

# Latin American commerce vital to new Miami

**United Press International**  
**MIAMI** — When the first wave of Cubans fled the Castro revolution nearly 25 years ago, Miami was little more than a place to get away from it all with an economy dominated by tourism.

Today Miami is the nation's main center of Latin American trade and economists have begun to admit that what was once known as "the Cuban problem" may have been the solution.

Cuban exiles have used economic booms in Latin American nations like Brazil and Venezuela to transform their adopted city into a thriving center of

Latin American commerce, shielding Miami from the domestic recession.

And the new business language is Spanish.

"Florida used to be considered southernmost United States. Today it's considered northernmost Latin America," said John Motion, international representative for the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The Miami customs district now handles more Latin American trade than any other city in the United States, according to research from Florida International University.

A study by the university's

business school found nearly a quarter of Miami's jobs and supporting industries in 1981 were dependent on the \$11 billion in trade conducted with nations like Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Panama.

The study said the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area conducts nearly half of all U.S. trade with Central America, and half the Caribbean trade.

Latin American visitors spent a total of \$1.1 billion in Miami in 1981, more than double that spent by New Yorkers, formerly the chief tourists, the Dade County Tourist Board said.

Cubans were the first to rec-

ognize the burgeoning trade opportunities with Miami's southern neighbors, Motion said.

The hundreds of family-run import-export firms that exiles set up in the 1960s became highly profitable ten years later, when oil-rich countries like Venezuela became expanding markets for American television sets, clothes and industrial parts.

Part of the reason for Miami's swift success is geographical — south Florida juts into the heart of the Caribbean, and is central to many air and shipping routes, making the city a natural gateway to Latin America.

Another factor is political stability and personal security.

Former Salvadoran ambassador to the United States Rogelio Quinones and his wife, Gladys, decided to manage their business in Miami after a string of kidnappings and murders of businessmen in San Salvador.

Many Latinos say they feel more at ease in the big, sunny city.

Economists warn, however, that one of the strongest sectors may soon come its weakest.

A long-standing joke among U.S.-Latin American trade relations contends that "when United States sneezes, many Latin American catch pneumonia."

But economic crises in places like Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela have produced an ironic twist to this cliché.

## Robots: perfect servants

**United Press International**  
**TOKYO** — Picture the perfect servant: a guardian, playmate for the children, companion to the elderly, musician, mechanic, general cook, as strong as an ox and as gentle as a kitten.

Impossible? Not if the want is an android, says an engineer Shunichi Mizuno.

An android is a computerized robot made to resemble and have like a human being.

Mizuno, president of Mizuno Co. Ltd. of Tokyo, thinks the first generation of androids could be on the market in 30 years.

Mizuno, who describes himself as a "technical artist," is working on a new aspect of android development. While others work on intelligence and senses, he is busy perfecting its skin, its muscles and internal organs.

His first success was a computerized Marilyn Monroe robot, created about 10 years ago. A second life-sized Mizuno constructed recently uses a microcomputer-controlled air compressor to regulate facial expressions.

"She" can mouth a smile, shrug her shoulders, wince, eye and strum a guitar with natural elegance that belie her mechanical heart.

Mizuno leases her out for about \$10,000 a month for advertising and display. His workshop-warehouse is home to another half dozen human machines based on popular figures or his own fantasy.

Already Japanese and American factories employ a wide range of industrial robots to perform heavy, dangerous or tasks shunned by their workers.

Japanese "mechatronics" experts are busy designing more flexible and efficient robots for industry.

Japanese toy manufacturers have devised a new generation of computerized toys that can respond creatively to touch and sensory input to perform a growing array of complex functions.

Computer scientists in Japan and elsewhere are putting together the means to combine human intelligence and creativity in machines.

Japanese researchers are working under a government grant on the so-called "Third Generation Computer Project." They hope to develop a superfast, superintelligent computer that might respond to spoken, written or visual commands, exercise nearhuman judgment or suggest modifications to its own program if it seems suited to the task at hand.

Other researchers are trying to read the complex characters of the Japanese language have developed computers capable of recognizing terms, laying the groundwork for machines that can respond to their visual environment.

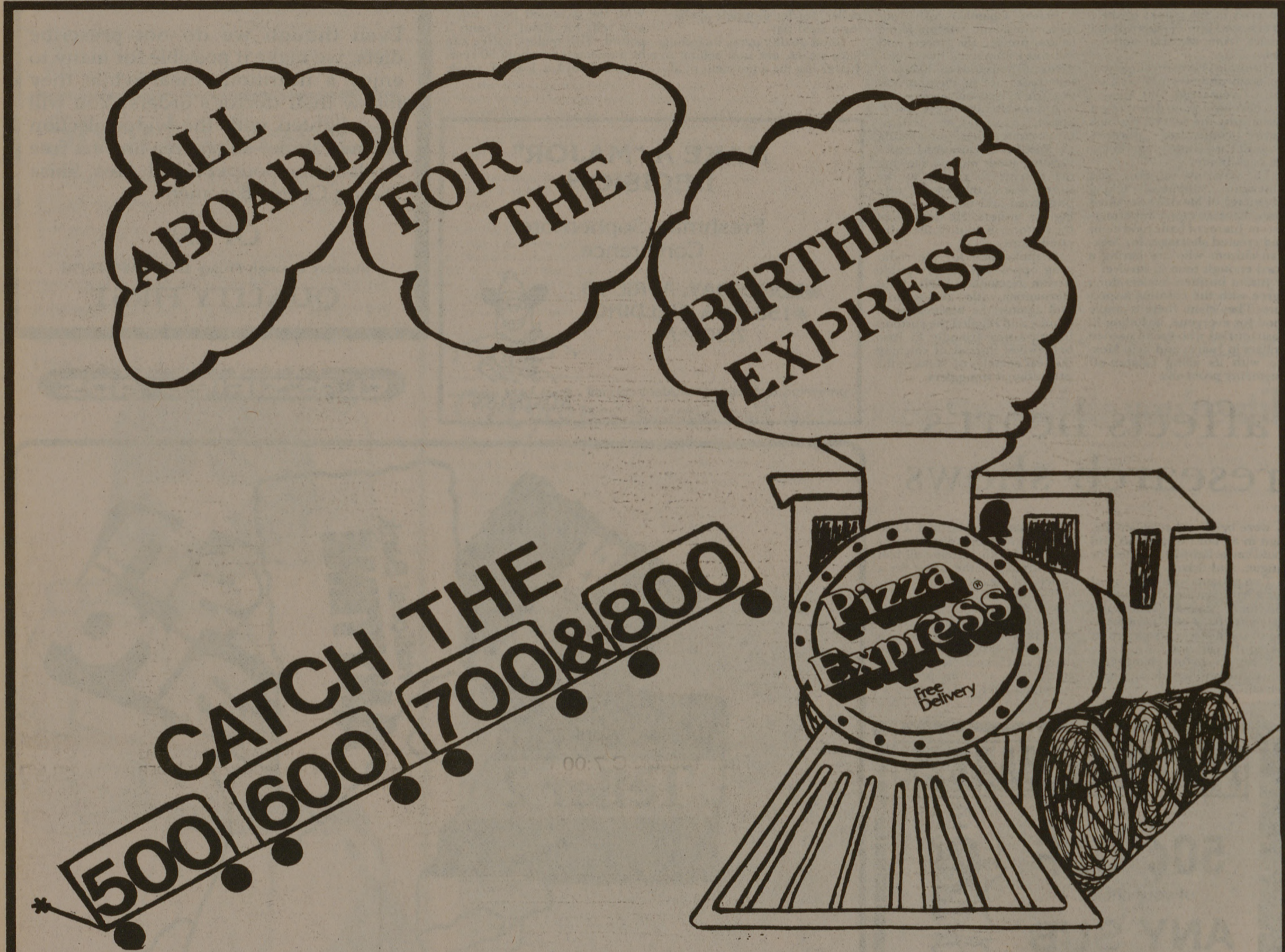
One soon-to-be creation will be able to respond to a popular comic heroine, the new robot will have about 30 phrases in her repertoire and will be capable of responding to spoken input, Mizuno said.

"It took me over 20 years to reach this stage," he said. "I spent eight years developing skin alone."

"People must learn to live with machines in the future," he said. Development of robots is, for better or worse, inevitable, he believes. "People must learn to use robots so robots can use people."

Mizuno has joined a group of scientists and engineers headed by Dr. Kato of Waseda University to explore potential in the field.

The "Robot Association" group is pooling knowledge from specialized fields to be able to the creation of a new android, he said.



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