

STEVEN P. DINKIN A Path Forward

## TORTILLA INCIDENT SHOWS THAT INTENT DOESN'T MATTER

The recent decision by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) to revoke the division regional basketball championships from Coronado High School in the wake of a tortilla throwing incident was totally unfair.

In fact, you could say, it is yet another example of the overreaction and overcorrection that are common today.

Unless, of course, sports are less important to you than the way our kids will turn out and what type of adults they'll become.

At the conclusion of a hard-fought game against Orange Glen High School, adults from both teams exchanged profanities and insults. Then, tortillas — supplied by a Coronado alumnus — were flung at Orange Glen team members by two Coronado players.

Here's the punchline: Orange Glen High School is located in Escondido.

The student body is more than 80 percent Latino. Coronado High is a wealthy, predominantly White school.

A post on Instagram described the tortilla toss as “similar to throwing confetti at parties or a cap at the end of a graduation.” The tortilla purveyor, Luke Serna, claimed that his intent was pure: He brought tortillas to celebrate a victory, not as a racist put-down.

Even if you believe Serna, his likability quotient took a dive as he went on to say (about the CIF

decision), “This is collusion that goes straight to the top of the State of California and will put a permanent stain on this nation, perhaps the world.”

The tortilla incident sparked some spirited and surprising discussion in the Dinkin household. My 20-something son, an athlete, was on the fence about the actions of the Coronado team. Absent ill-intent, he questions the CIF decision.

There's that word again: intent.

Perhaps Serna's biggest mistake — beyond his decision to bring tortillas to the game in the first place — was distributing them to team members and others. That's when he lost control of their intended use. The matter was out of his hands, literally.

Los Angeles Times columnist Gustavo Arellano writes that tortilla tossing has a long history in California. Contests have happened for decades at Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day festivities, and at county fairs, too. Tortillas are even hurled at floats in Pasadena's Doo Dah Parade.

The phenomenon found its way to sporting events, especially on college campuses. At UC Santa Barbara, the men's basketball games became famous in the 1990s for their tortilla showers. (Fans previously threw toilet paper, but then tortillas became easier to sneak past security.)

While the practice has since been banned from the school's Thunderdome Stadium, tortillas are regularly thrown at soccer matches when a goal is scored.

History aside, it's hard to believe any claims of ignorance by Coronado's tortilla tossers. I felt the same way about the student athletes at Cathedral Catholic, who wore “Catholics vs. Convicts III” T-shirts to school and on social media just before a football game against Lincoln High School. Lincoln students are predominantly Latino and Black, and most come from low-income families.

The CIF has encouraged Coronado and Orange Glen to create a more positive relationship by participating in a restorative justice exercise and performing community service projects together.

In addition, the federation is requiring Coronado's administrators, athletic directors, coaches and student athletes to take a workshop on sportsmanship, which would include racial and cultural sensitivity training.

No Coronado High School teams can host a postseason contest until the training has been completed.

Sanctions tend to encourage compliance. Last year, Coronado Unified School District faced opposition to the introduction of anti-racist policies or curriculum, following the police killing of George Floyd and the resurgence

of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Some 4,500 people signed a petition asking the district to do things like teach the history of minority groups from their perspectives, requiring English classes to read books by authors of color and encouraging students to learn about and acknowledge their own ignorance and biases. But then hundreds of students, parents and community members rejected any changes that would “reeducate students through a racial justice lens.”

The truth isn't always appetizing. In this case, throwing tortillas at a predominantly Latino team perpetuates racism. It's hurtful to the athletes themselves and to their coaches, their families and the school community.

Even so, the Coronado school board voted on Tuesday to appeal the CIF sanctions, saying that they unfairly punish students when adults are to blame.

Intent doesn't matter. Not even a little. What matters is how a gesture is received. It's the person on the receiving end who makes the call — what's racist, and what isn't.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based group working to create solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit [ncrconline.com](http://ncrconline.com)

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2021. There are 173 days left in the year.

## Today's highlight

On July 11, 1995, the U.N.-designated “safe haven” of Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina fell to Bosnian Serb forces, who then carried out the killings of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys.

## On this date

**In 1798**, the Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

**In 1804**, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, N.J. (Hamilton died the next day.)

**In 1859**, Big Ben chimed for the first time.

**In 1960**, the novel “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee was first published by J.B. Lippincott and Co.

**In 1972**, the World Chess Championship opened as grandmasters Bobby Fischer of the U.S. and defending champion Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union began play in Reykjavik, Iceland. (Fischer won after 21 games.)

## Today's birthdays

Actor Susan Seaforth Hayes is 78. Actor Stephen Lang is 69. Actor Sela Ward is 65. Singer Suzanne Vega is 62. Richie Sambora (Bon Jovi) is 62. Actor Lisa Rinna is 58. Wildlife expert Jeff Corwin is 54.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EXHIBIT  
Creator  
retired from  
the Marines  
in 2004

FROM **B1**  
sea along the walls intended to give the feeling of windows.

“It's kind of like you are on it and sailing by,” Frangiosa said. “You are on the ship and on the water and ‘look out’ at the painting and see ships sailing by or men loading guns on the deck.”

Period-accurate artifacts are arranged as they might have been on the ship.

Booths include a wooden hull from a 1775 ship, in the Navy's infancy, with British influences in design and tools; an iron-hulled Civil War ship, a “big transition” from its wooden predecessor; a “more efficient” sail-less Spanish-American War ship that used bronze and oak; and a World War I dreadnought battleship, a “monster of the sea” at 600 feet long. There also is a booth focusing on naval aviation and a World War II booth with a real wheel and an image of the bow.

“It's not about specific battles, it's about how Navy engineering changed, from the coffeepots, uniforms, clocks, ships, etc., accented with models. It's not about

famous admirals, it's about the crews onboard, how they lived and what they used,” Frangiosa said.

In the middle of each booth is a model ship Frangiosa created, accurate to that particular war.

During his downtime between Navy and Marine deployments over a 20-year military career, he would make models as a hobby, he said.

“I could lose myself for hours,” he said. “It would be five minutes here, a few hours there, nothing for a while. People ask me how much time I spent on it, but I don't keep track. When I would ship out, it would all go in storage and I wouldn't see it for years.”

Frangiosa also would seek out antiques and specialty parts to complete the model or its setting.

“A little bit at a time, over a long period of time, turned into this,” he said.

After he retired from the Marines in 2014, he expanded his model-making hobby to repairing models or custom-creating ones from a photograph or drawing. He started going to the Del Mar Antique Show to collect pieces and make contacts. He was given a booth to showcase his models and recreations, and people often asked if he fixed models.

One of them was Mark Quint, who at the time owned a gallery on Girard Avenue.

“I lived in a studio in La Jolla at the time, so we met behind Harry's Coffee Shop, where he had a 20-by-18 over-

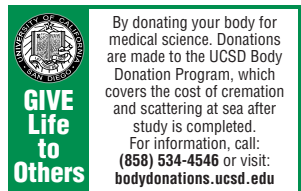
flow storage room with a window,” Frangiosa said. “Mark left the model in the storage room and gave me a key so I could work on it when I had time. I saw that window and asked if I could put some of my models in the window. He did one better and cleared the room and subleased the space to me.”

Frangiosa opened the Nautical History Gallery & Museum in 2015 in that one-window room at its current location at 1012 Pearl St. Passersby would poke their heads in and see what he was working on.

One of them was Bonita Museum Executive Director Wendy Wilson-Gibson, director of the Bonita Historical Society, who was walking in La Jolla and came upon his work.

“I saw this huge (model) ship of the USS Indiana, and my great-grandfather had been on that ship in the early 1900s,” she said. “I know he used to sew uniforms for the sailors, so I got to look inside the model for the room where he would have been sewing. I had never seen anything that detailed locally, so I was enthralled. At that point, I questioned what Joe could do if he had more space.”

Since he had the same thought, the two collaborated on an exhibition.



“The museum showcases art, history and culture, so exhibitions have to hit all those points,” she said. “I love the idea of walking through history ... and I really like that you can feel you are in the 1740s or the Civil War environment. I love that you are surrounded by the objects.”

“Joe is an artist. I've never seen anything like what he

does. Normally at a museum, you have a whole crew building sets and environments, and he does it all himself. It's like living sculpture, and to me, it's the ideal way to learn about history.”

Learn more at [bonitahistoricalicalsociety.org](http://bonitahistoricalicalsociety.org).

Mackin-Solomon writes for the U-T Community Press.

## No-cost obituary program

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We know that publishing an obituary in the San Diego Union-Tribune carries a cost. But we also believe that this cost should not stand in the way of paying tribute to a loved one. The San Diego Union-Tribune has a no-cost program available for qualifying families in need who wish to memorialize their loved ones with an obituary or life tribute.

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## Life Tributes

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memories  
of loved ones

## Marjorie Winner-Jones

August 20, 1930 - June 10, 2021

EL CAJON, CA — Marjorie was born August 20, 1930 in Brownsville, Texas, and grew up in New Mexico with eight brothers and sisters in a happy Christian family. She moved to San Diego, California, during her high school years and graduated from Chula Vista High. She married AJ Winner and had three children (Aaron, Vicky, and Bryon).

Marjorie worked as a secretary at South Bay Board of Realtors, secretary at Chula Vista and Sweetwater High Schools, and as a Real Estate Agent.

She lived mostly in the South Bay area, and retired first in Cottonwood Arizona with second husband Tom Jones, and later moved to El Cajon, California.

She enjoyed painting, attending adult classes in art and keyboard, and listening to Christian music. She was active in the churches she attended and liked collecting angels.



Marjorie passed away June 10, 2021. She is survived by her brother Stanley, her children Aaron (Toni), Vicky (Lin), Bryon (Kathy), grandchildren Amber, Linden (Laura), Aaron (Aly), Kristen (Matt), Lance (Jennifer), Ian (Yvonne), Samantha (Justin), and great-grandchildren: Madison, Charley, Bear, Rosie, Otto, Linley, Cambria, and Ivy.

A service will be held Sunday, July 11, 2021, at 10am, Glen Abbey The Little Chapel of the Roses in Bonita, California.

Please sign the Guest Book online [obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com](http://obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com)

## Barbara Ostgren Orth

1930 - 2021

SAN DIEGO — Barbara left this life on June 20, 2021, from complications following a stroke.

The only child of Swedish immigrants, she spent her early years in Spokane, Washington. She attended Whitman College, where she met her future husband, Rod. She was an excellent student, graduating magna cum laude, and being elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Barbara and Rod were married in 1952, following her graduation. She then became a social worker in Seattle and Nashville, where her husband finished his medical training. Her two children, Catherine and Craig, were born during those years.

In 1960, the family moved to San Diego where Barbara became very involved in their Del Cerro neighborhood, teaching backyard swimming lessons, organizing the local grade school carnivals, and helping Bluebirds. She was PTA President at Patrick Henry High, and received their Honorary



Service Award.

Barbara especially loved gardening, reading, playing bridge, and walking her Dalmatians. She and Rod traveled extensively after his retirement.

Barbara will be greatly missed by her many friends and family.

She is survived by her husband, daughter Catherine, and granddaughter Carleigh. Her son Craig died in 2010.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, when full gathering is safe, at Summit Unitarian/Universalist fellowship in Santee.

Please sign the Guest Book online [obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com](http://obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com)

## Bette Rielly

August 24, 1928 - June 27, 2021

OCEANSIDE, CA — In loving memory of Bette Rielly, Bette left this life on June 27 in Oceanside, CA at 92 years-young, surrounded by family and her support cat, Jack. Elizabeth June McKay was born August 24, 1928, in Bremerton, Washington, and was fondly known as Grambe to her grandchildren. Bette attended the University of Washington, achieving a degree in Social Work. She was passionate about helping children, spending 28 years in a career serving youths in foster care in San Diego. Bette took a leave of absence in her 60s to serve in the Peace Corps in Thailand, continuing her work with children abroad.

After her retirement from San Diego County, Bette moved back to her beloved WA, spending many wonderful years on Bainbridge Island and in Poulsbo, searching for driftwood and beach glass. She lived out her golden years with family



in Oceanside, California, spending much of her time reading, birding, and beating her family at Scrabble.

Bette is survived by her children Benjamin, Daniel, and Cara, children in-law Yuri and Robin, grandchildren Katie, Megan, Molly, and Tyler, her brother Robert (Bob) McKay. If you would like to make a contribution to a cause in her memory, she supported Doctors Without Borders, the Humane Society, and Arbor Days.

Please sign the Guest Book online [obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com](http://obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com)