

## Editorial

# That Great Debate.....

Can the quality of life keep pace with the record growth? That's one of the questions asked in an interesting article, in the Pan American Clipper Magazine, January issue. The article, written by Ken Harris, covered two full pages in the prestigious magazine, distributed to more than one million passengers monthly. The article, entitled "Guam Debates Its Future," goes into some depth about the economic boom underway on the island—and the problems that the boom brought with it.

While the article doesn't go into detail about the political options that face Guam, it does offer a few insights into how an outsider views Guam's future, based upon what several people have told him. Let's take a look at what writer Harris says at the heart of the article:

"It is very difficult for the island to live under laws which are appropriate for people an ocean away. Some leaders feel that a change in political status might be in order. Sen. (Paul) Bordallo feels that it is entirely correct that Guam aspire to statehood. But, pending the creation of what he calls the 'State of Pacifica,' he would like to see Guam an 'associated free state' so that her people could, in effect, pick and choose their laws and reject the inappropriate ones. Governor Camacho also feels that statehood is the proper goal for Guam but sees another possibility, that of Guam playing an integral role in a Micronesian Common Market. He feels that if the areas of Micronesia would each specialize in something and then pool their resources, they could have far more economic independence than they now have.

"Possibly the future State of Pacifica might include Saipan, Tinian and Rota. In the 1960s a unification proposal was narrowly defeated on Guam in spite of the fact that all of the islands share a common Chamorro culture. Guam's leaders since have had the leisure to rethink their position and feel that such a proposal would not be defeated again.

"Perhaps because of the exciting political picture and the influx of foreign money and people, there is a genuine fear among the indigenous Guamanians that they could lose economic and political control of their own island."

In all fairness to Mr. Harris, with his limited space, and his limited time on Guam, he couldn't get into the other options that exist for the people of Guam. While the future State of Pacifica has some obvious attractions and excitement going for it, the fact remains that two very basic things prevent such a thing from happening. 1. The people of Guam now, and in the foreseeable future could not afford Statehood. It's that simple. If we lost the tax money that now comes into Guam instead of going back to Washington, we would be practically out of business. Sure, five or ten or twenty years from now, with a sounder economic base, there might be a possibility for statehood, but we doubt whether anybody in their right mind would push for Pacifica today, in spite of the pleasant ring. 2. Statehood has to come from the American people, through their Congress, and we have seen nothing but skepticism throughout

# Voice Of The People

Dear Editor: I just read the article in the PDN about the possibility of eliminating or postponing the sports program in the schools due to the fuel crisis. It is a shame but it can be accepted if it is absolutely necessary. I do, however, have a question for whoever was responsible for the three Government of Guam School busses I saw in the Agat area at 3:30 p.m. on January 2nd. These busses were being used to transport tourists. Apparently someone feels that there is a sufficient fuel for sightseeing. I think that we should get our priorities straight. Which comes first—tourists or the school children of Guam?

Sincerely,  
Bob Richards  
Athletic Director  
Agat Junior High

Dear Editor: Please find space for this letter in your paper under the column 'Voice of the People.' It is a concluding note to my open letter to the President of the Philippines, published in your December 13, 1973 issue.

My letter intended to bring to the fore the true conditions presently obtaining in the Philippines and it correctly echoed the general thinking of Filipinos everywhere, including those in Guam. The observations thereon, printed in your December 15 and December 20, 1973 issues, apparently are isolated and individual beliefs and not views from the perspective of Filipino national interest.

arrive for dinner? Later, two power plants were finished, so the northern and central parts of the island now usually have adequate electricity. The southern part still has frequent outages. They are building another power plant to bring the island up to current needs, but with 85% of the 1972's fuel, there won't be enough to run it.

The island has grown during the past two years so that the 15% deficiency is really a 30% cutback. People in Southern California are being asked to cut their home power by 10%, we are cutting back 30%. The Governor walks to work, the most popular cars are Toyotas and Datsuns, they're instituting a mass transit system, and most people don't have air-conditioning—though the temperature is always 86 and the humidity over 90%. Military fuel requirements on Guam are high, but they are cutting down, too.

I am a third generation Angeleño, reared on the Los Angeles Times, and I was very disappointed in your cartoon. The problem is to allocate fuel so everyone gets some. That means the little people get some heat and a way of getting to work even if the big people have to give up their big cars.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Margaret M. Culberson  
Naval Station, Guam

Dear Editor: In a spontaneous reaction to all the talk about gas rationing and a small article which appeared in the *Pacific Stars and*

Just pick up a copy of The Daily News. Thank you for your time and for letting me get a load off my mind.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Dr. L.R. Henderson  
1284 B Marianas, AAFB  
366 3142

Dear Editor: No wonder the Guam police are in such ill repute! Is it necessary in carrying out their duty that they threaten individuals for no reason? My husband and I just returned from what started out to be a very pleasant walk with our dog at an antennae field across the road from our house. It was a clear night and we decided to try and locate the different constellations with a star map. On our way back a car approached us on the dirt road leading out of the field and we had to jump out of the way, only to have the car leave the road and drive straight at us stopping just short of hitting us. Two men jumped out and in a very threatening manner told us they were the police and asked us what we were doing here. We explained that we were just out walking and they told us we have no right to be there, and kept insisting that I could be raped. (By whom, I wondered. The more they insisted on it the more I wondered.) Their manner made me very much afraid of them. To my great relief we were allowed to leave unharmed and come home. Now we're very upset. We phoned the police department only to find

...ability of statehood, but we doubt whether anybody in their right mind would push for Pacifica today, in spite of the pleasant ring. 2. Statehood has to come from the American people, through their Congress, and we have seen nothing but skepticism throughout our conversations with mainlanders about statehood for Guam. Skepticism might even be too mild a word. Incredible might be better. Most mainlanders know little about Guam, except that it is "too far away," and "too small" to ever consider the possibility of statehood.

We still recall an editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle which considered briefly the question of Statehood for Guam—almost derisively, pointing out the fact that if Guam was to become a state it would have two Senators, for 100,000 people, while the Great State of California has only two senators for 20,000,000 people. This, the editorial noted with vigor wouldn't be fair.

The opposition to statehood for Guam, from the south, and from the Eastern seaboard, and even from California, would be so stiff that we just can't see the possibility for statehood really exists on Guam. Again, this situation could conceivably change as the nation becomes more familiar with the island, and its real worth—that of location. It could change as Guam's economic situation changes. But certainly, the idea of "Pacifica" is going to have to be sold to the American people, as well as to the people of the Pacific, who are no means that enthusiastic about the prospect themselves, except perhaps for a few.

We admit that most people on Guam—and even in the Marianas—are essentially pro-American in belief, and concept, and most of us would like to continue our strong ties with that great nation. Yet, we do feel, as writer Harris notes that "It is very difficult for the island to live under laws which are appropriate for people an ocean away." In other words, our tiny island, completely isolated, thousands of miles from the mainland, doesn't have the same needs, and same problems that do most of the states. An "Interstate" highway program doesn't really mean that much to us, for instance. Nor does the immigration policy, which allows thousands of aliens as eventual permanent residents. Nor does the Civil Aeronautics Board policy which allows Guam only two flights a week to the neighboring Philippines.

While, in the main, the Clipper Magazine article was factual, and illuminating to outsiders, we only quarrel over the headline, "Guam Debates Its Future." We believe that at this point in time Guam has not debated its future at all. We do have, now, a Political Status Commission through the legislature, who are at work gathering material. But few among us have ever really debated the future, because we haven't discussed the various options, and those options aren't well known.

We doubt that Guam can long remain where it is, as a territory of the United States, because it is a nothing status, and increasing pressure from the United Nations will soon force the U.S. to give the people of Guam an opportunity to decide their own form of government. In the years just ahead the people of Guam are going to have to look long and hard at all the options open, and make an intelligent, logical choice. It behooves us, then, to start gathering information on what other places of Guam's size and economic capability have done. As we watch the Northern Marianas move into a new status in the relatively near future, we realize with increasing apprehension that Guam, too, is going to have to make some decisions—and soon. JCM.

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December 20, 1972  
apparently are isolated and individual beliefs and not views from the perspective of Filipino national interest.

It is recognized that society is composed of several segments, people with diverse and at times conflicting interests. Total reconciliation of these interests is difficult to attain. Necessarily, the interest of the few must give way to the interest of the greater number.

I invite all Filipinos now residing abroad, including the readers herein alluded to, to visit the Philippines and personally see for themselves the headways made under the New Society.

Very truly yours,  
/s/ Arsenio S. Sulquiano

Dear Editor:  
Mr. Paul Conrad  
Times-Mirror Co.  
Times-Mirror Square  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90053

Dear Mr. Conrad,

The cartoon you drew about the 500,000 barrels of oil being diverted from Southern California to Guam was either short-sighted or mis-informed. First, because all Guamanians have been American subjects for 75 years, since the Spanish-American War, and American citizens for 23 years, since the Organic Act of 1950. They have the same rights as citizens living in the States. Second, Southern California is built on oil fields, and there's coal in other parts of the country. Guam is a volcanic-coral island. There's no fuel here; it's all imported.

Guam has been promised, by Washington, 85% of her 1972 fuel expended. During that year power was insufficient for the island. At the beginning of the year everyone could count on power-shortages every third week for two hours every night, but if there were problems, power was cut off at any time.

In a spontaneous reaction to all the talk about gas rationing and a small article which appeared in the Pacific Stars and Stripes that reported a possible future rationing of toilet paper, I wrote the following verse.

The Tissue Issue  
It all seems like a government plot

Whether to ration or whether not.

It starts with gas as a fossil fuel And next to food, as a general rule.

With stamps, cards and stickers galore,

You wonder what else lies in store.

And now we read of the ultimate ration, Making you rear up in angry passion.

To everyone a most definite issue

Coping with a shortage of toilet tissue.

But, no man need sit, a king alone

Without that pastel roll next to his throne

For when you run shy of tissue to use,

rebel we were allowed to leave unharmed and come home. Now we're very upset. We phoned the police department only to find out they have no jurisdiction over the federal land where we were walking. (What were the police doing there?) Farmers are allowed to keep cows and horses on this land and come there every day to tend them. There is no sign posted "No Trespassing." The police said they were protecting us, but we were threatened by no one but the police. They didn't harm us, but they surely did intimidate. What we are objecting to is:

1. Being ordered to leave an area where the police have no jurisdiction.

2. Being treated in a threatening, hostile and disrespectful manner by these officers.

It seems to me that if they truly want to protect the public a change in attitude would be more convincing. They were hired for public safety, not public intimidation!

Sincerely,  
/s/ Louise & Howard

DEARY'S WORLD

