

# Que Ondee Sola

April, 1985, Vol. XVI, Num. 10

## UPRS Commemorates Puerto Rican Cultural Week

### Dedicated to the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

*"Culture is the consciousness of a society, and at the same time, it is the union of the many forms of expression of that consciousness."*

*Juan Antonio Corretjer*

The UPRS will be celebrating its annual Cultural Week, the first week of April. Many aspects of culture will be presented during this week, such as music, art, literature and contemporary social themes.

The Puerto Rican people developed from the union of three races: indigenous, African and Spanish. All three races contributed to the development of the Puerto Rican nation.

An outstanding aspect of the Puerto Rican culture is its resistance to foreign influences due to the colonial relationship between Puerto Rico and the US. Another interesting fact about the Puerto Rican culture is that it is impacted by the struggle for independence. In the words of **Juan Antonio Corretjer**, Puerto Rico's national poet and fighter for liberation and social justice:

*"In reality the artist in Puerto Rico, painters, craftsmen, sculpturer, novelist, writer, etc., has a sacred commitment towards the destiny of his*

*nation. If there is an artist in Latin América that must be totally committed, that is the Puerto Rican artist. The artist that does not struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, and the one that does not defend the homeland in his writings is neglecting his duty and consequently serving the US imperialist interests, who want to destroy the heart and soul of the Puerto Rican people."*

It is our duty as Puerto Ricans to keep nourishing the culture that gives us identity and pride. Our culture should be one of the instruments that liberates us from the claws of imperialist domination.

This year the UPRS dedicates its cultural week to the heroic Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, incarcerated in prisons throughout the US and in Mexico.

(See page 2)



# Five Years After...

## Freedom Fighters — Not Terrorists

On April 4, 1980 in Evanston, Illinois 11 Puerto Ricans were captured by the police of that district. They were: **Haydeé Beltrán Torres, Carlos A. Torres, Luis Rosa, Ida Luz Rodríguez, Alicia Rodríguez, Ricardo Jiménez, Adolfo Matos, Dylcia Pagán Morales, Elizam Escobar, Carmen Valentín** and **Alfredo Méndez** (who became a traitor in 1981). They were accused of being members of the **FALN (Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional)**.

This day became, and is, among the most important historical dates in Puerto Rican History. It became the day in which the abstract idea of the Puerto Rican clandestine struggle for freedom became a striking reality. Suddenly, the **FALN** had faces and names. The idea and image that the American media had created of the **FALN** members, crumbled to pieces. The people that were captured were known and respected in the Puerto Rican community for their unconditional struggle to better the community. **Carmen Valentín**, a counselor at Tuley High School and Roberto Clemente High School, risked her life and job so that students could receive better education. **Haydeé Beltrán Torres, Carlos A. Torres** and **Ida Luz Rodríguez** devoted themselves to fighting for the right of Latino students to study at Circle Campus; furthermore, they created programs and student organizations (such as **LARES** and **UPRS**) which have been instrumental in assuring all Latino students the right to decent education on different campuses. These are just some examples of the invaluable contributions that each and every one of them have made to our community.

They all took the rightful position of Prisoner of

War. Puerto Rico has been a colonial possession of the U.S. for 86 years. As a colony it has the right to fight for its liberation by any means necessary. It was taken over by military force and has been the victim of colonial violence since 1898; therefore, it has the right to use force against its oppressor nation. The **FALN** is one of the five organizations that believes that armed struggle is the only alternative to free our nation from U.S. domination. Because of the colonial relationship that exists, the **FALN** fights for freedom in the mainland.

Today these 10 Puerto Ricans still hold strongly and fearlessly the position of Prisoners of War. They all have been submitted to the worst prison conditions imaginable, from total isolation, to denial of proper medical attention causing severe physical pain and damage, to consistent and unnecessary travel to different prisons under the pretext of "security measures."

Since the arrest of the 11, five other well known community figures have been captured, and have taken the position of Prisoners of War. They are **Oscar López-Rivera** (1981), **Guillermo Morales** (1983), **Alejandrina Torres** (1983), **Alberto Rodríguez** (1983) and **Edwin Cortés** (1983). They have also been submitted to the same inhuman conditions as the others.

During the month of April we will commemorate their capture, and we dedicate this issue of **QOS** to them expressing our deepest sentiment of respect, admiration, and love for what they represent.

# Que Ondee Sola

## Workshop

**Que Ondee Sola (QOS)**, will be offering a Spanish Writing Workshop on Saturday, April 13, 1985. **QOS** encourages all interested students to participate. Other workshops will be offered in the near future. For more information call ext. 514. **QOS** meets on Tuesdays at 12:30 in the **QOS** office, located across from the Game Room.

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# Editorial

A few days after representatives of the **Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS)** and **Que Ondee Sola (QOS)** unsuccessfully attempted to meet with Ignacio Méndez, Diane Lane, reporter from the **Print**, requested an interview with him. Naturally, Mr. Méndez, who is afraid to personally reveal himself as a puppet of the UNI Administration, refused the request of an interview. What are you afraid of Mr. Méndez? Have you not been used enough by the UNI Administration? Are you afraid to admit to the destruction of the Puerto Rican History Line, as well as to the arrest of three students who were registered for your class? Well, your worries are not over yet, Mr. Méndez, they are just beginning.

This false arrest came about because Mr. Méndez could not deal any longer with the four-year old boycott, which was launched against him by the latino students in 1981.

On Monday, March 4, Dr. Steinberg sent the following memo to Lisa Salgado, Antonia Rodríguez and Lourdes Lugo, the three students involved in the January 10th incident.

To: Lisa Salgado, Antonia Rodríguez, Lourdes Lugo  
 From: Salme H. Steinberg, Chair  
 Department of History  
 Date: 1 March 1985  
 Re: Your complaint about Prof. Méndez on January 10, 1985

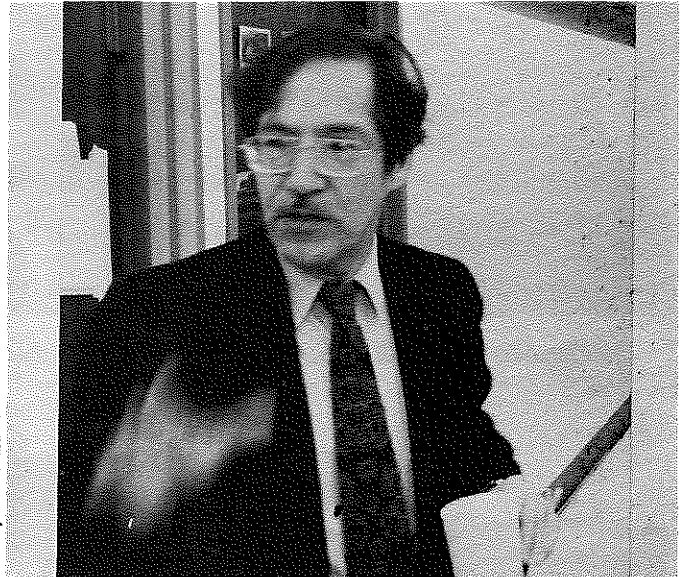
Thank you for meeting with me this week about your written complaint of February 21 regarding the January 10th incident.

I have read your complaint and find that the issues cannot be resolved at the department level. It should be resolved at the next level.

ar  
 cc: Barbara Cook  
 Student Affairs  
 Frank W. Dobbs, Dean  
 College of Arts and Sciences

This memo was in response to the memo sent to her and Dean Dobbs by the **UPRS** and **QOS**, following the unsuccessful meeting with Mr. Méndez.

On Tuesday, February 27, Dr. Steinberg requested to meet with the three students. During the meeting, Dr. Steinberg stated that she had received the



Print/Diana Lane

*A frustrated Ignacio Méndez reaches for the camera.*

memo from **UPRS** and **QOS**. Dr. Steinberg also stated that she would take the complaint against Mr. Méndez by the students a step further and follow the **Student Grievance Policy** by writing a memo to Dean Dobbs.

We appreciate that Dr. Steinberg is taking this a "step further", but what will Dean Dobbs do? What "steps" will he take? We strongly suggest that *immediate* disciplinary action be taken against Mr. Méndez.

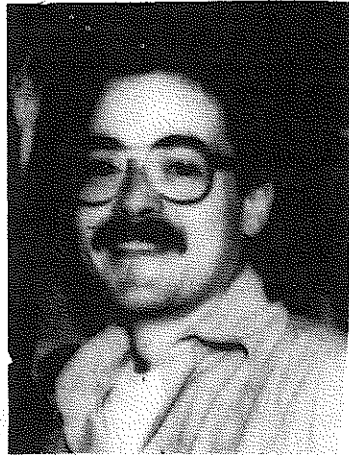
*Que Ondee Sola is published at Northeastern Illinois University. The opinions expressed in QOS do not necessarily reflect those of the administration. Responsibility for its contents lies solely with its staff. We appreciate and encourage any and all suggestions or contributions.*

*Editor . . . . . Antonia Rodríguez  
 Co-Editor . . . . . Lillian Mercado  
 Staff . . . . . Lisa Salgado  
 Luis Chacón, Myrta Reyes,  
 Pedro Silva, Luis Vásquez  
 Contributors . . . . . Lourdes Lugo*

# Five Years After... Freedom



Haydeé Beltrán Torres

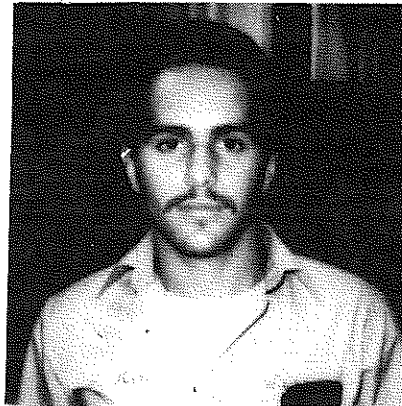


Carlos Alberto Torres

*We are the continuation of the struggle for the liberation of our people. We are the struggle to the heights. If we have caused terror it has been because we have exploited and oppress our homeland. Our people are superexploited of their own land. Our people are at war with the invaders who have invaded our homeland with their weapons.*



Elizam Escobar



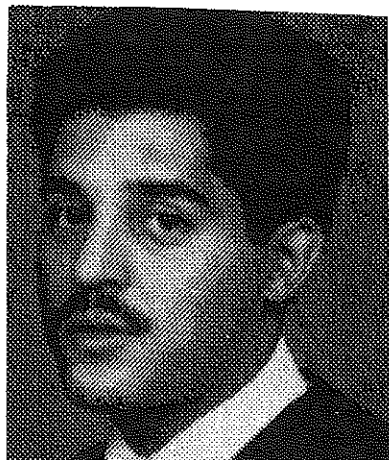
Luis Rosa

*Puerto Rican Prisoners of War: Elizam Escobar, Ricardo J. López-Rivera, Dylcia Pagán, Alicia Rodríguez, Luis Rosa, Carmen Valentín, Haydeé Morales, Alejandrina Torres, and Alberto Rodríguez.*

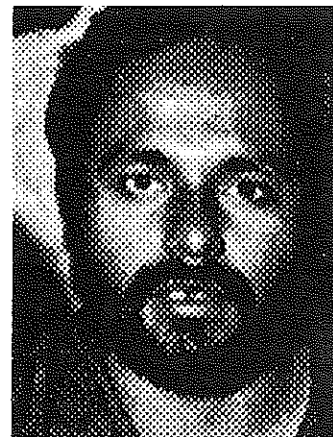
## **Long Live the Prisoners**



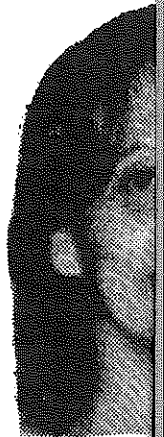
Alicia Rodríguez



Edwin Cortés



Alberto Rodríguez



Alejandrina Torres

# n Fighters – Not Terrorists

*of the armed revolutionary  
ur homeland. We are carrying  
e historical moment dictates.  
s been to the delinquents that  
nd and the workers and sectors  
untry... We, the Puerto Rican  
mperialist yankees since they  
ir terror in 1898.*

*énez, Adolfo Matos, Oscar  
Morales, Ida Luz Rodríguez,  
a, Carlos Alberto Torres,  
Beltrán Torres, Guillermo  
s, Edwin Cortés, Alberto*

## **Puerto Rican s of War!**



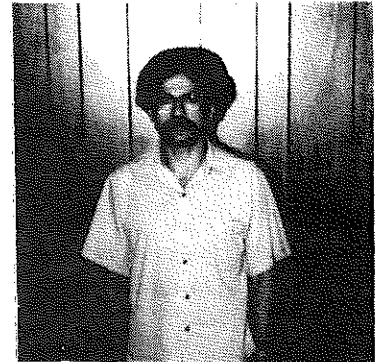
Dylcia Pagán Morales



Guillermo Morales



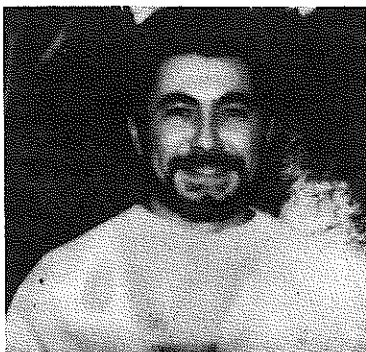
Ida Luz Rodríguez



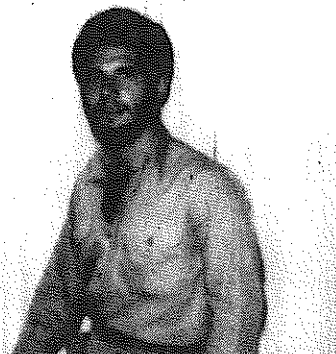
Oscar López-Rivera



Carlos Alberto Torres



Adolfo Matos



Ricardo Jiménez



Carmen Valentín

**Sección Poética**

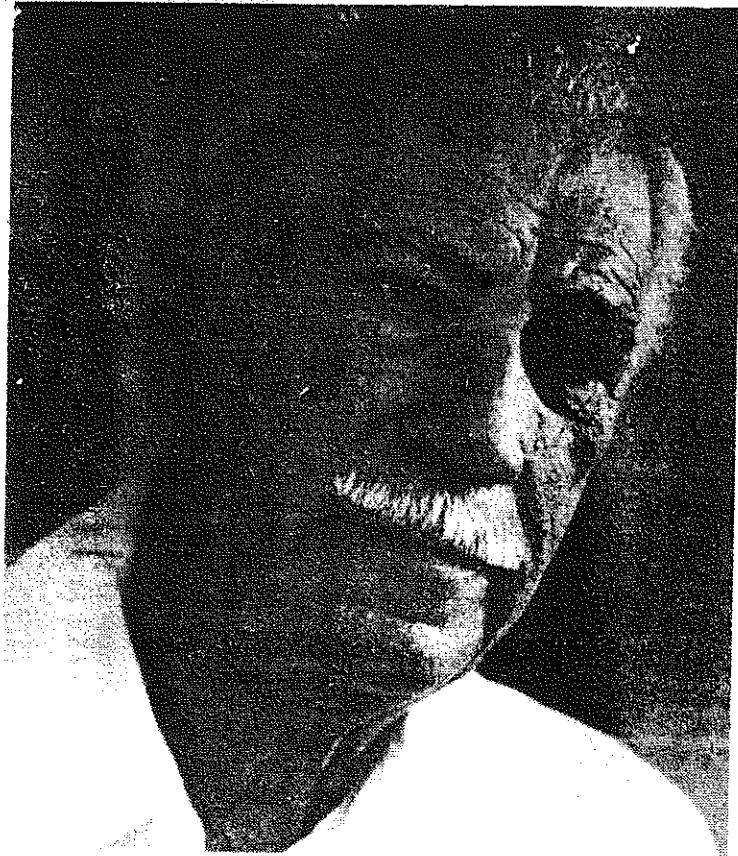
# Ahora Me Despido

*Me lo dejé todo  
en la lejanía.  
Hasta a la poesía  
le di con el codo,  
viviéndola a modo  
de trueno o centella.  
La mañana bella  
me encontró despierto  
y hasta hubiera muerto  
por seguir la estrella!*

*En el horizonte  
otra vez asoma.  
Me voy a la loma,  
me vuelvo a mi monte.*

*Pues soy el sinsonte  
que siempre yo he sido.  
Canto al estallido  
de un tiro en la palma.  
Lo llevo en el alma ...  
Ahora me despido.*

*La flor del destino  
la llevo en la oreja,  
y es flor que no deja  
torcer el camino.  
Yo soy peregrino  
por roca y maleza.  
De una sola pieza  
me hicieron de ausubo.  
La cuchilla subo  
con mucha tristeza.  
¿Qué será en el mundo  
lo que va a pasar?  
¿Qué me hace la mar  
si en ella me bundo?  
Siento en lo profundo,  
como ardiente cirio,  
ajeno martirio.  
La pluma quemaba  
y el libro se acaba.  
¡Dios te salve, lirio!*



*Juan Antonio Corretjer  
(1908-1985)*

# CULTURA - INSTRUMENTO DE LIBERACION

*“La cultura es la conciencia de una sociedad, y es a la vez el conjunto de las formas de expresión de esa conciencia”.*

Anualmente la UPRS celebra la Semana Cultural Puertorriqueña. Durante esta semana la UPRS trata de cubrir todos los aspectos de la cultura puertorriqueña su música, su arte, su literatura, su teatro, etc.

Como toda la demás América Latina, Puerto Rico es el resultado de la unión de tres grandes razas: la india, la negra y la europea. Contrario a lo que sucede en la demás América Latina, donde se puede señalar qué raza ha tenido más influencia en la cultura de ese país (como México, Santo Domingo, Haití, ect), en Puerto Rico las influencias son tan paralelas que no puede señalarse cual de ellas nos ha influenciado más.

Un aspecto resaltante en nuestra cultura ha sido su resistencia a las influencias americanas que han habido, debido a la relación colonial que existe. La intención por parte de los EEUU ha sido, desde 1898, la destrucción total de todo aquello que pueda ser puertorriqueño, incluyendo la nación puertorriqueña. El ataque más fuerte ha sido contra nuestro idioma. Este ataque tuvo su más alta concentración durante los primeros 40 años de la invasión, a través del sistema educativo, pero no dió resultado por el sincero esfuerzo de un pueblo por conservar su humanidad. En palabras de **Juan Antonio Corretjer**: *“La pasión por lo nuestro, el aprecio de nuestra cultura como conciencia; la estimación y el respeto por las formas de expresión de su conciencia — es decir, nuestra poesía, nuestra música, nuestro arte en general, ect. — son prueba de cada uno de nosotros en particular, prueba de nuestra cultura personal.”*

Otro aspecto de nuestra cultura es la íntima relación que existe entre la cultura y la lucha por la independencia de Puerto Rico. Nuevamente en palabras de un hombre que será siempre una autoridad en todo lo referente a Puerto Rico; **Juan Antonio Corretjer** dijo: *“En verdad, el artista en Puerto Rico, poeta, pintor, grabadista, escultor, escritor, novelista, lo que sea, tiene un compromiso sagrado que cumplir,*



*si hay en toda América Latina especialmente un artista más obligado al compromiso total, ése es el artista en Puerto Rico ... Claro está, el que no lucha por la independencia de Puerto Rico y el que no escribe defendiéndola está por ausencia de su deber sirviendo a los intereses imperialistas que quieren la destrucción del alma de Puerto Rico ...”*

En general la cultura es la íntima expresión de un pueblo. Solamente el pueblo puede definir esa cultura, la desarrolla y puede llevarla a su más alta perfección. Es nuestro deber como puertorriqueños continuar nutriendo esa cultura que nos hace, nos define y nos humaniza, pero hay que llevar esa cultura como nos han enseñado nuestros antepasados y nuestros contemporáneos. Nuestra cultura tiene que continuar siendo una que nos libere de las garras de la dominación imperialista. Tiene que ser machete de doble filo; por un lado es un llamado al arte, a la expresión humana, y por el otro lado un llamado a la lucha armada, a la liberación; y si nuestra cultura no se encamina y se defiende como eso, entonces no tenemos la autoridad moral para llamarnos puertorriqueños. La cultura tiene que ser para *“los capaces de AMOR y de INDIGNACION: sea, pues, acicate, picada, mordida.”* (Juan Antonio Corretjer).

*La libertad, Sancho  
es uno de los más preciosos dones  
que a los hombres dieron los cielos  
con ella no puede igualarse*

UPRS

*los tesoros que encierra la tierra  
ni el mar encubre;  
por la libertad, así como por la honra  
se puede y debe aventurarse la vida...*

Celebrates

# PUERTO RICAN CULTURAL WEEK

*Saludamos a todos los que respetan la libertad del hombre.  
Saludamos a todos los que respetan la libre determinación de las naciones.  
Saludamos también a todas las tiranías que pueden haber dentro y fuera de  
la Patria porque están contados sus días.*

Pedro Albizu Campos

**Monday: April 1, 1985**

9:00-10:00 A.M. - Movie "Puerto Rico," Rm:3003

10:00-2:00 P.M. - Art Exhibit, Village Square

12:00-1:00 P.M. - Open Ceremony/Cultural Presentation, Rm:CC217, Free Refreshments

**Tuesday: April 2, 1985**

10:00-2:00 P.M. - Art Exhibit Village Square

11:40-12:30P.M. - Movie "Villa Sin Miedo,"  
Rm: 3106

12:30 - 1:30 - Speaker on Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, Nitzá López, Representative of the Chicago Civic/Religious Committee,  
Rm: CC217

**Wednesday: April 3, 1985**

10:00-2:00P.M. - Art Exhibit, Bake Sale, Village Square

2:00-3:00 P.M. - Movie "Corretjer," Rm: 2056

**Thursday: April 4, 1985**

8:15-9:30 A.M. - Movie "La Operación," Rm:SC240

10:00-2:00 P.M. - Art Exhibit, Village Square

12:00 - 2:00 - Closing Ceremony/Speaker on "Plan 2020 La Destrucción de Puerto Rico" - Alexis Massol,  
Rm: Special Services Portable