As of 04.01.2003

WHAT’S IN A NAME?
(With apologies to Shakespeare and the NSC people)

After 22 years of discussions on organization, people, job evaluations and performance appraisals, so many names still ring in our ears and swim in our heads. Submitting to the propensity for levity even when dealing with the most serious of subject matters, allow us to introduce a bunch of wonderful people with wonder-full names. These gals and guys were in the corporate picture (Iligan, Pasig, Makati, Port Area, Cebu) thru all those years -- the good and the bad, the happy and the sad, whether sober or mad -- as NSC went from STEEL (definitely) to STEAL (allegedly) to STILL (temporarily).

WARNING: This is creative writing that does not belong to any particular literary category. Neither is this type of writing taught in any school, college, institute or university. Correspondingly, creative writing requires imaginative reading, i.e. read with your mind rather than with only your eyes. It may even be necessary to read this feature article slowly, with full concentration, amidst peaceful and quiet surroundings, pronouncing and enunciating each name silently, recognizing that NSC people communicated with each other in three basic languages that have their own phonetic uniqueness. If you can’t comply with these conditions, please stop reading at this point and try again some other time. On the other hand, if you are ready to satisfy said conditions, you may proceed and read on. And have some fun.

Anong pang-ALLAN mo? If you ask them this question, you are likely to hear such oddities as HOSPICIO (where he was born), EXPEDITO (hurriedly), SOCRATES (philosophical Greek), DEMOSTHENES (oratorical Greek), ULYSSES (warrior Greek), THESSHELONICA (geographic Greek), PERSEUS (mythological origin), FLEUR DE LIZ (cultured French), VOLTAIRE (revolutionary French), CYRIL (probably Roman-Italian), GIOVANNI (stylish Italian), VITO (Sicilian Don’s disapproval), SAMITA (perhaps Hebrew), MILOR (with Slovakian slant), WENDELL (has English-Irish ring to it), NELSON (same comment), SEAN (Scottish Connery), HELDRITH (no comment), LILIU (don’t know), SYLVIO (don’t know either), ERCISON (makes cellphones?), GLENMOORE (makes shoes?), MAXILINDO (something big), JEZEBEL (sounds fishy), WEBSTER (used the wrong book), etc.

At the Training Center, you will meet guys with the appropriate names MAGLINAO (to shed light) and SILAO (too much light). Also there is GALVAN (expert on GI sheets) who should recruit ACERO (for iron-making technologies), BANGCAL (for steel-making processes), ROLLON (for hot and cold-rolling operations), TINOY (for tinplate production), TINGCANG (for making tin cans), FABRICANTE (for fabrication usages), RUSTY (for anti-corrosion techniques), PRIMACIO (for increasing prime yields) and CAHOY (for promoting the “save the trees, use steel” campaign). ALAMIN (kindly get educated), ISIP (please think always) and BASA (please read a lot) should volunteer to join them, together with AGURO (someone who teaches) and LEYSON (something to teach). If you want something really really basic, Salas and Batac can collaborate to take you back to your PEPE AND PILAR primer. Arizabal and Lilibeth can also retrain you on your AVA-CADA. Clem will ensure you are always GRAMATICA-ly correct. Courses in arithmetic can be provided by the group of ISAGANI-DOSDOS-ALTRES-MANAPAT-CINCO-CALPITO-QUIOCHO-NINA-DIEZ-PONCE-FORTINEZ assisted by DIVIDINA for division and REDOBLE for multiplication. Every now and then, PAGKALINAWAN and PAGLINAWAN can do counseling work for confused trainees.

We are very careful about people combinations. For example, MALOU-PETE could create some personnel problems; even worse if we put together SABINO-TAN (we will all end up looking like Pasig’s KOJAK). DENNIS-JIMENEZ might become a comic strip childish menace. MALU-BENNY may sound Japanese. More so with YAMUTA-SATO. WASSMER-SUIZO will seem European. PRINCIPE-AMANTE smacks of Tagalog movie fiction. ROQUE-BALBOA may remind people of Sylvester Stallone. SIANGCO-NERI will pertain to the original James Bond. FRANK & ESTAN would be a horror movie about a man-made monster (this gets really bad if DACULA joins them). ILLUT-NES can emulate the crime-buster in the TV series “Untouchables”. GRANADA-NACASABOG will be an explosive tandem. While OMBRA-CRUZABRA could provide the magic ORACION for human hocus-pocus, DIOSO-ESPIRITU-SANTOS can invoke divine intervention.
when things get really tough. **ANDY-LIM** will reminisce about the brownouts of the 1990s. **LEONG-AGO** has become obsolete for today’s challenges. **TITA-NICK** might sink the unsinkable. **ABANDON** should not give up too soon. **BUOT-TAN** will be too good to be true. **CHING-CO** supervised by **JESS** could imply nickel-and-dime **PITOGO** operations when we ought to be thinking big -- such as **RIBU**, **EMIL-LEON**, **BILLONES** and **TRILLO**. **RECIBE-CABIGON** can lead the accounts receivable/collection committee. **PANDO-NOYNAY** sounds like they can produce a lot of bread for the treasury coffers particularly if **BILL-DING** continues with the construction projects. **ERASMO-AGAD** can handle urgent matters. **ALY-MAGNO** must overcome their crab mentality. **PAO-SIAO** will help when we need some Chinese dirty tricks, or its reverse **SIAO-PAO** when we get hungry, which is precisely the trouble with a **GO-TOM** combination that could lead to the opposite over-eating predatory extreme if **LINA-MON** or **GLO-TONY** enter the picture. The combination of **CONSEJO-MAGPAYO-PAYUMO** would be a good choice for advisors. If we pirate back Celso, who went to Singapore, we could create a **LEE-MA-HONG** trio for low-cost (hindi naman **LIBRES**) acquisitions. Five guys can even start to compose a nursery rhyme: “**BIEN, BEN, the **SARAZIN**, the **CASTILLO**, the **ALMAZAN**…….”

**APO/NJO/ROL/GTB** keep bragging that everyday, somebody somewhere is wishing them a “happy **BERT-day**”. **ASL** is ecstatic on **TUS-days**. **VTS** insists that nothing could be better than **SATOR**-day because it is a part of the weekend (actually, **SABIDO** and **DOMINGO** can claim the same thing). In an attempt to complete the week, we can count on **MANDY** or **RUNES**, **Winnie**’s day, **HUEVOS** and **VIERNES**. **ADLAWAN** won’t care much which particular day you prefer. **AMR** and **RJR** are vying for attention of the weatherman who constantly declares either a **SONNY** day or a **RENE** day or, if undecided, a cloudy day. During a thunderstorm, **MAGLINTE** and **QUIDLAT** will dominate the scene. But be careful, baka ka tamaan ng **WING-TIEK**. At night, **ESTRELLA**, **MUTIA** and **BITOON MARQUIOT** (celestial objects within the **ESTARES** category) will shine together with **BULAN** or **MOON** (as **RET** is called in Iligan). The following morning, pagdating ng **OMEGA**, the **RAYOS DEL SOL** will emerge.

We have many sports-minded individuals who advertise their skills in their names. **MALACAS** would do well in weightlifting. **LANGGOY** for swimming. **BARILLO** and **PESTOLANTE** for shooting events (**PEGUIT**-mata when they aim). **HECHA-NOVA** for volleyball or shot-put. **ECHA-VEZ** for discuss throw or javelin throw. **LUCZON** for high jump. **ANTOLIN** and **VELEZ** for sprints. **LUMBA** for all other kinds of races. **JUMAWID**, **JOMILLA** and **DIMATULAC** will be a solid trio for tug-of-war (**BUHION** was disqualified). **BUNO** and **BARAZON** for arm-wrestling. **LAWAS** and **BADE** for body-building. **ILAGAN** and **LICAYAN** can’t be hit by their opponents in boxing. **PILOTA** for racket-ball. **TIMONERA** for boat-racing. **ROWENA** for rowing. **SOCORRO** for soccer football. **DAMASO** for dama or checkers. **DIGAMON** for backgammon. **DULAY** for bridge card games. **VILLAR** for billiards. **ANCHES** and **SANCHES** for chess. **GOLFEO** keeps beating up his opponents in golf. **LASALA** for archery (the Green type, for fighting the **TANEO** Blue Eagles). The basketball team could use the services of **ALCESTO**, **AVILES** and **ATACADOR** for a fastbreaking offense with dunkin’ **DONATO** providing the exciting points. **AGAWIN** (ironically a Visayan) and **ICAWAT** (ironically a Tagalog) could give us a ballhawking defense augmented by **BLANCO**’s shot-blocking prowess. **HATA-AS** will be ideal for the center position, supported by **LUMOCOSO** for rebounding strength. **ESLAO** gets fielded when it is time to freeze the ball. **MAHUSAY** plays a lot while **MAHINAY** and **LAT-AV** stay on the bench. **GHAZALI** keeps joining all the teams and **MABILIN** keeps getting left behind. Sanoy should join to bring **SUERTE** to the team. Winning is very important. That’s why we even have our own sports **COMMENDADOR** (who is magaring mag-**SARITA** like a Japanese with **NO-EL** in his pronunciation) to telecast the games. **CAYACO** is the self-confident cheerleader and **MASICAT** brags about the team’s **VICTOR**ies. Kailangan **MANALO** in order to get the gold **MEDEL** as the **SIMBUL** of supremacy. But if **SEGUNDO** lang, or **SAYCON** place, okay na rin ang **MEDALLOng PINLAC**. However, if you finish **BERCERO** or **PANGLIMA**, better go back to
the training sessions to improve your performance. Ayaw gid pag-UNDANG because a quitter never wins. Wanna BETH? No, DINA lang, because we don’t want to LUZ our MANNY. Baka ZAMORA na KAREN-deria in the MERCADO na lang kami ma-CABILI ng pagkain. We practice FRUGALIDAD. We are not a gambling group. Hanggang charity sweepstakes lang tayo, kahit AMBOS lang ang winnings. It is prohibited to go to Pagcor CANSINO. It is also not allowed to play the Chinese game MATIONG. Everytime BALATERO gives you balato, you know he has violated these rules -- but profited from it. CORA can’t work with CRUZ because it could be misunderstood as toss-coin risk taking. Even RGC shouldn’t play any game (e.g. scrabble) with his wife and kids -- it will automatically become a game of CHANs.

Some people will go places (all over the MAPA, from APALE to HULO) with their names. BAGUIO, ANTIPOLO, QUIAPPO (with its famous PLAZA-MIRANDA), BIRONDO (in Chinatown), ONGPIN (Chinatown too), BISTRILLOS (in Sampaloc District), MENDIOLA (near Malacañang), PASAY, SAN JUAN, STA. ANA (where the horses run), NAVOTAS, VALENZUELA, MALOLOT (per history books, this is somewhere in Bulacan), LAS PINAS, LUCENO and CALAMBA are all in the ISLA of LUZON, with BATAK in upper Ilocos and LEGASPI (or REGASPI, if you have a Japanese accent) in lower Bicol. Panyong suggests that they pass thru EDSA instead of a small CALZADO, a crowded AVENIDO or a DAANG malubak. They can also try ROXAS BOLIVAR as an alternative route along Manila Bay. Should you opt for the expressway, please get an IPAZ to avoid delays at the toll gates during rush hours. Four guys can even take over Makati City hall: MAYOR JOJO-JOMAR NAI-VE. Another group can make a new BALUARTE in CUISON City: SONNY BELLE MONTE. Waiting in the sidelines is BASMAYOR who is ready to assume office in any town or city. Pete likes the nearby NAYON, Marlon stays at the urban CIUDAD, while Nilda prefers the bigger NACION. If you want the Visayas area, you can go to BOHOL, MURCIA (Negros), MOLO (Iloilo), TOLEDO (Cebu) or JAKOSALEM (Cebu also). We haven’t figured out whether ESPAÑA is in Manila or in Europe, whether BRANZUELA is in Bulacan or South America, and whether ANGELES is in Pampanga or West Coast America (“maraming KANU dito”, according to Toledanes). Others go LOMOSAD abroad with DAIGDIGAN para makita ang buong EDMUNDO, OSMUNDO or RAYMUNDO even if they have to cross the oceans PACIFICO and ARLANTICO. But please tell JUMALON not to make waves, whether the water is ma-LALAINE or mab-ABAO. For luxurious sea transport, Fil has a very tempting offer, “gamitin niyo na lang ang YATCO”. Sabi ni Cecille at Nitz, tawirin din daw ang mga ilog RIVER-A at RIOS using a boat BANGCA-YA because swimming is risky, baka ka ma-LOMOD, even when you bring along a SALVA-BEDA. Europe is a favorite destination, such as ALEMANIA, AUSTRIA, ELBIÑA, MADRID, ARAGON, MILANO, FLORENCE, SEVILLA, VALENCE, TORINO and PORTUGALEZA (if you arrive by calesa). This lady, SUSAN PAULO, will guide you to Brazil. To go back in time, PABILONIA can take us all the way to ancient history. On the other hand, if you want futuristic ADVENTOR, we can do interplanetary travel to outer space and meet the ALLENs from MARS, VENUS and JUPITER. One guy has two addresses as DUHAYLUNGSOD due to this confusing GEOGRAFO. If you want to communicate (MACKY-BALITAAN) with others in a CLAR way, you can use the MIKE. For longer distances, use the WILKIE-talkie or the TAWAY-radio with the “over-over” language. “ROGER!”, he will lead you to the nearest PLDT PAYPON booth. When important papers are to be forwarded, MQV suggests sending them via air-MEL. However, if numerous and bulky, Pol will take care of them as LBC.

Because these guys work hard for long hours, meals became a big concern here. Parang RESTAURO, DAGSAN ang mga pagkaon. Usually, naka BANDOJA-do pa dahil sa dami. Hindi ka MACARANAS ng gutom. You can practically JAVIER cake and eat it too. If you are always ma-GANA, you will become PAT and overweight unless you watch your MENDIETA. CLM frequently starts his day with a heavy al-MOZAR. Others, such as PMT, are contented with just coffee or TE. For health and vitality, MELO endorses a chocolate drink. Tony suggests TINAMPAY as Robert provides the HAM and
Monching adds the **BACON.** **FRANK-**furters are preferred by Valencia and Dosdos (two pieces for each of them, i.e. **BARICUATRO** lahat). At the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, they serve **LAPUZ** batchoy. For a light lunch or dinner, you can have a **CESAR** salad or lumpiang **ABUD.** If you want seafood, there is the canned **SADERNAS,** the blue **MARILYN** or the **ARELLANO**ng bangus. Somebody else wants arroz-**PACALDO,** and this is where you need **BUGAS.** Jim and Teddy reminded us to be careful of **CASTRO-**enteritis in our food intake. That's why we have the cooking gear: **PARILLA** or **GUIHAWAN** (for grilled inihaw), **CAWALING** (for fried and sauteed dishes), **CALDERON** (for steamed food) and **JOVEN** (for baked items), in most cases using the heat of the nagba-**BAGA** na **QUINALAYO** fueled by **GAAS.** Anyway, many employees are skilled in the **COLINARES** art of cooking, kahit marami ang **REGADO** in the recipe. Don't overdo the cooking, baka si-**NONOG** ang mangyari. For your meat requirements, try the na**GUILING** or **TALADTAD** na karne. **ASB** and Monsada insist on **FRED** chicken na **CRISP**y ang pagkaka-**BRITO,** rather than chicken **CORY** or **ANGUS** beef. Kung wala kang cholesterol constraint, subukan ang **LEE-****CHONA** (the female has better skin complexion and lesser matigas na muscle). **AZURIN** is suggested as **POLUTAN** when drinking beer, particularly Cerveza **NEGRE.** Then wind up with va-**NILA** **SUNDAE**, **CHAKA**-late cake and banana **TORRION** for dessert. Or if you want native delicacies, you can go for puto **CONCHITA,** gi-**NATAN** or bibingka **CACANINDIN.** However, if your stomach is full and/or your wallet is empty, hanggang **JOSIE** Fruit chewing gum ka na lang. During **PASCUA** evenings, you may want **PUTONG BONG-BONG.** Just eat it fast, para hindi **MAGLASANG PANES.** Pag **NATINGA,** you know what to do after eating. **POLITO** might be able to help. What you can’t consume, puwede **MABALOT.** Just be sure to put it in a **VASQUEZ** na walang **BASLOT.** Thereafter, you can get your lighter to make **CINDY** your **WINSTON** or, if you prefer, **PHILIP** or **SALEM.** Just don't touch the “**MARY JANE**” stuff.

We have a virtual vegetable and flower garden with a small orchard. Is it because our factories are called “**PLANTS**”? And our personal absences are called “**LEAVES**”? And our sub-offices are called “**BRANCHES**”? And we communicate officially via the “**TRUNK**” line and informally thru the “**GRAPEVINE**”? And our analytical approach to choosing preferred alternatives is guided by the decision “**TREE**”? And our family origins are called “**ROOTS**”? And the cluster of fuel storage tanks is called a “**FARM**”? And the females have monthly cycles that culminate in their ‘**MELO**” days? Perhaps the yes-men in the organization took their “agree-culture” a little bit too far. Growing and blossoming in our midst are **CELERIO,** **PARAGOSO,** **CONDOR** (goes with patora and carabasa), **ESPINA** (you know, the favorite of **POPOY** and his girl **OLIVA** Oyl), **GARBANZOS** and **LOMONGO.** If you want a hot dish, just spice it up with **CHELY** and **VAMIENTA.** Please **BABARAN** lang with your favorite patis (**RUFINO** or **LORENZANA**) or use Silver **SUAN** soy sauce para hindi ma-**FAITH** and lasa ng gula. Use the **PANDAN** scent to have a delicious **HAMOY.** Never mind the **IVEY,** it may be of the poisonous variety. There are two corn-growers: **CORNELO** and **CORNELIA** whose crops are secured and guarded by **KERNEL Belen,** **KERNEL** Santos and **KERNEL Tan-Gan.** We have a variety of **FLORES,** providing a welcome sight, sound and smell: **ROSE,** **ROSA,** **ROSAL,** **DAISY,** **LILIA,** **FLORA,** **FLORITA** and **CAMOMOT** from the female gender; **FLORANTE,** **FLOREDO** and **SAM-**paguita from the other gender. We also have the new varieties such as **LAG-ROSAS,** **ROSA-LES,** hya-**CYNTHIA** and **EN-CARNACION.** Quite appropriately, they use the **LOTUS** software in their computer work. The flowers come in different colors but the clear favorites are **ODILAO,** **PAULA** and **QUIMSION.**

Fruits seem to be less plentiful. Hindi masyadong ma-**RAMIE,** according to **REM.** Meron lang tayong **PEÑA,** **DURAN,** **SAGUING,** **PAPAYA,** **PEACHY,** **CHERRY** at saka Mang-**AGUSTIN.** Plus **APPLE** computers that were in great demand for making **PIE** charts. Pluck the fruits from the **SANGA** of the **PUNO** only at the proper time, **PAROJINOG,** so that they taste **MATAMIS.** Bihira yung ma-**HASHIM** na nakaka-**NILO** ng ngipin. It might be due to the changes in the rainy **SISON** vs dry **SAYSON.** If you ask the in-house agriculturists to explain, Aguillon will allege that the **LANDO** in
the vacant LOT is the SANDY-type with plenty of BATU (or, in English, EROK) kaya mahirap mag-aRUARO. It is not of volcanic origin wherein the soil ESLAVA in substance. Maybe, na-TAMBAGAN lang ito ng lupa during the reclamation project period. Hindi kaya kulang sa DELIG because of the WALTER shortage? Baka nakalimutan MAGSALIN ng tubig using ABALDE. For harvesting, we should take the advice of the company doctor to make-ANNIE early, bago ma-RAGAS ang mga dahon as the plants begin to wither and gradually die. The fruits must not be allowed to become LAMUG.

When there is food, there’s got to be the liquid counterpart. “Let’s drink to that!” as GENE-TONY would proclaim. CLM tries to stay with his SarsiJ and Doods can offer you different kinds of COLA. On the other hand, the MADLANGBAYAN would prefer higher AL-cohol levels (just ask the BARTENDER): JOHNNY Walker, JACKY DANIELS, JIM Beam, CARLOS Primero, PEDRO Domecq, CATHY Sark, BUDDY-Weiser, Abso-LUT, Chivas REGALA plus the native favorites GINES-bra San MIGUEL and LAMBINOg. Buitizon and Danny will keep persuading you to try their joint-venture concoction REMY-MARTIN. If you care to listen, Ed will share with you his secret cocktail combination drink: VESTAL beer-gin. We have so many bar-hopping individuals who want to pass the bar exams: BAR-AGA, BAR-BON, BAR-CENAS, BAR-LUADO, BAR-NACHEA, BAR-QUIN, BAR-RIGA, BAR-LISAN, BAR-SUMO, BAR-TOLOME, A-BAR-QUEZ, ACI-BAR and ESCA-BAR-TE. But the bar topnotcher is a lady: BAR-BAR-A because she doubles what the others can do. This intoxicated group however remains unaware that NSC’s official alcohol will always be HENESSEY (if CAPANGPANGAN has not forgotten his supposed original dialect, i.e. huwag TAGALOGON).

At this juncture, after several CASES of beer, the happy people enter the picture: the ladies JOY, LIGAYA and FELICES and the gents ALEGRE, FELICISIMO and MAGSAYO. During special ceremonies (inauguration, house-warming, ribbon-cutting, etc.), ECHEVARRIA then begins to throw the coins all over the place. Pag na-PARAMI ng inom (can I have ENAD-er one?) at SUMAYA na SILAN lahat, it’s time to get ORGAN-ized and bring out the PIANO, si-LENDRO, TRAMPE-ta, LIRIO, VIOLAN-DA and LARRACAS for some music and CANTANO, including FOOKSONgs. An impromptu choir gets hastily assembled to give guidance on the musical notes -- DODO, REY, MIMI, PAZ, SOL, LAT, TIBO (Espenido will surely complain about being assigned the two highest notes). As usual, CHIO-CHUA provide the background supporting sounds together with TIU-CHUACHU. Flores specializes on the vocal ZOILo. Sa kantahan, lumalabas ang talent ni MATURAN, PANIOPI and MANRIQUE. As a matter of fact, Pasig has DANNY JAVIER but without the Apo Hiking Society. In Iligan, you will frequently hear the lonely melodies: “Pobreng ALINDAJAO” and “CAMINGAWAN sa PADAYHAG”. Sad songs can make you cry when Tejada and Yatco go duet -- FIL na FIL talaga ang pagkanta. There are so many good singers at NSC (that’s why we have SOUND management practices) that are fit to perform in your favorite noontime show “Eat BALAGA” hosted by Dizon, Sator and Labra acting as TITO, VIC and JOEY. After a well-applauded performance, these guys usually take EBAO. In Makati, especially during YCC’s favorite YOLY-tide SIOSON, kailangan PAQUINGAN the FAMILAR tune: “Ang PASCO ay SUMAPIG, SAYO ay mangagis-SAWIT……” If Arandela is wondering who authorized the singing of the CAROL, she can ask Sabalburo who keeps bragging that – initially speaking -- he is 75% of what X-MAS is all about. Dumlao reacts naman by saying that your children keep writing “Dear SANTI” letters to him during December and he monitors their behavior CLAUSly throughout the year.

When there is singing and the musical beat is alluringly right, the feet begin to move and the body starts to sway. Especially when the sounds of music and noise grow progressively LLAUDER. At this stage, SABAYLE, ADANZA and DENSING lead the way to show everybody that they are very good DANCELs with their fancy footwork. They got a lot of practice at Rico’s DESCO-TIDO. If the energy level is high, they do the La BAMBA before switching to DACOCO-RACHO and eventually to the ZALSOS. However, when the crowd wants more artistic and stylish movements, then TAN-GO will begin. For cultural ascendance, some of the ladies will dance the BELEY, with classical music from the
philharmonic orchestra. During fiesta days, they put on masks and body-paint and gyrate rhythmically to the Ati-atihan drum-like cadence punctuated by yells of “JALA, VERA!”

NSC people are careful about excessive physical exertion (huwag ZOZOBRAĐO), from various ACTUB-ities, whether at work or at play. This is to avoid illness that could trigger a dangerous chain of events as follows: BAIN (that masakit feeling, usually in-the-neck or in-the-ass), GAMUTAN (as you get medication), PICCIO (as they try to fix you), COMA (if you get worse), MANGINSAY (when you have spasms), PATAYON (if you don’t recover at all), PAZ-QUIOGUE-NACIONAL (where you will thereafter end up on display, with or without your consent), EMETERIO (where you will be taken for your permanent residence), HOCK-HAI (who will take you six-feet under), AGNAS (as your mortal remains get processed by nature) and ASIS (when you are ultimately and physically reunited with nature).

The organization is overflowing with Biblical names as chronicled by the EVANGELISTAs in their EVANGELIOS. Of course, we have the usual heavenly First Family JESUS, MARIA and JOSE, together with the apostles PEDRO, JUAN, TOMAS, JAIME, MATEO, etc. (and their various Western equivalents). But what really MERITs attention are the nomenclature (including exotic labels) such as ABRAHAM, ABEL, MOISES, NOE, SAMUEL, DAVID, ELIAS, ELIEZER, EPHRAIM, EXEQUIEL, LEVI, ENOC, SAMSON, SIMEON, ABSALON, BENJAMIN, VERONICA, ELOI, MAGDALENA, MIRIAM, REBECCA, RUTH at EVA pa. Their very names keep reminding us to be holy and full of ENGRACIA, living a life of VIRTUADZO and staying in a state of GRACE. Especially during the period of CUARESMA. To be a good CATOLICO, we ought to go VISITACION regularly to the TEMPLO (kaunting kasalanan), SIMBAHON (venial sin only) or CATEDRAL (kung mortal sin already). If you have no sin, you must be INOCIAN. It’s not only the HERMITA living in the ABBEY who should pray their regular DALANGINs (while kneeling down in the naka-LOAD position) and do the many ESTACIONs of ANGWAY of the CRUZ. Kilalangan magpa-BLESS tayo lahat, para malinis ang BUDJI, and thereby become SAGRADO and MAGRACIA.

There are IMPERIAL names of kings and queens such as ARTHUR, HENRY, PHILIP, RICHARD, ANNE, ANTOINETTE, ELIZABETH, ISABEL and VICTORIA. We also have emperors -- JULIUS CESAR, ALEXANDER, FREDERICK and NAPOLEON, not to mention the legendary Spanish hero A.L. CID nor the mythical almighty ZEUS. Benito and Santiano refer to this group as the ROY-AL family who live in their CAHARIAN. Other names refer to royal TITULAR as in REY (or the plural REYES and the possessive DE LOS REYES). Then we have REX (not of the Tyrannosauros species) and the next-in-rank PRINCIPE, REYNECITA (not just ENIE-body), or BARON. From ancient times, we have an Egyptian FARAO. To represent East Europe, CZARINA will be listed as part of NOBLE-ity. To represent the local ruling crowd, LAKANDULA and PATRIARCA can join. QUIN-CIANO will definitely deny that he is queen of the “promdi”. Difficult to decipher is REYN, which may denote a male queen (opposite of Reyna) or a negative king (opposite of Rey-yes).

Names also hint of parental expectations, fantasies, mistakes or plain ERROLs. JRS has not become JOSE RIZAL. BAYANI may have the same problem as APOLINARIO, AGUINALDO, DEL PILAR, BONIFACIO and DAGOHYO. ANGELO may also have the same problem as MICHAEL, GABRIEL and RAFAEL. RECTOR and PASTOR are not priests, IGNATIUS is not a Jesuit, BENEDICTO is not a Benedictine, FRANCISCO is not a Franciscan and PIOUX is not a pope. Some fathers even had presidential aspirations for their children: GEORGE, IKE, CONRAD, HAROLD, FERDINAND, MARCOS, ELPIDIO, DIOSDADO and GLORIA. PERFECTO might be impossible to achieve. So far, Ranoco has lived up to his ELVIS name. We hope BALASABAS is just a misnomer. We don’t know what AMADOR or VALENTIN’s dad had in mind when they were baptized. ADONIS is straight from mythology. Aldemita brags that he is an abbreviated version of movie star AGA, as Elmer belongs to the familia ng mga GOPO. Possibly, they all long to become ADORABLE. BABY, BOY and JOVENCIO can’t be forever young, but YANGYANG might be able to do it -- twice pa
Quintin may have been a “QT pie” as a baby but, now, no more. Although both of them are five-four, **FORTUNATO** is above target while **SIXTO** is below target. **NONO** and **NONA** are always supportive with their yes-yess and yes-nas, respectively. It seems strange that **RAFFY, SHAK, BENNY, REGGIE, RICKARD** and **OCTAVIANO** are girls while **JILL, NENE, NICKI, FLORY, MICHEL** and **AUDREY** are boys. In fact, **LUZ, LUCILA,** and **ROSARIO** are also **CA-MACHO** males. The Makati office has a male and a female **VENUS.** We hope **CAYAMAMA** is not dependent on her mother. Lilia will confuse you even more -- this mama is a **PAPA.**

With his built-in echo-chamber, **SRF** habitually repeats any name three times. When he says **JOE-JOE-JOE,** suddenly **JMA/JSR/JLA** all turn their heads. When he calls **TON-TON-TON,** then **ASV/AML/ANS** turn their heads too. He also creates the same problem at employee-council meetings when he calls **JUN-JUN-JUN** because **PCB/LTC/IFH** (management side) and **SHV** (union side) react simultaneously. We can make it easier for **SRF,** and even improve overall corporate performance, by putting together Rodriguez, Soriano and Tobias because, as they say, “two **EDs** are better than one”, and therefore three is better than two. Getting the idea, Milan, Lopez and Faustino try to create a second set of **ED-ED-ED** because four should be better than three, five should be better than four, and so on, ad **FABULARUM,** to carry this **EDLES** argument (de-**BATE** na naman) to the extreme. Buti na lang, **JIN** does not usually work closely with Membreve, Libunao and Remulla. Otherwise, we run the risk of confusion: **LITOng-LITO** na, **LITOng-LITO** pa.

NSC people are also animal-lovers. To begin with, everybody is either a **CAT** or a **CHICK** (don’t ask about the 3rd sex). Secondly, many Ilonggo people are always promising “**to do their BEAST.**” We have **ALEFANTE, AGUILA, LEO** (when alone), **MENELEO** (when plenty), **LEON** (when turned on), **PANTALEON** (when cross-bred with a panther), **LEONE** (after acquiring Italian genes), **PALOMA, GALAPATI** (na hindi mababa ang lipad), **BUBOY, CABALLOS, JUNGOY** and **BUAYA** (who may have been excluded from the basketball team). **MAGHUYOP** takes care of them; palagi niyang ina-arrienda-han sila. **CABAHUG** feeds them. **CAPONES** handles population control, especially the dogs whose **MADER AZO** keeps producing **TUTANES** offsprings. Everytime an occasional flea gives **MACATOL** an itch, ka’ilangan maghanap ng **LUNAs.** There is no truth to the rumor that they live in **PRIMITIVO** style in **CORRALES** and **CUEVAS** in the **BONDLOC,** or that some even need a **LUBGUBAN** to escape the heat of summer, **CEPRADO** from other human beings. We also have the hybrids **CAT-HY, CAT-ALINO, CARA-CAT, POSA-DAS, COTING-JO,** kam-**BING,** **RINO-** ceros, **RAM-OS, OSA-BEL, DIALOG-DOG,** **DOUG-LAS, PALA-FOX, HEN-RY,** plus the ranch-dwellers **BACA-BAC, BACA-NI, BACA-LING, BACA-LLO, BACA-REZA, BACA-RISAS, BACA-RRO,** **BACA-LSO, LAG-CAO** and **BULL-ECER.** Then we have the linguistically controversial “**langgams**” (Tagalog or Bisaya, it doesn’t matter): **ANT-ONIO, ANTON-HONY, ANT-OLIN,** **DIMAGUILA, AGUILA-R, BAT-TAD** and **BAT-ILES.** Danny will surely object if listed here as **ANC-** **AJAS.** Same case as Rod if treated as **GAM-BOA** constrictor. We even have the mythical **FENIX** and, surprisingly, the extinct **DINAH**-saur. With privatization, we were invaded by a foreign **CHONG-go** who allegedly attempted some monkey business. Whenever Ulibarri goes to Iligan, he could get into the list of canines as **ERU,** especially when he is trying to call **AU-AU.** If he had white body hair and black spots, **DALMACIO** can join in. If he becomes a shepherd, **GERMAN** will be included. If **BERNARD** is a saint, he is also qualified. Moreover, the Ph-D degree holders who work in the office may be described as sitting **DOCS.** These people keep riding on Toyota **TAMARAWS** while dreaming of unaffordable luxury-class **JAGUARS.** The handling-equipment fleet has **CATERPILLAR BULL** dozers, **RAMlifts** and mobile/overhead **CRANES.** The TV sets have **RABBIT**-ear antennae and the computers have **MOUSES.** The executive levels also have a special species of rodents: autos-**RATS,** aristocr-**RATS,** technoc-**RATS** and bureau-**RATS.** But, thank God, no pure-breed gutter-level creatures. The maintenance shop has **CROCODILE** jacks, **ALLIGATOR** pliers, **SPIDER** gears, **MONKEY** wrenches and **OCTOPUS** connections while the factory buildings have **CAT** walks for the maintenance crew. The mill croppings are either **FISH**-tail, **KALABAW** or **PUP** coils. And the treasury staff keep the company
funds in the **KITTY**. On holidays, some managers go to the golf course to chase that rare **BIRDIE** or the even more rare **EAGLE**. If the weather does not cooperate, then it rains **CATS** and **DOGS** on the frustrated golfers. Sometimes, when the bosses are in bad mood (particularly when you happen to “get their **GOAT**”), erring employees suddenly become mga anak ng **TUPA** or mga anak ng **PATING**. On the other hand, when somebody does a **TERRY**-fic performance, the remarks of adulation will be a resounding “**HAYOP**, ang galing talaga!”

Every morning when the alarm clock goes on, you have to interrupt your **LUGTU**. Never mind the pleasant **DAMGO**. Take a shower, using your preferred **CHABON**, so nobody can say you are dehin **GOLEZ**. Don’t forget the morning routine at the **BAYNO**, **CORBITA** or the **ELIADORA**. Before you go to work, you have to do your **ANDRES**-and-**BIHIS** act to deal with your **JACKY** or **SARDONCILLO** (for men) or **ESBRA** (for ladies) before putting on your **TAYLOR**-made shirt and **JEANS** with a **BACUS** around the waist. Of course, you have to wear your **MEJIAS** before putting on your **DABATOS**, which could be either office shoes or safety shoes. On other days, the girls will opt for the more **PASION**-able **LABASTIDA**, especially those with an **ESLIT** on the side for a little extra sex appeal regardless of the **CORTES** ng katawan. Everyone tries to wear ma-**GAGARRA** na damit. But if your wardrobe is insufficient, please don’t submit to the temptation of **YONG**-**KET**-**INN** ang labada ng kapitbahay. When it rains, you must bring your **CAPORTE** and your **CALO**. If your car plan vehicle got a punctured tire due to **LANSANG** (or **NEIL**), and you need **SACAYAN**, you may have to see Amboy to borrow an **O.S.CAR**. But since the **OPEL** is with Sarte, and the Mercedes is **BEN**’s and the **ALFA-ROMEO** is jointly owned by Saret and del Rosario, you might as well approach Baby to lend you her Toyota **PRADO** during this emergency. If no vehicle is an **AVILA**-ble, just heed Mejugue’s advise to commute thru public transport: “mag **JEFF** ka na lang”. According to Ruales, any-**TING** will do. Kahit **OTTO**-matic or **MANUEL** transmission, okey na rin. **BELLEZAN** mo dapat. Dili ka na mag-**JUAT**. Otherwise, you will be tardy and your boss will admonish: “Anak ng **PURA**, **OLIS** late, **FERMIN** huli sa **BANDE** clock. Hindi mo ba alam na ino-**OYASAN** tayong lahat dito? Dapat laging **MAAGAD**, hindi **ABRAZADO**”. Louie seems to have a ready excuse -- he is always **LBM** but Titus can’t help him with his **LAXA**-tive.

Despite the diversity in their geographic origins, cultural orientation, social upbringing, academic training, work experiences and linguistic inclinations, NSC people are pretty good in verbal communication. This can be observed from the following situational examples:

**SCENE #1**: A typical coffee break conversation would go like this: **“JAO** are you today? Actually, **AIDA** know exactly what to tell you. **DONIO** remember that we are supposed to go somewhere this weekend? You mean **MOLINA** **NANAMAN** tayong magkakaroon ng overnight excursion? Hindi problema yun dahil ma-**LAPID** na lugar lang naman. You mean **JOHN** lang sa tabi-tab? Oo nga, especially kung **DOMANTAYO** sa short-cut route, **ENSON** we will be there. Kung Cagayan or Marawi, next time na lang ako; pero **PAGUILIGAN** City, kasama ako. **ILANO** ang kasali sa lakad natin? **CALMERIN** lahat sasama sa inyo. Then we will need a bigger budget -- it will all **COSIO** a little amount of money. **ALABA** tayong excess funds from previous outings? Ikaw na lang ang mag-**COLETO** ng additional personal donations. Palagi na lang akong nag-contribute, dapat **TOMMY** naman ang bayad. **VILLENA** na kayo sa palengke ng food, including isang **DECENA** na itlog, and **ALDO** the cooking. Okay, ikaw ang mag-**DALANGPAN** para meron tayong tinapay at ako naman ang **MAGDALAN** ng **MULETA** for our clothes. Sigue, let’s **HARRY** up, para dili na ma-**DONGGAY** kaayo.”

**SCENE #2**: At times, they talk of the performance appraisal of a troubled employee: “How come your subordinate is all-**LUIS** on sick leave every Monday morning? Oo nga po, maraming **BESAS** na nangyari yan, parang **TABUZO** na. Ganyan na lang palagi. January to December, **OLLER** long, ubos ang buong calen-**DARIO**. L-**ASINGHO** umuwi kabab, sumobra yata ng inom. Dapat **CANTILANG** ang inom dahil hindi kaya ang marami. **PACSON**-do mo nga sa bahay at **DALIN** mo sa office ko. Kailangan malaman natin kung may **RECLA**-mo siya, **JOSYN**
case he needs our help. Yes, Sir, I will **SHIRLEY** do it, pero **PAJE**-ram nung pang-**JARABAS** na kotse niyo. I don’t want to make **CABIGTING** out of it before we find out, thru a **RIGOROUS** review, using **JULIE**-certified information, as to the **COS** of his problem. After that, we should give him proper **GAID**ANCE. Do you have any other suggestions or bright **ALDEAS**? Ang problema niya – **DACUYAN** o gamay lang iyan? Ang hi-**RAPIRAP** na nga ng buhay ngayon, **ESPESO**-ly during an economic slowdown, baka mawalan pa siya ng trabaho. We have to con-**VINCE** him to straighten things out.”

**SCENE #3:** Occasionally, a somewhat confrontational dialogue: “Wang **HIUOKA**, nasira ang mga tools ko. **CHEK AH** muna, hindi naman ako ang **SUMERA** niyan, baka **VILKRM** of circumstances lang ako. **SENARA** mo ba ang toolroom kagabi? **WENDY** this happen? Ikaw ba ay **SOMOZO**-nod sa procedures for requisitions? (At this stage, nagkaka-**NISNISAN** na sila -- whoever they are.) Please talk softly or I will **PANCHO** in the nose. **NISC** ka lang, ‘padre, baka ikaw ang **BATUCAN** ko. **ADAIR** you to do it! Ang **APAL** ng mukha mo. Pasalamat ka hindi pa kita **QUINAL**-bo. Let’s have it investigated **AIZON** as possible -- after all, **TESSIE** is to believe. **QUINIO** ask the manager to handle it because he **CANTAL** if somebody is trying to be a **LLAYAR**, para huwag na tayong mag-**BOLOHAN** pa. Sure, so everybody will have **TATIL** the truth. **IAN** ang dapat gawin para magka-**VISTRO**-han na. **LEDDA** see what will come out from the de-**TALIADA** na explanations. Thereafter, hintayin na lang natin ang **PACIA** ng management.”

**SCENE #4:** Much nicer to hear (this is already eavesdropping) is a friendly chat (perhaps this is what the **TSD-ARTD** laboratory technicians refer to as lab affairs) in a private undisclosed location: “Sabi ko na sa iyo, **ALMA** life, I have not seen anyone as beautiful as you. **UY** naku, hindi ko akalain, **BENIGRA** mo naman ako! **NARREDO** na nga ako, a very **NAZ** guy, sino pa ang hinihintay mo? I am **NYET** ready **CAASI** for such a commitment. You mean **BALILI** wala ang matagal nating pagsasama dito sa **NSC**? **EMELITA** suspicious kasi of your intentions. Bakit? Please **IRMA** plea. I am not **ABAD** person and hindi naman ma-**ROMY** ang hangarin ko sa iyo. You can fly me to the moon and to **QUIRIMIT** to the stars? Yes, maybe **EMMA** fool to want you but I think about you **CONSTANTE** (this part sounds like the songs from their videoke nights). Mabuti pa kaya i-**TORING** mo na lang akong good friend. **NIEVA** mind, thank you na lang. **JUAN** day, **BALAN** araw, you will realize na ako dapat ang binigyan mo ng **CARINO**. **OUANO** ang gagawin mo ngayon? **SAMUEL** down the road, please let me try **AGAIN** (there’s that videoke thing again). Okay, **ALGO** ahead, **CEQUENA** lang tayo mag-usap muli.”

Only qualified people are actually hired dahil mahigpit at matindi ang entrance **TESS**, hindi simple true-or-false (or the Filipino equivalent, **TOTO-UMALI**) questions. Very **PIO**, hindi plenty, ang acceptable. Kahit meron padrino, definitely not acceptable ang mga applicants na **NORY** no-write. The **MANNING** levels are very well controlled. Mataas ang **MORTOLA**-ty rate ng mga applicants. Kung **MABUTI** ang qualifications mo and **LUKANG** good ka during the interview, hindi pwedeng ma-**RADJAC** ang application mo for employment. Kaya **DAMIAN** mo na ang list of academic achievements and work experiences sa biodata mo. When you are hired, you will realize that the compensation is good -- kayla the employees’ standard of living is not **MACAPOBRES**. Generally, **MALINAO** ang rules and regulations dito. **MOZO** the time, naka-**DEQUITO** sa bulletin board. Integrity is important. **HONRADO** ang **TAÑAN** mga empleyado. Takot din sa Sandiganbayan, baka magkaron ng accusation of having committed **ESTEPA**. **MANZO**-norin sa patakaran. You don’t have to declare **MARCIAL** law. No need to **DANGEL** a reward to motivate them -- it’s enough to give them recognition via the **MADEL** Employee of the Year program. If you are an awardee, your name is naka-**OCAT** sa **SILVERION**mphony. Hindi ka maka-**CUNANAN** ng personal things mo, pero hindi ka rin **MACATANGAY** ng other people’s belongings. **Ma-GALANG** ang lahat ng employees, kahit na **FRANCO** magsalita, kaya maka-CAGAANAN mo ng loob. Kauhit lang ang **BROSC**. They all have a happy **ISMAEL** on their faces. **Ma-**E**GE ang pakikisama ng lahat. The workplaces are neat and clean,
thanks to the efficient JOHNNY-tors and JANET-resses with their brooms na walis TALINGTING. Everything is a-REGALADO -- orderly and systematic. Inventories are unloaded at the PANTILAN and warehoused at various BOREGAS where they are stacked naka-QUIMADO or naka-HERRERA or naka-SALANGSANG supported by the proper DOCUMENTO. Requisitioners make PILA as they HUIT for their TURNO to withdraw their supplies. If there is no more space, Romy will make SIBUG to accommodate you. Discipline is relatively well-enforced. For instance, every time ALPAS and TACASTACAS do their thing, and aggravate it by making CANTAGO, CAHANAP will definitely find them and DAGPIN will surely bring them back. If more sanctions are needed, GENERAL-AO will implement the major punishments and EN-CABO takes care of the more routinary penalties. Artiaga and Javier allege that the in-between moderate cases will be handled by CAPT. and SARGE respectively. This shows that, although management is RIVERAL-minded, it is not LIÑAN in implementing rules and regulations such that when you are caught violating the rules, MAGDUZA ka talaga. But don’t worry, they won’t use the ROD or the BATUTAY.

Waste management is also a prime concern -- bawal LAGTAPON ng valuable resources. Si Victor ang responsible mag-TAGO nito, with Luz securing them as LA GUARDIA. Hindi ka puede TALAMPAS sa prescribed limits. Notwithstanding, kung meron pa rin TUMAPON, Wingwing will fly to respond heroically as TAGAPULOT. Nandiyan din si Jun, another TAGAPULOT, who will fly all the way from Malaysia to come to the rescue. Speaking of heroes, as the occasion requires, either RUBEN Hood, Flash GORDO, or PAT-man & RUBIN will take appropriate action. They are very BRAVO. CATAPANG TALAGA, hindi takot sa PANGANIBAN. SALUDO tayo sa kanila. If you need more support, MAGTANGGOL will gladly help out. Everybody is hardworking. Dili GANI mahiino ang pa-LAHOYLAHOY sa tarbaho. Dapat COMAHIG ng todo, BAYONA-ng bayo. Don’t feel LIZZIE because bawal ang BANTUGAN. Everytime meron problema, kailangan maghanap ng PARAN to overcome it. Sometimes, kung nagkukulang ang PEREA mo, you can make an emergency GUTANG from the Credit Cooperative. They will LENDIO the money, particularly if you are the MAGPARANGALAN type of borrower who does not issue GATAL-bog na post-dated checks and whose attitude is always “babayaran ko ang ONGTANGCO”. You better do, to avoid being dragged into the nationwide socio-economic tragedy called “til debt do us part” which, by the way, is exactly what happened (worth P16 Billion) to NSC itself. After working all day, when you already feel CAPOYAN and your eyes are POMICPIC-kit na, it is FENELY time to make SARA the office. To comply with Follosco’s CEF-ty programs, and for security reasons, i-ZOSIMO muna ang mga pinto at gate bago ka umuwi.

On the way home, puede ka MACARAAN sa iyong favorite fastfood specialist to pick up ready-to-eat dinner or snacks. Di ba iyan ang pinag-BELEN ng mga anak mo? Choose your options properly, para SULIT ang gastos. Macaspac and Sison recommend MAC-DONALD’s where you can get a-PAUL pie and ORBE ice cream. Germie and Martinez suggest CHIAO-IKING where you can try CRISPIN pata, BOBBY-QUE and pancit ANTON or pancit SABEJON GUISADIO. Robles and Catane endorse JOE-LEVIE where you can order a JIMBAU hotdog and EFREN’s fries.

When you finally get home, you need a LLAVE to make ABREU DADOR of your respective CASAS located in the next CANTO. Then you can step on the shiny FLOR (waxed by YONSON yata ’yan) made of hardwood RANARA (which cannot be attacked by DAC-ANAY) of your SALAS. To relax, you may sit on the CELIA in front of DE MESA. If you wish to look out the window’s CLAIRE-glass ESPEJO, you have to make TINDUGAN first. Employees who availed of housing loans live in BONGALOS-type of residential units in Steel Town (Iligan), Steelhomes (Antipolo) or in various private subdivisions. If you are as wealthy as SENERICHES, RICO, MINA and DOÑA with their mga ALJAS (Verances calls them JOEL-ry) na ESMERALDA, DIAMANTE and BRILLANTES, you probably live in a PALACIO fortified by MALIG-ON nga PADERES with TORRES na DIMAGUIBA. That means the house is not a simple RICK-ety GERRY-built structure with a GI-sheet RUFO on top that merely keeps out both sun and rain. If you are super-rich, never mind if GEMANA
mo lang ang kayamanan from your parents, you may even have a VILLA (or its various derivatives VILLAGRACIA, VILLACORTA, VILLACIN, VILLAYER, VILLAVICENCIO, VILLARTA) made of SOLIDUM concrete that is MAGTIBAY talaga and CANLAS for a long, long time. In fact, you can have an additional unit (VILLAMOR) that is new (VILLANUEVA) and true (VILLAREAL) and has a bridge (FUENTEVILLA) even if owned by someone else such as your wife or mother or other relatives (VILLANIA). Or still another one (VILLARIN) located on top of the GIL. Talking of rich guys, WTT and WRB have a definite edge because we always pay the BILLS everyday everywhere. At the end of the tiring day, it is time to close DE MATA to get a well-deserved reinvigorating sleep and be ready the following morning for whatever new challenges will come up.

“DINO ba maintindihan?” Mel queries. Well, we warned you that creative writing needs imaginative reading. Please see a doctor -- baka kinalawang na ang utak mo. “DAVE done it again!”, exclaim Van Gend and Escarda. “TAGUD to be true”, sabi ni Susan. RPR quickly adds that si RAULO siguro ang mga gumawa nito dahil nakaka-ROCO (no political connotations). This may be ALOTA nonsense but Jun alleges it is definitely ORIG. According to Gonzalez, Maderazo and Igban, this is a work of ART. Are they DWIGHT or WONG? For your info, Amo, Battad and Gascon have AUDIE-ted the source data after Mike did a matinding pasi-SIASAT. Villadolid, as SGV, certified that the names in this feature story are TOTOo, with Aplasca signing as firsthand witness. Furthermore, de Jesus and Mateo have EDITed the written drafts at least twice already.

“Na-DOLLY kami!” Some people might feel offended because we supposedly used their names in vain. They need not invoke the Second Commandment and trigger a religious war. We were just having a nice time and a good laugh (JOECON-ly) -- for old times’ sake. Mabuti nga theyy have been remembered despite the intervening years. In other words, as per Ruth and Castro, they have not been taken for GRAN-TED.

“Bakit hindi kami napa-SALLY?” This is the opposite problem naman. Obviously, we can’t please everybody. Some names that did not get into this feature article but deserve special mention due to their uniqueness are the following: ACA-AC, ACORITAY, AMAMANGPANG, AMAGSILA, AYENG, BAANG, BAGUNDOL, BAYOTAS, BIONGCOG, BOLAY-OG, BULONGAITA, BONGCAWEL, BUALAT, BULUUL, CABUNOC, CABURATAN, CADUTDUT, CAMASURA, DAYTIC, DAYANAN, DEAMBONANZA, DESPABILADERAS (record-holder for the longest name), EDQUILAG, GABUTAN, GACUCUBUC, GALIMBAS, GALLAROT, HANDUMON, HIPELUIT, INTONG, KAMIÑO, LAPAÑASAN, LIMOSNERO, LIMOSNO, LIMPANGOG, LOMOLJO, LONGAKIT (the Rotary Club should call him Long for short), LOQUILLANO, MACAHIDHID, MACHACON MANANQUIL, MANLOLOYO, MAROHAMBSAR, ODCHIGUE, OCAO, OPOG, OTADOY, OYANGUREN, PLASUS, PAGATPAT, PAGDANGANAN, PARAGADOS, PALPAL-LATOC, PINAROC, RATERTA, REQUITILLO, REVATORIS, SALIGUMBA, SQUILABON, SULAPAS, TABIQUE, TAMPARONG, TANGARORANG, TANUDRA, TO-ONG, TRACAROL, UGERIO and YGRUBAY. Reportedly, the four syllables in SINANGOTE resulted from the merger of four Chinese families into a single CONSORCIO. If that is so, then DYCAICO, SINSIOCO, LIMGENCE and LIMSIACO must have been syndicated also from three similar groups. All other people will remain ENONY-mous for the time being.

If you can’t relate to any of the names indicated (despite the re-SEMBLANTEs) in this feature article, please don’t blame the writers. Notwithstanding their battlefield shock experiences and their present age (and counting), they are nowhere near a state of senility nor amnesia. There were just too many names involved for the entire 22 year period. Therefore, please be reassured that your pretty face and -- more importantly -- your past performance (we hope it was officially rated by your boss as outstanding or, at least, above average) did not go unnoticed then and obliterated now by the cruel passage of time. It is simply that your name is not sufficiently amusing nor “flexible” enough to be interwoven into this feature article. For that reason, the blame should go to your parents and/or ancestors who probably had too much
sense but too little humor. But it’s not too late. You can still go to your favorite lawyer (he could be the son of your kumpadre and colleague from your NSC days) and proceed to the nearest court to file a petition for a change in first name, middle name and/or family name. If you happen to be a single girl, you have the extra option of marrying **EGAY** with the right eligibilities plus, above everything else, an interesting surname.

In the meantime, we are aware that some NSC people have changed their status from alive to eternally alive. Actually, *sila ang tunay na “……. and they lived happily ever after.”* These guys may now join the **SKELETON** crew manning the **GRAVEYARD** shift, working in high **SPIRITS** to help the entire corporate team beat the **DEAD**line set for November 2 All **SOULS** Day. Maspag ang mga ito. They don’t avail of their coffee and meal breaks. They are never caught absent, tardy or sleeping on the job. They always waive their sick leave and vacation leave entitlements. They don’t claim reimbursement for expenses. They don’t sign petitions nor join any picket lines. But they can’t get night premium, overtime pay nor basic salaries because the auditing rules don’t allow a **GHOST** payroll.

“They were the days my friend, we thought they’ll never end …..” . These are part of the lyrics of a popular song from the 1960s (when IISMI was formed) and the 1970s (when NSC took over as a rescue operation). “We’re building a country!” -- the battlecry of the 1980s (when the upgrading/expansion programs started) and carried into the 1990s (as NSC geared up for globalization). “If we hold on together, I know our dreams will never die ……….”, everybody sang **BMM**’s favorite song to preserve organizational unity amidst the nerve-wracking trials and tribulations, including the uncertainties of privatization. An award-winning company, manned by achievers (e.g. **EDWIN**, **WINNIE**, **VICTOR**, **VICTORIO**, **VICTORIA**, **MANALO**, etc.), that got better and stronger with every passing crisis. Such being the case, it was supposed to last forever: **ESTER**-day, **TEODY** and **TUMARAO**. Although temporarily stalled, Prof. Canto says this might be a case of “**TOBY** continued ………..” NSC’s history seems to support this theory: **NASSCO**, **IISMI**, **ELIROL**, **ELISCON**, **PBM**, **PPMCI**, **VISCO** all came together to become **NSC**. From **GOCC** to private sector, back to **GOCC**, then to foreign private sector, to foreign **GOCC** and, now, to become a subsidiary of Philippine banks. What next? Abangan ang kasunod.

The organizational atmosphere prevailing then was one of creative tension and productive harmony (perhaps this is what **MOP** meant with his famous **“on a kiss to kiss basis”**). When your boss says “**you’re performing below par**”, he is not criticizing your work. He is actually commending your golf game. When the labor union declares “**let’s have a strike**”, we all then converge at the bowling alleys to outdo each other on strikes and spares. When the lawyers counter “we will see you in court”, they promptly proceed to the tennis court to display their skills as racketeers. When the mill manager insists “**I want them killed**”, the supply manager has to buy either aluminum-killed or silicon-killed raw materials. When the coach yells “**call the guard**”, the point guard rejoins the basketball game to speed it up. When an employee shouts “**I’ll punch you**”, he goes ahead and helps you with the time card and the bundy clock at the risk of being terminated. And when somebody threatens “**I’ll shoot them**”, the only weapon he will brandish is his camera as everybody else poses and smiles.

To give this article some semblance of literary legitimacy, the insecure writers hereby wind it up with appropriately haunting words from a poem (by **William Wordsworth**) from their schooldays once upon a long time:

```
What though the radiance which was once so bright,
be now forever taken from my sight.
Though nothing can bring back the hour
of splendor in the grass,
of glory in the flower,
we will grieve not;
but rather find strength in what remains behind.
```
FOOTNOTE: This is an unfinished draft by RSN, MQV, JIN, RJR, RGC, JYS, TLM assisted by VMB. It was initially attempted in 1986, redrafted in 1992, updated in 1996, and redrafted again in 2002 and 2003. After several on-and-off attempts, the writers concluded that because of its inherent creative nature, this feature article can never be truly finalized by them. It is therefore expected that every reader from the NSC “alumni association” will have something to add, concoct, embellish, delete or otherwise revise versus what was written into this unfinished draft. After reading properly (in compliance with the warning), the reader is invited to try his own skill in creative writing that has been demonstrated (adequately, we hope) by the writers. This way, we could stimulate your minds into recalling those times when we all worked together so hard and so productively and, thereby, enjoyed every minute of it. In so doing, we hope to reassure each other that ....... YES, WE REMEMBER.