



EL OBSERVADOR

A Closely Watched Fidel Castro Turns 75

MIAMI—Fidel Castro, a thorn in the side of 10 American presidents, marks his 75th birthday today. But celebrants are few in Miami's Cuban community, where many have finally begun to envision Castro's end.

This area is home to more than half the USA's 1.2 million Cuban-Americans. That makes it a place where everyone watches Castro's health closely. It's said that when the Cuban leader sneezes, Miami catches a cold.

Castro's near-collapse in June, during one of his famous lengthy speeches, set off a frenzy among many who have waited 42 years for his fall. The onstage stumble in Cuba merited most of *The Miami Herald's* front page and two inside pages, despite Castro's reappearance that evening to finish speaking and assure Cubans he had re-

covered from the sweltering heat. Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage, visiting New York at the time, joked about the short-lived swoon. It was so brief, he said, that Castro's enemies in Miami "didn't even have time to uncork their bottles."

The once-robust Castro is now gray. Age spots dot his face. His trademark beard, though sparser, remains, along with his green military fatigues. Cubans on the island refer to their leader as "el barbudo," the bearded one. They silently evoke his name by making a motion as if stroking a beard.

A transition from a Castro-led Cuba carries political and economic implications for both Cuba and the USA. But Cuba scholars say Castro's death or retirement won't mean overnight change in the country's political system. Possible successors are Communists

who support a revolution that many in Cuba speak of as if it happened

many here feel for him has driven U.S. policy. Without him as a tar-

Fulgencio Batista. His government confiscated more than \$1 billion in American-owned property, executed or imprisoned thousands of enemies and put Communist doctrine in the schools. Castro's admirers note the country has made vast improvements in health care and educational opportunities, especially for the poor.

The United States cut diplomatic relations in 1961 and instituted a trade embargo in 1962. Restrictions on business with and travel to Cuba still stand.

In Miami, a flood of refugees from Castro's regime has remade the city in a Cuban mold. Spanish dominates. Cuban heroes are honored on street signs. Restaurants and nightclubs bear the same names as famed spots in Cuba. Cuba's future is discussed endlessly at coffee counters along Little Havana's Calle Ocho, or Eighth Street. Bankers in suits and ties join blue-collar workers to trade opinions about the island and sip *cortaditos*, sweetened espresso with a swirl of milk.

Miami-Dade County's Cuban-Americans wield tremendous political and economic clout. Last year's Census found that 650,601 people, 29% of the county, claim Cuban heritage. Yet the community is far from monolithic.

Many younger Cuban-Americans don't have the same hatred for Castro or longing for a stolen homeland that their parents or grandparents do. The desire by those with painful memories of fleeing Cuba to return after Castro is gone is now

complicated by roots set in Miami's sandy soil.

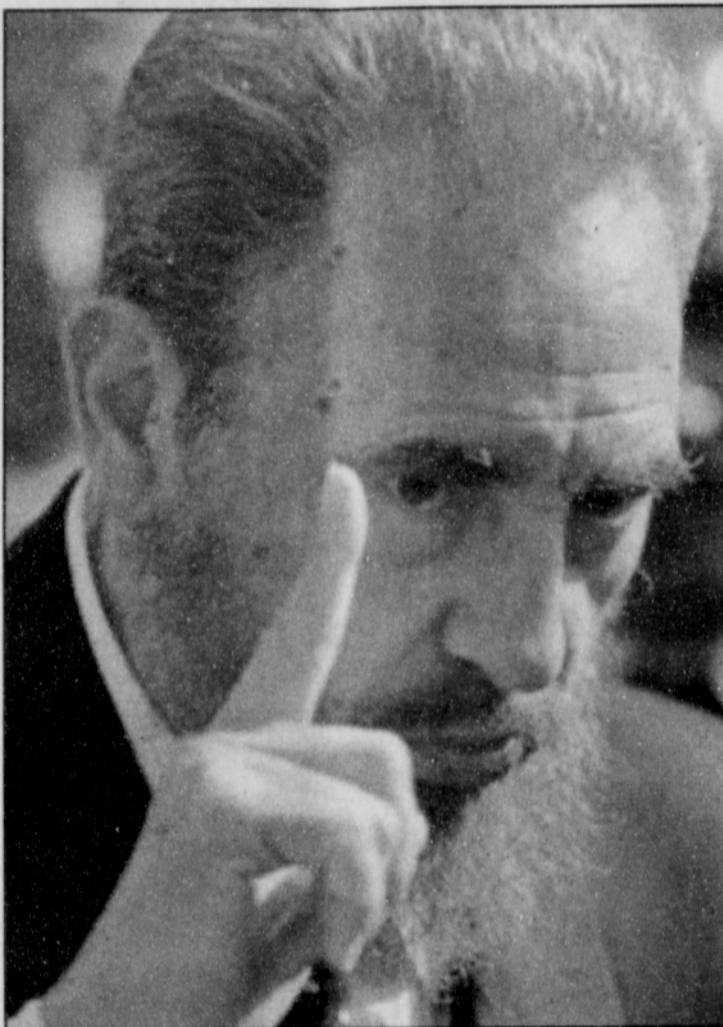
A stunning rift was seen in the past month in the Cuban American National Foundation, a group that has long been an influential voice in U.S.-Cuba policy.

In a very public falling-out, nearly two dozen of 170 board members quit in protest over what some see as a softer approach toward Cuba by the group's leader, Jorge Mas Santos. Mas Santos, 38, is the American-born son of the group's legendary hard-line founder, the late Jorge Mas Canosa.

Analysts have interpreted the split as everything from simple generational differences to a signal that the once-hard-line foundation will encourage more moderate views. Foundation officials downplay the impact of the rift on the group's continuing focus: freedom for Cuba post-Castro.

The foundation fight comes a year after the furor over Elian Gonzalez, the Cuban child who survived a boat capsizing in which his mother and other refugees died. Elian was ultimately returned to Cuba by the U.S. government over the protests of anti-Castro activists. Many see both issues as blows to Cuban-American political power.

Much to the dismay of many here, Castro could well have a long life: His father was 82 when he died, and his mother lived well into her 80s. Like most details about Castro's personal life, his late mother's actual age is unknown. Yet when Castro dies, Miami is sure to celebrate.



Fidel Castro, the Communist leader of Cuba since 1959.

yesterday.

However, pressure in the USA to end a nearly 40-year trade embargo likely will increase once Castro is gone. The hatred that

get, some experts say, the relationship between the two nations could soften. Castro has held near-absolute power in Cuba since Jan. 1, 1959, when the revolution he led overthrew President

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Redistricting and Latinos in Oregon

Some cities in Oregon like Salem, Woodburn, Cornelius and Hillsboro are experiencing rapid growth and concentration of Latino residents and it's important that the voice of Latinos is heard and valued in important decisions that affect the state of Oregon.

The Latino community

is the largest minority group in the state of Oregon comprising 8% of the state's population. The Latino population grew 144% over the last 10 years and rapid growth is expected to continue.

Redistricting lines are evaluated and redrafted every 10 years and we are of the position that the 1990 redistricting lines would dilute Latino voting strength in Marion County because the lines would

divide the Latino communities into separate districts. This would be in violation of Section 2 of the US voting rights.

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury understands this, and has developed House District 33 which establishes a district encompassing a large portion of the Latino population in Marion County and thus assuring a sound voting voice from that community.

Classifieds

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
COUNTY OF GUILFORD DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO: 01 SP _____

In Re:
DEREJE KION PARKER-BRUMFIELD,)
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF
PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

To: Roland Romango Brumfield, Respondent

Take notice that a pleading seeking a Guardianship Action has been filed under the heading In Re: Dereje Kion Parker-Brumfield in Guilford County District Court.

The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Lee S. Parker, maternal grandmother, is seeking appointment as guardian of the minor child, Dereje Kion Parker-Brumfield.

You are required to make response to this action no later than the 10 day of September, which is 40 days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a response by the above date, the prospective guardian will apply to the Court for appointment as guardian.

THIS the 1, day of August, 2001

Stan H. Dick
Attorney for Plaintiff
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(336) 886-5444
State Bar No: 18150

PUBLICATION DATES:
August 1, August 8, and August 15