In Organic Agriculture, Cubans Are Leading the Way
by Robert E. Sullivan
Earth Times News Service
HAVANA—The Cuban revolutionary threat is back. In an innocuous-looking, unmarked building in the Miramar suburb of Havana technicians from Fidel Castro’s communist government are training cadres from all over Latin America.

The ideology of the new movement is being exported, along with equipment, to nearby Venezuela, Columbia and Jamaica, other Latin American countries, and this time, as far as Europe. Americans, so far, have been protected by the embargo from the product of the Cuban revolution: clean food.

The food is clean — largely free of chemicals and herbicides — because since the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba can’t afford them. And, necessity in this case being the mother of nature, Cuba may be producing what is needed, this community can do it. No one was paid a dime for their efforts. While some people showed an interest in helping out, the truth is that this publication must examine the failures and biases of the mainstream media. It must offer sound ways to change life for the better, helping readers to share ideas, experience, support and power. It can provide an inspiration to action and a catalyst for change.

A publication is needed that is free to the public. It can provide an alternative newspaper accessible to the small elite. Since these elites also control the major media, news and ideas that might challenge their power are not presented to the public.

The success of the paper will depend on the involvement of the community it serves. All those sharing a progressive viewpoint are invited to participate in any way they can. The newspaper will be guided by the vision of an attractive, readable newspaper, a paper that will speak clearly and directly to a diverse community, crossing lines of race, gender, class and sexual orientation. The success of the paper will depend on the involvement of the community it serves. All those sharing a progressive viewpoint are invited to participate in any way they can.

The Prism’s “Declaration of Intent” given 10 years ago
Here’s what appeared in the first, unnamed issue published in April, 1990, expressing the consensus of those who pressed forward to launch this radical paper.

Many have expressed a need for an alternative newspaper accessible to the community and response to the need for social change. The Triangle’s progressive community has no forum for information, communication and analysis. This has limited the ability of activists and organizations to meet their potential and has left citizens uninformed about important matters.

The existing news media is inadequate. Important local, national and international events are poorly reported. The economic and political forces that shape the news are not challenged. Our economy is characterized by gross inequities in wealth and access to resources, while concentrating power in the hands of a small elite. Since these elites also control the major media, news and ideas that might challenge their power are not presented to the public.

A publication is needed that is free to the public. It can provide an inspiration to action and a catalyst for change.

A group has formed to begin to address this need. Our vision is of an attractive, readable newspaper, a paper that will speak clearly and directly to a diverse community, crossing lines of race, gender, class and sexual orientation. The success of the paper will depend on the involvement of the community it serves. All those sharing a progressive viewpoint are invited to participate in any way they can.

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