

## The Prospect

by Ivan Smason

In San Juan's suburban barrio San Anton

El Pueblo de los Tumbabrazos

The Town of Those Who Cut Off Arms

There is an up and coming baseball player

He is a young boy consumed with the game

With batting, catching, throwing and sliding

Literally speaking, he plays ball all the time

He plays with paper balls and rubber balls

Tennis balls and balls made of aluminum foil

He uses tin cans or bottle caps as baseballs

He makes baseballs of rags, socks and strings

He fashions pieces of garbage into baseballs

He fashions everything he can into bats as well

Bats are broomsticks or his fists intertwined

Sometimes he uses sugar cane for a bat

When he can't play with others, he plays alone

He throws a ball against a wall and fields it

He throws a ball high in the air and catches it

He tries to throw balls as far as he can

He tries to throw balls at distant targets

He practices sliding feet first and head first

In San Juan's suburban barrio San Anton

There is an up and coming baseball player

I'm told that his name is Clemente