

Harvard-MIT-UPR caucus to hold local conference

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Of The STAR Staff

Driven by concerns about the socio-economic crisis the island continues to undergo, the Harvard-MIT-UPR Puerto Rican Caucus will hold the conference "Puerto

Rican Minds in Action: A New Economic Focus."

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the Normandie Hotel in San Juan, from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The event will consist of four interactive panels between experts and youth whose ideas will be gathered in a formal document with concrete solutions for the conference's central topics — educational systems, sustainable development plans, energy systems and economic models.

The conference's panelists include former Education Secretaries César Rey and Gloria Baquero, Estudios Técnicos Inc. CEO José J. Villamil, Energy Affairs Administrator Javier Quintana and Center for the New Economy Executive Director Miguel Soto-Class.

The proposal that results from these panels will be presented to government and industry leaders so the recommendations are implemented and adopted as public policy and private initiatives.

The concept of Puerto Rican Minds in Action was created by a group of Puerto Ricans from the University of Puerto Rico, Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to connect youth leaders with current leaders and experts so they can discuss, analyze and propose viable solutions to differ-

ent factors that delay the island's economic development.

This event is being carried out following the success of the April 2007 conference "Restoring Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: Proposing Solutions," held at Harvard University by a student caucus from that institution and MIT.

Over 100 students from Puerto Rico and the mainland United States participated in the inter-disciplinary discussion of problems and solutions that affect economic development, along with panelists. At that conference an alliance was established with the UPR student body through the institution's president, Antonio García Padilla.

Since then, a series of eight educational panels were organized in Puerto Rico and Boston to establish a solid base of knowledge on each of the four central themes in this conference. The series was co-sponsored by the Luis Muñoz Marín and Luis A. Ferré Foundations, it was the first time these two entities have worked on an event together.

Students and young professionals interested in discussing and seeking solutions to the problems that affect Puerto Rico can find more information about the upcoming conference Puerto Rico Minds in Action and register for it at www.harvardmitcaucus.com.



STAR FILE PHOTO
The Normandie Hotel in San Juan will host the conference on Saturday.

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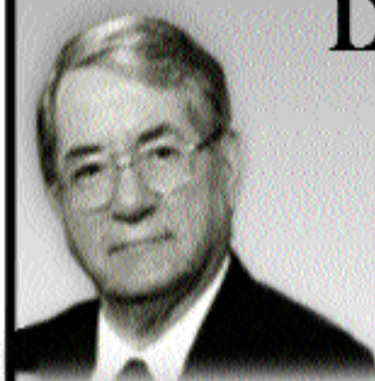
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Daily Meditations for Difficult Times

Author of the well known phrase: "The twentieth century man is a lonelyman, and loneliness hurts".

HOW TO FACE TENSION

And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:23, 25.

In life we always have some kind of tension. It's like a guitar chord, when loose it doesn't sound right, and if it's tight, it will even break. It must have the correct tension in order for it to sound correctly. We cannot eliminate all tensions, but we can avoid those tensions that make us sick.

Today's meditation: We cannot change the circumstances of our lives, but we can learn to change our attitude toward them.



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