



Paul Azevedo

The Reactor

Sizing It All Up...

I like to compare things. It helps me to go from the known to the unknown. When I read the other day that the postage stamp principality of Monaco, the home of Prince Rainier (and formerly the home of Princess Grace) Grimaldi was almost a square mile, I figured out that it is almost twice the size of Vallemar.

You could fit 74 Vatican Cities into Pacifica, but the Vatican has more art treasures. San Francisco, including the Presidio and Golden Gate Park, is roughly four times the size of Pacifica, with about 18 times the population.

Yosemite National Park is about 95 times the size of Pacifica, but Yosemite Valley is only a little over half the size of Pacifica.

California is more than 12,600 times as large as Pacifica, or to put it another way, Pacifica is about eight-one hundred-thousandths the area of California.

Pacifica is about the size of Decatur, Alabama, or Flagstaff, Arizona, about twice the size of Grand Junction, Colorado, about the same size as Groton, Connecticut, or Las Cruces, New Mexico.

As you watch the Olympics, remember that the nation of Andorra has only about half of Pacifica's population, though it is roughly 15 Pacificas in area.

Grenada, the nation in the West Indies over which we went to war recently, has a population about two and a half times that of Pacifica.

The nation of Liechtenstein, in the Swiss-Austrian Alps, has about five times the area, with about half the population of Pacifica.

It is a real tourist attraction. Perhaps Pacifica ought to declare its independence of the United States, establish its own postal system, sell postage stamps, and invite the tourists to partake of our quaint hospitality.

Then there is the republic of Nauru, a nation in the Western Pacific near the Solomon Islands. It would take five Naurus to populate Pacifica. Nauru's area is about two-thirds that of Pacifica.

I'm not sure if it's been admitted to the U.N. yet. If Nauru can make it, Pacifica should apply.

The ancient republic of San Marino, embedded in the middle of Italy, has about half Pacifica's population, but with about twice Pacifica's area. It has an army of 180, which is substantially larger than our police force, but unlikely to defeat any invaders.

If Pacifica were an island, it would be bigger than Iwo Jima (nine square miles), about the same size as Little Diomed (in the Bering Strait) and Big Diomed combined.

If Pacifica were pierced by a tunnel from one end to the other, north to south, (6.5 miles) it would still be shorter than the Apennine Tunnel in Italy, the Simplon Tunnel in Switzerland and Italy, or the Cascade Tunnel in the northwestern U.S.

The tallest building in the U.S., the Sears Tower in Chicago, is only about 250 feet higher than Pacifica. It is 1,454 feet high. Pacifica, from bottom to top, is 1,200 feet high.

The tallest structure in the U.S., a TV antenna in North Dakota, is about 170 feet higher than Montara Mountain.