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When Apple and Blackberry were just Fruits

by MARCELLA PURNAMA on Aug 20, 2011 - 12:57 am

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While technology has brought us into the next level of living, it also changes everything.

I remember my day trip to rural Kyabram around two months ago. With no phone service whatsoever, I was forced to live without a handphone – and unable to satisfy the urge to check my Facebook, emails, or even WhatsApp every 10 minutes. How I loved that day.

Entering a life in media and communication is entering a life in technology. E-papers have replaced newspapers. Blogs have replaced magazines. E-mails, Twitter, Facebook, MySpace and YouTube have replaced social interactions. Chatting with a friend over coffee has changed into a virtual chat through Skype. Technology has grown exponentially, but I guess my little heart is not ready for such rapid change.

While having a passion for media, I have been confronted with the urge to master the applications of new media. I'm not a 'Twitter' person. Yet I am gave up my oath not to make a Twitter account for the sake of a uni subject.

What I hate most about the new media is the constant pressure to be plugged in with the news. I greatly dislike the need to compete with others in order to be the first to know what's going on with the world. In a sense, I may not be able to be a true media student.

But what can I say as a blogger? Blogging is a form of new media as well – something that I would not be able to achieve without new technologies. But the wheels are turning fast, too fast, at least for me.

Some of my friends are never separated from their mobile phones. Blackberry users, most of all, constantly have their faithful companions beside them, even at dining tables.

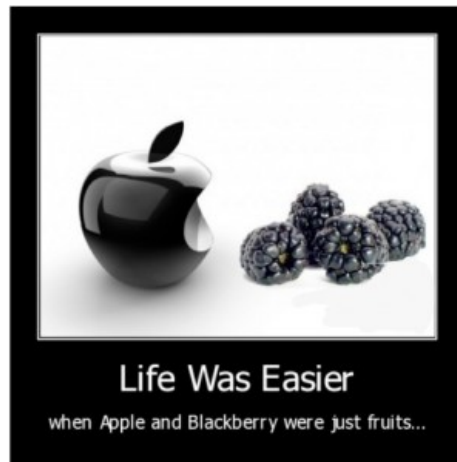
And I can't help but look at Facebook updates and check my emails for at least once in every 3-4 hours. Instead of building my life and forging my character, I am updating my Facebook profile and giving life to my Gravatar.

I'm living at least 4 hours a day in this virtual world, hours that I could spend building my relationships with others, reading a book, or learning something new. Nope, I'm too busy reading other people's status updates, or finding who's broken up their relationship, and who's getting together. I'm overwhelmed with the urge to know their lives – instead of living mine.

And in the end, through all these new media, I have come to face the inevitable, that people may be more concerned about their profile picture than their character, more concerned with updating their status instead of mending broken relationships, more concerned how others see them instead of who they really are.

Life was easier when Apple and Blackberry were just fruits. It wasn't better. It wasn't worse.

It was just – simpler.



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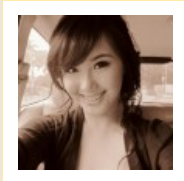
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Marcella Purnama

Marcella Purnama is a second-year psychology and media and communications major at Melbourne University. She spends most her time writing and blogging (<http://marcellapurnama.wordpress.com/>), or else she can be found hopping from one Melbourne cafe to the other, trying all the different coffee shots. Disney, movies, and love fill three-quarter of her brain, so hopefully studies will be there somewhere among the quarter. Loving life, she is determined to live her best.

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