

Self-supporting student

THOUGH he received free education in college as Adamson Chronicle scholar, Chavez worked as senate reporter of DZRH and as a correspondent of People's Journal.

Prior to DZRH, he was a co-anchor of Amado 'Gat' Inciong, former Labor Deputy Minister and a 'Rectionian nationalist' in the program "Ang Makabansa" over DZME where he was paid P500 a week. It was Inciong that opened his mind on the lessons of Bolshevik's (Russian) revolutions, Marxism and the lessons of great Cultural Revolution of Chairman Mao Tze Tung.

"The youngest and intelligent member who even studies while working is DZRH's Cesar Chavez," recounted by "The Men and Women of the Senate Press Corps" an article written in *The Journal* on May 1989.

A self-supporting student and a student leader who was attending regular conferences outside schools and leading some national student organizations. He was AB political science student and someone who at the same time helping his brothers go to school showed his multi-skills training even at a younger age.

Chavez involved himself in the advocacy of nationalist orientation by organizing students' discussion groups, mostly university scholars, with Historian Renato Constantino, an author of



Interview with President Joseph Estrada

social science and history books, including "The Past Revisited" and "Continuing Past" and essays that discussed Philippine history in the point of view of a nationalist Filipino writer. In the sideline, he also engaged himself into hearty intellectual discussions with peer student leaders at the University of the Philippines and the social democrats from Ateneo de Manila University.

As a student leader, he was awarded the Student Leader of the Year Award,



as a student leader

Justice Conrado Vazquez Leadership Award (25th National Rizal Leadership) and the Honorary Citizen Award from Minneapolis City bestowed by Mayor Donald Frazer "in recognition of his excellent

character and achievements". The Vietnamese Communist Youth Union has also recognized his achievement as a student leader by awarding him the Medal of Commendation which was handed in Hanoi.

A multi-awardee in broadcast journalism

Chavez continued his dedication to broadcast journalism after earning his college degree. He was the youngest member of the senate press corps that covered the 8th Philippine Senate from 1987 to 1991. On a daily basis, he was interviewing Senate President Jovito Salonga

and other intellectuals in the senate like Raul Manglapuz, Wigberto Tanada, Alberto Romulo, Neptali Gonzales, Juan Ponce Enrile, Ernesto Maceda, Heherson Alvarez, Orlando Mercado, Rene Saguisag, Edgardo Angara, Letecia Shahani, Sotero Laurel and Tito



Starting young in media industry, Chavez earned numerous awards.

Guingona. Senator Edgardo Angara once said: "He is young but highly qualified professional mediaman." Senator Orlando Mercado also said of him: "I saw myself in him when I was young." Angara and Mercado became his godfathers when he married Genevieve, a UST communication arts graduate, at the famous Paco Park in Manila in 1991.

"By interviewing and talking with them, by attending and listening to committee hearings, plenary debates and out-of-town speaking engagements of these senators, I was inspired and my dream of doing public service was sharpened in sustainable focus and in sustainable speed," Chavez said. "The senate gave me the opportunity not only to report national events but also to study the complexities of government operations, from policy formulation to execution, from program development to policy coordination, from data banking to validation, from short-term planning to medium term to strategic planning

of issues and concerns of national importance," he added.

As a reporter of DZRH, Chavez covered all coup attempts against the Aquino government and the first organization of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao where he was assigned to cover for one week conflicts in Marawi City, Iligan City and other towns in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte.

In an article written in Manila Standard on December 1989 entitled "Fighting for the News," it says: "Cesar Chavez beats everyone to the draw for DZRH."

The same year he graduated in 1989, Chavez made a remarkable performance in the coverage of the coup attempt staged by then Lt. Col. Gringo Honasan when he scooped a breaking news that led to the surrender of the rebel soldiers attempting to grab power from the Aquino government.

"Chavez was the first to break the news of the surrender of Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando's 300-Continued on page 3

Global exposure

While still studying at the Adamson University, he was chosen to be one of the three Filipino youth leaders granted the President Ronald Reagan Youth Initiative Program that brought him to United States and exposed him to the workings of the US education, bureaucracies and politics. The other two Filipino grantees were Malu Lopez of De La Salle University and Manny Lumbao of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. The exposure and study program organized by the United States Information Agency (USIA) handpicked 13 Asian youth leaders, who were invited in the 1980s during the Reagan administration, to come to the US on study grant. Chavez attended seminars at US



Stanford University

State Department, US Information Agency, University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, Colorado College, University of Minnesota, University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University. He also went to



CBC at the White House

Duke University, North Carolina Central University, University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr College and Georgetown Washington University, two years before he graduated AB Political Science. "Mr. Cesar Chavez, never bashful about raising the thorniest questions regarding

US-Filipino relations, evidenced a deeply felt concern for social justice and welfare of the poorest of his countrymen. Those Americans willing to go beyond superficial were able to do so with Cesar," as written in the "USIS Report on Southeast Asian Young Leaders" in Washington, D.C. on January 1988.

In addition, another two US institutions gave Chavez study grants in years 2000 and 2002. East West Center, a think tank created by US Congress, gave him the opportunity to deepen his understanding on international relations, defense and security through seminars conducted in Hawaii,

Missouri and Washington DC. While in Washington DC, he attended conference at the Heritage Foundation, which is the think tank of the Republicans. The Asia Foundation, another US institution, invited Chavez to undergo "Workshop for Legislative Broadcast Journalists" in Kuala Lumpur.

All grants he received from US government were directly coursed through him and did not pass through any Philippine government agency.

Chavez also received study grants from Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) and attended conferences organized by the governments, or



at World Bank in Washington DC, United States of America.



Cesar with Mayor Donald Frazer of Detroit, USA.

their instrumentalities, of Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia and Peoples Republic of China. The World Bank also invited him to a conference in New York and Washington, D.C.

Vice President Noli de Castro requested Chavez to accompany him during his official missions to Libya, US government, Chile and during the installation of Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican City. He was part of President Gloria Arroyo's official missions to Spain and United Kingdom.

Every time he goes out of the country and visits developed cities, he always remembers his hometown San Jose and his desire to develop it even becomes burning.



CBC at University of California Berkeley



CBC at University of Pennsylvania