

Text Messaging: Why It Clicks

By: Erika Ungson

These days you see people of all ages clutching a cellphone. Before, when the concept of a mobile phone was just being introduced in the East, only businessmen and other professionals could avail of this technological device in the West. These people needed a device that could connect them to their work, for them to be informed of decisions being made, risks to take and not to take, and ultimately, to keep their businesses flourishing. Besides, since the bills for these machines were exorbitantly high, they could not be made accessible to the general public.

Fast forward to the year 1999. It was this year that people began to buy more mobile phones for themselves. Why? Simple. SMS had been invented.

SMS or Short Message Service had been invented sometime in the year 1998 for business people to know what was going on without making a call. It involved a digital cellphone and a network. It was a technological advancement essential to the well being of the business world.

Here in the Philippines, SMS is called "text messaging service". It started the boom of the genre we now call "texting". It was at 1999 when the sales for cellphones rose to a general high. Prepaid cards were invented so everyone could avail of this service. There were no bills to pay every month, and the cards came as cheap (expensive?) as P250. Mobile phones could be bought for as low as P2500.

It is because of the popularity of this fad that the Philippines became one of the "text messaging capitals of the world". You could see people everywhere hunched down, pushing buttons on their cellphones.

But why is text messaging extremely prominent? Here are some reasons:

- Text messaging is easy. All you have to do is get a cellphone, go to "Messages" and use the alphanumeric keys to type in a message. Easy, no?
- Text messaging is fun. You can receive all sorts of quotes, jokes, anecdotes and facts of life with just a push of a button.
- Text messaging is one of the easiest ways to get in touch. It's easy, it's fast, and it's convenient.

The Strike of Counter-strike

By: Timothy Romero and Jay Ashley Icayan



Big guns, riveting 3-D animation, gut wrenching hard-core action, all these describe the most successful PC game to hit Internet cafes and game stations throughout the country, Counter-Strike. Counter-Strike is a modification (MOD) to Valve Software's hit game Half-Life. It modifies the multiplayer aspects of Half-Life to provide the player with an experience that a trained counter-terrorist unit or terrorist unit might have. Counter-Strike has been preferred by most people instead of professional games like Quake 3 or Unreal Tournament because of its more real-

istic game play. When it was first released last June 1999, there were only 10 working servers serving players around the world online. Now, after only two years, there are more than 4000.

But there's more to this game than just another past time. Counter-Strike requires payment of money with almost P30.00 per hour of game on the Internet or on a local computer network. It could result to overspending because of its addictive effects. Recent studies conducted revealed that it results to too much stress on both the physical alertness and mental

stability of the player. Some players take almost 20 hours of game time in just one session. You forget to eat and rest just so you can finish the games altogether. The mental hazard is that with the level high of violence shown, the players may exhibit violent mood swings after each game. These are after effects of experiencing battle savvy action.

Counter-strike is sweeping the country's gaming world alongside the much-anticipated Playstation 2 game console. PC gamers young and old enjoy this new and radical gaming experience. "It is a good pastime, it develops your strategic skills but it is also addictive and consumes almost half of your allowance," says one avid player. This game will surely be around for a while, with more versions coming out of the market, gamers will surely be thirsting for more.

Many have wondered why this game has become so popular. The main reason could be because Counter-Strike was created by a group of people and not by a corporation. It was made for entertainment and not for cash.

Time will come and people will get bored of this new craze and like any other game, this will come to an end.

Matters with the Disciplinarian

By: Tin Aga

"It's only a matter of discipline," Mrs. Salvacion M. Lagula, 51, the part-time Guidance Counselor of Atheneum School, believes. She lives in Noveleta, Cavite and was born on December 24, 1948. She was a graduate of Far Eastern University with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters degree in Psychology in MLQU. She has two sons with the younger already married with two sons living in Bulacan.

Gardening is Ms. Salve's pastime. She loves to arrange plants and beautify their surroundings with flowers. She makes her classroom looks great by putting flowers and plants. Teachers praise her



MS. SALVE. Disciplinarian by nature. (Photo by Tom Chen)

class for that.

"Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you" is her guiding philosophy in life. She loves her students and co-teachers so much that in return she is also loved by them.

Ms. Salve loves her work so much. She likes to spend more years of teaching in Atheneum

Relationships and School:

By: Joy Icayan and Candy Paredes

High school is a time for growing up. We meet new friends, discover new ways to express ourselves and learn to question the different issues around us. Part of this growing up is meeting someone who could be more than someone who understands us better. These are the boy-girl relationships that enter the High School life of a normal teenager.

The school authorities and our parents have always been opposing such relationships. However, these days, a lot believe that relationships do carry a positive effect on our lives. With these conflicting ideas, we have asked people of different positions in Atheneum to express their views on this matter.

Among those who favored boy-girl relationships are Kristina Janssen, Freshman; Rachele Herrera, Junior; Heidi Pugay, Senior; Yuri Juntoria, Senior, Mr. Rafael Ricasata, Fourth Year Obsidian adviser, and Ms. Salvacion Lagula, the school's part-time Guidance Counselor. Their reasons range from being a source of inspiration to simply having someone to listen. Janssen stated that a boy-girl relationship could be a source of happiness. Rachele Herrera said that this is a way to lessen the gap between the two genders. Mr. Rafael Ricasata quoted, "There are some things you can tell that special person that you can't tell others." Others simply said that this is part of teenage life.

While these people believed that going steady has indeed a positive effect, others tend to disagree. In Ms. Ruby Magcauas' point of view, a relationship will only be a nuisance in the accomplishment of more important things. She elaborated that it will only cause problems and more things to think about. Sharing her view is Michael Supersticioso, who told us boy-girl relationships will cause lack of focus in school and might ruin friendships. Sir Ruel Avilla, Third Year Neon adviser, reasoned out that the opposite sex becomes a source of diversity. For example, instead of concentrating on their studies, sometimes they prioritize these relationships first therefore causing disturbances in their academics.

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Going steady has both good and bad effects. (Photo by Elcid Busalanan)

How to Become an A-1 Student

By: Tin-Tin Aga

As you become a teener, you take up more subjects in school and they are much difficult than the subjects before. Most of the time you get lower grades. You always tell your parents that you studied... but how do you study?

To be an A-1 student, you must think of ways of how you would study for the tests. Some of the ways are as follows:

- Know yourself. Know which lessons you should concentrate on more. Also find out which environment will help you study more.
- Do not cram. Everyday, take a glance at what you have taken. There is no substitute for daily reading.
- Never waste time. Just review your notes directly.

These are just some of the ways you can do to have high grades. Always remember that the key to high grades is not a brilliant mind but rather good study habits.