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Recommended Citation

WKU Latin American Studies, "UA68/2/1 Intercambio Internacional, Vol. VIII, No. 1" (1983). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 3656.
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Intercambio Internacional

Vol. VIII, No. 1, June 1983

Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

EDITORIAL

Mary Ann McCelvey
Acting Director
Center for Latin American Studies

Is there life after grant funding ends? This is a question which arises theoretically the day an institution receives notification of an award and becomes a burning issue on the day it ends.

From 1976-1981, Western received funding under the NDEA Title VI Language and Area Studies program to help support its Latin American Studies program. During that period the University's Latin American library holdings doubled, film and media resources increased significantly, and the Center sponsored seminars, lectures, conferences, and summer workshops on Latin America for teachers. A Latin American Resource Room was opened which made a broad variety of materials on Latin America available to students, faculty, and public school teachers. Portuguese was added to the University's language offerings, and summer research stipends were awarded to faculty for curriculum development. The Center sponsored fine arts performances by renowned artists, developed a series of lectures on Latin America in cooperation with area libraries, and provided an extensive outreach program to the public schools, furnishing a speaker service, curriculum consultants, and materials for loan. The funding, in short, enabled the University to provide an exemplary program on Latin America for the region and the state. Grant funding ended at a time when the University faced severe cutbacks in revenue from the state. Programs were cut across the University, and the international area was no exception. The Center's future appeared uncertain.

The prognosis for a program's viability once outside funding ceases depends upon several factors: Are the faculty, academic programs, and support services still in place that enabled the program to receive funding in the first place? Will the university commit institutional funds to the program? Is there an ongoing need for the program? In Western's case, the answer to all three questions was "Yes." The academic program in Latin American Studies showed steady or increasing enrollments. Faculty in the Latin American area were enthusiastic and willing to volunteer time for the various activities of the Center. Institutional support was available at a reduced level. Under the umbrella of the Office of International Programs, the Center has been able to share personnel, office space, and supplies. This support has meant that many of the activities which began with grant funding have continued: lectures, conferences, and seminars; outreach to the public schools; the library lecture series; and operation of the Latin American Resource Room. The University and local communities have become increasingly aware of the need for knowledge about Latin America. Through its activities on campus, in the community, and in the public schools, the Center has continued

to fill this need.

Some activities have of necessity been cut. Purchases of library books and media materials have been curtailed. Funds for faculty participation in regional and national meetings must now come from departmental sources, or in some cases, from the individual's own pocket. Ingenuity must be exercised to keep costs to a minimum for seminars, conferences, and outreach programs. The Center is dependent on volunteers from the Latin American student body, faculty, and other interested persons to carry out many of its programs.

Happily, however, for Western's Center for Latin American Studies, there has been life after the grant. The same enthusiasm and desire to provide a quality program that earned the award in the first place still exist, and that commitment is the spark which keeps the program going. Meanwhile, faculty and staff involved in the work of the Center continue to seek additional funding from outside the University.

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Intercambio Internacional is a publication of the Latin American Studies Program of Western Kentucky University with editorial offices in the Center for Latin American Studies.

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Contributions are welcomed from anyone interested in Latin American and hemispheric cooperation.

Si usted quiere contribuir un artículo o comentar sobre cualquier tema en esta revista, escriba por favor al Center for Latin American Studies, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA

At the invitation of Corporacion Internacional para el Desarrollo Educativo (CIDE), President Donald Zacharias, Vice President for Academic Affairs James Davis, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs John Petersen, and Professor of Geography Edmund Hegen traveled to Bogota, Colombia, May 9-18. Discussions were held regarding cooperative programs between the two institutions.

SISTER CITIES: A PROGRAM ON THE MOVE

*Joan Martin
Bowling Green, Kentucky*

Dressed in full native costume, the chief of the Colorados Indians dedicated a sign which stands at a prominent intersection in Bowling Green. The three-sided structure was erected in the summer of 1982. On two sides it reads:

Santo Domingo de los Colorados
Ecuador
← 2900 miles

and on the third side, it explains:

Bowling Green's
Sister City

Surrounding the sign is a bed of annuals which include gazanias, a popular flower in Ecuadorian gardens.

The Colorados Indians live near Santo Domingo de los Colorados, and in November, 1982, their chief, along with Holger Velastegui and another resident of the Sister City, were in Bowling Green to promote international goodwill, exchange ideas, and set the stage for future youth exchange.

In January, 1983, two "host mothers" from Bowling Green were invited to visit the Sister City in Ecuador. Joan Martin and Nancy Lowry spent several weeks touring the Andes Mountains, Amazon jungle, and the Pacific coastal region of Ecuador. During this visit, the Sister Cities Committee of Santo Domingo de los Colorado was formally organized and plans for future exchange were made.

Five young people from the Sister City in Ecuador arrived in Bowling Green in March, 1983. They are Roberto Noguera, 22; Sandra Noguera, 18; Manuel Encalada, 22; Katia Sampedro, 19; and Rosanna Jervis, 17. The host families for these visitors are the James Martin family, the Joe Byrne family and the Mark Lowry family. The visit has been for two months.

Currently, arrangements are being made for a "family exchange of children." Sandra Noguera will remain with the Martin family in Bowling Green for a year, while Kathy Martin will be a part of the Noguera family in Ecuador for one year. While in Ecuador, Kathy will study Spanish and art. Sandra will continue her study of English here and travel to other parts of the United States.

These people-to-people exchanges have resulted in improved second language skills, a better understanding of another culture, an establishment of strong relationships, and a greater realization that our global community is made up of people who have much in common.

CENTER SPONSORS EVENING OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC

On November 17, 1982, in the Recital Hall at Western, pianist Sylvia Kersenbaum presented a program of music by Argentine composers, and guitarists Jeffrey Kerwood, Sharon Law, and Chris Luke performed a selection of works by other Latin American composers. Dr. Raul Padilla of Western's Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies gave background notes on the composers. The event was sponsored by Western's Center for Latin American Studies.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SPRING 1983

The following events were sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies during the Spring 1983 semester:

- February 9 "The United States and Central America: The Current Crisis in Historical Perspective" — lecture by Dr. Richard Salisbury, Department of History
- February 23 Latin American Buffet
- February 24 Spring Conference — "Perspectives on Rural Latin America"
- March 28 "The Role of Women in Latin America" — lecture by Dr. Marilyn White, Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies
- April 4 "Ecuador" — lecture by Mr. Julio Garcia, WKU International Student Organization

LATIN AMERICAN COOKBOOK AVAILABLE

Copies are still available of the Latin American cookbook, *From Guacamole to Rocambole*, published by the Center for Latin American Studies at Western Kentucky University. The book is in English and contains recipes from many Latin American countries. To order a copy, send \$4.50 (checks payable to College Heights Foundation) plus \$.65 for postage to: Center for Latin American Studies, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101. All proceeds go to the Latin American Student Scholarship Fund at Western.

REPORT ON FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCE IN COSTA RICA (MARCH-DECEMBER 1982)

*Richard V. Salisbury
Professor of History
Western Kentucky University*

As a Senior Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Costa Rica my primary responsibilities included classroom teaching, committee assignments, and advisement. Secondary responsibilities involved research activity and formal public lectures both within and without the university community.

During the first semester (March-July of 1982) I taught a graduate (M.A.) level seminar on early 20th century Central American international relations. During the second semester (July-November of 1982) my course load included a graduate seminar on United States-Caribbean area relations, a survey course in American history, and a course in contemporary history. The seminar and the U.S. history survey were my complete responsibility, whereas I served as

coordinator and taught approximately one third of the classes in the contemporary history course. All instruction was in the Spanish language. My major committee assignment involved the recently established M.A. program. The graduate committee met on a regular basis and served as a supervisory, evaluation, and developmental body for the University of Costa Rica's M.A. program in history. As a specialist in Central American international relations, I was able to advise a significant number of students, both undergraduate and graduate, on various aspects of research methodology. Professors from both the University of Costa Rica and the National University in Heredia referred their students to me for such advisement. I found the academic milieu at the University of Costa Rica to be a very positive one. My professional colleagues (who, incidentally represented virtually every section of the political spectrum) were friendly and professionally supportive. The students at both the M.A. and undergraduate levels were highly competent.

During the academic year I was able to conduct research on selected topics at the National Archives and the National Library. Some of my research is scheduled to appear in published form in Costa Rica in the near future. I was also able to avail myself of numerous opportunities to share my research and teaching interests with a variety of audiences. I made formal presentations at the University of Costa Rica, the National University, the regional University Center at San Ramon, the National Library, and the Costa Rican-North American Cultural Center, in addition to presentations in both Panama and Honduras. I also made four appearances on the University of Costa Rica radio station and one appearance (a one-half hour interview) on Costa Rican national television.

I had no problems of any kind at the University of Costa Rica and consider the institution to be an ideal one for the Fulbright Program.

SPRING CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA

The Twelfth Annual Spring Conference on Latin America, held February 23 and 24 on Western's campus, had as its theme "Perspectives on Rural Latin America." On February 23, a Latin American buffet was held, highlighted by delicious food from five countries and a program of music by Latin American students. On February 24, Elizabeth Adelski of the University of Kentucky spoke on "The Human Ecology of Agricultural Production in Southern Honduras." A panel discussion by Professors James McGuire (moderator), Reza Ahsan, and Kenneth Cann, all Western faculty members, followed the presentation by Ms. Adelski.

An article by Ms. Adelski is included in this issue of *Intercambio*.

THE HUMAN ECOLOGY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN HONDURAS

*Elizabeth Adelski
Department of Anthropology
University of Kentucky*

The International Sorghum and Millet Project

The research presented in this paper was collected as part of an on-going research project conducted under the auspices of the International Sorghum and Millet Project known as INTSORMIL. INTSORMIL is a Coordinated Research Support Program created by the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development and the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was developed following the New Directions Mandate of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1978 that called for development programs designed to meet basic human needs and achieve self-sustained growth

with equity. One part of this Mandate was the Title XII Amendment "Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger," calling for the collaboration of U.S.A.I.D. and U.S. Land Grant Universities, such as the University of Kentucky, to increase the production and distribution of food and promote research in agriculture and rural development in third world countries. The Coordinated Research Support Programs such as INTSORMIL were designed to collaborate with third world countries in long-term, multi-disciplinary research efforts primarily organized around commodities. The INTSORMIL consortium consists of eight U.S. Land Grant Universities who are collaborating with scientists and in-country programs of host countries on sorghum and millet production. It is funded by U.S.A.I.D., participating Land Grant universities, host country research agencies and private donors.

The overall goal of INTSORMIL is to increase the world wide production of two basic cereal grains, sorghum and millet. The University of Kentucky's contribution to the INTSORMIL project is to determine the socio-cultural constraints and incentives on the production, distribution and consumption of sorghum and millet in Honduras and other underdeveloped countries. In Honduras, the overall objective of the research is to investigate the present role of sorghum as an agricultural product for both human and non-human consumption. Two teams of anthropologists have spent the past two summers in southern Honduras to study the role of sorghum in the existing farming and nutritional systems. We have described local farming systems in the south (DeWalt and DeWalt, 1982) and are presently completing a regional study. The growing cattle industry has been documented (DeWalt, 1982), further research on the highland subsistence farming system based on corn and sorghum is in progress and a study of commercial cotton production in the lowlands is beginning (Adelski, 1982).

In order to investigate how the agricultural system functions within its ecological and social systems, a methodology known as Farming Systems Research was used. This views the farm household as a system and focuses on its interactions with its physical, biological and socio-economic environments. Using this perspective, farmers' decisions can be understood in terms of the ecological and social constraints and incentives that exist in a given setting. This approach is necessary for agricultural development programs, such as INTSORMIL, that need to understand the status of small farmers in order to provide aid that is socially and ecologically appropriate. In addition, a general ethnographic investigation into agricultural methods, local agricultural knowledge, the natural and economic resources that are available, dietary patterns and food beliefs was conducted. This kind of research can identify the principal existing constraints on increased production of grain and thus can identify priorities and directions for agricultural research. Also, it can identify the perceived needs of the farmers regarding which aspects of new technology might be most beneficial for them. Third, it shows how new varieties of cultigens and technology can most easily be introduced into communities. And fourth, it points out the implications that changing production, distribution and consumption patterns might have on communities and regions.

Honduras: the Social and Ecological Setting

Honduras lies in the middle of the five small republics that constitute Central America. It has had a turbulent political history since its independence from Spain in 1821, marked by strong foreign influence and intervention, sporadic wars with neighboring countries and a tradition of military involvement in its government. Honduras is the second poorest country in the Western hemisphere and has the smallest industrial sector and lowest per capita income

(\$480) in Central America (World Bank, 1980). Because of its rugged topography, 85% of the land is suitable only for forestry or grazing and presently only about 5% is cultivated (Durham, 1979). Despite this small proportion of arable land, the economy of Honduras is predominantly agricultural: 69% of the population and 75% of the exports are accounted for by this sector (AID, 1978). Commercial farms produce bananas, coffee, beef, cotton and forest products for export, leaving the production of basic food crops — corn, sorghum, beans, rice — to the small farmers. As the result of a fast-growing population and steadily declining grain yields, Honduras has been a net importer of these basic grains since 1976 (DeWalt, 1982) and is faced with having a shortfall of approximately 41% of its grains by 1990 (IFPRI, 1977). The use of limited arable land for commercial agriculture has contributed to the deficits in cereal grains and widespread nutritional deficiencies in Honduras, which has been designated a "food priority country" by the U.N. (Wortman, 1976). Thus, one of Honduras' most pressing problems is to increase the production of basic grains for domestic consumption.

Southern Honduras is a distinct social and ecological region that reflects these national problems. It is poor and has a largely agrarian economy; 71% of the population is employed in agriculture. However, as is the general case in Honduras, this agrarian economy is controlled by a disproportionately small segment of the population. Nine percent of the people in the south own 72% of the landholdings of 20+ hectares (ICAITI, 1977) and produce commercial crops: cattle, cotton and sugarcane. This has left the landless peasants to work as wage laborers on the plantations or pushed them into the hills as marginal subsistence farmers.

Ecologically, the south is a diverse region and its distinct features are significant determinants of agrarian conditions. Along the southern coastline of the Pacific Ocean there are extensive plains of fertile soil, bordered by mangrove swamps and marsh grass that form a network of inland waterways. These plains give way to steep foothills that become the range of extremely steep, volcanic mountains that characterize most of the region. Rainfall is an important factor in determining farming practices in the south: during the "winter" months of May through November as much as 125 inches of rain may fall. December through April is the hot, dry summer when temperatures reach 104°F and nothing can be cultivated. These rainfall and temperature patterns limit the crops that can be grown in the south; for example, sorghum tolerates the humidity along the southern coast and the periods of drought that occur during the rainy season better than corn. Beans cannot be grown in the high temperatures of the plains or the foothills, while cotton thrives in the heat and the slightly saline coastal soils. Plows or tractors can be used on the coastal lowlands but the steep, rocky terrain of the highlands permits only slash and burn agriculture using a dibble stick.

These two ecological zones in the south — coastal plains and highlands — support two very different agricultural systems. In the highlands, small farmers produce corn and sorghum for their own subsistence although commercial beef production is increasing. On the coastal plains, cotton and cattle production for export dominate the agricultural system. At the local level these two agricultural systems are quite different, but, as I will point out, the social factors that influence them are quite similar in both cases.

Highland Agriculture in Southern Honduras

In the highland area of Pespire, peasant livelihood is based on the subsistence cultivation of corn and sorghum and a growing cattle industry. Farmers practice slash and burn cultivation on the steep volcanic slopes, intercropping corn and sorghum. In this system of shifting cultivation it has been traditional to cultivate land for two years and then leave it fallow for at least five or six years. However, because

cropland is steadily being converted into pasture for cattle, there is less arable land available and the farmers are forced to shorten the fallowing cycle. This results in declining grain yields, as the combination of concentrated, seasonal rains and steep slopes make the application of fertilizers useless.

According to the peasants, their greatest problem is that arable land is disappearing. Slightly less than half of the men we interviewed owned their own land; the rest rented or borrowed small plots of 2-4 acres each year. Their statements are supported by data on agricultural land use in the south during the period 1952-74: during those years, the acreage occupied by fallow land decreased by 8%, annual cropland increased by 2% and pasture land increased by 20% (Boyer, n.d.). In Pespire in 1974, 5% of the land area was fallow, 14% was occupied by annual crops and 57% was in pasture (Dirección General de Estadística y Censos, 1978). Clearly, the agricultural trend in Pespire is moving toward the production of beef for export in place of basic grains for domestic consumption. The question is, why is pasture taking over land that could be used to produce needed food crops?

The process of agrarian change occurring in Pespire is the result of social factors that operate at several levels. Locally, a small number of people control a large amount of land, and they prefer to raise cattle because it is more profitable than renting land or growing grain. The market prices for corn and sorghum are low, labor costs are high, and harvests are unpredictable because of weather and the insects. In contrast, cattle production involves very little labor costs and U.S. demand ensures a steady market for beef. Landowners also profit from the abundance of cheap labor in converting cropland to pasture. For the present, land that is available to rent is not expensive. This is because the peasants clear it of several years' growth, give half of the firewood to the owner, fence it and leave the stubble for his livestock. Another part of their rental agreement is to sow pasture grass between their rows of corn and sorghum, leaving a pasture after the harvest. The peasants are participating in their own worst problem, but because there is no industrial sector in the south to provide wage labor they have little choice. Local job opportunities such as carpentry, construction or fencing are limited, so that migration to the capital or the commercial plantations on the north coast for wage labor is the only alternative. Most of the men in Pespire had worked on the north coast for a few years to earn money, but they preferred to return to their own villages as independent farmers for as long as possible.

The process of converting cropland to pasture in Pespire is also explained by the local system's links with national and international systems. In the late 1950's, paved roads and a southern port made possible access to outside markets in North and South America. Also, the limited agrarian reforms in the early 1970's led some landowners to replace forest with pasture because they felt that land in use was less likely to be expropriated. In combination with the growing demand for beef from the U.S.A., these factors reinforced Honduras' export-oriented economy and the dependence on foreign trade. American capital has helped build two meat-packing plants in the south to supply cheap beef for American consumers and American demand has encouraged the growth of the cattle industry. The net result of the American market is that exports of Honduran beef have increased 505% in the past twenty years (U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Circular, 1981).

The agricultural system in Pespire is clearly influenced by its environmental and social setting. The conditions of the natural environment in the south — heat, drought, mediocre soil — make pasture grass a well adapted cultigen. The social environment, with its disproportionate ownership of land in an agrarian economy, places control of the local agricultural system in the hands of the landowners at the expense of the landless peasants. At the national level, the

dependency on foreign markets for agricultural exports increases the country's dependency on agricultural imports while the profits from export agriculture reinforce the inequalities of the Honduran social structure. In effect, the agricultural system in Pespire is supplying cheap beef for affluent Americans and purchasing expensive grain for poor peasants.

Lowland Agriculture in Southern Honduras

Thirty miles south of Pespire both the ecological setting and the agricultural system are quite different. My research was done in an area called La Montaña, on the coastal plain, that consists of two broad ecological zones. To the northeast is clayey soil covered with scrub vegetation, suitable only for grazing cattle. South of La Montaña the plains are of slightly saline but fertile and well-drained soil. There are extensive mangrove swamps lining the coastal plains that provide fuel for cooking, and the Pacific Ocean provides fish and shellfish for local consumption and export.

The agricultural system in La Montaña is easily summarized by looking at the land use patterns: 51% of the land consists of natural pasture (uncultivated), 17% is sown in pasture grass, 15% is used for cotton, 6% is in corn and 2% in sorghum (Instituto Nacional Agrario, 1979). The major components in this system are therefore cattle and cotton. Because of its value for cultivating commercial crops the land is prohibitively expensive to rent, leaving the landless peasants to work as seasonal wage laborers on the cotton plantations.

The development of cotton production in southern Honduras is a classic example of the mutual influences of ecological and social factors that determine regional agrarian processes. Before the advent of chemicals to eradicate malaria-carrying mosquitos, the Pacific coast of Central America was largely an underused area of small subsistence farms and cattle operations (Adams, 1970), the use of DDT and other chemicals controlled the area's health hazards; at the same time, as a result of the Korean War, a decrease in American cotton production increased cotton prices on the world market (Adams, 1970).

Seeking to increase agricultural diversification and international trade, the Honduran government loaned money to El Salvadorans who rented large tracts of land in the south and introduced cotton technology. After the Soccer War in 1969 the production of cotton was taken over by Hondurans. During the past twenty years, the land area occupied by cotton has fluctuated greatly as acreage followed world market cotton prices in their boom and bust cycles. The trend during the past five years or so is a decreasing area planted in cotton. The large cotton producers I interviewed in 1982 said that they had not made a profit on the crop in the past three years, but they were borrowing money and sowing cotton again this year.

Why do these landowners continue to cultivate cotton for export? Once again, their decisions can be understood in terms of the local ecological and social systems. Cotton produces well in the environmental conditions of the coastal plains — well-drained soil, the temperature range and the luminosity pattern (ICAITI, 1977). It is cultivated on agricultural land that is flat and fertile, unlike most of mountainous Honduras. This has several agricultural advantages: flat land retains topsoil and fertilizer and does not need a fallowing cycle to remain relatively fertile. Cotton growers told me that their land had been used to grow cotton for twenty or more years consecutively and that this could continue indefinitely. Also, flat land can be cultivated using machinery which contributes to efficient production.

At the international level, there is a foreign market for cotton and it generates foreign exchange. All of Honduras' cotton is shipped to Japan, and Japanese fertilizers are imported for cotton and other crops. Japan has also invested in Honduras — the sugarcane plantations near La Montaña

are Japanese-owned and the peasants are a source of cheap labor to produce sugar for export to Japan and the U.S.A. In addition, foreign investment from two banks in New York provides large loans for Honduran farmers to grow cotton. Even the agrarian reform communities in La Montaña invest in cotton production because they can obtain loans to cover the costs of labor, insecticides and machinery. This credit supports the farmers' efforts to try to make large profits in an unstable world cotton market rather than to produce grains for a smaller profit.

Predictably, a small number of landowners control large areas of land around La Montaña. This elite has concentrated economic and social power in their own hands, and consequently has the political power to retain control over a prime resource such as valuable agricultural land. This social structure is part of what blocks the agrarian reforms and equitable land distribution that would promote subsistence agriculture. The landless peasants are a source of cheap manual labor for cotton production, and the landowners recognize this as an asset. Weeding and harvesting are still done by hand in Honduras because machinery does more damage to the cotton fibers. In an effort to save money on expensive pesticides, some landowners hire large groups of children to clean the insect-infested cotton plants.

The social and ecological consequences of this agricultural system are not positive. Without a local industrial sector, the peasants have only seasonal agricultural work opportunities. They labor in large-scale, commercial agricultural systems while subsisting on corn and sorghum imported from other areas of Honduras or from abroad. Perhaps even more threatening to the local community and the natural environment is the widespread pesticide contamination caused by cotton production (Adelski, 1982).

Central America has been called a "dumping ground" for chemical pesticides that are banned in the U.S.A. In 1975 DDT was still being used in cotton production in Honduras although it had been banned as a health hazard in the U.S. twenty years earlier. Chemical companies seeking profits find markets in countries such as Honduras where there are no regulations for chemical use. In La Montaña, one-third of the cost of producing cotton is spent on pesticides and that cost has been increasing steadily.

The ecological and social cost of intensive pesticide use ultimately may be very serious. Pesticide runoff in the nearby coastal waters is concentrated in the fish and shellfish and is further concentrated by human consumers (ICAITI, 1977). The mangrove swamps are sensitive to chemical pollution which may inhibit their growth, leading to the decrease of a significant fuel resource. Other potential consequences of disturbing the swamps may include an increase in flooding and erosion near the shoreline and a decrease in the fish and shellfish, such as the shrimp that are exported, that inhabit the mangrove environment (Linden and Jernelov, 1980). DDT and other pesticides have been found to damage tropical ecosystems by adversely affecting soil fauna and reducing the rate of decomposition and mineralization of the soil's organic matter (Perfect, 1980). In addition, the crops protected by pesticides remove more nutrients from the soil than other crops, thus accelerating the decline in soil fertility (Perfect, 1980).

Another significant problem is that the prolific use of pesticides has bred chemical-resistant mosquitos that carry malaria. Mosquito resistance to insecticides in cotton-producing areas is usually as high as 80% (ICAITI, 1977). As a result of the use of cotton insecticides and mosquito eradication programs, the incidence of malaria in Central America in 1975 was three times greater than it had been ten years earlier, before such insecticides were used (Chapin and Wasserstrom, 1981). The current rural rate of malaria in the La Montaña area is between 14 and 36 percent (ICAITI, 1977).

Although the long-term effects of pesticides on human

health are still not established, the short-term effects in La Montaña are both obvious and acute. In rural La Montaña, people literally live in the midst of the cotton fields. Since an estimated 55% of the pesticides sprayed from airplanes falls outside the target area (ICAITI, 1977), the people, their houses, their water sources and their livestock are sprayed from one to three times each week, or as many as thirty times during the growing season. People report that they suffer headaches, dizziness and nausea from this exposure. Their pigs and chickens die from eating the contaminated vegetation unless they are tied up. The flagmen who work in the fields to direct the airplanes are sick for several days afterwards, and it is not uncommon for plane crashes to occur because the pilots become intoxicated while flying.

After the cotton harvest, the landowners' cattle graze on the contaminated stubble and are fed the green part of the cotton boll. They are often pastured next to the cotton fields and are exposed to pesticide drift and contaminated vegetation. The contaminated beef rejected for the foreign market is sold to the local population. The organs, where the pesticides tend to concentrate, are not exported in any case so they are always sold locally. Because corn and sorghum are sown in fields next to the cotton the pesticides contaminate these crops also and are probably the cause of a virus that stunts corn growth (ICAITI, 1977). Overall, it is clear that cotton production in La Montaña is costly for the rest of its social and environmental setting.

Agriculture and Society: Conclusions

What do these two examples tell us about the human ecology of agricultural production in Honduras? First of all, it is obvious that the interactions between international and national economic systems ultimately influence local agricultural decisions and processes. The landowners in Honduras make decisions in terms of local opportunities and limitations, which are responses to a network of larger systems. Historically, Honduras has always depended on export agriculture and our research shows that this trend is continuing. Bananas and pineapple have been staple exports from the north coast since the last century; in the south, cattle are increasing in importance and cotton production continues.

This orientation toward export crops and dependence on foreign markets has several negative consequences for the rest of the social system. The profits from commercial agriculture return to a disproportionately small segment of the population that controls a large proportion of the country's resources. The country's commercial, export-oriented agricultural system, as exemplified in the two cases I described, is based on and perpetuates the existence of a large class of landless peasants who represent a cheap source of labor for the landowners. These peasants have increasingly limited access to land for subsistence crops and limited opportunities for wage labor in an agrarian economy, yet they purchase imported grains. It is an unfortunate paradox that Honduras, an agricultural country, exports increasing amounts of beef and other foods while 58% of the children under five suffer from identifiable malnutrition (INCAP, 1969) and two-thirds of the population, or two million people, are undernourished (SAPLAN, 1981). In addition, environmental pollution from extensive pesticide use directly affects the health of the rural population and vital natural resources.

Given that these local agricultural systems are part of a larger social and environmental context, what alternatives exist to improve Honduras' situation? Although it may be a slow process within the Honduran social and political context, agrarian reforms to redistribute land should continue. In combination with this, the production of basic grains should be encouraged by providing agricultural assistance and loans to small farmers who, until recently, have not been involved in development programs. Although the cattle industry makes extensive use of land, it actually

represents the under-utilization of this important resource (ICAITI, 1977). It would be more productive to remove the cattle from this agricultural land and promote the annual, intensive cultivation of corn, sorghum and cowpeas, all of which are presently grown in small amounts in the south.

If the present agricultural system is to be continued, the ecological and health problems associated with cotton production could be alleviated with a program that does not rely on the intensive use of toxic chemicals to control insects. An Integrated Pest Management program — the combination of natural predators and chemicals to control cotton pests — has been developed and tested in Honduras, and has been shown to reduce pesticide use by 39% while increasing cotton yields and profits (ICAITI, 1977). In addition to reducing the hazard to the environment and human health, this would have direct economic benefits in the cattle industry as well as decreasing the costs of malaria control.

Finally, the peasants need to be provided with resources in the form of either land or labor opportunities. While land reform has resulted in its redistribution to peasant groups, there are strong incentives for them to continue the present agricultural practices. For example, government loans are available only for cotton production, not for the production of basic grains. A change in the agricultural system toward subsistence crops and the labor-intensive cultivation of cotton would have a positive effect on the ecological and social system of which it is a significant part.

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crayons, etc. Medical doctors are faced with the lack of simple things, such as surgical thread. In every sector of professional life one can sense dissatisfaction among men and women who entered their fields of specialization with hope and eagerness, but found essentially nothing but frustration and disappointment. The sad realization is that they are in need of almost everything.

The men and women who are not lucky enough to prepare for the careers they wanted have to succumb to the nation's needs, and they are the ones paying substantial prices. To be able to enter higher education you are given ten career choices, out of which **they** will pick the one career, **they** perceive, the country needs. It could be your unfortunate luck that what **they** believe the country needs at the time is your tenth choice. When this happens the individual either takes it or is punished by being required to remain out of school for two years before he or she is considered for selection again. Needless to say, most individuals will take the choice given to them so they can increase their salaries and improve their social position. As indicated above, if they do not accept the government's choice, they will have to face the discouraging fact that in two years the whole process will repeat itself.

The lack of well-educated instructors is most assuredly being felt in Cuba. Medical inefficiency, lack of spelling ability among those at upper hierarchy levels, and other signals denote the country's present state of poor quality of education.

Although education is free to all, it appears to have drastically declined to an inferior quality. Lower indices of productivity are reflected in virtually every sector of the population. Inertia was one of the things observed among many past professional acquaintances who remained in Cuba. Missing was an apparent concern about their growth as professionals. They are becoming stagnant without realizing it. Their main preoccupation essentially is what they are going to eat tomorrow. Most people, in the same predicament, would normally lack the motivation for improving themselves or competing for a better life. As a result, because many of their basic needs have not been met, particularly food, it is difficult for them to be concerned with a more productive life.

While one of the writers was visiting Cuba, the Cubans were celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Committees for Revolutionary Defense. This is an organization resembling Orwell's "Big Brother is Watching." This organization operates in every block with an assigned house being responsible for knowing all the activities going on within the area and for thoroughly surveying the area.

At one of the houses where this celebration was taking place, all of the participants were wearing American clothing relatives had brought for them from the United States and were being entertained by the Bee Gees' records. The Revolution, now 20 years old, has a new population that is totally brainwashed against the United States. They know very little about real freedom and seem very anxious to ask questions about life in the United States; they are curious about such things as the freedom to travel, freedom of speech, and the right to vote, as they are experienced in this country. Although they are curious about the United States, they want to give the impression they are sure of their beliefs. Their whole perspective is quite different from countries where competition and improvement of oneself and society are everyday experiences. These things are so taken for granted by people in the United States that it forces one to reevaluate and be thankful for the greatness of democracy, with all its faults.

The impact of Communism in Cuba, as was personally observed by one of the writers, is, in the main, one of stagnation of minds and attitude, as well as the deterioration of a country which, twenty years ago, had the highest standard of living in Latin America.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT ON CUBANS LIVING IN CUBA: SOME OBSERVATIONS

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Bowling Green, Kentucky
and

Joseph P. Cangemi
Professor of Psychology
Western Kentucky University

On a recent trip to Cuba, one of the writers was able to observe what far too many Cubans have become under the present form of government there. Fear is a very effective mechanism for controlling people. If one does not support the Committees for Revolutionary Defense, or the massive parades, he/she pretty much "has to have" a very good excuse for not participating in them. As punishment, food and commodities will not be given to the individual who rejects such activities. People are in constant fear of not having done the right thing for the Revolution, and their great fear is the consequences they will have to pay for making such a mistake.

The young people of Cuba are in constant turmoil about their education. Few are the lucky ones who have the opportunity to choose their careers. After completing college, many are disappointed with the lack of resources available in their chosen fields. They do not have the opportunity to grow and develop in a more rewarding environment; hence, many become frustrated doctors, scientists, or whatever they have chosen to become. School teachers lack the most essential items in the classroom, such as paper, pencils,

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Dr. Joseph Cangemi, Department of Psychology, published an article entitled "An Investigation of the College of Engineering in a Renowned University in Latin America" in *College Student Journal*, vol. 16, Fall, 1982, pp. 205-208, and with Casimir Konalski co-authored a book entitled *Higher Education in the United States and Latin America* published by the Philosophical Library in 1982.

Dr. Edmund Hegen, Department of Geography and Geology, gave papers in November at meetings of the Kentucky Academy of Sciences in Ashland, Kentucky, and the Association of American Geographers in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. James Martin, Department of Agriculture, delivered a paper on the Sister Cities International Program at an Intensive Language Workshop held at the University of Louisville in the fall of 1982.

Dr. John Petersen, Department of Government and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, represented the Kentucky-Ecuador Partners of the Americas at the Banana Festival in Fulton, Kentucky in September. In October, the Kentucky-Ecuador Partners organization held its annual meeting in Bowling Green, and Dr. Petersen completed his term as President. In November he hosted the visit to Western by Dr. Finlandia Mendez Contreras, Vice-Rectora of the Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander in Cucutá, Colombia. Dr. Petersen spoke on the topic "Internationalizing the Undergraduate Curriculum" at the National Conference on Internationalizing the Undergraduate Curriculum held in Washington in March. In April he was the keynote speaker at a meeting of the Memphis United Nations Association held at Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee and also spoke on "The U.S. Image in Latin America" at an International Studies Program at Memphis State University. Also in April he taped an interview for the Kentucky Educational Television *Great Decision Series* on "Interamerican Security."

Dr. Raul Padilla, Department of Modern Languages and Intercultural Studies, presented two papers in April: "The Enlightenment in Spanish America" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington and "The Educational Crisis in Ecuador" at an Interdisciplinary Conference on Latin America at Tulane University.

Dr. Richard Salisbury, Department of History, returned to Western in December, 1982, after 9 months in Costa Rica

as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer. He was co-editor this year for Volume XIII of the SECOLAS Annals. In February he was interviewed on WKYU-FM Radio on the subject of Central American affairs, and in March he presented a paper entitled "The Rise and Fall of Anti-Imperialism in Central America, 1927-1928" at the 26th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, Nebraska.

STUDY CONDUCTED OF BUSINESS MANAGERS' PERSONAL VALUES

A survey comparing personal values of business managers in Mexico City and Louisville, Kentucky was conducted in 1982 by Dr. Lawrence Finley of Western's Department of Management and Marketing. A preliminary analysis of questionnaires, which were returned by about one-third of each group indicated a remarkable similarity of values, suggesting perhaps a subculture of business managers. Both groups placed highest values on the categories of honesty, capability, responsibility, and independent behavior, while lowest values were placed by both groups on obedience, forgiveness, politeness, cheerfulness, loving behavior, and helpfulness. A disparity of results was shown between the two groups for the categories of salvation, imagination, ambition, courage, and true friendship.

A full report is in preparation. Anyone wishing further information may contact Dr. Finley at the Department of Marketing and Management, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101, phone (502) 745-5408.

RECENT VISITORS FROM LATIN AMERICA

In recent months Western and the Bowling Green community welcomed the following visitors from Latin America: Dr. Alvaro Rodriguez and Mr. Jorge Tadeo Lozano from Quibdo Chocó in Colombia; Dr. Finlandia Mendez Contreras from the Universidad Francisco de Paula Santander Cucutá, Colombia; Chief Niconor of the Colorados Indians, Holger Velastegui, Norma Alban, Johnny Alban, Roberto Noguera, Sandra Noguera, Manuel Encalada, Katia Sampedro, and Rosanna Jervis from Santo Domingo de los Colorados; Mrs. Claudette Villegas and Mr. Eduardo Noriega from Corporación Internacional para el Desarrollo Educativo in Bogotá, Colombia; Mrs. Olga Morales from the Instituto Tecnológico in San José, Costa Rica; and Dr. Efraim Jara from Cuenca, Ecuador.

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