

GOING UP. Leia Pauline Tonga (left) details her group's research to Sir Rex Forteza who listens intently. Photo by Marisol Barnachea

PSHS CARC successfully holds first Research Convention

By Edgar Biteng, Jr.

Philippine Science High School Cordillera Administrative Region Campus (PSHS CARC) successfully held this school year's research convention with a theme of "SERVICE & SUSTAINABILITY: Student Innovations for the People and for the Environment."

Held last April 21 to 22 at the PSHS CARC school grounds, the program started off at 9:30 in the morning with a speech from guest speaker Dr. Rosemary Gutierrez, the Dean

of University of the Philippines Baguio's (UPB) College of Sciences. She had research interests based on microbiology, which she encouraged the students to take when they started their own.

After her speech, the students were allowed to roam around the campus up until the end of lunch. Each of the eighth grade sections turned their classrooms into restaurants which anyfrom the school could buy from. The tenth graders in turn, were busy with their research displays.

In display by the grade 10 were the researches of the approved panels ranging from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Information Technology. The displays were then judged by both school faculty and visiting professors from other schools and universities in Baguio City.

After lunch, the students assembled in each of their respective sections for a seminar on a specific research inter-

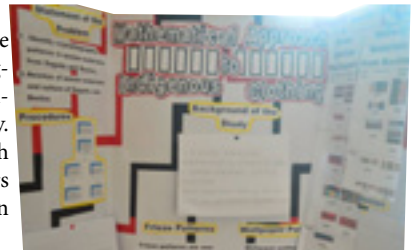
est by the professors and teachers from within and outside of the campus.

The program then continued on at April 22 for the grade 10 students, who now had to accomplish the defense of their research.

Research conventions are programs held to help students decide and gain insights on their researchers from certified researchers themselves and also to help those who already have one in progress.



SMILE! In light of the Research Convention, Dr. Rosemarie Guitierrez receives a plaque of appreciation from the Campus Director, Dr. Conrado C. Rotor Jr. Photo by Marisol Barnachea



"Mathematical Approach to Indigenous Clothing", one of the many research projects at display during the convention. Photo by Marisol Barnachea

A Name With An Unknown Story

By Xhandra Mae Araos

Heroes. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear this word? Maybe you have thought of flawless individuals with pleasing personalities who sacrificed their lives for the country like Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, and Emilio Aguinaldo. These names always ring a bell, don't they? What we don't know is that behind them stands the shadows of other significant people with names known but has a hidden story. And one person who lies within it is General Antonio Luna.

General Luna. His name was always mentioned when we study our Philippine history but he was often left unrecognized. He was just another leader who led the Filipino Army against the American colonizers. Truthfully, who would give attention to an ill-tempered

general with an unpleasant personality? He was always shown as an evil and harsh leader who screams at people's faces and acts as a dictator. He even threatened many Filipinos with the infamous "Artikulo Uno" - which stated that whoever refuses to obey the General will be removed from his rank and will be killed without trial - to join the army. With this style, who wouldn't hate him? You can't deny that people can sometimes be judgemental. Even I admit it. But can we do anything if that's his style of discipline?

"Mas magandang mamatay sa digmaan kaysa magpasakop sa dayuhan." This is a quote coming from General

Luna which proves his love and patriotism for the country. Even with his strong personality, his sense of leadership was admirable. As recognized by an American leader, General Douglas MacArthur, he was the only general we had. In a way, MacArthur was right. Of all the leaders we had, he was the only one with a mark of being a true Filipino. He was someone who wants his people to have the freedom they should have. He didn't want to just be another country with no identity, unlike his other comrades wishing the opposite, which eventually led him to his death. Emilio Aguinaldo, who stands as the president of the country during that

time, ordered to kill Luna. Now, can we blame him for his way of leading? Even if he was left unnoticed, he still stood strong to protect

the country and the people. He didn't care what other people might think. Narcissistic he is, but try to look on his point of view. The burden of having to protect our territories is too much. What more if the lives of people lies within his hands? People are all born unique. We also have different perspectives. It's just that Antonio Luna had a different way of showing his love for his country and people. Think about how he lied beneath the shadows of the only heroes we know. That makes him a true Philippine hero.

"May mas malaki tayong kalaban kaysa sa Amerikano- ang ating sarili."

Photo from the internet



A stepping stone for those below

By Erik Joshua Mangaoang

Leadership is not a trait that you are born with. It comes from harnessing all of your traits and experiences to lead your squad to a common goal. Being a leader is sometimes misinterpreted as being a bossy figure, barking out orders, doing no work, and at the end getting all the credit. But leadership is more than just being good at planning things. A true leader should know how to act by example. A leader that can be pictured as one of our country's heroes: General Antonio Luna.

Dauntless. This is one of the traits of General Luna that made him a very successful leader. Brave even when dark times arrive, Luna guided his squad to one of the toughest battles. And even though he lost many fights, he tends to stay optimistic. A true leader has the heart of a lion, graceful in defeat, but glorious in triumph. Also, he should be able to make quick, effective decisions. Sometimes, being the leader of the pack, you need to make decisions that can mean the success or failure of your goal. Having a cool and calm mind in times of stress can positively affect your members' mindset and how they approach things.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership."

"Leadership is lifting a person's vision to high sights, the raising of a person's performance to a higher standard, the building of a personality beyond its normal limitations." -Peter Drucker

Leadership is an act of leading other people on a right path. Leadership helps other people succeed and lead people a way to the top.

A good leadership is headed

by a good leader. Good leadership is created by a good leader. A bad leadership does not really exist because bad leadership does not help anybody and it will never result to good things.

Good leaders listen first then move. They do not command immediately without listening to the others. They never leave their responsibilities to their teammates; instead, they lead a team that functions as one. A good leader also motivates their teammates in any situation and never

scares them. Good leaders learn from mistakes and lessons then teach it to other people. They are not selfish and usually share. In a project, good leaders look at the progress of the project and make adjustments if needed. Good leaders give equal rights to their teammates or group mates.

Bosses are clearly different from leaders. In some cases, people think leaders are arrogant or bossy. But

there is always a good reason that is why that is their attitude. Maybe, that is their attitude because they have a good goal not only for themselves but for the benefit of others. Sometimes when I was assigned as a leader I become bossy because I want the job to be done faster and easier.

Good leadership benefits many people because of a good leader. A good leader has a good goal not for himself but for everybody. Leadership leads people to a right path.

LEADERSHIP

By Kyril Jay Cantago

What does it take to be a leader?

By Reyamar Angelo Cabatu

Some say that a good leader is someone who could serve, someone who could stand for his or her own people, someone who could live for a cause greater than himself. But there is also a leader who rules with his or her own way, a person who wants everything that what he or she says must be done!

But there would be no perfect leader, because whatever we do, we cannot please everybody, and its reality. What is important for a leader is that he or she has passion. Anyone can do anything, yes! Anyone could cook, sing, do math, or even be the president. But

we could not do it any better if there is passion in what we do. And being a leader, anyone could also do that, but to be a great leader, passion is what it takes. John Maxwell, a famous author once said "A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion not position"

In the end we don't only help ourselves, but also the people around us. We become a beacon of hope that lights their way in the middle of the bleak reality that is life, and towards the betterment of the future.



The leadership trap

By Jilliana Sorquia

"History was written by those who changed the heroes." A quote from Mel Gibson's Braveheart rings truest in the Philippines. Its history was sorted out to make an illusion of a glorious nation, just as fragile as a fairy tale. But what was actually laid behind it was the grueling reality of blood, sweat and tears with mistakes and mishaps.

To think that Filipinos were made to believe that the country was born from an untainted bravery of their forefathers who conquered all who tried to take over the country, would have their mind boggled at the actual truth of the Philippines' past. Being under the rule of the Spaniards left the people astray from leadership, and yet, very few of them had stood up for themselves and started to lead a good fight and a good life with their fellow companions.

Look at General Antonio Luna, who had given up a life of comfort and complacency for his country's freedom. He was a fierce man, as the majority of people's opinions say. Leading a well-tamed army, according to the history books and the recent movie General Luna, he had put up a good fight alongside his men.

But comparing that to today's leaders, oh, there's a huge difference. It was like there was a loss of leadership, their hope at a loss, just like back then—but here, it's as if there is no one to stand up anymore. There's no more leaders who prove leadership is an action and example, but instead a position and a title. They're seemingly leading properly, and what's more to realize for the cruel lies of boasting for being a leader of the country. Had it been a shame to the fellow citizens, getting lead into a leadership trap?

Leadership is defined to be a practical skill, regarding the ability of an individual or a group to 'lead' or guide other individuals. Looking at what things are going on today, its definition is the complete opposite. Back in elementary days where kids were grouped, the leader was their last hope; nowadays, the leader has become their last hope. Looks are truly deceiving, but if the elections won't be a complete failure, there may be one last chance for bringing back leadership.

Leadership: A Lesson from General Luna

By Mary Grace Diane Lazatin

“Leadership is based on inspiration, not domination; on cooperation, not intimidation,” said William Arthur Ward.

Leadership is not just a title; you do not just go about announcing that you are some CEO of a company or the manager of a band without putting effort into the responsibilities which are expected of you. That is not being a leader; that is just you being a braggart. As a leader, you should be able to live up to your position and show that you are worthy of the opportunity because sometimes, you only have one chance to prove yourself.

Photo from the internet



When you are a leader, those under you look to you for guidance: they wait for and heed your orders or instructions, more so if they regard you with a deep respect. Of course, your attitude also greatly affects those around you. If you are lazy and neglect your duties, it is most probable that your groupmates or subordinates will be so. People usually replicate the behavior of those they are most often exposed to. And after all, leadership is about action and example, greatly exemplified by the famed general who took the nation by storm in his biopic: General Antonio Luna.

Although infamous for his fiery temper and, at times, impulsive actions, Antonio Luna was said to be a good leader. He has a strong belief in what is right, compassion for his countrymen (albeit in small doses), and intense courage to fight and stand firm. He was very hands-on; he was willing to get his hands dirty, as mentioned in an article of modernfilipina.ph. General Luna himself went into battle without regard as to whether or not his life is in danger. He was willing to put his own safety on the line if it would help his cause. He wanted to free our country and

create a nation of our own without being under the control of a foreign people.

After watching the movie surrounding his life and demise entitled Heneral Luna, I was left in awe and it isn't just because of the great cinematography. His character has a commanding presence and his ways of discipline might be a little... different but, it was only because of those people who showed insubordination. How can his goal of freeing the country happen if the majority barely even cared about the situation at hand? As Luna had told Joven, the fictional character in the film that represented the youth, “Malaking trabaho ang ipagkaisa ang bansang watakwatak, Joven.” It must have been really hard to lead an army of Filipinos who barely had the drive and passion in battle. Luna must have had a lot of headaches during his time as the general.

Disregarding his constant cursing and impulsive behavior, General Luna was (and still is) in my opinion one of the best leaders that the Philippines has come to know. His patriotism and desire for freedom is greatly commended. He has goals set and he does whatever it takes to attain them. We may not be in the battlefield, we may not be in the midst of war, but we can take lessons from the triumphs and downfalls in the life of General Antonio Luna.

What is the true essence of leadership?

By Jullia Amoira Patol

Remember those elementary days when someone was appointed the leader? They basically do everything and just explain it to their members. That's why kids these days don't want to be leaders in a group project or group activity. These kids feel like the pressure is on them if their group gets a high mark or not but this isn't right. These activities were supposed to train them into becoming the next generation leaders but because of the pressure most kids don't want to be president anymore. Because of this they tend to forget about the real meaning of being a leader, they forget the true essence of leadership. But what does it mean to be leader?

Being appointed as the leader means you're going to lead your group to the path of success. When someone is given

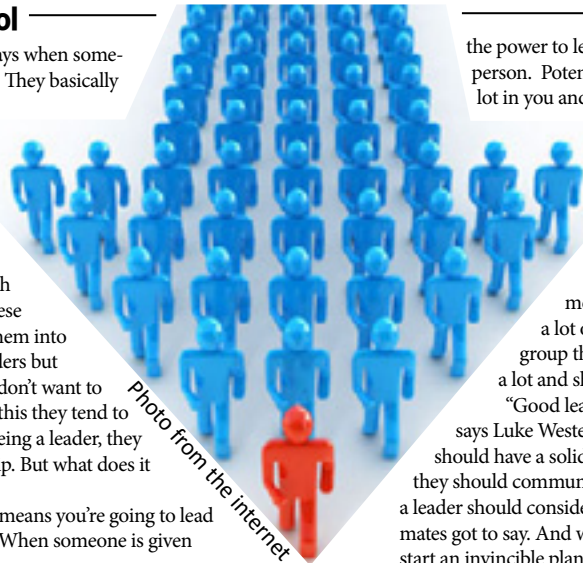


Photo from the internet

the power to lead it means they see potential in this person. Potential that they didn't know. They see a lot in you and being a leader brings out the best in you. But being a leader is something that nobody should abuse. Being a leader is never an excuse for making other people slaves, making others feel worthless and not giving them the acknowledgment they deserve. Being a leader brings a lot of responsibility and this is why in a group there are other people. People that help a lot and should be heard.

“Good leaders listens first and speaks second” says Luke Westerman. A leader and its groupmates should have a solid relationship and to achieve this they should communicate better. To avoid petty quarrels a leader should consider every suggestion his or her groupmates got to say. And with all these suggestions they can start an invincible plan.

A SCHOLAR'S PRIVILEGE AND SACRIFICE

By Xhandra Mae Araos

Walking out of the PSHS building, I have thought about all the experiences I had in this institution. Then, I realized, there was one of these that had really made a great impact molding me to who I am now. I looked up to the building standing in front of me. No, it's not the school building. But rather the school's dormitory.

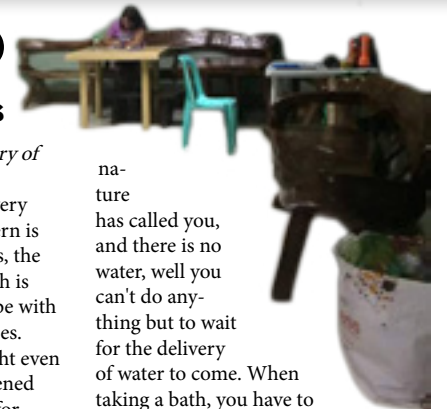
“It is not your right but rather



SCHOLARS' SECOND HOME. The new PSHS-CARC dorm houses more than sixty scholars. Photo by Diane Lazatin

your privilege to live in the dormitory of Philippine Science High School.”

I think this is a statement that every PISAY dormer knows. Being an intern is not easy as everyone thinks. Perhaps, the heaviest thing we have to bear with is the fact that you don't get to be with your family and loved ones. Sometimes, you might even feel lonely and burdened when you're longing for the warmth of your parents' and siblings' hugs and kisses, but they can't always stay by your side. Besides this, you have to deal with the rules and responsibilities bounded within the dorm. You may also encounter a lot of problems while staying. When



nature has called you, and there is no water, well you can't do anything but to wait for the delivery of water to come. When taking a bath, you have to wait for your turn and bear with people who bathe so long. Though it might be tough for some, I think that living on my own two feet is a training to be independent. No one is going to help me except myself. It may seem hard at first, but it will be an experience you will never regret. You will experience many fun and exciting moments you never thought it may happen. I looked up to the building once again. As I enter the dorm, there I realized I am a PISAY scholar pursuing for excellence while having the privilege to be an intern.

“*Kilala mo ba yung sikat na pogi sa dorm?*” “*Oo syempre, Jessril Tayag pangalan niya diba?*”

A steadfast leader who molds scholars into better people, that is Jessril Genove Tayag. We all know that he is the boys' dormitory manager but aren't you curious as to what lies deeper into the persona that is most known as “Sir Jess”? Yes, we know that he was born on August 14, has a family and is one of the graduates of SLU with a course in Electrical Engineering. Well, let me give you a few trivias about Sir Jess.

His favourite food is mussels more commonly known as *tahong*. Charlize Theron, the star of Aeon Flux and of last year's Mad Max: Fury Road is his favourite actress. His favourite color is red and his favourite movie is The Blind Side.

Right now, it may have dawned upon you as to how an electrical engineer became a dorm manager after graduating from SLU. Well, Sir Jess says that it was matter of chance. A friend of his asked him that they were in need of a dorm parent, one thing led to another and here he is

Apo Jess

By Ryleigh Matthew Cabardo

now. Maybe it was a stroke of chance or a dictate from fate but whatever happens it seems that we are lucky to have him.

When asked as to his plans on how long he would be staying with the PSHS-CARC family, he says that he might be here for another 10 or 15 years depending on the circumstances but he plans to enjoy his stay here, guiding the future boarders of the Pisay system. With that in mind, we can ask, what drives him to become the dorm manager that he is now? Well, he says that the dormitory is a system that brings a lot of fun and a lot of challenges to his life. He enjoys being able to deal with these everyday challenges alongside aspiring scholars that sooner or later reveal their childish

side to the dorm. In fact, not only does he pass through these obstacles with a unique sense of ingenuity, he does this while also being an approachable and helpful dorm manager. Ron Nierva quotes “*Gumagawa siya nang paraan para maayos yung mga problema namin sa dorm.*”

The school year 2015-2016 has had lots of noteworthy events like the opening of the new dormitory. With it comes of course, its ups and downs. When asked about what greater things the new dorm has he responded by saying that it has better facilities like having showers, better ventilation, blinds, built-in cabinets and the like. Considering how awesome the new dorm is, it still can't avoid the various problems that may plague a dormitory like water shortages and windows that let the rain in.

Sir Jess says that there are a lot of things that can be improved but overall is thankful for the new dorm. Perhaps now, you know more about the man that has served as a father figure to the dormitories of PSHS-CARC.

ACGS 2016 STUDENT CAMP: THE "GREEN" KIMCHI EXPERIENCE

By Geo Earl Angeles

-12 C°

The cold breeze met our team as we got off our plane to get our 15-kilo-luggages and headed to immigration. It felt so surreal to actually be in the country whose culture and traditions became a worldwide trend called K-pop. I cannot believe that the images that I only see online now come to life as our team experienced the freezing night in Busan, South Korea.

Our team went to Korea in two separate groups, and we were one of the first participants who arrived at Changwon Science High School located at the heart of Changwon City. The coordinators welcomed us with big smiles and warm greetings as they led us to our rooms inside the school dormitory. As the night deepens, we tried to get some rest to prepare ourselves for an exciting environmental science week ahead of us. The whole dormitory fell into silence as our team went into a deep sleep.

Our team was composed of two faculty - Mr. Justin Guce of PSHS-MC and Ms. Jacquelyn Mirasol PSHS-IRC with eight (8) students from the different Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campuses, namely Ayn Lachica, Kerlynnne Ferrer, Erica Gomez, Fern Peregrino, Cristina Almario, Rex Morales II, Billy Severo and myself. The participating students were from SRC, MC, EVC, WVC, CLBRZC, IRC, BRC and CAR campuses respectively.

Since there was no scheduled activity in that morning, we first made a tour around Changwon Sci-



TOUCHDOWN! The Philippine representatives for the ACGS 2016 were all smiles as they arrived in Changwon Science High School. Photo by Geo Earl Angeles

ence High School. The campus was very clean and there was even a bit of frost on the ground. Our team later found out that last night was one of the coldest in Korean history for the past 20 years. What a remarkable way to start our Korean Trip for the ACGS (ASEAN+3

Center for the Gifted in Science) Camp!

In the afternoon, the participants from



INFINITY. The Changwon Science High School's emblem radiates on their school's facade. Photo by Geo Earl Angeles

the other countries arrived and their voices filled the hallway of the dormitory. We all prepared for the welcome dinner with the entire ACGS student and teacher representatives from the different countries. The welcome dinner was a mix of Korea's well-known dishes with a western twist that was very evident in its intricate presentation. The night ended very well and we were able to meet a lot of people in the acquaintance activity.

On the first day of the camp, we had a special lecture from Mr. Hoon Cho of the Civil and Engineering, KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), Republic of Korea. His lecture was entitled "Can the World be of More Colors?" He basically talked about why energy was one of the most important issues when it comes to human life. He said

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SNAPSHOT. Geo Angeles poses for the camera in Bugok Hawaii. Photo by Geo Earl Angeles

that energy until this era was mainly generated from coal or from crude oil. However, there exist certain limitations to these fossil fuel sources. Throughout the lecture, general concepts of green energy were discussed with up-to-date technologies worldwide, along with several facts related to sustainability.

Later that day, we were formally grouped into nine (9) international teams composed of one nationality for each group. I was lucky to be put to Team 1 (Team Blue) with Lee Haein (from Korea) as my

team buddy. My other teammates came from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and Thailand. The goal of every team was to create a presentation regarding Green Energy and how it was used in the modern day age. We were very awkward at first but we managed to make a good bond amongst us.

On the next day of the camp, we had several experiments. The first experiment that we did was DNA extraction. I was actually anticipating this lab work because I had firsthand experience of extracting DNA in my Biology class. This was more commonly known as DNA isolation, a process of purification of DNA from sample using a combination of physical and chemical

methods. Friedrich Miescher did the first isolation of DNA in 1869 which now became a routine procedure in molecular biology for forensic analyses. As a bonus, I was also able to make a simple DNA model using the materials that they provided in the camp.

The next two experiments that we had related two concepts in contrast: nature and technology. The first lecture was called "Patterns in Nature". We first discussed Kepler who dugged up 3 patterns from the planet's movement. Then, we also studied some Bongard patterns.

These patterns were a kind of puzzle invented by the Russian computer scientist Mikhail Moiseevich Bongard (1924–1971) in the mid-1960s. The other experiment that we had was the light bulb made with pencil lead material. We also learned about circuits and the conduction of electricity as well as the components of a light bulb.

As an additional exercise, we learned how LED lights could save the Earth's resources. We were able to light the LED using a breadboard, designed a circuit that can control RGB LED lights, synthesized various colors using RGB LED lights and calculated the amount of power saved. Lastly, we also learned about the various light pollutions that humans create in urban areas such as the cities in developed countries.

On Wednesday, the whole ACGS 2016 Team went to the Dandelion Community located in the Galjeon Village. This community had 30 years of history beginning in April 5, 1991. Primarily this community started with mission for the revitalization of rural areas in Western Gyeongnam province of Korea and for rural support projects in South East Asian countries. The Dandelion Community pursued a life of self-reliance in food, energy, economy, education and culture, and belief, and conscience. The *modus vivendi* or lifestyle of the community can be expressed in three

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THE GREEN HOUSE. The passive house of the eco-village Galjeon of Sancheon uses energy from the sun. Photo by Geo Earl Angeles

points: simple life, deep-rooted life and sacrificial life.

Inside the Dandelion community, we toured the Alternative Technology Center (ATC). The Alternative Technology Center started in 2006 in Sancheong-gun, Korea. ATC aimed to research and practice appropriate technology and alternative technology and to share them to the poor for the eradication of poverty. The highlights of the ACT tour included: 1. Making land fertile, overdose of energy and desertification; 2. Eco-construction-straw bale house; 3. Construction of recycling; 4. Passive house; 5. Solar Energy; 6. Wind turban generator, bicycle generator; 7. Solar cooker, and solar oven and ;8. Eco sewage purification system (with nutrients removal).

The experience and tour around the Dandelion Community helped us with our team presentation for Friday. During the presentation, our team discussed piezoelectricity and how we wanted to innovate on it. Piezoelectricity is transforming Kinetic Energy such as vibrations, impacts etc. into usable electrical energy through a piezoelectric crystal. It also works the other way round, such as in quartz watches, where electrical current is converted into a series of incredibly uniform and accurate vibrations.

After the thrill of the presentations, we then headed to the Bugok Hawaii. This place was a forerunner in the tourism leisure industry which started in 1979 and now a general spa resort facility that was beautifully blended with a first class tourist hotel. Our

team went to try the ice sled and we all had lots of fun and laughter on this winter activity. The ice sledding was one of our favorite experiences in the trip.



STUDENT COLLAGE. The Korean experience will never be complete without a walk down the streets of Changwon.



WORK HARD, PLAY HARD. The students went for a sled after their research presentation.

On the last day of the camp, we had the awarding and the cultural presentations. Our international team managed to get a bronze medal award during the ceremony. I was so glad that we each got a medal of our own as I was able to bring home one! After the awarding, we then had the cultural presentations. The different participating countries showed their own culture through dances, lectures and games. Our PSHS team shared the local game of "Pinoy Henyo" to the other participants. We taught them Filipino words such as "Oo", "Hindi", and "Pwede". Everyone participated and enjoyed the game, and we truly appreciated all their efforts in saying the Filipino words throughout the entire game.

At the end of week, all nice and great things must come to an end. I learned that the use of green energy is very vital for in our lives and it is one of the many ways we can preserve our environment. Renewable energy is a critical part of reducing global carbon emissions, and the pace of investment has recently greatly increased as the cost of technologies fall and efficiency continues to rise. I am now also able to appreciate other cultures, learn where they came from and understood our differences. Korea now holds a special place in my heart and I will never forget this green environmental science experience in the land of Kimchi. I look forward to learn more in the field of Science and Technology, and pursue my dreams as a scientist.

Because

By: Korreine Buccat

Because we live in this world,
We could only either be loved or be hurt
Because we live in this world,
We could only either love or hurt

But because we choose to hurt,
Many people still have to fight for their rights,
Rights which should have been given at birth.
Because we choose to hurt,
I think that humanity has finally lost its worth.

But because I choose to love, upfront I choose to stand
Even with only these words at hand
Not all the world might listen,
But I speak for the women and the children I hope to enlighten.

I hope that there comes a day when we no longer have to fight for things
That must be given.
Because we live in this world,
We could only either love or hurt.

Because we live in this world,
I hope, will all my heart's worth,
That we choose to love and not to hurt

theNexus

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God created
woman in the
image of a rose

By Caleb Joshua Abrazaldo

The rose represents beauty
The stem represents strength
The petals are as soft as skin,
the fragrance pure and sweet
The leaves represent arms
outstretched, always caring
and giving

Yes, women, where would we
be without them?
Right now, I am writing this
down with my pen
They are the unsung heroes
of today
No medals, rewards, and
"Hip, Hip, Hoorays!"

However, I am grateful to
them
They are a blessed bunch,
those women

Yes, women, where would be
without them?

GSW dominating victory leads them to round 2; Curry nowhere to be found

By Christian Nikolai Rabaya

In spite of the absence of the key point guard Stephen Curry, the Golden Warriors clinching the win against the Houston Rockets, 114-81 bidding farewell to them on Wednesday to seal a 4-1 series triumph in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs in their home court, the Oracle Arena in San Francisco.

Curry won't most likely be in the next games due to his sprained medial collateral ligament in his right knee during Game 4 of the series.

Golden State improved to 4-2 without the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player by winning the series clincher against the Rockets, with veteran Shaun Livingston replacing Curry's current role in the team. He also contributed 16 points on 7-for-8 shooting. Ten of Livingston's points came on 4-for-4 shooting and a pair of free throws in the first quarter, during which the Warriors scored the first eight points en route to a 37-20 lead. Harden had 18 points in the quarter, hitting six of eight shots. Meanwhile, his team mates never made a hoop in the 12 minutes, going 0-for-15 from the field and 0-for-7 from 3-point range.

Dwight Howard's two free throws provided the only Houston scoring other than by Harden in the period.

Harden finished with a game-high 35 points to go with six rebounds and a team-high six assists, but it was not

nearly enough to overcome a balanced Warriors attack.

Klay Thompson led Golden State with 27 points, burying 10 of 14 shots and seven of 11 3-point attempts.

The Warriors finished 13-for-31 from beyond the arc, outscoring the Rockets 39-18 from long range despite taking two fewer attempts. Houston went 6-for-33 on 3-pointers, with Harden making three of seven tries. Draymond Green contributed 15 points and team highs in rebounds (nine) and assists (eight) to the win, which was Golden State's 42nd in 44 home games this season.

Andre Iguodala had six points and six assists, and Brandon Rush was good for 15 points off the Warriors' bench.

Howard dominated the backboards with 21 rebounds. However, he missed 10 of 13 shots and finished

with just eight points.

Houston's starters other than Harden shot a combined 8-for-33 and totaled 19 points.

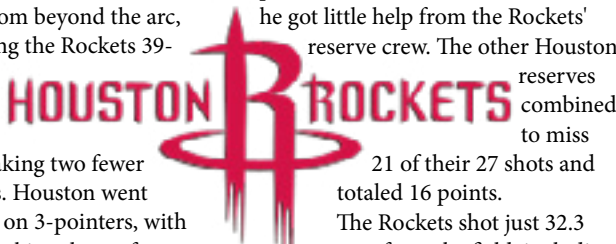
Michael Beasley had 11 points off the Houston bench, but he got little help from the Rockets' reserve crew. The other Houston reserves combined to miss 21 of their 27 shots and totaled 16 points.

The Rockets shot just 32.3 percent from the field, including just 28.3 percent (13-for-46) in the first half while falling behind by as many as 22.

Golden State made 54.9 percent of its field-goal attempts.

The Warriors led by as many as 33 points in the third quarter and 34 late in the game.

This proves that the Warriors does pack a punch even with their MVP isn't around.



FAST DRIVE. Shaun Livingston (right) drives to the basket as James Harden (left) prevents his attempt. Photo from the internet