

A PATH FORWARD

AS CORONAVIRUS FEARS INCREASE, RACISM SPREADS

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

Don't judge a beer by its cover. The maker of Corona beer is hoping you will heed this advice (a version of which you've likely heard throughout your life). It seems that the brand is suffering from the name's likeness to "coronavirus." A report on Eater.com says that searches for "corona beer virus" are on the uptick. And in a recent survey of 737 Americans, 38 percent of respondents said they "would not buy Corona under any circumstances now."

It's not just the Corona brand that's taking a hit. Chinese restaurants and Asian markets around the world are reporting that business is down by as much as 70 percent. There are far fewer visitors at Chinatowns around the country — normally, bustling tourist destinations. Locally, politicians staged a media event in the Convoy District to encourage San Diegans to patronize area businesses. And while coronavirus is a serious global health issue, says writer Jane Hu on Slate.com, it seems that acts of racism against Asians are spreading faster than the virus itself.

Hu cites an incident at the

University of California Berkeley, where the student health center posted a list of "normal" reactions to coronavirus including anxiety, hypervigilance and xenophobia, which it defined as "fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia and guilt about those feelings." The university deleted the post when alumni complained that it normalized racism. Hu observes, "(the post) made explicit what has largely remained implicit: that because the Asians you encounter in your day-to-day life are somehow more likely to be carrying the disease, it's reasonable to avoid them."

Sarah Kim tells Forbes that she was taunted by a group of men as she walked to her apartment recently. They shouted, "See that Japanese chick over there? Stay away from her if you don't want to get the coronavirus!" Kim is a Korean American who hasn't traveled overseas for several months — so she was no more likely than any in the group of men to be carrying the virus. Kim calls their words "xenophobic," adding that they reaffirm Western culture's treacherous habit of grouping all people of Asian descent into the same ethnicity.



Supervisor May Su stands in the usually crowded Golden Century Seafood Restaurant in Sydney, Australia, on Thursday.

The incidents of discrimination are happening despite the small number of coronavirus cases in the U.S. and against the backdrop of a significant number of flu-related deaths this season. So, why isn't the paranoia commensurate with the risk? And why would we attribute blame for the start and spread of a virus to a single race? People of Chinese

descent live all over the world, and many have never even been to China, yet they're being shunned as potential virus carriers.

Do we only see one dimension (race) in others? Absent a vaccine — and if we agree that this isn't right — what is the antidote to the intolerance that we're seeing? I came across a speech that

former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered on the International Day of Tolerance in 2008. It provides sage guidance. "Genuine tolerance is about openness, curiosity and communication," said Ban. "It goes hand in hand with knowledge and understanding. Education is one of the best ways to prevent intolerance, by revealing similarities between people and spreading a healthy respect for differences."

We also need to recognize and respond to acts of intolerance, rather than ignoring them, which is equivalent to tacit approval. And while it's imperative that we heed the guidance of medical professionals to help stop the spread of coronavirus, our local businesses shouldn't suffer — even if that means you'll again have to wait for a table at your favorite Convoy District eatery.

Dinkin is president of the National Conflict Resolution Center, a San Diego-based organization working to create innovative solutions to challenging issues, including intolerance and incivility. NCRC is nationally recognized for its conflict management and communication strategies. To learn about NCRC's programming, visit ncrconline.com



Rajshree Mudaliar (President, House of India), Consul General of India Ambassador Sanjay Panda

SCENE

House of India

Donor Appreciation & Fundraising Banquet

BY U-T STAFF

The House of India held its Donor Appreciation & Fundraising Banquet at the Recital Hall in Balboa Park on Feb. 22.

The funds were raised for the construction and furnishings for the House of India Cottage in the park.

Board members for the house include Rajshree Mudaliar, Salim Shah, Francoise Shah, Vijay Navani, Romila Notani, Ajay Chhabra, Anu Rajasekaran, Nanda Mehta, Sneha Bansal, Pooja Thomre, Rohinee Agarwal, Rekha Chhabra, Radhika Gupta, Madhao Saste and Robinson Devadhason.



Vijay Navani, state Assemblyman and San Diego mayoral candidate Todd Gloria, Vivek Chhabra and Rekha Chhabra



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Attendees of the banquet.

RUNOFF

FROM B1

Allied Gardens, Del Cerro, Tierrasanta, San Carlos and nearby neighborhoods.

District 5, now represented by Republican-turned-independent Mark Kersey, includes Rancho Bernardo, Scripps Ranch, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Sabre Springs and the northern part of Rancho Penasquitos.

Registered Democrats outnumbered registered Republicans in District 7, 36,857 to 23,908 through March 2. The district also has 24,116 voters who declined to state a party affiliation.

The margin is much smaller in District 5, which had been a Republican stronghold for years before flipping Democratic last fall. Democrats now outnumber Republicans 33,089 to 30,542, with 28,671 decline-to-state voters.

And Tuesday's primary results — which won't be complete until another few hundred thousand late-ar-

iving votes are counted in coming days — also appear to indicate that the two Democrats may have the edge in November. In District 7, Campillo leads Zosa by more than 1,500 votes even though Zosa was the only Republican in the race, and Campillo was competing with two other Democrats — Wendy Wheatcroft and Monty McIntyre.

The percentage of District 7 voters who chose a Democrat was more than 69 percent, leaving Zosa with just under 31 percent of the vote.

In District 5, von Wilpert leads Leventhal by 583 votes, with 39.8 percent of the vote compared to 38.05 percent for Leventhal. But Democrat Issac Wang got more than 18 percent, while the fourth candidate — Republican Simon Moghadam — got only 4 percent.

Leventhal said after the primary that it would be unwise to conclude that most of Wang's supporters will choose von Wilpert in the runoff.

Wang is a military officer and a business owner, the

kind of candidate that conservative voters typically choose, Leventhal said.

"A lot of his votes are available for me to get," he said. "I'm not taking anyone's vote for granted, but I think those votes are up for grabs."

Leventhal said another factor was the hotly contested Democratic primary, which boosted turnout among Democrats. In contrast, some Republicans chose not to vote because President Trump has locked up that party's nomination.

Leventhal also noted that he has \$132,000 in campaign money left over from the primary, while von Wilpert only has \$35,000.

Von Wilpert said she believes her lead is the result of voter confidence in her and an aggressive effort to visit residents door-to-door.

"I think it's because we have done the work," she said. "I've knocked on over 12,000 doors." She also rejected characterization of the race as an old-school battle between a Democrat and a Republican.

"The whole theme of my

campaign is putting people over politics," she said. "For me it's not about politics; it's about engaging the community. I know the district — I grew up there."

During the rest of the campaign, von Wilpert said she plans to focus on environmental issues, homelessness and gun control.

Leventhal said he thinks there are key differences between the candidates on many issues for voters to consider. He said an example is allowing dense housing projects in single-family neighborhoods, which von Wilpert supports more enthusiastically than Leventhal.

"I think it's going to be about the same things it's been about already," he said. "I really respect her a lot, but we have some real policy differences."

In District 7, Zosa agreed with Leventhal that the results in the primary were somewhat skewed by the battle for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"It was tough to turn Republicans out because there was less reason for them to

turn out based on the presidential primary," he said. "I'm looking for the Republicans to come out in November and make it a lot more competitive."

Zosa said the race will clearly be a choice between a traditional Democrat and a traditional Republican but stressed that he needs to reach out beyond Republican voters. "I can't just win with Republicans, but I'm fortunate to have strong bipartisan support from liberal Democrats to conservative Republicans and everything in between," he said. "People don't want that polarizing atmosphere where people don't get along together."

Campillo said he was pleased with his comfortable first-place finish in the primary.

"I am a bit surprised, because when you have three Democrats and one Republican you expect the Republican to come out on top," he said. "I think the reason I finished first is that I reached out to both the independents and the Republicans. We did not ignore anybody."

While Zosa has been a community leader for more than two decades, Campillo noted that he has local connections, including being a graduate of Linda Vista's University of San Diego High School before it moved to Carmel Valley.

"People don't realize how deep my roots go," he said.

Campillo said he plans to focus on housing and homelessness because those are the two biggest challenges facing the city, and because they are what voters care about most.

Zosa said he plans to focus on those issues but also some topics that typically spur more ideological differences, such as creating bike lanes to help fight climate change and traffic congestion.

"I want to really talk about all of the money that's being spent on bike lanes — that money should be spent on fixing our roads," he said.

Zosa has \$103,000 in campaign money left from the primary, while Campillo has \$68,000.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Sunday, March 8, the 68th day of 2020.

Today's highlight in history

On March 8, 1979, technology firm Philips demonstrated a prototype compact disc player during a news conference in Eindhoven, the Netherlands.

On this date

In 1618, German astronomer Johannes Kepler devised his

third law of planetary motion.

In 1702, England's Queen Anne acceded to the throne upon the death of King William III.

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclad CSS Virginia rammed and sank the USS Cumberland and heavily damaged the USS Congress, both frigates, off Newport News, Va.

In 1948, the Supreme Court, in *McCollum v. Board of Education*, struck down voluntary religious education classes in Champaign, Ill., public schools, saying the program violated separation of church and state.

In 1960, Democrat John F.

Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon won the New Hampshire presidential primary.

In 1965, the United States landed its first combat troops in South Vietnam as 3,500 Marines arrived to defend the U.S. air base at Da Nang.

In 1983, in a speech to the National Association of Evangelicals convention in Orlando, Fla., President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

In 1988, 17 soldiers were killed when two Army helicopters from Fort Campbell, Ky., collided in mid-flight.

In 1999, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio died at age 84.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress legislation to establish permanent normal trade relations with China. (The U.S. and China signed a trade pact in November 2000.)

In 2008, President George W. Bush vetoed a bill that would have banned the CIA from using simulated drowning and other coercive interrogation methods to gain information from suspected terrorists.

In 2014, Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, a Boeing 777 with 239

people on board, vanished during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, setting off a massive search. (The fate of the jetliner and its occupants has yet to be determined.)

One year ago: A grand jury in Chicago indicted actor Jussie Smollett on 16 felony counts related to making a false report that he was attacked by two men who shouted racial and homophobic slurs. (Prosecutors dropped the case in March, but a grand jury revived it in February 2020, indicting Smollett on charges of lying to police about the alleged attack.)

Today's birthdays

Musician George Coleman is 85. Actress Sue Ane Langdon is 84. College Football Hall of Famer Pete Dawkins is 82. Songwriter Carole Bayer Sager is 76. Actor-musician Micky Dolenz (The Monkees) is 75. Singer-musician Randy Meisner is 74. Singer Peggy March is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Rice is 67. Singer Gary Numan is 62. NBC News anchor Lester Holt is 61. Actor Aidan Quinn is 61. Actress Camryn Manheim is 59. Actor Freddie Prinze Jr. is 44. Actor James Van Der Beek is 43.

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