

**JIM BATES**

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PROCUREMENT AND PRINTING



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives**

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541  
TELEPHONE (202) 455-2400  
FACSIMILE (202) 455-2400  
MAIL ROOM (202) 455-2400  
CLERK (202) 455-2400  
100 BANGS STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541

February 7, 1990

Robert Burgreen  
Chief of Police  
San Diego Police Department  
1401 Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Chief Burgreen:

I am in the process of gathering information on violence at the United States - Mexico border and would appreciate any assistance you could provide me.

I would like to know the number of undocumented people who have been killed at the border in the past year (1989). It would be helpful if this information could be broken down into 4 groups: 1) Undocumented people killed by U.S. authorities. 2) Undocumented people killed by Mexican nationals or other undocumented people. 3) Undocumented people killed by United States citizens, not U.S. authorities. 4) Undocumented people killed in accidents (i.e. auto accidents). I would also appreciate having this information broken down by the month, with January, 1990 included, if the information is available.

I have been told that recently there have been groups of American teenagers, dressed in para-military attire, attacking people who cross the border illegally. I would like to know if you are aware of any such incidents. If so, I would appreciate knowing how many incidents have been reported, if there have been any injuries, and what action the San Diego Police Department has taken.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM BATES  
Member of Congress

JB:ke

February 7, 1990

TO: CONGRESSMAN BATES  
 FR: KRIS EDMONDS / D.C. Office  
 RE: VIOLENCE AT THE BORDER -- BACK-UP FOR INTERVIEW

STATISTICS:

I. The border patrol only has information on the number of people who have been killed by border patrol agents:

1) On December 28, 1989, Border Patrol agents shot and killed 2 bandits who had attacked the officers with weapons. 3 people ran back across the border.

2) In August, 1989, a Border Patrol agent ran over and killed an alien near the fence. It was an accident.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY BORDER PATROL AGENTS IN 1989: 4

II. The California Highway Patrol was able to give me information on the number of undocumented people killed in auto related accidents. In 1989, from January 1 to December 1, 27 undocumented people were killed within 2 miles of the border in auto related accidents.

III. The police told me they should have the statistics on the number of undocumented people killed at the border in the past year. However, they need a letter to the Chief of Police specifying what information you need.

- Attached is a letter to the police chief asking for information on the number of undocumented people killed at the border last year and for information on juvenile gangs at the border. Do you want to send the letter?

GROUPS OF "PARA-MILITARY" TEENAGERS:

On December 9, 1989, the Border Patrol saw one group of teenagers in army fatigues with sling shots, plastic (play) guns, belt knives, and nunchakus. They said they were just "playing army". The police were called because nunchakus are illegal. The police confiscated the nunchakus, took identification, and let the kids go. No other incidents have been reported or seen.

The Border Patrol has heard rumors that there are juvenile gangs at the border from the television show, "The Reporters", on Fox, but they can't substantiate the rumors. The Border Patrol took a crew from "The Reporters" out along the border. The Border Patrol doesn't think the show is very reputable.

I have contacted Fox Television and they are putting the show together right now and will show you footage they have shot of violence when they come to talk to you.

**JIM BATES**

44th DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PROCUREMENT AND PRINTING



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives**

PLEASE REPLY TO

224 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5452

MARKETPLACE AT THE GROVE  
3450 COLLEGE AVENUE #220  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92115  
(619) 287-8851

430 DAVIDSON STREET, SUITE A  
CHULA VISTA, CA 92010  
(619) 691-1166

February 13, 1990

Mr. Dale W. Cozart  
Chief Agent  
U. S. Border Patrol  
3752 Beyer Boulevard  
San Ysidro CA 92073

Dear Dale:

An incident has been brought to my attention by my office staff. That is, that high school students, Army Reserve, Naval and Marine Corps enlisted personnel and perhaps others were encountered by Border Patrol agents engaging in "war games." This incident allegedly took place on December 9, 1989. In addition to the "war games", it was reported that these same individuals were armed and using force to approach undocumented people who were crossing the border between the United States and Mexico in San Diego.

I would like a complete report as to the accuracy of this incident. Please include any documentation about this specific case, plus reports on any related kinds of activities in the area. I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bates".

JIM BATES  
Member of Congress

JB:kma



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Chief Patrol Agent

3752 Beyer Boulevard  
Post Office Box 73022  
San Ysidro, CA 92073-0022  
(619) 428-7251

February 15, 1990

SDC 1221/29.1-C

The Honorable Jim Bates  
Representative in Congress  
430 Davidson Street  
Chula Vista, California 92010

Dear Congressman Bates:

The following information is provided in response to your inquiry of February 13, 1990.

During the evening of December 9, 1989, Border Patrol Agents encountered twelve individuals clad in camouflage uniforms and carrying plastic pistols and rifles, nunchuks, knives, and sling shots. These individuals stated they were playing "war games". The individuals were United States citizens and were referred to the San Diego Police Department, as they were encountered in the city of San Diego.

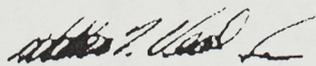
On December 13, 1989, agents of the mounted unit encountered seven individuals carrying air guns. As these persons were also United States citizens, they were referred to the San Diego Police Department.

On January 28, 1990, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Border Patrol Agents encountered some individuals near the border who were clad in camouflage uniforms and wearing camouflage face paint. They were accompanied by two reporters who said they were doing a story on the individuals playing "war games."

The Border Patrol has not received any reports of individuals playing "war games" who were using force to approach undocumented persons.

I trust you find this information helpful. Please let me know if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Dale W. Cozart  
Chief Patrol Agent

JIM BATES  
MEMBER OF CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION

CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PROCUREMENT AND PRINTING



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

February 20, 1990

PLEASE RETURN TO  
SAC ANTONIO BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202 225 5857  
SAC/STATION AT THE GROVE  
3800 TOLSON AVENUE, #200  
LONG BEACH, CA 90804  
(619) 292-8800  
100 DAVENPORT STREET, SUITE 100  
CHULA VISTA, CA 92011  
(619) 697-1169

Robert Burgreen  
Chief of Police  
San Diego Police Department  
1401 Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101

On December  
Dear Chief Burgreen:

I am writing with regard to several incidents at the United States - Mexico border involving teenagers from the San Diego area. I have written on this topic once before, on February 7, 1990, but have not received a response.

In my letter dated February 7, I requested information on the number of undocumented immigrants killed at the border in the past 13 months and on any knowledge you might have of groups of teenagers playing war games at the border. I would still like to receive this information. I have enclosed a copy of my previous letter for your information.

I have also enclosed a copy of a letter I received from the Border Patrol which gives details of three encounters the Border Patrol has had with teenagers at the border. These teenagers, ranging in age from 13 to 18 years old, were dressed in camouflage uniforms and were carrying weapons on at least two occasions. On one of these occasions, they were carrying nunchakus, an illegal weapon. On December 9 and December 13, 1989, these teenagers were referred to the San Diego Police Department. I would like to know if the San Diego Police Department reported either of the incidents in which police officers had contact with the teenagers to their schools.

I have been told that San Diego Police Officer Lee Garcia, badge number 731SAM, was involved in one of these encounters. It was also reported to me by the Border Patrol that one of the youths said that the teenagers were told they could "play in the area". If in fact this was the case, I believe that this was both dangerous and irresponsible. These "games" being played at the border are endangering the lives of the teenagers involved and of the people with whom they may come into contact.

The potential for this situation to become explosive is very real and I do not believe the police department should in any way condone it or encourage it. In fact, I believe that the San Diego Police Department should take steps to discourage this

Page 2.

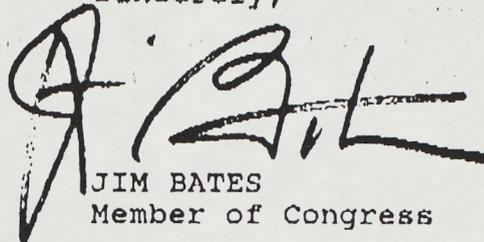
activity. Certainly, these teenagers should not be told that it is okay to "play" in the area when their "games" could very easily prove tragic.

I have seen footage of teenagers dressed in camouflage uniforms and carrying play weapons at the border. In the footage I saw, the teenagers rounded up a group of undocumented immigrants and questioned them. Clearly this type of activity by people not acting in an official capacity, especially teenagers, is inappropriate.

On December 13, 1989, on one of the occasions in which the San Diego Police Department was involved, there was a 13-year-old among the group of teenagers. I do not understand why nothing has been done to prevent these activities when the potential for one of these teenagers and/or other people in the area to be killed is so great.

I would appreciate your response to this situation.

Sincerely,

  
JIM BATES  
Member of Congress

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1989, these teenagers  
Department. I  
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SECRETARÍA  
DE  
RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
CONSULADO GENERAL

NUM.- 0188

FILE.- 73-47/742

San Diego, California  
February 26, 1990

Mr. Bob Burgreen,  
Chief of Police,  
San Diego Police Dept.,  
San Diego, California, 92101

Dear Chief Burgreen:

The Consulate is very concerned regarding the incidents portrayed in the news program "The Reporters" broadcasted on Saturday February 24th, 1990, in the evening on the Fox network. The program depicts a paramilitary group which attempts to detain or harass Mexican nationals who are crossing the border.

Since the incidents portrayed are very serious in nature, we kindly request that your office conduct an investigation to determine if there is any factual basis for the allegations which the program makes.

Very Truly Yours,

Armando Beteta  
Consul General of Mexico



THE CITY OF  
**SAN DIEGO**

POLICE DEPARTMENT • 1401 BROADWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 - 5729 • TELEPHONE (619) 531-2000

OFFICE OF  
R. W. BURGREN  
CHIEF OF POLICE

IN REPLYING  
PLEASE GIVE  
OUR REF. NO.

494

February 28, 1990

Jim Bates  
Member of Congress  
Marketplace at The Grove  
3450 College Avenue #220  
San Diego, CA 92115

Dear Congressman Bates:

My staff has researched San Diego Police Department records for the groups of information you requested in a letter dated February 7, 1990, reference fatalities and other incidents occurring in our jurisdiction along the U.S./Mexico border during 1989.

Group 1 - There were three undocumented people killed by law enforcement authorities, two men in January, 1989, and another during April.

Group 2 - In 1989, Mexican nationals, or other undocumented persons, killed five undocumented victims. One each, in the months of April and July, and three cases in November.

Group 3 - There is only one incident of a U.S. citizen killing an undocumented person. This happened in January of 1989.

Group 4 - Three undocumented persons were killed in separate traffic accidents in the months of March, May and August.

I suggest that you contact the San Diego County Sheriff's Office and California Highway Patrol for additional statistics as they also have separate traffic and law enforcement responsibilities in the border area.

Your information about groups of American teenagers, or any others dressed in para-military attire, attacking illegal immigrants is not substantiated. Last November, there was one incident in our area when the U.S. Border Patrol contacted a group of individuals who were playing a game of tag among themselves using pistols which shoot bags of paint. These people did

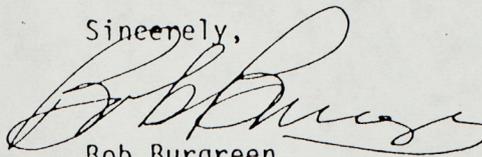
Jim Bates  
February 28, 1990  
Page 2

not violate any laws and there have been no further similar incidents reported to us.

You should be aware that a National Syndicated News feature program was in San Diego this month. Their staff were attempting to sensationalize this type of alleged activity.

Hopefully this information will be of value to you. Please contact my office if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Burgreen".

Bob Burgreen  
Chief of Police

GL:dd

March 6, 1990

Congressman Don Edwards  
2307 Rayburn Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Henry Collins  
1706 11th St. #12  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-1586 Work  
441-3254 Home

Dear Don:

I sincerely hope that this letter finds you enjoying the best of health. As concerns myself, I am now divorced, thank goodness, I am certain you remember the Bear, I am in good health, thank God, still working for the State of California, Department of Social Services-Public Inquiry and Response Bureau.

Having dispensed with the amenities I now proceed to relate to a very serious issue that continues to brew at the U.S. Mexican border at San Ysidro. Apparently the U.S. Border Patrol and the San Diego City Police along with the county sheriff's department tend to disregard the unlawful intervention of youths and adults chasing undocumented persons attempting to cross the border without going through customs. Killings and beatings have become common place. The attached editorial from La Prensa San Diego best exemplify what I am attempting to convey. I can assure you that if this dispicable attitude by the involved authorities continues, there will result serious international repercussions.

Please do whatever you can to ameliorate this situation. For more specific information contact Mr. Herman Baca-Chairman Committee On Chicano Rights (619) 477-3800 or Dan Munoz-Editor La Prensa San Diego (619) 231-2873.

I remain your friend and faithful soldier in our battle for equal justice.

Sincerely,

*Henry Collins*

Henry Collins

# El Comité

710 E. 3rd St., National City, CA 92050

Phone (619) 477-3800

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March 6, 1990

Honorable Jaime B. Fuster  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus  
House Annex 2, Room 557  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fuster:

The Committee on Chicano Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens - San Diego Council 2842 (LULAC), Harborview Community Council, and Centro De Informacion Estudios Migratorios, Tijuana B.C., Mexico, have joined together as EL COMITE to request an immediate full-scale investigation including congressional hearings into the operations of para-military vigilante terrorist groups along the U.S./Mexico border.

This activity was documented by the Fox Network program, "The Reporters" on February 24, 1990 (tape enclosed). The program clearly reveals that a malignant cancer of racism, bigotry and white supremacist attitudes exist at the U.S./Mexico border and throughout San Diego County California. These terrorist activities have developed in a climate of racial hysteria, encouraged by Immigration & Naturalization Service officials, area law enforcement agencies, and elected officials, which now threatens to flare up into a race war engulfing our schools and communities.

Our organizations are specifically angered and concerned by the following reports contained within the Fox program:

1. A Border Patrol spokesman denying the existence of para-military terrorists while Fox tapes clearly show Border Patrol agents in contact and communications with such groups.
2. The San Diego Police Department's refusal to be held accountable for this vigilante terrorism occurring within the jurisdiction of their Border Crime Unit.
3. Active duty U.S. military personnel admitting terrorist and felonious acts against Mexican nationals.

4. Sweetwater Union High School District ROTC students arming themselves with lethal and illegal weapons (nunchakus and knives), attacking defenseless Mexicans, and using high school property as a staging area for war games.

5. Various individuals admitting knowledge of incidents involving violence, rape and the murder of Mexican children at the U.S./Mexico border.

These incidents on the border are only part of the escalating violence and acts of terrorism now occurring in San Diego County. This activity includes but is not limited to:

1. The handcuffing and beating of two Mexican workers in North San Diego County by store proprietors.

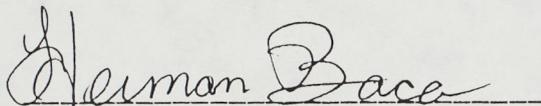
2. The beating and robbing of three Mexican nationals in downtown San Diego by members of the San Diego Police Department.

3. Efforts by members of the Rancho Bernardo Town Council to exclude Latinos from seeking work within the boundaries of that community.

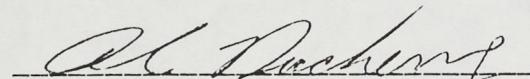
4. Efforts by San Diego Police to use unsupportable information to publicly blame growing area crime on Mexican nationals.

We request you investigate these and other acts of vigilante terrorism and violence now occurring against Mexicans and other Latinos on the border and throughout San Diego County.

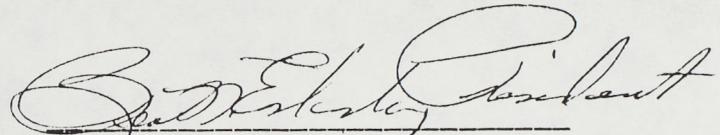
Sincerely,



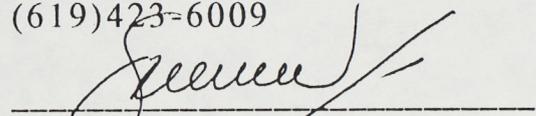
Herman Baca, Chairman  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
(619)477-3800



Al Ducheny, Chairman  
Harborview Community Council  
(619)239-1388



Bea Estrada, President  
L.U.L.A.C., San Diego Council 2842  
(619)423-6009



Jose Perez Canchola  
Centro De Informacion Estudios  
Migratorios  
Tijuana, Mex. 1-7066 84-27-31

March 6, 1990

TO THE EDITOR:

In the aftermath of the recent airing of Fox Network's "The Reporters," a number of newspaper articles and television news stories have focused public attention on the fallout resulting from that show's depiction of youth paramilitary groups playing war games on the U.S./Mexican border. Much of the debate centers on the alleged manipulation of the teenagers engaged in hunting undocumented Mexican workers by the producers of "The Reporters." School officials, teachers, parents and the students of Mar Vista High School are enraged and bewildered at the situation in which they now find themselves; their good names and reputations damaged by "irresponsible journalism." The subsequent discussion in the media has shielded "the children," taking them to task for being engaged in an activity and in an area which might prove dangerous TO THEM. Additionally, that same media has focused its attention on the charges and countercharges of manipulation, shifting attention from the more disturbing issues raised in the television report.

Unlike a society based on the printed word, a society whose public discourse is shaped by television will find it nearly impossible to maintain a clear, analytic discussion of a problem as complex as that presented in "The Reporters" broadcast of "Human Prey." As a culture, we remain focused only on the latest image or news report coming through our television sets. By the six o'clock news tonight we will have forgotten what we saw on t.v. (or thought) the night before. We cannot understand the causes of events or their historical context because so many of us do not read or avail ourselves of other systems of information which might shed light on current events. Therefore we fail, often willfully, to understand the history of our neighbors, ourselves, our economic system and its relationship to foreign economies and, most importantly, our system of government and its guarantees to citizen and non-citizen alike. Television, by its very nature, is not equipped to deal with these complexities. It is a tool for communication with severe limitations as all those interested in the issues raised by "The Reporters" are beginning to see.

What then did we see, those of us who witnessed the broadcast of "Human Prey?" In spite of the allegations of manipulation leveled against the producers of "The Reporters," the program was a chilling and powerful reminder of the cruelty and terror we are capable of inflicting, both as individuals and as a society, when we reduce those who we imagine are not like us to the "Other." Undocumented Mexican or Latin American workers, stripped of their humanity, can be hunted like animals with a clear conscience. It is important to remember that the report focused, not only on teenage paramilitary groups, but on adult vigilantes who have also made the border their perverse playground.

Astonishingly, there has been almost no discussion of the men who have taken their military experience and translated it into some imagined combat with undocumented workers. The style and level of language used to describe the border --as a war zone where violence and drugs threaten to spill into good, honest American neighborhoods--gives tacit permission to society to engage in vigilante activity. However, democracy and vigilantism cannot exist together; one must always cancel out the other. These adults, engaged in acts of terror against men, women and children, have stepped outside the laws of this society, both in fact and in spirit, and all members of that society must demand that these activities cease. Not to speak up is to approve of this unspeakable injustice. Surely as American we can do, must do, better.

It is unfortunate, and unconscionable, that the television media, print media, politicians, government officials and civil authorities use the powerful tool of language to distract the citizenry from real issues, rather than using it to enlighten. Examples of this can be heard in the metaphors of war used to describe the complex issues of drugs, economics and immigration. Emotionally charged words and phrases such as flood, invasion, a human tide, aliens, illegal, tortilla curtain, badlands, and war zone are routinely used to describe the area of the border and the movement of undocumented workers. More sinister and subtle has been the linking of two unrelated issues: the illegal drug trade, and immigration for purposes of obtaining employment. This linkage has led to serious and damaging consequences for undocumented workers and for an American society based on a system of equal justice under the law. We see the results of hysteria and hyperbole in communities all over San Diego County: an atmosphere of mistrust, fear and hatred.

~~Sadly there have been no public officials~~

army of alien  
overwhelming  
soldiers

no public discourse from civic officials

\* { overall picture is deeper -  
racism, hatred

{ Campus multicultural  
groups

Sincerely  
~~Representative~~ →  
C.A.L.S.  
MeCha  
AASU

BA CA

# El Comité

710 E. 3rd St., National City, CA 92050

Phone (619) 477-3800

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March 6, 1990

Assemblyman Peter Chacon  
California Legislator Hispanic Caucus  
State Capital  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Dear Assemblyman Chacon:

The Committee on Chicano Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens - San Diego Council 2842 (LULAC), Harborview Community Council, and Centro De Informacion Estudios Migratorios, Tijuana B.C., Mexico, have joined together as EL COMITE to request an immediate full-scale investigation including congressional hearings into the operations of para-military vigilante terrorist groups along the U.S./Mexico border.

This activity was documented by the Fox Network program, "The Reporters" on February 24, 1990. The program clearly reveals that a malignant cancer of racism, bigotry and white supremacist attitudes exist at the U.S./Mexico border and throughout San Diego County California. These terrorist activities have developed in a climate of racial hysteria, encouraged by Immigration & Naturalization Service officials, area law enforcement agencies, and elected officials, which now threatens to flare up into a race war engulfing our schools and communities.

Our organizations are specifically angered and concerned by the following reports contained within the Fox program:

1. A Border Patrol spokesman denying the existence of para-military terrorists while Fox tapes clearly show Border Patrol agents in contact and communications with such groups.
2. The San Diego Police Department's refusal to be held accountable for this vigilante terrorism occurring within the jurisdiction of their Border Crime Unit.
3. Active duty U.S. military personnel admitting terrorist and felonious acts against Mexican nationals.

4. Sweetwater Union High School District ROTC students arming themselves with lethal and illegal weapons (nunchakus and knives), attacking defenseless Mexicans, and using high school property as a staging area for war games.

5. Various individuals admitting knowledge of incidents involving violence, rape and the murder of Mexican children at the U.S./Mexico border.

These incidents on the border are only part of the escalating violence and acts of terrorism now occurring in San Diego County. This activity includes but is not limited to:

1. The handcuffing and beating of two Mexican workers in North San Diego County by store proprietors.

2. The beating and robbing of three Mexican nationals in downtown San Diego by members of the San Diego Police Department.

3. Efforts by members of the Rancho Bernardo Town Council to exclude Latinos from seeking work within the boundaries of that community.

4. Efforts by San Diego Police to use unsupportable information to publicly blame growing area crime on Mexican nationals.

We request you investigate these and other acts of vigilante terrorism and violence now occurring against Mexicans and other Latinos on the border and throughout San Diego County.

Sincerely,

---

Herman Baca, Chairman  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
(619)477-3800

---

  
Al Ducheny, Chairman  
Harborview Community Council  
(619)239-1388

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Bea Estrada, President  
L.U.L.A.C., San Diego Council 2842  
(619)423-6009

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Jose Perez Canchola  
Centro De Informacion Estudios  
Migratorios  
Tijuana, Mex. 1-7066 84-27-31

# El Comité

710 E. 3rd St., National City, CA 92050  
Phone (619) 477-3800

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News Release  
March 7, 1990

## Investigation of Border Vigilante Activities Called for by Local Chicano Groups

The Committee on Chicano Rights, League of United Latin American Citizens - San Diego Council 2842 (LULAC), Harborview Community Council, and Centro De Informacion Estudios Migratorios, Tijuana B.C., Mexico, have joined together in an adhoc coalition to request an immediate full-scale investigation including congressional hearings into the operations of paramilitary vigilante terrorist groups operating along the U.S./Mexico border.

In letters sent to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the California Legislator Hispanic Caucus, the above organizations are requesting investigations into the vigilante and terrorist activity documented by the Fox Network program, "The Reporters" on February 24, 1990.

Investigations into recent racist activity in North County San Diego and racist actions by the San Diego Police Department are also being requested.

Copies of these letters will be available at a coalition news conference **Thursday, March 8, 2:00 p.m. at 710 E. 3rd St., National City.**

Prior to the conference, coalition members will meet with Armando F. Beteta, Consul General de Mexico, and present him with a written request to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, President of Mexico, for a full investigation by his government into vigilante and terrorist activity on the Mexico/U.S. border. A copy of the Fox program tape will be provided to the Counsel General. Copies of this request will be also be available at Thursday's news conference.

At **10:00 a.m. Friday, March 9**, coalition members will hold a news conference at the **Centro Cultural, Tijuana, Mexico** to discuss with Mexican and North American news media the issue of vigilante and terrorist activity on the border and throughout the County of San Diego. For more information call:

Herman Baca, Chairman - Committee on Chicano Rights - (619) 477-3800

Bea Estrada, President - L.U.L.A.C. - (619) 423-6009

Al Ducheny, Chairman - Harborview Community Council - (619) 239-1388

Jose Perez Canchola - Centro De Informacion Estudios Migratorios - 1-7066  
84-27-31

**El Comité**  
**710 E. 3rd St., National City, CA 92050**  
**Phone (619) 477-3800**

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March 8, 1990

C. Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari  
Presidente de Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos  
Los Pinos  
Col. San Miguel, Chapultepec  
11850 Mexico, D.F.

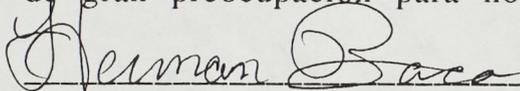
Sr. Presidente:

EL Comité, una alianza de organizaciones Mexico-Americanas y Latinas desean solicitar una completa investigacion por su administracion, sobre las recientes atrocidades llevadas a cabo en contra de ciudadanos Mexicanos en la zona fronteriza Tijuana-San Diego por grupos paramilitares.

La actividad fué documentada por el programa "Los Reporteros" de la Fox Network de Nueva York, el 24 de febrero de 1990. (cinta incluida)

El Comité, ha solicitado formalmente una investigacion por la Coalicion de Congresistas Hispanos en Washington D.C., E.E.U.U. y la Coalicion Hispana de la Asamblea de California, Sacramento, California sobre varios incidentes que han ocurrido en la frontera y en el condado de San Diego.

Este creciente numero de sucesos raciales contra nacionales Mexicanos Y Mexico-Americanos, y contra migrantes indocumentados, es de gran preocupacion para nosotros.

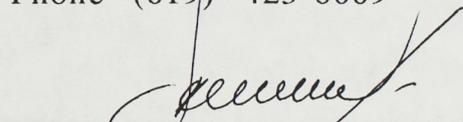


Herman Baca, Chairman  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
Phone (619) 477-3800

Bea Estrada, President  
LULAC  
Phone (619) 423-6009



Al Ducheny, Chairman  
Harborview Community Council  
Phone (619) 239-1388



Jose Luis Perez Canchola  
Centor de Informacion Y Estudios  
Migratorios, Tijuana, B.C., Mexico  
Phone: 89-26-54

c.c.: Consulado Mexicano en San Diego, Ca.



SECRETARÍA  
DE  
RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
CONSULADO GENERAL

DEPARTAMENTO DE PROTECCION

No.-

File.- 73-47/

San Diego, California  
March 08, 1990

FOX BROADCAST NETWORK  
10201 West Pico Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California 90035

Dear Sirs:

The Consulate General of Mexico in San Diego is very concerned - with the content of your program "The Reporters" aired on your network on - February 24, 1990. We demand that you ask the producers to present us with proof that these activities at the border are actually taking place.

The government of Mexico is also concerned that this type of --- program might inspire some individuals or groups to participated in anti-Me xican activities.

We request that in the future you consider the repercussions of- that your program may have in an area where unfortunately there is already- a racially charge atmosphere against our people.

We will look forward to receiving your response in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Armando Beteta M.  
Consul General of Mexico.

# Assembly California Legislature

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001  
(916) 445-7610

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1129 G STREET  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101  
(619) 232-2405

IRMA MUNOZ  
CHIEF OF STAFF

J. ERIC HEREFORD  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

KATHLEEN McINTOSH  
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

**PETER R. CHACON**

ASSEMBLYMAN SEVENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

SAN DIEGO, ENCANTO, LEMON GROVE, PARADISE HILLS  
& PORTIONS OF BONITA & SPRING VALLEY

CHAIRMAN, ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT AND  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

COMMITTEES  
CHAIRMAN, ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT  
& CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
FINANCE AND INSURANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE  
STATES ECONOMY

March 13, 1990

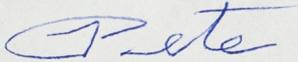
Herman Baca, Chairman  
Committee on Chicano Rights  
710 E. 3rd Street  
National City, California 92050

Dear Herman:

The situation at the border with high school students ostensibly "playing," but really shooting at Mexicans is revolting and unacceptable.

I've discussed this situation with Congressman Jim Bates and told him I wanted to sit in on the hearing he is having on this matter. This hearing, I understand, will be held soon. I will be there and intend to seek some answers from the witnesses on why this activity took place and whether the Border Patrol, the Immigration & Naturalization Service and other governmental agencies intend to put a stop to it.

Sincerely,



PETER R. CHACON

PRC:vjo



SECRETARÍA  
DE  
RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
CONSULADO GENERAL

NUM.-

0424

EXP.-73-47/720(733)

San Diego, California  
Abril 25, 1990

" E L C O M I T E "  
710 "E" Third Street  
National City, Ca.92050

Estimados señores:

Me es muy grato remitir a usted fotocopia del oficio número 101/0 **22102**, suscrito por el C. Carlos Cuadriello Aguilar, Secretario Adjunto del C. Presidente de la República, Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, con el cual se acusa recibo de su carta relacionada con el programa televisivo The Reporters.

Al comunicar a usted lo anterior, aprovecho la oportunidad para reiterar a ustedes las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

Muy Atentamente

Lic. Armando Beteta  
Cónsul General de México

AB/MM/nav.

# HOWARD MOORE

4551 NORTH AVENUE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92116

(619) 296-9974

12 JUNE 1990

COPY

ALFORD C. SIKES, CHAIRMAN  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
1919 'M' STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

MR. SIKES,

I URGE THAT THE F.C.C. REMOVE OR DISCONTINUE THE LICENSING OF RADIO STATION KSDO 1130 Kcs, IN SAN DIEGO DUE TO ITS POLICY OF PERMITTING TALK SHOW HOST ROGER HEDGECOCK TO USE THE PUBLIC AIR WAVES TO INCITE RACISM, BIGOTRY, AND VIGILANTE VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS OF MEXICAN ANCESTRY. WHILE I BELIEVE IN THE FIRST ADMENDMENT RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH THAT RIGHT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ADVOCATION OF 'HATE CRIMES' AGAINST ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING, CITIZEN OR FOREIGN NEIGHBOR. MR. HEDGECOCK'S MESSAGE IS ONE OF HATE AND INTOLERANCE AND IS OBVIOUSLY CONDONED BY THE MANAGEMENT OF KSDO.

KSDO MANAGEMENT HAS LOST ALL RIGHTS TO USE OUR AIRWAVES WHEN IT ALLOWS THEM TO BE USED AGAINST A SEGMENT OF THE

# HOWARD MOORE

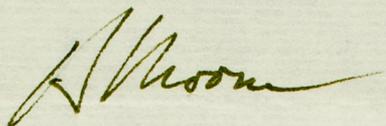
4551 NORTH AVENUE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92116

(619) 296-9974

POPULATION WITHIN ITS BROADCAST RADIUS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND ASK THAT YOU, AS A  
PUBLIC OFFICAL, RESPOND DIRECTLY TO MY REQUEST AT THE  
EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

SINCERELY,



COPY

# SOUTHERN CROSS

Since 1912 the official Catholic newspaper of San Diego

Mr. Alford C. Sikes  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 "M" Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20554

Dear Mr. Sikes:

I urge you to please investigate irregularities of Radio KSDO-1130 in regards to racist policies it permits by letting Mr. Roger Hedgecock, a local radio talk host use the air waves, not to serve the community in general, but to sow seeds of racism, bigotry and vigilante style activities against persons of Hispanic ancestry.

I believe that KSDO has forfeited its right to transmit by publicly speaking against our community and neighboring Mexican amigos.

I urge you to remove or place on probation the licensing of radio KSDO, till Mr. Hedgecock disists in his racist comments on the radio.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter I am,

Sincerely,

Juan Jose Gloria  
Managing Editor

*Please Keep  
Confidential  
J. J. Gloria*



SECRETARÍA  
DE  
RELACIONES EXTERIORES  
CONSULADO GENERAL

NUM: 00963

EXP: 73-47/

San Diego, California  
20 de agosto de 1990.

HERMAN BACA  
DIRECTOR DEL COMITE DE LA FEDERACION CHICANA  
710 THIRD STREET  
NATIONAL CITY, CA 92050

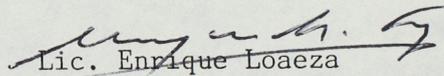
Estimado Sr. Baca:

Con motivo del 180 Aniversario de la Independencia de México, este Consulado General está organizando una ceremonia Cívico-Artística para el próximo 15 de septiembre, que se llevará a cabo en el Organ Pavilion del Parque Balboa en la ciudad de San Diego. Dicho evento incluye diversos números artísticos entre los que se encuentran bailes folklóricos y la presentación de cantantes de música vernácula.

Con objeto de darle a esta fiesta el mayor realce posible y que refleje cabalmente el dinamismo con el que se expresa la cultura popular de un México en proceso de transformación, me permito solicitar su generosa contribución que nos ayudará a cubrir parte de los gastos que se generen con motivo de este evento.

Esperando contar asimismo con su presencia entre nuestro grupo de invitados especiales, agradezco de antemano la atención que se sirva prestar a la presente y quedo de usted,

Atentamente,

  
Lic. Enrique Loaeza  
Cónsul General de México

ELT/elb

# **BOYCOTT KSDO RADIO!**

## **"PULL THE PLUG ON RACISM"**

KSDO-1130 AM Radio allows convicted felon **Roger Hedgecock** to use the public air waves to carry out a campaign to incite racism, bigotry and vigilante violence against all persons of Mexican ancestry.

### **STOP KSDO RACISM!**

- \* BOYCOTT KSDO ADVERTISERS!**
- \* BOYCOTT KSDO RADIO!**
- \* TUNE KSDO OFF OR TURN IT OFF!**
- \* TURN OFF THE LIGHT ON ROGER HEDGECOCK**

We urge you to take action and write to:

Mark S. Fowler, chairman  
Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.)  
1919 "M" Street, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

Mr Fowler;

I (we) urge that the F.C.C. remove or discontinue the licensing of radio station KSDO -1130 Kcs, in San Diego due to its policy of permitting Talk Host Roger Hedgecock to use the public air waves to incite racism, bigotry and vigilante violence against persons of Mexican ancestry. KSDO management has lost all rights to use our airwaves when it allows it to be used against a segment of the population within its radius.

Signed

*Gaspar Parra* Date *June 3, 1990*

(Please send a copy of your letter to the Committee on Chicano Rights,  
710 E. 3rd Street, National City, Ca. 92050)

Paid for by the Committee on Chicano Rights, 710 E. 3rd St., National City, Ca. 92050.

C. LIC. CARLOS SALINAS DE GORTARI  
PRESIDENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS.  
LOS PINOS  
COL. SAN MIGUEL CHAPULTEPEC  
11850 MEXICO, D.F.

CONFERENCIA DE PRENSA

TEMA: SOBRE LA VIOLENCIA EN EL SUR DE CALIFORNIA  
CONTRA LOS MEXICANOS. LAS AGRESIONES DE JOVENES  
ESTUDIANTES ANGLOSAJONES EN CONTRA DE MIGRANTES.

CONFERENCIA A CARGO DE MIEMBROS DE LA COMUNIDAD  
CHICANO-MEXICANA DE SAN DIEGO: DANIEL L. MUÑOZ, EDITOR  
DEL PERIODICO HISPANO "LA PRENSA"; HERMAN BACA, PRESI-  
DENTE DEL COMITE DE DERECHOS CHICANOS; BEA ESTRADA,  
PRESIDENTE DE LA LIGA DE CIUDADANOS LATINO AMERICANOS;  
DAVID AVALOS, PINTOR; AL DUCHENY, DEL CONCILIO DE LA  
COMUNIDAD DE HARBORVIEW.

LUGAR: RESTAURANT DEL CENTRO CULTURAL TIJUANA (CECUT)

HORA: 10 A.M.

FECHA: VIERNES 9 DE MARZO DE 1990.

COORDINACION DE LA CONFERENCIA:  
CENTRO DE INFORMACION Y ESTUDIOS  
MIGRATORIOS (CIEM)  
J. L. PEREZ CANCHOLA  
Director.-

Para mayor información: 89-26-54

## Cover up of ROTC VIGILANTE type Activities Fails

San Diego's Chief of Police, Bob Burgreen learned a bitter lesson and now has had to publicly admit that he was wrong. As Chief of the San Diego Police Department it is his responsibility to carry out his duties in a professional and responsible manner. In the now infamous case of "The Reporters", it was revealed, by Fox Television, that high school students, members of the Marvista ROTC unit, were carrying out vigilante type activities along the U.S. border. It was shown rather dramatically that Mexican, as well as other Latino persons, were being chased, harassed, threatened with deadly weapons and beaten by these ROTC students.

San Diego Police Chief Burgreen, in what appeared to be a rather hastily drawn conclusion, made public appearances and statements denying the fact that the Student ROTC had ever been carrying out these vigilante type activities along the border. The Department was quick to send out their top Latino Cop, Capt. Guarderrama, to the Latino communities to announce publicly, that what FOX Television had shown was not true. That these kids were "just playing games" even though they were occurring at 3a.m. In short order, Sweetwater Union High School District Superintendent Anthony Trujillo and his publicist, Dr. Ann Stro, quickly denied that their students could ever be involved in these kind of activities. Jaime Mercado, Principal of MarVista School quickly jumped in to deny that his students could be involved. The docile San Diego media quickly swallowed the self serving stories put out by the district and the official statements put out by the San Diego Police Department and local INS officials. They accepted at face value their statements. Only one newspaper in the San Diego region took the initiative to carry out its prime directive: to investigate and report the facts; La Prensa San Diego.

The Committee on Chicano Rights, under the leadership of Herman Baca, the League of United Latin American Citizens, under the leadership of Beatrice Estrada, and Jose Luise Perez Conchola of El Centro de Informacion Estudios migratorios, Tijuana formed an adhoc group "El Comite" to investigate the ROTC incident. When they had uncovered sufficient information that pointed to a white wash, the group immediately asked for an investigation from the Mexican Consul, the Police Department, the U.S. Congress & the California Legislature Hispanic Caucuses and the Mexican Government. These facts were published in la Prensa San Diego and copies were sent to the politicians, the media, Mexican organizations, Chicano groups, and the Police Department. No action occurred. Instead, the organizations involved and La Prensa were denigrated for questioning the validity of the statements made by the San Diego Police Department, the Sweetwater School District Administrators, the INS and politicians.

One week later, La Prensa San Diego printed on its front pages the letters which showed, without question, that High School ROTC units had been involved in carrying out vigilante type activities on the border for over a year. Copies of this issue were also sent to the media, the police, the politicians and organizations. The major Anglo media, however, failed in carrying out its responsibilities to objectively report the news. Not one single radio, television or print media investigated or followed up the white wash which was being carried out.

The Congress of the United States finally announced that it was going to investigate 'the raising tide of violence' in the San Diego Border Regions. The Mexican Consul, which at first informed La Prensa San Diego and El Comite that they had no information on any racist activities being carried

out against its citizens, took a different tack and suddenly decided that in fact their were racist activities being carried out against their Nationals and other Latino's. Perhaps. Now Chief of Police Burgreen has announced that perhaps they were a little hasty in trying to whitewash the incident. He now declares that their seems to be evidence that the RAMBO vigilante type activities have been going on for quite a while by ROTC groups along the border. He stated that those found guilty would be prosecuted.

As usual, the Anglo dominated media has been slow to raise the issue. It must be profoundly disturbing to have to acknowledge that revered institutions such as the ROTC may in fact be carrying out racist activities. It is noted that they are very quick to cover stories and actions which tend to show the Latino population in negative sterotypical ways which serve only to tear apart the fabric of our society.

La Prensa San Diego and the members of "El Comite" made no wild charges, laid blame on no one for the ROTC RAMBO activities. All they asked for was an investigation by the proper authorities to determine where the truth of the matter lay. And, that appropriate action be taken to root out this deadly malice that inflicts us here in San Diego. We are gratified that the U.S. Congress is moving to investigate. We welcome the Police Chief's desire to now investigate the issue and we are pleased that the local Mexican Counsel now recognizes that their is a problem in the relationships between his countrymen and American citizens.

The Board of Editors of La Prensa San Diego now believes that an investigation is required on the irresponsible actions of the Board members, Superintendent and administrators of the Sweetwater School District is in order as well as of the activities and actions of the San Diego Police Department and the local INS officials who blatantly lied in their declarations to the public.

Unfortunately, the local media is still failing in its prime directive which is TO SEEK THE TRUTH OBJECTIVELY. It is unfortunate, that publicly their position is being represented by one extremist Right wing talk show host on KSDO, Roger Hedgecock, who is an expert in the art of twisting the truth to suit his extreme biases.

Yes, we are but one small voice in San Diego. Sometimes though that is all it takes.....one small voice.

Mr. Gerald Warren, Editor  
San Diego Union  
P.O. box 191  
San Diego, Ca. 92112-4106

10 March, 1990

Dear Mr. Warren;

We request a correction and retraction be made on a story which appeared Friday, March 9, 1990. The story titled "Anti-Hispanic racism, violence are alleged; probes demanded" was originated from an interview held with Mr. Herman Baca, chairman of the Committee on Chicano Rights, Mrs. Beatrice Estrada, League of United Latin American Citizens, and Mr. Daniel L. Munoz, Publisher of La Prensa San Diego.

In the story, it is stated that "The four organizations have taken their concerns to U.S. Rep. Jim Bates, D-San Diego". This is an error which negatively reflects on our organizations. At no time was Congressman Bates named as one of the organizations or individuals that letters had been sent to request an investigation of the escalating violence against Hispanics in the San Diego region. In fact, Mr. Bates is one of the individuals who we have charged in the past for being responsible for the growing climate of distrust, racial antagonism and most responsible for the passage of the Immigration Reform Act of 1986. An Act which we hold responsible, in part, for the current problems that we are facing in San Diego.

A cursory examination of the materials given to your reporter will quickly demonstrate that Congressman Bates was not one of those we asked for assistance from. As this statement goes to the heart of our integrity and standing in the Chicano community, we request a public correction be made in the Union Tribune as soon as possible.

Sincerely

*Herman Baca*

Herman Baca,  
Chairman  
Committee on Chicano Rights

*Daniel L. Munoz*  
Daniel L. Munoz, Publisher  
La Prensa San Diego.

*Beatrice Estrada*

Beatrice Estrada  
chairwoman  
League of United Latin  
American Citizens

Jueves 15 de marzo de 1990

## Crece...

Viene de la Pag. 1

invariablemente ha intervenido y, luego de hacer las investigaciones del caso, ha presentado denuncias ante las autoridades correspondientes. Pero desgraciadamente, dijo, los ofendidos no siempre se presentan oportunamente ante el consulado o no proporcionan datos que pudieran servir para identificar a los presuntos responsables, por lo que, en muchas ocasiones, no se puede hacer nada.

Señaló que es de suma importancia que inmediatamente se avise al consulado de nuestro país, en San Diego, cuando alguna persona de nacionalidad mexicana sea víctima de algún acto discriminatorio o de violencia en su contra, sin importar que sea indocumentada o no, agregó el entrevistado.

Asimismo, Beteta informó que ha estado muy pendiente del juicio en contra de los estadounidenses Randy Ryberg y otra persona de apellido Zimmerman, que están acusados de haber vejado y golpeado al bracero mexicano Cándido Gallegos, a quien esposaron, amarraron a un árbol y le colocaron una bolsa de plástico cubriéndole la cara, con un letrero que decía que se fuera de ese lugar, porque no lo querían.

Randy Ryberg, dueño de una tienda de abarrotes y su empleado Zimmerman, están siendo procesados por los golpes y vejaciones, pero el juez que conoce de la causa no encontró elementos para juzgarlos como presuntos responsables de violar los derechos humanos y de haber actuado por motivos racistas. Así, les concedió la libertad bajo fianza, lo cual motivó que el cónsul Beteta protestara ante el fiscal.

Para terminar, el cónsul Beteta se mostró preocupado al saber que los braceros mexicanos se quejan de que Ryberg continúa insultándolos y vejándolos, aparentemente envalentonado porque logró su libertad y siente que a la postre no se le va a castigar por su antirracista conducta.

## Crece la violencia antimexicana en San Diego: Beteta

Por Fernando Ramos Hdez.

TIJUANA.- El cónsul de México en el vecino puerto de San Diego, California, Armando Beteta Monsalve, se mostró preocupado por los actos discriminatorios y de violencia que han estado creciendo en contra de mexicanos al sur del vecino estado de la Unión Americana.

El cónsul, entrevistado ayer momentos antes de partir rumbo a la ciudad de México, aseguró que ante todas las quejas que ha recibido,

*Sigue en la Pag. 4-A*

B. CAL  
3-15-90

# 'War game' figure is arrested in border robberies

S.D. 9/11/83

By Dick Weber and John Gaines  
Staff Writers

The former leader of a paramilitary youth group, who earlier this year adamantly denied a nationally televised report claiming that the group hunted undocumented aliens crossing the Mexican border, has been arrested and charged with robbing groups of migrants entering in the same border area.

Police charged Jason MacAllister, 17, and three men in their early 20s with holding up 11 migrants in a canyon Thursday night near the Tijuana River bottom, along a popular route for illegal border crossings.

The four were dressed in dark or camouflage clothing and were armed with a handgun, club and knife, officers said. After their arrest the suspects were identified by the victims, said San Diego police spokesman Bill Robinson.

MacAllister is a former leader of the Metal Militia, a group of mostly teen-agers from the South Bay that was featured in a controversial hour-long segment of "The Reporters," a television tabloid aired by Fox Broadcasting.

The show alleged that aliens were becoming "targets of secret paramilitary groups whose tactics run the gamut from fierce harassment to armed robbery to racially inspired murder," according to a Fox publicity statement. The show depicted members of the Metal Militia, many of whom attended Mar Vista and Southwest high schools, appearing to prowl the border stalking migrants.

The segment was quickly met with sharp denunciations and denials by group members, who said the only targets in their recreational "war games" were one another.

"We don't go out there to pick on illegal aliens," MacAllister said at the time.

MacAllister and the other three suspects — William Barnes, 24; Donald Young, 22; and Ruben Saucedo, 20 — told police they were members of a San Diego County Job Corps program and lived nearby in the Imperial Beach facility's dormitories.

Barnes, Young and Saucedo were all being held in the county jail yesterday in lieu of \$195,000 bail on 11 felony counts of armed robbery. MacAllister was booked into Juvenile Hall.

The federally funded Job Corps trains people in various work skills. Job Corps officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The arrests occurred after a U.S. Border Patrol agent stopped a group of migrants on a dirt trail in a canyon behind the 2300 block of Hollister Street in south San Diego, about half a mile north of the border.

The migrants said they had just been robbed by four men, said Border Patrol spokesman Ted Swofford. Two agents continued down the trail and found another group of migrants who said they had been robbed.

"There was a lot of yelling and intimidation," said police spokesman Dave Cohen. Together the migrants

See **MacAllister** on Page B-2

# MacAllister: 'War game' figure arrested in holdups

Continued from B-1

were robbed of about \$170 and jewelry that included gold bracelets.

Farther along the trail the agents encountered one of the suspects, who tried to flee. He lunged at one of the agents with a knife, was arrested and disarmed, Swofford said.

San Diego police were notified and officers from the two agencies searched the dense underbrush without success. The officers then pretended to pull out, but a small force remained hidden behind and later apprehended the other three suspects, Swofford said.

The victims — seven men, two women and two children — were not injured.

Robinson said the incident was unusual in that while border robberies

are common, the suspects usually come from nearby Tijuana.

The television program, broadcast in February, prompted a San Diego police investigation into border violence that found "no reports of organized vigilante groups targeting undocumented aliens in the city of San Diego."

The investigation findings also concluded that much of the footage shown on the program had been staged, and misrepresented the group's activities.

After the investigation, however, other members told police that they had chased and harassed aliens on occasion.

The San Diego district attorney's office also investigated charges that MacAllister pointed a BB gun at two men and forced them to kneel and

submit to being frisked. The case was dropped and no charges were filed after prosecutors said no victims were ever identified.

"The Reporters" television show has since been canceled.

The Metal Militia was described by participants as a group of about two dozen youths who aspired to be soldiers. They met at night, divided up in teams and pursued one another, armed with BB guns.

They wore combat fatigues and jackets, and said any shots were fired only below the target's chest and from no closer than 15 yards, so that the pellets rarely penetrated the skin.



File photo

*Staff Writer Michael Bunch contributed to this report.*

**Jason MacAllister**

BACA

Attacks Against Mexican/Latino Ancestry persons increasing

Investigation of Border Vigilante Activities Called for by Local Chicano Groups!

by; daniel l. Munoz

San Diego, Ca....Alarmed over the escalating attacks against persons of Mexican -Latino ancestry in the San Diego region, a local coalition of Chicano-Latino groups, the AdHoc committee "El Comité", has sent an urgent request to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Hispanic Caucus of the California Legislature calling for immediate investigations.

"We are calling for an immediate investigation including congressional hearings of para military vigilante terrorist groups operating along the U.S./Mexico border," said Herman Baca of the Committee on Chicano Rights. "These terrorist activities have developed in a climate of racial hysteria encouraged by the INS, law enforcement agencies and elected officials which threatens to flare up into a race war," said Baca.

'El Comite', called for the investigation after a long series of incidents which have been occurring in the San Diego region culminating in a recent documentary aired over the Fox Network. " This program ' The Reporters' clearly revealed that a malignant cancer of racism, bigotry and white supremacist attitudes exist in our region," stated Al Ducheny, chairman of the Harborview Community Council. "Racist elements within the County of San Diego are becoming bolder in their attacks on the undocumented migrant and all people of Hispanic descent. We as Latinos and all people of conscious cannot stand idly by while innocent people are vicimized," said Ducheny.

The straw which finally broke the camel's back were the revelations onthe program 'The Reporters' which showed attacks against innocent migrants attempting to cross the border in search of work were being carried out by teenagers and young adult members of ROTC units based in the Sweetwater Union High School District. Armed with knives and nunchakus, illegal weapons, these teenage hoodlums roamed the two mile no man's land alongside the borders and actively hunted down men, women, and children. The incident filmed by the investigative reporters of the Fox network program 'The Reporters' unfortunately is not the first time that these so call teenagers wearing camouflage uniforms have been observed playing their 'war games' with 'beaners', as they called them, being their victims. In a recent letter, Dale W. Cozart, Chief Patrol Agent said. " During the evening of December 9, 1989, Border Patrol Agents encountered twelve individuals clad in camouflage uniforms and carrying plastic

pistols and rifles, nunchuks, knives, and sling shots. These individuals stated they were playing "war games". The individuals were United State citizens. They were referred to the San Diego Police Department." The Chief Patrol Agent once again referred to another incident which occurred on December 13, 1989. " Agents of the mounted unit encountered seven individuals carrying air guns. As these persons were also U.S. citizens, they were referred to the San Diego Police Department. "stated Cozart in his letter of Feb. 15, 1990.

On January 27 and Feb. 3., the para-military ROTC groups were filmed along the border during one of the so call 'war games'. The time 3 a.m. Reporters of the Fox Network with cameras at the ready followed them. What they filmed appeared on the Fox Network on Feb. 24, 1990. The program threw the school district into turmoil, enraged parents, and frighten the ROTC members who were now faced with an enraged Chicano community seeking retribution.

Rather than exposing the racist activities of the rambo-type teenagers and exposing the attitudes and conditions which are generating these kinds of behaviors from our youth, both the Border Patrol and the San Diego Police said that they had no evidence that these kind of activities had been taken place in the past! Parents and the Superintendent of the Sweetwater School District as well as administrators sought to tarnish the Fox Network by claiming that they 'induced' their children to carry out the scenario shown on 'The Reporters'

" On January 28, 1990, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Border Patrol agents encountered some individuals near the border," stated Cozart, Chief Patrol Agent, " They were clad in camouflage uniforms and wearing camouflage face paint. They were accompanied by two reporters who said they were doing a story on the individuals playing "war games". San Diego Chief of Police, R.W.Burgreen in a letter to Congressman Jim Bates on February 28, 1990, which was made available to La Prensa San Diego, stated " Your information about groups of American teenagers, or any others dressed in para-military attire, attacking illegal immigrants is not substantiated....." You should be aware that a National Syndicated News feature program was in San Diego this month. Their staff were attempting to sensationalize this type of alleged activity."

"It appears quite clear the the San Diego Police Department, the Sweetwater School District, and the local Border Patrol is involved in a massive effort to cover up and white wash what is occurring in San Ysidro," stated Beatrice Estrada, chairwoman of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). " These attacks are limited only to the border lands. In recent times, their have been

unwarranted attacks against documented workers in the Vista area by white supremacist and other racist. Beatings and killings have occurred. The Rancho Bernardo Town Council just last month attempted to exclude Mexican people from entering their town and using their park benches, stores, or streets. They attempted to smear all of us as being criminals and unworthy of being in their community. Three years ago, Supervisor Golding attempted to blame Mexicans and Latinos for all the crime in the area, a charge which didn't stick.

We are being stigmatized and categorized as subhumans by the adult society. Is it any wonder that their children behave as these ROTC students did? We are living in an unhealthy climate of hate and fear,' concluded Mrs Estrada.

According to Mr. Ducheny, 'El comite' will be presenting to Sr. Armando Beteta, Consul General of Mexico in San Diego with a request that an investigation by the Salinas administration be made of the violations of Human rights against Mexican citizens along the San Diego/Mexican border be made. 'El Comite' will be meeting with the Consul General on Thursday. " A copy of the video tape will be presented to the Consul General so that he may view the program and if he desires make it available to the Salinas government in Mexico. These vigilante terrorist acts and violence against persons of Mexican ancestry must end before racial war erupts," concluded Ducheny.

**BORDER ART WORKSHOP**  
**TALLER DE ARTE FRONTERIZO**

"Society prepares the crime; the criminal commits it."

Fortune Cookie at "Hong Kong" restaurant.-

We seldom take fortune cookies seriously, but maybe this time we should. The local reaction against Fox Television's "The Reporters" provides us with the perfect opportunity to examine our society and possibly advert the millions of crimes that are already in the making.

The February 23 episode of "The Reporters" dealt with an extremely delicate and urgent issue: The rise of racism and intolerance in San Diego. While abuses against undocumented workers in North County have finally made the news, violence at the Southern border (Imperial Beach area) has consistently been ignored by local media. Beyond INS abuses, undocumented workers, crossing to fulfill the needs (among others) of the local agricultural and tourist industries, must face teenage units playing war games. The name of the game is "Hunting Beaners" and the maker is Racism Incorporated. What better location to play out war fantasies than a strip that has been declared a "war zone" by the media; a zone commonly referred to as "little Nam." The thrill of hunting real "prey" keeps these youngsters coming back. Instead of football games and movies, these teenagers choose to hang transparent fishing lines with hooks at eye level in bushes where people might rush for shelter. Instead of dressing up for a date, they deck out for a hunt. Wearing their camouflage best, they carry their toy guns and their lethal attitudes into the field. Why should we blame kids for imitating adults? If Rambo does it, why can't Randy, Josh, or Mark do it? But this is not a film, there is no director who will "Cut!" at the right time. The game is real.

Parents and teachers were shocked by the truth and reacted by denying it. As a member of the Border Art Workshop (a local artist/activist group) explained: "You can edit footage, but you can't edit an attitude." It was clear from the material Fox presented that the teenagers interviewed were no newcomers to the activities and ideas documented, While evidence of their games is abundant, the concrete results of this violence are not readily available. As journalists have noted "There are no victims." Would be undocumented workers, terrified by these teenage gangs, dash back into Mexico. Would you stick around to file a report?

We can not deny that a large part of our youth feels displaced. At a time when self-confidence is shaky and identity is forming, the chance to belong to a group and be counted as part of something is very attractive. Historically focused mass hatred has functioned as a strong social glue. Remember Hitler. Now that the world order is changing and the United States is not longer the undisputable leader of our world community, fear of has set in. Fear of the unknown, panic of change, terror for "the other." A society must evolve and its members must work through their fears, not run away from them. Finding scape-goats for complex problems is easy, but dangerous. It promotes a false sense of superiority that can justify inhumane, bestial activity.

We should prove to one another that the human being has in fact learned from its past mistakes. We should prove to one another that the world is made up of humans not rodents. Lets remind ourselves of the potential creativity and intelligence that lives inside every pair of arms and legs. Difference, otherness should not be feared, it should be applauded. A different culture is nothing more than a different way to carry out the same universal human tasks -- eating, sleeping, loving. There is no right or wrong way, there are only WAYS. Society prepares peace; people live it.

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## Bases Plea for Lawsuit on Disputed Figures

# Golding Wants U.S. to Pick Up Alien Tab

By H.G. REZA, *Times Staff Writer*

Supervisor Susan Golding proposed Monday that San Diego County sue the U.S. government to recover millions of dollars spent by the county to arrest illegal aliens and provide social services for them.

Golding said she will ask for the board's approval for the lawsuit today.

To show the financial impact that illegal aliens have on county government, Golding presented a dizzying array of figures, although some of them were later disputed. She said she had discussed the idea of such a lawsuit with county

officials in Arizona, Texas and Florida, who are also beset by problems brought on by illegal aliens and may join San Diego County in suing the federal government.

She said it is appropriate to sue the U.S. government because enforcement of immigration laws is a federal responsibility, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service should be doing more to stop the flow of "uninvited visitors" to the county.

According to Golding, county taxpayers are "footing the bill for a national problem." She claimed

that "roads are going unfixed, sewers are overflowing" and community programs are being cut because county money is being spent to halt crime committed by aliens and to provide social services for their families.

In an attempt to dramatize the costs, Golding waved an "invoice" for \$23 million allegedly representing funds paid by the county because of illegal aliens during the past five years. She said the \$23 million, which includes jail, health care and court costs, represents identifiable costs only and charged

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# ALIENS: Golding Wants U.S. to Pay Tab

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that the true cost could total \$100 million.

Some of the statistics Golding offered were later questioned by law enforcement agencies.

For example, Golding said the San Diego County Sheriff's Department estimated that 61.5% of all the rapes in the county are committed by aliens. But sheriff's spokesman John Tenwolde said that Golding took that and other figures out of context. Tenwolde said the department gave Golding some crime figures in March, but the rape statistic she quoted applied only to the sheriff's substations in Fallbrook and Vista, and were accumulated during the fiscal year 1984-1985.

"Those figures should've been qualified," Tenwolde said. "In fiscal year 1984 and 1985 there were 13 rape arrests in those two substations and of these 13 arrests, eight were illegal aliens. That accounts for 61.5%."

The sheriff's spokesman said the other figures quoted by Golding and attributed to the department should also have been qualified. Golding said that 34% of the car thefts and 25% of the burglaries in the county are committed by illegal aliens. But Tenwolde said those figures also apply only to Fallbrook and Vista, where a large concentration of undocumented aliens work on North County farms.

Golding later admitted that she used the figures inaccurately. "My staff made a mistake, but it's hardly the point I'm making," she said. "My message is not who commits crime. My message is what the cost is."

In a prepared statement passed out to reporters, Golding said the Sheriff's Department and the San Diego Police Department arrested 12,000 illegal aliens for criminal offenses in 1985. She said that it costs as much as \$10,000 to prosecute a "low grade" felony and said that, if all 12,000 aliens arrested went to trial, it would cost taxpayers \$60 million. She said the current combined annual budget for the county district attorney, municipal

and superior courts totals about \$51 million.

Many criminal cases, including those involving U.S. citizens, are routinely settled in plea bargains reached before trial.

Golding claimed that Escondido police spend 50% of their time on illegal aliens. But a police spokesman said that while undocumented aliens account for a significant percentage of Escondido's crime problem, only 13% of the people arrested in that city in 1985 were aliens.

Responding to questions about the statistics, Golding said, "They are not my figures. . . . I will not defend all figures. . . . It may be more. It may be less."

Golding painted a gloomy picture of what she said could happen if the federal government does not step up its enforcement of immigration laws and if federal funds used to pay for health and social services are cut.

"In the final analysis, non-citizens are taking a greater and greater percentage of the amount that is allocated, and citizens are getting less," Golding said.

However, she said that she does not know how many aliens are currently benefiting from county services. Golding acknowledged that the possibility of successfully suing the federal government is slim, but she vowed to press forward anyway.

"By billing the federal government, and suing them, maybe we can get the attention of Congress, and get some sort of relief from this massive invasion," Golding said.

Golding's colleagues on the board said they have not seen her proposal. Board Chairman George Bailey said he favors sending a bill to the federal government "but I don't think we'll get anywhere with a lawsuit." Bailey said both El Paso, Tex., and Los Angeles have billed the government for services provided to aliens, but those claims were rejected.

Supervisor Brian Bilbray said the proposed suit would have to be discussed and studied carefully.

"We have to document direct

and indirect expenses," Bilbray said.

Supervisor Paul Eckert said he favors the suit because "this issue needs to be addressed."

In proposing the suit, Golding rejected three county studies done in the last 10 years that show illegal aliens paying more in taxes than they get in local services. She said that the studies no longer provide an accurate picture of what is happening because of a sharp increase in the number of aliens living in the county. But Golding admitted that she has no idea how many undocumented aliens live in San Diego County.

In addition to Golding's proposed suit, the county counsel is drafting two suits against the state to force it to give San Diego County a larger share of tax funds used to provide social services.

E.T. 10/15/86

San Diego, W

**Metro news**

# Romney remarks draw racism charge; opponent questions use of county car

By Ruth McKinnie-McCoy  
*Tribune Staff Writer*

Supervisorial candidate Clyde Romney's call for the Border Patrol to beef up efforts to apprehend undocumented aliens in the North County has caused a furor on two fronts.

Hispanic leaders have branded Romney's comments, made during a Monday news conference, as racist, and questions have been raised over the use of a Sheriff's Department car by two off-duty deputies who attended the conference.

Romney, in pleading for the Border Patrol to open an office in the North County, said that "nowhere

else in San Diego County will you find the huge gangs of illegal aliens that line our streets, shake down our school children, spread diseases like malaria and roam our neighborhoods, looking for work and homes to rob."

Jess Haro, chairman of the board of the Chicano Federation of San Diego County, accused Romney of adding to the hysteria over crimes attributed to undocumented aliens.

"It's grossly inaccurate," Haro said. "It's inciteful. . . . I've never seen a mainstream candidate stoop to this level."

Romney said his strong words, in-

cluded in a telegram to Harold Ezell, Western regional director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, were not racially motivated.

On a separate front, John MacDonald, Romney's opponent in the Fifth District, is questioning the use of the county-owned car by the deputies who attended Romney's news conference.

MacDonald, an Oceanside city councilman, said he intended to call District Attorney Ed Miller's office concerning the use of the car.

Deputy District Attorney Jim Hamilton said yesterday it's legal for a government official to drive a gov-



**CLYDE ROMNEY**  
County board candidate

ernment-owned car to a political event if the official is on call and has been assigned use of the car.

# Carlsbad council approves patrols to deter aliens near Kelly School

By Lola Sherman  
Tribune Staff Writer

Carlsbad police will patrol Kelly School every morning and evening from now until June in an effort to discourage undocumented workers who allegedly harass the schoolchildren.

The decision by the city council to spend \$10,000 in overtime pay for police last night came in the wake of U.S. Border Patrol sweeps that culminated in the arrest of more than 1,100 aliens in the area in two days' time.

Police Chief Vincent Jimno said 10 Carlsbad officers

participated in the action, in which 40 Border Patrol agents, including eight on horseback and three in four-wheel-drive vehicles, scoured the area with the help of a helicopter.

Jimno said the officers apprehended 494 undocumented workers in the southern part of the city Monday and 624 more yesterday.

"These are short-term solutions that will not solve the entire problem," Jimno said. "But they will make it go away for a while."

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## ★ Aliens

*Continued From B-1*

He said marked police cars will patrol the area around El Camino Real and Kelly Drive every morning before school and every afternoon when classes let out.

Victoria Gubelmann, chairman of Citizens Concerned with Immigration Problems, told the council, "In the past eight months there has been a dramatic increase in the number of undocumented workers."

She said the schoolchildren are verbally harassed, confronted by men urinating in public and physically intimidated.

In addition, she cited a recent outbreak of malaria that afflicted nearly a dozen farm workers in the area and said the community's health is endangered.

"No one has any right to threaten our children or us," she said.

Ron Lubick, another parent, said the council should order the police and fire departments to aggressively enforce laws against loitering, trespassing, drinking in public and littering the streets, as well as codes about illegal campfires.

He suggested that no-stopping zones be created to discourage potential employers from picking up the people who line the streets hoping for landscaping or construction jobs.

Council members Claude "Bud" Lewis and Ann Kulchin will work with Gubelmann, Lubick and Jimno as an ad hoc committee to study the recommendations and report back before the end of the month.

# National survival seen at stake in immigration reform

By Don Davis  
Staff Writer

Harold Ezell's assessment of the undocumented-alien situation is not at all complicated: It is, he says, clearly a matter of national survival.

"Our nation is headed for an absolute collision with illegal immigration," said the Western regional commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. "The bottom line issue facing us is survival."

He surveyed his audience, an upper-crust slice of Rancho Bernardo. Most nodded in agreement.

"We must do something to get control of our borders or this isn't going to be the country that you enjoy today," Ezell said.

The INS official had come to the Rancho Bernardo Community Center last week about 90 minutes after standing near the border between San Diego County and Mexico. The vision of what he saw there was fresh in his mind.

"Some 250 illegal aliens were standing in that place that we call 'the soccer field.' That's on our side of the line. They were standing on our property, waiting for the sun to go down to make their deal with a guide and infiltrate deeper into our country."

He said the Border Patrol could fill San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium with the number of aliens caught illegally crossing the border each month. The numbers were growing — November's total up 63 percent from the same month a year ago — and the result was catastrophic, he said.

Ezell claimed the unlawful influx of aliens has:

- Caused a rise in diseases, such as tuberculosis, that had once been considered eradicated.
- Eliminated jobs that Americans could do.
- Increased crime, particularly in the drug trade.

The nation's natural and financial resources are strained to support them, he said. Sixty percent of the births in the county hospitals in the Los Angeles area are children of undocumented aliens, which means such babies are automatic U.S. citizens.

Insisting the situation "is not a Mexican problem, not a Hispanic problem," Ezell said 500,000 legal visitors from Asia and Europe have not returned to their homelands this year and that thousands more enter the United States via Canada each year.

He scoffed at 1980 census figures showing 15 million Americans as

unlawful residents. "Nobody is going to raise their hand and say, 'I'm here illegally,'" said Ezell, who made his own rough guess that 8 million to 12 million illegals are in the country today.

"In the core of Los Angeles," he said, "it's difficult to find anyone who can communicate with you in English."

Ezell said his distaste for unauthorized immigrants was a view from the lawbooks.

"We brought in 800,000 immigrants legally last year," he said. "They came in under the Statue of Liberty's

torch and book to provide the shot we need for continued creativity. One of this nation's laws is that every immigrant must come through legal entry."

He likened the United States to a lifeboat that is sent out to be filled with needy persons and brought back to safety. With the illegal aliens piling into the craft it threatens to capsize, according to Ezell.

"When the United States becomes more than 50 percent poor and uneducated, we lose it," he warned.

Ezell dismissed the notion that the men and women who come north

across the border in darkness only work in the agricultural fields or in other jobs that no U.S. citizen would take. He said only 15 percent performed "stoop-labor jobs," while 40 percent work as busboys, dishwashers, waiters and the like in the hotel and personal service industries.

"The impact is not here in Rancho Bernardo," he said. "It is felt mostly among the blacks and Hispanics where unemployment is already very high."

The man who carried out the controversial Border Patrol raids on the Del Mar and Santa Anita race tracks

— in which almost 300 suspected undocumented aliens were seized and the lucrative racing cards interrupted — made no apology for the crack-down.

"I do not believe illegal aliens have a right to work in this country," he said. "For every 100 illegal aliens working, 66 U.S. citizens are displaced."

Voters, Ezell said, need "to get mad, to get fed up ... to say enough is enough" and force the government to deal with the problem of a porous border. "If we can get mad at drunk drivers," he asked, "why can't we get

mad at our borders being out of control?"

Supporting immigration legislation currently before Congress, he said that the controversial sections of the bill requiring federal fines and other sanctions against employers who hire illegal aliens are the only things "that will turn the tide."

Ezell said the legislation was needed because it would be impossible to hire enough patrol agents to control the border. "There is no other answer other than to put our military forces out there on the border ... God forbid!" he said.

## California Commentary

# In an Area Growing Too Fast, Anger Is Taken Out on the Weak

■ **Migrant Workers: A Mexican is brutalized in northern San Diego County, the crossroads where racial tension and economic pressure meet.**

By JONATHAN FREEDMAN

SAN DIEGO—The Country Store is a homey, ranch-style market, liquor store and post office in the suburbanizing out-back of North San Diego County. It's got a statue of a big chicken on the roof, and it's run by two big, 220-pound brothers. Dozens of migrant workers usually can be seen outside the store, waiting to be picked up for day jobs.

On the morning of Jan. 3, the Country Store was the scene of an eruption of hate against one of the migrants.

Police found the man tied up blindly in a field behind the store. His hands and legs were bound with silver duct tape. A brown paper sack was taped over his head, with no eye or air holes. A clown's face was drawn on the bag, along with the words "No mas aqui"—"No more here."

Candido Galloso Salas, a 27-year-old undocumented field worker, told police he had been handcuffed for two hours, hit in the stomach and shoved against a railing. He didn't know why he had been grabbed and dragged to the rear of the store, but he went along because, at 5 foot, 6 inches and 115 pounds, he was nearly a foot shorter and 100 pounds lighter than his assailant.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the Country Store hate incident is the ordinarily decent people who let it happen. The customers who saw a man handcuffed to the back railing and focused instead on the fresh vegetables. The employees who nodded their heads in silent acquiescence—or support. The Border Patrol offi-



DON BARTLETTI / Los Angeles Times

Carlsbad residents confront migrant workers in demonstration at the Country Store.

cer who drove up to the rear of the store and asked what was going on, then left before the handcuffed victim could answer. The fearful migrants who let a *compadre* be manhandled, tied up and terrorized.

It is hard for Americans to imagine how a Mixtec from Oaxaca felt being trapped inside a bag with his wrists bound to his knees. Mixtecs suffer human-rights abuses on both sides of the border. In rural Mexico, when they put a bag over your head it usually means one thing: They're going to take you out to a lonely field, shoot you and dump you by the roadside.

It hasn't come to that in this country, we

like to tell ourselves. But that's not what Robert Martinez sees when he visits victims of hate crimes. "They have found dozens of bodies in North County in shallow graves, some just thrown on the side of the road, others shot and killed," says Martinez, regional director of the American Friends Service Committee. Martinez has documented 14 hate crimes over the past year in North County.

The growing racial violence stems from a clash between immigrants and suburbanites. Undocumented field workers are alienated from U.S. society but connected to the land they make bloom. Suburbanites

are U.S. citizens but often alienated from the soil.

Two worlds live side-by-side in Southern California apartheid. Pickups roaring down El Camino Real to \$260,000 homes pass migrants walking on paths to their shanty encampments near the fields. The Country Store is a crossroads of suburban alienation and the alien nation.

The anger of an area growing too fast is taken out on the weakest, most vulnerable people—the people who work the fields and mow lawns. Everybody's slave labor.

And there's a lot to be angry about. The beautiful land is being trashed. Looking out from a high point, one can see the pattern of a tract development silhouetted against the pattern of a strawberry field. Everywhere, bulldozers are digging up tomatoes and planting houses.

When the Garden of Eden is despoiled, blame the gardener.

It's equally wrong simply to blame the native Californians.

Look at the strapping Country Store owner behind his desk, scared of losing the place in a civil suit filed by a migrant worker. It's not his fault, proprietor Rick Ryberg argues. He feels like a scapegoat of the media. Is he supposed to provide sanitation and housing for migrants? Why should his parking lot be used as a hiring hall, when the city of Carlsbad delays building a job center? You can feel the community's tension knotting his muscles.

Criminal charges against Ryberg were dropped, but his brother, Randy, and an independent butcher at the store, William E. Zimmerman, were arraigned Thursday on charges of false imprisonment by violence and interference with civil rights.

The Big Chicken is now a symbol of the fear that infests much of North County. Martinez documents a wave of white hate-monger attacks on migrants: Unidentified men drive up in trucks and club field hands walking home from a hard day's work picking fruit for Californians to stay

healthy. A sniper shoots a Mexican in the back as he waits for a bus, paralyzing him from the waist down. Vigilante teen-agers in camouflage fatigues play "militia" and kill two men. A bully ties up a man, terrorizes and humiliates him, to stop others from loitering around the store. "No mas aqui!"

The people with courage are the immigrants who endure squalid and inhumane conditions, generally without complaint, to feed their families back in Mexico.

Hate violence threatens California's multicultural society. Public officials don't respond because the victims can't vote. But the people of Carlsbad who do vote can directly confront the Big Chicken. Customers and neighbors can say that such violence is unacceptable. They can stop blaming migrants for burglaries committed by drug addicts and teen-agers. Carlsbad police say that field workers are more often the victims of crimes than the victimizers. Suburbanites can treat immigrants as people, not as aliens from another planet. Most of the field workers in North County are here legally. Farmers can use a portion of profits earned by migrant labor to provide housing, sanitation and hiring facilities. Courts can protect rights of victims of hate crimes. And community leaders can communicate clearly to immigrants their responsibility to respect property rights and community standards.

The Country Store is a microcosm of the hate violence spanning the nation from California to New York's Howard Beach. Congress has just passed legislation to monitor hate violence. North San Diego County should be a focus of federal investigation.

The bully who wrote "No mas aqui" on the bag communicated, in a twisted way, a message for all of us.

No more hate violence here.

Jonathan Freedman is a writer in San Diego.

# The Fox Chamber

STARVING

3/14/90

Accusations that local teens were operating as border vigilantes were suspicious from the beginning. Now, a San Diego Police Department review of the allegations made in the Fox network show "The Reporters" has given further evidence that the teens were not vigilantes but dupes of unscrupulous "journalists" eager for a sensational story.

What was the motivation of the Fox "journalists"? The same one of legitimate media — to get a good story. Trouble is, the hard-pressed crew of this struggling program apparently grew frustrated when they found no story and decided to invent one. They trapped the youths in the tabloid TV equivalent of the infamous "Star Chamber," where those accused were at the mercy of an arbitrary court.

The teens were told to act out their make-believe war games, police said, and the mock footage was shown by Fox as representing actual border confrontations

with illegal aliens. Young and inexperienced in dealing with the media, these teens were easily convinced to say and do things that, combined with some creative editing, made it appear that racist terrorists were out of control on the border.

This scenario was always shaky. There are real border terrorists — robbers who shake down, injure and kill illegal aliens as they cross the border. These hardened criminals would not let some game-playing teens intrude on their territory without a fight.

We wouldn't be surprised at all if the parents of these youths take legal action against Fox. In fact, it would be just. Journalists who deliberately and knowingly misrepresent the facts disgrace the profession. Those journalists who refuse to denounce such tactics silently condone them. Until this changes, the widespread public distrust of the media will continue.

# Television

## 'Reporters' aired impression of the news

By Robert P. Laurence  
Television Writer

### Commentary

Like the fellow who's only been interviewed once in his life by a journalist and knows that story turned out wrong, San Diego has been left stung, suspicious and skeptical by "The Reporters," Fox Broadcasting's weekly venture into muckraking tabloid journalism.

The attack leveled on the show by San Diego Police at a press conference yesterday, the mealy-mouthed non-denial, non-defense by Fox, and the unavailability of the reporter and producer responsible have left the show with a nasty credibility gap.

At issue was a segment aired Feb. 24 by "The Reporters" (which is shown locally at 9 p.m. Saturdays on XETV, Ch. 6) dealing with the abuse of undocumented aliens crossing the border into San Diego from Mexico.

There was no quarreling with the point that thugs prey upon the aliens, or that many of them have

been killed and injured.

But Fox also reported that a group of kids from Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach have formed war-gaming paramilitary squads that systematically head for the border to shoot their paint capsules and BBs at the aliens. That allegation seems to be supported by the tape, which seems to show the kids chasing after Mexicans and saying things such as, "If you catch him, you know you're going to kill him."

Well, according to the police investigation, the kids do play war games, but they don't chase aliens. The boy who was quoted was talking about war game opponents, not Mexicans, said the police. The kids on the tape were chasing each other, not aliens, the police said.

And, contrary to what's stated on the tape, the kids' foray was staged at the behest of Fox's crew, which

also led the kids into dangerous areas where they don't usually go, according to the cops.

"To suggest that they harass aliens coming across the border was an erroneous presentation," said police Cmdr. Larry Gore during the press conference held at police headquarters.

Fox's publicity agents issued a statement yesterday from New York, refused any other comment, and said the reporter responsible for the piece, Bob Drury, and the producer, Teri Whitcraft, were "not available."

Fox's statement did not defend the accuracy of the story. Instead, it said the network has not been contacted by police and has "always been prepared to cooperate in any inquiry." (The police say they have called Fox, and have been referred to attorneys.)

It added that Fox has not heard "any specific allegation" about the conduct of its crew, but didn't deny the crew staged the whole incident.

As a part of its statement, Fox did take a fairly odd position, saying it is "surprised that any criticism should be made of the program without anyone first screening its raw, unedited video tape."

The raw tapes, of course, are no more available to the viewers than notes are available to readers. A story, whether on television or in a newspaper, has to stand on its own.

So far, Fox's story does not seem to stand. Fox, in the sleazy tabloid tradition of its owner, Rupert Murdoch, has apparently produced an artistic impression of a news story, a piece of tape that seemed to show more than it did. It also produced a powerful argument against the abuses of tabloid TV, and a warning of how wrong pictures and sound can be.

Television journalism can be a powerful tool for telling the truth. This time, it wasn't.

Folks at Fox may not care about all that, however. The show is due to go off the air after March 31.

# Teen warriors threatened, told to stay out of school

By David Kravets  
Staff Writer

Youths playing war games near the border are now under fire from more than just each others' paint bullets and BB guns.

Several students from the Sweetwater Unified High School District, mostly ROTC cadets from Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach, now fear their lives are in jeopardy at school and were told not to attend classes Tuesday.

Their absence from classes comes on the heels of a nationally televised news show depicting 14 youths' acting as vigilantes, harassing undocumented workers as they fled Mexico to the United States.

Officials told students to miss school because they feared the district could not assure the youths' safety, as a major student backlash erupted at Mar Vista's campus Monday.

Several students with baseball bats waited for the ROTC students after school Monday to beat them for their alleged attacks on the illegal aliens, some youths said. But most ROTC cadets already had been sent home.

Some of those youths said that graffiti on the school grounds stated "Jason Must Die," in reference to Jason MacAllister, the 17-year-old leader of the Metal Militia, the reported name of the war game crew.

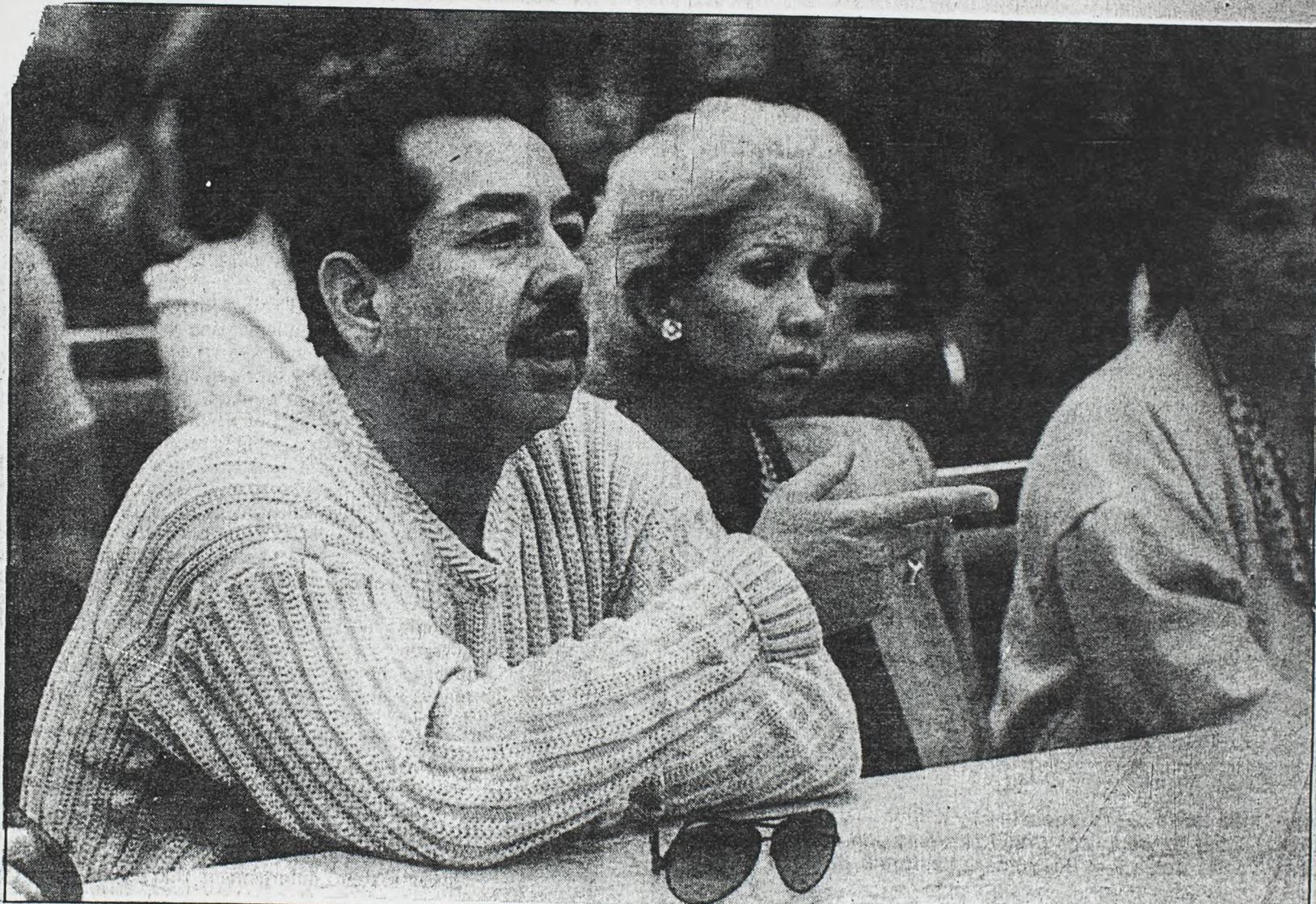
"I think I speak for all of us. We're scared," said Michael La-bit, a 20-year-old ROTC student at Mar Vista. "You have no idea what it's like when people come up to you and ask you 'Why did you do it?' and 'Why don't you kill

Please see Threatened: A-6



Staff photo by Tyler Larkin

Jason MacAllister attempts to ask a question during a meeting in which he, fellow ROTC member Sean Borry, right, along with other Sweetwater Union High School District students, claim they were "duped" into their vigilante actions recently portrayed on television.



Arthur Zaragoza expresses his concern about his son's safety at school.

Staff photo by Tyler Larkin

Continued from page A-1

A6

"I'm scared and I'm not coming to school tomorrow," he continued, while addressing school officials, parents, ROTC students and the media during a lengthy meeting Monday night at the Mar Vista library to discuss the validity of Fox network's show, "The Reporters."

Sweetwater Superintendent Anthony Trujillo, after listening to one cadet at that meeting say "a group of kids came up to us at school and threatened us," said, "We have a problem about the children's safety and they should take at least a one day grace period from school. My advice to you as parents is to file a complaint against Fox."

Those complaints stem from students' claims that, while admitting they have played war games on Dairy Mart Road near the Tijuana River for several years, they say they have "never"

harassed aliens, as "The Reporters" reported. The students concluded, in short, that they were "duped" by the television show which portrayed them as border vigilantes, terrorizing migrants.

"We've never done any harm to the illegals," Labit said.

The show, nevertheless, portrays MacAllister as saying "I don't shoot them. We used to a long time ago."

The boy claims his quotes were in response to a question asked by one of the shows' reporters concerning whether his military crew used to shoot their fellow cadets with BB guns, not whether he shoots aliens near the border.

He emphasized that the show made it seem like he was answering a question dealing with his purported violent involvement with illegal aliens. "The show was all out of context; it portrayed me as a racist," MacAllister said. "The people from the show also told us to beat them (the migrants). I told them that it was inhuman."

Meanwhile, the executive producer of the "The Reporters" — admitting he did not realize the tremendous danger the kids could be placed in because of the footage — flatly denied accusations that the show was "staged."

"If they are saying that they have never approached migrants before, and because we were there, they did, I don't buy it," said Gerald Stone, in a telephone interview Tuesday from New York.

"We are very disturbed by the idea that we distorted the report," the executive producer continued. "The footage speaks for itself. We are prepared to stand by it."

The nine high schools in the district have two ROTC programs, one each at MVHS and Southwest High School in San Diego. There are approximately 175 ROTC cadets enrolled at MVHS. The student backlash was targeted at that school only, as some of the cadets portrayed in the show attend that school. In all, there were 14 youths seen on the program. According to Trujillo, only four attended MVHS, while the others are enrolled in the district's adult schools.

Threats on student lives were aimed at more than just those ROTC students who were seen on the show. Students indicated that before some of the ROTC students were released from school early Monday, the ROTC building, having a chain-link fence around it, was sealed off to protect the cadets from some of MVHS's 1,700 students, a population of which is 57 percent Latino.

ROTC cadets, since the incident, will not be allowed to sport their uniforms on their usual Thursday dress-up days, in an effort to quell student ROTC hatred.

MVHS Principal Jaime Mercado addressed the student body over a loudspeaker Monday, stating the television show was a hoax. On Tuesday, a student assembly was called in order for Mercado to reiterate that contention.

When asked Monday if the ROTC program could be put in jeopardy because of the purported vigilantism, Mercado brushed the question aside.

"If we took some ramifications against the (ROTC) program, then it would be an admission that the students' actions were somehow sanctioned by us," Mercado said. "Neither the school nor ROTC condones war game activities or the recent harassment of aliens."

Superintendent Trujillo said Tuesday he hopes to get the kids back in school "within the next few days."

"We have to take it on a day-to-day basis," he continued.

United States Congressman Jim Bates, D-San Diego, said Monday he opposes students playing war games in that area. Since the new year, there have been 13 reported robberies, two reported rapes and one reported murder, all near the border.

"The bottom line is that they should not be playing war games," said the 44th District representative in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C.



Staff photo by Tyler Larkin  
Sweetwater School Superintendent Anthony Trujillo, front, and Mar Vista High Principal Jaime Mercado express concern about ROTC students' safety on Mar Vista High's campus.

# Hispanics protest harassment case

IMPERIAL BEACH — Members and supporters of a San Diego State Hispanic group staged a protest march and news conference here yesterday to highlight the issue of harassment and terrorism aimed at Hispanics.

The protest was sparked by a nationally televised news report last week about paramilitary and vigilante groups that allegedly prey on Hispanics suspected of illegally crossing the border into the United States.

"Our purpose is to call attention to the plight of the undocumented workers on the border and in North County. It should be focused on," said SDSU freshman Guadalupe Corona, a member of the Mexican-American support organization MECHA.

The news report, broadcast last Saturday on the Fox network show "The Reporters," depicted students from Imperial Beach's Mar Vista High School allegedly hunting Hispanics near a U.S.-Mexico border area frequented by undocumented aliens.

The Mar Vista students involved in the taping of the news program have asserted that they were duped by the show's producers into saying derogatory things about Hispanics and into going to the areas frequented by undocumented aliens.

"We feel that this whole Rambo-like mentality is not acceptable."

Joe Lara

The youths, some of whom belong to Mar Vista's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, admit belonging to a paramilitary group called the Metal Militia, which wears combat fatigues and plays war games with BB guns. But they say they hunt only each other, not Hispanics.

The SDSU students, all members of MECHA, say that regardless of the accuracy of the news report, the program has presented an opportunity to address a bigger issue.

"There are plenty of other groups out there that are doing it that need to be brought to justice," said Rick Rodriguez, an SDSU senior.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg," said junior Joe Lara. "We feel that this whole Rambo-like mentality is not acceptable."

MECHA members held the news conference at Marina Vista Park on Eighth Street after marching with protest signs down Elm Avenue in

front of Mar Vista High School. The demonstration originally was planned on campus, but the location was changed at the request of school officials.

To substantiate their concern, the MECHA students brought Roberto Martinez of the American Friends Service Committee to the news conference.

"What the ROTC kids are involved in is symptomatic of a much deeper and serious problem that is getting out of control throughout the whole county," said Martinez, who added that he believes the youngsters were involved in anti-Hispanic activity.

"Undocumented immigrants are being perceived as non-human, not only by vigilante groups but by the Border Patrol, police and others," he said.

The MECHA students say they plan to attend the next Sweetwater Union High School District meeting to call for a review of the JROTC program and call for workshops to educate students about the plight of undocumented aliens.

"We would like to work with Mar Vista High School to help the students become more culturally sensitive," Lara said.

School officials issued statements this week that the district does not

condone war-game human-rights violation that the school has no plan to discipline the Metal Militia. They were involved in the incident, because the alleged harassment occurred off-campus.

"We will do what we can in this area of responsibility to make sure our students understand human rights," said Mar Vista Sweetwater Union High School District spokeswoman. "We will certainly review curriculum to make sure there's nothing that would lead to believe that (vigilante groups) are appropriate, and will work cooperatively with any agency that has jurisdiction."

Stro said Fox Network should investigate the accuracy of their news crews.

"We have uncovered information that causes us to have very serious questions about the ethics and professionalism of this particular program," she said. "The program is very misleading representation of (the students') behavior."

Mar Vista Principal Robert Stro said the youths involved in the war games have not been disciplined at school regularly this week. He said the harassment from other

LA Times - B1  
Feb. 24, 1990

# Teen-Age War Games Flirt With Frontier of Danger

■ **The Border:** Youths carrying fake arms do mock battle in canyons near U.S.-Mexico line, where real-life violence is routine.

By NORA ZAMICHOW  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Armed with guns that shoot paint and BBs, a few dozen teen-agers regularly play war games in the darkened canyons near the U.S.-Mexico border. The participants belong to groups with names such as Metal Militia or Sudden Death and regularly do battle starting about 9 Saturday nights.

"I do it to prepare for my future in the military," said Jason MacAllister, a 17-year-old Imperial Beach resident. "And, yeah, it's fun, it's really fun."

The teens act on their own, without adult supervision, in an area that is riddled with

violence. Border Patrol agents encountered the groups at least three times in December and January and say the youths pose a twofold danger: Their guns could be mistaken for real by agents in the canyons or they could be hurt by criminals prowling the region.

"Obviously, it's dark and we can't tell in the dark whether those are real guns. The danger is . . . if they come at one agent waving one of those guns," said Ted Swofford, spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "And there are an awful lot of bandits in that area. We get assaults, rapes and robberies on a fairly regular basis. I sure wouldn't want my kids out there."

In the past two years, law enforcement officers have killed eight people while patrolling the border area, said Lt. Gary Learn of the San Diego Police Department's homicide unit. In 1988, five homicides were reported; more recent figures are unavailable.

Non-fatal shootings are not uncommon. In one recent case, a controversial shooting involving police left a 17-year-old Mexican boy paralyzed. The youth wielded a screwdriver and the Border Crime Intervention officers mistook it for a weapon.

But MacAllister and other boys said they do not worry about their safety.

"If you are in Vietnam, you should be scared. But this is not Vietnam," said 15-year-old David, who declined to give his last name.

The boys play war games instead of cowboys-and-Indians. The groups have

officers, such as MacAllister, who has attained the rank of "colonel." For them, Sylvester Stallone is a hero. In their mock battles, those who are shot must drop and be counted as dead. Surviving in the underbrush is more important than winning at Space Invaders.

But parents are concerned. David's mother, who also declined to give her name, said she worries but has confidence that her ninth-grade son can take care of himself.

"At first, I didn't like it," said MacAllister's mother, who declined to use her first name. "I can't really get used to it. But either he goes out there with my permission or he goes out there without it. I'm stuck—I taught him to be independent. I wish I could be there to guard him, but I can't."

Please see **BORDER, B2**

# BORDER: Child's Play Risks Real-Life Violence

Continued from B1

Most of the boys come from South Bay high schools. Eight attend Mar Vista High, said school principal Jaime Mercado, who added that the school does not encourage nor support the boys' activities.

"It's stupid and ridiculous and utterly non-thinking to allow your son to be out there, even if it's nothing but war games, which apparently are popular," Mercado said.

Rep. Jim Bates (D-San Diego) said police and Border Patrol officials, who have encountered the teen-agers, should discuss the boys' activities with parents and school officials.

"They should tell parents and schools that is not appropriate for the kids to be in that area, and that there is great danger," Bates said. "I don't think they should be there at all—and certainly not playing war in uniform and armed."

In letters, Bates last week asked San Diego Police Chief Bob Burgreen and Sweetwater Union High School District Supt. Anthony Trujillo to investigate the activities.

The Border Patrol's encounters with the youths occurred around Dairy Mart Road, about 3 miles from the border crossing. The first time, on Dec. 9, the agents mistook the 12 youths for illegal aliens, said Lt. Bill Brown of the Southern Division of the San Diego Police Department.

The youths, whose ages range from 13 to 18, were dressed in camouflage and toting plastic pistols, air guns, nunchakus, knives and slingshots, according to Dale

Cozart, Chief Patrol Agent with INS. The teen-agers, encountered at 10 p.m., said they were playing war.

Four days later, border agents came across seven youths carrying air guns. Then, on Jan. 28, agents found another group, playing war games at 3 a.m.

The teens violated the city's curfew law, which prohibits youngsters under 18 from being outside unsupervised by adults from 10 p.m. to dawn unless participating in school-related functions. But, on each occasion, police released the youngsters.

"To me, it's just kids playing out a game that many adults enjoy—it's their version of tactical maneuvers," said Lt. Bill Brown, second-in-command at Southern Command, which patrols the area. "It's never caused anyone harm."

But, on a recent Saturday afternoon, one Imperial Beach resident said he was frightened when he came across three youths toting play guns, wearing camouflage outfits and face paint.

Michael Schnorr, an instructor at Southwestern College, said one youth whirled and pointed a pistol at him. When he yelled at the boys, they ran into the bushes. Schnorr said teen-agers have played war in the area for 10 years.

Tonight, Fox Television Stations is scheduled to air a report on border violence, concentrating on "secret para-military groups," according to a press release. The network's "The Reporters" show alleges that "Rambo-like" gangs shoot and harass undocumented

workers. In the program, a number of youths are seen rounding up Mexicans.

MacAllister and others, however, say the "Reporters" crew asked them to rough up Mexicans and their group members do not shoot or bother undocumented workers. They say some groups, not theirs, do harass Mexicans.

"We don't touch illegal aliens," said MacAllister, who has played war for two years in the border area. "We tell them it's dangerous and they should leave. Maybe we give them a drink of water if they ask for it. Sometimes, they scare us, they pop out of nowhere."

Gerald Stone, executive producer of "The Reporters," says he stands behind the program.

"We are quite disturbed by any claim that we sensationalize what happens. From the footage, it's quite clear they [the teen-agers] were using procedures that they used a number of times before. We are fairly well-trained to separate fact from fiction, and it's clear to us that the footage is realistic," he said.

Police and INS officials say they don't believe the teen-agers are harassing Mexicans who attempt to cross the border.

"If someone is taking vigilante action, the San Diego Police Department would not tolerate it and would do everything it could to stop it," Brown said. "There have never been any reports of camouflaged youths accosting illegal aliens or that there were any vigilante actions."

In a letter to Bates, Cozart of the

INS said: "The Border Patrol has not received any reports of individuals playing 'war games' who were using force to approach undocumented persons."

The 28 members of Metal Militia usually meet every Saturday night. The boys, ranging from 13 to 21 years old, divide themselves up into teams and take off into the underbrush. Some are recruits, others, have played the game for years. Eddie Smith, 18, said he has played war games for five years.

The boys have different reasons for joining. Rodrigo Vazcones is a 15-year-old ninth-grader from Mar Vista. Vazcones, who has been involved with the group for three months, said that he likes the thrill of "going into the war zone" and that it helps him avoid doing chores at home.

But many of the others, like David, want to join the military when they get older.

"It's getting us ready for our future," said David, who hopes to become a Marine. The group learns how to read a map, build shelters and find food, such as insects, said David, who added that he had never actually eaten any bugs.

However, Senior Chief Petty Officer Bob Howard, a Navy spokesman, said: "I guess they are in some way preparing themselves for conflicts that would have occurred 60 years ago, but we don't have a whole lot of call in the service these days for those skills. I'd much rather have a kid who stayed home and did his homework."

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se BORDER, B2

# Cries of racism follow Poway sweep

By Bob Rowland  
and Neil Ball  
Staff Writers

4/28/88  
S.D. J.M.

POWAY — Emotions continue to run high in this normally tranquil community following the detention of 85 Hispanic males for questioning following the rape of a 15-year-old girl.

Civil libertarians and Chicano rights advocates condemned the operation, calling the sweep of the area near the crime scene an act of blatant racism by sheriff's deputies and a violation of the detainees' constitutional rights.

Others in the community argue that the deputies' response was appropriate under the circumstances.

Councilwoman Linda Brannon said: "I don't think this incident will change life in Poway. In fact, I think the Sheriff's Department sent a clear

message that this type of crime won't be tolerated in Poway."

But not everyone here seemed to feel that way.

"People phone and call me a bigot or racist and hang up without giving their names," said Sgt. Steve Wood of the Poway Sheriff's Substation. "They say, 'Would you do this if they were white?' and I say, 'Yes.'"

Sheriff's deputies went to the area near the Old Poway Market on Midland Road where a 15-year-old girl was pulled from her horse by eight men and assaulted by one of them last Sunday evening.

Deputies detained 85 men for a photo lineup. They have identified three men as witnesses. An artist's rendering of the suspect should be ready today, said Wood, who is heading the investigation.

Some of the migrants detained by deputies Sunday night were turned

over to the Border Patrol when they were found to be without documents.

"We see aliens on the streets and in stores and restaurants and we do not harass them," said Wood. "But if we are investigating a crime and they appear to be involved and we find they do not have papers, we turn them over to the Border Patrol and let them decide if they belong here."

Meanwhile, a man has told deputies he saw two Hispanic males holding a riderless horse Sunday night, with other men huddled under bushes.

"The time frame is right and we will be talking more with this man," Wood said.

While not questioning the right of the Sheriff's Department to investigate crimes, the Chicano Federation of San Diego County yesterday took issue with the methods used.

"When a crime is committed, the

culprit should be punished," said Irma Castro, federation executive director. "But we are concerned with the way in which people were selectively chosen to be suspects. The men who were detained were rounded up because they were Chicanos.

"We see this as a civil rights violation. It is another instance of how officials selectively enforce the law in San Diego County."

Furthermore, the federation has received calls from Poway residents criticizing the behavior of deputies conducting the search for suspects, she said.

One man who witnessed the detention of suspects said he was "shocked by the behavior of the deputies."

David LaFortune of Escondido left the Mark Snyder Electric Shop in Poway Square and walked into what

See **Rape** on Page B-5

# Rape: Poway search criticized

Continued from B-1

he called "a war zone."

"A Mexican laborer had been waxing Mark's truck 10 minutes earlier, when we walked into the shop," LaFortune said. "When we came back out, we saw two deputies knock him into a wall. He wasn't struggling, or even cursing. He was calling for help. When we asked them what was going on, they said, 'We're picking up the illegals.'

"There's much more to this than a rape and a police response. It's a question of how law enforcement deals with people in the community."

Others here support the deputies' actions.

"This is not a racial issue. It's a matter of legal or illegal status in this country," said DeAnne Erickson, chairperson of the Poway Trails Committee.

"I've lived in this community for

12 years and I've seen why people sometimes become afraid. If something like this could happen on Midland Road, it certainly could happen in the back country and on the wilderness trails."

Councilwoman Brannon views the assault as an isolated incident, but she believes the issues raised in its wake are international in scope.

"In an area like Poway, where you have both agriculture and large rural lots, you have an especially strong draw for migrant workers," she said.

"There are a lot of households in which both parents are working. As a result, time becomes more of a premium. If you take a close look, you'll find that a lot of migrant laborers are doing weekly maintenance work in neighborhoods.

"They are not strictly agricultural workers. I think that's something the people here aren't quite willing to accept."

Meanwhile, deputies continued yesterday to defend the operation. Sgt. Wood disputed those who called it a roundup or sweep of undocumented workers.

"It was and is a rape investigation, and many of those who were brought in understand that," he said.

Wood described the migrants detained by deputies as generally cooperative.

"These people who come up here to work and send money back to their families generally have high morals," he said. "They would not want this to happen to a sister or daughter. Some have come in with information."

According to Mike Connell, Border Patrol agent-in-charge in El Cajon, there are 2,000 to 3,000 aliens working and living in the area. He also said he knew of no complaints of rough treatment of migrants by the deputies.



On April 27<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m., people from San Diego known as the "Light up the border" movement will demonstrate on Dairy Mart Rd., near the San Ysidro border. They will park their cars facing south and turn on their headlights, asking for "proper law enforcement," to stop the so called "invasion of illegal aliens." But this kind of "solution" clearly has not worked. Instead, increased militarization has caused more tension, violence and deaths of migrant workers. In their efforts, they have the support of Roger Hedgecock, who is using his radio program on KSDO to convince people of their views. If you disagree with these policies and campaigns; if you feel this is blatant racism:

**COME HELP US REFLECT THEIR  
LIGHTS WITH MIRRORS!**

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m. Take freeway 5 south, exit on Dairy Mart Rd. South.  
Bring alluminum foil and cardboard.

# LET'S MEET AT THE BORDER!

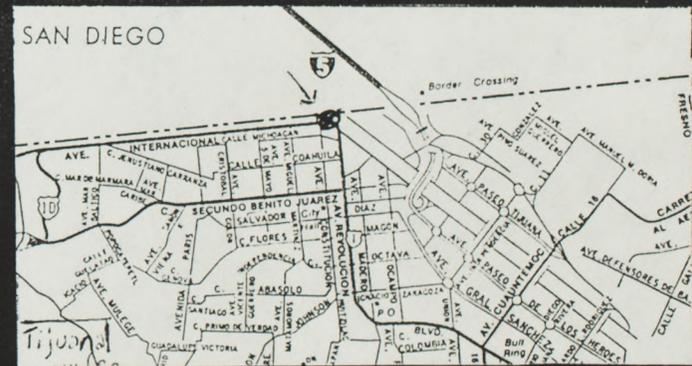
April 28th, 6:00 p.m.

People from San Diego and Tijuana will build an altar at the "Bordo", in Tijuana, to honor all those who have died when crossing the border in search of a better life. Bring candles and/or flowers...

**RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS!**

**STOP RACISM!**

**NO MILITARIZATION OF THE BORDER, NO MORE MIGRA!**



## Que Investiguen...

[Viene de la Primera Página]

"El Comité", demandaron ayer al gobierno mexicano realice una investigación completa en torno a los últimos acontecimientos y exija al Congreso estadounidense el respeto a los derechos

humanos de sus connacionales.

Herman Baca, del Committee on Chicano Rights; Al Ducheny, del Harbor View Community Council; bea Estrada, del LULAC;

y José Luis Pérez Canchola, del Centro de Información y Estudios Migratorios (CIEM), éste último de la localidad, firmaron un documento que dirigirán al presidente de la República, licenciado Car-

los Salinas de Gortari, y en el que señalan su preocupación ante esta situación.

En una conferencia de prensa celebrada ayer en esta ciudad, y en la que estuvieron presentes tan sólo tres de los firmantes (faltó Bea Estrada), acusaron directamente a las autoridades del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización, como los responsables de los hechos que se han registrado en las últimas fechas tanto en la franja fronteriza como en el Condado de San Diego.

Aunque no han intervenido directamente en los ataques que han estado sufriendo los mexicanos, dijeron los dirigentes chicanos que han permiti-

do la integración de éstos grupos paramilitares y lo que es peor, los han dejado "trabajar" en su labor de "limpia" de mexicanos en la Frontera Sur de los Estados Unidos.

Amparándose en supuestas infiltraciones de "guerrilleros" a su país, grupos de jóvenes y residentes estadounidenses, hombres y mujeres, se han dado a la tarea de perseguir prácticamente a los mexicanos en la Línea Fronteriza, incluso ya dentro del Condado de San Diego, en donde son amenazados constantemente por los "cazadores".

Dijeron los dirigentes chicanos que ha resurgido de nueva cuenta la consi-

deración de que los mexicanos son los responsables de todos sus males; son los rateros, los violadores, los asaltantes, los asesinos, a lo que contribuyen también los representantes de los diferentes cuerpos policíacos, quienes falsamente dan informaciones a la prensa en la que "satanizan" al mexicano.

Herman Baca, Al Ducheny y Pérez Canchola, consideraron que dada la situación, en la que se encuentran involucrados dos países, deben intervenir ambos gobiernos, el de México y Estados Unidos, para tratar de resolver este problema, más aún porque afecta sobremanera las relaciones internacionales.

## Que Investiguen los Ataques a Indocumentados

ABC/Tijuana

Ante el reiterado ataque que los mexicanos han venido sufriendo tanto en la Franja Fronteriza como en el Condado de San Diego por parte de grupos paramilitares, dirigentes chicanos integrantes de la alianza de organizaciones México-americanas denominada

(Pase a la Pág. 11-A)

ABC  
3-10-90

# Los Chicanos Harán Sentir su Presencia en la Esfera Administrativa y Política

TIJUANA.- El Comité de Derechos Chicanos demandará mayores posiciones en la esfera administrativa y política, al observar que a pesar de considerarse como un grupo con presencia en el Sureste de California, a los mexicanos se les ha coartado su derecho de inmigrantes y residentes.

Al tiempo que denunció una campaña de hostigamiento, en la cual participan personas de diferentes estratos sociales, Hermán Baca, presidente de la citada agrupación, reveló que las acciones intimidatorias están siendo respaldadas por autoridades aduanales y de Servicios Migratorios de los Estados Unidos.

En este marco, comentó en una conferencia de prensa a la cual asistió acompañado de Daniel Muñoz, editor del Periódico Hispano La Prensa; de Bea Estrada, presidente de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino Americanos y Al Ducheny, del Concilio de la Comunidad de Harborview, Baca llamó a que los mexicanos que viven

en los Estados Unidos establezcan consciencia de los problemas que enfrentan y participen en acciones que mejoren los derechos que tienen en ese país.

Afirmó que las condiciones en que se presenta el hostigamiento a los trabajadores migratorios, ha llevado incluso a las personas que residen en los Estados Unidos, a colocarse en la Línea Internacional y denunciar que las personas que cruzan ilegalmente son terroristas y que van armados.

Dijo que esta campaña observa posturas raciales y además, de discriminación por parte de los anglosajones en contra de aquellas personas que desean modificar su posición económica.

El dirigente de los chicanos señaló que en la toma de consciencia que realizan los mexicanos que se desplazan a los Estados Unidos, se podrá ganar en forma concreta y posiciones y evitar que se continúen pisoteando sus derechos.

## A punto...

Viene de la Pag. 1

binacional y bilateral".

Dijo que muchas corporaciones policíacas, principalmente las de migración, son las primeras en violar los derechos de estas personas, las cuales pagan sus impuestos como cualquier otro ciudadano norteamericano. Y dio a entender que los grupos racistas son patrocinados por esta corporación oficial del gobierno estadounidense.

Asentó que estas acciones han aumentado la histeria y el racismo en el condado de San Diego, donde mucha gente de la localidad de origen anglosajón ofende y agrede a los indocumentados y residentes mexicanos, "situación que podría desatar una guerra de razas", subrayó.

Al hablar sobre la Ley "Simpson Rodino", argumentó que esta fue un fracaso, porque únicamente tuvo límites laborales procurando evitar una crisis de falta de mano de obra para trabajar en el campo, al no tener nada que ver con la legalización y la amnistía.

Aseveró que esto fue un insulto histórico para los mexicanos porque ahora los quieren controlar dándoles permisos para poder residir en este país, siempre y cuando demuestren que trabajan.

Manifestó que ellos buscarán, a través del gobierno mexicano y del Senado norteamericano, que los emigrados tengan los mismos derechos que los norteamericanos y se evite la explotación y manipulación de la mano de obra que ofrecen.

# A punto de desatarse en EU una "guerra de razas"

BAJA CA

Por Joel Galeana 3-10-79

**TIJUANA.-** De no investigar el gobierno de Estados Unidos las denuncias presentadas sobre la violación de los derechos humanos en contra de indocumentados y residentes de origen latino en San Diego, "esto podría convertirse en una guerra de razas".

Lo anterior lo declaró Hermán Baca, presidente del Comité Pro Chicanos, después de exponer que se ha intensificado el racismo en la frontera común entre ambos países, al haberse incrementado la violación de los derechos humanos en contra de los mexicanos que cruzan a

ese país en busca de una mejor oportunidad de vida por medio de su trabajo.

Señaló en conferencia de prensa el dirigente de los chicanos, que se ha desatado una propaganda para dar una mala imagen de los mexicanos radicados en el vecino país, donde los acusan de violaciones, robos y muertes, con la intención de que se formen grupos paramilitares para atacar a esta gente, como lo demuestra el programa "Los Reporteros", que se transmitió el pasado 24 de febrero.

Señaló que ante esta situación se le envió una carta al presidente de México,

Carlos Salinas de Gortari, para que intervenga en favor de los conacionales radicados en este país y que son víctimas de malos tratos y agresiones por parte de grupos racistas, para que por medio

de los acuerdos que se han tenido entre ambos países sobre este problema se investiguen estas acciones y se proceda contra los culpables, "al ser un problema

*Sigue en la Pag. 8*

# Police back teens in flap over TV show

By Leonel Sanchez

Tribune Staff Writer

San Diego police yesterday backed the statements of a group of South Bay teen-agers and young adults who say a national television program misrepresented them as paramilitary vigilantes who hunt undocumented aliens.

"The San Diego Police Department is convinced that much of the program was misrepresentation," Police Cmdr. Larry Gore said. "As a result, lives have been threatened and disrupted."

Most of the group members attend Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach. After the Feb. 24 Fox network broadcast of the segment of "The Reporters," some of the group members were threatened with violence by other students at the predominantly Hispanic school.

Police yesterday invited the public and newspeople to watch the controversial 30-minute TV segment, titled "Illegal Mexican Migrants — Victims of Vigilante 'Hunting Parties.'"

The young people interviewed by investigators said later that they



thought the show's producers wanted to film them playing a war game known as "Capture the Flag." Gore called that game "an advanced form of tag."

The program's producers say the young people knew that they were going to hunt undocumented aliens along the border.

The program featured statements from people represented as avowed racists and footage of people de-

*'Officials questioned the tactics and ethics of the producers and ... it became obvious that despite a lack of any evidence ... they intended to proceed with the program anyway'*

E.T. 3-10-90

CMDR. LARRY GORE

scribed as hate-crime perpetrators in the North County. Gore said the South Bay teens were wrongfully associated with well-documented racial crimes in the county.

Authorities have not received any complaints that paramilitary groups have hunted undocumented aliens, Gore said.

San Diego police officials declined to appear on "The Reporters," saying they did not trust the producer's in-

tentions.

"Officials questioned the tactics and ethics of the producers and ... it became obvious that despite a lack of any evidence ... they intended to proceed with the program anyway," Gore said in a press statement.

Gerald Stone, executive producer of "The Reporters," said the program stands by its story. He said he was surprised that San Diego police made their conclusions without watching the unedited tapes.

Police Detective Carlos Chacon analyzed the edited tape yesterday. Chacon said two investigators interviewed the young people, whose ages ranged from 14 to 21, but were unable to obtain a copy of the unedited tapes.

Chacon said he tried to reach the show's producers in New York City this week but was asked to speak to an attorney, whom he was unable to reach.

"We still want to review the unedited tape," he said.

During the review of the program yesterday at police headquarters

Please see PROGRAM: B-9,

# Bogus

Continued from page A-1

and instead they were seen doing something else," Gore said. "What was seen on the show was totally fictitious."

"The show was extremely well edited; what you hear and see is a lot different than what actually happened," he said. "Scenes and comments were taken out of context and placed together to enhance the producers' vigilante theme."

Officials from Fox could not be reached for comment. The executive producer of the show, Gerald Stone, two weeks ago flatly denied the footage was staged.

"We are very disturbed by the idea that we distorted the report," Stone said at that time. "The footage speaks for itself."

School officials have repeatedly said they do not condone war games. In response to the show, they said they are going to investigate the nature of the ROTC program to analyze whether it does promote war-prone attitudes within its 175 cadet population.

ROTC cadets were ordered for the last two weeks to not wear their uniforms on the usual school Thursday dress-up days, in an effort to quell recent animosity against the cadets for their alleged activities on the show.

Life-threatening graffiti in addition to other violent activities were reported at that high school, all aimed in retaliation at the ROTC students. Several of the cadets were sent home from school on the Monday after the show and told not to attend the following day, as officials feared they could not protect them from the school's 1,700 population, in addition to gang members attempting to get on campus to get even with the youths.

A detective from the police department said that as many as 45 youths — who do not attend MVHS — attempted to get on campus to "teach the ROTC students a lesson."

Jaime Mercado, MVHS principal, said at the news conference that things "began to get normal at school last Thursday and that all of the cadets are back in school."

## Border vigilante show was bogus, police say

By David Kravets  
Staff Writer

S-News  
3-10-90

A nationally televised show depicting youths garbed in camouflage, preying on undocumented migrants near the border "was staged," according to the San Diego Police Department.

"The youths were asked to act out their actions by the film show," said Cmdr. Larry Gore, of the police department, during a press conference in San Diego Friday, in reference to the Feb. 24 broadcast of the Fox network show "The Reporters."

The 14 youths seen on the show, four of them ROTC cadets at Imperial Beach's Mar Vista High School, were portrayed as vigilantes, "terrorizing" aliens fleeing Mexico.

For several years now, however, the group has indeed dressed in camouflage and played war games near the border, shooting each other with paint bullets and BB guns, the youths confirmed.

Nevertheless, the youths depicted

on the show and police officials are saying that the kids were "duped" into their actions, which on television looked as though they were harassing immigrants.

"They thought they were going to be televised playing war games Please see Bogus: A-6

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# A collection of classic commie-bashing films

Pining for those good old days when a commie was the human equivalent of an alien from outer space? Wondering what happened to the concept of the "Red Menace?"

Look no further, glasnost-breath. Commie-bashing is alive and well on TV and video, thanks to the florid imaginations of the best talent money could buy. Here, then, is a look at some of the classics of cinematic anti-communism:

**I Was A Communist For The FBI (1951):** Frank Lovejoy, who never seems to take off his hat, goes out after those evil Russkies. Title says all.

**My Son John (1952):** Norman Rockwell-like American family discovers their son is — gasp! — a card-carrying member of you-know-what party. Lots of overwrought hand-wringing, plenty of anthem-singing and patriotic speeches.

**Big Jim McLain (1952):** John Wayne and James Arness, the most humongous FBI agents you've ever seen, go to Hawaii to bust up a commie spy ring. Stupid and dull, but classic mindless Americanism.

**Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956):** Depending on your political persuasion, this classic of a town taken over by alien pod people is either: a metaphor for communism, or a metaphor for McCarthyism. No matter which view you accept, "Invasion" is not only the best 'B' movie of all time, but has enough subtext to keep film scholars active for years. Available on home video.

**The Manchurian Candidate (1962):** The commies brainwash an American soldier (Laurence Harvey) in a plot to kill a presidential candidate. Eerie, gripping, with a top-notch cast (Frank Sinatra, Angela Lansbury, James Gregory), this is one of the few artistic successes of the commie-bashing genre. Available on home video.

**The Green Berets (1968):** The Duke goes to Vietnam to fight the Worldwide Communist Conspiracy. Overblown and mega-reactionary, with too much speechifying. On home video.

**Red Dawn (1984):** What seems like the combined armies of Cuba and Russia invade a small Colorado town. Naturally, they're defeated by a bunch of American teens sporting deer rifles. Unintentionally hilarious. On video.

**Invasion, USA (1985):** Evil Reds invade Florida, massacre people in shopping malls, and torch subdivisions. Chuck Norris to the rescue! Loud, jingoistic, repellent. On home video.

**Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985):** Our Muscled Hero goes to Southeast Asia to rescue MIAs, winds up tortured by sadistic Soviets. Big-screen, big-budget hysteria, but a not-bad action flick. On home video.

**Red Nightmare (date unknown, probably 1950s):** A masterpiece of paranoia disguised as an educational short. Jack Webb narrates this tale of an ordinary American town that is actually a communist satellite, its people emotionless zombies. Wow! On home video.

Lewis Beale

# Teenage Paramilitary Groups Strongly Opposed

By Vanness Harris  
African-American Student Union  
U.C.S.D.

In the aftermath of the recent airing of Fox Network's "The Reporters," a number of newspaper articles and television news stories have focused public attention on the fallout resulting from that show's depiction of youth paramilitary groups playing war games on the U.S./Mexican border. Much of the debate centers on the alleged manipulation of the teenagers engaged in hunting undocumented Mexican workers by the producers of "The Reporters." School officials, teachers, parents and the students of Mar Vista High School are enraged and bewildered at the situation in which they now find themselves; their good names and reputations damaged by "irresponsible journalism." The subsequent discussion in the media has shielded "the children," taking them to task for being engaged in an activity and in an area which might prove dangerous TO THEM. Additionally, that same media has focused its attention on the charges and countercharges of manipulation, shifting attention from the more disturbing issues raised in the television report.

Unlike a society based on the printed word, a society whose public discourse is shaped by television will find it nearly impossible to maintain a clear, analytic discussion of a problem as complex as that presented in "The Reporters" broadcast of "Human Prey." As a culture, we remain focused only on the latest image or news report coming through our television sets. By the six o'clock news tonight we will have forgotten what we saw on T.V. (or thought) the night before. We cannot understand the causes of events or their historical context because so many of us do not read or avail ourselves of other systems of information which might shed light on current events. Therefore we fail, often willfully, to understand the history of our neighbors, ourselves, our economic system and its relationship to foreign economies and, most importantly, our system of government and its guarantees to citizen and non-citizen alike. Television, by its very nature, is not equipped to deal with these complexities. It is a tool for communication with severe limitations as all those interested in the issues raised by "The Reporters" are beginning to see.

What then did we see, those of us who witnessed the broadcast of "Human Prey?" In spite of the allegations of manipulation leveled against the producers of "The Reporters," the program was a chilling and powerful reminder of the cruelty and terror we are capable of inflicting, both as individuals and as a society, when we reduce those who we imagine are not like us to the "Other." Undocumented Mexican or Latin American workers, stripped of their humanity, can be hunted like animals with a clear conscience. It is important to remember that the report focused, not only on teenage paramilitary groups, but on adult vigilantes who

have also made the border their perverse playground.

Astonishingly, there has been almost no discussion of the men who have taken their military experience and translated it into some imagined combat with undocumented workers. The style and level of language used to describe the border--as a war zone where violence and drugs threaten to spill into good, honest American neighborhoods--gives tacit permission to society to engage in vigilante activity. However, democracy and vigilantism cannot exist together; one must always cancel out the other. These adults, engaged in acts of terror against men, women and children, have stepped outside the laws of this society, both in fact and in spirit, and all members of that society must demand that these activities cease. Not to speak up is to approve of this unspeakable injustice. Surely as Americans we can do, must do, better.

It is unfortunate, and unconscionable, that the television media, print media, politicians, government officials and civil authorities use the powerful tool of language to distract the citizenry from real issues, rather than using it to enlighten. Examples of this can be heard in the metaphors of war used to describe the complex issues of drugs, economics and immigration. Emotionally charged words and phrases such as flood, invasion, a human tide, aliens, illegal, tortilla curtain, badlands, and war zone are routinely used to describe the area of the border and the movement of undocumented workers. More sinister and subtle has been the linking of two unrelated issues: the illegal drug trade, and immigration for purposes of obtaining employment. This linkage has led to serious and damaging consequences for undocumented workers and for an American society based on a system of equal justice under the law. We see the results of hysteria and hyperbole in communities all over San Diego County: an atmosphere of mistrust, fear and hatred.

At the same time there has been a failure of public discourse and public leadership in addressing the issues of racism and vigilantism brought out by the broadcast. These incidents reflect longstanding attitudes deeply embedded in the citizenry of San Diego County. The silence of local politicians, civic and religious leaders is a moral failure with enormous implications for the future. Why has no public figure spoken out against the disturbing incidents depicted in "The Reporters?" Again, failure to speak out against injustice gives tacit approval to those who commit injustice. We need only look toward Hitler's Germany.

But perhaps more disturbing is the inability of the average citizen to grasp the complexity of issues raised by the broadcast, and the unwillingness of those same citizens to deal with aspects of society which are unpleasant and uncomfortable. We are enraged that our children are being "manipulated" by the media,

(see Para-military, pg 5)

## Para-military Groups Opposed

(con't from page 4)

but we refuse to think deeply about racism and the escalating violence against undocumented workers. We fail to see the connection between the human rights violations being committed by American citizens, and its resulting threat to our entire system of justice and fair play. Perhaps it is stating the obvious, but the American legal system safeguards the welfare all individuals within its borders, citizen and non-citizen alike. We need to remind ourselves and others that a system of law and justice cannot be undermined by the misguided prejudices and hatred of individual citizens taking the law into their own hands. In spite of protests to the contrary, war games are NOT games but a reflection of an aggressive society. It is only a

small step from teenagers hunting undocumented workers with paint pellet guns to adult vigilantes who maim, terrorize and kill.

We therefore strongly protest the activities of teenage paramilitary groups, adult vigilantes, the sensationalized use of language used to described immigration, the failure of public discourse to adequately deal with the racism of San Diego County, and the silence of public and school officials who should be investigating and speaking out against these types of activities. As an organization which represents African-Americans on this campus and as citizens of a democratic society, we must speak out against this violation of human rights occurring in our backyard.

LA PRESS

3/23/90

# Game: Now police say aliens prey

Continued from B-1  
aliens and forced them to kneel on the ground while searching and questioning them. The same boys also allegedly chased another group of aliens that same night, causing a girl to fall into a ravine and hurt herself, Gore said.

The segment of "The Reporters" that featured the South Bay youths and their alleged vigilante violence against undocumented aliens near the border aired on Feb. 24.

The investigation into the allegations is continuing, Gore said, and should be completed in about a week. The information will be turned over to the district attorney for a decision on prosecution, he said.

Police are considering seeking criminal charges against the Fox Network crew for allegedly endangering the youths by placing them in "high-risk" situations near the border and contributing to their delinquency by keeping them out past curfew and providing them with alcohol, causing some of them to become "quite inebriated," Gore said.

Hispanic leaders said the new twist in the case does not surprise them. They said they have received several reports of paramilitary groups patrolling the border area and assaulting aliens.

"We knew that it was going on all along," said Barrio Logan community activist Al Ducheny. "I am very heartened that the truth is finally coming out."

Roberto L. Martinez, San Diego-based director of the U.S.-Mexico Border Program for the American Friends Service Committee, said the Mar Vista group, which calls itself "the Metal Militia," is only the tip of the iceberg.

"This is terrorism, and it happens all too frequently," Martinez said.

Before this week, San Diego Police Chief Bob Burgreen did not acknowledge the existence of such groups, saying evidence did not support the existence of such activities.

Rep. Jim Bates, D-San Diego, has been critical of Burgreen in recent weeks, saying the police chief had documentation from U.S. Border Patrol officials of youngsters playing war games along the border, but did not pursue it.

# Cops now say aliens were prey in 'games'

By Michael Bunch  
Staff Writer

New information about teen-age "war games" near the U.S.-Mexico border has forced the San Diego Police Department to reverse its earlier finding that no undocumented aliens were hunted and harassed by the youths, a spokesman said yesterday.

Police Cmdr. Larry Gore said police will be seeking charges against some of the youths involved in the border war games, and possibly against the producers of a segment of the Fox Network television news show "The Reporters," which focused on border vigilantes.

Gore said the new information came from war-game participants who stepped forward three weeks ago to report that they had witnessed abuse of aliens. Initially, police had absolved the males involved, who range in age from 14 to 21, of criminal wrongdoing.

Leaders of the teen groups had told police they were duped by the television crews into participating in activities that had made them appear to be committing illegal acts.

"Were we misled by the youths in the original investigation? The answer is yes," Gore said.

Pointing out that no alleged victims have come forward with accusations against the youths, he said: "It's hard to conduct an investigation when you don't have a victim, but we think we have information now, with which we can proceed."

The youths, who attend Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach, could face charges including false imprisonment, assault and civil-rights violations, Gore said. "We want it clearly understood that we will not tolerate this type of illegal conduct," he said.

The major allegation is that last Dec. 9, two or three of 12 teen-age boys patrolling the Otay Mesa border area pointed pellet guns at a group of

# Police Now Say Teens Harassed Migrants

By YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

San Diego police—reversing a previous finding—now say teen-agers playing war games did encounter and harass illegal migrants at the border on at least one occasion last December.

The results of the ongoing investigation were announced Tuesday when Police Chief Bob Burgence met with representatives of the high schools the students attended in the Sweetwater Union High School District and told them that some of their students may have illegally detained undocumented migrants and confronted another undocumented group while they were dressed in camouflage clothing and carrying BB guns.

Cmdr. Larry Gore said Wednesday the Police Department will conclude its inves-

tigation within 10 days and will forward its findings to the district attorney's office. He said the department may recommend that charges be filed against some of the youths.

The findings come two months after the Fox broadcasting program "The Reporters" aired a segment depicting teen-agers dressed in war gear and encountering people at the border. The program also showed footage of adults discussing how they accost the undocumented.

Gore said their findings also indicated that reporters on the television program gave beer to the teen-agers and encouraged them to confront undocumented people as they crossed the border. He said the teens were also given gear they were unfamiliar with, including guns that shoot paint pellets and head sets. "None of the kids could afford that stuff."

Gore said the department may recom-

mend that the district attorney file child endangerment charges against the producers of the program.

"It's a real dangerous area. There have been four murders there since February," Gore said.

The television program aired Feb. 24 and stirred controversy about the reporters' tactics. Police officials questioned the youths involved and on March 9, police held a press conference that attacked the program's credibility. At the time Gore called the show "well-conceived."

But on Wednesday Gore said some of the youths approached a teacher three weeks ago and told the teacher about two incidents on Dec. 9. The teacher contacted the police, who then interviewed the teens.

Gore said the teen-agers, students from Mar Vista and Southwest high schools, had

**Please see BORDER, B8**

## BORDER: Teens Harassed Aliens, Police Say

Continued from B1

Later, the teen-agers encountered a group of about four or five people and pointed their guns at them. The BB guns, Gore said, were replicas of automatic weapons.

This second group of illegal migrants fled and one of them, a teen-age girl fell and scraped her knees, Gore said. The youths told police they administered first aid to the girl and took her to the home of a Mexican family on the U.S. side of the border. They had no other contact with illegal aliens after that, Gore said.

As they left the canyons, the youths were detained by Border Patrol agents, who turned them over to the San Diego police. The police questioned them, but none of the youths mentioned the two encounters.

Gore said no illegal migrants have come forward to discuss the two events.

Shortly afterward, the group of about 12 to 15 boys encountered two illegal migrants, Gore said.

Two members of the teen-age group "had [the] aliens put their hands on their heads, kneel on the ground and pointed their BB guns at them," Gore said, adding that the teen-agers also patted the two men down and released them a few minutes later.

Principals of the two high schools said neither school has ever condoned the war games.

It's well known that teen-agers and adults frequent the border area to play games, said Elisabeth Cogdill, principal of Southwest High. But, she added, no one knew laws were allegedly being broken.

"If they were doing illegal things for them," Cogdill said.

But the police findings are "too little, too late," said Herman Baca, chairman of the Committee on Chicano Rights.

The group is one of several that has called for an investigation and congressional hearings into the activities of paramilitary groups, such as the teen-agers' border war games.

The teen-agers "are just the tip of the iceberg of violence at the border," Baca said.

# Violence against Latinos alleged; probes demanded

Four Hispanic organizations are seeking investigations on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border into what they claim is escalating violence and racism against Latinos.

"Terrorist activities have developed in a climate of racial hysteria encouraged by Immigration and Naturalization Service officials, area law enforcement agencies and elected officials, which now threatens to flare up into a race war," a letter the organizations sent yesterday to Mexican and U.S. officials said.

"We see smoke there, and there may be fire," said Herman Baca of the Committee on Chicano Rights.

Baca's group was asking for a congressional investigation as well as an investigation by the Mexican government. He was joined in the quest by the League of United Latin American Citizens, Harborview Community Council and Tijuana's Center for Immigration Studies.

The four organizations have taken their concerns to U.S. Rep. Jim Bates, D-San Diego, who was already looking into the issue, state Assemblyman Pete Chacon, D-San Diego, a member of California's legislative Hispanic Caucus, and Armando Betea, Mexico's consul general in San Diego.

Baca charged that local authorities were a major part of the problem, alleging they issued false statistics blaming rising crime rates on Latinos alone.

"They are unwilling to do anything and they may see it escalate into a race war," Baca said. While he charged authorities with raising hysteria against Latinos, he denied that his prediction of a race war was fanning the flames.

In asking for investigations, the groups cited incidents broadcast on national television by the Fox Network's show "The Reporters."

The Feb. 24 episode had reports on increased killings on the border and on a group of youths from Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach dressed in paramilitary gear, armed with nunchakus, knives and toy guns and playing "war games" along the border at 3 a.m.

While some local authorities have

denied that these are war games — San Diego Police Chief Bob Burgreen sent a letter saying the youths were playing "tag" — the activists produced letters from the INS saying the Border Patrol had encountered the youths on three occasions in the last three months.

The four Hispanic groups also cited recent hate crimes in North County. And Dan Munoz, publisher of the weekly Spanish-English newspaper *La Prensa*, cited the Rancho Bernardo Town Council's effort to discourage Latinos from coming to the community by printing 17,000 signs telling workers in Spanish to go away, that there was no work available.

"They personally told me they don't want any more of us in their town, not just undocumented immigrants, but people who have every right to be there," Munoz said. "I was surprised hatred had reached such a level."

While Baca acknowledged that congressional investigations could stop the spread of racism, he said, "You can stop institutionalized racism. You can stop organizations from racist acts and policies."

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# TV Show on Border Brings Call for Inquiry

■ **Violence:** Police say footage was contrived to portray high school youngsters as vigilantes. Others say police are engaged in a cover-up.

By NORA ZAMICHOW  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

A national television show depicting local high school students as harassing undocumented workers along the U.S.-Mexico border has enraged Latino activists, who called Friday for a government investigation of purported racist paramilitary activities.

At the same time, the controversial program has also angered parents, police and school officials who claim footage was manipulated to portray the youths as vigilantes.

The Feb. 24 Fox Broadcasting program "The Reporters" called the San Diego-Mexico boundary a "border in violent convulsion" because of vigilante hunting parties. The show includes footage of adults discussing how they accost undocumented workers, and of a youth group that calls itself Metal Militia.

The group, many of whose members are from the Sweetwater Union High School District, say they were asked to perform for the film crew and that, on their own, they play war games that harm no one.

Arthur Hurtado, a Chula Vista resident, says the program's portrayal of his 17-year-old son was so erroneous that he has hired a lawyer and asked program directors for a retraction.

"We are Hispanic and we don't

raise our son like that," Hurtado said. "These kids trusted these adults who were saying, 'Do you want to be on TV? And what kid wouldn't want to be on TV?'"

Though Fox Broadcasting officials were unavailable Friday, Executive Producer Gerald Stone said in a recent interview that the company stood by its story and that its reporters had not staged any of the footage.

The show has given rise to threats aimed at the youths as well as protests by several Latino organizations. San Diego Police Department officials entered the fray Friday with a press conference to debunk the program's credibility.

Calling the show "well-contrived," Cmdr. Larry Gore said police are evaluating whether to charge program cameramen with child endangerment, since the crew donned bulletproof vests and took the boys into a notoriously dangerous area. Gore said the police have received no reports of vigilantes on the border.

"To suggest that they [the youths] are harassing aliens is erroneous," Gore said. "What you saw is fictitious."

But Latino activists say the police are engaging in a cover-up. At a Friday press conference in Tijuana, officials with several Latino groups called for a full-scale government investigation. The groups included League of United Latin American Citizens, Harborview Community Council and Tijuana-based Centro de Informacion Estudios Migratorios.

"There's a complete whitewash being carried out by the San Diego Police Department," said Herman Baca, chairman of the Committee on Chicano Rights.



The San Diego Union

Jaime Mercado, principal of Mar Vista High School, speaks at a news conference held by the San Diego Police Department yesterday. At left is police Cmdr. Larry Gore.

## Militia: TV crew accused of duplicity

Continued from B-1

show, separating fact from fiction. A tape of the show was replayed at the news conference. Periodically stopping the film, Detective Carlos Chacon pointed out how some scenes of the show had been taken early in the day, but made to appear as if the youths were talking while near undoc-

umented immigrants.

After its investigation, police concluded that "The Reporters":

- Took scenes out of context and placed them together "to enhance the producers' vigilante theme."
- Directed the youths to search for undocumented immigrants.
- Drove the youths to an area

near the border where they normally do not conduct war games.

- Provided weapons for the youths.
- Left the impression that vigilante groups kill undocumented immigrants.

Based on Border Patrol reports, numerous interviews and their own data, San Diego police officials said they have no evidence to show that Mexican nationals are being hunted by these youth groups.

"We are urging the community to see the program for what it was and to not blame or seek revenge against those who were shown on the program," the police report stated.

The show prompted representatives of several Latino organizations to demand Thursday night at a Sweetwater Union High School District meeting that the trustees investigate the alleged activities and offer multicultural education classes. At the meeting, one parent of a student in the paramilitary group praised the district for attempting to defuse a potentially explosive situation.

Superintendent Anthony Trujillo said that the district, at its Feb. 22 board meeting, set as one of its top priorities a multicultural education program.

Although producers of the show earlier adamantly defended the accuracy of their report, they issued a softer response yesterday.

"We have never been contacted by any member of the San Diego Police Department since the broadcast," the producers said. "We have always been prepared to cooperate in any inquiry, and we are surprised that any criticism should be made of the program without anyone first screening its raw unedited videotape, which is intact and would be made available to the appropriate authorities.

"As to the charges about the crew, we have heard secondhand about the many rumors circulating in San Diego about the conduct of 'The Reporters' crew. At no time has any specific allegation been brought to our direct attention, although we have urged the San Diego school authorities to do so. This is everything we have to say about the incident."

Police Cmdr. Larry Gore said police attempted to contact the producers, but were referred to an attorney. Mary Anne Stro, a spokeswoman for the Sweetwater Union High School District, said the TV show was misleading and that the district had expressed its concerns.

A spokesman for Fox said the show has been put on hold following its last airing on March 31. However, he said that had nothing to do with the criticism.

At yesterday's news conference, Guadalupe R. Corona and Rick Rodriguez, both of a San Diego State University Mexican-American support group known as MECHA, said they would like to see the raw footage and plan to write the Mexican Consulate and U.S. public officials, urging an investigation.

Said Rodriguez, "I withhold judgment until we can see the full coverage."

# TV crew duped Metal Militia youths, police say

The San Diego Police Department, investigating alleged vigilante activities by youth paramilitary groups against Mexican nationals, concluded yesterday that the national television program that aired the claims was a concocted misrepresentation.

"As a result, lives have been threatened and disrupted," said a police statement. "There is concern that the young people shown in the segment were used, duped and placed in severe danger as a result of the airing of the program."

The source of the concern is a one-hour Fox Broadcasting news program, "The Reporters." Since it aired Feb. 24, many people, especially Hispanics, have become enraged, South Bay school authorities said.

Their anger is aimed at Mar Vista High School students, some of whom participate in a 27-member paramilitary group known as the Metal Militia. Members of the group have asserted that they were misled by producers of the television show. They have said that all they do is conduct nighttime war games, described as an advanced game of tag, contrary to the program's description: "Illegal Mexican Migrants — Victims of Vigilante 'Hunting Parties.'"

Meanwhile, school officials have said that primarily Hispanic groups have lobbed threats at some members of the school's junior Reserve Officers Training Corps program, several of whom participate in the Metal Militia.

In the last two weeks, JROTC students have refrained from wearing their black and white uniforms to school for fear of retaliation, said Principal Jaime Mercado. JROTC officials have said that at no time do members of their program conduct such activities.

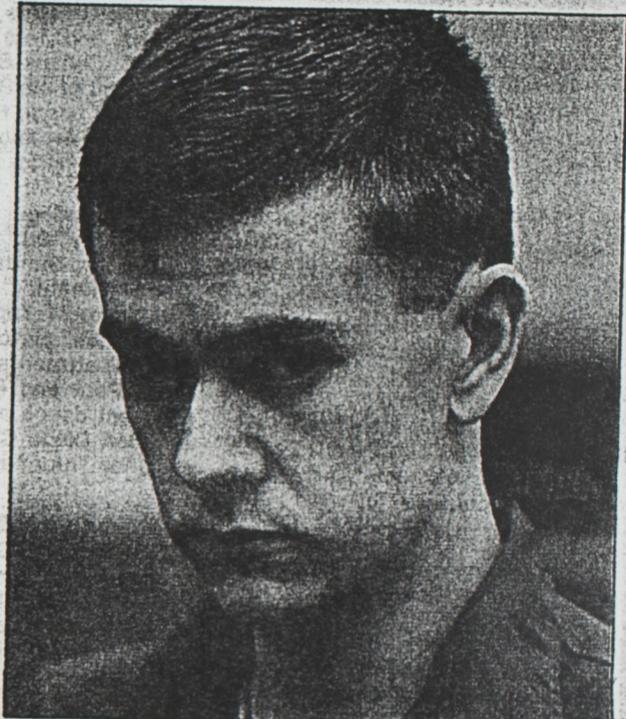
Appearing at a news conference held by the San Diego Police Department yesterday, Mercado said he was furious at the show's defamation of Mar Vista and how some have chosen to use the school as a mechanism to distribute leaflets on peace.

Jason MacAllister, a leader of the Metal Militia and former Mar Vista student, said he was threatened after being depicted as hunting "beaners," a derisive slang term for Hispanics. "They (Hispanics) see me and start yelling," he said. Nearly one-third of the Metal Militia members are Hispanic, he said.

In conducting its investigation, police officials said they analyzed the

# South County

## Double slayer is sentenced Killing of Hispanics 'a crime of hate,' judge declares



The San Diego Union  
**Kenneth Alexander Kovzelove**

Kovzelove told police that he and Bencivenga had driven around looking for Mexicans to kill that night because he "didn't like them." He noted that he grew up in the Encanto area and said he was harassed as a youngster by Hispanics while living in that area.

Stutz read from a transcript of Kovzelove's statement to police how he stood up in the bed of a pick-up truck and pulled the trigger of his semi-automatic rifle.

"I just started screaming, 'Die,'" Kovzelove said. Kovzelove told investigators he wished "there were 40 of them and they just rushed me so that I could go off on everybody."

"There's like a violence dial on me. It

See **Hispanics** on Page B-7

Kovzelove pleaded guilty to two first-degree murder charges in the Nov. 9, 1988, killings of Hilario Salgado Castaneda, 22, and Matilde de la Sancha, 19.

The two were gunned down by semi-automatic rifle fire after Kovzelove and a co-defendant, Dennis Bencivenga, 19, came across the victims as they walked along the dirt portion of Black Mountain Road in the dead of night.

Bencivenga has pleaded not guilty to the charges and faces an April 5 trial.

Stutz told the court in urging the 50-years-to-life term that the two defendants had gone "hunting for Hispanics on more than one occasion that night."

"The victims were in the wrong place at the wrong time and they were the wrong color," Stutz said.

A Mira Mesa teen-ager, who once told police he needed to have his "violence dial ... turned down," got his wish yesterday as he was sentenced to 50 years to life for the racially motivated murders of two Hispanic men who the prosecutor said were literally hunted down.

"You are a cold-blooded killer. There is no other way of putting it," Superior Court Judge William D. Mudd said as he sentenced Kenneth Alexander Kovzelove, 18. "You're going to get everything that you can get. This is not a crime of passion. This is a crime of hate."

Kovzelove showed little emotion during the half-hour proceeding even as Deputy District Attorney A. David Stutz read parts of the defendant's confession in which he admitted his hatred for Mexicans.

Continued from B-1  
has to be turned down somehow," Kovzelove told investigators.

"I'm asking the court to turn it off — 50 to life," Stutz said in conclusion. Defense attorney Leif Tessem argued for concurrent terms that would have resulted in Kovzelove being sentenced to 25 years to life. Mudd rejected the argument, saying he had to "act as the conscience of the community" in imposing sentence.

As required, Mudd earlier had referred Kovzelove to the California Youth Authority for a diagnostic

study. Authorities there reported to the court that Kovzelove was not amenable for treatment in a CYA facility, but said it would accept him as an inmate until he reaches the age of 25 — at which time the CYA will transfer him to a state prison.

"The question after considering all of the circumstances is, should you get two for the price of one?" Mudd told Kovzelove. "That's what your attorney is saying, that you should serve only for killing one person. Fortunately, there was not more than the two victims present because I'm satisfied that if there were five

people there, you would have killed them all."

Mudd told Kovzelove he was before him for two reasons.

"The first is hate," the judge said.

"There is no other way of putting it. It is a crime of hatred. In addition, you are here because of an urge to kill. It doesn't matter that they were Mexicans. One was a U.S. citizen and the other was a documented alien resident. They had a right to be here as well as anyone else. Fate put them

on Black Mountain Road at that time."

Mudd noted that Kovzelove, in his statement to police, was direct about his involvement in the crime but now appears to be blaming his parents and others for his plight.

"This is not your doing," Mudd told Kovzelove's parents, and then said to Kovzelove: "Mr. Kovzelove, you are a cold-blooded killer. There is no other way of putting it."

## Hispanics: Lengthy term imposed in double slaying

# Hearing begins for officers accused of robbing aliens

Two undocumented aliens yesterday identified two San Diego police officers as the men who allegedly kidnapped and robbed them last August.

The witnesses, Rolando Carrera-Reyes and Arturo Romero-Garcia, identified Patrolman Lloyd L. Hoff Jr., 27, as the man who took their wallets and money.

Carrera-Reyes testified in Municipal Court that \$25 was taken from his wallet, and Romero-Garcia said \$35 in currency and \$5 in quarters were taken from him.

Municipal Court Judge Nicholas Kasimatis is presiding over a preliminary hearing for Hoff and Patrolman Richard P. Schaaf, 29. They are charged with kidnaping and robbing Carrera-Reyes, Romero-Garcia and one other man.

Both Carrera-Reyes and Romero-Garcia said Schaaf was driving the patrol car when they allegedly were kidnapped.

If the officers go to trial and are convicted, they could be sentenced to life in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney A. Craig Rooten said the third man in the case, identified in earlier reports as Romero Rodriguez but also known as Jorge Lopez, was not available to testify yesterday.

Romero-Garcia testified he is currently serving a jail term for auto burglary. Carrera-Reyes was in custody after being arrested yesterday on one felony and four misdemeanor warrants.

Carrera-Reyes testified he was walking in the 300 block of Fifth Avenue during the early morning hours of Aug. 4 when he was stopped, and in court yesterday, he identified Hoff and Schaaf as the officers who stopped him.

He also testified that Hoff struck him in the groin twice with a flashlight. Hoff allegedly took Carrera-Reyes' wallet and removed the money. Carrera-Reyes said papers he carried were destroyed by the officer.

Carrera-Reyes, who said Hoff put the money on the dashboard of the patrol car, testified that he was taken to a secluded area near a packing house and was ordered, by Hoff, to remove his shoes.

The officer, Carrera-Reyes testified, hit him in the groin again and on the hand, threw his shoes into a puddle of water, then pushed him into the water and left him there.

Carrera-Reyes said he asked for his money, saying he needed it to buy medicine, but said never got the money or the wallet back.

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Hoff



LA PRESS 3/27/90

Chale con ese clamor, este Indio is amazed at where **Tezozomoc Speaks** is read. This week este Indio contacted by reporters from Bonn, Germany and Bogota, Columbia. Todos quieren ser "Corresponsales de **TEZZY!** Hijole, wish my palabras humildes would be read in Sydro much less in Germany.

In to see el Jefito this past week: Señores **Bob Castafieda**, the Governor's Hispanic Rep. and his boss **John McCarthy**, the Governor's Community Relations head. Platica around politics, what else! Publisher of the *Voice and Viewpoint*, **John Warren** in to talk about the 79th Assembly race; John taking on Peter and Celia.

**Chisme de Sydro: Bernardo Armas** and **Juan Leyva** feeling "el calor" of the recall movement caught sending out flyers telling voters to boycott the recall. El chisme: flyers being run off on district machines with district paper. **THATS ILLEGAL GENTE.** They have to fight with their own money not the taxpayers.

In and out like a Nanji was old friend **Art Martinez**, who flew in from Nippon to see the family and old friends. Art is in Japan for next couple of years.

**El ex-Mayor Roger Hedgecock** who was convicted on Oct. 9, 1985, of 13 felonies and a misdemeanor conflict of interest charge, has yet to see a day of his sentence served. Now is leading the kooks (extremist nuts) who think its great sport to "light up the Border" so innocents can be hunted down like dogs. The only crime they are committing is wanting to work! How about Roger Hedgecock?

**Pregunta:** Is it legal for a convicted felon to use the public airways TO INCITE THE PUBLIC against another racial group???? How about that ACLU!

**Pregunta:** HOW ABOUT EQUAL TIME KSDO! When does your licensing come up????????

**Toltecas de Aztlan**, los meros indios autenticos, smoldering in discontent over direction of their **Centro Cultural de La Raza**. PRI'ista leadership of director, (who is not a Chicano) rubbing many artistas autenticos wrong... La revolución not far off. Support falling.

Glad to see **Rosie Ortega** make it out of hospital in good condition. Hope the reconstruction came out OK Rosie!

State Wide **LULAC** taking on issue of **ROTC Rambo** activities. Holding statewide meeting of all chapters to show Fox TV coverage of ROTC activities. Local **LULAC** chapter will provide background and actions desired.

**FELIZ Cumpleaños** to **Denise Moreno** Ducheny, who is proud her birthday is the same as another famous person: Benito Juarez, the first Indian president of Mexico. **Connie Puente** helped Denise celebrate her birthday along with honoring **Benito Juarez**, at her Old Town Restaurant "El Fandango"... Denise Ducheny is running for the San Diego Community College Board of Trustees. Mucho supporters there to give her campaign a boast.

**LULAC** to have Easter Egg Hunt for Southbay underprivileged Children at Berry Elementary School April 14th, Saturday at 11 a.m. Those wishing to bring their children please contact **Dolores Valadez** at 286-0122.

To Don Pepper, (**Jose Berrellez**), who dropped in to have a cleaning of his tubes... at the local hospital... Here's hoping it helps the old heart pump better. Keep it up, Don Pepper... see you at the next marcha!

Seen working the crowd at the Republican convention in Santa Clara was old ex-MAPista, **Julio Calderon**. Julio trying to create a PAC of Hispanic Republicans.

# What are ROTC students really doing at the border?

By Al Ducheny

Are they children playing innocent war games or neophyte racists learning to practice a crude oppression on defenseless immigrants?

The Fox Broadcasting television program "The Reporters," aired Feb. 24, showed Sweetwater Union High School District students and adults playing a game where Mexican nationals, referred to as "beaners" by the students, are rounded up on the U.S./Mexico Border here.

The activity was carried out by 13- to 21-year-old Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) students at 2 a.m. with apparent parental consent.

The program showed youths, calling themselves the "Metal Militia," abusing Mexicans illegally crossing the border and bragging about their exploits on previous expeditions. Interviews with others on the program described acts of brutality, rape and murder carried out by Americans against Latinos on the border.

"Foul!" cried the U.S. Border Patrol. "Foul!" said the San Diego Police Department. "Foul!" exclaimed Sweetwater Union High School District administrators. "Foul!" protested ROTC student parents.

In a letter to Rep. Jim Bates, San Diego Police Chief Bob Burgreen said, "information about groups of American teen-agers, or any others dressed in para-military attire, attacking illegal immigrants is not substantiated."

He described one incident in November 1989 where the Border Patrol made contact with a group of individuals "playing a game of tag among themselves using pistols which shoot bags of paint." The police chief said no laws were violated and "there have been no further incidents reported to us."

But in documentation made available by Bates, Border Patrol officials had a different story. While saying they don't think the Fox Broadcasting program was very reputable,

they indicated that on three different occasions, the evenings of Dec. 9, Dec. 13 and Jan. 28, contact was made along the border with individuals in camouflage uniforms carrying knives and nunchakus. This contradicted earlier Border Patrol statements on the taped program saying they knew of no such activity going on.

Sweetwater district school administrators labeled the program a hoax, claiming the show was staged and students were "duped" into performing for the cameras. They are urging parents of ROTC students involved in the program to sue Fox Broadcasting.

The San Diego Police Department joined the chorus suggesting that the cameramen may have violated child endangerment laws by encouraging the youths to perform in the danger-

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## Commentary

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ous border area.

But border patrol reports verify that all the youths questioned to date agree they have played their "war games" on the border before.

In their rush to "kill the messenger" and protect their credibility, police, school and Border Patrol officials conveniently choose to ignore a number of questions.

What were minor children and adult ROTC members doing on the border at 3 a.m. carrying lethal weapons? When individuals were apprehended by the Border Patrol and turned over to San Diego police, why were charges of "child endangerment" or "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" not pressed against adults in the group? Why were no arrests made when nunchakus were found? Why did Sweetwater Unified School District ad-

ministrators and ROTC officials allow this activity to go on?

Of course, the biggest question which no official wants to ask is, why did parents condone this activity and allow their children to be subjected to dangers which could have proved fatal?

Latino organizations are asking exactly those questions. They have called for a congressional and state investigation, including congressional hearings, into vigilante and racist activity on the border. They have requested that the Mexican government do the same.

They want the Sweetwater School District and its ROTC program investigated to find out how this outrageous activity started, developed and how it can be prevented in the future. They want to know why parents did not know or care what their children were doing at 3 in the morning.

Latino groups are also concerned with growing racism in San Diego

County. They want an investigation of human rights abuses against migrant workers in North County, of the police beating and robbing of Mexican undocumented workers in downtown San Diego, of efforts by the Rancho Bernardo Town Council to exclude Latinos from seeking work in that community and of attempts by San Diego police to use unsupportable information to publicly blame growing crime on Mexicans and other Latinos.

Such an investigation could help get to the bottom of what is going on at the border and throughout the county. It should be supported by people who want to know the truth. We should also thank Fox Broadcasting for bringing their cameras to the border.

*Ducheny is chairman of Harborview Community Council, a Logan Heights residents' group that is among those asking for an investigation of border violence.*

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The San Diego Union

Arthur Hurtado, father of a member of the South Bay Metal Militia, speaks at last night's school board meeting.

# TV portrayal brings outcry before trustees

By Carol Castaneda  
and Graciela Sevilla  
Staff Writers

CHULA VISTA — Representatives of several Latino organizations last night demanded that the Sweetwater School District investigate alleged vigilante activities by students and that the district offer multicultural education classes.

The outcry followed the airing of a national television show that

filmed local students in paramilitary groups allegedly preying on Mexican nationals crossing the border.

The Feb. 24 Fox Broadcasting program "The Reporters" included a segment billed as "Illegal Mexican Migrants — Victims of Vigilante 'Hunting Parties.'"

Although the producers of the show defended the accuracy of their report, members of the South Bay Metal Militia, many of whom are students in the Sweetwater

Union High School District, protested that the program portrayed them falsely. The youths contend that they were merely playing nighttime war games among themselves.

Nonetheless, last night some Hispanics seriously questioned the group's activities and demanded that the district make students more sensitive to cultural differences.

"Mexicans are not animals," said Richard Griswold del Castil-

lo, chairman of the Mexican-American Studies Department at San Diego State University. Latinos and other ethnic students need to learn how to be proud of their heritage, he said.

Other speakers supporting Griswold's view included Guadalupe R. Corona of the San Diego State University Mexican-American support group known as MECHA, and Carlos Pelayo of the

See **Sweetwater** on Page B-4

*San Diego Tribune*

Tuesday, February 27, 1990 B-1

©

# Threats follow TV program on teen game

By Leonel Sanchez  
Tribune Staff Writer

A group of South Bay students says a television program's portrayal of them as paramilitary vigilantes who hunt undocumented aliens was inaccurate and has resulted in physical threats from other students.

"I'm scared to death," Michael Labit of Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach said yesterday. "I'm not going to school tomorrow (Tuesday)."

At a meeting at Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach yesterday, the students said they were duped into participating in a national broadcast that depicted them as BB-gun-toting teens in army fatigues hunting undocumented aliens along the border.

The young participants, whose ages range from 14 to 21, said they were misled by the producers of the Fox Broadcasting program "The Reporters" into believing that they would be

shown playing a popular war game called Capture the Flag.

Most of the 16 participants who appeared on the segment were Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets at Mar Vista High School, Mar Vista Adult School and Hilltop High School in Chula Vista.

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***'It was staged. They made it look like they wanted. It was like a movie.'***

Eddie Smith, Mar Vista student

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Vista High School, Mar Vista Adult School and Hilltop High School in Chula Vista.

They said their war game has never included hunting undocumented aliens.

Flanked by their parents and school district administrators, several of the students said they were tricked and cajoled into

yelling racial slurs for the cameras and detaining undocumented aliens in a wooded area near the Tijuana River.

"It was staged. They made it look like they wanted," said Eddie Smith, 18, a Mar Vista Adult School student. "It was like a movie."

The footage depicting the Sweetwater Union High School students' paramilitary activities was an integral part of the segment titled "Illegal Mexican-Migrants — Victims of Vigilante 'Hunting Parties,'" which aired Saturday.

Those who spoke yesterday said they were upset because the film linked them with some documented hate crimes that have occurred in North County and East County.

For some of the students, it was the first time they had visited the Tijuana Valley to play the war game. In the past they have avoided the area because of the well-known danger of running into U.S. Border Patrol agents or border bandits.

*Please see GAMES: B-5, Col. 1*

# GAMES: Threats follow

Continued From B-1

The film crew realized the dangers of the area and wore bulletproof vests, according to the speakers yesterday.

Jason McAllister, 17, who was depicted as the group's leader in the segment, said group members did not rough up any of the aliens they detained even though the program suggested that they did.

Despite their own attempts to set the record straight before the show aired, and the principal's pleas to the student body yesterday, the students were the target of physical and verbal threats throughout the day.

One youth, Rodrigo Vazcomes, 15, said he was assaulted by two students moments after he got off a school bus at Mar Vista High School.

McAllister said his name was scrawled on a building wall with the message: "Jason Will Die!"

Sheriff's deputies were present during lunch time and after school to ensure the safety of JROTC cadets, Mar Vista High School Principal Jaime Mercado said.

The targeted JROTC cadets were told not to return to school today, Mercado said.

Gerald Stone, executive producer of the New York City-based program, said the program stands by its story.

"We firmly deny any allegations of

staging and sensationalizing any segment of the show," Stone said. "Anyone who saw or bought the program would confirm that it looks authentic. It shows teen-agers doing something that they've done before."

Stone, who was not present during the Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 shooting dates, denied that the young men were misled into participating in the show.

"We had a group of students who told us this is what we do. We asked can we go out with you and it was as neutral as that," Stone said.

To get the story, Stone said, the reporters followed tips that youths were hunting undocumented aliens along the border.

McAllister, who says he has played the war game for two years, said he has heard of other groups hunting aliens along the border, but his self-dubbed Metal Militia was not among them.

San Diego police and U.S. Border Patrol officials said the program exaggerated claims of vigilantism along the border. San Diego Police Department spokesman Dave Cohen said the department did not have any reports about such claims, even though the activity may be taking place.

"They claim it's an epidemic in San Diego County. I can tell you it's not," Cohen said.

# Thre

By Leonel Sanchez

Tribune Staff Writer

A group of South Bay's portrayal of them as paraimented aliens was inacc threats from other student "I'm scared to death,"

School in Imperial Beach school tomorrow (Tuesday

At a meeting at Mar V yesterday, the students sai in a national broadcast t teens in army fatigues hu border.

The young participants, they were misled by the program "The Reporters

# Teen warriors threatened, told to stay out of school

By David Kravets  
Staff Writer

Youths playing war games near the border are now under fire from more than just each others' paint bullets and BB guns.

Several students from the Sweetwater Unified High School District, mostly ROTC cadets from Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach, now fear their lives are in jeopardy at school and were told not to attend classes Tuesday.

Their absence from classes comes on the heels of a nationally televised news show depicting 14 youths acting as vigilantes, harassing undocumented workers as they fled Mexico to the United States.

Officials told students to miss school because they feared the district could not assure the youths' safety, as a major student backlash erupted at Mar Vista's campus Monday.

Several students with baseball bats waited for the ROTC students after school Monday to beat them for their alleged attacks on the illegal aliens, some youths said. But most ROTC cadets already had been sent home.

Some of those youths said that graffiti on the school grounds stated "Jason Must Die," in reference to Jason MacAllister, the 17-year-old leader of the Metal Militia, the reported name of the war game crew.

"I think I speak for all of us. We're scared," said Michael Labit, a 20-year-old ROTC student at Mar Vista. "You have no idea what it's like when people come up to you and ask you 'Why did you do it?' and 'Why don't you kill Please see Threatened: A-6



Staff photo by Tyler Larkin

Jason MacAllister attempts to ask a question during a meeting in which he, fellow ROTC member Sean Borry, right, along with other Sweetwater Union High School District students, claim they were "duped" into their vigilante actions recently portrayed on television.

# Threatened-

Continued from page A-1

us?"

"I'm scared and I'm not coming to school tomorrow," he continued, while addressing school officials, parents, ROTC students and the media during a lengthy meeting Monday night at the Mar Vista library to discuss the validity of Fox network's show, "The Reporters."

Sweetwater Superintendent Anthony Trujillo, after listening to one cadet at that meeting say "a group of kids came up to us at school and threatened us," said, "We have a problem about the children's safety and they should take at least a one day grace period from school. My advice to you as parents is to file a complaint against Fox."

Those complaints stem from students' claims that, while admitting they have played war games on Dairy Mart Road near the Tijuana River for several years, they say they have "never"

harassed aliens, as "The Reporters" reported. The students concluded, in short, that they were "duped" by the television show which portrayed them as border vigilantes, terrorizing migrants.

"We've never done any harm to the illegals," Labitsaid.

The show, nevertheless, portrays MacAllister as saying "I don't shoot them. We used to a long time ago."

The boy claims his quotes were in response to a question asked by one of the shows' reporters concerning whether his military crew used to shoot their fellow cadets with BB guns, not whether he shoots aliens near the border.

He emphasized that the show made it seem like he was answering a question dealing with his purported violent involvement with illegal aliens. "The show was all out of context; it portrayed me as a racist," MacAllister said. "The people from the show also told us to beat them (the migrants). I told them that it was inhuman."

Meanwhile, the executive producer of the "The Reporters" — admitting he did not realize the tremendous danger the kids could be placed in because of the footage — flatly denied accusations that the show was "staged."

"If they are saying that they have never approached migrants before, and because we were there, they did, I don't buy it," said Gerald Stone, in a telephone interview Tuesday from New York.

"We are very disturbed by the idea that we distorted the report," the executive producer continued. "The footage speaks for itself. We are prepared to stand by it."

The nine high schools in the district have two ROTC programs, one each at MVHS and Southwest High School in San Diego. There are approximately 175 ROTC cadets enrolled at MVHS. The student backlash was targeted at that school only, as some of the cadets portrayed in the show attend that school. In all, there were 14 youths seen on the program. According to Trujillo, only four attended MVHS, while the others are enrolled in the district's adult schools.

Threats on student lives were aimed at more than just those ROTC students who were seen on the show. Students indicated that before some of the ROTC students were released from school early Monday, the ROTC building, having a chain-link fence around it, was sealed off to protect the cadets from some of MVHS's 1,700 students, a population of which is 57 percent Latino.

ROTC cadets, since the incident, will not be allowed to sport their uniforms on their usual Thursday dress-up days, in an effort to quell student ROTC hatred.

MVHS Principal Jaime Mercado addressed the student body over a loudspeaker Monday, stating the television show was a hoax. On Tuesday, a student assembly was called in order for Mercado to reiterate that contention.

When asked Monday if the ROTC program could be put in jeopardy because of the purported vigilantism, Mercado brushed the question aside.



Staff photo by Tyler Larkin

Sweetwater School Superintendent Anthony Trujillo, front, and Mar Vista High Principal Jaime Mercado express concern about ROTC students' safety on Mar Vista High's campus.

Saturday-Sunday, February 24-25, 1990

# Teen border wars turn ugly; did TV stage incident?

By David Kravets  
Staff Writer

Teen-aged warriors gathered near the border sporting camouflage uniforms and green greasepaint to play war games. But they captured more than just a flag.

Those soldiers, some of them ROTC cadets from Sweetwater Union High School District, reportedly have seized illegal immigrants coming into this country and have turned them into prisoners of war, the *Star-News* has learned.

"I have seen footage of teen-agers dressed in camouflage uniforms and

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'When the students realized what they had done on film in front of our cameras, they realized there will be some backlash. We did everything in a professional manner.'

—TV investigative reporter

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carrying play weapons at the border," said Congressman Jim Bates, D-San Diego, in a letter to San Diego Police Chief Robert Burgreen, demanding that

Burgreen stop this activity.

"In this footage, I saw the teen-agers round up a group of undocumented immigrants and question them," the letter

continued, a similar version of which was sent to Anthony Trujillo, superintendent of the Chula Vista-based high school district, also urging him to stop this "illegal activity."

The footage the four-term congressman refers to will be aired on the nationally televised news show, "The Reporters," at 9 p.m., Saturday on the Fox network.

The youths apparently are playing a game called "Capture the Flag" in the woods near the Tijuana River. Using guns that fire paint bullets, students attempt to either "kill" all their opponents

or hit enough men to capture their opponents' flag.

Bob Drury, one of the investigative reporters on the televised report, said Thursday in a telephone interview from Miami that the teen-agers did more than just "question" the immigrants.

"I saw them throwing one girl on the ground," Drury said. "As far as I am concerned, they have harassed them many times before."

He also indicated that some of the participants were ROTC students from Imperial Beach's Mar Vista High School. He said that Saturday's television special

**Please see Border: A-7**

# Border

Continued from page A-1

cial will show the faces of some of the teen-agers from that school's ROTC program.

The ROTC commander from Mar Vista said Friday that "I do not condone that type of activity and it goes against all of the goals of the ROTC program."

Cmdr. Arnold Whittelsey admitted that some of the students implicated "could be" from his program, and he reaffirmed that "there's no correlation with that activity with our program."

"To say that in a story that they are ROTC students is like saying that they were English students from Mar Vista," he continued, adding that some parents of the youngsters on the program plan on suing "The Reporters" for unlawfully showing minors on television without parental permission.

Meanwhile, whether the actual purported illegal activity was filmed in progress by "The Reporters" or was staged by the show — known for its sensationalism — is also a subject of debate within Superintendent Trujillo's office.

While a spokeswoman from Sweetwater acknowledged that that type of activity with aliens has been known to occur with students from the district, she said she has proof that the footage from "The Reporters" is bogus.

"What we do know is that school-aged kids playing war games were stopped (several times) by the border and told by the Border Patrol and police to get out of the area," according to spokeswoman Mary Anne Stro, a statement confirmed by both enforcement agencies.

"But what we don't know is how much was set up or glamorized by the television," she con-

tinued, while noting that one of the kids seen on the show had a tape recorder and saying the recording implies that the film crew enticed the youngsters into their actions.

As far as Stro's claim goes, Drury was outraged. While reiterating that the kids have "rounded up aliens numerous times in the past," he said that Sweetwater "can say anything that they want."

"When the students realized what they had done on film in front of our cameras, they realized there will be some backlash," Drury added. "We did everything in a professional manner."

Some of the Sweetwater youths, Stro said, also were booked into motels in the area by crewmen from the show. And she indicated Friday that a few of the students claimed that a cameraman reportedly drove one of the students to the store to buy more paint bullets.

On Friday, a sergeant from Police Chief Burgreen's office said he did not wish to comment on the Bates letter until the congressman himself was contacted. The letter was transmitted Wednesday by fax to a *Star-News* reporter from Bates in Washington.

Lt. Bill Brown, second in command of SDPD's Southern Division, said last week that there have been occasions where students have been apprehended "playing Army."

"There's no indication that they were out there to harass, threaten or rob illegal aliens," he emphasized. "The officers were convinced that they were not involved in illegal activity."

Added Bates: "Can you imagine if one of those Border Patrol agents mistakenly shot one of those kids? The guns they (the kids) carry look pretty real."

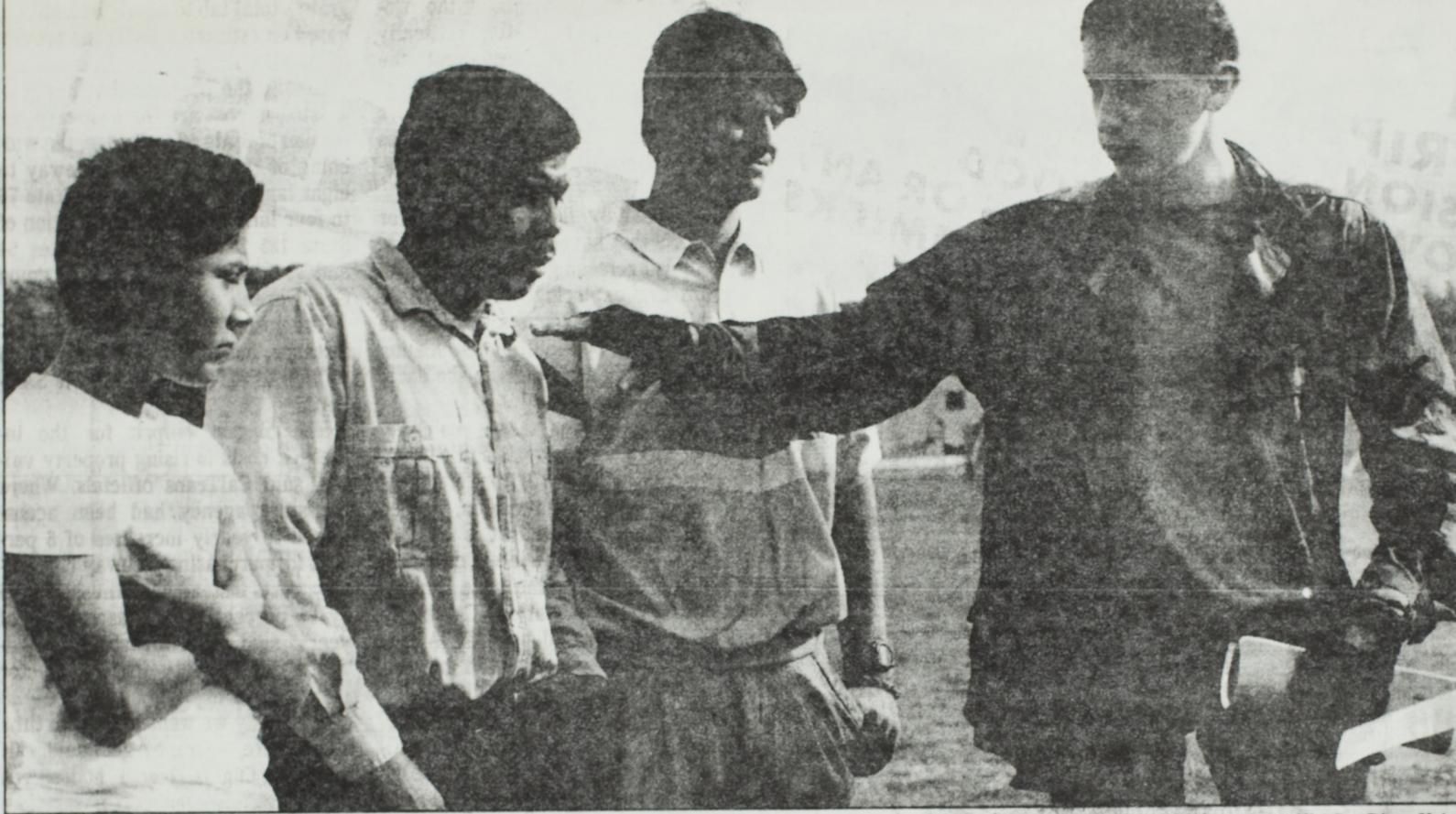
## incident?

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Bob Drury, one of the investigative reporters on the televised report, said Thursday in a telephone interview from Miami that the teen-agers did more than just "question" the immigrants.

"I saw them throwing one girl on the ground," Drury said. "As far as I am concerned, they have harassed them many times before."

He also indicated that some of the participants were ROTC students from Imperial Beach's Mar Vista High School. He said that Saturday's television special see Border-A-7



The San Diego Union

Jason MacAllister, 17, right, with friends, from left, Rodrigo Vazcones, Joe Zazveta and Eddie Smith. MacAllister

denies that his group hunts undocumented aliens during its weekend war games along the border.

## TV report on border game stirs up a fuss

IMPERIAL BEACH — On most Saturdays, Jason MacAllister, 17, puts on camouflage combat fatigues, grabs a BB gun and heads out onto the raw terrain on the U.S. side of the border.

There he is joined by two dozen other young men who call themselves the Metal Militia. Ranging in age from 14 to 21, the participants break into groups A and B and begin their hunt.

MacAllister wants to make one thing clear — they hunt each other,

not Mexicans.

MacAllister wants to set the record straight before a Fox Broadcasting segment of "The Reporters" airs tonight. Fox publicity is billing the show as "Illegal Mexican Migrants — Victims of Vigilante 'Hunting Parties.'"

The aliens become "targets of secret paramilitary groups whose tactics run the gamut from fierce harassment, to armed robbery, to racially inspired murder," the Fox publicity statement says. "While

motives, tactics and weaponry vary from group to group, all refer to the illegals in question as 'beaners' and feel they are fair game because they are unlikely to report the incidents to U.S. or Mexican authorities."

Members of the Metal Militia say that if there are groups conducting these alleged raids, theirs isn't one of them.

"We don't go out there to pick on illegal aliens," MacAllister said adamantly. At their nighttime gather-

ings, they divide up into teams. The second team sets off five minutes after the first. They run past trees, bushes and marsh. They crawl over hills and ants, adrenalin pumping.

The rules: Shoot no closer than 15 yards away, aim for the back or front, never above the chest. With combat jackets on, MacAllister said the BBs feel like a bee sting. Rarely, he said, do they penetrate the skin.

See **Metal** on Page B-7

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B1

File

# Metal: TV report on border game stirs fuss

Continued from B-1

Members of the group said they were stunned when they saw a preview of the upcoming show.

"They're making us look like we're doing things we're not," said militia member Joe Zazueta, 20. "We're not beating and killing people."

They say they were misled by the television field producers, who told them they were doing a show about war games — not hunting parties.

MacAllister said that Fox asked him and the other juveniles to provide signed parental consent statements before they could appear in the television show.

"If it said 'vigilante,' do you think are parents would have signed it?" he asked.

During the two nights that field crews filmed them, on Jan. 27 and Feb. 3, group members said they got the impression that the producers were growing upset because they did not have a story.

At one point, MacAllister said, a field producer told the group after it had encountered some Mexican nationals: "Well, why don't you guys throw them up against the wall?"

"I told her we don't do that. It's against the law," he said.

Fox also claims that these parties also consist primarily of current and former military personnel, as well as junior Reserve Officers' Training

Corps students.

While eight of the 27 Metal Militia members participate in ROTC at local high schools, ROTC Commander Robert Gaudi said his program is not involved in war games. If the students are participating in these games, he said, they are doing so as private citizens.

The boys also said they taped a conversation with another field producer, which they turned over to Jaime Mercado, principal of Mar Vista High in South San Diego County's Sweetwater Union High School District. Several of the boys attend Mar Vista.

According to the transcript of the tape, that producer said the other producer was going to be angry "because she doesn't have a story."

Sweetwater district spokeswoman Mary Anne Stro said school officials have interviewed students who said that the cameraman made prejudicial statements to the group like: "I hope you peg one of those stupid beaners."

As to the Fox contention that paramilitary groups are hunting Mexicans, spokesmen for the Border Patrol and San Diego Police Department said they have no evidence that is taking place.

Border Patrol spokesman Ted Swofford said Fox Broadcasting reporters told the agency two different

stories outlining the theme of the show. "The program was to be about apprehension and how many people we were catching," he said.

Gareth Harvey, a senior producer at Fox Broadcasting in New York, said his company stands by the story.

"It's nothing we staged," he said. "These kids had informed us on a number of occasions that they went on on reconnaissance patrols."

Harvey said the program learned about the patrols through human-rights groups. He said Roberto Martinez of the American Friends Service Committee had called to complain.

Martinez told a different version.

"They called me," he said. "I didn't call them. I told them I didn't hear anything about (the alleged hunting parties). My position is if such a thing were going on, we would have heard about it."

Rep. Jim Bates, D-San Diego, said he also was interviewed for the program and was given the impression that the group was accosting undocumented aliens.

Regardless of which side is right, Bates said, he is not in favor of any kind of war games on the border.

"It's dangerous," Bates said. "People are killed there all the time."

After learning about the war

games, the Sweetwater school district sent a warning this week to its nine high schools: "Students should be aware that such activity could prove to be extremely dangerous since facsimile weapons could be mistaken for real weapons resulting in serious or fatal injury."

In the first six weeks of this year, 13 robberies and two rapes were reported along the border to San Diego police. There were nine murders there last year.

MacAllister's mother, meanwhile, defends her son and the other Metal Militia members.

File  
SD Union

February 24, 1990

B1

# Border war games incident may result in charges

By Rene A. Davalos  
Staff Writer

CHULA VISTA - A soon-to-be-completed investigation could lead to assault and possible false imprisonment felony charges against South Bay youths, who, while playing war games at the U.S./Mexico border, detained and interrogated illegal migrants, a San Diego police official said Wednesday.

"The investigation package should be done in about a

week to 10 days," said police commander Larry Gore. "We are looking at the potential that we might have a situation of possible false imprisonment, which can be a felony."

Information resulting from the investigation will be turned over to the district attorney for possible prosecution, he added.

Gore said that the nature of the charges will depend on the circumstances of two specific incidents involving Mar

Vista High School and Southwest High School students.

The incidents, Gore said, occurred on Dec. 9, months prior to the Feb. 24 broadcast of "The Reporters," on the Fox network, which purported to depict area youths engaged in border vigilantism.

Some of the youths involved in the Dec. 9 incidents — not all — were later involved with "The Reporters" pro-

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## Border

Continued from page A-1

gram, Gore said.

Information about the incidents was generated by the kids themselves, Gore said. "They came forward because they were in some cases disgusted with the behavior of some of the members of their own group. It was not reported to us but their schools. Then the schools reported it to us."

On Dec. 9, Gore said, there were two groups of kids, one from Mar Vista High and another from Southwest High playing daytime war games somewhere along Dairy Mart Road.

"They somehow later in the afternoon or early evening came together, and it was not necessarily planned," Gore said. "It was getting late and a number of them had to go home. So what they did is pool their people and formed a new team. Now remained 12."

The new team then resumed playing and soon encountered two undocumented aliens, Gore said.

"Of the 12, two of them went over and contacted the aliens,"

Gore said. "What they did is point their BB rifles, which look real, had them kneel, place their hands behind their heads, talked to them and searched them."

Soon after, the two aliens were let go, Gore said. "I'm sure they (the youths) thought it was real funny."

That incident apparently offended some of the participants in the games, but the games went on, Gore said.

"A short time later, there was another contact made with another group of aliens," Gore said. "How many in that group, I am not sure, but am led to believe it was about four or five, including a juvenile female."

This time the contact went differently from the first.

"This group of people saw the kids, saw the weapons, and immediately took off in fright. They just took off running."

The girl in an effort to hide, Gore said, slipped, fell and injured her knee.

"This heightened even more the concern of some of the kids," he said. "So they contacted the alien and administered first aid to her knee." Then the kids left

the area, Gore said.

Herman Baca, a local Hispanic rights activists, said that the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the San Diego Police Department, the media and the Sweetwater Union High School District have engaged in a cover-up regarding border vigilantism by area youths.

"It is our position that the SDPD is doing too little, too late," Baca added.

Baca said that similar inci-

**'We do not support any student participating in war games. We don't support it, we don't condone it, we don't endorse it' —  
Mary Anne Stro.**

dents are probably occurring elsewhere along the border and called for congressional hearings and investigations by the Justice Department.

Rep. Jim Bates, D-San Diego,

has also been critical in the past of the SDPD. In recent testimony before the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations, he said, "I remain steadfastly concerned and shocked at the lackluster response of the San Diego Police Department chief, Robert Burgreen, who reported no such activity (alleged border vigilantism) along the border in his jurisdiction." Mary Anne Stro, a spokeswoman for the Sweetwater Union High School District, said that she and the principals of Mar Vista and Southwest High schools met with SDPD Chief Bob Burgreen on Tuesday, before the ongoing investigation was made public.

"They (SDPD) let us know they had in fact, at this point, at least one witness who was providing information," Stro said. "But they did not say who the witness was."

"We as a district made a public statement saying that we do not support any student participating in war games," she said. "We don't support it, we don't condone it, we don't endorse it. And we certainly don't condone anybody doing anything illegal."

# Police urge Mar Vista student's prosecution for alien detention

By **Melissa Bauman**  
Staff Writer

San Diego police have recommended that a 17-year-old Mar Vista High School student be prosecuted for detaining illegal aliens at the border with a BB gun and searching them, officials said.

A second recommendation, however, fell flat with the San Diego City Attorney's office, that a cameraman with the Fox television show "The Reporters" be prosecuted for giving alcohol to a minor when the show was filming its controversial story on border vigilantes here in January.

Those recommendations mark the end of SDPD's investigation into the incidents, according to Cmdr. Larry Gore. A District Attorney official said that office still is reviewing recommendations against the juvenile, but the San Diego City Attorney's office already has rejected charges against the cameraman.

"Obviously, this is a high visibility case, and I didn't want it sitting around waiting for a deputy (city attorney)," Gretchen North, head of the city attorney's screen-

ing and arraignment unit in the criminal division, said.

Although the recommendations stem from the same investigation, they are based on two separate incidents, officials said.

Gore said that the student could be prosecuted for false imprisonment in connection with a Dec. 9 war game. During the game, the boy allegedly aimed a BB gun at two aliens at the border, forced them to kneel and made them submit to a search, he said.

SDPD has witnesses to the Dec. 9 incident, Gore said, but he declined to say how many witnesses saw the attack or who those witnesses were.

The recommendation to charge cameraman Russell Lorette with providing alcohol to a minor from a mini-bar in Lorette's hotel room was alleged to have happened Jan. 28 when a Fox crew was filming here, Gore said. The story, which aired Feb. 24, depicted several local teen-agers and adults, some from Southwest High School's and Mar Vista High School's Junior Reserve

Officers Training Corps, hunting aliens during war games at the border.

North said the city attorney's office was returning the cameraman's case to SDPD Tuesday with the explanation that Lorette would not be prosecuted because of lack of evidence.

She said the minor who allegedly received the liquor from Lorette was the only witness, and the boy's "credibility is questionable because he also engaged in criminal behavior that night by possessing and furnishing alcohol to other minors."

In addition, North said, it would be difficult to prove that Lorette knew the boy had taken alcohol from the bar because it contained both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

SDPD in March reported that most of the Fox story was bogus and that none of the individuals filmed were involved in harassing aliens. However, SDPD revoked that statement later after it was determined that certain individuals had been involved in at least one similar incident Dec. 9.

Jueves 15 de Marzo de 1990



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[Viene de la Primera Página]

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# Light Up the Border protests termed racist

By Ernesto Portillo Jr.  
Staff Writer

A statewide Hispanic organization yesterday criticized Light Up the Border protests as racist and characterized the tactic as a "shortsighted response" to a complicated issue.

Ben Benavidez, president of the Mexican-American Political Association (MAPA), also criticized KSDO radio talk show host Roger Hedgecock for promoting the border protests, which Benavidez said perpetuate anti-immigrant and anti-Hispanic sentiments.

"The racist fears that are created by such shortsighted responses to complex problems damage the plight of Hispanics throughout the Southwest," said Benavidez during a news conference at City Hall. "We're not going to tolerate that anymore."

But Hedgecock and a key organizer of Light Up the Border dismissed the accusations of racism and said that their effort, although focused on the border, is an attempt to gain attention from the federal and state governments.

"If Sacramento and Washington would listen, we wouldn't have to do this," said Audrey Bergner of the Alliance for Border Control.

The Light Up the Border protests, which began last November and have continued once a month since

then, have drawn increasing attention and criticism. Last month's protest, with more than 1,000 participants, attracted national media coverage and more than 100 counter-demonstrators.

As supporters of stricter border controls, protest participants line up their cars on Dairy Mart Road and, in a symbolic gesture, shine their vehicle headlights toward Tijuana. They contend that a meagerly defended border has allowed an unchecked flow of undocumented aliens and illegal drugs that has resulted in a deterioration of Southern California's economic and social lifestyle.

But critics argue that the protests are misdirected and, instead of stemming illegal immigration, contribute to a growing resentment toward undocumented aliens, the vast majority of whom come seeking employment.

"Mexicans play an important role in this beautiful state," said Benavidez. "At this point the undocumented is documented in California's economic system."

MAPA's position was also endorsed by the new Mexican consul general, Enrique Loeza who, in a letter, said that the border demonstrations "will not help stop the migration phenomenon but rather may provide the fuel for more serious problems."

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# Border: Charge 2 in harassment, police recommend

Continued from B-1

ny or a misdemeanor, depending on how the district attorney interprets the evidence, Gore said.

The police report had recommended that the Fox Network cameraman be charged with providing alcohol to the teen-agers.

The cameraman allegedly provided alcoholic beverages from his hotel bar to one of the boys, who in turn gave some to the others, causing them to get "quite inebriated," Gore said.

The cameraman was identified as Russell J. Lorette of Los Angeles by a spokeswoman for the city attorney's office.

Gretchen North, of the City Attorney's Office, said the police recommendation that the adult be charged with providing liquor to minors was submitted Friday and that a deputy city attorney evaluated it yesterday morning and rejected it.

"Based on the evidence, it would be very hard proving that the cameraman had the knowledge that the

minor took the alcohol. The information is ambiguous," North said.

"The successful prosecution would depend solely on the testimony of the minor," North said. "And his testimony would be suspect since he knowingly possessed the alcohol and distributed it to others."

Dennis Petrosky, a Fox Network executive in Los Angeles, said Lorette has denied giving alcohol to the minors.

Petrosky said Lorette was not a full-time Fox Network employee. He was working on contract with the Fox crew that came to San Diego to film the teen-agers for the border-vigilante segment, he said.

The district attorney's juvenile division is still reviewing the possible false imprisonment charge against the minor.

Originally, leaders of the teen war-gamers told police that they were duped by the television crew into participating in activities that merely appeared to be harassment of aliens. That proved to be false, how-

ever, when other members of the war-game club, called the Metal Militia, came forward with a different story, police have said.

Police investigators were forced to retract earlier statements that no undocumented alien harassment had taken place.

Officials of the Sweetwater Union High School District, which encom-

passes Mar Vista and Southwest high schools, said they have no jurisdiction in the war-game issue because it is a police matter, but they condemned the activities.

"We would hope that they do prosecute to the fullest extent of the law," said district spokeswoman Mary Ann Stro.

## War games may prompt charges

### Cameraman, teen named in report on border incidents

By Michael Bunch  
Staff Writer

San Diego police have recommended that a 17-year-old high school student and a Fox Network cameraman be slapped with criminal charges in connection with alleged harassment of Mexican aliens at the border during teen-age war games.

The San Diego city attorney's office has already struck down that portion of the investigation relating to the adult, stating that there was not sufficient evidence to support an allegation that he provided alcohol to the war-gaming minors.

Police investigators submitted their evidence and recommendations of charges to the district attorney and to the city attorney late last week, said Cmdr. Larry Gore.

"We finished our investigation and submitted our report, and we believe one juvenile and one adult should be charged," Gore said yesterday.

The charges stem from revelations made in film clips aired on the Fox Network program, "The Reporters," that South Bay teen-agers conducted paramilitary war games near the U.S.-Mexico border and that sometimes the participants harassed undocumented aliens.

The "Reporters" segment on border-vigilante violence was shown on Feb. 24 and focused on a group of teen-agers from Mar Vista and Southwest high schools who appeared to be prowling the border, stalking aliens as part of their recreational war-game activities.

Several youths were involved in war-game activity at the border, but police investigators felt there was only enough evidence to prosecute one 17-year-old, reportedly from Mar Vista High in Imperial Beach, and the adult, whose names Gore refused to release.

The recommendation to prosecutors said the youth should be charged with false imprisonment because of a Dec. 9 war-game session in which he allegedly aimed a BB gun at two aliens and forced the men to kneel down and submit to being frisked, Gore said.

The charge could be either a felo-

See Border on Page B-8

# Metro

Editorials/Television/Movies/Theater

## Packard clarifies remarks on crime, aliens

By Lola Sherman  
Tribune Staff Writer

Rep. Ron Packard, R-Oceanside, met with members of the Coalition for Human Resources yesterday to quell criticism of statements he had made earlier linking crime problems in North County with the local population of undocumented workers.

Packard said he apologized if previous remarks about a near-crisis in crime by aliens had hurt the feelings of local Hispanics.

"I have already apologized if I overstated the problems," Packard said. "Perhaps I did use poor judgment in the words selected. My intent was never to offend or hurt people or to denigrate our alien population."

But, Packard said, so-called alien crime "to my constituents is a major problem."

The congressman met for nearly an hour

behind closed doors with the Rev. Rafael Martinez of Solana Beach, Ozzie Venzor of Encinitas and Gloria Carranza of Carlsbad.

An impromptu press conference was held later outside Packard's Carlsbad offices.

"We're satisfied," Martinez said. "We're moving forward to close ranks, not only over the issue of crime but on very fundamental human problems for immigration groups and farm workers."

Packard toned down his previous call for a task force on the alleged problem of crime committed by undocumented workers. He renamed it a study group, said it would investigate all kinds of worker problems — including the lack of proper health services and housing — and added representatives of the Hispanic community to the group.

Packard say the group will include the mayors of seven North County cities, local police chiefs and representatives of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. It will be headed, he said, by County Supervisor John MacDonald and San Marcos Mayor Lee Thibadeau. The first meeting is scheduled for April 4.

"I think we're really on the way to something very fruitful," Martinez said of the group.

He added: "We are against crime — Anglo-Saxon, Hispanic, black or yellow. We never equate a situation of crime with any group."

Packard agreed that no single group is more prone to crime than another. "If I have used poor terminology, I offer my apology, he said, "but it does not lessen the fact that there is a problem."

Of the meeting, Packard said "the objective

is to lay aside our differences. The problems are too important and too big for those of us in a position to help resolve them to be fighting with each other."

Packard denied that he had earlier called for a sweep by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to clear the area of undocumented workers and said it was only one possible option.

Packard promised to work with the Hispanics on an education program to inform other members of the community about the workers. And he said he would work for more low-income housing.

"It's un-American in my judgment to live in hooches — the conditions they (workers) live in — no matter who they are," Packard said.

Venzor replied, "it's un-Mexican, too."

# TV report prompts Hispanic protest of harassment, terrorism issues

IMPERIAL BEACH — Members and supporters of a San Diego State Hispanic group staged a protest march and news conference here yesterday to highlight the issue of harassment and terrorism aimed at Hispanics.

The protest was sparked by a nationally televised news report last week about paramilitary and vigilante groups that allegedly prey on Hispanics suspected of illegally crossing the border into the United States.

"Our purpose is to call attention to the plight of the undocumented workers on the border and in North County. It should be focused on," said SDSU freshman Guadalupe Corona, a member of the Mexican-American support organization MECHA.

The news report, broadcast last Saturday on the Fox network show "The Reporters," depicted students from Imperial Beach's Mar Vista High School allegedly hunting Hispanics near a U.S.-Mexico border area frequented by undocumented aliens.

The Mar Vista students involved in the taping of the news program have asserted that they were duped by the show's producers into saying derogatory things about Hispanics and into going to the areas frequented by undocumented aliens.

The youths, some of whom belong to Mar Vista's Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps, admit belonging to a paramilitary group called the Metal Militia, which wears combat fatigues and plays war games with BB guns. But they say they hunt only each other, not Hispanics.

The SDSU students, all members of MECHA, say that regardless of the accuracy of the news report, the program has presented an opportunity to address a bigger issue.

"There are plenty of other groups out there that are doing it that need to be brought to justice," said Rick Rodriguez, an SDSU senior.

"This is only the tip of the iceberg," said junior Joe Lara. "We feel that this whole Rambo-like mentality is not acceptable."

MECHA members held the news conference at Marina Vista Park on Eighth Street after marching with protest signs down Elm Avenue in front of Mar Vista High School.

To substantiate their concern, the MECHA students brought Roberto Martinez of the American Friends Service Committee to the news conference.

"What the ROTC kids are involved in is symptomatic of a much deeper and serious problem that is getting out of control throughout the whole county," said Martinez, who added that he believes the youngsters were involved in anti-Hispanic activity.

"Undocumented immigrants are being perceived as non-human, not



Seated at MECHA news conference table yesterday at Marina Vista Park in Imperial Beach are, from left, Mar Vista High

only by vigilante groups but by the Border Patrol, police and others," he said.

The MECHA students say they plan to attend the next Sweetwater Union High School District meeting to call for a review of the JROTC program and call for workshops to educate students about the plight of undocumented aliens.

School officials issued statements this week that the district does not

condone war-game activities or human-rights violations. They added that the school has no power to discipline the Metal Militia members if they were involved in any wrongdoing, because the alleged offenses occurred off-campus.

"We will do what we can in our area of responsibility to make sure our students understand respect for human rights," said Mary Ann Stro, a Sweetwater Union High School Dis-

trict spokeswoman. "And we will certainly review curriculum to make sure there's nothing to lead students to believe that (vigilante activity) is appropriate, and will work cooperatively with any agency to do this."

Stro said Fox Network executives should investigate the practices of their news crews.

"We have uncovered some information that causes us to raise some

very serious questions about the ethics and professionalism of that particular program," she said. "I think (the program) is very much a misrepresentation of (the students') actual behavior."

Mar Vista Principal Jaime Mercado said the youths involved in the war games have not been attending school regularly this week because of harassment from other students.

The San Diego Union

# The Star-News

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CHULA VISTA • NATIONAL CITY • IMPERIAL BEACH

Weekend Edition

Saturday-Sunday, February 24-25, 1990

25 Cents

## Teen border wars turn ugly; did TV stage incident?

By David Kravets  
Staff Writer

Teen-aged warriors gathered near the border sporting camouflage uniforms and green greasepaint to play war games. But they captured more than just a flag.

Those soldiers, some of them ROTC cadets from Sweetwater Union High School District, reportedly have seized illegal immigrants coming into this country and have turned them into prisoners of war, the *Star-News* has learned.

"I have seen footage of teen-agers dressed in camouflage uniforms and

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'When the students realized what they had done on film in front of our cameras, they realized there will be some backlash. We did everything in a professional manner.'

—TV investigative reporter

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carrying play weapons at the border," said Congressman Jim Bates, D-San Diego, in a letter to San Diego Police Chief Robert Burgreen, demanding that

Burgreen stop this activity. "In this footage, I saw the teen-agers round up a group of undocumented immigrants and question them," the letter

continued, a similar version of which was sent to Anthony Trujillo, superintendent of the Chula Vista-based high school district, also urging him to stop this "illegal activity."

The footage the four-term congressman refers to will be aired on the nationally televised news show, "The Reporters," at 9 p.m., Saturday on the Fox network.

The youths apparently are playing a game called "Capture the Flag" in the woods near the Tijuana River. Using guns that fire paint bullets, students attempt to either "kill" all their opponents

or hit enough men to capture their opponents' flag.

Bob Drury, one of the investigative reporters on the televised report, said Thursday in a telephone interview from Miami that the teen-agers did more than just "question" the immigrants.

"I saw them throwing one girl on the ground," Drury said. "As far as I am concerned, they have harassed them many times before."

He also indicated that some of the participants were ROTC students from Imperial Beach's Mar Vista High School. He said that Saturday's television special  
**Please see Border: A-7**

# Border

Continued from page A-1

cial will show the faces of some of the teen-agers from that school's ROTC program.

The ROTC commander from Mar Vista said Friday that "I do not condone that type of activity and it goes against all of the goals of the ROTC program."

Cmdr. Arnold Whittelsey admitted that some of the students implicated "could be" from his program, and he reaffirmed that "there's no correlation with that activity with our program."

"To say that in a story that they are ROTC students is like saying that they were English students from Mar Vista," he continued, adding that some parents of the youngsters on the program plan on suing "The Reporters" for unlawfully showing minors on television without parental permission.

Meanwhile, whether the actual purported illegal activity was filmed in progress by "The Reporters" or was staged by the show — known for its sensationalism — is also a subject of debate within Superintendent Trujillo's office.

While a spokeswoman from Sweetwater acknowledged that that type of activity with aliens has been known to occur with students from the district, she said she has proof that the footage from "The Reporters" is bogus.

"What we do know is that school-aged kids playing war games were stopped (several times) by the border and told by the Border Patrol and police to get out of the area," according to spokeswoman Mary Anne Stro

continued, while noting that one of the kids seen on the show had a tape recorder and saying the recording implies that the film crew enticed the youngsters into their actions.

As far as Stro's claim goes, Drury was outraged. While reiterating that the kids have "rounded up aliens numerous times in the past," he said that Sweetwater "can say anything that they want."

"When the students realized what they had done on film in front of our cameras, they realized there will be some backlash," Drury added. "We did everything in a professional manner."

Some of the Sweetwater youths, Stro said, also were booked into motels in the area by crewmen from the show. And she indicated Friday that a few of the students claimed that a cameraman reportedly drove one of the students to the store to buy more paint bullets.

On Friday, a sergeant from Police Chief Burgreen's office said he did not wish to comment on the Bates letter until the congressman himself was contacted. The letter was transmitted Wednesday by fax to a *Star-News* reporter from Bates in Washington.

Lt. Bill Brown, second in command of SDPD's Southern Division, said last week that there have been occasions where students have been apprehended "playing Army."

"There's no indication that they were out there to harass, threaten or rob illegal aliens," he emphasized. "The officers were convinced that they were not in-

## EDITORIAL

Participantes del grupo "Alliance for Border Control" (alianza para el control de la frontera) se han dado la tarea de ponerse en fila y prender la luz de sus carros en la frontera hacia México han atraído bastante atención local y nacional. Algunos participantes dicen que el propósito es llamar la atención del gobierno estadounidense a los muchos problemas que existen en la frontera. Ellos argumentan que los indocumentados son la raíz de gran parte del crimen en el condado y del alto costo del servicio médico y educativo. Algunos simplemente desean evitar el cruce de indocumentados a este país por lógicas razones racistas y otros porque al alumbrar la frontera evitan el crimen que usualmente sucede con la complicidad de la oscuridad.

Miembros de la comunidad mexicana, y norteamericana también, decidieron responder pacíficamente marchando en frente de la línea de carros cargando papel aluminio que les devolvía el reflejo de las luces.

El grupo de "Light Up the Border" ha contado con el apoyo del programa radial de Roger Hedgecock, ex-alcalde de San Diego, quien fue condenado a un año de cárcel en 1985 por conspiración con ejecutivos de una (ahora difunta) empresa de inversiones para dar donaciones ilegalmente a su campaña electoral de 1983.

Hedgecock ahora tiene su propio programa en KSDO 1130 am y públicamente ha expresado apoyo por esa demostración anti-mexicana.

Es importante notar que Hedgecock fue alcalde de San Diego, una persona con esa actitud hacia la comunidad mexicana sos-

tuvo semejante posición dentro de nuestro gobierno local. La pregunta aquí es: será realmente importante nuestro voto, cuando es tiempo de elecciones? La respuesta es fácil y de muy serias consecuencias.

La siguiente es parte de una carta enviada al Chicano Federation en San Diego, una organización dedicada a servir a la comunidad latina, por los "Skinheads" (grupo de jóvenes que expresan abiertamente racismo contra latinos, judíos, negros, orientales y cualquier raza no blanca) quienes participan en "Light Up the Border".

*Hola Beaners (frijoleros),*

*Están empezando una guerra con los blancos en la calle Dairy Mart? nosotros definitivamente los vamos a acomodar, no queremos más bolas de grasa viniendo aquí ilegalmente. Ustedes dicen que esto es racismo? déenos decirle lo racista que se va a poner! Estamos en el proceso de coordinar a todos los Skinheads de varios condados para la próximas demostraciones. La gente de la estación de radio (Hedgecock) no está detrás de esto pero nosotros si, los WarBoys (guerreros).*

*Si ustedes tiran, nosotros tiraremos, queremos parar a más mexicanos de venir la América de blancos. Cuando vean las señales racistas la próxima vez, sabrán que estamos ahí, defendiendo a América blanca. Ustedes empezaron al responder a nuestras demostraciones y derecho de asamblea y opinión libre.*

*Firmado: Warboys*

(Intencionalmente se omitieron partes de la carta que solo intentaba insultar a la comunidad mexicana)

Según reportajes de Los Angeles Times este grupo de Skinheads (cabezas peladas) son entrenados por miembros del Ku Klus

Klan y es un grupo pequeño de jóvenes extremistas al estilo Hitler.

Este grupo cree en el poder de la violencia y la intimidación para hacer valer su opinión y crear ofuscación. Ese es el juego de ellos y seguro esperan poder incitar el enojo en la comunidad mexicana por medio de la carta, y así tener una confrontación en las demostraciones de la frontera.

Los organizadores de "Light Up the Border" han escogido una peligrosa y errónea forma de expresar su opinión. Solo han logrado incitar a personas como los Skinheads y otros grupos racistas ya crear una situación donde fácilmente puede estallar la violencia.

Debemos analizar esto con mente calmada y "jugar el juego" inteligentemente, donde verdaderamente cuenta. Debemos presentar la queja a esa estación de radio por permitir insultos a la comunidad latina (durante el programa se reciben llamadas de los radioescuchas, teléfono 278-1130 en la mañana), debemos quejarnos con nuestros representantes políticos y exigir una solución a esta situación, hacerle saber a estos políticos que no se puede permitir que se insulte y ponga en peligro el bienestar de la comunidad mexicana. Es también importante evitar confrontaciones de violencia que solo servirían para atraer aun más violencia.

El silencio de los políticos sobre este tema ha sido claro.

Los mexicanos también pagan impuestos, trabajan y contribuyen en gran parte a la salud económica y social del condado de San Diego, estos políticos también representan nuestros intereses. Una buena cantidad de llamadas a sus respectivas oficinas los ponen en acción.

No se puede negar que existe un problema serio en la frontera, pero esas demostra-

ciones racistas no van a solucionar nada, solo están creando más desunión y desconfianza en la comunidad.

Que este grupo desee soluciones a los problemas de la frontera no tiene nada de malo, pero su táctica es inaceptable. Ellos argumentan que tienen el derecho de expresar su opinión públicamente, entonces que le lleven su mensaje a los políticos en Washington que dicen querer parar el tráfico de inmigrantes ilegales y le dan el trabajo a "la migra" de llevar a cabo esta tarea.

Si realmente el gobierno no deseara que pasara nadie, lo podran lograr, cuentan con los recursos para hacerlo de una u otra forma. Pero en realidad se juega al gato y al ratón. Será que el gobierno desea el trabajo barato de los inmigrantes, tan vital para la agricultura y otras industrias, pero no quieren tener que ofrecerles las garantías y servicios que se le ofrece a cualquier otro trabajador como seguro médico, seguro de desempleo, beneficios de jubilación, etc.? Es una hipocresía.

Son muchos años de explotación e injusticias. Debemos pedir acción inmediata para encontrar soluciones, poner presión, hacer valer los derechos de los inmigrantes ilegales y los residentes latinos de San Diego. Hacerlo en forma que realmente puede dar resultados y no con violencia, como estos grupos racistas esperan. Que estos políticos propongan y pasen leyes que solucionen los problemas en la frontera, pues ese es su trabajo.

La siguiente lista contiene la dirección y el teléfono local de los diferentes representantes. Escriba o llame.

**Presidente**

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## Backgrounder:

### *The Border Patrol Issue*

We want to do the very best job we can to assist the U.S. Border Patrol: they have a nearly impossible and thankless task. We feel we can offer mitigating solutions to the Border Patrol's fear that San Diego International Raceway will provide an easy means for 'drug smugglers and undocumented aliens' to enter the United States.

Rather than being a permanent weak point in border security, we believe the following designed-in factors will serve to make San Diego International Raceway a secure stronghold -- one area less that the U.S. Border Patrol need devote its scarce manpower resources to.

1. Three fences will be erected between the border and the property.
2. Additionally, the entire property will be encircled by dirt berms and fences.
3. Perimeters will be brightly lit at night by high-power lighting.
4. A 24-hour private security force will patrol the surrounding areas.
5. During race event weekends, a private security force of 200 - 300 will reinforce the regular contingent.

Further, we willingly offer the following special concessions to the Border Patrol in order to make their responsibilities in the Raceway area easier:

1. SDMRA will help establish a Border Patrol Check Point on the property.
2. SDMRA will install a Border Patrol surveillance post on the highest building in the Raceway complex.
3. Permanent, on-site facilities for the Border Patrol will be provided.
4. SDMRA's private security force will assist the Border Patrol.
5. The international border's 'no-man's land' will be both widened and fenced.