



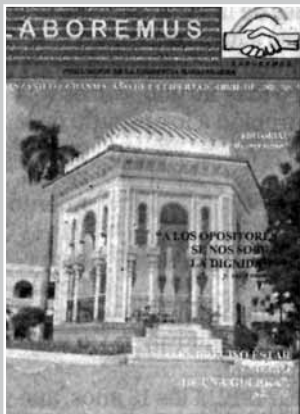
Five Disident Publications from Cuba

by William Navarrette

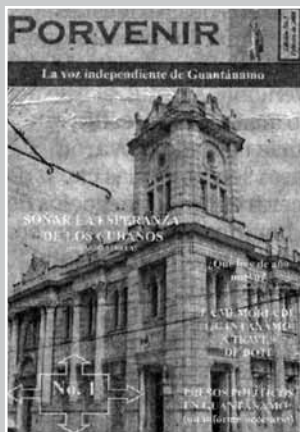


They are clandestine publications, conceived as well as written, by Cuban men and women still living in the island. No one acknowledges them or even talks about them within the state controlled media. What we are talking about are five digital magazines (although periodically one may actually be printed) originating in the western part of the country..

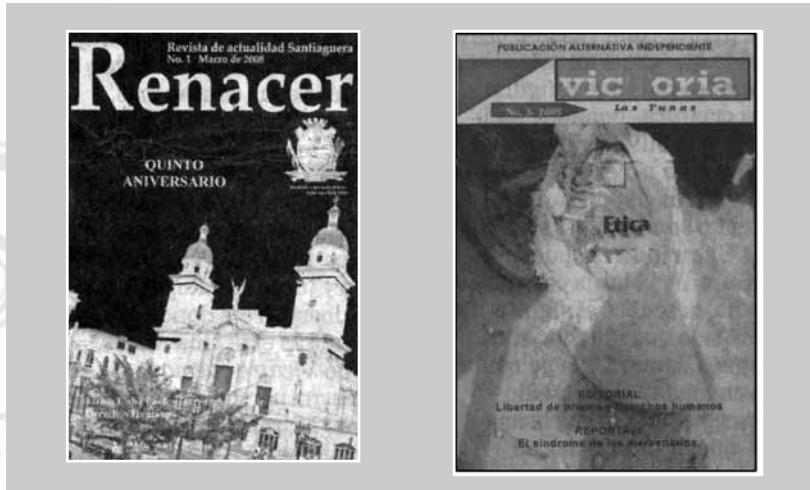
One is titled “The Free Cuban Man” and is authored by Eliécer Consuegra Rivas from the town of Antilla in Holguín Province. This magazine, is the oldest of the five, has aired over 20 issues and is the official organ of the dissident Western Democratic Alliance. In the may 2008 edition, the magazine published five articles that reviewed the history of the Republic from 1902 to 1959. Among the authors, we find the economist Oscar Espinosa Chepe as well as young newspapermen such as Alberto Méndez Castelló, Roger Rubio Lima and Gustavo Rubio Vásquez. The same issue also included poems by conscientious objector Randy Cabrera Mayor and a rather interesting interview with the poet, as well as political prisoner Jorge Olivera Castillo.



Another is “Porvenir” which edited by Yordi García Fournier and it originates in Guantanamo. This one offers a balanced review of the situation facing Cuban political prisoners in the country prisons. It also paid homage to Regino Boti, a Cuban born intellectual powerhouse and poet. “Porvenir” also published a number of articles on the subject of the Cuban day to day way of living authored by the likes Yanet Mosquera, Rolando Rodríguez Lobaina, Abel López Pérez and Reinaldo Laborde. From his jail cell, political prisoner Anderlay Guerra Blanco wrote an article titled” The Castro Brothers Reign of Terror”. Finally, Jorge Corrales Ceballo includes a photographic essay illustrating the palatial house of the Secretary of the Communist Party in Guantánamo, juxtaposed against the huts in which many Cubans live.



From Manzanillo, Yamila Saumell Naranjo publishes ‘Laboremus’. In issue 9, Ms



Naranjo reminds officials of the State Police (she bravely identifies them by name) that she will not tolerate seeing her homeland overwhelmed by persons who hate the concepts of liberty and human rights. She adds that she is not afraid to make her views known because she is a worthy heiress of her ancestors, men and women who fought against colonial Spain in the XIX century. “Laboremus” also published a poem by Miguel Angel Chang titled “A Monologue From a Prisoner Inside a Concentration Camp”

“Renacer”, is published by Tatiana López Blanco from Santiago de Cuba.. The magazine offers the reader a historical review, authored by Iliana Vicent Gomez, of the lifestyle of Santiago natives prior to 1959. Another article it offers is titled ‘Voices from Jail’ written by Claro Sánchez Altarriba, an actual political prisoner. Finally, Juan Carlos Hernández interviews Yorledis Duvallón, a well known dissident.

The last publication is “Victoria”, published by Maiki Martorell Mayans from the city of Las Tunas. In one of its editions, Asdrúbal Delgado authors an article titled

“Law and Order” denouncing the arbitrary make up of the Cuban Penal Code, In addition, well known newspaperman José de Zamora Duero includes an extraordinary essay with the ironic title of the “Mercenary Syndrome“.

It is worthwhile to note the youth of almost all who contribute to these publications. The fragile nature of their efforts is not proportional to the rather high symbolic value of their impact. From all of the articles published by these heroic Cubans, perhaps the one that illustrates best the degree of frustration felt by the populace is the one written by Héctor Forés Sánchez and titled “The Round Table. Is there also a Square One?” In it, Forés Sánchez wanders out loud how much longer do Cubans need to consume the propaganda spewed by Cuban television instead of the basic food staples so sorely needed, specially so after the devastating last two hurricanes. He also demands to know how much longer do clandestine publications need to exist while only being able to raise their views in a sort of “sotto voce” simply because they refuse to adhere to the state issued norms for newspapers. ■

