerell Imbien

Lew Zyrex Salvador

Beneficiaries of Christmas Basket

Ernesto Laxamana (BSAM)

Carol E. Macasilang (BSBA)

Rein Mariel Feliciano (BSHM)

Dina R. Francisco (BEEd)

John Leo Pilit (BSEd Science)

Jenilyn Reyes (BSEd English)

Cailo Del Rosario (BSA

Animal Science)

Wowie Taon (BSA Crop Science)

Liezelle Cabanela (BSA

Horticulture)

Ildefonso Limbo (DVM)

Bernard Bucot (BSFT)

Jovani De Guzman (BSABEn)

Menard Dela Cruz (BSIT)

James Lord L. Capitanes (BSGE)

Isabella Natalia Febiar (LHS)

Cherry Ann Esteban (DRT

Campus).**

from SSC persist virtual...

we also need to be educated about our second language. We use English as a means of communicating in business, education, and some formal agenda. Thus, English is hard to understand and is difficult at times, but we should also give importance to it.”

In addition, the Club President said that they are already planning on how to engage more students on their upcoming events, one which is the Online Cosplay Contest.

The list of winners in the Fair is as follows:

Essay Writing

1st Place: Melanie Hizon

2nd Place: Mariane Cruz

3rd Place: Rand Christian Hagad

Poetry Writing

1st Place: Clarisse Asuncion

2nd Place: Victoria Cura

3rd Place: Daniel Luis Verona

Spoken Poetry

1st Place: Clarisse Asuncion

Photography

1st Place: Franchesca Duran.**



NOT JUST BRAINS. In the picture is one of the contestants of the Tiktok Contest who had proven that educators were not only intellectual, but also talented during the celebration of IEd Paskuhan. Photo | IEd Student Council facebook page.



from Red-tagging undermines...

It is for certain, now that the anti-terror bill paved its way to our country's system, men voicing out the resent of the Filipinos to ineffective governance be at high risk. Military officials, like Parlade used his power could go overboard abusing their position to pinned out those who have raised their concern over the counter-insurgency programs.

Freedom of speech was pushed once again to the corner as the government equates dissent

with terrorism. Charge without any basis is unreasonable, as what had happened in the past, people who were tagged might take the risk of being in serious trouble. A step-by-step investigation to the threat is a must and should always be implemented to have fair justice protecting the accused.

Red-tagging may result in public trial by exposure to its initial extent, yet it can start dehumanization at its worth.**

IEd SC promotes unity through IEd Paskuhan

 **BIANCA GAIL GONZALES**

INSTITUTE of Education Student Council (IEd-SC) blasted the teachers' tribe with games and contests with the intent to promote good relationship among the students and in celebration of Christmas, December 16-20.

Sherina Jem San Mateo, IEd-SC Governor said that they aimed to strengthen the unity and friendship inside the institute.

"Kaalinsabay ng pagpapatibay ng magandang relasyon sa bawat Ka-Educ, naipapakita ng bawat isa yung talento at skills na meron sila at ang pagkakaroon ng kabuluhan sa paggamit ng mga social media platforms upang mapalaganap ang tunay na diwa ng Pasko," San Mateo added.

The event themed IEd Paskuhan: Sparkling Joy, Love and Camaraderie: "Spreading

the Message of Hope Through Celebrating the Birth of Our Saviour" included a Virtual Christmas Party and two contests namely TikTok Contest and Face Mask Decorating Contest.

Winners of the contests received cash prizes and a certificate.

Furthermore, San Mateo was delighted with the turn out of the event and was thankful for the help of her co-officers, their adviser and the class officers.

The list of winners was as follows:

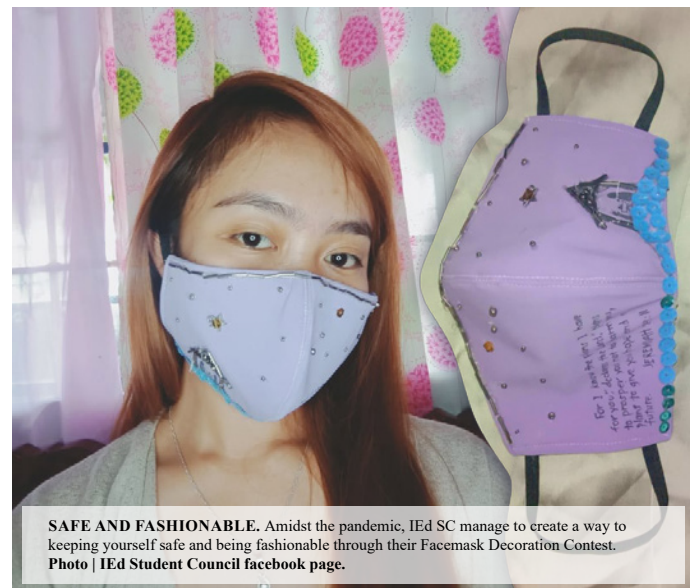
Tiktok Contest

1st place- Ashley Pangilinan (BSED Science 1B)
2nd place- Daniel Luis Verona (BEED 3A)
3rd place- Aldrix Baltazar (BSED English 1A)

Facemask Decorating Contest

1st place- Princess Nicole Ventura (BSED Science 2B)

2nd place- Marianne Enriquez (BSED English 1B)
3rd place- Lea Maie Manansala (BSED English 2B).**



SAFE AND FASHIONABLE. Amidst the pandemic, IEd SC manage to create a way to keeping yourself safe and being fashionable through their Facemask Decoration Contest. Photo | IEd Student Council facebook page.

Thou

— HIZON, Melanie N.

Was the most hair-raising being
on earth
clothed with white garment and
veil,
with all her hair covering her face;
stumbles as she walks?

Or was it a solemn-looking man
carrying a scythe,
who may suddenly cut off my life
line?

Was it a long-eared small tiny
creature,
staring at me from my long
forgotten
open window?

Or was it you and your dirty hands
who made the nation's flesh and
blood quiver?

That Woman Was Evil

— BERNABE, Jocelle Lyn

The tale of the scariest ghost
has been lurking on.
Almost all of the nearby villages
were gone
—swallowed and raided.

The remnants of the villages
were crying.
Howling every single night;
haunting the perpetrator.

But it is not as spooky as our
reality,
where we are all trying so hard
to stay quiet.

Quiet enough as possible for us to
faintly breathe; somehow alive,
but buried.

We've been living in fear for so
long,
that we barely lighten even our
lamps on.
If the demon finds this village,
we can no longer live long.

Reigned Atrociously

— MASONG, Aileen S.

The hands emit spine-chilling
solace,
Of next fright under his name.
Whiz of the city comes to hold the
nation,
Nobody opined for his ominous
acts.

Words are from silver-tongued
guy;
Effecting dreadfully with full
violence.
His concern to welfare felt in
disgust.
This is somewhat a nightmarish
plight.

He walked and flew for
camaraderie,
In a state where relief was sensed.
The pleasant aim unseemly
alarming
Of horrifying benevolence
consuming our possessions.



I Can't Stop M.E.

— CAADAN, Alexis A.

Took me a decade to break loose,
From a coil around a spool.
Whence a phantom sits clear and vivid,
Nightmarishly level was his present.

What makes him terrible?
She's deadlly alive and trampling.
Whither are we bound?
No one can curb the specter.

Yearning to turn a blind eye,
T'was a shaded risky move.
A little wench that I was,
Made a visual of red and dark.

How did I become haunted?
My self, my enemy.
The adversary, cannot halt.
—Oh, I was just looking at the mirror.

A Macabre Series

(Tanaga)

— MASONG, Aileen S.

An icon of his place comes,
Unroll the superb platforms.
Brought more than an eerie sounds,
A menace launches false hopes.

Chained Male

— SUNGA, Mark Joshua

One morning, I was walking
alongside the open canal near
Greenpark Villas when I saw these
two armed men in their uniform
with badges and ID numbers (PO1
Cruz and PO1 Costa). They are
enthusiastically eating their meal
at Pogi's beef pares stall. As I get
closer and closer to them, I unin-
tentionally heard the policeman
saying, "Hey brat, you should pay
us. Let us call it a simple tax, or
you might want to lose your place
here." PO1 Cruz' mockery.

"What a drag, young brat, give
us everything you can count on.
In fact it is a state property where
your little stall is positioned. After
all, you're just a government's
least belonging," PO1 Costa
urged.

Upon hearing those lines I shouted
at them.

"I won't ever tolerate your drastic
manner, get the hell out of my
sight, otherwise you will hand
in hand be dug into hell." I put a
piece of bloody paper in front of
their faces and immediately they
ran away.

Pogi thanked me outright.

"Too early to praise me, Pogi. I am
murdered 30 years ago, I gather
souls everytime I help others so
I can be reborn. Do not ever fall
asleep unless 12:00 AM have
passed if you don't want me to
collect yours. Give that right away
to me and we're all breakeven."



Anino

— HAGAD, Rand Cristian

Habang ako'y naggagayak na upang matulog, mayroon akong narinig na kakaiba. Takot at kaba ang nanaig sa akin ng mga oras na iyon, pamilyar ang boses, ngunit hindi ko mabatid kung saan ito nanggagaling. Tila isang iyak ng binata ang aking naririnig.

Kinilabutan ako ng mga oras na iyon. Batid kong ako lamang ang nasa silid ngunit bakit may umiiyak na pamilyar ang boses ngunit 'di ko mawari kung sino. Nilakasan ko na lamang ang aking loob at ipinagpatuloy ang aking ginagawa.

Maya-maya pa ay narinig ko na naman ang tinig na iyon, ngayon ay humahagulgol na ito.

"Paalam na! Hindi na ako kailangan sa mundong ito."

Hindi ko na ito pinalampas pa. Tanging nasambit ko na lamang ay, "Kung sino ka man, hindi ako

natatakot sa iyo. Hindi mo ako masisindak sa mga sinasabi mo!"

"Hindi kita sinisindak bagkus ay nais ko lamang ipabatid sa'yo na ako'y lilisan na."

Nagtaka ako. Ano ang kinalaman ko sa paglisan niya? Hawak ko ba ang buhay niya o hawak niya ang buhay ko?

"Ako ay ikaw, pinagtibay ka ng mga pagsubok na iyong dinanas. Ang mahinang tulad ko ay hindi na nararapat dito, batid kong mas kakayanin mo na ang mundo sa ngayon."

Naluha na lamang ako at tinitigan ko ang aking sarili sa salamin. Oo nga, tama ka. Sa dinami-rami ng nangyayari sa mundo at aking pinagdaanan ay tila mas lalo akong dapat maging malakas. Marami ang naniniwala sa kakayahan ko. Hindi ko dapat sila biguin.

Hindi Ito Banta ng Paglisan

— jsoniberso

Hindi ito banta ng paglisan, ngunit anumang sandali ay maaari akong mawala kung aakalain kong ang hindi na huminga ay ang paglaya. Kapag nauna na, sasabihan nilang madaya. Ngunit hindi ako umaasang mag-aalay ng elihiya, ang mga minsan kong sinulatan ng awit at oda.

Kung ako man ay aalis ay tuluyan nang makapagpapahinga,

sadyang madaling mapagod ang mahina. Hindi na para siyasatin at sundan ang mga ebidensiya kong maiiwan. Sapagkat matunton man ang ugat ng aking paglisan, hindi na rin naman ako matatagpuan. Kung may isang itim na paru-paro ang ika'y aaligiran, huwag mag-alala, baka nais ko lang magparamdam.



Apocalypse

— CASTILLO, Joshua

Nang pasimula’y tinimpla
na ang tipan.
Hinalo ang liwanag at kadiliman.
Sangkap sa bawat buhay
na malililok.
Lakas at lason sa
hinulmang alabok.
Kasulata’y iniluwa ng mga tao.
Nabusog ang mga
bulaan at palalo.
Kaya’t itong sumpang
dumi’y pumanaog;
Gutom, unos, salot,
lindol, at pagsabog.
“Hula’y pinapatay, ngunit
‘di maililihim.”
Ataul ay ginto—himlaya’y
malalim.
Puntod ay pagsubok;
kambal ng hukay.
Pamaslang na tabak;
hukom at gabay.

A Hero with a Cap

— Protonation

His 60th birthday celebration is far different from the previous years. Today, arranged perfectly on the long table are his favorite main courses: pink salmon, baked mussel and coleslaw. Each table are placed with a neatly-ironed tablecloth and on top of it are my father’s favorite flowers.

His smiling face is hung on the wall, making all the guests have a glimpse of his aged yet handsome face. Beside it are other small pictures of him with his parents, friends, workmates and us—his family.

He has always been a responsible son, a loving husband and an amazing father. Ever since I was a kid and up until now, I consider him a hero. I bet, half of the

people here also thinks the same about him.

My dad has the kindest and purest heart. He always thought of other people and how to help them. I remember what he told me about his dream: to lend a helping hand to other people. It was what inspired him to become a doctor. Indeed, he achieved that dream in more than half of his life. His beyond 30 years of service in medicine helped and saved the lives of numerous people.

Particularly now that we have a pandemic, he managed to refrain the loss of multiple people’s lives. He practically lived in the hospital and worked 24/7, yet no proper insurance and appreciation were

given to him. He did everything that he can to fulfill his duty as a physician, but the officials still expect him to do better.

I saw my mother approaching as she was holding my dad’s birthday cake. With bitterness, I lit the candle and placed it on top of the table. My chest started to feel heavy as the guests started to sing the happy birthday song melancholy.

Perhaps, letting go would somehow lighten the burden on my chest. Stifling my sobs as I remember how he saved people’s lives to the extent of losing his. I managed to utter,

“Happy birthday in heaven, Papa.”

Lobo

— SAN PEDRO, Lloyd Dafydd

Nakita't nagandahan,
Kinuha sa may tangan;
Pagtapos masiyahan,
Biglang pakakawalan.

Winter Embers

— Deus Ex Machina

He rubbed his hands together in an attempt to produce heat out of the friction of his palms. Inside his leather boots were his frozen-cold feet, almost numb. Despite of the cruel blizzard and the ravaging Southerly winds, he did not falter.

He saw a cave and thought, "It will be a long night."

He went past a frozen lake where his silhouette was reflected. He closed his eyes and pictured the swans dancing when the season was still green and warm. It's easy to find joy and hope on spring, love and passion on summer, sentiments and nostalgia on fall. However, the winter only gives off coldness that will eventually chill not only your bones, but also your heart and soul.

It was pitch black inside the cave and the stalactites drip off cold water, it chills him to the spine. He settled down and scattered the charcoals and woods that were tied on his back—the memento of the ample blessings of the forest.

As he light the match stick, he thought for a brief moment that he saw the Lord from its sparks, the same way Moses adored Jesus in the form of a burning bush. He prayed, a thousand gratitude for the flames that bathed the woods and charcoals to give him light and warmth in that cold winter night. He breathe unto it, the same

way God gave him his life. He gazed at its flames that reminds him of hellebores and camellia. Its mere existence is miracle already.

That night, he dreamed about the green lands...

He squinted his eyes as rays of the sunlight crept inside the cave. Still dazed, he looked outside to see the white sheet spreading far and wide. He gathered his thoughts.

As he can recall, it was spring, because it was warm in his dreams. Then, he remembered the flames. His fingers tear at the ground hoping to find coals for another fire, but what he discovered were ashes. These ashes will never spark again to give him light or warmth. There was melancholy but also a testimony. These ashes tell him that somebody else has been in the night to build a fire. Somebody else has carried on and sometimes that kind of warmth is more than enough.

"In memory of all the COVID 19 victims who died and turned into ashes. We pray for your eternal peace. Your loved ones were grateful for the flames that gave them light and warmth in this year-long winter of our lives. We oath to carry on with our journey, until the day we reach the green pasture.



Lurk Under The Owl-light

— SUNGA, Mark Joshua

An eventide and dusky mist,
she watches as she begs for bliss.
Deep down to her body's
innermost depths,
there are squinting dilemmas
bounded by precepts.

She doesn't really know when the
sky will turn grey,
whether she'll go or if
she's just going to stay.
Departing from the chaos to set
her feet on Heaven's tip,
or to live in agony and pain
for the wildest wilderness trip.

Sky of Hopes

— MASONG, Aileen

Like the sun appears at day,
And the moon which comes
through nights;
Picture light that brightens life,
And darkness that conveys trials.

I ought to utter 'goodbyes',
In the midst of sorrow and joy.
But my high affection yearns,
To say my words, "I'll be healed".

So there she is,
believing that it is such a sweet
sorrow to part.
When leaving with a smile,
tomorrow's frown will be alright.
The real delight of her life is
when the sun descends,
like it will never be happy if a
fairy tale doesn't end.

Zero O'clock

— CAADAN, Alexis

I wonder,
why do people cry
when they hear
the word goodbye
especially in love songs?

I learned,
if you cherish someone,
set them free,
bid a valediction,
but never forget the affection.

I know,
it'll be kinda spurious
if you acquaint
that you don't get attached
with the twin twenty.

I am certain,
hectic it may seem to move,
but a good start of progress
if you step in fain
for another chapter.

I promise,
catching fish with a cast net,
my gist will rest,
torso in tranquility,
essence in grateful.

When zero o'clock strikes.



No More Gray for the Last Month

— horiZONE

That day, I stopped
forging them smiles,
I scattered all the blues
on the floor;
they wondered why,
but I just felt like it.

I'm done with all the yellows,

those were your face in the photos.
I felt green since September,
Or was it August? I don't really
remember.

My days were extremely
filled with gray,
I'm having flashbacks

dressed like nightmares;
To shoo them away I sang
lullabies,
I speak words from your goodbye.

After the rain from October
I found new shades,
I came across November and the

rainbow showed,
I wonder why I just
discovered it just now...

I pondered...
and then I stopped asking,
maybe in December
I'll have everything.



Memento

— SULIT, Charles

The light flashed and faded as the shutter blinked in an instant, capturing the scene.

I've seen in glaring screen, the blooming smile of my friends as they vehemently discuss the upcoming graduation, excited albeit anxious with the uncertain future. Shocked by the flash of my camera as it captured their awkward pose, and eventually shocked when the upcoming walk in the stage was cancelled due to pandemic.

The lively street turn desolated, cheerful lives turned to dull. The

world and time seem screeching stopped, as the latest photo captured in my camera become monotone, redundant and grey.

A should-be-exciting college life extinguished when the announcement of new normal learning mode announced. Sitting on edge of the chair all day, staring intently on the screen and occasionally blinking as if afraid that it will swallow me someday.

Eventually, life seems to become normal yet not because of still growing threat of the invisible enemy. Then, a once sunny day

became catastrophic because of the recent storm.

The lenses of my camera reflect the wrath of nature, capturing the wreckage and rubbles. The sight of the picture depicts the depressing situation of the surroundings. And after the sunset of hopelessness comes the dawn of rise and hope.

Like a blink of the eye, it's already December. All the things happened in this year seems like a dream, full of ups and downs. Like an arduous walk in the road full of obstacles.

Unfortunately, every adventure has an end. Every journey have a destination.

Holding the camera, preparing for the next year, hoping for the best and browsing to the stacks of photographs, reminiscing and deeply thinking. Looking back to various events on the past, 2020 seems like a flash, abruptly blooming and instantly fading.

Fortunately, it was captured in my camera.



Tainted Angel

— GONZALES, Bianca Gail

The lights were dancing with the
rhythm of the seductive sounds;
it made me intoxicated.
I just drank my first glass,
but I am already drunk
with your hands
on my back keeps brushing up
and down.
The tug of every beat matches
the pounding in my chest,
yet silence enveloped
as you stand.
The short trail to the quiet room
seemed to be an endless walk to
the lost land,
As we enter and I heard
a clicking sound,
I bid goodbye to
my wings tonight.

Kismet

— HIZON, Melanie

as early as the third month,
catching meteors to swiftly meet
the twelfth
to close the chapter that's just
about to sprout
— tragically.

when catch no meteor,
in silent prayers I believe
that the omnipotent will lend me
the formidable weapon of this
story,
and He did.

and even without an ink to write,
I'll drop my every blood
to reshape the unfortune
and embed best of both worlds
—human tranquility and my
home's.

Let This Be

— MASONG, Aileen

Let this be a year—
Of laughter, despair
The goodbyes to be grateful.

Latter

— HIZON, Nathaniel

At last, a farewell
To you who leave me with scars,
yet lessons are learned.





FALLEN PROTECTOR

 ELIJAH MANGULABNAN

November 12, 2020, Thursday; 5:00 pm. It was a Thursday afternoon and the sky was unusually dark—peculiar. I observed as the people around me left the building with umbrellas on their hands as thick clouds masked the skies, shutting out the bright sunlight. I felt the rain drizzle down, it was pouring. I was completely soaked and I heard gusts of wind blew gently, like a mother's hymn lulling its children to sleep—cold and calming.

My long limbs served as a shed. I used to take most of the raindrops falling to shelter the people who seek my guard. I am even willing to take a bullet to protect them, but luckily, all I have to take were few drops of water and cold air that pierced through me.

The whole school was succumbed once again with silence, it used to be longer than before. I cannot ever think of a time I waited this long for people to come. I was happy seeing new faces every year as I age, but this year was different. The only thing left was me along with my other acquaintances, the empty buildings and hallways, and the soft humming of the wind.

I watched as dark clouds started to sheathe on the initially dark sky. I felt gentle claws riddled through me, a small bird resided safely as my leaves protected it from the harsh curse of water that seemed to damage its magnificent little wings.

“

I am needed and wanted, but because the wind was too strong, it made me fall down to my knees. This was the end of my stay.”

My gaze stretched out the entirety of the place. I've stood on this very place since as far as my memory can serve me. I have seen many changes, different stories, and different faces. I have seen events held before me. I have seen happiness, bitterness, tears, and sadness that started to conquer me. I have heard the laughter, jokes, and gossips of people who passed by me. Nostalgia filled me as I walk down the memory lane. I cannot help but to dance with the wind's lively rhythm as I recall my happy moments.

Darkness had completely taken over and the wind was not getting any calmer, it was getting stronger and stronger as time passed by. It forced my branches to dance. I am old, I danced like before, but I realized I am not the same anymore and I am tired.



The wind became rougher, sharper, stronger than I imagined it would be. I flinched as I felt my feet slowly getting swept off the ground. My mind repeatedly said 'no' as if it would do something to stop the harsh cold breeze. I felt the danger in every gush of the wind. I felt the fright in the rustle of the leaves hovering below me and I felt the panic of those people staying inside their homes. I can hear the sound of the roofs

banging and almost detaching itself from the foundation of the house as the strong wind blew.

I tried to hang on, I wanted to dance with the wind a little more, but the more I tried, it totally swept me off. A loud thud echoed through the place as I, along with my acquaintances fell to the ground. Like a house of cards that collapsed with the littlest of

whisper and just like that, the spot I have been trying to protect all my life was left naked and bare.

November 13, 2020, Friday; 8:00 am. People gathered around me and my fallen comrades as soon as the wind passed by. I used to be the one giving shade to them, but now it's the other way around as they stood before me. I heard the news came out of their mouths.

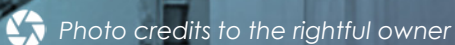
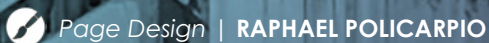
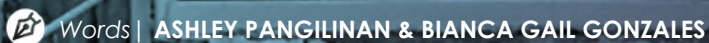
"It was Typhoon Ulysses. The wind was too strong last night, it even flooded on our neighboring barangay and town, including Maasim and Garlang." One man mumbled as he scratches the back of his head, looking down on my

wasted body slumped down the muddy ground.

The whole place was trashed, the typhoon's marks were imprinted on the buildings' walls and to the whole area's grounds.

As soon as my body touched the ground, I have accepted my faith. I am needed and wanted, but because the wind was too strong, it made me fall down to my knees. This was the end of my stay. Still, I would be in the memories of people who witnessed my existence, my bed of flowers and my shade – as I silently watch them cry, laugh, love, and succeed.**

Pagbabalik-tanaw Bago ang Pag-usad



23:59..., 00:00.
Happy New Year!!!

Muli't muli ay nahahantungan ko na ang parehong senaryong nakasayanan na tuwing papasok ang bagong taon. Ang nakabibinging tunog ng mga paputok, mga batang umihip sa torotot, ang kabi-kabilang handaan, at ang batian ng Happy New Year kahit saan.

Nakabibighaning tanawin ang kislap sa mga mata ng bawat masalubong ko. Natatago man ng facemask ay alam kong abot-tainga ang kanilang mga ngiti. Napakasarp talagang lasapin ng simoy ng pag-asang hatid ng bawat bagong taon kahit sa kabila ng pandemya.

Masaya ang lahat nang ako ay biglang mapatigil. Wala na sigurong tutumbas sa saya tuwing papatak ang alas dose ng panibagong taon. Subalit sa sandaling humupa na ang mga ugong na aking naririnig, natapos na ang liwanag na dala ng mga paputok, at muling nilukob na ng kadiliman ang langit ay unti-unti akong nangamba sa kung ano ang ihahatid ng bagong taon. Tila ba umihip ang malamig na hangin dala ang alaala ng nakalipas na mga buwan.

Tandang-tanda ko pa nang pumapasok pa lamang ang 2020 ay napuno tayo ng pangamba bunsod ng corona virus, at ngayon ay napabalitang may bagong strain pa. Malaking kaluwagan na naisip na ni Duque at P. Duterte na mag-travel ban, pero hindi pa rin dapat makampante.

Enero, bago pa man humupa ang kabog ng dibdib dahil sa pagkalat ng sakit ay lumaki ang halimaw na ulap kasabay ng malakas na pag-atungal ng langit bunsod ng mga kidlat na pumapailanlang dahil sa pagputok ng Bulkang Taal. Itim na niyebe ang sumira sa maraming ari-arian, pati sa mga taniman.

Nagliyab ang mga kagubatan ng Benguet noong Pebrero. Higit walong araw na nagsakripisyo

ang kalikasan dahil sa pansariling hangarin.

At hindi ko nalilimutan ang pagkagalit ko noong Marso nang pinatunayan sa akin ng gobyerno na ang pera ang nagpapaikot ng mundo. Habang ang pangkaraniwang mamamaya'y hinuhuli kapag walang facemask at kapag hindi sumusunod sa social distancing, si Senador Koko Pimintel na isang PUI noon ay nakalabas pa kahit may sintomas. Hindi nakulong, binigyan pa ng konsiderasyon.

Malinaw kung sino ang pinapanigan ng batas, lalo pa noong si Winston Ragos ay barilin ng isang pulis noong Abril. Hindi mapanganib si Ragos, ani ng mga saksi, subalit tila walang narinig si Florendo. Ito ba ang taong nais bigyang kapangyarihan ng batas na ipinasa ng gobyerno?

Maraming dapat pagtuunan ng pansin, gutom na ang mga Pilipino, nagkokolaps na ang ekonomiya, pero talagang may

“

Tulad ng isang pelikula, lahat ng problema ay may solusyon, lahat ng sukdulan ay may hangganan. Pagdurusa ay mawawala, sakit ay mabubura. Ang palabas na ito ay hindi pa matatapos, at hindi hihinto hangga't tayo'y humihinga.”

mga prayoridad na dapat inuuna. Sumama ang loob ng pangulo, pinasara ang ABS-CBN. Bias daw kasi, paso ang prangkisa, at marami pang isyu. Ayaw yata na matapakan ang ego. Pati Facebook ipaba-ban daw - - dahil fake news peddlers ay hindi inareglo.

Sa patuloy na paglaban ng mga piling indibidwal para sa karapatang pantao, tila nakapanlulumong marinig ang kanilang pagpanaw nang hindi man lamang natitikman ang kanilang ipinaglalaban. Nitong Agosto, magkahiwalay na pinaslang sina Zara Alvarez, legal worker ng Karapatan Human Rights Group at Randall Echanis sa pagitan lamang ng dalawang linggo. Tila napaos ang boses ng masa sa kanilang pagkawala, na siyang nagpapakita ng kawalan ng pag-asa para sa karapatan ng bawat mamamayan. Tila nakaligtaan ng gobyerno na may karapatan at proteksyon din ang mga aktibista sa batas.

Kasunod nito ang paglaya ni US Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton nito lamang Setyembre. Si Pemberton ay ang salarin sa pagpaslang sa transwoman na si Jennifer Laude. Sa isinagawang hakbang na ito, masasabi bang makatarungan ang kinahantungan ng kaso?

Walang naging katapusan ang mga kontrobersya sa gitna ng panganib na dala ng sakit. Ano ang maitutulong ng white sand beach sa kinahaharap nating problema? Nakatatawang isipin na sa kabila ng layuning pagandahin ang isang lugar, ay tila masamang epekto pa ang ating natamasa. Bunsod ng mga sama ng panahon na nagsidaan sa ating bansa, ang ipinagmamalaking proyekto ng DENR ay nasira. Ito ay nakapinsala pa sa mga may buhay na naninirahan sa parte ng Manila bay.

Sa panunuod ng mga balita sa loob ng aming tahanan, tila nawawalan na ako ng kumpanyansa sa ating pamahalaan. Oktubre ng nasabing taon, nang pirmahan ng ating president ang Anti-Terrorism Bill na naglalayong paigtingin ang seguridad at kaligtasan ng mamamayan. Ito naman ay nagsilbing mitsa upang higpitan ang kapit ng gobyerno sa bawat mamamahayag sa ating bansa. Lumalabas na ang isang pahayag mula sa boses ng masa ay maaaring maging isang patalim na maaaring sumugat sa reputasyon ng pamahalaan.

Isa pang usaping bumagabag sa ating isipan ay ang kontrobersyal na pagkamatay ng tatlong buwang gulang na anak ni Reina Mae Nasino. Si Nasino ay isang human rights worker na inaresto noong nakaraang taon dahil di umano sa pagdadala ng ilegal na mga baril,





“OF UTMOST POWER”

Sage ex Machina
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POWER. As leaders of the community, it is of utmost importance that they attend to their people as it is their sworn duty and responsibility.

Typhoon Ulysses left Bulacan in a horrendous situation. Even our institution was ill-fated and received direct destruction on the 12th of November. In this period of dependency on electricity, the circumstances incapacitated the residents and suspended all other activities in the affected areas.

After the unexpected flash floods from the different areas of San Ildefonso, San Rafael and San Miguel, the loss of electricity became one of the major problems. A week had passed since the storm Ulysses devastated the province, but losing electrical power caused a huge trouble to many people.

As we are under the new mode of education that primarily relies on electricity and internet, the students were severely affected. The result was an obvious frustration evident from rants of the students posted on their social media accounts, and most of them were worrying about

the deadlines of their activities from the on-going online classes. The exasperation was a result of all the pressure and inconvenience from the tumultuous disturbance of the typhoon Ulysses when it was supposed to be the midterm week in the college. Fortunately, the teachers were kind and considerate that they let the students submit the requirements and to resume with the exam after all the inconveniences.

Also, BASC, as a home to many memories of time, was undoubtedly trashed by Ulysses. The college grounds were covered in leaves and branches of fallen trees, and debris of its disassembled façade after the phenomenon.

During this period of calamity, is when the community immensely needs the government to take over, to help, and to listen to our laments, but it seems that the officials are too busy to care. As leaders of the community, it is of utmost importance that they

attend to their people as it is their sworn duty and responsibility.

The wealthy and the powerful, at the moment, were enjoying their morning coffee and bed weather, while the poor struggle in the pain of losing loved ones, losing homes, and staying in evacuation centers. The frustration of lacking electricity and inability to access the Internet knowing you have deadlines to chase, the apprehensions of walking in

the dark at night for more than a week, and the aggravations of having no water supply – a horrible experience we never wanted to go through again; if only we had a choice.

As this is about to end, again, we are sick of hearing about resiliency to cover up for the government's shortcomings. Repeatedly saying that the Filipinos are resilient as we can survive the great destructions, not just from the typhoon Ulysses, but also all other calamities, is not fair. Our resiliency is not an excuse for the leaders of the nation not to take action to support and help the people, particularly those of with vast deprivation from the previous catastrophe.

Not only electricity is what we long to see, but we look forward to witnessing the leaders of our country not neglecting their people and responsible enough to exercise the power, privileges and entitlement that they hold.

“

*Our resiliency
 is not an excuse
 for the leaders
 of the nation not
 to take action to
 support and help
 the people”*

Sa kabila ng sakuna, kalamidad, at pagkawala ng supply ng kuryente at tubig na ating naranasan sa lumpipas na ilang linggo, nagbigay ba ng sapat na konsiderasyon ang inyong mga guro sa pagbibigay ng Midterm Examination? Kung oo, sa paanong paraan? Kung hindi, ano ang kanilang dahilan?

“Para sa akin, nagbigay ng sapat na konsiderasyon ang aming mga guro dahil sa mga pangyayaring naganap. Inalam nila kung sino ang mga apektado at hindi nagsimulang magbigay ng exam hangga’t ‘di pa nagkakaroon ng power supply at internet stability ang lahat ng mga estudyante. Minove nila ang midterms examination sa mas angkop na oras. Binigyan nila ng oras ang lahat para maka-recover at upang maging patas na maisagawa ang examination.”

—Angelo L. Asto, BSBA 1E

“Nakapagpagbibigay naman ng sapat na konsiderasyon, pero hindi sapat na oras na kinakailangan. Kahit habaan ‘yung extension ng task and activities, sunud-sunod pa rin ‘yung pagsesend nila. Ang dami mo pang unfinished works like paano na kaya to’ kasi unstable network/internet at kuryente tapos may gawain pa sa bahay. Lahat naman nag-aadjust, may improvement pero minsan overload din ang nangyayari. Pero salamat pa rin sa ibang instructor na pinipilit i-sort out ‘yung mga gawain namin.”

—BSAM

“Opo, laking pasasalamat ko po na nabigyan kami ng aming mga guro ng sapat na konsiderasyon ukol sa pagbibigay ng midterm examination, sa pamamagitan ng pagdasog sa pagpapasa ng mga gawain at ng naturang eksaminasyon. Subalit hindi pa rin ito sapat lalong-lalo na sa mga estudyanteng wala pa ring kuryente hanggang sa ngayon. Sa katunayan, ako ay naghahabol pa rin ng mga gawain sa kabila ng dinanas na sakuna. Inaamin ko na hindi ganon kadaling ma-meet ang mga requirements kahit na nagbigay ng palugit para rito. Kung kaya’t umaasa pa rin ako sa karagdagang araw para ma-meet ang mga requirements.”

—Maribel A. Samson (BSGE-1A)

“Sa kabila ng kalamidad na ating kinaharap sa nakalipas na linggo, lahat ay naapektuhan, guro man o mag-aaral. Mapalad kami sa BSED SCIENCE 3A sa aming mga guro dahil lahat ng konsiderasyon ay kanilang ginawa upang hindi mahirapan ang kanilang mga estudyante. Na-extend hindi lamang ang petsa ng midterms examination, kundi pati na rin ang ilang mga naiwang activities.

Bilang isang mag-aaral ng kolehiyo marapat lamang na siguraduhin muna na lahat ng estudyante ay mayroon ng supply ng kuryente bago muling buksan ang klase. Mahirap mag-aral lalong-lalo na kung kung iisipin mo bawat oras kung kailan babalik ang kuryente at maayos na signal. Kung hindi maiiwasan dahil sa mga polisiya na sinusunod ng ating dalubhasaan, marapat lamang na bigyan ng konsiderasyon ng mga guro ang mga estudyante na hindi pa rin naibabalik ang power supply. Ganon rin dapat ang pang-unawa ng mga estudyante sa kanilang mga guro, dahil lahat tayo ay apektado.”

—Mark Vincent Gamboa, BSEd Science 3

“Oo, nagbigay naman sila ng mga konsiderasyon.

Bilang isang estudyante sa kolehiyo, sana lahat ng guro ay katulad ng mga prof namin na naiintindihan na hindi lahat ay pare-parehas ng pribilehiyo.”

—Adre, CA

“Our professors this semester are considerate enough to understand the situation. They even extend the due date of our activities. As for our midterm exams, 2 major exams were moved and we will take it next week. Other subjects gave us enough time to answer our exams.

I saw posts of students from other schools and universities that they even need to make a petition for their administration to listen to them, and others didn’t even cancel the deadline of their modules. I am lucky enough to be a student of BASC because the administration emphasize with the students.”

—Reynalene Dunga, BSBA

“Para sa’kin opo, nagbigay po sila ng sapat na konsiderasyon, knowing po na isa po tayo sa bayan or lugar na pinakanaapektuhan ng Bagyong Ulysses. Hindi rin naman po lingid sa atin na naapektuhan din po ang ating mga guro. With that, patuloy silang umiintindi at patuloy na umuunawa sa situation ng bawat estudyante nila. Para sa aming mga third year student ng BSABEn, minabuti nilang ilipat or imove ung supposedly date ng midterms. They also give extra consideration for those modules or tasks na may malapit na ang deadline.

Pero ngayon, alam naman po natin na marami pa rin po sa’tin ang apektado, marami pa ring lugar ang walang power supply at hirap sa signal. Kaya mataas pa rin ang posibilidad na mayroong mga mag-aaral na hindi pa makasabay sa muling pagbabalik ng klase. Mas makabubuti siguro para sa kanila ang karagdagan na panahon para sa pagsasaayos ng mga bagay na kailangan at dapat ayusin.”

—Melissa Cataniag, BSABEn 3

“Bilang isang estudyante, malaking hamon talaga ang mga hindi inaasahang sakunang tulad nito sa aking pag-aaral lalo na’t may kinahaharap tayong krisis na pandemya kung kaya’t mga alternatibong solusyon na lang ang ating ginagawa para makapag-aral. Masasabi kong maswerte ako/kami dahil may mga guro kaming nagbibigay ng konsiderasyon at malawak na pang-unawa. Ang mga pending na gawain ay niluwagan ang deadline at pumayag sila na ipasa na lang kapag maayos na ang lahat. Ang mga midterms ay na-postpone na rin gawa ng kalamidad na ito. Mayroon kaming sapat na panahon para mag-adjust at gawin ang mga naiwang gawain at hindi sila dumagdag sa aming mga alalahanin.”

—Bernadette G. Manabat, BSEd English 2B

“Oo, nagkaroon kami ng adjustment sa schedule ng midterm examination. Hindi lamang iyon, may activities na due date na namin ‘nung lunes pero nagulat kami dahil ito ay iniba na rin. Hindi lamang isang beses nagkaroon ng adjustments bagkus ay hanggang tatlo. Mayroon ding guro na nakipag-usap muna sa amin kung sino ang may power supply and stable na internet. Kung hindi naman makakukuha ng exam ay magkakaroon ng bagong exam para sa mga hindi makakukuha agad.

Hindi ko inakala na ganito. Sa punto na kaunti na lamang ang hindi makakukuha ng exam sa amin, ay sinabi ng guro namin na siya ay gagawa ng panibagong set ng exam para sa mga walang power supply or stable na internet connection. Tunay na nakakagulat, sapagkat dito ko na-realize na, ang kaunti ay bilang pa rin.”

—Paulo Ambrocio, BSGE 1A

S-Pulse

from Pahimakas: Pagbabalik-tanaw...

na napag-alamang buntis habang ito'y nakapiit. Dalawang buwan matapos isilang ang kanyang anak, ito ay inihiwalay na nagdulot ng pagbagsak sa kalusugan ng bata. Sa patuloy na pagkawalay sa ina, tuluyan itong binawian ng buhay na siyang nagsimula ng apoy sa pagitan ng awtoridad at mga mamamayan. Tila pinakikita nito na piling tao lamang ang nararapat na makatamasa ng hustisya.

Sa sunod-sunod na pagbayo ng pagsubok, kontrobersya at pagdududa, tila gumuho ang aking mundo nang dumulas sa aking kamay ang nag-iisa naming alas sa giyerang ito. Sa loob lamang ng tatlong buwan, pitong bagyo ang sumagasa sa ating bansa na nagdulot ng mga pagbaha. Sa pangalawang pagkakataon, nasirang muli ang aming tahanan. Saan na nga ba kami pupunta? Ligtas pa ba kami sa aming kinalalagyan? Hindi ko alam kung tama bang makipagsiksikan kami sa evacuation center gayong kalat na ang epidemya.

Sa huling buwan ng taon, tila muling sumiklab ang galak sa puso ng bawat isa sapagkat ito ang isa sa pinakamasayang bahagi ng taon.

Ngunit hindi pa pala tapos ang mga kaganapang susubok sa ating katatagan. Isang video ng pamamaril ng isang pulis ang kumalat apat na araw bago sumapit ang kapaskuhan. Dahil sa nangyari, nabahiran ang imahe ng kapulisan. Umusbong ang pagdududa ng mga mamamayan kung sila ba ay tunay na ligtas sa kamay ng mga awtoridad.

Samu't-saring opinyon mula sa iba't-ibang indibidwal ang nagsilitawan, ngunit ni isa ay

walang makapagsasabi kung ano ang pinakamagandang solusyon. Sa kabila nito, makikita ang suporta ng masa sa pamilya ng mga naiwan upang makabangon at lumaban para sa hustisya. Matapos man ang taong ito nang hindi sarado ang kaso, mananatili ang lipunan sa pag-usig upang mangyari ang dapat.

Sa kabila ng mga pangyayari na sumubok sa ating kakayahan, ang pagiging positibo at katatagan ng mga Pilipino ang naging susi upang malagpasan ang mga harang tungo sa muling pagbangon. Sa patuloy na pag-inda ng mga tinik na bumabaon sa ating balat, ay siyang pag-alab ng ating puso upang magpatuloy. Hindi man maganda ang iiwang bakas ng taong ito sa ating mga isipan, huwag nating kalimutan ang diwa ng kapanganakan ng Poong Maykapal na siyang nagbibigay pag-asa sa bawat isa.

Tulad ng isang pelikula, lahat ng problema ay may solusyon, lahat ng sukdulan ay may hangganan. Pagdurusa ay mawawala, sakit ay mabubura. Ang palabas na ito ay hindi pa matatapos, at hindi hihinto hangga't tayo'y humihinga. Ang pinakamagandang bagay na maaari nating gawin ay maging positibo at patuloy na mabuhay. Bago matapos ang taong 2020, halina't sabay-sabay nating salubungin ang mas makabuluhang kabanata ng ating buhay.

Muli nating bubuksan ang kabanata ngayong pagsapit ng 00:00. Umpisahan na nating bilangan ang magagandang dulot ng panibagong taon sa ating buhay.



THE SOIL TILLER

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