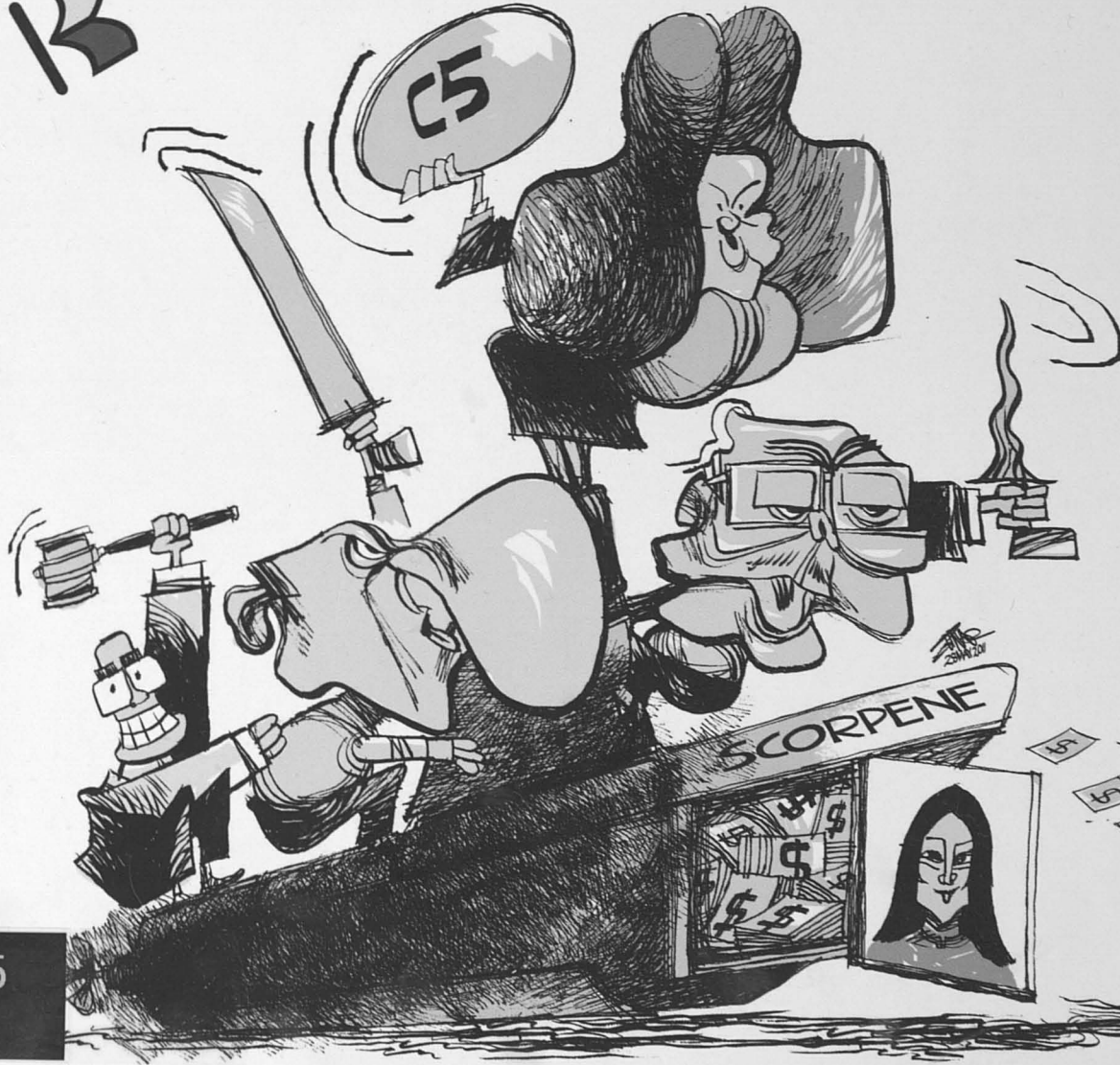


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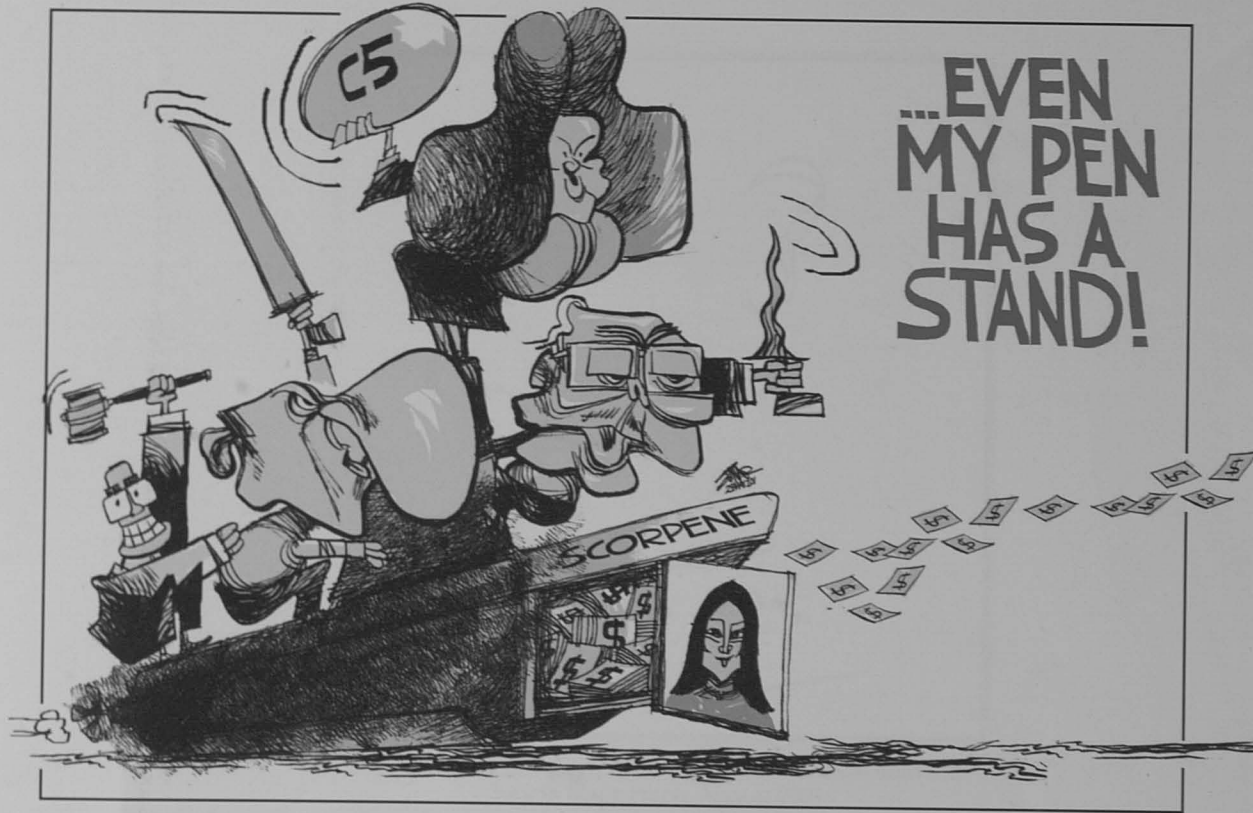
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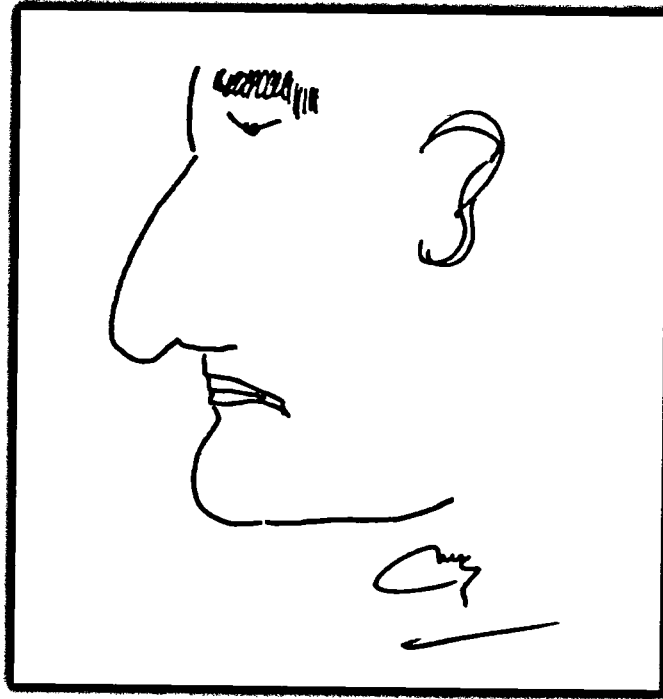


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My caricature drawn by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the Sungai Buloh Prison, August 2001

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Tel: 603 - 2284 3367, Fax: 603 - 2289 2579  
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**Printed By:**  
Percetakan 786 Snd Bhd  
No1, Jalan 65-C,  
Off Jalan Pahang Barat,  
53000 Kuala Lumpur

Cover Design: Zunar / Norfad'ah zakaria  
Layout Design: Norfad'ah Zakaria  
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**- The Author**

# CARTOONOLOGY

## EARLIER ERA

I **STARTED** drawing cartoons since my school days at Sekolah Kebangsaan Padang Durian, in Pendang, Kedah. My first cartoon was published in Bambino Magazine in 1973, when I was in Primary 5.

Since then I continued to actively draw and my cartoons were published in magazines such as Anak Kijang and Pak Adil. There were no payments for these cartoons, but I would get free copies of the magazines with a note "Dengan ingatan tulus ikhlas dari..." ("With best compliments from..."). I was happy enough just to show the free magazines to the whole village.

While in secondary school years (I moved from schools in Sungai Tiang, Pendang and Jitra) I stopped drawing for a while. But there were some cartoons that I drew which I compiled for my own collection to be shown to friends at school. I also drew for the school magazine.

As a matter of fact, controversies are nothing unusual to me. My first controversial cartoon was a work of satire in the school magazine in 1980, titled Tom Tombak, which was meant to criticize the school and the teachers. I was immediately summoned by the disciplinary board. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to the teachers concerned.

In school, I was forbidden from pursuing arts because my parents wanted me to be enrolled in the science stream. To them, art could not guarantee a better future. I do not blame them because at that time, not many artists, especially cartoonists, could make a living.

When I was young, I did not have a clear goal what I wanted to be. My life and career ran as is, without plan. In the 1980, I entered Universiti Teknologi Malaysia at Jalan Gurney to pursue Science Education, but I dropped out a year later.

After failing to complete my course, I chose to stay in Kuala Lumpur and worked in factories and construction sites. At this time, I continued to draw cartoons which were published in Bintang Timur newspaper and in Kisah Cinta entertainment magazine. My first payment was RM4, in the form of a cheque.

1. Early cartoon published by a magazine called Anak Kijang, February 1977

2. My cartoon for the school magazine in 1980 when I was in Form 5, drawn using needle stencil. My first controversial cartoon!

3. RM4 per cartoon, that was what I got in early 80s. This voucher was from Bintang Timur tabloid



3

5/12/80	BT				
12/12/80	BT			Gang 3 Suru.	4 00
19/12/80	BT			Gang 3 Suru.	4 00
7/1/81	BT			Gang 3 Suru.	4 00
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## GILA-GILA ERA

On February 1st, 1980, my career moved to a new level when my cartoons were published in the Gila-Gila magazine through its Mekar di GG column, a column for new talents.

In 1982, I got a job as a lab technician in the government. At this point in time, I became more active as my cartoons were frequently published in Gila-Gila and also in other magazines such as Gelihati, Kisah Cinta, Panorama, Salina, Bujal, Lagu-lagu Film & TV and Bintang Timur. At that time, my work only focused on simple and plain jokes.

In Gila-Gila, I became close to the late cartoonist Rejabhad. He guided me a lot on the art of drawing cartoons and I regard him as my guru. I was given a permanent column called Gebang-Gebang in Gila-Gila, which was the starting point for my satirical and political cartoons.

In addition to that, I drew on a daily basis for Harian Nasional newspaper with a character called Ali Bisnis but the newspaper did not last long and eventually folded.

In 1986, I resigned from government job and became a full time cartoonist. In Gila-Gila, I was given additional columns, Ofis Korner and Liza. I was lucky to be acquainted with famous cartoonists/illustrators such as Jaafar Taib, Azman Yusof, Zainal Buang Hussien, Don, Tazidi, Long, Kerengge, Reggie Lee, Ujang and others during my tenure there.

I remember one commentator who said that my reputation in Gila-Gila was not as "hot" as the others, but only "warm", in which I agree.

My political cartoons for Gila-Gila started through the newly-created column called Panaurama. After almost two years drawing Panaurama, I personally felt that this column lacked impact as most Gila-Gila readers were teenagers who were not interested in politics.

I kept hoping to get a platform that was more suitable for political cartoons, like in the newspapers.



1. My first cartoon in Gila-Gila, 1st February 1980

2. My cartoon guru, the late Rejabhad

3. This cartoon was published by Gelihati, November 1980

4. My first Gebang-Gebang column, Gila-Gila 15th May 1983



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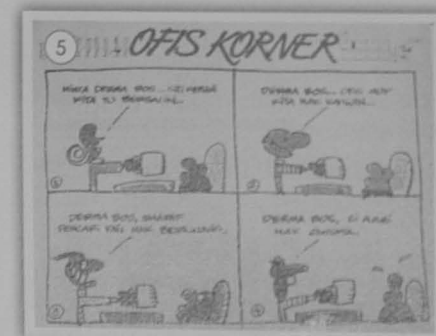
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12. LORONG JENIT, BERSEKUTAN BERSEKUTAN TANJ. MELAYU 44, JLN PASAR, TAMAN BERSEKUTAN, OFF JAL BAYU LAMP, K.L. S'WANG.



1. Loose cartoon in Mingguan Perdana tabloid, dated 29th May 1983
2. Column in the now-defunct daily Harian Nasional, Jun 1983
3. Early satirical cartoon in Mingguan Tanahair tabloid, 1st March 1984
4. The compilation of publication addresses where I sent my cartoons in the early 80s
5. Gila-Gila, 1st January 1991
6. Gila-Gila, 15th January 1991