

With answers like that, one can assume that junkyards are wholesalers for thieves and that whatever regulations the government has created to police this industry are not being enforced.

It won't take a day for those who think they can make a go of buying and selling scrap legally to figure out rules and procedures that would discourage the theft of materials such as copper wiring.

So, in the meantime, close them or don't renew their business licenses.

**JAY NOBLE**  
Agana Heights

## Statehood desirable, but nearly impossible

The people of Guam have long been thinking and talking of becoming a state. There are no specific rules or requirements as to how an unincorporated territory could become a state.

In the case of Guam, Congress, in 1950, declared it "to be an unincorporated territory of the United States" (Organic Act of Guam, Section 1421a). The territory's political status has not been defined and to this day re-

mains under the plenary powers of Congress "to dispose of and make all needed Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory ..." (U.S. Constitution, Article IV, Section 3).

The possibility of Guam becoming a state is very remote because in my opinion, the U.S. Senate will never grant Guam two seats. The two votes it represents may appear insignificant, but in a tight voting situation, Guam will hold the deciding votes in passing bills, overriding vetoes, deciding on the guilt or innocence of an impeached president, approving presidential appointees, ratifying treaties and declaring war. From these prerogatives and powers, one could readily envision and appreciate the tremendous power of Guam if it becomes a state — a "dwarf" having more or as much power as a "giant" which the Senate, zealous and protective of its prerogatives, will never allow it to happen.

Although statehood is not achievable at this point in time, I will still vote for statehood and recommend the people of Guam vote likewise because statehood represents social, economic and political stability.

But we should not lose hope, for by a twist of fate, it is possible that Congress might turn around and make Guam the 51st state. Always

remember the adage that "where there is hope, there is life" — and statehood for Guam.

**MANUEL L. JOSE**  
Tumon

## Ties with U.S. allow tighter democracy

Guam will soon have a chance to shape its future. Unfortunately, not all Guam people are given the chance, only the so-called indigenous. For those people who are going to have the chance to do so, please consider or examine the following:

▲ The United States is a dynamic federal union that becomes more tightly united every year. Yet Canada, right next door and similar in organization, lives perpetually at the edges of dissolution, wracked by Quebec separation, western separatism and continentalism that threatens to pull the pieces apart.

▲ Why is Brazil, a country geographically almost as large as the United States, filled with valuable resources and blessed with a moderate climate, so wretchedly poor and undemocratic?

▲ Brazil, Sudan, Congo, Russia, Latin America and other countries are backward, politically repressive and marred by religious extremism and other conflicts.

The Philippines is a classic example of a democracy, rich in natural resources, where the people are poor. It was not so when it was a commonwealth of the United States.

**ARMANDO S. DOMINGUEZ**

By Garry Trudeau

THAT HE'S NOT SURE  
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HOLD ON —  
I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING

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