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*I*t is with great optimism that we have arrived at the completion of the sixth issue of ISLAS; our project is becoming evermore a reality. The letters to the editor that we include in this issue reflect a measure of recognition the journal continues to strive for. We are very pleased to have received such encouraging opinions from Cuba and the United States, particularly because they are coming from Afro-Cubans from both sides of the Florida Straits.

The articles published in the present issue cover a broad gamut of topics; they offer the reader many different points of view about the participation of the black population in the construction of Cuban society. Other articles deal with the manifestation of racism in places as far away as Europe. In this sense, Christine Ayorindé's article, a response to some of the questions we have asked of authors in previous issues, offers an interesting evaluation of expressions of racism in Cuba and contributes significantly to our understanding of racism's many manifestations in the 'Old World,' which is currently receiving a large number of African immigrants. Regardless of where it occurs, racism and its scourge are a unique and ignominious phenomenon.

We would like to express our appreciation to artists Alejandro Aguilera and Radcliffe Bailey for their kindness. Their contribution to the journal of an attractive and suggestive photographic essay presents a perspective of Africa and its influence in our countries in a singularly aesthetic manner.

Thanks to all for helping ISLAS keep growing in quantity and quality.

Jaqueline H. Arroyo