

MEDIATE THIS !

HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA: MANY SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

Steps toward a solution start with dialogue among those who have different views

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

The National Conflict Resolution Center has handled a variety of cases related to issues surrounding the homelessness crisis in San Diego. This week, we explore the divide related to proposed solutions to the homelessness issues the city is facing and discuss mediation strategies that can help.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, San Diego had the fourth-highest homeless population in the United States in 2018. With an official count of 8,576 people living on the streets — and an unofficial count of upward of 9,000 — San Diego has a sizable segment of the population living without any stable shelter.

Homelessness is an issue that affects many major cities. From New York City to Los Angeles to London, people sleeping on the streets is an unfortunate

but common sight. While the issue is plain for all to witness, the solutions are far from clear. There is heated debate within the academic world, the political world and among concerned citizens and organizations as to what the right approach might be. How do we prevent people from being forced to lay their heads to rest on our sidewalks?

The causes of homelessness are as varied as the people who find themselves on the streets. Mental illness, drug addiction, financial strain and a host of other factors contribute to what puts a person into a state of homelessness. There are just as many viewpoints on what can or should be done about the homelessness crisis, with many along the political and academic spectrum proposing solutions that differ in regard to state involvement, business intervention and community participation. In mediation, we are



HOWARD LIPIN U-T

Homeless people walk across Park Boulevard in East Village before sunrise on Jan. 25. Fostering a dialogue about homelessness can lead to a solution.

faced not only with the task of bridging two sides but bridging all sides. Disputes are not always clear-cut; there are often many viewpoints, and each party wants to feel equally represented in a proposed solution. When addressing a conflict involving a multitude of perspectives, mediators look for overarching interests and values. Like a

quilt made up of different fabrics, these values and interests are the thread that holds a solution together, the almost invisible backbone that plays a critical role in bringing differing opinions to a mutual agreement.

Mediators often make an assumption when sitting down to resolve a dispute: There IS a solution and the

dispute CAN be resolved. While this may seem overly optimistic, it is an important fact to consider when working through complex issues such as homelessness, where many ideas point in different directions. The mere presence of a conversation is a step toward a solution; a meeting of minds around a topic that is important to all is never a

wasted endeavor.

In today's climate of toxicity and stonewalling, we can never forget the power of conversation. True progress, like sand trickling through an hourglass, may not be obvious at first glance. The presence of so many differing opinions tells us that homelessness is something that we all want to see solved. Whatever your opinion may be, the conversation is worth having. However slow the progress may seem, it WILL lead to a solution. The impact of dialogue as a catalyst for change must not be lost on us, for in the struggle to find a home for those who don't have one, we are speaking for those who cannot speak for themselves.

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

OUTDOORS: ERNIE COWAN

Notify experts of archaeological finds

Cindy Stankowski will be the first to tell you that keeping a random arrowhead or piece of pottery left behind by early Indians is like ripping the pages from a book of history. And they are pages yet to be read.

As the executive director of the San Diego Archaeological Center, Stankowski knows how valuable even a tiny piece of Native American pottery can be.

She contacted me last week after a column I wrote about finding a complete clay olla in a remote corner of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

It was several decades ago and things were different then. I was with a park ranger when we found the pot, so we simply marked the location and carried it out to be placed in the park's collection.

With the advancement of techniques to scientifically evaluate and study archaeological relics, today scientists prefer things be left in place.

I met with Stankowski last week for a tour of the fascinating archaeological lab and museum located just east of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park on state Route 78.

It was a fascinating look into the ancient past now being brought more to life by modern technology. It was also interesting to learn that much is yet to be done when it comes to discovering truths about the early residents of our area.

Archaeology today, at least at the local level, is largely driven by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Builders of large construction projects are required to be sensitive to the more than 38,000 recorded archaeological sites in San Diego County. Typically, that means hiring an archaeological firm to monitor construction to ensure nothing of significant historical value is present.

Artifacts may be found during that process, but there is not a coordinated method of documenting or saving those things.

"The whole focus is to get it (the archaeology) out of the way so construction can be completed," Stankowski said.

To further complicate the issue, there is no universal database or statewide standard for the process. Often various jurisdictions are doing their own thing.

As an example, she pointed to modern techniques that are rarely utilized at construction archaeological sites because of the cost.

"No one is doing protein analysis or pollenology on CEQA sites and we could be



ERNIE COWAN

Cindy Stankowski leads the San Diego Archaeological Center.

missing important information because of this lack of scientific inquiry," she said.

Today, scientists can analyze pollen in the soil to determine climate conditions and what plants the early area residents were using.

Protein analysis can sample the tips of an arrowhead that might contain enough information to provide clues as to the game that was being hunted, and bones might contain DNA that would give important hints into the cultural lineage of early people.

There are still many mysteries to solve. Stankowski said there have been three cultures here over 12,000 years and so far, there has been no archaeological connection.

The earliest cultures identified here date back 10,000 to 12,000 years, but Kumeyaay arrived about 3,500 years ago. No one knows what happened to the earlier populations that seemed to vanish about 7,500 years ago.

"Climate changes probably determined the migration patterns of early people, but we just don't know what happened to those early civilizations," Stankowski said.

Time, new technology and context will be important tools to solving those puzzles.

Stankowski would like to see archaeology become more academic driven instead of driven by CEQA demands on development.

Stankowski's message is to enjoy what you find but don't disturb it, take pictures, record the location as best you can, and then report it to an authority such as a park ranger, or the Archaeological Center.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

Email ernie@packtrain.com or visit erniesoutdoors.blogspot.com.

THE READERS' REPRESENTATIVE: ADRIAN VORE

A mistake flagged from 49 years ago

To celebrate the Union-Tribune's 150th anniversary last year, the paper published daily an archives feature by U-T researcher and librarian Merrie Monteagudo.

She would go back in time and find a front page story to highlight the news of that day. The feature became popular with readers, so much so that this year Monteagudo kept it going three days a week. It appears on B2 Tuesday, Friday and Sunday.

Occasionally a reader would email about what they thought was a mistake in an archived story. I would wonder what to do. Run a correction that read, "A story on page A1 of March 23, 1918," Accuracy is all important in journalism, but to reference a story from 100 years ago, 50 years or whatever in a correction of today seemed odd.

As I recall, no stories actually were in error, or at least could be definitively confirmed to have a mistake.

But Boyd Goddard of Rancho Sante Fe emailed last week because he spotted a mistake on the front page of The San Diego Union from June 14, 1970, that was featured in the ar-

chives item on Friday, June 14.

The front-page story from 49 years ago was about Flag Day. It featured a huge piece of artwork of the Stars and Stripes and ran smaller representations of six other flags from U.S. history. One of the flags was Confederate. It was the flag we commonly associate with the South during the war, the same one that generates powerful emotions today.

The 1970 story described the flag as the "Stars and Bars," the flag of the Confederacy.

The description was incorrect Goddard said. The flag shown was the Confederate Battle Flag, not the "Stars and Bars."

"The term 'Stars and Bars' referred to the national flag of the Confederacy," Goddard said in an email, "which was similar to the American flag heraldically with a blue field with stars and large red and white stripes. Due to battlefield confusion, the Battle Flag that is most recognized today as the Confederate flag came into use."

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BORDER: WENDY FRY

Baja officials project tourism increase

Tourism officials in Baja California expect to see a 5 to 7 percent increase in tourists this year, according to Baja California's Secretary of Tourism Oscar Escobedo Carignan.

That's despite lingering challenges posed by the large migrant caravan that arrived late last year in Tijuana, as well as skyrocketing drug violence largely blamed on the domestic methamphetamine market and threats of a border shutdown.

"At the end of the day, people are going home from Baja California, and they've had a lot of fun, and the word about that gets out," said Escobedo.

According to Baja Norte's Ministry of Tourism, the number of rooms occupied in Baja California from May 2018 to May 2019 increased 4 percent. San Felipe was the destination with the greatest increase, with 31 percent more rooms occupied.

Escobedo said the increase to the occupancy rate is even higher because of the recent construction of multiple hotels in the region.

"We are breaking ground with a new hotel — construction of a brand-new hotel — every

60 days. We have 36 new hotels slated," said Escobedo. "We just opened one yesterday (Tuesday) in Tecate. It's five stories tall. It's the tallest building in all of Tecate."

Escobedo said the occupancy rate, which is the number of hotel rooms booked as a percentage of how many rooms are available, was up by 15 percent in Baja California from last year.

Tourists may be attracted to the savings on luxury hotel rooms in the city. Many visitors are also taking advantage of cheaper flights by crossing into Tijuana. In the three airports in Baja California — Tijuana, Mexicali and San Felipe — the passenger flow increased 22 percent from 2018, according to Baja Norte's Ministry of Tourism.

Escobedo said that while many people are well aware of Tijuana's nightlife and its culinary scene, Baja California also offers much to explore in nature, such as two national parks, the Sea of Cortez and the Observatorio Astronómico Nacional, an observatory for stargazing 2,000 feet above sea level in a forest.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

SAN DIEGO EARNS MOTORSPORTS MILESTONE

On June 22, 1980, San Diegan Marty Moates became the first U.S. motocyclist to win the U.S. Grand Prix of Motocross at Carsbad Raceway.

Union sports writer Bill Center later called the 1980 U.S. Grand Prix of Motocross, "the most historically significant motorsports event ever held in San Diego."

Moates continued racing until 1984, when he joined with twin brothers Mark and Brian Simo, also racers, to create No Fear, the successful extreme sports gear manufacturer based in Carlsbad.

From The San Diego Union, Monday June 23, 1980:

MOATES MOTORS TO MONUMENTAL MOTO SWEEP

San Diegan First American To Win Grand Prix

By Bill Center, Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

It took a decade, but those daring young American motocyclists have, finally, routed the entrenched Europeans from the ruts, jumps and ditches of Carlsbad Raceway.

And the hero was homegrown, 23-year-old San Diegan Marty Moates.

Moates rode the torturous 1.3-mile Carlsbad circuit like no man in the nine previous events, riding off with the following firsts:

- The first American to win the U.S. Grand Prix of Motocross
- The first rider to win both Carlsbad motos
- The first privateer rider (that is without factory backing) to win the U.S.G.P.

Motocross enthusiasts have a term for it — holeshot. That is when one rider has a bead on the pack at the start and buries, so to speak, the competition in his dust. "One-one, bullets," said another San Diegan and Moates' friend Marty Smith (fourth in the second moto and eighth overall). "Marty put on a show."

Moates got that holeshot on both starts before 35,000-plus and led for 29 of the 38 laps in the 1 1/2 hours of racing. When he temporarily lost the lead, he came back with a vengeance against two of the world's best — countryman Brad Lackey and Hakan Carlqvist.

"I was trying to peak for this race," said Moates. "I know this course. I've been wait-



ing years for this opportunity. This is home."

While the European tour riders had never lost at Carlsbad, they had never faced Moates. Despite living a half-hour from the course, Marty never had a ride for the Grand Prix.

But he came into yesterday's race with six straight wins in lesser events over the hard Carlsbad Circuit.

Did he have any secrets?

Yes.

While everyone else swept clean the starting area around their bikes, Moates built a mound of dirt, pouped it hard and rolled the rear wheel into it.

When asked about the tactic after the first moto, Moates replied, "I was hoping nobody noticed. I'll tell you why if it works again." It worked again, as Moates — the sixth-fastest qualifier — duplicated his first moto start of getting through the treacherous 160-degree first turn ahead of the 40-bike pack. No one takes both starts.

"The undersurface at the start is cement," said Moates. "If it's swept off, the wheels spin. By packing dirt there, my wheels spin but I get forward momentum."

Moates' day was not without incident.

He fell midway through the first moto after leading by seven seconds in the opening laps.

"I lost control at a little ledge before the downhill," Moates explained. "I prejumped the bump before it, hit the retaining fence and got thrown completely off the bike. It went five feet to the side of me and I ran back to it and got it up and going before it stalled."

Moates recovered in time to keep third behind defending world 250 cc champ Carlqvist and eventual G.P. runnerup Danny LaPorte with 22 minutes to go.

After six laps of cutting the deficit, Moates moved. When Carlqvist slipped, LaPorte took the lead. Moates literally flew over the top of Carlqvist at the jump ending lap 15 to fall into second.

On the next circuit he passed LaPorte. "Danny went into a turn and started to slide out. He saved it, but I gassed my bike and got around."

When runner-up Carlqvist made a final run at Moates on the last lap, Marty pulled away going up the hill, flew over the crest, and got around with a five-second edge.

In between heats, Moates soaked his feet. He broke his right ankle in March and has been following a rigid 12-hour-a-day conditioning program since.

And he feared he broke his left foot midway into the first moto when it crunched against the bike.

"It doesn't matter," he said. "I ride."

And ride he did, again quickly opening a seven-second lead.

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.