

**VOTE**



for  
↓

**Mark  
Baca**

**A.S.B. "PRESIDENT"**

(1)

1-12-94

Dad,

I, UNDERSTAND THAT I AM, WRONG AND THAT YOU AND MOM ARE CORRECT. I, HAVE A LOT OF PAIN INSIDE AND MISS MY FAMILY TREMENDOUSLY, ESPECIALLY MY BROTHER NICK. DAD, IT'S REALLY HARD TO EXPRESS MYSELF TO YOU. I, KNOW THAT I'AM, BLESSED WITH YOUR BLOOD AND YOUR BELIEFS AND IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS, SO BADLY, I WANT TO FOLLOW YOUR FOOTSTEPS BECAUSE, YOU, ARE WHAT DEFINES A "TRUE MAN!!" TO ME. SO MANY MISTAKES THAT I, CANNOT ERASE, BUT, TRULY REGRET. I, FIND IT REALLY DIFFICULT TO SAY SORRY OR CRY ANYMORE BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND I, CAN ONLY PROGRESS FORWARD. DAD, I, LOVE YOU SO MUCH AND I KNOW I NEVER HAVE LIVED UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS. YOU AND MOM ARE MY WORLD. I, JUST WANT TO SAY TO YOU I, MISS MY BROTHER NICK, DAD. I, FUCKED UP OVER THERE AND I, WANT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY BIG BROTHER SO BAD. IT IS RIPPING ME APART. I, REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY I, FIND IT SO DIFFICULT TO USE COMMON SENSE. I AM, NOT

STUPID. BUT I, UNDERSTAND THAT  
I'AM WRONG FOR THINKING OF  
ME MARK BACA AND NOT MY PEOPLE  
LIKE I, HAVE BEEN TAUGHT. I, JUST  
WANT YOU TO FIND IT IN YOUR HEART  
TO FORGIVE ME FOR ALL THE TROUBLE  
AND PAIN I, HAVE CAUSED YOU AND MOM.  
I, LOVE YOU DAD AND I MISS YOU.  
AND MY FAMILIA  
I, HAVE ENCLOSED A COUPLE OF  
EVALS FROM MY JOB. I WANT TO  
SHARE THEM WITH YOU AND MOM.

I Love you Dad

YOUR SON

MARK BACA



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

**HARVEY L. LEWIS, JR. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

5170 Greenbrier Ave, San Diego, CA 92120

(619) 583-3233

To: All Staff

From: Mr. Mark Baca, TA in charge of ISS

Subject: In School Suspension (ISS)

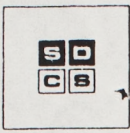
Purpose: The intent of ISS is to provide one more step before formal suspension. VP's assign students to ISS.

I am writing to inform you of the procedures for In-School Supervision. In order for the program to run smoothly, I need for you to know the following:

- 1) Students will only be sent to me for two (2) reasons:
  - a) Students will be assigned to me by the Vice Principal(s) for several days as an alternative to being suspended.
  - b) Students may be assigned by a counselor or VP for a class period for disruptive behavior.
- 2) When a student is sent to me he must either have a referral copy from the Vice Principal(s) or a counselor.
- 3) Students who have been assigned to me for several days, are to be directed to the front office at the beginning of the day, where I will pick them up.
- 4) You will be notified of the students that will be assigned to ISS. Please have class assignments, worksheets, or homework prepared for them. Students **must** have work to do, while in ISS. The work may be dropped off in the front office in a box marked In-School Supervision.

In-School Supervision is located in room 409. You may call me if there are any questions at ext. 235.

Thank You,  
Mr. Baca



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

**HARVEY L. LEWIS, JR. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

5170 Greenbrier Ave., San Diego, CA 92120  
583-3233

February 1, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

Mark Baca has been a valued member of the Lewis Family for the past one and a half years. His duties have included campus supervision, in-school suspension, and detention. While his physical presence and job duties may imply that he is authoritarian, his style of discipline is metted out with caring and compassion for students of all backgrounds.

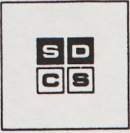
Mr. Baca has also proved to be an outstanding supporter of our mainstreaming efforts at Lewis. He has made friends with all of our students--encouraging them in their daily assignments and communicating problems he may discover while they are experiencing independence on our campus. When he is "on duty," we can trust that our students will be treated fairly when out of our room, fostering greater independence as a result.

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Baca without reservation to any assignment involving students with severe challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Caroline Ogden'.

Caroline Ogden  
Teacher, (SH) Students with Severe Disabilities



SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

EVAL.

**HARVEY L. LEWIS, JR. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

5170 Greenbrier Ave., San Diego, CA 92120  
583-3233

February 4, 1994

**Joint Statement of Understanding**

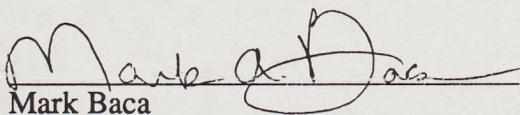
We agree that Mark Baca is a valued and important member of the Lewis Family. In discussions with Trish Harris and Pat Meredith, our purpose is to improve communications in order to support Mr. Baca in his role as instructional assistant for supervision.

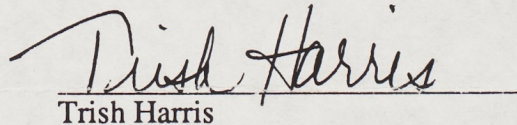
Mr. Baca's primary job responsibilities are to supervise the campus, making sure students are in class and providing assistance as needed (i.e., visiting teachers). His immediate supervisor is Mrs. Meredith, and he will also take direction from Ms. Murphy and Ms. Harris. If any question arises as to a direction given to him by another staff member, Mr. Baca will check with Mrs. Meredith via walkie talkie or in person.

It is recognized that Mr. Baca is very effective in working with students and in helping to break up fights and to prevent potential disruptions. Ms. Harris will support Mr. Baca as he uses his best judgement to maintain a safe and orderly campus. In this regard, Ms. Harris will provide time for a discussion with both supervision assistants to discuss additional techniques for working with students.

It is recognized that the administrator is ultimately responsible for the safety of all staff members and students. Therefore, Mrs. Meredith, Ms. Murphy, and Ms. Harris will give direction to Mr. Baca about actions that should or should not be taken, and these instructions will be followed in a professional and courteous manner.

It is our common goal to work together to improve the environment at Lewis Junior High School for all students. We pledge to work together to achieve this goal.

  
Mark Baca

  
Trish Harris

TH:ds



Hey Look! New Nests!

All in one location!

## The San Diego Union-Tribune.

(Page B-1)

### Students put National City on the map | Complex project aims to chart people as well as streets

**Ben Lumpkin**  
STAFF WRITER

17-Mar-2000 Friday

NATIONAL CITY -- Long after most Sweetwater High School students saunter off into what remains of a balmy, blue-skied afternoon, a small group gathers in a windowless classroom to plot a revolution.

Taped on the wall is a map of National City. It's a basic map, black lines on thin white paper. But it serves as the prototype for what may be one of the most sophisticated maps ever made of the city.

Beyond just the names of streets and neighborhoods, this map will tell the story of the people living there. Choose a street, and it will tell you about some of the families, what they like about National City and what they would like to see change.

And the map soon will be posted on the Internet for all to see.

It's all the work of the National City Youth Organizers Project, an after-school program initiated through a partnership between the school and the nonprofit Consensus Organizing Institute and funded by a \$10,000 grant from the San Diego Foundation.

The youth organizers have been going door to door in each National City neighborhood since October. Armed with a list of questions and their own curiosity, the students have knocked on thousands of doors and completed more than 500 surveys.

Along the way, they've helped register more than 100 people to vote.

Speaking through half-open front doors or, when lucky, seated on cozy living room couches, the students ask what people are doing to improve their neighborhoods and who they are working with. They ask where they have been successful and where they have failed.

**Mark Baca**, leader of the National City Youth Organizers Project, said the "asset map" will eventually bring together like-minded people from all over the city, encouraging collaboration across social boundaries and a heightened level of civic engagement.

"The people who are affected by problems are the ones who are going to fix those problems," said Baca, a National City native who took on the project as a community organizer with the Consensus Organizing Institute.

Baca said the project could have a particularly powerful impact in National City, where social divisions between ethnic groups, immigrants and nonimmigrants, young and old, Spanish speakers and non-Spanish speakers, make coordinated movements for change difficult to organize.

"It's not about brown, black or white," Baca said. "It's about neighborhoods coming together and finding similarities."

In a recent day of surveying, students Steve Rodriguez and Jessica Garcia found a family new to National City eager to talk about how to make things better.

"Get us something more in the neighborhood for the kids to do after school, to keep them out of trouble," said Marcos Salgado, 44.

Salgado's wife, Alma Ramos, 40, said in Spanish that she had been disappointed to learn that the Boys and Girls Club of National City has a



*More than a map: The project's leader Sweetwater teacher Mark Baca, displayed the work of his student volunteers.*

Friday, March 31, 2000

policy of allowing kids to come and go, making it impossible for parents to know for certain where their kids are during the critical interval between the end of school and the end of the parents' workday.

(Greg Beatie, executive director of the club, said the policy keeps the club from being required to become a licensed day care center, a move that Beatie said would both decrease the number of kids the center could serve and raise the price for services.)

Salgado and Ramos also called for more English classes, like those currently offered by the Family Resource Center at Kimball Elementary School.

"Most everybody here speaks Spanish and they need the English to help build themselves up," Salgado said.

Ramos was so excited by the students' visit that she later contacted the youth organizers to ask how she and her friends could help with the survey.

"When people come together you can get a lot done," she said.

In addition to putting together the asset map, the National City Youth Organizers Project aims to increase the political awareness and leadership skills of the student volunteers, Baca said.

"Youth are more than just a problem," said Baca. "Youth are organizers and actors who can systematically make community change."

The students say working on the asset map was a daunting task at first, but one that opened their eyes to the political realities of their city.

"We didn't really know what was out there," said senior Felipe Garcia. "It was kind of like stepping into this complete open field."

The students said they were amazed at the array of opinions to be found within just a few city blocks, ranging from people with urgent complaints to people who couldn't think of a single problem and simply entertained the students with happy memories.

"It's a grueling process," Garcia said. "Now I realize that if change is going to happen it's going to take time."

But the students have already seen how the work they are doing can make a difference.

"National City has a lot of lower- and middle-class people who are busy doing other things, like working two jobs to support a family," Garcia said. "In a way, these people are being cheated because they don't know what's going on. But (the asset mapping) is putting the ball back in their court."

In the course of the last year, Baca has lost some of his student volunteers. But for those who have remained, the asset mapping seems to have taken on the character of a crusade.

"This is a group of students with a passion to improve the community," said Sweetwater High School Principal Ralph Mora. "But in order to do that, you have to have access to the community."

Youth organizer Iriz Lomeli agreed: "We've become more informed citizens. And since most of us are reaching legal voting age, that's going to help out."

National City Councilman Ron Morrison helped the Sweetwater students at the beginning of the project, giving a tour of the city with information on its history and current events. He said the asset map, when complete, could become an important tool for both the public and city government.

"Too often, people don't know what's available and how it can be used. . . . And a lot of times we (politicians) are out there working blind and we have these assumptions about what's important to people. A lot of times we might be wasting efforts."

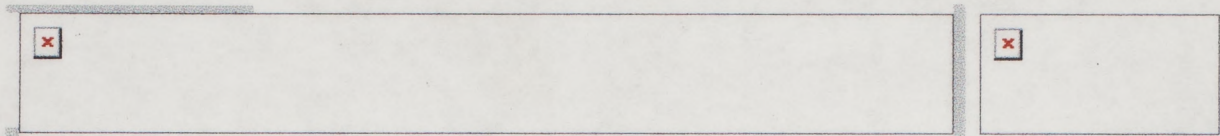
Baca said the National City asset map should be posted on the Consensus Organizing Institute Web site (<http://www.consensusorganizing.com>) by early next month.

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Councilman Juan Vargas will lead a "March against Crime" 7:00 pm August 1st in the Golden Hill community. The march will coincide with the national "Lite up the night against Crime". All residents of the area are asked to join in. Meet at the Golden Hill Community Development Center 2469 Broadway. For further info call Mark Baca at 696-9992.





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**A new cigarette store opens 200 feet from Sweetwater High School.**

NBC 7739



Angie Lee

## Cigarette store too tempting for kids?

NATIONAL CITY, Dec. 2 - A National City neighborhood is up in arms about a new cigarette store in their community. Parents worry that it will send the wrong message to their kids.

Saturday was the big grand opening for

responsibility  
to teach their  
kids what's  
right or wrong.'

—Les Kang  
Cigarette Store  
Customer

Cigarettes Cheaper!, a nationwide chain store offering cigarettes at discount prices. Customers were lined up – and so were protestors who say the store is less than 200 yards from Sweetwater High School.

“I feel that students have a right to not have this in their own backyard,” community activist Mark Baca said. “We don’t want it, we don’t know how they came in and we want them gone.”

The store’s management countered that it is an adults-only environment and that everyone under the age of 27 will be carded. But the protestors said it isn’t so much the store that they’re concerned with but rather the temptation their kids will face as they walk home from school.

“There’s a pizza place here for the youth to be able to relax, play video games, eat pizza,” community activist Sheila Salenius said. “(But) on their way they’re going to see (the cigarette store) and they’re going to say, ‘Oh, I can go in.’”

But store patrons argued that the issue of tobacco and teens should be addressed in the home. “It’s a parent’s responsibility to teach their kids what’s right or wrong,” customer Les Kang said, “and eventually (the kids) are going to have to make their own decision whether they want to smoke or not.”

The protestors said they plan to attend next Tuesday’s city council meeting in National City to question how the cigarette store was able to obtain a permit to do business so close to the school.

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Congressman Filner & Mark Baca



# SOUTH

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

## SMOKY BLAZE

Up to 700 acres burn in remote area of Cleveland National Forest / **B2**

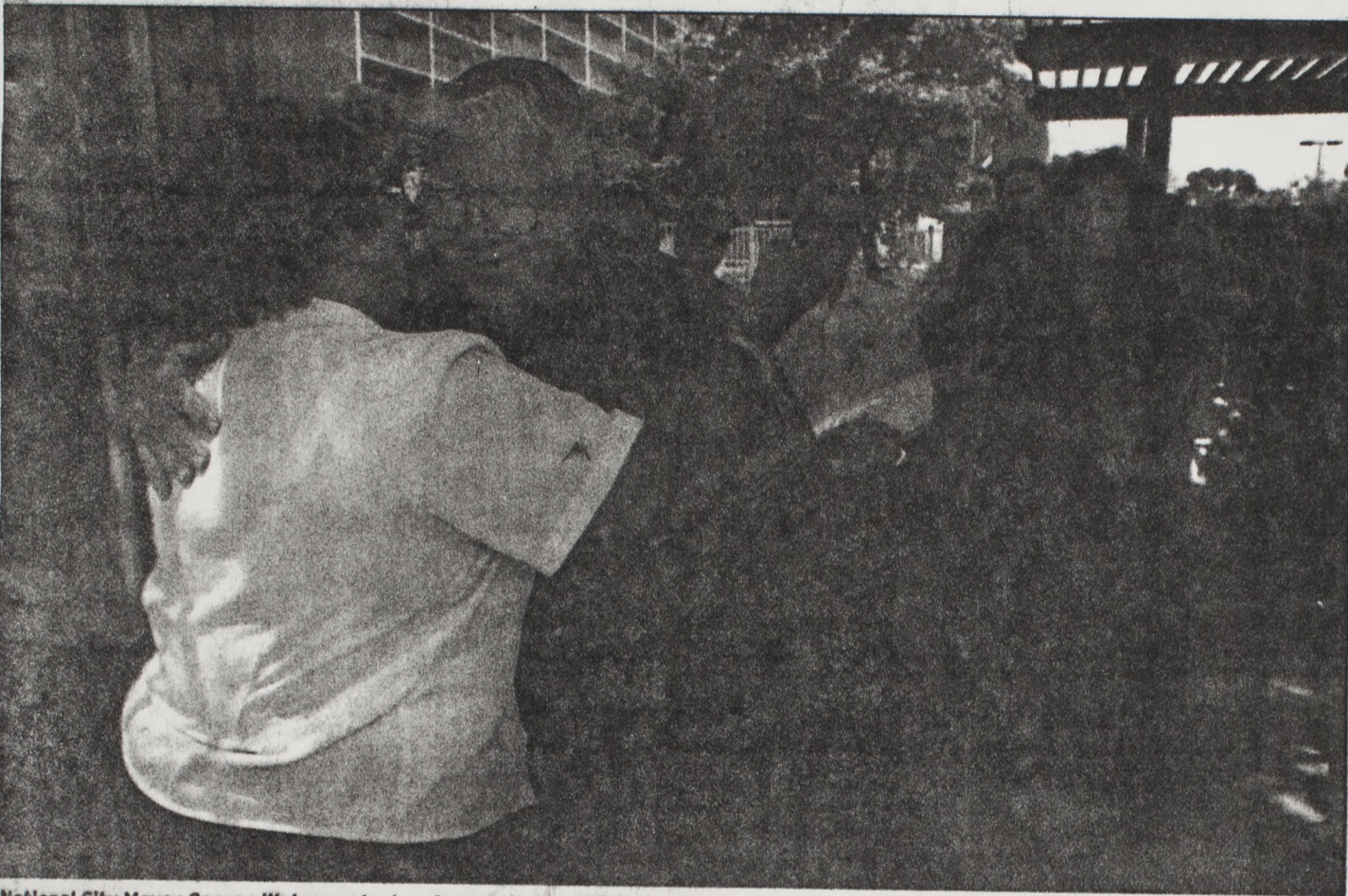
## ARRAIGNMENT TODAY

Driver of car that killed CHP officer may face manslaughter, DUI charges / **B2**

WEDNESDAY  
August 15, 2001

**B**

THE SAN DIEGO  
UNION-TRIBUNE



National City Mayor George Waters got a hug from Anita Hernandez last month after he gave her the keys to a new bus for a senior center. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was one of the dozens of events Waters says he attends each month. Nancee E. Lewis / Union-Tribune

# Less work, same pay?

## Some in National City question council member salaries

**"They are not giving us the time they promised in the community. Period."**

CECILIA KIRK,  
National City activist

By Deborah Ensor  
STAFF WRITER

NATIONAL CITY — A common citizen complaint of the City Council is that members do not spend enough time in the community.

And with the recent cutback of meetings to twice a month, residents are admonishing council members for doing less work while still earning the same pay.

"They are not giving us the time they promised in the community. Period," said community activist Cecilia Kirk. "They should commit to the public. They should commit to their jobs."

When council members Nick Inzunza, Fred Soto and Mitch

**INSIDE:** National City council members receive additional \$552 per month for expenses. **B4**

Beauchamp voted to reduce the number of council meetings, one reason they gave was they preferred to spend more time in the community rather than on the dais.

"The thinking that if we are sitting in a council meeting that we are working harder is just not correct," Inzunza said at the time of the vote in April.

Just how much time do council members spend doing their job and what do they do to interact with the people who elected them?

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

filed a Freedom of Information Act request to see copies of the council members' calendars — and any other material they cared to provide — to see exactly what they do to earn their keep and how they have spent their time since the first of the year.

Beauchamp, Ron Morrison and Mayor George Waters all provided copies of their datebooks. However, neither Inzunza nor Soto provided calendars — both saying they do not keep them. Nor did they supply any other written documentation of how they spend their time.

"I don't keep a calendar at City Hall or at home," Inzunza said.

SEE **National City, B4**

## ▶ NATIONAL CITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

### Council members make \$26,376 in salary yearly

"I'm not that busy."

"I don't have any calendars," Soto said. "If someone calls me, I talk to them directly. I don't have anyone make appointments for me."

Even Waters, who along with Morrison voted against the cutback, has blasted the council for not spending enough time on city business, even question-

## On the agenda

Just how much time do council members spend doing their job and what do they do to interact with the people who elected them?

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* filed a Freedom of Information Act request for copies of council members' calendars to see what they do to earn their keep and how they have spent their time since the first of the year. Here's a sampling from May:



**Mayor George Waters** — Waters, who has served as full-time mayor for 15 years, is well known for attending community events and is also known for his accessibility. "I'm just busy

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

The calendar is filled with handwritten notes and dates, representing a sampling of Mayor George Waters' schedule for the month of May. The notes include various council meetings, community events, and personal appointments.

## National City officials vary on spending monthly fees

Community aid, car mileage among members' costs

By Deborah Ensor  
STAFF WRITER

**NATIONAL CITY**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

**Council members make \$26,376 in salary yearly**

"I'm not that busy."  
"I don't have any calendars," Soto said. "If someone calls me, I talk to them directly. I don't have anyone make appointments for me."

Even Waters, who along with Morrison voted against the cut-back, has blasted the council for not spending enough time on city business, even questioning why the part-time council members should be able to cut back their meeting schedule and still be paid the same.

"They never come into City Hall. I never see them," said Waters, whose full-time position keeps him at City Hall every day. "They are in for a few minutes, then they're gone."

When asked to account for his time, Soto, a former lawyer who resigned from the State Bar last September with charges pending, said he did not wish to provide any details.

"It's hard for me to think about," he said. "A lot of my appearances, they call me the day before."

When asked to list some of the events he has attended in the past few months, he declined again, saying if he tried to go back and write them down, "I might miss some people and they might resent it."

He also declined to break down the hours he spends working on city business.

Inzunza, who campaigned on being involved in the community, has said that sitting on boards and commissions or attending Chamber of Commerce events is not as important as getting out into the community to meet the real people of National City.

But that's exactly what his critics say he isn't doing. His comments that he goes to football games, quinceañeras and weddings to meet people have only exacerbated that criticism — against him and other council members.

"Before the election, Nick was almost never seen in National City," community activist and long-time council critic Mark Baca said. "Now that he's been elected, that doesn't appear to have changed. It's time for them all to live up to their pretty words or resign."

When asked to list the community events he does attend, Inzunza said, "I really spend a lot more time at family events and friends' events."

Inzunza said he does not hold a salaried job and is "financially independent" from various real estate holdings and his company, Auto Classifieds. That freedom, he says, allows him to spend time on city business,

**On the agenda**

Just how much time do council members spend doing their job and what do they do to interact with the people who elected them?

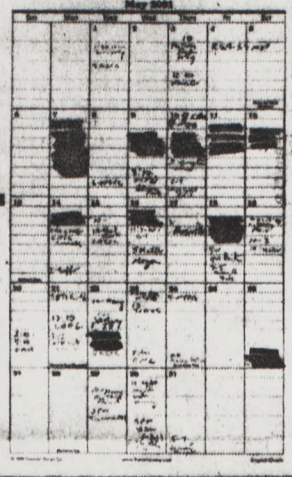
The San Diego Union-Tribune filed a Freedom of Information Act request for copies of council members' calendars to see what they do to earn their keep and how they have spent their time since the first of the year. Here's a sampling from May:



**Mayor George Waters**  
Waters, who has served as full-time mayor for 15 years, is well known for attending community events and is also known for his accessibility. "I'm just busy getting things done," he said.



**Vice Mayor Mitch Beauchamp**  
The only council member to work full time at another job, Beauchamp says he spends 35 percent of his time on city business. His calendar shows more than 100 city-related appointments from the first half of the year. The inked-out items are personal appointments.



**Calendars not kept**

Nick Inzunza and Fred Soto, both serving their first term, said they do not keep calendars of any sort, either electronic or handwritten.



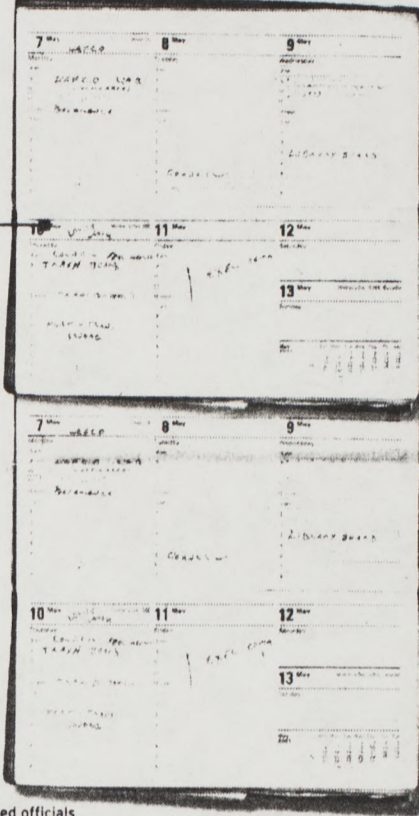
**Council Member Nick Inzunza**  
"I'm not that busy," Inzunza said, adding he spends time studying agendas and documents.



**Council Member Fred Soto**  
Soto declined to provide any details about how he spends his time working for the city.



**Council Member Ron Morrison**  
Vice chairman of SANDAG, Morrison has five to 10 city-related appointments a week, as well as numerous committee meetings focusing on regional issues of importance to the city.



SOURCES: the above elected officials  
Research by DEBORAH ENSOR / Union-Tribune Graphic by PAUL HORN / Union-Tribune

ness, which he estimates takes about 20 hours a week in meetings, studying documents, responding to mail and following up on calls.

Morrison's calendar shows him with anywhere from five to 10 appointments per week, including many regional meetings. He is vice chairman of SANDAG and is on that organization's transportation committee, Center City Corridor Study committee and High Speed Rail committee. He also serves on the Airport Siting Committee and the Regional Solid Waste Association. He was a local contractor but now spends most of his time on city business.

"I spend over 40 hours a week at this job, there's no doubt about that," he said.

Beauchamp, the only council member to work full time at another job — he runs Biological Services, an environmental consulting firm — says he

spends 35 percent of his time on city business. His calendar shows more than 100 appointments from January to June, including ribbon cuttings, grand openings, graduations and meetings. He is also a member of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board.

Waters — who has boasted about his calendar that "If I don't have an average of 85 meetings a month, I'll eat it" — also has a full plate. He's well known for attending community events and is also known for his accessibility.

"I get calls at 2 or 3 in the morning," he said. "I keep my number listed in the phone book. People can call me anytime night or day."

Waters is also one of the highest paid mayors in San Diego County, earning more than any other mayor except San Diego's Dick Murphy and Shirley Horton of Chula Vista.

Waters earns \$46,037 per year. He receives full benefits, including a car. He also receives a \$315 check each month for expenses that do not have to be itemized.

In contrast, Horton earns \$50,076 to run a city that has more than triple the population. That disparity will be corrected in the future because Chula Vista voters approved a 66 percent raise for its mayor and council members effective late next year. Murphy earns \$81,189 yearly.

National City council members are also some of the highest paid council members in the county, earning more than their counterparts in every city except San Diego and Ocean-side.

Council members in National City earn \$1,646 a month, which includes sitting as the redevelopment agency, plus a perk that few other cities get:

\$552 in monthly expenses. They can spend the money on anything they want — from cell phone bills to dry cleaning to dinner — without having to itemize any of it. Their total salary with expense payments comes to \$26,376 a year. They also get full health, retirement and life insurance benefits.

And should they wish to travel or attend conferences, council members can spend up to \$3,000 each per year to do so.

Morrison said that, despite what it looks like, council members are underpaid.

"We may be higher paid than lot of other city councils, but most people's jaws drop when they hear what we make," Morrison said. "You can't support a family on it. They expect us to be available 25 hours a day and eight days a week, then they realize we are doing this part time."

**National City officials vary on spending monthly fees**

**Community aid, car mileage among members' costs**

By Deborah Ensor  
STAFF WRITER

**NATIONAL CITY** — In addition to their salaries, council members receive \$552 per month in expenses they are not required to itemize.

Only four other cities in the county provide such a payment. Oceanside council members get \$300 per month, Chula Vista \$160 per month, Coronado \$75 per month, and Encinitas council members may choose to submit all expenses for reimbursement each month or receive \$150. Some cities also pay council members a stipend for auto expenses.

Here's how each of the National City council members say they spend their expense money:

**Mitch Beauchamp:**

Beauchamp said he sees the money as a way to help the community. He sponsors several local families and buys school supplies, shoes and clothes for the children. With the money, Beauchamp is also helping pay tuition for a student at Southwestern College, he sponsors a Pony League baseball team, a girls' softball team, buys soccer equipment for another team and sponsored a child's trip to a baseball tournament.

**Nick Inzunza:**

Inzunza said he spends the money on miscellaneous meetings and car mileage. "It kind of spreads out," he said. "I don't really itemize it. I know it's there, and there are quite a bit of expenses in this job."

**Ron Morrison:**

Morrison said he uses most of the expense money on car mileage and to compensate for the use of his vehicle. He also uses it to pay for admission to various events, banquets and meals. "There are a huge amount of expenses," he said.

**Fred Soto:**

Declined to answer.  
**Mayor George Waters**  
Waters only receives \$315, earmarked for Community Development Commission expenses. "I use that money for meals and going to different events," Waters said. "But I also pay a lot of things out of my own pocket."

## SOUTH COUNTY OPINION

## EDITORIAL

## The easy life sitting on National City Council

Looking for a good part-time job? Here's one in National City.

Except for twice-monthly commitments, you can set your own hours. Actually, you can pretty much not work at all, if that's your choice. You don't really have a boss, although the people who hired you might check up on you once every four years. However, that's usually not a problem, because most of them don't care.

Salary is \$26,376 a year, plus full health, retirement and life insurance benefits. Any takers?

The job is city council member for National City, and according to a recent story by *Union-Tribune* reporter Deborah Ensor, two council members appear to be doing very

little work whatsoever for the people who elected them.

Earlier this year, the council voted 3-2 to cut back council meetings to twice a month in this city of 55,000, with the three saying they would prefer spending more time in the community rather than at council meetings. They said there wasn't enough city business to warrant weekly meetings. Of course, they didn't reduce their salaries when they cut the number of meetings in half.

Voting for the meeting reduction were Nick Inzunza, Fred Soto and Mitch Beauchamp. Voting against it were Ron Morrison and Mayor George Waters. The mayor is a full-time employee, while the council seats are part-time jobs.

Waters, Morrison and Beauchamp all provided their datebooks and calendars to Ensor, and each showed quite a bit of public service outside of council meetings.

Waters probably does the most, claiming to average about 85 public events a month. He's the kind of local politician who can be found at almost any political, community or social event with the words "National City" attached to it. Morrison attends many community events, and also is involved in various regional government bodies, such as the San Diego Association of Governments and transportation and solid waste committees. He receives small stipends from SANDAG in addition to his National City pay, but the public definitely gets its money's worth out

of Morrison. Beauchamp, the only council member to work full-time at another job, still went to 100 community events in six months, according to his calendar. Plus, he's a member of the Metropolitan Transit Development Board.

But Inzunza and Soto said they didn't keep datebooks or calendars, because they didn't need them. Both declined to discuss any specific events they might have attended. Inzunza said he goes to football games, *quinceañeras* (coming-out parties for 15-year-old girls) and weddings to meet constituents, and that he spends about 20 hours a week on city business. However, he provided no evidence to substantiate those claims.

Soto declined to give any details

about how he earns his city pay.

Waters, who is at City Hall every day, says he very rarely sees council members there.

Nice work, if you can get it. It's too bad the number of people who vote in National City is so low that some council members can get away with doing very little public work without fear of being thrown out of office. National City needs a time clock for politicians at City Hall. Or perhaps council members should be paid through billable hours, with documentation required to show how they spent their time. At the very least, council members should reduce their pay now that they've reduced the number of council meetings. Don't hold your breath for that one.

## Restricting bilingual education a public policy failure

By Jill Karper Mora

Three years ago, in the June 1998 primary election, 61 percent of the California electorate approved Proposition 227, a ballot initiative intended to restrict bilingual education in the public schools and replace it with English immersion.

An exit poll conducted by CNN/Los Angeles Times estimated that 63 percent of Latino voters opposed the initiative. School districts are required under federal law to provide special language instruction services for students with limited English proficiency so they can learn English and also recoup academic deficits they may incur while learning the language. Proposition 227 did not alter federal law requirements stemming from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for public schools to take "appropriate action" to overcome language minority students' barriers to equal access to the curriculum due to lack of English proficiency.

Proposition 227 went into force beginning with the 1998-1999 school

year. The law regulates education for 1.4 million students who are classified as limited English proficient, termed English language learners (ELLs). ELLs comprise 25 percent of California's total student population. Eighty-two percent of these students are native Spanish speakers.

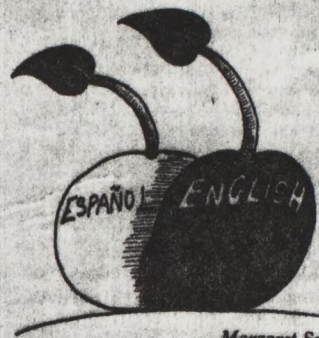
We are now in the third year of implementation of Proposition 227. A number of editorials and commentaries have been published recently proclaiming Proposition 227 and English immersion a resounding success. However, the public is largely unaware that many university researchers, educators, parents and community leaders do not agree with these editorial opinions regarding Proposition 227's impact. In fact, educators and professional organizations with expertise in programs for educating language minority students have declared Proposition 227 a public policy failure.

Proposition 227's objective was to end the practice of using languages other than English, predominantly Spanish, as a medium of instruction in public schools. Proponents claimed that bilingual education was retarding

students' English language learning and therefore causing academic failure and increased school dropout rates, especially among Latinos.

The media rarely informed the public that respectable, controlled scientific studies consistently show that well-implemented bilingual programs are effective. Accounts of bilingual education's successes appeared infrequently in the media, which focused on the politics of educating immigrant students as a "wedge issue" in the primary election campaign. Proposition 227's impact on local control and decision-making power of Latino parents in choosing how best to educate their children was lost amid strong jingoistic rhetoric about the importance of English and assimilation of immigrants into mainstream American culture.

In truth, bilingual education was never the problem, so eliminating it as a means of educating our growing language minority population has not led to a solution. Most analyses of the bilingual education controversy in the media fail to point out the fact that only 15 percent of all Latino students were ever enrolled in a bilingual program.



Margaret Scott

Yet, voters were led to believe that dismantling bilingual programs would be the solution to the educational problems facing Latino youth.

In a comprehensive study of the SAT-9 test results, Professor Kenji Hakuta and his colleagues at Stanford University found that reports attributing score increases to implementation of Proposition 227 by politicians and the press are baseless and that it is "misleading" to use SAT-9 data to evaluate the impact of the law. Only 18 percent of the ELLs in California schools moved from bilingual classrooms into

English immersion following passage of Proposition 227. However, SAT-9 scores increased at the same rate for all students, including those in bilingual programs and those who never had bilingual education. Hakuta found several school reform factors that could account for test score improvements for all California's students, as were evidenced in the overall test results.

Proposition 227 has made bilingual education a scapegoat for fears about immigration and society's ambivalence about our growing cultural diversity. It is disingenuous and irresponsible to declare the anti-bilingual education policy a success based on inadequate assessment and misleading information. We must consider factual evidence and expert opinions in evaluating its broader educational and societal consequences.

Policy-makers, together with educators, parents and community leaders, must reassess the impact of Proposition 227 and garner the courage to repudiate a law that limits the educational opportunities of thousands of our most disadvantaged students in our public schools.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## City confronts project leader's past

Registered offender backer of skate park

By Deborah Ensor  
STAFF WRITER

**NATIONAL CITY** — A co-founder of a local youth group that plans to build a skateboard park on city property has been a registered sex offender for more than 12 years.

City officials, who learned the

news this week, wondered why they weren't told months ago. They vowed to investigate the matter, while expressing concern about the future of the project.

Jared Pollard pleaded guilty in 1988 to fondling a 9-year-old girl who was a friend of his daughter's. He served one year in a work furlough program and five years of probation as well as court-ordered and voluntary therapy.

Last August Pollard founded sk8nc, a local group of parents and

children who are raising money to build a roller park in Las Palmas Park.

Pollard said he knew his name would be a liability to any project associated with children so he turned the group over to executive director Dan Aiono last year. Pollard is considered a parent volunteer who does administrative work for the group and runs its Web site.

City officials, who were tipped off this week by a citizen about Pollard's offense, were upset sk8nc officials

didn't inform them about his past.

"There was a lack of wisdom and discretion," Councilman Ron Morrison said. "They could have saved themselves a lot of grief and the city some embarrassment if they had just brought this forward."

Aiono said that when the group began organizing, Pollard told him about his conviction as required by law. The law states that anyone who works as an employee or volunteer

SEE Pollard, B4

## Chula Vista fire chief quits after car wreck

Hardiman said to be dealing with alcoholism

By Amy Oakes  
STAFF WRITER

**CHULA VISTA** — Fire Chief James Hardiman submitted a letter of resignation yesterday after he crashed into three parked cars Sunday and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, city officials said.

The 31-year department veteran was placed on paid administrative leave this week until his court date, scheduled for mid-October, said City Manager David Rowlands. He will not return to work and will retire with full benefits on July 1, 2002, Rowlands said.

"He will not be fulfilling any job duties in the city," Rowlands said.

Rowlands said Hardiman is seeking treatment and counseling for alcoholism.

Hardiman will remain on the city's payroll until his retirement, using accrued sick, vacation and personal days, Rowlands said. The chief's annual salary is \$132,464.

Assistant Fire Chief Doug Perry, who has been with the department for four years after working for the Coronado Fire Department, has been named acting chief, Rowlands said.

Hardiman, 51, referred questions to his attorney. "This is very... I would just prefer not to make any statements," he said yesterday.

According to the police report, the inci-

SEE Fire chief, B6

## Renowned S.D. judge is nominated to 4th District

By Alex Roth  
STAFF WRITER

A San Diego judge who was recently named the state's Jurist of the Year and has handled a variety of high-profile cases was nominated yesterday for a spot on the 4th District Court of Appeal.

Gov. Gray Davis nominated Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell to the San Diego-based appellate court. Over the years, McConnell, 57, has handled a variety of hot-button cases, including county open-space litigation and several issues related to the downtown ballpark project.



Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell

### ► POLLARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1 Councilmen want to keep project alive

with children must disclose his or her sex offender status to that group.

"It falls on my shoulders to deal with the kids," Aiono said. "His role has always been more of an administrative one. I make sure that he does not work one-on-one with the kids."

Aiono said Pollard offered a letter of resignation but that he hasn't accepted it.

"Because of my Christian upbringing I believe in forgiveness," he said.

The city signed a memorandum of agreement with sk8nc in April, setting aside 15,000 square feet in Las Palmas Park for sk8nc to build an unsupervised roller court. The city committed only the land, not funding or personnel.

Assistant City Attorney Rudy Hradecky said that anyone who works with the city in a youth program goes through a background check, but the city considers this agreement to be a construction project and wouldn't do a background check on the people involved.

"From my perspective, it's a

construction issue, not a youth supervision issue," he said. "There's a very fundamental difference. The city is treating it with all appropriate consideration."

Pollard, who has a grown daughter and two school-age sons in a shared-custody arrangement with his ex-wife, said he wanted to create a safe place for his kids and others to skateboard, but he was conscientious all along about owning up to his past.

"This project was started for my kids," Pollard said. "I started this program because it needed to be done. My hope was to get it going and turn it over as quickly as possible to other people. Obviously because of my criminal history I would be a liability to the program and I don't want it threatened by something I did years ago."

While he said he would never minimize what he did, Pollard said he has grown tremendously through the ordeal and understands he will be stigmatized all his life. He said he always has trouble finding employment and worries about how his past affects his children.

"It has taken a severe toll in a lot of ways," Pollard said. "But I've grown through it and become more mature and responsible."

Pollard said he has partici-

**"There was a lack of wisdom and discretion. They could have saved themselves a lot of grief and the city some embarrassment if they had just brought this forward."**

Councilman Ron Morrison

pated in a PBS documentary about the rehabilitation of sex offenders and he tries to always be up front and open about his past.

"This was kind of scary for me," he said about starting this project. "I might as well have a target painted on me."

Pollard said he didn't want to do anything to jeopardize the project.

"If they have to have somebody's head, they can have my head," he said.

There are two levels of registered offenders under what is known as Megan's Law. High-risk offenders are those who

commit multiple violent sex offenses. Offenders such as Pollard are in a lower-risk classification called serious offenders.

Of the 137 registered sex offenders living in National City, only one is classified as a high-risk offender.

It is a lifetime requirement that Pollard register as a sex offender. He has no other convictions and has registered every year as required.

Councilman Mitch Beauchamp said he has no ill will toward Pollard and believes that "people's lives do change."

"But," he said, "I think we have a duty once we have this information to investigate and see what relationship it has to the project and young people in the community."

He and Morrison — as well as sk8nc — are concerned about keeping the project alive.

"The last thing we want to do is damage the skateboard thing," Morrison said.

The information came to the city's attention from local activist Mark Baca. Baca said he goes to the San Diego Police Department every couple of months to check on registered sex offenders residing in National City by running the city's ZIP Code through the system. The information is public record, but the seeker must show a California identification and provide a reason for his search.

By Leslie Wolf Branscomb  
STAFF WRITER

## trophy sparks memory flow



Helen Banks Matthews was never the yachting type. Nor was her mother, Violet, nor any of the four men Violet married during her long life.

Yet after Violet Banks died and Matthews got around to unpacking the things from her mother's house in Sedona, Ariz., this is what she found: a silver trophy from 1912 belonging to the Chula Vista Yacht Club.

"None of us in our family know how it came to be among her things," said Matthews, 79, a Spring Valley resident. "When I unpacked, that was the first time I saw it."

Now the silver chalice has been returned to the yacht club, to take its place in the trophy case alongside the few other remaining pieces of the club's early history.

The Chula Vista Yacht



Club manager Gary Viggiano

PHOTO BY GARY VIGGIANO FOR THE TRIBUNE

#4

## SOUTH COUNTY OPINION

EDITORIAL

## Error in judgment shouldn't kill kids' skate park

**T**he kids of National City shouldn't suffer because of the past sex crime of one of the founders of a nonprofit skate park organization. The skate park proposed for Las Palmas Park should still go forward.

National City officials and parents were stunned to learn that Jared Pollard, a co-founder of "sk8nc," was a registered sex offender who pleaded guilty in 1988 to fondling a 9-year-old girl. Although Pollard says he is

rehabilitated, it's a mistake for him to be involved in any youth organization.

And it was a mistake for other organizers of "sk8nc" to allow Pollard to continue working with the group after they found out he was a registered sex offender. State law requires that a sex offender must disclose his status if he's working or volunteering with children. Pollard did tell "sk8nc" organizers he was a sex offender. Executive Director Dan Aiono said he made sure Pol-

lard worked only as an administrator, not with kids.

That may have been well-intentioned, but it was ill-advised, particularly since Aiono didn't inform National City officials about Pollard. The city signed an agreement with "sk8nc" allowing the skate park to be built in a city park. Since city property will be used, the city is a partner in this project. Therefore, city officials should have been notified about Pollard.

Pollard submitted a letter of resig-

nation from "sk8nc," which was read at a City Council meeting this week. His continued presence in the organization would have jeopardized city support for the skate park and made continued fund-raising impossible. Now that he's out of the picture, the project should move forward. The failure of "sk8nc" to notify city officials about Pollard's past was unfortunate, but is not cause to kill the project.

Skate parks have been enormously successful, giving kids a struc-

tured, supervised place to skateboard and keep them off the streets. Also, they save wear and tear on public and private property where skateboarders otherwise practice.

"Sk8nc" plans to build three skate parks in National City. City officials say they'll see how the first one in Las Palmas Park turns out before moving forward on the rest. The controversy regarding Jared Pollard may rankle residents. But, now that it's over, it shouldn't deprive kids of National City of their skate parks.

## Brown Field isn't just a South County economic issue

By Jerome Stocks

**S**an Diego City councilman Ralph Inzunza has lots of reasons to make sure San Diego never has an airport at Brown Field. But for those of us in the North County area who know how critical better air cargo is to the economy of the entire region, none of these reasons even get off the ground.

My personal favorite is when he said that an upgraded facility at Brown Field would interfere with plans for Tijuana to expand its airport. American and Tijuana business leaders know that better airports are critical for creating better, high-paying jobs. Civic

as well as Tijuana.

Inzunza also claims that we don't need a cargo airport at Brown Field because Lindbergh Field can be expanded to handle our region's air cargo needs. And needs they are: Today, 80 percent of all air cargo generated in San Diego is shipped by truck up to Los Angeles because Lindbergh Field can't handle it. This isn't just cargo trucking north, thousands of high-paying jobs go with it as well. Inzunza says send it to Lindbergh, but he doesn't tell us how or where or even why.

The good folks in Los Angeles must be just as grateful — and puzzled — as their counterparts in Tijuana are by Inzunza's plan, all for nothing in re-

could go up \$50,000 to \$100,000 each if the airport went away. That's between \$150 million and \$300 million additional profit. That's a lot of money for Pardee, even so, it is still just a fraction of what this airport would bring the rest of us. Inzunza's plan is a gift that keeps on giving. First Tijuana, then Los Angeles, and then millions of dollars to one of the biggest home builders in America. Again, all for nothing in return.

Well, that's not exactly true: What San Diego really gets is a loss. We would lose thousands of high-paying jobs.

A better airport was always part of the vision of a better South San Diego. That's why the necessary support in-

would be the tens of millions of dollars in rent this new airport would pay directly to the city treasury. Today, this airport is millions of dollars in the red, and is the single most under-utilized public asset in the county.

Councilman Inzunza seems convinced that new houses are more important for Chula Vista and Imperial Beach than a better airport and its related jobs and commerce would be for San Diego.

Others disagree. Plans to improve Brown Field have drawn support from an unprecedented coalition: The Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the 100,000 member San Diego Labor Council, San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy, several members of the

to what we will become over the next 50 years.

Since the painful decimation of our defense-industry based economy in the 1980s, we have done well by diversifying with biotech/science, service, and tourism sectors as the mainstays of our regional economy. With a better airport at Brown Field, our region can also improve the commercial-industrial sector, become self-sufficient and continue to be prosperous.

A four-legged stool is more stable than a three-legged stool. This is not strictly a South County or a North County issue. It's a San Diego regional issue for anyone who knows how important this type of infrastructure and job creation is to people from Otay Me-

**SANTEE** — The sky was clear Sunday when 13-year-old Justin Haakenson started the steep, 2.2-mile trek to the top of Stonewall Peak.

Justin, a shy youth from Santee who skates, plays electric guitar and listens to Metallica, had no idea what lay ahead less than an hour later.

Justin said he picked himself up, looked at Wilson and saw smoke rising

ringing in my ears. I didn't even know what happened, it happened so fast." Justin was lucky. Roger Wilson, 53, a 6-foot-tall, 240-pound former Marine turned cabdriver, may have been holding onto a metal guardrail and was killed instantly.

Justin said he picked himself up, looked at Wilson and saw smoke rising

Wick, referring to the hike with Wilson, Justin and Wick's 14-year-old son, Zachary.

The trip to the top had an ordinary start.

The four had gone camping near Julian on Friday afternoon. Planning for

SEE LIGHTNING, B2



Justin Haakenson (right) described Sunday's hike to Haakenson (left) and Gail Wick, the girlfriend of Roger Wilson, who was killed by a lightning strike. Earnie Grafton / Union-Tribune

## Sex offender resigns from National City youth group he co-founded

By Deborah Ensor  
STAFF WRITER

**NATIONAL CITY** — A registered sex offender who co-founded a local youth group has resigned from the organization after his past became public last week.

Jared Pollard was a co-founder of sk8nc, a grass-roots organization that was working with the city to build a roller court in Las Palmas Park.

"I promised that if my criminal past ever threatened the success of sk8nc, that no matter how long or hard I had worked on the project, I would end my association with it," Pollard wrote in his letter of resignation. "Unfortunately, that day has come."

Though Pollard started the group, he said he turned it over to executive director Dan Aiono last year because he knew his name would become a liability to any project associated with children.

Pollard, who had been working as a parent volunteer doing administrative work and running the group's Web site, sent his letter of resignation to Aiono. And Aiono forwarded it to Mayor George Waters on Tuesday.

"I don't want to see my past failings used to embarrass or denigrate our community," Pollard wrote. "Nor as a father do I want to see my children punished any more than they already have been. . . ."

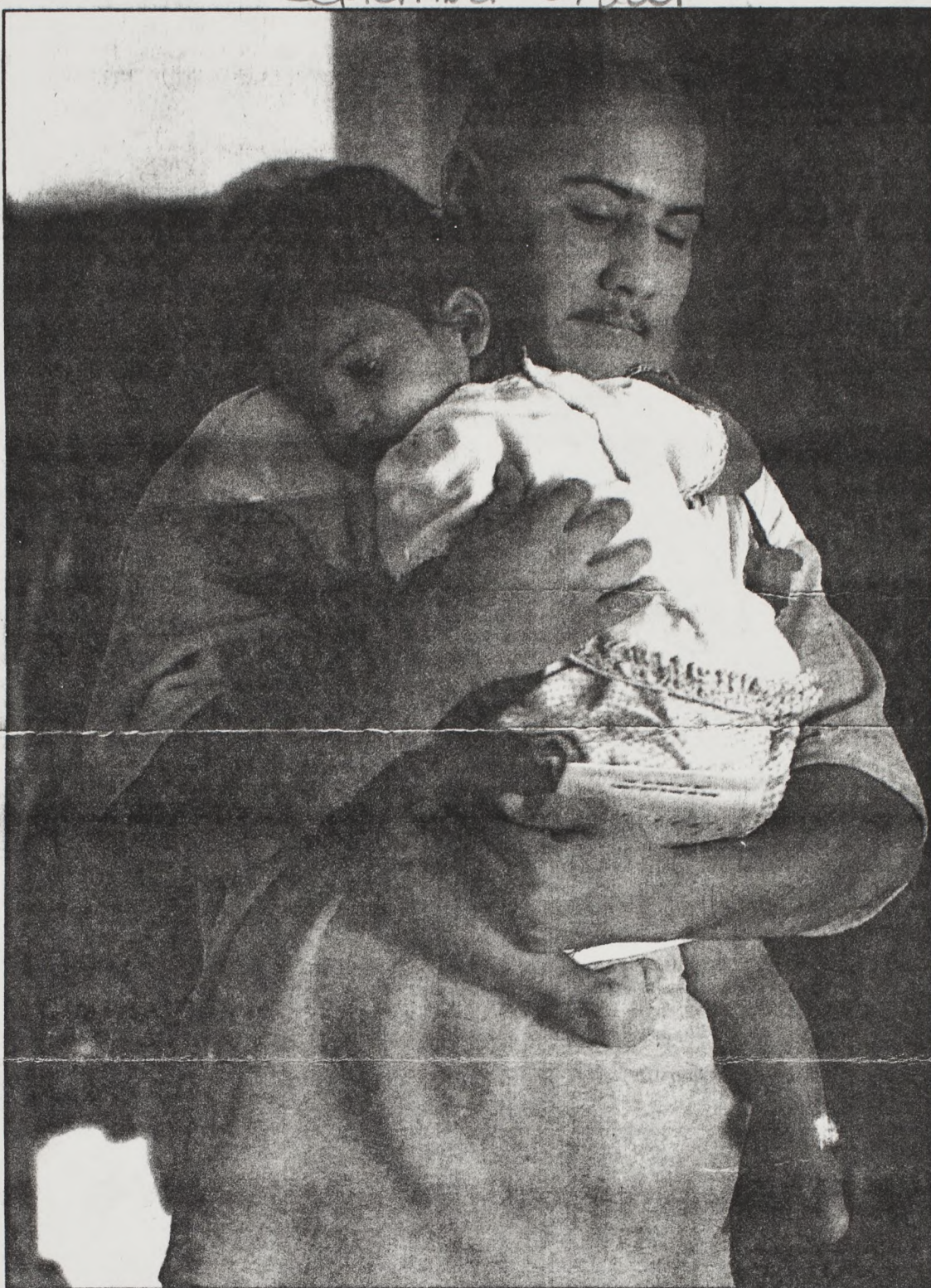
He pleaded guilty in 1988 to fondling a 9-year-old girl who was a friend of his daughter. He served one year in a work furlough program and five years of probation as well as court-ordered and voluntary therapy.

It is a lifetime requirement that he register as a sex offender. He has had no other convictions and has registered every year as required. Pollard has also followed all other requirements of the law, including notifying Aiono about his conviction. The law states that anyone who works as an employee or volunteer with children must disclose his or her sex-offender status to that group.

The city did not do background checks on officials and volunteers at sk8nc (Skate National City) when it signed an agreement in April to allow them to build on park property. Rudy Hradecky, assistant city attorney, said the city considered the agreement a construction contract, not an agreement for youth supervision. City policy doesn't require background checks for construction contracts.

Waters said that he feels the issue has been resolved and that the city will move forward with the roller courts.

"Those young people are looking forward to the skateboard (park) deal," he said. "The mayor and the city manager and the council will see that they get it. You can't disappoint these young people because of some adult."



Carlos Sanchez finally got Alexis, his 17-month-old daughter, to relax after a morning of crying. Carlos, 17, spent a day in role reversal, playing the part of a police officer for an MTV show called "Flipped." It is scheduled to air Monday. Nelvin Cepeda / Union-Tribune photos

## Teen and a detective switch, see other side



Police Detective John Munch stood in a Chula Vista park where earlier he had been dressed like a gang member for an MTV film. His guides were two San Diegans affiliated with gangs.

### Role reversal for one day created for MTV's 'Flipped'

By Amy Oakes, STAFF WRITER

**CHULA VISTA** — Take a local kid with a record, a liking for baggy clothes and an interest in gang life.

Take a Chula Vista cop with a promising career, a propensity for conservative wear and an appreciation for authority.

Then have them switch places for a day.

Let this 17-year-old Palomar High School senior with an attitude experience firsthand the unknown dangers that police officers face each day.

Let this 31-year-old family man feel the daily discrimination of being a perceived gang member.

They'll find out a lot they didn't know about each other and, maybe, learn a few things. And it will all be captured on film.

This alternative universe is the creation of the network that helped launch the reality television craze about 10 years ago — MTV. The show is called "Flipped" and its aim is to help young people gain more perspective by having them experience what it's like to be on the receiving end of their own behavior.

"The only way to effectively reach young people is to give them an emotional experience," said series

SEE SWITCH, B2

## National City picks Kmart to move old Fedco

Discounter plans to go along with

By Deborah Ensor  
STAFF WRITER

**NATIONAL CITY** — Despite a shortage of parking and a pending lawsuit, National City has chosen Kmart to develop a grocery store at Highland Avenue and

Both Kmart and Wal-Mart have been vying for the old Fedco site, a 14.5-acre parcel in National City, hoping to tan it up for a discount goods store.

The City Council, sitting as a public hearing agency, voted unanimously to approve the Kmart. They said the community would benefit from a grocery store in the area and that the city should take the added risks to make that happen.

"We've had hundreds of people who have said anything go in there that does not work," Mayor George Waters said. "We're fighting for what you all think is a good idea. City and the heck with the rest of it."

The 180,000-square-foot project is expected to bring in \$650,000 in sales and profit a year and to create 400 jobs.



Esta Smith, 84, held a photo of her late husband and his shipmates. Howard Glenn died at sea just two weeks before the ship was ended in Europe. Jim Baird / Union-Tribune

## For WWII news item chilling me

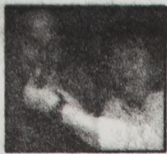
By James W. Crawley  
STAFF WRITER

The Navy chaplain, in a chilly April day, told Esta Glenn that her husband's ship had exploded and sunk. "There were only 13 survivors," he said.

"Glenn wasn't one of them," the chaplain nodded.

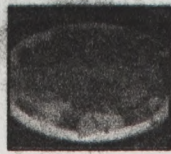
After only 20 months of military service, Petty Officer 1st Class Harold Glenn was killed.

That was 56 years ago in the Pacific. Since World War II, the Navy has recorded the demise of Glenn's ship, patrol boat PE-56, as a boiler explosion that killed 49 lives.



Patrons get a taste of downtown CV

PAGE 3



McDini's offers touch o' the Irish

PAGE 10



Prep football teams kick off season

PAGE 14

# THE STAR-NEWS

Since 1882

Vol. 120 No. 36

Serving Chula Vista, National City, Bonita and EastLake

September 7, 2001

## Skate park plans appear safe after sex offender quits group

Laura Mallgren  
Staff Writer

A National City resident and founder of sk8nc has resigned from the local skate park advocacy group, after recent disclosure of his status as a registered sex offender appeared to threaten support for the group's efforts to build skate parks here.

Jared Pollard, 47, created a Web site for sk8nc — skate National City — last year in an effort to promote building skating facilities at local parks.

He said he wanted to provide a safe place for his two young sons to go skateboarding.

City officials were notified about Pollard's status as a registered sex offender by Mark A. Baca, a life-long National City resident who says he's concerned about the welfare of youths involved in the project.

"I'm a watchdog, especially when it comes to children," said Baca, 32. He said he periodically goes to the San Diego Police Department to check a computer data base for the names of registered sex offenders in National City.

Baca said he's involved with Little League and Pop Warner and knows the coaches, but keeps an eye on the registry just to be on the safe side.

Baca has criticized the city for being involved with sk8nc.

Through an agreement signed in April with sk8nc's project director Dan Aiono, city officials set aside up to 15,000 square feet of land at Las Palmas Park for a roller park.

City officials said the agreement was made with Aiono and that they weren't aware of Pollard's status at the time.

The agreement centered on building skate parks, not forming a youth group, according to City Councilman Ron Morrison.

Baca also has criticized Aiono — whom he knows from attending Sweetwater Union High School at the same time — for not disclosing Pollard's status to city officials.

Aiono, 36, met Pollard last fall after seeing the sk8nc Web site. At that time Pollard told him about being a registered sex offender, he said.

Aiono, who was born and raised in National City and now lives in Spring Valley with his wife of 14 years and five children, said he forgives Pollard for something that happened a number of years ago.

Upon hearing his disclosure, Aiono said, he told Pollard his involvement with the project would be limited to working on the Web site and other administrative duties and that he wouldn't be involved directly with the youths.

Baca said Aiono had no right to See SKATE page 7

### Perfect form



Alana Schick receives some expert advice on how to behave on a body board from her cousin, Taylor Breland, while Bobby Breland, Taylor's brother, holds the board. The three were cavorting at EastLake Lagoon. Photo/Dalia De La O

## Program pulls students back into classroom — as teachers

Kirsten Myers  
Staff Writer

A generation of teachers reaches retirement age, and school districts are faced with a problem — how to fill all the vacant teaching positions that are turning up in their classrooms.

But Sweetwater Union High School District has found a possible solution to the problem. With some help from San Diego State University and a program called Future Educators of America, Sweetwater has started training current students

to become its future teachers.

Future Educators of America is a program operating in schools across the nation. The program is not standardized and each school district is free to implement its own club. The idea is to help students become teachers and then encourage them to come back to their districts to teach.

Sharon Vago, employee benefits manager for the Sweetwater district, has become deeply involved in the Future Educators program and helps out in her spare time. "Once these folks have successfully completed See EDUCATE page 4

## BUSINESS

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## SKATE

Continued from page 1

In 1988, Pollard pleaded guilty to one count of fondling a 9-year-old girl, a family friend, in 1985.

A second charge of fondling the same girl three years later was dropped, according to court records.

Pollard said he was sentenced to five years probation, served one year on work furlough, underwent three years of mandatory therapy and two additional years of voluntary therapy.

His first marriage ended; there was one daughter. He remarried and had two sons, got divorced and now shares joint-custody of his sons with his ex-wife.

Pollard said he'll always have to live with his past. Employment is hard to secure. He has rules for himself: no children allowed in his

house.

He's taken his sons to the police station when he registers so they realize why he can't do certain things, he said.

But he's also a parent, and as one, wants his children to be safe.

Pollard said he came up with the idea for sk8nc last June: "I was watching kids jumping over a concrete tab with rebar sticking out.

"Just then I saw a prostitute taking her john into an abandoned car, a drug dealer on a bicycle put something under a wheel of a pickup. It was like something out of a Kafka novel. I wondered, 'can't we do better than this?'"

At that moment the idea was born, he said, and he went over and hammered down the rebar.

His idea, and now Aiono's, too, is to have small, relatively inexpensive, free, unsupervised parks built at Las Palmas, Kimball,

El Toyon and Sweetwater Heights parks. The facilities would be maintained by kids in the neighborhood.

Free labor would be provided by San Diego Habitat For Humanity.

But the parents and the children in the neighborhoods would have to support the project — to help with the fund-raising.

Aiono said he plans to go to school PTA meetings to ask for their support.

For Baca, Pollard's involvement in the project is unacceptable. He said the city should sever ties with sk8nc and take over the project itself.

Being a sex offender is like having a disease, similar to alcoholism or drug addiction, according to Baca.

"It's asleep, it's hibernating," he said. "Anything can trigger it, like a relapse. What a perfect situation Mr. Pollard has doing this

skateboard thing and working around kids. I believe that's some kind of manipulation."

Baca notified the city manager, city attorney and mayor about Pollard on Aug. 24.

Soon after being contacted by Baca that day, Pollard submitted a letter of resignation to Aiono, who declined to accept it.

Tuesday, he changed his mind. Aiono said this is starting to become a political matter.

"This is not a project for politics, this is for the kids of National City," Aiono said.

At this week's City Council meeting, Mayor George Waters read Pollard's letter of resignation into the record.

"I'm glad to see that he stepped down," Waters said Wednesday. "As far as I'm concerned, the issue is over."

And the skate park project will move forward, he added.



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# To Nick Inzunza: Put up or shut up

Open letter to Mayor George Waters and the National City City Council:

I want to go on record in requesting that the mayor and City Council censor Councilman Nick Inzunza for his political "scare tactics" against National City residents, taxpayers and voters who were expressing and voicing their concerns and exercising their constitutional rights. As a representative of this city, he needs to conduct himself with utmost courtesy and candor as required of all City Council members.

Case in point: On May 22, on behalf of the citizens of National City and concerned students, I addressed the City Council under public oral communications on our concerns and opposition to the ordinance reducing City Council meetings from four to two times a month.

At the conclusion of my presentation, I was asked by Councilman Inzunza to return to the podium, whereby Inzunza launched into a tirade and attacked me personally and professionally by suggesting that I am harassing him and his family. Councilman Inzunza further proceeded to publicly accuse me with the following charges:

- Calling his home, calling his personal cell phone, driving by his home.
- Stalking and harassing him.
- Stating that he had a family and that I knew where he lived.
- That I show him some "public decency."
- Leaving a message on his cell phone in a threatening manner and claiming that he still had the threat on his cell phone.
- Threatening to play the threatening message on his cell phone for the chief of police.
- Threatening to get a cease and desist or restraining order against me.

Why Councilman Inzunza felt that he had to raise these unfounded and slanderous charges against me — under public oral communication — one can only guess. I have to assume that it was to divert attention from the real issue of saving the taxpayers money or just running away from his responsibilities as a councilman. It seems this all stems from my questioning of city officials and why the taxpayers of National City are paying Councilman Inzunza's cellular phone for \$2,400 a

year, which is above and beyond any other reasonable government official's phone plan, including Mayor George Waters.

Because of the above reasons, I am requesting that you go on record and censor Councilman Inzunza. Please send a loud message to Councilman Inzunza that this type of political coercion will not be tolerated and that National City residents, taxpayers and voters will not be subjected to or have to fear unfounded, slanderous and threatening attacks from elected officials for voicing their opinions on public issues or exposing wrongdoing by elected officials.

In closing, I want to respond to Councilman Inzunza's unfounded and slanderous charges by stating that if Mr. Inzunza has any proof of the above torturous allegations that he immediately proceed to file charges with the proper authorities.

In other words, Councilman Inzunza, either put up or shut up.

**Mark Baca**  
National City