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THE PAYATAS PAPER

A STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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THE HEART OF A FILIPINO

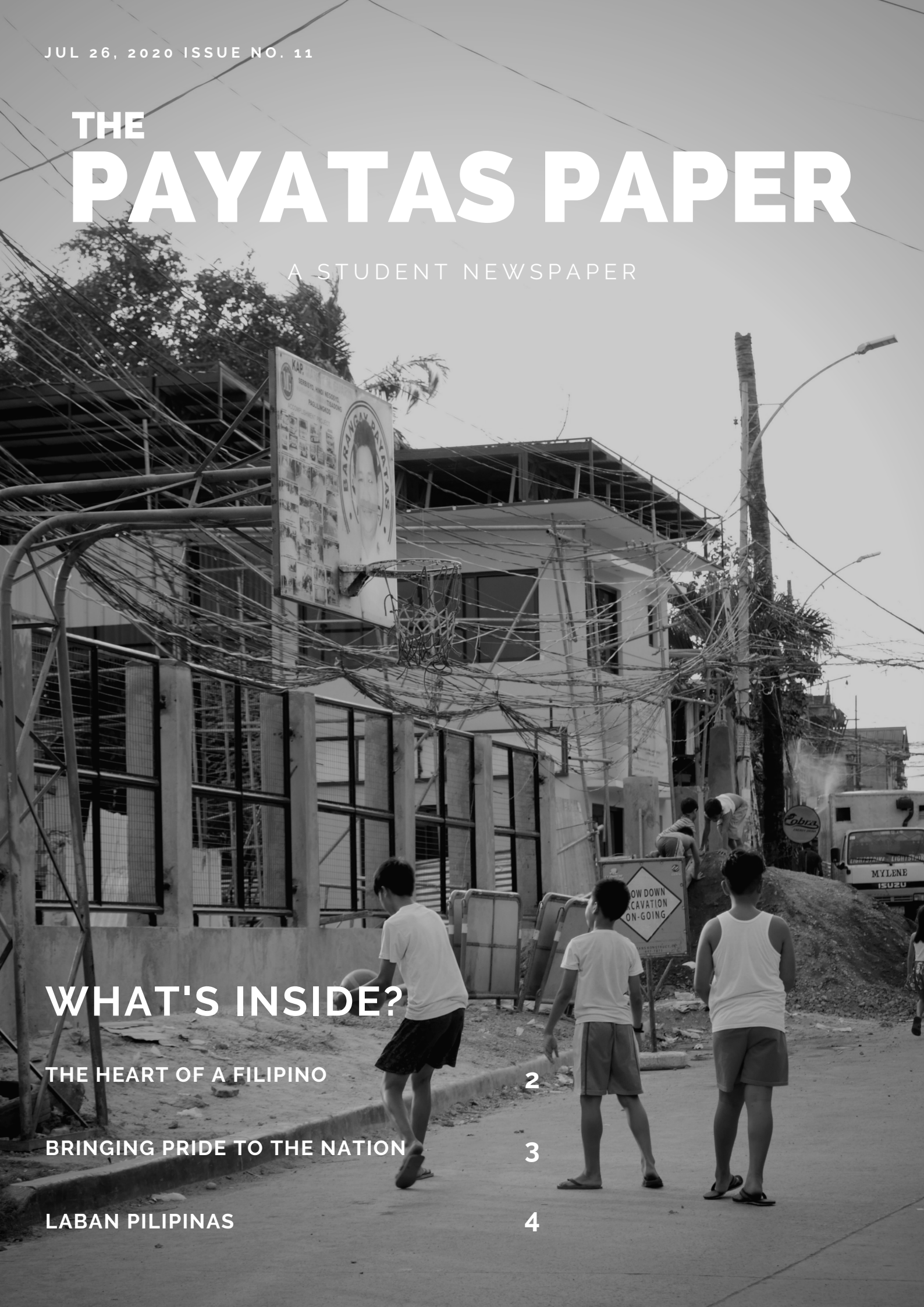
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*image taken before lockdown

THE HEART OF A FILIPINO

BY PIA, 20

I am a Filipino, born and raised in the Philippines. My parents are both Filipinos. I have brown skin and a 'flat' nose as most Filipinos do. Growing up in my community, there seemed to be a preference towards people who had fairer skin. We always saw advertisements on the television about skin-lightening products and how brown skin isn't 'pretty.' I got insecure about it at first, but over time, I learned to embrace my body. I realized that a person's appearance does not amount to their character, their intentions, and their potential. I believe everyone is unique and diversity should be celebrated.

I am extremely proud to be a Filipino because we have a particularly rich culture and history. People here like to celebrate almost every possible event that can be celebrated. Birthdays, holidays, barangay fiestas, you name it. We are known as the country with the longest celebration of the Christmas season. People of other nationalities always say that we are a happy, warm, and welcoming people. We value respect, helping others in need, and being family-oriented. At a very young age, I was taught of the importance of family. We make sure to help each other grow and support each other even through tough times.

We saw more of the Filipino spirit when the country recently faced the COVID-19 pandemic. Rich or poor, everyone was affected. Lockdowns and the slow response to the situation

made life harder to deal with than it already was, but the desire to rebuild and help one another prevailed. We call this 'Bayanihan', which refers to a spirit of communal unity and cooperation. Simply, a coming together of a community.

Here in Payatas, many families struggled during the lockdown. Everything was uncertain. People were not sure if they will get to keep their jobs, they were not sure if there will be food on the table the next day. But still, many came forward to help us without expecting anything in return. Even the people within the neighborhood started sharing their resources to support other families in need. A display of compassion and generosity even in times of a pandemic. A quality I believe is embedded in the heart of every Pinoy. To give, to help, and to be of service to our community.

BRINGING PRIDE TO THE NATION

BERNALENE, 15

I am Bernalene, I live in Payatas and I am 15 years old. I grew up living a simple life, my mother is a housewife and I used to help her out a lot in our small shop. However, income was low so she eventually decided to close the establishment. My step father is currently supporting us and he works as a tricycle driver.

When I first started in the women's team of Payatas FC, it was extremely challenging for me. The trainings had a much higher level of difficulty and our opponents were also in the high upper ranks. I went through a lot of doubts and I questioned my own abilities especially in times when we lost games despite giving our best. I was often made to stay on the bench when the opponents were too strong and I wouldn't be able to play the entire game. I was one of the youngest players in the team and that really affected me. Eventually, though, I was able to surpass those challenges. I kept going to practice and kept working on my drills. Over time, it just felt natural.

We started joining a lot of tournaments outside of Payatas and it was such a rewarding

experience. I met players from different parts of the Philippines and from other countries too. Playing with athletes of other nationalities was extremely intimidating at first, but once you get to know them, they are very easy to get along with.

Before, I used to just see my older teammates going to other countries. They represented the

Philippines in the international stage and that really inspired me to keep going. Now, they say I have the potential too. Now, I'm always playing inside the field, kicking, running, playing the game I love. I will continue to work hard so that someday I can fulfill my dream of being part of the National Team and that I can also bring pride to the Philippines as a Filipino athlete.

ARTISTS' CORNER



BY AXELXAN, 13

LABAN PILIPINAS

BY REGINE, 18

Ako ay Pilipino
Pilipinong matapang, matatag, at dakilang
naninilbihan sa aking bayang minamahal
Isang Pilipino na maraming hamon ang
kasalukuyang hinaharap.

Lumaki ako sa buhay na mahirap
Maraming minimithi at gustong marating
Hiling kong umangat kaya't ako'y nagsisikap.

Isang manlalaro ng aking bansa
Handang makipagsabayan sa galing ng dayuhan
Upang mapasama sa larangan ng kampiyon ang
aking bayan.

Tayong Pilipino ay dakila at
determinadong lumalaban
Hiling ko'y makapagbahagi ng tagumpay
sa aking bansang minamahal
Ako ay may dugong Pilipino malakas at
marunong manindigan sa ano mang
pagsubok ng buhay.

Maka-Diyos at mapagmahal
Walang ano man ang makakahigit sa
inspirasyong hatid ng pagbibigay pugay sa
aking bayan
Ako'y patuloy na lalaban para sa ating
bansang sinilangan.

WORD SEARCH

H I X U U D C U S O T Y I E I D
U Y M G W B I X L S A O H F A O
B A U A S C E O M Z G B Q V F Y
T W Y T N Q P C T C U E A B S R
E Y P N A I L A W N I O H H B K
P U L O T G L G T D G E Q R A T
Q A L N M M N A T X K D P V K C
E Y A P X O R A D L Y V V C W O
N O N F Q I L Y O S K K T I S P
E M A Q U E Z O N B G B R F K U
K V C O N S Q D G K M X M W V E
M U O L M D D R I K C A S M J M
O R O E D N A Y A G A C Z C C Q
N W L K Y Y Q G I S A P G E I M
A I A S D Z Z I P Q A U Z K H J
H R C A N X Z C U Y I P X G C U

10 LARGEST CITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES:

1. QUEZON (CITY)
2. MANILA
3. DAVAO
4. CALOOCAN
5. CEBU
6. ZAMBOANGA
7. TAGUIG
8. ANTIPOLO
9. PASIG
10. CAGAYAN DE ORO