

UC is champion in street dance competition

Also champion in first cheer dancing festival

A visually stunning street dance ensemble from the University of the Cordilleras (UC) was declared grand prize winner in the street dance competition last February 24, one of two main events in the annual Panagbenga 2007. UC also emerged as champion in the first Panagbenga Cheerdance Festival held February 26.

Over half a million crowd who witnessed the street dance parade were thunderstruck in amazement as a 12-foot yellow-orange Diwata moved slowly down session road, surrounded by live mannequins of green stemmed lilies swaying to the beat and tribal gongs.

Suddenly, the multitude roared in applause as green skinned enkanto-like lilies in yellow-pink-purple blooms, sprung from a couple of bamboo mounds to perform ritual dances and aerobics. The live lilies around the diwata swayed, changing colors to pink then yellow from huge umbrella-like petals. Ethnic dancers provided the tempo and joyful musical atmosphere.

Aptly described by *Inquirer Compact* in their February 25 front page issue, "a local university paraded a 15-foot high fairy, while 'elves' in green body paint gyrated alongside her. The fairy was a female performer set atop a wheeled bamboo platform hidden by the woman's robe". In another article of the same issue, writer Elizabeth Lolarga said "the group members that painted their bodies green to represent the stems of flowers had headdresses made out of painted foam and pointed upwards like exotic blooms. They comprise the rare showstopper"

The UC street dance group became the favorite of photographers and videographers who accompanied the fairy entourage from start to finish. There is "excellent combination of colors and movements" said Thomas Picana, founding president of the Cordillera Photographers and Videographers Club. "Every angle is eye-catching and the fairytale choreography is excellent", he added.

UC Management, through Board Chairman Jesus Benjamin Salvosa in response said "the immense outpouring of applause and appreciation from the festival crowd is priceless. We wish to convey the collective esteem of the entire university community. We also congratulate Project Executive Producer and Ensemble Creative Director Dean Alec Mapalo and all the production members and support staff".

The 82 performing artists and 35 support staff spent over two weeks rigid rehearsal and two days prop' design but it pays off. "The preparation for this epic production was energy draining on our team, but the crowd reaction made the whole epic venture worthwhile", said Chairman Salvosa.

Dean Mapalo of the College of Engineering and Architecture said the artistic presentation was inspired by other festivals localized to suit Panagbenga. Mapalo owes their successful presentation from the efforts and commitment of participating students and the full support of the UC Executive Management council. "Every hour of practice was an inspiring sight. Every performer gives his/her best to enrich the group's performance. What made us win was the fact that each participant owned up to it. That's the UC Spirit," he said.

Performing student-artists come from the UC chorale group, dance troupe, dance sports and ethnic dancers led by professors Ramir Austria, Nathaniel Cababaro, Belhelm Luis, Paul Malecdan, and Marlon Cunanan. The Technical support groups were led by Sheila Bambang, Bel Ida, Robert Abello, Arch. Gaby Campos, and Architecture students.

Champion pep squad wows crowd

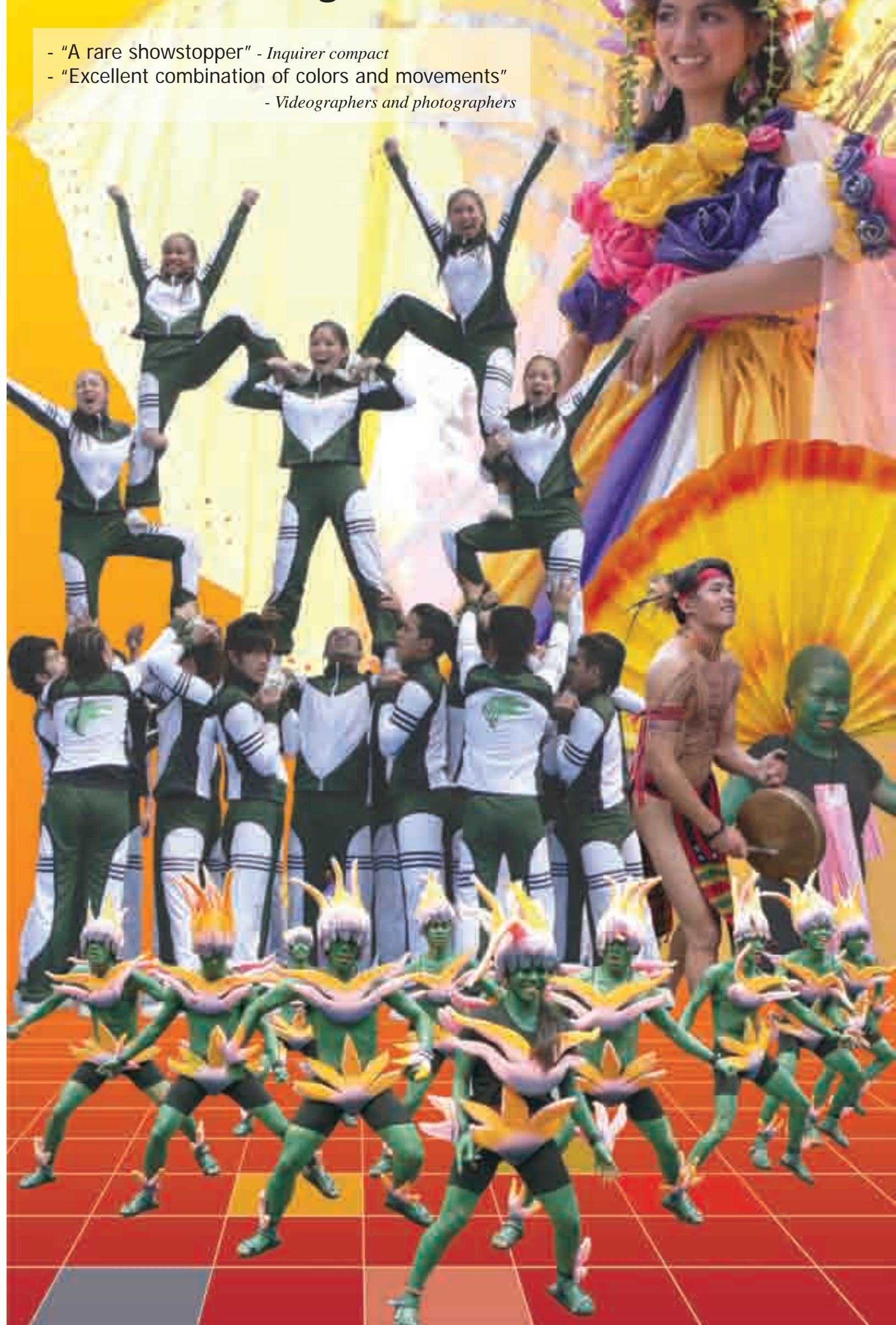
In a related development, the UC pep squad emerged as champion in the First Panagbenga Cheerdancing Competition college level last Monday, February 26 at the Melvin Jones football field.

The Cheerdance Team displayed an awesome, electrifying and jawdropping mixture of stunts, pyramids and dance moves. A knowledgeable spectator characterized UC's performance as "explosive from the very beginning, unpredictable and delightfully surprising at every turn throughout their routine".

Spinning on a gymnastic rollercoaster joyride, nervous screams and jubilant squeals erupted from the crowd at every move of the UC gymnasts. "There was no lulls and every moment was charged with energy. It was well choreographed that they would take you to a certain height only to amp you higher the next second. It is fantastic at kakaiba," commented a sports enthusiast and radio broadcaster Edong Carta.

The UC Cheerdance group is a potpourri of dance enthusiasts from various colleges guided by team captains, Jayson Palulay (ABMC) and Victor Carpenter (BSED).

- "A rare showstopper" - *Inquirer compact*
- "Excellent combination of colors and movements"
- *Videographers and photographers*



Performance with Distinction



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