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Que Ondee Sola- March 1989

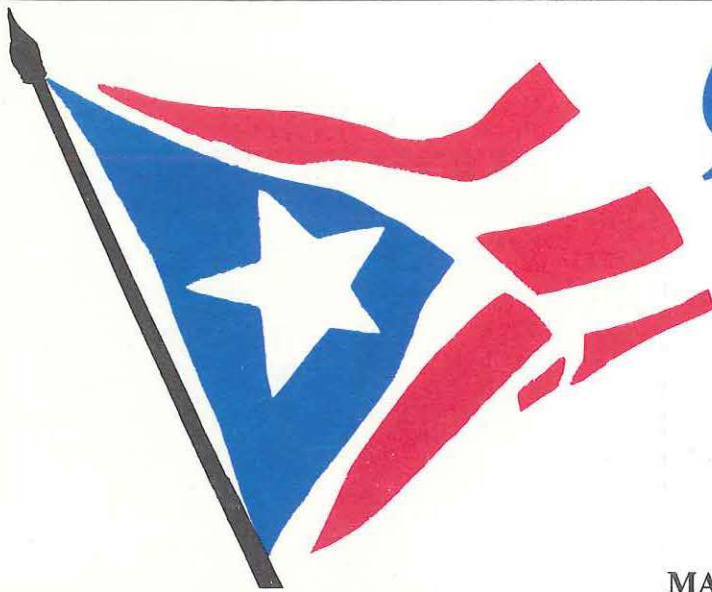
Felix Rosa

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Que Ondee Sola

MARCH 1989, Volume 22, No. 8

PROYECTO PA'LANTE HONORS LATINO STUDENTS

Proyecto Pa Lante one of the most effective counseling programs for Latino students in the country, demonstrated, once again, its ability to motivate our students to pursue their studies during its 1988 Award Ceremony. This activity was to recognize the achievement of Proyecto



Pa'lante students during the Fall 1988 trimester.

Que Ondee Sola and the UPRS congratulate Proyecto Pa'Lante and the students for their achievements; and take special notice that two of its members Beatriz Nieves and Caryn Creamer were among the honored students.

Students Honored:

Alvarez, Melissa Diana
Aslan, Demetris
Assria, Yosra
Aviles, Eva M.
Creamer, Caryn
Cruz, Nora Lissette

Fernández, Rossana P.
Fregoso, Virginia
García, Edith Marfa
Gomez, Beatriz
González, Edgar
Guevara, Carlos
Gutierrez, Efrain
Hernández, Teresa R.
Hernández, Oswaldo
Lebron, Carlos N
Lew, Pamela
López, Josephine
Martínez, Carlos
Melendez, Joe
Melendez, Zoilo

Moreno, José Luis
Muñiz, Samuel E.
Naranjo, Ricardo L.
Nieves, Beatriz
Relucio, Pascual R.
Portillo, Christopher
Rios, Melissa
Rivera, José Antonio
Rodríguez, Yolanda
Romero, Hilda
Salgado, María C.
Vazquez, Lourdes A.
Vazquez, Wanda M.
Zarate, Rosaura

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY!

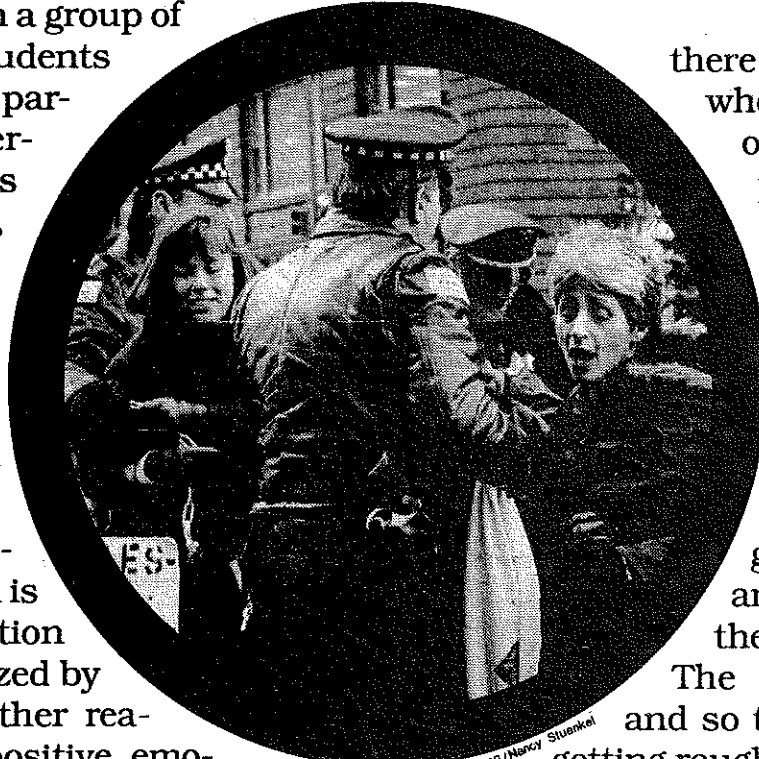
—Iris Flores

On March 8th a group of UPRS and QOS students from Northeastern participated in an International Women's Day demonstration, held in front of the Federal building, in downtown Chicago.

There are two main reasons why I personally am very proud to have attended. One reason is that the demonstration was entirely organized by women, and the other reason is that very positive emotions were expressed there.

For the first time a demonstration has been organized entirely by women. The men had absolutely nothing to do with the organization of the demonstration. For once women took over the leadership, and it felt good. That is the way it should be at all International Women's Day demonstrations.

The women who arranged the demonstration did a great job. The planning was just right. First we marched in a circle in front of the Federal Building, then we were supposed to march to the Metropolitan Correctional Center, where women political prisoners have been locked-up before. Instead, the women took a chain across the street and blocked the traffic. The police, who were



SUN-TIMES/Nancy Stuenkel

there throughout the whole thing, freaked out. They were surprised to see this, they had no idea this was going to happen. It took them a few minutes to figure out what was happening. They started to grab the women and tried to get them off the street.

The women refused and so the police started getting rough. The other demonstrators, who were not part of the people who were blocking the street, were furious. Everybody started yelling at the police to let them go; instead, they got rougher with the women. The women kept resist-

CONT. ON PG. 4

Que Ondee Sola

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

- Editor..... Félix Rosa
- Co-Editor..... Beatriz Nieves
- Staff..... Iris Flores, Arlene Calderón, Ivonne Diaz, Ulyses Albarrán, Caryn Creamer.

PUERTO RICO :

THE COLONY EXPOSED

Once again on the agenda is the discussion that the independence movement began 90 years ago: the colonial status of Puerto Rico. Only this time, the three principal political parties are in agreement on what seems to be an obstacle in the way of a solution: that Puerto Rico is a colony and that it must be decolonized as soon as possible.

The top leadership of the country's three main political parties, the New Progressive Party (PNP-statehood advocates), the Popular Democratic Party (PPD-advocates of the present Free Associated State) and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) met on Tuesday, January 17 of this year and agreed in a joint statement to seek... *as soon as possible, a solution to the problem of the political condition of the Puerto Rican people.* To that effect, the colonial governor himself, Rafael Hernández Colón, agreed to

promulgate an Executive Order to constitute a Committee for Dialogue and Consultation on the Political Status. This body would be made up of the Presidents of the three aforementioned organizations.

Now then, why the "sudden" change on the part of sectors that have been so conservative on the question of status? What are the reasons for this change?

To our understanding, there is a series of factors that unite to make the US seek a change. We know, for example, that Washington has pressured the most liberal sector of the PNP to support a solution comparable to the status of the Mariana Islands and other islands like Micronesia in the Pacific.

Negotiations among the three parties are also known to have continued to the point where today a consensus on the following points has been reached:

cont. on pg. 9

Plebiscite or Referendum: What is the Difference?

Plebiscite, from the Latin popular decree, is a vote of the people on a question submitted to them, as in a referendum. The term, however, differs from a referendum for two primary reasons:

1. A plebiscite specifically means a popular vote concerning sovereignty as opposed to a referendum, which implies a regularized system of popular voting upon laws and constitutional amendments. Napoleon was among the first to give the plebiscite this meaning—whenever the French army acquired a territory, a popular vote was held on the question of French annexation.
2. Since many of the plebiscites held during the preceding century have been manipulated by the occupying power to legitimate a process already achieved by diplomatic or military means. During the era of national liberation struggles, following World War II, international law formulated a policy regarding plebiscites as a decolonizing process. Among these are:
 - a. transference of power to the colonized or to a neutral party such as the UN.
 - b. withdrawal of the occupying military forces from the country.
 - c. removal of all obstacles that would impede the free exercise of the colonized people's will, i.e., the colonial courts, secret police, media, etc.
 - d. freedom of all political prisoners engaged in the anti-colonial struggle.
 - e. economic reparations

Referendum, a process of referring proposed laws or constitutional amendments to the electorate for final approval. This direct form of legislation along with the *Initiative*, has become a fixture of many democratic regimes. It is used extensively in Switzerland. In the US, there are two types of referendums: mandatory and optional. The mandatory may be required by state constitutions and municipal charters for a variety of matters, i.e., constitutional amendments and bond issues which by law must be placed before the voters. The optional referendum is applied to ordinary legislation. In other words, implementation of a law is postponed for a certain length of time until it has been passed by the legislature; during this time, if a petition is presented containing the required number of names, the proposed legislation must be put to a vote at the next election. A referendum has nothing to do with the question of a people's sovereignty.

INTERNATINAL WOMEN'S DAY cont.



Photo Credit Axel Massol

ing all the while the police were trying to put them in the patty wagon. They had a hard time trying to get them in there. It was great! The police finally got them in, but the demonstrators were furious. They might have uniforms and a gun on their side, but that does not make them better than us. They have no right to treat us as if we are inferior to them.

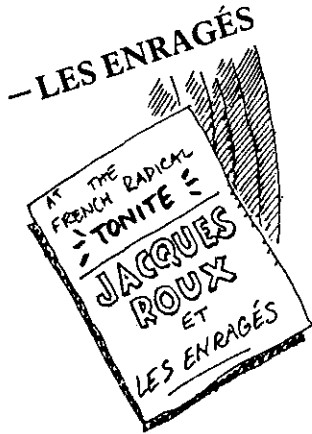
Women are powerful people, we should be able to show that power more often. Men are not better than women: therefore, we should not accept the notion that men are superior to women.

Even though the struggle for women's rights lives all year round, this is the day we come together and express our feelings, we should do this more often. The struggle will continue until women and men are equals.

This is what I mean by not holding back emotions when confronting oppression. People were furious, but also proud. They were furious for the way the police treated the women, but they were proud because the women stood up for their rights. No one can take this power from us!

Socialism for Beginners

The QOS staff is pleased to offer the continuation of this special insert, which is designed to acquaint our readers with a simplified version of political economy. In this society, we are not often exposed to a different vision of the world, so we have initiated this process, not to convert or proselytize, but to enable our students to have a more critical view of the society by understanding the new social system which is springing up around the world. While we differ with some of the analysis and criteria of *Socialism for Beginners* by Anna Paczuska, with illustrations by Sophie Grillet, we are excerpting it because it is a work which simplifies the understanding and development of socialism.



LIBERTY IS NO MORE THAN AN EMPTY SHELL WHEN ONE CLASS IS ALLOWED TO CONDEMN ANOTHER TO STARVATION AND NO MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST THEM!

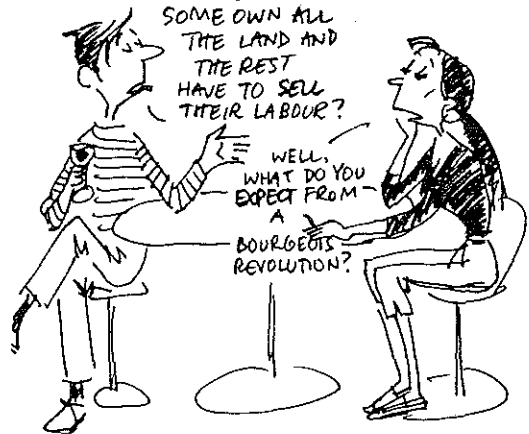


OF COURSE, EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY ARE ESSENTIAL TO FREEDOM



EQUALITY FOR ALL, IS THIS, JEAN VARLET, BABY?

WHY SHOULD SOME OWN ALL THE LAND AND THE REST HAVE TO SELL THEIR LABOUR?



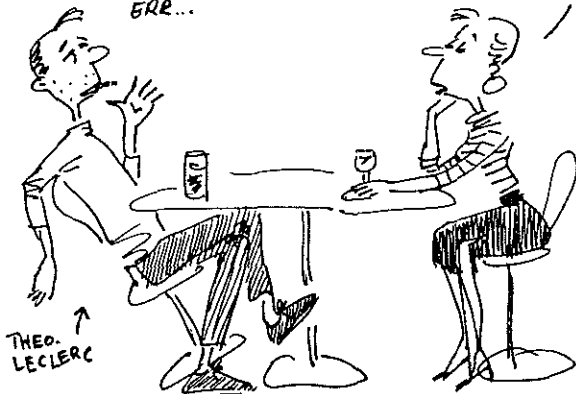
WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM A BOURGEOIS REVOLUTION?

The different meaning of liberty to different classes led to a further split in the revolution. A radical wing developed in opposition to the Jacobins, known as *les Enragés*. Led by men like Jacques Roux, Theophile Leclerc and Jean Varlet, *les Enragés* argued that liberty for all meant more than mere constitutional rights.

Unfortunately, the radical idea of freedom argued for by *les Enragés* could not be achieved in France at the time. The economy was undeveloped and backward. Food was scarce. The standard of living was almost universally low. So long as there was not enough bread for everybody, ideas about freedom for all were doomed to remain as dreams in people's heads, or else destined to become isolated experiments. The material conditions for freedom from want did not exist.

THREE HOURS SPENT OUTSIDE A BAKERY WOULD DO MORE TO TRAIN A LEGISLATOR THAN ERR...

...FOUR YEARS ON THE BENCHES OF THE CONVENTION



REVOLUTION OUTSIDE FRANCE

The call to revolution was not confined to France. It was heard throughout the French colonies, and nowhere more powerfully than from the 'Black Jacobins' of San Domingo, France's most important colony in the Caribbean.

San Domingo was first colonized at the close of the middle ages, when Spain, France, Britain, Portugal and Holland raced to plunder the world.

The 'Indians' of San Domingo were enslaved and forced to work for their slavemasters. When they could stand no more they clubbed their children to death and committed mass suicide. Thousands of Africans were kidnapped and shipped across the Atlantic to replace the labour that had been 'lost' to the colonists. Slaves continually resisted their oppressors, but the revolts were usually isolated and put down brutally.



Toussaint L'Ouverture

All this changed in 1789. While the revolutionaries in France took five years to declare an end to slavery, the Black Jacobins seized power for themselves. Led by Pierre Toussaint L'Ouverture, a superb politician and military tactician, their guerilla force overcame both the resistance of former owners and powerful armies sent by Spain and Britain.

When Napoleon came to power in 1799 he sent 30,000 of his most experienced troops to restore slavery. Toussaint was captured and taken to France, where he died in prison. The combination of a people's army and yellow fever, however, annihilated Napoleon's expeditionary forces. In 1804 San Domingo was declared an independent republic, to be called by its former Indian name, *Haiti* - the place of mountains.



Napoleon Bonaparte



Slaves in other colonies followed the Black Jacobins' lead. Slaves rebelled in British Guiana (Guyana) in 1808 and again in 1823, in Barbados in 1816, Jamaica in 1824 and 1831, and Antigua in 1831.

Rebellions in the Caribbean were followed by fights against slavery on the American mainland. The British slave trade was brought to an end in 1807, largely due to the self-organization of slaves, and slavery itself was officially abolished in the remaining British colonies in 1833. But in the Southern states of America slavery remained legal until 1863.

During the intervening years, thousands of slaves escaped from the South to freedom in the North. They were helped by white abolitionists (many of them Quakers) and by former slaves. An 'Underground Railway', in which women played a prominent part, provided safehouses and support for the runaways.

HARRIET TUBMAN

Harriet Tubman was one leading activist. Known as 'the Moses of her people', she led thousands of slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. She claimed that she never lost a 'passenger' and continued her work for many years, despite a \$10,000 price on her head.

After the emancipation of the slaves, women like Harriet Tubman found themselves with yet another battle to face - this time for their rights as women. As her fellow-activist, Sojourner Truth, put it, equality for some cannot be won at the expense of others:

"There is a great stir about colored men getting their rights and not a word about colored women getting theirs. You see the colored man will be master over the woman and it will be just as bad as before. I have been forty years a slave and forty years free and would have forty years more to have equal rights for all."



HARRIET TUBMAN, 'RAILROAD' ORGANIZER, WITH HER SIGN.

WHEN THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY CAUSE SHALL BE WRITTEN, WOMAN WILL OCCUPY A LARGE SPACE IN ITS PAGES, FOR THE CAUSE OF THE SLAVE HAS BEEN PECULIARLY A WOMAN'S CAUSE



FREDERICK DOUGLASS, JOURNALIST, EX-SLAVE, LEADING ABOLITIONIST.

TOM PAINE

Another important spin-off from the French Revolution was the effect it had on the English-born radical, Tom Paine. In 1791 he published *The Rights of Man*, a defence of the Jacobin demands which condemned the arbitrary powers of the ruling classes everywhere in language that working people could understand.

Paine argued that people should be free to choose their own government. A democratically-elected government, he observed, could cut spending on the armed forces, do away with bureaucrats and sinecures, and provide social services and free education for all. His book became a textbook for the emerging working class movement. It was banned, but sold thousands of copies, was translated into many languages, and is still in print today.

Tom Paine originally made his name for his spirited defence of the American Revolution. His pamphlet, *Common Sense* (1776), vigorously supported independence. A committed republican, Paine was a fierce critic of the British monarchy and its supporters. He said that they could easily be removed if people would only realise their own strength.

Such criticism provoked a charge of seditious libel from the British authorities and Paine had to flee to France. His ideas, however, had taken firm root, thriving in the novel conditions of the Industrial Revolution.

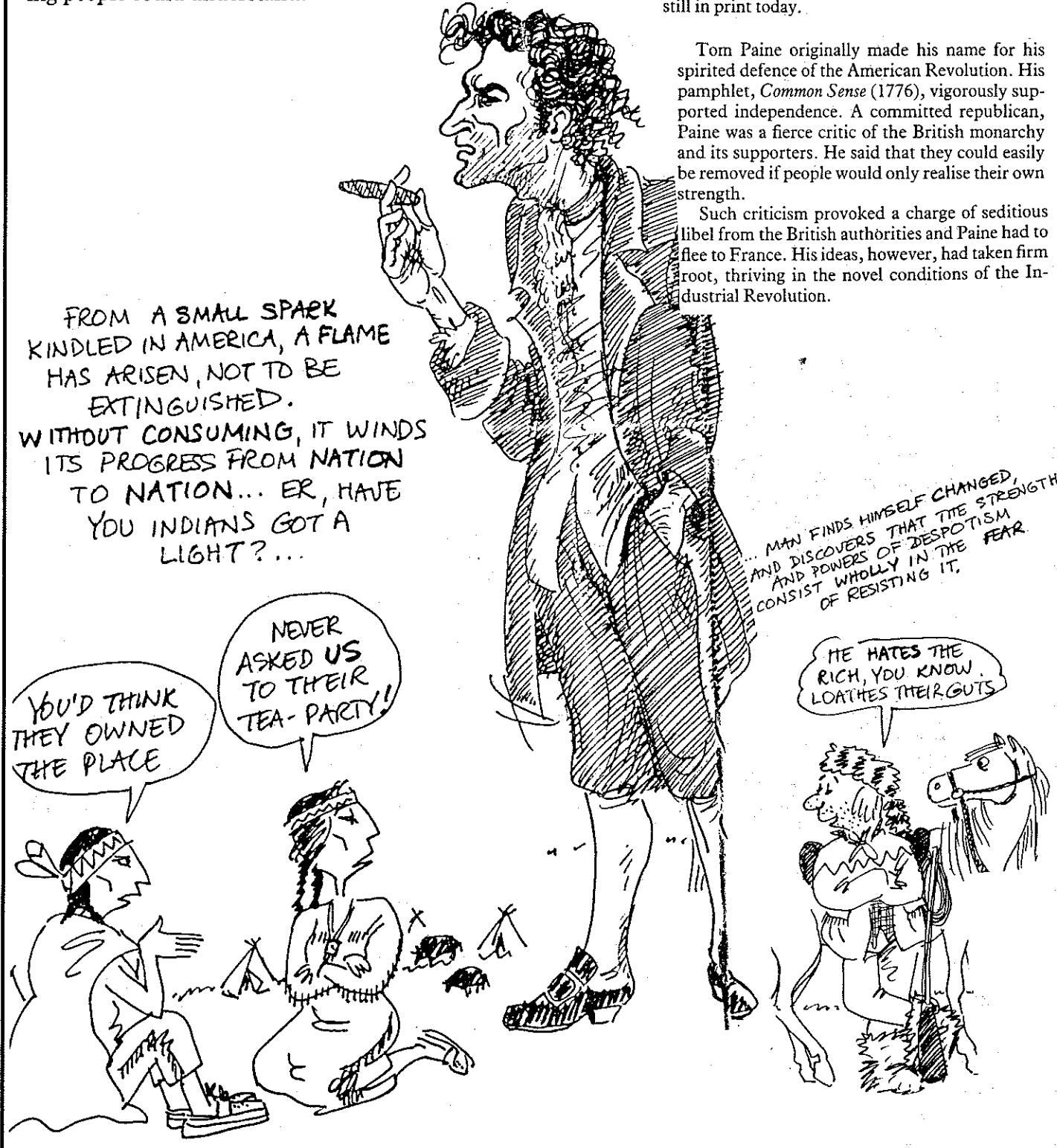
FROM A SMALL SPARK
KINDLED IN AMERICA, A FLAME
HAS ARISEN, NOT TO BE
EXTINGUISHED.
WITHOUT CONSUMING, IT WINDS
ITS PROGRESS FROM NATION
TO NATION... ER, HAVE
YOU INDIANS GOT A
LIGHT?...

... MAN FINDS HIMSELF CHANGED,
AND DISCOVERS THAT THE STRENGTH
AND POWERS OF DESPOTISM
CONSIST WHOLLY IN THE FEAR
OF RESISTING IT.

YOU'D THINK
THEY OWNED
THE PLACE

NEVER
ASKED US
TO THEIR
TEA-PARTY!!

HE HATES THE
RICH, YOU KNOW.
LOATHES THEIR GUTS

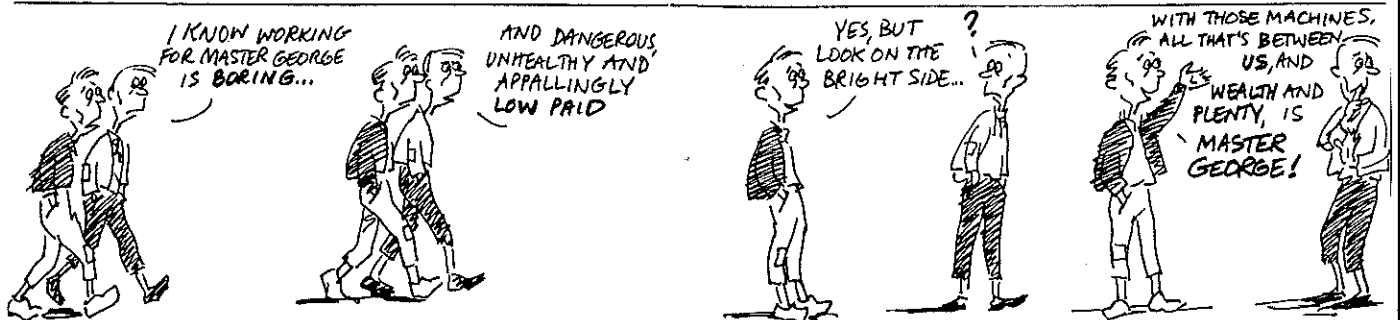
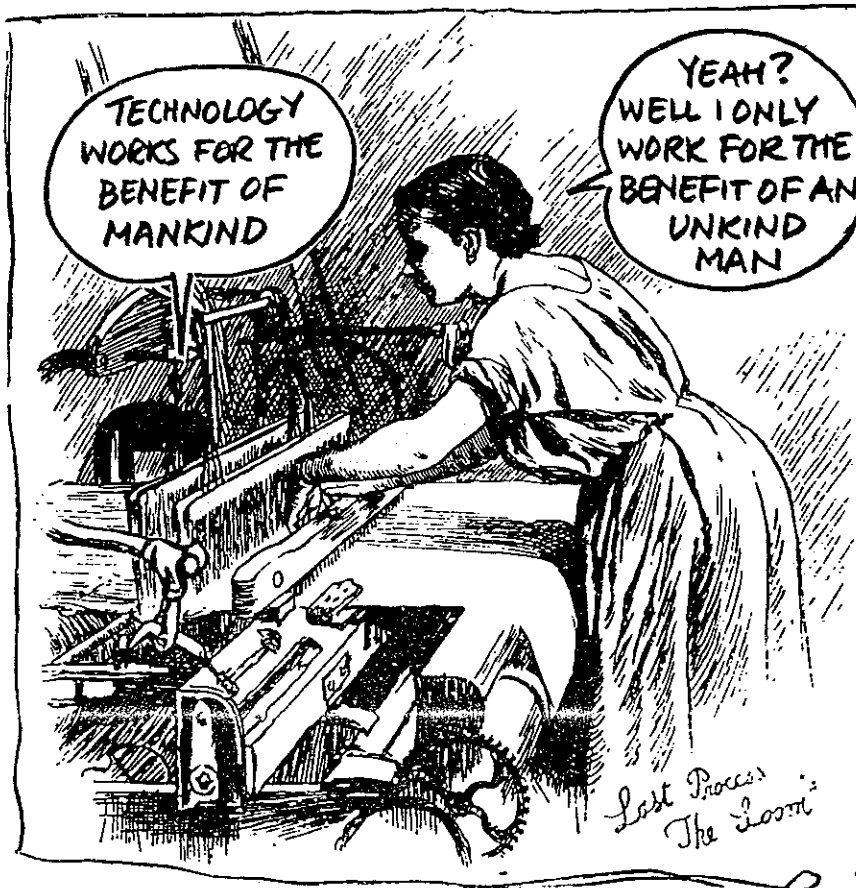


THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

MY FAMILY FARMED THE SAME BIT OF LAND FOR GENERATIONS, UNTIL PARLIAMENT SNATCHED IT AWAY WITH THEIR 'ENCLOSURES ACT' IN 1760 AND GAVE IT TO THE GENTRY. NOW THERE'S NO LIVING FOR MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS EXCEPT IN THE MINES AND FACTORIES



The French Revolution gave birth to a radical idea of freedom: the notion that legal rights were not enough, that real freedom means freedom from want for everybody. The Industrial Revolution provided the wealth to make that dream a reality.



.. COLONY EXPOSED

- first, that the results of a referendum on status would commit the US government to respect these political parties, since they would be a popular demonstration of our will;
- second, that the control of this process would be in the hands of the political parties and would be channeled through the Committee mentioned above;
- third, that the elaboration of a political, economic and social plan to resolve the problems of colonialism would be in the hands of the Committee; and
- fourth, that these changes should be possible on or before 1992, the year earmarked for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the so-called discovery of America.

On the other hand, the PPD's change of position on status did not take place in a vacuum. Andrew Carr, a representative of the Bush administration, attended the inauguration of Rafael Hernández Colón. Two hours before Hernández Colón gave his message, Carr made him change the content of his speech, to announce this new position. In fact, the governor was unaware of the changes that Washington was proposing.

The US has realized that it is impossible to sustain the present colonial order of Puerto Rico. It can no longer finance the colony. Facing the hard reality of its irreversible decline, its enormous foreign debt, its frightening internal social crisis and the growth and

grew numerically. There was no consensus among the three parties that would promote change. The PNP, realizing the changes in the offing after a meeting between Ferré and Bush in Washington, took advantage of the absence of a pro-independence campaign by the PIP (who had changed their electoral strategy to win more votes) and broadcast an ideological, anti-independence campaign. They tried to do as much damage as possible to the party that would become the vehicle for changes in the empire (the PPD), accusing them of being communists and of favoring an associated republic and status formulas that would endanger the union with the US. The PNP attempted, by every means possible, to interfere with the process that had begun, because they were aware that the US had decided that statehood for Puerto Rico was un-

suitable. The military-industrial complex (who use and take advantage of the favorable geo-political location of Puerto Rico to sell arms to Latin American nations and display their arsenal in Vieques during Ocean Venture war games), the 936 companies (for whom

Puerto Rico is a tax-exempt subterfuge where they can launder money obtained in countries like Jamaica, which offer twin plants with abundant and almost free labor), as well as the majority of the states of the union and the top federal bureaucracy are tenaciously opposed to statehood. It would simply cost too much to sustain the colony.

Therefore, Washington took on the job of breaking up the statehood movement, whose leadership is completely disillusioned by the new Yan-

TOWARDS THE FINAL SOLUTION

unification of its world capitalist competitors like Japan and the European Common Market, the US government has opted to seek a solution (however temporary) to the problem of Puerto Rico. This explains why, for the first time in history, the chief executive of the US made special mention of the case of Puerto Rico in one of his addresses to the nation. In Bush's words... *I have long believed that the people of Puerto Rico should have the right to determine their own political future. Personally, I favor statehood. But I ask the Congress to take the necessary steps to let the people decide in a referendum. Certain problems, the result of decades of unwise practices, threaten the health and security of our people. Left unattended, they will only get worse—but we can act now to put them behind us.*

The intentions of the US government are clear, but the subjective conditions were not completely favorable just before the elections. The PNP, even though they lost the last election, is the only party that

Cont. on pg. 10

... COLONY EXPOSED

kee strategy, to the point where the president of the PNP, Baltazar Corrada del Río, recently renounced his position, after the trilateral meeting on status. Even if the majority of Puerto Ricans were to vote for statehood in a referendum (read: consultation with the people) 38 states of the union must approve the permanent annexation of Puerto Rico into the US. This would be extremely difficult, since 17 states have officially approved English as their official language and the great majority of Puerto Ricans defend their own language.

Thus the federal system has three alternatives, according to international law, to decolonize Puerto Rico:

- first, for Puerto Rico to declare its independence;
- second, for the US government to grant the independence of Puerto Rico;
- third, to carry out a plebiscite in Puerto Rico so that the people can decide their preference on status.

The empire is not prepared to deal with Puerto Rican initiatives because they would lose control of the process. This is why they are pushing their own initiative: a referendum (to avert a plebiscite, which must follow the rules and stipulations of Public International Law—see definition) requested by the colonial governor. What the US never foresaw was the possibility that the Puerto Rican people would take the lead and therefore the advantage: the three main political parties revealed that Washington had never consulted the people of Puerto Rico about their status preference. They demanded that the US respect the initiatives and decisions of the Puerto Rican people and as we mentioned before, they even imposed their own conditions. This happened in part due to the initiative of the PIP.

The US is planning to participate in a summit meeting on human rights in the Soviet Union in 1991. We know that this would be an excellent forum to

publicly indict the US for its colonization of Puerto Rico. This would undoubtedly become an international scandal, given the initiative of the USSR regarding perestroika, Afghanistan, Poland, human rights within the USSR itself, the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola in exchange for the independence of Namibia, among other events. Puerto Rico would be one of the last three colonies in the world and the most important in the world, with the US as its oppressor.

The present juncture, therefore, favors the advancement of independence, because a consensus has now been fashioned over what we have been say-

ing for many decades—that Puerto Rico is a colony.

We must take advantage of this aperture to make public and popular the denunciation of colonialism, to

carry a unitary message of independence throughout Puerto Rico and the US to all sectors of the people.

We must agitate, organize and educate.

We need to take on the work of creating subjective conditions to favor independence and decolonization.

We know that true independence will not be the result of legalistic changes, but rather of the mobilization, organization and struggle of the people against their oppressors. This does not exclude us from taking the initiative in the ideological struggle against the colonizer to destroy the dependent mentality that they have created in us.

We must join in the debate and break the circle of isolation. We believe this will be a good way to break the ice and broaden this struggle, which sorely needs the input of independence forces, especially in the Puerto Rican communities in the US, where Puerto Rico's colonial lackeys are maneuvering to involve the people in these campaigns, which would only serve to prolong the colony.

Puerto Rico would be one of the last three colonies in the world and the most important in the world, with the US as its oppressor.

COMFORT:

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

—BEATRICE NIEVES

In Websters New World Dictionary, the word comfort is defined as, "A state of, or thing that provides ease and quiet enjoyment; relief from stress, etc." I think that comfort does involve enjoyment. I also believe that comfort has to be something quiet. Not if one doesn't think that quietness is comforting.

I believe there are two types of comfort. There is a temporary comfort and a comfort that is a bit more permanent. Here are some examples of things that I would classify as temporary comfort. A television, radio, a new car, new clothes, and just about any material thing that can be easily replaced. The other types of comfort that are a bit more permanent are feelings such as sharing and caring as well as loving. The reason why I believe they are more permanent is because they are unique and special, due to the fact that they are connected both in an emotional as well as in a physical way. These positive personal assets are difficult to replace because they have so much to do with individual comfort.

Often times we don't realize how much comfort we are living in. We begin to appreciate comfort when we have been faced with some kind of pain. I may be experienced through an unexpected death, where we think about how much the person has meant to us. A person who has a broken leg will have had learned to appreciate walking on both legs without any pain.

For me, living in comfort is a goal. It is not an individual goal, but a goal that would benefit all human beings on the face of the earth. In saying this, I would have to say that I think the ultimate comfort for all people of all races would be peace. Peace with one self as well as peace with other human beings. the beautiful feeling of freedom from antagonism, worries, tension, stress, and war. It would be the end of disturbances and the beginning of the enjoyment of harmony. No matter how loud this "peace" would be, it would still be an extreme enjoyment and feeling of warmth in the hearts of the people.

Dr. Ben Coleman Scholarship

The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, a community based institution, has announced the creation of the Dr. Ben Coleman scholarship for a Northeastern Illinois University graduate pursuing any field of study at the graduate level in Afro-Caribbean Studies.

The scholarship will be for \$250.00 to be used during the 1988-89 year. Selection of the scholarship recipient will be made by a committee to be established by the **Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS)**. Any student who is interested in being considered for this scholarship should fill out the following coupon or contact QOS, ext. 3805.

NAME: _____

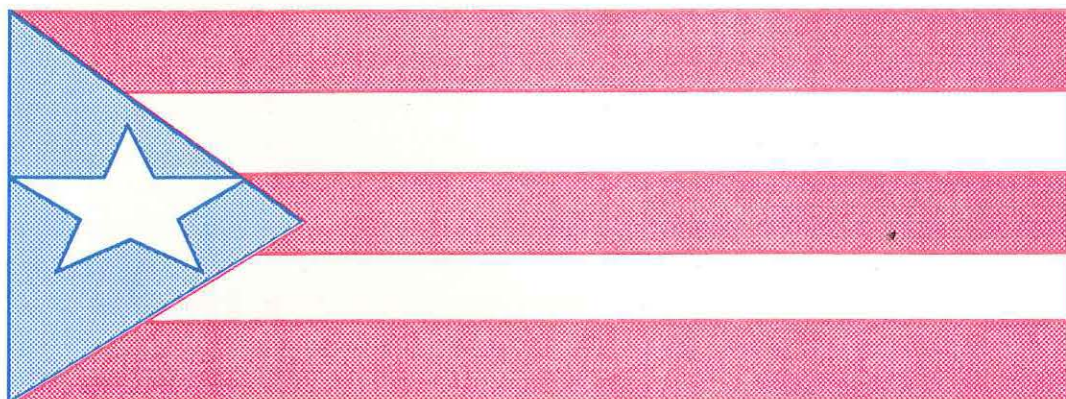
ADDRESS: _____

Social Security #: _____

Telephone: _____

Year Graduated: _____

UPRS and QOS
Invite the
UNI COMMUNITY
TO CELEBRATE
PUERTO RICAN WEEK



MONDAY - FRIDAY APRIL 3-7

9:00 -2:00PM

Art Exhibit, Literature Table and Teach-ins
Village Square

TUESDAY, April 4th—9:00 -2:00PM

Bake Sale

Village Square

THURSDAY, April 6th—12:30 -2:00PM

ONE YEAR LATER: A Tribute to Jaime Delgado

PLACE: TBA

Food will be Served