

PIPOL MAGAZINE

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PIPOL MAGAZINE

STAFF BOX

- Michael Charleston "Xiao" Chua
- Henderson Gercio
- Bryan Clark Hernandez
- Emmalyn Sagum
- Prof. Melanie M. Leaño (Adviser)

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME:

COMM 3 ISKOS

INTERVIEW CORY

DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY (Ruthers)—Four students of Communication 3 (IFY2) under Prof. Melanie Moraga Leaño interviewed Her Excellency Corazon "Cory" Aquino at her offices at 7F Jose Cojuangco and Sons Bldg., Dela Rosa St., Makati City last 12 March.

The students who interviewed the former president were Michael Charleston "Xiao" B. Chua, Henderson Gercio, Bryan Clark B. Hernandez & Emmalyn C. Sagum. All of them students of the University Of The Philippines, Diliman.

According to Chua, the former president was her dream interview so during the initial days of February, he wrote the former president requesting for an appointment. Weeks passed and no reply was received.

On the night of 3 March, Chua received a text from the personal assistant to the former president, Mrs. Margie Juico, asking him to inquire to her for the interview. So the next day, 4 March, he called Mrs. Juico and was scheduled to meet the former president at her offices the next day at 3:00 pm. And so Chua hastily prepared his group mates about their sudden appointment. He also worked immediately in making the interview plan.

The next morning, Mrs. Juico called and apologetically cancelled the appointment because the former president have to attend a function in the afternoon. They agreed though to pursue the interview the next Wednesday, in an earlier time: 11:00 AM. Sagum, with the videocam, tripod and camera, was already leaving her house in Bulacan when she received the message that the interview was cancelled.

The cancellation worked to the advantage of the group as it gave them more room for preparation.



The day came to interview Cory Aquino—12 March, a Wednesday. They agreed to meet at 9:30 AM at Ayala Station and ate together at McDonald's Glorietta. At minutes before 11:00 AM, the appointed time, they were led to a yellow receiving room at the 7th floor of J. Cojuangco Bldg., where they would be received by the former president.

The former president attended to them for about an hour. She talked about many things, which include her everyday routine, her paintings, her love life, Ninoy, and thoughts about her role in history (See pp. 6-16). She also granted the students photo opportunity and autograph signing, and gave them desk calendars of her paintings and portions of her Reader's Digest interview. In return, the students gave her a mug bearing a golden seal of the University of the Philippines.

Chua said of the former president, "She was very gracious to have entertained us. A very pleasant person."

To Gercio, "I found her to be an adept communicator."

According to Sagum, "We joked and laughed with her as if we had known her for long." (See pp. 17)

PROFILE: CORY AQUINO

Name: Corazon Sumulong Cojuanco Aquino

Birth: January 25, 1933, Tarlac.

Parents: Jose Cojuangco and Demetria Sumulong Cojuangco

Schools Attended: St. Scholastica's College, Manila; Assumption Convent; Ravenhill Academy, Philadelphia; Notre Dame Convent School, New York; College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York; and Far Eastern University in the Philippines.

Educational Attainment: Bachelor of Arts, major in French and Mathematics, Mount Saint Vincent College.



Honorary Degrees: Doctor of Humane Letters, College of Mount Saint Vincent (NY), Ateneo de Manila University and Xavier University (Philippines); Doctor of Laws from University of the Philippines; Honoris Causa, Boston University, Fordham University, Waseda University (Tokyo), Eastern University and University of Santo Tomas (Manila); Doctor of Humanities, Stonehill College in Massachusetts.

Marriage: Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., October 11, 1954, Our lady Of Sorrows, Pasay City.

Children: Maria Elena (Ballsy), Aurora Corazon (Pinky), Benigno III (Noynoy), Victoria Elisa (Viel) and Kristina Bernadette (Kris).

THE LADY IN YELLOW

An essay by Michael Charleston B. Chua, 16 years old

Night of August 30, 1998, I found myself around fascinating people at the lobby of the Cultural Center. I have just witnessed the presentation ceremonies of the 40th Ramón Magsaysay Awards. I just learned that the Nobel Prize of Asia has been awarded to names such as The Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa and Akira Kurosawa among others; great or small, I all look up to them, but no Magsaysay Awardee had inspired and affected me much, that she changed the course of the history of a country and changed my destiny forever. And she's my kababayan too.

Then, I just saw her, up at the staircase. She wasn't wearing a yellow dress though, like she usually does when I see her on TV. I tried to reach her to congratulate her for the prestigious prize she won. At last, she turned to me and I shook her hand. It was one of the finest moments of my life, I touched history herself—Corazón C. Aquino.

Cory's family, the Cojuangcos, was one of the most prominent families of our province, Tarlac. She was married to a handsome-looking young man from a political family—Ninoy Aquino. Incidentally, the

Champion of the Masses, then President Ramón Magsaysay, was their godfather.

Years after Magsaysay, a dictator emerged to the throne at Malacañang—Ferdinand E. Marcos. Senator Ninoy Aquino became his foremost opponent. Marcos had him imprisoned when he declared Martial Law. Cory became, in Ninoy's words, "sole support, source of comfort and wellspring of hope" for him when he was in prison for seven years and seven months. On her shoulder fell the pain of a wife of a political detainee. It was not only the Aquinos who suffered. All the Filipinos were denied the freedom of expression. Their right to be free was taken away from them and they lived in fear of the dictatorship, for anyone who dared challenge it would be taken away to be tortured or sometimes be killed.



Cory and their children joined Ninoy for three happy years in Boston. But in spite of that, he decided to sacrifice. He returned to the Philippines to talk Marcos into dismantling his dictatorship. He was the only hope...

Upon arrival, Ninoy was shot—dead!

This is my message for Mr. Marcos and his puppets: Do not threaten Cory Aquino, because I am not alone!

-Cory Aquino, January 1986

With Ninoy's death, the dictatorship thought that it was all over. It was their greatest mistake. With Ninoy's death, a sleeping nation was awoken to the abuses of the regime. They mourned his death and throngs marched in his funeral. And they made the widow, Cory Aquino, their rallying symbol.



TYRANT: Pres. Ferdinand E. Marcos

vor of an elected successor...she had restored her country's democratic institutions and its good name in the community of nations.... She governed with integrity and the devout intentions to do always what was best for the country and its people."

The citation added, "No Asian leader of our time can claim as much."

When Ninoy's life ended, Cory's fight began.

A million signed up for the little housewife to run for president against the strongman Marcos. She accepted the call: A fight between David and Goliath! Marcos questioned her qualifications, "She's only a woman...What is she going to do when she becomes president?" Cory answered, "I admit that I have had no experience in cheating, stealing, lying or assassinating political opponents."

The people supported her all the way in the elections, but Marcos cheated and had himself re-elected. "Tama na, sobra na, palitan na!" Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, and General Fidel Ramos broke away from the regime on February 22, 1986. Marcos ordered their arrest but it couldn't be taken out! Why not? The camps where the defectors were, which was situated along EDSA highway, became surrounded by two million people in the name of the housewife in yellow. By the sound of prayers and the shouts of "Coree! Coree!" the people blocked the menacing tanks of the regime. The turn-around of events now known in history as the "People Power Revolution": Cory was installed as president after four days of peaceful protest by the people and Marcos fled to Hawaii never to return again!



CONJUGAL DICTATORSHIP: Marcos with wife, Imelda

Many considered her presidency as a failure for, in their words, "little had changed with their lives." And that People Power was inutile.

I just turned two when People Power happened, too young to remember. But I could never accept that Cory and People Power were a failure. I believe she was God's simple instrument in pinning down a tyrant and in bringing back democracy for all of us. Because of that, she had changed the lives of millions of people, even of the next generation, and the world was inspired of that. In a more personal level, she made way for me not to experience the hardships of a cruel regime, and for me to freely express myself as a writer (Without suppression and censorship), that sole reason is enough for me to be inspired to protect and fight for this democracy even in simple ways.

Today, at 67, she's still active in safeguarding democracy from those who would attempt to take it. Because she has the credibility and morality, people still listen to her or seek her advice. I believe that as long as Cory is alive, and we will carry on her fight, we would remain free!

She showed the world that if we would just be united as a people, we accomplish even the impossible. In her simplicity, she proved that even the simplest of us can accomplish great things.

Ninoy described her, "Looming from the battle, her courage will never fade." With her courage, we were never the same again...

Cory paved the way in order for me to live free! She also made me feel proud to be Filipino.

I love Cory Aquino!

Yes! Cory Aquino was the lightning rod of the first successful revolution without a drop of blood shed. People Power was the contribution of the Filipinos to the world. Yes! We inspired the downfall of the Berlin Wall, the destruction of the Eastern Europe Communist Bloc, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, all carried out by the people without violence. Cory emerged as an international symbol of democracy.



CORY MAGIC: Campaigning for the 1986 Snap Elections

RM Awards cited that when "she stepped down in fa-

As I came to power peacefully, so shall I keep it.

-Cory Aquino

IN MEMORIAM: NINOY AQUINO

Who magazine
September 14, 1983

In the contemporary history of our turbulent and neurotic world, not many men have been accorded by their people the rare, tragic honor that goes with the aftermath of their senseless and violent deaths.

It is rarer with Ninoy, for unlike Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr. for instance, he had not actively led or inspired a mass movement particularly in the midst of his own people when he was gun down. How explain, then, the phenomenon of his martyrdom? Born on November 27, 1932, Ninoy was actually about two months short of 40 when at the height of his popularity as a politician, he was divested not only of his elected office but also of his legal rights and jailed by the president as a security risk (along with other prominent officials and citizens) at the onset of martial law. Until the Catholic church seemingly awaking only then to the politico-social dimension of its missionary life on earth publicized in its pulpits in 1975 his celebrated " fast to the death," which himself abandoned after 40 days and 40 nights, he had been just another political prisoner consigned to limbo by the regime and a generally cowed and apathetic population.

In his subsequent appearances before the military trying the multiple cases of subversion, murder, and rebellion against him, Ninoy must have confounded Marcos and his military prosecutors and judges when he virtually sought -and ultimately got a death sentence on him in 1977 by waiving his right to counsel and refusing to defend himself in what he described as kangaroo court.

The moral dilemma of the president over what to do with Ninoy couldn't have been more evident than in the April 7, 1978 Batasan elections, although a " convict " carrying the maxi-



NINOY, THE FATHER: With daughter Kris, early 70's



mum penalty on his person, Ninoy was allowed to head the Laban ticket even if he was barred from campaigning for it by having him kept in detention. that dilemma must have been eased in May 1980, with the occasion presenting itself as a show of presidential compassion and magnanimity to boot, when Ninoy applied for-and was granted temporary freedom to undergo an emergency heart bypass operation in the United States. In his more than seven years of imprisonment, with the early part of it spent in solitary confinement, what must have touched the hearts and minds of the people except the incorrigibly skeptical or shamelessly compromised among them- was the courage and steadfastness of the man to hang on, almost literary, to his human dignity and personal convictions, all he had to do to secure his freedom and perhaps, regain some of his lost stature as a public official and with it, all the comforts and privileges such a position would certainly entail (which judging from those of a minister, would probably be enormous) was to endorse the then " new society " and promise to cooperate with it.

Just that. But Ninoy didn't do it, He chose to be obstinate and true to himself. Marcos almost certainly denied Ninoy the presidency when he abrogated the 1973 elections with his imposition of martial law. It is not far fetched to think that although he had renounced any political ambitions to himself following his imprisonment, he was assassinated because he was again, closest to the presidency than any other opposition stalwart or KBL official could hope to be. For in politics, as his life fate can work in strange ways.

In the martyrdom of Ninoy was the vindication of a name and the indictment of a

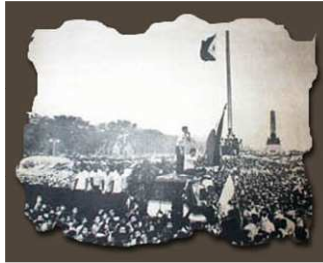
*I rather die on my feet
with honor, than live
on bended knees in
shame.*

-Ninoy Aquino
August 1973



THE MAN IN WHITE: Ninoy shot dead at the tarmac of the MIA, 21 August 1983

political regime, the long and seemingly endless crowds of people who queued day and night, in Quezon City and Tarlac, for a last look at his remains is an eloquent testimonial to what they must have seen as an embodiment of his person during his lifetime and, in death, the legacy of his spirit. Ninoy didn't have to be in their midst for them to know what he came home from his self exile to lead them to if vainly.



PEOPLE POWER, 2 YEARS BEFORE: 2 Million people attended Ninoy's funeral

Ninoy, it was-as it had been with Ghandi and King, the liberation of his people.

As our greatest martyr , Jose Rizal had so deathlessly written-and his words had been inscribed on a memorial place on his bier:

" There are no tyrants where there are no slaves."

Indeed, let your protests be heard, Ninoy!

Every martyr had a cause. For

I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE (WITH THE SAME WOMAN THREE TIMES)

By NINOY AQUINO

An excerpt from the poem written for his wife, Cory Aquino while he was in prison at Fort Bonifacio on 11 October 1973, their 19th wedding anniversary.
Set to music by José Mari Chan



I have fallen in love
With the same woman three times
In a day spanning nineteen years
Of tearful joys and joyful tears

I loved her first when she was young
Enchanting and vibrant, eternally new
She was brilliant, fragrant and cool as the
morning dew.

I fell in love with her the second time
When first she bore her child and mine
Always by my side, the source of my strength
Helping to turn the tide.

But there were candles to burn
The world was my concern
While our home was her domain.

And the people were mine
While the children were hers to maintain.
So it was in those eighteen years and a day
Till I was detained forced in prison to stay.
Suddenly she's our sole support
Source of comfort, our wellspring of hope,
On her shoulders fell the burden of life.

I fell in love again with the same woman the
third time
Looming from the battle her courage will
never fade.
Amidst the hardships she has remained
Undaunted and unafraid
She is calm and composed. She is God's
lovely maid.

*I have carefully
weighed the virtues
and the faults of the
Filipino. I have come
to the conclusion: he
is worth dying for...*

-Ninoy Aquino
August 1980

GET INTIMATE WITH CORY

CONVERSATIONS WITH A FORMER PRESIDENT

A faithful transcription of the interview conducted at Mrs. Aquino's Office at
7F Jose Cojuangco and Sons Bldg., Dela Rosa St., Makati City at 11am on 12 March 2003

By Michael Charleston "Xiao" Chua, Henderson Gercio, Bryan Clark Hernandez & Emmalyn Sagum

Xiao: *Good morning, ladies and gentlemen! When I was young, when I was five years old. I used to walk around our villages (corrects himself) our village...and shouting her name, and taking around her photograph...*

Cory: Thank you (smiles).

Xiao: ...ehe...and...

Cory: How old are you?

Xiao: 19 ma'am!

Cory: Ah, ok!

Xiao: *Never in my wildest dreams that I would be at close proximity with...with one of the fascinating figures not just in Philippine history, but with (corrects himself) in the world! So, without further ado, please welcome Former President Corazón C. Aquino. Good morning ma'am!*

Cory: Yeah, good morning, thank you very much for such kind introduction...

Xiao: Yes ma'am. So let's get started na! (Looking at the camera)

Cory: Ok!

Xiao: *Ma'am, what is an ordinary day for you!*

Cory: Well, I come to the office everyday. And ...well, meet with people and do my letters here. In fact yesterday I wrote to former president Kim Dae Jung, because he had written to me days before he step down and I guess this is s.o.p. for most outgoing president...

Xiao: Yeah!

Cory: ...and so I wrote to him and I congratulated him for his many accomplishments. Then I also looked into the other letters and I have to answer, I do my letters myself.

Xiao: So yun...(Looking at Hender)

Hender: Next question.... *What is your role now in the Aquino Foundation?*

Cory: Well, I have been chairperson from the very beginning since 1983 and I continue to be that. We had put up the Aquino Center in Tarlac. I hope you'll visit...

Xiao: Yeah, I did...

Cory: You have been, good! (Resumes) So the idea first of all was to make sure that people will not forget Ninoy and our very concern, especially after his assassination, that people would get to the truth. Because in the beginning, the Marcos dictatorship was saying that it was Galman who shot Ninoy, so we want to have everything documented and also the role of People Power in the restoration of democracy...

Hender: The meaning of it...



CORY AQUINO, Makati City, 12 March 2003

Cory: Yes! Uhu! And that's what I continue to do and for special people I do the guided tour myself. So like Sunday, Bro. Rolly Dizon, Bro. Bernie, all from De la Salle came so I toured them and I was asking them to send as many of their students there as possible. Sister Luz of Assumption was there and I thank her for, two weeks ago, about two hundred high school students from Assumption, Antipolo went. And a few days before that I hosted again another visit of the spouses of the Ministers of Education of ASEAN. They had come together with their husbands so I toured them.

Xiao: Yeah! Ma'am, talking about daily routine, *what are your forms of entertainment?*

Cory: Well, I watch TV, I paint and I read, I see friends.

Xiao: You still go to movies?

Cory: Not formally. I just watch on DVD or VCD. The only movie I watched recently was "Mano Po" of Kris...

Everyone: (Agrees).

Cory: ...and before that, "Bagong Buwan." But when I'm in Tarlac, if there is a good movie, then I go to the movie house in the Luisita Mall. But here, I prefer to just watch on DVDs.

Hender: *Ma'am, what are your favorite books?*

Cory: Um...like now, I'm reading um...this is a compilation of men, it's a, "Of Profiles In Courage." It was edited by Caroline Kennedy...

Xiao: John F. Kennedy?

Cory: Daughter of...(Corrects Xiao) No no, this is different, John F. Kennedy's was "Profiles In Courage." This apparently the John F. Kennedy Library gives awards to outstanding people, well, people of...of courage. And it is Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of John F. Kennedy, who has been compiling all these. So I've been reading about...mostly, it's about the congressmen in the United States who dared do something different even if it would risk their, you know, their popularity, and their losing in, in elections. Then I've also been reading, but I've finished it now, Jimmy Carter's "The Virtues Of Aging"

Hender: I didn't finish that!

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: But it's not for you, you're too young.

Hender: Ma'am nasa gitna pa lang ako...

Cory: And I don't think it will appeal to you. But to me it did and, of course, Carter is I think 9 years older than I am. But I guess when you reach, well, I'm 70 and you wonder what else is there that you can do or what more can you offer to the country.

Emma: *Ma'am, talking about painting, can you please tell us how did it all start?*

Cory: Well, I started painting in 1996. I had, well...I like paintings except I know my limitations. Anyway, I visited a friend of mine, si Marites Lopez, and she invited me to look, well, to have a look-see at their painting lesson in her house. And at that time, they were already two years into painting so, of course, I was saying, "Oh, no way can I join this group..."

Xiao: (Laughs)

Cory: ...They really seem to me as having so much talent and...but then she said, "No, no. Our teacher is very patient and he'll be able to teach you." And she was telling me, "Everybody can paint." Of course, I wasn't sure about that...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...But anyway, it was my oldest daughter Ballsy who told me, "Mom, go ahead, anyway, with your name..."

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...your name, your painting will amount to something.” So I did, and I organized a group of...we’re about ten in the beginning. We’ll have lessons very Wednesdays, 3 hours each time, and we had a young teacher, Jeffrey Consumo, who didn’t even take formal lessons but he was so patient and I think that helped, and very encouraging. And for my first lesson, I was able to finish a painting in three hours, and I was just so amazed and I was happy. And so I took lessons from him for three years but since that time, I’ve been doing it on my own and I tried different...different things. As I said, I’m lucky I have a name.

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: But normally, it’s the other way around. Artists really struggle hard in order to have a name. So I’m doing it backwards...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: Start with the name, and then do the paintings.

Bryan: *As of now, how many have you painted?*

Cory: Quite a number. Well, because I had little ones. I’ve done big ones also but...and then when, there are days when everything comes easy, and it comes on the way you’d like it too. But, there are days when...(laughs) you’re not too happy (Laughs again). But anyway, I’m really grateful to my teacher that because of him, I’ve been able to do these paintings and I give them as gifts, well...first, to the donors of the Aquino Foundation...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...and then, to people who have everything, like when Pres. Kim Dae Jung was, for his inauguration as president I gave him a painting. George Schultz who used to be Secretary of State, because he was so good to me when I was president, I gave him a painting when he got married for the second time. To the Sultan of Brunei, I told him, I know you have everything, you manage a state...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...And then he said, “But I don’t have a Cory Aquino painting, yaaah...”

Everyone: (Laughs)

Hender: (Whispers) Ang taray!

Cory: ...So that made me feel good. Then, when I’m *ninang* for weddings, so that’s what I give. And one of my *inaanaks* was joking and said, “Can this be retroactive for the time that you have...you were *ninang* but you didn’t know how to paint yet...”

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...So I said, I have to think about that, uhuh.

Xiao: *Ma’am, who are your artistic influences?*

Cory: I don’t think...

Hender: ...Just heart.

Cory: (Unintelligible) No its just that, yun na nga, I like paintings and it’s something that I thought I could never do. But, apparently, all of us can paint...

Hender: Yes!

Cory: Who cares whether it’s a masterpiece or not!



Xiao: Ma'am...

Bryan: (Interrupts) Ma'am! *Ma'am, how about the Aquino Museum, how it came possible?*

Cory: Oh! Well, from the day that we organized the Aquino Foundation which was...we launched it on November 27, 1983, Ninoy's birthday and just (Counts) 3 months after his assassination. My main concern then was, *yun na nga*, so that Filipinos would not forget Ninoy, and what he did. So initially, we're just thinking of...we had parang exhibits in different places: Here in this building, then we went to different provinces, and with a few memorabilia, so we just shown them and all that. Then, we also went into providing scholarships initially for high school students of the schools where Ninoy went: San Beda, and then for my school, St. Scholastica, did I? Not too sure now. Anyway, when I became president, I really didn't have time for that and I didn't want to be accused of using the *Office Of The President* to further the, you know, the aspirations of the Aquino Foundation, so we were pretty (laughs), um how shall I say, we were just hanging on with the scholarships but nothing much. Then, after my presidency...well, exactly a year after my presidency, I said that we would like to put up an Aquino Center but...so that was in 1993 when I first launched the campaign. And we're finally able to inaugurate in 2001, so it took me eight years to go around, to solicit funding and...anyway I'm very happy that I've been able to do this, not only for Ninoy's sake and my sake, but more importantly for our young people to know about our history. And also, I always tell them that Ninoy was ready to offer his all for the country and it was just not a matter of...of words but he did it, I mean he came back, even though there was much risk to his life, and in fact, he was killed. But, then for my part I vowed that I would continue his work. And so, I hope that all of us Filipinos will try to look within ourselves and find out what it is that we are asked to do or we feel we can do for our country. In other words, I want people to know...nobody's excused, if you are Filipino, you do something for your country. You don't have to die for the country but there are so many things that you can do and you don't wait for the country. *Kamukha nung kay John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what your country (Corrects herself), but you what can you (Sic) do for your country."* So ganun na lang.

Xiao: Ma'am narinig namin na ano, nanakaw daw yung wedding ring but it was recovered...

Cory: Ah! Nuon, yes but it's recovered. Thank God (unintelligible)...

Xiao: Yes!!!

Cory: Ay talaga!

Xiao: And sinangla pa ma'am for P 1,500.00.

Cory: Ay, hindi na bale, that's one of the sad things.

Xiao: *When you were young, ma'am, what were your ambitions?*

Cory: I wanted to be a teacher.

Xiao: Oww! (wonders)

Cory: Ao! Yun lang and...

Hender: *Did you imagine that you would become president?*

Cory: Never...

Hender: (Laughs)

Cory: Never. It's just when I got married I knew Ninoy, you know, was aiming for that and that he really loved politics and he was a public person. I'm really a private person. I value my privacy, in fact, I still value my privacy. Once, first, when Ninoy was imprisoned it was a (unintelligible) for me to have a more public, public stance.

Xiao: *Yeah! Ma'am, we all know Cory Aquino as a...a public figure. Well, can you describe yourself in one or two sentences as a wife? Who is (sic) Cory Aquino as a wife?*

Cory: Well, I always say that Ninoy and I were able to bring the best in each other. And I think that's all that's necessary for a married couple. To try to bring out the best in each other.

Xiao: *Who is she...Who is Cory Aquino as a mother?*

Cory: Well you...you ask my children, I think they're very happy...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...with the way I brought them.

Xiao: Yeah!

Cory: I certainly spent much time with them and I was a fulltime wife and mother. Of course there were times that it was boring pero (laughs) that was my commitment when I got married: That I vowed that I would be a good wife and mother.

Hender: *Ma'am, if you would allow us to go back five or six decades ago, parang ganun, who was Ninoy Aquino...ay, what was Ninoy Aquino like back then.*



HAPPY DAYS: Cory with Ninoy

Cory: (Whispers) Five or six decades? Well anyway, people ask when we first met. Ok, the earliest I remember was we were both nine years old. You must remember Ninoy and I both come (Sic) from Tarlac, both the Aquinos and Cojuangcos were and are in politics. My father was congressman on the first district of Tarlac and Ninoy's father was congressman of the second district. It was inevitable that we would meet, in fact, my first cousin, married the older brother of Ninoy, and my father was the Godfather of Lupita, Lupita Aquino...

Xiao: Kashiwahara!

Cory: Yes. So, inevitable yon. We met, it was the birth...I remember it's the birthday of Ninoy's father and nung araw fami-familia kung magpunta sa...so my parents took all of us there. Ok...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: And that was it, and I didn't see him again until, because I went to the United States to study when I was 13. So I didn't get to see him until I was 16, when we came back for a vacation.

Hender: *How was he like as a father? A husband?*

Cory: Ah, well (laughs) First, which I have to say before Martial Law, Ninoy's world was all politics and I really, well, that was the style then, na bahala ang mother...

Xiao: Oo nga, yes!

Cory: But Ninoy, I would insist that at least we would go to mass together every Sunday and that we would go out for lunch or dinner at a Chinese restaurant in Chinatown. Nung araw wala pa itong mga classy Chinese restaurants. And then we go to a movie with the..with the children. And then once a year, or twice a year, we go to Hongkong. So that would be the treat na Ninoy would take all of us...

Hender: (Laughs) Quality time...

Cory: ...and that would be the time that it, would at least have time for each other.

Xiao: *O Ma'am, how is, I mean the "Baguio incident" before you were married...*

Cory: (Corrects Xiao) Hindi Baguio incident yan! Actually, we had come from a movie and, you know, at that time I got my chaperone, so my chaperone was my older sister Josephine. So we were driving on EDSA, which was Highway 54 before, and this had happened a few...parang two or three months or maybe a month after Ninoy had worked for the surrender of Luis Taruc.

Xiao: (Agrees)

Cory: So we were on Highway 54 and suddenly there was a jeep coming from the ricefields. On both sides, nung araw may ricefields dyan sa Highway 54 and...

Xiao: EDSA?

Cory: Yah, and just bumped us. So the car door flew open, my sister was thrown out first and the second, when I fell out. And my sister, at that time was in fact pregnant, she was three months preg...she lost her baby. And so we were taken to the hospital, sa Lourdes Hospital by an American who had played golf kasi I couldn't get up and because you know, you're thrown out and then you just land flat on your back. Ninoy was not hurt because he was holding on to the wheel. And so I stayed overnight in the hospital. Luckily there were no injuries, I mean, no major injuries, but I was black and blue all over and my oldest (Corrects herself), older brother said, "Cory you have to go to Baguio tomorrow because, I was really expected by my parents to go to Baguio but I ask if we could go the following day because my younger sister and I will go to a party. And, of course with Ninoy I wanted to stay behind for that but of course we'd still to go to the movies before going to the party. So inspite of my feeling...whooo! Really bad and the long ride from Manila to Baguio I went and when we got there my mother was really furious..."

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...and she was telling Ninoy, "From now on Cory will not ride in *your* car, she'll just ride in *our* car!"

Everyone: (Giggles)

Cory: And that was the first time I saw Ninoy really scared...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...and yeah, because he knew while it wasn't directly his fault but the fact that we were in his car.

Bryan: *Ninoy Aquino wrote a poem about you, "I Have Fallen In Love," in your anniversary and he called you, he told (sic) he had fallen in love three times and the second time he fell in love he said that you were "The source of comfort, and the wellspring of hope." What are your insights about the poem?*

Cory: Well, first, let me put it in the proper context, he was in prison, ok?

Everyone: (Agrees)

Cory: And he felt bad that for all our birthdays and family he wasn't working, he didn't have money to buy and he didn't have the chance to go buy gifts for us, so he did what he thought he could do best and so he wrote poems. He wrote poems for...for me, for Viel, for Kris and for his mother, for my mother and all that. So, well, I was very happy that in fact a number of my friends where envious and when they were saying, "Mabuti ka pa..." Sabi ko, "Loca! He was in prison! So gusto niyo pakulong ninyo muna ang mga asawa niyo and you'll have something like that!"

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: Well I was of course, I was very happy and pleased that he recognized, you know, my total support for him.

Everyone: (Agrees)

Hender: *After you became president, you made a speech in the US Congress.*

Cory: Uh-um!

Hender: *How was it like to speak to them and for your speech to be hailed by a congressman as one of the finest speeches to be heard from that august chamber?*

Cory: Actually, the speaker who said that, Speaker Tip O'Neill. But, I-I'm sorry I may sound like I'm bragging but, anyway, it doesn't happen often that after I finished my speech, Senator Dole said, "Mrs. President, you've hit the home run..."

Everyone: (Giggles)

Cory: ...So I said, "I hope the bases were loaded!"

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: And he was so surprised and he mentioned this to the media, people there, so it was written about and they said I'm knowledgeable on baseball! And that afternoon after my speech, the House of Representatives voted to give \$ 200 Million to the Philippines as assistance. It took some time for the Senate to approve of it but they did. So again Senator Dole was quoted as having said, "This is the biggest honorarium ever." But anyway, I was happy that I could do that and that really the wonderful part was I was never...I was never nervous, and I was saying, "My God! This is the first time I'm doing this..."

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...and why wasn't I nervous. It helped that the Speaker was from Massachusetts...

Xiao: Yah, Boston!

Cory: ...and parang he considered me siguro a constituent, or what...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...cause we've lived in Boston. Plus the fact that two years before I became president, we were both given honorary doctorates in Stonehill College which is in Massachusetts. So parang...we're friends, ok and...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...but I was really happy I could do this for our country.

Emma: *Ma'am, going back to love life, do you have a...what's that?*

Xiao: Theme song.

Emma: ...*theme song?*

Cory: Am...we enjoyed yung *Moonlight Serenade*, but...hindi naman niyo alam yun e, ano?

Everyone: ...one line?

Cory: Ah, no! No, actually it was more for the...it was a Glenn Miller thing. Glenn Miller, Miller had an orchestra or a band and it was more for the music rather than for the lyrics that we liked it. And everyt...at that time, nung , nung hindi pa kami kasal and it's very popular in the Philippines with the *Glenn Midler Story* had been shown and everytime they play that we really danced to the tune, ok? That's it.

Xiao: Ma'am, narinig ko na po kayong kumanta minsan sa isang ano e...

Cory: Saan?

Xiao: Actually you were outgoing president yata nuon...

Cory: Ahhh!

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: I changed the words...

Xiao: Yah!

Cory: Oo...

Xiao: (Sings) Natapilok na nga ako, bakit pa...

Cory and Xiao: ...ako tatakbo.

Cory: Oww, wow! Ang galing mo naman.

Everyone: (Laughs)



RESTORING DEMOCRACY BY THE WAYS OF DEMOCRACY: At the US Congress, 18 September 1986

Cory: No, because I had promised the Malacañang Press, they said, “Ma’am, kailan ho kayo kakanta?” “O sige, basta before I leave Malacañang I’ll do it.” And so, I changed the words of, this is an old song, yung “I’ll Never Smile Again.” So I changed the lyrics, I said, “I’ll Never Run Again.”

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: So, parang “I’ll never run again, pang-snap elections lang ako...”

Everyone: (Laughter)

Cory: ...and then yun na nga, “Natapilok na nga ako, papaano pa ako tatakbo...” Something like that.

Everyone: (Giggles)

Cory: Anyway...

Bryan: *When you speak about an issue, everybody listens. Everybody just loves you. Do you think that the “Cory Magic” is still, is still alive even today?*

Cory: Well, I don’t know. Alam mo matanda na tayo, and then for the little kids, you know. This is what, I guess, reminds me to be humble, because when I see them (Sic), you know, anywhere, shopping or whatever, then the moms always say, “Siya ang mommy ni Kris Aquino and (laughs)...

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: ...sabi ko, ok!

Hender: Commercial...

Cory: Oo, so I just say na what for the...for the little kids how they know me. Oo. Until they go to school, that is when...

Hender: ...read the books.

Cory: Oo. Like let me tell you this, my youngest grandchild, she’s...she’s...she’s almost seven. She goes to school in Poveda and one day...Every Sunday, they come to...to my house for lunch and then she said, “Lola, you know, my classmate her grandfather is Sen. Flavier!” And parang she was so impressed ano...

Everyone: (Laughter)

Cory: Sabi ko, teka muna. Sabihin mo...sabihin mo dun sa kaklase mo that *your* grandmother...”

Hender: (Disbelief) Hindi niya kilala!

Cory: ...but then, my daughter was explainin’, “Mom, kasi because she was alrea...She was old enough to repeat...” Hindi ba yung there was a song about and you repeat all the names of the senatorial candidates...

Hender: A yah!

Cory: ...and she has memorized them. So, Flavier stucked in her head and to meet the granddaughter parang, “Wow!” (Laughs)

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: So I had to tell her, “Sabihin mo...” (Laughs)

Everyone: (Laughs)

Xiao: Hender?

Hender: Ako na ba?

Xiao: Yah, no. 15.

Hender: *What keeps Cory Aquino going?*

Cory: Ah! (Thinks) Well, so many things. Well, first I'm so glad that I pray, and so many people pray for me and with me and I know that I could not have done any of these things, if it were not for prayer. So when people ask me na parang you seem to be happy, sabi ko, "I think, I-I hope I'll continue to have that inner peace..."

Hender: Yes!

Cory: ...na I've come to this stage na...and I hope that I would be able to continue doing things for our country, and hopefully, to be a source of inspiration not only for women but also for men that all of us can do something like I was just a housewife before and I left all of these public acts to Ninoy, but the time came when he could not do that coz he's imprisoned. So it was incumbent upon me to at least do my share.

Xiao: (Whispers) Emma. "You said..." No. 17.

Emma: Ok.

Xiao and Emma: (Laughs)

Emma: *You said in an interview that one of Ninoy's greatest fears is to be forgotten...Actually naanswer na niya 'yan yun kanina...*

Cory: Oo.

Xiao: Yeah, pero can you tell the young people of today na how can we best remember and keep alive the heroism of your husband?

Cory: Ah, ok. Well first I'm glad that in school, even in grade school, the students read about Ninoy and they know about Ninoy. But more than just that, I want them to know that Ninoy, first of all, so proud to be a Filipino. And when we were living in the States people were just amazed that we never applied for permanent residence and that when we went there we knew it was temporary and that we would come back here. But more importantly, I think Ninoy was ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of his country. So I hope this is what people will remember about him and will try to maybe even do better than what he did.

Xiao: Yeah. Finally ma'am, how would you like to be remembered in history?

Cory: Ah...Well, first of all I'd like to be remembered for having helped in the restoration for our democracy...

Xiao: Yes.

Cory: ...for you young people who didn't know what it was like living under Martial Law, maybe it will not mean as much. But when you see other countries still not, you know, enjoying freedom, then you would have an idea or a sense of what it was like here before. Where anybody would just be arrested without any charges, put into prison and some would be tortured, and some were never seen again. I mean people as young as you.

Xiao: Yah. So thank you very much ma'am. Bale, ito ma'am ang aming ano, bale token of appreciation. We cannot give anything to Cory Aquino...

Cory: No, you don't have to give me anything, but what I would like from you is that you would try your best...

Hender: Yes ma'am.

Cory: ...to find out what it is that our country needs of you. I mean, all of us will have different things...to do but each one of us can do something to better life in our country.

Hender: Ako, I'm going to be the best scientist...



WE ARE FAMILY: Hender Gercio, Emma Sagum, CORY AQUINO, Bryan Hernandez, Michael Chua. Notice her paintings in the background

Cory: Good for you, what's your major?

Hender: Molecular biology!

Cory: Wow ang galing mo!

Everyone: (Laughs)

Cory: You know the wife of Ambassador Ricciardone has a doctorate in molecular biology.

Hender: (Agrees)

Cory: She had also gone to the Aquino Center. No, kanya nga ang dami nang foreigners na nagpunta so when I see Filipinos, "Ano, hindi pa kayo nagpupunta?"

Everyone: (Laughs)

Xiao: Actually ma'am I'm a history major so...

Cory: Ah, good for you!

Xiao: ...so talagang napag...pinag-aralan ko pong mabuti yung Martial Law years kaya very interested po ako about Ninoy and Cory...

Cory: Sino'ang parents mo?

Xiao: My...Charles and Vilma Chua po, taga Tarlac.

Cory: Sang lugar?

Xiao: Sa Tarlac City so, Fairlane Subdivision. Actually, kamag-anak yata naming si Benigno Chua, pero malayo na siguro yon, yung may-ari ng Cindy's.

Cory: Ah really, ok.

Xiao: Yeah, so...so ayun ho. Thank you very much po ma'am...

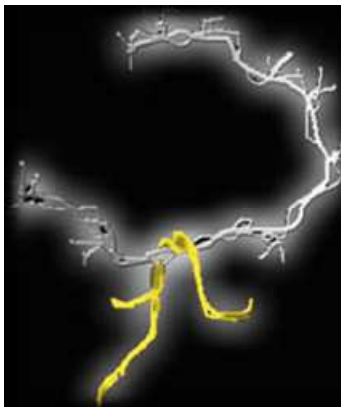
Cory: O sige thank you din and...

Xiao: *So, to end: She showed the world that if we would just be united as a people, we accomplish even the impossible. In her simplicity, she proved that even the simplest of us can accomplish great things. Ninoy described her, "Looming from the battle, her courage will never fade." With her courage, we were never the same again...Cory paved the way in er, in order for me, for them (pointing to groupmates), and for all of us young people to be free! And she also made me, and all of us feel proud to be Filipino. We love Cory Aquino! Thank you very much, ma'am!*

Cory: Thank you very much, oo.

Everyone: (Thank yous)

Cory: And I'm very glad that I meet with people like you and who really care for our country. Kasi kung minsan you feel, "Ano ba ito na..."



“OUR CORY DIARY”

The INTERVIEWERS' first person account
as compiled by the editors of PIPOL MAGAZINE

January 2003

XIAO: I always told myself that when I'll take Communication 3, I'm going to interview somebody really big yet someone I really admire. So I talked to my group mates Hender, Bryan and Emma and told them that I'm volunteering to organize the interview, well, did I? I really didn't tell them outright but I implied so. What I really suggested is that we could interview two personalities. I'll get something from politics and I asked Hender to try and contact FHM editor-in-chief Eric Ramos to give a contact number of actress Diana Zubiri. But Eric refused, saying the sexy star is “very busy.”

I was considering some people for the interview: Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. who is an acquaintance, Prof. Ma. Serena Diokno, UP Vice President for Academic Affairs and daughter of the late Ka Pepe Diokno, who was a professor of mine last semester, and even folk singer Noel Cabangon. But my dream interview really was former president Cory Aquino, who happened to be a *cabalen* of mine—Tarlac. I grew up during her presidency and with the mania following People Power, I



was shouting her name everytime helicopters would pass by above our village. I also carried her photograph as we imitate what happened at EDSA.. Eventually, I became an admirer of her husband, the late lamented hero Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino. And as a history enthusiast, I collected many books about them and their nemesis the Marcoses. The Martial Law years became my forte.

I met the former president three times already: first, during the conferring of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding at the CCP, 30 August 1998; second, during the special service for the victims of 9/11 at the Manila Cathedral; and third, when I visited the Aquino Center in Luisita, 25 October 2001. Well, I met her three times and she doesn't know.

3-4 March 2003

XIAO: During the initial days of February, I called Mrs. Aquino's Makati office to ask on how to get an appointment, and they told me to write a letter which I did. I wrote the office of the former president requesting for an appointment. Weeks

passed and no reply was received.

On the night of 3 March, I received a text from the personal assistant to the former president, Mrs. Margie Juico, asking him to inquire to her for the interview. So the next day, 4 March, I called Mrs. Juico. She apologized for the delayed reply because Mrs. Aquino had been out of town. She also expressed Mrs. Aquino's concern that the sem is ending, but I said ok, so my group was scheduled to meet the former president at her offices the next day at 3:00 pm. And so I hastily prepared my group mates about our sudden appointment. And that night I also worked immediately for our interview plan. I tried to avoid questions on politics, the Marcoses and about her daughter, Kris, maybe she's tired of them. I focused really on special interest stories on her and what she could say that would make sense to the youth.

The next morning, I was very ready and I already bought our present for Mrs. Aquino at the Bahay ng Alumni (a UP mug) when Mrs. Juico called and apologetically cancelled the appointment because the former president has to attend a function in the afternoon. We agreed though to pursue the interview the next Wednesday, in an earlier time: 11:00 AM. Emma, with the videocam, tripod and camera, was already leaving her house in Bulacan when she received my message that the interview was cancelled.

The cancellation worked to

It is true you cannot eat freedom and you cannot power machinery with democracy. But then neither can political prisoners turn on the light in the cells of a dictatorship.

-Cory Aquino



the advantage of our group: Hender was quite busy that day and Bryan couldn't come really because he had an exam. Also, it gave us more room for preparation.

12 March 2003

HENDER: My Cory ex-



perience is something that I would probably never forget. The inconveniences that I together with my group mates have gone through (such as postponements, difficulty in obtaining media devices, getting lost in the Ayala Loop, etc.) were worth it, if they meant being face to face with a role model-cum-icon-cum-celebrity like her. Hello, not everyone gets to talk seriously with a president you know.

EMMA: It was the 12th of



March, 2003 that we, Xiao, Hender, Bryan and myself, were scheduled to have an interview with none other than the Lady in Yellow herself Cory Aquino. It was only six in the morning when I left my home in Bulacan so that I could be in the group's meeting place in Ayala MRT station by half past nine in the morning. But unfortunately, and I did not expect the ride to be that fast, I was in front of Glorietta and SM Makati an hour earlier than our supposed meeting time. It would have



BONDING: Hender Gercio, Emma Sagum, Xiao and Bryan Hernandez at McDonald's Glorietta. Savoring the camaraderie.

been fine if the malls are already open but they were still not and so I had no choice but to wait for an hour or so. Eventually my group mates came and we were just about to go when I realized that my pants are all wet. It turned out I sat on a wet pavement. Anyway, since it was still more than an hour early (our scheduled meeting with Cory Aquino is eleven in the morning) we decided to have a breakfast at McDonald's Glorietta. While eating we were planning the interview and trying to envision what is Cory Aquino like. We left twenty minutes before eleven.

HENDER: Before the interview, I couldn't care less about Cory. To me she was just another ghost, dwelling in history books and television chronicles in that period of so-called triumph called People Power, which I can't even relate to. In fact, I was quite annoyed by the way she handles the most serious problems of the



BEFORE THE MOMENT: Xiao shot this photograph of his groupmates Bryan Hernandez, Emma Sagum, Hender Gercio eating at McDonald's Glorietta, 12 March 2003.

country: through prayer. Amen, amen, amen. The sign of the cross cannot strengthen the currency; communion is not enough for those who need real food.

XIAO: I really admire her always turning to God! I still believe that prayer is a VERY powerful weapon. Amen!

HENDER: But I sort of



MRS. PRESIDENT: Cory took her oath as President of the Philippines on 25 February 1986 at Club Filipino by virtue of people power.

understood everything during our talk. She really did not expect to be president; she fervently attests to this up to now. She still views herself as the housewife of a great hero, the man who could have turned this nation around, but instead was shot at the back of the head and killed unjustly. The greatest thing that Cory did was to unite us, the Filipino people, who were so weary of being tramped around by a dictator who had other interests aside from those of his constituents. She provided a clear focus to the struggle for freedom, like the way a prophet guides the followers of a common God. The people back then didn't give a damn what happens next, they just wanted change now.

XIAO: We took a taxicab from Glorietta to our destination. Hender sat on the passenger seat and the old taxi driver suddenly touched Hender's hand and said all these nice things to him, "Ang ganda mo naman... minsan lang akong hu-

Reconciliation should be accompanied by justice, otherwise it will not last. While we all hope for peace it shouldn't be peace at any cost but peace based on principle, on justice.

-Cory Aquino

manga.” They chatted. The old man asked his name and Hender answered “Sabrina.” We just rode on their conversation, you know, I called her Sabrina too. Well, it was fun; I was thinking if the taxi driver is a really true-blue dirty old man or was just making fun of Hender because he’s a homosexual. You know, that sort of kind of things happen. But it was a very funny experience.

We arrived at the historic Jose Cojuangco and Sons Bldg. We were led at the receiving room, which is painted all yellow, and bears a lot of her personal photographs and paintings. On our way, Mrs. Aquino’s eldest daughter Ballsy smiled at me from her office. We had a little chat when we first met at the Aquino Center and she was very accommodating.

Emma and Bryan shot the photographs from two cameras. Because we have no cameraman, we just placed our videocam in a tripod and let it shoot everything while we were with the former president.

EMMA: We came in Jose Cojuangco and Sons Building where Cory Aquino does her office works ten minutes after. Shortly after we set-up our interview equipments, she came walking into the door and we were all silent for a moment. I’m quite sure at that very moment we were all thinking the same thing: “Am I really standing now in front of the famous Cory Aquino?”

XIAO: Yeah, I mean studying her life, and the context of history in which she lived, for quite a time; I really felt this kind of closeness to Mrs. Aquino, even if she doesn’t really know me (laughs). So even if she’s world famous, I’m not really that shy to deal with her.



TOURISTS: Bryan, Emma and Hender in the middle of Makati.

Before we started the interview, she looked at the interview plan and noted that with our eighteen questions we wouldn’t finish in an hour so I hastily deleted some of the questions. And then we started, like a TV interview.

EMMA: After a short introduction we started our interview. At first I was nervous that she might find the questions boring because she has been answering questions throughout her life. But then she answered each of our questions with a smile on her face and with a twinkle in her eyes, especially when asked about her childhood days with Ninoy Aquino, as if she was trying to enliven the moment. And as the interview progress we learned many things about



THE CORRESPONDENTS: Bryan, Xiao and Hender in front of the Ninoy Aquino monument in Makati.

Cory Aquino that not everybody knows, not just about the questions that we asked her but also a little about her personality.

HENDER: I was very young when Cory was president, so I don’t remember the way the Philippines looked back then. Aside from hearsay (many of them ill-founded), I didn’t know what Cory was like as an individual. The interview (albeit a formal one) managed to give me a first-hand insight, even a glimpse, to a life that was much publicized. And from a Comm 3 student’s perspective, I found her to be a very adept communicator. Her confidence and charisma clearly carried her through the presidency successfully. She also possesses the ethos that all presidents should have. She knows a lot of things and she can deliver them flawlessly.

XIAO: What I find very amusing is that Mrs. Aquino always looked at Hender most of the time she was being interviewed. Maybe she felt very comfortable with him—I mean his aura. So we’re glad we have Hender with us. Mrs. Aquino was very gracious to have entertained us—always joking and talking candidly about experiences—a very pleasant person.

HENDER: Cory advised us to be the best in our chosen fields. She instilled in us the moral obligation that we have, as true-blue *iskolars ng bayan*: to study as hard as we can and applying what we have learned in uplifting the lives of our countrymen. She recommended to me several people who were experts in molecular biology (my field) who could help me become a good scientist. I can’t wait to become one of them.

One must be frank to be relevant.

-Cory Aquino

EMMA: After the interview, we had a photo shoot session where we posed one by one with her, actually it was her who suggested to do that. And then she also gave us each a calendar of her paintings and a copy of the article about her in the June 2002 issue of Rider's Digest, which she personally signed for us. I never expected our interview to be as calm and informal as what we had where we joked and laughed with her as if we had known her for long. Our interview lasted only for about two hours but I know that it would be the two hours I would always remember whenever Cory Aquino is mentioned.

HENDER: It's funny. I have been on a first-name basis with Cory in the whole

of this interview, and I don't feel as if I am blaspheming an idol. Maybe she just had that effect on me, the feeling that you could be close to her and identify with her joys and sorrows. Or maybe this is just my way of presenting her, to others who might read this, as a down-to-earth and approachable person. Talking with her was a once in a lifetime experience and I remain thankful.

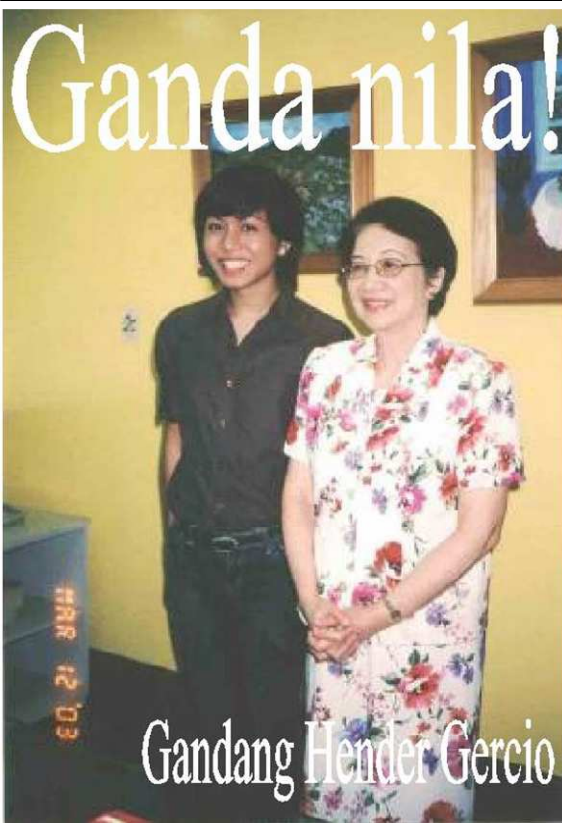
XIAO: As Mrs. Aquino used to say, "It's very simple...I just tell my sad story, and people weep." She's very charismatic—A very powerful persona. She commands the admiration of millions, not just of Filipinos, but of the foreigners as well. Having chitchat with her was fantastic ain't it?

EMMA: If it had not been because of my Communication 3 class I would not have had the grand opportunity of meeting the famous lady of the 1986 People Power Revolution... And thanks also to my groupmates Xiao, Hender and Bryan, our interview had been a fun and exciting one.

XIAO: Bryan, where are you?



All personal photos scanned by Bryan Hernandez



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I would rather die a meaningful death than to live a meaningless life.

-Cory Aquino

THE TEAM

Mr. Bryan Clark B. Hernandez is a senior student taking up BS Metallurgical Engineering at the University of the Philippines. He currently resides at Molave Residence Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City and is a very active member of the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs.



Mr. Henderson T. Gercio is a junior BS Molecular Biology and Biotechnology student at the University of the Philippines, Diliman. Hender, 19, is currently fascinated about the structural mechanisms of viruses and the effect that false eyelashes have on other people. He is scared of dogs and his high school yearbook (who isn't?). He wants to have a house near the beach, but will settle for a man who owns one. He is frustratingly beautiful. For

more information, log on to www.face-pic.com/clashdance. He lives in 60 Don Jose St., Kalookan City.

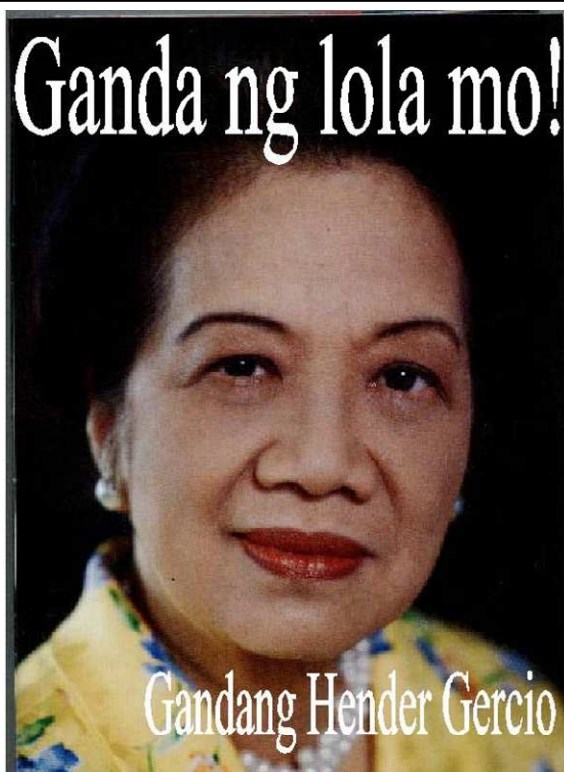
Ms. Emmalyn C. Sagum is a senior Linguistics student of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She describes herself as, "Just a simple girl who wants to do something incredibly great and honorable where my family and friends would be proud of me." Oh, and she also love cats! She lives in

494 J. Buizon St., Sto. Cristo, Baliuag, Bulacan.

Mr. Michael Charleston "Xiao" B. Chua is a second year student taking up Bachelor of Arts in History at the University of the Philippines. He's a native of Tarlac City and currently resides in Yakal Residence Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. A proud Filipino and an ardent Beatle fan, he wants to be in history, or at least write it.

It has often been said that Marcos was the first male chauvinist to underestimate me.

-Cory Aquino



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