

## MEDIATE THIS !

## A TEXTING DRIVER, A COLLISION AND A BAD LOAN

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

## Dear Mediator:

My roommate and I have been best friends since middle school. She texts while driving, which is a problem. She clipped a light pole in April and was afraid to tell her parents. So I loaned her \$1,000 for the car repair out of savings my parents set up for me. She hasn't paid back any of it. Now I'm afraid my parents will notice the withdrawal and ask about it. My roommate and I are barely speaking. And I think she's still texting and driving.

*Messed Up  
in Linda Vista*

## Dear Messed Up:

On the bumpy road from adolescence to full maturity, young adults have a knack for turning one calamity into three or four. A mediator would start by unpacking your shared bundle of challenges and working through each one (including the "red alert" item in the pile).

Your first priority is to repair your friendship. You two have a longstanding bond worth sustaining. And

you will need each other's support to fix the rest of this mess.

Approach your roommate with a peace offering of her favorite snack. Tell her you care about her, then start reconnecting with a go-to conflict resolution tool, the open-ended question: "How's everything going?"

Mediation strategies often seem counterintuitive. Since she's the one who owes you money, shouldn't she make the first move? And shouldn't you immediately press for payment?

The answers are "no" and "no." When a dispute involves a person who needs help, addressing that need is a first step toward resolving the standoff.

Your roommate's poor judgment and irresponsible behavior may signal she's struggling with an underlying issue. Sometimes the greatest act of friendship is to listen closely while someone pours out what's on her mind.

You want to empathize with her. You also want her to empathize with you. You are in a real predicament. The actions you take will be



GETTY IMAGES

This week's question is posed by a reader who helped a friend when she had an accident while driving and texting.

determined by the decisions she makes.

Texting while driving is A Very Big Problem, the kind that gets people killed and lands drivers in jail. You cannot directly stop her from this illegal conduct. But you can lay down a marker to curtail it.

Given that she's already had one texting accident, she must make a personal pledge to you to stash her

cellphone in the back seat while driving.

This is non-negotiable. If she vacillates or starts arguing, you will have to tell your parents all about the accident, and they are certain to tell her parents.

When you deliver this news, emphasize that, given what you know about her collision, you now feel responsible for her safety. That's why you're taking a

firm stand and risking her alienation.

As for the debt, this has taught you that loan repayment terms must be stipulated *before* money is handed over.

If your roommate can't pay back the \$1,000 at once, she should start paying installments that she can afford.

Now for the problem that is strictly yours. Keeping

this secret from your parents is burdening you with stress that will accrue over time. What's the best way to come clean?

If your roommate continues to behave irresponsibly, tell your parents the whole truth.

If she straightens out and makes amends, tell most of the truth. You hastily lent money to a friend for a car repair, and you're trying to get repaid.

Assure them you know this was an "immature" decision, and you have learned a lesson. For parents, "immature" acts as a code word. It is a subtle reminder that, eons ago, they too were young and acted imprudently (see opening sentence).

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?** Please share your story with The Mediator via email at [mediatethis@ncrconline.com](mailto:mediatethis@ncrconline.com) or as an online submission by visiting [www.ncrconline.com/MediateThis](http://www.ncrconline.com/MediateThis). All submissions will be kept anonymous.

## NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

## EDUCATION: LAURA GROCH

## Teens earn 2018 FFA Degree awards

San Diego County students are among recipients of the 2018 California State FFA Degree, given in recognition of years of academic and professional excellence by the California FFA Organization.

Besides having held a Chapter Degree for at least a year, State FFA honorees must put in at least 500 hours on their Supervised Agricultural Experience program. They must earn at least \$1,000 from an agricultural enterprise or other agriculture-related work, which they have deposited in a bank or otherwise invested. They also must demonstrate leadership in various ways.

Earning degrees from local chapters were: **Escondido:** Brianna Davis, Jasmine Hoofard, Kassidy Martin, Kasin Martin, Breyden Scates, Sierra Takacs.

**Fallbrook:** Liliana Arteaga Wigle, Brandy Bowlin, Naomi Cavanaugh, Madison Evans, Raelynn Holmes, Katherine Kehl, Alexander Maier, Marison Salas, Isai Soto.

**Lakeside-El Capitan:** Hector Altamirano, Troy Attig, Kyle Bachar, Cody Brown, Cayla Burgio, Cole Dexheimer, Elizabeth Giddings, Chloe Harris, Patricia Herrera,

Brad Hines, Cameron Horton, Steven Hull, Kyra Keppeler, Alfonso Lizarraga, Miranda Medford, Tanner Paquette, Lenny Ray, Madi Reaves, Ariana Reyes, Serena Snyder, Alondra Villa, Shane Wickerd.

**Pine Valley-Mountain Empire:** Osvaldo Cruz, Alyssa Hobbs, Ashley Platel, Hector Rodarte, Sujhey Rosas, Dylan Shea.

**Poway:** Keely Blucher, Catalina Gonzalez, Joshua Goodman, Taylor Nasland, Cody Nelson, Kelsey Oliveri, Austin Patterson, Heather Pearson, Ryan Steed.

**Ramona:** Jonah Beene, Loreena Dunaway, Trevor Herman, Megan Kelly, Della Linnell, Russell Sorbo, Trevor Stemper, Jacob Youngblood.

**San Marcos:** Evelyn Castillo, Patricia Garcia.

**Valley Center:** Hailey Bjerknes, Catherine Leishman, Elijah Martineau, Elise McKinsey, Gregory Nicholas, Alannah Pena, Rachel Utter.

**Vista:** Lindsey Courduff, Enrique Estrella, Kierra S. Newsom.

**Warner Springs-Warner:** Ash Laidlaw, Desert Laidlaw.

## San Diego Datebook

**Art exhibit:** opening today and on display through Jan. 20, 2020, at the San Diego History Center, 1649 El Prado, Balboa Park. "LGBTQ+ San Diego: Stories of Struggles and Triumphs" explores the history and evolution of San Diego's LGBTQ+ community. Donations of \$10 are suggested. Information: (619) 232-6203 or [sandiegohistory.org](http://sandiegohistory.org).

**Art exhibit:** through today at the New Americans Museum, 2825 Dewey Road, Liberty Station in Point Loma. "Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation" is a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution that includes work by local artist Bhavna Mehta, photographs, artifacts, and interactive learning stations. Free. Information: (619) 756-7707 or [newamericansmuseum.org](http://newamericansmuseum.org).

**Mini Exhibition at Sparks Gallery:** through Tuesday at Sparks Gallery, 530 Sixth Ave., downtown. This exhibit of 10-by-10-in or less pieces highlights the work of 28 previously featured and new artists, all of whom are from Southern California. Free. Information: [sparks-gallery.com](http://sparks-gallery.com).

**"Monty Python's Spamalot":** 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 and 7 p.m. Sundays, through Aug. 5 at the Cygnet Theatre, 4040 Twigg St., Old Town. Tickets are \$35 to \$60. Information: (619) 337-1525 or [cygnettheatre.com](http://cygnettheatre.com).

**"Once":** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 4 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; 2 p.m. Sundays, through Aug. 12 at Lamb's Players Theatre, 1142 Orange Ave., Coronado. Tickets are \$28 to \$78, with discounts available. Information: (619) 437-6000 or [lambplayers.org](http://lambplayers.org).

**"Vanishing Images" art exhibit:** Through July 20 at Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center art gallery, 1 Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego. In this new exhibit, Mary and Michael Peddecord have selected their favorite photos from their trips to Kenya, Antarctica, Yellowstone National Park, Alaska and Arctic Svalbard to demonstrate the need they see for conservation of the animals they've photographed and their natural habitats. Free. Information: (619) 668-3281 or [mtrp.org](http://mtrp.org).

Send Datebook items at least 14 days before desired publication date to: [fyl.city@sduniontribune.com](mailto:fyl.city@sduniontribune.com)

## OUTDOORS: ERNIE COWAN

## Anza-Borrego sheep count is extreme

True nature lovers can't be fair weather friends.

Sure, we all enjoy going for a refreshing summer nature hike in the mountains, maybe a spring visit to the desert for wildflowers, or a stroll along the shoreline during seal pupping season.

But the true nature lover is up for adventure and discovery anytime, 24/7, no matter the conditions. And the rewards for that can be outstanding. Just ask Ashley Kvitek, an effervescent young lady who works for the Anza-Borrego Foundation, sponsors of the 48th annual Desert Bighorn Sheep Count.

The annual sheep count is not a walk in the park. In fact, they call the event the "Extreme Sheep Count," because it happens each year at the peak of summer heat when few people venture into the zone of triple-digit temperatures.

This year's event ended successfully with more than 70 volunteers scattering to remote locations, some spending most of four days camping out and living out of backpacks.

The annual citizen-science project is an important source of information for wildlife managers who use the observations to determine population, condition, movements and potential threats to the small herd of sheep found here only in a narrow band along the western edge of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

This year's count recorded 225 animals, compared with last year's tally of 207. The highest total of 356 was recorded in 2009.

One significant observation was the return of sheep to Rattlesnake Spring, an extremely remote location in the Santa Rosa Mountains. Last year, counters saw no sheep there because the spring was dry.

This year, water has returned to the spring and there were 35 sheep counted, and that was the highest number seen at any one location, except Second Grove in Palm Canyon, which also recorded 35.

The sheep count is about numbers, for those unusual people who thrive in the desert summer heat, it's far more than that. During their adventure, the sheep counters will see wonders that only the hardcore will experience.

Some count locations are short hikes that allow volunteers to come out and at night enjoy the comfort of a local hotel.

Kvitek, however, was one of the volun-



ASHLEY KVITEK

Counters set up an outpost at the Fourth Grove in Upper Palm Canyon.

teers who hiked about 4 rugged miles in the summer heat to set up an observation post at Fourth Grove in Upper Palm Canyon. This was her fifth count.

"I took the plunge and went all-in crazy. I backpacked in and stayed from Thursday evening through Sunday," she said. There were three other veteran counters in her team.

During the day, with temperatures climbing to 102, her team sat on a ridge above the palm grove where the sheep come for water. In the evenings, counters would move down into the canyon to camp.

"On our way down to camp, I stepped right over a juvenile speckled rattlesnake. It was not happy with me and slithered over to a snake-sized cave to curl up into a defensive posture," she said.

Later in the count, she started to get up from her chair and realized she had been sharing it with a scorpion.

But there were rewards that few get to enjoy, such as a chorus of frogs at night, bats, damsel and dragon flies and tadpoles.

"While filtering water each night, we were able to observe a plethora of aquatic wildlife in the stream," she said.

You might think she would be ready to escape the shimmering summer heat of the desert, but she is now looking ahead to summer thunderstorms.

"When the rains come in summer, my favorite thing to do is look for the elusive fairy shrimp. They are absolutely magical," she said.

What would you expect from a hardcore nature lover?

Email [ernie@packtrain.com](mailto:ernie@packtrain.com)

## FROM THE ARCHIVES | LOOKING BACK OVER 150 YEARS

## SUSMAN WINS AT WIMBLEDON

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.

## Sunday, July 8, 1962

In 1962, Karen Hantze Susman, 19, became the youngest women's competitor since San Diegan Maureen Connolly to win the women's singles title at Wimbledon.

Here are the first few paragraphs of the story:

## S.D.'S KAREN WINS WIMBLEDON TITLES

Time, fate and talent caught up with Karen Hantze Susman Saturday on the famed Centre Court at Wimbledon, England — and San Diego embraced another champion.

Karen, 19, won the World Series of women's tennis with a steady, determined 6-4, 6-4 victory over Vera Sukova, 30, of Czechoslovakia.

And then she teamed with Billie Jean Moffitt of Long Beach to win a second crown — women's doubles — 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, over Sandra Reynolds Price and Rene Schuurman of South Africa.

When it was all over, 15,000 Englishmen roared their approval and tennis-loving San Diegans nodded knowingly — Karen was on top, as they knew she'd one day be.

## KNEW HER WHEN

Following Karen had been easy for San

Diegans — they first saw her as a pigtailed 9-year-old when she caught the eye of another San Diego Wimbledon champion, Maureen (Little Mo) Connolly.

In a prophetic profile in 1952, Karen and Maureen were featured in the pages of The San Diego Union's Parade magazine. At 9, Karen was being mentioned as a woman's champ "around 1962."

Every champion has a start. Karen began by winning San Diego's Ink Tournament (for junior and senior high school students) six straight times. Maureen Connolly did that, too. No other woman has.

## A REAL FIGHTER

But what San Diegans may have known first — and what the world found out Saturday — was that Karen Hantze Susman is a fighter. Tongue in her teeth, scrambling for every shot, she fought back from a 0-3 deficit



## KAREN HANTZE CAPTURES TWO WIMBLEDON CROWNS

By Dave Gallup

Karen Hantze Susman, a pretty, brown-eyed blonde with a reserved smile and a soft, shy voice, Saturday brought the All-England women's tennis championships, both singles and doubles, back to San Diego.

From La Jolla to Chula Vista and at Morley field and throughout the area, tennis buffs rejoiced at the news from Wimbledon of Karen's great triumph, the first of its kind since San Diego's Maureen Connolly Brinker won three straight in 1952, '53 and '54.

Karen whipped Vera Sukova, a 30-year-old Czechoslovakian, 6-4, 6-4, for the singles title, then she and Billie Jean Moffitt, a fellow Californian from Long Beach, defeated Sandra Reynolds Price and Rene Schuurman of South Africa, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, for the doubles title.

And husband Rodney gets a big fat assist for Karen's brilliant march.

This was the verdict of Karen, a native San Diegan now residing in San Antonio, Tex., when interviewed by telephone Saturday following her triumph.

"He's been a terrific help," said the 19-year-old bride of 10 months. "He's been my sole practice, and he knows a lot about tennis. He watches the other girls play, studies their games, then together we map out a strategy."

"You mean he scouts the other girls?" asked the interviewer.

ONLINE: View this and other anniversary front pages online at [sandiegouniontribune.com/150-years](http://sandiegouniontribune.com/150-years).