



ACers

The official Asian College Semestral Publication

Dumaguete Campus



PADULA 2020 “Embracing the Future with Integrity and Sportsmanship.”

Christian F. Brier



Last February 2020 the Senior High School Grade eleven (11) made their history as they were named as the overall champion during the PADULA 2020 with the theme “Embracing the Future with Integrity and Sportsmanship” 2nd placer College of Business Administration, 3rd placer Senior High School Grade 12, 4th placer College of Computer Studies and Engineering and 5th placer College of Tourism and Hospitality Management. During the whole celebration, Mr. Ehl Conol was named as the first ever Mr. PADULA 2020 from Senior High School, even if Mr. Conol was not feeling well during the competition he still continued and finished the first ever Mr. Padula 2020. He had a strong spirit and that is one of the reasons why he made it to the top and was named as Mr. Padula 2020.

The grade 12 Senior High School won the Moving Squad Competition, 2nd placer College of Computer Studies and Engineering and 3rd placer College of Tourism and Hospitality Management.

The last event during the PADULA 2020 was the Dance Sport Competition which the Senior High School Grade 12 won both in the Latin and Standard Categories, the dancers were Linshiel Maragañas and Sydney Tan for Latin Category and Shaira Amolo and Alejandro Cabaleta for Standard Category. Due to the Corona Virus, the whole Padula was shortened to three and half days, after being postponed for a few weeks.

A special thanks to all the persons behind the success of the event the team Managers headed by Mr. Romart Ramos, Dr. Rachael Cafino and to their Campus administrator Mrs. Josephine O. Acojedo.

ASIAN COLLEGE IN CHRISTMAS CANDYLAND

Christian F. Brier



Asian College-Dumaguete celebrated their Annual Christmas Party last December 13, 2019 with the theme “Asian College in Christmas Candyland” with a motif of Pastel Colors. This marks the last event of the year 2019, there were lot of presentations, a caroling competition, Parlor Games and raffle draws.

At the end of the caroling competition, the College of Computer Studies and Engineering was named as the Champion, 2nd Placer: Academic Track Grade 11 and 3rd placer: Academic Track Grade 12.

Before the program ended they awarded the students who were Attractive, beautiful, nice with confident and grace while wearing their attire, the male category Mister Peppermint: Omar Kent Burgos, female category Miss Milk Chocolate: Hannah Orcullo, LGBTQ Community Category Lady Bubblegum: Blaire Christian Angel Brier and Faculty and Staff Category Master Doughnut: Ms. Cristhel Gabriel. Christmas is the season of thanksgiving, sharing, loving and forgiving.

Always thank God for everything, always share your blessing with others, spread Love and forgive one another. A special thanks to Asian College Supreme Student Council Headed by Council President Hon. Christian F. Brier, Student Council Adviser Mr. Yves John Mark Manaban, Deputy Program Directors: Dr. Rachael Cafino -DPD Gen. Ed, Mrs. Marte Dagpin -DPD CCSE, Mr. Ruel Lozano -DPD CBA, Mrs. Dana Leduna DPD- CTHM, Senior High School Principal Mrs. Lizel Sosmeña, Senior High School coordinator: Ms. Jean Gomez, and to the Campus Administrator Mrs. Josephine Acojedo. To the participating groups Thank you and congratulations.



Art by **Mellard Manogura**

About the Piece

“ The Youth can make a difference in two different ways

1. By staying at home, keeping ourselves safe and healthy at all times, following safety protocols, and keeping ourselves updated on the current situation

2. by SPEAKING UP! While we cover our mouths and faces for safety reasons, we must not be afraid to express our opinions and ideas. We must continue to fight for our rights. As we discuss and raise our concern for international issues such as #blacklives matter, we must not forget to also fight against the injustices and inhumane actions in our locality. As youth we have the power to empower other people, share what is true and accurate and speak up for those who can't speak ”

- Mellard Manogura



Facing New Setting of Learning

Cherrie Mae Ramirez



Online learning involves courses that offered over the internet. It enables the teacher and the student to set their own learning. They are generally conducted through a learning management system in which students can view their course module, as well as communicate with their fellow students and also their instructor. There are advantages and disadvantages doing online classes. Some advantage for learning online is that it can reduced cost, for example there is no cost for commuting, paying rent of a boarding house and etc. It also teaches student to be more self-disciplined because student will take the responsibility for their course of studies in short it is all in you, success will depends on you. The disadvantage is that for me, like in my situation i do not have proper internet connection and a gadget that is in need in online classes. It would be difficult for me to adjust some things because I was studying in a traditional classroom setting all this time.

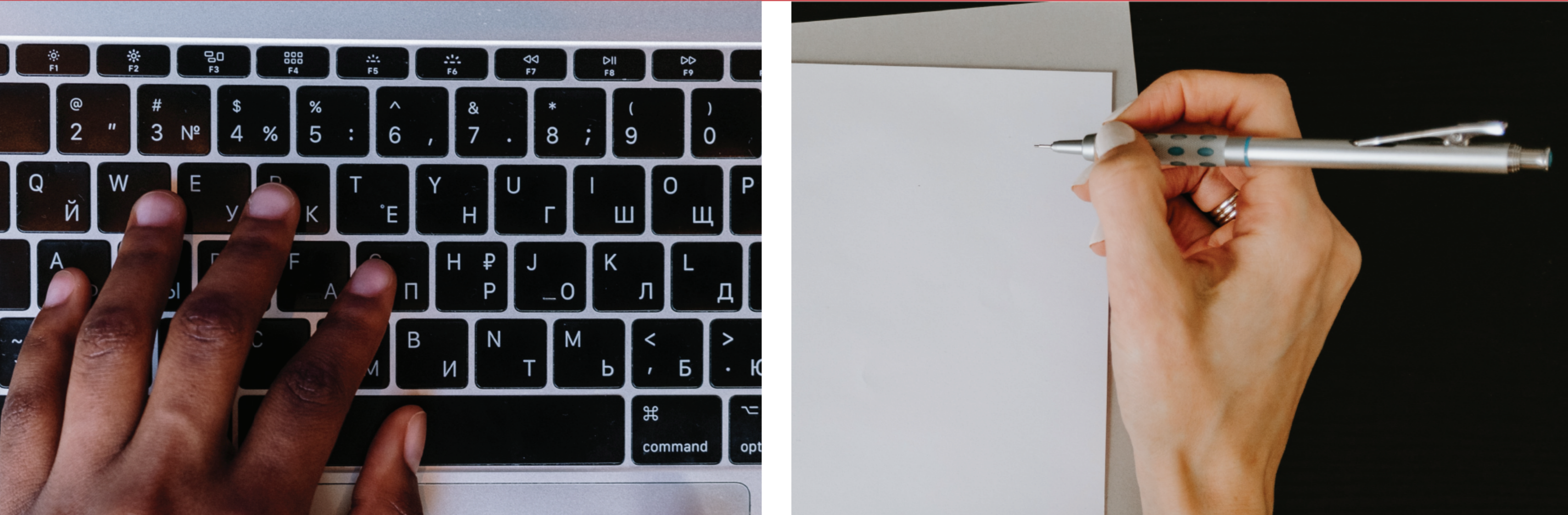
At the time that Asian College posted in the social media that they will be conducting online classes I was not very happy.

I had a hard time of thinking if I will enroll this semester or not, but I decided to enroll because I am afraid to be left behind and I don't want to waste time and year. Although conducting online classes is a good set-up because of the pandemic we are facing and we need to stay at home. But it is very hard for me because I need to have a good internet connection and a gadget to sustain or provide my needs in learning online. I need to prepare myself learning online which will probably hard for me. I also need to train myself to study alone, all I can have is google to search some difficult things or words that is in need in my course. I need to do all the upcoming assignments and projects all by myself that before we do it with my friends.

This is the new normal or set-up of learning that I need to face so that I can continue my studies. I need to manage my time properly, like doing my online classes, also doing household chores and helping my parents in our business. I know that Asian College will provide good modules and learning system that will help me in my course and to learn easily.

On Online Classes And Why Our Country Is Completely Unprepared

Francis Cleo Rabina Galon



Even in the midst of the Pandemic, education must go on, and everybody has to find their ways of learning from home. I've seen many of my friends take free online courses to advance their skills or find online jobs fit for them and I think that's very admirable of them. Some have stuck to books or learning by doing, but whatever the case, we're taking the opportunity presented to us by learning as much as we can. I personally have done my fair share of online learning as well, can't pass up a once in a lifetime opportunity to have all the free time I can have. My friends and I have been fortunate enough to have access to internet services and decent laptops that we can learn from home with minimal problems, but what about the rest of the country, with the push to conduct classes online? My friends and I aren't even a microcosm of the whole nation's situation in this manner of learning because, let's be real, we are far from the technologically equipped nation we need to be to make the most out of online education, hence I am in complete apprehension to having online classes even just for a semester.

First reason why I don't want an online-only class is getting a decent laptop or desktop set with at least 3mbps bandwidth is very expensive for many of us. While I'm fortunate enough to have already been provided these, many students I personally know have big gripes over having an online class due to the fact that tuition fees aren't even decreasing even when we're just in our homes and they still have to buy the necessary equipment and services. You can't spend any less than 25k for a laptop that is powerful enough to handle all the productivity tools needed in an online learning environment (mind you, web browsers like Firefox or Google Chrome are very hungry for computer resources), and a decent home DSL connection is at least Php 999.00. Now there are prepaid internet options for smartphones and other devices but the service tends to be inconsistent and service quality will get compromised by inclement weather. Smartphones are out of the question because they can't provide the level of productivity needed here. DepEd and CHED have mentioned repurposing internet cafes for online classes. And while this is definitely a step in the right direction, it's really only a bandage to the problem. Enforcing strict physical distancing rules in internet cafes means you can only cater to a small amount of students at a time.

Second, the teachers would have to be uptrained to use cloud-based services and a bunch of other productivity software needed, like Google classroom and the Google documents suite. While this is already ongoing, our older educators might take quite a while to catch up. I even personally know a teacher from a local high school in Dumaguete who's been coming to me the past weeks because they needed help figuring out how to use these software, and that will definitely be a compromise on the quality of education.

Third, our local internet service providers are known for less than consistent service. You don't have to scroll far in Facebook and Twitter to realize how bad our internet service can get, and that's for DSL and Fiber services which are the ones to get if you're expecting good and consistent service, but the fact is they're good when they work and a lot of times they spend running at less than half the bandwidth promised to you by the ISP. The problem is even worse for prepaid subscribers who experience crawling speeds for extended periods of time. If you've been following the news, there was once a report on a group of teachers from a rural school who had to literally climb up a mountain through a highway to actually get any level of internet service just to attend a webinar. If we're pushing for an online learning environment, we can't ignore those areas where internet connection doesn't even exist and that will have to be shouldered by the government.

Fourth, and the most difficult of them all, digital literacy, for both the students and the teachers. This extends beyond using the software because more often than not, anyone who's using a computer is bound to encounter minor problems that can be easily troubleshooted IF the individual has enough digital literacy. Learning how to use these online services is already a challenge in itself and it will take more than a semester to have a level of digital literacy that will allow for a smooth and efficient online learning experience.

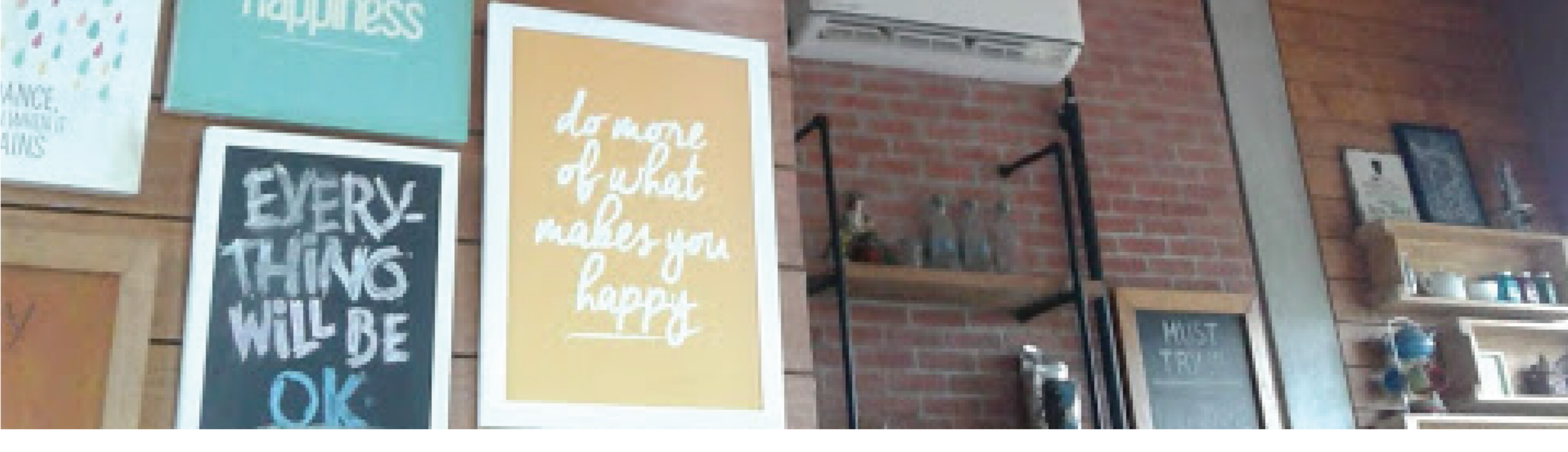
And finally, and this one is more of a personal gripe, but cutting out the community aspect of the life in school is essentially cutting out the fun in learning. Personally, one of the best things I'll take from my years in school are the friends I made along the way and the educators I met. They've enriched my learning experience in ways that just aren't possible in a Google classroom. The campus events, the conversations at the lobby and canteen, and anything and everything that happens in the classroom is irreplaceable. Granted, that all isn't possible in this pandemic. If anything, I'd rather have a whole school year suspended because I'm just not optimistic for the whole online learning setup our country has.

But we're pushing forward with classes nonetheless so I hope and pray that all of us will cooperate with our schools and instructors because until a vaccine is made available, this is all we got. And there's no sign of a suspension in sight and we have to take all the opportunities we can get our hands on. We're all really just adapting with the season and if anything, this is just one of those growth pains that come with drastic changes to a system. Things will get better, but we just have to be flexible with the times. Stay safe and stay curious.

Feature Articles

Do more of what makes you happy... Is a bad piece of advice

Francis Cleo Rabina Galon



One time I was sitting at a coffee shop with lots of feel good posters plastered on the walls, but one of them caught my attention: Do more of what makes you happy. Now this is one piece of advice I see on the internet very frequently. It sounds like a good advice, until you find that the things that make people happy can be the same things that make people stressed out and miserable.

So what is happiness? And why do people go after it so much like it's the one elixir of life that's missing to make life better? Well, happiness is a sense of elation. It's a positive emotion that we experience that counterbalances the miseries of this life.

When we have an elating experience, our brain produces our feel good hormone called dopamine, and it's produced when we pass an exam, see our crush, get a brand new pair of shoes, when we go on a trip with our friends, when we smoke, when we drink and have a good time with our friends, when we get likes in social media, when we win gambles, and any and every experience we can think of that could possibly make us happy. It's addictive. And that's why people will do what they can to get a dose of it.

We definitely need to experience happiness, but is it worth spending so much energy pursuing? Think about the people who are happiest and most passionate when doing the things they love the most and still find misery in passion: your artist friends who want to punch a wall when they experience mental block, bands who make great music but from time to time conflict over the musical arrangement, the melody to use, the pacing of the music and so on, the programmer who loves the challenge of software development but also wants to flip a table when their program doesn't work as intended.

That reminds me of so many of the creative who people I admired who met the end their lives even when at the peak of their careers: Kurt Cobain, Chester Bennington, Avicii, and a bunch of other names I forgot. They obviously loved what they did for a living, doing it for as long as they did. Why then did they choose death over their creative passions? Only God knows the real reason.

I guess by now, reader, you've already guessed that I'm gonna say that happiness isn't worth spending so much time pursuing, but that doesn't mean you should disregard happiness as just another momentary experience that has no lasting impact. Happiness is definitely important in our growth as human beings, it's just that it should not be a primary goal. You don't buy fuel for your car or motorcycle just for the sake of having fuel in it, but you buy it to keep it going. The car or motorcycle just happens to be you, and happiness is just that: a kind of fuel to life.

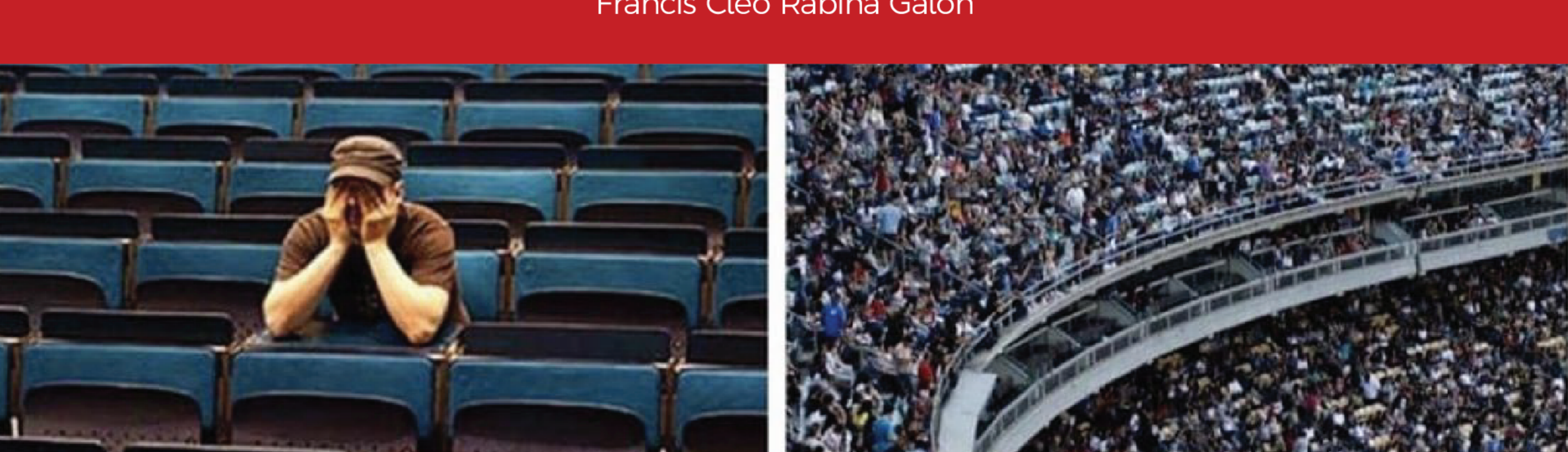
So if the things that make us happy can also be the same things that cause us misery, what then will we do? I'll give you two things that I think we all should be praying for daily instead of happiness: joy and peace. See, happiness can only take you so far, but one of the most important things I've learned living a joyful and peaceful life is that, even when I feel bad, disappointed, frustrated, I just know and have faith that everything is gonna be fine. My problems won't solve themselves but they definitely won't torture me forever, and even in the midst of it I can still get a good night's sleep. Having joy and peace in my life has also helped me to learn to see the opportunity in the problem - I don't even call them that anymore, I call them challenges. It has a nice ring to it because when we think of challenges, we often think about hurdles to overcome that will bring us some intrinsic reward. And life's challenges do bring some sort of reward, they just aren't immediate.

Another reason why I think doing more of what makes us happy is bad advice is because it tends to point people to a life governed by an escapist mentality: get away from the challenges of life rather than facing them head on. All we'll end up doing is just that: running away from what could be a blessing in disguise. If that life is kept up long enough, people will find themselves aimlessly drifting, blindly hoping that everything will turn out alright if we just do more of what makes us happy. And let's face it, that kind of life gets frustrating pretty quickly.

So here's your lunchbox of food for thought: don't do more of what makes you happy. Do more of what brings you peace, spend time on what gives you joy, and even when you're not happy, you'll just keep pressing on because you'll be confident that everything will turn out alright. Most importantly: know where you place your confidence, then you'll find the greatest Peace you'll ever know.

The Congratulations vs. the Support: The Glaring Disparity

Francis Cleo Rabina Galon



I don't know where you're at in your life, but chances are you've seen that meme if you've been on social media: two photos side by side of a stadium stand: one packed with people and the other with that lone person (or a few people) with a caption that reads: The congratulations vs. the support. I don't know if I'd even want to call that a meme because it's a reality and I wouldn't consider as something to be joking about. Most people who've seen it probably take it as something to be bitter about. We shouldn't be bitter about that though, because it's a fact of life, and in hindsight you'll be glad only a few people held hands with you in your journey to fulfilling your life goals.

At first when I saw that post, I definitely felt the negative undertone of it. I felt a mild sense of disgust and disappointment about the fact that very few people are willing to see someone grow from one stage of life to another. But when I thought about the fact that putting your life under public scrutiny (as in the case of most celebrities) can easily turn it into a show for the public than a personal journey that's in your hands, I realized that I should be grateful that growth and progress shouldn't be so public at all.

Take for instance George Kusunoki Miller - better known as Joji. You meme experts out there might know him as Filthy Frank, Pink Guy, or Safari Man. He's an Osaka-born Japanese-Australian singer-songwriter who first started his rise to fame with his YouTube channel TVFilthyFrank that at the end of his YouTube career, had over seven million subscribers. For years people lauded him for his YouTube mix of Japanese and western humor, although he's probably the type of YouTuber who most parents would consider as a bad influence for their children.

I guess you could say George was under the public eye for a very long time before fully pursuing his career in music. When Kpop fans recently found out about Filthy Frank, they wanted out of his fandom, calling him a racist. His YouTube channel description, however, goes like this: "Filthy Frank is the embodiment of everything a person should not be. He is anti-PC, anti-social, and anti-couth. He believes and reacts extensively to everything expressly to highlight the ridiculousness of racism, misogyny, legalism, injustice, ignorance and other social blights. He also sets an example to show how easy it is in the social media for any zany material to gain traction/followings by simply sharing unsavory opinions and joking about topics many find offensive. There is no denying that the show is terribly offensive, but this terrible offensiveness is a deliberate and unapologetic parody of the whole social media machine and a reflection of the human microcosm that that social media is." So he was VERY clear that he knew what he was doing. He exposed himself in 2017 saying that having Filthy Frank and the other characters around was stressing him out because people were forgetting about George as a person.

Thankfully, George was in the music industry because he loved it and didn't care so much about the backlash. There isn't even an article in the internet about him reacting to this because he's planted himself in the music industry very well that the backlash pretty much didn't matter. His music is also wonderfully made, and very depressing if that's your thing.

During his Filthy Frank days up to his flip into the music industry, he had a bunch of friends who saw him all the way through. Not the kind of massive crowd that who's always keeping an eye on him through his progress from comedy to music. You might consider his subscribers as people who held hands with him, but in truth, those subscribers really are just there for your content and are truly disconnected from the personal life even though they might express their full support online.

So the key takeaway here is be grateful that there aren't that many people who keep an eye on you when you're still growing and making progress. Having to be accountable to so many people can easily turn you into a crowd-pleaser than somebody who's truly seeking personal growth - and this is what truly matters over having a whole fanbase of people who are always there. Be grateful that people celebrate the results, but be just as grateful for the few who have the hindsight and the care to be the ones who walk with you, help and guide you through whatever journey of life you're on. Not everyone is interested in the process, but those who truly understand what you live for will see you through till that milestone.

Quarantine Diaries

What should I do? Or feel?

Cherrie Mae Ramirez

Quarantine boredom- everyone has been through that when quarantine came, and I am no exception to that. At some point it was quite interesting and something that I will treasure with the experiences I made with my family. When quarantine started, I was dying of boredom because I was stuck inside the house staring at the corners of the ceiling. Summer is cancelled and I could not see my friends in person. I was not able to go to places I wanna go. Experience things that I used to do during summer, like going to my friend's place, to my auntie's house and spending my whole summer vacation roaming around the city with my cousins.

On the other hand it is quite interesting because I now had all the free time that I didn't have before so this quarantine I could change my daily routine as much as I want. I could go to sleep at 12 in the midnight and wake up in the morning what time I want that I didn't do that because of school. I am now doing all the household chores since my parents are busy with our business. Staying at home is not easy without anything to keep busy with. It is really difficult being stuck inside the house, me and my cousin came up with an idea to put up a small business which street foods. Having a business like this is very challenging during this quarantine because it test your capabilities on dealing with customers with social distancing. It became my daily afternoon routine since quarantine started, it was fun selling and a little bit scary interacting with different people in our sitio, because selling foods is new to me. We do follow the rules in our barangay that was implemented when dealing with customers, like maintaining social distancing, wearing face mask and sanitize your hands every time we interact with customers.

Another interesting thing that happened was I was able to experience playing again my childhood games. This was very fun because I missed playing chinees garter, playing marble with my brother and my cousin which I was very amused with myself because with my age I still played it. Me and my cousin also shared some of our old photos and reminiscing some of our childhood memories that's why we make a strong bond that everyone one of us should experience despite of quarantine. My parents also taught me to bake his recipes and able to cook for them. They also taught me some of their knowledge of running a business since we have a small bakery they operate. My brother and I also love to sing and dance and it became our bonding everyday.

These days we need to more extra careful because of the situation our country and the whole world are now facing with. I always utter a prayer to no one in particular, every night before going to sleep—a prayer that is filled with hope that we can get out of this situation. It also taught us to appreciate every single moments that your family does to you which I will treasure for the rest of my life.

My Non-Human Casualties and the Consequent Opportunities

Francis Cleo Rabina Galon

Before the pandemic hit, I had a thousand things planned for the summer. I was attending a weekend creativity and innovations bootcamp as a supplement to a technology innovations competition I was going to be participating in during the summer. My team and I had things planned out and we were hard at work preparing for the event. At the same time, I also planned to work on my thesis output during the summer, so I won't have too much to worry about during the school year. Then the pandemic came, quarantine was suddenly imposed, a once busy Dumaguete became almost a ghost town almost overnight, everything got cancelled, and I suddenly had all the free time I could want. It was both a good and depressing thing at the same time because while I had a lot of free time, it wouldn't be until over a month later that I would see the outside world and see my friends again, which almost drove me insane and gave me mild anxiety. Mind you I'm not pretending that I had anxiety because I did have anxiety.

That weekend bootcamp I was attending was supposed to culminate in a business pitching where we would present our ideas to potential investors. That event got canceled, along with our graduation ceremony, because lockdown. I'd be remiss not to mention the graduation rites of everybody else who's graduating this year, because their ceremonies got canceled too. While everybody did get their diplomas and medals, they didn't get a proper closure to that season of their life and to celebrate that crowning achievement of every student, and the closure is really important. It's difficult to have to leave behind an important part of one's life without having to properly come to terms with leaving it and the graduation ceremony is that closure that every student needs. It's true that we need the quarantine to keep everybody safe and to control the spread but still, you can't ignore the hurt that caused the students.

Remember that technology innovations event myself and a team four other people were supposed to attend this summer? Well we were supposed to be sent to Makati to attend the said event sponsored by Smart telecommunications, and on the announcement of the Lockdown in Luzon, they opted to have the event online, before, you guessed it, cancelling the event entirely. And what really affected my team and I is that we had done so much to prepare for that. We conducted surveys, studied how others with similar experiences tackled the challenges of the organizers sent to the teams and built a working sample of our product among many other things we did to prepare. The organizers did say they would pay the participating teams. There were 20 Teams, but money wasn't going to be enough to ease the pain of not being able to go through a really important experience like this one.

After all the cancellations, suddenly I found myself with a lot of free time; time I spent reflecting and hoping that things would get better the next couple of months. Frankly, the situation seems to be getting worse. Cases are still increasing by the day, and while the government has eased up on the quarantine restrictions, the fact that the threat of the virus is still around means everybody still needs to stay vigilant and that the restrictions won't be fully lifted. Crazy stuff going on in the western hemisphere which I won't get into here, and a lot of equally crazier stuff going on in our homeland as a consequence of the pandemic, which leads me to another concern I have with this whole pandemic: having a whole semester online.

While I'm all for the continuity of learning even in the midst of this crisis, having a fully online school year is way too tall of an order for the whole education system of our country. We're just not ready for that yet, and this school year is going to be a big dumpster fire if we're going to commit to fully online education. But my personal concern is not having an actual college life for a whole semester (heck if things don't get better soon that might become a whole year). See, it's my last year in college. I want to make memories this year before I permanently sign out of the college life and I'd be in despair if I don't get a real school year. And for that reason, I agree with the idea of freezing a whole school year. It's sad to think about but it's the most sensible choice to make at this time.

If you think I'm bitter about the situation at this point, I am. Sort of. Cancelled plans are the bane of my existence after all. I won't close on a bitter note though. While the summer fell apart for me and pretty much everybody else, I did find a lot of opportunities.

The free time I suddenly had meant that I had all the time in the world to indulge myself in the hobbies I hadn't engaged in for quite a while, like art. Specifically digital painting. I have a graphic tablet (you know, those big plastic squares with things that look like pens that you use to draw on your computer?) that has been dusting in room and I just happened to have a lot of ideas, so I refreshed my skills by doing some fan art of my favorite science fiction characters which I posted in my Instagram. It was really satisfying painting them although I almost faced burnout because one time I had spent all of my waking hours painting because I wanted to finish it ASAP.

I also happened to find a website that offered a ton of free online courses for just about every discipline, and it just so happened that the one discipline I was really eager to dive into for the summer: video game design and development, was there on the list. So I didn't think twice to register for the courses. They were self-paced since they were pre-recorded by the time I accessed them, which was very handy. The company of the game development software I am using: Unity, also offered two free months of their premium access learning resources, which really sped up my learning. And that's pretty much all I've been doing this entire pandemic: Learning how to build video games from scratch with a game engine and digital painting, besides preventing myself from going insane because of not seeing my friends for a very long time.

I've also seen some friends from church and school take the time to start their own home-based food businesses and the demand and positive feedback for their product was shockingly higher than I thought they would be. A close artist friend of mine found the opportunity to really sink her teeth into her craft. She started streaming her art process online while giving tips to people, doing commissions and selling some of her own work.

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." Inasmuch as 2020 will be a point in history that everyone wishes didn't happen, soon enough we're gonna look back at this point in time and remind ourselves of how important this was in ushering in the changes that will happen all across the world once this is over. Until then, you have a lot of time to reflect and think about how you're going to a move on your life's goals. Opportunities like these don't come so often.

Meet the Staff



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