ONWARD & FORWARD: THE DAILY GUARDIAN’S STORY OF INSPIRED PERSISTENCE

By Francis Allan L. Angelo


This is not about the rubrics of journalism. Rather, these are the questions that the founders of The Daily Guardian sought to answer when they sat down together and mused on the path and fate of community journalism in Iloilo.

TDG went through a lot of changes, at times manic transitions. But its core values remained the same no matter who was at the helm.

Its precursor was Peryodiko, a brainchild of a group of impassioned journalists who wanted to redefine and redraw the community they served for decades.

Lemuel T. Fernandez, Limuel S. Celebria (the powers behind Kayo and Partners), Florence Hibionada (the standard in investigative journalism in Iloilo), Gina Celebria and Maricar Calubiran handled the Capitol because the main competition was broadcast, “she said.

“The name of the game is exclusive stories and major scoops churned out in depth and timely reports ranging from the police and military, local governance, politics, etc.

With Ms. Hibionada leading the news team, The Guardian was then born in 2002, brimming with hope that Ilonggos will embrace a new take on local journalism.

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Lemuel Celebria, the first editor-in-chief of what was then The Guardian, said the beginnings of the paper is also rooted in their camaraderie.

Aside from working in the same space, we are also drinking buddies and we discussed a lot about work which led to the founding of The Guardian,” Ms. Celebria said.

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OUR MISSION

To become an independent guardian of truth and justice; socially responsive and uncompromising exponent of positive change and public enlightenment.

OUR VISION

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GREETINGS FROM PRES. RODRIGO R. DUTERTE

ONWARD & UPWARD

The government trusts that you will remain our steadfast partner in fostering a more informed and empowered citizenry.

The President

PHILIPPINE PREMIER LEAGUE

PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE PHILIPPINES join the Philippine Premier League (PPL) as it kicks off on April 27, 2019.

Sports

The Guardian

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Guardian to The Daily Guardian

In the beginning, a vacuum. Then, armed only with the passion for truth and responsible journalism, a small band of journalists, some remnants of bygone dailies, rose to fill the void. In the beginning there was struggle. Many predicted the paper’s early demise. But the community’s thirst for a responsible press and our local leadership to deftly and proactively solve the problem. And what a debate it was. Eventually, the solution was in place and city Hall beats, which became the main sources of exclusives and scoops.

The organization grew with the addition of young bloods such as Adrian Miclano who helped in the desk, Marc Tan in sports, and Alex Carlo Magno in photojournalism and police stories.ジュール Siason and Katherine Benito beefed up the news team, which was the most balanced at that time in terms of experience and youth.

I joined the team much later, August 15, 2002 to be exact. My first days in TDG are still vivid to this day. My interview with the publisher, Lemuel T. Fernandez or LTF, on August 14 was a shock treatment of sorts. As he went over the "essay" I rushed to write, he quipped "NPA kaw?" What can you expect from a state university dropout anyway.

I was hired and started the next day. The greenhorn that I am, I was assigned to police beat, especially the Police Regional Office in Camp Delgado. I brought back a single item about the police out of school youth program.

"Pang community. I need better and more," said Limuel Celebria, the paper's pioineering editor-in-chief.

I went on a roll from then on.

CHANGES

Change, indeed is the only permanent thing in this world. And The Guardian did undergo major changes with the core members of the organization gaining their separate ways for various reasons.

But as they say, nobody can stop an idea whose time has come. The Guardian persisted even on a skeletal level type of operation.

Even the paper's name had to change for two major reasons - people thought we were affiliated with another newspaper in the United Kingdom or a chapter of a fraternity.

But the chief reason for changing the name from The Guardian to The Daily Guardian was to stress our being a daily community newspaper. Even with the name change is adopting a new perspective in local journalism. Crime stories still sell but people are also interested in reading about business, arts, culture, local sports, and everyday about the finer and lighter side of life.

We reported economic stories and placing them on the front page. But these were no boring narration of numbers but digging deeper into the impact of cold figures on our daily lives. TDG's extensive reporting on the power crisis in Iloilo City between 2005 and 2010 instilled dialogues and debates on how to solve the problem. And what a debate it was. Eventually, the solution was in place and Iloilo City underwent unprecedented growth.

We reported with you onto the digital platform and content, but it moves from formats not only in its format and content, but it moves with you onto the digital platform forms of the Internet. This means a greater investment in more qualified and competent personnel. The digital age has come to Iloilo and Western Visayas. Thus, we adapt to the challenges of the times. We persist because we believe in the Banggo. We believe in an Iloilo that values truth and integrity in journalism. Iloilo readers, Western Visayas readers, deserve better than gossip. Yes, We write. You decide.

WE WRITE YOU DECIDE

www.thedailyguardian.net
In the past 18 years, The Daily Guardian takes pride in reporting to Ilonggos events and personalities that matter to their lives.

The major headlines we carried were not just stories of local significance but also national events that virtually changed our lives.

The maiden issue of the paper (then The Guardian) set the tone for what this paper stands for – fearless and peerless journalism. By shedding light on issues on governance, business, and peace and order, The Guardian proved that real journalism is a product of hard work and sincere pursuit for the truth.

Crime stories always sell but The Guardian went beyond practical economics by adding context to very sensitive cases like the Jefferson Tan kidnapping case on October 15, 2002. The news team debated whether to report what we got as the Police Regional Office (PRO-6) burned our lines and asked that we hold the story for the safety of the victim. We decided to run the story, believing that Ilonggos deserve to know what happened in the first major kidnapping case in Iloilo since the sensational abductions of businessman Rogelio Florete Sr., and Roberta "Obing" Cocjin, among other cases.

The murder of businessman Francisco "Bobby" Tan, his wife Cynthia Marie Zayco, and their daughter in January 2006 also shook the city and province of Iloilo after Francisco's sons with his first wife were implicated. The story ended with the acquittal of Archie and John Michael Tan in the murder case filed against them.

Of course, the deaths of the suspected drug lords in Western Visayas – Melvin Odicta and wife Merriam in August 2016 and Richard Prevendido in September 2017 – became hot topics for days and became the symbols of the Duterte administration's bloody war on drugs in Western Visayas.

At the political front, one of the major stories to land our front page was the Iloilo Capitol siege on January 17, 2007. Images of police officers lugging guns and deploying armored personnel carriers in a bid to physically oust the late Governor Niel Tupas Sr. on orders of the Ombudsman and the Department of Interior and Local Government were seared in the minds of Ilonggos.

One of the poignant images in that event was former congressman Niel Tupas Jr. leaping and screaming with joy while clutching a fax copy of the temporary restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals against Gov. Tupas' sacking from office.

The Daily Guardian also covered the passing of important figures such as former President Corazon Aquino and Senator Rodolfo "Roding" Ganzon. The infamous apology of former President Gloria Arroyo over the Hello Garci scandal in 2005 also fixated Ilonggos to one of the turbulent times in our history.

Our coverage of the massive flood caused by typhoon Frank in 2008 highlighted the problems caused by climate change and unbridled urbanization.

We also covered developmental news such as the opening of the new Iloilo airport in 2007 and the opening of Iloilo City's first coal-fired power plant in 2010 which ushered unprecedented growth in this part of the country.

Journalists cover and report the news, instead of becoming the news. But the latter is inevitable, especially if we are assaulted because of our work. This is what happened in the evening of January 27, 2011 when an unidentified person attacked our publisher Lemuel T. Fernandez outside our old office in Molo, Iloilo City. Instead of cowering and shying away from public attention, the big boss, with his bandaged head and all, reported to work the following day as if nothing happened. Bravery is not just grace under pressure, it's soldiering on whether you win or lose.
The Daily Guardian goes beyond reporting the news. We also act to at least ease social woes that we encounter each day.

Our corporate social responsibility projects cater to two vulnerable sectors of society - children and the elderly.

“Kidsmas” held every Christmas season seeks to bring joy to children during this joyous and blessed time of the year. We also reach out to the abandoned elderly in the care of Asilo de Molo by giving gifts and assistance from our advertisers and sponsors.

“Our mission is to become an independent guardian of truth and justice; socially responsive and uncompromising exponent of positive change and public enlightenment.

Our vision is a successful and reliable newspaper the Ilonggos are proud of; highly respected by its readers; and trusted by the community it responsibly serves.
EARLY in this millennium, my Tocayo and I hit a spot of the doldrums—a hiatus from our media careers, soon after dallying in the political arena. But it was a sweet break from decades of beating the deadline and laboring on graveyard shifts.

Although unemployed, we were not disengaged from a grateful enterprise and thus can still afford the usual nightly congress over a few bottles of the famous local brew. Our favorite hangout back then, T2K at Diversion Road, was still a bamboo shack with a few tables strewn about. It has improved quite a lot, to say the least.

Such languid lifestyle we haven’t enjoyed in quite a while. But Lemuel (Fernandez), ever the busy body, suddenly blurted out one evening, “how much do we need to publish a daily?” Ever the show-off, “What’s your name?” I asked the hapless fellow. “Lemuel Fernandez, Sir,” he replied. “Oh, so you’re also a Limuel. Don’t call me Sir, call me Kayo.”

And that has been so till now.

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After the Daily Times, we parted ways—career wise. Kayo went to Panay News and later on, TODay. I would also be called to become editor of Visayan Tribune and the Daily Informer. He came to me for help two days after the Daily Times, we parted ways—career wise.

Lemuel and I go back a long way. Reporting to the Daily Times office one afternoon sometime in the 80s, I saw this young, gangly guy laboring in front of the computer frowning over a piece of copy. “Sir, is this correct?” he asked. “In the nick of time,” he blurted, unsure of what it meant. “Yes, that’s right!” I replied. “It’s a figure of speech.”

It turned out the guy was our new copy reader and he was struggling over a column. By Editor Manuel Mejorada, I don’t know if my memory of that moment remains accurate, but I seem to recall a cheerful young lady with a baby in her hands sitting beside our new copy reader and helping out. “What’s your name?” I asked the hapless fellow. “Lemuel Fernandez, Sir,” he replied. “Oh, so you’re also a Limuel. Don’t call me Sir, call me Kayo.”

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Contrary to the ideas of some people, I think newspapers are never going to be obsolete. Sure, the advances in technology have made it easier for people to access reading materials from the "convenience" of their electronic devices. But really, just like comparing it with books, reading an actual newspaper in your hands is a better experience. Especially if the intent is for leisurely reading, with a cup of coffee and maybe some cookies or any light snack at your side, an actual printed reading material in your hands always provides superior experience.

There is talk that online or digital media is replacing newspapers. But all of that is nonsense when you think about how decades ago, there was all the buzz about how television and film will replace books. And then you fast forward to the present time; books still remain as strong tools for storytelling. Much like that comparison, newspapers will remain as a strong tool for news, analytical reports, entertainment, and opinions.

Regional newspapers such as our Daily Guardian has remained all the more empowered to become more relevant than it already is. And it even has very healthy coexistence with AM news radio networks that usually cover the same beat. Just like the coexistence of fictional books and film and television, it all boils down to whatever is convenient to every person. One would like to get his/her dose of news reports early in the morning while preparing to go to work; that's why he/she may prefer AM radio, or another person might feel more convenient to read the newspaper for his/her dose of news in specifically enumerated detail, perhaps during the minute when he/she is finally relaxing from his/her long day of work.

So to conclude all of this - which is actually close to common sense - newspapers are never going to be obsolete. But you already know that because I am sure that you are enjoying how relaxing it is right now, reading something that is actually in your hands, something that you could fold and tuck in your bag and continue to read later, or at any point in time that you wish to do so.
In behalf of the people of Iloilo province, I extend my warmest greetings to the Daily Guardian on your 18th anniversary.

Your determination and perseverance to advance responsible, conscientious, and meaningful journalism is proof that our civil liberties remain alive and well.

As the modern times require speed and connectivity, I am confident that the Daily Guardian will again push the boundaries of local journalism through innovation without compromising ethical standards and concern for public welfare.

Congratulations and More Power!

HON. FERJENEL G. BIRON, MD
Representative
Fourth District, Iloilo

Ako kag ang banwa sang Barotac Nuevo kag bilog nga Fourth District naga-panginbulahan sa Daily Guardian sa inyo ika-18 nga kaadlawan!

Humanity needs responsible and brave journalists not just to protect public welfare but to help build communities founded on justice and progress.

The Daily Guardian has done its share in fulfilling this mandate and I am confident that you will continue to do what you have started through modern and groundbreaking technologies.

Madamo nga Salamat kag Mabuhay ang Daily Guardian!

HON. BRAEDEN JOHN Q. BIRON
Mayor
Municipality of Barotac Nuevo

Mainit nga panamyaw sa nga kaupod sa Daily Guardian sa inyo pagpagsulod sang inyo ika-18 nga kaadlawan!

Excellence and the unfailing dedication to the interests of the Ilonggo community have been consistent factors in each issue of the Daily Guardian in the past 18 years.

The news stories the Daily Guardian are reliable sources of timely information about Iloilo and Western Visayas, in general.

It is my ardent wish that you will carry on with your mission and vision amid the challenges posed by our modern times.

Madamo nga Salamat and Mabuhay!

HON. BRYANT PAUL Q. BIRON
Member
Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Iloilo

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Representative
Fourth District, Iloilo
METRO ILOILO WATER DISTRICT  
Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City

NOTICE TO ALL MIWD CONSUMERS

To hasten the transition of our operation to the JV Corporation brought about by our Joint Venture Project with Metro Pacific Water, you are advised to fill out a new water service contract for the transfer of your water service connection from METRO ILOILO WATER DISTRICT to METRO PACIFIC ILOILO WATER, INC.

Schedule for the Filling out of Water Service Contract in the following service areas:

- Sta. Barbara – April 9, 13-14, 2019, TESDA Training Center
- Pavia – April 27-28 & May 1, 2019 (venue to be announced later)
- San Miguel – May 4-5, 2019 (venue to be announced later)
- Leganes – May 11-12, 2019 (venue to be announced later)
- Iloilo City – starting March 20, 2019, MIWD Office

Consumers in Oton, Maasin and Cabatuan who were not able to fill out the water service contracts last March 23-24, March 30-31 and April 5-6, 2019, respectively in their municipalities, will have to go to the MIWD office to process their new water service contracts.

Please bring any of the following documents:

- Special Power of Attorney (for non-owner of the water service connection)
- Death Certificate (in case the owner is already dead)
- Government-issued ID
- Lot Title/Deed of Sale
- Water bill

Thank you for your cooperation.

THE MANAGEMENT

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UNIVERSITY OF SAN AGUSTIN  
The First University in Western Visayas!

USA-CHED-UniFAST-TESD Program

FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION

WHO ARE QUALIFIED?
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WHAT WILL YOU GET?
- Tuition and other school fees in private HEIs
- Allowance for books, supplies, transportation and miscellaneous personal expenses
- Allowance for room and board costs incurred by the student
- For license courses, application fees, notarial fees, review classes fees, insurance premium fees and documentation fees

REQUIREMENTS:
- Report Card
- Certificate of Good Moral Character
- PSA Birth Certificate
- Certification from DSWD

PERKS:
- No Entrance Exam Fee
- No Admission Fee
- No Down Payment
- Free One (1) Set of Uniform

RESERVE YOUR SLOT BY TEXTING 4PSBEN <FAMILY NAME>, <FIRST NAME>, <BARANGAY>, <TOWN>, <AGE>, <CONTACT NUMBER> to 0999-997-1485.
Powering the future.

Through innovation and sustainability, GBP empowers the nation to shape a strong, dynamic, and resilient future.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DAILY GUARDIAN ON ITS 18TH ANNIVERSARY

Nowadays, consumers are exposed to digital media at least as much as print. The growing prevalence of smartphones and tablets, and the wireless networks that connect them mean that more and more folks will view media on a digital device. Of course, this also means more and more consumers will view advertisements on digital devices as well.

For marketing and advertising, digital media has several benefits. It can be less expensive than print media, depending on the details of each campaign. Digital campaigns can also usually be produced, launched, and updated faster than print.

Digital media can be interactive in several ways. A promotion on social media allows for broadcasters to communicate directly with consumers, using messaging, commenting, tweeting, wall posting, and other methods to answer questions and offer incentives and increase publicity of a newsworthy issue seamlessly.

Users are also usually able to search for a digital document, or search within the document itself.

This is not to say that print media is dying out—not by a long shot. Print media offers a more physical and tangible medium to consumers. It’s something people can take with them. It’s more professional, more convenient, and just nicer to be able to give someone a brochure or business card instead of having to say, “Hey, let me email you real fast” or “Hey, go find me on Facebook real quick” every time you want to make a contact.

Print ads can also have a localized presence that’s much harder to achieve than with digital media. Signs and banners can create attention and help consumers physically find you. Well placed posters, flyers, and other print media can be distributed within a community to help generate exposure and direct consumers to you.

Plenty of consumers also still get information from print media such as newspapers and magazines.

Printed media also shines in the majority factor compared to digital media, especially in developing countries like the Philippines. It is more reliable in rural areas where there is limited access to modern communication. You can take a home a tabloid for just a couple of pesos, or a magazine for a couple more, but not everyone has a smartphone or computer and especially an internet connection at that to download and preserve articles behind the screen.

So, which one is better: digital or print? That’s a complex and nuanced question, but we think there’s really only one good answer: It’s both.

Each medium has unique advantages, so a competent media firm should incorporate both digital and print media. The best media firms and campaigners utilize the right combination of media, depending on market size and scope, demographic targets, products or services offered, budgetary considerations, and other factors. Certain consumers are best reached on digital media, others still prefer print.

The right combination of media channels allows for the best communication with your entire consumer audience, and also maximizes a media company’s return on investment as well.

Honestly speaking, the whole “Print vs Digital media” debate is fruitless and leads to meaningless conflict. By the end of the day, the medium of how information is distributed is ultimately irrelevant. Both mediums should, and are intended to, share the same goal: to provide entertainment, advocacy, but most especially information.

**LIVE AND LET LEARN**

Philippines and Its Progress in Modernizing its Education System

By: Joseph Jern

**WVSU Interns**

The Philippines' uniqueness as the only Christian and English-speaking archipelago in Southeast Asia impacts its education system more than we acknowledge. Its culture and religious system are all results of centuries of colonialism, backed up by its rich history of being colonized by the Spanish regime, followed by US occupation for nearly five decades.

US colonialism has always had, and arguably is, the largest impact on the development of the education system in the Philippines. In fact, the American English has always been imposed in Philippine schools and has become the national language. The Spanish regime, followed by British due to their colonization.

The Philippines is unique in accent and inflection, compared to Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, which are more English due to their colonization. This is a global asset in personal economic growth, particularly if one considers the business process outsourcing industry in the global landscape.

Despite this, Filipinos are still very dependent on maintaining college degrees when climbing up the professional ladder, as a college diploma is still a very basic requirement or qualification in landing on financially fulfilling jobs. Luckily, though, a lot of advancements have happened in the modernization of the educational and developmental background of students today.

What the Philippines can offer is improving the educational system that is designed to empower Filipino personally and professionally. One of the most notable milestones in the Philippine education is that the government actively seeks to expand access and participation in higher education and, even more importantly, tries to improve the quality of education.

Is it really, though? Take a look at your average school in the Philippines, and what will you find? An open room with old armchairs, dusty tiled floors, bar glass windows with iron frame (jealousies), a dark green chalkboard full of deep chalk marks, and old laminated textbooks handed over from semester after semester using materials as good as it was in the late 90s up to today in 2019.

Is this really the "modern education" that is improving the educational and development potential of students today?

What the Philippines can really work on is researching on the things Sweden, Japan, and South Korea are doing with their school curriculum. Gone are the days where the average child is actually willing to sit still for an hour to listen to their teacher drone on and on about lessons lifted verbatim from the textbooks.

Children today do not have what their previous generation had: a lasting attention span and patience. Young students today need something that will stimulate them and engage them more so than thorough parched, gray pages and monochrome illustrations.

Most of the developing world has caught on with the usage of modernized education programs that encourages communication, teamwork and bonding over standardized tests and passing with numbers.

Teambuilding exercises like basic robotics are prevalent in South Korea, unique grading systems and personal growth classes are taught in Sweden and the like.

What is possibly holding the Philippines back in pushing forward for this change?

The difficulties of actually implementing these modern curriculums as well as the equipment are two obvious factors to take out along the way. The cost of maintaining new, modernized equipment, as well as implementing new study material to give out complete, ideal overhauls to older educational facilities, and refreshing entire classrooms are things to be accounted for, especially in less developed areas.

The matter of whether or not teachers and lecturers would be able to adapt to these "new-age" teaching material and resources as much as the students they teach can. Such things can be all too new for them.

In the end, it’s just a matter of time and money for the Philippines to be up to speed with their international counterparts to transcend the drag and dredge of slow, inefficient, textbook based education systems into something more memorable than sitting down in cheap, scratchy uniform in a creaky old armchair with a heavy, laminated textbook.

Someday, the standard of Filipino education will rise like their ever-growing expectations.

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By Joseph Jeon
WVSE Intern

Take any teen off the streets today in 2019 for just a moment and ask them what their favorite hobby is. Chances are, they are going to respond with “computer games” or “video games,” and it’s easy to see why.

Every since its inception, video gaming has been simultaneously one of the most controversial and innovative inventions in modern history, from its humble origins of Pong leading to borderline technological and software based achievements of titles such as “Last of Us” and “GTA V.”

There is also the development of an entirely new culture and even community through the gradual improvement of internet services, with massively popular online games such as “League of Legends,” “Apex Legends” and “Fortnite,” soaking in profit and developed with a budget often akin to that of Hollywood movies.

The passion, heart, soul and aesthetic talent these video game developers pour out into video games for the sake of our entertainment is a topic often worth looking into. And it comes as a surprise to no one that the hungriest, most eager sample size for gaming, especially online gaming through the PC, is the youth – always looking for relatively simple challenges, flashy colors and sounds, and a level of involvement and interaction that cartoons and movies cannot give them.

Nowadays, it’s hard for adolescents to sit still and twaddle on their thumbs when they can always reach out for their sleek smartphones and tap away at the screen or mash their fingers on the keyboard and mouse in front of a flat monitor. They are entertained often for hours on end without parental regulation through the cornucopia of colors, sounds, and graphics that are presented to them.

They would much rather do that than settle down and read books or assemble building blocks. This does not mean to say that this is a universal observation – rather, it is a generalized view of how adolescents spend their free time today on a "majority" standpoint... But I digress.

How did the evolution of gaming, especially PC gaming, imprint its impact on modern youth society?

As previously mentioned, a new form of community has developed from the gradual improvement of internet and online services, followed by the gradual refinement and development of online video games.

It has its humble beginnings from Local Area Network, or LAN for short, connection hubs with bulky PCs and "Counter-Strike:Source" to multi-million dollar budget tournaments garnering revenue and view counts comparable to that of many modern sports events today. And what a coincidence it is, that the evolution of competitive online gaming has come to a head where it is being recognized as its own kind of sport: E-sport.

Speaking of sports, sports have often been a primary motivator for many people growing up, and have been used to fuel their passion often into careers. The same thing is also happening with video games and youth today. For many, it is no longer street soccer or basketball. If they could afford it, they’d shell their money out on a local PC gaming hub, because unlike sports, they don’t easily get physically tired. It’s easy to stay entertained rooted in one place, and it’s simple to pick up and improve upon, unlike basketball or soccer, where intensive, strenuous physical activity is required in order to play properly. It is that kind of physical stress not every youth is down for.

Furthermore, the existence of real-time interactive online multiplayer games validates and gives purpose onto certain types of people who are simply incapable or entirely uninterested in physical activity to give them a drive or a vision of the future.

In a way, online gaming has become a sort of “comprehensive social media” where people from all sorts of backgrounds meet up and duke it out in a digital battlefield or platform, sharing insights and a sense of community to go with as well.

Although the drawbacks of online gaming is apparent – such as “addiction” and the freedom to be an unsavory element in a social platform that renders you immune to direct, physical consequence – I would like to touch that the pros often outweigh the cons in the impact online gaming has had for youth.

It expands the diversity of culture and the fields of media and entertainment, and ultimately benefits society as a whole into becoming more inclusive and understanding of how different cultures work.

LITERARY LIBERTY
A Call for the Renewed Interest in Public Libraries

By Joseph Jion
WYSU Intern
Photos courtesy of Iloilo City Public Library

It’s just great to down coffee, talk with friends and family and settle with a nice book. Or search and get your hands on that pair of shoes or a gaming PC peripheral you always wanted, watch the latest blockbuster films with a bucket of popcorn and a pint of soda that are as big as they are expensive, or order some cheap yet delicious food and a beer or ten to laugh the nights away.

All of these are enriching experiences that make life in Iloilo so chill, so relaxed. If anything, if your idea of fun is more relaxed and streamlined, then Iloilo City would be the ideal place to have more fun in the Philippines.

However, there is one thing that is quite lacking that can complete the whole piece altogether – public libraries. Study hubs are one thing, but they’re more often than not occupied by people trying to glean off the usually fast and powerful complementary Wi-Fi they offer.

Public libraries, however, seem to be overlooked, and any that may currently exist are often overshadowed by more modern developments.

Public libraries play an important role in people’s lives as a source of accessing information and a place for stimulating knowledge and broadening perspectives. Public libraries are important informational, educational, cultural, and social institutions. They’ve been around since ancient times, and not only are they historically and culturally significant, they are most importantly educationally significant.

Public libraries provide use...
**The Real Terror of Momo Challenge: Fake News and Private Information Harvesting**

By Joseph Jason

A NEW suicide game has taken the internet by storm - if you can call “horror and intrigue” a storm. Called the “Momo Challenge,” the hapless victims, often young children, are asked (forced) to communicate with an unknown number and perform dangerous challenges mostly aimed towards self-harm, not only in a physical sense, but psychologically as well through self-mutilation and watching hours upon hours of surreal horror videos respectively.

Momo is a mysterious online entity that allegedly emerged from “hacked” videos of Peppa Pig, a popular kid’s cartoon show made in the UK, streamed in the popular video content sharing website YouTube, where episodes of Peppa Pig are rigged with horrifically modified parodies of episodes under a misleading thumbnail that directly opens a link to the “Momo.”

Momo’s facsimile is that of a strange statue of a feminine, humanoid head with long, greasy dark hair spread sparsely over the creature’s forehead, enormous round eyes, an over-sized mouth and a flattened nose, based off a project called “Mother Bird” created by Japanese special effects company Link Factory.

The challenge targeted children and teenagers and asks them to add a contact on WhatsApp, an online social media service well known for its on-the-spot encryption service for private chat rooms hosted by its users. This unsurprisingly made it ideal for a false bogeywoman like Momo to reveal its strange face to these supposedly unwitting young victims.

The challenge worked by asking members to communicate with an unknown number and after that member are asked to complete a number of strange challenges and activities that often involves self-harm or implications to suicide in order to meet this “Momo.”

The last challenge is asking users to commit suicide. If the users refuse to follow orders, participants are threatened with violent images and personal threats.

The challenge has been reported in countries such as the United States, Mexico, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Mexico, France and Germany. Social media websites, Facebook in particular, blew it up with mass shares of posts from “victims” who warn people of “Momo” and how it stays hidden to ambush kids watching Peppa Pig on YouTube.

Many who see these kind of posts report them to be unsubstantiated, often claiming that they have seen more posts of people complaining about Momo than actually encountering Momo via YouTube.

Fortunately, it was eventually revealed that “Momo” was nothing more than a hoax to stir up the masses and incite fear and distress amongst the online public. While this may not be a surprise to more prudent and responsible users of the internet, the brief yet intense trend behind this nefarious “Momo” has highlighted how gullible the average internetizen is. It also betrays how easy it is for them to just pick up whatever striking issue that seems convincing enough and start irrationally spreading it all over the internet, assuming it is legitimate without even bothering to check its credibility. This is tantamount to the spread of fake news, because the Momo Challenge warnings are, in essence, an elaborate ruse.

People who deliberately create fake news obviously have a lack of conventional ethical sense, and it shows. They have the intent to damage reputation, as it did with Link Factory and the creator of the “Momo” sculpture (originally called Mother Bird, Keisuke Aisawa, who destroyed the sculpture despite him and the company he works for being involved in the challenge at all, damage credibility across the board with lies and misinformation, and damage the stability of peace in general.

Not only that, something far worse than a creepy bird lady bust was revealed through researching this bizarre online phenomenon that briefly caught the internet by surprise.

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11,194 bags CERTIFIED SEEDS
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Bufferstocks, from the 2019 budget, will also be allocated to affected farmers during the wet cropping season.

The agency will conduct cloud seeding operations in Negros Occidental. The Bureau of Soils and Water Management has allocated P2.5 million for cloud seeding in Western Visayas.

Farmers shall immediately report any cases of pest and diseases incidents in their areas to curb damage on crops.

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For more information, please contact (033) 337-9002 or (033) 337-1111

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There is no liberty if there is no press freedom. A nation thrives when the media is free from undue pressures while at the same contributes to community building.  

I urge the Daily Guardian to continue pursuing the truth to inform and educate our people. For 18 years, you have proven that our civil liberties, especially freedom of expression and of the press are well and alive! Congratulations and more power to the men and women of the Daily Guardian  

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I'm Levy Amosin, travel & style blogger and founder of hugginghorizons.com. "Hugging Horizons" is a brand and a blog site featuring heartfelt travel and style stories. I was born in Iloilo, raised in Manila and am sometimes based in Hong Kong. I've been travelling since I was 4 years old. Growing up with that lifestyle, I also found love in photography and writing as a way of expressing myself. It is humbling to partner with the biggest newspaper in my hometown — the DAILY GUARDIAN (DG). We are pleased to speak the truth and provide you honest stories. Authenticity is something we share and value. We built our brands on honest intentions and I am proud to partner with an organization that has served the public for 18 years.

HOW I STARTED

With a degree in AB communication, I began designing a website and extended the brand to Instagram (handle: @levyamosin). At present, it is now frequented by both local and international audience, mostly from South East Asia. Likes and followers aside, I believe it's the quality of my confessions and the values I carry that have led me to where I am today. The readers and clients will speak for you. Trust me, being kind, passionate and honest goes a long way. I began sharing my travel confessions and stories publicly on the blog last 2016. As a dreamer, I believe that "our passion is our best profession." It is a long hard road to turn our passions into a full-fledged profession, yet, our dreams...
Part-Time Worth your Time (And Effort):
The Need for Diversity in Side Job Choices in PHL

By Joseph Jeon
WVSU Intern

Bring up the topic of finding a part-time job here in the Philippines, and the choices will be relegated to either one of two choices: “Call center agent” or a worker at any fast-food chain restaurant, be it Mang Inasal, McDonald’s, Jollibee or Chowking. These thoughts may give some college students the chills – shifting your body clock and facing long, dreary hours in a sparse office with a laptop, a headset, and the prospect of having to talk to obnoxious, unreasonable clients from undisclosed locations or flipping patties, busting tables, dinging the bell, counting the bills and sliding the cards for an unending stream of customers all day in a confined area that smells of grease and brimming with uncomfortable heat from fryers and grills.

But the sad reality is at that point, many fresh graduates here are numbed by desperation and the drive to become independent that they just jump straight into the pan for these otherwise incredibly limited part-time job offers.

Let’s face the facts here. There is not much choice for opportunistic, entrepreneurial or even just ordinary college students and NEETs (people stuck in a void called “Not in Education, Employment or Training”, hence the acronym) trying to get by with their lives, earn enough income to get home, put food on the table, or have a good time with their friends.

Many countries engage in part-time job programs for a variety of low-end jobs ranging from convenience store clerks, retail, car washing, car mechanic jobs, and sponsored educational tutorial programs. Granted, the list of possible part-time job offerings are relatively small, but compared to what you are normally faced with in the Philippines, the variables increase, and so does the freedom of choice.

Having diversity in the choice of part-time jobs also does well to improve the general social and technical skills of a person engaging in these trial careers so that in the future, when they establish themselves and actually find official job offerings, their resumes will become all the more compelling for recruiters to be convinced to hire them.

There is some promise that this eventual diversity of part-time jobs is happening, though. Lately, universities around the Philippines, especially between February and March of 2019, have started bringing out comprehensive job fair programs for students to try themselves out and see just what kind of career path is best suited for them.

But let’s be honest here – these menial jobs will really give you that career edge and just enough life experience that shows you what it really means to get out there and live life in all its glory and in all its grit.

It is most definitely time that the increased diversity of part-time jobs help nurture the otherwise unguided Filipino working class needing purpose and drive to get out there and find themselves elated at the fact that they don’t have to force themselves to flip burgers or sit in front of a flimsy laptop with a headset all day.
Too Many Helmets, Not Enough Heads:

By Joseph Jean

Too Many Helmets, Not Enough Heads: A Take on Pinoy Motorcyclists and Their Tenuous Adherence to Road Safety

By Joseph Jean

THE population of motorcyclists rises, it is quite unfortunate that motorcycles are sometimes viewed negatively by the public. It also does not help that television news programs often show motorcycles in a bad light, highlighting in graphic detail the consequences of road accidents.

There are very few reports, if any at all, on how motorcycles play an important role in a growing economy and the boon it offers to many people who don’t have enough money to buy a car to go around places. Instead, most news reports suggest that they are dangerous and accident prone, reporting only about those involved in road mishaps.

Motorcycles have long been demonized as screaming metal death traps that are unstable and prone to making the operator crash and burn. The wrong notion about motorcycles, especially those living in rural areas with limited access to modern information, is that it has evolved from a toy to a tool. Most motorcycle riders are not the adrenaline-seekers depicted in the movies and television shows, but are simply commuters trying to get to their workplace on time.

With public transportation in its current unstable state, it is natural that the masses will rely on motorcycles, being the most affordable method of personal mobility. This situation is presented in a complicated light, however, when looking into the chaotic road conditions of Philippine traffic. Cars of all shapes and sizes roll around and push past each and jeepneys and other types of dilapidated public transport have a tendency to disregard conventional means of basic road safety, unwillingly putting themselves and others in danger should they disregard for wearing motorcycle safety helmets. Not only is this dishonest speaking, the lack of a clear-cut information about road safety is the doom of many a Filipino motorcyclist, as it is the case with most otherwise unavoidable yet still considerable dangers like AIDS and dengue fever awareness. Much like these disease awareness programs, proper attention should be given and efficiently spread out among a range of motorcyclists in this country to the best of their capabilities.

With a solution as simple as this in the table, that they are travelling, most notably their disregard for wearing motorcycle helmets. Not only is this a blatant oversight of common road safety practices, this also further undermines the reputation of motorcyclists in general, degrading them into something like reckless individuals with no sense of self-protection.

Furthermore, some motorcyclists, especially those living in rural areas with limited access to modern information, disregard conventional means of basic road safety, unwillingly putting themselves and others in danger should they disregard for the helmet when used properly.

We also need to understand that it has evolved from a toy to a tool. Most motorcycle riders are not the adrenaline-seekers depicted in the movies and television shows, but are simply commuters trying to get to their workplace on time.

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On top of all that, it is an infamous sentiment that the Philippines is akin to hell for those who don’t have enough money to buy a car to go around places. Instead, most news reports suggest that they are dangerous and accident prone, reporting only about those involved in road mishaps.

Motorcycles have long been demonized as screaming metal death traps that are unstable and prone to making the operator crash and burn. The wrong notion about motorcycles, especially those living in rural areas with limited access to modern information, is that it has evolved from a toy to a tool. Most motorcycle riders are not the adrenaline-seekers depicted in the movies and television shows, but are simply commuters trying to get to their workplace on time.

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By Joseph Jon
WVSU Intern

The birds and the bees. As you grow up, the “talk” about them will soon come to you, either through your parents, or more commonly from your jovial titos and titas or older siblings who have more outside experience than you.

This is the herald of a topic that is often heavily censored or shunned in conservative communities. With the Philippines being a heavily conservative country, in no small part because of its centuries of history with religion, it’s no surprise that many people are opposed to the idea of imposing sexual education in classrooms.

There are many baseless falsehoods that come with what exactly Sex Education will teach students, and people often have a hard time separating fact from fiction. Here are a few misconceptions about what people think goes on in Sex Ed, and what it actually is.

The point of Sex Ed is not to teach teenagers to impulsively have sex as if the world was one big porno flick. Sex Ed to give them proper comprehensive knowledge on the topic so that they know how the whole thing works, and what the dangers that come with it are, like sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Simply scaring teens into chastity and abstinence and using the “If you have sex before you get married, that is a great sin” quip can be pretty vexing to hear. This style is often ultimately counterproductive and instills a negative kind of reverse psychology that will get those teens more curious and impulsive about what sex really is.

This indirectly promotes rape culture—a wildly controversial issue that has gained traction again—and the spread of STDs, an easily preventable epidemic only held back by a lack of proper Sex Ed.

Sex Ed teaches teenagers properly what sex is, and what it may lead to. If anything, based on studies, its main purpose is to delay sex. Instead of simply trying it out and learning on their own, teenagers will have background knowledge on...
The early morning bugle blares from outside the tent, prompting the gaggle of young cadets to groggily get up from their sleeping bags, wiping their eyes clean of muck. A hushed cacophony of yawns follow, and the drill sergeant instructs the cadets out of their tents and to line up in formation to prepare for the basic Physical Training exercises required of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps program (ROTC).

Relegated as a mandatory course in any college outline under the National Service Training Program (NSTP) mandate, the ROTC is one of three components of the NSTP for the civic education and defense preparedness program for Filipino college students. ROTC aims to provide military education and training for students to mobilize them for national defense preparedness. Its specific objectives include preparation of college students for service in the armed Forces of the Philippines in the event of an emergency and their training to become reservists and potential commissioned officers of the AFP.

Working one's body off for the whole day, jogging kilometer after kilometer in full gear and service rifle in hand under the blazing heat of the Philippine sun or in its torrential rainfall is all justified by the result of the means. Throughout the student’s freshman to sophomore year, ROTC would ideally be a crucible for them to be hardened and ready for combat in the rare event it actually happens. ROTC is ideally a program that is supposed to meld the minds of young college students and teach them through a trial by fire of what it means to work as a team, to be tough physically and mentally, and to be loyal to one’s own country.

However, it should come as a surprise to nobody, then, that not all college students are keen about mandatory military service (as am I, as a Korean by birth and citizenship) and having to spend a good two years under constant orders and physical work is prospect that isn’t enjoyable for some youths, and that is understandable. Some would say that mandatory conscription to the ROTC is tantamount to “slavery,” while others think it doesn’t exactly prepare them for a tough life for the outside world, but that’s a story for another time.

But when speaking for the spirit of the country, the ROTC, and NSTP in general, serves an important role in today’s society, and has become more relevant than ever what with the sporadic threat of terrorism as seen in the infamous SAF 44 tragedy years ago and the Marawi City siege; and tense territorial disputes around South China Sea. As a last resort, it would be strategically beneficial to hone and train the young in basic military protocol so they will be better prepared against various threats.

On a more logical side, the mental and physical grind of ROTC helps nurture humanity, communication, and teamwork with one another through the daily hurdles and challenges drill sergeants put them up with. Such bonding opportunities does good for one’s soul, and in a more-practical sense, essential social skills required to find, get hired, and maintain a professional career by the time you graduate.

Even as somebody who is reluctant to take part in my eventual mandatory training service, I am a firm supporter of the reinstated national interest mandated by President Rodrigo Duterte in mandatory ROTC conscription for college freshmen. It may be rough at first, but it is bound to be rewarding in the end. It’s like transitioning from being dirt into diamonds: sometimes, pressure is needed to achieve transparency and sparkle.
PAVIA PROVIDENCE: A Foreigner’s Perspective

By Joseph Jeon

JEON—Turn back a few years and go to Pavia in Iloilo, and at best, you will be greeted by a long stretch of highway, a couple of strip stores here and there, crossroads, bridges that reveal rather attractive stretches of river canyons, and a memorial field along the way.

But for the most part, apart from the residents, many travelers mostly see it as the region spanning central Iloilo City and Santa Barbara town.

To the prospecting eye—the perspective of a foreigner (such as myself)—Pavia is not the first place that would come to mind when thinking about Iloilo. Before anything else, Pavia is mostly seen, both figuratively and literally, as a “middle of the road” residential sector. While a fair sprinkle of cultural significance as well as its importance as a pathway to the rest of Panay, does give it some merit, as a “middle of the road” place that would come to mind when thinking about Iloilo, does give it some merit, some may agree that there just is not a lot of things the modern sightseer and prospector can salvage out of Pavia.

That is, until around mid-2018, when Robinsons Place Mannurriao and Santa Barbara, one seasoned veteran in the field and the other a burgeoning upstart—face each other off like feisty titans standing above the mortal plane, eyes locked with an equal distribution of contempt and challenge. Analogies aside, these modern establishments have quickly proven themselves to be boons to the town, attracting swathes of both locals and motorists passing by for a multitude of reasons any mallgoer would opt for.

Whether it be sightseeing, groceries, buying new clothes (further complemented by Uniqlo, a popular brand of Japanese clothing) establishing their flagship in Robinson’s Pavia, or watching movies in the surprisingly lavish new-in-built cinema complete with its own VIP section, one simply cannot deny the profitable effects these new establishments have brought to this once overlooked part of urban Philippines.

With concrete choices and recognizable landmarks modern Panamianhons can look to, Pavia cannot deny the power of opportunistic progress, one be a generalized assumption around them. While this may not only that, due to what Pavia has to offer in 2019 everyone can see and not only that, due to what Pavia has to offer in 2019 everyone can see, the inevitable eyes that witness the surprising rush hour gives quite an impression that the town will inevitably witness and take part in a great change of sorts in its general infrastructure, perhaps starting with these twohuge major investments is sure to bring in investors that have their minds set on establishing financial opportunities and businesses brought about by the success of these two commercial titans, within or around them. While this may be a generalized assumption of opportunistic progress, one cannot deny the power of symbolism and consumerism as key factors that bring about investment priority. And not only that, due to Pavia’s proximity between Mandurriao and Santa Barbara, the gateway to the airport, the inevitable eyes that witness what Pavia has to offer in 2019 as a growing hub for consumerism and contemporary compatibility will add up. Children will be gawking at shopping centers and asking their parents what those big, shiny buildings are; curious couples will turn their wheels toward the parking lot and see what the malls have to offer; prospective business people with their suits and fingers on their chin envisioning a prospective future within the district; and tourists, both new and recurring ones, taking a gander at these unprecedented modern developments in places outside Boracay Island and Iloilo City.

All in all, I think the establishment of Robinsons and GT Mall around the once often overlooked town of Pavia is a healthy development for the residential sector with potential as big as the buildings (and sales to come!) for the town to grow and flourish as yet another major urban junction to rival Iloilo City.
By Joseph Jeon
WSU Intern

On February 26, 2019, the International Conference on Sustainability (ICS) was organized by UP Visayas, in cooperation with various partners here and abroad.

UP Visayas is the constituent university (CU) of the UP System tasked to “lead in and advocate for the sustainable development of the Visayas Region and of the nation within the changing world order.”

The ICS, which happened at District 21 Hotel in Iloilo City, brought about the renewed attention towards the study of sustainable energy—to bridge social sciences with the natural sciences, civic engineering, environmental science, and technologies of the future.

It is “an emerging field of problem-driven, interdisciplinary scholarship that seeks to facilitate interventions that foster shared prosperity and reduced poverty while protecting the environment” (Harvard University School of Government).

The 2-day program emphasized the topic of Sustainability Science, which seeks to enhance human well-being, protect our natural environment, while at the same time drive technological innovation that does not compromise local cultures.

The speakers included Dr. Arnim Wiek of Arizona State University and Dr. Patrick Christie of the University of Washington.

Researchers and practitioners of Sustainability Science were invited to attend and present their work at the conference to illustrate the potential of Sustainability Science and interdisciplinary research to help meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The themes tackled throughout the two-day event were:

- the theory, perspectives and impact of sustainability science;
- research on sustainability science;
- development goals and protecting stocks of capital assets;
- tropical coastal resources and its management;
- ecotourism and sustainability science;
- technology and sustainability science;
- other sustainability issues and concerns.

This conference complemented UPV’s initiatives to incorporate in its academic programs, research and extension the principles and practice of sustainability.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted a new development agenda dubbed “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs) which are outlined in the document “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The post-2015 development agenda is a plan of action for people, earth system, prosperity and equity. It contains a vision to build on the pre-2015 Millennium Development Goals and is encapsulated in 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.

Due to perceived failures of the pre-2015 global development framework, Sustainability Science has gained renewed interest by scholars and practitioners alike.

The conference highlighted current perspectives and case studies that explain what Sustainability Science is and illustrate how integrative/interdisciplinary research and approaches can help achieve the 17 goals and targets set by the UN through the SDGs.

The UPV International Conference on Sustainability introduces the field of sustainability science to the academe, NGOs and other sustainability concerns.

This conference complemented by UPV’s initiatives to incorporate in its academic programs, research and extension the principles and practice of sustainability.

The UPV International Conference on Sustainability introduces the field of sustainability science to the academe, NGOs and other sustainability concerns.

It also aims to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by fulfilling the following conference objectives:

- to provide a forum for presentation of perspectives and research in the field of sustainability science;
- to encourage and provide a venue for exchange of knowledge and practices across disciplines and practitioners within all the dimensions of sustainability; and
- to foster critical and cross-disciplinary discussion on current projects and initiatives to achieve sustainable development goals at the local, national and international levels.

DR. PATRICK Christie (right) delivers his speech about sustainable energy in the forum moderated by Prof. Sonny Fernandez of UPV (left). Dr. Christie has spent several years living in the Philippines to get a better grasp about how to harness sustainable energy from land, sea and air.
The Unsung War: The Silent Struggle of Local Philippine Artists

By Joseph Jon
WVSU Intern

Art IS everywhere and makes contact with all the known faculties of sense. Art can be seen online via social media websites like deviantart, Tumblr, pixiv, Pinterest, Patreon, and many more for amusement, usually without analyzing how each drawing, photo and commissioned has their own unique element that make them aesthetically appealing.

Art is also often overlooked in the form of architecture as we cross paths around city streets, taking the basic geometry and design of buildings, and other features such as billboards and murals that add to the aesthetic value of a locale. Art is an integral element of day-to-day living, and it is often overlooked or taken for granted. Music is also a form of art, and people are generally fine-tuned to appreciate the harmonious blend of musical instruments and sounds. But how much of all this art that integrated itself into modern society do we, as people, actually take the time to appreciate and ponder about?

In the Philippines, many prospective artists and musicians are forced to abandon their passions as a possible path to a career in favor of finding a more grounded job that promises a stable income. “What will you do with your art? Will it really feed you and put a roof over your head?” are common questions that are asked to these people, and unknowingly to most people, such questions are akin to salt over an open wound.

The problem here is, Filipino art has not entirely been put on a high pedestal in years. There are great artists like Fernando Amorsolo and Juan Luna, who will always be remembered in history books and will always be familiar names. But these artists and their work, albeit should not be forgotten, aren’t the only ones that we should know about.

More recent artists are often shunned, saying that their work is unoriginal or not meeting a certain standard or not as good as their Western counterparts. It’s seen as if our art is only limited to a certain template, and cannot be more, cannot be as interesting, cannot be worth our time.

The infamous “colonial mentality” subconsciously shared among many of the Filipino public plays a large part in this stigma, and is one of the biggest enemies local Filipino artists deal with on a daily basis. Filipinos are more inclined to watch live feeds of foreign musicians like BTS or Coldplay, applauding them for their international appeal or reading American superhero comics from Marvel and DC or Japanese manga. They overlook local Filipino musicians, shunning them for their shoddy looks and “uninspired” flair, claiming they can barely understand what they’re singing—ironically, hypocritical, even, take on the average Pinoy critic’s taste in music and mock Filipino cartoonists, criticizing their “wonky” art style and “uninspired” artistic sense.

Since original or unconventional ideas are not accepted, as they are not what people are used to, corporations think that if this idea is not the usual thing that people gobble up, it is not worth the risk. This inadvertently robs the local artist of their freedom of expression, forcing them to keep with an unoriginal output just because it sells and not conforming to true, authentic artistic freedom. Artists with a flair for avant-garde are often discouraged to tackle controversial topics to create. These artists suffer the most in this field.

Artists are forced to do as the higher-ups tell them to do, and as a result, their true potential is often buried in the dirt, and artists are forced to suffer in silence. They could not make a change in our viewpoints even if they wanted to, lest they lose their standing in a society oppressive to aesthetics.

Sometimes, local Filipino artists feel too discouraged

The Unsung War
Breakfast over Sustainable Energy and Influence of Science Skeptics

By JOSEPH JEON

I GET UP, scrape the goop out of my eyes, then walk towards my bathroom and wash my face and hair. I hastily wear my clothes, pick up my fully charged Huawei Nova 2i smartphone that is my multifunctional tool and my one true camera for events worthy of journalistic scoops like this. I jog breakfast, walk out of the house and hail a taxi cab. From there, I arrive just a few minutes later than the scheduled time of 6:45 a.m. There, I was beheld by an otherwise quiet corner that preceded the District 21 hotel building name, right behind the main building primarily used for conventions and other multi-purpose events.

Once I met Ms. Lynne Fernandez of the UP Information and Publication Office, I was ushered into a designated KTV lounge, where a bright, air conditioned environment greeted me, and to my left were metal catering troughs full of breakfast food.

The tables were mostly empty, save for Ms. Fernandez and another media correspondent. Soon, the guest speakers, most of them PhDs in Sustainable Energy science as the ICS 2019 event that was about to take place was primarily their forte, entered the room. One of them was Dr. Patrick Christie, the keynote speaker of the two-day event on sustainable energy.

Managed to get my personal scoop from a little breakfast press conference I and a few other media correspondents. While I listened in on the varying opinions, suggestions and commentaries the other guest speakers had about sustainable science, there was something about Dr. Christie that prompted me to get a particular insight about in this field of science, both for the sake of journalistic coverage, and on a more personal note, as a fellow enthusiast and advocate of science.

When my turn to interview Dr. Christie arrived, I asked him a hitting question that is largely meta in today's society, and a cancer in a largely pragmatic society rooted on founded scientific claims: the growing skepticism towards modern science.

“I study science,’ he said, ‘I study the culture of modern science. I study the culture of environmental management; I study the culture of science; scientists usually don’t like to be observed… but I see them as [just] another social group that relates with environmental issues. So, if you’re going do science, you gotta be comfortable with being observed by people [like me].”

Dr. Christie pointed out that a contributor to this negative sentiment against science may have to do with the “cold” behavior of scientists and their general reluctance towards being observed by the public.

“Apart from the complicated network of reasons, one of the primary reasons why this anti-science movement is gaining traction largely has to do with a sort of existential crisis the modern people have—of their uncertainty and worry about how dynamic these changes are going to impact the lifestyle they know and are accustomed to,” Dr. Christie added.

He also noted that because of this kind of “existential crisis,” some people tend to “shut down” when pressed on their work. Other factors, he noted, may have to do with how the world has largely become a primarily human-operated system, and that in a system where the human element is core, biases will always exist, even within the scientific community. The “cold” demeanor of some scientists scares many into taking in grim hypotheses and confirmed scientific evidence.

This is where he says that this new age of science skepticism has turned into a new challenge for scientists to debunk. In the end, the scientific method of looking into these new challenges, no matter how preposterous, they may be, is one way to circumvent this new issue.

He brought up the example of Galileo. When that man introduced the idea that the world was round, and not flat, the scientific community of his time relentlessly criticized him for it. His theory, after centuries later, proved to be correct.

According to Dr. Christie, this is the main root of what researchers and scientists on sustainable energy and science in general must tackle upon: we may lash out on these conspiracy theories, but there is always a tiny possibility that in the end, they MIGHT be right.
Happy 18th Anniversary

Metro Iloilo Bulk Water
A Metro Pacific Water Company

Land Bank of the Philippines congratulates THE DAILY GUARDIAN on its 18th Anniversary
### Learn aquaculture hands-on and online!

SEADEC/AQD is now accepting applicants for its 2019 training courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Schedule or Duration</th>
<th>Training Fee (PPh)</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carp hatchery and grow-out operations</td>
<td>22-26 April</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>BFS*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out operations</td>
<td>13-17 May</td>
<td>6,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abalone (Haliotis asinina) hatchery and grow-out</td>
<td>16-20 September</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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<td>Marine fish hatchery operations</td>
<td>24 June-30 July</td>
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<td>Catfish hatchery and grow-out operations</td>
<td>21-25 October</td>
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<td>Tilapia hatchery and grow-out operations</td>
<td>17-21 June</td>
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<td>Mangrove crab (mud crab) hatchery operations</td>
<td>12 August-2 September</td>
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<td>Seaweed farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mangrove crab (mud crab) nursery and grow-out operations</td>
<td>16-25 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community-based freshwater aquaculture for remote rural areas of Southeast Asia</td>
<td>19 November-3 December</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>BFS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance learning course: Basics of health management in aquaculture</td>
<td>To be arranged</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance learning course: Principles of aquaculture nutrition</td>
<td>To be arranged</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Bunibongan Freshwater Station, Iloilo  
*Tigbauan Main Station, Iloilo

Training fee covers cost of registration, training materials, field trips and accommodation. For more information, please contact the SEADEC/AQD Training Section at tel: (63-33) 330-7033, telefax: (63-33) 330-7031, and e-mail: training@seaquad.org.ph.

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**Buong Puso para sa Kapuso**

Driven by our passion for creativity and excellence, we pour our hearts into everything we do - for you, our Kapuso.

With unwavering faith in God and belief in ourselves, we face each day with optimism, courage, and determination. Always remaining true to who we are, we endeavor to succeed for the ones we love with commitment, hard work, and integrity.

We are GMA, and we remain, Buong Puso para sa Kapuso.

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**Congratulations to the DailyGuardian on its 18th Anniversary!**

Greetings from:

The Municipality of Isabela, Negros Occidental

HON. JOSELITO MALABOR  
Municipal Mayor

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**Congratulations to the DailyGuardian on its 18th Anniversary!**

Greetings from:

MAYPAGASA  
PARTY LIST

SECURIDAD NG KOMUNIDAD. SALIGAN NG BAYANG MATATAPULAN.
IN celebration of Earth Day, explore the wonders of this extraordinary place we all call home through “Our Planet” on Netflix starting April 5, 2019. The majestic beauty and fragility of Mother Earth is captured masterfully in Netflix’s most ambitious nature docuseries to date, narrated by Sir David Attenborough. From the creator of Planet Earth, the eight-part series features never-before-seen footage of wildlife and their habitats — while also revealing why the natural world matters to us all and what steps must be taken to preserve it. The series is accompanied by Behind-the-Scenes content which will launch simultaneously on Netflix.

The ambitious four-year project has been filmed in 50 countries across all the continents of the world, with over 600 crew members, and focuses on the remarkable diversity of habitats around the world, from the remote Arctic wilderness and mysterious deep oceans to the vast landscapes of Africa and diverse jungles of South America.

In the first episode, viewers will travel from the Brazilian rainforest to Norway’s Svalbard archipelago, discovering how each fragile habitat is connected and why they are all essential for life to thrive on this planet. Subsequent episodes capture Earth’s key biomes or habitats: the icy frozen worlds, jungles, coastal seas, deserts and grasslands, high seas, freshwater regions and forests. Thanks to an extensive team that includes some of the world’s best wildlife cinematographers, researchers and scientists — and the latest in 4K camera technology — each episode features several stunning sequences that have never been filmed before.

Unprecedented in scope and ambition, “Our Planet” will entertain and captivate a global audience of all ages. More importantly, the series will help start an important conversation about the home we all share at a crucial moment when the world needs to act.

Customers can get access to world-class entertainment and switch to GoUNli plans by Globe at Home with speeds of up to 100 Mbps. For existing Globe at Home customers who want to subscribe to Netflix and charge it to their account, simply visit globe.com.ph/broadband/add-ons. Globe Postpaid customers can stream this docuseries and their other favorite Netflix shows and movies anytime, anywhere with ThePLAN! Visit netflix.globe.com.ph to register your Globe Postpaid account.

Stay updated on the latest Globe at Home and Globe Postpaid promos by visiting globe.com.ph. Find out more about Globe and its #GlobeOfGood stories by following Globe Bridging Communities on Facebook.

In support of environmental sustainability, Globe and Hineleban Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit organization based in Bukidnon joined hands to reforest the mountain ranges of Mindanao, home to the country’s last watersheds inhabited by Indigenous People (IP’s) and Bangsamoro communities. This partnership was created to take on the enormous task of reforestation and was cemented via a Sacred Customary Compact with the IP’s and a Peace and Development role with the Bangsamoro People.

You can take part in this reforestation movement easily by donating your Globe Rewards points and naming your tree for the entire month of April. Every 100 Rewards points donation is equivalent to one tree. To donate, just download the Globe Rewards app on your mobile device and click the “DONATE” banner. Tap “HELP100” and press “REDEEM.” Upon receiving the confirmation message, tap on the Hineleban site to name your tree. Enter your name, email, mobile number, and tree name, then wait for a confirmation prompt that you have successfully named your tree.

Catch Netflix’ groundbreaking original docuseries “Our Planet” with Globe At Home and Globe Postpaid.
KAYO... mov1

A few days after that unforgettable
falling day on board his jaunt, we made
the rounds of the media organizations.
He won overwhelmingly.

But Lemuel’s stint as Presi-
dent of the Iloilo Press Club came
with a price – a parting of ways with his
publisher, the Iloilo Press. It was possibly
the baldest move yet. The Iloilo Press Club
was a giant, with a long and successful
history, and I felt it was a senseless move, a
feared and fatal error.

***

Why P2 Million? The key word
is survival. A few days after Iloilo Press
moved to Panay News, Kayo and I decided to
talk to the paper’s publisher, Mr. Jose
Petelliza, Diosis Labiite, Elpidio Baliflo,
and Marilou Marigo. They wanted to join us
and we founded the Visayas Examiner, which
started as a weekly.

If one has connections, like
we did, it was easy enough to
launch a newspaper – adver-
tising revenues from the first
issue alone would be enough
to keep the venture afloat for
a few months. We linked up
with the power of Bayanihan, the spirit –
Edgar Cadagat, Noyoy Espina
and their group to make the
press. We got some capitalization from the Banked
end, we turned the weekly into a daily.

That was a mistake. Since we
had to scramble, we forced
the company to print the paper.
The paper’s deadline was set
by the deadline of Panay News.
We were not paying for printing
dcosts dictated by the printer.
But still, we thought we could
survive.

Alas, the group split on the
cultural scene as when we started.
Our content was often
harshly unfounded supsi-
duousness, which Kayo and I were already
even before the paper was
started. We opted out of the
paper. The Visayas Examiner
continued for a while but eventu-
ally fizzled out.

Common visions and ambi-
tions aside, a daily newspaper
has to survive must have
its own printing capability. That
is what I told Kayo Lemuel, if
we are to put up a newspaper,
there must be its own equipment
for its printing. And so, Noyoy
Espina (which I named after one
of the more popular papers in
the Visayas) bought a printing make and
got its permanent home a few years ago.
But from the day it came up, it had
its share of troubles, which is why I was able to
do a rest of making stories that
occurred the competition.

***

From the beginning, Kayo
took care of the business side
of things. He was the custodian
of the Iloilo Press Club. Since
he has been doing a job of it, I held only my end
for the idea and the idea of having
an active kayo and again, to
yet, on other pursuits
have been on the side
engaged in the digital
scene, fake news at some
time. He has been doing a job of it for a
while. But, the platform was
in the digital media.

The Daily Guardian is
celebrating nearly two decades of
existence. I am glad that it has
survived and that it
is picking up with the standard
of being “the most read and trusted”
newspaper in the region. Congratulations, guys.
Coward to the next mil-

GUARDIAN...
mov1

the truth. Their objective is to kill

The truth.

To a certain extent, groups and
personages promoting untruths are
changing the global political
landscape. The rise of the far
right, a well-organized
backend, in the West, and the
election of Donald Trump in the
US have put an end to any
degree to fake news. In the
locale, the so-called "fake news at
some time" pointed buoys Duterre’s
to rise.

The most glaring assault on
the truth today is the shameless
effort of the Marcoses to revise
the truth today is the shameless
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THE UNUSUAL...
mov2

To create content
due to the public,
boasting story
from the local filipino
artists’ favor, choosing instead to take a
job in the Philippines to
make them a steady income.
It’s a shame, really, as
many of these artists
are struggling to
earn solid income with the
quality of work that they
produce, but the social
standpoint leans more towards
other more than they
are overlooked and often
shunned if brought up.

Moreover, the local artists
here don’t necessarily have a
significant following, many
local filipino artists just do
what they do, following their
heart, only in the hope
that someone will stop and
notice what they are doing.
Those who pour out so much
of their passion and creativity,
leaving pieces of them in
the things they create because
they are driven by their
visions and their thoughts,
view-points, and feelings.

There are people who go on un-
recognized, but still do
what they love to do, although
the fact that their passion
is on the side is interpreted
by their audience that doesn’t
know any better is a subject that
brutally cuts short anyone
and anyone else, who are
passionate about it.

The real

UnREAL...
mov11

I have various
contacts within
Japan, Mexico, and
Columbia, and according
stated that Momo was related
in the digital media.

THE REAL...
mov12

I’m not saying that you
will never make it, but all
the artists who aren’t
who are passionate about
are not in place in such a

LITERATURE...
mov15

What inspires me to grind
and do more better and do more
for the future. as the
community. I’ve set of being “the most read
and trusted” newspaper in the
region. Congratulations, guys.
Coward to the next mil-

GUARDIAN...
mov1

the truth. Their objective is to kill

The truth.
By JoSe p h Je o n

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