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Sen. Sotto elected as new senate president

Christian Nikolai Rabaya

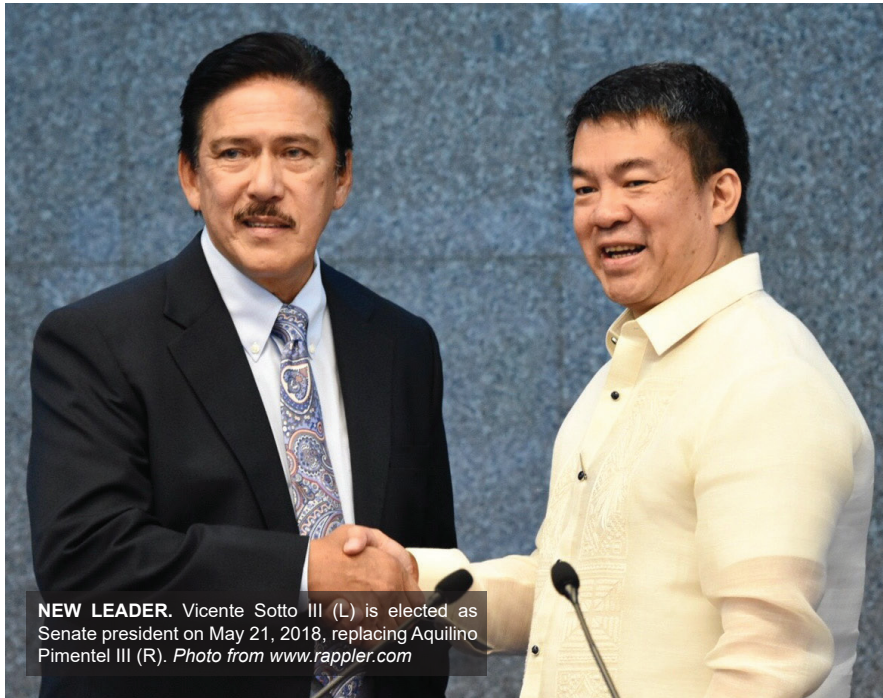
MANILA – After the 15 majority bloc votes to change the senate president last week, Senator Vicente “Tito” Sotto took on the role as the new senate president, as Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel stepped down to give way for his successor, on May 21, 2018.

On that Monday afternoon, Sen. Sotto took his oath before Gringo Honasan. He thanked Senator Pimentel and his other fellow senators for entrusting him with the position.

“I am deeply humbled and sincerely grateful to the Almighty God and to my fellow senators who reposed their trust and confidence in me and my capability to lead this august chamber at this critical and challenging time,” he said.

The senator also promised to pass more laws that are beneficial to the Filipinos.

“I hereby pledge to continue in helping in the passage of laws that will be beneficial to the country and to every Filipino and to continue as well the diligence and dedication of



NEW LEADER. Vicente Sotto III (L) is elected as Senate president on May 21, 2018, replacing Aquilino Pimentel III (R). Photo from www.rappler.com

Sen. Koko Pimentel who has been the principal author and sponsor of many landmark laws,” he stated.

Sen. Pimentel, on the other hand, was thankful the election was held with minimal disruption, and wished Sen. Sotto, his top choice to replace

him, good luck.

“I wish my successor, Senator Sotto, good health and Godspeed and pledge to help the new leadership pass new pro-people legislation consistent the legislative agenda of the President,” he said.

In 2019, Sen. Pimentel plans to forward Federalism by going around the country to promote it, as the PDP-Laban party, chaired by President Rodrigo Duterte, hopes to change the government to a federalist form. The senator claimed to do this not only because he is the president of the PDP-Laban party, but because this is his personal advocacy too.

On the same day, Senator Miguel Zubiri was elected as the new majority leader to replace Senator Sotto. He is also the new chairman of Senate Committee and Rules.

Meanwhile, the election of the new senate president enraged the people in social media. Many protested that Sen. Sotto is not the right choice for the position as he is a ‘rapist’ and a ‘plagiarist’.

The senator allegedly plagiarized the speech of former President John F. Kennedy in 2012, and, along with his brother Marvic Sotto and friend, Joey de Leon, was involved in the Pepsi Paloma rape case in 1982.



QUICK UPDATE. A footbridge that collapsed just as lawmakers and local officials were inspecting housing units is rebuilt a day after the incident. Photo from news.abs-cbn.com

NHA takes the blame for footbridge collapse

Mennith Resuello

Last April 26, local officials of Zamboanga City, together with Negros Oriental Representative Albee Benitez, were visiting the Zamboanga City Roadmap to Recovery and Reconstruction housing project (Z3R) when a portion of the footbridge collapsed, leaving the officials drenched in water.

The housing project beneficiaries were the victims of Zamboanga siege in 2013. The city government representatives were at the site to investigate about the poor conditions of the house as complained by the residents.

Zamboanga City Mayor Beng Climaco blamed the National Housing Authority (NHA) for

the mishap at the housing site. In a statement recorded by CNN Philippines, Climaco said, “Let those found at fault face justice.” He also said that it was a blessing that they experienced the incident so that they will really know what to do.

Different local groups also responded to the incident. The Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (KADAMAY) said, “NHA officials seem to have gotten a taste of their own medicine as they experienced firsthand the perils in government housing sites.”

Meanwhile, no casualties were declared and no serious physical injuries have been recorded from the incident.

TRAIN law implemented for tax reform

Berna Prado & Catherine Batay-an

TRAIN (Tax Reformation for Acceleration and Inclusion) is a bill signed by President Rodrigo Duterte last December 2017 with his goal for the rich to have a bigger contribution and the poor to have more benefits.

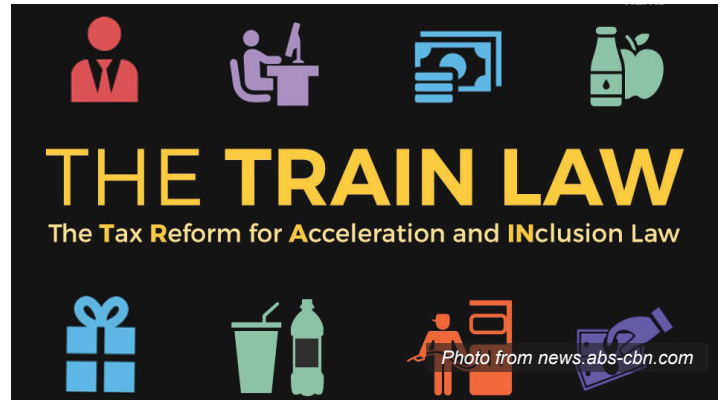
The purpose of TRAIN law is for the Filipinos to experience more simple, fairer and more efficient tax system. It is also for education, healthcare and infrastructures.

With the TRAIN law there will be simplified tax system,

value added tax (VAT) system and simplified Estate and Donor's tax.

The TRAIN law may have a lot of benefits but it still has its disadvantages such as: increase excise tax on petroleum products, automobiles, sweetened beverages and increase on documentary stamp tax (DST) and foreign deposits

The people who benefit from the TRAIN law are the minimum wage earners, individuals with taxable income of Php250, who



receive bonuses, members of cooperative, PWDs and also the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

While there are some who benefit from the TRAIN law, there are also those who do not. These are the consumers, and this is because of the hike in excise tax. Those who do not

benefit from the TRAIN law are the buyers of new vehicles, consumers of beverages containing sugar, house or apartment centers with rental fees below Php1000, lotto winners, individuals who receive royalties and interests from bank deposits.

Baguio implementation of plastic ban

Mennith Resuello

In order to reduce environmental effects of plastic bags, the implementation of the city's total plastic ban had started last May 2018.

The focus of the said project is the usage of one time use plastic sando bags which are hard to degrade and harmful not only to the environment, but to the people.

According to Cordelia Lacsamana, head of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO), they will only allow biodegradable plastics accredited by the Environment Viability Technology Institute under the Department of Science and Technology.

Issues arose about the project since the ban's implementation was without the Implementing Rules and Regulations

(IRR) having been released to the public.

"There is no going back. Even if there are questionable items, we will refine these in the future, which is going to be submitted to the city council as a component of the ordinance," Lacsamana said.

Meanwhile, Mayor Mauricio Domogan stated that the City Ordinance and IRR passed last May, 2017 still has to go through the city's council before being released.

Earlier in the year, the city government announced that they will stop renewing the business permits of establishments selling plastic bags.

CEPMO and the local government are encouraging the people to reuse and recycle plastic materials.



PSHS-CARC celebrates Humanities Days

Mennith Resuello

With the theme, "Aruga at Lingkod Alay sa Bayan ng Pisay" (ALAB ng Philippine Science High School-Cordillera Administrative Region Campus (PSHS-CARC) celebrated Humanities Days last March 26 to 27 at the school campus.

The event aimed to remind the scholars of their humanistic values and to be well-rounded individuals in the future.

The celebration was not only participated by scholars, faculty, and staff. Guests and parents also showed their support when they joined activities.

Spoken word poetry, performed by grade 9 scholars; Greek Festival 2018, performed by grade 10 scholars; and The Lagablab Battle of the Bands are few of

the different activities during the event.

Service Creativity and Leadership Experience (SCALE) activities were also launched during the event, such as essay writing contests, The Amazing Race, and poster-making competitions.

Several exhibits were also held in the campus. The exhibits include the Orpheus Poetry Room, Robotics and Humanics Room, Fascists and Dictators Books launching, Humanistic Technologies, and the Pantheon of Biodiversity exhibit room.

Other activities held were the different batches' Tiangge, where the scholars raised funds by selling items they do not use anymore. Another is the Sunset Run, sponsored by the General Parents Teachers Association (GPTA).

Commodification of culture



People's Person

Kathlea Gawani Yangot

Since when was culture and tradition something that was bought and sold?

In Poznan, Poland there exists a clothing line with a display of an aged woman beside it. She's smiling, fingers resting on her chin to exude a pose of charisma; tattoos on her shoulder, necklaces dangling down her chest. Above her face is a clothing line brand, "SELVA: Tribes Collection." It stays there as if to taunt "buy me, I have a photo of a tribal woman in my ad, buy me."

The woman is Whang-od. She is a legend and not "some other." She is the last indigenous tattooist of her generation in Buscalan, Kalinga. She is a woman worthy of identity and homage, a woman who has earned honor on her own. Her tattoos are meaningful and should not be constricted to just being "cool-looking" and "expensive". They are privileges for those who have achieved feats such as protecting the irtribe decades ago. The designs are embellished with tradition that has aged for nearly a century. Her culture cannot be bought with any shirt she supposedly advertises. Her tradition is not passed on by any tattoo one pays her for.

She is a centennial who has to earn her keep, but she also knows her work is not a commodity. For marketers and customers to exploit her for their own gain is repulsive, whether with her consent or not. She's not a movie star or a rising model. She's not a pawn to be used for the benefit of economy. No, she's Whang-Od, the epitome of a lasting tradition that other people strive to preserve.

People who pass by the advert will probably only see her as a "tribal woman" or an "exotic person." The picture, devoid of attachment, isn't enough to tell her story and identity. For that reason, her image in that store is lamentable for those who know her.

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EDITORIAL

Before marriage and divorce

On March 19, 2018, the House of Representatives approved the House Bill No. 7307, the bill that proposes the legalization of divorce in the Philippines.

Legalizing divorce can serve as cushion for people caught in toxic relationships. However, shouldn't we consider things before diving head-first into marriages?

Legalizing divorce can lead to a number of good effects. Yes, divorce may weaken the bond of man and woman, but we must also realize that with divorce, people in abusive relationships can easily part ways. Women's voices can finally be heard more as they are usually the ones being oppressed in such relationships. These can help in improving the country's state as it will decrease the cases of abuse, cases of mental health brought by trauma, and the gender inequality found in the Philippines.

However, before we take the next step, which is to approve it in the Senate, communities must first raise awareness amongst its citizens.

For one, topics as those concerning sex, marriage, relationships, and the likes should be well-discussed in schools, institutes, and universities. People shouldn't run away from heavy topics. Instead, people should be taught on how to talk about such topics in a civil manner. By bringing up topics like that, the youth will have a better understanding on the grounds and ramifications of marriage. This well help in future decisions.

Furthermore, one major problem in legalizing divorce is the wrong mindset of the people. In the Philippines, when a woman gets pregnant before marriage, more or less the father should step up and marry the girl to take care of the child. However, marriage does not guarantee a bright future for a family. A man can still take care of the child even if they are not under the same roof as the mother by providing financial support, emotional support, and scheduled visits to the child. If couples marry even if there is no love between the two, it will just result in a toxic relationship.

Moreover, the government should fix the pre-Cana law, the grounds that the Church implemented to ensure that a marriage is legal. One ground for divorce is the violation of the pre-Cana rules. One reason why annulment is rampant is because many violators of this law get by without repercussions. By making the violators' punishments stricter, marriages in the Philippines wouldn't easily be separated by divorce or annulment as before.

Divorce serves as a second chance. But before second chances, there will always be the first. The government needs to inform the public about the grounds and effects of marriages in order for the people to make the right choice. In the end, who wouldn't want a happy ending?

Property responsibility

Zyanne Agneshka Aquino

It's clearance week, with students running around halls and rooms to catch teachers and staff and make them sign their clearance papers. With clearance week comes the realization of damaged classroom utilities that need fixing – such as the tables.

The threat of an unsigned clearance can force students to fix or pay for damages in classrooms, but they don't always work. Advisers will eventually sign the clearances so that the students can move to a higher level.

So what will we do with these damaged tables? It's not a problem of not having enough class funds to pay for all of the damages. For the case of damaged tables, some tables have minor damages that can be fixed with replacements. Calling someone with experience in repairs also works for damages like holes to be patched up or legs to be reattached.

It's understandable that perhaps they couldn't find a replacement or have the money for one, or couldn't find someone (and someone with the time) to fix the damages. But it isn't impossible or incredibly hard to fix these damaged tables, is it?

SOGIE Bill

Rizza Mae Lim

We live in an age where discrimination should be diminished, an age where we are free to express who we are, an age where we can love whoever we want regardless of their gender, an age where we could be more than being a male or a female. But despite living in a free country, despite living in the modern society, the LGBTQ+ community is still looked down upon. On September 20, 2017, the SOGIE Equality Bill passed its final reading at the House of Representatives. The said bill has sparked a controversial issue with various religious sectors expressing their disagreement with the bill.

SOGIE or Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Equality bill aims to support the LGBTQ+ community and reduce discrimination in our country. This would not only be beneficial to the said community but to everyone, for this bill would teach us to accept people for who they are. But religious sectors like the Catholic Church vocalized their disagreement with the bill. The church

The damaged tables can be a problem for future scholars. Loose and hanging shelves are rendered useless and can be annoying to be constantly on top of one's thighs. Moving table tops are also annoying for scholars while they write and have the top slide around. Detached legs and stretcher beams can make the table completely unusable and because of that, there will be less tables to be used, forcing the class to make do with a substitute.

We have a mentality similar to “*basura mo, itapon mo*” (but the tables aren't really trash). In this case, it's the tables that we have to take responsibility of taking care and fixing. It's common to point fingers on who damaged this or that. Some tables were damaged a long time ago and use this as an excuse to let the problem go. Some blame the damages on other classes that used it, back when scholars still went from room to room, so that class should take responsibility for it.

Even so, we should still take action to fix the damaged tables. And it's not just the tables we need to take care of, but also the school's facilities. After all, it is the tax payer's money. If we take care of these, we can prevent future (or further) damage.

And in the end, we need to be more mindful that these are not just for our use, but also for future uses. We should set a good example for future scholars as well.

believes that since the country is a dominantly Catholic one, passing the SOGIE equality bill is unacceptable. Aside from that, they also argued that the Philippines already have laws that protect human rights and passing the bill would be a violation to the 1987 Constitution.

Personally, I agree with the bill. Isolating and discriminating people because of who they are, because a 2000-year old book or a religion view them as indecent and immoral, in my opinion, is wrong. Depriving someone of their right is like depriving a person of food. It doesn't help them.

On the other hand, the Philippines is a conservative and mostly Catholic country. Accepting and supporting the LGBTQ+ would be going against the conventional and traditional morals we've been taught as kids. It would go against the church's belief that homosexuality is a sin. But isn't depriving someone of a basic human right immoral and wrong? Being true to who we are and not being the stereotypical male or female doesn't make us indecent and sinners and as long as we're not hurting anyone, why keep us from being who we are? The church should be more adaptable to change. What's written on the Bible or any other Holy Scripture and the 1987 Constitution

IQ vs. EQ

Andrealle Venus Dumpayan & Rizza Mae Lim

Intelligence Quotient or 'IQ' is often defined by how smart or intellectual one is perceived. It is a number derived from standard individual psychological tests which is then used to measure one's cognitive abilities and capability to learn or understand new situations. On the other hand, Emotional Quotient or EQ is defined by the ability to manage emotions. Very often, our IQ is deemed more important in terms of logical cases while our EQ, in terms of emotional cases and our ability to perceive. Between the two, which is more important?

In today's world, the presence of different skills and abilities are significant in a person. Having a high IQ does not make one more superior, nor does having a better grasp on emotion make one more human. Balancing the two has far greater results than being great in just one aspect.

Emotional intelligence is also a great predictor for success, this can be proven to be right as it is observed that more employers tend to look for people with higher EQ. Our Emotional Intelligence helps us understand ourselves, give us the ability to communicate with others, improve relationships, and empathize with other people. It affects the quality of our lives, as it influences our behaviour and the relationships we have.

Our IQ plays an important role in our academic success. It correlates with our work performance, and valued life performance. A high IQ can also benefit us in terms of reasoning and decision making and the ability to grasp concepts faster.

It is believed by many that our EQ is more important than our IQ. But this is not a matter of which aspect is better than the other. Both IQ and EQ should be maintained because having a high EQ does not mean you would be successful immediately and having a high IQ does not mean you are the smartest being. Nurturing and favouring these two would be very advantageous to a person.

is not evergreen - laws from the past might not apply to the future.

Pushing the SOGIE bill would bring us equality. Equality is a basic human right and a country who cannot give its constituents a basic right is not a good one. Why should there be a controversy over a bill giving us basic human rights?

WOMEN THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Were taught in our Philippine History of people who marked it, heroes and figures recognized for their deeds: Jose Rizal, Emilio Aguinaldo, Andres Bonifacio, and the like. Of these people there are two brave, courageous women who did all for their country. They are Gabriela Silang and Melchora Aquino.

However, this article will not be talking about them. Don't get me wrong; they deserve to be recognized for their bravery. But, they are only a handful of the many other women who served their country, whether through war, the arts, or science. This list is to recognize other Filipinas, a few from a list of many, who may or may not have been acknowledged in our history books, but definitely deserve to be.

•Nieves Fernandes

A school teacher in Tacloban, Leyte turned into a guerilla leader, Captain Nieves Fernandes was the only known Filipino guerrilla leader. Her small force of 110 native men alarmed the Japanese enough for them to put a 10,000-peso bounty on her head. Out of all their weapons, they only had three American rifles. The rest of their weapons were homemade shotguns (called "latongs" in Bisaya, "paltiks" in Tagalog) made from gas pipes, filled with gunpowder and old nails, and various weapons they got a hold from the Japanese.

Her bravery even reached to US newspapers overseas - an article of her can be found in *The Lewiston Daily Sun*. At the end of the war, the only injury she attained was a bullet wound on her right forearm.

In the photo, she shows to an American soldier how she used her long knife to silently kill Japanese soldiers during the occupation.



Photo from www.rarehistoricalphotos.com

•Magdalena Estoista Leones

Also known with the moniker "Lioness of Filipina Agents" (and a personal hero), she's a Cordilleran, from the town of Lubuagan, Kalinga.

When the Japanese occupied Baguio City, American troops had to retreat and seek shelter at Lubuagan. She was a deaconess at the time, studying to be a nun when they arrived. Reverend Nagel of the United Evangelical Church became a chaplain to Horan's men. Magdalena became the chaplain's aide and interpreter between English and Ilokano/Kalinga speakers.

She was once imprisoned at Camp Holmes for five months, learning how to speak Nippongo during her time there. This helped her as she became an intelligence officer for the United States Army Forces in the Philippines-Northern Luzon (USAFIP-NIL). She carried important intelligence data, radio parts, and medical supplies as she put her life at risk. She was caught three times but managed to escape.

Speaking of the radio parts, it was the radio parts that allowed for continued communication with MacArthur, with his well-known declaration of "I shall return". This led to the landings at Leyte and re-taking of the Philippines in 1944.

For her bravery and gallantry in action, Corporal Magdalena Leones was awarded a Silver Star medal, the United States Armed Forces' third-highest personal decoration for valor in combat. She is the first Filipina World War II veteran to earn this medal. She moved to California in 1969, keeping a low profile and keeping her war exploits a secret, until one of her sons found out.

She was issued four more honors - the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Resistance Movement Medal, the World War II Medal, and the Philippine Independence Ribbon. She died at the age of 95 in Richmond, California around June of 2016.



Photo from www.inquirer.net

•Pelagia Mendoza

In a time where painting was just considered a pastime for young ladies and women were still considered somewhat 'different' in the field of arts, Pelagia Mendoza surpassed expectations and stereotypes with her skill in painting and sculpting.

She was the first female student who enrolled in the prestigious school of the Academia de Dibujo y Pintura. Pelagia won first prize in sculpture for a wax bust of Christopher Columbus at the Columbus Quadricentennial Art Contest, a competition organized by the colonial government, held on October 12, 1892. She also won international awards for this work, namely second prize at the 1892 Chicago Universal Exposition, during the celebration of the quattrocenial of the "discovery" of America. Her sculptures were not her only forte. She was also recognized in her skill in painting.

She married her classmate, Crispulo Zamora, and together they started a business making religious medals and other ornaments. When Crispulo Zamora died on October 1922, Pelagia took over their business. Pelagia traveled to China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Indo-china to study the processes and designs for carving in the said places. She died after two months of illness at the age of 72, on March 12, 1939.



Photo from www.dreamcatherye.blogspot.com

Sadly, all of her works were destroyed in her family home in Sta. Cruz during the bombings of World War II, leaving not a single trace. Despite this, she showed her skill in the arts and gave contribution to visual arts, particularly for her fellow women in the same field.

•Maria Ylagan Orosa

Orosa's mission in life was to make the Filipino household self-sufficient in its food, health, and nutritional needs. In some ways, her mission was achieved, after inventing several foods we know today – banana ketchup, Calamansi Nip (powdered calamansi), powdered soy beans, and many more (over 700 kitchen-tested recipes more).

In 1916, age 23, she boarded a US-bound ship as a stowaway. She enrolled at the University of Seattle and earned degrees in BS Pharmaceutical Chemistry, BS Food Chemistry, and BS Pharmacy. Impressed, the US government appointed her partial pensionada, and assistant state chemist of Washington. But in 1922 she came back to the Philippines.

She worked, in-charge, of many organizations – founding the Home Extension Service was one of them. The service was to teach barrio housewives different ways to earn extra income and improve homemaking skills. She was the first to produce and export frozen mangoes to the US (freezing was still unknown at the time). But these are just a few from her many achievements: she had studies in the preparation of dehydrated fruits and vegetables, dehydration of meats, preparation of fish balls, preparation of agar from seaweed, preparation and utilization of peanuts for culinary oil and salad oil; she made vinegar from pineapples and the by-products of nata de piña; she manufactured multiple substitutes for flour in baking, and so much more.

During World War II and Japanese Occupation, her various food products kept the hungry satiated. She was a captain in Marking's Guerillas, supplying many with food. She devised a process of canning food for the guerillas. When her family evacuated to Batangas, she refused to go with, saying "I am a soldier, and soldiers do not leave their post. I cannot in conscience abandon my work and my girls."

She died of shrapnel wounds from a US strafing unit's bombing raid. She had planned nationwide rehabilitation projects which were supposed to start as soon as the war ended. To honor her contributions, November 29, her birthday, was declared as Home Extension Day by the former President Carlos P. Garcia.



Photo from www.wikipedia.org



Photo from www.wikipedia.org

•Maria Rosa Luna Henson

Many know her as “Lola Rosa”, but many know her for her autobiography: “Comfort Women: Slave of Destiny”.

During the Japanese Occupation, Japanese soldiers would capture women and keep them as “comfort women” in their military brothels. Most Japanese-occupied territories had “comfort stations”: Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, and others. Many of the captured women kept silent about their treatment, with a fear of being shamed or losing one’s pride. But Lola Rosa gave a voice to others and broke the long silence with the publication of her autobiography. It accounts her nine months of being one of the many women forced to become sex slaves during the war.

She was brought to Pampanga by her mother after a traumatic experience of being raped at the age of 14. Two years later, while smuggling ammunition was stopped by a Japanese sentry and forcibly captured to a garrison-turned hospital. Nine months later she was rescued by Huk guerillas, but only spoke about the issue in 1992.

Her courage inspired other victims to come out. Comfort women soon formed different groups, asking for a formal apology from the Japanese government, compensation, and the inclusion of the issue in the Japanese history textbooks. Lola Rosa fought hard and supported others like her, joining marches, appearing in Congress, even filing a lawsuit in a Tokyo court. She was the first to accept unofficial compensation from the Japanese, although she was insisting that they owed her official indemnity as well.

She died of a heart attack on August 18, 1997, at the Pasay City hospital.

•Eugenia Apostol

Apostol has been called Philippine journalism’s grand dame for being a pivotal role in the overthrow of not one, but two Philippine presidents: Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada.

After the assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr. in 1983, the media didn’t budge. They knew it would be safer not to talk about the President’s political enemy. Apostol, who edited the weekly magazine Mr. & Mrs. at the time, used their resources and made a special edition covering the story of his assassination.

She then launched a weekly newspaper, the Philippine Inquirer. Initially, the paper would be closed after the Sandiganbayan trial of the Aquino 26. But the President Marcos called for a snap presidential, which she saw as an opportunity to help the Marcos opposition. It became the Philippine Daily Inquirer, which spiked in popularity and became the leading Philippine broadsheet. Marcos dismissed the opposition papers as “mosquito press” – small, but had a stinging bite – but it contributed to his overthrow in 1981.

Despite leaving the PDI in 1994, she came back and founded Pinoy Times after then-President Erap called for an advertising boycott of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and sued Manila Times over alleged government corruption stories. Pinoy Times was a popular tabloid written in everyday Filipino so that it was readily affordable and available to the masses, which continued to call out the President. Soon, he was ousted in the Philippine’s second People Power revolution.

She received numerous awards, and as the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, she is recognized for “her courageous example in placing the truth-telling press at the center of the struggle for democratic rights and better government in the Philippines.”



Photo from www.cnnphilippines.com

As I said, these women are six out of many. There are many more Filipinas who should be included in this list, but then again, they cannot be contained in a single list. They deserve their own places, have more recognition, be remembered more, and a list cannot do justice.

Women’s Month may be over, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t remember them. The next time we commemorate our heroes, let us not forget the unsung women among them.

Dengvaxia: Hope or curse?

Sofia Isabelle Bautista & Joram Christian Manio

We've always wanted to find a prevention for one of the most common and most feared diseases in the Philippines, Dengue Fever. It is a mosquito-borne disease with high grade fever, headache, vomiting, abdominal pain, muscle pain, and rashes. But the most dreaded symptoms are dehydration and bleeding which could lead to death. So, when the government released a seemingly impossible answer to this, Filipinos went out of their homes right away to it. They emptied their pockets without thinking twice just to ensure their children's protection from the disease. However, it wasn't as perfect as it seemed to be; it was too good to be true.

Dengvaxia is a vaccine that was supposed to prevent dengue fever. It was released by the manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur and recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) in areas of the world where the disease was common, and the Philippines was one of them. It was given to individuals ranging from 9-45 years of age as a 3-dose series every 6 months. In the year 2015, the Philippine government instantly approved the market release of Dengvaxia in hopes that Dengue would soon be eradicated from the country. The Philippines spent billions of pesos worth of people's taxes to mass vaccinate around 1 million school children in regions 3 (Central Luzon), 4A (CALABARZON) and National Capital Region which are endemic with Dengue



Photo from www.pageone.ph

Fever. The vaccine was also made available to private physicians for their patients.

However, in November of 2017, Pasteur issued a new warning stating that only those people previously infected with Dengue fever be given the vaccine. People without previous Dengue infection who were given the vaccine, are at risk of having severe signs and symptoms of Dengue fever if they contract the disease because of ADE (antibody-dependent enhancement) phenomenon wherein

the second infection will be worse compared to the first infection because of the antibody produced.

This issue immediately wreaked havoc to our political scene and to the medical field. Politicians started pointed fingers at each other on who should be blamed for the rushed procurement of these vaccines leading to filing of cases against several politicians from the immediate past and present administrations.

Medically, the mass vaccination was immediately halted and the main concern

was directed on what to do with the children who were given the vaccine. The DOH created a Dengue fast lane in all hospitals to cater to Dengvaxia vaccinated patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of Dengue fever. Several deaths of children vaccinated with Dengvaxia, were already attributed to the vaccine even without solid evidence.

Pasteur was firm in their statement that the vaccine is safe and has undergone the required stages of clinical trials and that latest warning came as a result of their continuing research. The previous leaders of the Department of Health were also firm in their decision for the Dengue mass vaccination even without the benefit of pre-screening because of the increasing burden of Dengue fever in 2013-14 and the vaccine was approved of by the World Health Organization. However, during that time, several local and international experts on vaccines already had some doubts on the safety of the vaccine but this fell on deaf ears.

To allay the fears regarding this vaccine, on the 19th of April 2018, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization updated their recommendation on Dengvaxia through the World Health Organization (WHO). They stated the public health value of the vaccine, there should be pre-vaccination screening in which only previously dengue infected will be vaccinated. With all these controversies, will Dengvaxia be a hope or a curse?

As the last December night of 2017 fell, people walked out of their homes. Everyone looked up to the sky and waited for the final seconds to come. Once the clocks struck twelve, the once dark skies lit up with multicolored patterns. Smiles were found on the people's faces as they watched the light show unfold. Fireworks, bringing joy to everyone's nights since the ancient times.

So, how do fireworks display such bright flames that light up the sky?

As said before, fireworks originated from China thousands of years ago. They had beliefs that fireworks could expel evil spirits and bring luck and happiness.

Commonly, fireworks are made of three components: the tube or casing, the combustible material, and a fuse. The casing is often made of paper, and the combustible materials used are called pyrotechnic stars (or just 'stars'). A "time delay fuse" runs through the firework, which is carefully calculated so that the firework ignites at just the right altitude.

The pyrotechnic stars are what produce the color of the fireworks. They contain a fuel (like gunpowder), an oxidizer (a compound that produces oxygen to support conduction), color-producing chemicals, a binder holding the pellets together, and a chlorine donor (to provide chlorine that adds to the intense color).

The color-producing chemicals are most often alkali metals (aka Group 1 elements), although some other elements like Titanium, or even charcoal, are used. Alkali metals are most often used because they are the most active metals, their compounds producing characteristic flame colors. One can recall laboratory flame tests with different chemicals. For example, the element sodium (Na) is used to create very bright yellow colors, while the element Aluminum (Al) produces white flames and sparks.

Many of the chemicals used are non-toxic, but some can still cause skin sensitivity and are inhalation hazards because of their dust form. If these chemicals are improperly handled, and are let's say ingested or inhaled, they can be very dangerous, so it is important to handle fireworks with care. It is also best to use legal fireworks which properly manufactured, as illegal fireworks have higher risks of damage because of uncertainty in manufacturing.

In the end, those bright, sparkling lights of the December sky is the wonder of science at work. Everything from the casing up to the pyrotechnic stars, all contribute to the firework. For those tiny cylinders full of chemicals, are already enough to provide everyone with an amazing sight to see in every special occasion.

Science of fireworks: An explosive chemistry

Zyanne Agneshka Aquino & Roujeth Marfil

Photo from www.visitmarinedelray.com

EVOLUTION OF COMPUTERS

A COMPUTER SCIENCE CRASH COURSE

Leo Angelo Opolinto

People have always sought for ways to improve their lives so, they worked on technology by innovation and research through machines. Today, these machines are used for playing games, listening to music, watching videos, and school/work purposes. However, they can do much more for engineering, genetic modification, marketing, medicine, communication and many more. Throughout history, these machines have evolved and have grown to a state that humans themselves are afraid of them. These man-made metallic, electronic devices are called, computers.

Dating back to the 1600s, computers were not yet known as the computers that we know of today. They were not even electronic and had to use manual power to work. We could say these computers were slow and inadequate, but all that changed in the invention of generation one, the vacuum tube computers. These computers did computations automatically, which was beneficial in conserving time. However, these computers were room-sized and would cost sacks of money. They had an incredibly bitter interface and used punch cards for input. Worst of all, they generated more heat than an oven but, the innovations didn't just end here.

Usual human clichés like "bigger is better" or "the warmer, the closer" would never relate to the concepts of a computer. The bigger it is, the higher the price. The hotter it gets, the longer

it takes for a computer to complete the task. These problems paved the way that led to the birth of transistors. Transistors were a popular alternative to vacuum tubes. They didn't generate as much heat, but were still big and would cost a lot as well.

Due to persisting problems, these transistors were improved and later miniaturized into microprocessors. This is when the keyboard was born. Keyboards were more comfortable to use and had an actual interface. They generated less heat and were much smaller and cheaper.

Man continued to enhance these revolutionary machines and make them more affordable to the people. Because of this, Intel® was invented. Intel® used integrated circuits to take on processes in the computer. These computers were small, portable, affordable and were able to withstand more heat. The Intel® can be seen in the laptops we use today. These computers gave birth to the Internet leading to the creation of more programs and games.

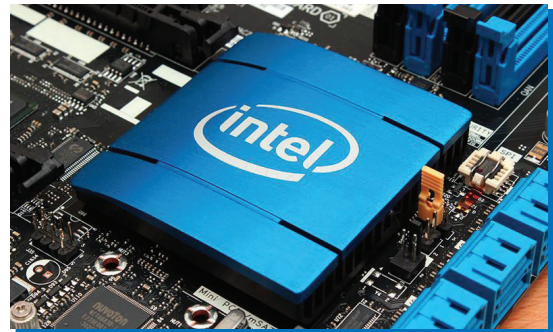
Computers will never stop evolving due to the human's continuous demand for innovation and improvement. As of now, people are working on AI/ Artificial Intelligence which is still young but is rapidly developing. Computers made it possible to build machines, create fascinating games, compose beautiful music, edit great movies, animate fun cartoons, and best of all, improve life on this planet we call earth.



ANTIQUATE HARDWARE. A vacuum type computer named as Harwell Dekatron made in 1951. Photo from www.flickr.com



FIRST GENERATION. The ancient predecessors of today's modern keyboards. Photo from www.imgur.org



MODERN TECHNOLOGY. Most computers and laptops today are now being powered by Intel®. Photo from www.geekhack.org

The oranges and yellows of the sky slowly turn into blues and purples then dark blues, then black. It's another night and the twinkling stars brighten up the pitch-black sky once again. But wait, this is not one ordinary night though! There's something strange about the sky tonight. Is it the weird arrangement of the stars? Or perhaps the fact that the sky is cloudless today? Well no, it's the Super blue blood moon, never heard of it before?

A rare phenomenon that astonished sky-watchers with its blood red hue, oddly large size and noticeably brighter light, the moon truly put on a show that night. With their cameras in hand, the people were prepared to witness the event and many of them expressed their excitement through social media by tweeting their thoughts and even cracking jokes about it.

This rare event occurred around 150 years ago and happened once again last January 31, 2018 which was seen on

Once in a SUPER BLUE BLOOD MOON

Sofia Isabelle Bautista

Almost half of the globe.

So, what exactly sets this apart from any other lunar event and how rare is it really? This year's Super Blue Blood Moon was a peculiar event wherein a super moon, a blue moon and a lunar eclipse



Photo from www.ndtv.com

this super moon caused the moon to be 14% larger and 30% brighter on that night. The Lunar eclipse is what gave it its red color hence its name, "blood moon". With the sun, moon and earth aligned in a way such that the moon passes through the earth's shadow, a lunar eclipse occurs. The term "blue moon" on the other hand, doesn't have anything to do with the moon's color but simply means that it is the second full moon of the month. Now, we understand the phrase "once in a blue moon" because it is quite rare happening only around three times a year!

Whether it's the rarity of the occurrence or the color and brightness it gives, each phenomenon is truly an extraordinary sight to see. How much more if this trifecta happens at the same time? I think it's now safe to say that this is one super spectacular event, so make sure to tell your grandchildren about it since it is a once in a life time phenomenon after all!

happened all at the same time creating a not-so-ordinary view.

A "super moon" happens when the moon is in "perigee" or when it is at its closest orbit to the earth. The occurrence of

CLIMBING

My sister tells me I may never understand fear
 Her words may be true but maybe I already have
 And maybe fear is that serpent that wrangles my heart
 Or the boulder that bears down on me until I feel
 crushed
 Maybe it is the phantom that plays the piano we don't
 have
 Or maybe it is nauseating scent that upsets my entire
 being
 For one, I am certain that fear crawls in bed with me
 Deprives me of my blanket during a cold night
 And sinks claws in my arm as I try to slumber
 But again, my sister tells me I can never understand fear

Kathlea Gawani Yangot

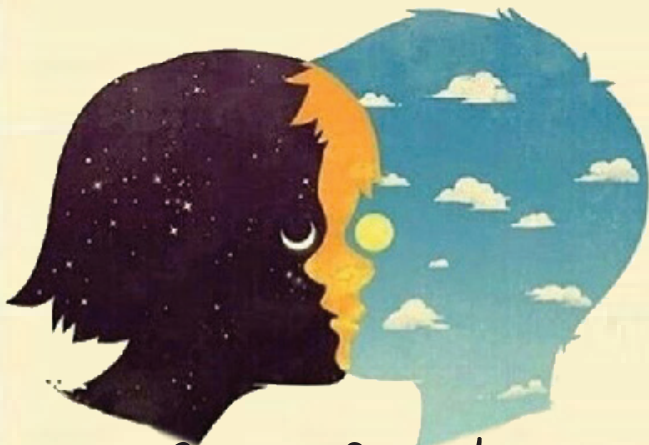
Photo from www.depositphotos.com

I Am An Igorot

When I wake up in the morning
 I am an Igorot
 When I look in the mirror
 I am greeted by an Igorot
 When I listen to myself speak
 I hear an Igorot
 When I read and study
 I think like an Igorot
 When I walk up and down
 I move like an Igorot
 When I go home
 I relax like an Igorot
 When I go to sleep
 I dream like an Igorot
 All these I do everyday
 Similar to other people
 But a bit more colorful I think

Kathlea Gawani Yangot

Photo from www.pinterest.com | Painting by Jef Cablog



Orange Sunset

You remind me of an orange sunset.
 The rays of light are in your warm brown eyes;
 Your loving gaze fills up my cold blue skies.
 Oh, now I wish the sun forgets to set;
 Orange rays outshining nights of regret;
 Hug away the dark thoughts that knots and ties;
 Hold hands as the sun forgets its goodbyes.
 We have such short time - please do not set yet.
 Oh, but what's the point? If all we can be,
 Are confidants, whispering to the night.
 You are with the stars, planets, moons, you see;
 If you set with them, I can give no fight.
 An Icarus I'm not; you won't burn me;
 Instead I will watch you fade from my sight.

Photo from www.pinterest.com

Zyanne Agneshka Aquino

An Imposing Rose

Sometimes I wonder if the blue rose blooms for
 me
 When it was just a seedling and I was younger
 It rejected my hand and refused to grow and
 flourish
 A day passed and no thorn was to be seen
 Then a week passed and no leaf was to be seen
 Then a month passed and no petal was to be
 seen
 Then a year passed and it lost all its appeal to me
 Now it has thorns so prickly and leaves so veiny
 Juxtaposing with blue petals that excite serenity
 As if to tell me that now it is ready

However, I've grown to like pink roses more
 actually

Kathlea Gawani Yangot

Photo from www.freepik.com

THE HANGMAN

Should I really be hanged?

A short story by

Lance Soriano Rimando

I guess you all know my story – the story of the hangman. This story has been told around the world millions and millions of times yet no one ever realized the concealed truth behind it.

Let me retell you my story. Let me tell it to you again in a way that it is not usually told. I will tell it to you in such a way that the vague truth would become very obvious. If you are shrewd enough to understand how serious the concept of death is, then so you will know it immediately.

Once upon a time before the happily never after, I was there standing before the court of the judge. Albeit I did nothing against the law, they all laid the blame on me. They put me in a position where they are supposed to be. They blamed me for a misdemeanor that my hands never did. The judge who was supposed to determine whether or not I am guilty started to speak. The lawyers of those murderers who accused me grinned as they tell untruths about the case while I am here speechless like a mute. They articulate their words so smoothly that no matter how powerful my words are they can manipulate it; I am voiceless. In the end, the judge gave me a punishment I don't really deserve.

Do you already know what I was telling you all along? I am sure it's a no.

Now I will tell you what kind of delinquency they did. Treachery. In this world where there is no peace, any man who is proven disloyal to his country will be given a punishment of death. Why is this so much of a big deal you ask? It is because there were already hundreds of people who were killed because of this. They believe that one who is unfaithful to his country is the same as one who betrayed his mother who took care of him. Whether this analogy is right or wrong, I don't know. All I know is that many people lost their lives because of the injustice that comes along with this law. How blind is justice that it can't see even the most obvious mark of someone's fault! Just because of mere words – letters even! – I am going to die.

Do you already know what I was telling you all along? Try to think again.

I am now here in a prisoner's cage. I am here placed behind the bars spending my minutes suffering. I wonder how many people are feeling the same kind of pain I am feeling now. Who cares? I am just a man. JUST A MAN. I am nothing but a hangman – a hangman who will be hanged any minute from now.

I waited for the police who will escort me to the place where I must die. I waited for my death. After I die, what might happen? The sun will still rise. The sun will still rise but I can't receive its sunlight. The flowers will still bloom. The flowers will still bloom and I won't be able to see it. The birds will still sing. The birds will still sing even I'm not there to listen. Tell me, anything won't change right? When I'll be gone, I wish my mother won't cry every time she sees my picture hanging in the wall of our living room. I wish my brother will still play our favorite game without his favorite playmate. I wish my sister will study her lessons without the one whom she asks help for her assignment. I wish my relatives live the same way they always did. But all of these are just wishes. None of them will help me escape my fate – my death.

Do you already know what I was telling you all along? I hope so...

I've been telling you all along that this is a story of someone who is killed because of lies. I've been telling you all along that is not only my story but also of many people around the world... the man who is jail, the teenager who locks herself in her room, the woman who got pregnant, the kid in school who is bullied. Do you understand it now? Think of it like this: you are the hangman and the judge, the people around you are the real criminals and their own lawyers. You, as the hangman, is the one who is offended and discriminated and you will be your own judge whether or not you will commit suicide. The people around you will try to give you painful words with their sharp tongues. They'll want to see you bleed but that doesn't mean that you could only end this through the loss of your life. Life is such a precious possession that many people beg for it. Are you going to kill yourself? I beg you, DON'T. Do not romanticize suicide. There is no good reason for you to suicide.

If someone haven't told you yet, I will be telling you. You are beautiful no matter what they tell you and I believe that you're not supposed to be deprived. Do not listen to the people who will just tell you lies. If they throw a brick at you, build a castle for yourself. I know you are strong and you can be the better than who you are now. Be the best that you can be. You might not be born like them but you must be proud. You're unique and let them love you for who you are.



Kraken devours Hotshots

Beermen win 4th straight Philippine Cup title

Christian Nikolai Rabaya

June Mar Fajardo of the San Miguel Beermen shocked the Magnolia Hotshots as they erased their opponent's 23-point lead and clinched the double-overtime victory, 108-99 in Game 5 of the PBA Philippine Cup Finals in the MOA Arena, last April 06, 2018.

This is now the Beermen's 25th time to raise a PBA trophy, and their fourth time to bag the All-Filipino Cup in four years, which is a new record set in PBA history.

June Mar a.k.a. the Kraken also set a new playoff career-high with whooping 42 points and 20 rebounds. He also won the Finals MVP award with an average of 24.4 points and 16.2 rebounds in the series – evidence

that the star center of the Beermen deserved the award.

San Miguel were on the brink of losing until their rally in the 4th quarter which pushed the game to an extra 10 minutes, and gave them their win, 4-1.

the game, 86-all. Lassiter who was able to take a shot to win the game narrowly missed. Aldrech Ramos of the Hotshots also narrowly missed his game winning shot, game tied at 94.

Fajardo scored eight points in the second overtime which was enough to grab the win for the Beermen, unlike the Hotshots who only scored 5 points in the two overtimes.

"I really don't know

what to say. I'm overwhelmed with what happened in this fifth game, dahil we thought na we will extend the series to Game 6," head coach Leo Austria said.

"But the players didn't give up eh, and when we caught up, the team realized na it is possible, and talagang nangyari eh," he added.

Paul Lee of the Hotshots led his team in scoring with 21 points, but wasn't enough to stop the hunger of the Kraken.

"The players didn't give up, and when we caught up, the team realized na it is possible, and talagang nangyari eh."

Leo Austria, Beermen head coach

The Star Hotshots who faced elimination left San Miguel the 3rd quarter with a huge lead, 71-48, leaving only a sliver of hope for the Beermen to get back into the game. Fortunately, San Miguel were able to cut the deficit down to 14 points in the end of the 3rd.

Arwind Santos fished a crucial three in the final seconds of the 4th quarter after a broken play to tie

FREE LANE. June Mar Fajardo (L) blows past Ian Sanggalang (R) for a quick layup. Photo from www.pba.ph

Donaire "Filipino Flash" comes up SHORT against Frampton

Bobby Carl Mortel

Nonito "The Filipino Flash" Donaire came up short in his bid for the WBO Interim Featherweight Championship after falling to Ireland's Carl "The Jackal" Frampton via Unanimous Decision at the SSE Arena in Belfast, Sunday morning, Manila time.

The Fil-American Donaire came out aggressive as he opened the match with some hard body shots to the younger Frampton.

It didn't take too long for Frampton to get into his groove and respond with some shots of his own.

The hometown boy began to move ahead in the second round, pressuring Donaire's back against the ropes with power shots.

Midway through the bout, Donaire managed to get some momentum back as he fired off some good shots of his own.

An uppercut from the hard-hitting Pinoy found its mark in the seventh frame, putting a brief stop to Frampton's pressure and making him wary of Donaire's power.

In the following round, Frampton once again put the pressure back on as he outworked Donaire to get his momentum back.

With a building sense of urgency, Donaire started picking his pace up in the final few rounds, looking to hit again with an uppercut and trying to walk Frampton down in the latter moments of the bout.

The Belfast-native relied on his movement as he continued to score points while avoiding most of Donaire's power shots.

After twelve rounds of championship boxing action, Frampton did enough to earn a 117-111 scorecard from all three

judges to get the Unanimous Decision nod, and become the new WBO Interim Featherweight Champion.

Frampton improves to 25-1 in his boxing career, while Donaire falls to 38-5.



BLINDED. The Flash uses his quick hands to jab through Frampton's defense. Photo from www.metro.co.uk

RUN into the SUNSET

Zachary Abcede

During the humanities week in Philippine Science High School CAR Campus (PSHS CARC), the General Parents and Teachers Association (GPTA) held a Sunset Run for students and teachers last March 26, 2018, 4 p.m in the afternoon. at the PSHS CARC Grounds with 2 categories to join, the 3 km run and the 5 km run.

The 3km run had 10 winners; five for the men's category and five for the women's category. In the Men's category, Joel Rojas, a grade 12 scholar, garnered 1st place followed by Dwayne Villariza, Mr. Jed De Leon, Aeron Tayaotao, and Jon Felipe Bauto respectively. In the women's category, Van Justine Olarte, a grade 8 scholar finished gold in her respective category. She is followed by Celine Cuña, Helena Cerezo, Ellah Buban, and Mrs. Fabella Tabadero.

An awarding ceremony took place after the race at 5 p.m. at the PSHS-CARC school grounds. Cash prizes were distributed to the top 5 winners of each category. Snacks, budgeted by the GPTA, were served to the participants of the Sunset Run.