

LIBERATION

PUBLISHED BY THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

VOLUME II NO. 4

NOVEMBER 12, 1973

More priests, nuns arrested

**PC raids
Catholic
schools,
convents**



The Marcos dictatorship launched another campaign of repression against religious groups with a series of raids and arrests throughout the country in recent weeks.

About a dozen convents, seminaries, and Catholic schools and dormitories were ransacked by armed troops as scores of nuns, priests and seminarians were hauled to military detention camps.

Reacting to the renewed persecution of the religious, Catholic and Protestant groups protested the violation of their civil liberties and demanded the immediate restoration of the people's democratic rights.

Reports gathered by LIBERATION revealed the following:

1. The convent of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Matina, Davao, was raided at 6:30 a.m. last Sept. 14. The library and the nuns' living quarters were searched and ransacked. Books and some personal belongings were confiscated.

Searching for firearms and "subversive materials", the raiders ordered the Superior to open the tabernacle in the chapel.

The Superior, Sister Regina Pil, was taken to the PC headquarters in Tagum, Davao del Norte, and was released only upon the intercession of the Archbishop of Davao.

Her interrogators told her they had knowledge of a "Church plot to overthrow the government".

The raid and arrest were strongly denounced by the Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Secretariat (an organization of bishops) in a letter addressed to Marcos dated Oct. 9.

2. St. Joseph's College in Quezon City was raided by a battalion of heavily armed Metrocom troopers at 4:30 a.m. last Oct. 20. The troopers confiscated books, school records and personal belongings as they ransacked all offices, libraries and sisters' sleeping quarters.

The college registrar, Sister Mariani, was arrested and is still detained at Camp Crane.

After the raid, ₱370 in cash was reported to be missing from two offices searched by the troopers.

3. Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Novales, Rizal, was raided simultaneously with the St. Joseph's College. Every room was searched and several books were confiscated.

The two raids were coordinated through walkie-talkies used by the troopers.

The raiders were reportedly searching for a Franciscan priest. Unable to find the

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INSIDE

◆ PASS ON
AFTER
READING

THAI DICTATORSHIP OVERTHROWN ■ FOUR SLAIN BY PC
■ SAN FRANCISCO DEMO ■ 'BALIKBAYAN' - BALONEY! ■

PRIESTS...

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priest, they arrested a Franciscan brother.

One of the raiders was reported to have said that "two priests were out to kill Marcos and the Church has decided to overthrow the present government".

MORE RAIDS

4. Raids were also conducted on convents in Baguio City, Bacolod City and Iloilo City, the convent of the Oblate Sisters of Norte Dame and the Sto. Nino Parish in Tacloban City, the Redemptorist monasteries in Davao and Tacloban, and the dormitories of the Atenco de Manila.

As of press time, details of these incidents were still being checked.

5. Several members of both the clergy and the laity were arrested in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Among those arrested in the Visayas were Fr. Rudy Abao and five seminarians of the Mission of the Sacred Heart in Lapu-lapu City, Cebu, and Fr. Sucilla and four organizers of a local community organization in Iloilo City.

ARRESTS IN MINDANAO

Earlier, on Sept. 7, Fr. Luis Jalandoni was arrested in Bacolod City on charges of "subversion".

In Mindanao, the list of those arrested included the following:

Fr. Orlando Carvajal of the Mindanao Development Center and eight community organizers of Agdao, Davao del Sur, last Sept. 14; Alex Ampit and Fred Mendoza of the Mindanao-Sulu Secretariat for Social Action (MISSA) in Tagum, Davao del Norte; Fr. Tom Marti of the Maryknoll Fathers and director of the MISSA; Fr. Edward Goerloch of the Maryknoll Fathers and chaplain of the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) in Davao del Norte; and Fr. Fernando Yusingco of the Redemptorist Fathers; who was picked up in Gingoog, Misamis Oriental, and brought to Cagayan de Oro City.

ECUMENICAL GROUP PROTESTS

Fr. Goerloch was arrested because the FC suspected that some FFF organizers were forming armed groups to fight the dictatorship. Earlier, a battalion of FC soldiers saturated Asuncion, Davao del Norte, and arrested several FFF leaders and members.

6. An ecumenical group led by Pastor Cirilo Rigos of the Cosmopolitan Church and Bishop Enrique Sobrepes of the Philippine Anglican Church wrote to Marcos last Oct. 25 to protest the suppression of civil liberties, particularly in these recent raids

and arrests.

The group also denounced the censorship of the mass media, manipulation of news and distortion of the truth in the Marcos-controlled media.

These raids and arrests are the latest in a series of repressive measures on the clergy by the dictatorship.

Upon the imposition of martial law last year, at least 14 priests were arrested and five were deported; at least three ministers were arrested; and several seminarians were arrested and detained.

BISHOPS' PROTEST LETTER

The protest letter of the Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Secretariat against the raid on the convent of the Good Shepherd Sisters in Davao, was issued through its chairman, Bishop Jesus Y. Varela.

Varela said the purpose of the raid, according to the search warrant, was to seek out activists allegedly being sheltered by the nuns.

"But beyond the stated purpose," Varela said, "they entered the Sisters' cloister, meticulously examined their personal belongings and papers, and later told other persons the false rumor that they had read the love letters of the Sisters. They confiscated reference books from the library, and in a final show of what looked like oppression, ordered the Superior to open the tabernacle in the chapel."

"We consider this incident as a violence to our religious sensibilities and an infringement upon our freedom of worship," the bishop added.

FIGHT FOR SR. MARIANI'S RELEASE

The raid at St. Joseph's College was made on the authority of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile.

The college, specifically the registrar's office headed by Sister Mariani, was reportedly suspected by the military to be a center for the distribution of underground newspapers and other propaganda materials.

Denouncing what they considered as false charges by the military, Sister Mariani's Superior and her congregation have fully supported her fight to be released.

The sisters have also protested the loss of the ₱570 in cash, but efforts to reach Lt. Liwanag, head of the raiding team, have been futile. They were instead told by the military to write Enrile about the matter.

Aside from the missing cash, two watches reportedly would have been taken from the convent gardener had he not protested. ●

STUDENT-LED UPRISING TOPPLES DICTATORSHIP IN THAILAND



A people united can defeat martial law and overthrow the most corrupt and blood-thirsty of dictatorships.

This universal truth was again proven in Bangkok middle of last month when 500,000 Thais led by militant students and intellectuals braved tanks and machinegun fire to topple the military dictatorship of Thanom Kittikachorn.

The Marcos martial law regime, still panicky from memories of the 1970 First Quarter Storm, suppressed news of the downfall of the Thanom dictatorship. It apparently feared the impact here of the Thai people's victory over tyranny.

However, accounts of the massive student-led demonstrations and bloody street-fighting which brought down Thailand's 10-year military dictatorship filtered into the Philippines through the British Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Peking, Newsweek and Time newsmagazines, and other publications brought in from abroad by Filipinos and tourists.

From all accounts, the demonstrations built up over a period of five days, culminating in the mass action of Oct. 14 when as many as 500,000 Thais were in the streets in unprecedented unity. It was the Thanom regime's use of counterrevolutionary violence that brought out the masses.

When the end of the dictatorship was at hand, Premier Thanom Kittikachorn, his eldest son Col. Narong Kittikachorn, and national police chief Gen. Prapass Charusathira -- the three most hated men in Thai politics -- hastily "resigned" and fled to the Kuomintang-held Chinese province of Taiwan.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reportedly got fed up with the Thanom-Prapass regime, sided with the student activists and appointed the rector of Thammasat University, Prof. Sanya Dharmasakti, premier of the

newly organized civilian government.

The Thai students, led by the National Students Center of Thailand (NSCT), took the first step to directly challenge the Thanom dictatorship when they launched the "Movement for the Early Promulgation of the Constitution".

The movement articulated the popular demand to reestablish the constitutional government abolished by Thanom under martial law.

The student-dictatorship confrontation swiftly came to a head when Gen. Prapass ordered 13 of the student activists arrested and detained on charges of "communism and treason".

The response was instantaneous: tens of thousands of students and other youths demonstrated in even bigger numbers in the campuses and in the streets demanding their release.

Prapass' national police killed five of the students as they resorted to brute force in a desperate effort to break up the mass actions. This merely fanned the flames of revolution.

The decisive "battle" came on Sunday, Oct. 14, when the NSCT called out students and all other citizens for the biggest demonstration ever seen in Bangkok.

"Half a million people took the positive step of leaving their homes, shops and offices to swell the numbers of the anti-government rally, ...half a million who had for 10 years been standing in the cold of degradation and frustration," reported the Bangkok Post.

Panic-stricken, the military dictatorship made its final attempt to disperse the masses, using helicopter gunships, tanks, high-caliber machineguns, grenades and tear gas. The result was a bloodbath -- scores

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of the demonstrators were rushed to the hospitals -- and also the death spasm of the fascistic Thanom regime.

Calling the victory of the student-led mass movement "the dawn of a new era", the Bangkok Post said:

"What has happened...is that the seed of political awareness has been sown. For the first time...people saw that even unlimited wealth cannot prevent the downfall of leaders who are pitted against a united people. For the first time they witnessed the power which comes from a common cause."

The newspaper pointed out, however, that while the tyrants had been expelled, "the evils which were inherent in their oppressive administration have not yet been swept away".

"A true revolution must result in radical change, not merely the dismissal of three men or even three hundred men," it added. "The entire social and political structure which enabled the leaders to usurp power must be changed. This has not yet happened."

Be that as it may, Newsweek, in its issue of Oct. 22, said the Thai students "changed the course of their country's history".

THREE DEPOSED FASCISTS

The Bangkok Post's description of the three overthrown fascist leaders reminded one of the Marcos dictatorship and of other martial law regimes in other parts of the world.

The Thai daily, in its issue of Oct. 28, had the following to say:

Thanom Kittikachorn was the "smiling front man" who never tired of preaching about "good deeds", while Gen. Prapass and son-in-law Narong Kittikachorn were the "cold-blooded executioners who ordered the massacre of patriotic students" during the demonstrations.

THANOM KITTIKACHORN

Thanom started as a sub-lieutenant and quickly rose in the military hierarchy. He became prime minister for the first time in 1957, but resigned two years later when a coup changed the government. He was appointed deputy prime minister in 1959 and became premier again in 1963.

Two years ago, in the face of growing protest led by the students and intellectuals, Thanom declared martial law, junked the constitution, and filled government positions with military men.

Thanom, together with his son Narong,

became among the richest men in Thailand. He monopolized the kickbacks on government contracts, controlled the rice industry after driving many merchants to bankruptcy by means of an artificially induced "rice crisis", and acquired extensive interests in real estate and in Thailand's booming textile industry.

Together with Gen. Prapass, he controlled all the mass media allowed to operate, and even directly owned radio and television stations as well as newspapers.

GEN. PRAPASS

Gen. Prapass was the "strong man" of the military dictatorship. At the time he was deposed, he was the chief of Thailand's national police -- equivalent of the Philippine Constabulary -- and next to Thanom, was second-in-command of the armed forces.

An out-and-out fascist, he believed that "if people swallow a little lie, they'll swallow a bigger one as well".

His projects for self-aggrandizement were so blatant that they provoked a series of scandals that were the talk of Bangkok. When some criticism of him managed to get into the pages of the newspapers, despite government controls, his classic boast was: "I don't read newspapers, they're full of lies anyway."

NARONG

Narong, eldest son of Thanom and son-in-law of Prapass, is also a military man. At the time of the fascist regime's downfall, he was in charge of suppressing the anti-fascist movement in Bangkok.

He has been denounced as "the mastermind who created the rice crisis", according to the Bangkok Post.

Narong reportedly made millions for himself and his father by selling millions of sacks of rice confiscated from merchants and transported free of charge in army trucks. He exported large quantities of rice when world prices shot up and made a fortune while the Thais endured a "rice crisis".

He was also recently exposed as one of the "drug kings" of the world. Using the facilities of Thailand's armed forces, and with the cooperation of the CIA, Narong got his supply direct from the "Golden Triangle" and made millions yearly selling heroin and marijuana in Hongkong, Singapore, South Vietnam and the United States.

Narong's wife Supaporn was also known as a notorious money-maker. She used the dictatorship's control of the mass media to make millions selling advertising space. She also had her fingers in the fish industry, real estate and government contracts.



TWO OF THE STUDENT LEADERS

SAKSAN PRASERTKUL

Representative to the NSCT of the Thammasat University students who, along with the vocational and engineering students, were the most militant anti-government demonstrators and who were the first to protest the arrest of the 13 student activists.

The 25-year-old chief of the NSCT public relations staff represents all vocational schools, teacher training colleges and high school students in Bangkok.

At the height of the student-led mass actions, he was on the speakers' platform continuously for five days and nights with only 12 hours' sleep; he later collapsed and was carried home by comrades.

Some of his views:

- * Complete materialism and complete spiritualism are both wrong in the absolute; there must be a mixture of the two.
- * Thailand's claim to have a laissez-faire economy is a lie; most of the economy is controlled by a small group who join hands with those in political power.
- * Thailand has not only followed the Western style of pollution-ridden development; it has also sacrificed many natural resources to the great powers.
- * American cultural brainwashing has killed Thais by luring them to thirst for more and more material possessions.
- * The stability of our country does not lie exclusively with the students or the government; it lies with the people.

SOMBAT THAMRONGTHANYAWONGSE

Secretary-General of the National Students Center of Thailand, which led the demonstrations resulting in the overthrow of the military dictatorship.

The Bangkok Post describes him as "a modest young man whose open-mindedness and capabilities have earned the respect of other student leaders".

Some of his views:

- * On the Thanom-Prapass regime: never in Thai history had a government been so hated by so many people.
- * Thanom, Prapass and Narong should be

Thailand...



tried for their crimes.

- * The outburst of fighting between the government forces and the people was the result of long-term grievances which had accumulated.
- * The youngsters who gave their lives in the democratic battle did not die in vain; the people should recognize the heroism of these students; the nation owes them much gratitude.
- * The people should realize that the constitution is not a normal one. It came into existence through the blood and tears of the people who had risen up against the past regime.
- * The NSCT will still play a leading role in society by giving more responsibility to the students to serve the people through more cooperative social activities for the betterment of the country.
- * NSCT will go back and assess the whole past events and see what improvement (it) needs to help build a stronger nation. ●

(All fotos from Bangkok Post)



Sombat

4 slain by PC in cold blood

Four barrio people -- two fishermen, a peasant and a 13-year old boy -- were shot to death by PC troopers in Bo. Cabalantian, Bacolor, Pampanga, last Oct. 22.

According to a Bacolor resident, the four were peacefully fishing in a river when a PC helicopter descended to tree-top level and the troopers in it suddenly sprayed the four with machine gun fire.

The three and the young boy were instantly killed, their bodies riddled with high-caliber bullets.

It appeared that the PC soldiers came when a rumor reached their headquarters to the effect that a councilman of Cabalantian had been killed.

The four were shot down in cold blood simply because they were the first residents of the barrio the arriving PC soldiers set eyes on, according to the informant.

Attempting to mollify the incensed residents of Cabalantian, the PC later announced that the four were NPA guerrillas.

An old story! the Bacolor resident said.

NCRCLP leads San Francisco protest march

Four pall-bearers led some 300 Filipinos and Americans in a march through San Francisco streets last Sept. 22 to protest the "death of civil liberties in the Philippines".

The protest march, timed to coincide with the first anniversary of the declaration of martial law, was organized by the National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines, the Chicago-based Philippine Times reported.

A battery of Filipino and American speakers took turns in denouncing the suppression of civil liberties under martial law and the aid given by the Nixon government to the Marcos dictatorship.

"Teachers, nuns and priests are arrested for no reason other than the fact that they disagree with the government," declared Chris Bautista, one of the march speakers.

"Anyone who criticizes the administration is silenced. All news has been suppressed and reporters and labor leaders are jailed without trial," said Fr. Bruno Hicks, a Franciscan priest imprisoned and

later deported by the Marcos regime.

"Many U.S. tax dollars are going to support political dictatorships," said John Silva, a Filipino-American at Berkeley who was among the 150 people blacklisted and marked for extradition by the Marcos dictatorship.

An elderly American woman, Frances Tandy, said that she joined the demonstration because "the U.S. is giving arms to the Filipino dictatorship and we shouldn't support a dictatorship in any country."

The San Francisco Mime Troupe led the protesters in chanting "Down with Marcos!" the Philippine Times reported. ●

To junk MAC for abuses

The Media Advisory Council has been abolished due to the anomalous practices, including extortion, of some of its officials. Its abolition is to be formally announced shortly.

The MAC, created by the dictatorship purportedly as a "self-regulating body" for the mass media, had been headed by Primitivo Mijares, reporter-columnist of the Marcos-owned Daily Express. Mijares had earlier been imposed by Malacañang as president of the National Press Club.

On its creation last June, the MAC was empowered to process all applications for license to operate all mass media establishments, to screen those seeking employment in media, and to accredit foreign correspondents here.

In July, complaints arose when the MAC started to impose on all media -- including public relations and advertising offices of private firms -- a levy equal to one per cent of 10 per cent of the gross income or total advertising revenue.

According to Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas, the MAC's abolition represented a victory for Public Information Secretary Francisco Tatad who had been feuding with Mijares over who of them should exercise more powers over the mass media.

Tatad is reliably reported to have submitted to the dictator Marcos and to the defense secretary, Juan Ponce Enrile, a "white paper" describing the modus operandi of Mijares and his clique in the MAC, mostly involving abuse of authority and outright extortion.

BMP said the dossier reportedly included details of how Mijares had pocketed substantial amounts from the proceeds of the NRC-sponsored premiere showing of the movie, "The Godfather". ●

Filipino visitor hits 'Balikbayan' swindle

"Baloney!"

This American expression, according to Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas, summed up the reactions of a visiting Filipino to "Balikbayan", the Marcos dictatorship's much-ballyhooed program to bring home Filipinos and their coveted dollars from abroad.

The visitor, a physician residing in the West Coast, scored the "Balikbayan" program after having undergone with his family bitter experiences during their homecoming last September.

The doctor's problems started at the airlines' office. He was told there would be no "Balikbayan" flights which purportedly would cut by half the round-trip fare from San Francisco to Manila.

PAL explained that air fares could not be changed on mere orders from Marcos, as these are subject to international agreements.

Arriving in Manila with a tour group, the doctor discovered with indignation that he would have spent more had he travelled under the "Balikbayan" scheme.

At the airport, the doctor and his family opted for the "Mabuhay" program, which promised to whisk them through customs. It was as phony as "Balikbayan", they discovered. They were charged a total of \$64, or about ₱450, in "service fees" alone, allegedly for carting a few suitcases from the airport.

The advertised "VIP cards" which assured discounts on domestic flights, taxis, hotel rooms and stores also turned out to be phony. Neither the doctor nor other Filipino tourists they met were issued "VIP cards".

"I suspect that the government is so insistent on getting us to visit the Philippines so it can keep track of us Filipinos in the States," the doctor confided to BMP.

Many Filipinos abroad prefer to have as little contact as possible with our consulates because they are wary of Marcos' spy network abroad, the doctor explained.

He added that Filipinos in the US are angered by the double taxation imposed upon them by the US and Philippine governments.

When asked how he found the country under martial law, he said the "improvements" were artificial.

He noted that government corruption is now centralized under the military, and that slums have burgeoned everywhere, showing that the basic problems of the people remain unsolved.

"Prices are now outrageously higher," he said. ●

★ EDITORIAL

MARCOS MUST BE THROWN OUT

It should be ridiculous enough that the captive Commission on Elections should advert once more to the farcical Marcos "referendums" as an excuse for not holding the presidential election today as mandated by the constitution.

But the Comelec chairman, Leonardo B. Perez, outdoes his master in absurdity by blandly asserting that the people have no cause to complain because, he says, their basic freedoms are substantially intact.

Particularly mentioned by this Marcos apologist of long standing are the freedoms of speech and of the press and the freedoms from fear and from want.

None of these democratic rights exists today, having been abolished when Marcos scrapped the constitution and proclaimed himself the sole law of the land.

The situation today remains the same if not worse than it was when martial law was imposed more than a year ago: a citizen may speak out his mind only at the risk of getting jailed for "rumor-mongering" or "subversion"; the mass media continue to be gagged; although unpublicized, "zonas" and mass arrests persist and the citizen lives in fear of the midnight knock on the door; many are starving because of the aggravated unemployment and underemployment problem coupled with the runaway prices of essential commodities.

No election was held today, and from all indications, none will be held in the near future.

There are those of us who have nurtured the illusion that the dictator would listen to reason and be argued into submitting himself to an election that would be free, clean and orderly.

It is now crystal clear that Marcos regards the people with utter contempt, and he means to hold on to power illegally, even beyond December 30 of this year, when his constitutional term must end.

This being so, the only recourse left is for patriotic citizens of all sectors and strata of society to band together in revolutionary unity and throw out the dictator and all his cohorts.

This is not just a matter of right. It is a sacred obligation that we owe to ourselves and to our children as a freedom-loving people. ●



With the Marcos dictatorship abolishing elections, the Commission on Elections has become the most anachronistic (and useless) agency of a government which is itself an anachronism.

Small wonder then that Leonardo B. Perez, the Comelec chairman, spent Nov. 12, the presidential election day that never was, not supervising any election as he was supposed to do but lamely explaining to a restive nation why there was no election.

At that, this incorrigible Marcos apologist proved to his master his worth as head of what should really be called Commission on Non-Elections.

On Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong, Rizal, is a big auto repair shop named Famous Motors. Right behind it is an edifice housing radio station DKWD. Both are owned by Josefa Edralin Marcos, mother of the dictator.

Plans are afoot to make DKWD go multi-network. As for Famous Motors, or FM for short, it has cornered the business of servicing government vehicles and private cars of government officials. The overpricing reportedly is scandalous.

With her son, daughter-in-law Imelda and others in the Marcos and Romualdez clans greedily amassing wealth and power while the country goes to pot, she sees no reason why she should be left behind.

A news item in the Marcos-controlled newspapers says a license has been granted to a new firm -- Barangay Broadcasting Corporation -- to reopen Channel 2.

Conveniently left out of the news is the fact that BBC is a sister company of the Marcos-owned Kanlaon Broadcasting System (Channel 9), which grabbed the facilities and all the top stars of the Lopez family's ABS-CBN Broadcast Center.

Sharing the ABS-CBN facilities with KBS, BBC will operate not only Channel 2 but Channel 4 which will be exclusively for government broadcasts.

BBC's boast is that Channel 4 will be run at no cost to the government.

Again conveniently omitted is the fact that costs will be shouldered by business firms which will be shelling out in the form of sponsorships, or else...

Almost completely without publicity, Imelda Marcos left the country to attend the

Commission on Non-Elections

inauguration of the Sydney Opera House in Australia last Oct. 18.

While deliberately unpublicized, however, the junket did not suffer from any lack of preparations.

Preceding the dictator's wife was a 10-man advance party which included her brother "Kokoy" and the loyal lapdog Edmundo "Tuting" Reyes. She also had a platoon of armed bodyguards, four of whom had to be hastily issued diplomatic passports when Australian authorities threatened to disarm them.

The thoroughness with which preparations were made can be gleaned from the fact that Madama ordered from the Oledan jewellers a diamond-encrusted tiara to rival that of England's Queen Elizabeth who was guest of honor at the opera house inauguration.

Probably meant to give comic relief to early morning radio listeners is that program that monitors the movements of vehicular traffic in the Greater Manila area.

In recent days, the reports invariably have been "light to moderate", "traffic is moving smoothly", "traffic is well under control", etc.

Don't be surprised if, one of these days, we are told that the traffic problem has been completely solved. That is the day when there won't be vehicles in sight at all -- for lack of gas.



"There's no rice shortage... People just leave too much on their plates."

Although words to that effect have been uttered by the dictator Marcos and his parrots in the so-called "Wastong Pagkain" movement, they were in fact spoken by Gen. Prapass Charusathiera, Thailand's national police chief.

In case you want to know what has happened to Prapass, he was ousted middle of last month when the Thai people staged unprecedented mass actions that overthrew the martial law regime of Premier Thanom Kittikachorn.