

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 140 Hey, Wave – and Pass the Chicken

It was 4:40 on your average Thursday afternoon and I'm headed to a short, after work training session with a client and, oh-oh, there must be an accident up ahead. Traffic is backed up on Marine Corps Drive and I'm not sure I'll make it on time. I'm in the center lane, boxed in by big trucks, busses, and I can't easily go in a different direction. I'm stuck. Now what? I'm Jerry Roberts and that accident up ahead turned out to be no accident, and let's find out why on today's Extra Point.

I'm stuck in traffic and inching forward a little at a time. At this rate there's no way I get past the ITC intersection and further into Tamuning to reach the client's office in time. So, I called the manager and said, "There must be a bad accident up ahead and I may be late.

Long story short it wasn't an accident. It was intentional. It was one of those long-held practices of every political campaign – the wave. Except this wasn't one candidate and his or her mob of supporters...it was all four Democratic gubernatorial campaigns, the Bordallo congressional campaign, and at least one senatorial group. If there were more, they were lost in the tsunami of humanity that began about the old Taco Bell and stretched past FHP and the Camacho Landmark Center north of the intersection.

Now I realize that most of the people waving signs or just waving, are there under the direct political bribery of free food, one of the primary weapons all politicians use against us. Chicken and red rice can mobilize the party faithful like nothing else, and at any time.

From a visibility standpoint, Lou Leon Guerrero appeared to be the winner as she was the only candidate I could see, elevated on a lift. But then, maybe that wasn't so good, because isn't the idea to be able to look right into the eyes of the potential voter, smile that

winning smile, and for that political nano-second, make the connection that could make the ultimate difference when they crawl behind the curtain of the voting booth when the polls open...now only 24 hours away? If so, then maybe she didn't win.

All in all, a lot of noise, but not much clarity. In terms of politics, just another day. If this was the manifestation of the Democrats' unity pledge, then may I respectfully request you not flash that unity during rush hour next time? Some people have places to be and people to meet, ya see. I got to my appointment on time.

But it's part of our tradition and we snicker at it. Traditions don't die off easily, regardless of how many people are inconvenienced by them. If you have a business and you're big on traditions, ask yourself if any of them have outlived their usefulness and actually could be an inconvenience to the very people you say you wish to serve.

Another of our political traditions is voting for people we know very little about, other than what's in the carefully designed literature they hand out and the ads they run. If we do know much about a candidate it's almost certainly one running for governor. We put virtual strangers in the legislature, and then wonder why things don't always work out so well. It's so-and-so's relative or maybe mine, and they're good people, and they have free food. What else do I have to know?

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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