By Joel West

In a talk given Thursday by Club Latino, one of Puerto Rico's most articulate and influential leaders outlined what he saw as the inevitability of Puerto Rican independence.

Club Latino president Juan C. Rosario, who is also a member of Crony, the pro-independence group formed by Ruben Berrios as the speaker for the second in the series "The Puerto Rican Independence Movement," berrios, former president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PPI), is a former professor of philosophy at the University of Puerto Rico and holds a PhD in economics. In a two-hour speech delivered without notes, he addressed a crowd of approximately 250 that filled Huntington Hall.

Opening the talk, that was marked by a sense of humor, berrios noted that "we are not going to start with Columbus," but instead he traced a political, economic, and social history of Puerto Rico from 1200 to the present day. In the first part of his talk, he discussed the cooperation between anti-Spanish independence movements in South America, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Revolutionary Simon Bolivar and his allies chose to fight in the Andes, a terrain more suitable for guerrilla warfare than either Cuba or Puerto Rico, with the latter in intention of liberating the two Carribean islands from Spanish rule.

The entire nature of the Puerto Rican struggle changed, however, with the Spanish-American War of 1898. After the end of the war, Puerto Rico traded Spanish rule for American self-government.

The arrival of Yankee domination was a double-edged sword. According to berrios, at the time of American Carnation, 73 percent of the land belonged to the Spanish-American War, more than 50 acres; in 1940, 73 percent of the land was in the hands of four American families. The network of the large sugar plantations produced which the island's major export crop to the United States.

Berrios spent the majority of his talk discussing the reactions and parties in Puerto Rican politics during the entire period. In the early part of the century, the Puerto Rican bourgeoisie wanted independence to protect and control the nation's profitable plantations. In the late 1920s, this class was largely foreclosed of existence by the plantation owners in the face of the depression. Political power has been on the decline since that time, and the post-World War II industrialization of the island by American capitalists in the period (1948-65). This group has formed the political base for the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which has been in a steady decline in the past 25 years.

The only class comparable to that of the bourgeoisie consists of those Puerto Ricans that represent the interests of the large American corporations on the island: they comprise the middle- and upper-middle class of Puerto Rico. Politically, this strongly pro-American elite is allied with the large number of Puerto Ricans that have been displaced and left unemployed by the transition to an industrialized economy. This group, estimated by berrios to be 35 percent of the populace, has only US food stamps between them and starvation, thus they want to vote for the food coupons and the BEOG stamps, thus they want to vote for the food coupons and the BEOG stamps, which have been issued in the past 25 years.

However, berrios feels that his party's rise in political stature is inevitable: the PIP is "the party of the future," unlike the PPD, "the party of the past." He noted that the support of the PIP is derived not by statehood advocates who believe in the idea of Puerto Rico as a state, as a point, he as notes, that the American taxpayer is unlikely to favor. Politically, the state of Puerto Rico, with the later in admission of the two Carribean islands from Spanish rule.

The arrival of Yankee domination was a double-edged sword. According to berrios, at the time of American Carnation, 73 percent of the land belonged to the Spanish-American War, more than 50 acres; in 1940, 73 percent of the land was in the hands of four American families. The network of the large sugar plantations produced which the island's major export crop to the United States.

Berrios spent the majority of his talk discussing the reactions and parties in Puerto Rican politics during the entire period. In the early part of the century, the Puerto Rican bourgeoisie wanted independence to protect and control the nation's profitable plantations. In the late 1920s, this class was largely foreclosed of existence by the plantation owners in the face of the depression. Political power has been on the decline since that time, and the post-World War II industrialization of the island by American capitalists in the period (1948-65). This group has formed the political base for the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which has been in a steady decline in the past 25 years.

The only class comparable to that of the bourgeoisie consists of those Puerto Ricans that represent the interests of the large American corporations on the island: they comprise the middle- and upper-middle class of Puerto Rico. Politically, this strongly pro-American elite is allied with the large number of Puerto Ricans that have been displaced and left unemployed by the transition to an industrialized economy. This group, estimated by berrios to be 35 percent of the populace, has only US food stamps between them and starvation, thus they want to vote for the food coupons and the BEOG stamps, which have been issued in the past 25 years.

However, berrios feels that his party's rise in political stature is inevitable: the PIP is "the party of the future," unlike the PPD, "the party of the past." He noted that the support of the PIP is derived not by statehood advocates who believe in the idea of Puerto Rico as a state, as a point, he as notes, that the American taxpayer is unlikely to favor. Politically, the state of Puerto Rico, with the later in admission of the two Carribean islands from Spanish rule.

The arrival of Yankee domination was a double-edged sword. According to berrios, at the time of American Carnation, 73 percent of the land belonged to the Spanish-American War, more than 50 acres; in 1940, 73 percent of the land was in the hands of four American families. The network of the large sugar plantations produced which the island's major export crop to the United States.

Berrios spent the majority of his talk discussing the reactions and parties in Puerto Rican politics during the entire period. In the early part of the century, the Puerto Rican bourgeoisie wanted independence to protect and control the nation's profitable plantations. In the late 1920s, this class was largely foreclosed of existence by the plantation owners in the face of the depression. Political power has been on the decline since that time, and the post-World War II industrialization of the island by American capitalists in the period (1948-65). This group has formed the political base for the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which has been in a steady decline in the past 25 years.

The only class comparable to that of the bourgeoisie consists of those Puerto Ricans that represent the interests of the large American corporations on the island: they comprise the middle- and upper-middle class of Puerto Rico. Politically, this strongly pro-American elite is allied with the large number of Puerto Ricans that have been displaced and left unemployed by the transition to an industrialized economy. This group, estimated by berrios to be 35 percent of the populace, has only US food stamps between them and starvation, thus they want to vote for the food coupons and the BEOG stamps, which have been issued in the past 25 years.

However, berrios feels that his party's rise in political stature is inevitable: the PIP is "the party of the future," unlike the PPD, "the party of the past." He noted that the support of the PIP is derived not by statehood advocates who believe in the idea of Puerto Rico as a state, as a point, he as notes, that the American taxpayer is unlikely to favor. Politically, the state of Puerto Rico, with the later in admission of the two Carribean islands from Spanish rule.

The arrival of Yankee domination was a double-edged sword. According to berrios, at the time of American Carnation, 73 percent of the land belonged to the Spanish-American War, more than 50 acres; in 1940, 73 percent of the land was in the hands of four American families. The network of the large sugar plantations produced which the island's major export crop to the United States.

Berrios spent the majority of his talk discussing the reactions and parties in Puerto Rican politics during the entire period. In the early part of the century, the Puerto Rican bourgeoisie wanted independence to protect and control the nation's profitable plantations. In the late 1920s, this class was largely foreclosed of existence by the plantation owners in the face of the depression. Political power has been on the decline since that time, and the post-World War II industrialization of the island by American capitalists in the period (1948-65). This group has formed the political base for the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), which has been in a steady decline in the past 25 years.

The only class comparable to that of the bourgeoisie consists of those Puerto Ricans that represent the interests of the large American corporations on the island: they comprise the middle- and upper-middle class of Puerto Rico. Politically, this strongly pro-American elite is allied with the large number of Puerto Ricans that have been displaced and left unemployed by the transition to an industrialized economy. This group, estimated by berrios to be 35 percent of the populace, has only US food stamps between them and starvation, thus they want to vote for the food coupons and the BEOG stamps, which have been issued in the past 25 years.

However, berrios feels that his party's rise in political stature is inevitable: the PIP is "the party of the future," unlike the PPD, "the party of the past." He noted that the support of the PIP is derived not by statehood advocates who believe in the idea of Puerto Rico as a state, as a point, he as notes, that the American taxpayer is unlikely to favor. Politically, the state of Puerto Rico, with the later in admission of the two Carribean islands from Spanish rule.

The arrival of Yankee domination was a double-edged sword. According to berrios, at the time of American Carnation, 73 percent of the land belonged to the Spanish-American War, more than 50 acres; in 1940, 73 percent of the land was in the hands of four American families. The network of the large sugar plantations produced which the island's major export crop to the United States.