





## Editorial

# Into the Battlefield

**T**his regime's deadliest weapon is twisted logic. Its concept of peace is fatal silence. Justice, conversely, is butchering the people into submission.

In its violent rampage, the Arroyo administration has allotted P1 billion to fuel the deployment of 4,000 troops in "critical areas" to decisively quell a 37-year old "insurgency." Trumpeting an all out war against the New People's Army (NPA) translated to a go-signal for Arroyo's most rabid lap dogs, such as Jovito Palparan, to terrorize the countryside.

Central Luzon, for instance, is now a landscape of full-fledged military aggression. In 12 cities and more than a hundred towns throughout the region, health centers and village halls are being turned into

detachments, tanks roam freely around towns, and soldiers patrol streets in full battle gear. Homes are invaded by soldiers searching for "rebels," and many civilians have since been illegally arrested, detained, and interrogated.

Aside from an all out war declaration, Arroyo's Oplan Bantay Laya (OBL) is still a beast unleashed. Primarily targeting legal mass organizations, the OBL is exposed as the ominous framework employed by the military to crush dissent. Under this operative framework, we have seen an uncanny upsurge of politically motivated killings during the Arroyo administration, now tallied at almost 700. As seen, any dissenting opinion, supposedly honored and guaranteed under our bill of rights, has become a

waiver for our lives.

Again, this is where fatally twisted logic sets in. Under the flimsy rhetoric of "safeguarding freedom," as the OBL suggests, the administration's hound dogs were authorized to violently stifle liberties.

Then, it is no accident that the hundreds of journalists and activists killed were all known critics of the government. There is nothing random about Palparan being "happy" about the disappearance of Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, fellow iskolars ng bayan who dared to integrate with the impoverished peasants and fisherfolks of Bulacan. It is not random circumstance that Arroyo is "not in the mood" to resume the peace talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF. What we are facing, indeed, is a carefully crafted system of violence in light of the intensified clamor for Arroyo's ouster.

Part of such malevolent design is the violent charter this regime aims to make out of the Constitution through the Charter Change (ChaCha). By placing the clause "responsible exercise" in the declaration of our rights to free speech and expression alone, the administration practically enables its repressive apparatuses to legally crush any opposition. More so, the ChaCha is also configured to lubricate the declaration of martial law through the malicious deletion of various martial law provisions.

What this regime currently employs is a far graver crime than the crime Palparan was quick to accuse Karen and Sherlyn of to warrant their detention. This regime is extorting lives for the very perpetuation of its atrocities.

Malacañang might as well barricade itself with its most trusted lackeys. The war it has waged is not against any army. It is against the people – unarmed civilians wielding only clenched fists and just demands, drawing strength from their organized fury.

This regime's enemy is not the several thousand reported members of the NPA. In this supposed war, the Arroyo administration has engaged the millions of Filipinos stripped of their civil rights, the people denied the right to oppose the evident violence, corruption, and inutility of this government.

The administration is baring its fangs because we have successfully cornered it. Despite the threats posed by a brazenly tyrannical state, there are still the likes of Karen and Sherlyn treading the path towards genuine service to the people. For every drop of blood spilled in this wave of violence, thousands will be inspired to march forward and reclaim their extorted liberties.

This regime, after all, has all the reason to fear the people's fury. ■



IVAN BRYAN G. REVERENTE

PHILIPPINE COLLEGIAN | Opisyal na lingguhang pahayagan ng mga mag-aaral ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas - Diliman

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MGA KATUWANG NA KAWANI TRINIDAD BASILAN, GINA VILLAS • PAMUHATAN Silid 401 Bulwagang Vinzons, Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Diliman, Lungsod Quezon • TELEFAX 9818500 lokal 4522

EMAIL kule0607@gmail.com • KASAPI SOLIDARIDAD - UP System-wide Alliance of Student Publications and Writers' Organizations • COLLEGE EDITORS GUILD OF THE PHILIPPINES



## News of a Kidnapping

Amid the World Cup fever that sweeps the entire globe, the Philippines have been left out in the cold. Well, maybe because this is not the time to cuss over a silly sport that includes running around a large field trying to kick the ball into the opponent's side.

What troubles me now is Mitch, who seems to be more agitated than ever. For good reason perhaps, since two of her colleagues were abducted by the military. I'm not usually one who speaks about this kind of stuff. When Mitch

tries to engage me in some kind of activist conversation, I usually space out and let her drone while I think about video games and stuff like that.

This one's different however, as the people ab-

ducted were UP students, just like Mitch and all her friends. Their mortality gobsmailed me in a way that perhaps, what they're doing is good in the sense that the government – and the military – consider them as threats.

I used to read about people being murdered somewhere else; they're all over the papers almost everyday. There is a variety of them too: activist farmers, lawyers, priests and journalists. It's a different thing however, just having to read about them in the papers, and knowing someone who might be a target. It's also different if the events came to your milieu. Just last week there was news of Marines in the campus, trying to replace the security brigade. That is a disturbing prospect, to say the least. But with the military abducting students on the field, who is safe anymore?

These recent events put such strain into my relationship with Mitch, which we have never encountered before. We used to fight about which movie to watch, about back rubs, being late for a date and seeing her on TV on some rally somewhere. This however, is a catastrophe of epic proportions. News of a kidnapping really brings out the worst in some. Suffice to say, the government is watching, and peril is just waiting to happen. God help us all. ■

### LAYOUT ARTISTS WANTED

Must be familiar with Adobe Photoshop and Pagemaker/InDesign. Come to our office and bring a portfolio. Look for Noel.

## Matapos mapalaya ang isa

# estudyante ng UP nawawala pa rin

MELANE MANALO AT ANTONIO TIEMSEN JR.

**D**alawang estudyante ng UP Diliman (UPD) ang mahigit isang linggo nang nawawala matapos dukutin ng mga hinihinalang operatiba ng militar sa Hagonoy, Bulacan noong Hunyo 26.

Hindi pa matagpuan hanggang sa kasalukuyan sina Sherlyn Cadapan, dating kinatawan ng College of Human Kinetics sa University Student Council (USC) at miyembro ng Anakbayan, at Karen Empeño, estudyante ng College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP) at miyembro ng League of Filipino Students.

Samantala, tatlong araw naman matapos dukutin, napag-alamang nakalaya na si Jay Francis Aquino, dating tagapangulo ng National Network for Agrarian Reform Advocates-Youth ng UPD, na dinukot sa Angeles, Pampanga noong Hulyo 3.

### Hindi rebelde

Dinukot ang tatlong estudyante dahil umano sa pagiging miyembro ng New People's Army (NPA), ayon na rin sa pulisya at militar na nasa rehiyon.

Itinanggi ng mga pamilya nina Cadapan at Empeño na miyembro ang dalawa ng NPA. Pumunta lamang umano sila sa Bulacan upang magsaliksik hinggil sa kalagayan ng mga lupang sakahan doon.

Pinaghihinalaang may kinalaman sa pagdukot sa dalawa si Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan ng 7th Infantry Division sa Gitnang Luzon, kung saan naitalang lumaki ang bilang ng mga pamamaslang at paglabag sa karapatang pantao mula nang itilaga ritong commander si Palparan.

Agad namang itinanggi ni Palparan sa *Inquirer* na may kinalaman siya sa pagdukot. Tinukoy niyang mga miyembro ng NPA sina Cadapan at Empeño at maaari umanong

ibang yunit ng militar ang dumukot sa kanila.

Samantala, kinumpirma ni Police Chief Policarpio Segubre ng Angeles sa *SunStar* na dinukot ng militar si Aquino at anim pa niyang kasamahan para sa interrogasyon hinggil sa pakikiisa nila sa NPA. Sa oras na sinusulat ang balita, tatlo sa mga kasamahan ni Aquino ang nakalaya na rin, habang dalawa ang nakakulong pa at isa ang nawawala pa rin.

### Pagdampot ng militar

Ayon sa datos ng Alyansa ng Mamamayan para sa Pantaong Karapatan (ALMMA), isang human rights group na naka-base sa Bulacan, bandang alas-dos ng madaling araw nang halughugin ng may 20 armadong kalalakihan ang pansamantalang tinutuluyan nina Cadapan at Empeño sa Brgy. San Miguel sa Hagonoy.

Agad umanong iginapos ang

## Militar hinihinalang nasa likod ng pagdukot

dalawa, isinakay sa isang XLT van, at tinangay tungo sa direksyon ng Brgy. Iba. Kasama rito si Manuel Merino, residente ng San Miguel, na dinampot din at pinalaya na noong Hulyo 2.

Natukoy ng mga saksing nakausap ng ALMMA na katugma umano ng van na ginamit ng mga dumukot ang sasakyang nakita kinaumagahan sa headquarters ng mga sundalo sa may Bulacan State University.

Bago ang kanyang paglaya, dinala naman umano si Aquino at ang kanyang mga kasamahan sa isang hindi matukoy na kampo ng militar.

### Kontra-estudyante

Ani Student Regent Raffy Sanchez, ipinakikita lamang ng pinakahuling mga pagdukot na hindi ligtas sa paglabag ng mga karapatang pantao maging ang mga estudyante. Kaya, aniya, dapat ipagpatuloy ang pagtatanggol ng mga mamamayan para sa mga karapatang sibil.

Ipinakikita rin umano ng insidente ang pagsira sa malayang pag-iisip at kamalayang panlipunan na siyang tunguhin ng liberal na edukasyon,

ayon kay Rolando Tolentino, tagapangulo ng Congress of Teachers and Evaluators for Nationalism and Democracy.

Dapat din umanong dumaan sa maayos na proseso ang paghuli at patunayan muna kung talagang may pagkakasala sila, ani Consuelo Paz, dating dekan ng CSSP at convenor ng Tigil Paslang, isang multi-sektoral na alyansa sa UP laban sa mga pulitikal na pagpaslang.

Samantala, sa isang sulat noong Hulyo 3, ipinaabot na ni UP President Emerlinda Roman sa Department of National Defense ang paghingi ng tulong upang mahanap sina Empeño at Cadapan. Nilinaw dito ni Roman na taliwas ang pagdukot sa mga estudyante sa Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ng United Nations at maging sa umiiral na batas sa bansa.

Nanawagan din para sa agarang pagpapalaya kina Cadapan at Empeño ang iba't ibang sektor sa unibersidad sa pangunguna ng USC at mga militanteng organisasyong kinaaaniban nila. Isinagawa rin ang isang malawakang walk-out sa klase noong Hulyo 7 bilang protesta laban sa pagkawala ng mga estudyante. ■ *(May mga ulat mula kay Wendell Mollenido Gumban)*

## Sigaw ng UP: Palayain sina Karen at Sherlyn!



Magkakasunod na araw ng protesta ang ang tugon ng mga estudyante sa pagdakip sa dalawang estudyante ng UP. Kasama sa nagprotesta si Concepcion Empeño (kaliwa), ina ni Karen. Itinatanggi ng militar ang pagdakip.

CANDICE REYES AT ROUELLE UMALI

KAREN EMPEÑO

SHERLYN CADAPAN



# New on the menu: Selling the kitchens of UFS

JERRIE M. ABELLA

**T**HE 69-YEAR OLD UNIVERSITY Food Service (UFS) survived the Japanese-American war in the 1940s, but decades after, attempts of privatization have persistently sieged its continued existence.

## From the kitchens

Created in 1937 as a training laboratory for Home Economics students, the UFS's service-oriented origins saw several reorganizations. From serving food to reserve war officers in 1941, what was then known as the Cafeteria was transferred from UP Manila to UP Diliman (UPD) in 1948 serving eighty-cent meals to about 600 customers daily.

The Cafeteria, which formally became the University Food Service in 1961, expanded its units in different colleges and dormitories in UPD, with its total number of units peaking at 22 having over 200 employees in



## Roads to Perdition

UPD trends of commercialization

All roads lead to commercialization, or so what the government and its lackeys in the academe so desperately want to happen. In this series, the *Collegian* exposes how even the most basic of services in UP fall prey to the ills of low state subsidy and, ultimately, dependence to private entities. After all, we can always take the reverse trip.

the 1970s.

Mid-1980s, insufficient budget allocation from UP and manpower shortage compelled the UFS to lease out three of its outlets in the dormitories to private concessionaires. As a result, 14 UFS employees had to be relieved in 1987. More outlets were leased out in subsequent years.

At present, the sole remaining UFS outlet in UPD is the BakeShoppie and Grille in Vinzons Hall, operating with only 38 employees and functioning as a canteen, bakery and catering service provider.

## Heating up

Perennial threats of privatization and even complete phase-out of the UPD UFS materialized in a 2004 report from the office of the UP System auditor expressing "deep concern over the continued operation of the UFS" as it allegedly incurred a total loss of P16 million from 1999 to 2003.

Last January, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez dropped plans of restructuring the UFS and instead recommended its complete abolition. UP President Emerlinda Roman subsequently endorsed its closure to the Board of

Regents, UP's highest policy-making body.

The BOR was set to deliberate on the proposal on February 23, but strong opposition from the All-UP Workers' Union (AUPWU) merited the board's action.

AUPWU President Clodualdo Cabrera argued that as stated in the Collective Negotiations Agreement between the UP administration and the union, consultations with union representatives would have to be conducted first before the BOR can discuss proposals on the UFS's privatization or phase-out.

The UP administration, however, has yet to set a dialogue with AUPWU.

With the UFS being the sole remaining canteen operated by the UPD administration, UFS officer-in-charge (OIC) Lilie Rivera hopes that UP officials will rethink their decision.

Rivera revealed that retired employees are not being replaced by the UP administration, citing as reason the nearing privatization of UFS. Right now, Rivera has multiple functions: OIC, supervisor, practicum coordinator, and, at times, server.

Prof. Melania Abad, ex-officio member of the national executive board of the All-UP Academic Employees' Union, argued that the UFS will not be losing millions if the UP administration will support its operations, instead of entering into contracts with private concessionaires or outsourcing catering service for official functions.

She disclosed one case where a catering service for a UP event was contracted with a private entity, only because its proposed cost was P1 cheaper than that of the UFS. The 2004 audit report also states that in

CONTINUED ON P.11

## UP Admin mum on janitors' wage woes

VICTOR GREGOR LIMON

**A**BOUT 80 UP DILIMAN (UPD) janitors have not been receiving decent wages since September last year, and the UP administration leaves the settlement of complaints to their employment agency.

In an interview with the *Collegian* last week, a Main Library janitor said contractual employees like him, or 48 percent of the 176 janitors deployed in the northern UP area, are paid P57 short of the present P350-minimum-wage in the National Capital Region.

## Wage flaws

While confirming the allegations, UPD Oversight Committee for Janitorial Services Chair Professor Agerico de Villa said UP cannot file a case against the agency M & M Manpower Services Inc. because of the flawed contract UP entered with them in 2005.

De Villa said the contract failed to require monitoring the actual payments received by janitors, though it compels the agency to submit payrolls to UP that indicate salaries complying with wage laws.

M & M janitors, who requested anonymity, claimed that instead of pay slips, they only receive pieces of paper which list several "dubious"

deductions in their salaries, including an unspecified "agency fee."

The janitors also complained that their wages are sometimes delayed for several weeks.

They added that Social Security System (SSS) contributions are also deducted, even if several of them found out that their names are not registered with the SSS.

M & M Supervisor Amelia Yneza denied the accusations, saying the payrolls submitted to the UP administration are proof that the janitors' wages are reasonable and given on time.

She also maintained that M & M provides for the janitors' SSS and that all deductions from their salaries, such as the cost of their uniform and the agency fee, are warranted.

De Villa said, however, that UP is partly responsible for the wage delay as it sometimes fails to pay M & M on time due to budget problems.

## Not the direct employer

According to Student Regent Raffy Sanchez, the issue was already raised in the Board of Regents, UP's highest policy-making body, last June 29. The board, however, maintained that UP is not the direct employer of the said janitors.

Sanchez said UP President Emerlinda Roman recommended the addi-

tion of certain requirements in future contracts with employment agencies, which include the issuance of pay slips to ensure compliance with the minimum wage regulation.

UPD University Student Council Chair Juan Paolo Alfonso added that the council will coordinate with All-UP Workers' Union (AUPWU) to initiate settlement of the issue.

## No control

AUPWU National President Clodualdo Cabrera said the plight of the janitors stems from a deep rooted problem, which is the UP administration's transfer of its responsibility to deliver services to private corporations.

"Dahil sa pribatisasyon, nawala sa kamay ng UP ang pangangalaga sa karapatan ng mga manggagawa nito," Cabrera said.

Employment agencies first provided janitorial and security services in the early 1990s as one of UP's moves to reduce its maintenance and other operational expenses.

Sanchez said such privatization does not assure employees of benefits such as that of SSS and PhilHealth.

Cabrera also added that UP likewise loses control over the quality of services as work regulations are now being dictated by middle-man agencies. ■

## Kalampag ng komunidad



Nagprotesta noong Hulyo 29 ang mga residente ng UP Campus sa Quezon Hall para ipaglaban ang karapatan nila na tumira sa UP, dahil na rin sa kaliwa't kanan na banta ng demolisyon.

PAOLO GONZALES



## Clear skies ahead



Future UP students can now breathe easy as the proposed tuition fee increase are delayed for further deliberations during the meeting of the Board of Regents at the UP Los Baños last June 30.

ABI DAYACAP

## BOR tackles proposed fees increase

# Students denounce proposal in system-wide mobilizations

WENDELL MOLLENIDO GUMBAN

STUDENTS FROM VARIOUS UP units registered strong protest against the proposed 300 percent increase in tuition and other fees presented in the June 30 Board of Regents (BOR) meeting.

The proposal, which was drafted by a committee formed by UP President Emerlinda Roman last year, recom-

mends a tuition increase of at least P700 per unit for UP Diliman and Manila, and P400 for Baguio, Mindanao, and Visayas. It also proposes the imposition of new fees like the energy and internet fees.

About 300 students picketed in UP Los Baños where the BOR meeting was held. Classes in UP Mindanao were cancelled, majority of UP Baguio's student population joined their local mobilization, and 300 students in UP Diliman massed up at Quezon Hall, the UP administration's building.

The proposal is already up for review by the BOR, UP's highest policy-making body, and could be subject for deliberation in their next meetings, according to Student Regent (SR) Raffy Sanchez.

He said that though the increase is set to be implemented for future incoming freshmen and transferees only, the BOR will accommodate feedback from student consultations to be launched by the UP administration before considering its approval.

Various student councils (SCs), however, have already made their position opposing the proposed fee increases, which Sanchez will forward to his co-regents.

SCs from UP units system-wide have already launched in May an alliance opposing fee increases, the Ugnayang Multi-Sektoral Laban sa Komersyalisasyon ng Edukasyon (UMAKSYON), spearheaded by the

SR and the system-wide SC alliance Katipunan ng Sangguniang Mag-aaral sa UP.

The alliance traces its roots from two earlier alliances of similar names which opposed the construction of a large commercial mall along the university's Commonwealth land in 1997, and the proposed revision of the UP Charter in 2003.

Sanchez said the alliance, which will also tap faculty, employees, and other sectors in UP, will launch information and protest campaigns to junk the proposal.

Roman earlier said that "there is sufficient justification for a tuition increase" since UP's tuition, which has remained the same for 15 years, needs to be "adjusted" with the rising cost of education.

Sanchez, however, said "We should always stress the need for UP and the government to provide accessible yet quality education." ■

## ArtStud proposes P150 lab fee

ANA IRIS B. ALCALA

THE DEPARTMENT OF ART Studies (DAS) is reviving its P150 laboratory fee proposal for Art Studies (AS) I and II.

According to DAS Chair Elena Mirano, the proposal was first presented two years ago. The proposed fee will be used for the maintenance of air-condition units and the replacement of LCD projector bulbs being used in the said classes.

Mirano explained that the proposal was a result of a decrease in enrolment and laboratory fee collection for Humanities (Hum) II, another DAS subject, when AS I and II were first offered in 2002. At that time, Hum II already had a fee of P150.

The proposed AS I and II fees, originally at P300, were decreased by DAS in recognition of the financial difficulties that students face, Mirano

added. Initial consultations were made with the College of Arts and Letters Student Council (CAL-SC) in 2002, which resulted in the approval of the proposal by that year's CAL-SC. The development was stalled when the previous DAS chair went on a study leave.

University Student Council Chair Paolo Alfonso said that laboratory fees are normally charged for consumables, like chemicals, and not for equipment maintenance and purchase, as with the case of AS I and II. He vowed that the council will strongly oppose the imposition of any new laboratory fees and explain to students the need to demand higher state subsidy.

CAL-SC Chair Kae Vicedo mentioned that the problem is one of the manifestations of dwindling state subsidy, not only for UP but for the whole education sector.

"Naniniwala kami na kailangan ng good facilities," Vicedo said, "pero ang CAL-SC ay may stand na hindi dapat ipasa yung burden sa mga estudyante."

Vicedo added that the proposal is a cause for alarm not only for AS or CAL students but also for all UP students, as both subjects are offered under the Revitalized General Education Program.

Student Regent Raffy Sanchez said that due to low government subsidy for UP, the imposition of laboratory fees has become a recent trend among classes that are not even laboratory courses.

A student consultation is set to be conducted on July 17 upon UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio Cao's request, after which the results will be forwarded to the BOR. ■

## UPD student council joins impeachment bid

### UP groups to form anti-ChaCha alliance

VICTOR GREGOR LIMON

THE UP DILIMAN UNIVERSITY Student Council (USC) joined other youth groups on June 30 in filing the fourth impeachment complaint against Gloria Arroyo.

UPD USC Chair Juan Paolo Alfonso said the council joined this move since both UP students and pro-impeachment groups are campaigning for the removal of the President from power.

The initial impeachment complaint was filed on June 26 by various people's organizations as endorsed

by Representatives Francis Escudero and Ronaldo Zamora. Among the charges against Arroyo were graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust, and numerous human rights violations committed under her administration.

Alfonso said the UPD USC will attend committee hearings in the House and will help in persuading congressmen to approve the complaint through sending e-mail and text messages and visiting them in their residences.

Arroyo, however, has repeatedly

denied the accusations, saying she is ready to face impeachment procedures to clear her name and that a "truth commission" will be created for further investigation.

### Anti-chacha groups intensify campaign

Meanwhile, UPD student groups continued to derail Charter Change as various organizations convened a new anti-ChaCha alliance this week.

Aimed at consolidating anti-ChaCha forces in the UP community, the UP Multi-sectoral Alliance Against Arroyo's Charter Change (UP MARCH) plans to conduct anti-ChaCha discussions on the July 21 Diliman

Student Summit, an annual symposium of UPD students.

At least 10 organizations have already joined UP MARCH, including local student councils, the Congress for Teachers/Educators for Nationalism and Democracy (CONTEND UP), and the All-UP Workers' Union (AUPWU).

In a UP MARCH manifesto released last week, ChaCha was condemned as "a formula for national regress" since it will reduce the already few positive provisions in the current constitution.

In the meantime, in an anti-ChaCha forum held by Anakbayan UPD on June

CONTINUED ON P.10

### Bawal magdasal sa Mendiola



Bilang simbolo ng laban para sa malayang pamamahayag sa paaralan, ilang miyembro ng College Editors Guild of the Philippines ang nag-alay ng dasal at bulaklak sa monumento ni Don Chino Roces sa Mendiola noong Hunyo 30. Ngunit agad silang itinaboy ng mga pulis. Ilang minuto pa, tinanggal din ang mga bulaklak na kanilang inalay sa martir na mama-mahayag.

ROUELLE UMALI



# Operation Chameleon

Arroyo's game plan to stay in power

ALAYSA TAGUMPAY E. ESCANDOR

CHAMELEON, WHEN THREATENED, changes color to disguise its real nature and divert attention from itself. Facing solid opposition Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo seemingly employs the same tricks as this reptile, using Charter Change (ChaCha) to veil her intention to stay in power.

Numerous allegations on electoral fraud, corruption, and human rights violations has created an uncertain climate for the Arroyo regime. In a crazed effort to elude such controversies, the president now blames the 1987 Constitution for the country's political crisis. To drum up the call for ChaCha, Arroyo declared that "the system clearly needs fundamental change, and the sooner, the better." She urges the people to overlook the rung of scandals that lead directly to Malacanang and concentrate instead on "political and economic reform." Clearly, however, the proposal only perpetuates Arroyo's stay until 2010, practically prescribing a national amnesia.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero asserts that "[ChaCha] does not address the basic issues confronting the country," but is only "a tool for political survival." Proof of this is the move to scrap the 2007 national elections, as insinuated in last year's State of the Nation Address. With the prospect of term extensions, the administration manages to bribe the majority in Congress to support ChaCha. Wary of the mounting resistance, the government continues to play chameleon, touting ChaCha as a "symbol of hope and

political stability."

Seeing through the thinly-veiled deception, the Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (CODAL), a lawyers' group campaigning against ChaCha, dismissed it as "hurried and self-serving." CODAL condemned the concentration of extraordinary powers in Arroyo's hands, giving her additional powers in both the executive and legislative branches. Under the transition government, she will assume the position of both "head of government" and "head of state," consolidating her grip over the entire interim parliament. For one, the proposed abolition of the Senate, an opposition stronghold, makes her virtually immune to impeachment.

Moreover, the transitory provisions in the proposed draft give her full discretion in the appointment of 30 new members to the parliament, not to mention the inclusion of all her Cabinet members. As such, the composition of the interim Parliament will be the same group that abdicated last year's impeachment complaint, decisively securing Arroyo's hold on power. The possibility of "no-confidence" votes is the only existing limitation on her authority. The dominance of Arroyo's lackeys in the would-be parliament, however, make this an innocuous provision.

If ChaCha pushes through, Escudero anticipates the loss of checks and balances in the government. While the 1987 Constitution provides for safeguards against the abuse of Executive powers, the draft allows Arroyo to use her Martial law powers to forcibly quell dissent, including

protests against her "anti-people" policies (see related sidebar). The recent spate of activist and journalist killings indicate such predisposition to employ coercion. According to CODAL, allowing the Arroyo administration to push through with ChaCha can only result in a "dictatorship by a president whose mandate to stay in power is under question."

In this political game of survival, Arroyo's ChaCha makes for an ill-disguised attempt to keep herself in power. No amount of camouflage can now hide the true intent of this desperate regime. ■



ARTWORK: KENDRICK BAUTISTA. PAGE DESIGN: KARL CASTRO.

# Sa Saliw ng ChaCha

MINI U. SORIANO

SINASABING SA SALIGANG BATAS NG ISANG BANSA, INILALAHAD ang mga batayang panukala upang maitaguyod ang kalayaan, kaunlaran at kapayapaan ng isang estado. Ngunit sa inilalakong bagong Konstitusyon ni GMA, mababanaag ang isang bayang may mga katangiang tila taliwas sa mga nabanggit, lalo na sa usapin ng pambansang soberanya. Sa ilalim ng ChaCha ni GMA, halimbawa, maaasahan ang patuloy na pag-iging ng hindi pantay na ugnayan sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at Estados Unidos (US) sa larangang pulitikal.

Isang pagbabagong isinusulong ng ChaCha ang pag-basura sa Artikulo XVIII, Seksyon 25 ng Saligang Batas ng 1987. Kapag naipatupad ito, pahihintulutan ang muling pagtatag ng base militar ng US sa Pilipinas nang walang konsultasyon sa mga mamamayan.

Bagaman ipinaliliwanag ni GMA na ang gayong probisyon ay paraan upang palaguin ang ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, malinaw na binibigyan nito ng puwang sa lupain, karagatan at himpapawid ng Pilipinas ang mga kaalyadong bansa gaya ng US para sa mga gawaing militar nito, tulad ng pagsasanay sa mga sundalo.

"Sa ganito," ani Vencer Crisostomo, tagapangulo ng League of Filipino Students, isang organisasyon ng mga mag-aaral laban sa imperyalismo, "binibigyang-daan ang pakikialam ng US sa mga internal na usapin ng bansa, tulad ng resolusyon sa digmang-bayan sa kanayunan at pakikibaka ng mga Moro, habang tinitiyak ang pakikiisa ng Pilipinas sa digmaan para sa langis at neokolonya na diumano ay laban sa terorismo."

Malinaw din sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas noong dekada '90, ang mga negatibong epekto ng pag-kakaroon ng base militar ng US sa Pilipinas. Dahil labas sa kapangyarihan ng pamahalaan ang lupang kinatitirinan ng base, hindi napasasailalim sa mga batas ng Pilipinas ang mga sundalong Amerikano. Bunga nito, ang mga inakusahan ay maaaring makabalik sa kanilang bansa nang hindi nalilitis.

Sa kasalukuyan, hindi pa man naipapasa ang ChaCha, naging mahirap at mahabang proseso na ang pagtitiyak na malilitis sa Pilipinas ang US Marines na inakusahang nangghasa sa isang Pilipina sa Subic.

Samantala, maaari ding maibasura ang Artikulo II, Seksyon 8 ng 1987 Saligang Batas, at pagagan ang pagpasok ng armas nukleyar sa Pilipinas. Matatandaang nagdulot ng matinding pinsala sa kalikasan ang lason mula sa mga armas nukleyar ng US sa palibot ng dating Clark Base sa Pampanga. Sa ulat ng Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (CHRD), 70 bata ang naging biktima ng iba't ibang uri ng sakit na dulot ng nakalalasong kemikal mula sa mga base militar.

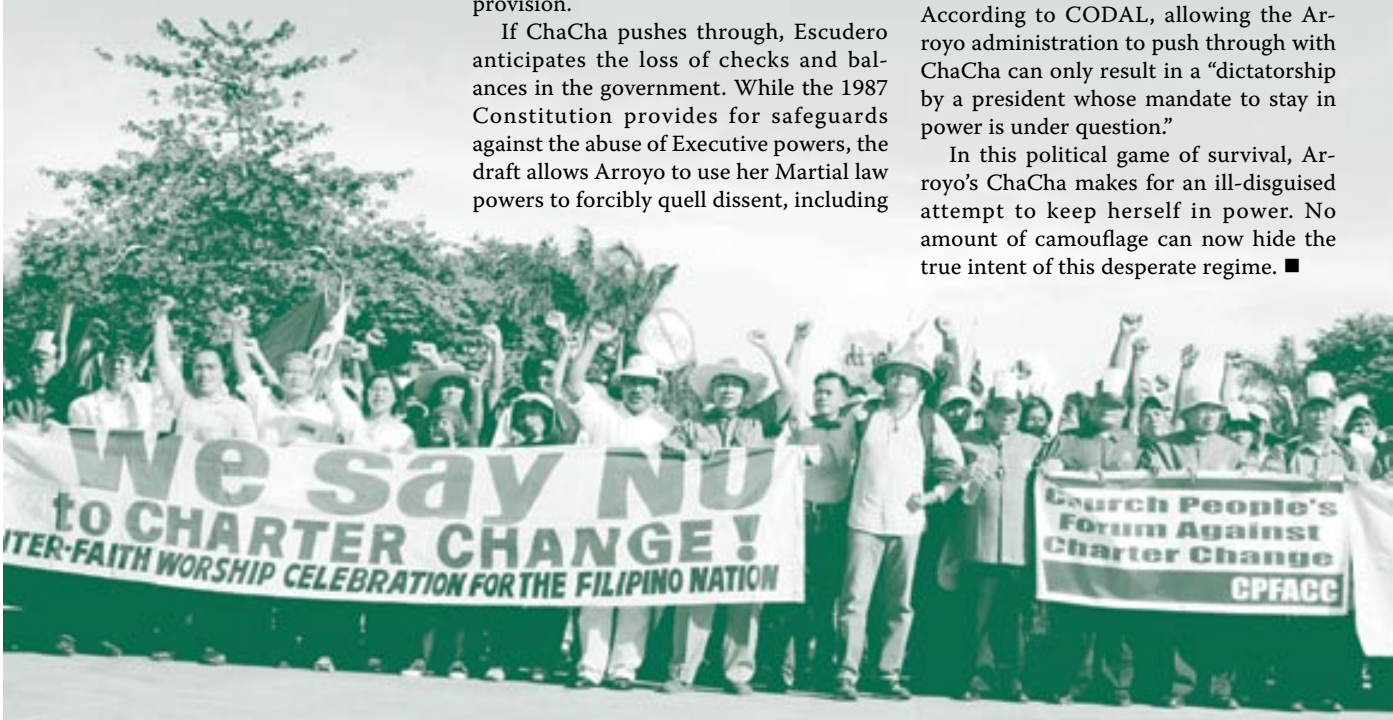
Bukod dito, sa pagkasangkapan sa mga sundalong Pilipino sa mga aktibidad ng US laban diumano sa "terorismo," tulad ng naganap sa giyera laban sa Iraq, maaaring maging target ng mga kaaway ng US ang Pilipinas, ani Ellen Tordesillas ng Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

Gayundin, mahihinuha ang layunin ni GMA na makilala bilang masugid na tagasunod ng mga patakaran ng US upang mapatatang ang hawak sa posisyon. Dagdag ni Tordesillas, "dahil hindi legal ang kanyang pagkapanalo bilang presidente, suporta mula sa US ang kailangan niya upang manatili sa panunungkulan."

Bukod sa mga nabanggit, itinataguyod ng ChaCha ang tuwirang pagsasailalim ng interes ng Pilipinas sa interes ng Estados Unidos. Ayon kay Carol Araullo, tagapangulo ng Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), "sa paniligaw ni Gloria sa US, naiaayon ang konstitusyon ng ating bansa sa mga layunin ng US."

Dagdag naman ni Renato Reyes, pangkalahatang kalihim ng BAYAN, "Mistulang ibinabalik tayo ng ChaCha sa panahong bago ang Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig. Matatandaang bago sumiklab ang Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig, nagmistulang base militar ng US ang buong Pilipinas bilang kanyang kolonya.

Sa kasaysayan, malaoan nang napatunayan ang pananatili ng kapangyarihan ng US sa Pilipinas. At sa ilalim ng inilalakong ChaCha ni GMA, tila hindi malayong mapatindi pa ang gayong kalagayan. ■



# Sell-out Express

MA. ANNA KRYNESSA L. RIVERA

AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT campaign to convince people to ride the Charter Change (ChaCha) train, it hails ChaCha as the Philippine's one way ticket to economic prosperity. A closer look at ChaCha's economic provisions, however, exposes the ChaCha train as an express ride towards foreign exploitation of the country

In particular, the government-sponsored ConCom draft of the ChaCha strengthens provisions on economic liberalization, already drawing cheers from foreign businesses. During the Philippine Development Forum attended by foreign investors last March, business analyst Peter Wallace said that "The business community is in favor of the intent to open up the economy."

ChaCha employs key amendments in Article XII of the Constitution to reinforce foreign influence in the economy. Section 2 of the said article, for instance, is revised to allow foreigners to develop and utilize the country's natural resources, a right exclusive to Filipinos under the 1987 Constitution. Such provision echoes the Parity Rights during the 1940s, which granted Americans equal rights with Filipinos in utilizing the country's natural resources. With the said revision Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Secretary-General Renato Reyes maintained that the country essentially compromises its capacity to use these resources for national development.

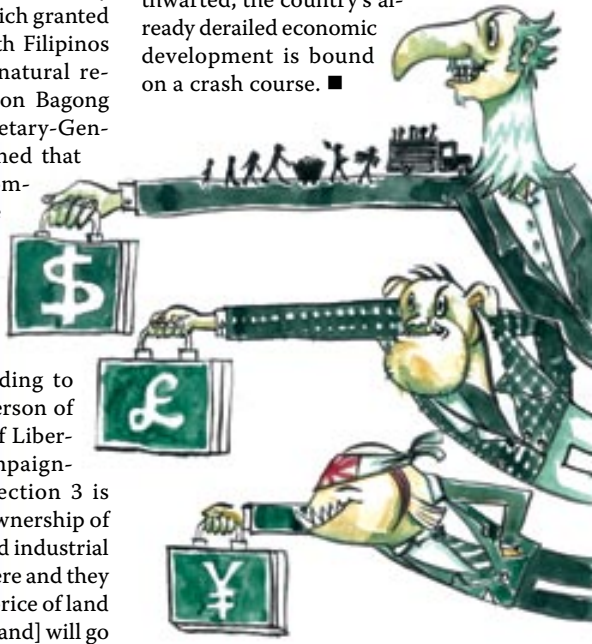
Foreigners even engage Filipinos in a cut-throat competition over the country's lands, according to Neri Colmenares, spokesperson of Counsels for the Defense of Liberties, a lawyers' group campaigning against ChaCha, as Section 3 is modified to allow foreign ownership of agricultural, commercial and industrial lands. "If foreigners come here and they can afford to buy triple the price of land existing today, the price [of land] will go

up definitely," Colmenares warned.

The removal of Section 11, meanwhile, allows 100-percent foreign ownership of public utilities such as water and electricity. Colmenares cautioned that availing such services will become tougher for the people. "Ang purpose ng mga corporations na 'yan when they come here is profit. Service is just a secondary aspect," he said. Moreover, Colmenares criticized foreign ownership of public utilities since they are social services the government supposedly provides for the people.

ChaCha proponents hail the cited constitutional amendments as the necessary measures to attract foreign investments in a crazed effort to spur economic growth. Such provisions, however, brazenly affirm foreign control of the country's economy, further configuring it to suit foreign interests. Consequently, this set-up veers away from pursuing economic reforms that prioritizes the needs of the people.

The ChaCha train promises to deliver economic reforms needed by impoverished Filipinos at full speed yet it travels on a track towards a vulnerable open economy. Unless ChaCha is thwarted, the country's already derailed economic development is bound on a crash course. ■



# Systematic Violence

FRANK LLOYD TIONGSON

ARROYO'S CHARTER CHANGE (ChaCha) is an apparent waiver for human rights. Particular revisions in the draft of her Constitutional Commission (ConCom), a consultative body headed by former UP president Jose Abueva, systematizes the use of violence in the purported "peace and stability" the ChaCha is projected to deliver.

Practically waving the go-signal for human rights abuse, the Constitutional ConCom proposed the inclusion of the phrase "responsible exercise" in Article IV Section 4 of the current constitution (see related sidebar). According to Neri Colmenares, co-convenor of lawyers' group Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (CODAL), it is a minor inclusion "that makes all the difference." If the administration manages to push the passage of the ChaCha, Colmenares claimed that the Philippines would become the only democratic country to have the said qualifier in its declaration of civil liberties. He stressed concern in allowing the administration to dictate what opinion will be deemed "responsible," stifling opposition and criticism that may arise from its unjust policies

As if forgetting the country's history of violence during the martial law era, the ConCom also calls for the deletion of Article XVIII Section 24 (*see sidebar*), allowing once more the formation of private armies. The proposed federalization of the country paves the way for the "worst kind of human rights violations," according to Colmenares, as it may once again transform the countryside into killing fields. He cited that heinous crimes such as forced disappearances and massacres wreaked during martial law were mainly perpetrated by the private armies of Marcos cronies in the countryside.

Many of the human rights safeguards provided in the current constitution were



## Change for the Worse

### Added:

**Art. IV Sec. 4.** No law shall be passed abridging the [responsible exercise of] freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the Government for redress of grievances.

**Art. VII-A Sec. 12.** The Prime Minister shall be commander-in-chief of all armed forces of the Philippines and whenever it becomes necessary, he may call out such armed forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion, [insurrection] or rebellion. In case of invasion or rebellion [or imminent danger] thereof, when the public safety requires it, he may suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus or place the Philippines or any part thereof under martial law.

### Deleted:

**Art. XVIII Sec. 24.** [Private armies and other armed groups not recognized by the duly constituted authority shall be dismantled. All paramilitary forces including the (Civilian Home Defense Forces) not consistent with the citizens armed forces established in the Constitution, shall be dissolved ...]

**SOURCES:** Notes from ChaCha 101, an Anakbayan forum on ChaCha and its implications on youth and education, and the 75<sup>th</sup> CEGP writers' convention Proposed Charter Change: Comparative Study of the Three Proposals by Neri Colmenares, CODAL

placed following the realization brought about by state violence wreaked during the martial law era. For instance, Colmenares recounted how church groups and peace advocates struggled for the inclusion of Article XVIII Section 24 in the 1987 constitution specifically to prevent crimes, such as rampant forced disappearances

and massacres, from occurring again. It is therefore ironic that the ChaCha aims to lubricate the declaration of martial law by revising particular provisions in Article VII-A of the current constitution.

In its efforts to quell opposition in the most expedient way possible, the administration has vouched for the revision of martial law provisions in the current constitution. Placing the phrase "imminent danger" in Article VII-A Section 12 poses the perennial threat of martial law. Colmenares claimed that martial law now becomes an easy measure for a government hounded by a myriad of issues to stifle any mounting dissent.

Moreover, deleted provisions in the said article even neutralizes the people from questioning and curtailing such order. Among the said provisions are the requirement for the president to submit a report to congress within 48 hours of the declaration of martial law and the power of any citizen to call on the supreme court to review the factual basis for its imposition.

The ghosts of martial law, widely considered as the most violent period in recent history, are hence evoked in the ChaCha. Allowing an administration accountable to the deaths of almost 700 journalists and activists, charged with issues of illegitimacy, and wary of an intense clamor for its demolition to draft amendments to the constitution is paving the path towards a more violent future. ■



## VIEWFINDER

She toured the public markets in the provinces wearing only a pair of jeans, a white shirt, and rubber slippers. She implored the people to call her Ate Glo. Not long before that, she angrily scolded government officials in front of TV cameras. Still, photos of her were taken as she was warmly received by the Pope in the Vatican.

The president shows the people different images, as if there were many facets to the persona she projects. But only one image bleeds through: this president is out to save her skin.

### Panoramic View

The call for Charter Change falls well under her plan to survive. ChaCha, in fact, has consistently surfaced in recent history. It is not new to the post-EDSA political system. Every administration after Corazon Aquino had forwarded its own attempts to change the constitution, in desperate attempts to extend state control over the lives of citizens. Yet whatever imagery a president projects, the discerning public can see through each of them.

The programs of every president are promoted on the basis of the images they create for themselves. To the public, a president's image becomes a measure for deciding on whether to provide support. In this way, it was important for Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to build their image on what was politically expedient.

Ramos, faced with the challenge of overcoming the negative perception regarding his military background, used his soldier stature to characterize himself as hard working. Where newspapers would show him with his sleeves rolled up, it became public knowledge that he woke up at four AM to start his work.

This persona served as the basis for ChaCha under him. Term limits were to be lifted, as he believed perpetuating his presidency would continue the gains achieved under his watch. The initiative was viewed as Ramos trying to stay in power longer. When opposition arose and portrayed this as a return to Martial Law, Ramos shelved ChaCha.

The same happened with Estrada, a well-loved action star, who was widely supported by the citizenry. His on-screen persona

was readily transplanted to his presidency. But his hero image served as a smokescreen for his earnings from brokered deals to his cronies, the mansions he built for his mistresses and his hedonistic lifestyle.

Estrada launched the Constitutional Correction for Development to perpetuate his and his cronies' hold on the economy. Barriers to foreign ownership of key industries were to be lifted. But, as allegations to Estrada's corruption grew, he too shelved the initiative.

### In Focus

Unlike her predecessors, Arroyo constantly changed her image because her presidency always found itself in a precarious situation. To assert that her presidency was firm after Estrada's ouster, Arroyo donned a serious, almost frowning face in most of her pictures. Many journalists named her Iron Lady, one who never hesitated to scold government employees in public. However, Iron Lady proved to be unpopular, especially to the protesting masses. This image was immediately replaced by Ate Glo who wore rubber slippers to public markets and Inang Bayan who wanted the people to seek refuge in her arms. However, image building

would not bridge the rift between the masses and Arroyo, who clearly represented interests differ-



## Behind the Presidents' Many Masks

RAMON MIGUEL G. ABOLA

ent from theirs.

Allegations of corruption in her administration first pointed to her husband, as he was accused of siphoning campaign funds into secret bank accounts. The controversy escalated, however, with the surfacing of audio alleging that the president had asked to rig the 2004 elections in her favor.

When calls for her ouster gathered more zeal during this Hello Garci controversy, she took effort to convey her administration as unperturbed by the allegations of fraud. Soon after, pictures of Arroyo along Baywalk were taken as she carried her granddaughter, accompanied by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo walking his dalmatian. These pictures arose after she had apologized on national television for her "lapses in judgment". She was wearing light blue to soften her distraught face. But the language of her apology was vague and unclear. She looked like she was sorry, but the apology raised more questions instead of answering them. Here it is becoming clearer that the changing imagery of Arroyo had political survival as its main goal.

Thus, when the legitimacy of her presidency was being ques-

tioned, her administration decided to embark on a strategic move to remain in power. In her 2005 SONA, she launched the ChaCha campaign. If this is to succeed, there would be no need to change images.

### Capturing the Details

Indeed, Arroyo drew much from past initiatives. The current ChaCha proposal proves that she is concerned only with extending state control to remain in power. Primarily, ChaCha projects to change the unitary-presidential system into federal-parliamentary. This change provides transition provisions that will bestow upon Arroyo executive powers as both President and Prime Minister. These are further extended by the easing of restrictions to the declaration of Martial Law and the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus. The content of the proposal is in fact very similar to the 1973 constitution that enabled Marcos to

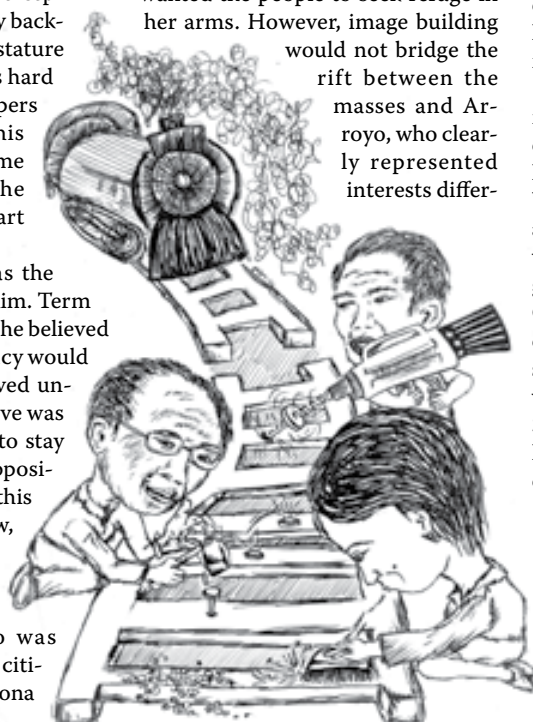
emerge as dictator.

The provisions mentioned are only among many that will impinge on the sovereignty of the people. It lingers amidst the atrocious killings of journalists, students, labor leaders and everyday citizens.

Thus, many still take to the streets their protests to her government and the ChaCha it espouses because they see through the farce. The images she projected have tried to hide her desire to usurp the power vested onto the people.

This president was perceived as the Iron Lady, Ate Glo, and the penitent politician. But instead of confusing the public, she has made the picture of who she is finer in detail. For the people, a president concerned only with survival is meant to be erased out of the picture. ■

SOURCES: Documents and interviews from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism





MARGARET P. YARCIA

# Ode to the residents of the room that never sleeps\*

TRY TO CATCH MY BREATH AS I TAKE what seemed like a hundred steps leading to the fourth floor of Vinzons Hall. Quietly, I make my way past the cigarette-smelling conference room and into the blue-walled computer room of the *Philippine Collegian* office. It's a humid Saturday morning, I have no classes, but I had to wake up early.

Four articles for this issue's thematic page are waiting for the third round of my edit marks, and unfortunately for my already imperfect vision, I must endure having to face the computer monitor for hours. Our printer (actually our news editor's) has run out of ink, and so the editing must be done on computer screens.

Before the post-summer heat could penetrate my skin, I look for the electric fan in the adjacent room, careful not to stumble upon my fellow staff who crammed themselves onto the mattresses last night. For a while, their sleeping faces caught my attention.

My colleagues are in various sleeping positions. A photographer covers her head with

a malong, while another is hugging a soiled pillow. A culture writer assumed a fetal position for the night. A news writer managed to doze off in a chair, forgetting to remove his

*I pondered over the reasons why I could stand having an eleven o' clock dinner alone, and am compelled to ask myself why we let ourselves go through this. Definitely, we're not simply masochists.*

eyeglasses. Someone is snoring, and the person beside him had shielded her ears with yet another bedbug-infested pillow. Our managing editor sleeps with his eyes half-open. Some are in less cinematic positions, possessing the relaxed expression of Dwyane Wade even when he makes huge jumpers. While my eyes sweep the room for that fan, I make a mental note to finally buy my own camera to capture what would make for an interesting exhibit. I rethink the idea, however, since they probably would not want to be photographed looking

all exhausted. And as a matter of fact, they are exhausted. They went through a hell of a night, or a week, I must say.

Friday nights are certainly not for gimmicks. I, for one, missed Fete de la Musique, the annual musical performance galore in spite of my close friend's prodding, and had to pretend that the noise coming from the keyboard of our turtle-slow computers are music to my ears. Seven PM sharp is the deadline for first drafts, and the start of countless revisions. After three, four, or even a dozen drafts with section editors, the writers have to bear at least two to three more rounds of rewriting with drooping eyelids as

the drafts pass through the scrutiny of higher editorial board members. Since the *Philippine Collegian* is a weekly paper and we aim for a Tuesday release, most writers and artists have to spend their weekends in the office, not to mention deprive themselves of what would have been several study or leisure hours of their weekdays for section meetings, general meeting on Thursday evenings, photo-ops, archival research and interviews.

Not a few times, amid the wide variety of

CONTINUED ON P.11

PHILIP ANORICO

# Para sa kaibigan at kasamahang dinukot sa Bulacan

NING MGA NAGDAANG ARAW, napansin kong tinatamaan yata ng malas ang mga pinakamalalapit na tao sa akin. Una, dalawang ka-myembro ko sa Anakbayan ang hindi nakapag-enroll ngayong pasukan. Hindi dahil sa gusto na nilang mag-full-time sa pagiging aktibista, o dahil sa tadtad sila ng 5 at INC, kundi dahil wala silang mahagilap na pambayad ng matrikula. Hindi na rin sila makapag-loan dahil hindi pa sila nakakabayad sa ni-loan noong nakaraang taon. Pangalawa, madalas nang ma-high blood ang tatay ko. Kailangan na niyang uminom ng mga mamahaling gamot, at gatas dahil sa nasa stage 1 na siya ng osteoporosis. Panghuli, at ang bagay na ito ang ikinabalisa ko nang husto, dinukot ng mga sundalo ang kaibigan at kasamahang ko.

Habang nagkaklase at pinag-uusapan namin ang Identity and Consciousness ni Renato Constantino, nakatanggap ako ng isang pinilas na papel. Nang buklatin ko ang liham, nagulantang ako sa nabasa ko: Nadukot ng militar si Karen.

Si Karen Empeño ay dating myembro ng LFS dito sa UP. Sa pagkakatanda ko, estudyante siya ng Sociology. Naging kabahay ko siya sa maliit na apartment sa Tandang Sora kasama ang iba

pang mga tibak. Sa una, hindi ko siya masyadong pinapansin. Masyado kasing maraming tibak sa UP, kaya hindi lahat ay nagiging ka-close ko. Ngunit dahil sa dami ng naging problema namin sa inuupahang bahay—bumabaha sa konting ulan, madalas maputulan ng tubig at kuryente, bukod pa sa mahirap bayaran dahil pinagkakasya namin ang pera para sa mga kasambahay na "full time"—ay naging malapit ko siyang kaibigan.

Bago siya umalis sa UP, umiyak siya sa amin dahil sa mabigat niyang problema. Hindi pa siya makakagradwey sa taong iyon dahil hindi pa niya natatapos ang kanyang thesis. Hindi niya alam kung paano ito ipaliliwanag sa kanyang mga magulang, lalu na't inaasahan pa naman nila ang pag-martsa niya sa graduation. Pero ibang martsa ang pinagkakaabalahan niya noon. Mga martsa/rali sa Mendiola, Kongreso, at Quezon Hall.

Hanggang sa na-disband kaming magkakasambahay. Baon na kami sa utang. Nagpasya na lang kaming maghiwa-hiwalay. Minsanan na lang kaming nagkikita ni Karen.

Nagtungo siya sa Hagunoy, Bulacan. Naging miyembro siya roon ng Anakbayan, nag-oorganisa at nagbibigay ng mga propaganda edukasyon.

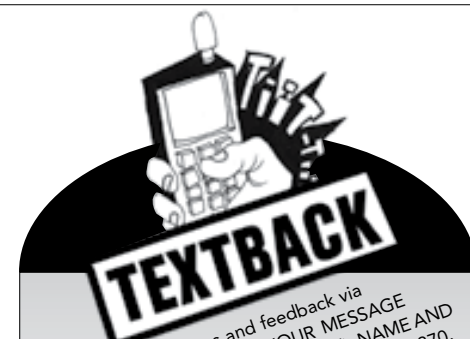
Hindi ko maiwasang mag-usisa tungkol sa kanyang pagkawala. Tanong ako nang tanong tungkol sa mga pangyayari. Hanggang sa natanggap ko ang mga detalye. "May 20 lalaking naka-itim na bonet ang dumukot sa kanila, kasama si Sherlyn na ka-buddy niya. Mayroon silang mahahabang baril. Pinahubad kay Karen yung t-shirt niya at ipinampering sa mga mata niya. Isinakay sila sa dyip, at walang makapagsabi ng tiyak na lugar kung saan sila dinala."

Hindi ko maiwasang magalit. Hindi ko inaasahang ang malapit kong kaibigan, ka-chikahan, at comrade ay malalagay sa statement ng Anakbayan na may pamagat na "Palayain si Karen Empeño!" Bilib ako sa kanya, sa lahat ng sakripisyo niya para sa mga sinumpaang

*Magsusumbong kami sa mga schoolmates mo sa UP, sa orgamates, kaklase, at mga guro. Sa mga manininda at komyuniti. Magsusumbong din kami sa mga pader sa kalsada, at sa mga plakard.*

naming mga layunin sa organisasyon. Ang totoo, nahihya ako sa kanya dahil sa bigat ng mga tinalikuran niya alang-alang sa bayan, na nahihirapan akong gawin. Marahil, wala nga siyang matataas na grade, pero sigurado akong mayroon siyang edukadong puso.

Alam kong ang nangyari kay Karen ay bahagi ng Oplan-Bantay Laya at counter-insurgency measures ng gobyerno. Maging ang mga ligal na organisasyon ay tinatamaan nito, gaya ng Anakbayan. Sa katunayan, nakakabahala ang 700 unresolved killings sa mga militante at journalist sa ilalim ng panunungkulan ni GMA. Sa ating bansa, ilusyon na nga lang yata talaga



Send your opinions and feedback via SMS! Type: KULE <space> YOUR MESSAGE <space> STUDENT NUMBER (required), NAME AND COURSE (optional) and send them to 0927.723.5370. Non-UP students must indicate any school, organizational, or sectoral affiliation. WARNING: We don't entertain textmates.

**Next Week's Questions**

1. Ano ang masasabi mo sa pagdukot sa 3 estudyante ng UP sa Gitnang Luzon?
2. Masaya ka ba sa pagkapanalo ni Manny Pacquiao? Bakit o bakit hindi?

## Notice

Due to financial difficulties, printed copies of Issues 3 and 4 of the *Collegian* were not released on time. Rest assured that we are taking all possible measures to prevent such delays. If such shall occur again, Portable Document Format (.pdf) versions of issues may be downloaded at <http://kule0607.deviantart.com>, as proof that the particular issue has already been finalized.

ang hustisya. Kung iisipin, ang AFP ay sangkot sa mga ligal na pagdakip, pantorturyur, pamamaslang, hamletting, panunug ng mga bahay, atbp. Ang mga pulis sa rali, nilalabang ang Article 4 ng constitution, maging ang B.P. 880. Kung minsan, kailangan talagang kilalanin kung sino ang kakampi at kaaway. Pero hanggang ganyan lang naman ang kaya nilang gawin. Yung prinsipyo at paninindigan na nagbibigkis sa mga kumikilos, hindi nila maaaring pakialaman.

Para kay Karen, kung nasa'n ka man, tatagan mo sana ang loob mo. Hindi ako sigurado kung magkikita pa tayo. Kunsabagay, sanay naman tayo sa kasabihang "walang sigurado sa mundo." Huwag kang mag-alala dahil isusumbong namin ang pagdukot na nangyari sa inyo. Hindi sa pulis, hindi sa AFP, at hindi sa

DOJ. Magsusumbong kami sa mga schoolmates mo sa UP, sa orgmates, kaklase, at mga guro. Sa mga manininda at komyuniti. Magsusumbong din kami sa mga pader sa kalsada, at sa mga plakard.

Ngayong mga susunod na araw, pag-uusapan at pag-iisipan ang bagay na ito, at aalingawngaw ang mga sigawang "Palayain si Karen Empeño!" ■

*Ang may-akda ay estudyanteng kontributor mula sa Kolehiyo ng Arte at Literatura at kasapi ng Anakbayan.*





### Solidaridad acquaintance party

The Solidaridad alliance invites all member and non-member student publications and writers' organizations to its acquaintance party on July 14, 5:30pm, at Vinzons Hall 4th floor activity center, with the theme "Celebrating the struggle for campus press freedom." We will also have an election for the Solidaridad-UP Diliman executive council. Snacks will be served, but your contributions are still welcome. For more information, contact Meg (09283442314) or Floyd (09154509846).

### Anti-Gloria rockumentary

The UPLB College of Arts and Sciences Student Council and UPLB ZOOM OUT bring you the premiere of Southern Tagalog Exposure's "rockumentary" of the ARREST Gloria concert held at the UPLB Freedom Park last November 30. It premieres on July 12, 7 pm at the NCAS Gallery, UPLB. Running time: 1 hr 15 mins. The documentary features the unique production process, performances and behind-the-scene interviews with participating artists (Agaw Agimat, The Brockas, Anino Shadowplay Collective, The Wuds, Radioactive Sago Project, Cynthia Alexander, Dongabay, Traumaligno, Blazing Bulalakaws, Pen Medina, Soliman Cruz, ARTIST Inc, and many more).

### Salita ng Taon

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Filipinas Institute of Translation (FIT) sponsor Sawikaan 2006: Pambansang Kumperensiya sa Salita ng Taon which will be held on August 3-4 at the College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman. The conference, with the theme "The Filipino National Language and Philippine Education," has two parts: 1. A discussion on the development of Filipino language in contemporary Philippine education. 2. The search for the Salita ng Taon. Scholars, linguists, students, teachers, and language enthusiasts are encouraged to submit 2-5 paged papers that argue why particular words/phrases deserve to be called as "Salita ng Taon." Finalist entries will be presented in the conference. Entries must be new words, i.e. not found in the dictionary. Deadline of entries on July 15. For details, contact Ms. Eilene Narvaez (0920914472) or Mr. Romulo P. Baquiran, Jr. (92448990) Or visit [www.sawikaan.net](http://www.sawikaan.net) or email [filipinas.translation@gmail.com](mailto:translation@gmail.com).

### Mula sa USC Culture and Arts Committee

#1 Mga future designers! Ilulunsad na sa darating na linggo ang UP Shirt Design Making Contest ng USC. Ito na ang pagkakataong maging reality ang dream UP shirt mo! May premyo sa mananalò, at sa lahat ng mga Isko, siyempre quality UP shirt sa murang halaga para sa darating na UAAP games.

#2 Mga magaling ang kamay! Naghahanap ngayon ang USC Culture and Arts Committee ng magagaling ang kamay na kumutkot at gumawa ng wonders, kundi man, magandang boses, magaslaw na katawan o basta mabait. Kung gusto mong sumama sa action, o naghahanap ka ng gagawing may kabuluhan, at naipanganak ka namang may talent—o kahit puso lang—welcome ka dito! Mag-email sa [halicana@yahoo.com](mailto:halicana@yahoo.com), o mag-text sa 09209617600.

### UP Sigma Delta Phi activities

UP students, freshies to seniors, are in for a treat, as UP Sigma Delta Phi Sorority holds a series of fun-filled activities, generously coupled with freebies. The activities per day are: July 10 – Free Ikot Rides, July 11 – Free ice cream, freebies, music station, food booths (AS Parking Lot), July 13 – free movies, popcorn, coffee and lounging, July 14 – Free barkada snapshot, drinks, music stations (AS Parking Lot). Join UP Sigma Delta Phi in ushering in the semester! See posters and flyers for details.

### Shadows of Reef

The Office of Initiatives for Culture and the Arts, PAGCOR, and Ecer Bilena presents Shadows of Reef, a theater play written and directed by Dr. Anton Juan featuring a multi-racial cast. The play depicts the lives of the inhabitants of fishing villages, and how the "muro-ami" style of fishing, and killing, affects them. Presentation runs from July 12-30 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero theatre, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman. For inquiries, contact Dulaang UP (9261349), or William Manano (09185800137).

### Kumperensya ng mga Mag-aaral sa Kasaysayan

Inihahandog ng UP Lipunang Pangkasaysayan ang ika-16 na Pambansang Kumperensya ng mga Mag-aaral sa Kasaysayan na pinamagatang AMBITAN: Hugpungan ng Kasaysayan at ng Iba't ibang Disiplina sa Agham Panlipunan. Ito ay gaganapin sa Agosto 30-31, 2006, Miyerkules at Huwebes, sa NISMED Auditorium, UP Diliman. Para sa mga katanungan at/o reserbasyon, makipag-ugnayan kay Bb. Kat Manalo (09279398534).

### Tanggulan-UP Diliman

Inaanyayahan lahat ng organisasyon at indibidwal na maging kasapi ng Tanggulan-UP Diliman, ang alyansa ng mga kabataan na nagtatanggol sa mga karapatang pantao at tumutuligsa sa politikal na panunupil sa loob at labas ng campus. Kasalukuyang convenors ng Tanggulan-UP Diliman ang University Student Council, Student Christian Movement, at Philippine Collegian. Makipag-ugnayan lamang kay Tin (09273875575), o mag-email sa [go.wendell@gmail.com](mailto:go.wendell@gmail.com). Magkakaroon din ng pagtitipon ang alyansa sa Hulyo 14, 5:30pm, sa USC office, kung saan tatalakayin ang oryentasyon ng Tanggulan.



## Call for the immediate release of abducted UP students

*"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, and property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws."*

*-Article III, Section 1, 1987 Constitution of the Philippines*

*"No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances."*

*-Article III, Section 4, 1987 Constitution of the Philippines*

Such is enshrined in our Bill of Rights. It is the very foundation of all our other civil liberties and the constitutional sentinel to our democratic way of life. In the simplest sense, it means that every Filipino citizen, within the bounds of our legal system, may act without fear of repression, oppression, or forceful abduction. Political affiliation, religious classification, and passionate criticism of government are never justifications to trample upon these rights, even in a so called "state of national emergency." Due process, reasonable cause, reasonable searches and seizures, and warrants of arrest are all statutory requisites upholding these constitutional safeguards, and are absolutely necessary to prevent any form of government incursion into the private sphere.

Unfortunately, Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan, last June 26, 2006, were not afforded any legal protection from a military that has been notoriously overstepping legal boundaries to suppress any dissent against the incumbent government. Both were members of the UP community. Both were abducted in Bulacan, while performing volunteer work for the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Bulacan. The perpetrators of the crime were identified as members of the Military under "the butcher," Jovito Palparan. Until this very day, their whereabouts are unknown.

Their abduction is the latest incident in a string of brutal politically repressive actions by the Arroyo government. Such underhanded tactics to eliminate opposition has been the modus operandi of leaders who have illegally held on to power, dating back to the days of Martial Law. Arroyo and her military hatchet men hope to intimidate the growing mass of patriots who continue to fight with their lives, to uphold the sanctity of the law and to protect the Filipino democratic way of life. Karen and Sherlyn, as

vocal and visible student leaders, have become an easy target for these thugs to continue their repressive actions.

The University Student Council of U.P. Diliman continues to stand behind the thousands of Filipino students calling for Arroyo's resignation, unthreatened and unwavering in the midst of such clandestine actions.

We demand the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Arroyo Government, to release Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan from such illegal detention and to

## Write to us!

**SEND YOUR STUFF** via snail mail or submit a diskette copy to Rm. 401, Vinzons Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. **EMAIL US** [kule0607@gmail.com](mailto:kule0607@gmail.com). Format all MSWord attachments with .rtf extension, with INBOX, NEWSKAN or CONTRIB in the subject. **FAX US** 9818500 local 4522. Always include your full name, address and contact details.

**Inbox** We welcome questions, constructive criticism, opinions, stands on relevant issues, and other reactions. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. Due to space constraints, letters should preferably have only 400 words or less.

**Newskan** Get free publicity! Send us your press releases, invitations, etc. **DON'T TYPE** IN ALL CAPS and go easy on... the punctuation! Complete sentences only. Dnt use txt language pls. Please provide a short title. Be concise, 100 words maximum.

**Contributions** We are open for contributed articles from student writers, subject to the approval of the Editorial Board. All submitted articles should have a maximum length of 900 words.

honor their right to life, liberty, and property. Any form of abuse, torture, and inhumane actions inflicted on her will only fan the flames of an enraged people and further strengthen the call for Arroyo's resignation. Such is the order of inevitability. You're days are surely numbered.

Release Karen and Sherlyn! Justice for the Victims of Human Rights Violations! Defend our Civil Liberties! Join the July 7 Mobilization!

**UP Diliman University Student Council**

## Hinaing at panawagan ng isang kadete

Ako po ay di katulad ng karamihan ng kadete dito sa PMA na walang pakialam o pilit na sinasarado ang pananaw sa katotohanan. Ang aking kama-layan sa di pantay na sistema dito sa ating bayan ay bukas at lumalawig pa. Ako po ay nakikiisa sa inyong mga mithiin para sa isang maunlad na Lipunang Pilipino at Tunay na Demokrasya. Ang aking kaalaman sa tunay na Patriotismong Pilipino ay utang ko po sa aking dating paaralang pangkolehiyo, ang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas sa Los Banos, at sa mga pangangaral ng aking tiyuhing si

Ka Noel "Noli" Capulong Sr.

Ang akin pong tiyuhin, na deputy regional coordinator ng BAYAN sa ST, ay walang pakundangang pinagbabaril ng mga aso ni GMA sa militar/police.

Ako po ay pabalik na sa PMA sa makalawa at nabahala sa lumabas na balita patungkol sa gusto ni GMA na "total annihilation" sa mga miyembro ng CPP-NPA-NDF at mga leftist groups. Ang kanyang kagustuhan na iyon ay isang patunay na wala siyang pakialam sa mga Pilipinong dapat pinaglilingkuran niya ng tapat. Buti pa ang mga Amerikano na nang-gahasa ng isang Filipina, di man lamang niya pinagsalitaan ng masama, pinoprotektahan pa nila ng pag-"teteknikal" sa batas natin at tila itinuturing pa ang panggagahasa na ito bilang isang "friendly fire". Ito ay isa nang Acts of Aggression laban sa ating lahi at dignidad. Pero ang mga Kasamang Pilipino, na kababayan nya, na ang nais lamang ay pagbabago sa sistemang bulok ng gobyerno at lipunan, ay gusto niyang ipapatay at ubusin.

Sa kanyang pagdadagdag ng isang Bilyon sa pondong pampatay ng mga Kasamang Pilipino, siya ay lalong matatalo sa kanyang mga pansariling adhikain sa buhay. Sa kada isang mamamatay na Kasama ay lalong madadagdagan ang samahan.

Ako ay naniniwala na si Gloria na ang pinakabaliw at walang hiya sa mga naging pinuno ng bayang ito.

**Ronald L. Cardema**  
Calamba City, Laguna

(Mula sa ipinadalang liham sa Southern Tagalog Exposure)

UPD... FROM P.5

June 29 Counsels for the Defense of Liberties (CODAL) organizer Attorney Neri Colmenares refuted the ChaCha proposals' claims of positive reform, saying the proposals are Arroyo's schemes to extend her term.

There are three major groups pushing for ChaCha, all of which are backed by the Palace: the Consultative Commission headed by former UP President Jose Abueva, the Lower House Committee on Constitutional Amendments led by Cagayan de Oro Representative Constantino Jaraula, and Sigaw ng Bayan's People's Initiative.

Arroyo has encouraged lawmakers to revise the Constitution in her State of the Nation Address last year, saying this will be the key to a more stable form of government. By next month, she intends the proposal for Charter Change to be approved. ■



SIPAT

Mag-ama  
PAOLO GONZALES

Hindi raw emosyonal ang mga lalake. Pero sa mag-amang ito na nakita ko sa isang mobilisasyon ng komunidad ng UP laban sa demolisyon, makikita naman ang nararamdaman nila. Sabagay, sino nga ba naman ang ating ipaglalaban, kundi ang pinakamamahal natin sa buhay?

## Selling...

FROM P.4

catering expenses amounting to P1.9 million for UP activities like the Christmas Party and the Lantern Parade were all contracted with private suppliers.

## Silver platter

UP Los Banos (UPLB) UFS was not as lucky, as the BOR, voting six against three on March 31, decided to completely abolish the campus' UFS. As Student Regent Raffy Jones Sanchez revealed, the UPLB administration had already completed plans of letting in private businesses even before the abolition.

The UPLB administration held a forum with private concessionaires as early as February, Abad revealed, where plans of turning the UFS area into a "hub for busines, food, recreation, amusement and other services" were presented.

To date, the list of qualified concessionaires to take over the UPLB UFS area includes 26 food businesses and 9 non-food establishments. Two commercial stalls have already started their business.

"The closure of the UPLB UFS is part of the privatization process," Abad disclosed, quoting the exact words from the minutes of a 1989 BOR meeting when plans of abolishing the UFS in UP units were first bared.

The UPLB University Student Council also revealed that while the council is requesting to peg the student meal price at P30, operating commercial stalls are proposing to raise it by P5.

Abad added that what is supposed to be the university's, and therefore the government's, obligation of food services for students is now being passed on to private sectors, which puts premium on profit rather than service. ■

## Ode...

FROM P.9

presswork music we listen to (Eraserheads, Maksim, Coldplay, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Jeff Buckley, Damien Rice, Bob Marley and even Baroque classics) someone would sigh for not being able to go home – early or not at all, take a bath and put on fresh underwear (no, this has not happened to me), or celebrate her mother's birthday. Last night, I went home late too, and my siblings are probably in the third state of sleep already. Over a glass of milk, I pondered over the reasons why I could stand having an eleven

o' clock dinner alone, and am compelled to ask myself why we let ourselves go through this. Definitely, we're not simply masochists.

I could think of many answers, but I'm afraid the best one will sound so clichéd. One would only have to flip the pages of this paper and see. Anyhow, tonight, I will go home late again, for the same reason. ■

\*To the beauty experts, smoke-belchers, closet gays and lesbians, rock star wannabes, energetic angels, and Rodic's delivery addicts of this tower.

Apreydpul  
(Paherapan sa  
pagbabasa)  
edesyun

Kamosta naman kayu mga Kole pans sa sanlebutan! Iksayted ang byoti ku ditu sa bwina manu kung eksinang peyops des yir, nagen-geneg ang mga bormik ku. Apreydpul nu? Parang yong mga kelling na ginagawa ne Gluring. Nakakapanen-dig-balahebu sa kelikeli ku. Wawa naman ang mga sowl ng kanelang byotipul badis. Wesh ku nga de sela mag-molitu, dahil andame pa reng kakalarka na nagaganap sa palegid. Kahet detu sa owpis naman, andame na nameng naksperyins na baladz. May mga nagmomolitu. Mga molting pakla ng lang.

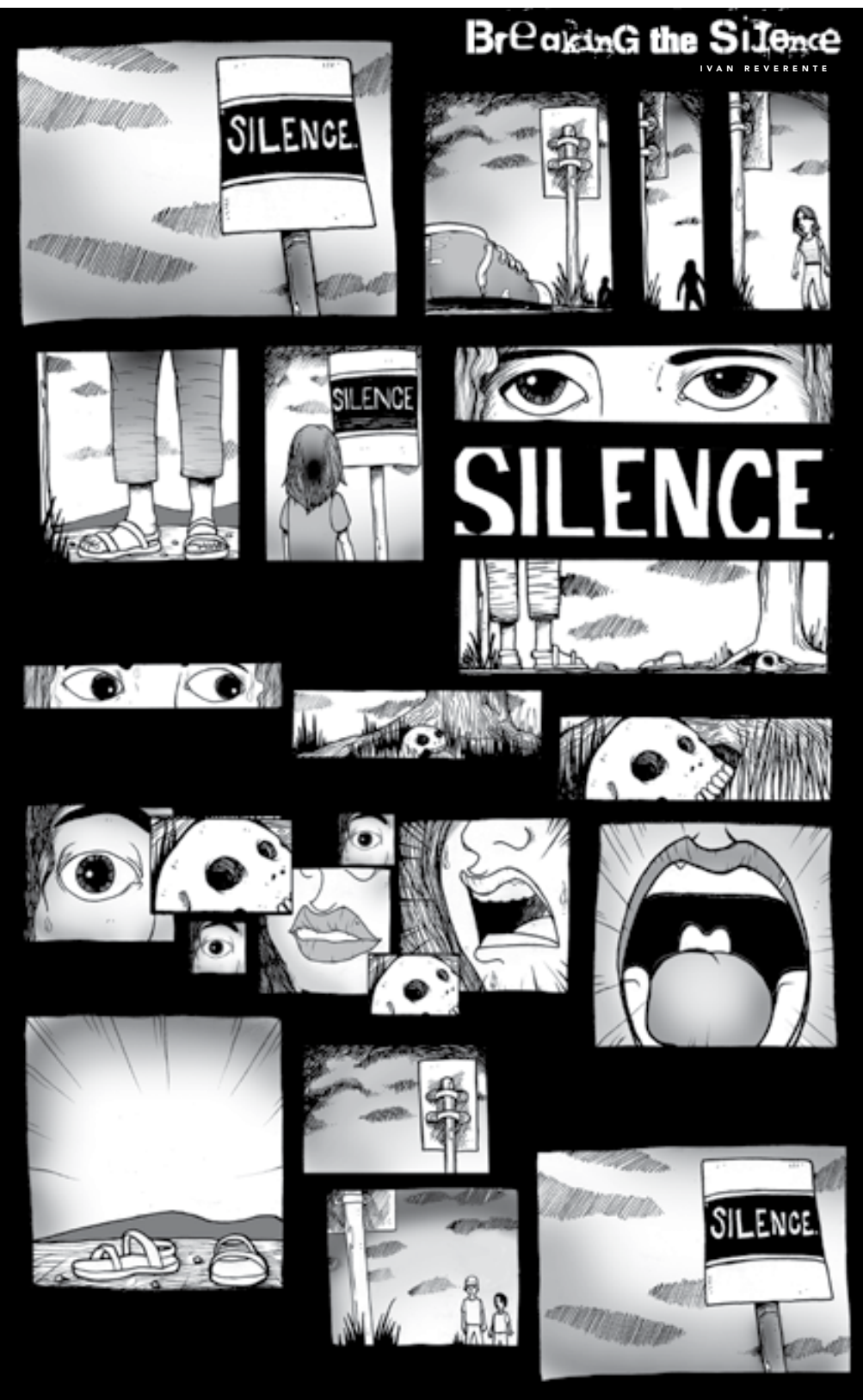
Ito kasing si purmer iditor in shet, tigbak na nga ang karer ditu sa owpis, owber pa rin sa pagpaparamdang ng preysens nya samihni! Pagdapu pa lang ng bagong mga tega-Kole detu sa owpes, binolega na kame ng sandamok na rimembrances ni purmer iditor and kompani. Iwan kung sinadya nelang mag-iwan ng mga kalolowa nila ditu, kahet wala naman sila non. Nasa tap lest namin: malakang tarpuleyn, ng peyboit nilang priat – ang HupslupisigmanPratatat, mga tambak na isytem na kolay gren at yellow tolad ng utong at uhog nila na bomaha sa mga byoti natin nung kawasil eleksyuns nong Marts; mga padol, ung parang mga bisbol bat na sanay silang ipampalu sa heta o i-hemashemas at isokok sa puwit, at mga lehem na dokumentung ambot sa kanela kung nagmomolitu ba sa kunsyensa nela. Iksampol ng dokumentu, naesolat nong dyanwari nang tomakbong listodint Reyjint si iditor in shet, ay esang solat sa isang opesyal na mataas ang teti. Nanghehengi ng sopurta para ipanalul si iditor in shet. Sa katabeng papil netu, may nota: Ples aska suport ob awr kabaros sa Pratatat para mageng Reyjint ang byoti ni iditor in shet. Uw deva, anlalakas ng enpluwens ng mga tenggil nilal Wil, boti na lang molto na lang yun ng past dahil bigo si iditor na magtranspurn into a Riyjint.

Sana nga hendi na aktebi luking por anadir karir sina iditor and kompani. Kahet nalagay na nela yung logu ng Pratatat nela sa leterari polio kuno nela, na may kasama pang pektur ni koltyur eyditur sa plap ng libro na nakapuwang na parang reyna ng mga engkantung baklat. Dyosku, pag nakaketa kayo ng leterari polio kuno na eto ipakaen nyo sa betlug ng aso nyo.

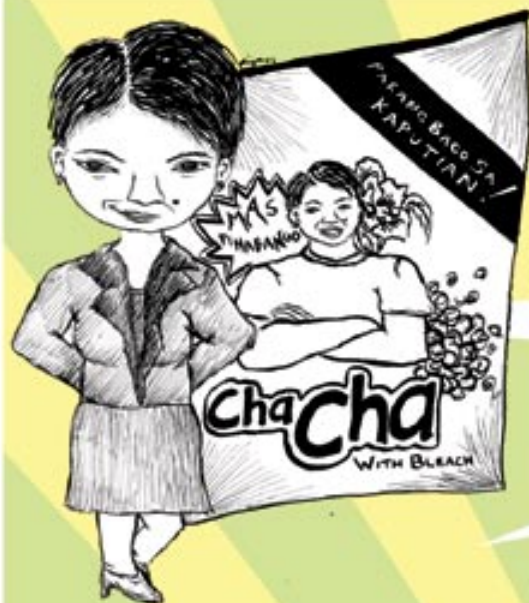
Piru en peymes, may natatera pang fans ang mga hitad na molting itu. Esang gabi, habang hagdaryet byotipul na nagwowurk ang mga tau dito sa owpis, domateng ang isa nelang kasamahan mola sa kanelang ded past, at napakainosent ni lalakih na nagtanung: Nanditu pu ba sina iditor in shet, koltyur end aders in shet? Hal Pag may nagtanung pa oli nyan samen, sena baselyo at crespin ang iharap naman senyul.

U siya mga amega, ditu na lang mona ang byoti ku. Play-eng kess nalang mola sa ngalangala ku: Nguwrahh! ■

BRANDO PORMIENDYU







# Gan(b)lage Sale

## Mga Gimik ni Gloria sa Pagbebenta ng ChaCha



**S**tep-by-step advertising. Bumuo ng problema. Kumplikahin. I-brainstorm. Humanap ng solusyon. Hubugin ito upang maging isang produktong pagkakaguluhan at magiging pangangailangan. Ganito ang pitching ni Gloria sa kasalukuyan, at ang brandname: ChaCha.

Sa produktong ito, si Gloria ang tinderang mas makikinabang kaysa sa mga mamimili. Sa isang gasgas na patalastas, si GMA ang nalalaos nang endorser—nang-uuto gamit ang pekeng ngiti at mga mapaglarong salita. At sa likod ng mapanlinlang na pabalat nito'y nakatago ang tunay na pinsalang bubulaga sa taumbayan.

### Conceptualization

Mula sa nilikhang pangan-gailangan, iluluwal ang produk-tong magiging solusyon. Sangkot sa kawing-kawing na kontrober-sya, malaking problema ni Gloria ang pagpapataksik sa kanya. Sa kris-sis-pampulitika, sinisisi ni Gloria ang kasalukuyang Saligang Batas bilang hindi na umano epektibo sa pangangailangan ng panahon at kinakailangang nang baguhin para sa ika-uunlad ng bansa. Dahil dito, isinusog niya ang ChaCha na magpapalit ng sistema ng pama-halaan mula presidensyal tungong parliyamentaryo-federal.

Todo pagpapabango si Gloria sa produktong ito bago ibenta. Mas maganda umano ang bagong sistema upang maiwasan ang korupsiyon at pang-aabuso sa kapangyarihan. Bukod dito, mas mabibigyang-pansin umano ang lahat ng rehiyon ng bansa na makatutulong sa pag-unlad ng buong Pilipinas. Sa unicameral na sistema, mas mapapabilis din daw ang pagpapasa ng mga batas.

Magkakaroon din ng sapat na ka-pangyarihan ang pangulo sa usaping pang-ekonomiya.

Sakaling matuloy ang ChaCha, magdiriwang ang Kongreso dahil tiket nila ito upang manatili sa pwesto. Para silang mga artistang endorser na handang ibigay ang kanilang patotoo sa produkto. Ang Senado at Mababang Kapulungan ay parehong tatanggalin upang palitan ng isang unicameral assembly. Kung magkagayon, ang mga mailalagay sa asembliya ay ang mga kinatawan ng iba't ibang distrito sa bansa, at mananatili sa kanilang posisyon ang mga kongresista.

### Promo Sampling

Tila sangkap ng isang produkto ang kahalagahan ng mga sponsors nito. At ang ChaCha ni Gloria ay kumpleto sa rekados ng dayuhang suporta. Kontrobersya noong na-karaang taon ang naisiwalat na sabwatan ng administrasyong Ar-royo at Venable LLP, isang law firm sa Estados Unidos. Ang pagsawsaw ng grupong ito sa pagpapalano ng mga istrategiya sa pamamalakad ng gobyerno at pagbuo ng ChaCha ay di konstitusyonal. Gayunpaman, nananatiling tahimik ang rebyu at imbestigasyon sa kasong ito.

Dagdag pang sangkap ang suporta kuno ng mamamayan sa ChaCha ni Gloria. Nariyan din ang koalisyong Sigaw ng Bayan na nananawagang ihayag ng taumbayan ang kanilang suporta sa pamamagitan ng pag-

pirma sa People's Initiative (PI). Sa isang gusali sa Quezon Avenue, daig pa ng isang takaw-atensyong banner ang mga katabi nitong billboards. Sa malalaking mga letrang kakulay ng bandila ng Pilipinas, nakasulat ang "Sigaw ng Bayan: Pagbabago ng Saligang Batas, Ngayon na."

Pag-click sa website ng Koalisyon, tatambad ang larawan ng matan-dang lalaking nakataas-kamao at ng mag-inang waring nananawagan gamit ang isang kartong kinorteng megaphone. Sa pagitan ng dalawang larawan: 'Sigaw ng Bayan, Filipinos Cry for Change.' Matatagpuan dito ang mga updates sa PI, mga online version ng petisyon, at mga primer ng ChaCha. Ang hits ng website na ito ay halos dalawang milyon na, ngunit sinasabi ng mga tutol sa ChaCha na dinuktor lamang ito.

Napabalitang may mga ChaCha primer din na ipinapakalat mula sa Sigaw ng Bayan at Union of Local Au-thorities of the Philippines (ULAP). Ang pag-iimprenta ng 80,000 kopya

ng primer na ito ay kinasangkutan ng National Printing Office (NPO). Pinaimbestigahan ito ng oposisyon dahil sa maling paglalaan ng pondo ng NPO sa mga proyektong di naman talaga panggobyerno.

Dagdag pa sa mga ipinapamud-mod na primers, nagsanib mula noong Marso ang Sigaw ng Bayan, ULAP at Charter Change Advocacy Commission sa tila door-to-door special offer na pangangalap ng mga lagda. Sa ilang barangay, tinitipon ng lokal na pamahalaan ang mga resi-dente upang kunwa'y magtalakay ng mga isyung pangkabuhayan. Ngunit ang lumalabas na katotohanan ay binibili lamang ng mga opisyal ang lagda ng mga mamamayan.

### Final Product

Parang direct-selling, bukod sa pagbebenta, desperado na ang ad-ministrasyon sa pagbili nito sa mga tao upang tangkilikin ang inilalakong ChaCha. Sa ulat ng Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) noong Marso, P200 ang inaalok na kapalit ng bawat lagda sa lungsod ng Valenzuela. Sa isang panayam naman sa mga mang-ingisda ng Pundakit, Zambales, ikinuwento nilang pinapirma sila sa isang papel nang dum-alo sa isang pulong. Sa mga sumunod na araw, ikinagulat na lang nila nang lumabas sa telebisyon na tagasuporta umano sila ng ChaCha.

Nasaksihan na ng mga tao ang mga pakulong tulad nito, minsan na itong bumenta. Sa ka-tunayan, nakababaha-la ang pagsalamin ng ganitong mga pakulo ni Gloria sa despera-dong pagtatangka ng

dating pangulong Marcos upang ilako rin noon ang sarili niyang ChaCha. Noong panahon ni Marcos, ipinapataas naman ang kamay ng mga mamamayang gusto ng bigas at saka kinukunan ng litrato. Ngunit ang dagat ng mga nakataas na kamay ay inimprenta sa pa-hayagan at isinasaad bilang mga taong pabor kuno sa pag-amyenda ng Saligang Batas.

Kapwa batbat ng kritisismo, ang parehong termino'y kinailangang magmungkahi ng ChaCha upang mailigtas ang sarili. Kung pagpa-panatili sa pwesto ang handog ni GMA sa Kongreso kapalit ng suporta nito, posisyon naman sa National Assembly ang pin-ang-akit ni Marcos. Parehong mayroong transition period ang charter nina Marcos at GMA kung saan bilang pangulo at prime min-ister, taglay nila ang pinaghalong kapangyarihan ng mga ehekutibo at lehislatibo. Kung susuriin, mga taga-suporta rin ng 1973 Charter ni Marcos ang bumubuo sa Con-sultative Commission ni GMA—kabilang dito sina House Speaker Jose de Venecia at ConCom chair Jose Abueva.

Sa kasalukuyang kalagayan ng ChaCha ni Gloria, malinaw na ang isang produkto ay di basta-bastang maidadaan sa anumang pakulo. Wala nang magagawa ang paglitaw ng nunal at pekeng ngiti ni Gloria sa telebisyon at iba pang media. Wala nang tatangkik sa mga bulok niyang gimik. ■



**Parang direct-selling, bukod sa pagbebenta, desperado na ang administrasyon sa pagbili nito sa mga tao upang tangkilikin ang inilalakong ChaCha.**