

OUR VOICE

One month before Mexicans go to the polls, the three presidential candidates for the country's dominant parties (PRI, PAN, and PRD) have intensified their win strategies, particularly focusing on mutual mudslinging. The first televised debate in early May clearly showed this up. Enrique Peña Nieto (Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI), who at that time held a considerable lead over his opponents, was the target for attacks from right-wing candidate Josefina Vázquez Mota (National Action Party, PAN) and left leader Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD). At that time some of us asked ourselves who would come out the loser of that exercise, since the citizenry continue to have expectations without being able to contrast the arguments and ideas that should underlie presidential hopefuls' platforms.

However, the second —surprise— event has changed this scenario in less than a month. The protagonists have been a movement of university students, which, although it began paradoxically in a private institution of higher learning, has sparked a massive, enthusiastic, inclusive response through the big social networks. The result has been that the gap between the PRI and the PRD is closing, to the detriment of the PAN, which has currently fallen to third place in voter preferences.

This movement's main demands have been to create "awareness" and not to vote for Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI), based on what it understands his party to represent, plus the democratization of the mass media. Confronting the customs of a stagnant political culture, these young people oppose the big interests of the country's two television monopolies, Televisa and TV Azteca, which had been imposing their views on the public with their 95 percent coverage of broadcast space.

The movement, which calls itself "#IAM132," has been joined by unions and peasant groups in several important mobilizations, fundamentally in Mexico City. This has earned the name "The Mexican Spring," but above all has injected vitality back into the presidential campaign in the sphere of concrete proposals.

The Mexican case once again shows the influence of the "new social media," although the result of the elections and the route the movement itself will take are still impossible to predict, above all because the use of these new technologies shows an instantaneous capacity for socialization and calls for action, but not necessarily for profound analysis, reflection, and interpretation of a complex phenomenon like the situation of Mexico today. In any case, we would invite you to review our "Politics" section, which in this issue will give you details of the current political situation in an article by Leonardo Curzio, as well another by Tania de la Paz, focusing on the challenges we face in terms of governance.

Linked to this is the article in our "Museums" section, which highlights an exhibit about the history of electoral publicity in Mexico, a core issue that undoubtedly gives rise to passionate controversies about issues like campaign funding or the risk of image superseding

political content. This is where one of the vicissitudes of modern democracy comes into play: the public's exercise of its undeniable right to information is directly related to the media, while in election processes, equal access to resources and air time so the parties can make themselves known to the public becomes all the more pressing.

In other matters, a couple of this issue's sections touch on the recurring topic of migration, moving through discursive spheres ranging from cinema to political sociology. In the first case, Graciela Martínez-Zalce brings to our attention Luis Valdez, his renowned Teatro Campesino, and his specific vocation of recovering the historic corrido. Her article reviews a one-hour television video romantically honoring the corrido, from before the Mexican Revolution to the migrant experience in the United States, which identifies Valdez's pride in his rural, Chicano origins, celebrating his ability to transcend traditional stereotypes. In the second case, we are plunged into the harsh reality that reiterates what remains to be done in guaranteeing the human rights of migrants traveling through Mexico, narrated by John Washington based on his own experience. Added to this is the excellent article by Ariadna Estévez, who dubs the systematic denial of Mexican citizens' asylum requests by the United States and Canada, arguing that the war against organized crime in our country is not generalized, a "human rights crisis."

I invite you to also read the modest "In Memoriam" section that the CISAN dedicates to the illustrious Mexican academic Dr. Jorge Carpizo McGregor, who was also president of our university and a committed human rights defender. His oeuvre has undoubtedly contributed to promoting justice in our country.

In our "Economics" section, we could not neglect to touch on the impact the European crisis is having on our economy; Alejandro Toledo's contribution forecasts a decrease in growth expectations. Clearly, globalization has also meant more demands for Mexico in the sphere of trade; this issue offers a provocative analysis by Imtiaz Hussain, arguing that the country bet its development on its close links to the United States and is now paying the extreme price for that dependence, reflected in our limited presence in Asia.

Considering that the promotion of sustained development concerns us all, I conclude by presenting for your consideration the valuable content of our "Special Section," dedicated to the development of biofuels in our country. This gives us a comprehensive overview of the challenges Mexico is facing in the spheres of their production and use, underlining strategic aspects for future energy self-sufficiency that will undeniably favor all Mexicans.

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