

Why our political radar went 'loco'

By Felix Bonilla Norat

Special to the STAR

In our last Tug-O-War article we saw how our three permanent political status parties can act as a radar device for gathering intelligence on whatever may invade us be it the Igneri Indians, the Tainos, Spaniards, Americans or Cubans, or the latest world fashions, art, wishes, culture or thoughts. If it moves into Puerto Rico it may bite us, that's political; our radar must report from each of the three basic status units or perspective points, fuse with it as an equal, refuse it as most unequal, or associate with it but at arms length. That's a philosophical compendium of the search for wisdom on earth. Each status cosmivision is lowered or heightened by its imminent vision of our original Indian socialism, cooperativism or populism. That's six perspective points to get to know the world as it may invade or bite us. We do insist on knowing the size and kind of a bite before it comes since come it must.

We allow the invader a first bite, of course. Only a first bite, no more! It's our tactical sport, it's our cultural hospitality trait. Also a way to check our radar. Did our intelligence gatherers report the bite's right kind and size? They can dramatize, you know.

Our hospitality trait is also a nice bait to inveigle invaders to land and be met on dry earth, not the watery deep. We earthling Puerto Rican non-sailors don't want to get wet; it's better to meet and surround the enemy in the "batey" with time out for lunch in between. We always win. It's our lucky way.

On, how beautifully our defensive radar system can work. But it didn't work in the elections just past. We are still groggy and accounting, alas, even unto the courts.

One unit of our radar system went "loco;" it refused to gather intelligence from its locus and most unintelligently it wanted its status choice to win not "poco a poco" as is our wisdom and motto, but in unseemly hurry way, out of focus for us.

After the statehood unit refused to report any intelligence into the system except to say that it was riding the wave of the

future, the other parties went "loco," too, and exploded with great "alboroto." Never in our history have we seen such a campaign. All intelligence disappeared. It's just not done for one single status to capture the future. The others must be present too, or how else can we get to know reality without the intelligence reports from all the parties in toto?

Since politicians man our radar system, let's see why they caused our intelligence eclipse. Normal politicians had managed it beautifully before. Now, so many of them are macho lawyers...

Lawyer Carlos Romero Barcelo was in uncouth haste to kill Munoz Marin's commonwealth as a propitiatory gift to his childhood mentors, his thwarted patriarchal grandfather, don Antonio, and his thwarted mother, don Antonio's Liberal Party inheritor. Such archetypes drove him to accept other archetypes such as the strong macho on horseback; the maneuverer riding the wave of the future; the "non-knowing" silent sphinx in front of a marvelous mountain; the all-knowing selector and non-knowing deleter of departmental Cabinet-member heads; the blameless governor who used up more than all of a former governor's blame; the gallant defender of government jobs and salaries for those who belong here and of statehood for the poor only; the slayer of a dead vampire; the

dual acceptor and denier of Cubans and Haitians; the ruthless pusher of statehood as a promised non-issue, etc. etc. He driver and driven in far too many archetypal realities myths, ay bendito, no wonder he missed his rush; voters pr undriven simplicity.

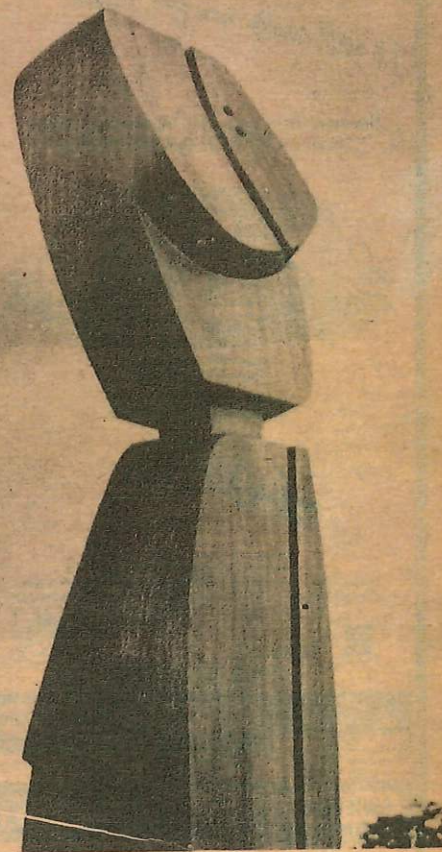
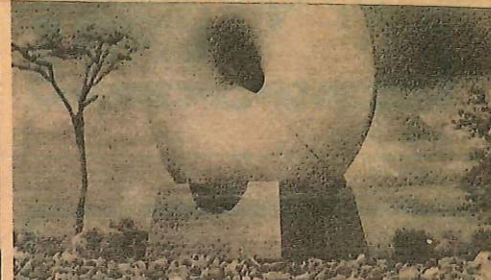
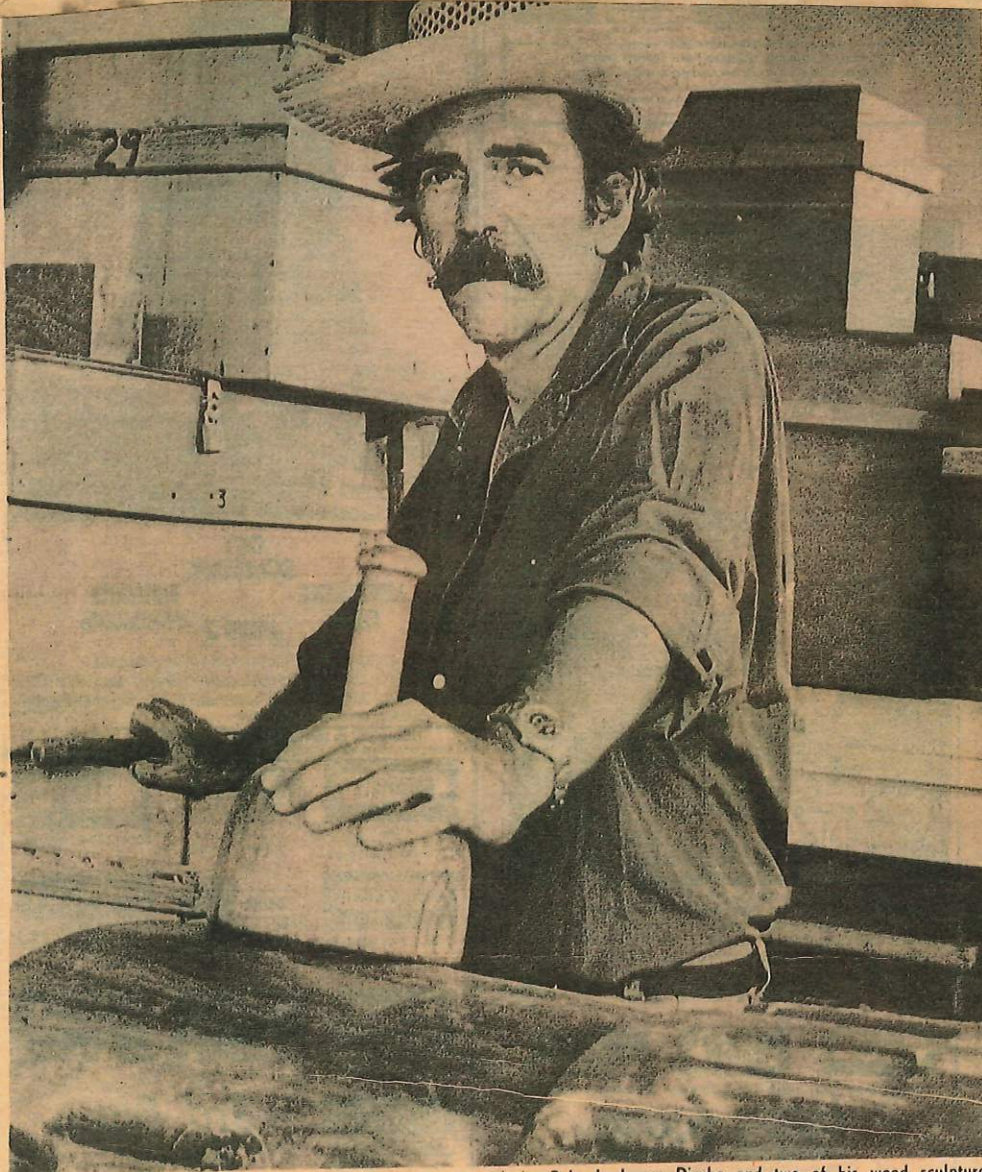
As for lawyer Rafael Hernandez Colon, he lost the gal sense of humor under the strain. His "God's wrath" was full to see since he has a long nose and a sulky lower jaw lip. They moved to deny his philosophical nature, especially during the election night. His hands seemed helpless too while talking; that's a telling sign. Luis Ferre had won governorship once by a judicious banging on a talbe at a time when others were passing under the table. Voters do vote reasonably firm body signs most times. Rafael's "Sin Miedo" entries into enemy territory were good conceptual art, but during election night. That was too macho. He got it f Carlos? That's the trouble with machismo, it's catching.

As for lawyer Ruben Berrios, in his love for the mother he shoved too much blame on the old fathers, the Pop Party patriarchs. Such Freudian macho rebellion exagger his youthful debnair image, his elegant good looks, his kr it-all "do what must be done" responses to situations. should have remembered Carlos was chosen in 1976 because coupon masses prefer stutters to elegant utterers.

Oh, what a macho campaign we suffered. No wonder radar broke.

MORAL: In Puerto Rico's search for truth and intelligence macho tactics and antics quite often prevail and they break data-gathering system. Since the system is now headed lawyers, experts in codes, we must question a lawyer's ability to process virginal uncoded knowledge, and question macho laws and our macho adversary tactics in courts elections. They pour into our intelligence system to its detriment.

But maybe our women can save us. More of that anon.



Artist Rolando Lopez Dirube and two of his wood sculptures.