

MEDIATE THIS !

PATH FORWARD STARTS WITH US, CONTINUES WITH YOUTH

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

This week's column focuses on an incident that occurred at a recent football game involving Lincoln High School and San Clemente High School students. The National Conflict Resolution Center sees this as an opportunity to teach youth about tolerance and civility by engaging in critical conversations with them.

With the swirl of news coverage surrounding the Sept. 13 incident at San Clemente High in which several Lincoln High School students were subjected to racial epithets by fans of the San Clemente football team, the discussion on how to move forward has begun. While it is of utmost importance to ensure that all the students affected by this instance of bigotry are given the proper support to heal, it is also important to teach our youth about how deep the wounds from hate, intolerance or incivility can penetrate.

This unfortunate incident is the latest example of racism involving high school sports. The very same week



Lincoln High School cheerleaders talk recently about their experience at the football game in San Clemente, where they heard racial epithets.

HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T

that the Lincoln High/San Clemente High incident occurred, a Virginia high school football team forfeited a game after a video surfaced of students making threats and racial slurs against their opponents. Earlier this year, a captain of a high school soccer team in the Fresno area was suspended after directing a racial slur at two African

American players on the opposing team. In February, students at a Cincinnati prep school chanted racial slurs at two minority players on an opposing basketball team.

Racism, bigotry and intolerance are complex issues that have plagued this country throughout its existence. There is no sign that these issues are becoming

any less complicated, or that we are any closer to ridding our society of them. Where the real question lies is not just in how we move forward, but how we expect the next generation to address these issues if we don't guide them. With examples of racial and ideological polarity ever present, we are constantly reminded of our differences. It's time we talk

about what brings us together.

It's clear that the path forward begins with having a discussion with our youth about these issues. Unless we talk with them about how issues such as racism and intolerance affect them at their level, we won't truly be able to understand how to prevent similar instances going forward. We can all take the first step by talking with our own children about these issues, even in the most general sense, so that they know that we are always open to dialogue. Don't be afraid to open up about your own experiences with racism or bigotry, as common experiences will let our youth know that issues like these affect all of us. The conversations may be difficult or awkward, but they are fundamental to addressing the underlying causes of incidents like these.

We can further support this dialogue by creating safe spaces at schools where students can open up about these complicated issues, ensuring that school administrators are people they can reach out to. A critical

component of these conversations will be engaging the youths as equals. Just as all parties contribute to the solution in mediation, we need to include the youths' voices in these conversations as equal to our own. Just as the youth can learn from us, we can also learn from them.

While the solution to racism in our society can seem as far away as it has ever been, we can all start taking steps toward that solution by creating open pathways of communication with our nation's youth. They are the ones who will walk the path that we create for them, and our decisions will dictate whether that path is toward civility or division.

Steven P. Dinkin is a professional mediator who has served as president of the San Diego-based National Conflict Resolution Center since 2003. Do you have a conflict that needs a resolution? Share your story with The Mediator via email at mediatethis@ncrconline.com or as an online submission by visiting www.ncrconline.com/MediateThis. All submissions will be kept anonymous.

NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

SAN DIEGO: GARY WARTH

Father Joe's opens Hillcrest store

A line of savvy shoppers stretched down University Avenue in Hillcrest on Thursday morning as Father Joe's Villages prepared to open its newest thrift store to raise funds for programs and services for San Diego's homeless population.

"This store is part of our mission to end homelessness one life at a time. That's what we do each and every single day," said Deacon Jim Vargas, president and CEO of Father Joe's Villages.

The nonprofit has focused on improving its thrift stores this year and already has refurbished its shops in Imperial Beach and El Cajon. The Hillcrest shop is the third operated by Father Joe's Villages and replaces the Baras Foundation Thrift Store, which closed in July 2018.

San Diego City Councilman Chris Ward, who represents Hillcrest and is chairman of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, participated in the ribbon-cutting and was one of the shop's first customers. He picked up a \$15 metal peacock statue for his office. "It's not just about homelessness," Ward

said about the shop at 1457 University Ave. "It's about all people in Hillcrest to be able to come in and partake in another great retail opportunity."

Shoppers began lining up about an hour before the shop opened. Inside, they found slightly used clothes, books, household goods, furniture and other items that have been donated. More donations can be dropped off at a parking lot directly behind the store.

Bill Bolstad, chief development officer for Father Joe's, said two-thirds of the nonprofit's revenue comes from private donations. He said the thrift stores represent a small percentage, but did not provide specifics.

In another change, Father Joe's Villages closed its large furniture warehouse at its E Street headquarters about two months ago. Vargas said furniture from the warehouse has been moved to the other stores, with most going to the El Cajon store, which has a furniture section.

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MILITARY: COREY LEVITAN

Pendleton cottage project completed

Robert Clelland of La Jolla recently saw a decadelong dream through to completion when the final two military cottages he financed at Camp Pendleton's San Onofre Beach were dedicated. There are now 13 new wheelchair-friendly units, with 21 bedrooms, replacing 12 crumbling one-bedroom trailers.

"They called them cottages, but they were actually FEMA trailers," said Clelland, an investment adviser. "They had wheels, and they were beyond repair. They were installed over 35 years ago."

The Pendleton Cottages Project raised nearly \$2 million over the past 10 years.

"It has been a tremendously satisfying process for all involved," Clelland said. "These new cottages will provide safe and comfortable use for active and retired military families for decades to come."

The Pendleton Cottages Project was the idea of Clelland's friend, Jan Wells, and her husband, Tom Hurt, an Air Force veteran. In 2010, they approached Clelland with the idea of raising the money to replace the run-down trailers with cottages featuring wide hallways, grade-level access for wheelchairs, and accessible kitchen and bathroom facilities.

"She was dying of cancer," Clelland recalled. "She asked me to get involved with

the project and offered to pay for the first cottage. And she did. But she never lived to see it finished." (Wells' husband did, but both are now deceased, Clelland said.)

Clelland enlisted the support of Ron Blair, chair of the San Diego Nice Guys Victory Fund, to help with fundraising and administrative support. Clelland singled out the La Jolla Sunrise Rotary Club for its donations, as well as other Rotary Clubs, the Knights of Columbus and Telecomm Partners. (Each of the cottages features a dedication plaque to an individual or group designated by the primary donor.)

"We intended to do 24 but we got 13 done and 13 is all that will ever be built," Clelland said. "Because of the infrastructure, no more water and sewage was available, so we were done. And thank goodness. I'm 73 years old and another 10 years of doing this wouldn't have been terrific for my health."

On completion, the cottages became the property of Camp Pendleton. They are managed and maintained by Marine Corp Community Services personnel. The one- and two-bedroom cottages are available as recreational rentals to current and retired members of all military branches for \$85 to \$135 per night. pendletoncottages.org.

Levitan writes for the U-T Community Press.

FOR THEIR BENEFIT

FRIDAY
Stellar Sounds Outdoor Concert Series Presents: Gino Vannelli: Benefiting Convivio arts, culture, and education programs and the Washington Elementary School Foundation. 6:30 to 10 p.m. Amici Park, 1660 Union St., San Diego. \$70. universe.com/events/gino-vannelli-tickets-san-diego-72YW5C

Looking ahead
OCT. 13
Annual Party Arty: Benefiting ArtReach. 3 to 6 p.m. Private residence in Rancho Santa Fe. \$120 in advance or \$150 at the door. artreach-sandiego.org/events

Women Empowered: Local Action for Global Impact: Benefiting Women's Empowerment International. 6 p.m. Museum of Photographic Arts,

1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. \$50. womenempowerment.org

OCT. 14
Diversity & Inclusion Awards Luncheon: Benefiting RISE San Diego's leadership development and civic engagement programs. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Joe & Vi Jacobs Center's Celebration Hall, 404 Euclid Ave., San Diego. \$75. ris-esandiego.org

OCT. 16
Backroom Beer Pairing: Benefiting Michelle's Place and Susan G. Komen San Diego for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. 6 to 8 p.m. All Baron Market locations. \$15. baronsmarket.com/baronsdoes-beer/
The Side Deal featuring members of Train, Sugary Ray and PawnShop Kings: Benefiting Cancer for College. 7:30 p.m.

Belly Up, 143 S. Cedros Ave., Solana Beach. Must be 21 and older. \$30 and \$125. bellyup-solanabeach.frontgatetickets.com

OCT. 17
Rockin' Encinitas benefit concert: Benefiting Scripps Memorial Hospital Encinitas. 6 to 9 p.m. Belly Up. Johnny Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls will perform. \$300 per person, \$450 VIP. scripps.org/rockinencinitas

OCT. 19
Fashion show: Benefiting Many Shades of Pink and honoring breast cancer survivors. 5 to 9:30 p.m. Sheraton Hotel & Marina, 1380 Harbor Island Drive. \$40 to \$75. (619) 937-3041. manyshadesofpinkbh@gmail.com

Email items at least two weeks in advance of the event to fortheirbenefit@suniontribune.com.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

GROSSMONT CENTER'S 1961 OPENING DAY WAS A HIT

In October 1961 50,000 people attended the grand opening of Grossmont Center, with Montgomery Ward and 17 other stores anchoring the 110-acre regional East County retail center in La Mesa.

From The San Diego Union Friday, October 6, 1961:

GROSSMONT CENTER OPENING THROGGED

50,000 Attend First-Day festivities At New \$20 Million Shopping Area

The \$20 million Grossmont Center opened yesterday with an estimated throng of almost 50,000 visitors on hand for the festivities.

"Up until now Grossmont Center has been a construction project," Roy Drachman, co-developer of the regional shopping center with the Del E. Webb Corp., told one of the crowds assembled for the opening of the center, a flag-raising ceremony near the Marston Co. store and a separate opening for the Montgomery Ward store.

"Now it is no longer a construction project. We hope it will become a living part of your community."

NEAR FREEWAYS

The 110-acre Grossmont Center is situated between the U.S. 80 Freeway, Fletcher Parkway, Jackson Drive and Grossmont Hospital. U.S. 80 connects with San Diego and El Cajon, and State 67, a freeway serving Santee, Lakeside, Lemon Grove and Spring Valley, connects with U.S. 80 near the center.

The center lies in the middle of the East County's 145,000 population.

"If I didn't have to be here," Drachman joked to the crowd, "I would be watching the World Series." The parking lots began filling up

long before the game was over for the 10 a.m. ceremonies.

DIGNITARIES ATTEND

Among those at the ceremony were Mrs. Clark Moore, widow of Edgar Levi, who operated a ranch for many years on what is now the center site; her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Cushman, and their sons, Larry and Steve, in whose names the property is held in trust; La Mesa Mayor Earl Logan and Acting City Mgr. John Simmons; Hamilton Marston, president of The Marston Co.; and



Ray Sherer, manager of the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

Boy Scout Troop 311 of La Mesa played the call to the colors, and the troop color guard raised the flag in the plaza.

OTHERS OPEN NOV. 6

The Marston Co. store and a number of others will open Nov. 6.

Immediately after the four-minute center opening ceremony, Ward's, Harris & Frank and Leed's Shoes held their store openings.

Ward's western regional manager, Elden Peterson of Oakland, broke its ribbon with an eight-yard place kick of a football, autographed by the San Diego Chargers, into the crowd. Mrs. Myrtle Cooper of 12010 Lem-oncrest Drive, Lakeside, who was standing in the front row, caught the ball and was presented with two season tickets to the Chargers' remaining home games.

ACTRESS CUTS RIBBON

Actress June Wilkinson cut the ribbon at Harris & Frank, which is celebrating its 105th

anniversary, and Mrs. Janet Piger, wife of manager P.R. Piger of Leed's cut the blue ribbon there.

Through tomorrow, Geraldine Miller, La Mesa's Miss Teen-o-Rama, and her court — Jan Atkin, Jacqueline Nolte and Ginger Crocker — will be official hostesses for the center and the city in the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce exhibit headquarters on the mall. The Globe Guilders of the Old Globe Theater will sell pastries and soft drinks from Shakespearean kiosks on the mall, with proceeds going to the theater.

OFFICIALS PRESENT

At the Ward's ceremony were William M. Rose, district general manager for Southern California and Arizona, and regional officers Ralph Peterson, manager; R.M. Elliott, merchandise manager; M.J. McCullough, personnel manager; and F.C. Schmidt, operating manager.

At Harris & Frank, Michael Daroff of New York City, president of Botany Industries, and Lester Greenberg of Los Angeles, president of Harris & Frank, were present. Others present were Lee Beerman, women's merchandise manager; Joseph Weill, clothing buyer; Eugene Tritel, credit manager; and Robert Svensson, advertising director, all of Los Angeles.

Other shops opening yesterday were Anitas Frocks, Buddy's Barber Shop, Dryer's Furniture, Flagg Bros. Shoes, Gallen Kamp Shoes, Grossmont Center Florists, Holiday Shoes, House of Fabrics, S.H. Kress & Co., Koven's Jewelers, Long Drugs, National Shirt Shops, Security First National Bank, Wetherby-Kayser Shoes and S.W. Woolworth Co.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS AND ARTICLES FROM THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE ARCHIVES ARE COMPILED BY MERRIE MONTEAGUDO. SEARCH THE U-T HISTORIC ARCHIVES AT NEWSLIBRARY.COM/SITES/SDUB