Election: The Campaign

Election time in Alqueria and the whole community is thrown into a frenzy of high powered inertia. The interest that the election invokes is akin to a mermaid's enthusiasm for mountain climbing, such is the apathy of the Alquerian people. The whole affair is simply an excuse for getting the upper-hand over the opposing barrio, excessive drinking, and civil unrest.

Three main parties will contest the ten seats which form the government of the Village Republic. The largest party is the Vested Interest and Libellous Entrepreneurs or V.I.L.E. led by Fernándo Rodriquez. The next in size is Manuela's Bona-fide Organisation for National Karma also known as B O.N.K. The smallest, the Democratic Alliance of Fellow Twits or D.A.F.T. is led by the dynamic but clinically insane Loco Paco.

The V.I.L.E. party is standing on the ticket of privilege, hereditary influence and conning every possible cent out of the population of Alquerian. Rodriquez thinks he has a divine right to govern irrespective of his motives, honesty or personal hygiene. He believes a sweeping victory is in the offing based solely on conceit, arrogance and a grotesque sense of self importance.

Manuela has the most interesting policies, even if many are physically impossible or at the very least extremely demanding. Her belief is in people, their ability to control their own lives and destinies without the need for external authority. All that is required is to keep the internal authority in the form of morale at its highest peak. To this end she proposes a series of measures. These include introducing Viagra into the drinking water and subsidising certain latex products usually ordered via catalogues and delivered in plain brown wrappings.

Loco Paco stands on the free food for Saharan Dung Beetles platform. This is not because of Benjy, his very own beetle but because he is a total loony. He lives in a

world where Saharan Dung Beetles sing close harmony and giant two metre rodents dance the Lambada. One can only wonder about the sanity of his followers of which he has a respectable number. I suppose is says something about the Alquerian mind, what exactly it is difficult to say. Paco thinks he will lead the next government because, well Paco still believes the British Tory party cares about the ordinary people.

The road to the ballot box promises to be a difficult one. Canvassing is prone to problems, verbal abuse, total indifference and airborne projectiles are among the most common discomforts.

We will continue to follow these hopefuls to the ballot box.
We will listen to their debates.
We will report the final vote and the subsequent count.