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¡ASK A MEXICAN!

BY GUSTAVO ARELLANO

SPECIAL ELECTION EDICIÓN

Why won't Mexicans vote for a black man? – Hillary Hater

Dear Readers: Dozens of *ustedes* have sent the above question since the Iowa caucuses, forwarded mainstream media reports on this supposed phenomenon and cringed with me when pundits took as gospel Hillary Clinton pollster Sergio Bendixen's assertion to the *New Yorker* that "The Hispanic voters — and I want to say this very carefully—have not shown



a lot of willingness or affinity to support black candidates." So, to all parties who buy into the hype: *callensen el osico*. Shut up. Stop with the racial *pendejadas*, and go tell your pols that sharing tacos with Mexicans for the news cameras is one step removed from blackface.

The *negrito*-hating Mexican voter meme floating around America these days is the biggest ball of political *mierda* since Tom Tancredo. It presupposes that Mexicans choose candidates based only on race, whether backing their own or opposing another. The funny part about this claim is reality:

Mexicans largely ignored the presidential run of New Mexico governor Bill Richardson and *have* supported black politicians, from the days of Vicente Guerrero (the mulatto Mexican president who outlawed slavery in 1829) to big-city mayors like Tom Bradley and Harold Washington, even to Democratic Party presidential nominee Barack Obama in his various Illinois campaigns and this one. Concluding Mexicans won't elect blacks because they've so far mostly sided with Clinton instead of Obama during the primaries is a continuum fallacy as ridiculous as the Sorites paradox. In *otras palabras*: How many Mexican votes must Obama earn before people will stop insisting Mexicans won't vote for him because of his skin? Five? 1,000? All the *banda* in Texas? Heaven forbid Mexicans support a nationally known personality with whom they're more familiar instead of a first-term senator from a flyover state. And anyone ever think Mexicans are more inclined to vote for Clinton because they like her centrist policies more than Obama's liberal promises? But try telling either of those points to *gabachos*, who forsake logical explanations for the easier rationale that Mexicans just don't like *negritos*.

Are there Mexicans who won't vote for Obama solely because he's black? Absolutely — and they deserve deportation, just as anyone who refused to cast a ballot for Mitt Romney due to his Mormonism and not because the half-Mexican is a flip-flopping Know Nothing merits the damnation of Gehenna. If you need a better litmus test of potential Mexican love for Obama, refry this: If the man openly proclaimed support for amnesty instead of the qualified mumbo-jumbo he currently offers, Clinton would be reduced to eating at famous *taquerias* for the wab vote — oops, too late!

As for the Mexican's personal vote? He sided with Obama in the California primaries, but mostly because I despise the idea of the Clinton and Bush *familias* occupying the White House since 1980. But come November, I'll be stumping for the same candidate I've supported these past 52 years: MAD Magazine icon Alfred E. Neuman. What, *yo* worry?

Why the hell don't Mexicans vote? – Mexican-Loving Gabacho Political Candidate

Dear *Gabacho*: Consult above for the *Sorites* paradox. Learn to ask specific questions lest the Mexican treat you like a Pikachu piñata. And submit a revised version of said *pregunta* — now asking the Mexican why Mexican voter turnout is so low — in the fall.

THE MEXICAN INVADES YOUTUBE! The Mexican now offers *ustedes* an online-only question every week through the powers of a pirated Camcorder. Submit your video *preguntas* and responses at youtube.com/askamexicano, and view the latest edition every week alongside my regular column at www.eugeneweekly.com Preference given to spicy señoritas! And, as always, continue sending your questions to themexican@askamexican.net. Gustavo Arellano is an investigative reporter on staff at the OC Weekly in Orange County, California. His "¡Ask a Mexican!" column began in 2004 and today is syndicated in 32 publications nationwide. He is also the author of a book by the same name. An extensive interview with Arellano can be found in the EW archives online for Nov. 29, 2007.

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