

Yucas and the Presidential Election of November 4, 2008

Sent: Saturday, October 25, 2008 11:29 PM

Subject: The YUCAS, Our Culture, History and the Presidential Election of Nov 4, 2008

Like all Americans we are concerned with the current situation and the future of our country. We however bring a slightly different perspective to the current debate, first a couple of historical points to put things in context.

YUCAS is a term that grew out of the 1980's as a take on the word YUPPIE. Essentially YUCAS are the Cuban equivalent of YUPPIES. Generally it is meant to describe a segment of the Cuban American population who for the most part was born in the US (it can also refer to those who came at a very young age) of Cuban parents and have simultaneously lived immersed in two cultures, and are fully comfortable in both. They have also been very successful in living the American Dream. This group of citizens has grown up fully immersed in American life, but often hearing and learning of the experiences of their parents and grand-parents. It is an experience that is not unique to the last half of the 20th Century, but it is one that did not end with the 20th Century in Cuba, hence our unique perspective.

In the Environment of modern American politics it often quite common to disparage others, simply because of a different point of view and perhaps even dismiss them as having an antiquated view. It is in this environment that those Cuban parents and grandparents, who lived the experience of a country taking the wrong turn; have been referred to as "Radical Right Wing Cubans from South Florida" and other similar negative rhetoric. Sometimes that rhetoric comes from their YUCA offspring who are concerned that the perceived "Radicalism" of their elders does not rub-off or diminish the "Political Maturity" they have.

It is concerning that some of my YUCA brethren are perhaps practicing a form of self-censure in trying to dismiss the concerns that some of them have developed regarding the current political debate over the choice of candidates for the presidency of the United States of America. We don't want to be like our parents any more than any other generation. We don't want to see a communist behind every tree.....like they do. Therefore we disagree with them right? Or do we?

Life is full of choices and we will individually not "collectively" make a very big one in this coming election. I am imploring all of you to listen to your conscience and to listen to your gut. The experiences of your Parents and Grand Parents are speaking to you. Many of us have wondered at times how it was possible that Cuba made the choice it did in 1959. That was so long ago, it's just history now..... How is it possible that a country that had such promise could throw it all away and end up the way it has? They were not informed..... that must be it. Cuba was really just another banana republic.....that must be it? There are many other....."that must be it" reasons. One fact remains; they took a wrong turn and haven't been

able to get back on the right track.

A point of clarification, I am not suggesting nor implying that Senator Obama is a communist. I am however saying that he is most definitely a Socialist. To those on the right there is little distinction. To those on the left there is a discomfort with the use of the term Socialist. Perhaps it is a matter of perception or just trying to better market their product as “progressive” or some other term. Those on the left must be true to themselves and the rest of us. If Socialism is what they want then say it and let us decide (Re-distribution of wealth by definition is Socialism, hence he is a Socialist). My assumption is that under this “American Socialism”, we will retain the basic rights that many of us hold dear, but that the government will control a bigger size of the economy, and other matters of daily life. That, I believe is certainly the intent of those who have jumped in and are fully supporting this “CHANGE”.

The Paradox is that these things are mutually exclusive. You cannot have the government control more things and at the same time have us retain “fully” those rights which are enshrined in the founding documents of this nation. The more things the government controls, the less you do. It’s like a math equation, two plus two is still four.

So my fellow YUCAS do not ignore your gut and the lessons you were taught by those older folks. If your gut tells you that something does not feel right with the left turn the country is taking then speak up and most of all vote. This is not about Cuba or our parents; it is about us and our children, and the children of our fellow Americans who unlike us might be more tempted to give this left turn a try. They might be excused if anything because they have not sat around the dinner table and listened to the stories we have all heard and probably are sick of hearing. How the government decided to start doing things for us for our own good.

Times are scary, but nothing scares me more than the government telling me it’s going to “HELP ME”, or help the banks, or help the insurance company, or help the automobile company or help.....well you get it.

Whatever you do, VOTE, this is the most important election in our life time, not because of the obvious historical tidbits the press talks about so much. (The first black president, first woman VP, etc.) None of it matters. They could be little green men/women from Mars and it still wouldn’t matter.

It is an important election because it will either Preserve or alter permanently the basic tenets of personal freedom and responsibility that founded this nation.