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Oral history interview with Carlos Eziel Vega Rosario, May 4, 2022

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ORAL HISTORY LAB (OHL)

University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez

Oral History Interview with Carlos E. Vega, May 4, 2022

PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview of conducted by Andre J Morales on May 4, 2022. This interview is part of coursework done by students at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

00:00:42.712 --> 00:00:43.842 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The recording began.

00:00:44.902 --> 00:00:45.382 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Now yes.

00:00:45.202 --> 00:00:47.342ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Could service OK, perfect.

00:00:48.552 --> 00:00:50.652ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Ah, well, I arrive-someone arrived

00:00:51.682 --> 00:01:08.532 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, well hi everyone, my name is André Jose. Morales González and today I will be conducting my interview for my creative nonfiction project which is about inflation and the events that have occurred in the past years in Puerto Rico from the point of view of a former UPRM student. The interview will be conducted in Spanish to fulfill the uhhhh narrator's petition.

00:01:09.242 --> 00:01:13.762 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, the sp-, the uhm. I'm sorry.

00:01:14.742 --> 00:01:20.202 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The interview from now on will be in Spanish.

00:01:21.452 --> 00:01:26.022A NDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

First of all, I would like to know what is your name?

00:01:26.902 --> 00:01:27.702 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Your last name?

00:01:28.312 --> 00:01:32.292 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

How old are you at the moment?

In which municipality of Puerto Rico do you live?

00:01:32.872 --> 00:01:36.902 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What career are you currently pursuing at the University? And any curious facts about you?

00:01:38.392 --> 00:01:45.362 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well greetings, my name is Carlos Eziel Vega Rosario.

Ehhhh, I am currently 18 years old.

00:01:46.592 --> 00:01:51.582 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Ehhh.

I was born in Ponce, but heh, I've lived all my life in Santa Isabel.

00:01:52.452 --> 00:02:11.582 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I am currently studying Industrial Engineering and a curious fact, EH? More about how I'm more about, why I'm studying Industrial Engineering, it's because I've always been a car lover. Thanks to that we know each other, eh? and thanks to this passion of cars, then.

00:02:12.222 --> 00:02:20.112 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I decided to study engineering. I always wanted mechanical engineering, but in the end I realized that mine was Industrial Engineering, so that's why I also ended up studying this.

00:02:21.922 --> 00:02:36.022 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well then, as you well know, these last few years in Puerto Rico have been challenging, historically impactful for the country with the passing of a category five hurricane. The resignation of a ruler, the earthquakes.

00:02:36.662 --> 00:02:37.072 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Mhm.

00:02:37.332 --> 00:02:40.992 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

A pandemic that is still in force and inflation.

00:02:42.272 --> 00:02:52.092 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Due to these events well the cost of housing and the price of many items in Puerto Rico, have gone in a rise and fall without any projection until the moment the bar is leveled.

00:02:52.782 --> 00:02:56.942 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

This has been like this for the last five years. It goes up and down, you don't know what's going to happen.

00:02:55.832 --> 00:02:57.132 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO
From 2017 to here.

00:02:57.902 --> 00:03:08.352 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

No there are no future projections. So, my purpose with this interview is to hear your experience and your point of view as students of high school and now university student.

00:03:09.382 --> 00:03:13.752 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then we're going to start, right? On this journey.

00:03:14.342 --> 00:03:15.402 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

With Hurricane Maria.
00:03:16.062 --> 00:03:25.052 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, in 2017 Hurricane Maria passes through Puerto Rico, devastating many homes, local and foreign businesses.

00:03:25.962 --> 00:03:28.522 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

testing the country's economy once again.

00:03:29.332 --> 00:03:40.062 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It was also seen how several businesses took advantage of the shortage and began to inflate the prices of essential items such as gasoline, ice, water, food.

00:03:40.832 --> 00:03:41.442 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Okay then, let's get started

00:03:42.172 --> 00:03:50.442 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

How was your reaction to seeing how everything around you stopped looking like it was before the hurricane?

00:03:51.432 --> 00:03:56.822 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, when I get up during the hurricane, what I see is.

00:03:57.712 --> 00:04:07.152 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The first is when I try to get out of bed. What I see is in my entire flooded room because water was

getting in, even though the windows were closed the water, it was getting in through the windows.

00:04:07.962 --> 00:04:16.262 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And the room is filled with water and everything and the rush throughout the house. The front door was making noises even though it was closed.

00:04:16.892 --> 00:04:24.672 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Water was trying to come through while we changed towels and all that was many things inside the house.

00:04:25.852 --> 00:04:55.822 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Ehh, plus the scary sounds of external things because, although we take great care of our things and make sure that everything was fine, this at the time of the hurricane. Neighbors of us also tied up their things. Example the next-door neighbor has a roof, in zinc and the roof almost jumps to the roof of our house. That could have damaged the air conditioners and electrical systems and a lot of things in our house. And then after having lived all that.

00:04:56.072 --> 00:05:01.462 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The hurricane left so we are calmer in that part and then we go out to the outside world to see what happened.

00:05:02.462 --> 00:05:11.592 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Inside my urbanization, the park of the urbanization had a lot of trees ehh all on top of another much.

00:05:12.582 --> 00:05:15.412 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was truly not recognizable.

00:05:15.982 --> 00:05:20.362 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH? The urbanización inside and outside.

00:05:21.012 --> 00:05:25.722 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The side of where I live is the Mall and, in the Mall, the same cinema.

00:05:26.602 --> 00:05:28.072 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was destroyed.

00:05:28.902 --> 00:05:31.812 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The top of the cinema was gone completely.

00:05:32.782 --> 00:05:47.142 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The signs of many businesses, shops and everything had fallen to the road. The big sign of a restaurant here next to my house and the sign of the restaurant fell blocking the road.

00:05:47.922 --> 00:05:52.582 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Seeing many houses destroyed ehh many flooded sites.

00:05:54.062 --> 00:06:00.572CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

These things of the houses whether it was a roof, wood and parts of the house, complete.

00:06:01.492 --> 00:06:10.392CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

A lot of things are in the middle of the street, seeing everything blocked because there were trees in the middle of the street and everything and seeing so much destruction.

00:06:11.212 --> 00:06:19.412CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Ehh makes one see the world in a different way and focus that today we can be well and tomorrow we cannot.

00:06:20.552 --> 00:06:24.692CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because this happened from one day to the next. The hurricane was announced.

00:06:25.432 --> 00:06:30.952CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And the day before the hurricane everything good and the next day Puerto Rico had changed.

00:06:31.892 --> 00:06:38.722CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And that leaves us with a teaching all that we have to value what we have and also in addition to that.

00:06:40.572 --> 00:06:45.912CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Focus on taking care of our things and everything and that from one day to the next things can change.

00:06:47.342 --> 00:06:52.782ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, you told me about what water getting into your room, you lost, was there any damage?

00:06:53.752 --> 00:06:56.072ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Inside your house, your room.

00:06:53.962 --> 00:06:54.672CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH

00:06:56.022 --> 00:07:16.462CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Fortunately, there was no loss. Of course, my bed base was damaged a little and that, but that could be fixed and no, there was no damage from my part, but I have close relatives who had lost their homes and lost their houses and everything, and it was something shocking.

00:07:18.072 --> 00:07:22.762 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

How did you feel when you found out, you had relatives who lost it all?

00:07:23.902 --> 00:07:25.022ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ
Even their houses.

00:07:24.002 --> 00:07:30.812CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was very sad because we called my grandmother and my grandparents who passed the hurricane in the bathroom of the house because

00:07:31.682 --> 00:07:43.852CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

one of the windows gets inside the house and the full hurricane gets inside the house. We arrived at the house, the house was completely destroyed inside and outside and my two grandparents are tucked into the bathroom of the house.

00:07:44.692 --> 00:08:14.032CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOY

The house completely flooded. The house full of branches and weeds. Everything in the kitchen destroyed, thrown all over the floor of the house, the damaged furniture, dining tables and everything was a destruction inside that house that they had to buy everything new and it was very sad to see that and in the house of other relatives, uncles and that also that many things were damaged. It was very sad to see all that.

00:08:15.102 --> 00:08:30.212ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, you tell me that you had relatives who lost things, so you have a story about getting some item of necessity, whether it is gasoline, ice, food, etc., either for you or a family member as you are telling me at that time?00:08:30.972 --> 00:08:36.132ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZY

whether you bought it at an inflated or concurrent price.

00:08:36.872 --> 00:08:51.362ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZY

We mentioned at the beginning that there was inflation and many people were victims of buying things at an overvalued price, do you have any history about buying an overpriced item?

00:08:52.212 --> 00:08:56.782ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Some difficult moment when it comes to getting gasoline or some item of necessity at that time?

00:08:57.692 --> 00:08:58.452CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH?

00:09:06.842 --> 00:09:12.032CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Sorry for that Ehhh. After the hurricane, I have a...

00:09:08.192 --> 00:09:08.512ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It's okay

00:09:13.162 --> 00:09:17.202CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

A curious thing that happened to us, ehh we do not have a power plant.

00:09:18.242 --> 00:09:30.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We had to go out to buy ice many times very early, make very long lines and everything, and also with gasoline, stand in kilometric lines for gasoline and be there for four hours to pour gasoline.

00:09:30.842 --> 00:09:33.292CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Something happened to us with gasoline one day is that...

00:09:33.952 --> 00:09:38.542CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We were going to pour gasoline, we were four hours lining up to pour

gasoline. 00:09:40.002 --> 00:09:52.552CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We arrived at our house, left the car in front of the house and went to sleep to get up the next day and realize that during the night the gasoline that was in the car was stolen.

00:09:53.832 --> 00:10:01.212CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Someone emptied the entire tank and the next day, when we got up that went to turn on the car we realized that they had emptied it completely.

00:10:01.782 --> 00:10:02.202ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Wow

00:10:01.862 --> 00:10:03.632CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So yes.

00:10:04.832 --> 00:10:06.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Things that happened during all that.

00:10:08.252 --> 00:10:20.802ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, then as a High School student at that time what complications or mishaps this event had in your development as a future university student. Any effect on your way of thinking and acting at that time?

00:10:22.342 --> 00:10:50.862CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well more than anything to see the destruction and everything that also led to Eh, which will complicate the classes a lot. We had to take the classes online. We arrived when we returned to face-to-face school, we had many problems that there were parts of the school that due to the hurricane in the school where I was studying is a school of many years.

00:10:51.962 --> 00:11:00.432CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

There were walls of the school that fell so there were classrooms that could not be used, eh there was a tree that fell, Eh?

00:11:01.612 --> 00:11:10.662CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

This is the second floor, because part of the second floor fell and broke the hallway where one passed. So that area also had to be closed.

00:11:11.772 --> 00:11:16.522CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

There were many things and among the students, sometimes they put us to help.

00:11:18.642 --> 00:11:24.502CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To pick up different things that we saw out there, trying to recompose the school between the same students, teachers and staff of the same school and see the change...

00:11:31.032 --> 00:11:44.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It has to get used to online classes and to see all the destruction in the school, to see that many classmates of the same class lost their homes because I had classmates who had lost their homes with this hurricane

00:11:45.112 --> 00:11:47.802CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And one changes a lot that vision of one's situation, also seeing the situation of others be much more sympathetic than before.

00:11:54.682 --> 00:12:00.462CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To realize that in the future the same things could also happen.

00:12:01.062 --> 00:12:10.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So we always have to be alert, we always have to be taking care of ourselves and always try our best because we can be okay today and the next day we do not know what happens.

00:12:12.632 --> 00:12:13.612CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

These are things that happen.

00:12:12.732 --> 00:12:13.262ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So.

00:12:13.952 --> 00:12:21.852ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

You say that what happened was vital to your way of thinking and acting. Since then.

00:12:22.172 --> 00:12:27.952CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yes, because there was a change. One realizes all that and learns to value the present even more.

00:12:28.582 --> 00:12:36.662CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And to focus much more on striving day by day for the day when things like this happen, you do not lose everything you had already done.

00:12:38.402 --> 00:12:52.032ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, you are telling me, right? You told me that you had relatives who lost, lost their home, had classmates who lost their home or important part or items, had damage on a larger scale.

00:12:52.832 --> 00:13:12.682 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, we know that after Maria there were complications to fill out the Fema documents so that the funds and the whole thing got to the people who needed it. That is what happens in Puerto Rico, where the government, because unfortunately it does not have an optimal level of efficiency.

00:13:13.302 --> 00:13:22.712 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then my question is, how could the government have managed the price situation better after Hurricane Maria? For example, gasoline, ice.

00:13:23.582 --> 00:13:27.152 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What could have been done better from your point of view?

00:13:28.442 --> 00:13:34.022 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Or can you tell me what you thought at that time as a high school student? Or can you tell me something from that moment right now since you are a university student and have a broader way of thinking?

00:13:42.252 --> 00:13:53.022 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, more than anything, I doubt that a change could have been made in terms of gasoline prices and all because everything was very difficult at that time there.

00:13:53.732 --> 00:14:00.732 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I doubt that something better could have been done than what was done, more than anything it could have been managed better the fact that each person, OK...

00:14:03.972 --> 00:14:06.372 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Ehhh could pour gasoline a certain amount of people in a certain amount of places. Ehh this gas station has this one doesn't. That kind of thing was as well managed as possible because it was something very difficult, but the government should have focused more in the sense that knowing that there is no light, there is no light, there is no light on the road. A lot. There were a ton of traffic problems, because there was too much debris on the road, lights that did not work, traffic lights that were not working, Eh? And I saw that there were many places where there were no security guards for traffic, everything was a trail and I think that can be better managed in the sense that the Government could have sent many more police to give traffic, organize things better, help people who needed it on the street, because I got to see a lot of people on the street working with things that had fallen, example, trees and all that, the same people struggling with that and I didn't see a government force, but not as much as one would expect. So, in my point view, what they could have improved is in the sense of.

00:15:26.232 --> 00:15:27.512 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Ummm.

00:15:28.932 --> 00:15:30.762 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Bring out more police to the street and that the Government would have tried harder to help the people because many things were being done by civilians. There were normal people giving traffic on the street, because if not, it was impossible to pass, and I saw that that was the task of many police officers and that they are supposed to be doing that. When in reality they were not working on that.

00:15:50.032 --> 00:15:53.232CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I think that the Government could have worked a little better in that part.

00:15:53.802 --> 00:16:04.662CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It could have been done better to help the people more, but they did what they could with what they had. Actually, not much else could have been done. Not so.

00:16:05.362 --> 00:16:13.552CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

At the end of the day, well it could have been managed a little better, but no, there was not so much margin at the end of the day it was a difficult task.

00:16:14.372 --> 00:16:16.312ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So you are telling me that?

00:16:17.242 --> 00:16:24.262ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

In terms of prices on the items of necessity. That was, you saw it coming because of supply and demand issues at the time?

00:16:23.942 --> 00:16:37.282CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yeah exactly, by supply and demand is normal for this type of thing to happen and that is no longer in the hands of the Government. It is in the hands of the distributors and that is already something more difficult that does not not simply fall into the Government.

00:16:38.522 --> 00:16:45.072ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Simply, you think that what could have been improved at that time was to implement more safety on the road.

00:16:45.152 --> 00:17:08.352CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly more aid on the road in terms of, EH, which will help more in the road, in transit, in removing debris and all that, but yes, it could have been managed a little better because there were many people doing it, when the Government could have helped a little more, but at the end of the day there were no resources for that.

00:16:51.242 --> 00:16:51.692ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

No worries.

00:17:09.632 --> 00:17:14.532ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, not only the government, there are also the municipalities. Many municipalities could have

improved the situation.

00:17:13.022 --> 00:17:13.522CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly

00:17:15.842 --> 00:17:16.282ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Yeah.

00:17:15.932 --> 00:17:16.542CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:17:17.382 --> 00:17:36.782ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then years two have already passed after Hurricane Maria, where 2018, it was a year of recovery for many Puerto Ricans, and 2019 was marked by the resignation of a ruler and then at the end of 2019 comes the beginning of the earthquakes in the southern area of Puerto Rico.

00:17:37.542 --> 00:17:48.112ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

receives the year 2020 with the situation of the tremors and with the news that many schools were disabled and students are left without classrooms. Entonces.

00:17:48.912 --> 00:17:54.852ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

In the municipality where you live or lived at that time or where you studied.

00:17:55.632 --> 00:17:59.952ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The municipality suffered any damage caused by the earthquakes?

00:18:00.492 --> 00:18:07.272CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, I am from Santa Isabel. I have always lived here, but always studied in Juana Diaz.

00:18:08.522 --> 00:18:18.192CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

What's wrong? in Santa Isabel I did not see great change, at least in my house and that there was no great damage, the earthquakes did not affect much.

00:18:08.562 --> 00:18:09.172ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Oh.

00:18:19.202 --> 00:18:30.832CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But in places like Juana Díaz, where I studied part of the school where I was, was disabled, mostly because part of the school buildings was a school that had three floors.

00:18:31.722 --> 00:18:41.372CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

They did not let us, we were taking class on the school's court because they did not let us enter those buildings, thanks to the fact that almost all the buildings had cracked.

00:18:42.632 --> 00:18:49.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And this was a big problem because all the students who took classes on the court there is no space for so many students, which entailed that.

00:18:49.752 --> 00:19:16.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Sometimes we had to take online classes, sometimes we were there, on the court, not knowing how to take the class. At the same time the teachers did not know how to distribute themselves, because it was something difficult because they are not in their usual classroom with their usual books, with their usual help when it comes to helping students and the help of the students are the books, the boards to give better explanations. They struggled with what they had and giving the classes on the court was something very difficult.

00:19:18.452 --> 00:19:28.232CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Online classes? No, no, we didn't get it, we hadn't been with online classes since Hurricane Maria, so we had to get used to online classes again and everything then.

00:19:28.832 --> 00:19:32.302CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was something quite difficult, Eh? At the time of school and education.

00:19:35.012 --> 00:19:44.372ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, you mentioned me, right? I find it curious. Online classes during Hurricane Maria. Tell me about that, how did you move to get some signal?

00:19:45.172 --> 00:19:46.422ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

To be able to take those classes.

00:19:47.872 --> 00:19:50.932CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well at the beginning, Eh.

00:19:51.562 --> 00:20:05.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was impossible because there was no signal during the first two to three weeks there was no Internet signal anywhere, even if you had a power plant, which was not my case. I didn't have a power plant, but we started taking online classes.

00:20:06.742 --> 00:20:11.682CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

After a month and a half or two months after Hurricane Maria.

00:20:12.612 --> 00:20:16.112CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In my house we had power a month after Hurricane Maria.

00:20:16.972 --> 00:20:23.232CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And I started taking online classes almost two months later. So, it was two months lost from schoolwork.

00:20:24.032 --> 00:20:24.452 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK?

00:20:25.452 --> 00:20:26.392 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So?

00:20:27.082 --> 00:20:31.762 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The hurricane passed in September two months passed and we are in **November**.

00:20:29.282 --> 00:20:29.572 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Mhm.

00:20:32.532 --> 00:20:33.152 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Ajá.

00:20:33.932 --> 00:20:39.882 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, in November online classes begin because the school you attended did not...

00:20:41.222 --> 00:20:43.982 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

No. It was basically disabled for...

00:20:43.452 --> 00:20:46.582 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was inhabitable sometimes

00:20:47.292 --> 00:21:19.822 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We went physically in some remaining classrooms. Sometimes the teachers sent us work through email and we did not connect online, they simply sent us what we had to do for the week and we turned it in by the end of the week. That was simply what we could do in Hurricane Maria because we didn't have, many of us didn't even have the Internet to be able to connect to online classes all the time, only sometimes we connected online. Sometimes they left us work by email. We worked as best we could.

00:21:21.002 --> 00:21:54.202 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, do you have? That seems very curious to me because in my case my school did not worked like that. I don't remember very well, I think it was a radio message they said, my school was set to start already and also at the head of the school had a blackboard with all the details. How the logistics were going to run and the whole thing. And it seems very curious to me that they were not necessarily online classes, as after the pandemic, but it was simply like a type of asynchronous, as we call it in the University.

00:21:55.272 --> 00:21:56.192 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

More exact.

00:21:56.382 --> 00:22:00.982 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Which was that the homeworks were assigned by email and you sent them.

00:22:01.832 --> 00:22:06.522CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly. Sometimes that and sometimes with online classes by teams when it was possible

00:22:05.362 --> 00:22:05.962ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Conference.

00:22:07.422 --> 00:22:07.872ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Yeah, yeah

00:22:08.712 --> 00:22:24.022ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Wow. Interesting, so there comes my question. What effect did this have on your school and your academic development? Sorry. And how long did these effects last? After the earthquakes.

00:22:25.302 --> 00:22:37.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, the situation of the earthquakes, having damaged my school I had to finish my eleventh grade and my fourth year I had to finish it online.

00:22:38.082 --> 00:22:43.132CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Taking classes by teams, ehh, by different platforms and by Google Classroom.

00:22:43.902 --> 00:22:51.792CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And taking my classes like this and many, work of, asynchronous research works. So to speak, of...

00:22:52.462 --> 00:22:56.792CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

You have the assigned article on the internet? Read it and answer these questions and send them to me.

00:22:57.502 --> 00:23:08.932CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And my last year and a half, well my final part of my second semester of eleventh grade and my twelfth grade as a whole was very difficult in the sense that...

00:23:09.692 --> 00:23:12.132CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I thought that I was going to be able to enjoy it more.

00:23:12.702 --> 00:23:24.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And in the end, I did not see my classmates, almost. We met a few times to be there on the court. After the earthquakes, because we couldn't have the whole school there either.

00:23:25.392 --> 00:23:34.582CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH? And after the situation of the earthquakes, the COVID thing begins so that even less. That's where they completely closed the school.

00:23:35.372 --> 00:24:01.602CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And officially the online classes began. No physical on the court. They closed the school completely and everything was online and already there because sometimes it was easier. Excuse me, sometimes it was more difficult, more difficult in the sense of sometimes taking the exams and all that because even the teachers themselves did not have the knowledge of how to do the exam so that we can take it from teams and different platforms.

00:24:02.512 --> 00:24:11.022CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was a bit difficult, at the same time, because it was not what one expected when one thinks of its twelfth grade and thinking about...

00:24:11.642 --> 00:24:30.732CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Probably not, probably not. This is the last year of school, and one wants to enjoy it and see that it must be from home without being able to leave, without being able to do anything, being used to being locked in our house all the time. Going out shopping was a difficult task because also, EH?

00:24:31.452 --> 00:24:48.622CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was to go to the supermarket with a mask and everything and well covered, get to the house and take off the clothes outside in the garage, shoes and all that. Sanitize everything, bathing, disinfecting the entire purchase and being locked up at home all the time and learning to live with COVID, the last year of school was a bit difficult in that sense and it was not so...

00:24:54.802 --> 00:24:55.402ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Pleasant.

00:24:54.912 --> 00:25:02.822CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

As pleasant as one expected. As one would expect it to be its last year, but in the end it is what it is because of the pandemic.

00:25:04.042 --> 00:25:05.072ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, then?

00:25:06.042 --> 00:25:10.732ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

We have already talked about the earthquakes; you introduced the topic of the pandemic.

00:25:11.302 --> 00:25:18.582ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Did you ever think that the country was going to start going backwards after the recovery from the hurricane, now with these earthquakes?

00:25:20.432 --> 00:25:24.242CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well actually no, because I saw how many people were...

00:25:25.412 --> 00:25:34.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Willing to help in the hurricane and we got ahead after the hurricane and with the earthquakes because it affected part of the island.

00:25:35.692 --> 00:25:37.032CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

More than nothing to the southern area.

00:25:37.752 --> 00:25:44.112CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But did not actually affect the entire island. No, it wasn't something that affected the whole island. It was more on the southern area.

00:25:44.802 --> 00:25:49.132CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And it was more simple to deal with that as much as possible.

00:25:49.922 --> 00:25:51.162CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The Government, well.

00:25:51.792 --> 00:25:58.732CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Took action with those schools that had cracked and that had many problems and many schools that collapsed

00:25:59.452 --> 00:26:12.282CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And the houses also had problems with the earthquakes and all that, the government was in charge of working with all that and they worked with what they could, and I knew that that we would get through this because the earthquakes were not going to last forever.

00:26:13.092 --> 00:26:14.772CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Then.

00:26:15.412 --> 00:26:46.922CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

They knew how to handle that situation and it was not as serious as Maria, because Maria it impacted Puerto Rico as a whole and the earthquakes was "calmer" to say so, it was only for the southern area only. At the end of the day because that was resolved better and that is why I never saw theeee. The possibility. I never saw the possibility that with that earthquakess, Puerto Rico would go backward at the end of the day, if we persevered through Maria, we would get through the earthquakes because it was in a smaller area, so to speak, the south of Puerto Rico.

00:26:47.512 --> 00:26:50.262CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So I never saw that Puerto Rico could go backwards.

00:26:55.032 --> 00:26:59.322ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, so in the southern area, did you notice any effect on any market?

00:27:01.012 --> 00:27:09.822ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Whether it is a business, a business, whether it was food, hardware store? What market did you see impacted by the earthquakes?

00:27:01.062 --> 00:27:01.852CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh

00:27:04.622 --> 00:27:05.362CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yeah...

00:27:06.982 --> 00:27:08.492CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was seen a lot

00:27:10.092 --> 00:27:14.052CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We saw it a lot at the gas stations, mostly because.

00:27:14.692 --> 00:27:17.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many people, with these earthquakes.

00:27:18.182 --> 00:27:19.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For some reason...

00:27:20.372 --> 00:27:29.352CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

whatever reason, because of the earthquakes , they lost power in their homes and many people are using the power plants so I saw a lot the use of power plants, therefore the gasoline, well

00:27:36.772 --> 00:27:43.442CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Did not increase in price, but , uh, sometimes I went to the gas station and there was no

gasoline. 00:27:44.212 --> 00:27:53.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We had to be moving from gas station to gas station because sometimes there was no gasoline. It didn't increase the price, but it was difficult. Sometimes there was a shortage of gasoline so to speak in the southern area at times.

00:27:54.762 --> 00:28:01.392ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Okay then, now that tell me that. Did you have to move to another municipality outside Santa Isabel to get gasoline?

00:28:02.092 --> 00:28:02.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yes

00:28:03.272 --> 00:28:09.542CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We were, I had to go from Santa Isabel once it happened to me that...

00:28:10.422 --> 00:28:32.982CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I go from Santa Isabel to Juana Diaz and in Juana Díaz tried to pour gasoline, there was no gasoline, I visited four different gas stations and I stood in line for at least half an hour at four different gas stations. About two and a half hours had passed, and every time I arrived, they told me: "there is no gasoline" and went to the other gas station and at the other gas station I saw there was no gasoline.

00:28:33.772 --> 00:28:37.562CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Until I had to jump from Juana Diaz, from Juana Díaz to Santa Isabel, from Santa Isabel to Coamo. And in Coamo near Villalba by the top of Coamo up there, it was there in a gas station I had the opportunity to pour gasoline.

00:28:51.752 --> 00:28:57.962ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So technically, did you go to Juana Díaz, Santa Isabel, Coamo, Villalba? Did you go to four municipalities?

00:28:57.062 --> 00:28:57.722CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:28:58.702 --> 00:29:02.042CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Doing laps in the south in search of gasoline, exactly.

00:28:58.762 --> 00:28:59.872ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

In search for gasoline.

00:29:00.952 --> 00:29:01.342ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well.

00:29:03.312 --> 00:29:03.732ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Wow.

00:29:04.582 --> 00:29:05.242ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So?

00:29:05.852 --> 00:29:18.302ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

As high school students again at that time, what did you think about the actions taken by the Department of Education by different government agencies and the general government in the wake of the earthquakes?

00:29:21.202 --> 00:29:42.552CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

They could not do much, actually, because with the earthquakes it was something that was unforeseen for everyone and the Government, did what it could for many schools that collapsed, that had problems

of cracking, they did their best to move those students to other schools so that they had classes in other schools.

00:29:43.312 --> 00:29:46.522CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The opportunity for online classes was given. The Government too, then...

00:29:47.862 --> 00:29:57.932CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

did what it could. I think that was for the earthquakes that had been said that no student could fill the semester.

00:29:58.792 --> 00:30:03.862CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So that everyone passed no matter how bad it was, that also helped many

people. 00:30:04.982 --> 00:30:30.972CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And well, the Government did what it could with education so that the students did not lack, at least they did their best because if in this school, Eh, there were problems because of the earthquakes, either cracks or whatever, there was a school nearby that had the facilities available for those students to be able to move students from one school to the other. They did their best to deal with that at least.

00:30:31.782 --> 00:30:43.742ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, you who is really studying engineering, what do you you think about the truth that came to light after the earthquakes, it came to light that many schools did not comply with the building code?

00:30:44.672 --> 00:30:45.642ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

For the moment.

00:30:46.642 --> 00:30:54.572ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What do you think about that, as now you are studying in engineering, have a little more knowledge, a little more maturity, what can you tell me about it?

00:30:55.292 --> 00:31:04.022CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, it is sad because one would expect something that is made for people, what is school, which is for the, for the, for the children of the future.

00:31:09.782 --> 00: 31:15.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Which is something that, that focuses on education...

00:31:16.142 --> 00:31:26.452CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

of children and adolescents. Well, it has not been done thinking about their safety, because if the earthquakes had happened with the students inside the schools, the story could have been different.

00:31:29.882 --> 00:31:45.412CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And not having thought about it in the past leaves me with the doubt that if things are really being done

well because one would think that a school that is a place where there are so many minor students.

00:31:46.642 --> 00:31:48.812CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The children of the future.

00:31:50.102 --> 00:31:53.802CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because the place where they are supposed to be provided with education, is not well done?

00:31:56.552 --> 00:32:07.822CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That no, no, there are security problems in places where what there are minors, who probably do not have the capacity of, for example, us, older people.

00:32:08.752 --> 00:32:11.102CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To be able to control such situation.

00:32:12.682 --> 00:32:23.692CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

This could have happened. The problem is if the earthquakes had happened when the students were inside the school, very serious things could have happened.

00:32:24.592 --> 00:32:30.202CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That luckily did not happen because when this began it was a day that there was no school and we were lucky, but it puts us to think about why those schools did not comply with that protocol? To put it in words.

00:32:41.082 --> 00:32:41.682ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Code.

00:32:43.792 --> 00:32:46.202CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly, which is supposed to be for the safety of the students.

00:32:47.442 --> 00:32:48.182CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Nothing more to say.

00:32:49.452 --> 00:32:57.702ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, so you think that maybe we lucked in this but in some future. If it happens again, we may not be so lucky?

00:32:58.482 --> 00:33:01.372CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

If it had happened?

00:33:01.992 --> 00:33:04.962CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The situation of the earthquakes with the students.

00:33:05.712 --> 00:33:10.852CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Lives could have been lost because there were schools that collapsed.

00:33:12.432 --> 00:33:16.632CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So yeah lives of students are endangered.

00:33:18.172 --> 00:33:23.852ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Now there are many schools, right, that right now they did not suffer damage at that

time. 00:33:24.572 --> 00:33:26.492ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

But do you think?

00:33:27.562 --> 00:33:31.682ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Just as they saw it okay, they left it as is.

00:33:32.542 --> 00:33:34.972ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Maybe it does not comply with the building code, so.

00:33:32.752 --> 00:33:33.402CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many, yes.

00:33:35.772 --> 00:33:38.022ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

My question is, do you think that in some future something similar may happen and we will have casualties as you mentioned?

00:33:45.492 --> 00:33:47.432CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We hope not, but.

00:33:48.482 --> 00:33:58.152CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I believe that the Government, after the earthquakes focused a little more on verifying if the schools complied with that protocol so to speak of security.

00:33:59.062 --> 00:34:05.842CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And I don't know what, what action was taken on that, but I think if action was not taken in the past.

00:34:09.652 --> 00:34:13.602CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

and if it is not taken in the future, then in the future if something similar happens again.

00:34:15.152 --> 00:34:19.512CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It could, ummm, become a big problem, even involving casualties

00:34:21.482 --> 00:34:23.592ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Interesting then.

00:34:24.172 --> 00:34:35.312ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

We go through right? This thing about the earthquakes was at the end of 2019. From December to January 2020 we move to the month of February and early March 2020.

00:34:35.902 --> 00:34:46.562ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Where many schools in Puerto Rico had already begun in some sense to recover from the delays it caused the earthquakes of January. But still many people were in the process of recovering.

00:34:47.332 --> 00:34:53.402ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, prices in the country had returned to some normality until, until it was not.

00:34:54.282 --> 00:34:58.232ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Many markets plummeted worldwide with the arrival of COVID-19.

00:34:58.852 --> 00:35:04.032ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Puerto Rico and the world went into a lockdown and classes went online.

00:35:04.652 --> 00:35:12.802ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, how affected is your life as a student? Not only as a student, your social life also when entering the lockdown or lockdown and classes became online.

00:35:20.182 --> 00:35:27.102CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For me, Eh, the classes were online already, it was not a problem because I was already used to it because of the earthquakes.

00:35:28.932 --> 00:35:38.452CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And in the area, in the ambient so to speak of socializing when everyone was locked in their house, many people began to enter social media.

00:35:39.682 --> 00:35:50.782CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And the social media, because we started, ehh, many people in general, and I include myself, we began to be more present in social media and to meet more people through it.

00:35:51.632 --> 00:35:56.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Thanks to social media, I met the group of friends, where I met you.

00:35:57.532 --> 00:36:08.102CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Also where I met many other people who if this situation had not happened, I probably would have never met them, because I before the earthquakes and Hurricane Maria.

00:36:08.952 --> 00:36:19.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In that time, there I did not use social media that much. It was more, after the lockdown by the quarantine and everyone started to use social media and thanks to that, well.

00:36:19.822 --> 00:36:27.442CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I met you, I met many of those from the group chat and I met many people thanks to social media, eh, to the...

00:36:28.062 --> 00:36:58.312CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To put it this way the online collaborations either in games, or people who, because, joined virtually to talk and all that I met many people outside what was my circle around the school and that I met many people outside my town, in more distant places, that if it had not been for being locked in my house and that everything has become, so to speak, online I would not have known it, because for me that part was.

00:36:58.682 --> 00:37:21.342CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It helped in that part to socialize with people from outside my circle and around me, like my friends from school, and because of that I got to know the most distant people in things that I like also because the group where for example I met you and I met many friends, it was because of the passion we had for cars. It helped me in that part because it helped me to know more. EH, to meet more people from that field that I like.

00:37:30.952 --> 00:37:31.992ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It was then.

00:37:32.832 --> 00:37:37.582ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Do you think this was one of the most difficult times, either for you or your family?

00:37:38.502 --> 00:37:45.622ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, what was the hardest thing to overcome during this time? You tell me, you really met a lot of people, but what was the most difficult thing to overcome in this time of quarantine?

00:37:53.272 --> 00:37:57.532CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

During the lockdown, more than anything the most difficult thing

00:37:58.292 --> 00:38:01.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Has been for example my first semester of the University.

00:38:02.162 --> 00:38:05.892CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The fact that many classes have been online too, then.

00:38:06.542 --> 00:38:15.012CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It created that conflict of first year of university, first semester, I am taking online classes and many of them I do not understand.

00:38:16.082 --> 00:38:19.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The not knowing how to deal with the university's platform and all that.

00:38:20.372 --> 00:38:28.302CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Plus, taking an online class. In that sense, the pandemic affected me because it was not like going to university as usual.

00:38:29.052 --> 00:38:35.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Taking my classes and focus on studying from the classes I attended at the university, many classes I had to take online.

00:38:37.562 --> 00:38:48.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

and because a lot, I had to adapt to all that and in that sense, it affected in that part, it also affected me in the part of being all the time, so to speak.

00:38:49.922 --> 00:38:52.512CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Scared with ummm.

00:38:53.372 --> 00:38:55.572CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

This virus could kill, if not we tested positive. At least, it wouldn't affect me so much because I'm someone who doesn't get so sick when I get sick it doesn't hit me that hard. But for example, here in my house there are people asthmatic. People that, if COVID hits them the possibility of death or that it became a serious case, well could be very complicated.

00:39:22.762 --> 00:39:46.432CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh, because that's why we had to focus a lot on prevention, all the time locked up, the task of cleaning things when they brought them from the supermarket, not leaving the house, being locked up and thinking about what is going to happen with this in the future and scaring us, in the sense that we couldn't go out for a walk. Why?

00:39:47.102 --> 00:39:52.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because we quickly thought that by going for a walk, we could be affected by COVID.

00:39:53.472 --> 00:40:00.482CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To protect us and that we did not leave the house and in the end that affected us by being locked up all the time.

00:40:01.422 --> 00:40:18.872CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Simply that, being locked in a house all the time and being scared all the time with the panic of COVID this can be very complicated and also seeing the cases of people who were dying from COVID and all

that because one with that scare inside, because one is scared by that

00:40:24.712 --> 00:40:26.662 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So you?

00:40:27.382 --> 00:40:33.332 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Your fear, so to speak, was more for those, for your surroundings, for the people around you not for you.

00:40:31.422 --> 00:40:31.922 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:40:33.662 --> 00:40:34.462 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:40:35.662 --> 00:40:36.082 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Yeah

00:40:36.912 --> 00:40:56.432 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then we know, right, during this time of the pandemic, at first mostly, do you economically think that the lockdown was beneficial? or, or, disastrous, sorry, either for you or your family, which got better or worse after quarantine and during the pandemic?

00:40:57.902 --> 00:41:00.912 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Because we know that a lot of help came

00:41:01.992 --> 00:41:06.212 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

That many things dropped in price, what can you tell me about that?

00:41:07.252 --> 00:41:09.112 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, the most you saw was as part of the environment, it changed a lot because people are not getting the cars out, they are not polluting and you saw a change in the environment that's why pollution goes down a lot.

00:41:25.602 --> 00:41:31.592 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And on top of that, part of the things that dropped in price and one of the things that I'm complaining about today was gasoline.

00:41:33.152 --> 00:41:37.192 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

When I bought my car the gasoline was 56 cents a liter.

00:41:37.802 --> 00:41:49.762 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So to see that today gasoline is literally worth twice as much and a little more, because today gasoline is \$1.16 at least here in the South the regular, and the premium \$1.20 or so...

00:41:50.412 --> 00:41:53.732CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh, seeing how gasoline went down so much at that time then one, um, we felt calm in that part that, OK, at least will not be a problem the day we have to leave the house

00:42:03.582 --> 00:42:12.112CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Those kinds of things dropped, pollution, the, the number of people on the street decreased a lot. There were almost no people on the street and...

00:42:13.072 --> 00:42:22.252CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No, there were not so many cars when one merged on the highway and there was almost no cars on the highway and everything and it was all like very quiet and everyone quarantined.

00:42:23.752 --> 00:42:34.832CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh, and at the beginning of the quarantine it was that everyone locked up. Eh, everyone talking by video call, because also many people had the fear of our close relatives and that of protecting and, because that was the most that affected and what I saw most that lowered the price that I remember now is the gasoline.

00:42:51.762 --> 00:42:53.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOE

So yes, it went down a lot.

00:42:54.452 --> 00:43:02.232ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Oh, so you didn't get to see the effect on the stock market, cryptocurrency and the whole thing?

00:43:07.672 --> 00:43:11.592CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

During that time, I was not so involved in that type of market.

00:43:08.062 --> 00:43:08.282ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Okay

00:43:13.632 --> 00:43:21.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But as I understand that market, it varied a lot at that time, at the beginning of the quarantine.

00:43:22.342 --> 00:43:26.852CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many things, it went up that many things went down and there was up to a, the slope of the value, went up and down a lot in a very short time.

00:43:36.272 --> 00:43:50.742ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So now that we're talking about the markets side and that. You used the fall and fall, I mean,

this lockdown, the fall in gasoline prices, as you mentioned, the markets I just mentioned.

00:43:51.452 --> 00:43:58.012 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Did you use the fall to enter a market or acquire something you wanted? Now that you told me about the car.

00:43:59.742 --> 00:44:11.132 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, at that time, yes, I had forgotten, but now I did realize it. Part of what has gone up after the COVID thing started, the quarantine.

00:44:12.602 --> 00:44:24.662 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

What you saw, which inflated the price a lot because of the cars, EH? No. Due to the quarantine no new cars were being produced, which means that the second-hand market went up a lot in price.

00:44:25.482 --> 00:44:27.082 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I started looking.

00:44:27.682 --> 00:44:29.452 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Cars for a price.

00:44:30.952 --> 00:44:35.422 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And in the end those cars in 6 months increased their price.

00:44:31.312 --> 00:44:31.932 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Of course

00:44:36.022 --> 00:44:37.232 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In.

00:44:37.902 --> 00:45:04.622 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In half of what they cost. That is, if the car cost a value, it could have multiplied almost twice and that also affected both that second-hand market and new cars, because there were no new cars built due to the shortage of this type of, of, new cars. And at that moment I took advantage. Eh, and I managed to buy my car for a good price.

00:45:05.912 --> 00:45:12.042 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I also saw that second-hand cars went up a lot in price and yes, it affected.

00:45:13.222 --> 00:45:14.072 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Affected a lot.

00:45:15.352 --> 00:45:22.912 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, right, your car, right? For a matter of record the car is called "Manolito el Lancer".

00:45:24.742 --> 00:45:39.472ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then that, that car, did you buy it when the market was down? Were you able to get it at a good price or was it the eve, of, of this, of this inflation that we see now?

00:45:39.902 --> 00:46:08.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well it was something strange because many cars went down. Mine, I bought it at a standard price so to speak a normal price for what was the car had been able before because of the depreciation of money, and everything, inflation and everything, because before it was a little cheaper, goes up a little in price, but today because of all this shortage of new cars, the value of used cars continues to increase and my car is now worth more than I paid for it.

00:46:14.942 --> 00:46:19.782CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Which is something strange, because one would think that a car devalues over time.

00:46:20.962 --> 00:46:32.372CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO Eh?, but in reality, used cars with this crisis of new car microchips because there is no microchip for new cars are not coming out new car, which means that everyone wants a **second-hand car**

00:46:33.352 --> 00:46:34.342CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And well.

00:46:35.132 --> 00:46:40.222CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Oh, and more in Puerto Rico because of government aid and all a lot of people started buying cars that they couldn't afford before and a lot of people are selling those cars now. The market is filled with **cars**, many cars raise the price, many cars lower the price and the market, so to speak, went crazy.

00:46:54.082 --> 00:46:58.362CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And today my car is worth more than what I paid for it almost two years ago.

00:47:00.252 --> 00:47:08.832ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, now that you mentioned the economic aid thing that people took advantage of that moment to buy cars that they could not afford before that aid. Do you think that the economic aid that came from the federal government contributed to the economic recovery of the country at that time? What changes did you **notice** after the financial aid? You mentioned that many people started buying cars.

00:47:26.212 --> 00:47:27.332CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many cars

00:47:26.282 --> 00:47:29.032ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What besides that did you notice?

00:47:29.572 --> 00:47:32.792CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many cars, houses, motorcycles.

00:47:33.562 --> 00:47:38.472 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Much to put it that way, luxuries that a normal person could not have.

00:47:39.402 --> 00:47:55.232 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

People when they saw that, by giving these government aids, see that their pocket is better to see that their bank account went up a little, because they decide to jump to buy things that had never been able to have bought these aids before.

00:47:56.302 --> 00:48:15.362 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And with that what was seen was that many people began to buy houses and all that kind of things that then, of, spending the government aid on that they realized that they could not pay and had to sell it for the future, which means that many houses and everything, well, today are sold is because people when they received government aid they bought and then they cannot pay it because they did not have the goods, so to speak to be able to pay it.

00:48:29.692 --> 00:48:36.912 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And that affected a lot of people in that sense. A lot of people were able to take advantage of this to save more, HUH?

00:48:37.782 --> 00:48:43.212 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And because there was a change that may have helped, maybe not, depending on the person.

00:48:45.392 --> 00:48:49.892 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Okay, but globally, to the country's economy, do you think he helped?

00:48:50.402 --> 00:48:51.232 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Probably.

00:48:50.902 --> 00:48:53.832 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Do you think that without this helps we would not be where we are now?

00:48:58.322 --> 00:49:11.102 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

There is a possibility because also many people when buying a lot of new cars were filled Puerto Rico with more new cars, more houses, so to speak.

00:49:11.972 --> 00:49:14.162 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It helped the economy, to move the economy more.

00:49:15.112 --> 00:49:22.612 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because if it weren't for these aids, many people wouldn't have had the opportunity for this if the economy was a little slower.

00:49:24.132 --> 00:49:27.242CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So that in a certain part if it helped **move** the economy more.

00:49:29.022 --> 00:49:33.082ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Okay, but do you think it eventually moved **it so much** that this now came in from inflation?

00:49:37.092 --> 00:49:37.242CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Mhm.

00:49:37.292 --> 00:49:42.002CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Very probably yes, part of what is due to today's inflation is due that the Government began to give so much aid that the market did not, the market went crazy because so many people had so much money now because different government aids.

00:49:58.632 --> 00:50:12.782CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That as more people have money increases the supply, this, increases the demand for and therefore raise the price of things so that if part of the inflation is due to the different aids that the Government gave.

00:50:14.532 --> 00:50:14.852ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Great.

00:50:15.432 --> 00:50:18.172ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then let's go now, right?

00:50:18.842 --> 00:50:21.242ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

To what is your transition to the University.

00:50:22.032 --> 00:50:30.692ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

We move on to the year 2021, where the pandemic is still at its peak, you are in twelfth grade and classes continue online, then, a year after the COVID-19 outbreak began

00:50:34.692 --> 00:50:38.942ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

2021, is the year where you graduated from High School.

00:50:39.532 --> 00:50:48.512ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

And you go to the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, and start living the life, right, of a young adult and start a big transition in your **life**.

00:50:49.552 --> 00:51:00.912ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, I ask you, how difficult was the process of getting it? Lodging in Mayagüez, because you are from Santa Isabel, you are from the south as I am from Guayama, we have to stay in Mayaguez.

00:51:02.552 --> 00:51:04.652 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

There is no option, is yes or yes.

00:51:05.272 --> 00:51:05.872 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:51:05.722 --> 00:51:11.222 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So how difficult was the process of getting an apartment in Mayagüez? Considering that the pandemic is still in force and there is a demand for the apartment and accommodation for August 2021.

00:51:18.852 --> 00:51:20.002 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What can you tell me about that?

00:51:20.672 --> 00:51:24.882 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, the part of the apartment was very difficult for me.

00:51:26.202 --> 00:51:37.172 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because when I started looking for an apartment and many people were looking for them, I started looking for accommodation already at the end of May, beginning of June

00:51:38.222 --> 00:51:45.672 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many people are already looking and that many people were buying, eh, buying no, renting apartment.

00:51:47.212 --> 00:51:49.202 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So to speak more expensive.

00:51:49.922 --> 00:51:58.172 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many people were also looking for an apartment and at the end of the day it was very difficult for me to get an apartment that fitted my budget.

00:51:59.232 --> 00:52:03.382 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And you know it yourself that I end up getting an apartment

00:52:03.982 --> 00:52:08.442 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Not so close to the University, but not so far, but I had to...

00:52:09.122 --> 00:52:15.112 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

There was no way on foot you could not get there, you had to go in a car and it was well up in the mountain.

00:52:15.942 --> 00:52:25.302ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So you think that right now as we are talking people had more money, so when renting apartment look, they told the tenant.

00:52:27.462 --> 00:52:34.592ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Um, look, I can give you more per month, you think there were people who manipulated that market?

00:52:35.172 --> 00:52:36.922ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Of apartments for students.

00:52:37.182 --> 00:52:59.462CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Probably, because if it had not been for the aid many people would not have been looking for the apartments. The best maybe, they were looking for the most economic, the most economic it is a little more outside of the University, but as people already had, so to speak, with these government aids they had more possibilities to take a better apartment, because they wanted the most expensive apartments, closer to the University.

00:53:00.262 --> 00:53:17.602CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And in the end that led to everyone looking for apartments. The best, so to speak, close to the University and the most economical moved from being in quotes, close, but close not beside it, to being a little more distant because then.

00:53:18.322 --> 00:53:25.282CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Previously the cheapest were on a medium site near the University.

00:53:26.122 --> 00:53:27.352CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That has already passed to...

00:53:28.352 --> 00:53:36.832CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH? In the background and now the cheap, so to speak, is a little further, so yes, probably that affected.

00:53:35.452 --> 00:53:38.222ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Which was where you ended up?

00:53:38.862 --> 00:53:39.582CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exacly.

00:53:40.352 --> 00:53:41.362CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was on the mountain.

00:53:40.532 --> 00:53:41.092ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Yeah.

00:53:41.792 --> 00:53:44.672ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What do you think? Was there a competition?

00:53:44.932 --> 00:53:45.632CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly

00:53:45.322 --> 00:53:46.042ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Basically

00:53:47.042 --> 00:53:47.892CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:53:48.372 --> 00:53:53.172ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So **basically**, you got into the game late unfortunately.

00:53:53.462 --> 00:54:01.672CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Very probably because I started looking at the end of May, beginning of June and I had to have started from the end of April.

00:54:03.622 --> 00:54:03.982ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Wow

00:54:05.482 --> 00:54:07.562ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, economically?

00:54:08.312 --> 00:54:21.062ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Was it significant, right? The impact of traveling from one municipality to another, that is, in your case from Santa Isabel to **Mayagüez**, mobilizing to the University because you tell me that you had to go by car every day to the University.

00:54:21.782 --> 00:54:26.052ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Shopping in the supermarket is something **we** don't **usually** do.

00:54:26.642 --> 00:54:35.012ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

When we are in school and having other expenses that, sorry, involve **being** a college student, what you can tell me about that?

00:54:35.742 --> 00:54:36.722CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well

00:54:38.032 --> 00:54:45.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

First, the displacement was not so difficult for me because when the semester starts.

00:54:46.132 --> 00:54:49.392CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The gasoline was not so expensive. So, I could afford to go in my car from Santa Isabel to Mayagüez and be calmed over there, without having to worry about gasoline being expensive, being able to use my car every day for university.

00:55:02.152 --> 00:55:06.862CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

As long as the small budget I had was enough for that.

00:55:07.622 --> 00:55:24.332CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Already in the end, what was the inflation that we realized that in the end, EH?, before I left Mayagüez, the gasoline was already in almost a dollar, so what was my budget before, Eh, my budget stays the same, but the prices increased a lot.

00:55:24.962 --> 00:55:38.582CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

What I could no longer give myself in the end, almost in December, I could not afford to be traveling every day to the University I had to be taking more online classes. It was a little harder for me.

00:55:39.382 --> 00:55:43.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For the price of gasoline the second thing was the thing.

00:55:44.262 --> 00:55:46.502CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

What you told me about shopping in the supermarket, well.

00:55:48.172 --> 00:55:58.092CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

With the pandemic I got used to the fact that many times in my house they sent me to do the shopping in the supermarket, which when I start in Mayagüez.

00:55:58.962 --> 00:56:07.062CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH? I didn't have much trouble with the task, but I know that a lot of people may have had a hard time doing that transition.

00:56:07.832 --> 00:56:11.602CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That, because I live in my house and in my house there is always the umm.

00:56:12.592 --> 00:56:22.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

one has all its little things, everything is full the cupboard is complete, so to speak and after that it is your turn to make the purchase yourself because it is already like ...

00:56:23.942 --> 00:56:25.622CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It is something you have to get used to.

00:56:26.502 --> 00:56:31.352CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But, luckily for me I was already used to it before starting the University.

00:56:32.862 --> 00:56:35.602ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, that, wow. You came in at an advantage.

00:56:36.312 --> 00:56:37.052CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

00:56:38.302 --> 00:56:50.872ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, what was the most difficult thing during this time of transition? Can you talk to me? Either academically. What was the hardest thing? because you go from being in high school to be at the University, what can you tell me about that?

00:56:56.612 --> 00:57:01.472CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It got complicated in the sense that I thought that.

00:57:02.132 --> 00:57:06.152CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The University, more precisely the UPR was something.

00:57:06.982 --> 00:57:13.212CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And in the end, with this it ended up being a completely different thing, in the sense in **which**.

00:57:14.122 --> 00:57:19.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Many of my classes I had to take them online without knowing how to deal with the system.

00:57:20.312 --> 00:57:28.622CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH? Many recorded classes I did not know where to see **the** recordings, so many times I missed class recordings.

00:57:29.332 --> 00:57:40.092CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I've tried to deal with all that plus I'm taking classes part online part face-to-face, which means that I'm not all the time University and I can't ask every question **I have**.

00:57:40.862 --> 00:57:45.472CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, it means that in the first semester of mine it gets a **little complicated**.

00:57:46.952 --> 00:58:09.822CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh, the University and that led to the fact that it was difficult for me the first semester, but I could finish with all my classes, with good grades at the end raise my grades with the passing of the months. At the end in December and my grades were quite good, except in chemistry that I had to drop it because then.

00:58:10.702 --> 00:58:18.002CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I was not enough, no, I did not know how to watch the recordings of the class.

00:58:18.802 --> 00:58:28.192CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In addition to that, part of the presentations that were uploaded. I didn't know how to see them or that I didn't see many presentations either.

00:58:29.502 --> 00:58:32.952CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The exams, I was not used to taking an exam that will last 1:30 H or that was so long

00:58:37.812 --> 00:58:44.942CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And even many times I did not have time and I was supposed have reasonable accommodation that I requested before hand

00:58:45.982 --> 00:58:51.552CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And they never sent me the certificate, I don't know why it came to me in...

00:58:52.392 --> 00:58:58.082CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The confirmation of my reasonable accommodations came to me in January when I finish my semester in December.

00:58:59.222 --> 00:59:00.852CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So that there, then.

00:59:01.552 --> 00:59:15.822CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In some way the system didn't help me in that sense more than I did, nor did I know very well the system, because that task of being very aware of the class was a little complicated. I just attended the classes.

00:59:16.612 --> 00:59:18.412CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And wrote down what I could.

00:59:19.212 --> 00:59:30.162CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But at the end of the day I didn't know how to watch the recordings and that in the end affected me when it came to taking the exams and not having all the complete information and not being able to study well because I didn't know how to see the recordings.

00:59:31.212 --> 00:59:39.922ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So you felt, sorry, I felt, you felt a certain abandonment on the part of the UPR system.

00:59:41.232 --> 00:59:45.362 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Partly yes, because I did not try to try as hard as possible but many times it was no longer in me, but in the system as such and the system was not...

00:59:53.672 --> 00:59:56.602 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No, no, it didn't help me enough.

00:59:59.062 --> 00:59:59.562 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK

01:00:00.202 --> 01:00:03.402 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, right later?

01:00:04.392 --> 01:00:10.892 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What was true, I want to ask another question, did you come at some point to think that?

01:00:11.602 --> 01:00:13.702 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Weren't you giving the fight for any class?

01:00:14.572 --> 01:00:18.922 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

At that moment where you really tell me that the grades did not start very well?

01:00:19.682 --> 01:00:22.022 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

And then you have to.

01:00:23.222 --> 01:00:25.732 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Somehow, turn the boat.

01:00:27.122 --> 01:00:29.562 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And get used to and adapt exactly.

01:00:30.612 --> 01:00:46.732 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh?, the first months, the first two months, after having started, because I saw that the classes were not so difficult, but I had never taken an exam after the first month and a half that they began to give the first exams.

01:00:47.682 --> 01:00:52.502 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I begin to realize that it is more difficult than I thought and already the third month.

01:00:53.162 --> 01:00:55.672 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I came to think, EH?

01:00:56.582 --> 01:00:57.562 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

This is not my thing.

01:00:58.382 --> 01:01:15.232 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

At the third month I was already thinking that I am not pushing myself enough or something is happening with me, that I am not enough for these classes that I supposed to be doing well to say so, but I was passing the classes, I was not getting good grades, I was just taking the notes to pass the classes and there I realized that I was not really being enough.

01:01:24.082 --> 01:01:55.982 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For that class, but over time, because I adapted and I knew how to deal more with that and overcome even more. Sleepless nights, sometimes always being aware of all the platforms, being studying, looking for the recordings in which later, at the time, because the first exams I did not know how to see the recordings it was more by the end and in the end it was to push harder and in the end I got good grades.

01:01:56.462 --> 01:02:06.912 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In most of my class, but because of how bad I was doing in chemistry class, I had to drop out of that class, but in all the others I finally could gradually make some progress

01:02:10.142 --> 01:02:15.242 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, in those difficult times, right? With whom?

01:02:16.052 --> 01:02:18.932 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

With whom you talked or what you did for?

01:02:19.742 --> 01:02:24.212 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

In a sense, to meditate, and talk to yourself that see what you can do?

01:02:25.402 --> 01:02:26.162 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What can I improve?

01:02:25.652 --> 01:02:26.162 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well.

01:02:27.502 --> 01:02:43.072 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

You well know that in part, Eh? One of the people I turned to the most about how this works was you because you are in Industrial Engineering in the UPR a year before doing the same as me, but a year ahead of me

01:02:35.812 --> 01:02:36.182 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Yeah

01:02:43.782 --> 01:02:45.992 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Pretty much.

01:02:47.292 --> 01:02:50.202CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The person who helped me was you.

01:02:51.472 --> 01:03:07.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And in addition to that, other classmates that I had there at the UPR who I asked them how they were doing in their classes, as they were doing, was the simple fact of adapting, because I also tried to make an appointment with the counselor to see if she could help me a little with that, but.

01:03:08.482 --> 01:03:17.542CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Me calling and them telling me that the next appointment is two months from now, because I could not afford to wait two months because in two months I would probably never have finished.

01:03:18.632 --> 01:03:47.232CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

With all the classes, I probably would have dropped out of many more classes. If I had waited two months or that was to seek help here, more than anything and I thank you for that. You were a big part of that help because you are studying the same thing as me, but a year ahead, because you were able to give me many examples of how you did it in the first year and how you adapted and taught me how you adapted. In that first year.

01:03:48.852 --> 01:03:56.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

You taught me those tips to be able to improve in the University in that first semester, when you were already in the second year.

01:03:58.662 --> 01:04:06.722ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Okay, the truth, it took me by surprise, I have to say, right? I didn't know that my help was so, well I didn't know or that it was a help at first.

01:04:06.742 --> 01:04:07.242CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yeah.

01:04:07.302 --> 01:04:18.942ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Go out there, but really thank you that caught me out, I have to say it, I have to say this one, but you tell me that you sought help from colleagues.

01:04:08.022 --> 01:04:08.572CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yeah

01:04:10.972 --> 01:04:13.372CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It was because you helped me a lot.

01:04:19.672 --> 01:04:22.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly classmates that...

01:04:23.052 --> 01:04:30.602CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because I have a friend who studied with me since kindergarten and he calls me, when I move to the UPR and tells me, "look I am at the UPR in Mayagüez".

01:04:31.392 --> 01:04:38.032CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I realize that wow since kindergarten studying with him, and now I am studying at the same University with him, well.

01:04:31.552 --> 01:04:31.992ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Wow

01:04:38.632 --> 01:04:54.932CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I started to get together a lot with him and see how he was doing in the classes and that, and between us we also helped each other. Well, I asked him how, how he was doing in the classes and how he was doing? And he asked me among us to help each other. Also to Seba.

01:04:55.592 --> 01:04:58.962CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I asked Seba too, because I always look to ask him.

01:05:00.512 --> 01:05:02.052CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

How was he doing it?

01:05:02.672 --> 01:05:07.912CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because he was doing a little better than me and more than anything, what one realizes is that in the UPR system.

01:05:08.832 --> 01:05:22.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It's more about seeking help than do things by yourself. One also has to seek the help of other people to be able to pass all the classes because if you try to do everything by yourself you probably won't measure up. You have to seek help from other people.

01:05:23.572 --> 01:05:30.722CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To be able to fight, all right, seek the opinion of other people and see how others are doing for you also learn how to do it.

01:05:31.532 --> 01:05:54.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because if you are looking to learn everything yourself, probably many of those things fail and you will have to not go well in the grade or even have to repeat the class. I think it is best to seek help from people who are in the same way as you or who are already more advanced than you, in order to see from the point of view of other people and from there draw your own conclusions of how you are going to do it in the end.

01:05:55.572 --> 01:05:59.402ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

I want to add a parenthesis, right?

01:06:00.992 --> 01:06:04.392ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Maybe right? It's like you say, we have to help each other.

01:06:04.792 --> 01:06:05.262CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Mhm.

01:06:05.012 --> 01:06:09.342ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZWe are all in the same boat, not everyone can row for the same side.

01:06:09.792 --> 01:06:12.332CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly, see it from the point of view of all people.

01:06:12.722 --> 01:06:16.232ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It is necessary to create a balance, because if we all row for the same side.

01:06:14.502 --> 01:06:15.042CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly

01:06:17.732 --> 01:06:18.522CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

01:06:19.112 --> 01:06:19.672ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

But.

01:06:20.702 --> 01:06:28.112ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Umm, I forgot what I was going to say. It is important to search for classmates that complement each other, right?

01:06:32.542 --> 01:06:43.312ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Not, let everything be a fight or that one does more than the other. It is a matter of complementing each other, but you say that working alone may not be enough. It can be enough, OK.

01:06:34.672 --> 01:06:35.242CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

01:06:43.042 --> 01:06:44.282CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But is more complicated.

01:06:44.282 --> 01:06:47.302ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

You can perhaps, hit it out of the park working alone

01:06:48.142 --> 01:06:51.842 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

And by hitting it out of the park I mean that you are doing well.

01:06:51.102 --> 01:06:51.972 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That goes as planned.

01:06:53.342 --> 01:07:02.872 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

All good, but there comes a point in your university career that is as they say in English you are going to burn yourself out.

01:07:03.912 --> 01:07:25.132 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

“Te vas a fundir” as we say in Puerto Rico, and for that we are not, we are too young for that, so we have to help each other, right? I wanted to add to that parenthesis to look for a way I can add it to the story but I wanted to add that parenthesis so the people who are going to read what I'm going to write, well.

01:07:25.932 --> 01:07:33.762 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Understand that it is important that when once you enter the university, this is a teamwork.

01:07:34.542 --> 01:07:35.602 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

This is not about being solo.

01:07:34.722 --> 01:07:35.582 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

01:07:36.732 --> 01:07:38.122 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

And there the success.

01:07:39.002 --> 01:07:42.242 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

As a good friend of ours says in the union there is strength.

01:07:42.652 --> 01:07:43.402 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.

01:07:44.002 --> 01:07:47.682 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So yeah, I close parentheses to continue with...

01:07:48.332 --> 01:07:49.222 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What we have here.

01:07:50.032 --> 01:07:50.772 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

And then?

01:07:52.052 --> 01:07:57.432 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Right? We get to the point where after your first semester as a student in college

01:07:58.012 --> 01:08:12.302ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

You decide to move outside the UPR as you find that the system is unstable then the protests come in effect. There is projections of increase in the price of credit and it is expected to be a cut in the budget of the University.

01:08:13.152 --> 01:08:18.352ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

And for the current semester you get a new opportunity outside the UPR.

01:08:19.112 --> 01:08:27.842ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

In which college, do you manage to get a better chance of following your academic goal, your goal of becoming an engineer? Industrial engineer? Sorry.

01:08:29.162 --> 01:08:35.302CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, going back a little to the UPR, I realize that the UPR system...

01:08:36.402 --> 01:08:39.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Today, after having left a semester completely.

01:08:40.292 --> 01:08:42.992CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I still have problems with them.

01:08:44.032 --> 01:08:49.102CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For things from last semester that have not yet been resolved.

01:08:49.772 --> 01:08:53.472CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because the system, then, there are so many students.

01:08:54.232 --> 01:09:06.122CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And there are so many things and because not everything is done so not everything is sought to help the student and also partly survive, because there are so many people that it is impossible to help them all.

01:09:06.792 --> 01:09:14.862CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And it got was very complicated with them to a point that today I still have problems with parts of the UPR.

01:09:16.152 --> 01:09:20.202CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

As for example, economic assistance, which I am still trying to deal with.

01:09:21.042 --> 01:09:43.732CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Things of the enrollment of last semester and there are still problems there, but because they are things of the UPR that one can take into account and after that, because in December, when I realize all this kind of things of this type of problems, because I seek to move to other universities and end up moving to the University of Turabo in Gurabo.

01:09:44.532 --> 01:09:52.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOY

I stayed in Industrial Engineering, but here is called Industrial Engineering and management, but is exactly to say the same.

01:09:54.002 --> 01:10:15.592CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And here I realize that the system changes completely here because there are a little fewer students they also focus on helping students more and for everything is that they themselves can call you if they have problems with anything in your tuition or something. Anything they need from you. They call you and not like the UPR system, that simply.

01:10:16.282 --> 01:10:29.012CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

If you do not call, you did not know that there is a problem with you and at the end of the day the problem you find out about that problem when another problem arose to solve the problem, because you have to solve the previous problem and it is a mess.

01:10:29.842 --> 01:10:34.672CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Not here, here they always seek to be clear with the student, they try to help them much more.

01:10:35.822 --> 01:10:49.772CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The same teachers are more available to talk to their students compared to the UPR. Well, I saw that opportunity in this University when an engineer was the one who told me that this university is very good.

01:10:50.622 --> 01:10:51.432CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH?

01:10:52.562 --> 01:11:01.622CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And so I took that advice from another engineer, who is my uncle, who is an engineer graduated from the UPR of Mayagüez.

01:11:02.432 --> 01:11:10.522CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And he himself was the one who told me if you can't deal with the UPR, if you see that it is getting very complicated because of the protests and all that.

01:11:14.402 --> 01:11:21.482CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Go to the Turabo that in the Turabo I have many co-workers who graduated from Turabo and is a tremendous University.

01:11:22.582 --> 01:11:31.292CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I went to The Turabo informed me of everything, I saw how it works well compared to the UPR and I realized that they were offering me something.

01:11:32.182 --> 01:11:33.142CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

EH?

01:11:34.262 --> 01:11:50.362CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To put it more clearly, and they were helping me more and that's why I made the decision to move from the UPR to Turabo there in the Gurabo and because currently I am doing very well and my grades are excellent.

01:11:51.822 --> 01:12:08.452CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And I really do not complain about anything, this University is helping me a lot with all that at the end of the day, because for me in the end it was a good decision to have moved because it has helped me a lot and I know, that, in the future when I graduate, well.

01:12:09.172 --> 01:12:11.072CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I will be grateful, I moved.

01:12:12.012 --> 01:12:15.512CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because in the UPR system, because it would have been much more difficult for me.

01:12:17.132 --> 01:12:20.972ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

That again, I really want to make something clear, we are not.

01:12:22.702 --> 01:12:28.882ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

We are not insulting anyone from the UPR, we are, this is a constructive criticism, it is clearly.

01:12:24.922 --> 01:12:25.302CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No.

01:12:29.572 --> 01:12:38.882ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

There are many students as I mention here Eziel as we know him well, his name is Carlos, but we call him Eziel.

01:12:39.572 --> 01:12:42.932ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

We are not talking badly about the UPR, it is simply that.

01:12:43.652 --> 01:12:51.672ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The system is not made for the capacity for the number of students there are at the moment. In his case well...

01:12:47.172 --> 01:12:47.792 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO
Exactly

01:12:53.272 --> 01:12:55.692 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ
The experience was not the best.

01:12:56.872 --> 01:12:57.702 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ
It got complicated.

01:12:58.522 --> 01:13:01.312 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ
And that is why the system is not made for.

01:13:02.412 --> 01:13:04.002 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ
For the number of students there are.

01:13:04.772 --> 01:13:15.662 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

In my case, well I been lucky, but in his case it did not go well. So as a constructive criticism and in a sense, a reality that.

01:13:16.632 --> 01:13:20.802 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

There are many students and there is only one administration.

01:13:21.402 --> 01:13:45.762 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly, more than anything is that the UPR, because there are so many students that the same system does not cope to help them all and here comes the problem that because everyone seeks to solve themselves on their own, because we no longer give more than we can give so far, and that is where the problem of one start looking for another side, that things are complicated for one . When you want to talk to them and then. That is why I made the decision to move to University that, so to speak has fewer students, the University is calmer, it helps students a little more because there is less enrollment they can focus more on helping those students, they do not have to focus or for example the UPR there is so many students that it is difficult for the same University deal with them all.

01:14:06.902 --> 01:14:19.562 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So I took the decision to move, so not because the UPR system does not work, because at no time that has been said, but the UPR system and it is a reality. There are so many students that they can't afford to serve them all.

01:14:21.282 --> 01:14:31.892 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Yes it is as he mentions, it is not enough, in my case they have been able to help me certain things, right? In his case, it didn't come to be that way, perhaps Would it have become like this over time? But at the time he was there it was not like that. But again that is constructive criticism, we are not throwing

mud, here we are not shading anyone, it is simply a reality.

01:14:40.672 --> 01:14:41.062CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That?

01:14:50.202 --> 01:14:55.802CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Depending on the experiences of each person can do well another can do better, others worse.

01:14:50.252 --> 01:14:51.172ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

We are many.

01:14:56.442 --> 01:15:09.282CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

From my point of view and what I lived I did not do very well, but for example André, because he has done well so far and I really hope that until the day you graduate everything will be perfect with them.

01:15:10.042 --> 01:15:12.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And everything depends on the experiences of each one.

01:15:14.112 --> 01:15:17.552ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, right? You mention that.

01:15:18.572 --> 01:15:19.152ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well.

01:15:19.982 --> 01:15:27.682ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It was a good decision and here comes my question, So far, do you think that your decision to move to another University, in this case the Turabo was the best thing for you? What factors make this decision the best? I know that you have already answered it, that the University has a smaller community and the University because there is enough administration to serve that population.

01:15:46.262 --> 01:15:50.102CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exaclty in part and also that the teachers, then.

01:15:46.452 --> 01:15:46.732ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Is.

01:15:50.922 --> 01:15:55.302CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Help students a little more and well, EH?

01:15:56.152 --> 01:16:00.222CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Is a little easier to study there because they have more aid, fewer students, more.

01:16:04.492 --> 01:16:06.242ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

There is more accessibility is what you mean.

01:16:05.922 --> 01:16:13.402CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exact. Exactly. There is more accessibility. The facilities give for the students that there are. That's why it's a little easier.

01:16:15.572 --> 01:16:22.622ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So you managed to get where to stay on time or travel daily to the university? To Turabo I mean.

01:16:22.952 --> 01:16:23.402CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh.

01:16:23.652 --> 01:16:27.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well I have no apartment.

01:16:28.292 --> 01:16:33.082CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

At beginning I traveled every day that is a heavy task, but.

01:16:34.022 --> 01:16:53.542CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

In the end I like to drive and because traveling every day was not a problem for me until gasoline begins to rise so much in price to a level level that going and turning in a day I can spend 40 dollars of gasoline to go and turn and do that four or five days a week.

01:16:54.822 --> 01:16:58.722CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well you have to realize that it is not cheap.

01:16:59.352 --> 01:17:03.062CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

We are talking about easy 200 dollars in gasoline in a week.

01:17:03.902 --> 01:17:12.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I could not afford that luxury, mostly because I do not have that money to spend on gasoline, so and I do not have that facility, so that.

01:17:13.522 --> 01:17:25.062CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For me well, both economically and risking myself on the street. I decided that for this semester I will be taking online classes.

01:17:25.682 --> 01:17:46.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because that's another opportunity they gave me. If I cannot come to the class in person, the class is also being held in person in the classroom and is being recorded and broadcasted. So I made the decision that instead of traveling every day I am taking my online classes, I'm doing very well. Exams are also online.

01:17:47.712 --> 01:18:04.702CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The assignments, everything I am doing online from my house and I no longer have so much the need to go up, I do not have the need to be going up every day to the University as I had before. Now I only go up when it is something important example.

01:18:05.262 --> 01:18:12.332CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Some review of an exam or something that is face-to-face, because there he did make the decision to go and upload this.

01:18:14.162 --> 01:18:33.252CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

When they are going to give some work, presentation, or something that I really need to upload or if I need to go to clarify something with the University or something, anything, there he did make the decision to go up, but I can no longer be giving myself the luxury of how I started when I started in that University to be traveling every day for the price of gasoline.

01:18:34.852 --> 01:18:43.812ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Then, in some future, no, that is, in the near future the next semester are you thinking...

01:18:44.482 --> 01:18:47.572ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Do you think, do you plan to move, to an apartment?

01:18:48.402 --> 01:18:52.782ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

To enter the face-to-face experience of the Universidad del Turabo.

01:18:53.802 --> 01:18:56.412CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well I would like it so much.

01:18:56.982 --> 01:19:00.542CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But due to problems with.

01:19:02.052 --> 01:19:08.902CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

That due to different external problems the possibility of me renting an apartment is not very present.

01:19:09.922 --> 01:19:21.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So that probably if the next semester the prices go lower on the gasoline, I can make the decision to return again to travel, not daily, but travel at least two or three times per week so that

01:19:22.332 --> 01:19:28.632CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Yeah because I really like to take face-to-face classes, I understand classes better I can ask my questions better to the professor.

01:19:29.282 --> 01:19:34.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And I am more connected to the class than simply being from a computer.

01:19:36.012 --> 01:19:41.292CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because here you can be distracted and that when you are there I am focused one hundred percent on the class and.

01:19:41.932 --> 01:19:49.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And focused on what the teacher says and any doubts, ask the teacher and the students themselves this.

01:19:50.652 --> 01:19:55.042CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

So to speak, socialize with the same students because it is something that I have not had until now.

01:19:55.742 --> 01:19:59.802CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No I have not been able to meet people from Turabo.

01:20:00.582 --> 01:20:02.362CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It is very difficult for me.

01:20:04.402 --> 01:20:16.832CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because people were not going from the beginning as I was going up every day, I was entering the face-to-face classes, but per class of what there were were four, five, or six students.

01:20:18.232 --> 01:20:24.422CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because almost everyone is taking from the beginning the online classes so if the next semester they decide to do it online.

01:20:25.102 --> 01:20:29.762CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

For me it would be perfect because then I could not socialize better, sorry, face-to-face, sorry.

01:20:30.382 --> 01:20:37.192CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

This would be much better for me because I go up as long as the price of gasoline goes down, of course.

01:20:38.752 --> 01:20:51.662CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I go I take my face-to-face, I am more concentrated, I can socialize better with the same students, talk to the professors and I think it can be much better. In the end my experience with the University.

01:20:53.382 --> 01:20:53.772ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK?

01:20:54.672 --> 01:20:55.972ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, interesting.

01:20:56.582 --> 01:21:05.842ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

That you really move from Mayagüez you go to Turabo, but due to the current situation, then decide

again what to go online.

01:21:06.622 --> 01:21:07.332 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So?

01:21:07.922 --> 01:21:09.602 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So I open my topic.

01:21:10.392 --> 01:21:21.332 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Of inflation, which in mid-2021 it began to notice inflation in all markets, due to shortages and demand, as you mentioned through the interview.

01:21:21.942 --> 01:21:33.752 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The new and used car market, food, real estate, among others, has been affected by inflation, which continues in effect the most important thing for many has been the rise in the cost of gasoline.

01:21:34.442 --> 01:21:35.112 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So?

01:21:36.192 --> 01:21:46.852 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Do you think that this inflation, because this inflation also has an effect on universities? ehh now it's going up, every day there was the project.

01:21:47.502 --> 01:21:58.082 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

But now the credit of UPR, the credit of the universities, will rise more, because if that of the UPR go up then others go up is a proportional relationship between all the universities.

01:21:58.762 --> 01:22:02.692 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Do you think this endangers the future of universities?

01:22:03.302 --> 01:22:05.882 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZY

Whether it is private or public?, like the UPR.

01:22:07.962 --> 01:22:18.152 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

E h? , because I would not know how to answer you, because if it is proportional, the price of all the universities at the same time goes up.

01:22:19.452 --> 01:22:26.402 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But many people are also there thanks to scholarships, government aid and all that kind of stuff that.

01:22:27.362 --> 01:22:29.312 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No, I have nothing.

01:22:30.052 --> 01:22:33.762 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No, I don't have any type of scholarship, I do not have the pell scholarship, the FAFSA, nothing

01:22:34.702 --> 01:22:41.682CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOBut

thanks to vocational rehabilitation, they because they pay me part of the University, so that.

01:22:42.472 --> 01:22:45.942CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Due to that I have the goods to pay for the University, but. I understand that many people, because due to the situation and that raises the price of universities and that is because it is complicated. The fact of studying in the future too.

01:22:56.482 --> 01:22:59.812ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So you think that many people are going to be...

01:23:00.472 --> 01:23:02.022CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Affected in some future.

01:23:00.662 --> 01:23:01.862ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

affected with the decision?

01:23:03.192 --> 01:23:03.562ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

That?

01:23:04.172 --> 01:23:08.062CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It will be affected with this of the future, due to inflation and that

01:23:09.852 --> 01:23:12.322ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, then your think that eventually.

01:23:13.432 --> 01:23:17.072ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Could students who are in university right now leave the university?

01:23:21.862 --> 01:23:37.412CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I do not know whether to leave because many people, people who do not have to pay for the University seek the help of the university scholarship or university scholarships or the FAFSA, the pell, whatever and at the end of the day, because thanks to that they can afford the University.

01:23:38.392 --> 01:23:42.222CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

But many people will be in a complicated situation

01:23:44.102 --> 01:23:50.242CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Find this type of help, sometimes because of what they charge place for different situations.

01:23:50.942 --> 01:24:07.862CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And at the end because there is a possibility that if people have to leave the University due to the inflation of the price of the credit and that or is delayed will have to take less credit therefore it takes longer to finish their study.

01:24:11.432 --> 01:24:15.672 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So, what worries do you have this situation?

01:24:16.242 --> 01:24:17.892 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Economical currently?

01:24:20.332 --> 01:24:40.822 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, the most that worries me is the first, the study that continues to raise the price of universities and that and probably in the future people will be delayed or what was previously a bachelor of four or 5 years, in the future will become 5 or 6. This 5 or 6, because the prices increase.

01:24:41.382 --> 01:24:53.212 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Also, because the minimum wage increased somewhat, but never and never the minimum wage is enough to pay so much inflation.

01:24:54.302 --> 01:25:00.682 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Which means that many people, because they will not have the money to pay for the University a sit does today.

01:25:04.402 --> 01:25:06.162 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Therefore.

01:25:06.782 --> 01:25:08.142 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Will lead to then...

01:25:08.762 --> 01:25:24.872 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Having that take fewer credits to be able to afford the universities and so it takes longer to leave and that is a great concern that people will take much longer to study. Probably many people thanks to this, seeing how long it takes to get out of study, probably in the future many people do not study.

01:25:26.092 --> 01:25:28.172 CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And that may be a big problem also in the future.

01:25:30.492 --> 01:25:31.192 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

So?

01:25:31.902 --> 01:25:44.992 ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Right, you had told me before the interview. Several days before the interview, that you got a job. Does this job come from the current situation or is it just?

01:25:40.522 --> 01:25:41.032CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

OK?

01:25:45.872 --> 01:25:51.162ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

For you prepare or try to position yourself for something that may come.

01:25:51.832 --> 01:25:55.162CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Mostly, by the current situation thanks to that.

01:25:56.102 --> 01:26:14.162CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The money I generated was with simple work, I have worked in one, I worked in a dental office sometimes uploading the data of the days and that going up to so to speak to the cloud.

01:26:15.882 --> 01:26:22.772CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOBut I realized that with that money it was not enough for myself to pay for gasoline, have my luxuries, go out. All that kind of thing was already complicating to a level that I could hardly leave my house because I was running short of money and much less what I liked so much, which was to go out to drive my car due to the price of gasoline. I don't have the possibility to go to the University all week.

01:26:42.662 --> 01:26:54.442CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Not to go just to go for a drive with friends, because even that is complicated, that's why I decide to get this job, so to speak. Well, yes, in a shoe store.

01:26:58.952 --> 01:27:07.642CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I applied for that job I had not been called, I requested for another job in a department store.

01:27:09.152 --> 01:27:14.442CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

I was waiting and they had not called me until one day, about a month after having requested in both.

01:27:16.162 --> 01:27:23.372CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Without any hope because I thought they were not going to call me, they call me from this shoe store and say, Look um, are you still interested in the job? I said yes,

01:27:27.522 --> 01:27:34.892CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well, it happens here, I pass the interview, I sign everything, they tell me that I have to go up to their headquarters in Guaynabo. I go up there, he signed the papers and everything began to work and so far I have done very well this one and I am working to be able to afford the lifestyle that before I could live but now, for the price of inflation and all that. Well, already today, if I did not get a job, I could not afford it.

01:27:58.412 --> 01:27:59.212CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Because previously going out with my friends and going out simply to the house of relatives and that was not so expensive for me to get gasoline and that because I did not leave so much money that with the simple work that I had from the dental office, more keep some extra money, I gave, but today I do not

give the money to pour gasoline, going out with my friends, paying for other things like. Monthly subscription and different things.

01:28:30.622 --> 01:28:31.512CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh?

01:28:33.162 --> 01:28:41.812CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

To be able to give myself my luxuries from time to time, keep my own car, all that kind of thing, EH? It has increased so much the value that.

01:28:42.742 --> 01:28:48.932CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

If I did not get a job it would be very difficult for me to be able to afford those things that I could before.

01:28:51.002 --> 01:28:55.622ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

OK, then I want to close the interview, right? With this question.

01:28:56.302 --> 01:29:01.922ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What would be your advice, right? Now that we have talked about what has happened in recent years.

01:29:02.632 --> 01:29:05.582ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

From your experience and point of view as a student.

01:29:06.192 --> 01:29:17.282ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Um?? What would be your advice for someone who wants to follow in your footsteps? to study Industrial Engineering but having the University of Puerto Rico as its only option, that.

01:29:18.132 --> 01:29:19.822ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

What could you say to that person?

01:29:21.162 --> 01:29:25.542ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Who wants to study Industrial Engineering and only has as an option the University of Puerto Rico.

01:29:26.112 --> 01:29:27.602ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Of Mayagüez, for example.

01:29:28.692 --> 01:29:28.932CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Well

01:29:28.982 --> 01:29:35.872CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Is more than anything that if it really is the first thing is to make sure you like it because.

01:29:37.212 --> 01:29:40.072CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Anyone wouldn't start to study something?

01:29:40.942 --> 01:30:02.382CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And is going to stay studying all the time if you really do not like it, the first thing is to make sure you are choosing the right career and you are in what you like. A lot of people focus on OK, I want to study this because I make good money or I want to study this because my dad studied this. No, you have to focus on studying what you want, that's the first thing, studying what you want and what makes you happy. And after that, then. Keep moving forward because if it is really what you like.

01:30:10.312 --> 01:30:19.902CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Then you are going to strive for that and if you are in an example system, if you are in the UPR then you have to try a little harder than in other universities, but you know that if you like it

01:30:18.892 --> 01:30:20.082ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It takes patience.

01:30:20.572 --> 01:30:22.892CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly, you need patience. And the.

01:30:23.462 --> 01:30:26.752CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Patience more than nothing to be able to deal with everythingand everything is in striving and thinking about why you get up every day.

01:30:34.082 --> 01:30:36.392CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

What do you think, OK? I am getting closer to that goal that I want to achieve.

01:30:42.282 --> 01:30:51.332CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The diploma the degree, what I want to study or what I want to do in the future. I am getting closer and closer to that and every day I get up more or less to continue studying.

01:30:52.262 --> 01:30:56.892CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

No university has a system that is bad.

01:30:57.782 --> 01:31:11.202CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Eh?, there are some more difficult than others, only at the end of the day it is to see what is best for you, study what you like, not for money or anything, but because you really like it.

01:31:12.112 --> 01:31:14.652CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Focusing on studying what you like is the most important thing.

01:31:17.492 --> 01:31:18.272ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

You went in mute.

01:31:18.792 --> 01:31:24.942CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

The important thing is that. Focuson finding the career you really like.

01:31:25.552 --> 01:31:36.102CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOY

To push yourself and every day think that they are getting closer to achieving that goal they have, which is to finish this baccalaureate or whatever you are going to study.

01:31:36.902 --> 01:31:51.912CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And I am getting closer to fulfilling the dream, at least that is the mentality that I have to get up every day and think that I am getting closer to achieving what I want so much that is to become an engineer. Well, let them take inspiration from that which, more than anything, they look for what they like.

01:31:52.572 --> 01:31:59.472CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

And study and strive and get up every day thinking that this is what I want for my future.

01:32:00.432 --> 01:32:03.682CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIOY

Never let yourself fall.

01:32:04.792 --> 01:32:13.822CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

It can be difficult one can get to think that OK, I am not doing well, but as I want to try hard, all the time look for the best for your situation.

01:32:19.942 --> 01:32:22.262CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Striving always is the best I can tell you.

01:32:23.672 --> 01:32:30.362ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Well, I really appreciate the time you took, that you are a student like me.

01:32:31.202 --> 01:32:47.882ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

The truth is that it was a pleasure to talk, truth un time, well, a good time. Really, your experience through these five years, which is living in Puerto Rico and being a student, because no, it's not easy. It is not easy to be a student and living in Puerto Rico, no...

01:32:48.602 --> 01:32:50.202ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

Those are two things.

01:32:51.172 --> 01:32:53.882ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

It's a strong combination, but you can do it.

01:32:54.902 --> 01:33:00.712ANDRE J MORALES-GONZALEZ

I'm going to close out the interview. I'm gonna pause.

01:32:55.032 --> 01:32:55.882CARLOS E VEGA ROSARIO

Exactly.