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from R. Miller  
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## Editorial

# An Island Of Problems

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Guam has a problem.

Rather it has a whole series of problems, some typically American problems, and others unique to Guam because of our political status, and our isolation from the rest of the nation, and to some extent, the rest of the world.

Webster defines problem, as a question proposed for solution or consideration, or anything required to be done.

We're inclined to agree with a recent writer from Hawaii, who suggested that Guam hasn't really made much effort in identifying these problems, much less finding solutions for them.

If a Daily News reporter went out on the street with a pad and pencil, and asked hundreds of individuals, from the governor down to the lowest person on the economic ladder what Guam's major problems were, he would surely come up with hundreds of different answers. This is natural, because what is a serious difficulty for one person doesn't mean a thing to another. A contractor, for example, troubled by a shortage of skilled labor, won't get much sympathy from a Government of Guam bus driver, worried about driving through Agaña.

It may be that Guam should put its major problem in a list form, and work on priorities in attempting to smooth these rough edges one at a time. It may be that is impossible, and we should work to solve them all at once.

We've set down our own list of these island-wide problems. They aren't listed in order of importance, necessarily. However, the list is headed by some that we do consider imperative for the quality of life, and future of Guam. Why don't you, the reader, also jot down a list of 10 problems facing the island, and see how they stack up against our list.

1. A Master Plan. The island desperately needs a good, island-wide master plan, one that can be adhered to, and one that will insure that Guam won't be eventually paved over. Already urban blight is upon us. It's time that some truly experts in the field make some firm decisions as to how Guam should develop in the future--and still provide islanders with open space, and livability.

2. Our traffic problems, coupled with the high accident, and high fatality rate has got to rate high up on our list, because it affects so many people, either time-wise, or in the loss of money or in injury. We are making a full-scale assault on some of the more obvious problems, helped by some federal funding, but with 55,000 vehicles running amock on an island of this size, we're definitely going to be in serious trouble for a long time to come.

3. Our "Paradise Plan," to upgrade the island's parks, scenic over-looks, athletic facilities, coupled with an island-wide clean-up, and beautification program. We're really not so concerned with our tourists on this. We think that if we make the island a beautiful, clean place for the residents, then naturally our visitors will enjoy it too. But we need massive tree plantings, flowers, and the elimination of the junk, much of it still left over from World War II.

4. The high cost of living, coupled with a per capita income that is still substantially less than any of the state averages. Any doller can see that Guam's fantastically high cost of living, in housing, food, clothing, transportation or insurance would be a bit more acceptable if the salaries compared with those in say, Alaska, or even Hawaii, but they don't. Bringing down the cost of living may be impossible, but then we should somehow consider the other alternative, of somehow increasing productivity, to increase worker earnings.

5. The sad state of our utilities, and especially the telephone system. Most of us are impressed with the rapid rise in island power production, and the move towards the large Cubico Island power plant, but the mere rise in power hasn't decreased our concern with the other utilities, such as the phone system, the water system, the sewage system, and solid waste disposal.

the other utilities, such as the phone system, the water system, the sewage system, and solid waste disposal.

6. The quality of education. We have, truly, made great progress in recent years in education, and we are still spending a great deal of money on the upgrading of our educational system. Still, there are some substantial gaps, as any Guamanian will attest to as he tries to compete against stateside educated youngsters in mainland colleges. Too, we're not coming out with enough skilled or trained professional, or semi-professional people. We're still importing teachers, we're still importing engineers, we're still importing medical people, we're still importing carpenters, electricians, and almost everything except governmental workers.

7. The lack of interest in our young people. This ties in with the rapid increase in crime, and juvenile delinquency. After all, half of the total population of Guam is under 20 years old, and yet we've shortchanged them. We have too few youth centers, too few summer programs, no real campsites, few facilities that they can use and relax in. We've managed to raise them, but that's about all. They are lacking in music, in dancing, in cultural activities.

8. Crime and violence. The growth of crimes of violence over the past several years has been phenomenal. The solution is never easy, but again, it ties into meaningful education, coupled with a greater recreational program for the youngsters, with a better police force, a better judicial system, a better penal system, and a better rehabilitation program.

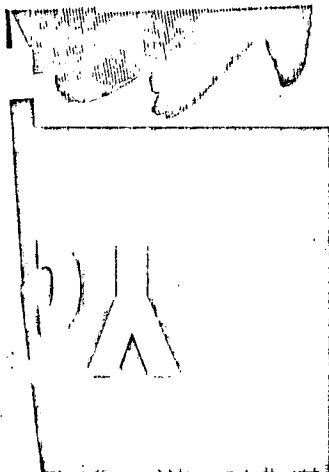
9. Public buildings. Through lack of planning our government is strewn, pell-mell, helter-skelter throughout the island. We need immediate construction on a new hospital, we need a better museum, a better library, a new police station, we need a capitol building, a better penitentiary, better buildings at the university, an expanded airport—among other things.

10. The upgrading of agriculture, and fishing. Guam needs to produce more of its own food, and it would seem relatively simple to do that, yet it hasn't worked out that way. The upgrading of agriculture and fishing probably harks back to still another problem, a real shortage of workers, skilled or otherwise.

The problems listed above are, in reality, just the tip of the iceberg. We have many more, such as our relationship with the military, our beaches, our transportation costs, our lack of street signs and house numbers, our neglect of the old people, our welfare costs, our dental problems—and on and on. But it is important that we do recognize them, and begin making some kind of efforts towards their ultimate solution. JCM.

## Pacific Daily News

ROBERT E. UDICK Publisher



Dr. Katherine B. Ae  
director of the Depart  
of Education, has w  
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Dr. K.