

Politics



A view from space shows lights, depicting the urbanization of the United States. While the U.S. might seem overpopulated to some, it is less so than other areas of the world. Columnist Hanton argues that, due to this fact, immigration to the United States is a sensible venture. Courtesy photo: NASA GSFC

Young Filipino population unifies votes for new leader

Aquino strives to create jobs, grow middle class

Daniel Escurel Occeno is a Filipino author of children's books.

I decided to look up more information on the son of a former woman president after Noynoy Aquino announced he was running for president of the Republic of the Philippines. The newspapers already had candid interviews by the time I found myself in the local public library.

What I read, I automatically assumed he would not win because he was against getting married and having children in the future, if I remembered the article accurately.

I told my cousin that I did not expect Aquino to win when the campaign trail became heated with plenty of competitors. The choices for president were an assortment of men who had been married and some known to like more than one woman, so how was Aquino going to win?

The Filipino people wanted a stable married man and virility?

I told several people Aquino will win the Catholic priest demographic, but I doubted the family-oriented voters would vote for Aquino. I even told my cousin that he should ask Kris Aquino — movie star, game show host and the sister of Noynoy — to have single women be seen with her brother, at least to get front-page pictures and photo opportunities for television.

His opponents will label him a homosexual just based on newspaper accounts that assumed he does not like women and does not care for children. He will not win the presidency, I thought.

I was wrong.

With all of Asia having an elderly population problem, the Philippines have a 25-year-old-and-under explosion. The younger generations even did a campaign registration blitz before the election to increase their demographic strength of electing their chosen president. The young people in the Philippines are opting to be single with no religion. They are tired of the poverty of the country and the empty promises with false hopes of the Catholic Church encouraging the priesthood or marriage — even without a job to support a family — so the children capable of voting turned to Aquino even though he was middle-aged; he is one of them. He is still single, promising job creation for the majority of the populous.

I even voted for him, and not because I am still single. I voted for him because he

and his family campaigned in my province, considered the poorest province in all of the 7,107 islands. He campaigned in the province the last few days, right before the election and it impressed me because many in the capital city believed he would just develop Metro Manila.

Before he journeyed to New York City to attend the Millennium Challenge meetings on ending world poverty by 2015, a write-up of Noynoy Aquino in the newspapers included that the Philippines is already ending its poverty. The archipelago might be ahead of the schedule set by the United Nations.

While in New York City, somebody treated him to a nice lunch or dinner instead of Aquino expecting to eat only hot dogs from the street vendors of Manhattan. Things are really getting better. He should not overdue the self-imposed frugality.

He should accept gifts. Filipino Catholic bishops accept gifts, and we believe they are single and have no woman to cook for them.

One of Aquino's goals is to meet with investors to encourage creating jobs in the Philippines.

Try to keep in mind that the younger generation elected Aquino. The working class of 25 years old and under does not really want an industrial nation like Japan or South Korea, but would welcome jobs from the wealthy Filipino-American communities in the United States.

Mall developments in the smaller townships with the population for the smaller provinces, micro-financing and high-tech software developments — not necessarily hardware — are a few of my recommendations.

The middle class is developing but not for a home computer industry. Build-on-demand accommodates the growth.

Solar power to meet the future demand on energy would be strongly suggested, with personal electric automobile manufacturing when the product to sell does not destroy the environment. Electromagnetic railway trains for Luzon and Mindanao would be another idea because the younger generations do not really want an automobile industry but they need affordable mass transportation to progress that motorcycles and 10-speed bicycles will not be able to accommodate.

U.S. has room for immigrants



By **Rick Hanton** @iowastatedaily.com

Lower population density gives chance for growth

If you are an avid and thorough reader of the Daily, you may have read all the way to the back page last Tuesday. There you would have found a small article about growing intolerance for immigrants in Europe. This intolerance, along with our own issues concerning immigration, New York mosques and minority population growth highlight an issue that may erupt during our lifetimes.

The issue I mention is overpopulation and a scarcity of resources, not just in the United States, but around the globe. I got to meet a very interesting space traveler last year by the name of Richard Garriott. He was one of the first video game developers — where he made his millions — and is also a second-generation astronaut after his father, Owen Garriott.

When Richard Garriott ventured up to the International Space Station, he paid millions of dollars for the privilege, but he was also committed to doing useful research while in orbit.

One of the projects he undertook was to photograph parts of the globe that his father had taken pictures of while on Skylab 35 years before. The results of his study and visual observations indicate that humans now use nearly all of the habitable land-mass on Earth and are slowly expanding civilization to places previously thought to be uninhabitable.

Do you ever stop to think about the fact that there are 6.7 billion of us all floating on this rock out in the void of space? What happens when our population catches up to the development of better farming technology and we cannot produce enough food to feed the entire population of Earth? What happens when we deplete the fossil fuels that are currently powering our technological energy-powered society?

If we look at the course of history, what normally happens when resources become scarce is that the civilizations that exist will begin to fight over the remaining resources. It is already becoming more costly for populations around the world to exist. As Garriott noted in his talk, it is much more expensive

to pump water into the desert to grow food and then truck it back to major cities, but many countries including our own are now doing just that.

According to a 2001 report by the United Nations, it is thought that the world can reasonably hold a population of about 10 billion humans, a population that the U.N. predicts we could reach in a worst-case scenario by 2040.

Various sources estimate that the world may also reach a point of peak oil production around 2030, after which oil will be much harder to obtain from difficult-to-reach sources.

While I understand the need to meter immigration into the United States for economic reasons, some folks blow the issue completely out of proportion. Yes, some people may become alarmed that they see Hispanic workers "everywhere" or frightened by Middle Eastern people that they perceive as "terrorists" — for no good reason — but I say let them come!

The population density in the United States is quite low by world standards and we have about half of Mexico's population density right now. People from other countries and cultures are just as hard-working as those who have lived in the United States for generations.

Also, weren't we a nation founded on the principles of minority tolerance by those who were driven out of Europe for their religious practices?

There are bigger population issues that need to be addressed in the decades ahead. We can't get caught up in silly spats over cultural, national, and religious differences right now. In the grand scheme of things, we should be focusing on how we can better distribute resources among the world's growing population and looking outward for new landmasses to populate.

Should the human population eventually extend onto or under the oceans? Should we simply build more skyscrapers and figure out how to farm vertically? Should we consider colonizing new planets like Mars for future human expansion? These are all questions that our generation will need to start asking if we don't want to face dire consequences in the future. What will your answers be?

Random musings

Food, music, sports and everything else you care about

By **RJ.Green** @iowastatedaily.com

- Does anyone want to head down to the nearest bible college and hand out science books? Maybe stand on Lincoln Way this Sunday yelling evolutionary biology at all the church-goers?
- I'm ashamed of what they try to pass off as Saturday morning cartoons nowadays, especially this anime knockoff garbage. Does anybody remember "TaleSpin" or "Rescue Rangers"? "Darkwing Duck"? "X-Men"? What happened?
- I wish there was a Sonic in Campustown. I wish there was parking in Campustown, but I'd take Sonic first.
- I wish Sarah Jessica Parker, Katherine Heigl and Jennifer Lopez would stop making more movies so my girlfriend would stop getting mad at me for not taking her to any of them.
- I heard they aren't using trays at

- the UDCC anymore. I imagine this will have a detrimental effect on the sled-worthiness of campus.
- Where does everyone in the tea party get their colonist getup? Do they have that stuff just lying around, or do they make their own?
- I really don't care how many football games we win this year; I just want us to beat Nebraska.
- Did you know you get a stipend for graduate school? They pay you to keep going to college, and you make more money when you're done. How is that not awesome? Why wouldn't you do that?
- I admire the standard of cleanliness of the Japanese. I wouldn't let Paris Hilton in my house, either.
- The next movie from the guy who directed "Requiem for a Dream" and "The Fountain" involves ... um ... heavy petting between Mila Kunis and Natalie Portman. The

- International Society for Recognition of Awesomeness is giving him his medal next week.
- I like The Clash better than The Ramones. I probably just made a bunch of people in corduroy pants very angry. It's still true.
- I think it's stupid the Heisman Committee took Reggie Bush's trophy. I also think it's stupid USC took down his jerseys and other recognition of accomplishments. Did he not get the highest number of votes? Did he not contribute significantly to USC during his tenure?
- I admire the hell out of our student-athletes that maintain high GPAs, especially those in science fields. My favorite sport is sleeping.
- Weezer's new album is called "Hurley," as in the guy from "Lost." Because that isn't stupid.
- Our biggest health problem, as a nation? We have too much food.

- That blows my mind. People being fat and lazy is making health care increasingly unaffordable. Even if I wanted to sit around and get older and fatter, I can't, because Social Security is gonna run out well before I have the chance. All because of salt and sugar.
- If you are the least bit offended by that last one, I can't say that I care. Do you know what the top benefit claim to the VA from Vietnam vets is? Type II Diabetes. Freakin' sugar-betes. Awesome.
- My roommate and I beat "Halo: Reach on Legendary" last week. I kind of hoped it'd be more epic, and slightly harder.
- I get crabby when I see a girl standing next to a guy sitting down on the bus. He should let her sit there.
- Why does the same pop that costs \$1.25 in every vending machine on campus cost \$1.75 at the Memorial

- Union?
- I eat eggs because I'm pro-choice.
- It would be nice if I could go a day without reading about Lindsay Lohan in the national news media. She's a rich, hot, 24-year-old girl that lives in West Hollywood, why are people surprised she likes the nose candy? In other news: The sky is blue, water is wet.
- Some of the underclassmen didn't understand the "Saved by the Bell" reference in my last column. I didn't know whether to feel old or sad. Kelly Kapowski is still a total babe.
- Motorcycles and guitars make you look cooler. Ed Hardy shirts? Not so much.
- Ever notice how vegetarians are the only people that try and convince you to be vegetarian?
- This is me officially nominating "Freebird" to be played on the Campanile. Who's with me?