

# The San Juan Star <sup>50¢</sup>

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B-2 | The San Juan Star

## Readers' Viewpoint

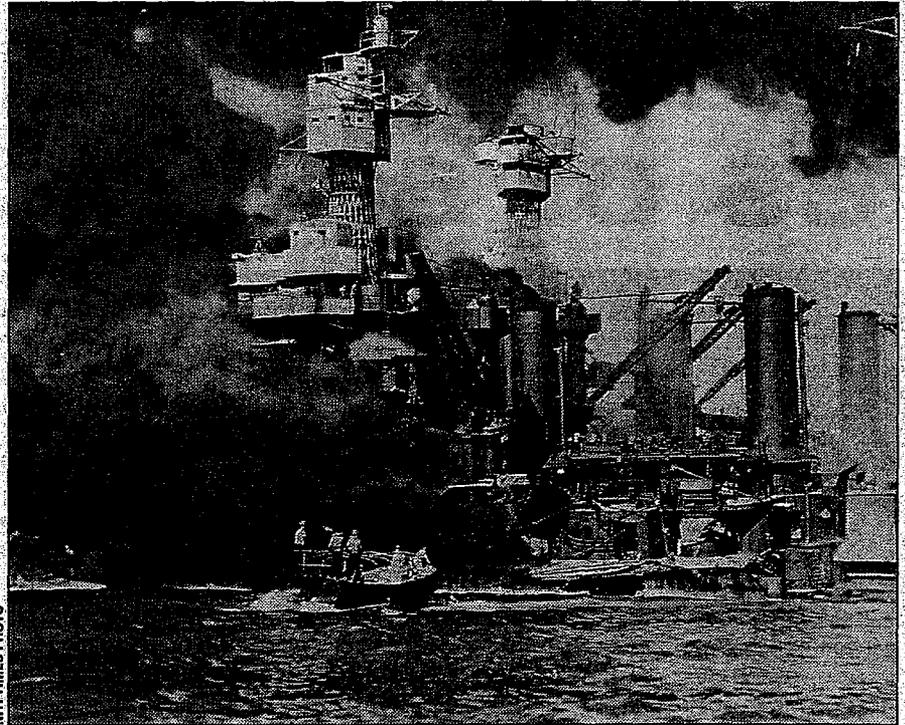
### World War III is upon us

I was disappointed, yet not surprised, this past Dec. 7, when I first scanned the local press, then tuned to the news both on radio and on TV, local and stateside, and was unable to find mention by any source of the events that occurred at Pearl Harbor 64 years earlier.

It took the United States eight years and a major disaster to wake up to the fact that World War II was for real. Even more time passed in the case of World War I. World War III began many years prior to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and major players remain oblivious.

More than forty strong warning signs warn us that World War III is under way. The enemy has aggressively attacked our property and people around the world during the past ten years. The enemy has struck dozens of other countries causing violent destruction of property and life. The enemy repeatedly threatens us with violent overthrow.

Yet, we fail to react, our resolve once again tempered by that overwhelming search for that peace-at-any-cost inborn obsession. We are faced today with a challenge more complex than ever before. The enemy we face is an obscure, unreasonable, destructive subculture that will never accept the tenet that a democratic system is best for the future. These fanatics need be destroyed if vic-



N.Y. TIMES PHOTO

**A small boat rescues seaman from the USS West Virginia, which is burning in the foreground during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.**

tory is to be achieved. The United States and its allies have never attacked and killed wantonly, until direly provoked.

Then we are the best. Unfortunately our endemic national peace-malady will continue to cause us to forget. The Sept. 11 attack on the

World Trade Center bonded the nation. Today, but four short years later, we have totally forgotten the lesson we were taught that day.

**William Butler Salazar Santurce**