

ASK A MEXICAN!

Written by Gallupsun Staff
Wednesday, 29 April 2015 14:41



By Gustavo Arellano

Dear Mexican: Do Mexicans know that if just one of their grandparents was born in Spain, they could immigrate immediately not just to Spain, but also any other country in the European Union? I know this is not an option for a lot of Mexicans, but it certainly seems like a better one for those that have the “Spanish” option. Spain is a First World country with free health care, seven-hour work days and, quite simply, Spanish people seem to share much more in common with Mexicans. Don’t get me wrong: I think that they are a great thing for America, and that anyone who wants to live here should be able to, yet I am also a realist. I only bring this up because, well, it just seems like it might be an easier option for those grandchildren who fled Spain to come to Mexico during the times of Franco. A hell of a lot cheaper than a coyote also. □ Learning to say “vosotros” and “vos” instead of “ustedes” and “tu”, and using “joder” instead of “chingar” seems a small price to pay. Then again, “Jodo tu mama” just doesn’t have the same ring...

Genuinely Concerned Gabacho living in Mexico

Dear Gabacho: Don’t just limit your goodwill to Spanish refugees from the Franco regime. Last

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year, the Spanish government said anyone who could prove that their ancestors were Sephardic Jews cast out during the Inquisition could apply for Spanish citizenship (conveniently left out, of course, were descendents of the Moors because, you know, Muslims). Becoming a member of the European Union might sound appealing to *gabachos* looking to backpack for a year, but a mass migration to Al-Andalus ain't happening for Mexicans: only give a shit about Spain when they win the FIFA World Cup or a Mexican soccer player gets to ride the bench for Real Madrid or FC Barcelona.

Why is it that Mexicans call people from the United States *norteamericanos* instead of *un idenses* ? Don't they know that Mexico and Canada are also in North America?

El Habrano

Dear Wab: Because Mexicans are also U.S.-ers—the full name of their country in *habla* is Estados Unidos Mexicanos. And while *mexicanos*

know that Canada—and Mexico, for that matter—are in North America, we didn't discover the Great Gabacho North until 1994, once the North American Free Trade Agreement let us know of another country to eventually conquer.

PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Dr. Ron Romero, a dentist from Santa Fe, New Mexico, let the Mexican know at the annual Servicios de la Raza gala in Denver that not only did dentists appreciate me discussing their profession in February (in the column answering why so many Mexican children have silver teeth), but also asked whether I can pass along the following public health announcement. He says that childhood caries (the disease that makes babies teeth rot and is colloquially known as baby bottle tooth decay) is a communicable disease, and that it can be transmitted by the simple act of feeding each other from the same spoon or drinking from the same glass. Doc Ron also wants *usted* *es* to know that childhood caries are easily preventable—just go to your local dentist, and they'll apply a simple wash that'll put you in the clear for a while. Consider your request done, Dr. Romero—and think you can fit a diamond in my front teeth ala Lenny in *The Simpsons* ?