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THE PAYATAS PAPER

A STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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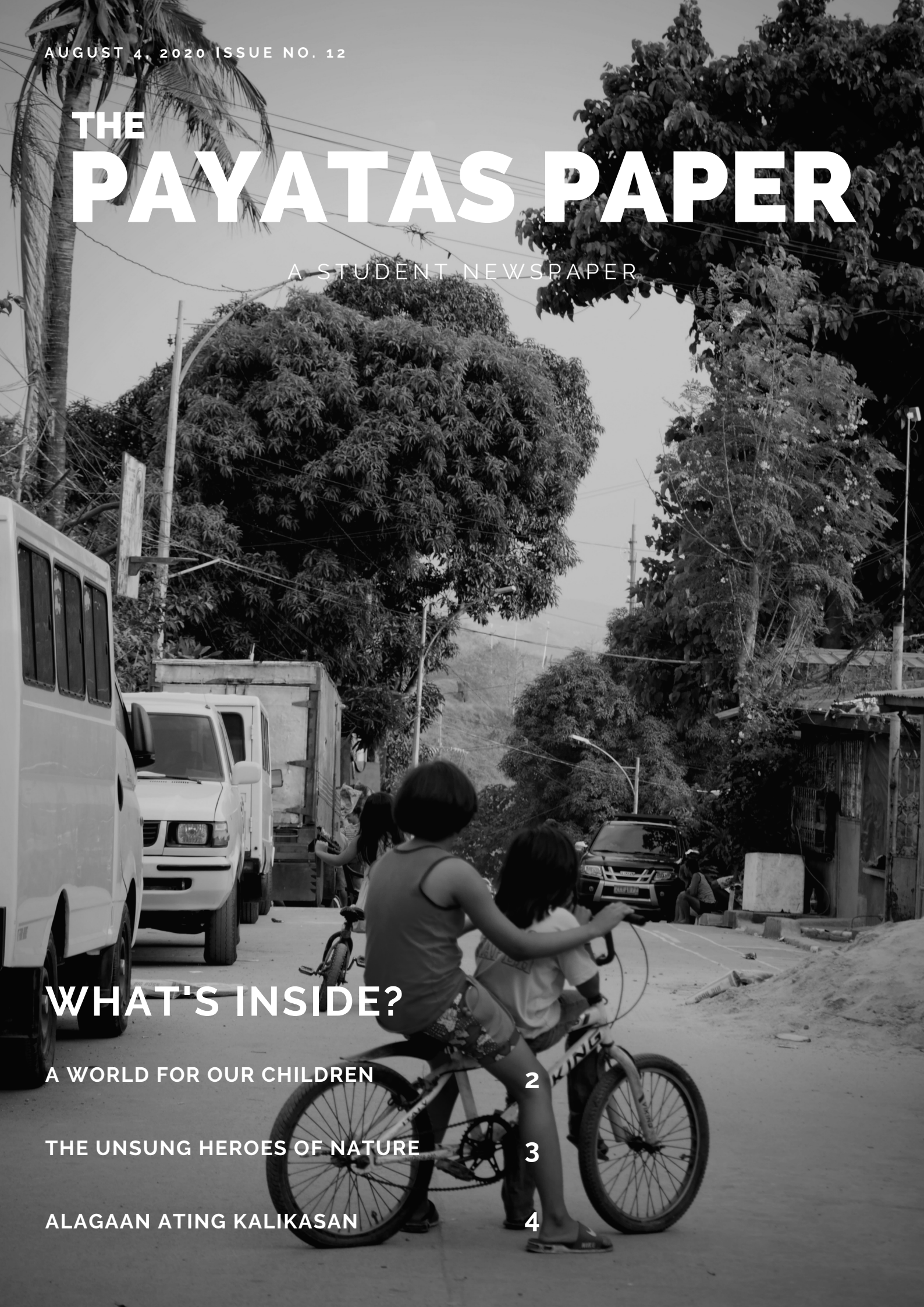
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A WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN

BY LOREN, 17

When I was younger, I didn't really understand the importance of nature and why we should take care of it. I have only known the world which I grew up in, a place where there's trash everywhere and no scenic views in sight. I just always hear about how beautiful nature is at school where our teachers always tell us stories about Mother Nature. From the air we breathe, the food we eat, the roof above our heads, they all come from nature. They say that we should take care of the environment because our very lives depend on it. They gave us examples on how to take care of the

environment like planting more trees, cleaning our surroundings, and properly segregating our waste.

Here in Payatas, sometimes there can be a lot of clutter in the streets because of the decades-running garbage industry here. I spend a lot of time with my mother cleaning the grounds outside our house, sometimes my siblings would come to help us too. At school, we have trash bins with different labels on them so that we can properly throw away our trash. A lot wonder why even after many rains and storms, Payatas doesn't flood, unlike those villages in big cities that always flood after very little rain. Maybe one of the reasons is that the people here are more aware of how their garbage should be handled and don't just throw things that can still be reused or recycled.

As I grew up, I learned that the Philippines is one of the countries blessed with wonderful views and many natural resources. Maybe that's why many foreigners like visiting our country or plan to go here. But now that there's a virus going around, we should take our responsibility to our environment more seriously. A lot of diseases come from the destruction of animal habitats and most of these are hard to find a cure for. Being more conscious about how we move around this world is one of the many ways we can prevent more diseases from spreading. We should keep in mind that taking care of our environment won't just benefit ourselves, but the future generations too. For our children and our children's children, we should all work together and take responsibility for our actions. I truly believe that if Mother Nature thrives, then we thrive too.

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF NATURE

BY RONALYN, 22

We, humans, are blessed with a world where we can live peacefully and enjoy abundant resources. Although, throughout the years, I feel like most of us have forgotten to protect and preserve our home.

The more the human population increases, the more we use up our natural resources. We take and take, but we don't really give back. Many businesses are prospering because we have materials readily available to us. Our lives greatly depend on what nature gives us but the question is, what will happen if everything is gone? What if all has been destroyed? Will we still continue to live? Mother Earth will continue to exist even without us, but we will stop existing without Mother Earth. We owe a lot to our nature so we should take care of it, it is our only home.

I'm from Payatas, a place known for the biggest dumpsite in Metro Manila. It's a poor community, many families struggle with getting basic needs such as food and shelter. Like my family, most families here rely on scavenging for their livelihood. Ironically for us, the more the trash means the more the income. In a day,

around 600 trucks dump garbage here in Payatas. Scavengers come in to collect items worth reusing or reselling. It's a tough job, but it pays. It just saddens me that some people think our community is poor because we're lazy. If anything, people here are the most hard-working individuals you'll ever meet. I'm just really proud that through the work we

do, we get to help clean the environment and reduce waste going to landfills. Garbage collectors, dump truck drivers, and scavengers alike play a huge role in maintaining the world we live in. If there are so-called heroes of nature, then I believe the people of Payatas deserve to be recognized as such. I hope more people realize this and be inspired to take action.

ARTISTS' CORNER



BY ROVIC, 17



ALAGAAN ATING KALIKASAN

BY KIM, 15

Isang magandang regalong hatid ng May-gawa
Malaki, malawak, at napakagandang larawang nalikha
Libo-libong pera ay hindi tutumbas sa halaga
Kayamanang natin ngayo'y nanganganib magiba

Ito'y nilikha ni ama
Upang pangalagaan at huwag sirain ng iba
Malalawak na dagat at magagandang bundok ay kanyang ginawa
Bukod tanging handog para sa ating bansa.

Napakaraming tanong ang siyang sa akin ay bumabahala
Bakit sa dami ng tao sa mundo kakaunti lamang ang nagkukusa
Ang obrang inukit at pinangalagaan ng ama
Ay nasira at patuloy na sinisira ng sariling mga anak niya.

Paano na lamang kapag nagkaroon ng baha
Mauubos na ang mga punong pipigil sa tubig na raragasa
Paano na kapag natuyo ang lupa
Mga halama'y maitatanim pa kaya?

Hanging dadagundong sa bawat salik ng mundo ay hindi na sariwa
Dahil pag-aalaga para sa maayos na kalikasan ay hindi nagawa
Sakit ay siyang tuluyang kakalat
Kailan pa kaya tayo mamumulat?

Hindi pa huli ang lahat aking mga kababayan
Kalikasan ay simulan na nating pangalagaan
Hindi ito para sa ating sarili lamang
Ito ang mag-iiwas sa ating sa kapahamakan.

Nararapat lamang na ang kalikasan ay pangalagaan
Hindi lamang dahil dito tayo kumukuha ng pangangailangan
Kundi pati na rin sa natural nitong kagandahan
Alagaan natin ang nag-iisa nating kalikasan.