

MEDIATE THIS !

AFTER ALL THE VOTES ARE COUNTED, HOW DO WE HEAL?

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

People typically come to the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC) for help in resolving person-to-person conflicts, from workplace disputes to neighborhood feuds. Recently, we've seen the macro-issue of partisan rancor having a visceral effect on just about everyone. Is there any way to heal this rift? That's a question mediators hear all the time. Here are some thoughts about how conflict resolution strategies could mend our society.

The run-up to the Nov. 6 midterm elections has been consumed by speculation about how the victors will be emboldened. Will Democrats sprint toward impeachment? Or will Republicans quash the special counsel's probe?

This is the wrong conversation. Americans should take this moment to ponder two more urgent questions: Are we stuck in a quagmire of bitter partisanship? Or can we hit the reset button on how we communicate when our views don't coincide?

Since the 2016 election cycle, professional mediators have watched the red-blue slugfest with a trained eye. Such scorched-earth battles keep us employed. Whether the adversaries are

spouses, neighbors or co-workers, we broker peace when wars of attrition are exhausting all combatants.

Based on our experience, the midterm results will not deliver anything that resembles conflict resolution. The "winners" will crow about their supposed mandate. The "losers" will hatch retributive plots. The partisan chasm will widen. And democracy will continue to suffer.

Let's pretend for a moment that our Red and Blue Americas can set hostility aside and come to the mediation table. How would we proceed?

There are two ways to reach a settlement in a standoff. When the adversaries have no real connection — say, two motorists who collide in traffic — we hammer out a formal agreement so the parties can go their separate ways.

This is called a "distributive" strategy. Opponents barter over who gets what. Eventually, the finite pie is divided up, but no one is entirely satisfied with the outcome.

Such lingering resentment is a problem when adversaries must co-exist — like divorced couples with children, condo owners with shared walls, or citizens living together in a free society.

In those cases, mediators use



GETTY IMAGES

This week, the author discusses strategies for achieving cooperation between people with differing viewpoints.

"integrative" strategies to expand the asset pie so everyone feels accommodated.

First, we ask both sides to identify their underlying interests. Then we look at where those interests might intersect. When we find places where the opponents are much closer than they realize, we guide them in crafting a mutually beneficial outcome.

Here's where the magic happens: When adversaries work together for the first time on a joint venture that serves both their needs, they discover new

pathways for collaboration. Like neuroplasticity in the brain, when we learn to do something that yields satisfaction, we rewire how we think and behave.

This is already taking place in the area of criminal justice reform, especially with juvenile offenders.

After decades in which the "war on crime" was a wedge issue that roiled tensions about racial injustice and public safety, Republicans and Democrats have been cooperating on an integrative model of restorative justice that serves interests on both sides.

No one wants to see at-risk youth jailed for rash mistakes that crossed the line into criminal conduct. We may not agree on much, but few Americans want to watch children enter the notorious "pipeline to prison."

And no one likes to spend tax dollars needlessly. Keeping a teenager out of incarceration is far cheaper than surrendering him to it. Prevention programs that connect teens with adult community mentors cost far less than prosecution and imprisonment. Because those youth make amends to their victims, personal responsibility is codified and enforced.

People on the left are pleased by the social progressivism; people on the right are happy about cutting government spending. Everyone gets something when we exercise our capacity for ingenuity and enterprise, which are, in the end, signature American traits.

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@ncrcnline.com or as an online submission by visiting www.ncrcnline.com/MediateThis. All submissions will be kept anonymous.

NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

PHILANTHROPY: GARY WARTH

Fundraiser for boat victims' families

Crew members of the charter-fishing boat that helped rescue 15 people from a burning vessel off the Mexican coast last month have started an online fundraiser to help family members of three people who were killed in the incident.

At about 9:35 p.m. Oct. 20, a Mexican fishing boat exploded and caught fire off the coast of La Salina, about 28 miles south of Point Loma. The Time Machine, a 42-foot fishing boat out of San Diego, was nearby and came to the rescue.

The crew pulled 13 men and two women from the water. A Coast Guard crew that arrived after the Time Machine transported two other people who were seriously injured.

Three people from the boat were never found. A Mexican Navy ship took the 13 people rescued by the Time Machine back to Mexico, and the Coast Guard brought the two injured people to San Diego for treatment at the burn unit at UC San Diego Medical Center in Hillcrest.

Time Machine crew members Michael Koesterer, his son, Reeve Koesterer, and

Andy Vo have launched a fundraiser to help family members of the people lost at sea that night.

"Unfortunately, three of the 18 victims that were on the burning boat were never found, which is why we, the crew and company (SoCal Sport Fishing) have created this Go Fund Me page hoping to get the children and immediate families of the deceased and seriously injured some help during these hard times," the post on the page reads.

The crew have set a goal of raising \$500,000, and as of Friday morning there had been no donations.

The page can be found at go-fundme.com/time-machine-rescue.

Michael Koesterer recalled the harrowing rescue in an interview with The San Diego Union-Tribune last month.

"When we got there it looked like a plane had crashed — all the people were spread out like (across) a football field or two football fields," he said.

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San Diego Datebook

Fall Back Festival: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at the William Heath Davis House, at Island and Fourth avenues in downtown. Learn about San Diego's history and diverse roots with historical exhibits, demonstrations and activities like panning for gold. Plus, there are pony rides, carnival games, and food-eating contests (including spaghetti, ice cream, or pie), and live entertainment. Admission is free. Information: (619) 233-5008 or gslampfoundation.org.

Ballet performance: 2 p.m. today at Spreckels Theatre, 121 Broadway, downtown. City Ballet of San Diego presents "Tchaikovsky Spectacular," a three-part concert that pays tribute to the Russian composer. The Sunday performance is a one-hour family show with excerpts of the full production, and a free lecture begins 30 minutes before each performance. Tickets are \$25. Information: (858) 272-8663 or cityballet.org.

Ballet performance: 6 p.m. today at White Box Live Arts, 2590 Truxtun Road (upstairs), building 176, Liberty Station in Point Loma. San Diego Ballet presents "Homegrown II" with new works by Matt Carney and Zoe Marinello-Kohn, after last year's performance, in which San Diego Ballet artistic di-

rector Javier Velasco brought radio station 101 KGB's classic album to life with a new dance. Tickets are \$25. Information: (619) 294-7378 or sandiegoballet.org.

Concert: 2 p.m. today at the Mandeville Auditorium, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla. La Jolla Symphony & Chorus presents "Lineage" featuring Stravinsky's "Petrushka," Tan Dun's "Water Concerto" with Steven Schick solo, Zosha di Castri's "Lineage." Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$32 for seniors 65 and older, \$15 for students with ID. Information: (858) 534-4637 or lajollasympphony.com.

Stage play: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, through Nov. 11 at Moxie Theatre, 6663 El Cajon Blvd., Rolando District. "Fade," by Tanya Saracho, gets its San Diego premiere. Tickets are \$18-\$43. Information: (858) 598-7620 or moxietheatre.com.

Lane Field Park Markets: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays at Lane Field Park, 1009 N. Harbor Drive. This new open-air market features food, drinks, arts and crafts from more than two dozen local vendors. Free. Information: lanefieldparkmarkets.com.

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OUTDOORS: ERNIE COWAN

Illuminating desert's night creatures

The heat of the late summer evening was still simmering as I gazed into the sky to find Antares, the bright red heart of the constellation Scorpio.

Hanging above me at the western edge of the Milky Way, this mythical figure stood out brightly in the inky desert darkness.

While I had found the scorpion constellation, I was actually here to find the earthly version as they emerge at night to wander the desert sands in search of food.

To help me with my search, I was equipped with an ultraviolet, or blacklight, flashlight that makes these nocturnal creatures stand out distinctly.

Did you know that scorpions glow a bright, fluorescent blue-green when illuminated by ultraviolet light?

That was something I discovered decades ago when I borrowed a heavy, cumbersome blacklight from my science teacher and took it with me on a camping trip. My goal was to search for gems like calcite, fluorite, agate or any of the many "ites" that glow under ultraviolet light.

Like most kids, I was energetic and spent an evening wandering about the desert, nose to the ground, looking for the magic rock glowing in the dark.

I got more than I bargained for. The first thing to glow in the dark was not a rock at all. I was somewhat startled when I came face to face with a brightly glowing scorpion.

I began to research these reclusive creatures and discovered they are night feeders, especially on warmer summer nights.

So now, a bit older, but just as curious as decades before, I picked a dark summer night to begin my renewed exploration. This time I was equipped with an inexpensive, lightweight blacklight ordered from an online retailer.

It didn't take long to find my prize. In fact, I found several large scorpions during my wandering. Enough, in fact to remind me never to be out and about at night in bare feet.

The three most common scorpion species found in San Diego County include the giant hairy scorpion, the Arizona bark scorpion and the stripe-tailed scorpion. The scorpions I found on my evening walk were large enough that I suspect they were the giant hairy scorpion species.

The fluorescent glow of these spider-related creatures is startling. The blacklight



ERNIE COWAN

A scorpion glowing under the ultraviolet light of a specialized flashlight.

is not bright, in fact, casting a soft, violet-blue glow on the ground. When a scorpion falls into the beam, however, it glows intensely.

Why, exactly, do scorpions glow in ultraviolet light?

The exoskeleton, or outer covering of this creature contains a substance that fluoresces under ultraviolet and moonlight. The unknown substance is contained in a very thin but tough coating called the cuticle.

What isn't known is why this happens. Some of the theories include that it helps them find each other, confuse prey, or protect them from sunlight.

Another theory suggests they may use this characteristic to determine when it is safe to come out of their underground lairs. Their decision to emerge could be based on how much ultraviolet shines upon them.

This concept comes from the fact that scorpions are less active on moonlit nights, and generally avoid harsh ultraviolet daylight.

My desert exploration proved to be fascinating. Scorpions seemed unaffected by my blacklight, but the illumination attracted small moths. The scorpions would use their lobster-like pincers to reach out and capture a moth and quickly eat it.

A very obvious feature of my nighttime companions was a formidable stinger at the end of their tails.

Fortunately, none of the scorpions found in San Diego County are deadly or even require medical treatment.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES | LOOKING BACK OVER 150 YEARS

JEANETTE DALEY ELECTED; ROOSEVELT SWEEPS U.S.

The San Diego Union-Tribune will mark its 150th anniversary in 2018 by presenting a significant front page from the archives each day throughout the year.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 1936

In 1936, Jeanette E. Daley was elected to represent the 78th Assembly District, becoming the first woman elected to the Legislature from San Diego.

Daley, a Democrat, benefited from a Democratic wave that carried President Franklin D. Roosevelt to a landslide re-election victory over Republican challenger Alfred "Al" Landon of Kansas.

Daley was re-elected to the Assembly in 1938 and 1940. She ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 1944.

Here are the first few paragraphs of the story:

IZAC, MRS. DALEY, RITCHIE ELECTED; ROOSEVELT SWEEPS CALIFORNIA, U.S.

HASTINGS IS BEATEN BY BELLON

Carrying through the nationwide Democratic sweep, San Diego County voted nearly 2 to 1 for President Roosevelt, and with him swept in Ed V. Izac as Democratic congressman, and two Democrats, Jeanette E. Daley and Paul Ritchie, for California Assembly. Izac got 35,188 to 25,047 for Ed Sample, Republican, and 506

for Esco L. Richardson, Communist.

STREAM "ABOVE FLOOD"

The count, from 317 of the total of 479 precincts, gave the county new political complexion decisively.

One lone Republican, Assemblyman Charles W. Stream, appeared to be swim-



ming above the flood, as outside returns from 34 of mainly rural 80th Assembly district's 149 trickled in.

Chairman Ed F. Hastings of the board of supervisors, veteran county representative at the courthouse from the first supervisors district, was swamped in 80 precincts by his opponent Walter Bellon's tide of 8,833 to 6,674 votes.

In the 78th Assembly district, Mrs.

Daley's vote was 14,095 to Republican Ralph W. Wallace's 12,978.

In the 79th, Paul Ritchie, incumbent Democrat, was borne along with a high wave of 14,079 ballots compared to 9,539 for Charles C. Niehouse, Republican.

Returning to the supervisors, it appeared that in addition to Bellon, at least one other new face would show around the supervisors' table when the board is reformed Jan. 4. This would be Supervisor John Faddis, representing the new city third district, on this morning's showing of 7,545 votes from 73 precincts out of 93.

In the county's second supervisor district, T. LeRoy Richards, incumbent who some months ago successfully braved a recall election, was reported to have 4,632 votes against 4,947 for C.D. Springer, in 52 precincts out of 94.

The third district, as newly formed in the countywide redistricting, will be represented on the board for the first time. Supervisor Ray Trussell, a resident of Escondido, lived in the old third district, and was barred from entering the race in the new third district, far removed from Escondido and now centered in the city of San Diego. The vote, in precincts, was 7,545 for John Faddis; 4,668 for S.P. McMullen, and 2,288 for write-in candidate, James Hervey Johnson.

A total of 317 precincts gave President Roosevelt 42,774; Landon, 21,963; Socialists, 303; Prohibitionists, 314; Communists, 273.