Student documentary explores social issues in Cuba

By JACOB R. BECKER
Staff Writer

Five months after filming illegally undercover in Cuba, two UB graduate students are now hoping to attract attention to their documentary about the social effects of tourism on the isolated Communist island.

"Entre Luz y Sol," which means "Between Light and Sun" in Spanish, is the culmination of almost a year's work by Clorinda Andrade, the writer and co-producer of the film. After an on-campus screening Thursday, the documentary's next step could be a film festival.

"The film explores the effects, from the 1990s to the present, of tourism on Cuba," said Andrade, a master's student in Caribbean studies. "The social effects of tourism are known, but most put a blind eye to it."

According Kevin Lopez, the director of the film, the documentary investigates the relationship between tourists and Cubans.

"Cubans and tourists both exploit each other," Lopez said. "It is a symbiotic relationship."

For Andrade, the film began as a thesis project.

"As of right now this is purely a thesis project, but we will potentially submit it to film festivals," Andrade said.

Andrade came up with the idea after spending last summer in Cuba.

"I proposed the idea in the summer, worked on the details through the fall, and we filmed in December," Andrade said.

According to Andrade, there are different types of tourists, and each is touched on in the film.



Anita Paulus / The Spectrum

Two UB graduate students filmed a documentary in Cuba, "Entre Luz y Sol," which investigates the relationship between tourists and Cubans.

"There are a couple types of travelers: those that go on guided tours, academic tourists and sex tourists," Andrade said. "The Spanish term *jineterismo* is used to describe all the people who hustle and prostitute themselves to tourists in order to survive."

The documentary might be a student project, but it received some big-time funding. Once Lopez became involved, he applied for, and won, a scholarship from Miramax.

"Miramax provided me a $10,000 scholarship to film the documentary," Lopez said. "With the money I was able to pay for the equipment we needed, as well as getting to and from Cuba."

Even with the help from Miramax, Lopez and Andrade had several major obstacles to face when filming in Cuba.

"We had to film the entire documentary incognito," Lopez said. "We had no permission from the government to film, so we could have been in a lot of trouble. We had to be very discreet."

Andrade and Lopez said the film is not meant to be a political statement, but rather a way to explore issues from a student's perspective.

The filmmakers said their own culture also helped give them advantage when it came to working unnoticed in Cuba.

"Since we are Latinos we were able to blend in with social circles that other filmmakers might not be able to," Andrade said.

"Entre Luz y Sol" will be screened on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Room 112 of the Center for the Arts.

Firestone
U.B.
Standard Oil Change & Filter
YOUR CAR'S MOST FREQUENTLY NEEDED SERVICE!
$9.99
Install new oil filter
Lubricate chassis if applicable
Refill up to 5 qts Kendall® 10W-30 oil
Most vehicles
Standard Brake Service
Each Axle ONLY...
$79
Install brake pads and shoes
Resurface drums and rotors
Adjust drums (on serviced axle)
Road test vehicle
Most vehicles
Semi-metallic pads, 4x4 wheels, grease seals & bearing repack extra
Special Purchase Radial
4 TIRES FOR ONLY...
Our Lowest Everyday Price for Domestic Cars
$79
All 13" Sizes – 4 For $89
All 14" Sizes – 4 For $99
All 15" Sizes – 4 For $109
155/80R13 or $19.99 ea
30 & 75 series size whitewalls. Tread design may vary. Most vehicles
N.Y. State Inspection
Standard safety & emissions check
Subject to NYS inspection laws
$10 OFF
Call for an appointment. Most vehicles.
NIAGARA FALLS BLVD
FLINT RD
MILLERSPORT HWY
FIRESTONE
SHERIDAN DR
These Special Values are available only at the Firestone Tire & Service Center located at 995 Niagara Falls Blvd. Phone (716) 837-9700

Come Join the
Cinco de Mayo Celebration
5 de Mayo MEXICAN GRILL
MAY 5TH, 2005
Gifts & Prizes
from 1-5pm
$3.00 OFF With A Purchase of $20.00
Lunch Specials Monday-Saturday
3870 Union Road, Cheektowaga
Near George Urban across from Tops Plaza
Take Out Available.
Coupon Available For Dine In Only.
Valid Mon.-Thurs. Expires 5/6/05
(716) 651-0672
Margaritas Wine Beer Mexican Beer Tequila
5 de Mayo MEXICAN GRILL
883533

Sticking with it

JACKIE *from page 20*

that an old iMac and a goofy-looking kid named Daniel were going to be two, among many, of my new best friends.

I took over the sports desk at The Spectrum with relatively little experience, essentially transforming into a UB athletic outsider in terms of something that had become such a familiar aspect of my life. And being a member of the media, an outsider, was admittedly not much easier than being on the inside as an athlete.

Which brings me back to Reno. After being mistaken for everything from a coach's wife to a UB cheerleader to Victoria Bull, there were probably more synonyms to describe the frustration I felt with being taken seriously as a female journalist than there were illustrative expletives to describe the feelings I had for the ex-boyfriend who had just broken my heart.

I struggled covering some sports, particularly the sports that I generally reserved for barroom viewing or had traditionally saved for lazy Sunday afternoons, but for whatever reason, I kept going, probably because I envisioned a job upon graduation writing about sports more accommodating than living in a cardboard box by the river.

Eventually, many of the peers that I had initially considered nemesis-like figures became my friends, my allies and my support. A lot of the reason my whole Spectrum experience has been so successful, in my mind at least, is because I stuck with it. Which brings me back to the UB department of athletics.

Looking back, it is evident to me that the whole relationship has been cyclical. I learned through some of my more trying experiences as a UB athlete and in being a member of a losing team (which is now a marginally successful team) that winning is a mentality.

During my four years here, I have seen losing teams turn into MAC contenders, little-known athletes become stars and the local coach from a high school around the corner evolve into a hero.

One of the first UB men's basketball games that I ever went to, I can remember being able to count the number of fans in the stands and at this season's final game, it was so packed I could barely breathe.

wake up to
The Spectrum
Student Union 132 | North Campus
Ellicott Complex 103 | South Campus
spectrum@buffalo.edu


Coming Soon!
"Munchie Machine"
Richmond, Red Jacket, Governors, and Main Street Market
Tuesday, May 3 through Friday, May 6, 2005
*The *Munchie Machine* delivery schedule is as follows:
6:15 pm Goodyear Hall, Bus Stop Loop
7:00 pm Governors, Lehman Hall Entrance
8:15 pm Porter / Fargo Loop, Ellicott
8:45 pm Richmond / Red Jacket Loop, Ellicott
Complimentary Snacks:
Free
Hot Chocolate
Soda
Pretzels
Oranges
Donut Holes
Food
Cookies
Apples
Potato chips
Assorted Candy Bars
Dried Fruit Mix
*(Times are approximate, weather/driving conditions, & traffic are a factor)
Munchies will be available at the community building at Creekside, Flint, Hadley, and South Lake Village apartments.
Brought to you by Campus Dining and Shops