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GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE A-13

We look forward to a 1999 full of change

It's only natural that a daily newspaper focuses on daily happenings — events that occurred the previous day or are scheduled in the next day or two. But a good newspaper also documents demographic trends, social changes and other forces that can take years to unfold.

Callers, members of the newspaper's citizen advisory group and others frequently comment on how much the area is changing. Certainly rapid population growth is one of those changes. Since 1990, Brown County's estimated population has grown 12 percent to 212,110, adding 25,000 residents. Picture adding a new city to the county plus those in Wisconsin and Denmark.

One key for the area's future will be a mix of people with open arms while still maintaining the small-town attributes that longtime residents hold dear — such as people knowing and caring about their neighbors.

In addition to increasing diversity, there are other still-unfolding changes that will be monitored in 1999 and will likely have a deep impact for years to come.

Urban sprawl: Some of the region's rapid growth is occurring in previously rural places. The region's leaders will be ongoing balancing act to ensure that growth in outlying areas does not drain the tax base and vitality from Green Bay. Community leaders must ensure that appropriate services are in place to serve emerging population centers.

Shifting tax burdens: The state's decision to pay for two-thirds of the costs of public schools provided temporary property tax relief. But as schools continue to rise — especially combined with increasing costs of education — the state may have to increase difficulty meeting its obligations. Taxpayers may benefit little in the long run if, for example, there's no new aid for cities and, in turn, municipalities continue to raise taxes to cover property tax loss.

Predicting the environment: It will likely be a pivotal year for two long-running stories, cleanup of PCBs from the Fox River and the proposal to build the Crawford mine. I've agreed with paper mill representatives who've argued that a determination on how to clean the river should wait until receipt of data from pilot dredging projects. But there's a deadline. Delays would add credence to accusations that the mills have been stalling all along.

On the proposed mine, Nicolas Minerva will soon submit examples of mills that it says have been operated and reclaimed without harming the environment. Approval for the Crawford mine may well turn on whether those examples pass state scrutiny.

Accountability for schools: The state has developed tougher curriculum standards and changed the way it scores standardized tests to more clearly show what children are — and are not — learning. And, with the class of 2003, high school students will have to pass a test to graduate in a competitive world. Tough standards are a good thing. But at what point do such standards discourage marginal students from staying in school? Local school leaders have embraced the tougher standards and are working to ensure their students are prepared. Our job will be to monitor how well they're doing that.

Changes in health care: Doctors, hospitals and insurers have been adapting and re-adapting at a dizzying rate. There's been a proliferation of medical clinics and the possibility of other hospitals has been raised. The question is: Will the quality of health care improve or will these new developments dilute services and/or cost? We'll see how things change. We'll do our best to keep you up to date on the evolving stories in the year ahead.

If you have questions or information about the newspaper please call Carol Hunter at 920-61-8277. Or write to her at Executive Editor's Office, Green Bay Press-Gazette, P.O. Box 2900, Green Bay, WI 54907-0900.

PERSPECTIVE

Castro triumphs over all odds

4 decades of U.S. hostility withstood

THE FACES OF CUBA

Associated Press

HAVANA — The beard is grayer, the cheeks are thinner and the hands jutting from the military uniform are marked with age spots, sometimes seeming to twitch.

Age may be Fidel Castro's greatest triumph. Against all odds, the revolution he led celebrates the 40th anniversary of its victory on Jan. 1.

Little over three decades has turned out the way anyone expected. But almost every Cuban life has been radically transformed since he took power for war, add some for Miami.

'Socialism or death'
The revolution has outlasted decades of U.S. attempts to overthrow it. The Soviet ally has long outlived the Soviet superpower.

And yet, as in the bygone times of John F. Kennedy, Nikita Khrushchev and Lyndon B. Johnson, Castro remains firm, vowing "socialism or death."

The era began shortly after the revolution. In 1959, when dictator Fulgencio Batista, his army commander, fled by airplane from Havana's Camp Columbia to exile in the eastern city of Santiago.

Soon afterward, Castro spoke to make his first speech as the country's appointed prime minister. "Personally I am not interested in power, nor do I envisage assuming it at any time," he said, celebrating supporters.

Many welcomed Castro
Cubans welcomed Castro over Jose Marti — not Karl Marx — had seen the socialist revolution. The rebels promised equality, justice, and a new society. They supported extended far into Cuba's middle and upper classes.

But Batista's regime was not socialist. In magazine advertisements, Coca-Cola welcomed "the resurgence of democratic liberties." The magazine *Bohemia* ran a portrait of people tortured or killed by Batista's police and soldiers.

From the U.S. government tentatively welcomed Castro, though children appeared within days at streets like people's courts — a sign of taking revenge on alleged war criminals of the Batista regime.

About 20 people were executed within three weeks, causing international protest. Havana's Hugh Thomas estimated 5,000 people might have been executed by 1970, though in more recent years capital punishment has been rare.

"Fidel always had support, always had and has," said Franko Cruz Acosta, then a 44-year-old contractor from Amelkuba, 72 miles east of Havana on the route of Castro's January 1959 process.



Dery Salazar, 4, lies in a hyperbaric oxygenation chamber in Havana's Hermanos Amadores Hospital as part of his regular treatments for a joint disorder. Cuba's high-tech medical facilities and quality health care are perhaps the greatest triumph of the Revolution.



Schoolchildren called "spioneers" attend class at the Mario Munoz Moroy Elementary School in Havana. Cuba boasts the highest literacy rate in Latin America, and children are taught from an early age to appreciate the gains of Cuba's socialist revolution. The mural on the wall shows Cuban independence hero Jose Marti, at right.

U.S. officials who at first welcomed Castro began backing efforts to topple him. That led to the CIA organized Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 — at the same time Castro declared for the first time that Cuba's revolution was socialist.

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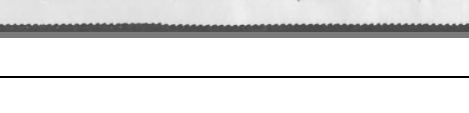
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Key dates in history of Cuban revolution

- Jan. 1, 1959:** Fulgencio Batista, Cuba's dictator, is ousted by Fidel Castro's revolution.
- May 27, 1959:** Land reform law leads to friction with United States.
- February 1960:** Soviet Foreign Minister Anastas Mikoyin visits Cuba, signs major aid deal, first of many pacts over next 30 years.
- June 1960:** Cuba nationalizes U.S.-owned oil refineries after they refuse to process Soviet oil. Nearly all other U.S. businesses are nationalized by October.
- July 6, 1960:** President Eisenhower slashes U.S. import quotas for Cuba's sugar, other than food and medicine.
- Jan. 3, 1961:** U.S. Embassy in Havana closed.
- April 16, 1961:** Castro declares Cuba's socialist state.
- April 17, 1961:** 1,200 Cuban exiles supported by CIA invade at Bay of Pigs, attack collapses two days later.
- Jan. 22, 1962:** Cuba suspended from Organization of American States, Cuba expelled with all its armed forces from Latin America.
- Feb. 7, 1962:** Washington bans all Cuban imports.
- March 19, 1962:** Food rationing begins in Cuba.
- October 1962:** President Kennedy blockades Cuba to force removal of Soviet nuclear missiles. Soviets agree within days and Kennedy agrees to not invade Cuba.
- March 1968:** Castro's government taken over almost all private businesses other than small firms.
- July 1972:** Cuba joins Communist bloc.
- November 1974:** High-level U.S. and Cuban officials meet to talk in failed effort to improve relations.
- April 1980:** Refugee crisis erupts as Mariel port in Cuba opens to let anyone leave, some 125,000 flee by air and sea.
- December 1984:** U.S. Cuba import quotas are suspended.
- December 1991:** Collapse of Soviet Union ends extensive aid to trade with Cuba, whose economy is helped 30 percent by U.S. aid.
- Aug. 14, 1992:** Cuba ends ban on use of dollars, encouraging Cubans to receive funds from abroad and from growing tourism industry. Small-scale private businesses legalized in September.



Cuban President Fidel Castro motions to the crowd to sit before speaking to thousands of supporters in Santiago, Cuba, in this July 26 photo. Castro was attending the annual "Rebelion Day" celebration marking the beginning of the Cuban Revolution in 1953.

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Feb. 24, 1996: Cubans show more interest in the Internet. The government allows private Internet access.

March 12, 1996: U.S. Commerce Dept. imposes penalties on foreign companies using counterfeit U.S. property in Cuba.

January 1998: Pope John Paul II visits Cuba.