



Metro / EL OBSERVADOR

Glosario Glossary

673 kilómetros al sur de la capital - 673 kilometers to the south of the capital
aeropuerto - airport
caminos - roads
caos - chaos
dentro - inside
dictadura militar - military dictatorship
dramática historia - dramatic history
entregarme - surrender
el campo de prisioneros - the prison camps
el presidente Bill Clinton - the president, Bill Clinton
En 1988, la incipiente oposición - In 1988, the incipient opposition
ex soldado - ex soldier
garantizar la limpia del proceso - guarantee the cleaning up of the process
humildes viviendas - modest houses
las afueras - the outskirts
las amenazas - the threats
la base militar Andrews de Maryland - Maryland's military base
las cámaras de la televisión estatal - the cameras of the state television
la capital chilena - the Chilean capital
niños de su escuela de Cárdenas - children of the Cárdenas school
organismo autónomo - an autonomous organization
organismo de la Iglesia Católica - organization of the Catholic Church
retornaron - return
reunión brevemente con la prensa internacional en el terminal aéreo - brief reunion with the international press in the air terminal

setenta - seventy
sondeos - polls
testigos - witnesses
tres partidos minoritarios - three minority parties
una gran cantidad de vehículos - a large amount of vehicles
un suburbio del sureste de Santiago - a suburb to the southeast of Santiago
varias agentes federales - various federal agents
varias regiones chilenas - various Chilean regions

Temor de fraude persiste a cuatro días de los comicios

México (Efe) - Los mexicanos viven el proceso electoral más costoso y reñido de su historia, y aunque se ha disipado el fantasma del magnicidio como el que ensangrentó los comicios de 1994 (el asesinato del candidato oficialista Luis Donaldo Colosio), persisten los temores de fraude.

El Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE), encargado de garantizar la limpia del proceso que termina el domingo próximo, por primera vez en una lid presidencial es un organismo autónomo, que ya no depende del Gobierno, pero eso no ha impedido que la oposición denuncie muchas irregularidades.

El IFE regula y reparte los 350 millones de dólares de recursos públicos destinados a los partidos con candidatos a la Presidencia, seis en principio que se redujeron a cinco tras la reciente renuncia de uno de ellos. El Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI, en el poder) y su candidato, el ex ministro Francisco Labastida, recibieron 91 millones de dólares para los comicios del próximo domingo; la Alianza por el Cambio del aspirante conservador Vicente Fox, 90 millones; y la Alianza por México del centroizquierdista Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, 97 millones.

Los recursos restantes fueron a parar a tres partidos minoritarios. Los mexicanos tampoco habían presenciado antes una guerra de encuestas y otra de insultos como las que han caracterizado esta campaña presidencial.

BY LORRAINE-MICHELLE FAUST
OF THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Costa Rican born astronaut welcomes you to Mars and beyond



From playing soccer as a child in Costa Rica to graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to traveling out of this world, Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz has the distinction of visiting space six times, a world record that he shares with few people. He was the first Latino in space. Chang-Diaz is now working to send humans to Mars and to make the space program a more diverse one.

Chang-Diaz, director of the Advanced Space Propulsion Laboratory, is developing a new rocket that will go to Mars. He described the new type of rocket as a huge bottle holding plasma within the magnetic fields along its shaft. The rocket is scheduled to be launched through space on May 6, 2018. It will be faster than any other manned space craft in history. This spacecraft should arrive on Mars in 115 days instead of the several months it would take a spacecraft in use today.

"Mars is the most enticing target right now," said Chang-Diaz. "We want to go to Mars fast." The rocket that he and his team are designing is to be powered by hydrogen plasma. Today most rockets are propelled by nuclear power derived from toxic plutonium. The plasma-propelled rocket will be not only cleaner and faster, but it will serve as protection for the astronauts. Radiation from the sun and from cosmic rays are hazardous to the health of the astronauts, but the

hydrogen fuel will shield them from most of the radiation. Without gravity the human body loses bone and muscle density. The rocket that Chang-Diaz is working on will create an artificial gravity with the speed of its back thrusters. The faster trip will also shorten the time that they will spend in space, in turn the physical effects of space travel will be lessened.

"The home planet is always comfortably near in case a problem arises," said Chang-Diaz. This means NASA is better prepared to deal with any problems that may threaten the astronauts.

Chang-Diaz admits NASA's past failures with its missions to Mars may cause some people to be skeptical about the program, but he believes that NASA has learned from its failures. He says there will be failures along the way. "This is how we learn," he said.

He maintains that there still is public support for space exploration. "The public is excited about the possibility of future missions to Mars. Not just to Mars, but to venture beyond other parts of the solar system," said Chang-Diaz.

Aside from his scientific interest in space travel, Chang-Diaz is very

This is currently being done with programs in South America. One program from Chile is researching tropical plants that can be used for medicines. They are working with NASA to see if these medicines develop faster in space. Another program in Costa Rica is experimenting with resources in space that may improve agriculture on earth.

Chang-Diaz said that he, like many immigrants and minorities, has experienced discrimination, but he believes things get better the more education you have. "I feel that as soon as... you begin to operate in educated circles that it's more difficult for people to levy discrimination against you," he said.

He continued to say that he could not have gotten to where he is without the help of many people. Chang-Diaz has taken these examples and is a mentor in the Texas Latino community. His many student lab assistants are from high school to graduate school level.

Chang-Diaz is also involved with a mentorship program at a mostly Latino middle school in Galveston, Texas. The Odyssey School has a program that brings NASA engineers in as lecturers. This program intends to get Latinos interested in science. In this country, science is a field that is lacking in minority participation.

Chang-Diaz offers direct help to minorities with a passion for science. When asked what advice he would give to a 10-year-old Hispanic girl interested in becoming an astronaut, Chang-Diaz responded: "Tell her to give me a call I'll fix her up, no problem."

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Usted tiene una familia que lo respalda

Imaginese: hoy cambia todo. "Yo" da paso a "nosotros". "Nuestro" sustituye a "mío". Y vivir feliz el resto de la vida es una meta, no un hecho. ¿Está nervioso? Para nada. Usted cuenta con el apoyo de una familia sólida. American Family Mutual Insurance. Cuando esté construyendo un futuro, la confianza lo es todo; 70 años de experiencia en el campo de los seguros es lo que ambos necesitan para sentirse seguros. En cuanto a compromiso se refiere, American Family mantiene el rango A+ (Superior) que otorga A.M. Best, la respetada autoridad en la puntuación de agencias de seguros. Eso lo dice todo. Sólo llame y, con mucho gusto, uno de nuestros amables agentes le dará más información. Ahora, respire profundo. Luego... ¡avíntese! Nosotros lo protegemos.



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