

Ossmann Desir, the lone Haitian-American on the North Miami council, a city with a large Haitian population, echoed Mapou. "We have a Haitian-American community that is increasing every day, and they're becoming more and more aware of English."

Author Bernard Diederich, who published the English language Haiti Sun on the island from 1950 to 1963, also was enthusiastic. While he said major papers like The New York Times and The Herald do solid coverage, the country has many critical and stubborn issues that go unexamined or are reported with clear political bias by the Haitian press.

"There is a crying need for this, a real balanced newspaper that has no agenda," he said.

Mike McQueen, chairman of Florida International University's journalism and broadcasting department, said the paper could become "a pretty important voice" and provide a sense of validation for a community.

"Even though Haitians have been in Miami-Dade County for about 20 years, they're still sort of forgotten exiles," McQueen said. "They're black, but they're not African-American, they're Caribbean refugees but they're not Cuban or Dominican, and a lot of them aren't refugees."

McQueen had a mixed reaction to the English-only decision, saying it could shut out recent arrivals. But Pierre-Pierre and Colon, who both immigrated as children, called the choice key to the paper's philosophy and identity.

In Haiti, language is loaded. The Upper-class minority favors French. Creole is the language of the vast poor majority, most of whom can't read it. Most Haitian immigrants succeed by speaking English.

"For us," Colon said, "English is the great equalizer."

With Hispanics, language isn't divisive but unifying, he said. Spanish-speakers also have the benefit of larger populations in cities like Miami, which often allows new immigrants to thrive, even without mastering the new language.

Scope and approach are the things Colon hopes will really separate the paper—an approximately 40-page tabloid with an internet site also under development (www.haitiantimes.com)—from its counterparts. The staple of both French papers is politics, dry "insider baseball," he said.

While the paper already has a bureau in Port-au-Prince, Colon intends to emphasize issues and personalities stateside, eventually expanding from the New York-Haiti-Miami triangle into other cities.

"I'm interested in holding up the mirror to the Haitian community, our successes and our failures to say, 'This is who we are,'" Colon said.

Colon, who has covered Haiti for The Herald and The Associated Press, said he will strive for objectivity. At the same time, he hopes to stir passions, a task he admits is difficult, given the collective cultural experience.

"The perfect word for it is that Haitians are injured. Haitians have seen so much—poverty, corruption, the brutality of their own brothers and sisters—but there is very little reaction to it."

The bigger challenge will be luring buyers and advertisers.

John Morton, a media analyst and president of Morton Research in Maryland, said that to last, the paper will have to leap hurdles. For one, while some ethnic newspapers—particularly Spanish-language papers in major cities—have succeeded, many others are only "marginally profitable."

"Starting up a new publication is always fraught with a lot of heavy lifting and usually loses a lot of money initially," he said. "That's often the problem that keeps these things from succeeding—they're undercapitalized."

Because the readership is spread across the map, it also may be more difficult to attract advertisers, he said. The critical key may be expanding from Haitian businesses to mainstream advertisers.

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Both Colon and Pierre-Pierre agree the venture is a risk but one they say is worth it. Investors are committed, Pierre-Pierre said, reaction stateside has been strong and there's also a large audience in Haiti, a country of eight million.

The paper plans a first run of 40,000 and will "probably level off to around 25,000 and work its way up," he said. "This is an idea whose time has come."

TRIBUTE TO V.F.W. JOHN MARTIN
STEEL POST 6049

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars John Martin Steel Post 6049 of Morris, Illinois as it celebrates the 100th year anniversary of the VFW and the 75th year anniversary of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

On May 8, 1942, Private John Martin Steel was killed in the South Pacific. Private Steel served aboard the aircraft carrier Lexington with an anti-aircraft battalion when it was sunk. Private Steel was the first local man to be killed in the Second World War. Almost a year to the day later, the USS Steel, a destroyer escort, was launched on May 4, 1943.

The charter of this VFW Post was obtained in 1947. Among the Charter Members: William G. Stratton, former Governor of Illinois; James R. Washburn, former Mayor of Morris and Illinois State Representative; August Black, a prominent attorney; William Sackett, newspaper owner; and Clark Davis, former Coroner. Not only were these men Charter Members, as you can see, they were also pillars of the community who provided great leadership.

Today, along with honoring the men, we also acknowledge the important role of the Ladies' Auxiliary. The assistance of this organization has been critical to the members of the VFW for the past 75 years. These ladies serve as the mortar in the foundation of the VFW. Post 6049 is fortunate to have the resources of a Ladies' Auxiliary.

The naming of this VFW Post after Private John Martin Steel honors his service and his ultimate sacrifice for our country. Not only does the naming of this post honor Private Steel, it also reminds us of all of the veterans who fought for our freedom overseas. It reminds us of the brave individuals who shipped off to far away lands and put their lives on the line to insure the American way of life. It reminds us, Mr. Speaker, that freedom is not

free. And it reminds us that these courageous Americans should all be remembered and should all be honored.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the service of the men of the Veterans of Foreign Wars John Martin Steel Post 6049 in Morris, Illinois and the Ladies' Auxiliary. They have shown leadership for their country and community for the last 52 years. Without them, the community would have no backbone; but because of their service we are strong, courageous and proud of a free America.

LOUISIANA-PACIFIC AND NATURE
CONSERVANCY OF TEXAS AN-
NOUNCE JOINT MANAGEMENT
AGREEMENT TO CONSERVE ECO-
LOGICALLY VALUABLE WILD-
LIFE HABITAT

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 18, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that this month, Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, a major U.S. building products company, put into motion a program designed to identify and proactively manage ecologically significant habitat located on the company's lands. More than 4,300 acres encompassing 12 sites in Texas and Louisiana will be reserved for their ecological value and conservation potential as part of Louisiana-Pacific's Living Legacy Lands program. Joining in this effort is the Nature Conservancy of Texas which will assist in the identification and management of designated sites.

Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy of Texas signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on October 5, 1999, to establish a framework for conservation and management actions of Louisiana-Pacific lands within the Piney Woods Ecological Region of East Texas and West Louisiana. The first conservation site designated under the MOU is located in Tyler County, Texas which is located in the 2nd Congressional District of Texas. This 1,300 acre site includes an area of woodpecker nests within one of the largest great stands of traditional longleaf pine forest in the Southern United States. Additional conservation acres will be identified and designated through the mutual agreement of Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that you and the Congress join me in congratulating Louisiana-Pacific and The Nature Conservancy of Texas for their partnership and desire to conserve lands for generations of Americans.