

TIANANMEN

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

MORGAN CHUA



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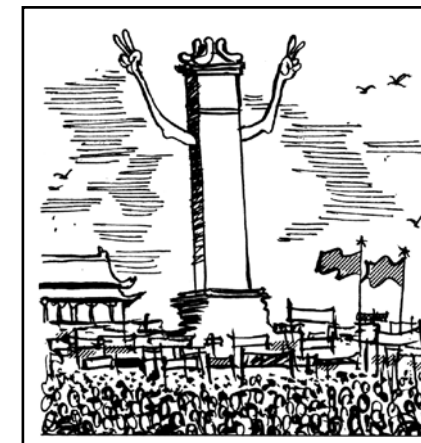
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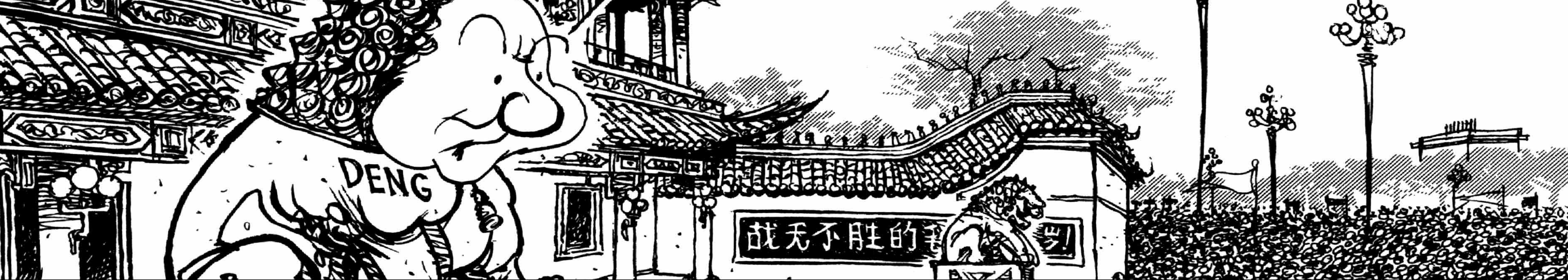
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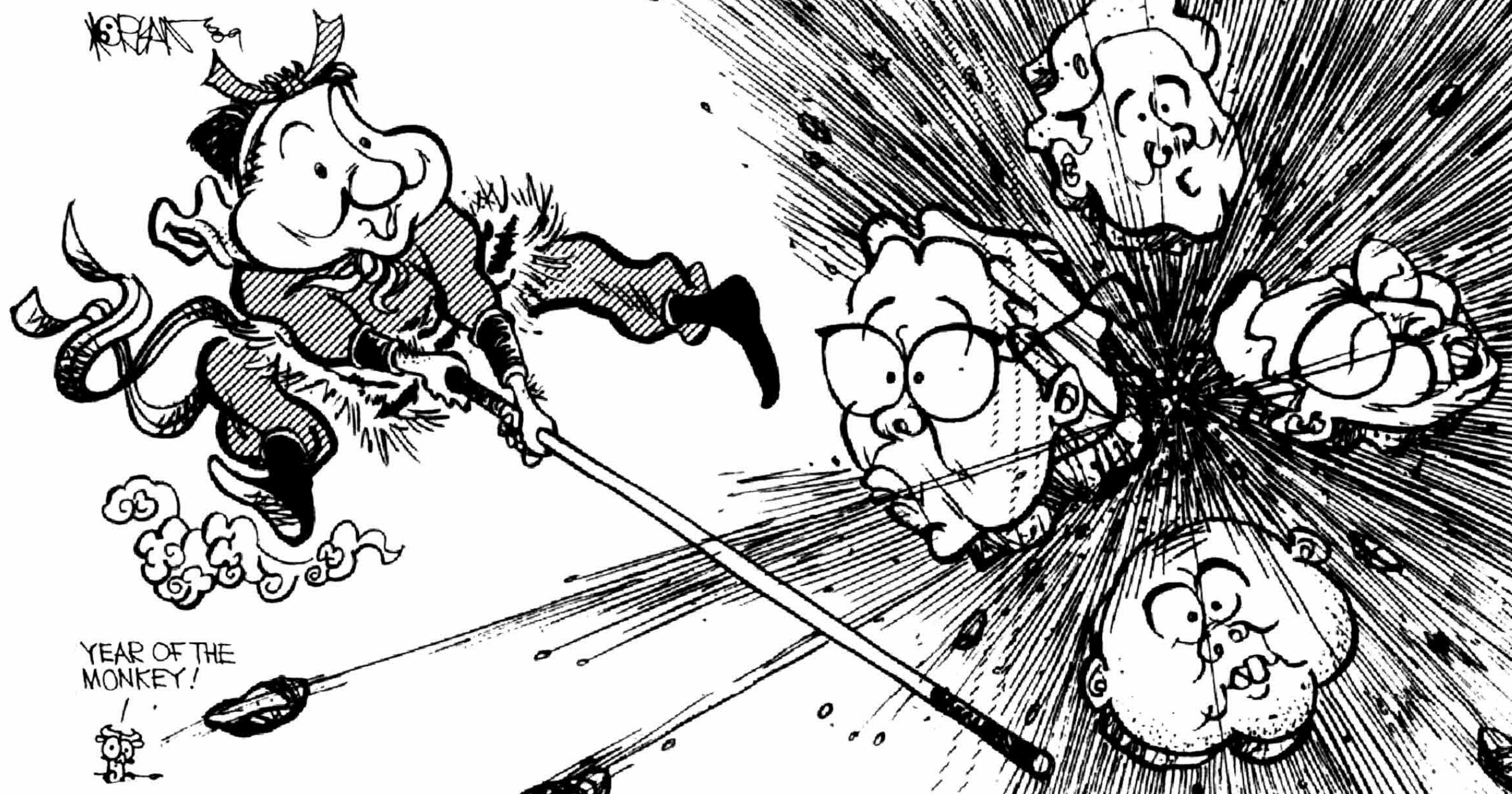


*This book is dedicated to the martyrs in Tiananmen Square,
and especially to Enid Wong, my son Zen, my daughter Dawn and my mum.*



CONTENTS

ix	PREFACE	xiv	THE TRAGEDY UNFOLDS	xviii	THE POLITICIANS	xx	THE STUDENT LEADERS	01	BEIJING	89	HONG KONG	99	WHERE ARE THEY NOW?	103	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	104	ABOUT THE AUTHOR
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PREFACE

I was born in Singapore in 1949, the year that the land of my ancestors declared herself a People's Republic. I was born on 3 May, the eve of the May 4 Movement's thirtieth anniversary.

In my adolescent years my late great-aunt used to tell me stories about the scenic beauty, the fables and the customs of her motherland—*Tangshan*, better known as China. Her stories piqued my wild imagination. I learned more about China during my school years and when I joined the *Far Eastern Economic Review* I had the opportunity to study more of China's political and economic aspects.

I began to study and appreciate China's writers and artists. Closest to my heart was Lu Xun, known as the father of contemporary Chinese literature, and Lao She, a noted Chinese novelist and dramatist. I have taken a few of my captions from their works.



In 1979, when Deng Xiaoping opened China's door to the outside world and its modernisation programme got under way, I had the opportunity to visit *Tianchao*, the Celestial Empire I had dreamed so much about. The mountains, the rivers and the ancient architecture excited me and brought back my great-aunt's words. Imagine touching five thousand years of history!

The people were curious about foreign things at that time, even about me, of the same colour and race as them, but an Overseas Chinese. My new friends did not know where Singapore was.

I used the word my great-aunt taught me—*Nanyang*—and then did they understand.

I came to love China and have visited her many times over the past ten years.

I left *FEER* in 1988 after fifteen years of service. Having time on my hands, my quest was to travel along the Silk Road to feel and observe how ancient traders of different countries exchanged their cultures, customs and creeds. Riding on a camel across the vast golden sands of the desert, with the clear blue skies above and the sound of winds whispering their natural melodies, and passing through

ancient cities, I felt as though there were no boundaries for mankind.

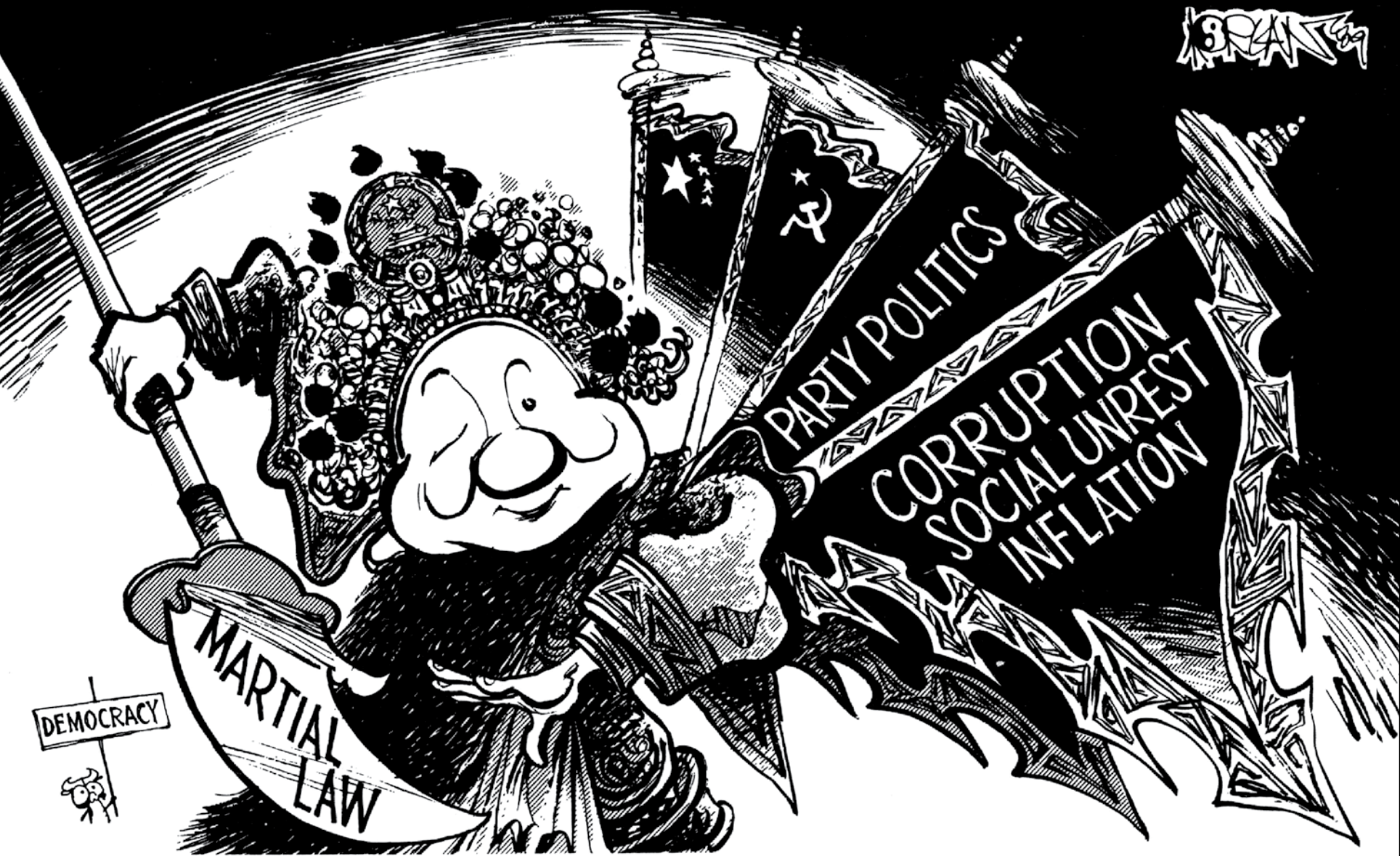
Looking back, I supported Deng Xiaoping through my cartoons in *FEER* (he used cartoon posters—a good visual weapon—himself across China to oust the Gang of Four) because I respected his pragmatic reforms. Most of all, he suffered during the Cultural Revolution and was later purged by the Gang of Four. I believed that he would lead China into a brighter future with care and understanding, without repeating the horrors of the past.

On 4 June 1989, he betrayed me, just as he betrayed his people and the international community who trusted in him. His government used the military to suppress its own innocent, unarmed people with firepower, brutality and insanity. And this on the authority of a parvenu who had suffered so much in the past yet was imposing it all over again on others!

Their sufferings and agonies made me pick up my brush again to depict the plain truth and express my anguish, my sadness over the madness that had beset China once more.

Morgan Chua





Throughout these pages, my brush weeps in sorrow for what happened in Tiananmen Square.

Not for the first time, a government was turning the guns on its people. Has the world learned nothing from history?

Once again China is repeating history, killing her sons and daughters who anywhere else would be seen as pillars for the future. If history is to continue repeating itself, the government will fall amid the debris of bloodshed, corruption, incompetence and nepotism.

KOREAN '89

BEIJING

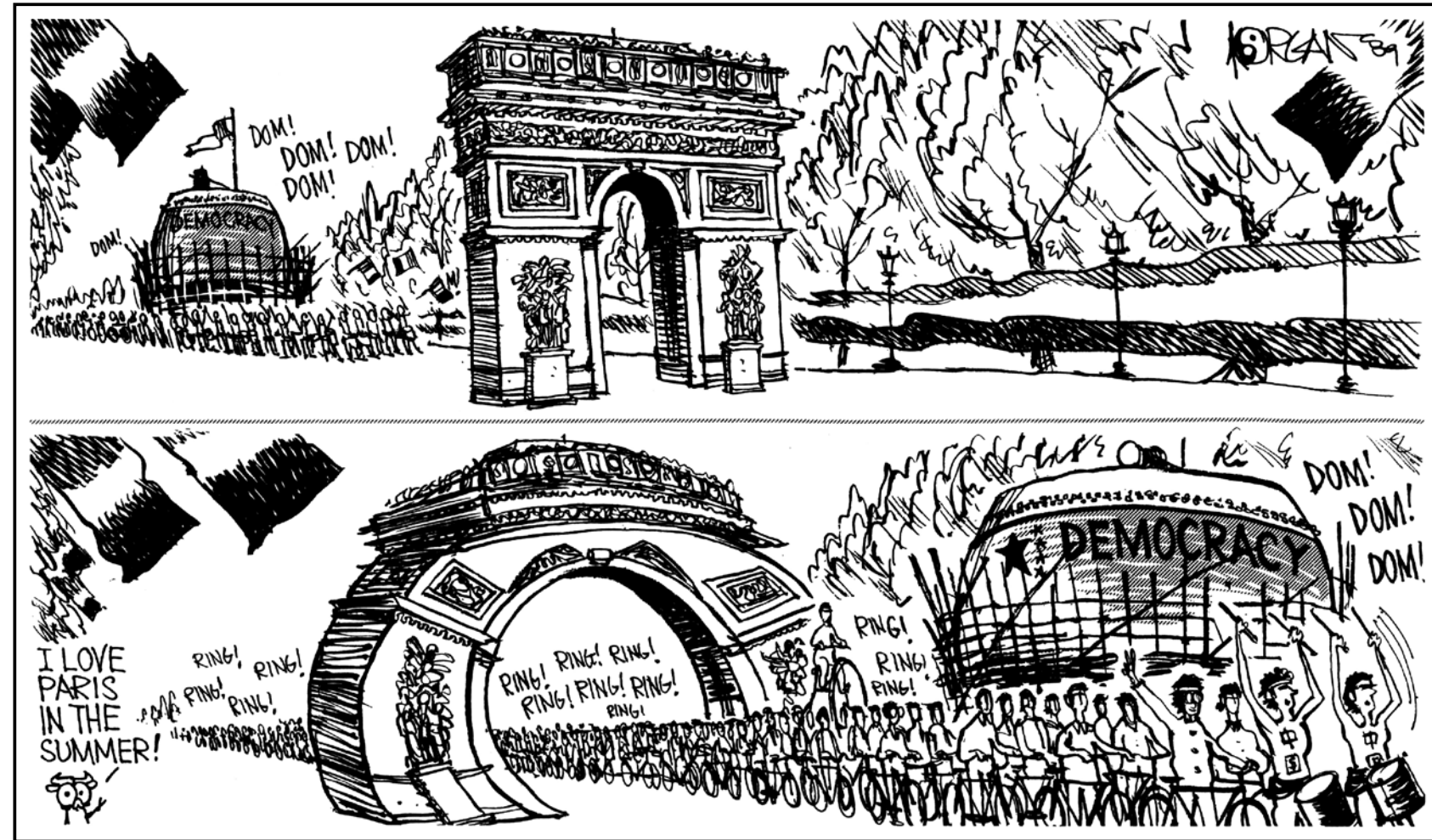


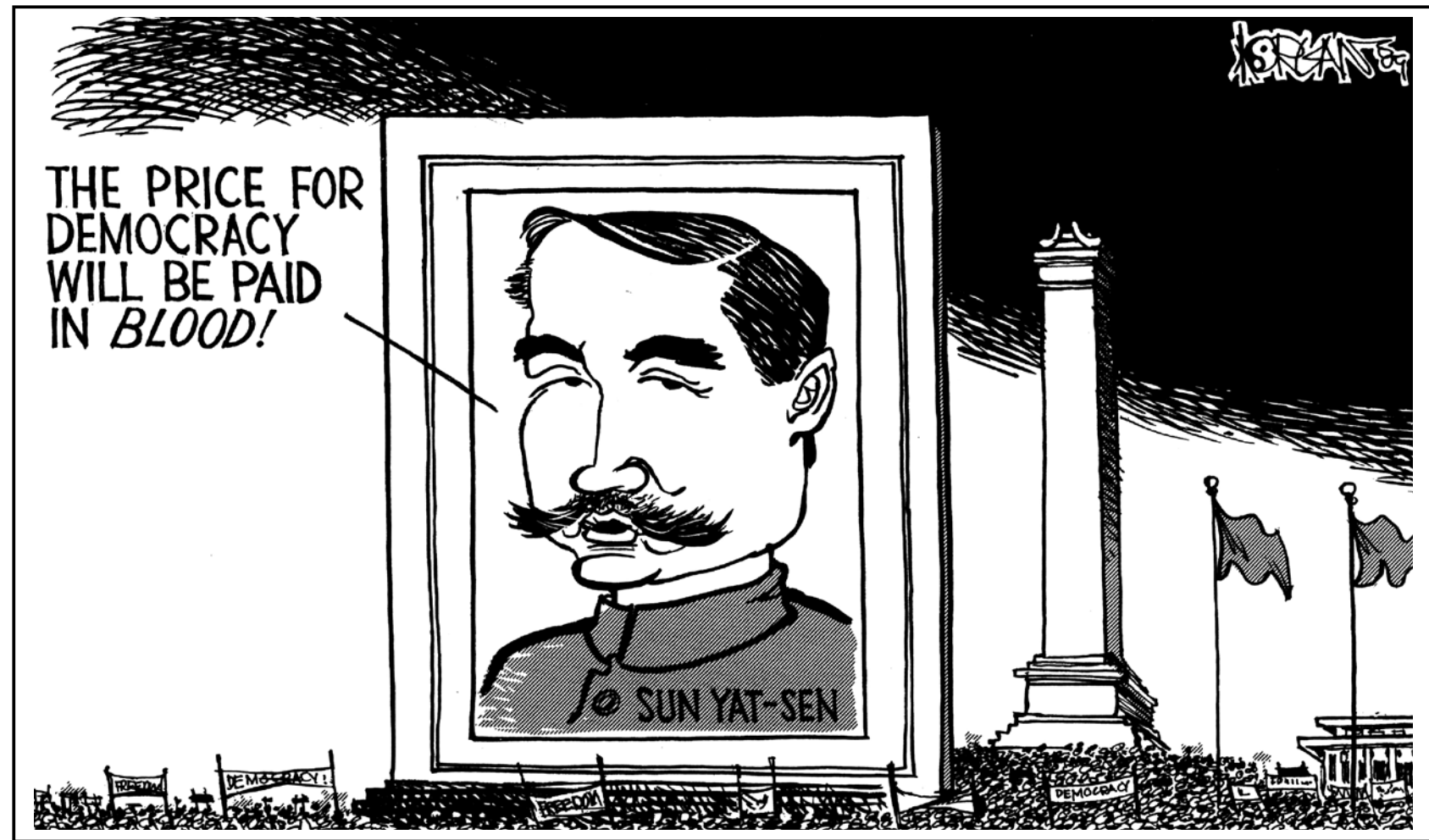
1981: THE NEW TRIUMVIRATE

1989: ALONE AGAIN NATURALLY

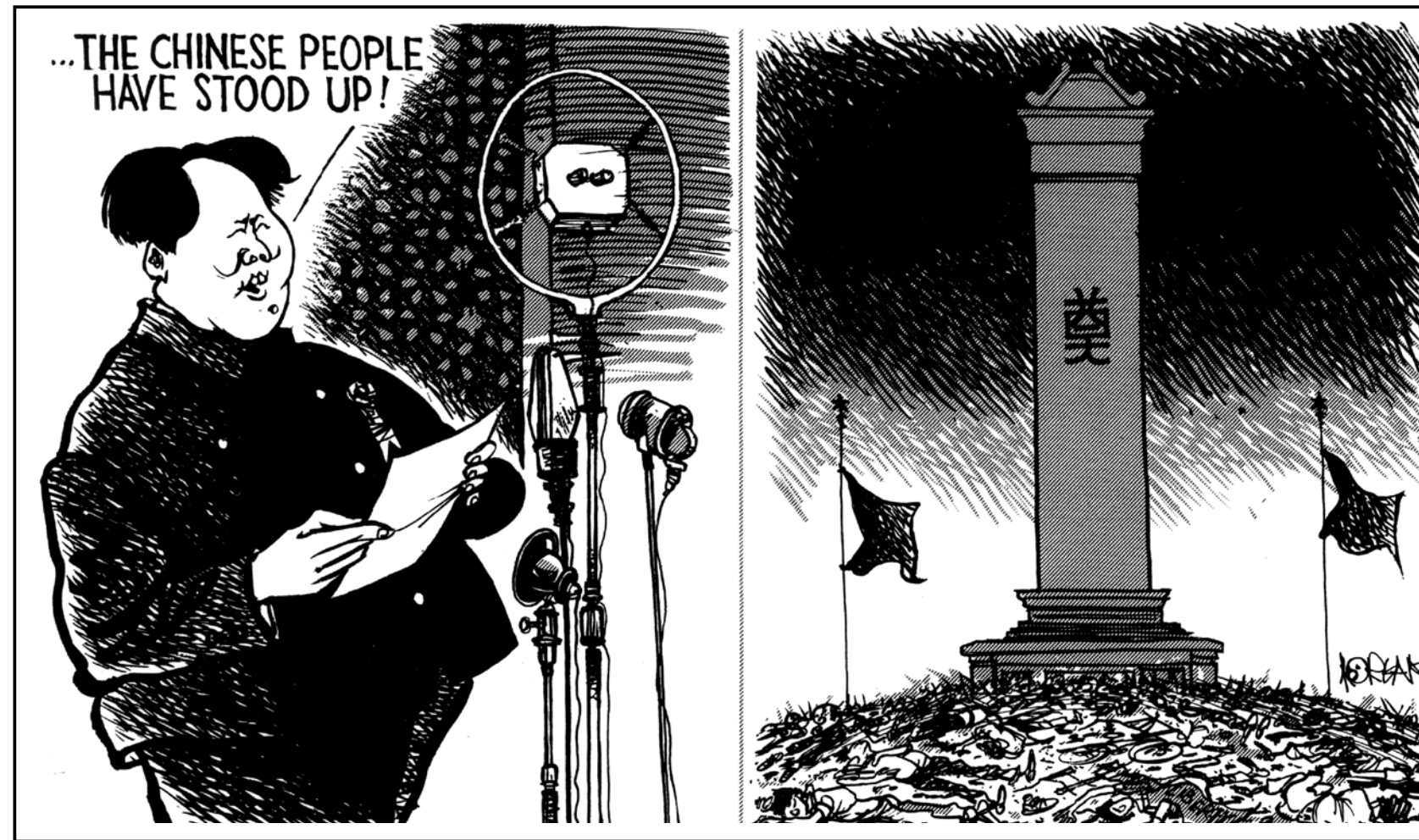


DENG XIAOPING AND ZHOU ENLAI WERE STUDENTS STUDYING IN FRANCE.



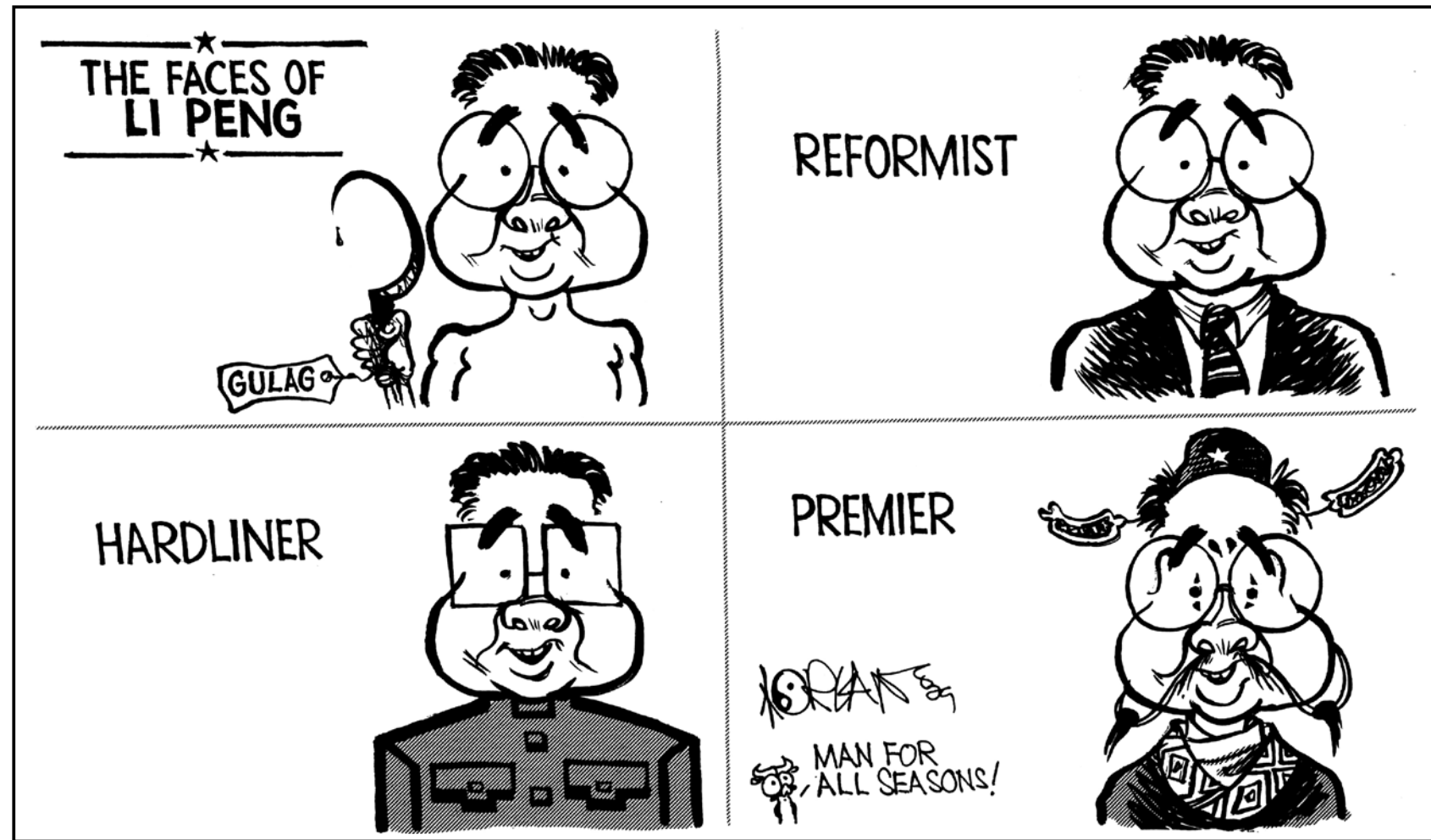


FOUNDING FATHER

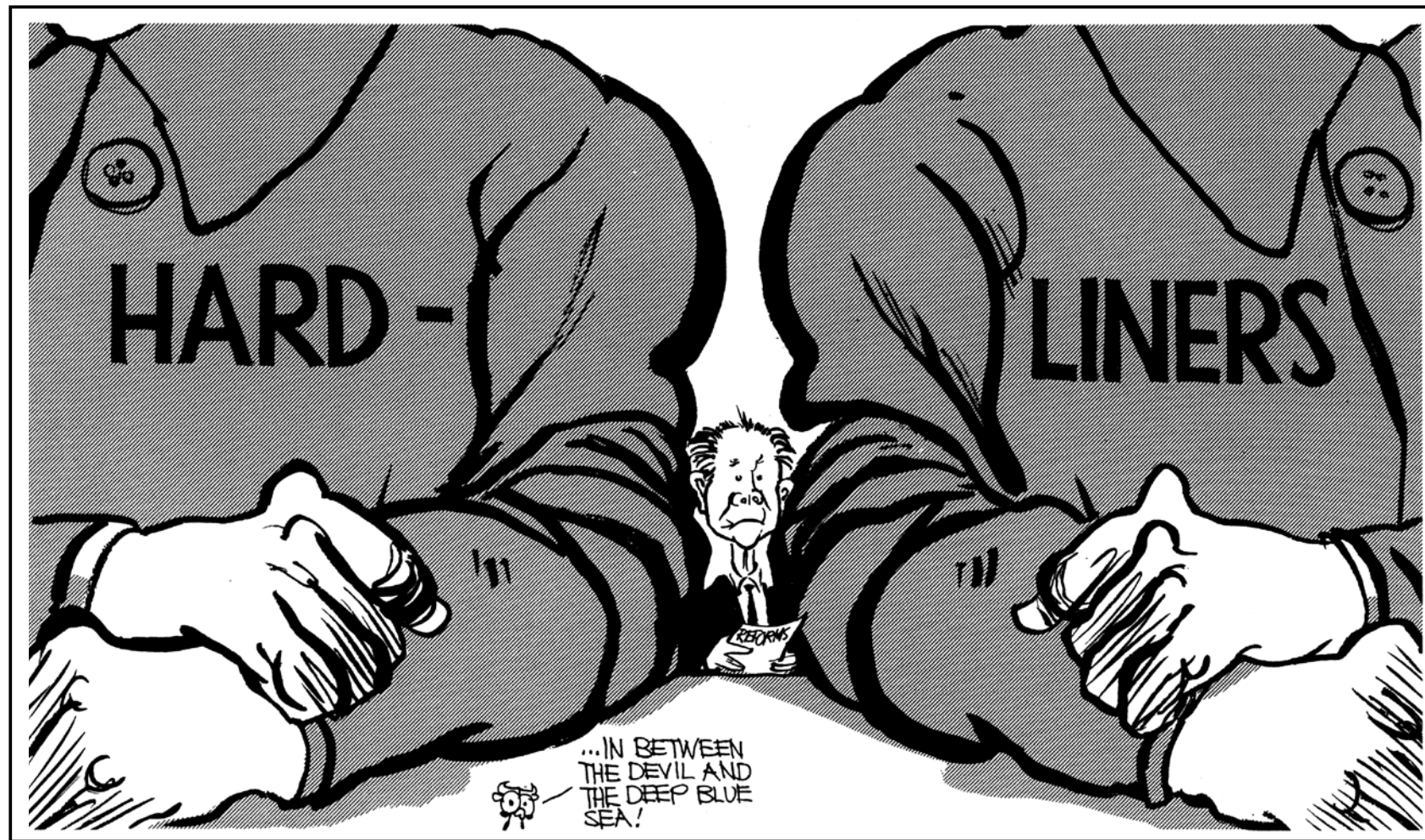


1 OCTOBER 1949: TIANANMEN SQUARE
MAO CELEBRATED THE FORMATION OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

4 JUNE 1989: TIANANMEN SQUARE
FORTY YEARS ON, STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS
KILLED BY THE MILITARY.



ARMY MANOEUVRES



JANUARY 1987: HU YAOBANG WAS OUSTED FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR HIS REFORMS.

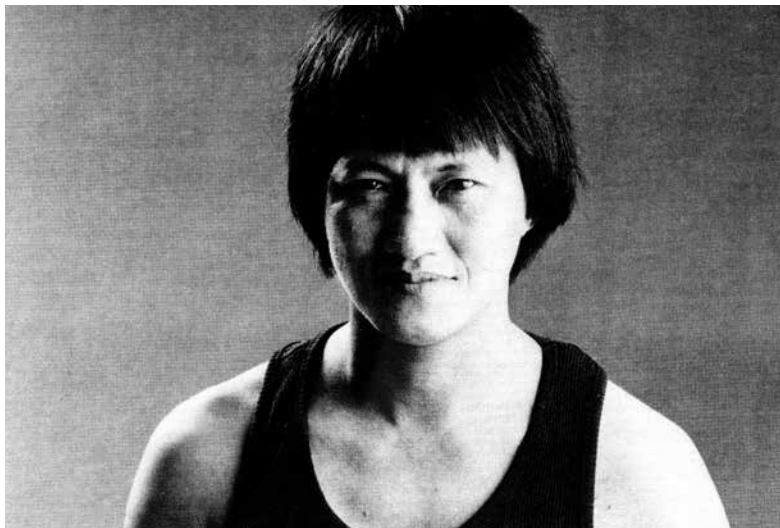


15 APRIL 1989: HU YAOBANG DIED AND STUDENTS WENT TO TIANANMEN SQUARE TO PAY HOMAGE.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge the mass media for my references and especially my fellow journalists who braved their lives and bore witness to the most brutal events in Tiananmen Square in order to bring to the world the story and the photographs—the evidence so callously denied by those responsible. The freedom of the press lives as testimony to your efforts.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Morgan Chua is a Singapore-born cartoonist who started drawing for the *Singapore Herald* in 1970. When the paper was closed down by the government in 1971, Chua moved to Hong Kong and joined *The Asian* for nine months. He then joined the prestigious *Far Eastern Economic Review* as an editorial artist and over 24 years rose to creative director. At *FEER*, he was known for his incisive single-panel political cartoons and for arresting and provocative magazine cover

choices. He has also drawn cartoons for Hong Kong's *Next Magazine* and *Apple Daily*.

Chua's publications include *Tiananmen* (1989), *My Singapore* (2000, 2008), *Diversity Singapore: A Cartoon History of Immigration* (2010) and *In Memory of Madam Kwa Geok Choo 1920-2010* (2011). Most recently, Chua illustrated *50 Stories from My Life*, former Singapore President S R Nathan's collection of episodes and insights from his personal and official lives.

“ This book is a milestone in Asian cartooning as it was one of the first in any media to respond to June 4, 1989. Twenty-five years on, it addresses the Chinese amnesia that has surrounded this momentous event at the end of the Cold War. It needs to be read by today’s generation. ”

—Lim Cheng Tju, comics historian



The events that took place at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on 4 June 1989 attracted international attention and sparked outrage at the Chinese government’s military advance on student demonstrators. Since then, a new generation of Chinese has grown up in a country that continues to grapple with issues of political liberalisation, democracy and censorship.



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