1988 RR-88-89

UU ISA LEN BAS CAW FBA
:CUBA-FINES
CUBANS NOW KNOW WHAT KIND OF FINES TO EXPECT FOR MISDEMEANORS
HAVANA: APRIL 6: REUTER - CUBANS NOW KNOW WHAT KIND OF FINES THEY CAN EXPECT IF THEY COMMIT MISDEMEANORS UNDER A NEW LAW RECENTLY SIGNED BY CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN FULL IN TUESDAY'S OFFICIAL TRADE UNION NEWSPAPER, TRABAJADORES.

UNDER THE NEW LAW: IF A CUBA CITIZEN DOES NOT SHOW THE PROPER RESPECT FOR THE FLAG OR NATIONAL ANTHYM OF ANOTHER COUNTRY - AND THAT INCLUDES THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES - HE WILL BE FINED 5 PESOS (1 PESO = 1.30 DOLLARS)

HAVING A PARTY IN YOUR HOUSE WITH THE MUSIC BLARING OUT AFTER ONE IN THE MORNING WILL GET YOU A 20 PESO FINE. YOU WILL GET THE SAME FINE FOR THREATENING SOMEBODY WITH WORDS WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY, EVEN IF YOU DON'T REALLY INTEND TO DO BODILY HARM.

THE LAW FAILS TO CALL FOR FINES FOR DOG OWNERS WHOSE PETS POOP ON THE SIDEWALKS BUT IT DOES MAKE IT A 20 PESOS MISDEMEANOR IF YOUR GALLOPING HORSE ENDANGERS PEDESTRIANS.

THE UNIVERSAL MISDEMEANOR: CELEBRATED IN BOOKS OF FICTION OF PICKING FRUIT OR GOING FISHING ON SOMEBODY ELSES PROPERTY WILL ONLY SET YOU BACK 5 PESOS IF YOU ARE CAUGHT. THIS MODERATE FINE APPLIES TO ANY CUBAN CITIZEN WHO FAILS TO CARRY HIS OFFICIAL IDENTITY CARD WITH HIM.

ON THE MORE SERIOUS SIDE: +TOUCHING OR LASCIVIOUSLY CARESSING+ SOMEBODY WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT IS PUNISHABLE BY A 40 PESO FINE. SHOWING ANY PORNAGRAPHIC PHOTOS: MOVING PICTURES OR VIDEOS TO OTHERS WILL BE SANCTIONED BY +A SIXTY PESOS FINE AND CONFISCATION OF THE MATERIALS.+

THE RELATIVE SEVERITY OF THE FINES CAN BE JUDGED BY THE FACT THAT THE AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE IN CUBA IS 180 PESOS.
==REUTER/LEM 1300
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