

By Our Voice - Nuestra Voz de Tejas

# Hola Texas USA

Happy New Year

January 2021

Volume 8



**IS THERE  
HOPE FOR  
COWBOY  
FAN?**

**CARMELITA  
LA AMAZON  
DE JUAREZ**

**WHY WHITE  
VOTERS CHOSE  
TRUMP**

DIG 

**Domingo Garcia**

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## Letter From The Editor

### Did you Vote?

You might think that is a silly question. The voter turnout for this election was well, crazy. More people voted from Trump than any winning president in the past. Can you imagine that. Joe Biden beat the pants out of him. He got seven more million votes. The score was something like 80 to 73 million. Lot of votes. There for a while it seemed like the sleeping giant had finally showed up to vote. Slept through it all. Those of you from South Texas notice that South and North Texas are radically different. I asked myself a simple question, "why?" The question "why?" has an answer.

I propose that the reason for the sleeping giant is historical. If we look at the settlement of East Coast, we can see that it was settled by disgruntled Europeans. Upon arrival one of the first tasks that they had was to organize politically.

We can look at Spain on two occasions, one was the settlement of the New World and the other the migration of Spaniards to Germany. Spaniards were not willing to migrate to the New World. They were happy in Spain. Spaniards went to work in Germany under the Gastarbeiter program under which Germany fulfilled its need for manpower. When Franco allowed the Spaniards to go work in Germany there was a fear that the Spaniards would not return. They did and they brought back Duetsche Marks that enabled Spain to build its economy.

In drafting the book Mexican North Texas, I delved into the motivation for Mexicans to leave Mexico. What was the root cause? On the surface the recruitment of Mexicans to install the railroad and work the coal mines was the reason Mexicans came to North Texas. The pay, living conditions, opportunities, job safety and the disposal of political repression were much better in North Texas. These factors were much more powerful than the fear and apprehension of starting life in a new country. Allowing families to travel together facilitated the movement. It was also a signal that there would be no going back to Mexico.

That should answer the question "Why did thousands of Mexicans migrate to North Texas and never returned to Mexico." Life was miserable in Mexico. The opportunity to start a new life was too great to ignore. Mexicans left during a period called the Porfiriato, a time when Porfirio Diaz was dictator, Mexico being fertile ground for dictators. It was Diaz who said that there was no need for Mexicans to vote, they were illiterate. Mexicans had to toe the line or disappear mysteriously during the night. The law-keepers were more dangerous than the lawbreakers.

America had a great demand for labor. The demand was incessant. Mexico was the closest supplier of labor. The demand was greatest at first in the railroad and then coalmines. Businesspeople availed themselves frequently to send emissaries to Mexico and recruit workers.

Working on the railroad and digging for coal gave the Mexicans the opportunity to improve their life and that of their children. Most of the first wave of Mexicans that came to North Texas were illiterate. Most of their child were illiterate also.

The world of politics was not something that the Mexicans were familiar with. In addition, they lacked a fundamental knowledge of English to understand the political environment. Schools for children of Mexicans was available. Education was a scant better than in Mexico. Educating children of Mexicans was complicated and erratic. Racially Mexicans were classified as White. Socially they were anything but White. Mexican children attended White schools, but they were segregated within the schools. The perception of Mexicans can be seen clearly in the Fort Worth ISD. Katy Lake Elementary in what is now the Gran Plaza was for children of Mexicans. FWISD also had a school for "Mexicans." Children could go on and go to Junior High and High School. Few did.

Yes, we come from countries where there was no political participation. Political involvement often meant death or prison. Perhaps it was language, perhaps literacy, there was a lack of political participation in North Texas. Unfortunately, no one advocated for Mexicans and the Mexican Americans. The sleeping giant has been fed too many sleeping pills. Time to break the addiction. There is a need for advocates. People to stand up and be leaders. The values that you practice are the ones that you will pass on to your children.

Currently, Trump is trying to stage a coup. Those of you that did not vote are perfectly willing to let America become a banana republic. More Americans voted this election than ever before. Americans spoke loudly in favor of unity, for the constitution and against a dictatorship.

Did you vote?

Felix Alvarado

This is an afterthought. We should never compare South Texas to North Texas. Politically, South Texas has a few hundred years of political involvement. Mexicans that came to North Texas came to a desolate country controlled by Comanches. I can say with certainty that Mexicans came to North Texas the late 1870's. Above all, the Latino community needs leaders.

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# CARMELITA LA AMAZON DE JUAREZ

“We are willing to bathe and disinfect all the dirty, lousy people who are coming into this country from Mexico”. This was a direct quote from Dr. B.J. Lloyd, the public health service official serving in El Paso office in 1917. This practice involved fumigating Mexican laborers with gasoline baths, DDT pesticides, and anything else officials at the border could dream up. According to a report from the University of Texas special collections department; Jose Burciaga recalled how they would shave your head (man or women) and spray you with a white liquid that would run down your body. Then they would bathe you with cryolite, an extremely strong substance. Also, they fumigated your clothes and shoes in a part of the building called the Gas Chambers by the American officials. All this was to kill lice that could carry typhus. Unfortunately, if you needed to earn American dollars, this was part of the price of admission.

This cruel sanitation practice was done while immigrant workers were stripped down to the nude which led to all kinds of sexual harassment towards women. Besides, it was also reported that some less than scrupulous border officials took pictures naked women. Those photos would then be displayed at local drinking establishments. Most people now will say, “I would never put up with that, I’d rather starve”. And if so, I say more

power to you. Pero, would you be willing to let your family starve because of your pride? I know I could not. What these people went through to feed their families was a crime and sinful. This entire story is terrible, but perhaps the worst part is the practice continued for more than forty years. Did anybody object or fight back? Good question and the answer is yes. Which leads to the rest of the story.

On the morning of January 28th, 1917, a 17-year-old Carmelita Torres made her daily trip from Juarez into El Paso. Carmelita was part of the workforce that worked as maids, caregivers, or any other task well-to-do El Pasos would delegate to others. This morning was different for her, though it is unknown if she planned an act of defiance or if it was just a matter of ‘Enough is Enough’. When the customs officials ordered her off the trolley to be disinfected and bathe, she refused! She said, “No” and 30 other ladies joined her. By 8.30 AM 200 other ladies joined in protest by noon, the number had grown to several thousand. This caused all traffic coming into El Paso on the Santa Fe International Bridge to come to a screeching halt.

According to local news reports of that time, the demonstrators then marched to the building that housed the disinfection camp and called out people there to join them. When the officials at the site tried



to break up the crowd, they were met with insults, bottles, and rocks. When Fort Bliss Commander General Bell was notified of the protest, he ordered troops to the scene. They assumed the sight of armed American troops would cause the women to immediately disperse. They did not, the women being led by the Red-haired Carmelita jeered at the troops and made them their new targets. The women laid down on the tracks in front of trolley cars to prevent them from moving, while the troops looked on in bewilderment. Their might and wrath made such an impression they were labeled as, “The Amazons” by the local paper.

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# THIS AIN'T AMERICA ANYMORE

by JIM STODOLA



A friend suggested that Trump will amount to nothing soon. I told him that soon Trump will buy a network more lying, right-wing extremist than FOX, and its name is One America News, OAN. From that platform, Trump will slam President Biden every day, and this is why I will write a once-a-month political column.

Here are some stunners:

- Only 18% of Fox News viewers accept the election results
- 88% of Republican Senators and House do not recognize Biden as President-elect.
- 80 % of Republicans do not accept the election results

Some of these folks are ready to take up arms and start a civil war. On December Ninth, the mentally disturbed Rush Limbaugh suggested that “America was headed towards the conditions that resulted in the first American Civil War.”

A former cybersecurity official, Chris Krebs, rejected Trump’s unfounded claims of widespread voter fraud. Then one of Trump’s attorneys, Joe diGenova said Chris Krebs “should be drawn and quartered. Taken out at dawn and shot.” Sounds like Joe is one of Trump’s mafia friends.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, SPLC, investigation “finds renewed focus on terrorism in white power movement”. Further stating, decentralized social media has resulted in an emboldened white power movement that openly encourages violence.” Just what Trump has been doing since he first ran, and they all loved it.

Republican Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and his wife have been getting death threats from other Republicans because he stated there was no widespread voter fraud, and he would not exclude legal ballots. For the longest time, NO Republican would defend them or condemn the threats! There are finally some GOPs who are standing up to Trump’s insanity, but for the most part, the Republican Party is one sick party. 126 GOPs in the House joined Ken Paxton and Ted Cruz’s plan to overthrow the election. The U.S. Supreme Court told Paxton and Cruz and their merry band of jackasses to get out of town!

In the meantime, Donald Trump and the Republicans are continually trying to FLEECE YOUR NAVIDAD as they have been doing for decades. The Republican Party, the GOP, should

really be the GOR, Grand Old Rich because they have always stood for the rich. Look at Trump’s giant tax cuts for the rich. Anytime there is any bill in Congress to help the middle or lower class, the Democrats support it and the GOPs kill it.

Today there are millions of our people lacking in food, medicine, and shelter, most without jobs. The GOP will NOT agree to an adequate stimulus for our people. And don’t you know that every time somebody has their home repossessed somebody else is profiting from that.

The GOP wants a two-class country as many South American countries are, the well to do and the poor, and as I said, have been working on that for years.

There is much more to say, but for now, have a Feliz Navidad and support the people who are trying to prevent Republicans from Fleecing your Navidad.

# A NATION OF LAWS

By Alfredo Sanchez

“We are a nation of laws,” is a statement most Americans have no problem agreeing with, yet few Americans believe that laws are applied equally to everyone. In today’s environment with all the political corruption, this statement is hard to take to heart. How often do we hear or see the well-off or politicians break the law with no consequences, while the poor and minorities are jailed or arrested for minor infractions?

Our prison system is overcrowded with people of color and poor whites that have committed no violent crimes. Yet daily we hear of white-collar crime with no one being indicted. For example, Texas Attorney General Paxton has been indicted for 5 years yet still holds the office of Attorney General. We hear of two South Carolina politicians running for office who have been involved in insider trading, a crime. Martha Stewart went to prison for insider trading. So why do we Texans continue to elect persons who break the law instead of making sure they clear their names before seeking office?

Laws should apply equally to everyone no matter race, economic status, or political status. Americans need to embrace and root out corruption. We need to fight for equal justice for all because ALL LIVES MATTER and no one is above the law. The United States Constitution states that all men are created equal which translates that all men are equal under the law. The United States is not a monarchy, dictatorship, theocracy, etc. where



certain individuals are exempt from laws that apply to everyone else. When it comes to the laws, no one is above the law--everyone is subject to the laws no matter their status. If American citizens continue to look the other way when it comes to requiring equal treatment under the law, we risk becoming a Nation that imposes laws rather than a Nation of Laws. When we talk of a Nation that imposes Laws, we are talking about a Nation that Imposes

laws on its’ vulnerable citizens while exempting the rich, the politicians, and the well-connected.

One of the pillars of democracy is the rule of law applying to everyone. The greatest gift we can give our children is for them to inherit the democracy that was passed on to us by our parents. A democracy that enforces our ideal that no one is above the law.



# HOW EVIL IS SOCIALISM?

In Spain, Francisco Franco was called, El Caudillo, or El Generalísimo. Around the world he was called a dictator. He was the last surviving Fascist leader. In 1936 he led a rebellion against the legally elected leftist government of Spain. The Civil War ended in 1939 with Franco as the victor. Franco led Spain until his death in 1975. The death of Franco frightened the Spaniards. In Germany, I could feel the apprehension of Spaniards. Under Franco Spain had been a very stable county.

With his death Spain faced a very uncertain future. Perhaps Franco expected his dictatorship to continue after his death. His right-wing bureaucracy was still in control. Franco's designated successor was Prince Juan Carlos. Upon Franco's death Juan Carlos became king. The future of Spain lay in the hands of King Juan Carlos. It was Juan Carlos who would transition Spain from a dictatorship to a constitutional monarchy.

I visited Spanish clubs in Germany and took vacations to Spain. Something I had done since the early 60's. I played cards with Spaniards in bars many times and I never felt the tension of living in a dictatorship. I

was admonished once that I was not a Spaniard therefore, I was isolated from the political repression in Spain. From a distance, I could hear the cacophony in Spain. People were yearning for both a democracy and a return to dictatorship. A coup de etat was attempted by the Civil Guard but King Juan Carlos was having no part of it. He squelched it.

The eventual first prime minister of Spain would be Adolfo Suarez. He and Juan Carlos wiggled their way through Franco's bureaucracy to garner support for a constitutional monarchy. A prime minister would be elected by the Spanish people, it is ironic that the Spanish people would elect a Socialist as prime minister almost 40 years after a civil war that killed thousands of Spaniards. Many Spaniards knew of the Civil War. They could see Pablo Picasso's Guernica at the Prado Museum in Madrid. They also could see the huge cross at the Valle de los Caídos, honoring all the fallen soldiers of the Civil War. It was rumored that thousands of slaved leftists' civil war veterans were used to build the monument.

I was studying for my college degree in Spain while all this was happening. I was interested in the politics. I heard and read Felipe Gonzalez. He would be

the third prime minister of Spain and he too was a Socialist. I was interested in his politics and that of his deputy Alfonso Guerra.

I could glean from their writing that Socialism coexists with capitalism. Much like capitalism coexisted with the monarchy in England. You can read Adam Smith author of The Wealth of Nations for a better understanding. You cannot have Socialism, a Monarchy, or a Republic without capitalism. A state cannot exist without capitalism. Another word for capitalism is money.

Spain under Franco was a dictatorship. After Franco's death there was a constitutional monarchy. Power shifted from the left to the right based on the will of the people. Much like England and the United States. The people decide the direction of the country.

Socialism, Monarchy, and a Republic are like triplets each with a different name. I see Republicans trying to instill fear of Socialism on the American people and I shake my head in disbelief that educated people do not know the systems of government around the world. So, I ask myself, what kind of idiots are we choosing?

*Felix Alvarado*

# WHAT AM I?

We started from the beginning of the publication asking the question. "Quienes Somos?" - "Who are we? It is a provocative, complex and complicated question with really no answer. I will explain why it is hard to produce a definition or meaning of who we are.

So, I thought the best way to show who we are is to trace my ancestry. From an incredibly early age my father who say he was a Mexican. Of course, that made me a Mexican. The Mexican in me was reinforced daily. We had one radio and at night we would listen to a Mexican radio station, XEW, from somewhere in Mexico. We listened to all the mariachis from Pedro Infante to Jorge Negrete. we also listened to "novelas." My favorite was "Dos Arbolitos." On Sundays we would go to the movies. Usually, there was an introductory movie, Roy Roger, Gene Autry, Tarzan, Hopalong Cassidy or Cisco Kid. Then came the main attraction, a Mexican movie. Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete, all Mexican actors of the day. Growing up my culture was Mexican.

I could not have predicted any part of my future. Dreams, not even little ones, was something that we I grew up believing. I was surrounded by people that did not believe that there was a better world than picking cotton. That was true until the cotton-picking machine appeared. Then everyone, thousands were without a job. My father decided we would start a new life in San Antonio. We moved to the West Side. Some people were so afraid of the West Side that they would bypass it. Supposedly it was a dangerous place to live.

I quickly learned that my Mexican culture was not a part of the West Side. Kids spoke a Spanish called "Pachuco." Not knowing what the words meant, I got into trouble a couple



of times. Did not take me long to learn though. I did what I could to make money to buy groceries. I scrounged dumps looking for bronze, copper and lead that I could sell. I learned that hunger is much more powerful than pride. Undeterred I continued attending school. I was ready to graduate when I was called into the Dean's office and informed that I was being suspended from school. The crime was playing hooky. I had never been in any trouble in school. Never. Here I was the senior year, ready to graduate and go on to Trinity or St. Mary's and here I am in complete disbelief of what was happening. There was no interrogation, no bring your parents, nothing. Just a simple "sign here." Something I refused to do. The Dean had made up his mind and there was no changing it. In anger I walked out, the last words I said were "I quit." One more lesson to be learned, the only school I could attend was Edgewood HS.

I had joined the Naval Reserve. We had a mutual attraction. That ended when I told them that I had left school. Reaction was swift, go back to school or be activated. My choices were limited, go back to school or go on active duty. Neither choice appealed to me. A third choice suddenly appeared, the US Army. Joining the Army was not something that I had ever considered. In the discussion, my options were now going back to school, going on active duty and now joining the Army, I gave the Army recruiter 24 hours to get me into the Army or do not knock on this door again. Twenty-four hours later I was on my way to Fort Carson.

My life had changed. Somehow, I had to merge my Mexican culture with this new life that I knew nothing about. Six and a half years later I would be discharged. A Staff Sergeant. I was successful in the Army. It

was not the kind of success that I wanted. My dream to get a college education still alive.

I went back to San Antonio. While visiting an Army friend of mine at a recruiting station I shared my goal with him. Listening in was the Air Force recruiter. He mentioned that I could achieve my goals in the Air Force and get paid. The only catch was a test I had to pass. Electronics. Something I knew nothing about. I took a trip to the library and hit the books hard. Much to my surprise, I passed the test. Again, I had to give a recruiter a deadline. He told me he could get me in the Air Force, if I was lucky. No luck I told him, he had seven days to get me in. He did.

My time in the military was all about learning how to live in a new world. My music selections now were rock, western or easy listening. No more mariachi music. Gone were tacos. I had choices as to what I wanted to eat. The biggest change in my life was my social life. Not well received by my fellow Anglo soldiers, I was a loner. Somehow, I found Spanish clubs in Stuttgart. Spanish clubs were my escape from all the harassment and abuse in the barracks. I started dating a Spaniard. I learned a different kind of Spanish. Spanish food was also different. I was living in two different worlds. My Mexican culture was abandoned somewhere in the past. The Spaniards were kind and patient. They taught me social graces, food and language. I became bilingual and bicultural. I alternated between two cultures. I had acquired WASP and Spanish cultures. I have memories of my Mexican culture, but it is like a book that you read once in a while and put down.

I ate tacos. When I returned, I had to acquire a taste for Mexican American food. I did not eat any of the food available in Mexican American restaurants. I still prefer to eat Spanish food. My Spanish is not as good as it was. But Castilian is still there.

I left a Mexican. The person that returned was not the person that left. Culture determines who you are. My heritage is still Mexican.

*Felix Alvarado*

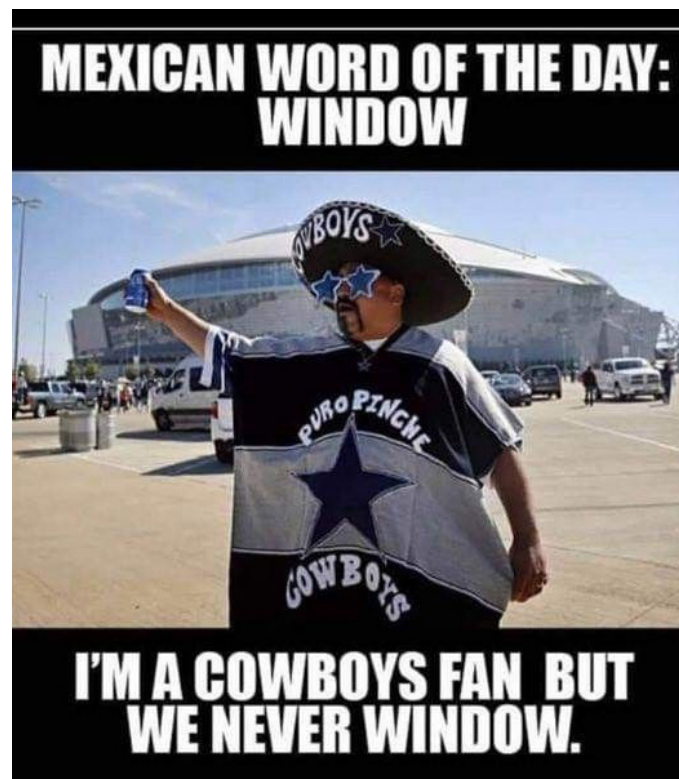
# IS THERE HOPE FOR THE COWBOY FAN IN 2021?

As we all know the Cowboys are currently in somewhat of a nightmare season or a really-weird-dream season where someone is someone, but they look nothing like they usually do. So, you may think saying they did not live up to their expectations would be an understatement but ultimately it depends on who you say it to. Will you be saying it to the broody cowboy fan? Or the blindly optimistic one? Both will have different opinions but tend to agree that Jerry Jones is the reason for the Cowboys' fall from 90s greatness. As for me, a 29-year-old millennial who was not fully cognizant of the 90s super bowl wins; I tend to fall into the middle of the road. Somewhere between “, Jerry Jones needs to hire an actual GM”, and “the talent alone in the WR core is unstoppable”. So, with rosy shades of optimism, along with rigid blinders of pragmatism, I ask earnestly, is there any hope for the Cowboys in 2021?

Firstly, I think it should be said that this is the first year for Mike McCarthy's iteration of the Dallas Cowboys. I am not trying to convince anyone that McCarthy will take us to another super bowl. He was not my first, second, or even third choice for head coach. But that does not mean he does not deserve a full shot at it. More importantly though, (because he is on the hot seat), this applies to Mike Nolan as defensive coordinator. Implementing a brand-new

defense with young and inexperienced players, who have described your defense as “confusing”, is always going to be an uphill battle. Take into account the lack of prep time due to COVID-19, it is downright unrealistic to expect that positive of an outcome from such a rushed and injury-plagued season.

And plagued by injuries the Cowboys were since the very beginning. Our starting Defensive Tackles were both ruled out for the season by week 1. Lee, Vander Esch, and Smith, all missed games, although they admittedly did not make much of a difference when they were in. Our top two cornerbacks missed games. Half of our starting offensive line missed the entire season, and it has been obvious. Dalton has been running for his life since he took over for Dak. Dak, who accounted for most of our points on offense, was also ruled out for the year because of a gruesome ankle injury. If all that seems like a lot, it is because it is. Dallas is one of the most injured teams in the entire league with 23 currently injured players. And a week in and week out our opponents have taken advantage of this while our coaching staff has had no way of motivating what is left of the roster.



Taking all of that into account I just do not see a reason to give up on this cowboy coaching experiment. Only because this season has presented so many covid-19 related challenges that teams are not equipped to handle. The Patriots will miss the playoffs for the first time since the mid-2000s. The Cleveland Browns are starting to look like the only team that has a chance against Kansas City. And Dez is scoring touchdowns in Baltimore now. There is nothing normal about this season except for how Patrick Mahomes is the best QB in the league. Which he is and will be for a while. So, while I do have hope the cowboys will vastly improve in 2021, maybe even a couple of playoff games, I have zero hope we will be able to beat KC anytime soon.

*Aaron Arguello*



# SELENA

By D.G. Jimenez

Selena, the TV series, has finally been released on NETFLIX after much anticipation. This new series follows Selena and her large entourage of family and band members. Unlike the famous biopic Selena movie starring Jennifer Lopez, this series gives fans a closer look at the family dynamic and let us get to know the band more than ever before. While Selena (Christian Serratos) does take center stage in this story, her brother AB (Gabriel Chavarria) and sister Suzette (Noemí González) also share a significant role. We get to learn how their musical talents also made a major impact on the music industry.

The series first introduces a very young Abraham Quintanilla (Ricardo Antonio Chavira) and his band, the Dinos. But his music career is short-lived as a Mexican American musician who found himself too Mexican for the Whites and too American for the Mexicans. But when he realizes his young daughter Selena can sing, he starts a new band Selena y Los Dinos. Abraham plays guitar for his new band; AB is on the Bass, and Suzette played the Drums while Selena took on Lead Vocals. At the same time, Abraham quits his regular job to start his own restaurant where Selena y Los Dinos would entertain diners. But things take a sad turn as the economic crash of the '80s causes the restaurant to close, leaving the family almost penniless. However,



that significant setback would put the Quintanilla family on track to crossover from a small Tejano family band to Mexican American Music icons.

Fans were excited about the new Selena TV series. But since its release, the show has been met with some negative reviews and backlash. Some viewers believed the show was whitewashed and, on some level, it was disappointing not to get a Mexican Selena, but the whitewashing did not go beyond the usual norm. The show did a great job of representing Mexican Americans and the collision of cultures most Chicanos enjoy. Other viewers have expressed their disappointment with the quality of the show. But for a TV series, it is actually of the best quality in terms of soundtrack, costumes, and talent. Maybe some were expecting film production quality, but this a tv series -not a movie. The major complaint from viewers is about the Selena character itself. Many fans have said the writers only offered the surface version of Selena. Some were

expecting to learn more about her personality or character. Sadly, it has been 26 years since her death, so we don't get to hear her side. Unlike the movie Abraham Quintanilla produced, Selena, the TV series, is created by Suzette Quintanilla. Suzette gave us Selena's story as she witnessed it all those years ago.

NETFLIX did not miss the target with this new series. Anyone can watch this show and enjoy it, and there are even English subtitles for the songs! What is most striking about this series is the sense of impending tragedy as you watch the family rise to the top, but through the eyes of a heartbroken sister, we get to see Selena y Los Dinos make their mark one more time.

Can we admit "Que Creias" is a way better break up song than "Truth Hurts" by Lizzo?

(Cont. from page 3)

## CARMELITA LA AMAZON DE JUAREZ



Mexican General Francisco Murguia along with his infamous troops, El Esquadron de la Muerta (The battalion of death.) were called in. Their insignia was skull and crossbones, and they had a reputation for taking no prisoners. They dismounted, faced the women, and drew their sabers as was their custom to strike fear in the enemy. The women did not back down. This must have caused the infamous cavalry to think, “What Now?”.

After many hours had passed and people on both sides of the border joined the protests, the end came. However, it took combined forces of Mexican and American troops to quell what they labeled as ‘The Bath Riots’. Hundreds were detained and many were executed for their role in the protest. As an ugly epilogue to this story is in 1937 Nazi Germany used the disinfect chamber methods, citing its use as a cleansing agent in El Paso. They used Zyklon B in their process that ultimately killed millions of people.

The protests eventually just became a story that local folks would tell each other, and it really changed nothing. It was not until the 60s before the harmful practice stopped when Health Officials finally recognized the practice as hazardous to people’s health. As for Carmelita, she was one of many women arrested that fateful day and there is no record of what happened to her after her arrest. Most theorize she simply disappeared and was not heard from again. I disagree though; we have heard repeatedly from her every time when people stand up for justice. She is there, whispering in the wind, Ca Viva Carmelita!

*By A. Govea*



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# Qué soy yo?

Empezamos desde el principio de la publicación haciendo la pregunta. “¿Quiénes Somos?” Es una pregunta provocativa, compleja y complicada que realmente no tiene respuesta. Explicaré por qué es difícil producir una definición o significado de quiénes somos. Entonces, pensé que la mejor manera de mostrar quiénes somos es rastrear mi ascendencia. Desde una edad increíblemente temprana mi padre decía que era mexicano. Por supuesto, eso me convirtió en mexicano. El mexicano en mí se reforzaba diariamente. Teníamos una radio y por la noche escuchábamos una estación de radio mexicana, XEW, de algún lugar de México. Escuchamos a todos los mariachis desde Pedro Infante hasta Jorge Negrete. También escuchamos “novelas”. Mi favorita era “Dos Arbolitos”. Los domingos íbamos al cine. Por lo general, había una película introductoria, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Tarzán, Hopalong Cassidy o Cisco Kid. Luego vino la atracción principal, una película mexicana. Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete, todos los actores mexicanos del día. Al crecer, mi cultura fue mexicana.

No podría haber predicho ninguna parte de mi futuro. Los sueños, ni siquiera los pequeños, era algo en lo que crecí creyendo. Estaba rodeado de gente que no creía que hubiera un mundo mejor que cosechar algodón. Eso fue así hasta que apareció la máquina recolectora de algodón. Entonces todos, miles se quedaron sin trabajo. Mi padre decidió que empezaríamos una nueva vida en San Antonio. Nos mudamos al West Side (Lado oeste). Algunas personas tenían tanto miedo del West Side que lo evitarían. Supuestamente era un lugar peligroso para vivir. Rápidamente aprendí que mi cultura mexicana no era parte del West Side. Los niños hablaban un español llamado “Pachuco”. Sin saber lo que significaban

las palabras, me metí en problemas un par de veces. Sin embargo, no me tomó mucho tiempo aprender. Hice lo que pude para ganar dinero para comprar alimentos. Busqué basureros buscando bronce, cobre y plomo que pudiera vender. Aprendí que el hambre es mucho más poderosa que el orgullo. Sin inmutarse, seguí asistiendo a la escuela.

Estaba listo para graduarme cuando me llamaron a la oficina del decano y me informaron que me iban a suspender de la escuela. El crimen fue hacer novillos. Nunca había tenido problemas en la escuela. Nunca. Aquí estaba yo en el último año, listo para graduarme e ir a la universidad Trinity o St. Mary’s y aquí estoy completamente incrédulo de lo que estaba sucediendo. No hubo interrogatorio, no traiga a sus padres, nada. Solo un simple “signo aquí”. Algo que me negué a hacer. El decano había tomado una decisión y no había forma de cambiarla. Enfadado me marché, las últimas palabras que dije fueron “Renuncio”. Una lección más que aprender, la única escuela a la que podía asistir era Edgewood HS. Me había unido a la Reserva Naval. Teníamos una atracción mutua. Eso terminó cuando les dije que había dejado la escuela. La reacción fue rápida, vuelve a la escuela o activa.

Mis opciones eran limitadas, volver a la escuela o entrar en servicio activo. Ninguna de las dos opciones me atrajo. De repente apareció una tercera opción, el Ejército de Estados Unidos. Unirme al ejército no era algo que hubiera considerado. En la discusión, mis opciones ahora eran volver a la escuela, entrar en servicio activo o ahora unirme al Ejército. Le di 24 horas al reclutador del Ejército para que me ingresara en el Ejército o no volviera a tocar esta puerta. Veinticuatro horas después, me dirigía a Fort Carson. Mi vida había cambiado. De alguna manera, tuve que fusionar mi cultura mexicana con esta nueva vida de la que no sabía nada. Seis años y medio después me darían el alta. Un Sargento de Estado Mayor. Tuve éxito en el ejército. No fue el tipo de éxito que quería. Mi sueño de obtener una educación universitaria sigue vivo. Regresé a San Antonio.

Mientras visitaba a un amigo mío del Ejército en una estación de reclutamiento, compartí

mi objetivo con él. Escuchando estaba el reclutador de la Fuerza Aérea. Mencionó que podría lograr mis objetivos en la Fuerza Aérea y recibir un pago. El único problema fue una prueba que tuve que pasar. Electrónica. Algo de lo que no sabía nada. Hice un viaje a la biblioteca y golpeé con fuerza los libros. Para mi sorpresa, pasé la prueba. Una vez más, tuve que darle una fecha límite al reclutador. Me dijo que podía conseguirme en la Fuerza Aérea, si tenía suerte. No tuve suerte, le dije, tenía siete días para hacerme entrar. Lo hizo. Mi tiempo en el ejército consistió en aprender a vivir en un mundo nuevo. Mis selecciones musicales ahora eran rock, western (hoj Country) o easy listening (musica lenta). No más música de mariachi. Atrás quedaron los tacos. Ahora tenía opciones en cuanto a lo que quería comer.

El mayor cambio en mi vida fue mi vida social. No ser bien recibido por mis compañeros soldados anglosajones, era un solitario. De alguna manera, encontré clubes españoles en Stuttgart. Los clubes españoles fueron mi escape de todo el acoso y abuso en el cuartel. Empecé a salir con una española. Aprendí un español diferente. La comida española también fue diferente. Vivía en dos mundos diferentes. Mi cultura mexicana fue abandonada en algún lugar en el pasado. Los españoles fueron amables y pacientes. Me enseñaron las gracias sociales, la comida y el lenguaje. Me volví bilingüe y bicultural. Alterné entre dos culturas. Había adquirido la cultura WASP (Blanco, Anglosajona, protestante) y la cultura española. Tengo recuerdos de mi cultura mexicana, pero es como un libro que lees de vez en cuando y dejas. Comí tacos.

Cuando regresé, tuve que adquirir el gusto por la comida mexicanoamericana. No comí nada de la comida disponible en los restaurantes mexicanoamericanos. Sigo prefiriendo la comida española. Mi español no es tan bueno como antes. Pero el castellano sigue ahí. Dejé ser mexicano. La persona que regresó no fue la persona que se fue.

La cultura determina quién eres. Mi herencia sigue siendo mexicana. La herencia no cambia.

*Félix Alvarado*

# CATÓLICOS Y MARÍA LA MADRE DE DIOS

Algunos de mis hermanos cristianos protestantes se preguntan por qué los católicos incluimos a María la Madre de Dios en nuestra vida cotidiana y creencias religiosas. Piensan que le rezamos a ella como rezamos a Dios. Creen que la ponemos por delante de nuestro Dios Jesús. Intentaré aclarar algunas de esas creencias protestantes sobre nosotros y Nuestra Señora. Primero déjenme decirles esto a algunos de ustedes. A nadie le gusta que alguien diga algo malo de su mamá, y eso incluye a Jesucristo, de eso estoy bastante seguro. Así que míralo. Cuando los católicos decimos la oración, lo llamamos “Ave María”, estamos honrando a María repitiendo esas mismas hermosas palabras descritas en la Biblia cuando el ángel Gabriel se le apareció a María y le dijo: “Dios te salve, lleno de gracia, el Señor este contigo”. ¿Estás entre las mujeres? Luego agregamos a eso, “Santa María Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte”. Esas palabras son una alabanza de honor pidiéndole a María que ore por nosotros. ¿No crees que debe haber sido un momento maravilloso cuando María escuchó esas palabras proclamar, fue elegida por Dios para ser la Madre del Mesías, nuestro salvador? Estoy seguro de que a Mary le encanta escuchar esas

hermosas palabras una y otra vez. Cuando rezamos el rosario, repetimos esas mismas palabras, pero también estamos meditando sobre los diferentes episodios de la vida de Jesús y de María Madre de Dios. Es mejor decir esas palabras que simplemente decir “m-m-m-m-m-m” mientras meditas. Supongo que también se podría decir que cuando decimos “Ave María” es como marcar el número de teléfono celular de María. Luego le enviamos el mensaje que dice: “Por favor, ore con nosotros mientras le pedimos a su hijo lo que necesitamos”. Es lo mismo que pedirle a alguien que diga una oración por usted o por alguien que conoce. Creemos que el espíritu de María se fue al cielo. Entonces su cuerpo fue ascendido al cielo para unirse a su espíritu. Lo que esto significa para mí es que ella tiene el mismo tipo de cuerpo glorificado que tiene Jesús y el mismo tipo que nosotros obtendremos durante nuestra vida en la eternidad. Sí, en esos nuevos cuerpos podremos aparecer y desaparecer en un abrir y cerrar de ojos. Jesús mostró lo que podían hacer esos nuevos cuerpos. Pudo entrar a habitaciones con puertas cerradas. Pudo aparecer en un lugar diferente en un instante. María también demuestra que esto es posible. Ella ha aparecido en diferentes lugares para traernos el mensaje que ayudará a traer almas a su hijo Jesucristo.



“Las apariciones de María se llevan a cabo como evidencia de su continua presencia activa en la vida de la Iglesia, a través de la cual ella” cuida a los hermanos de su hijo que aún viajan por la tierra “[7]. Encíclica Papal Lumen Gentium 62, Vaticano. Entonces, ¿por qué la llamamos “La Madre de Dios”? Bueno, claro, Jesús era Dios encarnado y María era la madre de Jesús, así que eso la convierte en la Madre de Dios Jesús”. La paz sea con todos ustedes,

*Joe M. Govea, un católico devoto cuyo deber es evangelizar.*

# WHY IS COVID KILLING US

When I say us, I mean La Raza both young and old. In Texas, Raza makes up 40% of the population and 52% of all COVID cases, Latinos account for 3.8 times more hospitalization than Whites and over 4,000 COVID deaths in Texas which is 53%. We are losing whole generations of families. Porque (Why) that's not fair

you might say, and I would agree with you. The reason though is quite simple, Pero overly complex. First let's start with the reasons that are not true, "Cause you'll be Mexicans and deserve it" "It's what God wanted to teach us a lesson" Of course not and if believe this then you must believe that Trump will be resurrected in 2024.

La Verdad Es, (The truth is) many of us live in multi-generational households, old and young, service jobs that do not stop or allowed to work from home, preexisting conditions Como (like) diabetes, heart trouble E mas. Then there are the undocumented among us that are afraid to test due to fear of being reported and losing jobs or worse. So, it is easy to see why this happened to us, Pero what can we do to improve our chances of surviving this? READ STOP COVID ARTILCE ON THIS PAGE

*By A. Govea*

## JUNTOS, WE CAN STOP COVID-19!



Contact: Cliff Despres, Communications, Salud America!,  
UT Health 210-562-6517, [despres@uthsca.edu](mailto:despres@uthsca.edu)

#JuntosStopCovid now has vaccine fact sheets and infographics to help Latino families understand the importance of vaccines and taking action to slow the spread of COVID-19

(Dec. 18, 2020)—COVID-19 continues to disproportionately impact Latinos, killing over 53,000 and hospitalizing many more of our mothers, fathers, children, and grandparents.

New vaccines will play an important role in stopping the pandemic among Latinos.

That is why Salud America! at UT Health San Antonio is adding a vaccine-focused update to its "Juntos, We Can Stop COVID-19" digital communication campaign to help Latino families take action to slow the spread of coronavirus, especially among those with underlying illnesses.

The campaign features culturally relevant fact sheets, infographics, and video role model stories—in English and Spanish—united with the hashtag #JuntosStopCovid.

See and share the #JuntosStopCovid campaign: [salud.to/juntosstopcovid](http://salud.to/juntosstopcovid)

"As Latinos, we are resilient. But part of our resiliency requires action, like getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to you," said Amelie G. Ramirez, DrPH, campaign organizer and director of Salud America! and the Institute for Health Promotion Research at UT Health San Antonio. "Vaccines help our bodies become immune to a virus without becoming ill from it. Vaccination is an important way we can stop the pandemic once and for all."

The #JuntosStopCovid campaign centers on four main preventive actions:

1. Wear a face mask—and care for it properly.
2. Avoid public places, or at least get together safely, familia.
3. Know what to do if you are exposed or test positive.
4. Get the COVID-19 vaccine (when available to you).

Latinos represent 19.1% of U.S. COVID-19 deaths, despite being 18.5% of the population. Also, on Aug. 26, 2020, CDC reported 94% of people who died from COVID-19 had a pre-existing condition, like diabetes, which disproportionately impacts Latinos.

"We all have someone we love and care about whose health is at greater risk if they get COVID-19. That is why we created this campaign," Ramirez said. "We want to encourage families and communities all over to take action and spread the word about these important safety measures with family, friends, and co-workers. Let us save our families."

Share the campaign: [salud.to/juntosstopcovid](http://salud.to/juntosstopcovid)

# WHY WHITE VOTERS CHOSE TRUMP: THEY FEEL LIKE A MINORITY GROUP IN AMERICA

*From left to right: Arlie Russell Hochschild, Professor Emerita, Department of Sociology, U.C. Berkeley; Mindy Romero, Founder & Director, Center for Inclusive Democracy; Davin Phoenix, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UC Irvine*



**By SUNITA SOHRABJI/EMS Contributing Editor**

White voters, who overwhelmingly chose Donald Trump in his re-election bid, say they feel disenfranchised in a new America which prioritizes other races over their own.

According to exit poll data, three out of five white voters voted for Trump, baffling pollsters who believed the Administration's record during Trump's tenure would handily oust him from office. Almost 45 percent of college educated white women also voted for Trump, according to exit poll data. In total, 74 million people voted for Trump, who, on Dec. 12, lost his re-election bid after the electoral college declared a win for Democratic contender Joe Biden, who won more than 81 million votes.

Arlie Hochschild, professor of sociology at UC Berkeley, has surveyed the Trump landscape for the past five years, ever since the businessman announced his bid for office on June 16, 2015, descending a golden escalator at Trump Towers in Manhattan.

The renowned sociologist spoke of her current research with blue collar workers in Appalachia, a very low-income, primarily white rural area in Eastern Kentucky. The coal-mining industry, which provides the majority of jobs in the region, is in deep decline as the U.S. moves towards greener energy sources.

At a Dec. 11 briefing organized by Ethnic Media Services, Hochschild said the stereotype of a Trump voter is the guy with the red Make America Great Again, pumping his fist in the air. Other images that come to her mind include Mark and Patricia McCloskey of St. Louis, Missouri, who brandished guns outside their home in June as Black Lives Matters protesters marched by; the McCroskey's went on to speak at the Republican National Convention.

But in Appalachia, a different sort of Trump supporter emerges white people who believe they are a minority in their own country as they watch other ethnic groups eclipse them economically.

"They actually feel that life is rigged against them," said Hochschild, noting that these voters

get their picture of reality from Fox News, and CNN or MSNBC on rare occasions.

"They see that people of color are newscasters. They see black football stars and basketball stars getting multi-million dollar deals to advertise stuff. And they think 'Wow they're millionaires or billionaires. Gosh. Those blacks are really getting 1 ahead.'"

"There's a sense of being left out," she said, adding: "They feel colonized by liberal culture, which says whites are bad: they are racist. And men are bad: they are rapists."

"They feel like a minority group that is in decline, and they feel that people of color are rising while they are declining," said Hochschild. She noted the anomaly: the economics of Black and Latinx households have largely been on a downward trajectory over the past decade.

In comparison to white voters, majorities of Black, Latino, Asian and Native American voters rejected Trump by large margins and turned out in force, helping defeat the incumbent President.

Davin Phoenix, assistant professor of political science at UC Irvine, sees Trump's persistent support among most whites as a "doubling down" effect of anger that the President has used to keep his base active.

"There's this expectation that is not founded that maybe white Americans, specifically white women, would move away from Trump," Phoenix said. "But what did Trump very effectively do throughout those four years? Continue to engender and activate that sense of anger."

"Trump has been normalized and kind of the ethos or the mythos of Trump supporters has been normalized," he said, noting that the President not only polarized the country on race and ethnicity, but also on gender, religion, and socio-economic status.

The dividing lines also served to alienate Democratic factions from each other, said Phoenix, author of "The Anger Gap: How Race Shapes

Emotion in Politics." Although this election saw the highest turnout in a presidential election in the last 120 years, almost half of all eligible voters — 85 million people — did not turn out for the critical election. Thus, Trump received just 31 percent of all possible votes, while Biden amassed 33 percent, noted Mindy Romero, founder and director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy at the University of Southern California.

Those who voted were not reflective of the polity at large, said Romero, noting that voters who do turn out tend to be older, wealthier, and white, and more educated. "Whites are always over-represented amongst voters," said Romero.

Even in California, which prides itself on being unabashedly Blue, Trump amassed 5.5 million votes, the most of any Republican Presidential candidate ever. Overall, Trump received 47 percent of the white vote in California, while Biden received 51 percent, a scant four percent margin in a very progressive state, noted Romero.

"Many of those that opposed Trump in this election cannot fathom why anyone would vote for somebody who is trafficking in racial tropes," said Romero, adding however that Trump supporters do not see him or his actions as racist. "His rhetoric is carefully structured. He leaves open huge pathways for people to interpret his statements."

White voters and BIPOC voters are looking at the country's landscape from contrasting lenses, said the researcher. Whites overall less likely to recognize the existence of individual and institutional forms of racism, she said, pointing to the polarized opinions surrounding the death of Minnesota resident George Floyd, a Black man who was killed by white police officers.

Romero holds an optimistic vision for the future of America. "We must all commit to fight for a better America, for an accessible and truly inclusive democracy."

"Even though Biden won, we're still faced with an incredibly underrepresented or non-represented electorate," said Romero.

# CATHOLICS AND MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Some of my protestant Christian brothers wonder why we Catholics include Mary the Mother of God in our everyday life and religious beliefs. They think that we pray to her just as we pray to God. They believe that we put her ahead of our God Jesus. I will attempt to clear some of those protestant beliefs about us and Our Lady.

First let me say this to some of you. Nobody likes anyone to say anything bad about their Mama, and that includes Jesus Christ, I am quite sure about that. So, watch it.

When us Catholics say the prayer, we call the “Hail Mary” we are honoring Mary by repeating those same beautiful words described in the Bible when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said: “hail full of grace the Lord is with you” blessed are you among women”. We then add to that, “Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death”. Those words are an honoring praise asking Mary to pray for us. Don’t you think that it must have been a wonderful moment when Mary heard those words proclaiming, she was chosen by God to be the Mother of the Messiah, our savior? Those beautiful words I am sure Mary loves to hear them over and over again.

When we say the rosary, we repeat those same words, but we are also meditating on the different episodes of the life of Jesus and of Mary the Mother of God. Those words are better to say than just going “m-m-m-m-m-m” while meditating.

I guess you could also say when we say “Hail Mary” we are kind of like dialing Mary’s cell phone number. We then send her the message that says, “Please pray with us as we ask your son for what we need”. It is the same as asking someone to say a prayer for you or for someone you know.

We believe that Mary’s spirit went to heaven. Then her body was assumed into heaven to join her spirit. What this means to me is that she has the same kind of glorified body Jesus has and the same kind we will get for our life in eternity.

Yep, in those new bodies we will be able to appear and disappear in a blink of an eye. Jesus showed what those new bodies could do. He was able to enter rooms with locked doors. He was able to appear in a different location in an instant.

Mary also proves this is possible. She has appeared in different locations



to bring the message to us that will help bring souls to her son Jesus Christ. “Apparitions of Mary are held as evidence of her continuing active presence in the life of the church, through which she “cares for the brethren of her son who still journey on earth.”[7] Papal Encyclical Lumen Gentium 62, Vatican.

So why do we call her “The Mother of God”. Well duh, Jesus was God in the flesh and Mary was Jesus’s mother so that makes her the Mother of God Jesus”.

Peace be with you all,

Joe M. Govea, a devout Catholic whose duty is to evangelize.

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