

# CUBA

by Kathy Showalter

The Department of Modern Languages recently acquired a new member. Senor Juan Ferrate, assistant professor of Spanish and a Spaniard himself, arrived on Jan. 14 in -30° weather from Cuba where he had spent six years as a professor of Classics at Oriente University.

Senor Ferrate has written several works of critical essays on poetry and translations of Greek poetry into Spanish. Despite his recent proximity to world-stirring events, he insists that he is a quiet man who governs his life by the Latin proverb: *Bene vixit qui latuit*. He has lived well who has lived unknown.



rich classes in Cuba who could oppose him. American interests in Cuba would help these people so Castro had to free Cuba from all outside investors. Senor Ferrate contends that if the revolution had sought only to do away with economic backwardness, the U.S. would have helped.

Intentions toward social and political change, however, would interfere with U.S. interests. Castro's most important problem was not the U.S. but the wealthy classes and if

## U.S. "NEATLY" TRAPPED

they had had no connection with the U.S., the break would not have been necessary.

Castro's advantage lay in the fact that the U.S. did not understand the situation and fell neatly into his carefully laid traps.

Senor Ferrate went on to cite the example of the private planes that flew from Florida to attack Cuba. Castro seized the opportunity to claim aggression on the part of the U.S. His propaganda would have lost its effectiveness if he had merely asked the U.S. to exercise more vigilance. The U.S. was left feeling injured and did nothing to stop the planes. Many people especially in Cuba came to believe that the U.S. actually sent the planes.

Castro's second trap concerned the U.S. sugar quota. Forty per cent of the sugar companies in Cuba were American-owned. Because of this, Cuba enjoyed an especially high price for its exports to America. It was important to Cuba to have this income but it was even more important to Castro to break free of U.S. economic interests which were supporting his opponents. Obviously, public opinion would prevent Castro from cutting the quota

## END JUSTIFY MEANS?

himself but if the U.S. did it, he would get what he wanted plus another propaganda arm. His act of nationalizing the oil companies antagonized the U.S. into cutting the quota for him.

Senor Ferrate pointed out that a much bigger problem is involved in that of Cuba—the problem affecting all the Latin-American countries in their process of development. Castro is a manifestation of this problem. He feels that most of Castro's enemies are just after their own interests. "The Communists understand this and exploit it."

People in general live worse than before but matters have begun to improve. "There were many things started by the revolution that had to be good." Castro's ends will have to justify his means.

"It is difficult to tell briefly what is happening in Cuba. There are many things to keep in mind and many sides to take into account." In these words, Senor Juan Ferrate introduced a very thoughtful and, for this reporter, fascinating first-hand account of Cuba under Castro.

"When the revolution first started, I was very happy to be in Cuba. Before the revolution, Cuba was nearly dead." Senor Ferrate pointed out that, while the immediate reason for the revolution was Cuba's backward condition, the country is still very much so. Castro has started a lot but has not yet accomplished much. He has begun by destroying Cuba but in the process of reconstruction, he may reach a much better thing.

The revolution obviously didn't turn out the way people in Cuba had hoped. When Senor Ferrate saw Castro wanted only control and not

## CASTRO NOT COMMUNIST

a better Cuba, he changed his mind about the revolution. He wished to make it plain, however, that he did not sympathize with those Cubans who wished to return to the old ways.

As for communism, Senor Ferrate insists that no-one in Cuba really believes that Castro is a communist. "He wanted only to be the strongest man; this is why he turned to communism." The communists are weak in Cuba and Castro dominates them. There is a popular idea in Cuba and outside that Castro turned to the left because the U.S. wouldn't help the new regime. Senor Ferrate believes they are wrong—that Castro wanted to break with the U.S.

In order to establish the new regime, Castro had to destroy the

Photo  
by Carl

Layout  
by Carol

# COMMUNISM

by Ezek Essien

Professor R. E. Baird is a married man, and came to Canada in the summer of 1960. Asked about how he finds Canada, he expostulated, "I don't find Canada so different in the way U.S. is so attractive. I like something of Canadian neutrality in the cold war." The professor admitted that he was, as far as U.S. politics go, a left winger—a Democrat who believed in the welfare state. "But mind you, I support the Democrats because they are more liberal than the Republicans. It is like choosing the lesser of two evils."



It is now an open secret that the United States government—in an effort to combat communism—is introducing the subject into the high school curriculum. Whatever effect this might have on the upcoming generation, is anyone's guess.

In fact, a leading New York paper, "The Times" recently made capital of the issue. It conducted a questionnaire-referendum in all the American States. The result was quite interesting. Almost three-quarters of the 50 states voted in support of the project; and even went on to formulate plans to this effect.

But back in intellectual quarters, the idea is being received with mixed feelings. Indeed, there is a grave doubt as to whether the States Department really wants to teach communism as it is, or whether it is carrying out an extremely flagrant right-wing propaganda against communism. Whatever is the case, President Kennedy must know the answer! But the point is, the whole idea has met with such a conflict of opinions, that one has the feeling that the U.S. in trying to fight communism might be shooting a boomerang! It is indeed a delicate issue.

## COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY

Back here on campus, in an interview with Professor Baird, an American citizen in the political science department, he made bold to say, "I think, to a very great extent, that this is a neurotic kind of thing to have done. In the first place, a lot of Americans see communism that

is not there, and so they think they have to take steps to destroy it. They even think there's a great Communist conspiracy in American, and they want to shoot it off. So, they want to teach Communism in order that the Americans won't be fooled."

Questioned as to how this idea ever came about, Professor Baird revealed that this is the handiwork of the American Legion and other organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, who, as a matter of fact, have great interests to protect in the U.S.

Professor Baird agreed that this was an extremely flagrant right wing propaganda against communism. But he boldly put in, "I don't think the thing has much value at all. The Americans are a tremendously conservative people. I don't see much threat in their becoming communist."

## RED HOT LADY

Professor Baird however made it abundantly clear that anyone with more liberal ideas than suited the Yankees "stands a chance of being branded a Communist." He produced a letter written to him by a fire-eating American lady to prove his case.

You See, Professor Baird has written to "The Christian Science Monitor" in America making certain liberal and, on the whole moderate suggestions. This lady, on reading about it, was, in plain terms, mad at him. She blared out in her letter that it can only be Communist to suggest race-mixture and inter-marriage which do nothing but lower the intelligence of the white man. At that juncture, this lady had decided to shelve the fine Yankee doctrine that all men are born equal. But this incident did not bother Professor Baird. He went on to say, "my own view is that if Communism were properly taught, it would be better. But the thing is put in the wrong hands."

## SURPRISED YANKEES

He traced the origin of this problem to the days of the Korean War when some American citizens elected to stay back in Communist China after the war had ended. The Yankees were terribly surprised at this. Again, when the Russian diplomat Zukov talked with Ike—in his hey-day—it was discovered that Ike, who was by no means an intellectual heavy-weight, could not argue sensibly with Zukov on what "Communism" really means. These two events were very influential in leading to this idea of teaching the youths what Communism is.

## Jenkins Jealous

Jabbering Jenkins, slighted on a recent television interview stated Friday, "I was there too!"

Jenkins who did all the boasting was paid no heed by Laura Lindsay, TV interviewer, who immediately recognized the true power behind The Gateway.

By B.W.