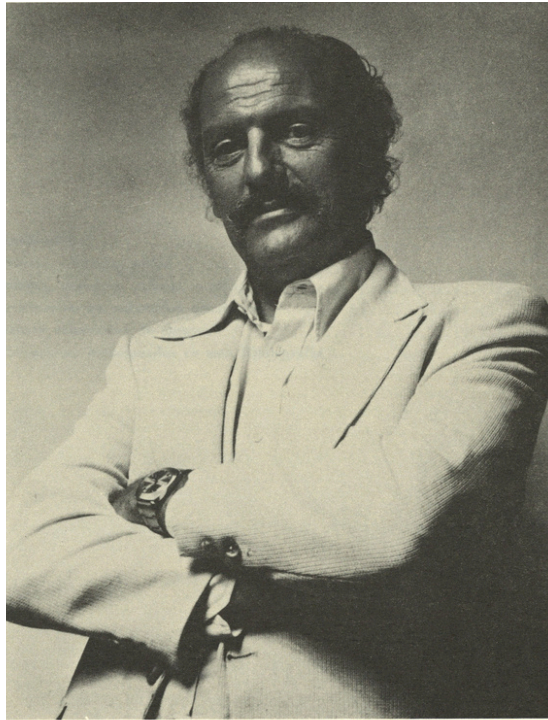




Ángel Rama

**Archival Documents
of his time at the
University of Maryland
1979 - 1984**



Spring 1979

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Angel Rama

La censura como conciencia artística

UNA Y OTRA vez los portavoces de la "intelligentsia" opositora han denunciado la censura que los poderes civiles, militares o religiosos de América Latina imponen a la ciudadanía, especialmente a quienes ejercen una tarea intelectual (escritores, periodistas, estudiosos), dado que la subrepticia sacralización de la palabra escrita, propia de las regiones del Tercer Mundo patentiza la censura en relación a las funciones intelectuales, más que en relación a la órbita global de la sociedad donde se ejerce con igual o mayor fuerza represiva. En esa denuncia se combinan muy diversas motivaciones dentro de un abanico que va de la aceptación, también subrepticia, de esa sacralización que sostiene un anacrónico mandarínismo, revistiéndolo de muy dispares ropajes doctrinales, hasta la defensa del derecho a la crítica en períodos de transición de los regímenes político-sociales, cuya legitimidad (oportunistamente) no ha sido siempre bien fundamentada.

Tal censura obviamente ha afectado al escritor pero puede asegurarse que ha hecho mucho menos daños a la producción literaria que otras formas coercitivas indirectas, menos pregonadas y aun menos combatidas, como son el empobrecimiento material de los escritores, el acortamiento de los medios de comunicación, el encierro intelectual de los países regidos por dictaduras, la imposición de valores oficiales machaconamente reiterados por el aparato retórico que parece privativo de la institucionalización del estado.

Contra la censura han dispuesto los escritores de más defensas de las que se reconoce y aun podría decirse, vista su milenaria historia, que de ella se han servido como de una excitante restricción para el descubrimiento de originales y penetrantes formas de co-

6

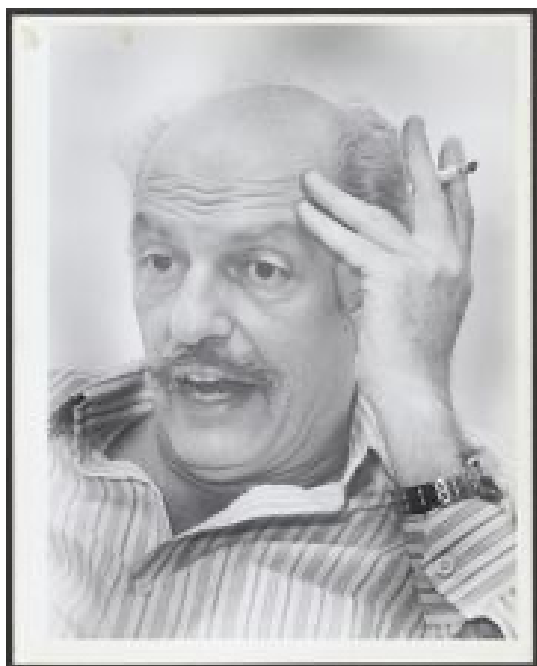
municación. En un período especialmente infortunado de la vida francesa, André Gide llegó a razonar que los ejemplos del pasado podían dar pie a una paradójica aclamación: "Vive la pensée comprimée" y en circunstancias igualmente aciagas Bertolt Brecht edificó su decálogo sobre cómo decir la verdad en tiempos de opresión. No hay muchos ejemplos de auténticos escritores decididos a decir su verdad que no hayan encontrado el modo de hacerlo, a pesar de la censura rígidamente impuesta, aun jugando el riesgo del aforismo nietzscheano: DÍ tu verdad y rómpete. Es posible pensar que quienes no lo hacen es porque se acomodan, mal que bien, a las situaciones restrictivas, como lo harían a las óptimas de plena libertad. Ni ellos ni sus obras son hijos del riesgo, aunque sea éste quien construye los textos fundamentales que perviven.

Por eso, sin que esto signifique obviamente avallar la censura o la represión de los regímenes de fuerza, el problema central del escritor no parece estar situado allí, donde una legítima lucha política parece mecánicamente extrapolada al campo de la creación artística, sino en las fuerzas que consciente o inconscientemente actúan sobre la producción de las obras literarias, quedando registradas sobre el texto como factores de su construcción: desde la auto-censura que el escritor se impone dadas las restricciones públicas a la libre expresión, concluyendo en un pantano donde en ningún lado puede hacer pie firme, hasta aquella que no alcanza a percibir racionalmente y lo impregna con sus oscuras tendencias. Para liberar el tema de toda filiación en una determinada doctrina política, conviene recordar que la censura ha sido ejercida en la historia mundial en nombre de las más variadas posiciones políticas, religiosas o filosóficas, de tal modo que el fenómeno no es ajeno a un determinado *corpus* de pensamiento y hasta ha ocurrido que muy diferentes regímenes han coincidido en las mismas censuras represivas. La tan conocida censura de la vida sexual ejercida bajo el manto de la repulsa a la obscenidad ha hecho la unanimidad de la Inglaterra victoriana, los Estados Unidos del 40, el socialismo soviético y los militares derechistas sudamericanos.

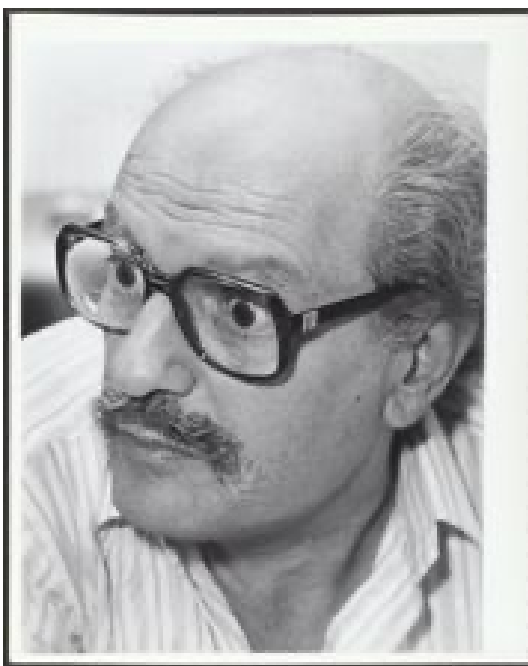
Incluso puede agregarse que de las múltiples censuras que se formulan en el seno de una sociedad, más

Full article available here:

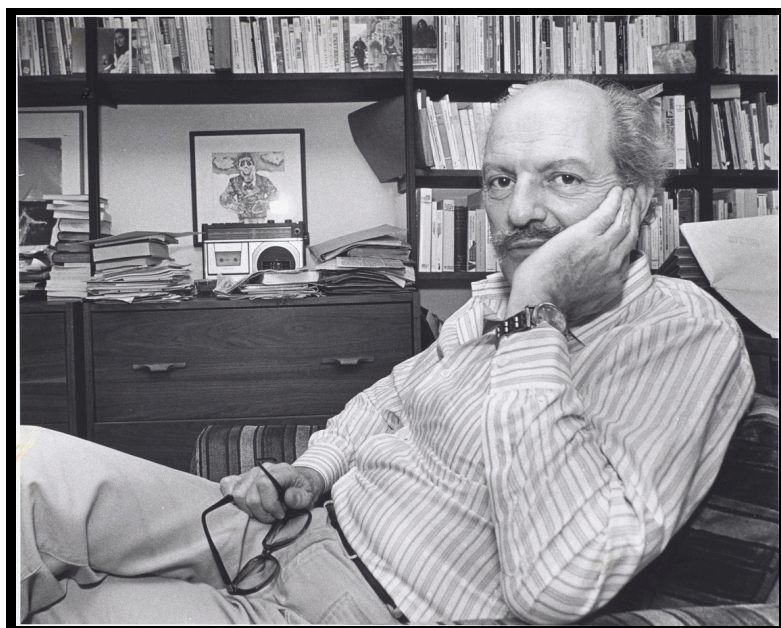




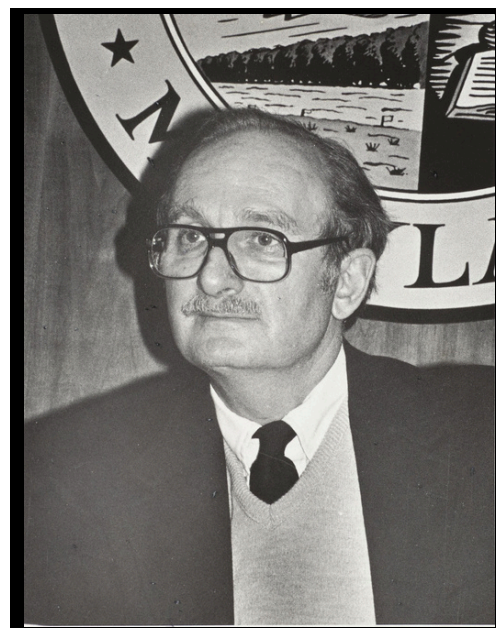
¹ August 27, 1982



² September 3, 1982



³ December 3, 1982



⁴ January 28, 1982

¹ <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/54855>

² <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/66323>

³ <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/54867>

⁴ <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/66079>

Spanish and Portugese

Saul Sosnowski, professor and chairman	\$40,700
Angel Rama, professor	46,545
E.J. Gramberg, professor	32,800
Jose Marra-Lopez, professor	32,550
Graciela Nemes, professor	41,000
Philip Rovner, assoc professor	27,138
R. Igel, assoc professor	23,000
Marta Diz, asst professor	20,000
Jorge Mora, asst professor	10,804
Egla Blouin, asst professor	17,440
Michael Kliffer, asst professor and asst french ital prof	19,700
Marie Rentz, instructor	18,564
Laura Villavicencio, instructor (pt)	6,000
Susana Howell, instructor	11,020

Salaries and wages: 520,388

Operating expenses: 11,745

Total budget: \$532,133

Diamondback Salary Guide

April 23, 1982

Spanish professor to appeal visa denial

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

A Spanish professor here said he will appeal a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) decision rendered last week that denies him a permanent visa because of alleged unspecified subversive activities.

Angel Rama, a campus Latin American literature professor, was denied the visa by the INS last Thursday on the basis of classified information allegedly involving the professor in communist or anarchistic activities.

"There will be appeals," said Michael Maggio, Rama's lawyer. "There are various instruments available for us to use in an appeal but we haven't decided which one."

Rama, who applied for a permanent visa after receiving University tenure last year, has maintained his innocence throughout the case. But because the information is considered classified, the professor will not be told of the

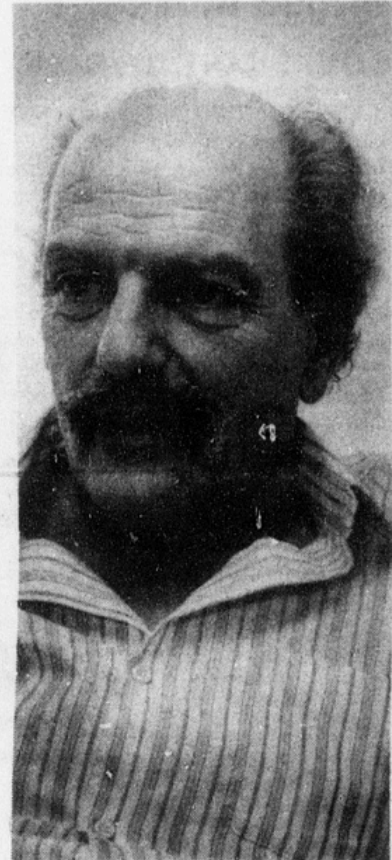
specific charges against him.

"Rama has been told he did something, somewhere according to someone that is prescribed in immigration laws," Maggio said. "How does he prove he didn't do those things if he doesn't know what he did?"

For Rama, the incident has been especially frustrating. Maintaining that his political beliefs would best resemble the social-democratic party of France, Rama said he has never been a communist.

"I am very tired of repeating and denying the same things," Rama said. "The accusation made by the department of immigration is absolutely crazy."

The University administration has remained steadfast in its support of Rama. According to acting chancellor William Kirwan, Rama's reputation on campus and his record as a teacher have made him a valuable faculty member.



RAMA

... to appeal visa decision

See RAMA, page 3

RAMA, from page 1

"We are very distressed that the decision was rendered as it was," Kirwan said. "As far as we can tell the charges are completely groundless. We are fully supportive of whatever Rama does to get this thing reversed."

Rama said the support he has also received from his students has made the situation bearable.

"It has been something that has been very emotional to me," Rama said. "One of the main things that has kept me here is my students. They have said that I cannot be replaced. If your students say that, you have a moral obligation to stay and fight."

INS officials would not return phone calls during the past two days.

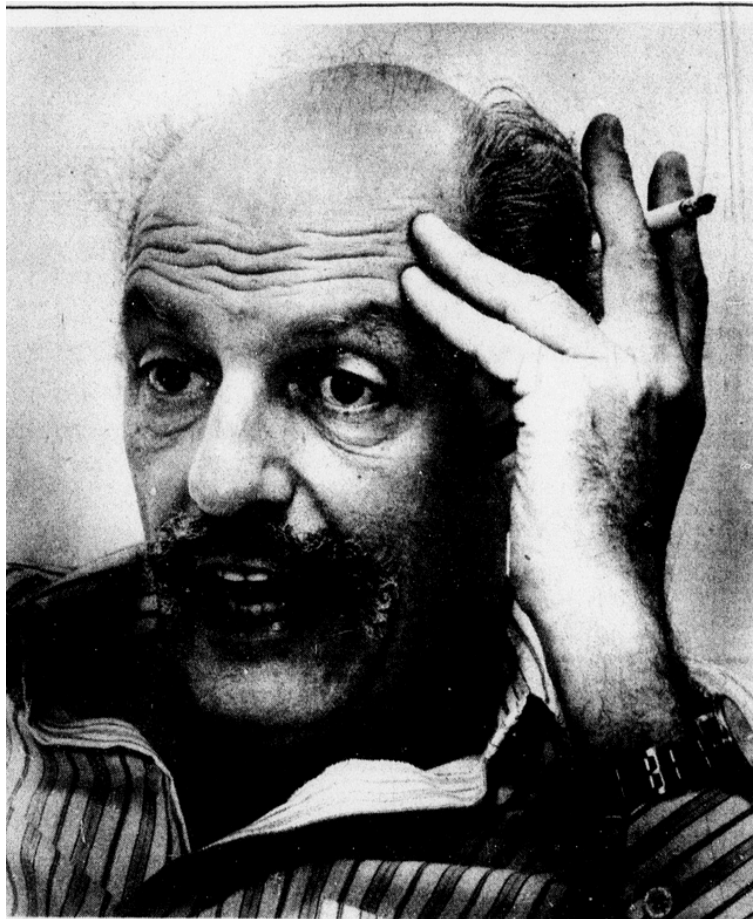
Born in Uruguay, Rama obtained Venezuelan citizenship before coming to the United States 13 years ago. At that time, he was granted entry into Puerto Rico on a temporary visa obtained by the school.

Rama first came to this campus as a visiting professor in spring of 1979. He returned to a permanent position as a distinguished scholar two years later.

But while in Barcelona, Spain, in 1980, Rama was told by a local consul that his visa contained a special coding labeling him a communist.

Diamondback Article

August 12, 1982



Spanish professor Angel Rama was denied a permanent visa in this country.

Visa denial

A University Spanish professor is planning to appeal a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) decision that denies him a permanent visa because of alleged unspecified subversive activities.

Angel Rama, who teaches courses in Latin American literature, was denied the visa by the INS because he was allegedly involved in communist or anarchistic activities. But INS officials never told him exactly what he was supposed to have done wrong, calling it confidential.

University administrators, faculty and students have stuck behind Rama, calling him a valuable asset to the campus and saying the INS charges are, as one put it, "completely groundless."

Diamondback Article August 30, 1982

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

Clenching a coffee mug firmly in his right hand and grasping a copy of *The Complete Works of Poetry* snugly under his left arm, campus Spanish professor Angel Rama moves briskly down the second floor hall of Jiminez hall to his first Latin American literature class of the semester.

For Rama, the walk couldn't be more pleasant.

After a summer of battling the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) over denial of a permanent visa, Rama is eager to embark on what he enjoys most — teaching. And the opportunity to escape the battle with the bureaucracy, if only for a few hours, has put an extra skip into his trot.

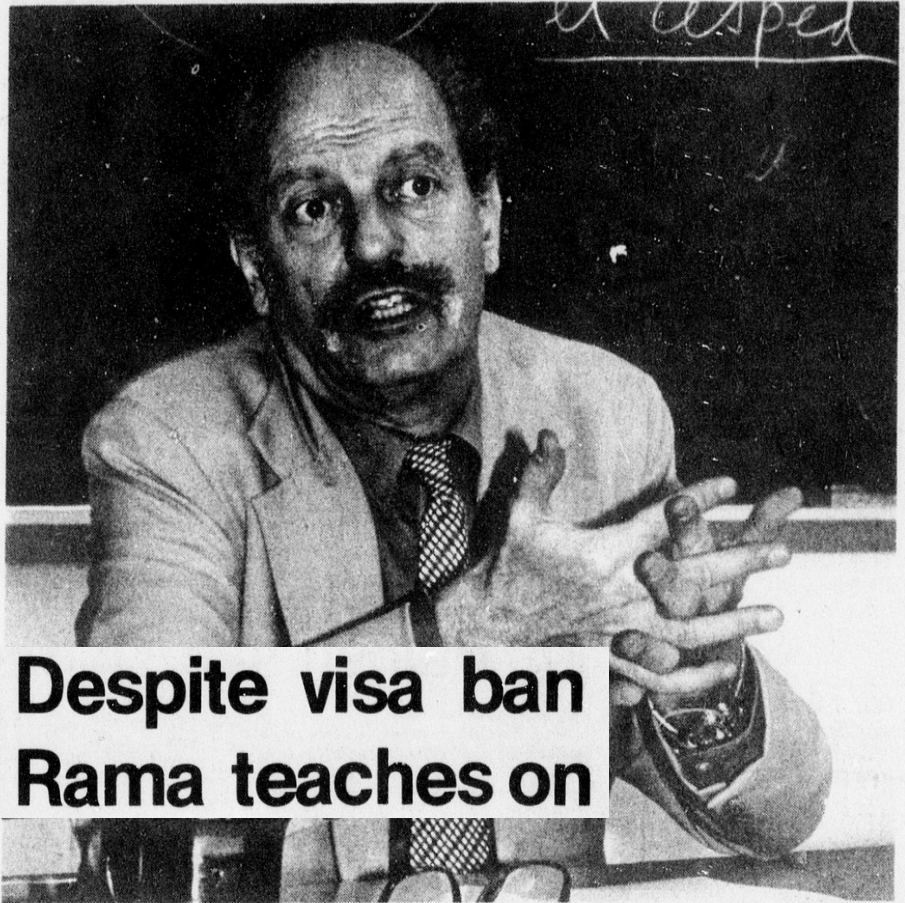
"There is nothing I like more in the world than teaching," Rama says. "Especially when you have good students like I do."

At his classroom desk, smiling ear-to-ear, Rama reads the registration list before him, calling out every graduate student by first name. Joking about the whereabouts of missing pupils, Rama looks totally at ease, as if the summer's problems were left out in the hallway.

But later, Rama admits that though the classroom can sometimes be a haven from the outside world, the immigration hassle is not that easy to ignore.

"I still can't forget it," Rama says. "I'm still trying to make the effort to forget it. I'm trying not to let my dilemma affect my students or my teaching. But it's hard."

Rama's problem began 13 years ago when a subversive classification was placed on his teaching visa. Invited to the University through President John Toll's faculty recruitment and retention program, the Uruguayan native was tenured



Despite visa ban Rama teaches on

BY LINDA LEVERENZ

RAMA: "There is nothing I like more in the world than teaching."

last year. But when he applied for a permanent visa in June, his request was denied.

Rama was never specifically told any of the charges against him. Instead, he finds himself labeled with no visible means to defend himself. If the INS decision is not reversed,

See RAMA, page 8

Visa denial clouds teacher's future

RAMA, from page 1

Rama faces deportation some time this year.

"The whole problem is that I still don't know the charges against me," he says.

The limited information has frustrated Rama, who says he learned last week from State Department visa office director Diego Asencio the label was placed by either the INS or Justice Department. But that is all he knows.

At the Spanish and Portuguese department, however, there is little talk of Rama's troubles. Instead, the mood is more like a family reunion, where only good things come up in the conversation.

The department is filled with smiling faces as people bustle in and around the room. Someone even

pasted a picture of the professor on Rama's office door, scribbling the word "Wanted" on its fringe as a joke.

Spanish and Portuguese department chairman Saul Sosnowski says he is glad to see Rama's return to teaching this fall.

"He is a truly excellent professor in the finest sense of the word. He is tops in the field," Sosnowski says. "We are very proud to have been able to bring him to campus."

Sosnowski says he believes Rama's problems will have no effect on the teacher's performance.

"It obviously has to weigh on his mind but he has a strong will and I think he will make a strong comeback," Sosnowski says. "But once he gets back into the classroom he will devote mind and body to that."

In the office, smiles abound as Rama holds court, greeting students and well-wishers who dropped by for a quick handshake. Joking about his mention in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, Rama appears comfortable despite his new-found fame.

"It hasn't changed me," he says. "But I am a person who does not like publicity. I don't have time for that. It takes away from my work."

While Rama sits in his office, his graduate students await the arrival of their teacher with worshipful admiration. Some students, veterans of Rama's instruction, are simply glad to have their favorite teacher back at the pulpit.

"Rama is a very good teacher," says Sima Rabinowitz, a Spanish graduate student. "He's got an exciting personality. He's funny and he can tell anecdotes about his personal experiences with writers we are studying."

Rabinowitz is typical of the students in Rama's class; she has already taken five other classes with the Spanish professor. Her admiration for Rama is so strong it transcends the typical student-teacher relationship.

"It's very sad. It's very unfair," she says. "The University could be losing one of its most important scholars."

During the summer, Rama maintained that support from students had been the only factor to keep him from leaving the country. Yesterday, those same students said they were not about to abandon Rama.

"They have made me feel totally at home," Rama

says. "Every day since it started, one of the main things that has kept me here is my students."

University administrators have also backed Rama in his battle with the INS. Both Toll and acting Chancellor William Kirwan have gone on record supporting Rama's integrity.

"We have seen no evidence that makes us feel he is unqualified for his appointment," Toll said. "His case has been supported by the (University Board of) Regents, central administration and the campus community."

But despite the support, Rama worries about his students. Because most of them are working on their theses, Rama fears a sudden departure on his part might be detrimental to their work.

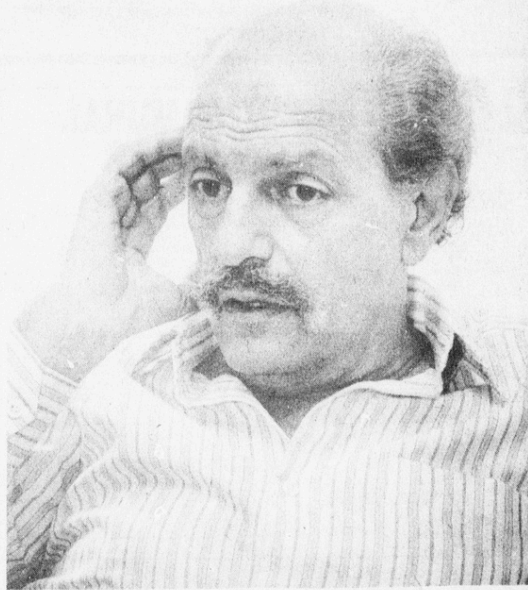
"We are going to have to work intensely with them because I might have to leave," he says.

Rama, a long-time student himself, says his work has been affected by the visa denial. Valuable time normally devoted to Latin American scholarship is now devoted to answering supportive letters from colleagues, which have gone unnoticed by federal officials, though.

Later, after class, Rama sits in his office, reflecting on his predicament. Looking over at his well-stocked library, Rama breaks into a huge grin.

"I had all those books, plus the ones at home sent here because I thought McKeldin library was not a good graduate-level library," he said. "I wanted a place for my students to come and work."

"If I get deported, I'll have to take all 4,000 books with me."



BY LOUIS RITTER

RAMA: "The problem is I still don't know the charges against me."

Diamondback Article

September 3, 1982



photos by Chuck Kennedy

CODE RED

Angel Rama Struggles Against Institutional McCarthyism

by Eduardo Dalere

In theory, citizens and aliens in the U.S. accused of illegal action are, by law, guaranteed to know the charges against them and who made them. And they have the right to refute the charges in a court of law.

But Angel Rama, a Latin American Literature professor here, has discovered that theory does not necessarily compute into reality.

Thirteen years ago, when Rama first entered the U.S., the Immigration and Naturalization Service classified him as a "subversive" without informing him. As a result, not only is Rama denied the chance to be naturalized as a U.S. citizen, he cannot receive permanent residency in this country, which he says is his only request. Now Rama is engaged in a serious struggle with the U.S. government to clear his name, as well as his property.

And working through the bureaucracy is no easy task. INS has refused to tell him the exact charges, the grounds of his charges, nor the source of their information.

Because of his ignorance of INS policy-making, Rama's case will be twice as hard to prepare. Without that knowledge, Rama has no way of knowing exactly what he should present to the INS to clear his name.

Yet University officials, who gave Rama tenure here two years ago, do not want to lose a professor who is considered one of the best in his field, and they support his fight to gain per-

manent residency in this country.

Rama's story has all the ingredients of a box office smash — exotic settings, international characters, and a faceless, powerful villain: the federal government.

But Rama is a modest man. He refers to his extraordinary story as "funny," yet he is open with his frustration and disappointment with the INS.

His saga began in 1969 when Rama first applied for a visitor's visa into U.S. territory. He accepted an offer to teach at the University of Puerto Rico. At the time, Rama was living in Montevideo, Uruguay, his native country. He talked with the American consul there who asked him about his travels and about his published works and numerous literary criticisms for *Marche*, a progressively liberal magazine.

"I received my passport with a visa," Rama said, speaking in his home in Washington. "At the bottom of the visa there were these numbers. The consul didn't tell me what it meant, these numbers. After this moment, I had another visa and always with these numbers at the bottom of my passport." He stayed in Puerto Rico for two years.

In 1972, Rama left Uruguay after the military takeover there and moved to Venezuela where he began in-

struction at the University of Caracas.

Rama was not told what the numbers meant until he applied for another visa to enter the country, this time to teach at Princeton University in 1979. He was vacationing in Barcelona at the time and talked with the American consul there.

"They took my passport and looked and said, 'What? You are a communist.'"

"What? I said.

"These numbers mean you are a communist."

would take "approximately two to three months" for a response. Rama never heard from the consul, the Visa section, or the State Department concerning this matter.

But according to a spokesman for the State Department, when a person applies for a visa to the United States through an American consul in a country other than the one where he or she holds citizenship, it is routine for the case to be referred to the State Department in Washington. The spokesman also concluded, after

"I am not a communist. All the world, the Latin American intellectual life knows I am not a communist."

He eventually entered the country on a waiver, which he has to renew to stay in the country everytime it expires. But classification as a subversive is a charge Rama calls, "incredible, just incredible."

Rama wrote the American consul in Caracas in 1979 for an explanation. He was told that his case was referred by the Visa section to the State Department in Washington and it

looking through Rama's file, he must have been told he was classified a subversive.

According to his University colleagues, Rama is considered one of the top two or three scholars in the world in Latin American literature "depending on who you talk to," said

one colleague. This shows in his academic record; besides Princeton and the universities of Puerto Rico and Caracas, Rama was invited to teach a course at Stanford and was the director of the Spanish-American department at the University of Montevideo.

He received a Guggenheim fellowship and another fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. He also has been asked by many governments to visit their countries on a scholarly basis, including such countries as Israel.

Yet despite international recognition and teaching at three universities in the United States (including this one), Rama still retains his government-bestowed subversive label.

"I suspect," he said, "(INS) is thinking (it is) because I traveled to Cuba or I traveled to China. I don't know."

Rama was invited to China by that country's culture and foreign affairs department.

"I went to visit China in 1962 to know the country. I spent one month in different towns . . . It's normal to invite writers to countries," he said.

He went to Cuba twice, in 1964 and in 1969. Both times he was asked to judge a literary competition for the Casa de Las Americas.

Yet the INS may be looking at other aspects of Rama's life.

For instance, Rama believes a socialist democracy is the ideal kind of government, much like the government of Sweden. But Rama said he has never been a registered socialist party member in any country, has never partaken in socialist action, and doesn't recall publishing any articles concerning socialism. He has, however, voted for socialist tickets many times.

But his livelihood — literary criticism — may be where anything remotely controversial comes into the picture. Rama is a strident supporter of literary freedom.

"It's an obsession with me," he said. "I hate the cultural repression in any part of the world."

Rama has published articles denouncing the military dictatorship in Uruguay, and has supported men who have been imprisoned or killed by their governments for speaking their minds — Uruguayan, American, even Russian writers.

"Writers from the left or from the right — they are men who have the right to say what they want for their countries. I am very supportive of all the people who need to express their ideas."

According to the text from the INS denial of Rama's petition for permanent residency:

"Upon thorough review of the applicant's record and other information present in the case, including classified material which . . . cannot be discussed in this decision or made available for review, it must be concluded the applicant is inadmissible to the United States and ineligible to receive an immigrant visa . . .

"Furthermore, the record does not contain, nor has the applicant provid-

ed, any evidence establishing he is eligible for defector status . . . by virtue of having evinced an active opposition to communism for the past five years."

"I am not a communist," Rama said, throwing his arms in the air, perhaps out of frustration. "All the world, the Latin American intellectual life knows I am not a communist."

"We have no right to say he's admissible when the section of law says he's not admissible."

It is difficult to understand what INS is doing with Rama's case. Up to this point, the INS has legally been able to keep Rama in the dark about his classification.

"It seems the notions of due process that are the hallmark of our legal system don't apply," said Michael Maggio, Rama's lawyer. "They refuse to say who says, what he did, and where and when this happened. The idea of not knowing the charges is anathema to our system of justice."

INS has covered all grounds. Using confidentiality as the reason, the agency has been able to evade telling Rama anything concerning his case except that it has confidential information given to them by a confidential source which led to the decision.

"We have no right to say he's admissible," said Alfred Petersam, INS deputy district director, "when the section of law says he's not

admissible."

The section Petersam referred to is the McCarron-Walter Act of 1952 which bars subversives from entering the country.

Who is this confidential source and where did he/she/they get the information is the question everyone involved, except INS officials, would like answered.

Posed with this question, Maggio

said, "We know definitely the parties involved are the Immigration Service, the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency . . ."

"Because the Central Intelligence Agency is responsible for keeping the government advised of whom they think are subversives abroad. And my own guess of the unnamed party to all this is the Uruguayan government."

When asked the same question of who or what is behind this, Petersam would not comment, again calling the grounds classified information.

In 1980, Rama received tenure here. Through a routine process, the University had to prove to the Labor Department that Rama, though a non-citizen, was the most qualified man for the job. The Labor Department approved.

The next step was for the University to apply for a permanent residency

visa on Rama's behalf, since tenure is a permanent position.

The petition failed. INS denied Rama permanent residency on the grounds of his alleged subversiveness.

According to William Kirwan, acting vice chancellor of academic affairs, this may be the first time INS denied a petition for permanent residency by the University for an employee who has already been approved by the Labor Department.

"It was a very narrow, rigid decision made as far as we know," Kirwan said.

But the University will attempt to protect its own. Kirwan said Maggio will receive all the cooperation he needs from the University.

"Primarily, we are following the lead of Rama's lawyer and willing to assist him in any way," Kirwan said.

Maggio added the state's attorney's office has "expressed the interest to handle the University's case," though the state's attorney's office could not confirm that statement.

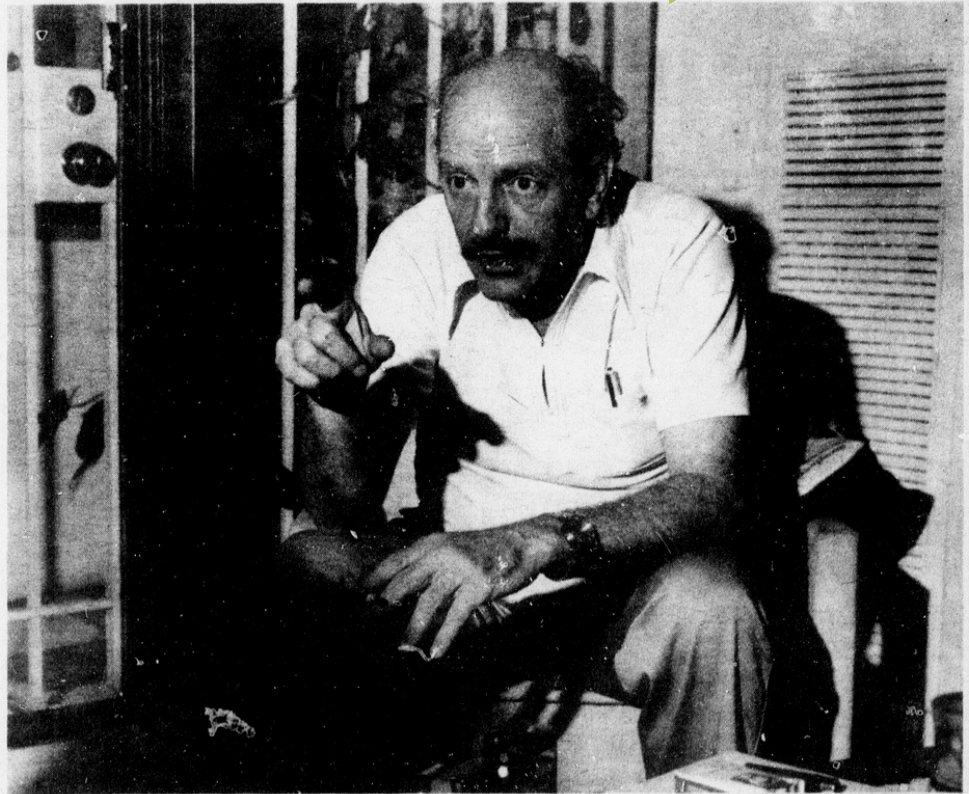
Currently Rama is appealing the decision against him, through the INS district division in Baltimore.

Maggio believes the INS will not reverse the decision on appeal, and that the case will eventually be solved in federal court.

"I think the University and Rama will prevail . . . will establish a precedent that could be tremendously beneficial to the international academic community and to the notion of intellectual freedom in this country," Maggio said.

But Rama is not so optimistic.

"At this point, I have no wish to stay in the country," he said, "But I have nothing to hide."



Angel Rama

Underbooked

by BARBARA GALICIA

Campus libraries face budget realities

by KEITH KLEIN

When campus administrators attempt to compare facilities here with others around the nation, there is always one nagging constraint that gets in the way of a positive analysis.

The campus library system just doesn't rate.

According to acting Chancellor William Kirwan, the system has fallen as far as 3.4 million volumes behind peer institutions in the size of its library system.

Kirwan has requested an extra \$100,000 be placed in a non-budgeted "special list" for fiscal year 1984 to the governor to upgrade the campus's libraries.

But the campus has a lot of catching up to do to meet the quality of library systems around the nation.

The University of Illinois has a total collection of 6.1 million volumes, University of Michigan 5.4 million, and University of Texas at Austin, 4.7 million. This

campus is embarrassingly behind with only 1.5 million volumes.

"You should really go to the governor and find out why (the budget is below library needs)," said Gary Kraske, library associate director for administrative services. "We're doing our best here and I know the library is high up on (University) President (John) Toll's priority for support."

In fiscal year 1983, the campus's library budget was \$7.5 million. Kraske said "this is very, very limited. We need more money for books and periodicals."

Yet Kraske said he realizes no "library — at least, no academic library — these days can afford to buy everything it should. We just can't do it here."

The late Malcolm Moos, in a Carnegie foundation study on the University's future though the 1980s, added his criticism. "Although the librarians have done an

See LIBRARIES, page 6

Library system criticized by faculty

LIBRARIES, from page 1

outstanding job with limited resources, the University does not have a library collection adequate for a major university and its academic programs, increasing graduate study and added research."

The report also noted the University is currently adding fewer books to its collection than it did 10 years ago.

The number of volumes added in 1981, Kirwan said, was also inferior to comparable institutions. While the University of California at Berkeley added 184,540 books to its collection, University of Texas at Austin, 185,222, and University of Illinois, 172,795, this campus only saw 75,903 additional volumes.

To try to combat the limited budget, campus officials have created the position of assistant director for collection development.

McKeldin library, currently planned for expansion in 1984, is designed for graduate students. But many graduate-level professors said they find the conditions and resources there outdated and largely useless.

"The most notable weakness of the University of Maryland is its library resources," wrote Spanish professor Angel Rama in a letter to Spanish and Portuguese department chairman Saul Sosnowski. Rama, who said McKeldin is "insufficient for the support for any graduate student," wrote the letter because he "was fed up with the whole situation," he said.

"It is impossible for my students to work there. In Latin American studies, Spanish and American literature, you can only teach undergraduates from this library. This is very dangerous."

Rama, a world-renowned expert on Latin American affairs who is currently involved in a visa battle with the federal government, was recruited by the University under Toll's faculty recruitment and retention program, an attempt to draw the best faculty from around the world to campus.

"Apparently, people in the social sciences who need to work out of McKeldin have a lot of gripes," said Dan Moskowitz, Graduate Student Association (GSA) interim coordinator. "Maryland needs an up-to-date library here, especially for graduate studies."

But since its inception last year, the GSA has received no formal complaints from other graduate students about the libraries, Moskowitz added.

"If we're supposed to be and if we want to be the 'scholars of tomorrow,' we'll need a better library," he said. "This is the impression I get from talking to a lot of different graduate students."

Duncan Perry, assistant graduate school dean, said, "To build a fine library, we have to put aside resources. It's clear these resources must be put aside if we want the library brought up to minimum standards. I'm not sure if the administration is doing this."

In the field of genetics, the library is not putting aside any money for new journals, said Paul Botino, associate botany professor.

"This is very bad," Botino said. "We have to keep up, especially in this field. I've asked the library to order the new journals, but everyone I talk to says I won't get them."

McKeldin is hoping to acquire further resources from the state to build up its collection, according to Pearl Coopridier, acting public services director for the library.

"We're not satisfied with our resources and our present collection," Coopridier said. "We're trying to meet the needs of the people in arts and humanities, but money is at the heart of the problem."

So his students could have adequate use of a library, Rama, at his own expense, transferred 4,000 books and periodicals from his private library in Venezuela to College Park.

"This is the only thing I knew to do," he said. "I read two or three dissertations and felt they were old and out of date because the students studied primarily in McKeldin. All the professors in this department feel this way."

"It (McKeldin) is not a research library," said history graduate chairman James Gilbert. "I don't think any history student can write a dissertation at the University library, but to be fair, that's the way it is at most libraries in the country. But McKeldin is not up to par."

Diamondback Article

September 24, 1982

EDITORIAL

Nothing

Year after year, the horror stories about the inadequacies of the campus library system are rehashed, growing worse and more detailed every time.

Yet nothing is done.

This year, the problem has been discussed more often, due largely to the efforts of embattled Spanish professor Angel Rama and acting Chancellor William Kirwan. Rama, in the middle of a visa fight that could cost him his right to teach in the United States, has repeatedly brought up the inadequacies of McKeldin library for graduate students, going so far as volunteering 4,000 of his own books and periodicals for his students to use. And Kirwan pleaded with the University Board of Regents back in August for increased campus library funding. Student regent David Fram even proposed an increase of \$500,000 for the library system's special list request above the regular budgeted funding for the system.

Yet nothing was done.

Kirwan has released statistics that show the library systems of peer schools as much as three to four times the size of the system here. For instance, the University of Illinois, a school just about the size of this campus, has 6.1 million volumes in its

libraries. This campus has about 1.5 million. And the number of volumes added each year here will keep those proportions roughly equal for years to come.

Yet nothing is done.

Yes, we know the size of the system is not always the best measure of a library's quality of service to students. We're told by some University officials and state budget planners divorced from the real situation here that quality outweighs quantity much of the time. But when well-respected scholars like Rama and history graduate chairman James Gilbert openly criticize the quality of the system here, something is obviously wrong. Gilbert goes so far as to say, "I don't think any history student can write a dissertation at the University library."

Yet nothing is done.

University officials and state legislators could mount a drive for increased spending on campus libraries. And they could do it this fall, when the state higher education board considers the University's fiscal year 1984 budget request. And such an effort could make libraries here adequate for student use.

But still, nothing is done.

Diamondback Article

September 27, 1982

LATIN AMERICAN SCHOLAR FIGHTS TO STAY IN U.S.

Special to the New York Times

Nov. 14, 1982

There is only one catch as Angel Rama, a Latin American scholar at the University of Maryland, sees it, and that is, in his words, Catch-28.

Mr. Rama, who has been in the United States since 1969, lecturing on Latin American literature, is fighting an apparently losing battle against deportation. The State Department has invoked subsection 212 (a) (28) of the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act on immigration against the Uruguayan-born scholar. The subsection bars permanent residence to anyone who has been a member of or affiliated with a Communist Party, and who been involved with Communist publications.

Mr. Rama appeared before an Immigration and Naturalization Service officer in Baltimore on Friday at a hearing called to allow him to defend himself against the evidence the Government says it has gathered against him. But because the evidence is classified, and therefore considered vital to the nation's security, Mr. Rama was not allowed to see it.

"This is a crazy story," Mr. Rama said. "I call it my Catch-28. It's absurd. It's impossible to move on this case." Russell Manchester, who is handling the case for the immigration service, said that, legally, "There is no way for us to make the evidence available to him," adding, "The burden of proof is entirely upon the individual seeking to establish his residency."

Of Mr. Rama's troubles, Mr. Manchester said, "It is not an unusual case and it will be handled as others like it have been handled." Government Position Unchanged

Louis D. Crocetti, the immigration official who met with Mr. Rama for two hours, said the hearing did not change the Government's position that the scholar should not be granted status as a permanent resident. The case will be forwarded to the immigration service's regional office in Vermont, where a decision will be made.

Mr. Rama is scheduled to go to Spain on a Guggenheim fellowship in January. Without status as a permanent resident, Mr. Crocetti said he expected it would be difficult for Mr. Rama to get back into this country.

Mr. Rama, who is 56 years old, asserts that he is neither a Communist nor a subversive. "I was never a Communist," he said. "I am a Socialist who writes about his Socialist beliefs."

His lawyer, Michael Maggio, who handles many such cases, said Mr. Rama's case was unusual in that he denies any past affiliation with a Communist organization. In most cases, Mr. Maggio said, individuals admit to having been members of Communist or subversive groups and subsequently renounce those ties. Tenured at Maryland U.

Last year, Mr. Rama received tenure as a professor of Spanish literature at the University of Maryland where Graciela Nemes, a professor in the department of Spanish and Portuguese, said: "He's really not the man they say he is. If he leaves it would be a crushing blow to the university, to the department and to the students."

Mr. Rama's ordeal apparently had its genesis in Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, in 1969. It was there, he explained, while applying for a United States visa to teach at the University of Puerto Rico that he was asked about a trip he made to China in 1962, visits he made to Cuba and about his writings in *Semenario Marcha*, a Uruguayan-based magazine that he compared with the liberal American publication *The Nation*.

Mr. Rama wrote a series of articles for the magazine in the 1960's about reported attempts by the United States Central Intelligence Agency to finance and infiltrate Latin American intelligence organizations. Mr. Rama said that most of the information he used in the series had been culled from *The New York Times*.

He is also the literary editor of *Biblioteca Ayacucho*, a Venezuelan-based publishing house, which, like the magazine *Semenario Marcha*, frequently publishes the works of Communist writers.

RAMA: "I have a one year leave from the University, but I am leaving this country with a cloud hanging over my trip."

Rama to leave, may never return

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

Campus Spanish professor Angel Rama is running out of time.

After receiving the second denial for a permanent visa by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) this month, Rama is taking a scheduled sabbatical to Europe in January.

And with his U.S. residency status still unresolved, he may not be able to return.

"I don't know what is going to happen," Rama says. "I have a one-year leave from the University but I

am leaving this country with a cloud hanging over my trip."

Rama's case has now been returned to an INS regional office in Vermont where a final decision is expected. But Rama said he does not know if the decision will be reached before his trip to Europe to begin work on a Guggenheim fellowship.

If Rama's visa denial is not overturned, he will not be allowed to return here next year to continue instructing campus graduate students in Latin American literature.

So Rama is selling his house, packing up his endless stacks of

books and heading for his first stop, Spain, without knowing if he will ever see this campus again.

"It's a horrendous mess," Rama says. "We're going to sell our furniture and I'm going to pack up some of my belongings and leave them with friends to wait and see if it is resolved."

But while Rama waits, his students are growing impatient.

A farewell party for the popular professor is scheduled for Dec. 14, and his students fear the goodbye will be a permanent one.

See RAMA, page 6

Rama set to leave country

RAMA, from page 1

"For most of us it probably will be the last time we get to see him," says Christine McIntyre, a Spanish graduate student who has taken three classes with Rama. "Either we will be leaving the University or he will not be able to return. I think there's that feeling in the air — I know he feels that way."

Attempting to help Rama, 50 campus students wrote a letter last month to President Reagan asking him to intervene in the situation. Although their attempt may be fruitless, the letter helped ease their frustration, the students say.

"Everyone worked together on the letter," said Diana Ferragut, a Spanish graduate student. "We were talking to (Spanish and Portuguese department chairman Paul Sosnowski) and he said the situation was very bad. We wrote Reagan asking him to allow Rama to stay in this country under the same visa he had in the past."

Rama looks upon the letter with the same wit

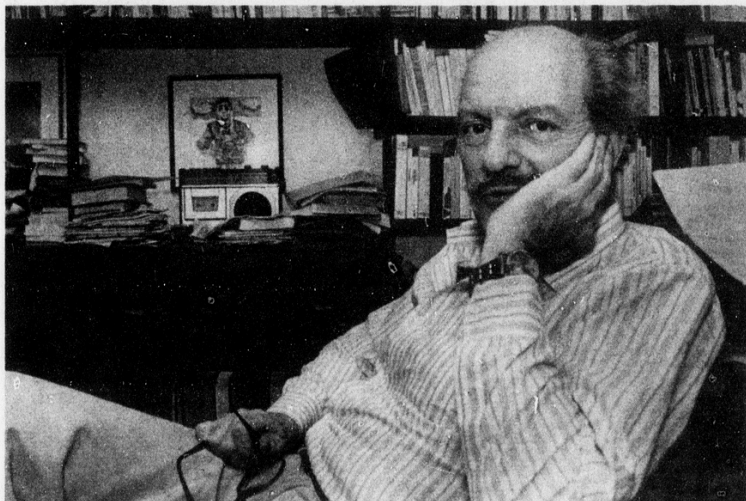
that has characterized his personality throughout the ordeal. "Between (Reagan's) work with missiles and unemployment maybe he'll take care of me," he says with a laugh.

Recruited by University President John Toll in 1979 under the faculty recruitment program, the renowned instructor received tenure last year. He has quickly become the most popular Spanish instructor on campus.

"All popularity aside, I think there is another principle at stake here and that is the integrity of the academic community," McIntyre says. "The man is a wealth of knowledge. People are going to miss that."

"From the point of view of the material he is very special," says Amelia Mondragon, a Spanish graduate student.

The professor, who was denied a permanent visa by the INS in June because of unspecified subversive activities, was again turned down for a visa Nov. 12 by the Baltimore INS office.



Diamondback Article, December 3, 1982

SCHOLAR FACING OUSTER BY U.S. GETS HOPE

By John Herbers, Special To the New York Times

Dec. 12, 1982

The President of Colombia, Belisario Betancur, has asked President Reagan to halt deportation proceedings against a Latin American scholar at the University of Maryland, the White House said today. In addition, people close to the scholar, Angel Rama, said that, after Mr. Betancur's request, immigration officials indicated for the first time a willingness to tell Mr. Rama of the charges against him.

The deputy White House press secretary, Larry Speakes, said Mr. Betancur had "raised the name" of Mr. Rama during Mr. Reagan's recent trip to Central America and South America.

Mr. Rama's case has been widely publicized in Latin America. He has been in the United States under temporary visas but has been denied permanent residence under the McCarran Act, which bans Communists and subversives. Mr. Rama contends he is neither.

Mr. Rama, 56 years old, received tenure as a professor of Spanish literature at the University of Maryland last year, but his position has been jeopardized by the Government's action.

"I am a socialist who writes about socialist beliefs," he said. 'A Crazy Story'

Mr. Rama, a native of Uruguay, said last month that the Government had refused to grant him permanent residence in the United States under subsection 212 (a) (28) of the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 but refused to inform him what evidence it had gathered against him.

"This is a crazy story," he said. "I call it my Catch-28. It's absurd. It's impossible to move on this case."

(United Press International reported that Mr. Rama had said of President Betancur's action: "The President of Colombia knows my wife and me. He is a cultivated man who knows the writers of Latin America. He mentioned my name and the name of my wife. He was worried about our situation in the United States and asked President Reagan to review my case.")

John Toll, president of the University of Maryland, said that although he had no direct knowledge of Mr. Betancur's intervention in the matter, he was encouraged by indications that the Immigration and Naturalization Service may soon grant Mr. Rama his request for information on the charges against him. Mr. Rama, Mr. Toll and a lawyer for the state of Maryland, who is representing the university in the case, met this week with Richard Spurlock, district director of the immigration service, to renew the request for information needed to make a case for lifting the charge.

"I was very encouraged," said Mr. Toll, whose campus is in the Washington suburb of College Park. "The university is very desirous that he get all the information he can so far as can be done without compromising sources."

He described Mr. Rama as an excellent scholar and said the university was "eager for him to stay." Mr. Rama could not be reached for comment today, but colleagues said Mr. Betancur called him a few days ago and told him he had raised his case with President Reagan when the two had lunch in Bogota on Dec. 3.

Rama may get help from Reagan

President promises to aid professor in visa fight

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

President Reagan and University President John Toll are intervening in an attempt to aid campus Spanish professor Angel Rama in his battle with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to obtain a permanent visa here.

Reagan, after a meeting with Colombian President Belisario Betancur during a tour of Central America earlier this month, promised to look into Rama's visa problems that have lasted more than six months.

"This is very good news," Rama said. "There is now the possibility of some White House intervention in my case."

According to Rama, Betancur mentioned the professor's visa problems to Reagan during an informal lunch meeting on Dec. 3. Although Reagan said he was unaware of Rama's situation, the president said he would look into the matter and get back to Betancur with his findings.

"Reagan said he didn't know anything about my case but he thought something like this shouldn't happen in his country," Rama said.

Rama, who has been denied a permanent visa here by the INS twice in the past six mon-

ths for unspecified alleged subversive activities, has been the center of an international controversy.

Rama is scheduled to travel to Europe to begin work on a Guggenheim fellowship in January. But without a permanent visa, he may not be allowed back in this country when his one-year leave from the University is over.

Toll, meanwhile, along with state deputy attorney general Paul Strain, met with INS district director Richard Spurlock Friday to discuss the Rama affair.

"We are very concerned," Toll said. "We stressed to the INS that all his colleagues support him and that he is an asset to the University."

Toll said the University is asking the INS to release the classified documents linking Rama to the subversive activities that led to the

original visa denial in June.

"We are supporting Dr. Rama as the University has consistently," Toll said. "I think he should be given specific information about his case."

Toll said the INS office confirmed it had not made any final decision concerning Rama's case, opening the door for further appeals. Also, both Rama and Toll said the INS officials have asked the State Department for more information in Rama's case.

"I think the meeting was an encouraging meeting," Toll said. "I sensed that they really do want to do something to help Dr. Rama."

For Rama, the sudden rush of outside intervention serves to allay the fears of his scheduled departure. The scholar said he was concerned with leaving the country with his visa situation undecided and now says he expects an official response this month.

The Spanish and Portuguese department here has already planned a going-away party for the popular professor tomorrow, and Toll said he hopes the departure is not a final one.

"We hope to have him back. He is only going on a one-year leave, and he continues to have an appointment here," Toll said.

Rama's case has drawn a good deal of publicity in South and Latin America. The professor wrote an open letter to U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz, urging the secretary to look into his case.

The letter was published in many national newspapers in Central America, including the Colombian national daily. It was the letter that moved Betancur to ask for Reagan's help, Rama said.

Diamondback Article

December 13, 1982

the diamondback

MONEY TALK\$



WHO MAKES WHAT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FISCAL YEAR 1982-1983

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1983




JOHN TOLL University president \$80,358	SUSAN ANTON football spokeswoman \$10,000	DR. MARGARET BRIDWELL health center director \$64,150
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YOUR GUIDE TO THE STARS

Many public officials make less than you might think; some make much more

Here are the salaries you really wanted to know — the honored professors, the coaches and the administrators who feed you, shelter you and generally run your life. All figures are for this school year. They do not include outside income.

- John Toll, University president, makes \$80,358 a year.
- John Slaughter, campus

chancellor, makes \$70,043.

- William Kirwan, former acting chancellor and currently academic affairs vice chancellor, makes \$61,600.
- Robert Gluckstern, former chancellor and currently a physics professor, makes \$65,000.
- Angel Rama, embattled Spanish professor engaged in a visa battle with the federal government, makes \$54,000.

- Shao Ti Hsu, controversial landlord-professor, makes \$32,600. A self-declared millionaire, Hsu says his teaching salary merely supplements his income.
- Dick Dull, campus athletic director, makes \$56,500.
- Susan Anton, actress and athletic department spokeswoman, made \$10,000 for her public

See CELEBRITIES, page 2

Diamondback Salary Guide, January 24, 1983

Spanish and Portugese

Angel Rama, professor.....	\$54,000
Saul Sosnowski, professor and chairman.....	49,000
Graciela Nemes, professor.....	47,759
Eduard Gramberg, professor.....	36,572
Jose Marra-Lopez, professor.....	35,545
Edward Freeman, assoc professor.....	27,138
Regina Igel, assoc professor.....	26,905
Marta Diz, asst professor.....	23,500
Jorge Aguilar-Mora, asst professor.....	23,000
Michael Kliffer, asst professor, asst French/Italian professor.....	22,200
Marie Renfz, instructor.....	21,035

Salaries and wages	571,276
Operating expenses	12,611
Total budget	583,887

Also included are 26 graduate assistants totalling \$152,360, four instructors totalling \$35,075 and two clerical positions for \$26,078. Last year, Sosnowski made \$40,700 as chairman, and the total budget was \$532,133.

Diamondback Salary Guide
January 24, 1983

Rama gets temporary visa, scheduled to leave Sunday

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

A small glimmer of hope has finally appeared on the cloudy immigration horizon of embattled campus Spanish professor Angel Rama.

After a promise of support from University President John Toll, Rama was granted a 90-day re-entry visa by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) last week.

The visa will allow Rama temporarily to return here in the next 90 days. He is scheduled to leave for Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday to begin work on a Guggenheim fellowship.

"This is good news because it implies they will continue to look at my

case," Rama said. "It means the INS will not cancel my problem with my departure, but they will continue to study the case."

That extra time will allow Toll to continue to work with INS officials to try to resolve the Rama conflict. The University administration has been steadfast in its support for the renowned Latin American literature instructor.

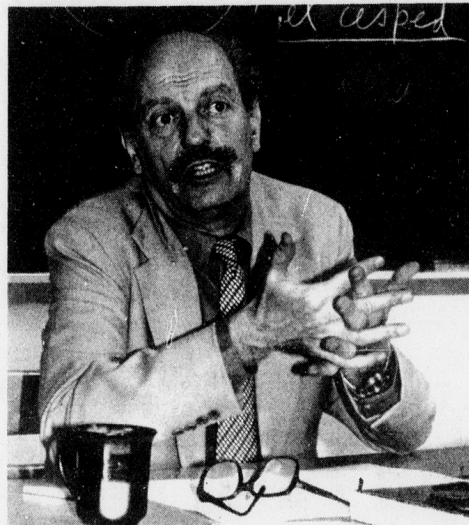
"I suggested that a little extra time might be useful," Toll said. "It means that within that period, the matter can be clarified. If there is some necessity for him to return to deal with it, he can."

See RAMA, page 3

Rama leaving Sunday with temporary visa

The INS first denied Rama's request last June because of alleged unspecified subversive activities that were contained in classified documents. Rama appealed that decision, but was turned down last month by the Baltimore INS office.

Toll, along with state depu-



RAMA: "There is no worse thing that can happen than to have to pick up all your belongings and move."

ty attorney general Paul Strain, has worked in vain to get the INS to reconsider Rama's denied petitions. But Toll said yesterday he is optimistic about Rama's situation.

"We're doing everything we can. We are pleased to do anything to help his case," Toll said. "I have found the INS good to work with and I have been pleased by their attitude."

Toll has maintained that Rama should be given specific information about the alleged subversive activities with

which he is charged. The president, however, thinks that can be done without revealing any classified information.

With his visa denied, Rama, has spent the past month selling his Northwest Washington, D.C.,

townhouse and packing his belongings.

"I feel horrible," Rama said. "There is no worse thing that can happen than to have to pick up all your belongings and move. It makes you realize how precious life really is, and how close to death we are."

While Rama has been packing, his students have been planning a going-away celebration for Sunday before his 1 p.m. flight to Caracas. A group of about 20 students, led by Diana Ferragut, will be on hand at National airport to wish Rama a fond farewell.

Diamondback Article
February 17, 1983

U-Md. Professor Seeking U.S Residency Leaves for Year of Research in Europe

February 20, 1983

By Caryle Murphy

Angel Rama, a University of Maryland Spanish professor who is appealing the federal government's refusal to give him permanent residence on the grounds he is a subversive, left the United States yesterday for a year to do research in Europe.

Rama, 56, a renowned scholar of Latin American literature who denies he is a subversive, said he has not given up hope that his appeal will succeed.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has said it has not yet made a final decision on Rama's residency request and last week gave him permission to leave the country without prejudicing his application. Under normal circumstances, an alien requesting permanent residence is not permitted to leave the United States while his request is pending.

"It shows there is reason to hope," Rama said of being permitted to leave to conduct his research.

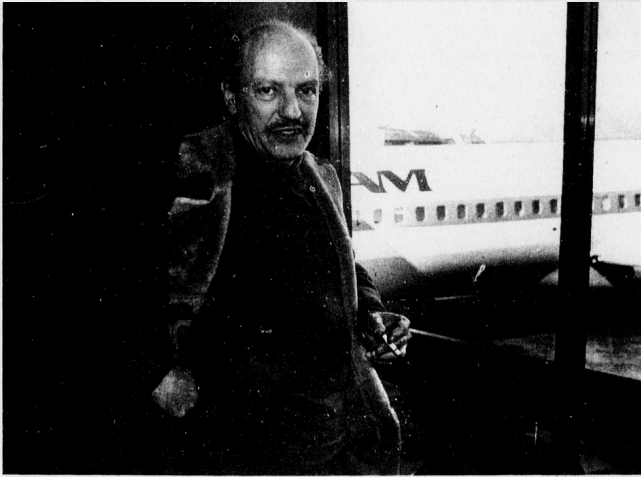
INS has listed Rama ineligible for permanent residence under a federal act that bars aliens affiliated with Communist or anarchist groups. INS has declined to say what specific actions caused him to be placed in that category.

Last December Colombian President Belisario Betancur, a personal friend of Rama's, made a direct plea on behalf of Rama to President Reagan during Reagan's swing through Latin America. Rama, a native of Uruguay, has Venezuelan citizenship.

Rama said yesterday that Betancur--who said he hadn't heard from Reagan--telephoned two weeks ago to see if Rama had an answer from the White House. Rama told Betancur during the call that he had not received any answer either.

Rama will spend a year in France, West Germany and Spain on a Guggenheim Fellowship. If INS ultimately approves his residency application, he will return to the University of Maryland, from which he has taken a leave of absence. University officials have interceded on his behalf with INS.

Students bid farewell to Rama



Spanish professor Angel Rama prepares to leave the country from National Airport yesterday.

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

An air of tainted optimism filled the north terminal of National Airport yesterday as campus Spanish professor Angel Rama said a quick goodbye to a group of students and boarded a plane to Caracas, Venezuela.

Rama, who has twice been denied a visa by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for alleged subversive activities, may not be allowed to return to America unless a final appeal of his status is allowed.

But Rama, who is headed for Europe to begin work on a Guggenheim fellowship, was granted a 90-day re-entry visa last week that will allow him to return to this country temporarily. And that bit of good news had the group of seven students who came for the farewell a bit optimistic.

"I think he'll be back, and I think the students are confident that he will be back," said Spanish graduate student Diana Ferragut. "We don't want to think he won't be back especially after he got the re-entry visa."

A group of more than 20 of Rama's students threw a surprise farewell party for the popular professor Friday night at his Washington, D.C., townhouse. There, the students exchanged gifts with the Latin American literature instructor.

"We were sitting on the floor because most of the furniture had already been packed," said Aleida Rodriguez, another one of Rama's graduate students. "We sang him a (Spanish folk song) called Las Mananitas just to cheer him up a bit."

But while Ferragut and Rodriguez typified the more optimistic of Rama's students, others at the airport were not so cheery.

"He initially applied for the visa in March and nothing has been done since then," said Alvaro Barros, a Spanish graduate student who has known Rama for 20 years. "He always has good hope. He came here to the last minute waiting with hope for something to happen."

But when no new news came yesterday, Rama had to board the plane to uncertainty.

"This has done him great harm," Barros said. "He felt very good in Maryland. He liked living here. He liked working here. He was comfortable and he was writing a lot. And all of a sudden he has to leave his life without knowing if he can come back."

"When that happens to a man when he is 25, that is one thing, but when it happens to someone like Rama who is in his 50s, it is something else," Barros said.

Also on hand for the farewell was Spanish and Portuguese department head Saul Sosnowski, currently on leave from the University. Sosnowski, who met with University President John Toll and various other officials to discuss Rama's situation last Tuesday, said he hoped the matter could be resolved.

"I am an optimist by nature; I have to be," Sosnowski said. "I have to bet on the fact that the matter will be resolved and he will be allowed to return."

Sosnowski said the University has contacted the state congressional delegation, including Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Sen. Charles Mathias (R-Md.), to ask for their assistance.

The INS is currently conducting a final review of Rama's case by examining documents submitted by other general departments, and their decision is expected in the 90-day period, Sosnowski said.

"You do not replace Rama," Sosnowski said. "He is an excellent teacher, a top colleague and a good friend. He is the most brilliant teacher we have."

Diamondback Article

February 21, 1983

the diamondback

an independent student newspaper

page of opinion

PAGE 4

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1983

EDITORIAL

Be seeing ya

When embattled campus Spanish professor Angel Rama boarded a plane Sunday for Caracas, Venezuela, on a trip that would eventually end in Europe for work on a Guggenheim fellowship, he left behind a group of loyal students, admiring colleagues and powerful friends.

For while Rama may be gone, the spirit of his battle with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) over a denied visa will continue. University President John Toll, the crafty central administration head, leads a determined cast, fighting to convince the INS to reverse Rama's twice-denied visa petition.

Busily enlisting the support of the state congressional delegation, Toll has very quietly organized enough manpower for a minor assault on Baatan. The crafty — in this case — University president is not going to lose Rama without a fight.

And this is good.

There simply isn't a university in this country that can afford to lose a professor of Rama's stature. Not one. Not only is Rama one of the most renowned Latin American researchers in the world, he also has the congenial personality that make him an asset in and out of the classroom.

But while Rama's merits have often been lauded, the quiet work of Toll and

his cronies has gone unnoticed. Toll has undertaken a personal drive to open the channels of communication with INS officials in Baltimore, but he has gotten little credit for it.

And this is wrong.

For it would have been very easy for the University to surrender its battle to get Rama back after his Guggenheim work is completed. With the INS refusing to release the classified material allegedly linking Rama to subversive activities, the University could, without making excuses, have given up the battle with a blind enemy.

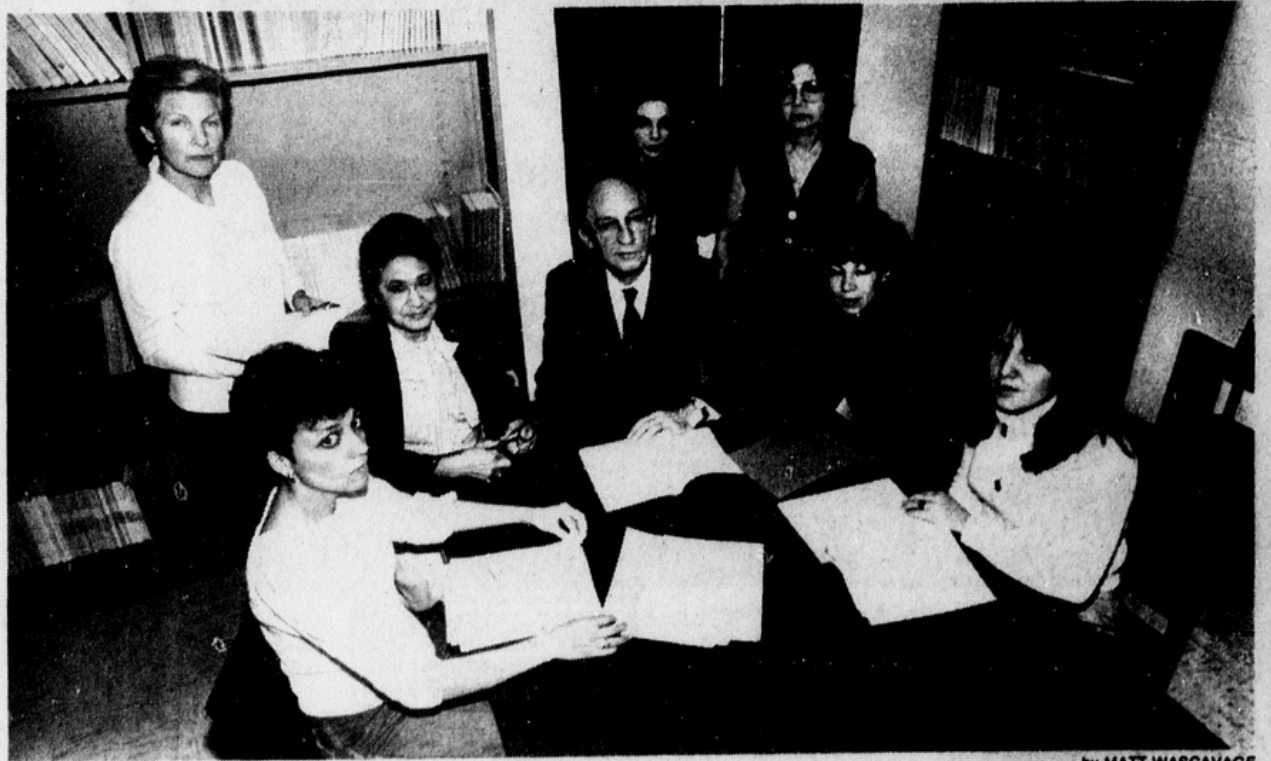
But in this case, Toll would not settle for quick defeats. Channeling his political power, Toll has placed the University's reputation on the line by backing a professor who the federal government thinks is some sort of security risk.

With this type of support, the 90-day re-entry visa granted Rama last week could serve to give Toll enough time to change the minds of INS officials.

We hope he succeeds.

It would be a shame if the Spanish *adios* Rama gave his students at the airport Sunday was a permanent one. An English "see you later" would certainly be more appropriate.

Diamondback Article, February 22, 1983



by MATT WASCavage

Angel Rama defense fund members, from left to right, Connie Pena, Emma Buenaventura, Graciela Nemes, Edward Gramberg, Diana Ferragut, Gioconda Valarezo, Aryabie Villamizar and Kirsis Flores, meet yesterday.

Faculty continue Rama support

by EMILIO GARCIA-RUIZ

Angel Rama's visa troubles have not stemmed the tide of support for the professor in the campus Spanish and Portuguese department.

Although Rama is in Paris, the emotional battle for his twice-denied permanent U.S. visa is being continued by his colleagues and friends, who refuse to forget the popular instructor.

More than 30 Spanish department instructors and students formed the Angel Rama defense fund three weeks ago to help raise money for the teacher's mounting legal bills.

Hand-delivering more than 1,000 letters to campus faculty members this week to request donations, defense fund members say they hope to raise \$5,000 for the Latin American literature instructor.

"We miss him and we need him here," said Spanish professor Patricia Nemes, the fund's acting chairwoman. "We want to help him pay for his legal bills."

But Rama has more than legal bills to worry about. With the deadline for his 90-day visa extension running out May 14, Rama may find himself unable to return to this country to aid in his visa fight.

"I think there are a number of people eagerly anticipating his return," said campus Chancellor John Slaughter, who said he saw nothing wrong with the fund's efforts to help Rama.

Nemes, along with Spanish graduate student Diana Fer-

ragut and professor Edward Gramberg, raised \$100 to pay for the envelopes and stationery needed for the mailings. Gathering more than 40 volunteers, the group then stuffed and addressed the letters, hand delivering them to avoid the cost of postage.

"We only delivered them to associate and full professors because they are the ones who have the highest salaries and can afford it," said fund member Amelia Mondragon. "We welcome assistance from anyone else, but we thought they would be in the best position to contribute."

Because the campus will not financially support the group's endeavor, fund members are not allowed to use campus mail or office time to do the work. Instead, the group's volunteers gathered on weekends to work for their cause.

"We delivered the letters personally and did all the work independent of the University," Nemes said. "Everyone who volunteered was assigned a different building to deliver the letters in."

The group was buoyed by correspondence with Rama, who is currently looking for an apartment in Paris. But faced with legal bills because of his fight with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) over a twice-denied permanent visa, Rama is in need of added income.

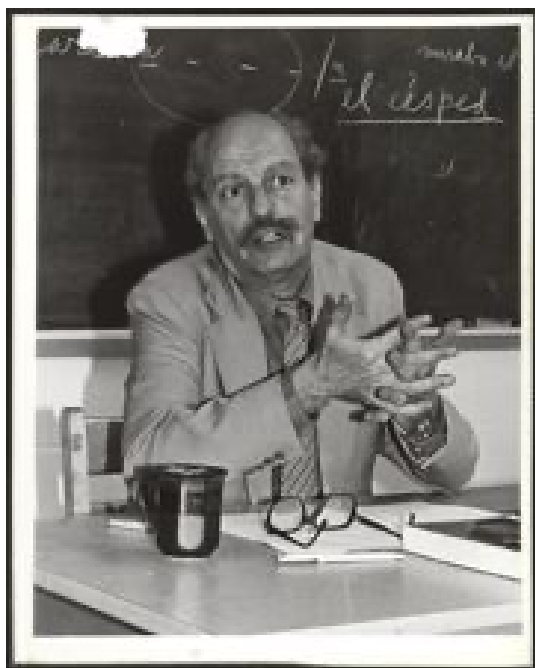
"He is not happy away from all of us," Nemes said.

Rama left the country on Feb 20, traveling to Caracas, Venezuela, for an eventual trip to Europe to begin work on a Guggenheim Fellowship. When that work is completed, Rama is slated for six months of campus research.

Diamondback Article, April 13, 1983



¹ Save Rama Group, April 12, 1983



**² Mistakenly dated
September 24, 1985**



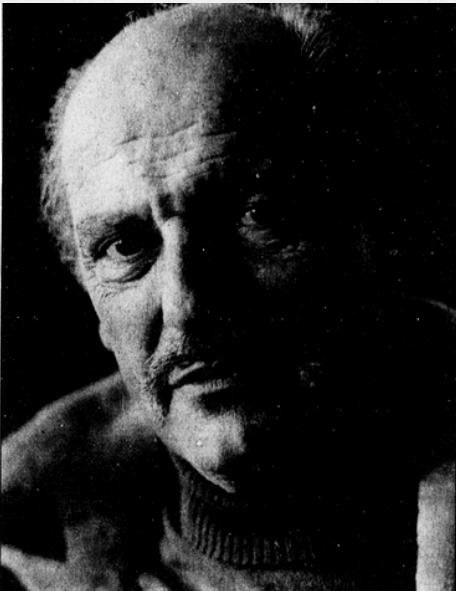
**³ Rama at National Airport before
PANAM flight to Caracas, Venezuela.
February 20, 1983**

¹ <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/60207>

² <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/56201>

³ <https://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/66826>

Rama dies in Madrid plane crash



from staff and wire reports

Campus Spanish literature professor Angel Rama and his wife were among at least 183 people killed early yesterday near Madrid, in one of the world's 10 worst airplane crashes.

The Avianca Airlines flight from Paris to Bogota, Colombia, with stops in Madrid and Caracas, Venezuela, crashed and exploded in a hilly area five miles east of Madrid's airport at 1:04 a.m. Madrid time yesterday (7:04 p.m. EST Saturday). Only 11 of the 194 people aboard survived the crash, and four of them were in serious condition last night, officials said.

Rama, 57, a Venezuela native acclaimed for his expertise in Spanish literature, taught and worked here from 1979 until early 1983. He was flying to a conference in Bogota at the invitation of Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

Rama's wife Marta Traba, 53, who headed modern art museums in Bogota and Caracas during the 1970s, also died in the crash.

Based in Paris, Rama was nearing the end of a one-year Guggenheim fellowship, unable to return here unless he could obtain a new U.S. visa. For the spring semester, the arts and humanities division had chosen Rama to pursue a "special research assignment" in Paris and Latin America, studying 19th-century Latin American literature and other arts.

The federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had twice rejected Rama's request to have his visa made permanent, citing unspecified "subversive activities." But many campus administrators, faculty and students rallied in Rama's support.

Public affairs school research associate Robert Pastor, a friend of Rama and former National Security Council official who lobbied to get Rama a permanent visa, said last night, "I think our University and the entire Western Hemisphere should feel his loss greatly. He was a great man and a talented and perceptive writer."

Pastor said Rama would have had his visa "if there was any interest or willingness on the part of the (Reagan) administration."

University President John Toll, calling Rama "a luminary in his field," said, "We were still working to regularize his visa."

"I think there were people within INS and the State Department who were trying to help us, but we hadn't worked through the problems before his death," said Toll, whose distinguished-faculty recruitment program brought Rama here in 1979. "I guess we'll never know" if a visa would have been granted, he added.

Rama's survivors include his son Claudio, of Caracas, and his daughter Ampara, of Paris. Rama and his wife will be buried tomorrow in Bogota.

Arrangements for a memorial service in the campus chapel Wednesday or Thursday are pending, said Spanish and Portuguese language and literature department chairman Saul Sosnowski.

Lilly Alurralde, a close friend of Rama, is comforting Rama's daughter in Paris. "We want to express our terrible loss. The only thing that's comparable to the personal loss is the loss to his whole country. I think we're all really totally destroyed by this," she said, called in Paris yesterday.

"He enjoyed his stay at the University so much," she added.

See RAMA, page 3

Spends last years seeking elusive goal

by CARL GRAZIANO

Angel Rama spent the last few years of his life searching for a way to legally stay in the United States and do what he had dedicated his life to do — teach.

Rama, a campus Spanish professor invited to the University through President John Toll's faculty recruitment and retention program, was tenured here in 1981. When he came to the country 14 years ago, a subversive classification was placed on his teaching visa, and when he applied for a permanent visa last June, his request was denied.

Rama spent the following three months in a battle with the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) over the denial of the permanent visa. He received a second denial last December and then took what was scheduled to be a year-long sabbatical to Europe in February.

Before he left, INS granted Rama a 90-day re-entry visa that would have allowed him to return to this country temporarily. But Rama's lawyer, Michael Maggio, said Rama was disenchanted with

See QUEST, page 3

tor Karen Rawling said, "It's an enormous tragedy for the University and an enormous loss to Spanish literature."

Sosnowski, who granted Rama full tenure in 1981 and last saw him last month in Mexico, called Rama "almost a relative, a very, very close friend," adding, "He was like a father to all of us. There is a sense of loss that cannot be liberated. You're talking about a worldwide-known personality."

Rama's battle to teach here

QUEST, from page 1

the U.S. legal system, and decided to let Maggio handle the case.

"He was so discouraged and depressed by their previous conduct," Maggio said of Rama's feeling toward the INS. "The irony is that he was accused of unclean politics when he was not a political man; he was a writer," he said.

"I told Rama quite frankly it would take years to resolve his case," through the legal system here, Maggio said.

After Rama left, a group of more than 30 Spanish department instructors and students formed the Angel Rama

RAMA, from page 1

A Madrid control tower spokesman said controllers lost radio contact with the plane four minutes before the crash. The plane was flying in clear skies and had been at an altitude of 1,000 feet when pilot Tulio Hernandez and co-pilot Edgard Ramirez communicated with Avianca officials 25 minutes before the crash, the spokesman said.

"It's a great tragedy because he was such an outstanding scholar and fine person. He was one of our most highly regarded faculty members," academic affairs vice chancellor William Kirwan said.

"I believe ultimately he would have been able to return to the campus, based on information given the INS by him and people who knew him. There were efforts on a number of different fronts with INS

and the State Department and various congressmen," Kirwan said, adding that appraisal was optimistic because "the reasons for denial were based on mistaken information and impressions."

Last month in Mexico, Rama "was ready, absolutely, to return here as soon as he was allowed," said Sosnowski.

Campus international education direc-

defense fund to help raise money for the teacher's legal bills.

Rama was never specifically told the charges against him. He had said State Department visa office director Diego Asencio told him the subversive label was placed on his visa by either the INS or the Justice Department, but he never found out which one.

But Maggio said he has had a "deep rooted suspicion" that Rama's subversive label was a result of communication between the Uruguayan government and American intelligence agencies.

Diamondback Article

November 28, 1983

Rama's friends, students recall fleeting hopes

by DEBORAH VOCKE

Last December, Spanish literature professor Angel Rama and some friends celebrated what they thought would be a victory in Rama's fight to get a permanent visa to stay in this country.

"I remember fondly when we thought we had won, having a premature celebration with Dr. Rama and 15 or so of his friends from the University, singing and dancing so loud the neighbors called the police," Michael Maggio, Rama's lawyer, said last night.

But the celebration turned out to be another false hope, Maggio said. And Rama's life ended with his dream unfulfilled when he died Sunday in a plane crash near Madrid, which killed at least 183 people, including his wife.

Rama, a world-renowned Latin American literature critic and author, spent the last few years of his life trying to figure out a way to legally stay in this country and teach.

Faculty and students yesterday expressed a great sense of loss after hearing of Rama's death.

"Rama taught what literature is and what art is," said Spanish and Portuguese language and literature department chairman Saul Sosnowski. "He was the guiding force of the understanding of art and literature."

In a letter dated Nov. 24, sent by Rama from Paris to Maggio, "he expressed that he was very appreciative of students and faculty and the university that worked on his behalf. He loved the school, the students, and the faculty," Maggio said.

Rama was invited to the University through President John Toll's faculty recruitment and retention program, and received tenure here in 1981. When he came to the country 14 years

ago, a subversive classification was placed on his teaching visa. When he applied for a permanent visa last June, his request was denied.

Rama spent the following three months fighting with the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service over the denial of the permanent visa. He received a second denial last December and took what was scheduled to be a year-long sabbatical to Europe in February.

In the letter received yesterday by Maggio, Rama "acknowledged the continued efforts on the part of the University on his behalf, and expressed discouragement" that the Reagan administration seems to be headed toward a policy of interventionism, Maggio said.

"He wanted to come back, the University wanted him back, but he didn't think the American government wanted him back and that was his only obstacle," Maggio said.

Students here also expressed warm memories of Rama.

"We were devastated when he left; you can imagine how we feel now. He was like a father figure to all of his students," said Diana Ferragut, Spanish graduate student and an Angel Rama defense fund member.

The defense fund was formed to help Rama in his fight for a permanent visa.

A memorial service for Rama will be held Monday at 7 p.m. in the main chapel.

Diamondback Article
November 29, 1983

the diamondback

an independent student newspaper

page of opinion

PAGE 4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1983

EDITORIAL

In memoriam

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops," American author Henry Adams wrote.

Ask people who knew Angel Rama, the campus Spanish literature professor who died in a Madrid plane crash early Sunday, and they'll tell you about a rare individual whose compassion and genius would touch more people than he would know.

They'll tell you about a man whose unyielding passion for life represented all that a teacher should be, about a man who loved the people and knowledge that is life.

And they'll tell you about a man who wanted to share with all those around him the wisdom that made him one of Latin America's most-renowned scholars and authors.

One of those who knew Rama best, Spanish and Portuguese language and literature department chairman Saul Sosnowski, described Rama this way:

"He was like a father to all of us. There is a sense of loss that cannot be liberated.

"Rama taught what literature and art is, and Rama's loss will be felt for a long time."

Lilly Alurralde, a close friend of Rama's who was comforting his daughter in Paris Sunday, said, "The only thing that's comparable to the personal loss is the loss to his whole country."

Alurralde quickly added, "He enjoyed his stay at the University so much. . ."

So much, in fact, that he spent the last years of his life searching for a way to legally stay in the United States to do what he had dedicated his life to do.

Here's where another Angel Rama

comes into the picture, the one the federal government twice denied a visa because of unspecified "subversive activities."

The Immigration and Naturalization Service, which denied Rama a visa last June and again last December, never told the professor what shortcoming it was that made him unworthy of a visa in this great bastion of democracy.

When Rama left this country in February for work on the Guggenheim fellowship he was studying under at the time of his death, he left behind a group of loyal students, admiring faculty members and powerful friends.

University President John Toll, who recruited Rama to teach here, deserves credit for consistently backing the professor.

So do the 30 students and faculty members who started the Angel Rama defense fund to help pay the professor's legal fees.

Because they knew and came to love a human being of little semblance to the "subversive" INS officials talked of, they had a hard time understanding what mysterious imperfection so worried the INS.

No doubt Rama's two children wonder about that, too.

We hope Toll and the defense fund members continue their battle to find out why Rama was denied the dream he took to his grave.

By doing so, maybe they could save others from the same sort of gross injustice Rama knew better than he would have liked to.

Angel Rama would have wanted it that way.

Diamondback Article, November 29, 1983

Charles Becker

Everyone's loss

The notice in this morning's paper that more than 170 people had perished when a Colombian Avianca airplane crashed near Madrid, Spain, caused me greater concern than most announcements of similar calamities. Not two weeks ago, my wife, Ligia, and my daughter, Hannah, had flown Avianca from Miami to Bogota. But the abstract quality of this tragedy turned very personal when Ligia told me over the phone this evening that Angel Ramá and his wife Marta Traba had died aboard that plane.

Born in Uruguay, Angel Ramá was a great authority on Latin American literature and a personal friend of many of the writers who, like Angel, have done so much to help put the other America back in its rightful place on the map. He left his country, as did close to one third of his compatriots, after the fascist takeover in 1973. He settled first in Venezuela and then came to the United States to teach at Princeton, Stanford and the University, where he was made professor emeritus in 1980.

His breadth of knowledge in the humanities was encyclopedic. He was, and remains, one of the most loved and respected teachers this university has ever employed. Vast knowledge, profound and original analysis and quick, biting humor were his trademarks. Upon leaving his class, one felt not so much that one had learned as that one had tasted the fruit of the tree of wisdom. Out here in the wilderness the taste of the tree has served us well.

Marta had been a critic and enthusiastic promoter of Latin American art long before she met Angel. In recent years, she also devoted her considerable talents to literature, both as a critic and as the author of several novels. She and Angel are both survived by children from previous marriages.

In the last year, Marta and Angel settled in Paris after they had been denied permanent residency in this country. Their case became something of a cause celebre among those of us who do not comprehend why the United States government would deny two individuals who contributed so much in this country to reside here permanently. Colombian president Belissario Betancur mentioned their case to President Reagan when he visited Colombia. Their friend, Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the 1982 Nobel laureate, wrote in support of Angel and Marta, as did many other writers on both sides of the Rio Grande. To its credit, the University gave Angel unwaivering support and his chair was left open for him during his

absence.

Ligia, Hannah and I spent a few wonderful days with Angel and Marta when we passed through Paris on our way home this summer after a year in China. As Angel walked us up and down the banks of the Seine, he constantly remarked on the historical peculiarities of the buildings, monuments and bridges. I couldn't help kidding him that if he ever tired of literature he needn't worry, since he would make one hell of a tour guide. But at this sobering moment I realize that guide is exactly what he did — a consummate teacher, he rarely ceased to, regardless of whether he meant to be teaching or not.

I remember the night, just before leaving for Wuhan, China, that we went to say goodbye. Angel and Ligia had been arguing about education in Cuba and they kept trying to shout each other down with a fury not altogether explained by either the topic or the considerable scotch and filter tips we had been relentlessly consuming. The discussion ended when some time after 2 a.m. Marta called down the stairs, "Angel, aren't you coming to bed?"

A year later when I recalled the discussion to them and the anxiety I felt as they screamed at each other, they just looked at me a bit indulgently and explained, "After all, we're both Latinos. That's just the way we discuss things."

In Paris, we drank less, smoked just as much and talked more calmly. We seemed to share a nostalgia for the bygone and an anticipation of painting that blank screen of the future. My memory of this is like a static picture whose colors have all run dry.

How does one convey the sudden, shocking loss of a great man, teacher and friend? A loss which, because it is so personal, looms even larger than that of the greater tragedy of which it was but a small part? I never wrote to Angel after we left Paris. Somehow, other things would get in the way, and besides, I knew he would be there when I needed him. But now he won't and I've begun to miss Angel for the rest of my life.

Charles Becker is a fellow at the public affairs school.

Diamondback Article

November 29, 1983

U-Md. Scholar, Wife, Crash Victims

November 29, 1983

By Caryle Murphy

University of Maryland officials expressed grief yesterday over the death of noted Latin American scholar Angel Rama and his wife Marta Traba, who were killed in the crash of a Colombian airliner near Madrid Saturday.

"We are dismayed by his death," said Saul Sosnowski, chairman of the Spanish and Portuguese departments in which Rama taught. "He was a guiding light who galvanized creative thinking in Latin American studies."

Rama, 57, who taught Latin American literature at the university, was on a leave of absence for a Guggenheim Fellowship. He and his wife had boarded the Boeing 747 in Paris and were flying to Bogota, according to a spokesman for the Colombian airline Avianca.

Columbian officials have not yet determined the cause of the crash that killed 183 persons.

Rama was a tall, gracious academician who became a Venezuelan citizen after his native country of Uruguay came under repressive military rule. He and his Argentine-born wife, who was a distinguished art critic, were known throughout Latin America for their work. They were close friends of Colombian President Belisario Betancur.

Despite Rama's literary achievements and the esteem in which he was held by his Latin American intellectual peers, his final years were clouded by a refusal of U.S. authorities to grant him permanent residency here because they alleged he was a "subversive."

In an interview with the Washington Post last year, Rama called the charge "fantastic. Everyone knows I am not a Communist. I am a socialist; I believe in socialist democratic society. I am a writer, culture is more important to me than politics."

University of Maryland officials joined writers, politicians, and intellectuals in the United States and Latin America who asked U.S. officials to reverse their decision. Betancur made a personal appeal for Rama to President Reagan when the two leaders met on the president's tour of Latin America in 1982. Reagan promised to look into the matter, but there was no change in the immigration ruling.

"It was not the way he expected democratic institutions to work," Saul Sosnowski said yesterday.

In a letter dated Nov. 24 and received yesterday by his lawyer, Michael Maggio, Rama expressed discouragement at the refusal of U.S. immigration authorities to reverse their decision.

"Since I have few years of life left, I refuse to turn myself into a 'man of litigation,'" he wrote to Maggio, adding that he had decided to look for work in Europe.

Washington Post special correspondent Lon Rains contributed to this story.

Opinion

ABROAD AT HOME

ABROAD AT HOME; REQUIEM FOR A VICTIM

By Anthony Lewis

Dec. 1, 1983

Among those killed in the crash of a Colombian 747 in Madrid last weekend was a renowned scholar of Latin American culture, Angel Rama. In death as in life, Professor Rama is a reproachful symbol to those who care about standards of freedom and civilization in the United States. For he died a victim of uncivilized American immigration laws and uncivilized bureaucrats.

Angel Rama was a Uruguayan who left his country when a military junta took power, and became a citizen of Venezuela. He often visited the United States, and in 1981 he was appointed a professor at the University of Maryland. As a leading figure in Latin studies, the author of more than 20 books, he was a plum acquisition for Maryland.

But last year the Immigration and Naturalization Service denied his application for permanent residence in the United States. Why? The I.N.S. cited the ideological exclusion provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act, which bar anyone with Communist beliefs or associations. With that, Mr. Rama entered a legal nightmare.

The I.N.S. would not tell him what the specific charges were. Its decisions simply recited the language of the McCarran-Walter Act, for pages, with no reference to anything that he had done or said. His lawyer, Michael Maggio, could get no particulars. "I asked the I.N.S.," Mr. Maggio said the other day, "Was it something Mr. Rama wrote? Someone he associated with? When was it? Where? Who said he did what? But all I got was the answer, 'We can't tell you, but we'll give you your day in court to prove he didn't do it.' How can you prove you didn't do something when you don't know what 'it' is?"

Then came a further twist. The I.N.S. bureaucrats suggested that Professor Rama might qualify for permanent residence if he declared himself a "defector" from Communism. In effect, that asked Professor Rama to brand himself a liar. He had stated under oath that he had never been a Communist. Moreover, his political views were there in his writings and well known: He was a Democratic Socialist, a critic of the Soviet Union's repression of dissidents, a critic also of U.S. interventions in Latin America. Asked what countries were close to his political ideal, he would say Austria and Sweden. He rejected the idea of trying to qualify as a defector. There was an extraordinary international plea on Professor Rama's behalf. When President Reagan was in South America in 1982, the President of Colombia, Belisario Betancur, asked him to help in the case. This year Professor Rama's legal problem became acute. He had a Guggenheim Fellowship to work on a book abroad; but if he left the United States he would probably be refused a visa to return. The I.N.S. gave him a form of parole for 90 days and said it would decide his appeal during that time. He went to Europe, but the 90 days ran out without decision. The I.N.S. asked Professor Rama to come back to the United States to await the decision. He said he could not, though he hoped the way would be cleared for him to return to teaching next fall. On Nov. 24, two days before the plane flight, he wrote his lawyer: "Since I do not have many years of life left, I have refused to turn myself into a man of ceaseless litigation."

Many Americans would find it incredible that their Government decides something as important as a man's right to stay in the United States on secret evidence. But it does, and the practice seems to be getting worse under the present Attorney General, William French Smith. Mr. Smith's Immigration Service used secret evidence in a recent case against another literary figure, Dennis Brutus, poet and critic of South African racism. One official who saw that evidence described it privately as "garbage." So it often is: the product of ignorant or malicious witnesses, not subject to checking by those who best know the truth.

The proceeding against Angel Rama harassed and humiliated an individual, but his was not the only interest damaged. This country's interest was, too. What happened to Professor Rama was widely publicized in Latin America, and deplored as an example of Yankee crudeness.

Of course it is not just the unfair procedure that is at fault. The law that makes ideology an immigration test has repeatedly embarrassed the U.S. Such distinguished authors as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Carlos Fuentes, Dario Fo, Carlo Levi and Alberto Moravia have had trouble with it.

If the death of Angel Rama is to have a meaning, it should be to encourage repeal of our senseless ideological barriers to otherwise desirable visitors and immigrants. Congress is engaged in general immigration reform right now. No part of our immigration law more urgently needs reform.

The Washington Post

U-Md. Service Planned for Air Crash Victim

December 2, 1983

Faculty and Students at the University of Maryland will hold a memorial service Monday night for Angel Rama, a Latin American scholar and professor at Maryland who, along with his wife, art critic Marta Traba, was killed in the Avianca jet airliner crash near Madrid Saturday.

A scholarship fund also is being established in memory of Rama, who was denied permanent residence in this country after the U.S. government labeled him a “subversive.”

The memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. in the university’s chapel on the College Park campus. University president John Toll is to be among the speakers.

Rama, 57, known in Latin America for his literary scholarship, visited the United States a number of times on temporary visas to teach and do research. But he was refused permanent residence in this country after gaining tenure at Maryland.

Immigration authorities said the refusal was based on alleged subversive activities, but they refused to tell him what the specific charges were. Rama denied the accusation, which he believed stemmed from magazine articles he wrote that were critical of the United States.



by JEFF LINCK

Arts and humanities division provost Shirley Kenny and University President John Toll attend a memorial service for Angel Rama.

Faculty, friends remember Rama

"I still believe that men can be classified, not by occupation, but after the manner of the ancients, as good or evil, or according to philosophies or ideas."

— Angel Rama

by DEBORAH VOCKE

Students, faculty members and friends of Angel Rama filled the chapel here last night to honor the late campus Spanish literature professor.

"He was recognized as the world's leading scholar in the criticism of modern Latin American literature," said University President John Toll. "We rejoice in the fact that he was among us for a time as an outstanding teacher and scholar."

Rama was killed Nov. 27 in a Madrid plane crash. Based in Paris, Rama was nearing the end of a one-year Guggenheim fellowship, unable to return here unless he could obtain a new U.S. visa.

The federal Immigration and Naturaliza-

tion Service had twice rejected Rama's request to have his visa made permanent, citing unspecified "subversive activities." But many campus administrators, faculty and students rallied in Rama's support.

"(He) always drove us to question creativity, to commit ourselves to the fundamental values of our history and culture, to defend democratic dialogue and to respect the plurality of opinion," said Alvaro Barros-Lemez, speaking on behalf of the Spanish and Portuguese department graduate students. Barros-Lemez knew and worked with Rama for more than 20 years.

"Rama died in Spain, that Tierra Sin Mapa (Uncharted Land), his parents' homeland, of which he wrote in his only novel. But for over a decade, Rama was a citizen of the world," Barros-Lemez said. "Rama saw himself as part of a universal struggle through which all humanity would advance toward coexistence and dialogue."

In an 11-minute tape recording, Rama was heard reciting a poem by Julio Herrera,

which Rama recorded in 1972. Many of the audience of about 100 sat with tears in their eyes, listening to their lost friend.

Rama had "a magnetic attraction, an unparalleled vibrant excitement. We felt the impulse that emanated from creative thinking and genuine concern for other people," said Saul Sosnowski, chairman of the Spanish and Portuguese department.

"The incomparable 400-volume collection of the Biblioteca Aqacucho . . . are a lasting monument to his genius," Toll said. "Angel Rama will have a unique place in our memories as one who illuminated the joys of literature."

As "clouded eyes and fractured sentences" were evident, Sosnowski reflected that, "silence has overtaken one of the most brilliant and most articulate voices in contemporary Latin American culture. We shall mourn Rama's silence, but we will continue to read and consult the books, articles, prologues, and editorial projects he designed and wrote."

Diamondback Article, December 6, 1983

1983-84 IN REVIEW

Crash kills Rama

Campus Spanish literature professor Angel Rama was one of at least 183 people killed in an Avianca Airlines crash near Madrid Nov. 27.

Rama, 57, who worked here from 1979 until early 1983, was internationally acclaimed for his expertise in Spanish literature. He was invited to the University through President John Toll's distinguished-faculty recruitment and retention program.

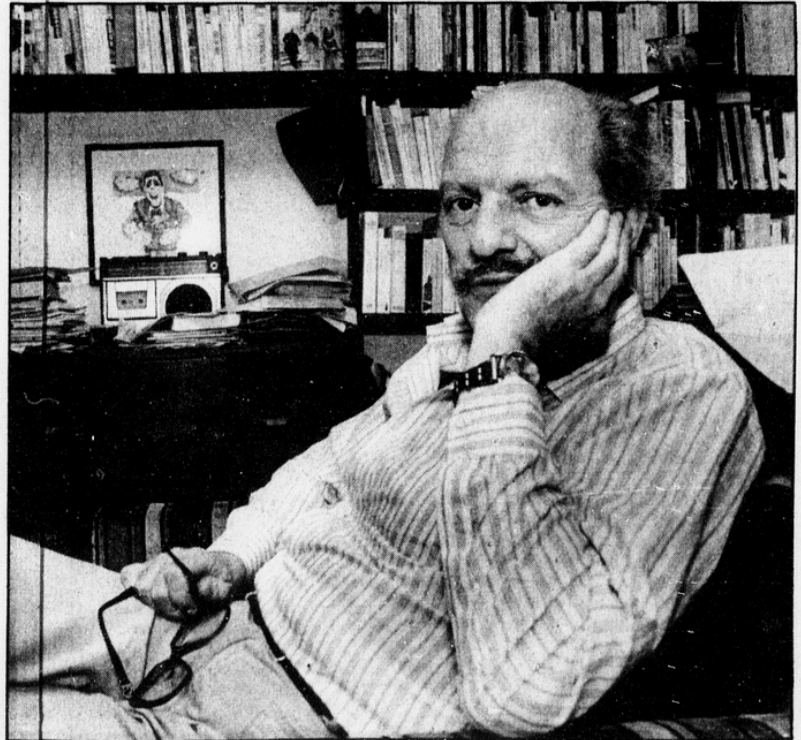
Rama's wife Marta Traba, 53, also died in the crash, one of the world's 10-worst plane crashes.

Rama, studying on a year-long Guggenheim fellowship in Paris, had applied twice while here for a permanent visa to stay in the United States, and could not return without a new visa. His requests were rejected by federal Immigration and Naturalization Service officials, who cited unspecified "subversive activities." At the time of his death, Rama was flying to a literary conference in Bogota, Columbia.

More than 30 Spanish and Portuguese department instructors and students formed the Angel Rama defense fund to help raise money for Rama's legal bills from his visa fight. Many campus administrators also lobbied to get Rama a permanent visa.

"He was so discouraged and depressed by (the INS's) previous conduct," Rama's lawyer Michael Miggio said. "The irony is that he was accused of unclean politics when he was not a political man; he was a writer."

Toll called Rama "a luminary in his field," and said, "We were still working to regularize his visa."



Spanish professor Angel Rama died in a Madrid plane crash Nov. 27.

Diamondback Article

May 15, 1984

In Memoriam

1984
The Terrapin
Yearbook



"He was a great man and a talented and perceptive writer."

-Public Affairs school
research associate
Robert Paster

Campus Spanish literature professor Angel Rama was killed near Madrid in one of the world's ten worst airplane crashes on November 27.

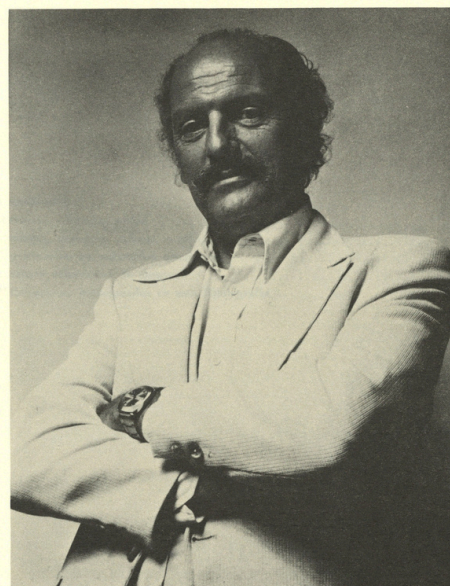
Rama had taught here from 1979 until early 1983, but due to a visa battle with the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (an unspecified "subversive" classification had been placed on his visa), the world renowned author and literature critic was forced into a one-year sabbatical, denied his great love – teaching.

[Spanish / Portuguese, Dept. of]

UNIVERSIDAD DE MARYLAND
Departamento de Español y PortuguésBIBLIOGRAFIA
SUMARIA

ANGEL RAMA

1926-1983

College Park, Maryland
1984ANGEL RAMA
1926 - 1983

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INTRODUCCION

Una bibliografía exhaustiva de Angel Rama (1926-1983) requerirá el esfuerzo combinado de un equipo capaz de rastrear en las decenas de publicaciones que recibieron sus contribuciones la enorme masa de su producción de más de treinta años de trabajo. Entre los múltiples aspectos de su actividad intelectual cabe consignar que en 1947 co-funda la revista literaria *Ciudadano*; entre 1954 y 1956 es editor de *Entregas de la Licorne*, desde 1958 y hasta 1968 dirige las páginas literarias de *Marcha*; a la vez que contribuye en *Acción*, dirige la *Revista Iberoamericana de Literatura* y la Editorial Arca, e inicia sus colaboraciones con las más diversas publicaciones de América y Europa. Años más tarde, ya en Caracas, será co-fundador y co-director de *Escritura* así como Director Literario de la Biblioteca Ayacucho. A la vez, desde mediados de los años sesenta, recorre el continente americano dando conferencias y cursos en las más diversas universidades e institutos de enseñanza superior. Desde 1979 estuvo asociado con la Universidad de Maryland. En 1981 fue nombrado Profesor Titular de Literatura Latinoamericana de su Departamento de Español y Portugués, cargo que ejerció —bajo licencia por la Beca Guggenheim— hasta el final.

Esta múltiple, variada e incansable labor, dio como consecuencia una torrencial actividad de creación y publicación. Rama, como los "publicistas" del siglo XIX, era un hombre de prensa. Diarios y revistas fueron su vehículo principal de comunicación masiva. Si en clase desarrollaba temas, los relacionaba, ampliaba, trascendía los marcos estrechos del texto que le servía como base, la palabra impresa era su campana resonadora fundamental.

En sus años de mayor exigencia y presión, los de *Marcha*, llegó a publicar dos o tres notas, más cortas o más extensas, en una misma edición. Más tarde, sus contribuciones semanales a periódicos y revistas de Venezuela, Colombia, México o Puerto Rico, repusieron el mismo nivel de presión y exigencia cotidiana.

De acuerdo a lo anterior, en el corto tiempo del que dispusimos para ensamblar esta *Bibliografía Sumaria*, lo único que nos propusimos fue dar una muestra lo más diversa y certera posible, y centralmente literaria, de