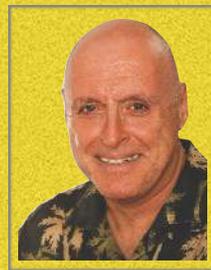


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



545 The Six-Foot Thing – What’s Hard to Understand?

By now we’ve heard the plea and seen the plea to stay at least six feet away from everybody else, when outside our home. Most people get it but the message just hasn’t hit home for others. I’m Jerry Roberts and today, the curious state of social distancing, next on The Extra Point.

Six feet, six feet, six feet. How hard is it to stay six feet away from the next person? Ponder that for a moment and I’ll relate a personal experience. Before we get to that let’s review.

Before the announcement that Guam had a confirmed case of COVID-19, most people weren’t even thinking about social distancing. Remember the good old days of being able to eat in restaurants, shop in crowded stores, going to barbecues, going to church? Then came March and the whole world, along with Guam, changed.

Gatherings of 100 were okay, then 50, then 10, and now they’re totally restricted. That silly elbow to elbow greeting we were all supposed to do went away fast, as the number of those infected grew.

We quickly got to the point where the new standard was giving six feet of separation to everyone. We’ve had that number, six feet, pounded into us for weeks and weeks. So, is there anything at all confusing about it?

Not confusing, but in retail stores it’s tough to maintain optimal distancing because their aisles are only about six feet wide – and if you have a ton of shoppers all trying to move up and down those aisles at the same time, the desired separation isn’t going to happen. Thus, they now limit how many people can be in the store at the same time. That leads to lines outside with people waiting to get in.

I was in such a line on Friday. There were maybe 15-20 people ahead of me and the line

was moving pretty well. Right behind me was a woman who was talking loudly on her phone, and was coming close to me. I caught this out of the corner of my eye, turned around and just looked at her. She looked back at me, with a look that said, “What are you looking at?” Then she moved back to a safe distance.

I turned back around and like a minute later he she comes again, still babbling on her phone and oblivious to the fact she’s closing in on me. This time I turned and waved her off. She gave me a look like, “Who do you think you’re waving off here?”

We got into the store and a few minutes later we passed each other. She was still on her phone, bumping into a cart here, nudging somebody else there. Careless, Clueless. Why didn’t she understand?

Maybe it’s because we use words to describe the distancing. Maybe we’d do better to be like Leon County, Florida, where they have images of two people and an alligator between them, advising people that during COVID-19, to “remember to keep at least 1 large alligator between you and everyone else at all times.”

There’s no gators in Guam so what can we do? How about “Let’s keep one medium-sized brown tree snake between us.” Or, how about staying separated by a carabao? Maybe a fiesta table? Two stray dogs? Whatever image you can come up with that helps you to keep six feet from others, feel free to use it.

That’s The Extra Point. Stay home and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I’m Jerry Roberts.

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