

# Correo Tres de Parte uno Canadiense en Cuba

## *Thinking Times for Patriotic Canadians*

Rants and Diatribes now posted at [geocities.com/canada\\_V2](http://geocities.com/canada_V2)



Octubre 09, 2006  
Habana, CUBA

US to build 1000 km wall to keep pesky NAFTA partners in cage. Who'd ever trade with those Yanks?

### Busy Times

Spanish classes have been growing like crazy since the original September group. This was a "grad" photo in which only a couple were missing. Since then we have grown by a dozen and been split in two. Other advance classes have doubled as well with kids from all over the world. Some are here to polish their Spanish which must be excellent to get into "free" medical school. Cuba is currently training 20,000 foreign doctors all of whom must dedicate years to serving in third world countries.

I have an even better teacher now Grizelle (not Gizelle). She is much more sequential. The one in the photo right, big hearted and fun but jumps around spur of the moment and uses experiential moments. Works for some, not for me.

Spanish studies seem to be going well. I recently sat speaking Spanish for an hour with a retired diplomat who owns a small bookstore on the way home to my new habitacion in West Vedado. He worked in Ottawa from 1980 to 1990, loves Montreal, Toronto not so much. He says his English has lapsed a little, though he saved me from pulling out my dictionary for new words. People here love to discuss world politics.

My own version of the Che Brigade DVD is almost finished but because it is not for my family, I continue to tweak and polish it and must set a deadline. The crew who were to work on the official one, have been absconded to an "important" National Parks nature documentary necessarily done at this time of year. This is Cuba or I should say Habana. More on that later.

On Saturday Septiembre 30, a group of us went to dinner at a restaurant **Nardos** in Habana Vieja. I had been there before. An entire meal is CUC 4.60 (Can\$5.00). A bottle of red Chilean wine is CUC 4. It was partly a last day of this month's session party, but all of these kids were looking forward to a European style meal, especially Norwegian Ana. She can sure eat and drink a lot, not her usual custom as she is into kick boxing and running. She would be the Norwegian looking one in the photo to the right. While we ate two British tourists came up and asked 190 cm tall Jonas for his autograph. Turns out he's a British super-model "hiding from the insanity of entourage and makeup artists". The couple said he was looking a bit tattie (tattered). He just responded "thank you much, I feel great".



**Jonas-GB, Jiro-Japan**

**Jane-Chino, Josefin-Swed, mi, Akanay-Japan**

**Thomas-Ger, Ana-Norway, Hassan-Iran, Prof. Maria-Julia Delgado**

Later, we all road in an open horse coach, half an hour along el bonito Malecon (waterfront) back to Verado. When Ana told them it was my daughter's birthday and we were students we paid only 1 peso each. The driver had an eye for her and asked if I was her father which of course I could have been- I spoke very nicely in simple Spanish saying, "Si, this is my beautiful Norwegian daughter, this is my English son and these are my Japanese kids." At that point the young driver was totally confused. Later I wandered my olde barrio alone taking photos of mom's with little hijas. Then I went and made a short movie of the night and sent it next day as a Quicktime video via correo electronique to mia hermosa hija TeeHeart. •

### Happy 23 Cumpleaños to Taisha.



**Tee's birthday was lots of fun and less lonely than celebrating by myself!**

## My New Abode

Mi nueva habitacion en Casa Particular *Lika* es muy tranquilo, far more so than the other one in town. It's about a 40 minute quick morning walk in the cool air along quite side streets. The evenings I generally walk a little slower home but still work up a sweat in the heat. The evenings and sleeping have been comfortably cooler the last two weeks.

What I most like about the new place is that the mother and daughter here are so quiet. My room and separate bathroom are at the end of a doored hallway. The ama de casa (house mom) keeps a very clean apartment. The daughter Lourdesita is in her last year of university accounting and taking French as well. There are three floors and we are on the top one.

I am two blocks from the last kilometre of el **Rio Almendari** as it flows North into the Caribbean. Only fishing boats harbour in this part of the river. There is a nice outdoor covered "pub" just over an old flat swing bridge where darker draft beer is one peso/ Can\$1.20 per 500 ml. •

## Cubano Medico

I have been giving up 15 cc of blood once a week to the Oncology Research centre here in Habana the last 5 weeks. Before, however, I used to have to walk 15 minutes away from my casa. Now I pass by it on the way to my new place... much more convenient. I figure after 30 donations I can claim I've given a full regular 450 ml. That should take just 30 weeks eh Stu. In one of those fortuitous moments, I was getting ready to give and the brother of long ago Meraloma Dr. Max walked through with several others. Dr. Ian once removed a rotten sliver from my bum at UBC when I slipped on the raft at Kits beach life-guarding around 1974. He went into Cancer Research and was down here on an information exchange. We went for a beer near the University the next night and didn't spend much time getting caught up on the Meralomas. I was more interested in his take on Cuban doctors. I told him one of the students in my class from Germany was married to a Cuban doctor and she could not practice in Germany because they considered her training inferior. Ian said medical associations in most countries, Canada included, are quite 'protectionist'. He himself considers the Cuban training system superior. He had been to see a hip

& knee replacement system here and the techniques were far quicker, safer and more successful. As well, he says the Cuban assembly line system for eye treatment, cataracts etc. is outstanding. Cuban doctors working with doctors in South America have restored the vision of over 350,000 people in 14 months, mostly cataracts. I can't imagine how amazing that is to have your eyesight back but I guess grandpa can. A looming acute shortage of doctors world wide and the ageing baby boomer population and Canada will have to do something drastic in training very soon, Ian was saying.

He said the medical training here consists of 6 months intensive book, and computer based anatomy studies followed by six months clinical diagnosis shadowing another doctor and operation theatre observation. The next five years sees doctors attending patients under less and less supervision with the final diagnosis and treatment being checked by veteran doctors. He said the only hospital he is aware of that is slightly similar is McMasters in Ontario. Ian's opinion was that in Canada the medical training system is much less efficient, that there is initially far too much time spent on book learning and too little with the patients. • Speaking of books- nice segue as they say.

## Three Good Books

Yo acabado el libro *Todo el tiempo de los cedros... paisaje familiar de fidel Castro* **ruz** escrito para **Katiuska Blanco**, Casa Editora Abril, Abril 2003 ISBN 959-210-300-3 (editoraabrill.cu). El est muiy interesante. Yo espero tu tienes un oportunidad a leer tambien... el biblioteca publico posible.

This is a book about Fidel Castro and his life, family, education, and some early accomplishments since childhood. It took me a month to read 500 paginas con mi diccionario, but I think I very much understood it. Mi familia de casa y los estudiantes avanzado a mi escuela español ayuda con los pasaje muy difcil.

I am also halfway through the most intriguing book about some of those who wrote and signed the American Constitution. George Washington et al. It is actually a Pulitzer Prize winner by **Joseph Ellis**, 2000, *Founding Brothers* ISBN 0-375-70524-4

"In this landmark work of history, the...

author explores how a group of greatly gifted but **deeply flawed** individuals – **Hamilton, Burr, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, Adams and Madison**– confronted the overwhelming challenges before them to set the course for our nation".

You, padre, once briefly critiqued of the book on the British Navy as somewhat a positive experience in part because of your "proud British background". I will not judge that except to say that I would hope it was said in part out of gratitude for the book loan from mi cuñado Stephan and not as a reflection of how intelligent you are about what has unfolded in the last several hundred years of Western European dominated history. I myself found 3/4 of the book I did get to read before leaving Vancouver and passing it on to Sean, very well written, fascinating, enlightening and extremely educational as was the author's previous work *How the Scots Invented the Modern World*.

I was also curiously disconcerted to see how the modern world of exploitative globalization was invented and initiated so long ago by my ancestors. We, the very same people whom a BBC/CBC program I once saw showed as far worse than Stalin whose 40 to 80 million murdered (we'll never really know), Hitler's- 12 million plus, and Pol Pot's 2 million, pale in comparison to the 100 to 120 million direct and somewhat indirect British dead- starving Africans & Indos and "diseasing" to death American Indians por ejemplo. Every Tasmanian, possibly up to 35,000 children, women and men to a person were hunted down and shot by the BEF and German mercenaries. We British, in effect, were the systematic creators of the most deadly holocaust ever initiated by a people and it's foreign policy- one on which for two hundred years the Sun of Empire never set. Ahhhh! Crap! That's just old history now and we can do nothing about it... well perhaps settle a land claim or thousand in Canada. We CANada do something about history yet to unfold for CANADA if we choose to.

Anyway Dad et al, this book *Founding Brothers* is one that I hope would help in a small way, along with any of my writings, reinvigorate thoughts and feelings that Canada should never have followed that asinine Mulroney-initiated **NAFTA** and will be as soon as possible, well rid of it. A positive step backward would be to

return to the days of “No Truck Nor Trade With Yankees”.

Another book I am reading is an older book titled *The Invisible Government • the CIA* by **David Wise** and **Thomas B. Ross**, 1964 ISBN 0-394-71993, . It starts pre-Vietnam, but it is scary how much American policy has continued to unfolded exactly as the authors outlined even in those days, as the CIA gave the USA persuasive, “factual” information about Korea, Vietnam etceteras. Very interesting. Today we know that slimy bastardo “diplomat” Henry Kissenger was so responsible for having so many good people murdered. ‘Christ’ you think a Jew of his background would know better.

Both books were passed on to me by a new student, German Ana\* who is a member of A.T.T.A.C.K. (Google it). \*We now have two Swed amigas Ana, one Swiss Ana and a German Ana. You'd think they'd run out of names over there. This past week we also had two amigas Sofi and Sophi from Sweden join as well.

German Ana is student president at U-Hamburg and a friend of Noah from the Canada Che Brigade. Apparently he had pointed her to my website and she had visited [geocities.com/canada\\_V2](http://geocities.com/canada_V2) before coming to Cuba. All a big coincidence really. She is fairly good at Spanish and entered our course three weeks in. She speaks English perfectly.

I am really hoping interesting times are coming to Canada. Although we father Bill are usually at logger heads and are very much different individuals- you being somewhat gentile like your father and a very classy hombre like our dear beloved grandpa South though somewhat grumpy at times, while I remain quite the rustic backwoodsman boor... you are in my mind still sympathetic with el proletario y el pobre. You have never lived above your means and have always been mucho generoso con tu riqueza. I am, as well of course, a social simpleton for my time. I just don't get the lifestyle and behaviour of most of my peers. Never have.

In the path I am choosing I would very much value your advice in future. **You love Canada no more nor less than I.** In my case I just happen to be of a younger strong opinion that she has very very much lost her way in the deep dark shadow or her extremely misguided and insane Imperialistic cousin to the South.

Whether or not you think Canada is just fine as she is, whether or not you agree with any or none of what yo escribo at **canada\_V2** you have been a tempering and guiding light for us all in el familia Read. I encourage you to read what I am reading and writing.

I think as well that you might find it interesting to see the similarities and differences between yourself and Fidel in whatever small ways, reading the other book I have mentioned. A major difference of course was that you came through life at exactly the same time but in far different countries- you in a land of privilege and stability for the most part, he in a land extremely neglectful and abusive to 85% of it's own beautiful pueblo. You ARE of the same age, though he was born four months later on August 13, 1927, so I assume at this stage of your lives he is much younger, in the same way mom is always a year older than you during the month of March 8 to April 8. He was also 193 cm tall in his prime- huge for Cuba.

I also appreciate that you too have already given much to society, that you may be getting a wee bit tired and may very well perhaps just want to let Canada go her way as if everything there and in the world is fine. However, I remind you Fidel is determined to get things done to correct the imbalances in the world of the NAM Nations before he bites the big one. Though of course as well, he is all of quatro meses joven than you. Esta mi papa es el desafio. Take it or leave it- yo respetas either way. •

### **Haban is really not Cuba**

While travelling with the Che Brigade in the Oriente, Granma Provinces and elsewhere, we were always told Habanaros are different from everyone else. There are over 10 million normal hardworking, content, productive Cubans out there that tourists seldom have contact with. That is sad because most tourists stay at Varadero and come to the oldest most run down car infested part of the island to spend a day seeing Habana Vieja and say they have been to and seen Cuba.

Having lived here in both places for a while now, I can tell you some differences. Habanaros are for the most part, Cubans who seek more. If they were born in Habana it's just about city life. If they came here looking for more, they are more like Miamians South.

A small portion live exhausting lives chasing the money to buy stuff. They strive for the “dollar”. One has to be shrewd in dealing with them as every CUC peso they can scrounge seems important to them. There are perhaps one million Habanaros. Some smaller portion of them are here looking for a capitalist consumer life which Cubanos do not “get”. Most “migrants” eventually realize it's a myth, and go home to a better life back out there. The difference between Habana and the larger better kept Santiago de Cuba and the prettier Trinidad is astounding. The sad thing is that 10 million Cubanos who live away from the tourist scene are not seen by tourists. Many of those who work at the tourist resorts strive for the extra dollars. In all this, visitors remark, “socialism is not working in Cuba I have been to Habana and have seen the results”.

The government realizes that the rest of Cuba lives simpler more labour intensive lives and treat them better in a way. For example - almost all refrigerators have been replaced with efficient ones from China. The old ones are like our old white round-top one from the 60's. They, like the cars have been coddled along which has been very bad for the environment and power consumption. As well, all air-conditioners have already been replaced for free while Habanaros are receiving no fridge as of yet and half cost rebates for trade-in air conditioners which are used sparingly for the most part- electricity is relatively expensive. All incandescent bulbs have been replaced.

The homes people were assigned here in Habana in the '60s were originally lived in by the affluent who relied on cheap domestic labour to keep things up. After the revolution large homes and apartments were divided up into several separate ones. After 40 years of American blockade things need lots of repair and attention. Countries are now supplying materials as part of the UN Heritage city plan. The US of course is not too happy. I hope they don't bomb the UN over this.

Of course in Haban there are those who are lazy as well, who do little and will try to get something or lots for nothing. There are greedy people in every society. There are also those who think they are worth more and should be compensated more. •

**HLV Siempra  
LR • Cuba**

**Thms** as I sit here and listening to **Cash's *Hurt***, I thank you so much for 'gifting' it to me. You have an ear for song and lyric. My favourite still remains **PF's *Another Brick*** but this is slowly creeping towards number two, though **Enya's *May it Be*** still resides there. I so understand where you are coming from with the **JC** thing but then I always thought you had an eclectic taste, ever since you started listening to Louis Armstrong in grade 3. ***Hurt*** is igual a esta momenta de **CTD's *Superman*** which so reminds me of **Stuey's** heroic sentiments. I hope you both continue to encourage tu amigos to live simply to help salvo el vida del monde. You have been prepared and both have talents to go political. Very necessary major changes for the future of Canada are yet to unfold. Desiring to make a difference is 4U2 as well. • [geocities.com/canada\\_V2](http://geocities.com/canada_V2)

#### Recess Etceteras

The first week of every month's cycle, classes are from 0900 'til 1330 with a 25 minute break around 1030 and an extra 10 minute "recess" at 1230.

The following weeks run from 0900 to 1230 with a 30 minute break at 10:30. Thanks to the USA we were given the last hour of Friday's class off. Once a week or two we have been fumigated for mosquitoes and generally move outdoors for class. The logic is that the mosquitoes congregate more indoors while people are there hence the necessity to fumigate while people are inside the buildings. The fumigaros start in the classrooms deepest into the school on the top floor and as we hear them coming along the hall we prepare to leave just as they exit the previous classroom, supposedly leaving the mosquitoes behind to us be killed. The "weapon" they use is like a small chain saw engine with a metre long nozzle. It looks like some kind of space gun and spews an exhaust that takes an hour or two to dissipate. This is of course all something new in the last 4 or 5 years. Cubans have lived with mosquitoes forever, they just haven't had to deal with the Denghe that was seeded here by American backed Miami terrorists 5 years ago. Denghe is now spread throughout the Caribbean. Malaria hasn't been much of a problem on these islands for many decades. •

#### Embassy Heights

I went for a walk past the river one evening up into the Miramar area. It used to be a "retreat" from city heat for wealthy Spanish. They built rococo style homes with large gardens. The area looks something like Shaughnessy, except much more cheerful with tropical plants and bright pastel coloured homes. After the revolution the properties were confiscated and eventually leased long term as Embassies. I've seen the large Russian one, the more modest but well kept Canadian and Chinese embassies as well as many other countries. •

#### Getting Greens

After class many foreign students head down the steps to Infanta Avenue to a vegetarian restaurant. They aren't always so much into being vegetarians as they are just looking for some greens to eat. As mom, dad, Steve and Holly know they eat a lot of rice and beans here, some meat, and fried plantains. The only common "green" food is amazingly tasty avocados, four or five times the size of the ones we get in Vancouver. The vegetarian restaurant takes only Nacionales. A fair size meal of assorted salads, fresh quava, melon or orange juice and a plate of sliced pineapple, orange, grapefruit and fruta bomba is about 40 or 50 MN equal to Can\$2 - a good student price for vitamins and roughage. •

#### Bloody Oil Numbers

I see on the wire-press at Granma that **17** American soldiers were killed in the first **4** days of October bringing the total to **2,733**. The kid to kid ratio is about **20** to **1** with over **50,000** children killed there. Over **100,000** dead total for **3000** at the Trade Centre would be a **33** to **1** ratio but Iraq had nothing to do with Al Quida and the bombing, they were all Saudi, so that's a strange number. I wonder how many litres of oil **1** American soldier's life buys? It's seems like yesterday that Thms and I were walking on the lighthouse point in St. Anthony NFLD discussing the invasion that had just begun. We wondered how long American parents would be willing to expend lives and how many would die. Okay... I said no Rants so lets consider this a simple observation. •

#### Pesky Little Mexicans

I also see where president Bush has just allocated **billions** to build a concrete wall **1000** kilometres long to keep our **NAFTA** partners in their place. Those pesky little Mexican slaves can come to pick and plant during the day but must be kept under control in their cage at night. Woww! That's a useless lot of global frying concrete. **What country in their right moral mind** would ever want to trade and deal with those Yankee bastardos anyway. No Rant- just another wee observation. •

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#### Oh Canada

Canada's Deadliest Habit  
??? Canada's Peace Keepers ???  
Canada is NOT Democratic  
Change Canada NOW  
Doctors  
Grandma's Closet Was Two Feet Wide  
Hijacking Of Canada  
Lead G8 or Quit It  
Saints & Greats We Are NOT  
Saving Ourselves From Frying  
Soft and Gushy Folk We Are  
Squandered Bogs - A Nightmare  
Time To Realign Canada  
Trash Talking Canada  
Traitors

#### Two Poems

Oh MY Canada  
Polar Bears Are Gone Now

#### Other Rants

Cuban Government 101  
Depression Meds Kill  
Free the Five Heroes  
Globalization IS Terrorism  
Lebanon - WE are to blame  
Revolution 101  
Russia & China - NOT Socialism  
Spanish Language  
US Foreign Policy 101

#### Other Stuff

Fidel Castro - By Noam Chomsky  
Meteorologist's Plea

#### Just Pondering...

-why incandescent bulbs are still sold in Canada?  
-why large engine private vehicles aren't super-taxed through insurance the way motorcycles over 499 cc are?  
-why we are mining the tar-sands at all?  
-when the last wild polar bear will die?  
I say February 02, 2020. Your guess?