

Questions of race will skew Chamorro data

In a few weeks, we will be asked to fill out a questionnaire for the U.S. Census. In it we will be expected to indicate our race. This will present a problem for many people not only on the U.S. mainland but also in Guam.

The first problem right at the start is Question No. 8 (What is Person 1's race? Mark X by one or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be).

Color appears to be the first question. But, the color, "brown," is not listed, nor the color "yellow." Apparently, if you mark "white," that takes care of being "caucasian." It doesn't matter whether you are Irish, German or Polish descent. Also, all the Asian races are listed. It appears easy to mark this because many Asians are designated by their origins.

But now comes the problem. Under the listing of Pacific Islands, "Guamanians or Chamorro" is the box to mark. Guamanian isn't a race. Anyone living on Guam long enough can be considered a Guamanian but can never be a Chamorro. Marking this box by any resident of Guam can be confusing for

them and will not separate them from the native Chamorros. This will surely skew the numbers of native Chamorros on Guam.

Also, for those Chamorros residing on the U.S. mainland, they are no longer Guamanians but Californians, New Yorkers, etc.

The 2000 Census will create multi-racial problems and inaccurate numbers.

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