

Before my removal as CPSA Webmaster Mr. Codina posted this message in the "Your Opinions" forum of the new Society Website in preparation.

#3 | 9/18/2009, 3:15 pm, EDT | Arturo Codina

El nuevo sitio oficial de la Sociedad esta magnifico, tal como la subasta

After my removal as CPSA Webmaster and inauguration of the new CPSA Website, I posted the following message in the "Your Opinions" forum:

#4 | 10/9/2009, 1:44 pm, EDT | Ernesto Cuesta

I am glad that my friend Codina likes the new CPSA Website since its structure and content are basically the same as the Website that I created for the Society many years ago and that I have maintained for the Society since then, albeit a little bit jazzed up. It is good to see I have motivated the Society Officers and Board to contribute their efforts to the improvement of the Website.

I am also glad that he likes the Auction listing with direct links to the auction images--another concept that I introduced with the 31 March 2007 auction that I posted on the CPSA Website.

I am especially glad that the Society has introduced this new forum for opinions as part of the new Website so I can use it to reach those members whose contact information the current Society Officers and some Board members have refused to provide me in spite of repeated requests with the excuse that such information is "private". **Let's see how long they will maintain this forum open and uncensored...** I notice that my name has been eliminated from the Society's Editorial Board in the Contacts section of the Website--another step in silencing and excluding members with dissenting opinions.

I encourage all Society members to use this forum to provide the Society with their feedback on its operations or lack thereof.

Mr. Codina's response to my posting #4 in the "Your Opinions" forum was followed by this personal message :

Subject: My opinon

Date: Sat, 10 Oct 2009 10:07:06 -0400

From: Arturo Codina <flagator71@bellsouth.net>

To: Ernesto Cuesta <ecuesta@philat.com>

I have lost the little respect I had for you. You are full of vitriol.

I will write an extensive letter to you next week on my view of all the divisiness you have created.

Arturo.

Espero que seas macho suficiente de no mandar este email a todos tus compinches.

Mr. Codina's e-mail was accompanied by his handsome photo:



This was followed by another posting in the "Your Opinions" forum:

#6 | 10/10/2009, 4:40 pm, EDT | Arturo Codina

Mr Cuesta: I don't think this website is for you to use to create more destructive division among society members. If you have an issue to discuss you need to address it to the intended individual

Ignoring his personal message and cute photo, I limited my response to Mr. Codina's posting #6:

#8 | 10/11/2009, 1:38 pm, EDT | Ernesto Cuesta

Mr. Codina, I disagree with your opinion that my postings to this forum are intended to "create destructive division among Society members". On the contrary all of my messages to the Society membership are intended to bring improvements in the Society operations and counter the exclusive rather than inclusive orientation of the current Society leadership. Your message #6 is intended to be exclusive of my opinions and against the freedom of speech that is the most basic principle of a democratic Society and which was hopefully the spirit behind the creation of this forum.

For several years now I have been addressing my complaints and requests through other venues to the Society leadership with little or no results, so I have now decided to come public with them in an effort to have them addressed. Let me point to you that most of the improvements that were finally adopted in the September 28 Call to Action circulated to the membership by the Society President resulted from my constructive criticisms and recommendations and I have the documentation to prove it.

I attended a Miami meeting of the Society on 10 November carrying a proposal for revising the current flawed Society Bylaws and conducting fair and democratic elections and was received with a flurry of unwarranted and unfounded attacks by those present, principally Mr. Codina, and was bluntly told that the Society would continue to be controlled by the Miami membership and that if I didn't like it, I should leave. After that unsavory experience I posted the following message #48 in the "Your Opinions" forum:

#48 | 11/11/2009, 11:37 pm, EST | Ernesto Cuesta  | Location  United States

¡Con todos, y para el bien de todos!
José Martí
26 de noviembre de 1891

Palabras de nuestro prócer que deberían de ponderar con detenimiento los miembros de Miami de nuestra Sociedad.

Lamentablemente el mensaje que me dieron los miembros de la Sociedad presentes en la reunión de ayer martes 10 de noviembre en Miami fue que la Sociedad está basada en Miami y seguirá siendo controlada desde Miami per sécula seculórum en beneficio de ellos y sin consideración de los intereses del resto de los miembros de la Sociedad. Ya verán el relajo que se traen con las elecciones. Y al que no le guste, que se largue...

¡Patria o Muerte! ¡Venceremos!
Lamentable que no hayan aprendido la lección...

Four days later, Mr. Codina posted his message #50 in the "Your Opinions" forum:

#50 | 11/15/2009, 8:25 pm, EST | Arturo A Codina  | Location  United States

Sr. Cuesta: Es bochornoso el mensaje que Ud. ha puesto en el Website de la CPSA. "Patria o Muerte, Venceremos" es un lema ofensivo a todos los cubanos que nos hemos exiliado a este país para escapar la tiranía de Castro. Es especialmente doloroso y ofensivo a aquellas personas que han perdido seres queridos al paredón de fusilamiento, a encarcelamientos, a muertos en balsas en la travesías por los estrechos de la Florida. Ud. no tiene vergüenza y no se merece decirse Cubano. Debe de pedir disculpas a todos los que Ud. ha ofendido. Descarado.

Debe de devolver el premio de Cruz Planas otorgado a Ud, ya que Ud. dice que eso fue hueso que le tiraron para callarlo. Ud. le a quitado valor a este premio que ha sido otorgado a personas mas merecidas que Ud. Así que si tiene una gota de vergüenza, devuelvalo. Y como Ud. dice, si no le gusta, largese. Pero por favor hagalo rapido y forme su propio Club para que Ud. pueda regir en su dictadura y para poder decir "Patria o Muerte, Venceremos."

Por favor de no utilizar este foro para su agenda politica, sino para agendas filatelicas.

"Usually, terrible things that are done with the excuse that progress requires them, are not really progress at all, but just terrible things."
Russell Baker.

"A fanatic is one who can't change his mind, and won't change the subject." Winston Churchill.
El pobre Martí, si el supiera que Ud esta usando sus palabras, se ensuciaría en su tumba.
No se moleste en contestarme, ni comunicarse mas conmigo en el futuro. You make make sick.

Following is my response to Mr. Codina's posting #50:

#52 | 11/17/2009, 1:49 pm, EST | Ernesto Cuesta  | Location  United States

Respuesta al mensaje #50 de Codina.

Lo bochornoso es que se use este foro para lanzar insultos.

La cita "¡Patria o Muerte. Venceremos!" en mi mensaje #48 se refería a la actitud que han tomado los miembros de la Sociedad de Miami respecto a su claramente manifestada intención de mantener control de la Sociedad en Miami manipulando las elecciones de la directiva con ese fin—muy parecido a los métodos de nuestro amigo Fidel en Cuba. Y al que no le guste, que se largue... Eso es más que bochornoso, es verdaderamente vergonzoso.

Espero que el amigo Codina no malinterprete también mi referencia a "nuestro amigo Fidel" y ahora también me tilde de Fidelista...

I also replied to another message Mr. Codina sent me privately with my posting #53:

#53 | 11/17/2009, 6:47 pm, EST | Ernesto Cuesta 

Reply to another message from Codina.

This time the message was sent to me privately. Mr. Codina wants me to cease my postings on this forum.

He also informs me that he is going to propose at the Society's meeting today that if I continue to use this forum for political propaganda and to attack the Society, that the Webmaster delete my postings—"just like the dictatorship of YOUR friend Fidel Castro"—an exact translation of his words.

It seems that Mr. Codina has not understood the content and purpose of my postings. None of them have attacked the Society or any of its members in particular—they have all raised issues with respect to current Society operations in an attempt to have them corrected for improved Society operations and the overall benefit of the Society and ALL of its members. All of my postings have been based on factual information that I have presented as clearly as possible and I am willing to provide further explanation or corroboration of those facts or information to anyone that requests it.

Let me provide you with some additional factual information. Go and re-read postings #6, 41, and 50 from Mr. Codina where he is improperly using this forum to attack me personally simply because he doesn't like my postings. Let me remind you that Mr. Codina was nominated as Society Vice-President in the recently circulated election ballot. Read Mr. Codina's messages carefully and ponder whether he is the sort of leader that our Society deserves.

This is not political propaganda, Mr. Codina, these are irrefutable facts.

Evidently Mr. Codina is one of those that have not learned the lessons of Cuba's sorry history. He is annoyed at my use of the slogan "Patria o Muerte, Venceremos" to refer to the attitude of the current CPSA leadership in handling dissent within its membership by shunning and ostracizing those that criticize and propose constructive criticism to correct problems within the current operations of the Society.

Shortly after my Opinions #53 response to Mr. Codina's message #50 above, the Society instituted censorship of my postings in this forum (see postings #54 and 55). Then in January of 2010 at a local Miami meeting of the Society the Board of Directors voted and approved a motion to expel me from the Society based on fabricated charges, without following the Society Bylaws and without affording me due process to defend myself against their trumped up charges.

It seems to me that the behavior of the current Society leadership and some of its Miami supporters is exactly in line with the behavior of those that operate under the prostituted slogan "Patria o Muerte, Venceremos".

Perhaps it would have been more apropos to have said "Miami o Muerte, Venceremos" ...

#54 | 11/18/2009, 3:22 pm, EST | Miguel A De Dios  | Location  United States

Notice:

Due to repeated usage of this Forum for personal issues and references to the functionality of this Society as well as the many complaints referring to these same issues, we will establish the following Forum usage rules:

- 1) The Forum is open for general access to anyone.
- 2) It is to be used to discuss philately and issues that are relevant to our hobby.
- 3) Issues related to the running of this Society or any complaints against a Director, the Board of Directors, or any Society member are considered private and should be directly discussed among the concerned parties outside of this Forum.
- 4) Users cannot use this Forum to discuss any political, religious, ethnic, or any other topics that may be erroneously interpreted or that offend the ideology of others.
- 5) Use of obscene or offensive language against the Society or any members is prohibited.
- 6) The main purpose of this Forum is to dissipate information, communicate and ask philatelic questions among those who want to receive these benefits.
- 7) Any infractions will be sanctioned with the removal of the message and blocking the user from using this Forum temporarily or permanently.

Thank for your cooperation and we hope that will never have to be in the position of having to sanction anyone, especially one of our members...

The following message was deleted from the "Your Opinions" forum in exercise of the censorship arbitrarily imposed by the Miami members of the Society per posting #54.

#55a | 11/18/2009, 4:10 pm, EST | Ernesto Cuesta  | Location  United States

Censorship reflects society's lack of confidence in itself.

It is a hallmark of an authoritarian regime.

-Potter Stewart

The test of democracy is freedom of criticism.

-David Ben-Gurion

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

-Voltaire

Really offensive language indeed...

I challenge Mr. Codina or anyone else to produce a single message from myself in which I have used offensive language or in which I have personally offended him or any other member of the Society.