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Tears of joy shed at Cuban refugee family reunion

*No I would not give you false hope
On this strange and mournful day
But the mother and child reunion
Is only a motion away.*

— Paul Simon
"Mother and Child Reunion"

By JAY P. GOLDMAN

They hugged and kissed and shed tears on each other's shoulders like only a mother, her son and grandchildren can do, oblivious to all the holiday bustle surrounding them at the Amtrak Station in East Syracuse this Memorial Day weekend.

"It's a miracle," whispered Raquel Romeu, 74, as she tugged around the waist of her 34-year-old son, Jorge Luis Romeu, whom she had seen only once in the past 18 months.

He had just arrived from Miami, by way of Mexico City and Havana, one of the 73,300 Cuban refugees to reach American shores since Castro flung the doors wide open to emigration several weeks ago. With him came his wife and their three young boys, ages 5, 6 and 9.

Finally, the reunited family members ended their embrace. Mrs. Romeu, speaking alternately in Spanish and limited English, explained how yes, it had been an anxious time in her life, ever since her son publicly declared his intent to leave Cuba 18 months ago by applying for American visas.

When more than 10,000 Cubans crashed the Peruvian Embassy last month seeking political asylum, Castro proclaimed he would allow anyone to leave the country who so wished. Upon learning that, Mrs. Romeu, who fled Cuba with an elder son — a political prisoner — a year ago, declared she would return to her native land to lead the rest of her family out.

Her daughter said no. She would go herself.

Fled 11 years ago

Her daughter is Raquel Romeu, a resident of Liverpool who fled Cuba 11 years ago this summer. She was instrumental in leading her brother and his family out of the island nation after renting space on a small shrimp trawler and spending 18 days in Cuba (April 26 to May 13), mostly docked in Havana harbor.

"It was horrible week of waiting. There were so many boats in the harbor, one next to the other," described

Miss Romeu, an associate professor of Spanish at Le Moyne College.

"The Cuban authorities said 70 percent of the people we will put on the boat. Thirty percent will be the people you came for," she recalled.

In spite of the lengthy wait and restrained efforts on shore, Miss Romeu returned to Key West without her brother and his family. But her strong-willed efforts while there was enough to alert Cuban emigration officials that the family was being sought.

Jorge Luis' family was told to abandon its two-family dwelling in Havana, leave behind all but a few clothes for the children and themselves and board a flight to Mexico. There the family transferred to Miami, reaching Florida two days before Miss Romeu, who was returning aboard a half-filled 250-per-

School aid hits \$28M for county

Onondaga County school districts have received over \$28 million in state school aid from \$833.7 million in aid that state Comptroller Edward Regan has announced he is distributing to the state's 744 school districts.

The statewide payment represents 25 percent of the state aid available for public schools during the current 1979-80 school year. It is the fifth payment of this school year. State law calls for payment of 8 1/2 percent in each of the months of September, October and November and 25 percent in each of the months of April, May and June.

The allocation for each school district is computed by the Education Department under a formula that is prescribed by the state Legislature and based primarily on the number of pupils in the district in the 1978-79 school year.

New York City's share of the April payment is \$23.57 million.

son shrimp trawler with two of her sister-in-law's brothers.

Before reaching Syracuse aboard the "Empire State Express" last evening, the Cuban emigres spent the last 12 days in Miami for processing and visiting relatives.

"We were very, very nervous," admitted Jorge Luis, explaining the 18-month wait since obtaining his American visa. "Until the last moment, we thought something would go wrong and we'd have to go back there."

A statistician and author, Jorge Luis said life in Cuba had become extremely difficult since declaring his intention to leave. "My political status — not being a Marxist and having a brother who was a political prisoner and a sister who'd left the country — made things very hard," he said in clear English.

"When they (the Cuban government) find a person who can do the same thing as you, they can push you out." His salary recently had been reduced by 50 percent and his duties had been trivialized, he said.

Wrote stories

His written works, mostly short stories about his outlook on life and about the Cuban revolution, were unpublished under Castro's regime, so he sent them to his sister in Syracuse. She recently published a volume of his works here under a pseudonym.

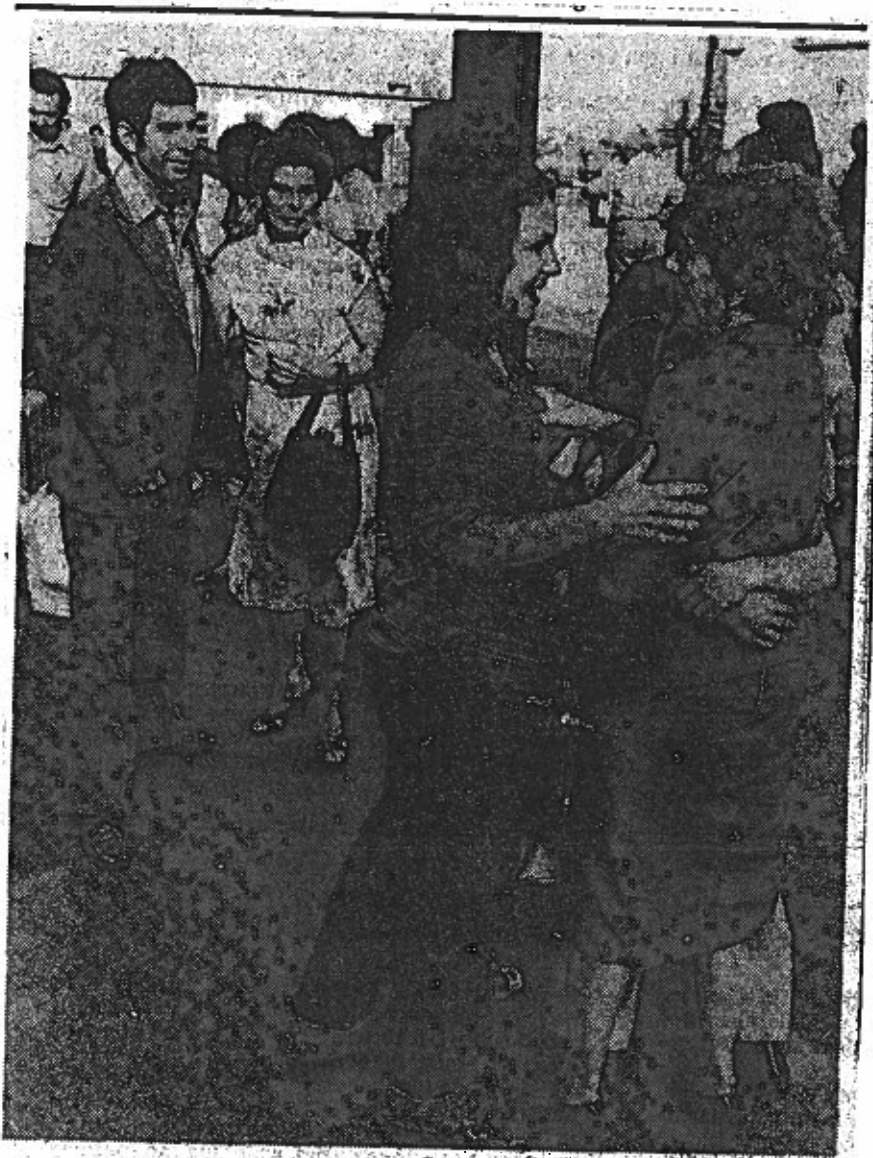
Jorge Luis hopes to find a job in his trained profession in Central New York and perhaps continue his education in sociology. In the meantime, he will stay with his mother and sister in their Vine Street apartment "until I can support my family again," he said.

Enroute from Havana to Mexico City to Miami, he said distant cousins and even strangers provided baggage for his family and milk for the boys. "I have found many things here that really enrich a human heart."

Mother Romeu says without her daughter's courageous rescue efforts, "we would not be able to reunite again."

The refugee flight of Jorge Luis has a happy ending. But it is only a single chapter in the epic drama about the thousands of family and partial families pouring into the U.S. over the last month.

For the Romeu family, Memorial Day 1980 will carry some special memory for the rest of their lives.



Herald-American photo by Dick Blayne

It was a tearful reunion at the Amtrak station in East Syracuse last evening when Cuban refugees Jorge Luis Romeu, left, and his wife, third from left, were reunited with Jorge's sister Raquel, second from left, and mother. Miss Romeu, a Le Moyne College professor, and her mother reside in Liverpool.

Faculty Voices

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Mariel Boatlift Recalled

Cuba's oppressed voted with their feet 25 years ago
(Syracuse Post-Standard June 7)

By Jorge Luis Romeu

Twenty-five years ago, the evening of Saturday, May 24, 1980, my wife, my three small children and I arrived in Syracuse on the train from New York City.



Waiting for us at the old East Syracuse station was my sister Raquel, a professor at Le Moyne College. She had just returned from three weeks aboard a shrimp trawler in the Bay of Mariel, Cuba, where she had sailed, like hundreds of others, to get her relatives out of the country. But what was the Mariel Boatlift? How did it happen? Did it start just the month before, when Castro announced Cubans in the United States wanting to get their families out could do so by sailing to Mariel? Was it a few days before that, when 10,000 people stormed the Peruvian Embassy in Havana and requested asylum? Was it a year before, when Castro released hundreds of political prisoners and let their families and tens of thousands of others apply for exit permits?

Was it two years before, when tens of thousands of members of the "Cuban Community Abroad" (as Castro calls the exiles) were allowed, for the first time in 20 years, to return to visit their relatives? Was it before that when, under President Carter's policy of improving relations with Castro, Cuban authorities held negotiations with a group of hand-picked "exiles" who agreed to family visits and exit permits? Or was it in 1960, when Castro decided to transform a liberal, nationalist revolution into a Marxist, pro-Soviet one?

Yes, it was all of that! For as with any complex event, the Mariel exodus of April-July 1980, when more than 120,000 Cubans were brought to Florida in boats of all sizes, was not a simple issue.

For us, it all started two years before when my brother, a former political prisoner, applied for an exit permit. We were granted American visas through our sister, a U.S. citizen, and we expected to leave shortly after.

Then an unexpected event occurred. One morning, the secret police searched our home. They found the manuscript of a storybook I had written about life in the UMAP forced labor camps for dissidents, created by Castro in 1966, where I had spent two years after being expelled from the University of Havana. The police also found manuscripts of 33 other short stories.

I was arrested, interrogated and finally "released guilty," a precarious status. I lost my job. Our passport

visas, etc., were retained by the government. Our prospects of leaving Cuba became quite dim.

When Mariel occurred, my sister rushed to get us out. The Cuban government reluctantly let us go; but not on the boats. They returned our visas and put us on a plane to Mexico. My wife's brothers took our places in the shrimp trawler.

To try to discredit those defecting via Mariel, the Cuban government also included mental patients and jail inmates. The police took those leaving to Mariel, a seaport 20 miles east of Havana. There, intimidated by threats, police dogs and beatings, they awaited their turn to board a boat to Key West.

Marielitos with relatives in the United States were released to their custody. All others were taken to Eglin or Fort Chaffee and later resettled. Syracuse's Catholic Charities received a few of them. Those with hard criminal records spent many years in an Atlanta prison.

Mariel was a milestone in Cuban politics. Up to then, exiles came heavily from the educated, the upper and middle classes and Havana, supporting the myth that only the privileged disagreed with the revolution. The heterogeneous socioeconomic, racial and geographical composition of the Mariel cohort finally disproved this. Castro had a hard time justifying how this had happened.

Moreover, Mariel brought a new and enriching perspective to the exiled community. Outside Cuba, people knew little about the conditions of daily life under Castro. Mariel finally brought a different attitude in the international response to the Cuban revolution.

Jorge Luis Romeu is a Cuban political exile and a research professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in Syracuse University's L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science.

This op-ed appeared in Syracuse Post-Standard on Tuesday, June 7.

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Mariel Boatlift Recalled

Cuba's oppressed voted with their feet 25 years ago

Tuesday, June 07, 2005

By Jorge Luis Romeu

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The Poet Who Added 12 Years to My Life

By **Jorge Luis Romeu**

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February 12, 2001

Cuban poet Heberto Padilla, who wrote the book of poems "Fuera del Juego" in the late 1960s and was rewarded with imprisonment by the Cuban government, died recently in relative obscurity at the University of Alabama, where he spent his last years teaching.

Even though we met only a few times, during Cuban-exile literary conferences at Columbia and Rutgers universities, I feel a sadness that is very personal. I owe him a big one.

Padilla was a living indictment for one of the darkest sides of Fidel Castro's regime: intellectual oppression. I know. He and I share some common experiences. In fact, if it had not been for Padilla, the story of my life might have included an additional tragic chapter.

Padilla was born in 1931 in Pinar del Río, a Cuban province known as "The Cinderella." He overcame the poverty and other obstacles of such a region and found his way to Havana. There, in the late 1950s, he began participating in literary circles. At the start of the 1959 Revolution, he joined the group of young artists and writers who formed the UNEAC, the official writers union, and published his first works.

In 1968, Padilla won the Julián del Casal's UNEAC literary competition with "Fuera del Juego." But the award was withdrawn by government "request."

Padilla fell in disgrace. His work was critical of Fidel Castro's Cuba, and wasn't tolerated. Padilla and his wife, Belkis Cuza Male, also a Cuban writer, were arrested and subjected to long interrogations and imprisonment. Finally, in 1971, Padilla was forced to retract the messages of his poetry in public. He did so at a writer's meeting reminiscent of Stalin's era. After that, he accepted what work he could find as a translator until 1980, when, at the request of several international and political figures, the Cuban government allowed him to go into exile.

The year 1968 was one of great political trauma all over the world. In the United States, the nation became divided over the Vietnam War; vicious conflict between the police and protesters marred the Chicago Democratic Convention. In Mexico, student riots resulted in the Tlatelolco massacre. In France there were student revolts; in Prague, there was a drastic change in the communist government, followed by a Russian invasion.

In Cuba, we had the Ofensiva Revolucionaria, the island's version of the Maoist Cultural Revolution, where whatever had been left of small, private enterprise -- mom-and-pop stores, shoeshine stands, bars -- was taken over by the government. These were also the years of mass expulsions of college students, of massive confinements to the UMAP forced labor camps, and of the Camarioca boatlift, the forerunner of the 1980 Mariel boatlift.

In such a politically charged context, it isn't difficult to understand why Padilla's problems were

so large. His forced retraction was so repugnant, even some members of the international community of leftist artists, including Sartre, Paz, Vargas Llosa and Fellini, wrote a public letter of protest to Castro.

That letter resulted in Padilla's release, but he remained ostracized until he was able to leave the country years later.

A few years later, in 1979, I was arrested for writing and publishing a book of short stories that dealt with Cuba's social problems. Like Padilla, I had to submit to interrogation. I was threatened with a 12-year prison sentence for my literary activities.

Our lives were about to share another common thread. As one of many college students expelled from the University of Havana in 1965, I had been sent to the UMAP labor camps. There, I spent two years working in the cane fields of Camagüey.

After my release, I wrote a book of short stories about UMAP, "Los Unos, Los Otros y El Seibo." Published in the United States in 1971, it was praised as one of the two best short story books in Dr. Seymour Menton's study of "Prose Fiction of the Cuban Revolution." Menton classified my work, published under the pen name Beltrán de Quiros, with that of the exiled writers.

The nom de plume was one my father had used for many years in Cuban newspapers and magazines. It was tracked back to me and earned me another visit by the Cuban secret police. I can still close my eyes and see my small rectangular cell, with only one small couch, no windows and a constant, searing light at secret police headquarters, Villa Marista. I was allowed only my underwear. I can remember the cold, the air conditioner humming at full blast. A guard would lead me to the interrogator's office. There, a spotlight in my eyes, I was asked again and again, for hours, how was I able to get the book out of the country? They just couldn't believe I had sent every story, one by one, in the mail.

At one of the first interrogation sessions, I made a discrete but clear reference to Padilla, and to the fact that I still had other 30 stories outside the country, awaiting publication.

In the end, because of the Padilla precedent and international clamor his long imprisonment generated, I was deemed guilty but released -- *liberado culpable*. Afterward, I was harassed to the point that even when I obtained a valid U.S. resident visa, my sister had to come from Florida for me in a shrimp trawler during the Mariel boatlift.

My second book, "La Otra Cara de la Moneda," was published a few years later, in 1984.

In my mind, there is no question that, without the Padilla precedent, I would have rotted in the oblivion of a Cuban jail for 12 years. And I have always thought about how hard it must have been for Padilla to denounce his friends publicly and apologize for something he surely was so proud of -- writing his poetry book.

I remember Heberto Padilla as one of Cuba's first peaceful dissidents. And, of course, as a very fine poet.

Dr. Jorge Luis Romeu, a 1994 Fulbright Senior Scholar to Mexico, is an Emeritus Faculty member of the State University of New York. He directs the Juárez-Lincoln-Martí International Education Project and may be contacted by e-mail at jromeu@cat.syr.edu.

Last Change: February 12, 2001

Faculty Voices

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Dominican Republic: Back to the Future (Syracuse Post-Standard, Aug 31)

Relevant events in Latin America seem to follow me. For example, in 1994, I was on a Fulbright in Mexico when the Zapatistas revolted, candidate Colosio was murdered and president Zedillo was elected. In 2000, the election of Vicente Fox, the first opposition party candidate to reach the presidency in 70 years in Mexico, occurred. In 2003, Mexico's first free midterm elections showed extremely interesting aspects. And now, in the Dominican Republic, the flawless change of power from President Mejia to President-Elect Leonel Fernandez has just occurred.



The salient aspect of this transfer of power is the sad economic condition of that nation. Electrical power comes, intermittently, at most six or eight hours per day in the entire country. The middle class and big institutions like the Universidad Catolica de Santo Domingo, where I taught faculty development workshops, have either small electric power plants or have inversores (converters). These transfer the public AC power into DC and stores it. Then it transfers the stored power back to AC and releases it when the power goes off. Converters can move a fan and nightstand light, up to a refrigerator and air-conditioning unit, for several hours.

Then there is the lack of gasoline. Most cars have tanks installed in the trunk. Jobs are scarce and wages are low. Many undocumented Haitians escaping poverty and political instability in their own country just across the border are willing to work for almost nothing.

In addition, the Dominican peso has devaluated during these past four years from 15 to a dollar to 45 to a dollar. No wonder the president-elect, whose previous term from 1996 to 2000 was one of the most prosperous in the country's recent history, obtained a landslide victory.

Interestingly enough, both the current and the previous president's political parties were founded by the same politician, left-of-center writer Juan Bosch. The Dominican Republic, like Cuba and Puerto Rico, have similar histories up to the French Revolution of 1789. At that time, the island of Hispaniola was divided between the French, who operated their richest colony in America (Haiti) and the Spaniards, who owned the languishing colony next door (Santo Domingo).

The slave revolt brought the establishment of the Haitian republic, which invaded the eastern (Spanish) side and incorporated it for 22 years. In 1844, Dominicans revolted and became an independent republic. But chaos and mismanagement drove the country into bankruptcy, and in 1860, the conservative party negotiated annexation to Spain.

The war against Spain (Restauracion) brought back the republic, the infighting between conservative and liberal caudillos and economic chaos. Default of the foreign debt and civil unrest brought (as in neighboring Haiti) American intervention in 1916, which lasted eight years. Americans created a new

army, out of which came strongman Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, who governed the Dominican Republic with iron hand from 1930 to his assassination in 1961.

Trujillo is a basket case, to put it mildly. He had no regard for civil liberties or democratic formalities. The story of his government excesses is well-documented in the excellent novel, "La Fiesta del Chivo," by Peruvian writer Vargas Llosa. However, he paid off the foreign debt, which got the Americans out of the country, created the Dominican currency, reorganized the government and built the modern Dominican economy, where the very poor found jobs and stability.

This is the sad story of many Latin American countries, where dictators (like Castro in Cuba) provide tremendous material advances at tremendously high social and political costs.

One of the most important of the Trujillo regime's ideologues, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, was acting president at the time of the dictator's assassination. Balaguer, a poet and scholar, undertook the difficult task of dismounting from the Trujillo regime and restoring democracy.

In the first free elections, Prof. Juan Bosch and his Revolutionary Party came to power. But this was short-lived, as the military staged a coup and deposed him. After that, Bosch and Balaguer, who represented the liberal and conservative political trends, became the undisputed ideological leaders of the country for the second half of the 20th century. The country regained pluralism but declined economically.

For contemporary Cuba, however, the Dominican Republic carries a big lesson. Just as Trujillo did, Cuba's Castro has governed with an iron hand and brought large advances at high cost. But Castro, now 78, may disappear soon. And perhaps, as with Balaguer, one of Castro's closest allies will bring political pluralism back to the country.

Jorge Luis Romeu is a professor in Syracuse University's L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science. He is a Fulbright senior speaker specialist working in the Dominican Republic and director of the Juarez Lincoln Marti international education project.

"Dominican Republic: Back to the Future" appeared in the August 31st edition of Syracuse Post-Standard

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I totally disagree with James P. Hart's letter that "the Reagan administration started the ball rolling to break the unions." On March 4, 1960, Carrier Corp. of Syracuse went on strike. John

time. The strike was broken, the workers replaced and a small settlement was awarded to those workers 24 years later, under the Reagan administration.

When Robert Kennedy was U.S.

pleas for help and arbitration were sent by the union. No help came. Please do your homework.

JAMES H. MACE JR.
Syracuse

COMMENT

Our Man in Havana?

Gorbachev Tries to Make Castro Ease Up on the Reins

By JORGE LUIS ROMEU

MIKHAIL Gorbachev, the Soviet Communist Party leader, is visiting Havana, Cuba, this week. He is there trying to persuade Fidel Castro to open up his system. That is, trying to convince Castro to implement some sort of *perestroika* in Cuba.

Gorbachev may suggest Castro allow some form of private enterprise, as is currently occurring in the Soviet Union. For example, Castro may allow the farmers to sell their produce in the markets or the plumbers and electricians to work on their own after their daily shift.

But Castro, himself, tried something like this in the early 1980s, just after the political debacle of the Mariel Boatlift, and it didn't work. That is, it worked much too well for some of the enterprising farmers and plumbers who were getting too rich and setting a bad example. Then, Castro simply wrote the whole experiment off and started the current process of "correction of errors," the antithesis of Soviet *perestroika*.

Gorbachev knows of this very well and that Fidel Castro is a tough cookie. In the early 1960s, after Nikita Khrushchev removed the Soviet missiles from Cuba without even consulting Havana, Castro put in jail most of the "Old Guard," the old Cuban Communist Party top bosses. Castro then let the Soviet government know that they were better off putting up with him than risking losing Cuba altogether.

But Castro also knows well that Gorbachev, in turn, is also a very tough cookie and that Gorbachev turned around the Communist Party's political strategy, in spite of the resistance of the conservatives in the Soviet Politburo. Gorbachev is convinced that communism, to remain an issue in the last decade of the 20th century, has to evolve and acquire a new face. Hence, Gorbachev has to persuade Castro to implement, if nothing else, a limited promotional *perestroika*.

But to be fair, Castro's position is very different from Gorbachev's. The new Soviet leader can afford to criticize the errors committed in the past because the perpetrators were others, and they are dead. Castro, in turn, could never do this. He has no one to blame but himself. He has run Cuba as a personal fiefdom for 30 years, with a tight group of friends who are very much alive and constitute the backbone of his political power.

On the other hand, Gorbachev knows perfectly well that Cuba has performed for 30 years three important functions for the Soviet Union.

First, Cuba has been an efficient public relations bureau for Soviet communism in Latin America and the Third World. Through Cuba, the Soviets have

introduced their product to this new market and have obtained footholds in them from time to time.

Second, Cuba has acted as a surrogate for the Soviet Union, both politically and militarily, when it was not convenient for them to act directly. Cuba has been an active member of Third World organizations, supporting the Soviet bloc interests for years. And, for a term, Cuba even presided over the Non-Aligned Movement. If fighting Soviet political battles weren't enough, Cuba also has sent its soldiers (Angola, Ethiopia), where Soviet troops never would have been able to set foot without provoking the military retaliation of the West.

Finally, if things really ever got so bad, Cuba would represent a beachhead behind the enemy lines, or at least a diversionist object to throw at the United States to gain time while fortifying Soviet military positions in the homeland. This provides a valuable bargaining chip in U.S.-Soviet relations.

In exchange for these very tangible services, Cuba has received during 30 years a generous subsidy from the Soviet Union. Some say about \$8 million a day.

Why, then, would Gorbachev risk a collision with his tropical friend?

Precisely because the first and most important function that Cuba performs, that of public relations stunt, is not working at all.

Cuba, under Castro, represents an outdated model at a time when the Hungarians have allowed the organization of restricted independent political parties, when the Polish have created a Senate of freely elected representatives and have recognized the Solidarity trade union, and when even the Soviets have elected a patriarch to their new Parliament.

In a decade when even Latin America countries like Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, and now Paraguay and shortly Chile have moved (or will move) toward a pluralistic form of government, it is inconsistent that Cuba remains a bastion of Stalinism. This will not attract the attention or the interest of Latin American masses. And the image portrayed by Cuba will be much more damaging than beneficial for Soviet propaganda.

Yes, Gorbachev is in Havana trying to make Castro comply with the human rights conventions and trying to liberalize the Cuban economy and the social structures, at least to a minimal level.

Then, has Soviet leader Gorbachev become "Our Man in Havana"? No, he has not. But, maybe in a way, he may very well be.

(Romeu, who lives in Syracuse, is an assistant professor of mathematics at the State University College at Cortland. He and his family lived for two decades under the regime of Fidel Castro.)

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which cited by program... students in Baldwinsville, when in fact there were 25 that year, according to the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

The tabled APPS grant states the clinics will provide service to adolescents from Baldwinsville, Liverpool and North Syracuse

ble. Personally, I think there must be a better way, even when it comes to medical and other research that is truly for the benefit of mankind, although I can understand that some people might feel that this sort of testing

I applaud Berke Breathed of "Bloom County" for bringing this subject to the public's attention and for putting it on the comic page, as it is one of the most-read sections.

KARIN WIKOFF
Aurora

A Cuban Referendum

Open Letter by Intellectuals Puts Pressure on Castro

By JORGE LUIS ROMEU

SIX months ago, when an article of mine on Cuban political prisoners found its way into the Herald American's Op-Ed page, some of my close friends gave me a kind smile.

I had said that the problem of the Cuban political prisoners could be completely solved by allowing freedom of expression and having internationally supervised, multi-party elections in Cuba.

In October, I wrote about the Chilean referendum in a Post-Standard op-ed piece and established a comparison between the Chilean and Cuban dictatorships. I pointed out how Augusto Pinochet had carried out an internationally supervised referendum in Chile and had accepted his defeat in it, and how Fidel Castro wouldn't even consider such an idea. Some of my pro-Castro acquaintances raised an eyebrow.

A lot has been written lately about a possible Cuban referendum ever since Pinochet allowed one in Chile. In the United States, and in Spain and France, in Costa Rica and Peru, columnists have discussed the issue at length, breaking the ground for a formal proposal.

It finally came the last week of December. An "Open Letter to President Castro" was issued in Paris and signed by over 160 internationally known intellectuals. The letter was sent to Havana and simultaneously published in 18 capitals of Europe and Latin America. European intellectuals of the stature of playwright Eugene Ionesco and director Federico Fellini, of Latin American writers Vargas Llosa and Octavio Paz, and of exiled Cuban poets and writers Arenas and Perera, have openly demanded from authoritarian Castro to be no less than his colleague, authoritarian Pinochet.

These intellectuals are demanding an internationally supervised referendum for Cuba, within a multi-party system and freedom of the press framework, like Pinochet did in Chile. No more, no less!

This time, it was Castro's turn to raise an eyebrow. What was Castro's answer to this open letter from the intellectuals? At first he ignored it, as he usually does with the things that bother him. Inside Cuba, this always works. But it didn't work this time.

Castro is currently looking for a political opening in Latin America. For the first time in years he has been invited to attend the inauguration of Latin American presidents (Ecuadorian president's inauguration in the fall, Mexican Salinas' in December). Rumors are that he will also attend Perez's in Caracas, Venezuela, next month. Castro's newly found social urge, plus the relevance of the intel-

lectuals who signed the open letter and its widespread diffusion in Europe and America, make it impossible for Castro to duck the issue this time.

Therefore, Havana's answer was that there is no need for a Cuban referendum, that the Cuban people overwhelmingly supported Castro 30 years ago, at the start of the revolution.

But Castro doesn't give the Cuban people the right to re-evaluate his performance and change their minds if unsatisfied, like anybody else in this world does. Havana also says that Castro has been duly re-elected according to the hierarchical electoral process defined in the 1975 Cuban constitution.

In this process, the people directly elect only provincial delegates. These elect the members of the congress who, in turn, elect the president. All of this in a country with a single employer, a single party and government-controlled media.

Gen. Francisco Franco, in Spain, and Antonio Salazar, in Portugal, were also regularly re-elected in their respective countries for 40 years. However, when both of these strongmen died and a really free electoral process took place, the opposition won beyond any doubts.

Is it that Castro, in the bottom of his heart, is fearful of running the same fate as Pinochet has? Is it that his overwhelming ego cannot handle the situation of barely winning the referendum — let alone of losing it — if it takes place within the framework of freedom of the press and a multiparty system?

If Castro thinks that this matter ends here, with his rotund "no" to the public demand for internationally supervised elections in Cuba, he is dead wrong. This is barely the beginning. From now on, and until he provides a satisfactory solution to this problem, Castro will have to live with this question wherever he goes. And he wants to go places.

Castro is looking for an opening in Latin America and the Western world that will help him through the squeeze he is receiving from the Soviet Union. Castro has refused to carry out any perestroika in Cuba. He is dying to be invited to Venezuela and other nations and to re-establish political and economic ties with Latin America. Everybody wants to join the club, when it is a good club.

But everything has a price. Pinochet had to yield to the idea of a referendum. Arafat, to renounce terrorism. Gorbachev, to implement perestroika and glasnost.

Will Castro get a free ride?

(Romeu, who lives in Syracuse, is an assistant professor of mathematics at the State University College at Cortland. He and his family lived for two decades under the regime of Fidel Castro.)

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THE READERS' PAGE

Dominican Republic hopes to go back to the future

By Jorge Luis Romeu



Relevant events in Latin America seem to follow me. For example, in 1994, I was on a Fulbright in Mexico when the Zapatistas revolted, candidate Coloso was murdered and president Zedillo was elected.

In 2000, the election of Vicente Fox, the first opposition party candidate to reach the presidency in 70 years COMMENT in Mexico, occurred. In 2003, Mexico's first free midterm elections showed extremely interesting aspects. And now, in the Dominican Republic, the flawless change of power from President Mejia to President-Elect Leonel Fernandez has just occurred.

The salient aspect of this transfer of power is the sad economic condition of that nation. Electrical power comes, intermittently, at most six or eight hours per day in the entire country. The middle class and big in-

situations like the Universidad Catolica de Santo Domingo, where I taught faculty development workshops, have either small electric power plants or have *invertors* (converters). These transfer the public AC power into DC and stores it. Then it transfers the stored power back to AC and releases it when the power goes off. Converters can move a fan and nightstand light, up to a refrigerator and air-conditioning unit, for several hours.

Then there is the lack of gasoline. Most cars have tanks installed in the trunk. Jobs are scarce and wages are low. Many undocumented Haitians escaping poverty and political instability in their own country just across the border are willing to work for almost nothing.

In addition, the Dominican peso has devaluated during these past four years from 15 to a dollar to 45 to a dollar. No wonder the president-elect, whose previous term from 1996 to 2000 was one of the most prosperous in the country's recent history, obtained a landslide victory.

Interestingly enough, both the

Haiti) American intervention in 1916, which lasted eight years. Americans created a new army, out of which came strongman Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, who governed the Dominican Republic with iron hand from 1930 to his assassination in 1961.

Trujillo is a basket case, to put it mildly. He had no regard for civil liberties or democratic formalities. The story of his government excesses is well-documented in the excellent novel, "La Fiesta del Chivo," by Peruvian writer Vargas Llosa. However, he paid off the foreign debt, which got the Americans out of the country, created the Dominican currency, reorganized the government and built the modern Dominican economy, where the very poor found jobs and stability.

This is the sad story of many Latin American countries, where dictators (like Castro in Cuba) provide tremendous material advances at tremendously high social and political costs.

One of the most important of the Trujillo regime's ideologues, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, was acting

president at the time of the dictator's assassination. Balaguer, a poet and scholar, undertook the difficult task of dismounting from the Trujillo regime and restoring democracy.

In the first free elections, Prof. Juan Bosch and his Revolutionary Party came to power. But this was short-lived, as the military staged a coup and deposed him. After that, Bosch and Balaguer, who represented the liberal and conservative political trends, became the undisputed ideological leaders of the country for the second half of the 20th century. The country regained pluralism but declined economically.

For contemporary Cuba, however, the Dominican Republic carries a big lesson. Just as Trujillo did, Cuba's Castro has governed with an iron hand and brought large advances at high cost. But Castro, now 78, may disappear soon. And perhaps, as with Balaguer, one of Castro's closest allies will bring political pluralism back to the country.

Jorge Luis Romeu of Syracuse is a Fulbright senior speaker specialist working in the Dominican Republic, and director of the Juarez Lincoln Miami international education project.

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Convention Critique

Patrol car accidents start with lawbreakers

To the Editor:

You are quick to criticize any and all police agencies for doing a thankless job in protecting the

Appears in May issue of Amstat News, the monthly magazine of the American Statistical Association

Statisticians in the Fulbright Program

Jorge Luis Romeu, Research Professor, Department of Mechanical, Aerospace, and Manufacturing Engineering, Syracuse University

“How is it that a statistician became a Fulbright Scholar?” a friend asked. “I thought it was only for historians, ethnographers, and literary scholars!”

“Wrong!” I replied. “There are many exciting Fulbright opportunities available every year for one to choose from.”

As a Latin American immigrant to the United States (I prefer to say a political exile), I had a first-hand knowledge of Spanish as well as of the needs and the psychology of the region. Therefore, I thought that a Fulbright experience would be a wonderful way for me to repay the United States for the many advantages I received here. I contacted the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), which runs the Fulbright Program, obtained the list of countries and assignments, found one that fit my interests, wrote to the institution requesting the Fulbright assignment, and obtained a letter of interest from them. With this, I submitted my Fulbright proposal, requested the sabbatical, and, after a tough competition, was awarded a semester stage abroad.

I entered Mexico on January 1, 1994, at the same time that the Zapatista rebels entered Chiapas. That was the year presidential candidate Colosio was murdered that President Zedillo was elected, and that the Mexican peso was devalued. Indeed, exciting times to be in Mexico!

I taught statistics and simulation at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), the best school of economics in the country and second-best in Latin America. But I also had the opportunity to teach, for the Fulbright Commission, several faculty workshops at smaller, poorly endowed provincial institutions. There I discovered how these schools really needed help and were not getting it. Most foreign advis-

ers are willing and able to teach at well-known universities in the capital. But working in small, little-known provincial institutions in cities like Tampico or Xalapa, with few amenities for Spanish-speaking faculty, is another story. I could, and was, very happy to do that: this was my world.

After my return to the United States, a second event occurred. The provost of the state university where I used to work did not accept the excellent evaluations of my students and supervisor at ITAM because, as he wrote, “as cultures are different, so are the standards for effective teaching.”

These two related events changed my professional trajectory. I realized that I could perform two very useful, simultaneous, and complementary activities: to enhance the educational infrastructure of provincial institutions in Mexico, and to enhance the narrow mindset of some American educators. Thus, the “Juarez-Lincoln-Martí Project” (<http://web.cortland.edu/matresearchb>) was born.

Since 1994, and with the help of many generous American and Mexican institutions, the U.S. State Department, the Fulbright Program, and others, our project has sought scholarships for 18 faculty members to attend professional meetings in the United States. We have taught a dozen faculty development workshops in Spain, Venezuela, and Mexico—the most recent one last summer under a Speaker Specialist Fulbright grant. We have shipped scores of mathematics, statistics, and science textbooks donated by many American colleagues, including ASA statisticians on the Isostat listserv. We email a monthly bulletin to faculty throughout Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, with news about education, research grants, web sites with valuable information, news from NSF,

EPA, NCES, email lists, and so forth. And with the generous support of an ASA grant, I presented a paper based on our project’s educational experiences and research at an invited IASE session of the 2003 ISI meeting in Berlin.

Such educational research and practical experiences stem from our workshops. For example, last summer we fulfilled another Speaker Specialist Fulbright Roster assignment at Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico. During six weeks, four faculty development workshops were taught (one of them via distance learning to the entire five-campus, statewide university system). In these workshops, 150 faculty members and students were trained in the educational use of statistical and simulation software, the internet, email, and other technology, as well as in the use of contextual student projects and cooperative learning techniques in the classroom.

The sense of accomplishment obtained from a Fulbright assignment is unique. It stems from the new friendships acquired that last for as long as one wants to keep them, from the unique living experiences that enriches one’s life, and from the opportunity to serve one’s country, as a “people’s ambassador,” as well as the host country as an “adviser.”

I sometimes ponder which of the many experiences in my 25 years in the United States I value the most. But there is little doubt in my mind: it is my Fulbright experience, which really changed my life. Anyone interested in becoming a Fulbright Scholar should contact CIES (www.cies.org/cies.htm#about) or the Fulbright Alumni Association (www.fulbrightalumni.org/olc/pub/fba/about_us/) to obtain information about current Fulbright opportunities. ■

Faculty Voices

Guide to Writing Op-eds

The New Immigration Proposal (Syracuse Post-Standard, January 18)



In recent days, President Bush has launched a proposal for a new Immigration law. His proposal states that undocumented immigrants currently working in the US as well as those other, willing to come to the US, who can show that they have a work contract, will be given a three-year, renewable working permit and legal status in this country. Such proposal has created a large debate. And many defenders and detractors, both within the main stream and the minority American sectors, have argued in favor or against it, based on the different aspects of this proposed new law and on the constituents' interests. And

both sides have raised very strong and valid arguments to support their positions. [Full Story](#)

How to try Saddam (Philadelphia Inquirer, December 21)



The capture and detention of Saddam Hussein have brought a sense of relief-albeit symbolic-to many people, both inside and outside Iraq. For the legitimacy of the Iraqi transition, and for the sake of international justice, it is imperative that Saddam and his top henchmen now be put on trial in a fair, independent, impartial, and competent tribunal. While it might be tempting to simply kill Saddam outright, that would only serve the purposes of those insurgents who are still resisting in his name. Indeed, history provides another, superior model. [Full Story](#)

Donna E. Arzt

Indian and Patriot (Syracuse Post-Standard, December 5)



Robert Odawi
Porter

Sheldon Hawk Eagle died two weeks ago in Iraq, a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and a Private First Class in the U.S. Army. As the rest of us get ready to eat turkey, watch some football, and hopefully give thanks for our good fortune, we might reflect the irony of an Indian dying in a foreign country in the name of the United States. [Full Story](#)

Fight vs. AIDS goes on (Syracuse Post-Standard, December 3)



Alexander Gonia

No, the era of AIDS is not over not by a long shot. During this week in which we celebrated World AIDS Day on Monday, we need to reaffirm our commitment to end this pandemic. However, there are detractors who are suggesting that the United States is spending too much money on HIV/AIDS treatment, research and prevention throughout the world and ignoring other important issues. [Full Story](#)

Faculty Voices

More Faculty Voices | SU News

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In recent days, President Bush has launched a proposal for a new Immigration law. His proposal states that undocumented immigrants currently working in the US as well as those other, willing to come to the US, who can show that they have a work contract, will be given a three-year, renewable working permit and legal status in this country.

Such proposal has created a large debate. And many defenders and detractors, both within the mainstream and the minority American sectors, have argued in favor or against it, based on the different aspects of this proposed new law and on the constituents' interests. And both sides have raised very strong and valid arguments to support their positions.



For example, mainstream defenders of this proposal state (and rightly so) that undocumented workers are currently exploited by many of their employers, and that this exploitation is a violation of their human rights. On the other hand, other mainstream detractors state (also rightly so) that providing legal status to those who have come into the US by breaking the immigration laws, will only entice others to do like wise.

At the other end of the spectrum, minority defenders of this proposal state (and rightly so) that providing a legal status to undocumented workers will provide them with documents. With these, workers may open bank accounts to deposit the surpluses of their now fairer wages, send money home and pay taxes to contribute to the health, education and other government benefits they currently receive, anyway, as US residents. Workers may also be able to return home, to visit those left behind. On the other hand, minority detractors (also rightly so) state that the proposed three-year renewable guest worker status will prevent workers from becoming US citizens, and staying here for the duration.

This writer approaches the immigration problem from an entirely different angle, one purely practical in nature. For us, this proposal is a step in the right direction that helps solve, once and for all, the problem of illegal immigration to this country. In perhaps an unintended way, President Bush's proposed immigration law, by legalizing the status of undocumented workers, destroys the real reason behind the current, unstoppable influx of foreigners into the American workplace. Let's explain.

Some say that foreigners (in particular from Third World countries) come to the US because American wages and standards of living, exploited and all, are better than at home. But this remains true for any First world country (e.g. Canada, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, just to mention a few). And we find few, if any, Mexican, Cuban or Salvadorean immigrants in these countries. The reason is straightforward: undocumented workers will find (or be offered) very few jobs there. Employers are not allowed (and will be severely fined) to use undocumented workers. And this restriction is enforced by the government very seriously.

President Bush's proposed immigration law would produce, perhaps unintentionally, the same effect he in the US. For, now illegal workers will obtain a working permit. And if the government enforces a fine for those employers who still hire undocumented ones, in a short time people coming to the US illegally will find out they are wasting their time and efforts -and will try somewhere else where this approach will result.

In addition, legalizing guest workers will put out of business the "coyotes" who make a livelihood of smuggling undocumented workers into the country, many times at the cost of these immigrant's lives. The number of immigration officers in the borders (and this operation cost) may be substantially reduced and Immigration police may concentrate in the real problem today: preventing foreign terrorism!

Not having to pay for "coyotes" to come here, prospective immigrant workers will not be tempted to bring in drugs or other illegal substances, that sell at high prices, to help defray illegal immigration expenses (as a few of them have done in the past). Terrorists may even take advantage of the present situation, to try to use illegal immigrants to bring in weapons or other such gadgets they may want to use against us.

Finally, some are complaining that a three-year, renewable working contract may prevent immigrant workers to stay here, if they are so inclined, and partake of the American dream. However, if foreign workers are paid good wages, that allow them to save and send money back home (where they left their extended families and friends) many of them may not need or want to stay. The higher American standard of living, that made them come here, may be now available back home, where perhaps their darker skin color and their heavier accents are not a problem.

So, let's discuss this immigration proposal some more. It may have many goodies for all!

Jorge Luis Romeu is a professor in the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science at Syracuse University and a commentator on international education and immigration issues.

This op-ed appeared in the Jan. 18 issue of the Syracuse Post-Standard

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fuel into Iraq. I guess they figured they can eliminate the middleman and screw the American taxpayer directly."

"Presidential candidate Wesley Clark has called for a new probe into the war in Iraq. He wants to know why he was initially in favor of it."

"President Bush has announced plans to give green cards to millions of illegal immigrants who are willing to work at jobs we refuse to take. . . . Like coach of the Oakland Raiders. That kind of thing. Jobs no American would want."

"He wants to legalize millions of undocumented workers. How much money did Wal-Mart give his campaign?"

— **Jay Leno**

"In a recent Democratic debate, Howard Dean was criticized because during his 11 years as governor he never appointed a single black person to his Cabinet. Dean said he tried but in 11 years he couldn't find a single black person in Vermont."

— **Conan O'Brien**

"President Bush has proposed a bill for a mission to the moon and to Mars. He came up with the catchy slogan for the plan too. "To drill where no man has ever drilled before."

— **Craig Kilborn**

Sage advice

"If man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**, 1929-
assassinated 1968; civil rights leader, Nobel Prize winner 1964

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HAPPINESS BEGINS
WHERE SELFISHNESS ENDS

Indeed. But Bush's proposal does just the opposite. It essentially sets up a guest-worker program, in which employers, after verifying that there are no domestic takers for a particular job, can advertise for foreign work-

ly.

By **Jorge Luis Romeu**
Engineering professor,
Syracuse University



In recent days, President Bush has launched a proposal for a new immigration law. His proposal states that undocumented immigrants currently working in the United States, as well as others willing to come to the United States who can show that they have a work contract, will be given a three-year, renewable working permit and legal status in this country.

The proposal has created a large debate. Both sides have raised very strong and valid arguments to support their positions.

For example, mainstream defenders of this proposal state — and rightly so — that undocumented workers are currently exploited by many of their employers and that this exploitation is a violation of their human rights. On the other hand, other mainstream detractors state — also rightly so — that providing legal status to those who have come into the United States by breaking the immigration laws, will only entice others to do likewise.

At the other end of the spec-

cause it registers them in the "system" and presents the risk that, after three years, they will be sent back home, the plan is unlikely to appeal to the millions of workers currently here illegally.

Plan would help solve illegal-immigration problem

trum, minority defenders of this proposal state — and rightly so — that providing a legal status to undocumented workers will provide identification documents. With these, workers may open bank accounts to deposit the surpluses of their now fairer wages, send money home and pay taxes to contribute to the health, education and other government benefits they currently receive, anyway, as U.S. residents. Workers may also be able to return home to visit those left behind. On the other hand, minority detractors — also rightly so — state that the proposed three-year renewable guest-worker status will prevent workers from becoming U.S. citizens, and staying here for the duration.

This writer approaches the immigration problem from an entirely different angle, one purely practical in nature. For us, this proposal is a step in the right direction that helps solve, once and for all, the problem of illegal immigration to this country. In perhaps an unintended way, President Bush's proposed immigration law, by legalizing the status of undocumented workers, destroys the real reason behind the current, unstoppable influx of foreigners into the American workplace. Let's explain.

Some say that foreigners (in particular from Third World countries) come to the United States because American wages

documented status. But worse than the plan's impracticality is its disingenuousness. While ensuring that businesses have a steady flow of low-wage workers, the proposal does not, as Bush claims, give those workers a shot at the

and standards of living, exploited and all, are better than at home. But this remains true for any First World country (Canada, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, just to mention a few). And we find few, if any, Mexican, Cuban or Salvadoran immigrants in these countries. The reasons are straight-forward: Undocumented workers will find (or be offered) very few jobs there. Employers are not allowed to use undocumented workers and face severe fines if they do. And this restriction is enforced by the government very seriously.

President Bush's proposed immigration law would produce, perhaps unintentionally, the same effect in the United States. For, now illegal workers will obtain a working permit. And if the government enforces a fine for those employers who still hire undocumented ones, in a short time, people coming to the United States illegally will find out they are wasting their time and try somewhere else.

In addition, legalizing guest workers will put out of business the "coyotes" who make a livelihood of smuggling undocumented workers into the country, many times at the cost of these immigrants' lives. The number of immigration officers at the borders (and this operation's costs) may be substantially reduced, and immigration police

to second-class status, working legally but almost completely disenfranchised from America's political institutions and civil society, much as some 5 million guest workers were under the Bracero program during the 1940s and 1950s.

may concentrate on the real problem today: preventing foreign terrorism!

Not having to pay for "coyotes" to come here, prospective immigrant workers will not be tempted to bring in drugs or other illegal substances, that sell at high prices, to help defray illegal immigration expenses (as a few of them have done in the past). Terrorists may even take advantage of the present situation, to try to use illegal immigrants to bring in weapons or other such gadgets they may want to use against us.

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Jorge Luis Romeu, Ph. D., is an SU research professor in the Department of Mechanical Aerospace & Manufacturing Engineering.

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Top Opinion

Voting, Puerto Rican-Style

High voter participation, media saturation coverage the norm

December 11, 2003

By Jorge Romeu

Earlier last month, Puerto Rico had its primary elections, where party candidates for governor, resident commissioner in the U.S. Congress (representative of the island's government, with a voice but no vote) and mayor of San Juan, among others, were selected.

I took advantage of traveling there to visit family and to give a talk at the university - whose school of engineering is enhancing its ties with Syracuse University - to explore further their primary process and to establish some comparisons with our own elections.

Puerto Rico became a U.S. possession in 1898, after the Spanish-American War. Before that time, the island had an autonomous government under Spain, and its political parties continued to operate under U.S. administration. One of the most important, the Liberal Party, was led by don Luis Munoz Rivera. His son, don Luis Munoz Marin, founded the Partido Popular Democratico. Known as "Populares," it obtained commonwealth status for Puerto Rico in 1952.

Munoz Marin was governor of the island from 1948 to 1964, when he

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retired. During that time, he campaigned feverishly in favor of the "jibaro," the Puerto Rican peasants, obtaining many advances for them. If you travel throughout the island's mountainous center today, you will find that electricity, water and other services are ubiquitous in the countryside and that schooling is universal. The Populares are affiliated with the Democratic Party.

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The second largest political organization is the Partido Nuevo Progresista, a pro-statehood party. It was founded in the mid-1960s by don Luis Ferre, who passed away shortly before these primaries at 90-plus years of age. The PNP, which is affiliated with the Republican Party, has governed Puerto Rico several times, most recently under Dr. Pedro Rosello, twice governor until the Populares beat him in 2002.

There is a third, small, pro-independence party. Headed by don Pedro Albizu Campos in the 1940s and 1950s, it organized several violent actions on the island and the U.S. mainland. As a result, it lost much support and today barely gets the minimum votes required by law to remain active and have congressional representation.

Puerto Ricans are evenly divided between the two larger parties, and election time always is very important. This time it was more so, due to the intense political competition between former governor Rosello and his former secretary of transportation and current PNP president, Carlos Pesquera. There were accusations of improper handling of funds for public works undertaken during Rosello's administration. Pesquera promoted himself as the candidate who would rescue the good name of the PNP. In the end, he was beaten by Rosello by a three-to-one margin.

Within the Populares there was no competition for governor, for the incumbent, Sila Calderon, did not seek re-election. Candidate Anibal Acevedo had the full support of his party, as did the candidate for mayor of San Juan, Mr. Eduardo Bhatia, who is of Indian descent (there is a large and growing Indian population).

The most exciting aspect of Puerto Rican elections is the way they take place. There are literally hundreds of street gatherings across the island where people, especially the younger generations, actively participate. Speeches of party hopefuls followed by dancing in the streets, automobile caravans that block the roads, and minute-by-minute coverage by radio and TV stations are the norm. Voting and participation are very high, perhaps in the 70 percent range.

The mechanics of the electoral process are also very different from the United States. During the primaries, each party staffs its own electoral office, and party registration is on a walk-in basis. A voter enters the office, shows the electoral credential (with photo ID) and fills a party registration form. Then the voter casts his or her vote.

Of course, one can vote only once, and for one party only. Computerized records prevent irregularities in the voting process.

The political status of Puerto Rico has proven very successful. As a result, it is one of the most stable societies in Latin America. Its economic and political ties with the United States likely have enhanced such political stability and without question, much of its economic development. On the other hand, its status as a commonwealth has allowed a high degree of internal autonomy and helped maintain its

Spanish language and culture. No wonder that on every occasion a plebiscite for becoming the 51st U.S. state has come up, Puerto Ricans have opted for remaining an "Estado Libre Asociado." Jorge Luis Romeu lives in Syracuse and is of Cuban and Puerto Rican descent.

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Top Opinion

Celebrate Hispanic role in America

October 08, 2003

By Jorge Luis Romeu

This time of the year we commemorate and celebrate the contributions of U.S. citizens of Spanish and Latin American descent. And we reaffirm our presence, for at more than 35 million, we are now the largest U.S. minority. Now Hispanics do count: We buy, helping the economy and increasing company revenues; and we vote, deciding close elections.

But, who really are "Hispanics" or "Latinos"? Are we two different groups? How do we look? What do we do? Where do we live? How do we think?

Hispanics are many, yet we are one. We are 60 percent of Mexican origin, 12 percent Puerto Ricans, 5 percent Cuban, Spanish, Central and South American, and 2 percent Dominicans.

Within these national groups there are divisions. Of Mexican origin are those born in Mexico who immigrated, legally or not, to the United States. Also, those who have been born here from these immigrants, or from second or third-generation ancestors. Then there are those whose ancestors were in New Mexico, California, Texas and Colorado when these territories passed into U.S. hands in the first half of the 19th century. They never immigrated, just acquired U.S. citizenship. Literally, they "came with the territory." Some of these are direct descendants of

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American Indians and are thus "Native American Hispanics."

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Some of Puerto Rican origin were born in the island and moved here and some were born on the mainland. The million born in New York are sometimes called "Newyork Ricans." Like many Mexicans in the Southwest, Puerto Ricans never immigrated anywhere. They became U.S. citizens when Puerto Rico passed into American hands after the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Most others came here as immigrants, some recently and some long ago. What we have in common is that many if not most of us still speak or understand Spanish, eat ethnic food and have close-knit family ties.

Hispanics have had different reasons for coming to America, all of them valid. Some came for economic reasons, others for political ones - to avoid persecution or the violence of civil war. Many settled near their point of entry - in Southern California, Southern Florida, New York, Texas and New Mexico. But in recent years, we have moved all over the country, and Hispanic subgroups have mixed.

Hispanics or Latinos also come in many colors and shapes. They are Caucasian, African, Native American Indian (from North and South America), even Asian. But we are mostly mixed from all of the above, culturally if not racially. And our extended families often include members of all those groups, a root of our proclivity for racial integration that could be our greatest contribution to American society.

Economically we also vary widely. Roberto Goizueta was President of Coca-Cola and Jorge Mas of Mastech, a billion-dollar engineering firm. There are college professors and teachers, engineers and business people. We also have factory and office workers, farm laborers and yes, people on the welfare rolls and in jail. They are all ours and we own up to them all.

Unfortunately, many Hispanics are still poor, as was recently shown in a national statistics where Syracuse's Hispanic children ranked at the bottom.

Finally, we have the name issue - "Hispanic" or "Latino"? Hispanic rings more international, relating to the Hispanic world (Latin America, Spain) and was given to our group by outsiders. Latino is a name Hispanics have given to themselves. It is much more politicized, and rings of the United States. For some of us, the name issue is secondary to others of more pressing urgency.

Let's celebrate that we are here and that we participate in this great society. And let all others who are also here know that we have contributed, and continue to contribute, in most if not all walks of life; and that like everyone else, we are proud of who we are, where we came from, and what we will become in the future.

Jorge Luis Romeu of Syracuse is host of the TV program, "Entre Vecinos" and directs the Juarez Lincoln Marti International Education Project; this commentary was adapted from remarks to ALANA, the African, Latino, Asian and Native American student organization at SUNY Oswego.

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Top Opinion

Economic, democratic upheaval spreads in Latin America

February 24, 2003

By Jorge Luis Romeu

Now, that the United States is contemplating military action in Iraq and international terrorism has hit the homeland, it is more important than ever to understand what is going on in the American back yard.

As the last century ended, Latin America started suffering like the rest of the world from the current economic down-cycle. And this has undermined the stability and the political climate of the region. Democracy and free markets are starting to suffer and to lose popularity. This was evident in the elections of 2002.

In Argentina, where the intense economic crisis brought down the local currency, created high unemployment and even hunger, Eduardo Duhalde was elected president. Duhalde is the third Argentinean president in a very short period, and is currently renegotiating the country's debt with the International Monetary Fund.

In neighboring Brazil, the largest Latin American country, Luis Ignazio da Silva, a leftist labor leader, was elected president with huge popular support. Lula, as he is popularly known, has mellowed and forged

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alliances with centrists and liberals, winning the support of the middle class. Lula also has reassured the IMF that Brazil will live up to its commitments.

In Ecuador, Lucio Gutierrez, a former military commander who participated in a failed coup a couple of years ago, was also elected president, with the support of several Andean Indian organizations. Gutierrez has also said he will respect the economic process and the financial commitments of his country.

In Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, a former paratrooper colonel, continues his presidency under serious upheaval. A national strike paralyzed economic life, especially oil production. The opposition is demanding a referendum and the resignation of Chavez - who survived a brief coup early in 2002.

In Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, who promised to pursue and win the war against the narco-guerrillas, was elected. The day of his inauguration, guerrillas bombed the capital, Bogota.

In Bolivia, Gonzalo Sanchez Losada, a conservative businessman, was elected. And Enrique Bolanos, a former vice-president, was elected in Nicaragua.

With the exception of Cuba, all other governments are also the result of multi-party elections.

In Mexico's Latin American Summit, a forum of heads of state from Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries met again. La Cumbre, as it is known, has become a lackluster organization, where there is much talk but very little gets accomplished. Notable this time was the strong disagreement between Mexico's Vicente Fox and Cuba's Fidel Castro, via telephone, that Castro maliciously recorded and later made public, to the embarrassment of President Fox and the amazement of the other heads of state.

Finally, Cuba, where Castro started his 45th year in power, was visited by former U.S. president and Nobel Laureate Jimmy Carter. Carter addressed the Cuban people in perfect Spanish on TV - a definite first. Carter took advantage of the opportunity to announce to the Cuban people the existence of Proyecto Varela, an official petition to the Cuban government to conduct a referendum on constitutional changes, including an amnesty for political prisoners and free, multi-party elections. Proyecto Varela has gathered more than 20,000 signatures - twice as many as stipulated by the Constitution. But it is still ignored by the Cuban government.

Such is the state of affairs in Latin America, a U.S. neighbor with 300 million people. The time of the early and mid-1990s, when economic and political stability were the norm, seems to be passing. Instead, a period of social and political upheaval seems to be approaching. Most problems, however, can be resolved or at least contained with international cooperation. Particularly in times of crisis and problems, no friend and no enemy is too small. Jorge Luis Romeu is adjunct professor of statistics at Syracuse University.

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Top Opinion

Book fair in Mexico forces Cuba to confront cultural reality

January 02, 2003

By Jorge Luis Romeu

Last month in Guadalajara, Mexico, there was one of the largest book fairs in the Spanish speaking world: the 16th FerialInternational del Libro. Every year, this fair designates one country as its "guest of honor," giving special attention to its publications and writers. This time around the guest of honor was Cuba.

There were two reasons for Cuba's selection. First, there is no question that Cuban literature and its publishing industry are of high quality. Secondly, a famous Cuban writer, Cintio Vitier, just obtained the Juan Rulfo award, a high achievement in Latin American literary circles. For these reasons, the Cuban government sent a 600-member delegation to participate in the Guadalajara International Book Fair, including the speaker of the Cuban Parliament and the minister of culture.

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All this would be fine, but for one problem: Cuban contemporary literature is divided, following political lines, into two parts: inside the island and in exile. The latter, with no official support, is less well known or acknowledged. But it includes famous novelists such as Guillermo



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Cabrera Infante, winner of the Premio Cervantes (the Spanish literature equivalent of the Nobel) and poets like Reynaldo Arenas, both exiled for many years.

A delicate and tense situation arose when exiled Cuban writers, poets and publishers also sent their delegation to the Guadalajara book fair and presented their work at several sessions and exhibits. During the presentation of the magazine *Letras Libres* (Free Letters), a group disrupted the session - shouting, calling the panelists names, even physically assaulting them.

The disruptive incidents were repeated during the presentation of *Revista Encuentro* (Re-Encounter), a magazine published in Madrid that includes articles from writers both inside and outside Cuba, sustaining pro- and anti-government positions.

Exiled writers and publishers were accused of being "traitors and American CIA stooges" because they received support from American and European foundations, among other sources. These foundations, however, also support literary efforts by Cuban government agencies such as the National Library and the Cuban writers' guild.

The importance of these unfortunate incidents that tarnished the larger achievements of this prestigious Latin American cultural event lies in the philosophy that drives them. Inside Cuba, Castro's government rules the literary world, just as it rules everything else. When someone disagrees, the consequence is banning, ostracism, jail or exile. They tried the same strategy at Guadalajara.

It all started in 1961 with a famous Castro speech to Cuban intellectuals in which he pronounced that "within the revolution, everything; outside the revolution, nothing!" However, Castro very conveniently left open the definition of "revolution." This has allowed him to control or direct all Cuban literary production ever since.

For example, Heberto Padilla was sent to prison in 1970, after an infamous trial, for his award-winning poetry book. Arenas, whose famous novels and poems are banned in Cuba, had to leave during the Mariel Boatlift. I myself was arrested and indicted in 1979, when the Cuban government found my manuscripts. My crime consisted of writing and publishing, outside Cuba under a pen name, two story books about the forced-labor camps - books well-received by American literary critics.

The Cuban government at Guadalajara was forced to confront two issues it cannot handle: first, the recognition that Cuban literature outside Cuba grows stronger every day; secondly, and even worse, the rise of literary magazines, free forums where Cubans of all persuasions can participate. The possibility of contacts and rapprochement between Cubans is anathema - it could lead to a peaceful transition!

The Guadalajara book fair has been a positive, eye-opening experience. It has showcased the peculiar situation of Cuban literature. It also has pointed out the direction to follow. Jorge Luis Romeu lives in Syracuse and is a member of the Cuban PEN Club in Exile.

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OPINION & COLUMNS



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Top Opinion

Fulbrights plant seeds that grow into peace, understanding

November 22, 2002

By Jorge Luis Romeu

This month during International Education Week it is fitting to commemorate the Fulbright program that sends U.S. professionals to work abroad and foreign ones to work and study here, with the objective of getting to know each other better. Sen. William Fulbright, D-Ark., created this great program in 1948; whatever misdeed he may have done in his life has been fully compensated by it.

To be a Fulbright Scholar abroad, one has to be a U.S. citizen, most likely have a Ph.D. and work at a place where you can disappear for six to 10 months and still have a job upon your return. In short, one most likely has to be an academic with tenure and have a sabbatical leave.

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In addition, one submits a folder into a very competitive lot. If selected it is a great honor and recognition, and a unique opportunity to learn and to do some good.



As you may already have surmised, I am a Fulbright. This has been the greatest thing that happened to me in this country since I came in 1980. I feel so strongly about it that I would gladly relive the challenges

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involved in applying for it and the time devoted to working on it, once awarded.

For six months in 1994, I taught in one of the best universities in Mexico. But I also worked with several smaller, provincial institutions, teaching badly needed faculty development workshops. And I learned how pressing this need was for them and how difficult it was to receive help. For they did not have the resources to bring in the teachers, and the few who would come did not speak vernacular Spanish; nor were they accustomed to the sometimes harsh living conditions. I had found my niche!

On our return to the United States, the Juarez-Lincoln-Marti Project was founded, with four clear objectives: to bring faculty to the United States to receive instruction; to teach faculty development workshops down there; to find and send badly needed books and materials; and to provide timely educational information via a faculty e-mail list.

Most important, we would do this for the smaller, poorly endowed, provincial institutions of higher learning.

The project has been able to achieve its objectives for the past eight years, with the generous support of SUNY, of the U.S. Embassy's cultural attache in Mexico, the SUNY professors union, the Fulbright Association and the Mexican Consulate.

There also have been book donations from many SUNY faculty and the American Statistical Association, and a specialist speaker grant from the U.S. Department of State, among contributions.

Eighteen faculty from Mexico and Venezuela have come to SUNY training conferences with scholarships, many with airfares paid for by the U.S. cultural attache. One SUNY administrator went to a conference in Mexico City. Scores of math and science textbooks have been sent by mail, carried by car and plane, sent with Mexican scholars returning from conferences. Many three-to-five-day faculty development workshops have been taught. A biweekly e-mail to faculty all over Latin America and Spain distributes news about NSF, the U.S. Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency and other research. For more information, visit our Web page - <http://web.cortland.edu/matresearch/> - and if you are inclined to help, books can be donated as well as badly needed U.S. postage to send them abroad.

All this effort was triggered by one Fulbright award. So what does all this have to do with 9/11? The answer is straightforward: The Juarez Project helps provide hope through education. We believe people who better themselves are less inclined to blow themselves up or otherwise harm their fellow human beings. One has to have something to look forward to: a roof over one's heads, a job, food on the table, a school and a future for one's children. Contributing to peace is, in the last instance, the objective of the Juarez-Lincoln-Marti Project. Jorge Luis Romeu, of Syracuse, is adjunct professor of statistics at Syracuse University.

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THE READERS' PAGE

In defense of the PRI as Mexico fac

By Jorge Luis Romeu

Vicente Fox, the PAN opposition candidate, won the recent Mexican presidential elections, ending the 71-year-old power hegemony of the PRI, the official



party. Will this victory bring democracy to Mexico? A long look at the PRI and what it stands for helps explain the meaning and scope of the election results and forthcoming alternatives in this exciting Mexican period.

The PRI, Partido Revolucionario Institucional, was founded by

COMMENT Mexico's strong man, Gen. Plutarco E. Calles, in 1929. These were difficult times, just after the *Guerra Cristera*, the bloody, three-year religious civil war that tore Mexico apart. Jose Vasconcelos, a well-known educator, was the opposition candidate and had support from the Cristeros, who hated President Calles' anti-Catholic policies. But using all the government machinery and power, Calles' party prevailed — as it has ever since, until now.

One could also trace the PRI's origins back to 1920, when Gens. Alvaro Obregon and Calles struck a deal by which they would alternate in the presidency, supporting the other when out of office. Obregon was elected first, in 1920, then Calles in 1924. When Obregon was again elected in 1928, he was murdered

— some say under Calles' orders. To continue with his scheme and his nationalistic policies, Calles came up with this PRI idea.

To understand the need for such a scheme, its depth and success, one must go back still a few more years. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 began under the slogan "no re-election," alluding to President Porfirio Diaz' 40 years of uncontested power, obtained via periodic re-election. Even though Diaz managed to halt Mexico's disintegration and economic decline, he became very unpopular. For the price of stability and prosperity was the rise of a small class of wealthy landowners, at the expense of countless Indian peasants. In addition, the periodic re-elections of Diaz prevented the establishment of a stable succession mechanism.

The concerns of the 1910 revolution — and perhaps also of the founders of the PRI — were to address these two important national problems. The revolution had opened a 20-year-long period of violence and devastation, while the PRI managed to bring back a measure of peace, prosperity and stability. It all worked out in the following manner: In the political realm, the president could never be re-elected; in exchange, he would be almost like a king, with the right to appoint his successor under a strict, non-written set of rules; this addressed the re-election and succession problems of the Diaz era and gave the PRI regime its stability.

"El Dedazo," or anointment

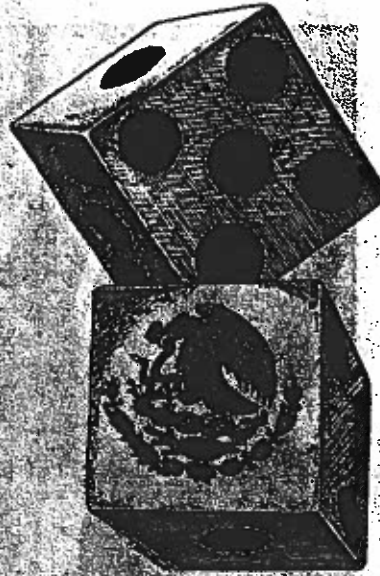


Illustration by Tim Brinton

of the presidential successor, was a well-structured process. It precluded the elevation of a brother, son or other relative or intimate crony, as was usually done by such dictators as Somoza, Trujillo or Castro. It would have to be someone else, often from a different wing of the broad PRI coalition. This provided political balance and a sort of corrective mechanism.

For example, leftist Cardenas was followed by conservative Avila Camacho, and statists Echeverria and Lopez Portillo were followed by free-market-eers De La Madrid and Salinas. Even apparently minor details, such as lobbying for the presidential position, were regulated via such popular sayings as "el que se mueve no sale en la foto" ("he who pleads is disqualified").

The PRI's succession policy allowed new teams to substitute each other every six years, thus avoiding the formation of small power elites or the rise of dogmatic absolutism. With this pragmatic approach, the PRI managed to hold on to power for over 70 years. In the economic realm, the PRI espoused land reform in a country overwhelmingly rural, even when it did not always make good economic sense. This allowed landless peasants to acquire some economic independence and a sense of pride, and provided the political base that gave the PRI its broad popular support.

Moreover, in 1938, President Cardenas nationalized the oil industry, providing the economic power to launch many social programs and obtaining the support of organized labor and of the nationalistic masses. Cardenas remains one of the most popular Mexican presidents.

With these social and economic policies, plus patronage, strong-arm tactics when needed and corruption, the PRI maintained power with the support of much, if not the majority, of the Mexican people.

On the other hand, the PRI was never an ideological party but "el partido del gobierno," the group that ran the country. People could join it whatever their ideology, religion, philosophy or lack thereof. The glue that held it together was money and power, patronage and corruption, and a sense of national purpose. As a result, the epoch of revolts, military uprisings and civil wars that had damaged Mexico so

Great educator's legacy lives on

To the Editor:

News comes that Frank Barry has died and is to be buried this week. Frank will never die as long as any of us who worked with him are able to remember him and his contribution to our professional and personal lives.

He will live as long as any of

students and colleagues now practice.

Frank was a consummate educator and administrator — personable, knowledgeable and possessed of a commitment to service seldom seen today. He drew the best from his employees and co-workers just as he drew ready laughter and admiration with his sense of humor and ability to turn even the most sticky issues into enjoyable problems

lowed subordinates to become what they could become and he gave full credit where it was due.

Syracuse was privileged to have him at the time he was its chief school administrator and chief educator. The state and the nation were fortunate to have his leadership to temper the profession's temporizing when challenged to take a lead.

As a principal, I was lucky to have his support and guidance on

Sickened by condition of Centro bus shelter

To the Editor:

To Centro and the Mayor's Office: I am writing to complain about the bus shelter located at the corner of James and Warren Streets.

On Aug. 30, I left work at 1:40 p.m. with an upset stomach. I

ERS' PAGE

Mexico faces exciting future

The PRI's succession policy allowed new teams to substitute each other every six years, thus avoiding the formation of small power elites or the rise of dogmatic absolutism. With this pragmatic approach, the PRI managed to hold on to power for over 70 years. In the economic realm, the PRI espoused land reform in a country overwhelmingly rural, even when it did not always make good economic sense. This allowed landless peasants to acquire some economic independence and a sense of pride, and provided the political base that gave the PRI its broad popular support.

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The PRI's redeeming quality has been precisely that it has recognized this situation and has allowed the country to evolve via a peaceful electoral process.

badly during the 19th century became a thing of the past. This was no small success.

Under the PRI, no foreign invasions or territorial losses occurred. Literacy rose from 30 to 90 percent, and dozens of public and private universities were created, fostering social and economic mobility and the emergence of a large and strong middle class. It was this middle class and its socioeconomic development that ultimately nurtured the discontent and opposition that brought down the PRI.

The PRI's redeeming quality has been precisely that it has recognized this situation and has allowed the country to evolve via a peaceful electoral process. Such a transition has not been easy — it is the result of many years of hard labor, sweat and even the blood of many Mexicans, including some from the PRI itself. And it has taken place during the last 20 years. This is no small potatoes, but something many other regimes, such as Castro's Cuba, could learn from.

During this time many local,

state and federal offices have been won, one by one, by the two largest opposition parties: the conservative, Catholic, pro-business Partido de Accion Nacional (PAN), founded by Manuel Gomez Morin in 1939; and the leftist, statist, Partido Revolucionario Democrático (PRD), founded as a splinter of PRI by Heberto Castillo in the 1980s. Both have been gaining ground at the expense of the PRI, to the point that in July, the PAN won by a plurality in a three-way race and the PRD won Mexico City.

So what will the new political landscape look like if the PAN and PRD move back to their traditional right/left positions? Who will occupy the political center, where the PRI has most recently positioned itself?

Such a void could be filled by a "new PRI," ready to compete in a multiparty system, integrated by its younger faction that has worked hard to open up the system and make it more democratic. This "new PRI" faction has fought a tough internal power struggle against the "dinosaurs." If, instead, the PRI fails to evolve, it may implode, giving birth to or feeding other new, centrist groups.

Will Mexico maintain its hard-won social and economic gains and its internal peace and stability in this new and exciting stage? As a Cuban, I sincerely wish my Mexican brothers the best of luck!

Jorge Luis Romeu, of Syracuse, is a former Senior Fulbright Scholar to Mexico and an emeritus SUNY professor. He directs the Juarez-Lincoln-Marti Project and frequently travels to and teaches in Mexico.

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To Centro and the Mayor's Office: I am writing to complain about the bus shelter located at the corner of James and Warren Streets.

On Aug. 30, I left work at 1:40 p.m. with an upset stomach. I

When I got to the shelter, I noticed there was trash all over, and water, but this shelter is like this most of the time. The bench looked like someone had already barfed all over it. I tried to sit on the one clean spot at the end of the bench, that's when I noticed there was excrement, and I mean excrement all over the back wall of the shelter.




From my understanding, you have someone that you pay very well to take care of these shelters. I want to know where he is. And if you don't know where he is, I would like to get his job, so I can do the same thing: Nothing!

I am sending a copy of this letter to the mayor to let him know how our tax dollars are hard at work for a cleaning service that's not being performed. So far I



The Fate of a Child — A Solution for Castro to Weigh


By Jorge Luis Romeu, Hispanic Link

Los Tadeo were very well known Cuban radio comedians in the 1960s. One night they said on their show: "What is the greatest oxymoron of dictatorship? To starve its people and then to provide funeral service free!"

That same week, Castro's government had announced that free funeral services would be henceforth provided by the government. That was the last show the Tadeos ever performed.

Elián González's case reminds me very much of the Tadeos. For 40 years, Castro's government policy has been forcing thousands of Cubans to emigrate, legally and illegally, in rafts, makeshift boats and the like. As a result, many hundreds have drowned or have fed the sharks in the Florida straits. Elián's mother happens to be one of the most recent cases.



Before I examine that reality, let me make one point clear. My position is that little Elián should be returned to Cuba, with his father and grandparents. Family always comes first. I strongly believe that. And Elián's father and grandparents, with whom he has always lived, are closer than his Miami cousins, with whom he lives now.

That said, let's take a second look at Elián's case, which has been so widely but only anecdotally discussed in the media. Let's also analyze the players, with their special agendas and motivations.

First, the motives. Cárdenas, Elián's hometown in northern Cuba, is only 10 miles away from Varadero, the famous resort beach that attracts thousands of foreign tourists. Many Cardenenses commute daily to work there in hotels and tourist attractions, quite forbidden for those who do not have foreign currency.

Such close contact with foreigners, in a country well known for its political oppression and material scarcity, may have triggered Elián's

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mother to take a chance in a boat and sail to the United States in search of a better life for her family.

Elián's parents are no different than any others. His mother, divorced, decided to leave Cuba clandestinely with her new family. Given that Cuba is a police state, she most likely took that decision on her own. She confided it to her relatives, they will never admit it, for obvious reasons. At the point of drowning, she fastened her son to the inner tube she had placed him in, to increase his chances for survival. She was a caring mother.

The "monolithic" Cuban exile community of Miami that has been portrayed by the media in the past weeks does not exist. If we are exiled, it's because of our pluralistic beliefs. There are 600,000 Cubans in Miami. Just a few hundred picketed or rallied in protest against returning Elián to Cuba. Most Cubans would just have Elián's father come and freely claim his son. Cubans know well how Castro systematically uses the extended family as hostages; they fear that Elián's father may be under government pressure.

Other Cubans see in Elián's incredible rescue a miracle akin to that of Cuba's Virgin of La Caridad del Cobre. She was saved by some fishermen in the middle of a sea storm — as was Elián on Thanksgiving Day. The Cuban American National Foundation, in turn, sees in Elián's plight a chance to denounce communism and Cubans' need to defy the seas to emigrate.

Most others I have spoken with, whether wanting Elián to stay or to return to Cuba, would like this to occur quietly and swiftly, to avoid the child further pain.

The World Council of Churches, which sponsored Elián's grandparents' trip to the United States, may also have an agenda. They did not raise their voice when, in the early 1960s, hundreds of university students and thousands of schoolteachers were expelled from their classrooms because of their religious beliefs. The council never contested the UMAP-forced labor camps in the late '60s, or intervened on behalf of the thousands of Cubans sent there, many of them pastors and priests. They never lobbied to support the thousands of Cubans who, in the '70s, were prevented from enrolling in college and technical schools because of their religious beliefs.

This writer, like tens of thousands of others, expelled from the University of Havana in 1965, was then sent to the UMAP labor camp for over two years and had to hide his religion to re-enroll in the university in the '70s. On the other hand, the council is well known for its support of Castro's government and for denouncing and breaking the embargo.

Finally, Castro himself has no shame. He should have crawled under the rug when all this started. For, if Cubans are braving the Florida straits on rafts or are defecting during trips abroad, often leaving behind their loved ones, it is mostly due to Castro's restrictive emigration policies. Family separation, the price we all have had to pay, is the greatest of all of Castro's sins.

This writer, for example, was not allowed to emigrate in 1979, even when having visas from the United States, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. I could finally leave Cuba only after my sister came for me and my family on a shrimp trawler during the Mariel boatlift. There are numerous such cases among Cuban exiles.

On the other hand, Castro was very unhappy with the Cuban exile community. He blames them for his not being able to attend the Seattle World Conference on Trade. The Pinochet arrest and extradition, in Britain, created a bad legal precedent, and Castro was afraid that he might face a similar situation if he came to the United States.

In addition, the success of the "music diplomacy" (the Buenavista Social Club group) is again bringing together Cubans on the island and abroad. This is the worst of Castro's nightmares.

Elián's case has provided Castro with a golden opportunity both to punish the Cuban exile community for the Seattle fiasco and to reopen old divisions among island and exiled Cubans, to split them around a nationalist 'cause.'

Yes, Elián should go back to his family. But Castro should reciprocate by allowing those inside Cuba who have relatives outside the country to emigrate peacefully and be reunited with theirs, too.

Selective reunification — like selective support — is both unfair and immoral.

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Jorge Luis Romeu, Ph.D., is a visiting researcher at CASE Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

Questions, suggestions or comments about this article? Please fill out our quick and easy [comment form](#) or talk about it in our [Village Forum discussion area](#).

[\[Back To Top\]](#)

A Quality and Reliability Institute for Small and Medium Industry

Dear *Amstat News*,

Several years ago, in these same pages, I published a paper titled "GI Bill for Industries," where I argued that small-and-medium sized organizations have difficulties undertaking activities such as research and development, that help them survive and grow. I offered a solution similar in spirit to the GI Bill of WWII: providing vouchers to be redeemed at universities in exchange for free research, development, and training.

Today, I would like to revisit this issue in a more specific way: by proposing to establish "institutes" for Quality and Reliability (Q&R) at our research universities.

Quality and reliability are two key attributes in manufacturing and service industries that are relatively expensive to implement, because they are specialized functions. Q&R are also difficult to measure and "visualize," and thus compete in disadvantage with other, more readily visible activities.

Suppose we manufacture small, brown paper cups, which start leaking after 10 minutes. Our product sales are down and we decide to spend \$1,000 to improve this situation. We can change the design of the cups, making them brighter and more appealing to prospective customers, or we can remove the leaking. Changing the design can improve sales; stopping the leakage will retain the new customers. We can afford one with our reduced budget. So we decide to change the design, because to "retain" customers we first need to "acquire" them!

The importance of Q&R has been readily recognized by those who can afford it. For example, the military require it in their equipment. So they fund the Reliability Analysis Center, RAC (<http://rac.alionscience.com>), to provide consulting, training and other services for DoD and its contractors.

We are proposing Q&R "institutes" to provide some of these services, free to qualifying small-and-medium sized companies in the area. This would help them grow and, therefore, keep well-paying jobs in this area. Let's see how this project would work.

Engineering students could take courses in Q&R and work as "interns" or "research assistants" in the institutes. Under the guidance of their professors, they could implement free assessments and provide training to qualifying industries in the area. This would provide, in addition to this badly needed service for industries that cannot afford it, hands-on instruction to students and better insight on real industry needs to faculty.

* Such an idea is not impractical. There exist other such "institutes" that perform similar activities. For example, (<http://suneus.syr.edu/fullstory.asp?id=1113009>) functions in the area of energy. The Department of Energy supports it because small companies save much energy from the recommendations made by the institute's free audits.

The same could occur with a Q&R "institute," and its "stock holders" (e.g. the NSF, that supports engineering education; the federal, local, and state governments that are interested in creating and maintaining good jobs) would also receive ample benefits.

Such an "institute" would not compete with other established Q&R organizations or consultants, since it would not take away any "paying" customer. On the contrary, it would serve as a "proof of concept" to satisfied customers of the "institute" who would then become "paying" ones. Finally, it would help keep jobs from being exported, saving badly needed technical and high-paying jobs.

Anyone interested in helping promote and establish such a Q&R institute, or in providing any commentary or suggestions, is encouraged to get in contact with us.

Jorge Luis Romeu, PhD

Note: Jorge Luis Romeu is a research professor with the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Syracuse University, where he teaches industrial statistics. He also is senior research engineer with the Reliability Analysis Center in Rome, New York. His email address is jlromeu@syr.edu.

Invitation

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE formation of the ASA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON **STATISTICAL VOLUNTEERISM**



Over the course of several years, many ASA members have expressed an interest in using their statistical skills to help their local and global communities. We are now ready to formally heed that call by recruiting 30 to 40 members to meet and develop a process for ASA to use that would connect members with those organizations in need of their professional expertise.

Our kickoff meeting will be held during the JSM IN MINNEAPOLIS

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2005

Time: 10:30 AM - 12 noon

Meeting Room: L100 F at the Minneapolis Convention Center

For those of you who won't be able to attend, a summary of the group's discussion and plans will appear in *Amstat News* shortly after the meeting.

There are many good reasons to join:

You will be involved in the frontend development of a new and exciting ASA endeavor.

You will be involved in a creative and innovative process with like-minded colleagues.

You will be involved in helping your local and global community.

The meetings are guaranteed to be fun, productive, and richly rewarding.

Faculty Voices

More Faculty Voices | SU News

Technology one of the best ways to grow democracy (Syracuse Post-Standard, April 29)

By Jorge Luis Romeu

One thing most people seem to agree on is that “democratization” is one of the best antidotes to extremism and terrorism. Few terrorists come from democratic countries.



How to promote democracy, however, and even the precise meaning of what a democracy should be, is a very different story. Some think democracy can be shoved down the throat or made like instant coffee; or that there are people intrinsically incapable of ever accepting it. Being a pluralistic nation, however, we find such diversity of opinion not at all surprising.

The Juarez Lincoln Marti Project (<http://web.cortland.edu/matresearch>) has taught faculty development workshops in Latin America for more than 10 years. We train university faculty in the use of technology (software and its related hardware) and its associated pedagogy. We think of ourselves as a democracy-building operation.

In appearance, our Workshops on Technology Infusion just teach the use of e-mail, the Internet, etc., integrated with the use of cooperative learning, contextual projects, etc. However, these methods developed by student groups, can also be seen as effective democratization tools. Let's see why.

Old pedagogical methods (e.g. chalk and talk) instill rote, repetition and memory-based learning. These methods, per se, are not adverse (after all we, older folk, learned what we know through them). However, they instill in the student an acceptance of drill that can lead to indoctrination. And this does not enhance the critical and independent thinking, or the freedom of thought, that constitute the pillars of a democracy.

Individual work encouraged by the old teaching methods does not enhance the necessary social skills and habits that help the individual to integrate into groups. It does not help enhance civil society, that network of organizations, independent from government interference and/or direction (e.g. churches, lodges, sports clubs) that is another requirement for a true democracy to develop.

On the other hand, the newer pedagogical methods are based on group learning and contextual project work, activities that instill the critical thinking that fosters the inquisitive, free mind that creates and sustain a pluralistic and democratic society. Group work also instills characteristics such as learning to work with others, listen to and accept different ideas as well as constructive criticism, and to incorporate ideas from outside oneself and eventually, the group.

Those incapable of working in a small student group are less likely to function constructively in larger

and complex ones, such as a democratic system. When you learn to operate a study group, you can later organize a scout troop, a lodge, a union or a PTA.

Contextual projects constitute yet an additional democratization tool. Theoretical knowledge is very interesting. However, turning these into student projects that serve practical (and one hopes, economic) purposes, is one of the most important things students should learn.

There cannot be a self-sustaining democracy when a large portion of the population does not know if (or what) they are going to eat tomorrow. Learning activities that help individuals put food on their table and create jobs for their community is of prime importance in pro-democracy work.

All these topics are taught and exercised in our Juarez Lincoln Marti workshops. By doing so, our project is contributing in a small but positive way to the broader democratization ideal that will destroy fanaticism and, eventually, terrorism.

Jorge L. Romeu is a Research Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and the director of the Juarez Lincoln Marti Project.

This op-ed appeared in The April 29 edition of Syracuse Post-Standard.

[Back to SU NEWS](#)



The Post-Standard

Technology one of the best ways to grow democracy %%by%%By Jorge Luis Romeu

Friday, April 29, 2005

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Old pedagogical methods (e.g., chalk and talk) instill rote, repetition and memory-based learning. These methods are not wrong. However, they instill acceptance of drill that can lead to indoctrination. This does not enhance critical and independent thinking, freedom of thought that is a pillar of democracy.

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Needed: A quality and reliability institute for industry

Tuesday, November 30, 2004

By Jorge Luis Romeu

Several years ago in these pages, I called for a "GI Bill for industry," arguing that small and medium-size industries have difficulty undertaking activities such as research and development, which help them survive and grow.


I offered a solution that I compared to the GI Bill: providing vouchers to be redeemed at the university in exchange for free research, development and training.

Today, I revisit this issue in a more specific way. I propose to establish an "institute" at Syracuse University for quality and reliability.

Advertisement

Quality and reliability are two key attributes in manufacturing and service industries. Reliability is the ability of an entity to perform its function in the conditions specified for it, for the duration of its mission; for example, the probability that our car will take us to our parents' and back without problems during the holiday season.

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Quality is more elusive to define, but pertains to the properties we desire from a product or service, including its durability, ease of use, appearance, etc.

Q&R are relatively expensive because they are specialized functions. Q&R are also difficult to measure and "visualize" in a product, in competition with other, more readily visible activities. This is better understood through an example.

Suppose we manufacture small, brown paper cups, which start leaking after 10 minutes. Our product sales are down and we decide to spend \$1,000 to improve this situation. We can change the design of the cups, making them brighter and more appealing to prospective customers, or we can prevent the leaking. Changing the design can improve sales; stopping the leakage can retain the new customers. We cannot afford both with our reduced budget. So we decide to change the design, because to "retain" customers, we first need

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The importance of Q&R has been readily recognized by those who can afford it. For example, the military requires Q&R in its equipment, and they fund the Reliability Analysis Center in Rome to provide consulting, training and other Q&R services for the Defense Department and its contractors.

I propose an institute to provide some of these services - free - to qualifying small and medium-size companies in the area. This would help them grow and keep well-paying jobs in this area.

How would this project work? Engineering students taking a course in Q&R would work as interns or research assistants. Under a professor's guidance, they would provide free assessments and assist qualifying industries in implementing their recommendations. Students would get hands-on instruction, faculty would gain better insight on pressing industry needs, and industries that cannot afford it would get this badly needed service.

Such an idea is not unrealistic. Another institute at SU already performs similar activities in the area of energy. The Department of Energy supports it, and the free audits save energy and strengthen the country's energy policy.

The same would occur with a Q&R institute. Its "stockholders" (the National Science Foundation that supports engineering education; federal, local and state governments interested in creating and retaining good jobs) would also receive ample benefits.


Such an institute would not compete with established Q&R organizations or consultants, since it would not take away paying customers. On the contrary, it would provide a "proof of concept" to all satisfied customers.

The subject of such an institute was explored in a technical talk on the subject at this month's meeting of the Syracuse Chapter of the American Society for Quality. We are establishing links with similar organizations at other universities and research centers to gain insight from their experience. I welcome hearing from anyone interested in helping promote and establish such a Q&R institute at SU, or in providing commentary or suggestions.

Jorge Luis Romeu is a research professor at Syracuse University, where he teaches industrial statistics, and a senior research engineer with the Reliability Analysis Center in Rome. His e-mail address is jromeu@ecs.syr.edu.

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THE READERS' PAGE

Needed: A quality and reliability institute for industry

By Jorge Luis Romeu



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'Culture of life' goes beyond Bush agenda

To the Editor:

In the presidential debates four years ago, Mr. Bush called himself a "compassionate conservative." In the last election he talked about a "culture of life." With four more years looming, my hope and prayer is that the president may come to realize

Don't punish him for doing his job

To the Editor:

I am completely appalled at the react-



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JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITIES:

Jorge Luis Romeu has been, for many years, active in several journalistic areas, including the printed media, long and short wave radio programs and television. He has published over 200 opinion and feature articles, written both in Spanish and in English, in newspapers in the USA, Mexico and Spain.

You can read two selections of Romeu's English language newspaper articles: one about Latin America and the other about Mexico. You can also read a selection of Romeu's Spanish language newspaper articles on Mexican experiences and on Cuban issues. Selected statistics scholarly work published by Romeu can be found in the Internet. /

A list of his most relevant newspaper articles is given, below:

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NO * DATE * ARTICLES/PROGRAMS: * NEWSPAPER *
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1 * 04/10/88 * THE SOLITUDE OF POLITICAL EXILE * HERALD-AMERICAN
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3 * 10/15/88 * LOS ULTIMOS PRESOS POLITICOS CUBANOS * EL NUEVO HERALD
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14 * 04/05/89 * MIHAIL GORBACHEV: OUR MAN IN HAVANA? * THE POST-STANDARD
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16 * 05/26/89 * EVOLUCION DE DOS DICTADURAS * EL NUEVO HERALD
17 * 06/13/89 * THREE POWER STRUGGLES. * THE POST-STANDARD
18 * 06/24/89 * EL SEGUNDO REPOSO TURBULENTO. * EL NUEVO HERALD
19 * 07/14/89 * THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG IN CUBA. * THE POST-STANDARD
20 * 08/22/89 * LET'S TALK MATH * THE POST-STANDARD
21 * 09/06/89 * LA REVOLUCION SOCIAL DEL TRANSISTOR * EL NUEVO HERALD
22 * 10/18/89 * UN CUBANO EN EL NORTE * EL NUEVO HERALD
23 * 11/08/89 * THE DIVERSITY OF HISPANICS * THE POST-STANDARD
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27 * 03/16/90 * WHAT NOW, FOR NICARAGUA? * THE POST-STANDARD
28 * 04/05/90 * NICARAGUA: HAY DULCE PARA TODOS. * EL NUEVO HERALD
29 * 06/05/90 * VARGAS LLOSA: MAKING HISTORY IN PERU * THE POST-STANDARD
30 * 06/28/90 * REMEMBERING MARIEL: THE CUBAN DUNKERKE * THE POST-STANDARD
31 * 07/30/90 * THE LATINO TASK FORCE. * THE POST-STANDARD
32 * 08/06/90 * LAS PRISIONES OLVIDADAS: EL UMAP. * EL NUEVO HERALD
33 * 10/13/90 * HISPANOS: BLOQUE MONOLITICO O MOSAICO? * EL NUEVO HERALD
34 * 10/30/90 * AFTERMATH: AN OPPORTUNITY IN CUBA. * THE POST-STANDARD
35 * 12/07/90 * LINKING TO L.A.: BUSH'S INITIATIVE/TRIP. * THE POST-STANDARD
36 * 12/29/90 * SYRACUSE: SANTA CLARA EN NUEVA YORK. * EL NUEVO HERALD
37 * 01/15/91 * HAVANA: ANOTHER NEGATIVE PORTRAYAL * THE POST-STANDARD
38 * 02/22/91 * INTERVIEW TO FIRST HISPANIC IN SYR. BOARD * WAER/FM88 RADIO
39 * 03/12/91 * LATINO VS HISPANIC: SOUL SEARCHING? * THE POST-STANDARD
40 * 03/28/91 * IDENTIDAD A DEBATE: LATINO O HISPANO? * EL NUEVO HERALD
41 * 04/19/91 * BAY OF PIGS: 30 YEARS OF RECKONING * THE POST-STANDARD
42 * 05/03/91 * IS IT LATINO OR HISPANIC? AN INTERVIEW. * WAER/FM88 RADIO
43 * 05/30/91 * FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO. * THE POST-STANDARD
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44	*	06/20/91	* UN TRATADO BENEFICIOSO CON MEXICO	* EL NUEVO HERALD
45	*	06/27/91	* HISPANIC IMMIGRANT CHILDREN: INTERVIEW.	* WAER/FM88 RADIO
46	*	07/30/91	* STATISTICS: AN EXCITING TEACHING TOOL.	* THE POST-STANDARD
47	*	08/23/91	* NO MEXICAN SIESTA.	* THE POST-STANDARD
48	*	09/04/91	* HISPANIC IMMIGRANT ADULTS: INTERVIEW.	* WAER/FM88 RADIO
49	*	09/12/91	* POST-CASTROISM IS HERE! AND NOW WHAT?	* THE POST STANDARD
50	*	09/25/91	* EL POST CASTRISMO HA LLEGADO.	* EL NUEVO HERALD
51	*	10/11/91	* CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS: 500 YEARS AFTER.	* THE POST STANDARD
52	*	10/30/91	* CRISTOBAL COLON A 500 ANOS VISTA.	* EL NUEVO HERALD
53	*	11/13/91	* COMMENT: FIRST HISPANIC ELECTED IN SYR.	* WAER/FM88 RADIO
54	*	11/30/91	* EL POST CASTRISMO HA LLEGADO: Y AHORA QUE?	* EL VECINO
55	*	12/09/91	* A DEMOCRATIC SURPRISE IN CUBA.	* THE POST STANDARD
56	*	12/19/91	* UNA SORPRESA DEMOCRATICA EN CUBA.	* EL NUEVO HERALD
57	*	02/20/92	* SPANISH ONLY: SHOULD SPANISH BE BANNED?	* THE POST STANDARD
58	*	02/30/92	* A QUINIENTOS ANOS VISTA: CRISTOBAL COLON	* EL VECINO
59	*	03/30/92	* LATINO O HISPANO: PATRIMONIO O APODO?	* EL VECINO
60	*	04/07/92	* MULTIRRACIAL PROBLEMS: A SINGLE MODEL?	* THE POST STANDARD
61	*	04/09/92	* DEBE ABOLIRSE EL ESPANOL?	* EL NUEVO HERALD
62	*	05/20/92	* EL 90 ANIVERSARIO DEL 20 DE MAYO	* WHCU/AM ITHACA
63	*	06/03/92	* PITTSBURGH: UN PUNTO DE PARTIDA.	* EL NUEVO HERALD
64	*	06/22/92	* HISPANIC PRESS IN THE UNITED STATES	* THE POST STANDARD
65	*	06/26/92	* LAS RAZAS EN CUBA: UN MODELO ALTERNATIVO	* EL NUEVO HERALD
66	*	06/30/92	* HISPANIC JOURNALISM IN THE UNITED STATES	* EL VECINO
67	*	07/29/92	* UNA APERTURA POLITICA CUBANA	* DIARIO MONTANES
68	*	07/30/92	* UNA RESPUESTA A FIDEL CASTRO.	* CORREO GALLEGO
69	*	08/22/92	* IN SEARCH OF CASTRO: SPAIN 1992.	* THE POST STANDARD
70	*	09/01/92	* EN BUSCA DE CASTRO: JUICIO DE UN VIAJE.	* HISPANIC LINK
71	*	09/30/92	* SEGUNDO REPOSO TURBULENTO	* EL VECINO
72	*	10/12/92	* CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS' QUINCENTENNIAL	* THE POST STANDARD
73	*	10/12/92	* AN INTERVIEW ON THE QUINCENTENNIAL	* WHCU/AM ITHACA
74	*	10/21/92	* EN EL QUINTO CENTENARIO DE CRISTOBAL COLON	* EL NUEVO HERALD
75	*	11/28/92	* TORRICELLI LAW AND THE UN EMBARGO VOTE	* THE POST STANDARD
76	*	11/30/92	* EN EL QUINTO CENTENARIO DE CRISTOBAL COLON	* EL VECINO
77	*	12/03/92	* LA LEY TORRICELLI Y EL VOTO EN LA ONU	* HISPANIC LINK
78	*	12/07/92	* NACAE H.R. COMMITTEE WORK ON CUBA.	* WHCU/AM ITHACA
78	*	12/13/92	* US Law to Squeeze Castro: Torricelli	* San Antonio Light
79	*	01/16/93	* CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN CUBA.	* THE POST STANDARD
80	*	01/16/93	* NACAE Y LOS EDUCADORES CUBANOS EXPULSADOS	* RADIO MARTI
81	*	02/01/93	* CAMBIOS CONSTITUCIONALES EN CUBA.	* HISPANIC LINK
82	*	02/30/93	* HISPANIC PRESS: ALIVE AND WELL.	* EL VECINO
83	*	02/30/93	* LA PLUMA: UN ARMA DE COMBATE.	* EL VECINO
84	*	03/01/93	* ACTIVISMO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS EN CUBA.	* EL VECINO
85	*	03/30/93	* HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN CUBA.	* HISPANIC LINK
86	*	04/10/93	* HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM IN CUBA.	* THE POST STANDARD
87	*	05/27/93	* CAN WE COMPETE? PRICE COMPARISON OF EUROPE	* THE POST STANDARD
88	*	06/30/93	* DEFEATING ENGLISH ONLY: GOOD OR BAD?	* HISPANIC LINK
89	*	07/30/93	* GETTING OFF THE HEAT: CUBA AND THE US.	* THE POST STANDARD
90	*	08/30/93	* TAKING THE HEAT.	* HISPANIC LINK
91	*	08/30/93	* DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LA ASA H.R. COMMITTEE	* RADIO MARTI
92	*	09/04/93	* BALSEROS CUBANOS DEVUELTOS EN MEXICO.	* EXCELSIOR
93	*	10/12/93	* HUMAN RIGHTS ASSESSMENT AND STATISTICS	* RADIO MARTI
94	*	10/12/93	* DEBATE: NACAE H.R. COMMITTEE PANEL	* VOZ DEL CID
95	*	10/20/93	* DERECHOS HUMANOS Y EL PANEL DE NACAE	* EL NUEVO HERALD
96	*	11/12/93	* IS NAFTA STILL A GOOD DEAL FOR US?	* POST STANDARD
97	*	11/12/93	* PASTORAL LETTER FROM CUBAN BISHOPS	* WHCU/ITHACA
97	*	12/16/93	* Torricelli Doesn't Make Foreigners Happy	* Hisp. Sacramento
98	*	12/27/93	* YEARLY ACCOUNT OF CUBAN EVENTS AND H. R.	* POST STANDARD
99	*	02/09/94	* LETTER #1: THE CHIAPAS REVOLT.	* POST STANDARD
100	*	02/17/94	* EL SEGUNDO REPOSO: CONTRIBUIRA MEXICO?	* EXCELSIOR
100	*	02/01/94	* The Cuban Human Rights Crisis	* The Voice
101	*	02/24/94	* LETTER #2: THREE MEXICOS	* POST STANDARD
102	*	03/08/94	* LETTER #3: EL ESCORIAL.	* POST STANDARD
103	*	03/17/94	* THE THREE MEXICOS: GEOGRAPHY/PEOPLE	* HISPANIC LINK

103	*	04/13/94	*	Three Mexicos: class and geography	*	Hisp. Sacramento
104	*	04/15/94	*	LETTER #4: CANDIDATE COLOSIO'S MURDER	*	WHCU/Ithaca
105	*	05/06/94	*	Cuba y Mexico: Raices Comunes.	*	EXCELSIOR
106	*	05/20/94	*	La Habana en Xochimilco.	*	EL NUEVO HERALD
107	*	06/18/94	*	LETTER #5: MEXICAN ELECTIONS; A FIRST.	*	POST STANDARD
108	*	06/26/94	*	CUBA Y EL ESPEJO DE MEXICO: COMPARATIVO.	*	EXCELSIOR
109	*	06/28/94	*	MEXICAN ELECTIONS IN PERSPECTIVE	*	WHCU/ITHACA
109	*	08/19/94	*	Mexico Preparing for First Election	*	POST STANDARD
110	*	07/26/94	*	CUBA y EL ESPEJO DE MEXICO.	*	El Nuevo Herald
111	*	08/20/94	*	Cuban Refugees take the Florida Straights	*	WSYR/Syracuse
112	*	08/03/94	*	Para Mexico un ano para la historia	*	Hisp. Sacramento
113	*	08/17/94	*	Mexico's election, finally for real?	*	Hisp. Sacramento
114	*	08/03/94	*	Elecciones en Mexico: una realidad?	*	Hispano Oregon
115	*	08/17/94	*	Para Mexico, un ano para la historia	*	Hispano Oregon
116	*	08/29/94	*	Boatlift will shatter families	*	POST STANDARD
117	*	09/01/94	*	1994: Mexico's Year for History Books	*	Hispanic Today
118	*	09/03/94	*	The Raft People in the Straits	*	POST STANDARD
119	*	09/07/94	*	Solution lies in Cubans self-help	*	Hisp. Sacramento
120	*	09/08/94	*	Leaving Cuba isn't way to solve it	*	Boise Idaho
121	*	11/25/94	*	Here Ballots mean power, in Cuba	*	POST STANDARD
122	*	12/10/94	*	Latin America must push Cuba	*	POST STANDARD
123	*	01/03/95	*	El Futuro de Cuba	*	Diario Montanes
124	*	01/11/95	*	Recent History Gives Clue to Cuba	*	Hisp. Sacramento
125	*	03/01/95	*	Recent History Gives Clue to Cuba	*	Hispanic Today
126	*	02/01/95	*	Let's Reframe English-only Issue	*	Hisp. Sacramento
127	*	05/19/95	*	Cubans want freedom as Marti did	*	POST STANDARD
128	*	02/06/95	*	No need to be offended if Spanish	*	Houston Chronicle
129	*	02/27/95	*	Cuban contributions outweigh	*	Houston Chronicle
130	*	03/01/95	*	Retomemos el asunto del Ingles	*	La Raza; Chicago
131	*	06/20/95	*	World Must Pressure Castro	*	POST STANDARD
132	*	07/10/95	*	La Candente Situacion Cubana	*	La Opinion, L.A.
133	*	10/28/95	*	Embargo or not; Cubans will suffer	*	POST STANDARD
134	*	03/01/96	*	Castro Squelches Independent Organization	*	POST STANDARD
135	*	04/20/96	*	The Economist: Double Standard	*	Cortland Standard
136	*	10/01/96	*	UUPer's SUNY-Mexico Exchange	*	The Voice
137	*	11/23/96	*	World Wants Castro out: The Pope	*	POST STANDARD
138	*	01/02/97	*	El Empujon final para Castro	*	Pregonero, DC
139	*	06/16/97	*	After escaping Castro life has worked	*	POST STANDARD
140	*	12/29/97	*	Pope's visit and Mas Canosa's death	*	POST STANDARD
140	*	02/03/98	*	The Cuban "Evergreen"	*	Hispanic Link
141	*	02/10/98	*	Pope's visit: daring chess move	*	POST STANDARD
142	*	04/13/98	*	An Ugly Duckling Guards my Door	*	Hispanic Link
143	*	01/31/99	*	Vouchers for small business research	*	Herald American
144	*	04/22/99	*	The Ugly Duckling	*	POST STANDARD
145	*	02/12/00	*	Send Elian Back Home	*	POST STANDARD
146	*	02/14/00	*	The Fate of a Child	*	Hispanic Link
147	*	09/07/00	*	In Defense of the PRI	*	POST STANDARD
148	*	12/31/00	*	Mexico's PRI: Maligned by US Press?	*	Hispanic Link
149	*	01/02/01	*	La Transicion Mexicana	*	El Nuevo Herald
150	*	02/02/01	*	Un Cubano en la Academia	*	El Nuevo Herald
151	*	02/10/01	*	The Poet Who Added 12 Years to my Life	*	Hispanic Link
152	*	02/19/01	*	Mexico: El Espejo de Cuba	*	El Nuevo Herald
153	*	03/03/01	*	Mexico's PRI; a history of a process	*	Barkersfield CA
154	*	04/03/01	*	Proyecto Juarez: una actitud proactiva	*	El Nuevo Herald
155	*	05/01/01	*	El Voto de Mexico	*	El Nuevo Herald
156	*	05/20/01	*	Tolerating Cuba: Mexico's Vote in UN	*	Herald American
157	*	06/05/01	*	El Exilio Periferico	*	El Nuevo Herald
158	*	07/18/01	*	Mi Alfombra Magica	*	El Nuevo Herald
159	*	09/18/01	*	Revolucion, Evolucion e Intransigencia	*	El Nuevo Herald
160	*	11/13/01	*	Los Diners y el Taliban	*	El Nuevo Herald
161	*	12/18/01	*	Divagaciones en el Newseum	*	El Nuevo Herald
162	*	01/09/02	*	El Nacimiento del Euro	*	El Nuevo Herald
163	*	03/20/02	*	Desde El Coliseo Romano	*	El Nuevo Herald

164	*	03/21/02	*	La dulce tristeza de ser cubano	*	La Explosion
165	*	04/24/02	*	En mi Viejo San Juan	*	El Nuevo Herald
166	*	05/21/02	*	Seven Enduring Myths about Cuba	*	Post Standard
166	*	05/26/02	*	Current Events and Myths on Cuba	*	Hispanic Link
167	*	05/22/02	*	En el Centenario de la Republica de Cuba	*	Hispanic Link
168	*	05/23/02	*	En el Centenario de la Republica	*	Diario Montanes
169	*	06/12/02	*	Centenario Cubano	*	El Nuevo Herald
170	*	07/08/02	*	A un Maestro	*	El Nuevo Herald
171	*	09/04/02	*	Funcion Social de los Dictadores	*	El Nuevo Herald
172	*	10/05/02	*	Community Forum for Hispanics	*	Post Standard
173	*	11/19/02	*	Remando y Pensando	*	El Nuevo Herald
174	*	11/22/02	*	Fulbright Plants Seeds	*	Post Standard
175	*	01/02/03	*	Book Fair in Mexico Forces Cuba	*	Post Standard
176	*	02/24/03	*	Economic Upheaval in Latin America	*	Post Standard
177	*	07/30/03	*	EL Mensaje del Voto Mexicano	*	El Nuevo Herald
178	*	07/14/03	*	Las Elecciones Parciales en Mexico	*	Diario Montanes
179	*	10/08/03	*	Celebrate Hispanic Role in America	*	Post Standard
180	*	12/11/03	*	Voting Puerto Rican Style	*	Post Standard
181	*	01/18/04	*	Immigration Plan Would Help Solve Problems	*	Post Standard
182	*	02/10/04	*	Entrenamiento Internacional	*	El Nuevo Herald
183	*	03/02/04	*	Divagaciones desde Paris	*	El Nuevo Herald
184	*	04/14/04	*	Estadistica y Politica	*	El Nuevo Herald
185	*	05/01/04	*	Statisticians in the Fulbright Program	*	Amstat News
186	*	05/20/04	*	Wrong Direction on Cuba	*	Post Standard
187	*	06/01/04	*	Bush's Proposals on Cuba	*	Hispanic Link
188	*	08/23/04	*	Divagaciones Dominicanas	*	El Nuevo Herald
189	*	08/31/04	*	Dominican Republic: back to the future	*	Post Standard
190	*	11/30/04	*	Quality & Reliability Institute at SU	*	Post Standard
191	*	03/07/05	*	Divagaciones desde Santo Domingo	*	El Nuevo Herald
192	*	04/29/05	*	Technology, a great way to grow Democracy	*	Post Standard
193	*	05/01/05	*	Q&R Institute for Small/Medium Industry	*	Amstat News
194	*	06/07/05	*	Cubans voted with their feet 25 years ago	*	Post Standard
195	*	12/04/05	*	The Last Show of Entre Vecinos	*	CNY Latino
196	*	09/30/06	*	Sobre la polemica del Herald y Radio Marti	*	El Nuevo Herald
197	*	12/29/06	*	La Leccion del Deceso de Pinochet	*	Diario Montanes
198	*	01/12/07	*	Herejias Cubanas para un Ano Nuevo	*	Diario Montanes
199	*	11/07/07	*	Una vision alternativa de la Transicion	*	Diario Montanes
200	*	02/27/08	*	El Relevo de Fidel	*	Diario Montanes
201	*	05/08/08	*	Primarias Norteamericanas y Transicion	*	Diario Montanes
202	*	11/12/08	*	Raul: Lopez Rodo o Marcelo Caetano?	*	Diario Montanes
203	*	06/15/09	*	Cantabria, Cuba, Transicion y la OEA	*	Diario Montanes
204	*	10/02/09	*	El Pais de las Oportunidades Perdidas	*	Diario Montanes
205	*	01/08/10	*	Morrina, Exilio y Doblez	*	Diario Montanes
206	*	03/09/10	*	Espana, un espacio para la alternancia	*	Diario Montanes
207	*	07/23/10	*	Disidentes liberados y sociedad civil	*	Diario Montanes
208	*	07/24/10	*	Disidentes liberados y sociedad civil	*	Cubaencuentro
209	*	03/01/11	*	La Significativa Singularidad - Masoneria	*	Acacia/GLSPR
210	*	03/01/11	*	Digresion sobre la Territorialidad	*	Acacia/GLSPR
211	*	06/01/11	*	Una Joya en el Desvan	*	Acacia/GLSPR
212	*	03/01/12	*	Masoneria y la Parabola de los Talentos	*	Acacia/GLSPR
213	*	03/01/12	*	La Masoneria como Espejo	*	Acacia/GLSPR
214	*	03/01/12	*	Funcion Social de la Masoneria	*	Acacia/GLSPR
215	*	09/30/14	*	Mentoring Corner/Monthly Column (Started)	*	The Word/GLNY
216	*	12/01/14	*	El Mentor	*	Minervas/PR
217	*	01 30/15	*	Tres Caminos para la Masoneria	*	Minervas/PR

LEGEND:

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- 1) AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS (IN ENGLISH AND IN SPANISH):
 - * HERALD-AMERICAN: SYRACUSE HERALD-AMERICAN (SUNDAYS, CIRC. 250,000); REGIONAL FOR CENTRAL NEW YORK (TOMPKINS, CORTLAND, ONONDAGA, JEFFERSON, MADISON, ONEIDA, OSWEGO AND NORTHERN COUNTIES TO CANADIAN BORDER).
 - * THE POST-STANDARD: DAILY (EXCEPT SUNDAYS), MORNINGS (CIRC. 90,000); REGIONAL FOR CENTRAL NEW YORK (TOMPKINS, CORTLAND, ONONDAGA, JEFFERSON, MADISON, ONEIDA, OSWEGO AND NORTHERN COUNTIES TO CANADIAN BORDER).
 - * EL NUEVO HERALD: SPANISH EDITION OF THE MIAMI HERALD, DAILY (CIRCULATION 100,000); SOUTH FLORIDA; ALSO AVAILABLE IN HEAVILY HISPANIC URBAN AREAS.
 - * CUBAENCUENTRO: PERIODICO DIGITAL CUBANO DE MIAMI -INDEPENDIENTE.

- 2) SMALL PERIODICALS (ENGLISH AND SPANISH):
 - * EL VECINO: WEEKLY MAGAZINE, ROCHESTER, NY (CIRCULATION 3000).
 - * LA EXPLOSION: WEEKLY MAGAZINE, SOUTH GEORGIA (CIRCULATION 5000).
 - * CORTLAND STANDARD: LOCAL DAILY, CORTLAND, NY (CIRCULATION 13,000).
 - * THE PRESS: WEEKLY COLLEGE NEWSPAPER (CIRC. 5,000); SUNY CORTLAND.
 - * CNY LATINO: WEEKLY LOCAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SYRACUSE COMMUNITY.
 - * The Word; Monthly Newsletter of the CNY Masonic Districts/GLNY.
 - * ACACIA, Organo de la Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico/GLSPR
 - * Minervas; publicacion masonica independiente, San Juan de Puerto Rico.

- 3) FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS: EL DIARIO MONTANES, SANTANDER, ESPANA; EL CORREO GALLEGO, SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA, ESPANA; EXCELSIOR, CIUDAD DE MEXICO; ACACIA, organo oficial de la Gran Logia Soberana de Puerto Rico.

- 4) NEWS WIRES AND AGENCIES: NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE (DISTRIBUTES POST STANDARD ARTICLES); HISPANIC LINK MEDIA SERVICES (DISTRIBUTES ARTICLES IN SPANISH AND IN ENGLISH FOR THE LOS ANGELES TIMES AND OTHER NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS).

- 5) RADIO/TV STATIONS:
 - WAER-FM88: NPR/SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY RADIO STATION (PUBLIC AND NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION FM RADIO): REPORTING FOR NPR'S MORNING EDITION
 - WHCU-AM: ITHACA, NY: INTERVIEWS, CONFERENCES, TALK SHOWS.
 - RADIO MARTI PROGRAM; VOICE OF AMERICA: FREQUENT PANELIST, "MESA REDONDA"
 - LA VOZ DEL CID (Cuban Exiles): HOST FOR "SOBREMESA" WEEKLY PROGRAM.
 - WSCC-TV; WSYR-TV CHANNEL 5: HOST FOR "ENTRE VECINOS", TALK SHOW.
 - RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL (RFI): INTERVIEWS, ROUND TABLES.

- 6) NOTE: THE ABOVE PUBLICATIONS DO NOT INCLUDE MANY ARTICLES ON HUMAN RIGHTS APPEARED IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALS: OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION, THE OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY, THE SOCIETY OF CUBAN ENGINEERS, THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR QUALITY AND ITS STATISTICS AND EDUCATION DIVISIONS, THE SOCIETY OF CUBAN-AMERICAN EDUCATORS, AND THE JOURNALS OF THE UNIONS UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS, AMONG OTHER PUBLICATIONS.

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