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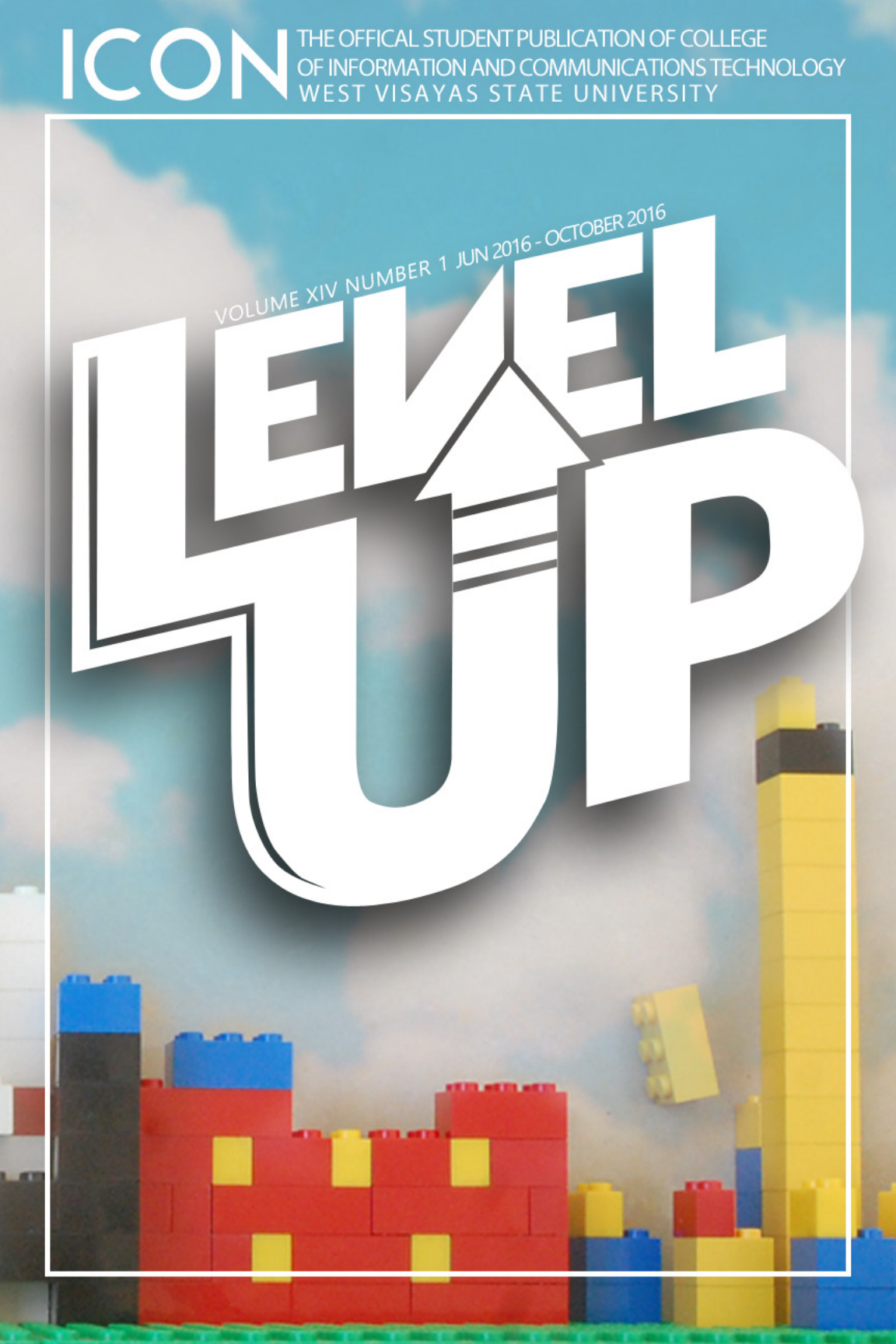
LEVEL UP



LEVEL UP

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ABOUT THE COVER

Inspired by the quote “Change is coming” by President Rodrigo Duterte, we had come up an idea of taking this year’s first semester to the next level in which we entitled “Level Up.”

Level Up in the sense that life is about change; sometimes it’s painful and beautiful but most of the time it’s both. It’s painful for there are times when you need to change for what is best and let go of the past. Beautiful for there are times when life gives us too much to handle, we need to also change and be independent to handle these things to ourselves, be mature enough perhaps to think of new possibilities and come up of new ideas and inspire others which makes all of it beautiful and fulfilling. Both painful and beautiful for in all we do there is always good and bad which enables us to cope up with our mistakes and change for the better.

For the cover, the idea of the theme change is represented by Leggo. Leggos are flexible. We can build something from it, by disassembling its pieces it enables us to create, innovate and be inspired of new ideas and once the pieces are back together we can form a more astounding outcome. Let us all remember that everything is possible as long as we help each other hand in hand or might as well sing “Everything is awesome; everything is cool when you’re part of the team. “ Together now let’s Level Up.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Being a part of this organization has given me a chance to do what I am afraid to do. I am afraid of rejection, and I am afraid of responsibilities, but it goes to show that all my fears have been surpassed in just a span of time.

First in line is Rejection, most of us fear of being rejected, it prevents us for doing the usual things, we always thought that they might not accept us, but as I joined this organization I realized that not all the time rejection is present, for they had accepted me for who I am and they appreciate the little things that I do.

Second is Responsibility, joining an organization is like having to share your time to take part with school activities instead of spending it with your loved ones or studying. We fear that if we don't take it seriously we couldn't do it, but it is up to us on how we handle the responsibility. And most especially I learned that you can do your responsibilities and have fun at the same time, and all your org members are like your second family.

I had doubted myself before for several times but because I had faced my fears I started believing myself and it boosted my confidence somehow. To sum it all up, everything we want is on the other side of Fear; there is no other reason not to face it. It is just a quest to test our capabilities. We just have to believe in ourselves.

And before I end this note I just want to express my gratitude to the previous ICON staffers, which somehow hand in hand had helped us in any possible way and continued to inspire us.

To our fellow CICTzens I know this issue has been a little too late and did not meet the timeline expected due to some circumstances, we do apologize for delay, ICON will continue to serve you in the best way we can.

And to ICON batch 2016-2017 I know we did our best and hoping for more ideas to come.

"Keep the Passion Burning."

Kate Lauren Dato-on
Editor-in-Chief

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SMART SHAMING: THE EDI-WOW CULTURE

"Anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that 'my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge'" – Isaac Asimov

When somebody says something that others cannot easily understand or that is greatly philosophical in a way, most people will usually respond things like, 'Huo ah. Ikaw na alam.', 'Ikaw na eh.', 'Di wow!', and facing such comebacks, one can no longer continue with the conversation or argument. That, is called smart shaming; and it has been a widespread trait among most of us Filipinos today.

All of us agree that knowledge is power and that it is a key to one's greatness. But why is it that there seems to be a culture of anti-intellectualism in the Philippines? Why do most of us do it? Why must we have this mentality? Is it because we level being smart with being arrogant? Or do we see somebody's intelligence as offense, especially when they show it off in an argument with us?

One time my friend asked me 'Ngaa ga English kagid haw?' and my reply was simply because I can express myself better in the language just like she can express herself better in vernacular. It is very common for a lot of us to say things like 'Grabe. Nosebleed.', 'Tama na bi. Dugo ilong ko ba' when somebody writes or speaks using the English language.

In non-native English speaking countries, using the said language fluently is something admirable and worthy of compliments. Why can't most of us be like that? The English language was declared as our official second language since the establishment of the 1987 Constitution, but why is it that most of us still find it so foreign? It always poses to me as a challenge whenever I know or meet somebody that uses English better than I do, and it is really disheartening to see that most people dispense their misery of not being good enough against those who are.

When the "Edi wow" expression first surfaced, it had me troubled, because it helped empower smart-shaming in the Philippines even more. Yet, ironically, the masses and the media embraced it, until it became a widespread trend. If you make a fact-supported opinion on social media and you deliver it well, you don't always expect that it will get positive feedbacks but rather the opposite, especially if your opinion oppose the majority's beliefs.

Instead of supporting the pursuit for intelligence, many resort to smart-shaming. We discredit people who are trying to broaden their knowledge on things, just because they don't or can't. Although openminded individuals who are the exact opposite of the aforementioned ones still exist, they are greatly outnumbered.

It is sad to know that we live in a place where trying to be smart is somewhat considered a taboo; where expressing intelligently gets more raising eyebrows than applause. But even if that is the current situation, let it not be a dissuasion for you to strive for knowledge.

No matter how much others would criticize, smart-shame or bash you for your intelligent way of expressing your opinions, still, keep letting them out. A great captain once said that *"Even when the mob or the press or the whole tell you to move, your job is to plant yourself like a tree beside the river of truth, and tell the whole world,*

No, you move."

LIVE LIFE BEYOND LIMITS

Kate Lauren Dato-on

As we are born in this world we are given a gift called life. Life is mysterious, we live and we die. There is no assurance on what will we become as we journey to the path called life.

Life is too short to procrastinate. That is why you live life the way you want it to be. Stop having inhibitions. "You Only Live Once" these are the words most of the youth say these days. It's not every day you get to hang out with your friends. It's not every day you get to do the simple things that make you happy. That is why tell yourself, why do it tomorrow, when you can do it today?

Dare to Try Something New

Out with the old and in with the new. Do you feel that your life is kind of boring that it probably pushes you to do things that are new to you?

There are first times for everything. I know these experiences might be new to you and might be tempting, and as first timers it is only normal to get nervous or get a little excited at first. Again I am not pushing you to your limits but think about it, someday you might regret that you haven't done these things while you're at it.

There is no harm in trying, as long as you know to yourself that you can handle it and most of all know your limits.

Dare to Break the Rules

We are said to have boundaries which separate the things that we are allowed to do and the things that we are not allowed to do. If you were to choose between the line of curiosity and incuriosity, where would you be? Would you be curios enough to know what's out there? Or would you rather stay quiet and go on with your boring life? Would you obey or would you dare to break the rules?

Rules here! Rules there! Rules everywhere! What prevents us from breaking the rules is that we might not handle the wrath of those people who set it, especially our parents once we get caught, another is you have no idea of what will happen if you break the rules, will there be consequences?

What triggered us to break the rules is our curiosity; curiosity brings out the best in us. In breaking the rules it doesn't always end in bad results, in fact, sometimes it teaches you why you shouldn't do it, and some bring you experiences that you wouldn't forget, especially those epic moments, the thrill of getting caught, feeling of freedom and overall a feeling of satisfaction to your curiosity. Afterwards you might face the consequences of your actions, but at least you got the experience of a lifetime.

Dare to take chances

Nowadays chances only come once, you're lucky if it were to come twice.

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KEY TO A HAPPY HEART

Trisha Paglicawan

"One of the happiest moments in life is when you find the courage to let go of something you can't change."

Most teenagers nowadays are having a hard time moving on from a painful situation like failed exams, losing a very important person, and most especially, break-ups. One thing that keeps them from moving on is that they are hoping that things will get back to how it used to be. But sometimes God will leave you no choice but to accept the fact, face reality, let it all go and move on.

Acceptance. It is the fifth stage in DABDA by Kubler-Ross's Stages of Grieving. But for me, it is the first step in empowering yourself and others to live in a peaceful and happy life. There are so many "ifs" in this world that you wish you can change, but you can't. That's why it is very important to accept something that is unchangeable so that you can make constructive action and that is, to move on. Life offers us two things as we go through each day: acceptance or frustration. Given that you have the choice, isn't it a pretty easy one to make?

Face reality. Most of us tend to avoid reality and live in denial out of fear. Fear of the unknown, fear of facing change, fear of taking risks, fear of something unfamiliar. Hanging on to things that at some point have hurt us, angered us, made us feel sad, or depressed us is a process that can destroy our life in ways we're not even aware of. To prevent this from happening, we need to be realistic and optimistic towards life. Facing reality not only improves our life but also the lives of the people around us. Take a look around you, appreciate even the smallest things, and distract yourself from overthinking. Wake up, Alice! You are not in Wonderland. You are here in this world full of true happiness, never-ending opportunities, and wonderful experiences.

Let go. Think of it this way: You're on a hiking trip. Along the way, you keep on picking heavy objects that don't really serve you a purpose. After a while, these objects begin to slow you down and unless you get rid of them, you'll never complete your trip. The point is, the more you carry, the worse life gets. It's like filing up your mind with negative experiences and continually hanging on to something that doesn't allow you to move forward, in short, you are carrying useless baggage that's really slowing you down. Many of us chose to hang on to those "things" that at some point have hurt us, angered us, depressed us, or made us feel sad.

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WALLS INSTEAD OF BRIDGES

Christine Joy Jardeleza

We sometimes sacrifice a lot that we forget to leave something for ourselves. We love so much that we forget to love ourselves first. Pain and heartache follow shattering our divine being. The agony of being tormented by the pain brought about by our own decisions makes us build walls instead of bridges. It is human nature for us to distance ourselves from things that might potentially hurt us. Whether that threat is physical or emotional, we often sulk ourselves in the dark alone rather than take more risks of being hurt again by others.

There are times that in fear of grieving again so greatly or bleeding again so badly, we build an invisible wall that divides us from the rest. This wall builds a perimeter of our comfort zone, and we stay there for protection. Yes! It's just natural for us to act that way, but what we often forget is that in the swaying pendulum of fate, there comes sorrow. In love, there comes pain, and in success, there comes challenges.

Love – a four letter word that means so much that brings as much joy and pain. It is an indescribable feeling that blinds us in the radiance of truth and drags us to ignorance and hatred. We often hate because we feel pain. And because we start to hate, the world becomes a blur picture of black and white. So lifeless...so miserable. We often say we've already moved on to show that we're over the pain of the past, but the truth is, we're only concealing our own feelings, manipulating our own emotions. We build a wall made up of blocks of pride. We flash a smile in front of everyone, but inside we bleed. We act normally around him, but deep inside we so badly wish that it's still us, that nothing ever did change.

We tell everyone how well we've moved on, but we continually ask ourselves in secret why the feeling lingers within our chest like a thousand knives stabbing at once every single time we see him with her.
We don't notice that we are limiting ourselves to be happy again in fear of being hurt one more time. We often reject the love of other people because of a heartache inflicted to us by one person.

Why do we keep on building walls that separate us from the rest if we could build bridges that would connect us to everyone? Yes! We might be hurt sometimes but hurting is part of living. Change is the constant thing in this world – whether that's waking up one day losing our most valued belonging or losing the person we so dearly love. Experiencing hurt and pain is proof that we are alive, that we are breathing. It's never a reason to isolate ourselves from the rest.

They say no man is an island. So instead of grieving alone in pain, we should reach out and be with people that truly understands us. Perhaps, it's just a matter of perspective, Why hide our feelings if feelings if we can freely show it? Why disguise ourselves behind a smiling mask of lies if we can show the world who we really are? We don't know what will happen next and we can't spend each day regretting about the words left unspoken and feelings left unrealized.

WHERE IS THE LOVE

Justin Tabuada

"Father, Father, Father, help us
Send some guidance from above
Cause people got me, got me questioning ..."

Lifeless bodies. Multiple gunshot wounds. Corpses anywhere on the streets with a dangling placard that says "Drug pusher ako. Huwag tularan."

The Philippines became the center of attention these past months. It is because of the extrajudicial killings occurring within the country. As a result of this, the President is not only facing a battle against crimes, but is also facing a battle against people who advocate the preservation of life.

The war between the crimes and the President had started when he took over. According to PNP Chief Director General Ronald Dela Rosa, more than 1,160 deaths were recorded in the past 55 days that are still 'under investigation'. 700 persons of which have been killed in legitimate police operations, and the number of deaths is increasing everyday which seriously alarms the populace.

The increasing number of crime rates due to extra judicial killings alarm the majority; especially for most religious people who believe that taking someone's life is against God's law. We could say that the President has a good reason: He wanted to retrieve the peace that is taken away from this country. But his approach to the problem is wrong.

President Duterte wanted to 'wipe the crimes away' in just 6 months. Which is impossible to believe. Everything that is in its transition goes into a process, and this process takes time. It couldn't be rushed. If it happened, we have to face the consequences it will bring. And the both parties concerned will surely suffer.

The government seemed oblivious that these alleged drug users, pushers or criminals also have their human rights. And these rights are taken away from them by just pulling a trigger to end their lives. Their acts of criminality are not a valid reason for them to be killed. As humans, they deserve to be punished under due process.

President Duterte wanted to protect us, the Filipinos, from harm. But as the time goes by, his battle for peace has turned into a battle against his own people.

CHOICES, CHANCES, CHANGES: THINGS THAT END UP CHANGING US

April Kaye Dalumpines

Why does a person change? Have you met a person who has altered his/her attitude and remodeled his/her physical appearance? Have you met a person you used to know but now you don't? They might have changed because of their past experiences. They might have changed because someone provoked them to do so. They might have changed because they wanted to- changed for the better.

NAGMAHAL (LOVED). You exerted efforts. You cared. You trusted. You gave your time. You gave your loyalty. And lastly, you loved. It's not wrong to love someone, after all it's the heart that chooses. You're the one who decides whether that person is going to be with you through the road of forever or not, whether that person is worth the wait, and/or that person is worth spending the rest of your life with. Is that person the one? Is that the person you want to live with? Regardless of your choices and decisions, there is always a possibility of picking the wrong person- that the person you love belongs to someone else and is destined to be with someone else.

NASAKTAN (HURT). You loved the wrong person. It's either that person doesn't deserve you or you don't belong to each other. There's someone special meant for you who can change your life, someone who can help you ease the pains of yesterday, someone you deserve than your past, someone who can love you today, tomorrow and in the future, someone who is made for you, someone who is destined for you. May be that person is just around the corner. Open your eyes, believe in yourself and open your heart because there might be someone waiting for you to make the first move.

NAGBAGO (CHANGED). Have you noticed someone who doesn't love you, want you or somebody who doesn't want to stay in your life? Maybe there's something wrong with you. Something that can be changed for the better- not for bitter nor worst. If you seem to be having these limitations and weaknesses, change them to be your advantage. If you think you're too bitter, change it to better. Don't be haughty, instead, be humble. But don't change everything. Change only a part of you. Change a little, but not too much. Pain can change you but don't let it overwhelm you. Don't let it control you. Someone will appreciate you if you stay true to yourself- Be yourself.

As C.S. Lewis said *"Getting over a painful experience is much like crossing monkey bars. You have to let go at some point in order to move forward."* You don't need to be stuck in that situation. You can decide who you want to be. You can make new and different things. You can do better things. You can inspire. You can aspire. Let go of the past, think of today and move forward to the future.

THE ART OF NOT DOING YOUR BEST

Wilfred Ian Benite

You're probably thinking something like, "What new level of senselessness is this madness?" Or is this some kind of senseless nonsense that someone is just spilling over without making any logical understanding? Yes, it might be that when you think at it one way but read along with an open mind and you might learn something from this. When you look around everywhere in all places wherever that may be, we are urged to always do our best in everything that we do wherever that may be. People tell us to try harder, be better. But people often forget that all of us are not built the same way. Some people can do their best, and some people can't. The sooner you accept under which categoryyou fall, the better you will be at working towards a goal. You might be confused by not doing your best and not doing anything at all and to clarify things, no, that is not what I meant. Life isn't black and white and what I'm talking about is a gray area in between the black and the white. So what does it mean to understand the art of not doing your best? There are many categories when it comes to understanding this concept but there is just three things that you have to keep in mind when not doing your best and these three things can be translated into three basic questions. And it follows in that order:

First question, Can you do it? You are asked of, if you have the capability to do the task you are given.

Do you have the time, the skill, the talent, the passion, the perseverance, the energy, the motivation to do what is asked of you? You have to think first on what you can and can't do. This way, you don't have to exhaust a lot of effort into something that, in the end, might be something you aren't capable of and you just wasted your time and effort you couldn't do. Understanding this and accepting that there are things you are incapable of doing can save a lot of time for you in working towards other goals. Just remember this, you are not alone in this world and it's okay to have weaknesses. What I mean by this is that, there will always be people who are willing to help. Second question, Do you want to do it?

Now you ask yourself, is this something you want to do? Can you see yourself enjoying doing this task? This part comes from the concept that, people who do things they want to do, tend to do a better job than people who don't want to do what they're doing. In this sense, when you're doing something you want, you exert maximum effort and minimum energy is spent.

It becomes an optimal choice for you compared to other people who don't want to do what they're doing, it feels like time purposely slows down for them to feel every bit of moment they spend on doing something they don't want to do and it inhibits creative energies from flowing because the mind is locked in a state of "why am I doing this? I don't even want to do this." which causes the mind to be filled with needless thoughts.

And Lastly, Are you willing to do it?

Ask yourself again, "Am I willing to do this task?" This backs up the second question and if you're willing to invest your time in a task because ultimately, you will be exerting effort in this task no matter what happens.

If your answer to all the question is a "yes", it means that not doing your best will be enough in finishing this task because of one simple factor: your heart is in the right place. Skill and intellect are both essential formulas in finishing a task but they aren't the only things that make this world go round. What the art of not doing your best means is that, even without exerting your best efforts, as long as you know you can do something, want to do something and willing to do it, you can create a better output out of it. Just remember these things. Remember where your passion lies and your skills will come around eventually. This doesn't mean that you are encouraged not do your best. This is to show just showing you that there are more than one way to get something done. With this in mind, be cautious in following the art of not doing your best because like I said at the start, not everyone is built the same way.

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Each one of us is given chances, a chance to change, a chance to choose, a chance to know, a chance to prove, a chance to be who we really are.

Chances in life depend on the path that we are choosing. Chances are like opportunities if it knocks then have it. But there are also chances that are not meant for us, just like getting an entrance exam to your dream school but unfortunately you didn't pass, doing a job interview to your aimed company but unfortunately you are not qualified to their standards, being close to the people you are comfortable with but then you left for some reasons, but at least you got the chance to try, you took the chance even though you didn't know what will happen after that. "In the end we only regret the chances we didn't take." – *Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist*

So all I can say is that dare to challenge yourself in the game of life, you are capable of surviving it, just be yourself. Dare to try something new you might discover what you are capable of, dare to break the rules if it is for the sake of everyone, dare to take chances for you don't know what journey awaits you. Trying wouldn't harm you as long as you know your limits; life only comes once enjoy every bit of it, live as if it were your last. Remember life is a story, make yours the best seller.

Write to us!
We'd love to know what you thing of this semester's issue and what you'd want to read/see in future issues! Email your thoughts, comments and suggestions to:

weareicon.pub@gmail.com

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If you chose to hang on to them, you can never move forward into the next chapter of your life. Hanging on to negative past events is a process that can destroy your life in ways you're not even aware of. So let it go, dearie. Let it all go and focus on what is important.

Move on. Move on. There's still a life after failure, loss or break up. Reality check: It's not the end of your world. When the pain slowly goes away, you will feel so proud and so strong for getting though it. Prioritize yourself, think about what you can do to better yourself for your own sake.

Start with the little victories, like eating a whole slice of pizza or watching a movie with a love story in it. You will be so happy that you did when you look back. Don't waste your life; you don't deserve that. And remember that you are worth it to make yourself the number-one person in your life. You're going to be so surprised with the outcome of this situation. Lastly, never forget that you're as strong as you allow yourself to be. You'll survive. You'll move on, eventually. Maybe you haven't moved on for good, but for now make yourself your first priority.

NEWS

MAIN CAMPUS DOMINATES UNIVERSITY HINAMPANG 2016

Justine Tabuada

West Visayas State University – Main Campus was hailed the overall champion in the recently concluded University Hinampang 2016 held at the said campus last September 22 to September 24.

WVSU Main and external campuses are gathered annually to com pete in Hinampang. Lambunao Campus and Calinog Campus are declared as 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Sport competitions included Basketball, Lawn Tennis, Softball, Badminton, Volleyball, Chess, Athletics, Swimming, Taekwondo, Table Tennis, Football, Sepak Takraw and Swimming. Dancesports was added to this year's Hinampang.

CICT JOINS WVSU SLDP 2016: BREAKOUT

Trisha Paglicawan and Kate Dato-on

Various CICTzens from different organizations joined this year's Student Leadership Development Program (SLDP), last May 18-20, 2016 at West Visayas State University (WVSU) Calinog Campus with the theme: "Breakout". This event aimed to train and develop the students's leadership, cooperation, and unity. The participants were divided into 10 groups of vices namely: Hybris, Aergia, Gulveig, Dolos, Zelus, Oizys, Himera, Phobos, Lyssa, and Momus.

Several discussions were made on the first day about "Volunteerism and The Demands of Leadership" by Prof. Rejie Palmos and Ms. Christine Velez Salao.

On the following day, Prof. Noel Lentija Garcia gave a lecture on "Good Governance with Parliamentary Procedure", while Prof. Jemuel Garcia talked about the "The Language of Leadership." Later that day, participants joined in the team building activities headed by the iLEAD team. The day ended with "U-Night", in which participants were given the opportunity to enhance their talents by organizing on-the-spot events that developed friendship among its participants.

On the third and final day, participants faced the Breakout Challenge, "Reloaded: Outbreak" that was designed to test the students' patience, optimism, cooperation and camaraderie. Also, the SLDP would have been incomplete without the awarding ceremony and closing program. Team Phobos was announced victorious and received the Gold medals, followed by team Oizys with silver medals, and team Dolos with bronze.

WVSU CELEBRATES GREEN MONTH 2016

Trisha Paglicawan

West Visayas State University (WVSU) celebrated the Green Month in August 2016, which aims to put forward the University's core virtue of excellence. Support to the Green advocacy was showcased through the organization of the following activities:

Green Parade. All students gathered wearing green shirts to grace the grounds of WVSU.

Green Minds. Earth-friendly students of WVSU formed groups to participate in the battle of the brains.

Green Photo. The University Student Council (USC) facilitated this activity for photography enthusiasts to promote the event's advocacy.

Clash of Murals. WVSU's visual artists were tapped to color the walls of the university with a message that matches with this year's theme: "Plants and People Go Hand-in-hand."

The said contest was made to create an aesthetic statement in preserving and protecting the environment.

MusiKalikasan. To enhance the overflowing talent in music, the USC presented the MusiKalikasan – a song writing competition open to all WVSU students.

As an annual tradition, the USC held a Mangrove Tree Planting & Coastal Clean-up Drive to promote the Green advocacy. They also organized a multi-purpose project to raise awareness on the "Jalaur River: Indigenous People and Environmental Situations" advocacy.

Together with this venture, relevant forums were also made available for faculties and students.

Photos from WVSU-USC

WVSU JOINS SCIENCE DAY

GIselle Camino

"Science is a way of life."

West Visayas State University joins the Science Day Celebration with the theme "Building a Science Nation: Utilizing Science Knowledge to Cope with Global Health Problems" in cooperation with ICAST, DOH, URDC, Dep Ed and the USC last September 5, 2016.

The celebration also included a forum with the theme: "Cigarette Smoking in Iloilo City Schools: Profile, Awareness, Intervention, and Enforcement." Four presenters including College of Arts and Sciences', Prof. Richelle O. Tuvillo. Headed the discussion related to smoking, statistics showing the number of students who are smoking, and the harmful effects it causes.

The celebration ended at noon, honouring the presence of the speakers and presenters. Students were also given a chance to ask questions prior to what the speakers have discussed.

CICT HOLDS FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Trisha Paglicawan

Last June 30, 2016, the College of Information and Communication Technology (CICT) held its first general assembly in the WVSU Cultural Center. This even was spearheaded by Carmela Paredes, Chairperson CICT-SC. It aims to discuss and inform the students of the college about the faculty, different organizational officers, calendar of activities, rules and guidelines, and the budget plan for this semester.

The program formally started with the entrance of colors headed by the ROTC followed by the doxology, Philippined National Anthem, and WVSU Hymn. The Dean of the CICT, Dr. Joel T. De Castro, gave his warm welcome to the students and the faculty afterwards. The CICT Accomplishment Report was presented by Mrs. Ma. Luche Sabayle, Associate Dean of the College. Next was the Student's Research Thesis Overview and the Laboratory Guidelines which was presented by Mr. Arnel Secondes. The newly elected CICT-SC Officers was then introduced by Mr. Shem Durst Elijah Sandig, Co-Advier, CICT-SC. Calendar of Activities and Budget Plan was also discussed by John Michael Guijaro, Vice Chairperson, CICT-SC and Kriszelle Kaye Palma, Treasurer, CICT-SC, respectively.

The Chairperson of the Student Council, Carmela Pareded, discussed the proposed activities and programs of the college this semester. Various organizations namely, E-PULSE, ICODE, ICON, ISO LINK.EXE, MMS, and the curriculum officers was introduced to the CICTzens and gave an energetic intermission number afterwards headed by the CICT-SC after their Oath-Taking.

The program ended with an Open-Forum headed by the College Student Council and Mr. Shem Durst Elijah Sandig, Co-Adviser, CICT-SC.

MacBook Pro

"It's faster and more powerful than before, yet remarkably thinner and lighter. It has the brightest and the most colorful Mac notebook display ever, and it introduces
the Touch Bar — a multi-touch enabled strip of glass built into the keyboard for instant access to the tools you need right when you want them. The new MacBook Pro is built on ground-breaking ideas, and it's ready for you."
-Apple, 2016

Moreover, this product offers better graphics. It has the brightest display so far with **500 brightness units.** It also has 25% more colors than sRGB revealing more greens and reds, and has a 67% higher contrast ratio.

MacBook Pro has a processor that reaches a maximum of 3.8GHz, which makes it capable of expanding its storage up to 100%. Its battery life of over 10 hours is also one of its noticeable improvements.

Its redesigned speakers provide twice as much dynamic range and 58% more volume, which is evident in the product's ability to produce a louder bass sound.

MacBook Pro's track pad (or mouse pad) is also designed to be twice as large as it was before providing more range in movement and allowing more space for clicking.

Photos from google.com

Google Pixel

"It is the highest-rated smartphone camera ever. It has battery that lasts all day and it has unlimited storage for photos and videos. Most of all, it's the first phone that has built-in Google Assistant."
-Google, 2016

Towards the last quarter of the year, Google introduces a new smartphone that the company developed itself. At first glance, it looks similarly close to other smartphones, but don't be fooled because it offers a lot more features than just typical smartphone aesthetic.

With crisp camera settings, it captures high-quality pictures in 12.3MP and 1.55μm pixels resolution that make shots look impeccably clear. It also offers more than enough storage for photos and videos, which makes it a perfect match for aspiring multimedia artists.
In addition, it has a seamless glass-aluminum body. Security-wise, it can unlock quickly through Pixel Imprint or fingerprint sensor.

Lastly, the best thing that Google Pixel has to offer is its long battery life, which is absent in majority of smartphones today. With Google Pixel, you can get 7 hours of battery life for a short duration of 15 minutes charging!

Price starts at PHP39,000.00.

Photos from google.com

GAME
REVIEWS

Mystic Messenger is the third game released by Cheritz, a korean game company that releases otome games. This is their first ever game for android.

Mystic Messenger is about a protagonist (which is you) going through series of events that leads to a chatroom called RFA. The organization is dedicated in throwing parties to earn funds that goes to charity to make the world better. RFA lost one of its members a year ago. And your adventure starts here, replacing that said member.

The characters range from awful and unbearable to charming; some of which I'd consider among Cheritz's best written characters. This is unfortunate being paired with the time mechanic, and the freemium content. If a player tries to replay the game, and doesn't wish to wait they can spend hour glasses on previously unlocked content.

There are five routes and mainly five characters who will be with you in your journey namely Yoosung, Zen, Jaehee, Jumin and 707. Each have good and bad endings you need to finish in order to unlock all gallery contents.

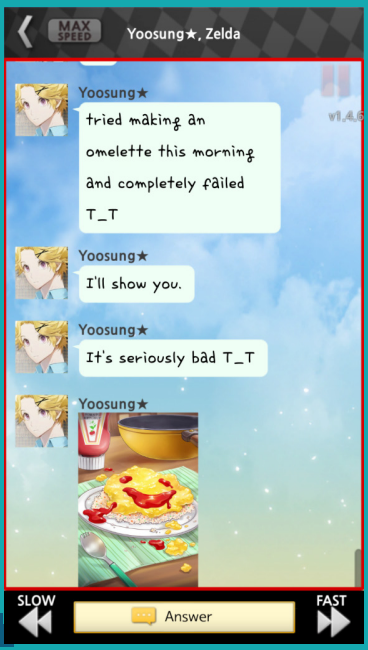
The pros of Mystic Messenger would be the individual routes, and the amount of content in each route. With a length comparable to all of the routes of OzMafia or Code Realize there's something to be had in this free to play mobile game. The art is very pleasing for the most part, but there's a lot to be desired. The writing is fairly compelling, and some of the tracks are alright but there aren't very many of them.

There are very many cons that might deter you from the game. There aren't very many tracks, and with the length of the game this might end up wearing on you. Consequently it's hard to take some of the emotional scenes very seriously if you're hearing the same song that played in every other emotional scene and this breaks immersion. Another thing that grossly broke immersion was the obvious difference in artists between the main sprites and the supporting character sprites. The difference isn't subtle, and its rather jarring. The game since launch, and to the time,is still riddled with bugs. I've personally gone out of my way to help other users come up with bug fixes for some of the better known bugs. Cheritz at least has provided ample compensation for it, but I'd prefer having a polished game on launch. The difficulty of replaying the game is also a major turn off as it makes CG collecting and completing the game nearly impossible. The main characters aren't voiced during the sparse visual novel portions of the game which were all too few.

Cheritz still try their best to polish and make the game better for the best experiences and bug free gaming. I've played the game and so far finished 3 (good ending, bad ending, and normal ending respectively) routes with bugs and glitches. Some of the glitches are helpful, like earning hourglasses and you can adjust the time. Well, who knows. Maybe in the future, this will be fixed and can only be played in real time with no way you can cheat (I don't know but cheating kills the fun right? XD) and you can fully enjoy.

Some snapshots from the game.

Photos from google.com
Article Reference from eliotghyle.tumblr.com



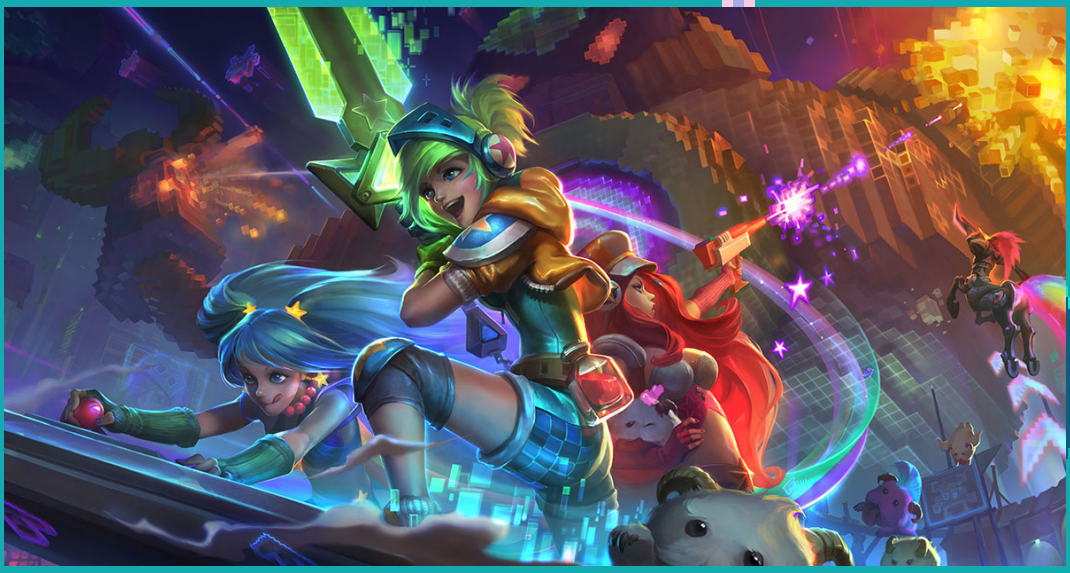
Who doesn't know about League of Legends? Well, League of Legends is a multiplayer online battle arena genre video game and developed by Riot Games.

There are characters you can use, called champions, with different statistics. It might be a Marksman, Support, Mage, Jungler or Assassin, depends in your role in every game. In gaming, there are only two teams fighting and defending their own Nexus. Each team is provided 5 members with different roles.

Just as other games, the champions you are using can change appearance. In LOL we call it, skins. But you will have to purchase it through buying Garena Shells and Converting it into Riot Points in your LOL account then bam! You can now buy your desired skin.

Recently, Riot released some awesome skins. They named it Arcade. It is a series of alternate future/universe skin featuring champions digitized into an arcade setting. The Holy Gaming Trinity and the first Arcade Skins released were Arcade Miss Fortune, Arcade Riven and Arcade Sona that are destined to "save the game". The recently released were Arcade Ahri, Arcade Corki and Arcade Ezreal, they are more rounded players who have only just arrived in the game-verse.

Snapshot:



THE WITCHER 3: WILD HUNT

Judie Thearenze Gallardo

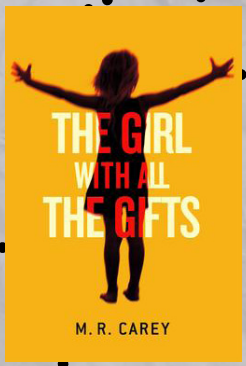
Initially released last May 2015 and was developed by CD Projekt RED, the Witcher 3 has already been awarded multiple times mainly receiving the title “Game Award for Game of the Year.” It was, no questions asked, the best game of 2015. With a near perfect score, the recognition comes to no surprise. The Witcher 3 is what an avid gamer would describe as a true masterpiece. The graphics are stunning, with a vivid and life-like environment.

On the other hand, the characters are well placed and the NPC is designed with so much detail in mind. The most impressive thing about the game, however, is that it is aesthetically competent. You can just literally stop playing the main story line, and go on and travel just to appreciate the graphical content it offers!
A player, called a Witcher which is synonymous to Monster Hunter or Slayer, can explore Geralt of Rivia in the Northern Kingdom, mainly questing through with the main story line and side quests. Being a Witcher means having an arsenal of weapons, potions and magic tricks to assist one in overcoming challenges and hindrances one might encounter throughout the game.

Look forward to the battle system because it is by far, one of the best battle systems for an RPG!

Photos from google.com

BOOK REVIEWS



THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS

M.R. Carey

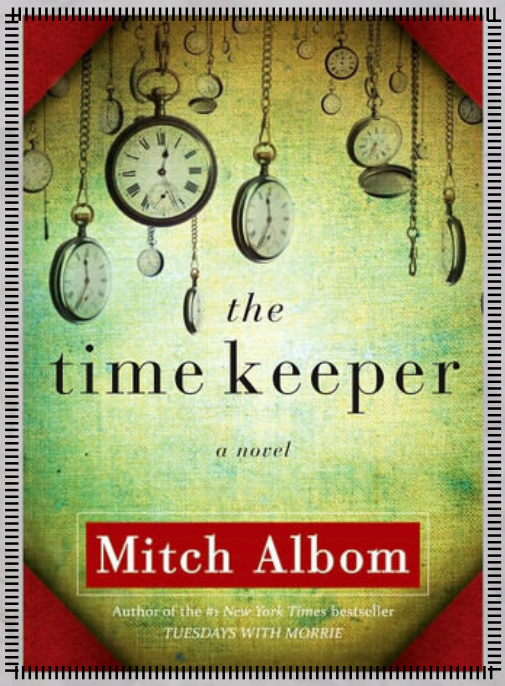
The story takes place in a post-apocalyptic world. It follows the journey of Melanie, the protagonist, and how she saves the world. The title its self is misleading "The Girl With All The Gifts" from the book, it was derived from the story of Pandora's Box.

Pandora, who was given a box by the gods and told not to open it but out of curiosity, she did. Certain similarities follow the main character of the story.

At a military compound, the children who were locked up are utilized for research purposes. They are 2nd generation hungries (or zombies) who are valuable test subjects to save humanity.

What the story holds deeply is not within the story itself. The plot is mediocre, but the emotional value that a person gives to others.

In the eyes of Melanie, there are people whom she loves dearly and there are people whom she disagrees with completely. With her high intellect, despite her condition, she manages to get through with where she is. The book offers the experience of feeling the pain and sacrifice when you, yourself, are a monster and you try so hard not to be. The story explores the extent to what things are you willing to do for the person you love. You try so hard not to be. You try so hard not to lose to your primal instincts and destroy what you value most. To the avid readers of zombie books and post-apocalyptic what-will-be's, I recommend reading “The Girl With All The Gifts”.



First thing you should know is that this book has three separate stories at the beginning which will intertwine in the end. The first person is a man who wants to reverse time, this person is known as the timekeeper. The timekeeper is cursed to forever watch over the flow of time. The second character, is a girl who wants to end her time in the world. The third person, is a man who wants more of it. At his old age, he invested money to be frozen for when the time comes a formula for immortality is found, he will receive it.

The story starts when God decides to give the timekeeper a second chance at life to save the two preceding persons that were described. A story compelling the reader to evaluate the value of time in all its aspects. It is not something to be wasted, as the story describes. And a second chance is something that doesn't come often. The story revolves around mainly on the timekeeper and how he was the first to record the flow of time, and how he asked God to save the one he loves but in doing so, he crossed a line between man and God which shouldn't have been crossed. He was cursed to forever watch over the one thing he took from God which is time. And in doing so, an eternity of repentance on what he left behind to pursue his struggles. Overall, emotionally compelling and one of the best books you can read. Once you start, you don't want to stop. The timekeeper will keep you at the edge.

MOVIE REVIEWS

NERVE
Emma Roberts, Dave Franco, Emily Meade, Miles Heizer
Adventure, Thriller

Industrious high school senior Vee Delmonico (Emma Roberts) is tired of living life on the sidelines. Pressured by her friends, Vee decides to join Nerve, a popular online game that challenges players to accept a series of dares. It's not long before the adrenaline-fueled competition requires her to perform increasingly dangerous stunts. When Nerve begins to take a sinister turn, Vee finds herself in a high-stakes finale that will ultimately determine her entire future. Emma Roberts (Vee) and Dave Franco (Ian), have a very genuine spark between them as they play along being partners in a game of dare.

Nerve is a game that brings The Hunger Games to our world. Anonymous online watchers set challenges for the game, and the players are paid for each one they complete.

The unblinking eyes of their ubiquitous smart phones capture their every move as they perform each challenge. New York makes a suitably dynamic backdrop to this high-stakes trial, and the potshots taken against the ugly mob mentality of the anonymous online participants hit their target. Still, the leaps of faith required here are the ones that leave you dangling from a crane with nothing substantial or credible to cling to. And this is what makes the movie unique, very thrilling, and exciting to watch. Above all of these, the movie was all about some good old teenage drama.

TRAIN TO BUSAN
Yeon Sang-ho
Gong Yoo (Seok-Woo), Kim Soo-Ahn (Soo-An), Jung Yu-mi (Sung Kyung), Ma Dong-Seok (Sang-Hwa), Sohee (Jin-Hee), Choi Woo-Shik (Young-Gook), Kim Ui-Seong (Yong-Suk).

Seok-Woo and his daughter Soo-An are boarding the KTX, a fast train that shall bring them from Seouls to Busan. It's a life-or-death survival type of a movie wherein the train is overrun by zombies, which killed several of the train staff and other passengers. Will they reach Busan, a southern resort city that has managed to hold off the zombie hordes?

It's definitely a good movie that's filled with interesting characters- father and daughter, a pregnant women and her macho humorous husband, a famous school chick and her baseball player boyfriend, a homeless wonderer who was the first one witness the outbreak, a haughty businessman, and the two elderly sisters are some.

As I'm watching the movie, I realized that it's not like other zombie movies- a unique one because I never saw a zombie shot in the head by a gun. Zombies doesn't move when the train enters the tunnels, they can't see because it's obviously dark. The zombies have sensitive ears. They aggressively react when they see a human who is not yet infected. At the end of the movie, there's two questions that bothers me, "Why didn't he cut his hand in the nearest joint to prevent the virus to spread and how did the pregnant women managed to run while bearing a child- adrenaline rush?" After watching it I'm touched to see that a father's love is eternal, he will sacrifice himself just to keep his daughter alive. Same goes with the macho and humorous husband because he also offer everything he can just to save his pregnant wife. People are also demanding of the sequel of this movie. All in all, I have been surprised, scared and cried at the last part.

"When you started something. You should finish it no matter what." -Seok-Woo said to his daughter Soo-An. It is one of the lessons I learned in the movie and another one is your status in the society does not matter anymore during an apocalypse like this. Whatever your position in the company when a crisis like this spreads, you just have the same chances of survival like anybody else. The most entertaining and unpretentious zombie movie I have ever seen in a while. This train you need to board.

Source: http://imdb.com

FEATURES

EVERYONE STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM, LOOK WHERE THEY ARE NOW!

Giselle Camino

Rejection, stumbling down, failures. Devastating things that can make you lose your way and guiding light. Lose hope and give up. You really worked hard but with one simple mistake, you go back to square one. Wrong choice, you're lost. Are you now struggling with your difficult subjects? Thinking of giving up? Why don't you go on reading this article? It might give you some motivation. Did you know that some of the world's famous and successful people all started from scratch and even failed on their way to where they are now?

Here we go;

First on the list is the infamous Bill Gates. Who doesn't know Bill Gates? If you think he is just a random gate that guards the Bill house, nope, he is not. William Henry "Bill" Gates is one of the owners of Microsoft. Gates was a Harvard University drop-out and co-owner of a failed business called Traf-O-Data. Being a computer programming enthusiast, Gates built what would become the world's largest software company. 1986 was the year when Micorsoft was publicized. In the age of 31, Gates was known to be the youngest self-made billionaire. Now, did ever fail a subject? Be Gates! Who knows, you might be the one to make the world's biggest hardware company. ;)

Second is Michael Jordan. Are you a sportsman? Jordan once said, "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." Today, Jordan is considered one of the greatest basketball players of all time, with career stats including 6,672 rebounds, 5,633 assists, and 32,292 total points, according to o NBA.com. See? Don't you give up. I haven't even caught 300 balls.

Third is Steve Jobs. He does the job. Anyways, he is the mastermind behind Apple after he dropped out of Oregon's Reed College after one semester. He also quit one of his first jobs to backpack around India and take psychedelic drugs, according to CNN. He later said that these experiences helped him create an iconic brand and the largest technology company in the world. While he famously accepted an annual salary of only $1, his net worth was $8.3 billion when he died in 2011.

Whatever hardships you are going through right now, don't give up. You see, everything starts from scratch. No one is the best from the start. We all strive for the best. We all want to be at the top. We all want to reach that dream. If you stumbled down on your way to that success, always remember, it's not just you, there're also somebody else who has been trying hard just as you do. It's natural to fail. It's okay to cry. It's fine to have regrets. But never forget to stand up again, lift your head up, walk. Learn from the mistakes you've done. There's no law stating that it's a crime to try again and again and again, right? When the time comes that you're finally successful, sitting on your swivel chair with feet on the table, you can finally say it like Drake, "Started from the bottom now we're here!".

Student Success Story

by
April Kaye Dalumpines & Christine Joy Jardeleza

Jomelyn Villaceran Baldevieso
Project Support Officer, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Region VI, Western Visayas
Batch of 2014

What have you been doing since you graduated from IICT, now CICT? (Achievements, Side-projects, Freelance, etc.)

A month after I graduated BSIT major in Multimedia at WVSU, I started looking for a job that could best fit my skills and qualifications. I found myself lining up in various job fairs along with thousands of jobseekers in the province. Weeks after, I was hired at the Iloilo City Hall as a data encoder. I worked there for almost 8 months. I aimed to work for the government and luckily passed the Career Service Exam Professional Level given by the Civil Service Commission.

After that, I was hired at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office as a Project Support Officer. I worked under the Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO) which is directly linked from the Office of the Regional Director. The RPAO is the communication arm of the DENR, it thrusts to deliver quality, timely and accurate information for the public.

As a project support officer, I was tasked to make graphics designs, layout brochures, tarpaulins, flyers, conduct photo and video documentation, post-production, video editing, and other Information, Education Communication (IEC) materials and publish articles to local and national newspapers, and also coordinated with Local Government Units (LGUs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Other Government Agencies (OGAs), Non-Government Agencies (NGOs) and People's Organizations (POs).

What do you do during your free time?

During my free time, I tend to review other blogs and websites on updates of design software. I also read magazines and news updates and articles online. I worked as a part-time English Tutor to Koreans to improve my communication skills.

What particular set of skills or talents are important to be effective in your work?

In any working environment, you should always be prepared and at the same time, be patient. Having a job is not as easy as being a student. You should always have tons of patience. You also should be creative and resourceful. Think outside the box. And lastly, always believe in yourself that you can do it.

> *"Never stop learning. Life is an unending process of learning."*

Do you have any advice for the CICTzens?

Hello there! I am very thankful that I was given the opportunity to be a part of IICT, now CICT. I would like to congratulate each one of you for making it up to this time. Just do your best in every step of the way. Always believe in yourself that you can do it. Have enough courage, self-confidence, and motivation. Motivate yourselves to be the best someday. Grab every opportunity that will come in your life. Love your family, your friends, significant people in your lives, or even your enemy. Never stop learning. Life is an unending process of learning. God loves you. :-)

A Game of Thrones

Wilfred Ian Benite

Presidency, as we all know, is the highest seat of power offered to a democratic state. In an election, there are multiple candidates who each strive to rise from the rest.

In the 2016 Philippine elections, there have been different candidates with different goals. There were candidates who focused on the issues of economics, and there were those who focused on education. To add to the list, there was a sole candidate who focused on the fight against corruption and criminality.

Whatever the reason may be, there is only one goal in the game of thrones – that is to win! The differences in the approach and agenda of the candidates have made this year's election one of the most colorful it has ever been. There have been distinct dissimilarities between candidates that resulted to both friendships and rivalries.

There were ideal candidates, candidates who are far away from the faultless mold, as well as wild horses who were feared and revered at the same time. Voting for each one had unique pros and cons.

Interestingly, there were those that stood out – there's one whom we can specifically call "The Ideal Politician" and another one as "The Champion of the Masses." They represent themselves independently – each representing one side of the coin.

The "Ideal Politician" focused on the development of the country by advocating on welcoming new investments and businesses for the economic growth of the country. The "Champion of the Masses", on the other hand, focused on reassuring the masses of his mission to alleviate the criminal activities in the country that have developed through time as a result of negligence and leniency of past administrations.

I myself was a bit biased in the decision I made on who to vote for the presidential seat, but ultimately, a choice had to be made.

Eventually, the recent elections has culminated to the election of the now president, President Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte, who is one of the more controversial candidates.

While others are dissatisfied, the results of his actions speak for itself – despite his notoriety of freely expressing profanities, which is seen as a deviant act in our conservative society. His intentions to clean our society of its atrocities is very much accepted by the people, but the means on which he aims to do so have made a division amongst the Filipino people. Innocent victims were already sacrificed as "collateral damages" of the fight against drugs, and have made their families and relatives suffer giving them more room to disagree on the President's methods.

All in all, whether the new President's ways are effective or not, majority of the people who voted for President Rody are somewhat satisfied of his performance. However, there's still a minority who feels just the opposite. All we can do now is hope for a better future for our country, the Philippines.

POKÉMON VS POKÉMON GO

Pokémon is a game in which players – who are known as Pokémon trainers – catch and train different kinds of Pokémon species in preparation for numerous battles against other trainers for sports. Through time, Pokémon underwent different stages of awesome developments made possible through the Pokémon Company, a Japanese Consortium between Nintendo, Game Freak and Creatures.

The franchise began when it was paired as a video game for the original Game Boy, which was developed by Game Freak and published by Nintendo. Now, the franchise widely spans from video games to trading card games, from animations to comic books, and even toys.

However, the animated television series is a total split up from the version of the video game series. Instead, the anime takes inspiration from the original series, Advanced Generation series, Diamond and Pearl series, Best Wishes! series, XY series and the upcoming Sun and Moon series, which is set to air this November 2016.

Initially, the game was conceptualized around 1989 or 1990 when the Game Boy was first released. The concept of Pokémon Universe, in both the video games and the general fictional world of Pokémon, stems from the hobby of insect collecting. Pokémon trainers have two goals: to complete the Pokédex by collecting available Pokémon species, and to train a team of powerful Pokémon to battle against the other species of other trainers.

Gamers have been playing the game in Game Boys and such. However in 2016, Pokémon Go was released – a location-based augmented reality game, developed by Niantic. Its new upgrade allows players to play the game through Android Phones and iOS. This time, players are able to use the mobile device's GPS capability to locate, capture and battle.

IICT UPGRADES TO CICT

April Kaye Dalumpines

April 22, 2016 was a remarkable day for the Institute of Information and Communications Technology (IICT), as well as for the rest of West Visayas State University (WVSU). IICT marked a historical rebirth as it was formally declared as a College, as per BOR Resolution No. 43-2016.

Officially, IICT is now a college, and is presently known as College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT). Together with the said declaration, it also launched its official YouTube Channel, Facebook Page, and Google App Account.

Check out CICT's official social media accounts. Subscribe and like!
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg6fVDXZwHxfWlmXVF-0NCQg
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cictwvsu/?fref=ts
Google App: http://cictwvsu.com/cict/2016/09/16/cictapps.html

Moreover, ICON's publications are also now available online!
ICON: http://cictwvsu.com/cict/2016/09/13/iconpubs.html

MAYDAY PARADE : JOURNEY FROM ZERO TO THE UTMOST

GISELLE CAMINO

Mayday Parade is an American rock band from Tallahassee, Florida. It was formed winter 2005 following the merger of two local Tallahassee bands namely Kid Named Chicago and Defining Moment. Kid Named Chicago featured vocalist/guitarist Jason Lancaster, guitarist Alex Garcia and drummer Jake Bundrick, while Defining Moment featured vocalist Derek Sanders, guitarist Brooks Betts, and bassist Jeremy Lenzo. Both bands previously practiced in the same building until Lenzo stated that "made more sense if we put them together instead of playing separately."

Their first EP was entitled Tales Told by Dead Friends, though they were still arguing with it when they arrived at the studio. In 2007, the band started to record their debut album entitled A Lesson in Romantics. This year, Jason Lancaster (lead singer) left the band for personal reasons. The album was released July 11, 2007. They had a tour together with All Time Low, the Main and Every Avenue in 2008.

In 2009-2010, the band began writing their new record. The title is Anywhere but Here and the first track is The Silence. The band covered the song "We Are The Champions" by Queen for the compilation album Punk Goes Classic Rock. They also recorded In My Head by Jason Derulo that was included in Punk Goes Pop 3. The next albums and EP are namely; Valdosta (2011-2012), Monsters in the Closet (2013-2014), and Black Lines.

Mayday Parade's music was classified in many ways but it is described mostly as emo and punk rock.

Mayday Parade had a concert last October 15, 2016 at

Samsung Hall, SM Aura Taguig City.

Here are some of their famous songs (that I strongly believe that will make your heart cry blood):

Miserable at Best (A Lesson in Romantics)
"I got the point that I should leave you alone but we both know that I'm not that strong"

Terrible Things
"Too young to notice and too dumb to care, love was a story that couldn't compare"

Kids in Love
"The first kiss stole the breath from my lips, why did the last one tear us apart"

Stay
"You said, "Please understand if I see you again, don't even say hello.""

Literary

Open Letters

Subject: An Open Letter to the One That Got Away
From: Your Forever Buddy
Date: August 25, 2016

I can still remember the time when we jokingly tease ourselves to each other, the time when we are careless about the world around us, not worrying what will happen tomorrow, and not afraid to laugh until our stomach hurts. Until one day, something unexpected happened which I will forever blame myself for that.

Here we are in our getting-to-know-each-other stage, where we randomly go out and sit around and talk about random stuff while watching the sunset until the bright stars appear. To be honest, you are the very first person I have ever talked to like this. I love talking to you because you have a very smart way of perceiving things around us, you made me face the uncool reality in a cool manner, you made me realize my faults, you're frank about my wrongdoings, and you also guide me to the right path instead of provoking me to correct my mistake with another mistake. Owe you bigtime.

Do you still remember that time when you asked me to go out for ice cream just to tell me something very important? I got so nervous and excited at the same time because it's the first time where you asked me out and I wanted to tell you something, too. I wanted to tell you that these frequent talking made me realized that I am slowly falling for you. I'm afraid that, if you know about this, maybe we'll stop talking, we'll stop meeting each other again, no more life-changing advices, no more sunsets and stargazing, and no more adventures.

And yes, then and there, I cracked a joke that you like me so you'll return the joke back and I will confirm it. I'm blaming myself for doing that because I have seen tears rolling in your face after that. And maybe that's the reason why I'm very nervous that time, because it's the time we've last met.

Hey buddy, I miss you and I miss hanging out with you. I'm sorry if I said something wrong. I'm sorry for crossing the lines. It's okay if you ignore me now but can we please talk for one last time? This situation is killing me and I cannot help but cry everytime I remember you. Wherever you are now, please stay safe and always remember that I still care for you. It's been 2 years and I really miss you so much.

Love,
Your Forever Buddy

Subject: An Open Letter to My Forever Buddy
From: The One That Got Away
Date: February 18, 2016

Hey, Buddy. Stop blaming yourself for what you did. It's not bad to confess what you truly feel for someone. Change your negative views on unexpected happenings because they are not bad at all. Maybe it is God's plan to keep you waiting until you get what you really deserve. Be patient and let Him do the rest. I can assure you one day that you will thank yourself for doing that. Trust me.

To be honest also, I have never talked for so long to anyone before. I felt so comfortable the first time we talked and maybe that is one reason why we repeatedly see each other after that. It was fun hanging out with you though, going to different places, random food trips, sunset viewing, stargazing, and making the most out of everything completes my day.

I taught you to be tough to survive life because I know you can. I can see that you are a very strong person yet has a fragile heart. I wanted to protect you from people that try to hurt you and break your heart because a person like you do not deserve that kind of treatment. I wanted you to be understood, cared, and loved by the people around you so I made you feel like it.

The time that I feared most has arrived. I asked you out to tell you something very important. I wanted to slowly lessen our hangouts, our talks, our random food trips, and adventures because I don't want you to get attached. I don't want us to get so close. I don't want you to get used to it. Because I am leaving you. I'm leaving for US to continue college, and I will get back as soon as I finished school.

I am so shocked that time when I made a joke that you like me and then you said yes. I don't know if I should be happy or sad about it. So I ran away. I ran away because I don't want you to see the tears rolling down in my face. I hate you because you didn't even give me the chance to tell you what I wanted to tell you. I asked you to go out one last time to bid my goodbye but that didn't ended well. So I went to the States without you or my friends knowing it. I know it is a bad idea and I am starting to regret it from time to time.

It's been almost 3 years buddy and I miss you too so much it really hurts. I'm sorry for cutting our connections that quick, for keeping you waiting, for not telling you that I'm leaving, for not telling you that I feel the same way too. I'm doing well and I hope you do too.

And, yes, it's almost 3 years and I'm finally going home! I will fix this mess when I get back, okay? Let's hang and catch up all the talks, food trips, and adventures that we missed. Promise I will never leave you again, I will never let you go, and I promise to hold on as long as I can. Buddy, I have a favor to ask. Can I spend the rest of my life with you when I get back?

Love,
The One That Got Away

The Girl With Glasses

Wilfred Ian Benite

How much are you willing to change for a single person? Start with the small habits for example, she tells you that you look good in red and you start wearing red. She tells you to tidy your clothes and you do so. She tells you to fix how you look and you do. So, it starts small and a lot of small things can make a big difference. You sacrifice yourself for that one person just to make her happy and it leaves you with what? You lose who you are in the process and you can no longer tell which habits are yours and which are the ones you built to fit her happiness. Did you always like this kind of music? You ask yourself. Why do I hate watching anime now? Because she tells you to do so and you do. Is this right? No. Is this wrong? Is it? It only matters to one person in the end. It matters to you. And even in the end, you lose who you are because you changed for someone other than yourself.

But that doesn't necessarily mean every time you change for someone, you lose more of yourself. In the rare occasion that you find someone who makes your heart beat and ignites a spark that tells you to do something that you have to do, just keep one thing in mind. Just do what makes you happy. Eventually, you will find new parts of yourself you never knew you had. You become braver, and you become less cynical. She makes you feel the way you deserve to feel. You no longer need to sacrifice parts of yourself. She makes you feel more than you are beyond the physicality of your existence now. Like a glass heart once shattered; that is now a home for the people who deserve it. You learn to love again. You learn to live without a heavy heart. And you keep changing for the better, finding new pieces of yourself that makes you more than the whole of you who are. You become far from being vulnerable because of one girl: The girl with glasses. Change is neither good nor bad, it is what you make of it. You may get hurt from the experience but never forget one thing: Always believe in what you can become because you can become anything. Starting small is okay because in the end, a lot of small things can make a big difference.

HOME

I think
The very reason why I existed
Is to remind me of the world
Long, long time ago

A bliss,
So wonderful you'll be in awe
In every stare, in every blink
It's too much to see

It's you.
You, my whole universe
existed millennials ago
Welcome home.

SELFLESS

eliotghyle

"Loving someone who doesn't love you back is not a bad thing. What bad is, you are being unfair with yourself because love must be returned equally with love not with a thank you or a smile."

–L

You, have you ever felt that unwanted feeling for the person who's so close to you? He or she is not the person who's close enough to you to be called a best-friend. He's just a friend, a classmate for three years or more. He's been one of the people who understood you before anyone else. Laughed with you in your own little bubble. And cried on movies and animes where both your favourite characters died. Sad. Then before you knew it, you're already inlove with him that with his simple smile can brighten up your day.

Before I realized it, I was taking care of him. I asks if he's doing fine, ate his meals or how's him. Then we will talk, gawking at each other while talking about Naruto. Typical? Yes, but it's sweet. I also spends money for him. Though he didn't asks anything, I would just buy him something that I thought he will like. Then voila. He likes it. His happiness is my sanctuary.

Then, after investing so much in my one sided love, hurt came. I was expecting for a return. For a refund. For attention. I can't just tell him that "hey, I like you, you should like me too" what kind of sane person would do that!? So I pretended not to care while rotting inside. Longing for care and medicine. And the only cure is him.

I've given my everything already. Time, effort, love. I don't know if I would have something in return. Everytime I open up things about love, he just shrugged it off and laugh. This time, his laughs are not comforting, it frustrates me. His talks are not nice, it's all about her and his face, I do not want to see.

Selfless love. That's what I had given him. It might be a bad decision though. I should have not invested too much so that I'm not hurting like this painfully right now. All I did was care for him. All I did was think of him. All I did was to make him happy. But all he did to me was, to expect, to wait and hurt myself for waiting. Waiting for nothing. It felt like promises that are not able to fulfil. It hurts, so much.

Now, I'm trying to get over it. I stopped thinking about him. About us. About who we were. It felt much better to invest more for myself than the other people. Love should be returned with love, not with a material thing or a smile. I think I levelled up, I think I matured, I think I changed for the better. So wherever you are now, I hope you're doing better like what I am doing here. Living life without you, which you were somewhat took part.

CAN'T HAVE YOU

Kitkat

I was left behind,
Feeling blind,
Emotions are still there,
 Feeling despair,
You were all for me,
I was nothing to you,
I let you be free,
Still I hated you,
You were with somebody,
And here I am with nobody,
I felt sad,
For everything we had,
Memories weren't gone,
But I tried to move on,
Tried to forget your smile,
I know it'll took me awhile,
If forgetting was easy,
By now I would've been happy
But I was wrong,
All along,
For these emotions were strong,
Like singing a song,
I just can't forget you,
I hope you feel that too,
I still need you,
But sad to say I can't have you.

WHERE'S THE GOOD IN GOODBYE?

I'm alone, I'm in pain,
I'm broken, I'm in vain,
I'm crying, though no tears coming,
I yell for help, yet no one heard.

I thought its forever,
But it ended never,
How life seemed so unfair,
And now, we're broken pair.

You are my Prince charming with shining armour;
And I, was a damsel in distress blinded by your glamour,
Seven months, three weeks and two days,
we've been that long,
Never thought, it was so wrong.

Waking up in the reality of life,
Your sweet words stabbing me like knife,
The flashbacks or our memories we shared together,
Slowly dragging me to hell yelling "We were never meant!"

It's hard enough just passing the time,
When I can't seem to get you off my mind,
And now baby tell me why,
Where is the good in Goodbye?

The Moon and the Stars

Wilfred Ian Benite

"We're gonna look at the moon and the stars." You told me that the day I fell in love with you. That was almost two years ago. You danced me to the beat of the drums, to the violins, to the piano, and lastly, to your voice. You held my hand that day like you'd never let me go (and I wish you didn't). You left the car where we ate at. The restaurant where they served your favorite mashed potatoes. We walked around the city where we lived like we never did. The city slept but we were wide awake talking about life and love and noticing the little similarities we had. Inch by inch, choosing to fall for each other. The lights grew brighter that night. It was cold, but we were each other's warmth. It was a long night. It felt like forever but with you, forever felt short. And the sun suddenly rose, you walked me to my house and we just stood there. We stood there and looked at each other and finally I asked you, "Will you still love me like this tomorrow?" You answer me, "Forever and always." You pulled me closer and kissed me on my nose. And that was how it started.

And this is how it ends. I'm at your bedside. You pull out a ring. You ask me, "Will you still love me tomorrow?" your voice grow weak. I answer you, "Forever--" my voice breaks and my tears start to fall. "-- and always." I finish my sentence. You still have the strength to hold my hand.

We go to the altar and having God as our witness, we told our unwritten vows. "Kiss me." I tell you. "You know I can't." You look at me with tears in your eyes. "Please" I ask you one last time. You tell me, "Close your eyes."

And I do. I can feel your breathing on my cheeks. Closer, and closer, and you stop. Your are close and finally I feel your lips on my cheek. And that was the kiss. "Sorry." You tell me. "I'm sorry too." You're only doing this to protect me. I put you to sleep in your bed. "Get some rest now, it's late." I tell you. "Stay with me. Just for tonight." I watched you go to bed that night. The moon and the stars. I remembered our first date.

The next morning, I woke up to the sound of doctors rushing in your room and pushing me to the sides. I let them do their work but I prayed hard that you'll be okay. Eventually the panic subsides and I asked one of the doctors what happened. They looked at me in the eyes and said, "He's gone. I'm sorry." and that was it.

Forever felt so short.

FIN

We burned the rules
'Cause we ain't slaves.
Pulled the tides,
Summoned the waves

Cast a spell
Forget to love
A magic well
Is all we have

Drop your tears
In this pillow
Full of fears
Full of sorrow

End this pain
End this life
Nothing to gain
Here's a knife

ABI KO

KrilDanes

Okay na ta bi
Hindi na magsunggod, Bessy
Hindi ko kagwanta
Kung pati ikaw madula pa

Please, hindi na mangakig
Hindi na sa aton makabulig
Makaguba lang na sa aton relasyon
Kapin pa kung wala ta komunikasyon

Ikaw, ikaw, ikaw
Lhog lang indi maglikaw
Importante kana sa akon
Sa wala ko nahibalu-an nga rasun

Sang ikaw akon nakilala
Pagkabuang ko naglala
Sang nakita taka nag-ngirit
Tagipusuon ko daw masyagit

Sang una taka nakita
Abi ko may ara sang kita
Sang ikaw akon nakatext
Abi ko ikaw na ang next

YOU CAN HURT ME TOMORROW

Jan Ray Joven

This aint a good time
But when is it ever
I know the perfect time
And baby it's never

So don't you dare leave me now
Throw my heart on the ground
Cause tonight aint the night for sorrow
But you can hurt me tomorrow

If what I heard its true
Then I know what you came to do
Love may blind but I'm looking at you

So, before you pull the trigger, did you ever consider

This aint a good time
But when is it ever
I know the perfect time
And baby it's never

So don't you dare leave me now
Throw my heart on the ground
Cause tonight aint the night for sorrow
But you can hurt me tomorrow

JDC

L

All I wanted was
For you to see me as
A woman, not just
A friend

You were the one
Who made me realize
How life should be lived
In my world filled of dead

I started to dream
of you dreaming of me
Even though it's just a dream
It was nice, I endlessly repeat

Your smile, makes me smile
Your laughs, makes me laugh
Your tears makes me sad
Your sadness is my agony

Thinking about things
How did it turned out like this
You are just a friend
Yet you are more than that

I started wanting more
Your attention is what I greed for
Beating hard, it's my core
You gave no heed now it sores

I thought telling you
Will ease the pain
Nah, it was just my brain
Now I lost my sane

So you knew
Still you gave no regard
I know it's hard
But you are just a friend
Time passed

Blocking the feelings I have
We talk, walk and gawk
My feelings for you, I shook it off
Forgotten feelings
Friendship kept
It was hard and painful
We might be destined to be like this
Love wasn't returned
Bridges I built, burned
At first I wanted more
Now I'm contented, can't ask for more
We can't be more than that
We must accept what we have
But it isn't a sin
To still love you, right?

To those...

L

Reality is a place where living is a hard thing to do. People are barely surviving. –Giselle Camino

I am the kind of person who doesn't care about tomorrow. Because you see, I'm living my life to the fullest every day. How can I enjoy my everyday if I care about tomorrow, right? I'm always thinking 'what if today is my last day? I'll enjoy everything now'. That's what I believe in.

There are people who took my insight in life in a pathetic way. There's no way you will die tomorrow. There's no way you won't be living tomorrow. Things like that. But how will you know?

Why would you care about my life? It is a way I see how I will live. And those people started to stop talking to me because they said I don't have a direction in life.

There are also people who believes in me. Saying 'Yeah you can do it.' 'That's right. Don't think about what they are saying.' Then behind my back, talking to other people with opposite opinion, they would say 'Yeah, I think so.' 'I agree'. Which side are you really in.

There are people who're just your typical hater even though you are not famous. Making up stories that you are this and that. Talking with people about you as if knowing you since your childhood. Hating you without reason at all. They might be jealous, but I know myself. I am nothing but just a human being, surviving world rather than living it.

There are people who're just your friends. They do not care about what other people say about you. They do not care about the way you live. They do not care about your looks. They do not care how you smell. All they care is you. They care about you. If you have eaten your meals, if you overcame your fear on cockroaches, if you're okay. And they are just there. In one corner of this world, waiting for you, so you could walk together to the place where people won't have the guts to go to.

At the end of the day, you will realize the right and wrong things that you have done this day. Like skipping your major classes so that you can spend time with your dying friend. Coming home late and got a good scolding. Sleeping with sirens until noon, now you're an emo rockstar. And the people who're with you until the end.

So to the people who told me I'm a pessimist, it's okay. I knew that already. Why don't we have a cup of coffee and talk anything except life. I missed you people talking to me.

To those who fifty percent believed me and fifty percent don't, choose a side will you? Take a stand. One day, you will be unstable because you choose both. Choose one and fight for it. You won't lose anything. You either win or learn.

To those who hate me without reason at all. I love you. No one notices me and there you are! Tracking down my movements and make stories about me. I thank you. Now I feel famous.

And to my friends who didn't gave up on me. You still care even though life had separated us, I hope you all take care of yourselves, remember the moments we spent together because those are my most treasured thing in this world. Thank you for being there when no one else staid. For walking with me when all of them walked away. Because, you see, I am weird and with you, we together are weirder. The fun times, the sad times. I kept it all. So I hope you also did.

And to those who're reading this. Spend time on earth wisely. Do what makes you happy, ignore those who hate you and love the people who loves you. Nothing is greater than living your life to the fullest. Live. Laugh. Love.

Tayo na ba?

Bakit nga ba ako nandito? Bakit ko nga ba sya dinala dito? Siguro dahil 'to sa panaginip ko nung isang gabi. Pinapalabas kasi sa panaginip ko na dalhin ko daw yung taong mahal ko sa lugar na gustong-gusto niya. At hindi ko alam kung bakit ko sinunod yun. Baliw na ba ako? Siguro.

"Naiinip ka na ba?" tanong niya.

"Halatang-halata na ba ako?" sabay kamot sa batok ko.

Tumawa lang siya at tumango.

Nandito kami sa paborito niyang coffee shop. At dala niya rin yung paborito niyang libro. Nabigla ako nang bigla niya kong tinanong.

"Alam mo ba kung bakit gusto ko 'tong libro na 'to?"

"Ha? Ako ba ikaw?"

"Hulaan mo nga."

"Ah, kasi paborito mo?" Binatukan niya ko.
"Wala ka talagang kwentang kausap."

"Eh sa hindi ko alam eh."

"Paborito ko 'to kasi dito ko nabasa yung linyang 'Seize the moment'. Yung character kasi dito, marami siyang regrets. Ang daming 'what ifs' nung natapos na yung life niya dito sa Earth. She also said na she should've live for today not for tomorrow, kasi di mo alam kung kelan ka kukunin ni Lord," pagkukwento niya.

"Sandali lang, bakit mo kinukwento sakin 'to?"

"Ayoko kasing maging katulad niya," ngumiti siya na siyang nagpatunaw sa puso ko.

Nalilito pa rin ako.

"Itanong mo nga ulit sakin yung tanong mo two months ago."

"Ha? Alin dun?" Ngumiti lang siya. Napaisip tuloy ako. At naalala bigla na ngayon nga pala ang ikalawang buwan simula nung tanungin ko siya kung kami na ba.

"Naalala mo na?" pangungulit niya.

"Oo at ayoko sabihin," sabi ko sabay halukipkip.

"Sabihin mo na," pangungulit nya pa ren.

"Okay, tayo na ba?" sabi ko sabay tingin sa mga mata niya. Ngumiti siya ng sobrang lapad at sinabi ang salitang nagpabago ng buhay ko.

"Oo."

Tayo pa ba?

Bakit ngaba ako nandito? Hindi ko rin alam. Pero alam ko talaga yung rason. Magulo ba?sinabihan kasi ako ng boyfriend ko na magkita daw kami dito. At heto ako ngayon, hinihintay siya.

Kinakabahan ako. Hindi ko alam kung bakit. Ilang araw na akong binabagabag ng panaginip ko at samahan pa ng intuition ko. Ilang beses na rin akong gumising na naliligo sa sarili kong pawis. Bakit ba ganito?

Sumandal na lang ako at nagpatuloy sa pagbabasa. Natigil ako nang umupo siya sa harap ko.

"Sorry kung late ako," sabi niya with his usual cold tone.

Tatlong taon na kami. Nagtagal kami nang ganun dahil mahal namin ang isa't-isa. Siya ang bumuo ng mundo ko at ganun din ako sa kanya. Pero nitong nakaraang buwan, nagsimula siyang maging malamig sa akin. Ang daming sinasabi ng intuition ko. Pero ni isa doon, hindi ko pinaniwalaan. Mahal ko siya at ayokong pinagdududahan ang pagmamahal niya sa akin.

"Ano ba yung sasabihin mo?" pangungulit ko.

"Order na muna tayo. Gutom na 'ko," sambit niya.

Hindi naman ako kumontra. Nabalot kami nang nakakabinging katahimikan. At ako na ang bumasag nito.

"Bakit ba kasi tayo nandito?"

"May sasabihin ako," sabi niya.

Kanina niya pa ako hindi tinitingnan. Kung magagawi man ang tingin niya sa akin, iiwan niya din ito agad.

"Pagod na ko," mitlang niya.

Bumangon ang kaba sa dibdib ko. Mukhang nung umpisa alam ko na kung bakit kami nandito.

"Pagod saan?"

"Alam kong alam mo kung ano ang ibig kong sabihin."

Napatawa ako ng mapait. Yung relasyon naming dalawa na iningatan mula pa noong una. Yung relasyon na unti-unti na palang nasisira. May luhang pumatak sa hawak-hawak kong libro.

"I'm sorry."

"Tayo pa ba?" Marahas kong pinunasan ang mga luha ko. "Ang tanga ko naman para magtanong pa." Tumayo ako at tiningnan siya.
"Hindi na diba? Wala ng tayo diba?" Yumuko siya, senyales na totoo ang mga sinabi ko.
"Kung ganon, salamat sa lahat."
Naglakad na ako palayo at iniwan ang kaisa-kaisang taong bumuo ng mundo ko. At ang kaisa-isang sumira nito.

KAIBIGAN LANG TALAGA

#NeverTheMind

Naranasan mo na bang ma-friendzone?
Dahil masakit mang isipin
Puso mo'y katulad ng natutunaw n

At dapat mo na itong tanggapin

Makita mo lang siyang masaya
Araw mo'y sumisigla
Katulad ng isang piaya
Kasing-tamis ng gatas na iyong tinimpla

Ika'y kanyang kaibigan
Pero para sayo'y higit pa
Nangangarap sa siya'y maging ka-ibigan
Para kasalan ay agad ma-planuhan na

Nakakatuwa mang isipin
Kaibigan lang ang kanyang maibibigay
Kaya puso mo'y naninikip
Move on napo, siguro'y hindi talaga kayo bagay

Kung kaibigan lang talaga
Ako'y magmo-move on na
Wala naman pala akong mapapala
Nararamdaman ko'y ihihinto na
Paalam aking sinta
Pero pangako pagkakaibigan natin ay hindi mawawala.

PARADOX IS HER NAME

She told me she loves the rain,
But hates it when it came unex-pected.

She told me she loves to wait,
But hates it whenever I came late.

She told me she loves the sea,
But hates it when her branded clothes get wet.

She told me she loves the traffic,
But hates it when we get stuck in it.

She told me she loves the summer,
But hates it when her skin is burned.

She told me she loves the rain,
But hates it when it's too cold.

And the moment I feared happened…

She told me she loves me
My fear resurfaced from my black hole inside;
for in everything she loves, there comes hate.
Because paradox is her name

Prin and Siv

Wilfred Ian Benite

Everything was black and I couldn't feel anything. I had no hands, no feet, no eyes, no body. But I was aware I can see, feel, and hear everything but I was not here.

"You're awake." I can hear a voice. It's a person.

"You can call me Prin. I've been waiting for you."

And with those words I can feel my body materialize from nothing. Dust started to form and collected around me and finally, a burst of light brought me to life. The first thing I wanted to ask Prin was, "Who are you?" but before I finished my sentence, Prin stopped me.

"We're losing daylight! Come on, let's go and play!"

Prin's fingers snapped and the darkness turned into a landscape. It was still a void. We stood on solid ground and there was a path in front of us. A path of floating rocks.

"If you want answers, you're gonna have to catch me first. Your name is Siv. Let's go!"

Prin runs off seemingly weightless. Jumping to and from the next rock. While I seemed to be tied down . It took effort to move but I didn't feel tired.

Finally, I see Prin creating a new landscape. It transitioned into a hill with a tree on top. Prin notices me and waves.

"Siv! You've got to eat this. It's called an orange. It's good for you" Prin hands it to me.

The moment I touched the orange everything stopped around me. Everything turned black and white. I hear a whisper , "Time is running." And everything fades back to normal.

"Okay, you caught up to me. This is how the game works. You catch me, you ask, I answer. And then I run again. Ready?"

I wanted to ask where we were but I think I already had an answer to that. We are nowhere. So I asked the second thing on my mind.

"Prin, what are we?" Prin made a big smile, stood up and sat in front of me and gently spoke the words, "I'm glad you asked. To put it simply, we are infinite. Beyond the mortal plains and immortals of ours. But there's a catch."

So we are beyond the mortal plains.

"What's the catch?"

It took Prin a moment to speak. Tears formed in Prin's eyes but a deep breath made Prin focus and started smiling again.

"I guess it's time for you to play." Prin stood up and created a river. There's a boat and I think it's for me.

"Catch up!" Prin shouted as the waves carry Prin further and further away.

A few moments after, Prin was gone again.

A thought came to me. If we're both immortals, how come I can't manipulate this plain like Prin? I try to focus on Prin. Concentrate. A word. There is power in my words. "Float." And I suddenly felt lighter. Nothing's weighing me down. I braced myself. I put one thing on my mind. Who is Prin? And time slowed down again, everything turned black and white.

"Hurry up, Siv. Daylight's turning." Prin's voice echoes around me. Has this happened before?

I continued moving, wondering what to ask next. Why are we here? Is it just the two of us? What made you cry? I get the feeling that I know Prin, and Prin knows me. But… There's something that just doesn't fit. Try to remember. Why I can't remember? Maybe that's the catch. I'm not allowed to remember. I see a riverbank and I see Prin holding a fishing rod. Well, maybe I'll get answers on my next question. "There you are!" Prin tugs on the rod. "Hold on, I've got something here!" She tugs one last time, "And….. got it!" The water revealed some kind of fish. It was flat and huge. It also had long and thin tail.

"Prin, what is that?"

Prin answered, "I'm sure that wasn't really what you wanted to ask."

Crap, it slipped my mind. "But I'll let this pass for now." Prin gives me a wink.

I see stars in Prin's eyes. What? I came closer and Prin told me, "I don't know what they're called but I'll call it Nita. She's very friendly. Come and say hi, Siv."

"Uhh… hi, Nita." Nita floated around me like she was still in water. I'm amazed by what Prin can do. I looked at Prin and our eyes met. Prin looked away.

"What are you doing?" Prin says. I find her gaze just to make sure. Stars. Definitely stars.

"Stop" I tell Prin as I come closer.

"No, you stop. Don't come any closer, please."

"Why not?"

"Even if you tried… You can't touch me, and I can't touch you. It's one of the catches I told you about."

I can't keep my eyes off Prin.

"Prin, I don't understand. What's going on?

Prin turns away and says, "That's exactly the Problem. It's not that you don't understand, Siv.."

Prin walks on the surface of the water. "….. You're not allowed to know."

With that, Prin sinks to the bottom. Slowly, I lose sight of her. It was only then that I realized that I already asked my question.

"PRIN! WAIT!" I stand on the surface of the water but I'm not doing anything. I'm not sinking at all. I can feel my heart racing. What's going on? I try to focus. What do I do? and I follow after Prin.

"Sink."

I, You, She

Tears staining my face
Lies blurring my eyes
Fear clouding my system
And you still crossing my mind.

I, holding your hand
You, holding her hand
She, who holds you with her hands
And she who waits for me to let you go.

I let go of my demons
For you to embrace me like an angel
But you still chose her
She who decided to live with her shadows.

Now, you two are living on your paradise
While I, still falling to my own demise.
I wish I could turn back the day I met you
I wish I could persuade destiny
Not to lead my way towards you.

For the Better

I'm a gamer. I spend most of the time playing games. It might be RPG, dating sims or virtual reality. I play them. I play them because I'm running away from reality. I don't want to think of anything. I just want to forget how cruel life can be. You see, time flies when you're happy and it slows when you're not. Just when I found my happiness, there you took her. Why? Because life a wrecked reality. It will hurt you in any way possible.

You see, she is the sunshine, the light source and my guide in this life maze. She was the one who dragged me out of my dark, dirty room. She was the one who taught me to control my addiction. She as beautiful as much as she so annoying. She will never stop blabbering about things until you gave her enough attention. I don't even know how she found my apartment, I already dropped out of school a month ago. I don't have any friends that will tell her the location.

My mom was the same when I was a child. I have this kind of ability to find a hiding place that no one will have a hard time to find. And there's my mom, she found me and gave me the newly bought ps4. My dad didn't permit me to have that kind of gadget because he wants me to study. Then after a year he left us. I don't know why. My mom worked the hardest for the both of us as I study my hardest. She also left me after 2 years. Now I lived alone and no one cared until she became part of my life.

I'm always trying to send her away but she will just break her way in. I even went to the extent of threatening of raping her, even killing her; she just showed me her skills being a black belter in judo and aikido. I'm so hopeless. She cooks for me, cleaning up everything. Organizing my tangled life. Then one night, I went home late because there was a supermarket opening and there was a sale of gaming mouse and keyboard. I found her soaking wet in her clothes because it rained, poured hard, unconscious. Sleeping in a sitting position. I planned to neglect her but she was hot, literally hot. What the hell, she got fever!? Of course! She's soaking. I panicked. There I realized that after years of not caring, today marked the very first time that I cared after those cruel years.

Just when I decided to do everything for her. In return to what she have done for me. She's also gone. Why do people so precious to me leaves me. They left me. Do you know how hard it is to be alone? If only life is like a game, where checkpoints exists. Where tips are given. Walkthroughs over the web. You can even save a data so that you can replay it again and again. Again, I'm alone and sad.

Instead of thinking those things, the what ifs and the likes. I did everything she taught me. To control my addiction. To care on my environment. To think, even just a little, of my future. To use my abilities into something useful. Doing things I love to help myself and people around me. To cook my own food not settling on instant and fast foods. Now, in the series of downfalls and failures of my life I can finally say, I levelled up +1. Thanks to her. Even though she's already gone, she's here, in my heart and console.

["Character Name: L"]

MYSTIC

L

If you ever felt lonely
That no one's there for you
Just remember to look at the sky
I'm always here for you

Your face attached in my brain
So vivid like the ocean blue
So remarkable and beautiful
Anywhere I look, it's you

What happened to us yesterday
Lucidly repeats in my mind
The way I held you in my arms
As I smell in your scent, so sweet

It was like a fantasy
Where Peter Pan flies
Thinking of happy things
in the end, it was all lies

I made you believe me
I locked you in
Now I want you free
How painful it has been

Sweet words spoken like prayers
You were fooled by them
Secure, goodness, certain
And it was I who spoke of them

I'm sorry for making you believe
The mystic world I've promised
Where both of us will spent forever together
Living the fantasy.

You lost her

eliotghyle

When she acts the same when she's with you.
When she acts all different around him.

When she knowingly touches your back and tickles your side.
When she's doing the same with him.

When she laughs as she mocks you.
And she cries on his shoulder.

There you realized, you're no longer the one,
as you reaches out, on her fading shadow.

Not More Than That

I am his mate, he is mine. We are friends, not more than that. We would walk our way home with the group. Just walk, talk and gawk. Then one time, he casually grabbed my arm, his large palm, long fingers carresed the smooth skin of my arm. Friction between our skins sent a sweet sensation to my guts. Jungle inside my stomach roared. Yet my face showed nothing of it. He easily held my hand and locked it with our fingers. That sweet sensation has brought fire into my heart.h A ray of hope that this would be love. The next thing I realized was, he did that to show someone he used to love, that he finally found one in replacement. We are friends. Friends, and not more than that.

No Difference

Look around the world
So what are we fighting for?
Can I ask you, why the sky is blue?
There's no difference you and me

2 am Thoughts

Have you ever thought of how far did you go? How high have you reached? Or how cursed you are? These have come into my mind just a while ago. As I lighted up my stick and inhaled the comforting scent of my coffee, I found answers. It was never a sin to think of these, right? But I always have a bad way to put it.

How far did a go? I don't know, I am still here in front of my computer since 4 years ago. The difference is that, I learned how to open up, I learned to understand people, and most of all I forgot what sleep is. I remembered a line in Kyle
XY, "Why do people lie down and do nothing at night when they can discover a whole lot of new things." it hit me like a truck to be honest. I mean, yes, it's just sleep. But I know I am not like Kyle, no belly-button, super human tendencies, so I got my nose bleeding the next week I haven't had a good night sleep. I also did cycling, like I reached 6 towns away from where I live. It's a good exercise. But be careful on using your bicycle, never ever make it jump off the road, especially on a spot of lots of thorny unknown species of plants.

How high I've reached? So far I'm 5'6. But kidding aside, I consider it high now that I am on college. I never expected, I don't expect I'll just hurt my feelings haha, to be in this year of my school career. I'm the type of person who will never consider my future. But for the sake of the hardships and sacrifices my parents have done to raise me and a contemplation, I did my best and will do. Even though having failing grades on subjects related to math. I even sacrificed a lamb to math Gods but to no avail. I was just kidding about the lamb.

How cursed I am? Am I cursed? I don't know. But everyday, with no failure, I will trip on my own feet, but the bright side is, I'll get to know people everyday. I often get myself into trouble, like going to school late, blocking someone's way
and make them mad, or forgot my ID.

In contrast on everything I mentioned, I sometimes stoop down my level. Like bashing my hated artist or trash talking in League. Who would be happy if someone took your score and you exerted maximum effort, right? My daily life. 2 am this day, while drinking the last drops of my coffee, I realized that it is somehow good to have these thoughts. Good or bad. It is a way to check, if you levelled up, or you levelled down. Now think about it. Which one?

SHE SAID

She said her smiles are genuine. Her tears are rare. I wonder how special I am to her, now that she is crying in my arms.

She's the type of person that you'll slap in no time because of her stupidity and she is deadly annoying. There comes the time that she is on her down and will smack you in matter of seconds. There are also times that she is mad and will spit everything to you and you do not know why. In short, really random.

Despite of her imbalance personality, in the end she will smile. She will laugh. She will endlessly annoy you that will make you laugh too.

If you know her for a long time, for sure, you will say she is really strong. Very strong. She will fight for what she knew is right. She will stand up to those who can't. She will held her head down if she realizes she's wrong. And she will hide if she knows she can't take it anymore.

I found her standing aimlessly and alone with this rare expression on her face I saw for the first time. It seems that she is tired and needed something to hold on. Even though I saw her like that, the moment she noticed my presence she eventually smiled and asked how do I do.

"Isn't it my line?" I said. And that rare expression came back. Those orbs that brought nothing but light, all I can see is myself. I don't know what to say. I don't know what to feel. She is somewhat sad, very sad.

"W-what's wrong?" I asked. I do not know why am I stuttering. She didn't answer. She looked down, avoiding my gaze. I stepped closer, she stepped back. There is something wrong I swear. Moments have passed and her trembling hands hold the edge of my uniform. This is not like her at all.

"I-i do not know. What sh-should I do? How?" Then my heart wreched. My heart sped up. It somewhat hurts. She is nothing special to my heart but my brain said to held her close because it's all I can do for her right now.

The moment I lightly grabbed her closer to me, afraid of hurting her, she pressed her head even closer to my chest. My heart beat, raging louder in my ribcage.

I pressed her head deeper, hiding her tears, hoping that it will make her feel better. She grabbed my uniform harder and sniffed.

My blazing feeling turned into madness and rage. She is our precious sun. She is our light. I can't help but to feel bad too. Rage to those who made her cry.

"Who hurt you?" That's all I can say in the blurry outcome of the situation. I want to crush the face of the person that made her cry. Who the fuck made her sad? I didn't got an answer, she just cried there. And I let her.

I pressed my head into hers, hoping to make her feel better until her cried faded out and realized that it was me who's supporting her and she fell asleep. I wiped away the dried tears on her cheeks and filled her guardless face into my brain.

How can someone hurt this precious person under me. No. She is not a person. Even though how strong she is. She is still a girl, needed to be protected and cared of.

She is weird. She is imbalance. She is strong. A high maintenance person. But I forgot she is a girl. A girl that was taking care of me for a long time now. Do I deserve her time and efforts? All I did was ignore her and her feelings. Do I deserve to take care of her?

I was about to put her down into the sofa of the cafe we are in, but she held unto my shoulder tighter, furrowed eyebrows and she mumbled something. She needed me, at least for now. I unconciously smiled and kissed her forhead.

Then I realized, some people are staring at me, my friends are quietly doing some 'ayyie' while I motioned them to go away and be quiet when they said "Finally realized it now? It's not one sided if you're also mad."
Yes I was mad. To the person that made her cry. I don't want her to be sad or crying. Hey, wait. Do I like her?

I looked at her defenseless figure, lying on me and I held her closer. Ah I don't need answers. She needs me right now, that's all I know.

HE SAID

He said he's not worth it. He said to stay away. He said to give it up. He said to stop. But why's everything you do contradicts what you are saying.

He is the type of person that will immediately kick you if he finds you annoying. He can do different kind of things that make him amazing. He is a good person, easy to talk to. But what I hate about him is that, why does he never take me seriously.

Despite of the good qualities he have, he also have bad. Also a lot. He smells like gouda cheese. He can't cross the street. He sucks on singing. He hates kids. But those turned into good qualities everytime I see it. I mean, he's adorable as he panics when he's alone crossing the street. How he glares on kids trying to get in his way. He hates people talking seriously, but will help you when you asked politely that to ask him in joking way. Why would I say that? Because I like him.

I was standing alone thinking, what the hell, I like him. Things would never be the same. This is bad. He is a friend, but why did I like him?! I need answers but who will I ask. I noticed him approaching me and I gave him a smile.

"Hey, how's life?" I asked and smiled again. I hope he doesn't hear the wild beating of my heart.

"Isn't it my line?" He asked back. I looked at him seriously and what?! I can feel the tears starting to well up on my eyes. He starts getting blurry so I looked down. I'm embarassed. He saw me crying.

"W-what's wrong?" He asked again. I can hear the sincerity in his voice. He told me to stay away, but why is he now pulling me closer. With those words, with those eyes. Damn, he really is dangerous.

He stepped forward as I stepped back. I hope he would just leave me alone. I don't want him to see me like this. This is not the 'me' he knows. In blurry vision, I hold the edge of his uniform. He grabbed me softly and pressed me unto him. I hid inside his protecting arms.
"Who hurt you?" He asked. No one. It's just my thoughts that are killing me. What if you'll hate me even more. What if you'll stop talking to me. I hate having this feelings as much as I love them. It makes me deadly uneasy, you know that?
I felt that he pressed his head unto mine as if sympathizing. Ah, How I wish time would stop and let me bask his warmth. This might be the last. Thinking what would happen if this would really be the last makes me shiver. I don't want it. But who knows, it might be the price of him comforting me.

HEAR YOU ME

L

I transfered school when I was 15. I never liked the new environment. I hated cathing up with people. I want to go back where I was. Sitting on the vacant seat near the window, I looked at the students who looked like having their daily morning practices. I always loved baseball, I'll try getting a form a later. Suddenly, you quietly approached me and asked to transfer seats because you said you're the one who's occupying it. Of course, I was a bit flustered. It's my first time in that school, and I just made myself in embarassment.

You just laughed on how apologetic I am. Then you started a conversation on why did I transfer, what's my name, where do I live. We exchanged informations and we became friends. The best of friends, maybe? Months have passed and we still stick together. I told you that I am having plans of joining the baseball club and you were hyped the most, of all the people.

You know, I am very happy to have you. Because of you I never had the hard time to adjust, never had the hard time to talk and open myself up. I trusted you the moment I we exchanged looks and conversations. How I missed those.

The next week after I told you that I am joining the baseball club, I was accepted. Again, you were the happiest. I am also happy. In the middle of our conversation you suddenly excused yourself and run out of the classroom, I was curious why, but never dig up about that. One of our classmates asked me why did you run away, I just shrugged it off. But what I caught is the worry on the eye of that classmate of ours.

Days, weeks, months have passed. We barely see each other. Though we still exchange text messages. I was busy training, day and afternoon. I was exhausted but still attending classes. But even though we still are far from hanging out again, you're still there. On the bleachers cheering for me.

The next day after my game, I looked for you. To brag and give you my medal and certificate. Why? Because you were the one who made me this. To lead me to this. To pursue this. But you didn't go to school that day. The next day and the next. Until our teacher said you dropped out of school. I called you, I texted you, I hoped that you're fine. Until a mail arrived on our house.

Now, standing in front of you. I am happy to see you, even though it's rare. I am busy on being a coach now on the baseball team on our school. But I always find a way to see you. Showing you the trophies and medals I earned. It was so fulfilling. I am very happy. I hope you are too. As the wind blew, and took some petals of the cherry blossom where we are, we have gone far now. Who would have thought, right?

I never said thank you for everything you have done for me. I thought I might get one more chance. What would you thi o proud? Now I'll never had the chance. Hear you me, my friend. May angels lead you in.

HEAR YOU ME IS A SONG SANG BY THE BAND JIMMY EAT WORLD

SHOULDN'T BE A GOOD IN GOODBYE

Three months left until graduation. Kingsley's been thinking of a lot of things. Their last summer, the first years, the team. He gripped his bat tighter. It has been a long way. It felt like yesterday when he, Samael, Ambrosius and other 3rd years now entered the team. The out of this world trainings, the unending three bowls of rice, the cries and desperation, the laughs and tears. It felt like yesterday. Kingsley heaved a deep breath.

"Why am I thinking about these things." he whispered to himself and sat on the ground. The smell of the grass immediately filled his nostrils.

Looking back, it wretched his heart. The annoying sound of of his junior asking him to catch the ball as he pitch. The sight behind the homeplate. The adrenaline every game. The depression, the happiness, the celebration. How can he forget these things. Then he remembered;

"You do not need to forget them, keep them, learn from them, love them. That's the purpose of memories. You need to cherish them and make them your weapon in the future."

He finally let it go. He again sighed and lied down on the grass. Hands behind his head, he let go of the bat, lying ignored beside him. He then thought about their hardwork to make it to the Nationals. They really did it. They didn't let the coach resign. The happiness within while enduring the whole injury, the most fulfilling thing he ever did in his whole life. You see, Kingsley is not the type of person to comfort you with kind words or lies. It might really his best fulfilled thing.

"King, you do not need to hold back. Chase your dreams."

He never had the chance to make it up to the people who are kind to him. He always had that strong cover up on his weak state. So he cries himself alone, here, lying on the ground, arm covering his eyes. The warm liquid from his eye flowed down unto his ear.

"I don't want to leave."

How could he afford to. How can he leave his family. How can he leave his home.

"It's really okay, I swear. I'll just wait here for you."

[Lies.]

"I'm happy to see you happy, King. That's all I need to continue my worthless life."

[It's not worthless.]

"Thank you for making me realize how useless I am. You could have told me, right?"

[That was dumb of me.]

"Thank you for everything."

"I can't go on..."

"...alone."

"I don't want to leave. I don't want to be alone. I don't want to leave home. I already left one and I broke it apart."

"...Kingsley..."

[Why are you calling me again? Why are you like this? I shouldn't have--]

"You made me see the beauty of this world, that's why..."

[--left you alone. That shouldn't be a--]

"..goodbye."

He felt broken, no shattered. His heart right now is so unstable. Why did he remembered you? Why? Because you were always there to comfort him when he is this down. When he is this wrecked. When he is this lost. You were his home. You were his cure. Now that you're gone, where would he go.

[--good in goodbye]

Your guardian angel in outer space

eliotghyle

You see, I can do some kind of things. Looking up what you are doing right now, checking your browser history, or hacking your door password. I'm doing works like that. Let's call it hacking. And I'm making a living with that. Been doing it for years now. I'm lonely. I live in outer space and my name is Seven.

I've been alone my whole life. Computers, gadgets and such are the ones who've been beside me. They were the things that made me forget how lonely I am. Don't even think that I don't have friends because I do have! Namely; CatMan, Narcissist101, Dyingcollege_student, and justanassistant123_. They are all from a chatroom I made, only exclusive for us friends.

We are in an organization to help others through fundraising. One day, we were having a conversation about Dyingcollege_student failed his midterms when somebody entered our chatroom. It is too impossible for him or her to enter the chatroom without me sending the executable file. I immediately checked who it is and it was a pretty girl who was just scammed into our chatroom and was forced (lololol) to join our organization.

It was normal for the first few days until I had a traced on who led her into our chatroom. What's bothering more is that she already likes a guy in our org and he feels the same. I knew everything about her. I investigated her thoroughly. And I can tell she is a good woman. She's polite, open minded, not pessimistic like me. The moment I background checked her, I'm saying, I like her. But what can I do? She likes my friend and I can't do anything about it.

Thinking about the things that we have talked in the chatroom, I want to open up with her. Talk to her about myself. Yearning her to like me too. It's far too impossible. I live in outer space, she's on earth. She's a human, I'm a steroid. We're too far to each other yet how did I like her? She and my friend finally met. They kissed as they cherished the moment while I'm smiling breaking down inside. I would like to grab her towards me, cage her in a protective manner and tell them all I knew her first. I saw her first. I'm the first. But I know I can't do that.

After the meeting, I head back to my outer space, watches how happy they are. I chat with them like nothing is rotting inside of me. It crumbles down—All I can do now is watch her from afar, to see how happy she is, that smile, those eyes. I'll do everything to make her out of danger. I'll take care of her even just in this kind of manner. I will be your guardian angel in outer space, even though I wished for us to marry in a space station. I'll just look from here, maiden. –it crumbles down, my heart.

WHEN LIFE
GETS HARDER
YOU MUST
JUST HAVE
LEVELLED UP

GOALS

The College of Information and Communications Technology seeks to develop globally competent ICT professionals, sufficiently equipped with appropriate knowledge, skills and attitude, for them to effectively design, develop, implement and manage information and communications technology resources in multi-disciplinary fields.

OBJECTIVES

Specifically, the college endeavors to:

- Produce globally competent and quality graduates who have acquired appropriate knowledge and technical skills, have developed personal and social values adaptive to the work environment;
- Inculcate in its students value of independent and life-long learning;
- Provide valuable services to and share expertise and facilities with various stakeholders on the transfer and promotion of information and communications technology for local, regional and national benefit;
- Harness and undertake relevant ICT research directed towards mission-critical, public-service-sensitive, development-management-supportive and revenue-generating areas.

"EVERYTHING IS AWESOME;
EVERYTHING IS COOL WHEN
YOU'RE PART OF THE TEAM."
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
UNDER CONSTRUCTION