

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



168 What You Put Up With, You End Up With.

The words came to me early one morning and they ring true, whether it's about business, politics, as well as most other pursuits. I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll get to those and add in the thoughts of an old workout partner, today, on The Extra Point.

I had just finished writing and designing our new teambuilding course, Professionalism 101. It needed a tagline, something that would be meaningful and get people thinking. It was maybe three o'clock in the morning and my eyelids were screaming, "Where's the pillow?"

Then the words came and my eyes came wide open. "What you put up with, you end up with."

That line has resonated with a lot of managers this year, as they've found themselves nodding their heads when they read it. They knew well that it applied to them and if they were going to see a change, they needed to hit the reset button.

A company that lacks direction and seems to run on the whim of whoever you're talking to at the time, is what my earliest mentor, Big Ed, used to say was like a carnival with the monkeys operating the rides. It might be fun to watch for a while, but monkeys tend to make a mess of things.

I've lived in Guam for most of my adult life, and the way we choose our elected leaders has been slow to change. Social media has made an impact and that will continue as more and younger people join the voting pool. The old ways of voting for who my parents voted for isn't as prevalent as it has been. We still vote for party more than we should and for people who are somewhere in our extended family, and maybe that will change, too. Some people support and vote for a particular candidate because a job is offered if they win. That will probably never change.

Until we get become smarter and better voters, that line applies to us — what we put up with, we end up with.

Most of us don't do our homework and ask enough good questions about what candidates believe, how they solve problems, and whether or not they know how to play nice with the other kids? We listen to soundbites in the news, and smile at their social posts.

I spent about nine years, off and on, hitting the gym with Simon Sanchez, member of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities. We talked about stuff like this. When I interviewed Simon for the cover feature in Directions magazine 21 years ago when he was running for a seat in the legislature, he said a couple of things that are as meaningful today as they were then:

Simon said, "We need to examine our processes in making public policy decisions, because it's quite clear that some of our collective decisions aren't cutting the mustard."

Then he added, "If our expectations are low, then the people we elect are probably going to meet them." What are your expectations, and why are you so sure the folks you plan to vote for will meet them? Are your expectations too low? Do your candidates really have what it takes to make a positive difference? We're just a month away, and remember...what you put up with, you end up with.

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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For information on training and consulting services from Jerry Roberts, please click this link: guamtraining.com

