



Pipe Dreams

By Joe Murphy

I'm no social arbiter-- if that's the right word--but I think that Guam is sort of in a quandry when it comes to issuing invitations to social events. I'm not bragging, but over the years I've received hundreds of such invitations, and I'm still confused over what to wear.

It is pretty simple, as far as the military goes. They say simply "coat and tie". And for the Governor's receptions it is also "coat and tie", although for some reason the military wears tropical garb, and can get away with leaving their collar open.

Most of the invitations say: "Guam Casual", only I don't know what they mean by that. I guess it means a shirt only. (No underwear you idiot). Then there is just plain "casual". Or "semi-formal" or "formal".

But on Hawaii they have a different custom, and a couple of places, notably First Hawaiian Bank at their opening in Dededo, and Phil Lomax of PFEL, have indicated on their invitations: "Hafa Adai". In Hawaii, at an informal party they say "Aloha" clothes, which means wild, colorful shirts, and muumuus. Perhaps if we just say Hafa Adai dress in the future it would solve much of the problems. People could just wear island type clothes. Presumably in the future--- perhaps unfortunately---all of the parties will be held in air conditioned rooms, and we'll all wear coats and tie, or suits. Personally, I like the informality of just a loud, obnoxious shirt. In the Philippine style.

Don't you feel just a little bit sorry for the Guam Symphonic Society? I mean they are trying very hard to bring some culture and class to the island, and operating on a shoestring budget. But that is no reason for this guy to write them a letter address to the "Guam Sympathy Society". Madaleine Bordallo got a letter from the Cliff Hotel addressed that way. The people, obviously tourists, addressed the letter.

A guy called to tell me about an incident in front of the Navy Hospital Annex the other day. Two cars pulled over to make way for a police car-- and hit each other. Well, at least they had a police car right there to report the accident too.

Then a lady from Dededo Kaiser called in to complain about GovGuam piling up huge piles of reddirt in what the kids were using for a softball field. The dust, she says, makes everything red including the pillows in the house, the floors, the cars, and even the eyebrows.

Plan ahead! Plan ahead! That's exactly what we should tell the people that did the planning at the grand opening of the new Blue Marlin restaurant at the Guam International Airport the other night. He figured it out exactly. At the precise time Gov. Camacho was making his speech, the Air Micronesia jet was taking off for Saipan. We couldn't hear a word he said, and it probably was very interesting and important. Let's not invite Phil Yates to any more governmental functions.

Guam, like many other places, has become very litter conscious. (At long last). Yesterday I got a letter from a man who said that his children learned so well they taught him and his wife not to throw paper, banana peels, mango seeds or even gum wrappers out the window of the car. Which does make a point. If the children are properly taught, they certainly can educate their parents--and it is about time somebody taught us slobs. The letter writer suggested that we use TV spots to help educate, but unfortunately he saw a beer commercial that hit home to him--as too many others. Most of us on Guam have watched that gay beer commercial on TV where a group of happy adults cover a man with sand while having a beach party. Finally, they all drink beer and the last shot shows the empty bottles in the ocean. If I were that distributor I would get that commercial off just as fast as possible--because it is having the opposite effect upon the viewers.

What ever happened to Tom Bostwick, our Guam Power Authority chief? Zoom, zoom, bang. He's left the island--apparently for good, and we've still never had a story about it. I have a feeling that he tried to do a job here--and he was qualified to do it--but ran into all kinds of snags, and frustrations, and finally said "to hell with it." I wish we could have gotten a statement before he left.

Self Delusion In Capitol

By William H. Ewing

PRESIDENT NIXON'S paramount campaign pledge was to "end this war" in Vietnam. He said he had a plan, which in due time turned out to be Vietnamization, that is, turning the war over to the South Vietnamese. He never faced up to the question of whether the South Vietnamese, having been unable to drive out the enemy with the aid of half a million Americans, could do it alone. Instead, he drew the absurd conclusion that Hanoi would do well to make peace now, because it would find Saigon harder to do business with later.

Since the initial premise of Vietnamization was clearly irrational--that the South Vietnamese alone could do what they had been unable to accomplish with massive American aid--it follows that Mr. Nixon must have assumed that Mr. Nixon must have assumed at least a modicum of cooperation from the enemy. He spoke Thursday of exchanges of messages with Hanoi, many of them secret, at least hinting that Hanoi had indicated it was moving toward a lowering of the scale of violence and a political settlement of sorts.

The fact that Mr. Nixon has now ordered an escalation and a widening of the war suggests that he became the victim of his own desire to believe what the Communist spokesmen told him. The wish was father to the thought that a compromise could be reached. Lyndon Johnson was going to crush the Communists, nail the coonskin to the wall. Richard Nixon intended to settle by negotiation. The Communists never intended to give an inch. So Mr. Nixon has returned to the Johnson strategy of conquering the foe.

THE HEART of this matter, our cardinal mistake, is that we have never quite believed the Communists were in earnest when they said mean-

ingful peace talks could not begin until (1) the last American soldier had been withdrawn from Vietnam and (2) American support of the Thieu government in Saigon was withdrawn.

This stubborn fantasy, this yearning to believe that these conditions were more propaganda, bargaining points to be haggled over later, can be comprehended only by concluding that Washington has never seriously studied the war from the enemy's point of view. This can be a fatal error, especially when two antagonists are as different in culture, in background and thinking processes as the late Ho Chi Minh and his successors, on the one hand, and the Johnson and Nixon administrations on the other.

To Ho Chi Minh and his successors, North and South Vietnam are a single country. To fight to avoid dismemberment is as patriotic and honorable as was Abraham Lincoln's war to save the American Union. The Viet Cong represent an indigenous revolt against oppression. North Vietnam supports this revolt because (1) it aims to overthrow the leadership of the partitioned South, leading to reunification; and (2) because the Viet Cong leadership is Communist and therefore politically in accord with Hanoi. The United States is simply an invader attempting to thwart the legitimate aim of a single people and a single country trying to draw themselves together.

PRESIDENT NIXON'S decision to pursue the enemy into Cambodia can only mean that (1) he has given up hope of a political settlement and (2) concluded that if he is to make good on his pledges to end the war, meanwhile bringing home 150,000 men in the next 12 months, he must crush the opposition. Where such a course may lead, no man at this point can say.

Loans U.S. Money

By Jack Anderson

WASHINGTON--By a bit of financial hocus-pocus, the prestigious World Bank is loaning money from the American taxpayers back to the U.S. government at 7 1/2 per cent interest.

The bank has accomplished this simply by investing more than half of its surplus development money in U.S. Treasury notes. A substantial share of the bank's \$170 million surplus in development funds was put up by the U.S. government, which is now borrowing its own money back at high interest rates.

Meanwhile, the World Bank is back at Uncle Sam's door begging for another \$160 million hand-out--part of which, presumably, would be loaned back to the U.S. at a profit.

The \$160 million is sought, specifically, by the International Development Association, which was set up within the World Bank to make low-interest or "soft" loans to underdeveloped nations.

For most of the year, World Bank officials operate in opulent comfort in their Washington headquarters, part of an elite international financial community. They are shielded from criticism by the prestige of their jobs and the fact that the World Bank offers a business-like way for the U.S. to aid poorer nations.

--PASSMAN'S PERFORMANCE--

All this changes, however, when the bank's officials make their annual appearance before the cranky and irreverent Rep. Otto Passman, D-La., Congress's foremost tightwad on foreign aid, who treats them like a band of thieves bent on raiding the U.S. Treasury.

He put the U.S. representative on the bank's Board of Directors, Robert Wiczorowski, through this annual ordeal the other day behind closed doors. When Assistant Treasury Secretary John Petty tried to help with the answers, Passman sharply silenced him.

"If we have to pay IDA 7 1/2 per cent on money we originally gave them...that is really making an additional contribution, is it not, to the fund?" demanded Passman.

When Wiczorowski replied affirmatively, Passman growled: "It is pretty hard for a man, on any reasonable basis, to make a case for this giveaway program. This is the worst conceivable type of foreign aid."

Petty tried to come to Wiczorowski's aid with a helpful comment.

"In terms..." he began, but he never finished.

"The director has not delegated you to answer for him," snapped Passman. "When they give you his job, I'll interrogate you and let him sit over there and observe."

Moments later, Petty tried to reply to Passman's contention that the bank had a seven-year

supply of funds on hand and, therefore, did not need the \$160 million it was seeking.

"Mr. Chairman," Petty began, "measured against the commitments..."

"I'm not talking about your measurements," Passman puffed. "I am not interested in your measurements...Let's not muddle up the record so you won't understand it and nobody else will."

Later, the crusty chairman revised his conclusion, saying that "taking it overall, you would have a five-year supply of money."

"If we were to cut back the operations..." began the hapless Petty again.

"If you were to operate on the average and not on the low or high," Passman cut him off. "I know you people love to spend money. It is just bound to be a lot of fun. I am trying to stop your fun."

This is what it's like for distinguished Treasury and banking officials behind the closed doors of Otto Passman's committee. But for all his colorful bluster, Passman's bark is usually worse than his bite. The World Bank is expected to get its \$160 million on schedule.

--HOW PATIENTS PAY--

Unscrupulous doctors are taking advantage of automation to soak their patients up to 700 per cent more for laboratory charges than what the tests actually cost the doctors.

With markups that would make a casha rug peddler blush, these doctors are making extra profits of \$3,000 a month--and higher--thanks to low automated lab costs.

Here's how the latest medical swindle works: A doctor, perhaps chosen at random from a referral sheet, is visited by a patient with a cold or, as in one case turned up by this column, a mild stomach upset.

Any honest doctor who sees symptoms he easily recognizes would prescribe bed rest or bicarb. But in one case, described to this column by an employee of the doctor concerned, the greedy physician regularly prescribed seven tests.

The doctor paid less than \$1 a test but charged his patients between \$5 and \$8 a test, thus making thousands of dollars in unjustified profits. A hospital pathologist, who also asked that his name not be used, said one of his non-hospital colleagues cleared \$3,000 a month by over-testing.

The doctors pay a monthly fee for the services of the automated lab, often located in a faraway city, to which the specimens are mailed. The automated tests cost the doctor no more than 60 cents to \$1 each.

For many simple blood and urine tests, the automated labs are fast and accurate. They would also be great money savers if the doctors would only pass on their blessings to the patients.