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## Que Ondee Sola - February 2001

Michael Rodriguez-Muniz

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CELEBRATING OUR  
AFRICAN HERITAGE  
AND LEGACY OF RESISTANCE...

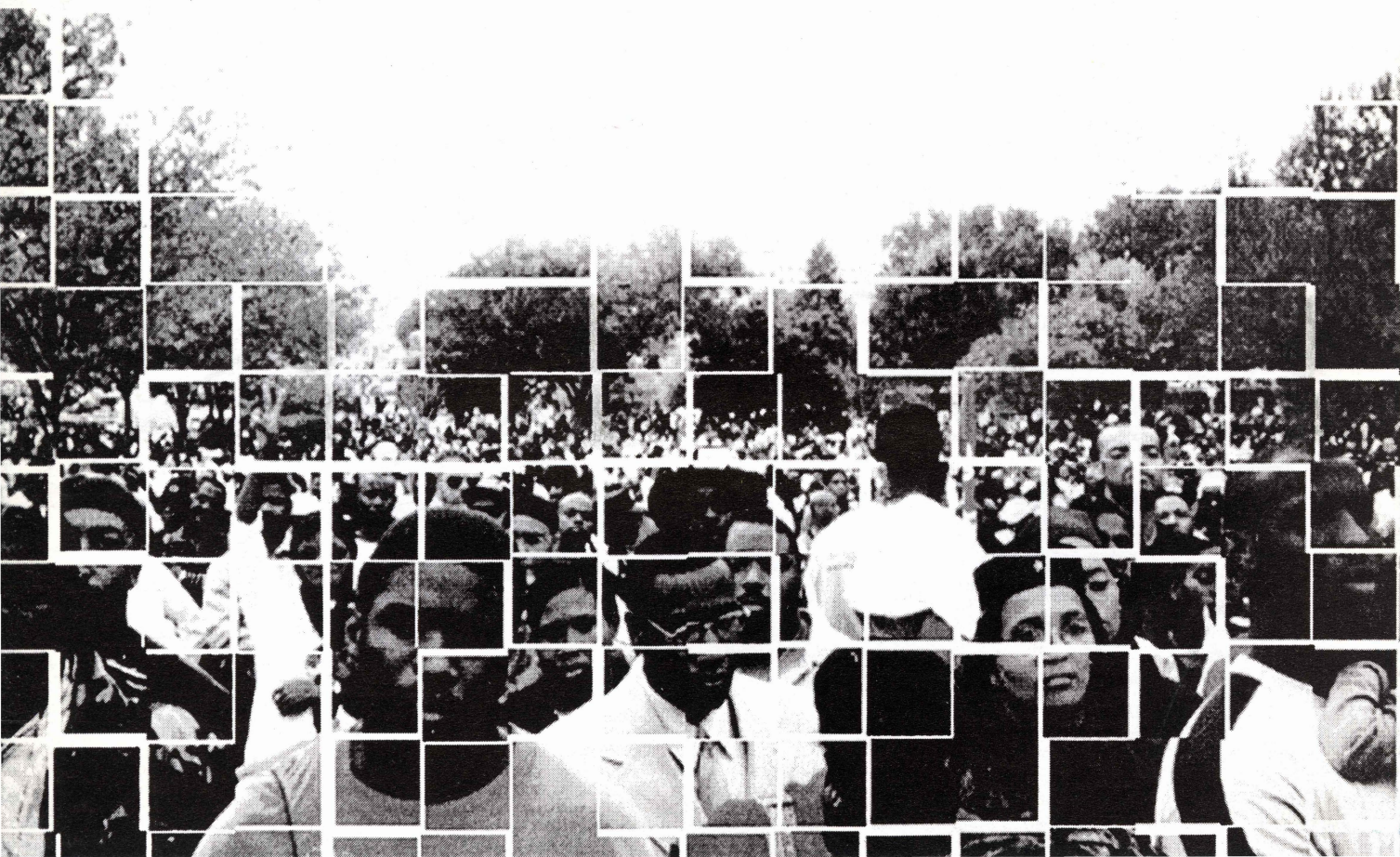


**February 2001**

Vol. 29 No. 2

# Que Ondee Sola

**Northeastern Illinois University • Chicago**



# Editorial Black History Month: A Blip in History?

Almost instinctually this month teachers will reopen “those books.” With nearly a year of dust collected, the teacher will again open each, while wondering how many times she has said those famous words “I have a dream.” For a month students will go through an uncontextualized crash course in African-American history.

One cannot go through the U.S. public school system without experiencing this crash course. Students will learn (as they should) about Martin Luther King Jr. and occasionally Malcolm X, but very rarely about Stokely Carmichael from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee or Marcus Garvey, founder of the Pan Africanist movement, or W. E. B. Dubois, the intellectual, the writer. They are unknowns, forgotten by an educational system that teaches Black history, and I would argue all “minority” history, as nothing more

than a blip in the grand history of Euro-Americans. Even those African-American leaders we do discuss, it is rarely taught why those individuals took it upon themselves to struggle for freedom. During this time the curriculum seeks to highlight the contributions of African-Americans, rather than their long history of resistance.

Textbooks often treat slavery very nonchalantly as if slavery was wrong only because of those few “bad masters.” Can we honestly say that we critically address the issue of slavery in our classrooms? No, this crash course fails in many aspects. For instance, this failure is displayed whenever the issue of reparations for slavery are brought up. The minute the issue is raised much of white America says unanimously, “We didn’t have any slaves.” Obviously, opponents of reparations fail to either admit, or are ignorant, to slavery’s economic importance to the young United States. The wealth created on stolen land

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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 lie solely within the staff. We appreciate all suggestions.

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# The Student Steering Committee's Commitment to the Mexican/Caribbean Studies Minor

The Student Steering Committee has been historically comprised of three North-eastern Illinois University student organizations: Union for Puerto Rican Students founded in 1971, Chimexla (1974), and Que Ondee Sola (1972). Beginning more than 26 years ago, these organizations waged a student struggle to create a studies program that was reflective of NEIU's Latino students.

Although initially the goal was a creation of a major, the university administration conceded to establish the Mexican Caribbean Studies Minor, due to the intense climate of student struggle. Though the University officially established this Minor support for it was nearly non-existent for more than two decades. However, we are encouraged by the support recently exhibited by the University Administration.

Since the inception of the Mexican Caribbean Studies Minor, its life source has been its relationship to the student body. In particular, the very organizations that led the struggle to create the minor continue, generation after generation, to insist that the Minor not be eliminated or dismissed. Instead that it be developed and expanded.

This minor continues to be important to our student body. It is the only minor that addresses 26% of our student population, in addition to all those interested in our communities. The Mexican/Caribbean Studies Minor has an impressive legacy and a boundless future of academic study, student development, and community-campus building.

Acknowledging the importance and potential of this minor, the Student Steering Committee will continue to struggle for the full realization of the Mexican/Caribbean Studies Minor.

*More next month on the Mexican/Caribbean Studies Minor.*

# MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. Uncovering the Truth

By Effie Kalkounos

Thinking back to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I am naturally reminded of the accomplishments and sufferings of this great man. It is a time when I ponder his ideas of civil disobedience and his visions of equality and freedom that came at such a high cost.

Dr. King was a man in search of the truth. He not only wanted to tell it, he also wanted to uncover the lies that surrounded the truth. In Greek, the word for truth is al'theia. A, is a negative suffix and leth' means oblivion or hidden-ness. Put the word together and al'theia means bringing something from forgetfulness into remembrance or to uncover something. This was Dr. King's mission, to uncover and discard the lies about black people in order to arrive at the truth. The lies told included: blacks are lazy, they are not smart, etc. Therefore, the white race is superior to them. Dr. King fought against these lies and stereotypes that were told as truths in the society of his time. He fought for political rights, voting rights and equality for black Americans. He fought for their civil rights by using tactics of civil disobedience such as protests and sit-ins, and he wanted to uncover the truth.

Throughout the country on Martin Luther King, Jr. day our nation celebrated. Schools and universities gave

the day off, and conferences were held in his honor, for instance. Yet many people did not take even five minutes out of the day to ponder his message.

I am reminded of all his work for civil rights and what eventually led up to the civil rights movement, Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He is a man of courage who should be celebrated because he believed that people should be treated fairly and justly. From our standpoint in the year 2001, most of us wholeheartedly agree with Dr. King's ideas. To us, it is almost natural to feel this way. However in 1960, many people felt that blacks and whites should not be treated equally. In Dr. King's time, and sadly in today's society as well, people adhered to a caste system in which whites were on the top and blacks at the bottom.

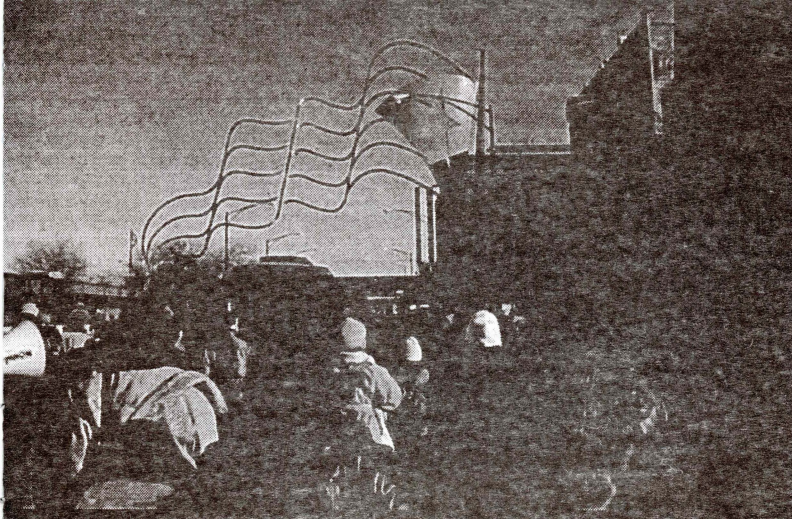
However, before I go further with my subject, it is necessary to look at two modes of thinking: objective and subjective views. Objective means "what it is." Subjective means "what it should be." Many ideas and theories have been formulated from a subjective viewpoint. The problem here is that many times facts are not taken into account, rather an ideology or set of beliefs is considered, and as such, is taken to be the truth. Thus, in the 1960's the subjective view of many people was that blacks should not have the same rights enjoyed by white people. A system of segregation was also in place that stressed white superiority and black inferiority. The two classes were separated in public places such as buses, bathrooms, waiting rooms, and restaurants.

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Effie Kalkounos**

for being chosen to be our **NEW**  
Student Government Vice-President.

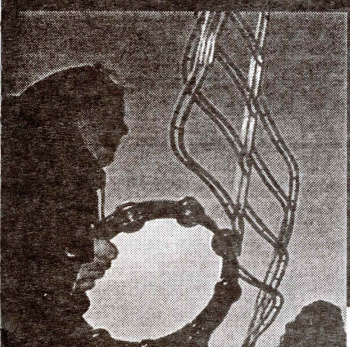


# Celebration in Paseo Boricua



*Three Kings Day*  
January 6, 2001

*Photo Credits: Roberto López, Gene Liebler*



"Seven Loose Pieces of the Global Jigsaw Puzzle"

## SIXTH PIECE: Megapolitics and the dwarves

By Subcomandante Marcos - Ejercito Liberacion Nacional (EZLN)

The sixth piece can be shaped by drawing a scribble.

We said before that nation states are attacked by the financial centers and "obligated" to dissolve within the megalopolis. But neoliberalism not only operates its war "unifying" nations and regions, its strategy of destruction/depopulation and reconstruction/reorganization also produces one or various fractures in nation states. This is the paradox of the Fourth World War: it is made to eliminate borders and "unite" nations, yet what it leaves behind is multiplied borders and pulverized nations that die in its clutches. Beyond the pretexts, ideologies and banners, the current world dynamic of breaking up the unity of nation states reflects a policy, equally universal, that knows it can better exert its power and create optimum conditions for its reproduction atop the ruins of nation states.

The elimination of commercial borders, the universality of telecommunications, the information superhighways, the omnipresence of the financial centers, the international agreements of economic unity; in short, the process of globalization as

a whole pulverizes internal markets by liquidating nation states. Globalization produces a fragmented world, full of isolated pieces (which often oppose each other); a world full of stagnant compartments, barely communicating across fragile economic bridges (only as steady as the weather-vane of finance capital); a world of broken mirrors reflecting the empty world unity of the neoliberal puzzle. But neoliberalism not only fragments the world it pretends to unite, it also produces the political economic center conducting this war. And yes, as we said before, the financial centers impose their laws of the market on nations and groups of nations. In defining the limits and reaches pursued by this policy, we must speak of the new politics of the Fourth World War: megapolitics.

Megapolitics globalizes national politics. In other words, it subjects national politics to the direction of global interests that are, for the most part, contradictory to national interests, and whose logic is the pursuit of profit. This is the criteria that decides upon wars, credit, the buying and selling of merchandise, diplomatic recognition, commercial

blocks, political supports, migration law, coups, repression, elections, international political unity, political ruptures and investments. In short, the survival of entire nations. Global financial power is so great, it can afford not to worry about the political tendency of those who hold power in a nation, so long as the national economic program (i.e., the role it plays in the global economic megaprogram) remains unaltered.

This great world power can tolerate a leftist government in any part of the world, as long as that government does not take measures that go against the needs of the world financial centers. But in no way will it tolerate the consolidation of an alternative economic, political and social organization. In the era of megapolitics, national politics are dwarfed and forced to submit to the dictates of the financial centers. It will stay this way until the dwarves rebel.

So the scribble is a figure that represents megapolitics. You can see that it's useless trying to find any reason in it, and even if you untangle it, nothing is any clearer.





Photos of the Million Family March

# Education Breaks Chains - La educación rompe cadenas

By Joel Rodríguez

*The following is a speech that was prepared by a student at the Pedro Albizu Campos Alternative High School for the Million Family March on October 16, 2000.*

Hi, my name is Joel Rodríguez, and I'm a student at Don Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School. This school has provided a second chance, not only for me, but also for those who were pushed away by the public school system. The school has taught us that if we do not stand together as a family we cannot help ourselves. We, as a family, not only have a responsibility to ourselves, but also to our community. To me, there is no one richer than those leaders in my community, as well as in your community who struggle for our rights. We are fighting to stop the colonialism of all our people. This school was founded in 1972 by several of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners and by other people committed to the Puerto Rican community in Chicago, Illinois. We are a threat to the U.S. government, because they are afraid of the unity that we are building between our communities. By standing together we have shown them that we will not take their abuse any more. The FBI has carried out a political repression campaign known as COINTELPRO to destroy the

Puerto Rican Independence movement. They subpoena our people, trying to break up our family, but what they don't realize is that they are only making us stronger. They think by releasing eleven of the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners that our fight is over.\* Well they are wrong! We still have 6 more prisoners in jail. El lema de nuestra escuela es "La educación rompe cadenas." Durante este día dedicado a fortalecer nuestra familias, tenemos que salir con el compromiso de mejorar la educación para todos, guiados por este lema "La educación rompe cadenas."



- Viva La Unidad de Todos los Pueblos
- Vivan Los Presos Políticos
- La Marina Fuera De Vieques

*\*Refers to Puerto Ricans nationalists incarcerated for acts on behalf of Puerto Rican independence on April 4, 1980.*

*QOS wishes to thank Joel Rodríguez for allowing us to publish his honest and insightful words.*



# Africa Lives in us.



By Angel Fuentes

In celebration of Black History month, I have chosen to briefly discuss the African influence in Puerto Ricans. This influence can be found in all aspects of Puerto Rican culture including: food, language, music, literature and other cultural forms. QOS, as a Puerto Rican/Latino organization, has made it a point to recognize all aspects of our culture because many times our African ancestry has been neglected and denied.

One of the areas where our African influence is prevalent is in our music. Puerto Rico has two forms of music that were heavily influenced by the Africans who were brought to Puerto Rico as slaves. The first is **Bomba**. Being the oldest of the two, it is played with drums made out of barrels. Primarily two barrel drums played in Bomba: one is the bass drum, or the low toned drum, that maintains the rhythm. The other is a high-toned drum that serves to improvise or follow the Bomba dancer's movements or *piquetes*. Other instruments used in bomba are a pair of sticks called *cua* and a single *maraca*. The final instrument is the vocals or singing, the "call and response" between a lead singer and a chorus.

The other form of music is called **La Plena**. La Plena came about in the early 1900's in the southern region of Puerto Rico. It was used as a musical "newspaper" where people from the barrios sung about many events that happened in their communities. La Plena is played with *panderetas* or hand-drums. Originally *pleneros* only used two *panderetas*, but now it is customary that they use three: a high-toned, middle toned and a low toned drum. They also use a *giuro* and more recently, other melodic instruments have been added to accompany the Plena rhythm. In addition, the singing in Plena is also a "call and response" which is said to be very African.

It is important to note that there have been many influential Afro-Puerto Ricans. For example: Roberto Clemente (1934-1972) was a great baseball player who became one of baseball's greats and was awarded a Golden Glove Award; Rafael Cordero (1790-1868) was a self-educated free black man who spent much time teaching black children to read and write after the abolition of slavery in Puerto Rico. Luis Palés Matos (1898-1959) is considered the master

of "poesia negroide" (afro-boricua poetry). Among his works are several books such as "Tun Tun de Pasa" and "Griferia."

There are many more examples that I have not included that further show the importance of the African



*Roberto Clemente while in the minor leagues in Puerto Rico.*

influence in what is considered the Puerto Rican culture. This culture is a mixture of Taino (indigenous), Spanish, and African influences, but for this moment let us remember Africa lives in us...

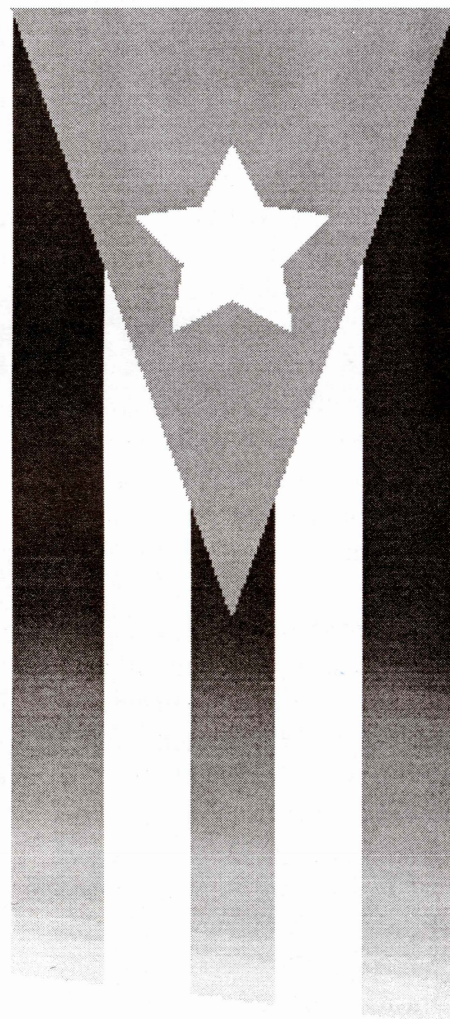
# *Majestad Negra*

Luis Palés Matos

Por la encendida calle antillana  
Va Tembandumba de la Quimbamba  
--Rumba, macumba, candombe, bamba--  
Entre dos filas de negras caras.  
Ante ella un congo--gongo y maraca--  
ritma una conga bomba que bamba.  
Culipandeando la Reina avanza,  
Y de su inmensa grupa resbalan  
Meneos cachondos que el congo cuaja  
En ríos de azúcar y de melaza.  
Prieto trapiche de sensual zafra,  
El caderamen, masa con masa,  
Exprime ritmos, suda que sangra,  
Y la molienda culmina en danza.  
Por la encendida calle antillana  
Va Tembandumba de la Quimbamba.  
Flor de Tórtola, rosa de Uganda,  
Por ti crepitan bombas y bambulas;  
Por ti en calendas desenfrenadas  
Quema la Antilla su sangre naniga.  
Haití te ofrece sus calabazas;  
Fogosos rones te da Jamaica;  
Cuba te dice: idale, mulata!  
Y Puerto Rico: imelao, melamba!  
Sus, mis cocolos de negras caras.  
Tronad, tambores; vibrad, maracas.  
Por la encendida calle antillana  
--Rumba, macumba, candombe, bamba--  
Va Tembandumba de la Quimbamba.



Luis Palés Matos  
(1898-1959)



# Puerto Rico Town project in Paseo Boricua brings new salsa clubs and restaurants to Chicago

## Ethnic strip described as Chinatown with salsa dancing

Chicago may soon be home to the largest collection of salsa clubs and Puerto Rican restaurants found anywhere outside of San Juan. The new dance clubs and restaurants would be built along Division Street in a project that organizers are calling Puerto Rico Town/ *Paseo Boricua*. Modeled on the success of Greektown and Chinatown, Puerto Rico Town got an important boost today from a new study showing Chicago is ready for another ethnic entertainment community.

The development of a Puerto Rican accented restaurant district has received widespread support from all the elected officials representing the Humboldt Park area including Congressman Luis Gutierrez, State Senator Miguel Del Valle, State Representatives William Delgado, and Cynthia Soto, as well as Alderman Billy Ocasio. Commenting on this project Commissioner Maldonado said, "Even in the middle of the coldest Chicago winter,

Puerto Rico Town will be a place for people to experience the warmth and excitement of the Island of Enchantment."

Maldonado joined the other elected officials, and community leaders from the Division Street Business Development Association (DSBDA) today to release the results of a new study showing significant enthusiasm for the Puerto Rico Town project among Chicago residents. The study commissioned by DSBDA was funded by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), and conducted by the prestigious University of Illinois Center for Urban Economic Development and the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy.

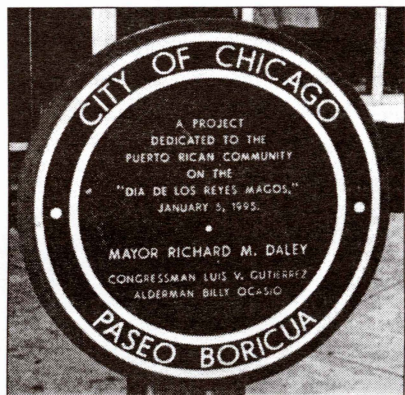
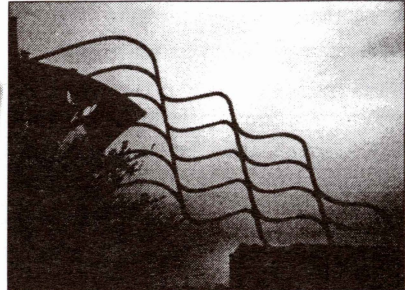
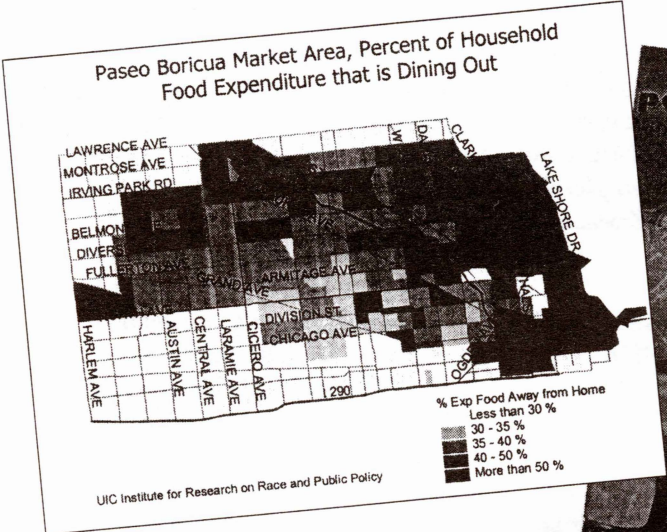
"The University of Illinois study found the Puerto Rico Town project has the potential to attract large numbers of Chicago residents and tourists to Paseo Boricua (along Division Street from Western to California Avenues). The study also concluded that the project

will help to sustain the largely working class/Latino community that surrounds Paseo Boricua and be a cornerstone for the entire community," said Enrique Salgado, Jr., Executive Director of DSBDA. \*

"Ethnic neighborhoods are part of what makes Chicago so unique, and thousands of tourists visit Greektown and Chinatown each year. This new study shows that if we build Puerto Rico Town, people will come for the food and the fun," Maldonado said. "It will be just like Greektown—but with salsa dancing and a lot of down-home Puerto Rican cooking."

Maldonado and the DSBDA are hoping to attract one dozen new Puerto Rican restaurants and salsa clubs to the Puerto Rico Town entertainment strip within the next two years.

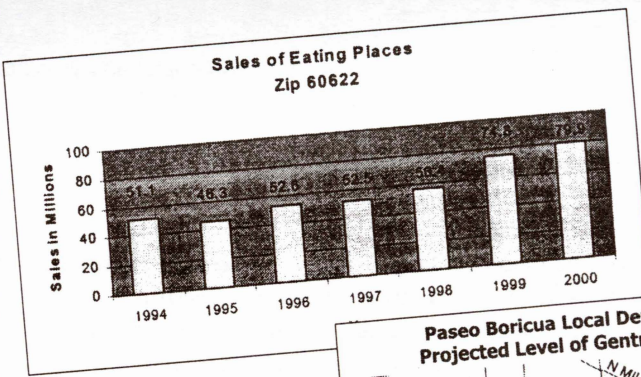
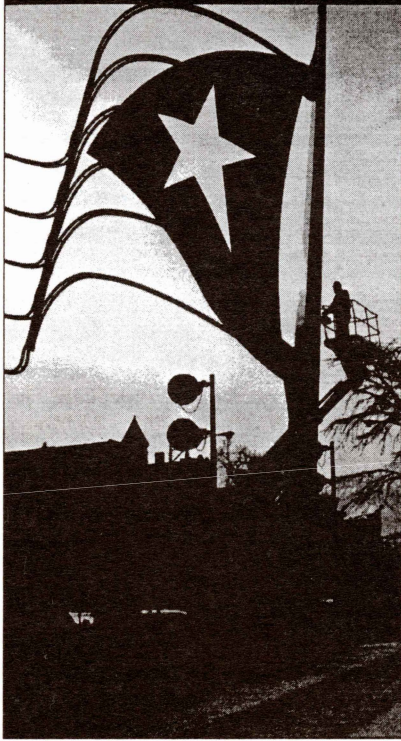
*Division Street Business Development Association (DSBDA)- 2647 W. Division Street Chicago, IL 60622 (773) 782-0454, (773) 782-1499 -Fax*



“Forty percent of people who have never eaten Puerto Rican food would consider dining in redeveloped Paseo.”

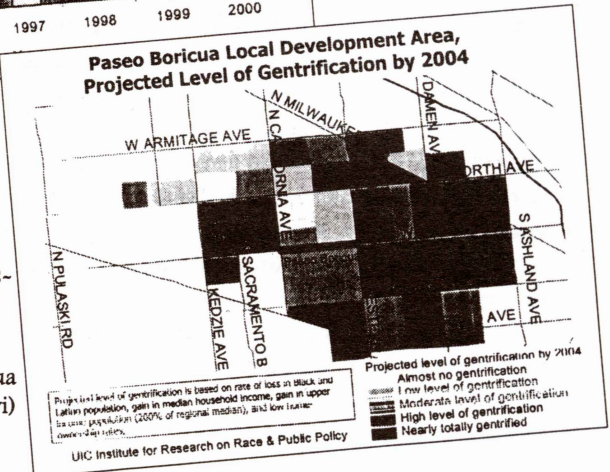
(UIC The Paseo Boricua Feasibility Study, 39)

# The Dream that is Paseo Boricua



“The commercial development of the Paseo Boricua should be integrated with the broader redevelopment plan to ensure that local residents will benefit from the economic development.”

(UIC The Paseo Boricua Feasibility Study, vi)



**Rolando Garcia**, a life long resident of Vieques, Puerto Rico is now without hair, eyelashes or eyebrows. In 1998 he worked at the U.S. Navy base, Camp Garcia, on the east end of the island of Vieques during the time radioactive depleted uranium bombs and bullets were tested.

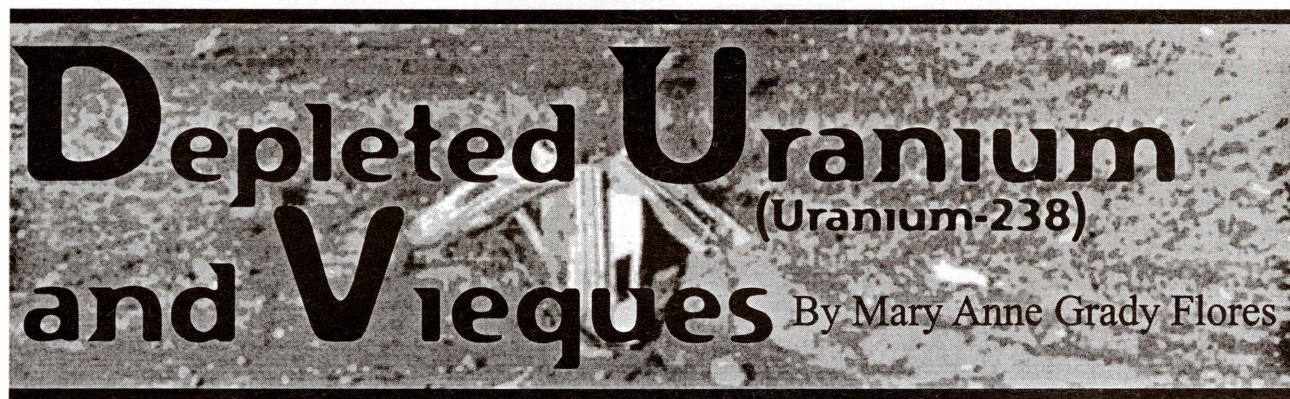
**This** past October, I went with Rolando and a group of other Viequenses to interrupt a news conference that was held in Isla Verde, Puerto Rico by Luis Reyes of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Reyes was pronouncing that Vieques was a paradise, saying that there was no radioactivity in Vieques. The N.R.C.

bean. We said there is no way one can declare Vieques to be free of radioactivity without testing all areas for radioactive dust. Rolando came to NY to be tested for depleted uranium contamination at Montefiori Hospital in the Bronx with Tito Kayak this past December.

**It** was in Vieques that US and NATO troops trained for the Gulf War and the War in the Balkans and Yugoslavia.

**The** news of NATO troops dying from leukemia, cancer, and other illnesses after exposure to depleted uranium has hit the headlines, and has

fatigue, leukemia, sometimes horrible birth defects and more. These troops were exposed to unknown amounts of depleted uranium. During the war the US fired 940,000 - 30-millimeter uranium tipped bullets and over 14,000 large caliber DU rounds. According to Dr. Rokke, former Pentagon official, "If a DU round which weighs 10 pounds hits a vehicle and 4 pounds turns into DU oxides and the spent DU round will then weigh 6 pounds. The DU oxides are a health hazard while the spent DU round which emits ionizing radiation at 300 millirem per hour, forever is a serious health hazard.



had only tested six sites on the 21-mile island.

**The** Navy has been trying to allay fears about the dangers of DU since admitting firing 273 rounds at the test site in 1998. We went with Rolando to show that they are hiding the truth about the effects of depleted uranium and other contaminants left by the bombs. We also had placards with the names of others who are sick with cancer and tumors from Vieques. We spoke to the press about how depleted uranium ignites and explodes upon impact, becoming fine talc which is subject to the strong westerly trade winds of the Carib-

been spreading like wildfire for the last two weeks. Finally the word is out!

**There** have been hundreds of articles written recently declaring that depleted uranium is not as safe as the US and NATO have been saying. Eight European nations are claiming that their peacekeepers sent to the Balkans are suffering and dying from what some are calling "Balkans Syndrome."

**The** story follows a pattern closely to that of our Gulf War troops who suffer unexplained illnesses, stillbirths, cancer, memory loss, chronic pain,

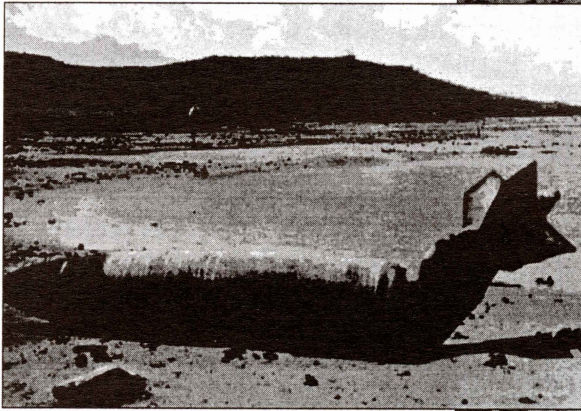
**Therefore** all spent DU rounds and all DU oxides must be cleaned up to eliminate health hazards." We do know that the US left 600,000 lbs of DU and dust in the area of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq after the war.

This is January 15th, Martin Luther King's birthday, and the tenth anniversary of the beginning of the Gulf War. The suffering of the citizens of Iraq continues at the hands of US/UN sponsored sanctions and our present bombing three times a week with depleted uranium tipped missiles. 5,000 children die every month directly resulting from the sanctions and continued bombing. The rate of

cancer has increased at least four fold.

**Dr. Mona Kammas**, professor of pathology at Baghdad University, shared findings of a paper on the environmental impact of our bombing of Iraq at the Gijon symposium. Of the study group exposed in combat, there was a nearly three fold increase in congenital anomalies, more than three fold increase in spontaneous abortions and an almost five fold increase of cancers.

**According** to Dr. Doug Rokke, former head of the Depleted Uranium Project of the Pentagon, US Army Major, and former professor of



environmental science at Jacksonville University, Alabama, the US military has been saying that they didn't know the effects of DU since 1991. Dr. Rokke says, "That's a lie. They were told. They were warned."

**Dr. Rokke** presented briefings to medical and tactical commanders about the hazards of DU shells during the Gulf War. He was commissioned to organize the clean up in Saudi Arabia after the war. While stationed in Saudi Arabia, Rokke and his crew of 50 buried vehicles and parts, and shipped other equipment back to the US to be decontaminated at a special facility. He reports that ten of the

crew he worked with have died and many of the others are sick. Only those who wore complete radioactive protective wear did not fall ill. He is contaminated in the kidneys and the lungs from DU and has become a whistle blower of the Pentagon's use of DU.

**Sixty Minutes** has documented the case of his crew and their ailments and deaths. Dr. Rokke stated that DU internal exposure, which causes radiation and heavy metal poisoning,



is just one example of what is called Gulf War Syndrome.

I met Dr. Rokke, last March, in a courthouse north of Baltimore where four friends calling themselves the Plowshares Vs. Depleted Uranium actors (Plowshares-after the prophet Isaiah's biblical call to beat swords into Plowshares) were standing trial for hammering on an A-10 Warthog plane that was used in Kosovo and Iraq. Phil Berrigan, Fr. Steve Kelly, Susan Crane and Liz Walz were blocked by the injustice system. They

were not allowed to give their justification argument as to why they acted nonviolently to disarm a plane that fires 3,900 rounds of DU in ONE MINUTE.

**Dr. Rokke**, subpoenaed to testify as an expert on DU, was told that no expert witnesses were allowed! They were finally silenced in the courtroom, found guilty and sentenced from 9-30 months in prison. We listened instead to Dr. Rokke across the street from the courthouse in a

church for 3 hours. This was my introduction to the horrors of DU.

It was this trial that pointed me to Vieques.

By May 2nd, 2000, I joined my sister Teresa, my brother-in-law Peter and six other's in a delegation. We traveled by small boat to the bombing range in Vieques to participate in civil disobedience to prevent the Navy from resuming bombing after

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one year of peace. During that year reprieve the land had begun to heal. The grasses had begun to grow roots and grow tall, encapsulating the contaminants in the soil.

On April 19th, 1999, all bombing had stopped because civilian patrolman David Sanes had been killed by two 500 lbs bombs. His death sparked peace activists to build peace camps around the bombing range acting as human shields.

The tiny US colonial island of Vieques, Puerto Rico has been the Navy's testing ground for our bombing of depleted uranium and training of our troops who were sent off to use the new weapon system in the Gulf War in 1991, the Bosnian crisis in 1994-95, and to bomb in Kosovo in 1999. Our US Navy only recently admitted to firing DU in Vieques. In 1992, Ismael Guadalupe, one of the Vieques protest leaders, was an eyewitness to the very distinct signature of depleted uranium projectiles that pierced through tanks littering the bombing range. His brother was a tank expert who worked on the range, and also saw the strange entry of DU bullets, which goes through metal like butter.

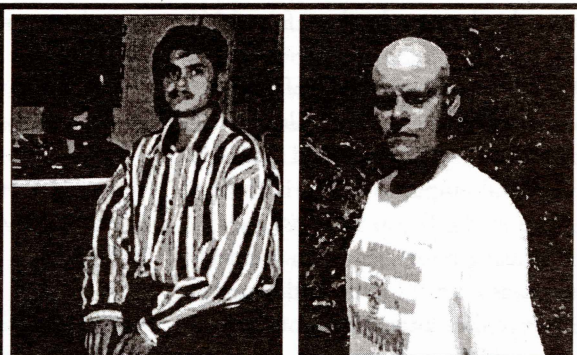
For the past sixty years until today the Viequeses, which number 9,400, live with what has been called a continuation of WWII. They endure continuous bombing for days on end, year after year. Since 1942 Viequeses have been forced to live on one third of the island, in the center, with the bombing range to the east and storage of munitions in the west. Trade winds blowing from the east to the west carry the contaminants over the populated area. Each time bombing occurs, dust from that

bomb and previous bombs is kicked up, raising toxins with it, including depleted uranium.

Upon impact, DU explodes and aerosolizes. DU is easily ingested into the lungs and it only takes one tiny particle to begin cancer growth. DU has a half-life of 4,500 million years.

**Dr. Andreas Toupadakis, Ph.D.**, former chemist at the Los Alamos Laboratory in speaking about the Balkans said, "I have some experience with uranium oxide. The very tiny particles are able to fly away so easily, just like the water particles in clouds or the solid particles in smoke. A strong wind is not necessary to transport them, not only just to Greece or Italy, but also around the whole earth within a year. Geologists have concluded that a complete mix of the atmosphere takes place within a year. The tiny particles are of different sizes. The heavier particles can fly only for a short distance, finally depositing themselves near the impact area. The lighter move further, and the even lighter mix with the air and move in all directions. Eventually they find themselves all around the earth.

Some of them will stay in the atmosphere forever. Most will precipitate on the land, rivers, the seas, and the lakes during rainstorms." Toupadakis



Before

After

## Help a Brother from Vieques!

Banco Popular Account Number:

512-059-790

Rolando García García, a young Viequesense, who has for more than a year endured acute symptoms due to radiation intoxication, resulting from being directly exposed to pollutants (uranium, aluminum, lead and arsenic) expelled by the U.S. Navy in Camp García, Vieques, Puerto Rico where he worked for several weeks. Due to his health, Rolando has been unemployed for weeks, causing him serious financial difficulties in paying his medical expenses and supporting his two daughters.

*We ask for your generosity...*

left his position for reasons of conscience in 2000. He could not serve in the planning of mass destruction of billions of people.

The Viequeses live with the highest cancer rate in all of Puerto Rico, with 26% higher than the main island. Ironically, there is no hospital on the "isla nena," the little girl island, and Viequeses have to take a ferry, a one and a half hour ride, to the town of Fajardo, on the main island of Puerto Rico for treatment. Babies are born on the main island, so records of birth defects are not connected with Vieques. Oddly enough

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# Grito de los excluidos/as de las Américas

Del fondo de nuestros corazones, nosotros, los excluidos y excluidas de las Américas, lanzamos un grito de protesta contra la desigualdad y la injusticia del mundo en que vivimos. Somos todos pasajeros de la misma nave, el planeta Tierra; sin embargo, como en las carabelas de los colonizadores y nuestros aviones trasatlánticos de hoy, viajamos en condiciones desiguales. En la primera clase, una minoría usufructúa todos los privilegios del consumismo superfluo, de actitudes anti-sociales y depredadoras del medio ambiente. Esa minoría tiene acceso a la medicina sofisticada, la educación, la cultura y los beneficios de la tecnología de punta. En las bodegas insalubres, agobiados por el hambre, las enfermedades, la violencia y la explotación, se amontona la mayoría de la población mundial.

Nuestro grito se eleva contra un tipo de globalización económica que, al favorecer a los pocos países desarrollados, en detrimento de las naciones pobres, revela su carácter de verdadera globocolonización. El PIB mundial, calculado hoy en USD 25 billones, es el retrato de la brutal acu-

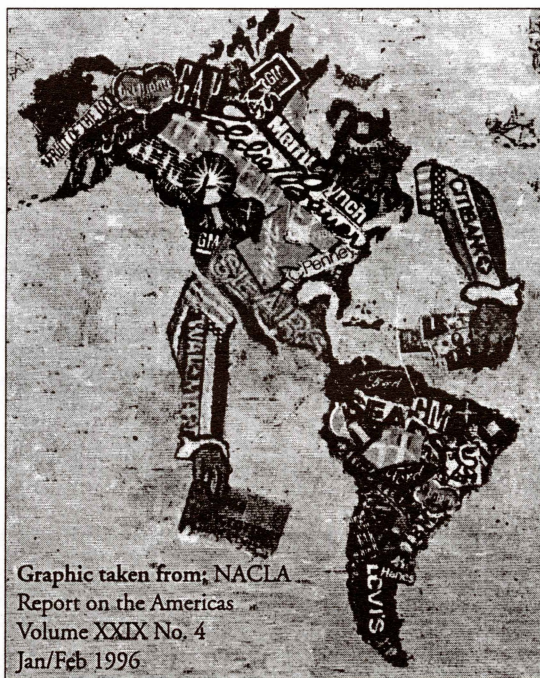
mulación de riquezas en manos de pocos: los países del G-7 (Estados Unidos, Canadá, Inglaterra, Francia, Italia, Alemania y Japón) detentan USD 18 billones. ¿Los USD 7 bil-

globaliza la pobreza y no el progreso; la dependencia y no la soberanía; la competitividad y no la solidaridad.

Por eso, hay 204 millones de pobres y 90 millones de miserables en América Latina y en El Caribe, a los cuales se debe aumentar los bolsones de miseria que existen en varias partes del opulento Estados Unidos. Nuestro grito es de protesta contra la economía capitalista neoliberal que, monitoreada por el FMI y por el Banco Mundial, reduce la democracia al mercado, la ciudadanía al consumismo, y viola la soberanía de nuestros Estados nacionales mediante imposiciones y amenazas.

Si las naciones ricas quieren progreso, ¿por qué no establecen reglas justas para el comercio mundial, eliminando las restricciones y las prácticas comerciales que degradan los precios de los productos que las naciones pobres exportan? Si quieren paz, ¿por qué no acaban con la carrera armamentista, que consume anualmente USD 800 mil millones y dejan de exportar armas hacia los países del Tercer Mundo? Si quieren el fin de

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Graphic taken from: NACLA  
Report on the Americas  
Volume XXIX No. 4  
Jan/Feb 1996

lones restantes deben ser repartidos entre más de 180 países! ¿Clama a los cielos constatar que apenas tres ciudadanos estadounidenses -Bill Gates, Paul Allen y Warren Buffett- poseen, juntos, una fortuna superior al PIB de 42 naciones pobres, en las cuales viven 600 millones de habitantes! Se



...continued from page 15

las drogas, ¿por qué no erradicar los paraísos fiscales, donde el dinero sucio es lavado por los "honrados" banqueros del Primer Mundo, y prohíben que el éter y la acetona sean exportados de Estados Unidos a los fabricantes?

Nuestro grito denuncia que, después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, América Latina no tenía deudas, pero hoy debe casi 1 billón de dólares. Es la más alta deuda externa por habitante del mundo. Consecuentemente, nuestro Continente es campeón en desigualdad entre los más ricos y los más pobres. Nuestros países son víctimas del capital especulativo, del colonialismo cultural representado por los enlatados televisivos y de la intervención militar bajo el pretexto del combate al narcotráfico. El número de personas hambrientas y desempleadas nunca fue tan grande en las Américas.

Nuestro grito es de indignación, pero es también un grito de esperanza. Vemos, con alegría, campesinos que se movilizaron para exigir la reforma agraria; grupos de los más diversos países y de los más diversos intereses se juntaron para bloquear las reuniones de los grandes banqueros y de los grandes empresarios, en Seattle, en Washington, en Praga, a fin de protestar contra el sistema económico neoliberal; movimientos populares organizaron manifestaciones masivas exigiendo cambios en casi todos los países del Continente, en especial en México, Venezuela, Perú, Bolivia, Argentina y Ecuador. Presenciamos la fuerza de los pueblos indígenas que se levantan con coraje exigiendo la demarcación de sus tierras; la multiplicación de los movimientos de mujeres contra la discriminación machista; la organización de los mov-

imientos negros para exigir respeto a sus raíces culturales y sus derechos históricamente reprimidos. En Brasil, unos seis millones de electores se pronunciaron contra el pago de la deuda externa, en el plebiscito ciudadano realizado recientemente en todo el país.

Esas señales, evidentes hoy en todo el mundo, nos dan esperanza de que el Fondo Monetario Internacional, la Organización Mundial del Comercio y el Banco Mundial sean substituidos por instituciones efectivamente democráticas, donde las naciones tengan igual poder de voz y de voto, a fin de regular el flujo de capitales especulativos y derrumbar el proteccionismo de los países ricos, priorizando los derechos humanos y la justicia social.

Esperamos que nuestro clamor se extienda de tal forma que el gobierno de Estados Unidos se vea forzado a retirarse de Colombia, evitando un conflicto que pondrá en grave riesgo a la población y la biodiversidad amazónica. Nuestro grito clama tam-

bién por el fin del cruel bloqueo que Estados Unidos viene imponiendo a Cuba.

Esperamos que nuestras reivindicaciones básicas se convertirán lo más pronto en realidad: reforma agraria; cambios en las políticas económicas para eliminar el desempleo y la exclusión; demarcación y protección de las tierras indígenas; respeto al medio ambiente; fin de la dependencia económica y cultural de nuestros pueblos y anulación de nuestras deudas externas, dentro del espíritu del año Jubilar convocado por el Papa Juan Pablo II. Defendemos el acceso de toda la población a los derechos fundamentales: tierra, trabajo, vivienda digna, educación y salud.

Nuestro grito se eleva a todos quienes son sensibles a la solidaridad y osan abrazar la utopía de un mundo sin desigualdades, sin miseria y sin exclusión, fundado en la justicia y en la libertad.

\*Tomado del periódico electrónico Rebelión [www.rebellion.org](http://www.rebellion.org)

## Add YOUR e-mail to the NEIU Student e-mail list!

- find out what activities are coming up!
- be kept informed about happenings at NEIU!
- get in contact with other students!

The e-mail list is being put together by the student organizations of QOS, CHIMEXLA, and UPRS.

Send your e-mail to [queondeesola@hotmail.com](mailto:queondeesola@hotmail.com)

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
*...continued from page 4*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. saw the absurdity in these ideas, divisions, and Black's lack of rights. He objectively postulated that all men should have their rights completely protected under the Constitution. He felt that black Americans had the right to vote, to sit wherever they wanted, etc. He dared to dream that segregation and the lack of political rights and economic exploitation was inherently wrong. He was assassinated for his beliefs, actions, and ability to mobilize of the black community.

However, this does not mean that the work is anywhere near being complete. When Dr. Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream speech" he imagined that one day a society would exist in which there was no racism and a society where people would be judged by their actions and not the color of their skin. I still think that our society and other societies throughout the world for that matter, have a long way to go. Even though African Americans, Mexican Americans and other minorities enjoy rights and privileges under the constitution, racism and prejudice still exist in our country in both individual and institutional form. Even though laws do exist whereby people are considered equal (de juris), some members of our society in fact, still cling to their prejudicial ways. In all, the struggle still continues in that while some lies have been discarded, the truth has only been partially uncovered.

*QOS invites both students and faculty to use this commentary space to discuss and dialogue with our campus community.*

# Desde La Cocina

## Flan

- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 beaten eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

*If you want to see a particular recipe, contact us at [queondeesola@hotmail.com](mailto:queondeesola@hotmail.com).*

*¡Buen Provecho!*

1. In a saucepan, cook 1/3-cup sugar over medium high heat till sugar begins to melt, shaking the pan occasionally to heat the sugar evenly. Do not stir. Once the sugar starts to melt, reduce heat to low and cook about 5 minutes more, or till all the sugar is melted and golden. Immediately divide the caramelized sugar among four 6-ounce custard cups, coating bottom evenly. Let stand 10 minutes.
2. In a bowl, combine eggs, milk, the 1/3-cup sugar, and the vanilla. Beat till well combined but not foamy. Place the flan cups in a 2-quart square baking dish on an oven rack. Divide egg mixture in cups. Pour boiling water into the baking dish around flan cups to a depth of 1 inch. Bake at 325 degrees for 30 to 45 minutes or till a knife inserted near the center comes out clean.
3. Remove cups from water and cool on a wire rack. For serving, unmold flans, and invert a dessert plate over each flan; turn flan cup and plate over together.

# Union for Puerto Rican Students & Que Onde Sola

**Meets in E-041 every Thursday during 1:40-2:50pm**

**Contact us at 773.442.4583 or [queondeesola@hotmail.com](mailto:queondeesola@hotmail.com)**

## Editorial

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with the labor of African slaves gave the U.S. the ability to industrialize, second only to England. Generally speaking, had the U.S. not industrialized when it did, the rich America of today would not exist.

In regards to racism do we fare better? Do we truly discuss racism, its origins, its forms, and its effects on "minorities?" We do not even come close to admitting that racism is as American as apple pie and "rock and roll." Racist thought stemming from religious, genetic, or cultural assumptions about the "inferiority" of Blacks have been the justifier of Black exploitation and oppression for centuries. Our discussions about racism are often distorted. Throughout my years of grammar and high school I never heard the phrase "white skin privilege." Using this phrase alone in a discussion of race draws out the ignorance most people have about racism. People do not see that racism is what justifies white skin privilege and minor-

## "White America benefits from racism."

ity dis-privilege. White America benefits from racism.

February is the month that represents when the "system" acknowledges the contributions of African-Americans to Uncle Sam, while it frequently denies their greatest contribution to our society – resistance. There is no greater contribution to America than struggling to end its contradictions, hypocrisies, and all its barriers to actual freedom. The educational system does not use this time to advance students critical thinking and understanding about the history and plight of African-Americans. The textbooks and lesson plans of this crash course are only a reflection of the greater society, which insist on ignoring the legacies of these historical problems. To tell the history of African Americans is to tell a proud history of resistance, but it is also the history of America's undeniable heritage of racism and white skin privilege.

## DU and Vieques ...continued from page 14

the Navy has been collecting medical data from the people in Vieques for years. A 58-year-old Vieques woman named Mimita told me that for years the Navy would draw her blood and others but never gave the people the results.

Studies from independent sources are helping to know the impact of such exposure on residents today. People who recently died have been found to have high levels of uranium and heavy metals. Nilda Medina of the Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques says that future generations and the people who live in Vieques today are jeopardized by these contaminants.

On the eve of the second entrance of 55 of us to the bombing range on May 13th, I sat and listened to Ismael Guadalupe as he shared the vision for

peace of the people of Vieques. He said that they don't want the blood of other nations, like Iraq and Yugoslavia on their hands.

The Viequeses don't want any part of U.S. exportation of weapons tested in Vieques and sent abroad to kill innocent victims. They are also clear and determined to get the U.S. Navy out, not by the tactics used by the Navy, but through non-violence and their spirit is determined that this WILL BE, and all the sooner with our help. As a North American I feel that it is our responsibility to be a part of the non-violent civil disobedience because it is OUR tax dollars that pay for all that goes on in that bombing zone. We need to be held accountable for what our government does and say we will stand with the Viequeses as they reclaim their land. We must take a turn in sacrificing our comfort and to taste a tiny bit of the

discomfort of what four generations of our friends have had to live with.

The struggle to oust the US Navy has recently been strengthened by the new Governor of Puerto Rico, Sila Calderon. She has committed to remove the Puerto Rican Riot Police from the gate of Camp Garcia where they have been guarding for the last nine months. Plans are in the works for more acts of civil disobedience to try to prevent the Navy from bombing as scheduled in January and February. A call to action is open to those who are interested in non-violent civil disobedience as a means of protest.

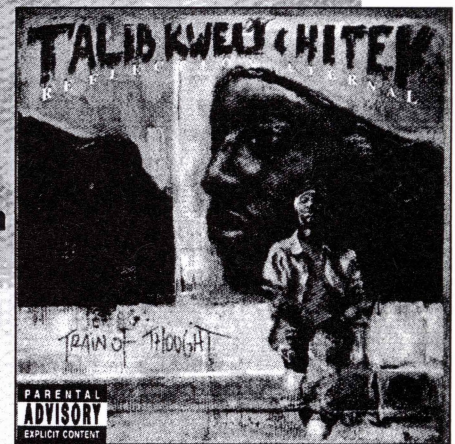
### Websites to follow up on Vieques or info about DU are:

[www.viequeslibre.com](http://www.viequeslibre.com) or email [bieke@coqui.net](mailto:bieke@coqui.net), [PRlibre@listbot.com](mailto:PRlibre@listbot.com)  
[www.google.com/search?q=TOUPADAKIS](http://www.google.com/search?q=TOUPADAKIS)

**Hi7-Hi7**  
**SPEAKS**

*The following verse is from the hip-hop song called "For Women" found in the Talib Kweli & HiTek (Reflection Eternal) album titled "Train of Thought."*

**I got off the 2 train in Brooklyn on my way to a session  
Said let me help this woman up the stairs before I get to steppin'  
We got in a conversation she said she a 107  
Just her presence was a blessing and her essence was a lesson  
She had her head wrapped  
And long dreads that peeked out the back  
Like antenna to help her get a sense of where she was at, imagine that  
Livin' a century, the strength of her memories  
Felt like an angel had been sent to me  
She lived from nigger to colored to negro to black  
To afro then african-american and right back to nigger  
You figure she'd be bitter in the twilight  
But she alright, cuz she done seen the circle of life yo  
Her skin was black like it was packed with melanin  
Back in the days of slaves she packin' like Harriet Tubman  
Her arms are long and she moves like song  
Feet with corns, hand with callouses  
But her heart is warm and her hair is wooly  
And it attract a lot of energy even negative  
She gotta dead that the head wrap is her remedy  
Her back is strong and she far from a vagabond  
This is the back of the masters' whip used to crack upon  
Strong enough to take all the pain, that's been  
Inflicted again and again and again and again and flipped  
It to the love for her children nothing else matters  
What do they call her? They call her aunt Sara.**



# Bombazo

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE



**DATE:** TUESDAY FEBRUARY, 27, 2001

**WHERE:** 003 (NEXT TO CAFETERIA)

**TIME:** 1:40-3:40