

10-1-1985

## Que Ondee Sola- October 1985

Antonia Rodriguez

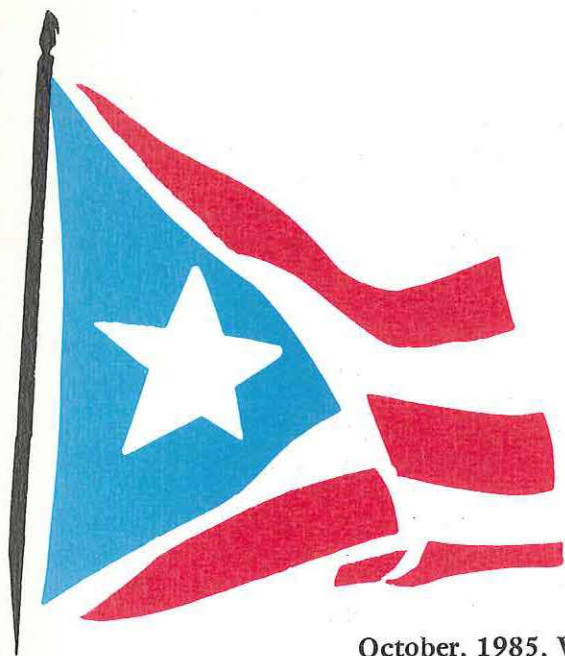
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# Que Ondee Sola

October, 1985, VOL. XVIII, NUM 2

## UPRS Denounces Mexican/Caribbean New Food Policy Minor Studies Update

*During the month of September the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) held their annual Grito de Lares celebration in the Golden Eagles Room. The UPRS in the past has always served food at their activities, and as usual brought home-cooked food to the activity mentioned. This has been one of the ways the UPRS fundraises. Because of this, the UPRS has been "punished" for one year, meaning the UPRS can not bring any type of food on campus. The following is a memo written by the UPRS and sent to all faculty and staff members at Northeastern. We believe it is incorrect for the University to establish new policies without alternatives and expect everyone to be happy with these new arrangements.*

TO: All UNI Student Organizations  
Faculty and Staff Members  
FROM: UNION FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDENTS  
RE: New Food Policy

On September 19, 1985 a very distasteful incident took place between Mr. Burt Ferrini (Manager of Food Service) and Ms. Lourdes Lugo (President of the UPRS) regarding the UPRS serving home-cooked foods.

On this date Mr. Ferrini, while the celebration of El Grito de Lares activity was taking place, entered

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The Mexican/Caribbean Studies (MCS) Advisory Board has met twice since the beginning of the school year. Board members, comprised of Dr. Worrill, Dr. Harrison, Dr. Howenstine, Dr. Coleman, Dr. McCoy, Dr. Smith, Dr. Barber, Ms. Stoppert, Mr. Delgado, Mr. Clarke and Ms. Rodríguez, discussed the next steps to follow in the implementation of the MCS minor.

Mr. Jaime Delgado will become the temporary advisor, who will consult students interested in attaining the MCS minor. The minor will appear in the UNI Selection Book of classes beginning in the Spring, 1986, and in the 1986-88 catalog.

The MCS Advisory Board selected a sub-committee composed of eight Board members. The sub-committee will be working on a brochure which will outline the minor program, as well as a schedule of classes.

The meetings of the MCS Advisory Board are open to people in the university community who are interested in developing the minor program. A complete description of the minor appeared on the July-August and September issues of **Que Ondee Sola**. For more information on the minor program call Mr. Jaime Delgado at Extension 8210 or **Que Ondee Sola** at Extension 514.

The next meeting of the MCS Advisory Board will take place on Tuesday, November 5, at 12:30 p.m.

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the Golden Eagle Room asking for Ms. Lugo. The activity was already in progress and Ms. Lugo was making her presentation. When she finished, she attended to Mr. Ferrini. Immediately he began to speak, but she asked him to step outside so the activity would not be disrupted. Once outside Mr. Ferrini expressed his outrage at the fact that food had been brought into the University. Ms. Lugo explained that the UPRS as an organization brought the food in, because no alternative was given to them in the newly approved food policy. No written procedures on how to get food from the cafeteria were given. Mr. Ferrini threatened the UPRS could be stopped from functioning if the Computer Center Board decided it. Ms Lugo said he was right, that the Computer Center Board would decide it and not him, and that the students would also decide it. Mr. Ferrini then threatened to stop the activity that was already in progress, due to the policy. He didn't do so, perhaps because he realized that such an act would cause outrage and create havoc among the students. After delivering the threat, he left. (The activity continued successfully, over 60 students and approximately 10 staff and faculty members were present).

During the month of August several memos were sent to the UPRS denying the food requisitions for activities that would be held during September and November. The UPRS received no formal statement or document that explained why, when or by whom this decision was made. Because the UPRS believes that student organizations that do serve food did not participate or have a voice in this decision, and because the UNI cafeteria can not make the kind of ethnic food we serve, it challenges the current food service policy.

We know the high cost of food already in the cafeteria. When we asked the management to give an estimate as to the cost of the food required, we were given the *run around*. We also know that only \$150.00 per fiscal year is allocated to clubs under I.C.B. for food and refreshments. Our club and many other clubs are known for their cultural involvement and food at their activities. Our club held 20 activities last year, and about the same have been planned for this year.

**\*Will \$150.00 be enough money to provide food for these activities?**

**\*Will money that has been allocated for educational purposes have to be transferred for food?**

**\*Will the UPRS have to cut down on services offered to the UNI Latino Community because of this policy?**

**\*Will Your Club have to do the same?**

The UPRS feels that this policy was not implemented by accident. We believe it is another way for

the administration to impose its control over the clubs and keep the money allocated for clubs in a vicious circle which they control. Also it is important to note that the cafeteria managers want to have a monopoly of food brought and sold at the University.

Once again the University has introduced a policy by which the student organizations have to oblige, without our being fully informed of it. There are approximately 20 different ethnic clubs that serve food at their activities.

**\*Would the University Food Service be able to provide each club with their native dish, and will it have the same quality as home-made?**

**\*What would the University Food Service do if four, five or six different ethnic groups held an activity the same day, and required food — could it deal with this situation?**

**\*Are the cooks prepared and trained to cook Mexican, Greek and Arab dishes, all on the same day?**

**\*What would the cost be?**

**\*Most clubs get their food by donations, will the Food Service be cost-effective?**

The UPRS brings this to YOUR attention because in the long run it will affect YOU. Policies that today may seem harmless can later become a threat to our clubs, particularly if we allow the different administrative bodies on this campus to make decisions that affect our clubs without our full understanding or approval.

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# UPRS AND QOS

**INVITES YOU TO**

## Puerto Rican Fashion Beat

### November 7, 1985

*(On International Day)*

**ALUMNI HALL**

**12:30 - 12:45**

*Directed by  
Lilian Caraballo  
Janet López*

Puerto Rican pastry will be sold.



**PUERTO RICAN  
X-MAS SHOW**

**"TIERRA ADENTRO II"**

**DECEMBER 6,  
FROM 6:00 P.M.  
TO 10:00 P.M.  
UNICORN**



# Students Welcome UPRS Activities

Once again the **Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS)** welcomed the latino students to a new year of cultural and educational activities. During the month of September a Welcome Freshmen Reception and the commemoration of *El Grito de Lares* were successfully held.

Each year the **UPRS** sponsors over 20 cultural and educational activities which include a Christmas Show, concerts, films, forums, and Puerto Rican Cultural Week. Year after year the latino students enjoy and enhance their knowledge on the history and culture of Puerto Rico. This year the **UPRS** plans to *expand their horizons* and be able to offer more educational and cultural awareness programs on campus.

With an audience of over 50 students on Sept. 12, the **UPRS** welcomed Freshmen students at Northeastern. The **UPRS** believes in helping latino Freshmen students to become familiar with Northeastern and show them they are not alone.

It is important for students to feel part of a group, to be able to go to another student or group of students for help at the University. Most latino students, poorly educated by the public school system, have a difficult time adjusting to the University environment. They become rapidly frustrated with the bureaucratic system and are easily discouraged to continue. About half of the latino student population entering the University do not make it through the first year and about 2/3rds of the remaining students never graduate. The **UPRS**, along with several student clubs, faculty and staff members on campus, are willing to help the students.

At the Welcome Freshmen Reception the students received inspiring words to continue their studies from Dr. Angelina Pedroso, Dr. José López, Dr. Ben Coleman,

Alfreda Williams, Coordinator of Special Services and Myrta Badillo, Chairperson of Latina Women's Advisory Committee and staff member of Proyecto Pa'lante. They all encouraged students to continue their education and support student unity. Some shared their personal experiences at Northeastern, how they dealt with racist attitudes. These professors spoke of their continuing help for students to learn and support for quality education. Also present among faculty and staff members were Dr. Jolly, Dr. Golden, Ms. Stoppert, Dr. Harrison, Dr. Barber, Director of Women's Services, and Co-counselors Julio Cortés and Beatriz Penso-Buford, staff members of Special Services. There were representatives from different student organizations such as **Que Ondee Sola**, **Black Caucus**, **Black Heritage**, **Blacks in Law and Criminal Justice**, and **Sociology Club**.



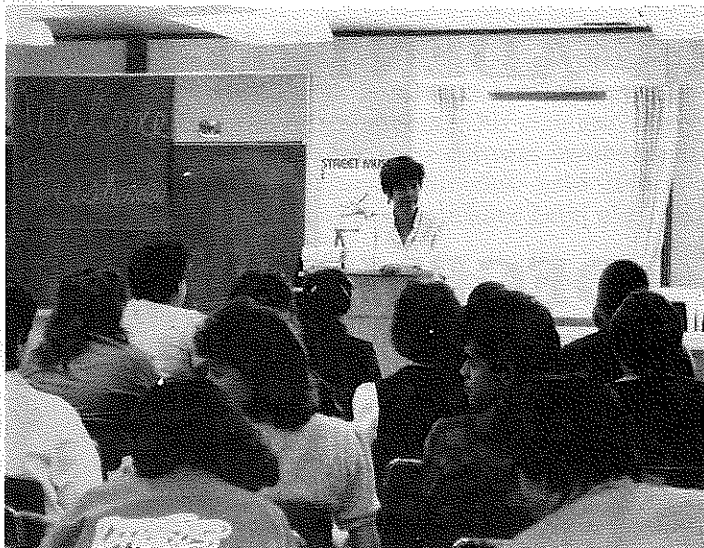
*Pablo Marcano-Garcia speaking on the historical importance of "El Grito de Lares."*

On Sept. 19, the **UPRS** celebrated the 117th anniversary of *El Grito de Lares* with guest speaker Pablo Marcano García. Mr. Marcano García's presentation was in regard to the uprising that took place in Lares, Puerto Rico against Spanish Rule in 1868. *El Grito de Lares* was the proclamation of the 1st Republic of Puerto Rico. Moreover, it was a rebellion to abolish slavery and establish a better society.

Pablo Marcano García was incarcerated for seven years for taking over the Chilean Consulate in Puerto Rico with Nydia Cuevas-Rivera on July 4, 1978. They demanded:

- \* The liberation of the imprisoned Puerto Rican Nationalists;
- \* Opposed the 4th of July Independence celebra-

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*Dra. Angelina Pedroso welcoming new students at UPRS Freshmen Reception.*

# UNI Security Violates Student's Rights

*The following letter was written by the undersigned to expose the human rights violation carried out by UNI security this past summer. Que Ondee Sola staff encourages the university community to address this issue and demand a stop to this kind of brutality.*

TO: William C. Schomburg, Coordinator  
UNI Department of Public Safety

FROM: Concerned Students and Staff at Northeastern:  
Latino Women's Advisory Committee  
Chimexla  
Union for Puerto Rican Students  
Comité Colombia  
Black Caucus  
Sociology Club  
Student Senate  
Student Fees and Allocations Committee

RE: Human rights violation

*We are outraged at how the Department of Public Safety violated the rights of UNI student Yira Rodríguez on July 17, 1985. We are appalled at the unjust and brutal treatment she was given for illegally parking her car in a university lot. We are horrified at your racist and sexist behavior in this situation.*

*Standard procedure for such a violation, we understand, is to be issued a parking ticket, NOT, as was the case with Yira, her vehicle booted, called out of her classroom by University Public Safety officers, arrested and charged with a Class 4 Felony, then handcuffed to a file cabinet in your office for more than two hours.*

*There can be no reason except harassment to explain your officer's actions or your personal response to this human rights violation. Since when do we arrest anyone for parking on this campus? Since when has the university begun handcuffing students for not having a parking sticker? Or booting their vehicles when you can't find the Vehicle Identification Number? Since when does Public Safety detain someone when even the Chicago Police Department would not approve of the charges?*

*Ms. Rodríguez was a victim of brutal and unnecessary harassment by you, and yet, all she and her brother received were your verbal I'm sorry. This was an inadequate response to her victimization, her lost time, her extreme humiliation and having her rights as a student at this university blatantly violated by the Public Safety officers who should have been protecting them.*

*Would you have treated a white student in this same manner? A male student? We think not. We believe that you and your officers unjustifiably harassed Yira Rodríguez because she is a woman, because she is Colombian, and NOT because you couldn't find the VIN on her vehicle.*

*Has Yira Rodríguez been the only victim of your unjust actions? We guess not, and if we learn of others, you can be certain we will raise our voices again, together, to let you know that we know your actions are UNJUST and DISCRIMINATORY.*

# Grito de Jayuya

On October 30th, 1950 Blanca Canales and Carlos Irizarry led an armed regiment up a mountain road in Puerto Rico and surrounded the town of Jayuya. Both were members of the Nationalist Party that signaled the attack which caught the colonial defenders off guard. The Jayuya Police Station was stormed and secured, while other freedom fighters then advanced to the Plaza and raised the Nationalist flag over the Post Office proclaiming Jayuya the first free territory of the 3rd Republic of Puerto Rico. Across the island, in Utuado, Arecibo, Naranjito, Ponce, Mayaguez, Abonito, Cayey and Peñuelas, the Nationalists rose in arms against the campaign of the US government and their insular colonial cohorts, to annihilate them. Under the formidable political leadership of Don Pedro Albizu Campos and the military command of Tomas López de Victoria, the 1950 rebellion would historically be known as the Grito de Jayuya.

At 5:00 a.m. October 30th a group of Nationalists were attacked by the colonial police on the main road to Peñuelas. This set off a violent reaction which would be felt as far as Washington D.C. Major engagements were staged in the larger cities and in Jayuya the National Guard dynamited the area surrounding the town. In Utuado nationalists' homes and businesses were bombed by the National Guard with aircraft bearing the insignia of the US Air Force. In Mayaguez, the patriots took to the mountains where they held out for two weeks. In San Juan, a commando unit stormed "La Fortaleza" the government mansions, in an effort to hold Muñoz Marín hostage then set fire to the building which was a symbol of colonialism.

The US media called the rebellion in Puerto Rico a feud between warring domestic factions. In fact the US government was directly involved. The United States Military dropped bombs on Jayuya, US tanks thundered across valleys, up the mountains, and patrolled streets of Ponce and Mayaguez. Battalions of US financed and US trained National Guardsmen armed with US machine guns attacked towns and villages.

To alert the citizens of the US of their country's brutal repression of Puerto Rican patriots, two members of the Nationalist Junta of New York attacked the most sacred symbol of the United States, the Presidency. On the third day of that revolt, which would last six days, Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola shot their way towards the entrance of Blair House, temporary residence of President Harry S.



*The FBI and the Puerto Rican police learned of the plans of Jayuya and began to arrest Nationalists.*

Truman. A security guard felled by the bullets managed to shoot Griselio before he died. Oscar Collazo, wounded and captured, was denounced by colonial mainland politicians as, "a fanatic, lunatic assassin". Collazo stated that, "the Puerto Rican people of New York and across the US were constantly reading newspapers to find out what was happening in our country. In all the articles printed, US involvement was never reported, instead, they portrayed the insurrection as a civil war and not a fight against US colonialism. This made the Puerto Rican people decide to bring about an action in the US exposing US involvement." In repressing the rebellion, the US was brutal and merciless. The Nationalists, poorly equipped, trained, and vastly outnumbered were shot, arrested and sentenced to long prison terms.

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# Editorial

## Successful Boycott Enters 5th Year: A Historic Precedent

This September, 1985 marks the 5th year that the **Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS)** and **Que Ondee Sola (QOS)** has boycotted courses offered by Ignacio Méndez. The success of the boycott this trimester resulted in the cancellation of the course, *Puerto Rican History* and in the low enrollment for Méndez' two other classes *Introducing Latin America* and *History of US Cultures*.

In his *Introducing Latin America* course many students walked out of the room after listening to representatives from **QOS** and **UPRS**. As **QOS'** photographer entered the classroom, Mr. Méndez tried to force her to leave until several students asked why she could not be present. Realizing that the students wanted her to remain, he allowed her in the classroom. As the photographer took his picture, Mr. Méndez posed strangely and made mimicking faces. He made a spectacle of himself in front of the students and acted in an unbecoming way for a college professor. Is this the conduct expected of a professor? For Ignacio Méndez it is. He has proven once again to the students that he lacks self-respect and that he is incompetent.

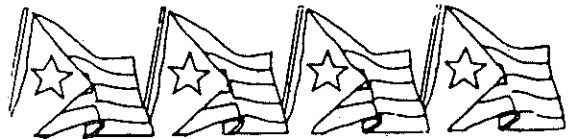
Ignacio Méndez has a low student enrollment in his classes, while Professor José López (who was fired and replaced by Mr. Méndez, but has been rehired under another department) has over 120 students enrolled in his courses this trimester. Who do the

students want as a professor? It is obvious that students would rather enroll in a course with a professor who is stimulating and inspires thought. Can this much be said about Mr. Méndez? Professor López is, and always has been, very popular among the latino students because of his willingness to help and support students in their educational endeavors.

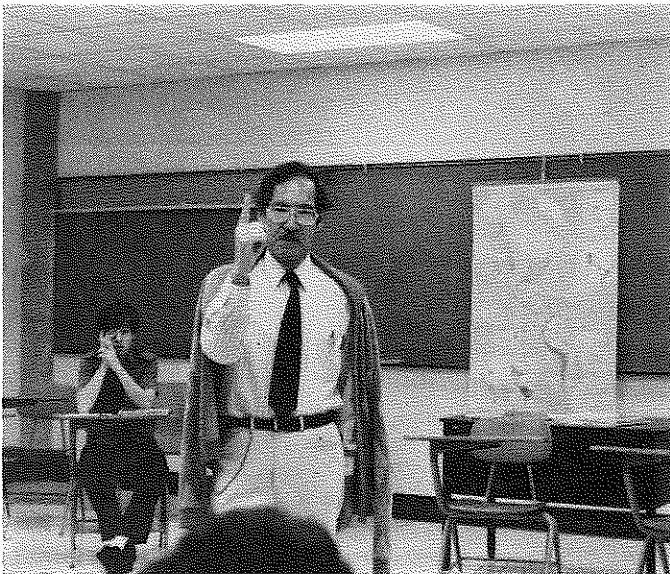
Five years ago Professor López was terminated from Northeastern Illinois University and replaced by Ignacio Méndez. When the UNI Administration offered the Puerto Rican History position to Mr. Méndez the students immediately met with him. The students explained why they wanted Professor López and he seemed very sympathetic and agreed not to take the position. A few weeks later the **UPRS** and **QOS** learned that Mr. Méndez had accepted the position for \$25,000 a year. This is the kind of professor the UNI Administration wants — one they can buy-off and control.

The **UPRS** and **QOS** thanks all the students that have supported this boycott for the past four years and encourages the UNI student body to maintain their support.

*Que Ondee Sola is published at Northeastern Illinois University. The opinions expressed in QOS do not necessarily reflect those of the administration. Responsibility for its contents lies solely within its staff. We appreciate and encourage any and all suggestions or contributions.*



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   Rican Students



*Ignacio Méndez admonishing students for encouraging Boycott.*



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On September 23, 1985 the UPRS received a memo stating that we could not hold such events as Bake Sales or bring in food until October 1, 1986. Also we could not bring in food during the International Day festivity. We would like to know what board or individual made this decision. We are being punished without being given the opportunity to state our case. We know for a fact that the Computer Center Board has not held a meeting since September 12, 1985.

We are urging **ALL CLUBS, FACULTY and STAFF** to write a letter to Mr. Ferrini and to the University Food Service asking them to revoke this policy and reinstate the old one. Also, we ask that you demand the immediate cancellation of the *Punishment* on the UPRS, and that a meeting between the Computer Center Board and the UPRS be **granted**.

As students we hope to have your support. Please write a memo immediately and send a copy to the UPRS.

Thank you.  
Union for Puerto Rican Students  
Lourdes Lugo  
President



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tion because it is a contradiction to celebrate the independence of the nation that denies Puerto Rico its own independence; and

\* Solidarity with the Chilean people's struggle against (US aided) Pinochet dictatorship.

While in prison Mr. Marcano García was able to publish a study he completed on the prisons and crimes in Puerto Rico entitled, *La Criminalidad y la Crisis de las Prisiones en Puerto Rico (The Criminality and the Crisis of Prisons in Puerto Rico)*.

Mr. Marcano García was able to bestow upon the 60 students that attended a historical analysis of *El Grito de Lares* and events that took place after 1868 to the present.

The UPRS wishes to thank the faculty, staff members, Dr. Ben Coleman, Alfredo Williams, Beatriz Penso-Buford and Julio Cortés and the students who participated in the 117th celebration of *El Grito de Lares*. The UPRS encourages everyone to attend their upcoming events:

\*November 1, 1985, 12:00 P.M.  
Direct from Puerto Rico  
Zoraida Santiago in Concert  
Golden Eagles Room

\*December 6, 1985, 6:00 P.M.  
Christmas Show  
Unicorn

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The Grito de Jayuya was more than a rebellion led by the Nationalist Party; it indicated to the colonial rulers that the independence movement had to be dealt with before any colonial legislation which would increase Puerto Rico's dependence on US corporations.

The 1950 rebellion was the culmination of popular resistance to industrialization by the US Government, sanctioned by the insular body which was to be its caretaker. In order to pass law 600, President Truman dispatched his Secretary of War, Louis Johnson, to Puerto Rico to carry forth a campaign aimed at annihilating the Nationalist Party and its leadership. The Nationalist Party uncovered the conspiracy and took to the streets in protest. Leader of the Nationalist Party, Don Pedro Albizu Campos, made many speeches calling for the overthrow of US colonialism. The US responded by passing Law 53 (also known as the "Muzzle law") to imprison all who advocated independence. The University of Puerto Rico to carry dependence. The University of Puerto Rico was closed by students when the administration denied Don Pedro permission to speak on the campus grounds. Albizu's well-reasoned oratory fell on receptive ears, as young men refused to enlist or be drafted into the US Armed Forces. In the election of 1948, when Puerto Ricans were first permitted the "honor" of electing their "own" colonial governor, 42 percent of the electorate abstained from voting.

While non-collaboration with the US government grew, the repression grew, until the morning of October 30th, 1950. The significance of the Grito de Jayuya is well-stated by Don Pedro Albizu Campos in the midst of defeat, *La Patria esta pasando por su gloriosa transfiguración (The Homeland is undergoing its glorious transfiguration)*.



Nationalists, Lolita Lebron and Oscar Collazo, welcomed by thousands upon their release in 1979.

# Puerto Rican Patriots Found Guilty In Illegal Trial

This past summer four Puerto Rican patriots, Prisoners of War (POWs) **Alejandrina Torres**, **Edwin Cortés**, **Alberto Rodríguez** and Political Prisoner **José Luis Rodríguez** were found guilty of seditious Conspiracy. The jurors took 26 hours in a three-day period to deliberate after the month long trial. The four were arrested on June 29, 1983 by a combined task force of FBI and Illinois Department of Law Enforcement (IDLE) Agents. Their trial began on July 1, 1985, two years after their arrest.

The three POWs **Alejandrina**, **Edwin** and **Alberto** were also found guilty on other related weapons and explosives charges. **José Luis** was found guilty of one count of Seditious Conspiracy. The POWs refused to defend themselves against the charges stating that they are Freedom Fighters fighting against US colonialism. They state they do not recognize the jurisdiction of the US courts and demand to be taken before an International Tribunal. **José Luis** put forth a defense to challenge the US government's charge of Seditious Conspiracy.

Judge George N. Leighton set the sentencing date for October 4, 1985. Immediately after the jury's decision the prosecuting attorneys filed a motion to revoke José Luis' \$25,000 bond. The following day, in a hearing held in regard to this motion, Juan Rodríguez, **José Luis'** father, testified on his behalf. Prosecuting attorney Sanders questioned Mr. Rodríguez and asked him to produce the false identifications that **José Luis** supposedly obtained. Mr. Rodríguez responded by saying, *If the government that is much more powerful than I, has been unable to find them (false identifications), it is because they do not exist.*

After the verdict, the three POWs were placed in lock down and denied phone calls and family or legal visits for that day. There after, they were allowed one hour family visits and restricted phone calls. Because of these conditions, the POW's demanded that their sentencing date be set as soon as possible. Judge Leighton granted their request for an early date. **José Luis'** sentencing date is still set for October 4. The three POWs await their sentencing for mid-September. The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War will hold a demonstration on October 4 in front of the Dirksen Federal Building in support of José Luis.

The three POWs along with 12 other Prisoners of War have sacrificed their lives for the independence and socialism of Puerto Rico.

The staff of **Que Ondee Sola** will keep its readers informed on the outcome of the sentencing.



*Seditious Conspiracy — The Impossible Crime*

*¡Feliz Cumpleaños!*

*Dylcia Pagán-Morales*

October 15

*Alicia Rodríguez*

October 21

## Literary Section

# MARIANA O EL ALBA

By: René Marqués

René Marqués is one of the most well-known dramatists in Puerto Rico. He is the author of various renowned works which include: *La vispera del hombre*, *El hombre y sus sueños*, *El sol y los MacDonalds*, *Palm Sunday*, *The Oxcart*, *Los Soles Truncos*, *Un niño azul para una sombra*, *La casa sin reloj*, *Carnaval afuera*, *carnaval adentro*, *El apartamento* and *Mariana o El Alba*. He is known for his poetry, short stories, novels, essays, literary criticism, and for his contributions as a journalist and educator.

The play *Mariana o El Alba*, was written during the centennial of "El Grito de Lares". It is done in this period with the purpose of re-enacting the events of September 23, 1868. Through the drama Marqués offers the Puerto Rican audience the possibility of identifying itself with its history. It allows the audience to feel part of the play.

The themes are the events that took place during September 23, 1868. In the dawn of this day 400 men and women led by Manolo Rosado, Miguel Serrano, Ramón E. Betances, Obdulía Serrano, Ruiz Belvis, Mariana Bracetti and others proclaimed the First Republic of Puerto Rico. It was the first armed uprising against the Spanish Colonial Regime. Besides this, it makes a summary of the daily life of the heroes of Lares.

The drama takes place in Mariana Bracetti de Rojas and Miguel Rojas' plantation. It concentrates particularly on the life of Mariana Bracetti, one of the greatest heroines in the history of Puerto Rico, and focuses on her participation in the uprising.

Mariana is described as a simple but energetic woman. She is full of life, love and profound Puerto Rican sentiment, which is a determining factor in her life. It counteracts the social implications between Spaniardness and Puerto Ricanness. Her Puerto Rican sentiment is the determining force that influences her decision-making process.

Mariana, along with her husband and other comrades, become part of "Centro Bravo". Centro Bravo was one of the secret societies that conspired against the Spanish Crown and later became the head group of the emancipation.

Once involved in the political work she develops a brotherly relationship with Manolo Rosado. Manolo Rosado was the person who kept the communication among the different secret societies and Ramón E. Betances who was in exile. Due to his duty, he was known as Manolo "el Leñero".\*



According to the drama, Maraina Bracetti did not participate directly in the battlefield but she did help plan the conspiracy and the arms that were utilized. She sewed the flag that was waved in Lares.

The play gives precise details as to her experience in the ruins of El Morro. It is there where she spends her months of pregnancy and gives birth to her still-born son. It is in prison that she receives the news of the death of her husband Miguel and other comrades.

The drama concludes when she comes out of prison. She has her dead son in her arms and tells the Spanish official:

*My son was born in the shadows, Sr. But the sun will never bother him. Yet other children will be born and they will also be born in the shadows that you have created for them. But those children or the children of those children, finally will know, without fear, fully the radiant sun of freedom.*

In the conclusion the play forces the reader to meditate over some important themes like the role of women in history, and the importance of keeping alive a national sentiment. It also raises questions to think about, such as what has happened to our national consciousness? What have we done to emulate men and women of the caliber of Mariana Bracetti and Ramon E. Betances? What are we doing to give our children *the radiant sun of Freedom?*

\*Leñero was the codename for the arms utilized.

## Sección Literaria

# MARIANA O EL ALBA

Por: René Marqués

René Marqués es uno de los mejores dramaturgos conocido en Puerto Rico. Es el autor de varias novelas renombradas como: *La víspera del hombre*, *El hombre y sus sueños*, *El sol y los McDonalds*, *Palm Sunday*, *La Carreta*, *Los soles truncos*, *Un niño azul para una sombra*, *La casa sin reloj*, *Carnaval afuera, carnaval adentro*, *El apartamento* y *Mariana o el alba*. Fuera de esto también es poeta, novelista, cuentista, periodista, educador, ensayista y crítico.

La obra *Mariana o el alba* fue escrita durante el centenario del "Grito de Lares". Lo hace así el autor con el propósito de dar vida nuevamente a los sucesos del 23 de septiembre de 1868. A través del drama Marqués ofrece al público puertorriqueño la posibilidad histórica, envolviendo al lector en la obra a tal punto, que por necesidad este se siente activo participante de ella.

Los temas de la obra son los sucesos ocurridos durante el 23 de septiembre de 1868. En la madrugada de esta fecha 400 hombres y mujeres dirigidos por Manolo Rosdoo, Miguel Serrano, Obdulio Serrano, Ramón E. Betances, Ruiz Belvis, Mariana Bracetti y otros proclamaron la primera República de Puerto Rico. Fue el primer alzamiento armado contra el régimen colonial español. Además de esto el drama hace un recuento de la vida cotidiana de algunos de los héroes de Lares.

Toma lugar el trama en la hacienda de Mariana Bracetti de Rojas y Miguel Rojas. Se concentra el drama particularmente en la vida de Mariana Bracetti por ser considerada una de las más grandes heroínas en la historia de Puerto Rico y por su participación en el levantamiento.

Se describe a Mariana Bracetti como una mujer sencilla pero energética. Una mujer llena de vida, de amor y de profundos sentimientos puertorriqueños. Este último punto es un factor determinante en su vida ya que contrarresta las imposiciones sociales, del españolismo contra la negación de la puertorriqueña la lleva a tomar ciertas decisiones para conservar su nacionalismo. Mariana se convierte, junto a su esposo y demás compañeros parte de **Centro Bravo**. Centro Bravo fue una de las sociedades secretas que conspiraron contra la corona española y más tarde se convirtió en el grupo cabecilla de la emancipación.



Una vez Mariana se volvió parte de la conspiración desarrolla una hermosa relación con Manolo Rasado. Viendo lo como a un hermano mayor, Mariana deposita en Manolo toda su confianza. Manolo se convierte en el comunicador entre las distintas sociedades secretas y Ramón E. Betances que se encontraba en el destierro. Dado a su labor Manolo Rosado fue conocido como Manolo el Leñero\*.

Según el drama Mariana Bracetti no participó en la batalla, pero sí preparó algunas de las armas utilizadas. Pero también fue quién cosió la bandera que en Lares se utilizara. La obra narra en presisos detalles de su vida en las mazmorras del Morro. Es ahí donde pasa su embarazo y da a luz a su hijo muerto. Es en la prisión que se enteró de la captura y asesinato de Miguel, su esposo y sus compañeros.

Concluye el drama cuando Mariana sale en libertad. Sale con su hijo en brazos diciendo al oficial español:

*Mi hijo nació en las sombras, Sr. Oficial. Pero el sol no podrá molestarle jamás. Sin embargo, nacerán otros hijos señor, nacerán también en las sombras que ustedes han creado para ellos. Pero esos hijos, o los hijos de esos hijos, conocerán finalmente, sin temor, ¡A Plenitud!, el sol radiante de la libertad.*

La conclusión del drama hace al lector meditar sobre varios temas, entre ellos; el rol de la mujer en la historia, la importancia de mantener vivo el sentimiento nacional y otros. Al finalizar se obliga a la audiencia a pensar; ¿Qué pasa con nuestra conciencia? ¿Qué hemos hecho para emular a hombres y mujeres del calibre de Mariana Bracetti y Ramón E. Betances? ¿Qué estamos haciendo para darle a nuestros hijos, *el sol radiante de la libertad*.

\*Leñero era un seudónimo para las armas utilizadas.



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**ZORAIDA SANTIAGO  
IN CONCERT**

November 1, 1985 12:00 p.m.

Golden Eagles Room  
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