



BAYAN KO

THE REBIRTH OF PHILIPPINE DEMOCRACY UNDER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO, 1986

No one expected President Ferdinand Marcos, the dictator who had kept the Philippines under martial law for the past 14 years, to declare on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley" that the Philippines would host a snap democratic election.

Marcos didn't expect anyone, let alone the former self-proclaimed house wife Corazon Aquino, to pull together a coalition quickly enough and mighty enough to pose a legitimate threat to his regime. On February 7th, 1986, it came as quite a surprise when the government's electoral commission (COMELEC) and an independent electoral commission (NAMFREL) respectfully declared both Marcos and Aquino as President, and each took it as a cue to swear themselves in as the one true President.

Amidst all this, the Armed Forces had been expecting to carry out their planned coup against a re-elected Ferdinand Marcos on the day of the election, but in light of electoral controversy found themselves pledging their support to the woman in yellow, Cory Aquino. The two million peaceful protesters called to the streets of Manila by the Catholic Church to decry the dictatorship and who pledged their own support to Corazon Aquino, had no idea that they were going to be part of the People Power Revolution, remembered as one of the largest and most successful peaceful protests of all time.

All this prologue leads to Marcos fleeing the nation, bestowing upon Corazon Aquino the presidency over a nation that wasn't expecting the full extent of Filipino fragility, instability, and corruption that had been masked by Marcos' heavy handed authoritarianism. Corazon Aquino, now the first female president of the Philippines, and you, members of her cabinet, are left to actually grapple with the responsibility of bringing a nation together rather than bringing it to its knees with militant authoritarianism.

Delegates must walk a tightrope between the east and west, urban and rural, liberal and conservative, and secular and religious in order to rebuild a true democracy and guarantee its existence for posterity. Revolutionary sentiment has already swept the nation, but what will this revolution come to mean? It is up your administration to write your chapter for the history books.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

LUCY SEAVEY
CHAIR



CAMERON BERNSTEIN
CRISIS DIRECTOR

Cameron Bernstein is a third year in the College, majoring in Computational and Applied Mathematics from the Chicago area. Each night before falling asleep, she says a small prayer hoping that medical schools will let her through their pearly gates of cadavers and fiscal independence.

When not participating in MUN (team), MUN (MUNUC, UChicago's High school conference, where she serves as a USG), or MUN (ChoMUN, where she helped run the committee ¡Vivan las Mariposas! The Fall of Trujillo, 1959), she can be found on the sidelines of a football game with UC Cheer, running UChicago's 24 hour theater festival Theater[24], getting coffee with her big in Pi Beta Phi, or working in a lab at the hospital. You can also find her every Friday at Hillel leading reform services. Her co-execs can't quite figure out how she does so much considering she packs thirty hours worth of activities into a twenty four hour day. She may have a time machine. They have yet to find it.

Cameron will be serving as a crisis director and looks forward to crafting this year's ChoMUN experience. Feel free to reach out to her at cbernstein@uchicago.edu.

Fun fact, Cameron broke her toe in order to watch the following vine:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsuY9IHxg88>



JACOB SIMS SPEYER
CRISIS DIRECTOR

Jacob Sims Speyer is a second year in the college, and is one of the few Public Policy majors at this institution that enjoys quick maths. He hails from the hamlet of Newton, Massachusetts, and unbeknownst to many is the first American from his South African family.

Jacob works in the UChicago Admissions office, knows much too much about aviation, and is only a Patriots fan when it serves him well. Jacob is also involved in MUN (team), MUN (MUNUC, UChicago's high school conference), and MUN (ChoMUN, where he served as an AC for You Know Who We Are But Not What We Do: Halliburton).

In high school, Jacob's name served as a colloquial unit of measurement for just how much procrastination one can get up to. Don't worry, everyone changes after their first year of college.

Jacob allegedly has a twin brother, although if you saw a picture of them you would swear they aren't related. He can frequently be found at Hillel, or in his special chair in the northwest corner of Harper Memorial Library.

If you ask Jacob how his quarter is going, this is what he will show you:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTwpWVTfOQ>.

Feel free to reach out to him about committee at jsimsspeyer@uchicago.edu.