



BromeliA dvisory

August 2012

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What	Who
Sales Table	Antonio Arbelaez

AUGUST 21, 2012 7:30 PM

Speaker: Jay Thurrott "Why didn't my plant make it to the head table?"

RAFFLE TABLE: Jay Thurrott and maybe others

FOOD: Usual Suspects

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

James (Jay) Thurrott is an environmental chemist and recently retired after working in the public service sector for over 30 years with the City of Daytona Beach. He grows over 700 varieties of bromeliads at his home in Port Orange, Florida and been growing bromeliads since the 1970's. A longtime active member of the Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society (FECBS), Jay is their newsletter editor and has served as secretary, vice president and president as well as chairman of the 2011 Bromeliad Extravaganza, which was hosted by the FECBS. He has served as a representative to the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies (FCBS) for many years, is a past-Chairman of that organization and a co-editor of their newsletter. Also active in local garden club activities, he is a past president of the Halifax Council of Garden Clubs (a consortium of 7 garden clubs in the Daytona Beach area). He is currently President of the Bromeliad Society International after having served as a director and vice-president of the organization. Jay is also a BSI-accredited judge and has judged bromeliad shows throughout and, occasionally outside the USA.

Inside this edition:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT	2-3
GARDEN NOTES	3-5
WORLD BROMELIAD CONFERENCE	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	5-6
MURDER IN CORBIN A	6-8

President's Message

by Carl Bauer

Our Public Schools will open on August 20 and one measure of summer ends. But unlike our Northern friends, we still have months of warm, wet weather ahead.

Enjoy our luxuriant semi-tropical weather and the beautiful plants it provides. Small efforts provides exceptional results in the garden at this time.

The 20th World Bromeliad Conference is next month, September 26-30 in Orlando, Florida. Our Society will be well represented on a world stage. There is still time to join your fellow members if you can make it! It may be years before another one is this close.

We have had magnetic "fasteners" for our Bromeliad Society badges for years. However, one of the new ones recently issued by the manufacturer stated, "Caution Magnetic Device. Do not Use With Pacemaker." If you have a pacemaker, please do not wear your badge until we check out this warning. Obviously, we want no one to come to harm.

See you at the meeting.

Carl Bauer

In Case You Missed It

by Alan Herndon

Bruce McAlpin delivered an overview of *Neoregelia* to the crowd assembled for our July meeting. Along with the overview of the types of plants available in the genus, he slipped in cultural information and suggestions for their use in the landscape. This is an inexhaustible subject given the popularity of the genus in Florida, where it dominates the garden of many a bromeliad lover.



Neoregelia lilliputiana
Photo courtesy of Derek Butcher

Neoregelia lilliputiana – a plant less than 1" wide will produce flowers, although you can grow it to a stout 1 ½ inches with good culture. One thing to remember about this species is that it requires more water than your typical landscape Neo. Because it is so small, it is especially prone to dry out during our hot, dry periods (even if just a week or two) in the summer. Again, the small size suggests that it is best grown as a pot plant and the stoloniferous habit makes it suitable for growth in hanging baskets.

Slightly larger plants are found in the *Neoregelia ampullacea* complex. Species and hybrids in the complex are usually in the size range from 2 ½ inches to 5 inches. All are stoloniferous and will quickly produce a pleasing forest of nicely spaced rosettes. Most of these plants are covered with dark dots or bars that are well shown off in a hanging basket.

Even further up the size ladder, we have *Neoreglia* 'Fireball', followed by members of the *Neoregelia olens* complex. Neo 'Fireball', of course, is frequently grown as a ground cover, and Bruce finds planting them at the edge of an oak tree canopy provides the proper amount of shade. Naturally, trees will usually continue to grow over the years, so you will have to be prepared to move these plantings outward to the new canopy edge from time to time. The plants will inform you when a move is necessary: the leaves will lose their red

coloration and stay green. The different forms of *Neoregelia olens* are somewhat different in that they will tolerate more sun than most Neo species and can be used profitably in areas outside the shade of tree canopies. As with the other small Neo species, these plants are stoloniferous and can be grown to good effect in hanging baskets, but are also

large enough to hold their own as massed plantings in the ground.

From the 100+ species in the genus, Bruce chose to start with the smallest: the aptly named

Among the medium sized plants, Bruce pointed out *Neoregelia* 'Royal Burgundy' as one of the few Neos with dark foliage color that retain the dark color when grown under shady conditions. He doesn't need to keep moving these plants further from the tree trunk as the canopy expands, he can leave them right beside the trunk without any loss in color.

Among the large species, Bruce particularly discussed *Neoregelia cruenta*. In the wild, this species does not grow as an epiphyte, but is found growing in sand along the Brazilian coastline. It will tolerate high levels of sunlight. There are many clones of this species available, each with a different foliage color and size but all with the same growth pattern and shape. Bruce prefers to grow his plants in masses, so the impact of a plants character is magnified. With *Neoregelia cruenta*, he is working on a planting bed containing rows of different clones, each row containing a single clone, with the smaller clones towards the front and the larger clones towards the back.

As a finale, Bruce introduced a member of *Neoregelia* subgenus *Hylaeicum*. Members of this subgenus are found near the headwaters of the Amazon, largely in Peru, while the more familiar species in subgenus *Neoregelia* are restricted to eastern Brazil. Many of the species, including the *Neoregelia eleutheropetala* that Bruce had on the Raffle Table, look quite different with narrowly triangular leaves that are sharply bent between the sheath and blade and prominent, closely spaced spines. (*Neoregelia pendula brevifolia*, a member of this subgenus that is commonly grown locally, shares many of these characters, but in a miniturized form that does not seem so odd.)

In addition to providing the program, Bruce also provided the plants for a Raffle Table that attracted much interest from the buying public. As a more than generous encore, he donated all proceeds from the Raffle Table to BSSF.

Linda Schrier Coe and Susan Muci joined BSSF at the July meeting and Santiago Woll joined between the June and July meetings. We hope they will all become a common presence at our meetings and events. Please make them welcome.

Garden Notes July 2012

by Alan Herndon

We are nearing the middle of summer, but our normal summertime, conventional rainfall pattern only made an appearance in the last few days of the month. We have received plenty of rain from tropical disturbances passing our way, but even if those disturbances continue visiting us, we are susceptible to drought conditions cropping up in our gardens if the time between disturbances extends beyond a few days.

We are still in a period of high bloom activity, but seem to have passed the summer peak.

One of the more unusual cultivated species, *Acanthostachys pitcairnioides* bloomed early in the month. The few violet flowers put out by each plant seems to last only a week or so, but they generally form clumps so you have several plants in a single pot. The flowers are also partly hidden by the tangle of leaves since they occur at the very base of the leaf blades. In a while, the disproportionately large, white fruit will begin to mature. Like the flowers, these are less conspicuous than they might be, but as they increase in size, their white color makes them hard to miss if you look anywhere near the base of the otherwise dark plant.

No species of *Aechmea* subgenus *Ortgiesia* were seen in flower during the month, and probably will not be seen until late next fall. *Aechmea angustifolia* and *Aechmea alopecurus* continued to bloom from last month, along with the largest clone of *Aechmea disjuncta*. *Aechmea chantinii* is still blooming in large quantities, although it seems to be on a downward trajectory now. The closely related *Aechmea tillandsioides* was also in bloom, but nearing the end of the available buds by the end of the month. Pups from these plants have been growing rapidly, and may (or may not) produce their own inflorescences during the coming months. New species observed in bloom were *Aechmea fasciata* and the close relative of *Aechmea orlandiana* : *Aechmea correia-araujoi*.

Alcantarea glaziouana and *Alcantarea extensa* continued to bloom this month. In both species, the inflorescence branches have reached the stage where they only produce flowers at

irregular intervals. They might continue in this condition for some time.

Again, this year we seem to have at least one *Billbergia* 'Hallelujah' bloom every month even though all the respectable *Billbergia* species and hybrids have shifted to their normal summer jobs of producing more-and-more pups so they will be ready to put on a more spectacular show at when the blooming season begins again late next fall.

Canistrum auratum 'Vania' is still in bloom because none of my blooming-size plants has overlapped. Flowers are produced on an individual plant for less than a month, but I have had 3 plants bloom in succession.

Edmundoa perplexa continued to bloom.

Among the species of *Neoregelia*, I particularly noticed several small species blooming. *Neoregelia crispata* (a few different clones) has been the most frequently noted in flower. This species is similar in size to the *Neoregelia ampullacea* complex, and has at times been confused with members of this complex, but the rosettes of the two groups are different. *Neoregelia crispata* has leaves that arch evenly from the base to form a spreading rosette, while the leaf sheaths of the *Neoregelia ampullacea* complex are more erect, forming a short tubular rosette. Also, the petals in *Neoregelia crispata* are much longer, and white or white with only a small violet tip in contrast to the shorter petals in the *Neoregelia ampullacea* complex that have broad violet margins with white confined to the lower half of the petal. *Neoregelia* 'Fireball' has been true to form with two sightings of flowers among the many thousands of plants we have growing. *Neoregelia ampullacea* was also seen in bloom several times over the course of the month. A member of the *Neoregelia olens* complex, *Neoregelia indecora*, bloomed during the month.



Neoregelia ampullacea

The mid-size *Neoregelia angustifolia* continued in flower during the month. Finally, *Neoregelia tristis*, another small species was seen in flower.

Orthophytum species continued to flower heavily, but some species appear to be taking a break. *Orthophytum lymaniana* still has many active blooming plants, but no new inflorescences are developing on *Orthophytum rubiginosum* to replace those that are reaching the end. Similarly, the end is in sight for flowering in *Orthophytum lemei*. In contrast, *Orthophytum harleyi* still has new plants coming into bloom. *Orthophytum sucrei* just started a new generation of flowers towards the end of the month. *Orthophytum disjunctum* seems to always have a new plant come into bloom to replace those that have finished, but there is not any real mass bloom. Among the members of the *Orthophytum amoenum* complex, a new plant of *Orthophytum zanonii* has begun to flower. There was also a new plant of *Orthophytum roseum* blooming during the month. Of course, it finished flowering before the month ended. Finally, I had a plant of *Orthophytum ophiuroides* bloom. Like

Orthophytum roseum, this species is in flower less than a month, but, as a small plant, it is easy to grow in clumps, so there is always the chance that a new plant from the clump will bloom later.

Another of the less frequently cultivated species, *Ronbergia nidularioides* bloomed near the beginning of the month.

Many species of *Tillandsia* flowered during the month. Many are flowering for the second time this year as the pups reached flowering size. *Tillandsia capitata*, *Tillandsia abdita* and *Tillandsia tenuifolia* all fall into this category. Plants of *Tillandsia vernicosa* continue to bloom, but each month may feature a different clone. Species recorded for the first time this

year include *Tillandsia jalisco-monticola*, *Tillandsia mallefontii*, *Tillandsia arequibae*, *Tillandsia remota*, *Tillandsia klausii* and *Tillandsia balbisiana*. *Tillandsia andreana* and *Tillandsia extensa* are blooming after an absence of a few months

Vriesea duvaliana continued in bloom through the entire month and still has some time to go. *Vriesea warmingii*, on the other hand, finally finished blooming during the early weeks of July. *Vriesea barclayana* was finally noticed this month. It has probably been in flower for a month or two. *Vriesea correia-araujoi* put on a brief show during the month. Many of the plants in individual pots bloomed at the same time.

This year I have seen many sporelings of the native fern, *Woodwardia virginica*, showing up among the potted bromeliads. Since most of these showed up in plants received from central Florida late last fall, I initially assumed they were all hitchhikers. However, I have also seen a few *Woodwardia* in Karl Green's collection, suggesting they all arose from local sporefall. This would indicate an abundance of spore in the air this year. *Woodwardia virginica* is native to southern Florida, but is much more common to the north. It is a species you would expect to see routinely in the Big Cypress area, but is quite uncommon in the Everglades proper.

World Bromeliad Conference

by Alan Herndon

Just a reminder that the World Bromeliad Conference is fast approaching. Everyone already registered for the conference should have received a package containing the Banquet request form, the tour request form and a schedule of events.

If you would like to sell at the members table during the conference, please be aware that you need to contact the Sales Chair individually to get a vendor number (Georgia Orser georgiaorser@gmail.com 352-250-3571 supplies these numbers). There will not be a BSSF section at the members table. You are not required to put up a deposit for the selling at the members table, but BSI will take 20% of your gross sales. You need to take this into account when setting your prices. As a vendor selling at the members table, you will be expected to spend some time helping with the sales.

Chairs of many committees are now requesting volunteers. There is always need for more people to help with such jobs as helping registrants and visitors at the Registration and Hospitality Table throughout the show (contact Kay or Ben Klugh klughka@yahoo.com 407-314-4631 or 407-314-4641 to schedule a time). Security (contact Rick Ryals rickryals@bellsouth.net 386-679-8700) also needs volunteers to keep an eye on the entries and exits during the conference. It might be worth noting that these jobs give you a great opportunity to meet bromeliad growers from outside our own little circle. People to run the cash registers at the Sales room will be needed from Thursday Evening on (contact Rick Rector rector@clf.rr.com 407-886-8441). The Auction (Charlie Birdsong c_birdsong@bellsouth.net 225-384-6250) could also use people to help with setup on Friday afternoon and runners to move the bid sheets and plants during the auction that evening. If you plan to be at the conference on Wednesday morning, consider volunteering to help Pepe Donayre with Staging (Jose Donayre jcadonayre@bellsouth.net 954-925-5112), in the afternoon of that same day, he could use volunteers for Placement. Especially useful would be some people who could be available on Sunday afternoon (after 3 PM) to help Pepe with Dismantling the show.

Donations of bromeliad-related items for the Raffle prizes would also be welcome.

Finally, don't forget to get your plants ready for entry in the show. Clean them and groom them as you would for our show. If you haven't started already, do so now. The show is only a month away.

Thank You Moyna

Thanks to Moyna Prince for her crystal donation. If any one else is cleaning out their china cabinet, we would appreciate their donations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5, 12, 19, 26 and September 5, 2012
Free Sundays at Fairchild

August 19-19, 2012
Seminole Bromeliad and Tropical Plant Society Sale
Sanford Garden Club
407-539-4314 for details

September 24th-30th

20th World Conference – Orlandiana '12

The Caribe Royal,
8101 World Center,
Orlando, FL 32821

Check out the BSI website
(<http://www.bsi.org/events/2012/Orlando2012.html>)
or the Florida Council Website for the latest
information.

<http://fcbs.org/>

Friday October 05 - Sunday October 07

Tropiflora's Fall Festival
3530 Tallevast Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

October 6, 2012

Members' Plant Sale
FTBG
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

October 13-14, 2012

Fall Plant and Orchid Sale
9AM - 5PM
Kanapaha Botanical Garden
4700 S.W. 58th Drive
Gainesville, FL 32608

October 26-27

Florida East Coast Bromeliad Society
Everybody's Flower & Garden Show
Peabody Auditorium,
600 Auditorium Boulevard
Daytona Beach
Friday 9:00am-5:00pm, Saturday 8:00am-5:00pm

November 3-4

13th Annual Mount Dora Plant and Garden Sale
Simpson Cove.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For more information, call (352) 357-411

November 9-11, 2012

RAMBLE
FTBG
9:30 - 4:30

December 1st-2nd

Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society Sale
Terry Park
3451 Marion Street
Fort Myers, FL

January 23-25, 2013

Tropical Plant Industry Exhibition
TPIE 2013 Show
1950 Eisenhower Blvd. at Port Everglades
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-4205

MURDER IN CORBIN A

© by Robert Meyer

PREVIOUS CHAPTERS MAY BE SEEN IN

<http://www.bssf-miami.org/>

53.

Joshua ran into Boss's office with a new computer print out in his hands. But, when he realized the office was unoccupied, he ran down the hall and was about to open the interrogation room's door when Marlene caught his attention and said, "If you open that door, that may be the last act you perform in this station. I do not know what goes on in there, but I know it is important, because Boss is seated and not shaking anything at the old man in there. Someone is squawking, and Boss will not tolerate your interruption of an apparent once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in which that guy spill his beans."

"Well I have something important as well." Joshua said. "I have new lab results, and it followed my lead to think there was more to this case than Florel. And, there is . . ."

"Well do tell, my lab rat." Marlene said with assurance and a bit of rank.

Joshua did not appreciate Marlene's tone and responded without emotion, "I report to Boss, and you can tell him to call me when he can get the free time."

"Not so fast, Josh. You have information for *our* investigation. *We* need information and need it quickly. Two bodies are already in the morgue. Any delays could be the cause of a third, fourth, fifth. .. Get my point, Josh? Or do I need to tell Boss about how you delayed giving information to the squad?"

Josh was intimidated. "Listen, I am not here to cause drama or trouble. So, let that be clear. Now, here is my report. It speaks for itself. And, give it to Boss. . . please. . . as soon as he finishes that matter in the interrogation room." With those words Joshua parted without needing any acknowledgment from Marlene.

As Joshua walked away, Marlene opened the envelope and saw his report. The toxin had a few common components, and Florel was not the only item in the tests which was out of the ordinary. His report found much more. "I tested for phosphorous and other items ordinarily seen in fertilizers as the common denominator of this case – plant growers who may engage in the handling of chemicals commonly used by person in their interests. But, more than phosphorous was found in the deceased persons. And, more importantly, the common extra chemicals in the two deceased persons are fatal

alone, such that the stabbing we thought caused their respective deaths may have only been an accelerator to the eventual death each of these people would have encountered in about three or less months. Among the lethal items was phosphorus pentoxide – anhydrous phosphoric acid. This is a refining agent which is a corrosive. Military training of the burning of such substance has been reviewed, and medical teams have concluded that prolonged exposure is serious and its effects include evoking acute respiratory distress or death. A review of the same precipitated a request to the coroner to review the lungs of the deceased, and each corpse had severe tissue damage reflecting a pronounced respiratory distress. Requests should be made to see if doctor visits had been made by each victim prior to death with complaints of heart pains, loss of breath, fatigue (chronic or occasional) and other side effects which correlate to respiratory ailments and even distress.”

Marlene had to wonder, what in the heck is going on in that society. What could be sent to these people which would deliver such a poison to them? She had to read on.

54.

“Phosphorous poisoning is most commonly seen with phosphorous armaments in the military, and damages suffered most often by warehouse handlers of such arms. Other most common death cause from phosphorous is accidental swallowing of rat poison. Inhaling match heads, rat poison, firecrackers, cockroach poison, and similar items holding condensed portions of the phosphorous compounds usually create illness, which can be remedied by purging of the stomach. However, lighter doses, given over a prolonged period of time, may indicate indigestion and lead to results like those workers at munitions, fireworks and rat poison facilities. For such people, death can creep up on the exposed. When ingested slowly, fatty degeneration and cell transformation in the liver may occur.

“Renal failure is another common problem associated from prolonged exposure to these chemicals. Coroner again asked to review kidneys, and same was done. Coroner delivered new report to us that indicate that the kidneys were showing abrasions and had been subjected to poison. A similar report was made of the liver, again showing toxicity, and more damage.

“The extent of the damage will be delivered by the coroner, but I have been told the damage was so significant that the eventual death in a matter of months would arrive. It may be practical for others

in society to have full physical to review these issues and perhaps others which are presently unknown.

Joshua.”

As she finished the report, the Captain came walking out of his office and noted that Marlene was standing in the hallway and looking rather unoccupied.

“What are you doing, standing like a G.D. tree in the middle of my precinct. Don’t you have to make calls to your people in the Broom-Hilda-dad society and ask them who they think is out there trying to grease their lily white back ends for reasons which no one can fathom. Good God, there is a monster out there whacking off old ladies and elderly judges, although the latter may not be as offensive, who appears to also beat up elderly scam artists like the Prince for the Day in interrogation Room A who is spilling his guts out right now. As a matter of fact, since you seem to speak the language of the flower children of two generations ago, why don’t you bust your hump and enter that room and see if you can help Box-of-Rocks Rodriguez understand what in the heck is happening in this insane county.” She was stumped and could not respond or move. “Don’t stand their gaping like a 6-year ld kid caught committing petty larceny in the candy store, pick up those feet and walk in Room A, now, pronto. Capiche?”

Marlene walked into Room A with the file in her hand, and Boss, totally out of habit, reached over, snapped the folder from her hands, and began to read the matter in lightening speed – something he developed from his years of reading the library’s stacks. Within a minute, he had thoroughly read the entire folder and looked at Marin and said, “What about the part you told me nothing about? Like the point of toxicity. Speak to me, or we will need to think twice about the offers put on the table.”

When Rodriguez ran into the squad room, he saw Boss in the interrogation room speaking to an elderly man who was black and blue. Boss was not moving about in his typical agitated speaker way – at least not as he usually was when asking questions. Instead, he sat calmly and without either emotion or motion waited for responses from the old suspect.

“I do not have any idea who took me, beat me and unloaded me.” Marin said. “I do not have any idea

who would have done this to me. They asked only one thing from me which was a question that I could not answer – not out of secrecy or loyalty. I just did not have an answer.”

“What was that question?” Boss gently asked.

“Something about a code. But, I knew nothing about any code. They kept asking, and finally they just beat me to a pulp and threw me in the Overtown garbage this morning after a few days of allowing my swollen eyes to reopen.”

“Now, Marin – I am losing patience with you. You can be the guy who smuggled stuff in and out of the Americas over the past three decades and gained prominence for your illicit endeavors. You are sneaky and know sneaky people. Your efforts to tell everyone else in this room that you know nothing about a code and were beat up by a bunch of hoodlums who thought there was some correlation between you and some code, is . . . how do I say – hard to believe. Why? I will tell you. I have been a member of the BSSF for a few months. I know Linares. I hear things. And, she told me about you and your Code – that is code with a capital ‘C.’ And, so when you sit there and mumble out of your cracked teeth, broken jaw and swollen tongue that you are befuddled about people kicking you like a rag doll about some code which you know nothing about, I know better than to solemnly sigh in your sympathy to yer pains. So, do you want to give us another response to my last question?”

Marin, who had spent more hours and days and even months in prison than many of the most-tattooed villains of the streets, was not shaken by the small lieutenant’s statement. He knew that the statement was either true about Linares, or a mere bluff. But, Marin knew how much Linares knew – because he was the one who had educated her about the Code, and done so in a limited fashion. Linares, on a very deliberate and intentional maneuver by Marin, knew about the Code, but nothing more. To know more would endanger his beloved ex-wife. And, like Linares, he still held a light in his heart for his former spouse. He wanted her safe, and would do nothing to deliver her to a fate which he must accept for himself. And, based upon this momentary review, Marin coolly looked at Boss and said, “I know you know that Linares thinks there is a Code. I know because I told her about the existence of a Code. But, the Code I mentioned to her is a fiction. It does not exist. But, let me tell you something else. I know other than Linares and me and you and maybe some others at the BSSF, no one knows about the Code. And, the fact that the bullies asked about

something that only you and I and a few others know, I was right when I asked them to bring you to their lair to discuss what was happening. I know now who set the dogs on me. I now know that you are a dirty cop. I now know that you are not someone for Linares. And, when I tell her about how you had thugs beat me almost to death over the G.D, Code, I am sure that you will not be eating any more meals at her place.”

Boss was quick and bright. His full navigation through all the classic mystery novels of the 1950’s and 1960’s taught him all the tricks of the trade. And, he knew that immediate denial of Marin’s accusation was mandatory. Boss responded within a breadth of Marin’s accusation, “You are one paranoid punk Marin. You think like a teenager, but are a lizard skinned septarian. Wise up idiot. There is someone in the BSSF who killed two people, and probably is the cause of your misfortune. And, you must know what the common denominator is. So, you have two choices before you walk out and before you slander me. Either give us information to find this cancer in the society, or be a fool and allow there to be a next time – a next time when you meet these people and when you probably do not live.”

Upon finishing these words, Rodriguez opened the door and blurted out, “Boss, I need to speak to you. Our boy is MIA and people think he may even be dead.”

“Edgar ?” Marin asked.

“Yea.” Rodriguez said with a bit of a perplexed look at Marin when hearing his acknowledgment of the person.

Marin dropped his head and said, “Little lieutenant. We need to talk.” At this time, Boss sat again and nodded to Rodriguez to stay in the room and close the door. And, when Rodriguez sat, Marin spoke quickly and efficiently about events which no one had previously discussed before Boss, Rodriguez or Marlene.

