

HOUSING STUDY

\$250 M

The California Community College Chancellor's office created a \$250 million pool to encourage colleges to study affordable housing options, managed by regional campuses.

COLLEGE EXPLORES STUDENT HOUSING

★ SC will apply for \$2 million planning grant to hire architects and consider sites

BY NICOLETTE MONIQUE LUNA
News Editor

In what would be a major paradigm shift, Southwestern College officials plan to explore the possibility of creating housing for students and young professors who move to the region.

SC recently applied for five planning grants totaling about \$2 million to study options for

student and faculty housing in an increasingly expensive corner of the United States. Grants were recently made available by the California Community College Chancellor's office, which has created a \$250 million pool to encourage study of affordable housing options that would be managed by regional campuses.

Funded grants will allow colleges to hire architects and conduct

environmental, financial and engineering studies. Housing options may include dormitories, tiny homes and combined housing, which is often apartments on the second and third floors of commercial buildings.

SC President Dr. Mark Sanchez said the college ought to have an answer by spring.

"We'll know if we have the funds by March," he said. "If we get the funding, then we'll be able

to bring in architects and housing representatives to help us begin conceptualizing student and potentially staff and faculty housing at our (satellite campuses)."

College leaders' new willingness to study student housing options represents a substantial change in thinking. About seven years ago previous suggestions to college

HOUSING PG 3

THE WORST COLLEGES FOR LGBTQIA+

Southwestern partnership with Point Loma Nazarene University troubles members of the LGBTQ community. *Special Section*



College suffers declining numbers

Pandemic fuels a 14 percent plunge in spring enrollment

BY YAHIR IBARRA
Staff Writer

Southwestern College took an enrollment hit in 2020-21 due to the coronavirus, but so did the rest of California's 116 community colleges.

College leaders say they are hoping for a spring rebound.

SC saw a one-year decline of about 13 percent in Fall 2020, a drop of 2,674 students from Fall 2019. Spring 2021 measured a 14 percent plunge from Spring 2020, with a decrease of enrollment of 2,758. Community colleges statewide enrollment dropped about 9 percent, according to data provided by the Community College Chancellor's Office in Los Angeles.

Southwestern administrators said they are taking the downturn seriously, but are not panicked. SC had enjoyed steady enrollment growth for years and is still held in high regard

ENROLLMENT PG 2

REMARKABLE TEEN



Xiomara Villarreal-Gerardo, an SC alumna who is now a junior at SDSU, was named one of 25 San Diego County Remarkable Teenagers for her outstanding achievements in journalism. Villarreal-Gerardo was Editor-in-Chief of El Sol Magazine, named the nation's best by the College Media Association of New York, as well as the region's best by the San Diego Press Club and Society of Professional Journalists. She has already earned more than a dozen individual awards for writing, photography, graphic design and leadership. In September Villarreal-Gerardo was crowned Miss Chula Vista 2021-22. *Photo Courtesy Xiomara Villarreal-Gerardo*

Haitians flood Tijuana, seek asylum in U.S. and Canada

BY CAMILA GONZALEZ
Editor-in-Chief

ZONA RIO, TIJUANA — When Christopher Columbus set foot on the island of Hispaniola in 1492 he kicked opened the Gates of Hell.

For 529 years on the tropical land that is now Haiti, humanity has demonstrated inhumanity at its sadistic worst. Genocide, extermination, slavery, rape, disease, torture, brutality, assassination, kidnapping, mayhem and murder have defined the rule of Spaniards, French, Americans, dictators, generals and despots.

HAITIANS PG 2

BLACK HISTORY ALL YEAR Southwestern College is rich with Black success stories and role models. *Special Section*

"My reason for coming to Mexico is because of the situation in my country. (Poor) living conditions, political corruption and violence has strangled my country. I have no future in Haiti."

Jean Martinez HAITIAN REFUGEE

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

HAITIANS: Desperate to flee poverty, sent away by Brazil and Chile, Haitian refugees cluster in Tijuana dreaming of Le Nord

That is why Jean Martinez is in Tijuana.

It's a long story, he said, but he has time. He has no job, no family with him and no prospects, so he has plenty of time.

People have been fleeing Haiti since 1493 when the indigenous Taino people ran from Columbus, though Martinez said he was lured away by Brazilians.

★ *Haiti's dark history of colonization, slavery, cruelty, superstition, corruption and stupefying levels of violence have gutted a once-promising nation. Educated Haitians and its fragile middle class fled generations ago. Kleptomaniacal dictators and military officers have spirited away most of the nation's wealth.*

Barely a decade ago Brazil seemed on top of the world. It was frantically building scores of glimmering new stadiums and athletic facilities for the 2014 Soccer World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics – the planet's two largest sports events. Fueling the feverish construction boom was cheap labor from destitute Haiti.

Eager laborers were shipped and flown in by the tens of thousands to construction sites in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Manaus, Brasilia, Belo Horizonte and others in the jungles and coastal cities of the world's fifth largest nation. They were promised great jobs and a path out of permanent poverty.

There was work, but the jobs were far from great and the path out of poverty was illusory, said Michelet Remy, a Haitian refugee who was able to cross into the United States but who lives in a streambed near a Home Depot store. At least, he said, he is no longer marooned in Tijuana.

"Once we were done with our project, Brazil was done with us," he said one morning as he waited for work on a Mission Valley sidewalk. "We were turned loose and they said go back home. We (asked how)



HOPELESS IN HAITI

Haiti's Gross Domestic Product of \$1,358 and average daily earnings of \$1.95 make it the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. A series of corrupt, kleptocratic governments have skimmed off what little wealth remained. Haitians rarely have the opportunity to become educated and most have no reliable way to earn a living.

we would get there and they said 'swim for all I care, but leave.'"

Remy said most of the workers from Haiti were paid just enough to subsist while they were in Brazil and had no savings to take back home. So legions did not go back. They headed north. Some hitched rides on trucks and trains, Remy said, and a few lucky ones were about to find work on northbound boats.

The rest walked.

They walked through Brazil, the Guianas, Venezuela and Colombia, Remy said, snagging rides when possible. Then they walked up Central America and into Mexico.

Like Central American refugees, the Haitians bought train tickets if they could earn a little money. Otherwise, they surreptitiously hopped the trains, including southern Mexico's notorious La Bestia (The Beast), which has sheered the hands, arms and legs off countless refugees — the refugees it did not kill.

Martinez said he was lucky because he arrived in Mexico by plane. He made it to Tijuana, but there his luck ran out. He hit The Wall and an overwhelmed American immigration system gutted by Donald Trump and his administration. Haitians are at the back of a line that does not really exist.

Hardship has accompanied Martinez his entire life, he said.

"My reason for coming to Mexico is because of the situation in my country," he said. "My life was threatened in Haiti and I had to leave. (Poor) living conditions, political corruption and violence has strangled my country. When you are younger you expect the situation to improve, but it never improves. I have no future in Haiti."

Haiti's dark history of colonization, slavery, cruelty, superstition, corruption and stupefying levels of violence have gutted a once-promising nation.

Educated Haitians and its fragile middle class fled generations ago. Kleptomaniacal dictators and military officers have spirited away most of the nation's wealth.

Even before the coup d'états, assassinations and kleptocracy of the 20th century, Haiti was marinated in brutality and tragedy. Whipsawed by the Spanish and the French, the colony of former slaves and their descendants revolted against French rule in 1791 and fought a bloody war until 1804. France engaged in a scorched

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ENROLLMENT: Southwestern College decline hits 14 percent versus 9 percent statewide

by the community, according to a college spokesperson. Marketing efforts are ramping up, including banners on traffic thoroughfares surrounding the college.

Enrollment troubles began March 13, 2020, the day SC officially went on an extended spring break. On April 1 former president Dr. Kindred Murillo announced the college would not reopen during the spring semester. That triggered record drops and requests for withdrawals by students who did not wish to continue into an uncertain final two months.

Students were not the only ones bailing. Nearly 100 employees retired or resigned by summer 2021, according to the college's former VP of human resources. Murillo herself quit in March, four months before

"We're hoping that this will help us strengthen our enrollment. It will help us to ensure that we have full classes, and that we can offer additional classes. Ultimately, we are setting students on a pathway to their personal career or transfer goals."

Dr. Mark Sanchez

SC SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

the end of her five-year contract.

Faculty and staff have said Southwestern's enrollment decline could have been much worse considering the South Bay's COVID-19 infection rate last winter that was among the highest in the nation. The region's 80 percent vaccination rate has helped bring infection and hospital rates well below the national averages, though border regions like San Ysidro are still in the COVID red zone.

College president Dr. Mark Sanchez and the governing board have bet large on a plan to use federal COVID-19 relief funds to forgive 4,200 students nearly \$1.3 million in debt owed to the college. Sanchez said he has his fingers crossed that the newly debt-free students will register for Spring 2022 classes.

"We're hoping that this will help us strengthen our enrollment," he stated. "It will help us to ensure that we have full classes, and that we can offer additional classes. Ultimately, we are setting students on a pathway to their personal career or transfer goals."

Ongoing COVID protocols are likely a drag on enrollment. Students surveyed by The Sun in September expressed an array of opinions about the modes of education currently in use, but a solid majority indicated that they were eager to return to campus for in-person instruction. SC partially reopened this semester, paving the way for about 25 percent capacity. Spring semester face-to-face enrollment will increase to 60 percent, according to Sanchez.

Working against the college right

now is a white hot economy and low unemployment rate. America's business reopening and shortage of willing workers is providing job opportunities for college-age students and young adults. Typically community college enrollment rises during economic downturns when more people are out of work. Enrollment ebbs when the economy is strong and jobs are plentiful.

Enrollment for Spring 2022 has opened. Students may enroll on the SC website or in person in the Cesar Chavez Student Center. Persons entering campus must be fully vaccinated and must wear approved medical grade masks inside buildings.

Nicolette Monique Luna contributed to this story.

earth campaign that demolished plantations and infrastructure.

Haiti won a pyrrhic victory. In exchange for diplomatic recognition the new nation was forced to pay ruinous reparations to France, which it did from 1825 to 1947. This caused Haiti to seek loans with high interest rates from American, German and French bank that sank the nation in crushing debt.

Haiti has never been close to digging out. Historians and political scientists generally seem to agree that Haiti is the Western Hemisphere's most dysfunctional and snake bit society.

Martinez said he has lost all hope for his homeland.

"The crisis in my country is enduring," he said. "It is never ending."

Mexico, he said, is not much better. Camped by the wretch-inducing smell of the sunbaked sewage choking the Tijuana River canal, Haitians are at the bottom of Mexico's racist caste system based on skin color. Light skinned Mexicans like the blonde, green-eyed rubia models shimmering on billboards make up the ruling class. Mestizos occupy the working class middle, while dark-skinned indios are shunned and mired in poverty.

Black Haitians are the new punching bags of la frontera, and Martinez has his bruises.

"No one here likes Haitians," he said.

Jason, a Haitian refugee who uses just one name, agreed.

"There is a lot of violence and pain in Tijuana," he said. "(Mexicans) do not do anything to help Haitians. People in Mexico are afraid of Black people. (They) avoid walking on the same sidewalk."

His job as an Uber driver is barely keeping him alive, Jason said, because the pay is so low. He always asks to be paid in U.S. dollars because that is what the landlord demands.

Like so many Haitians, Jason said his dream destination is not the United States, but Canada. The bilingual province of Quebec has booming cities like Montreal, Quebec City, Laval and Longueuil that tend to be accepting of French-speaking Haitians.

"Things would likely be better (in Canada)," he said.

Remy also said he would like to find a way to Canada, though so far he has not gotten much more than 20 miles from the border with Mexico. His French has a Haitian lilt, part Cajun Creole but all Caribbean.

"Quebec has French-(speaking) brothers and the Canadians are nicer to Haitians than Mexicans and Americans," he said. "Some Haitians (speak enough) Spanish to fake it, but Tijuana and San Diego suck if you only speak French."

Working as a day laborer is rough, he said, and sometimes workers toil all day or all week only to be stiffed. Still, he added, he would rather sleep in a San Diego canyon than anywhere



'NEVER ENDING CRISIS' — Thousands of Haitians have joined the legions of Central American refugees flocking to U.S. border crossings from Tijuana on the Pacific Ocean to Matamoros on Mexico's Gulf Coast. A crowd of demonstrators (above) call for humane treatment of refugees. **Photo Matthew Bowler/KPBS**

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along the border in Tijuana.

Emmanuel Philippe Auguste said he arrived in Tijuana at the end of October after a hemisphere-spanning trek from Chile where he and his wife lived for four years following the Rio Olympics.

"When you are living on the streets you realize the world is not so kind and does not have your best interests," he said. "There is no help for Haitians in Tijuana."

Auguste and his wife left their children behind in Haiti, he said, and they have not seen them for years. Guarded and quiet, he looked genuinely stumped when asked what he hoped for in the years ahead.

After an uncomfortable and melancholic pause, he sighed and cast his eyes skyward.

"I would like to live somewhere where I am (considered) legal," he said. "I just want to take care of my family."



UNWELCOMED EVERYWHERE — Dark-skinned, French-speaking Haitians have an even more difficult time in Mexico than other mistreated refugees, according to UNESCO and American human rights organizations. The man pictured above is one of the very fortunate few to find work in a city where they are not welcomed. **Photo Adriana Heldiz/Voice of San Diego**

LAND OF TURMOIL

5,000 - 10,000

An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 Haitians have found themselves in Tijuana at some point since around 2015, according to the Haitian Bridge Alliance (HBA), a Southern California nonprofit that advocates for Haitian migrants in the U.S. and Mexico. *Source: Time*

LAND IN TURMOIL

Haiti, one of the world's poorest nations, is just 675 miles from the richest. Once blessed with the same beauty and natural resources of its conjoined neighbor, the Dominican Republic, Haiti's history on the island of Hispaniola is markedly different.

A few facts about the land of "Liberte' and Fraternite'":

- Haiti was the second nation in the New World to gain independence following the United States. Haiti fought a revolution against France from 1791-1804 when self-liberated slaves drove off colonial rulers.
- Haiti is the world's oldest Black republic.
- The poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, Haitians earn just an average of \$1.95 a day and have a GDP of only \$1,358.
- Haiti has been occupied by Spain, France and the United States. The American occupation lasted from 1915-1934.
- Notorious strongman Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier oversaw a reign of terror from 1957-1971.
- Duvalier's 19-year-old playboy son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, ruled from 1971-1986.
- Pope John Paul II visited Haiti in 1983 to scold Baby Doc Duvalier and the military for corruption, violence and dysfunction.
- In 2010 a magnitude 7.0 earthquake killed more than 250,000 people and injured at least 300,000. More than 5 million people were displaced.
- Nearly 4,000 schools were damaged or destroyed by the quake, most have not been replaced.
- Haiti's last legally elected president, Jovenel Moises, was assassinated on July 7.

Sources: BBC International, United Nations Development Programme, historyanswers.co.uk, Britannica.com, UNESCO, New York Times.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

HOUSING: College eyeing possible student, faculty housing sites in National City, Chula Vista

administrators to consider student housing options were soundly rejected.

Sanchez and his team have different ideas on the topics, according to VP of Financial Services Dr. Kelly Hall.

"We know from a recent survey conducted in 2020 that approximately 20 percent of our students have experienced some kind of homelessness or housing insecurity within the last 10 months," she said. "This housing (sought by the college) is going to be low-income housing. This is going to be housing that we will offer the students based on their financial needs, so it won't be the same high rent as other places."

National City may offer the best opportunities to create affordable student and faculty housing, according to college PIO Lillian

Leopold. College officials and National City staff have identified the former Trophy Lounge building as a possible redevelopment site.

"The city of National City is very interested in the college taking over that property and putting in student housing and housing for the community in general," she said. "The bottom floor could also be used for (commercial space) so the district could generate rent to help pay for the cost of that building or to maintain that building for students."

Leopold said the college is also interested in the AMR building on Elmhurst Street just across Otay Lakes Road from the main campus. The building used to house a Chula Vista Fire Department substation.

Hall said ideally the college could someday apply for funding that would

help students with basic residential needs.

"(We would like to support) a laundry facility or a kitchen facility or some other facility that the resident of the housing would use," she said.

Leopold said the pandemic and the college's new emphasis on "wrap around services" has moved student housing from impossible to viable. Southern California's expensive real estate often requires students to use well more than half of their earnings on housing, making it difficult to buy other necessities while juggling college expenses. Lowering housing costs, she said, would allow students to work fewer hours and devote more time to their studies. This in turn could speed up transfer and graduation rates, and propel young adults into their careers.

"We've seen more and more of the economic insecurity that our students are facing -- both housing insecurity and food insecurity," she said. "So the overall mission is to educate our students, but if they don't have a place to live or if they're hungry, they're not going to really be learning."

Hall said college demographics and students' socio-economic status make housing relief important.

"Students who have lower economic resources are disproportionately students of color," she said. "They are the ones (saddled with) the burden of all of these responsibilities and the high cost of rent in Southern California."

SC and other SoCal colleges and universities are increasingly having trouble recruiting and hiring young

faculty from other less-expensive parts of the country. Many American universities offer affordable housing for young teachers for a year or two to allow them to get on their feet financially.

"Moving here can be a killer because the cost of living is so high," Leopold said.

SC has taken over and expanded many student relief programs original started by concerned faculty and staff. Jaguar Kitchen, a food pantry, and the clothing rack now housed in the Academic Senate office grew out of classroom projects. The college has recently embraced programs to reduce or eliminate textbook costs as well as efforts to help some students with child care, transportation and medical issues.

Photo Julia Woock



MESSENGERS OF HEAVEN — *Gente Unida* activists release monarch butterflies in honor of the unnamed dead in Holtville's Terrace Park Cemetery. Volunteers from the human rights organization met on *Día de los Muertos* to pray for the nearly 1,000 migrants buried in unmarked graves in a dirt lot behind the main cemetery. It is the largest non-military graveyard of unidentified dead in the United States. **Photos by Camila Gonzalez / Staff**

REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN

BY CAMILA GONZALEZ
Editor-in-Chief

Chicano Park on *Día de los Muertos* is a festival of color, food, drink, art and la raza magica. Honored dead are serenaded, toasted and served wondrous plates with chilled tequila.

About 125 to the east nearly 1,000 forgotten bodies with no names bake under the rust tinted dirt of the Terrace Park Cemetery in lonely Holtville. A gathering at festive Chicano Park prays for them, too.

Then they visit.

A caravan of cars makes a two-hour trek over the mountains, across the desert and almost to Arizona. Caretaker Chuck Jernigan cranks apart the dusty lock and swings open the gate with the No Trespassing sign. Activists from *Gente Unida* solemnly file in.

Windswept Terrace Park is where dreams come to die. Most died badly. America's largest non-military graveyard of the unidentified spreads flat as a quiet lake of pulverized brick with no headstones and not one blade of grass. A tilted smattering of pale handmade crosses twist out of the desiccated earth, the only acknowledgment that this is sacred ground.

"You are not forgotten," murmured *Gente Unida* founder Enrique Morones. "No olvidados."

Morones has led the annual visitation for nearly two decades and he expressed sadness that so little has changed.

"Not one of the persons here thought they were going to die," he said. "They came here to work or to reunite with family. No one

ever thinks they will end up dead and buried without a name in a pauper's grave."

America's antiquated immigration system is to blame, Morones said, along with predatory American and Canadian business and agricultural practices that have impoverished millions of Mexicans and Central Americans.

"Conservatives like to say migrants need to get in line so they can enter through the border crossings, but that's not possible," he said. "There is no line. Do you really think so many desperate people would drown in rivers, die in deserts and freeze to death in mountains if there was a line?"

Iranian refugee Ari Honarvar, vice president of *Gente Unida*, recited a verse of poetry in memory of the immigrants.

"We are from the great beyond and to the great beyond we shall return," she read. "We are from the ocean and to the ocean we make our way. We are not from here or there. We are from a placeless place, and to that we journey."

Chaplin Frank Modic had special messengers to carry the prayers to Heaven. Radiant monarch butterflies lent lightness and hope.

"We use butterflies to celebrate somebody who has passed away," Modic said to the hushed gathering. "The butterfly is a metaphor, a theological metaphor for transformation, renewed life and being set free."

Terrace Park's silent graves are relentlessly permanent, Modic said as the butterflies pranced in the warm morning sky, but the spirits of the dead buried there are free and one with the eternal. Morones said the deceased can only rest when the living help those who come after to avoid their fate.



"Not one of the persons buried here thought they were going to die. They came here to work or to reunite with family. No one ever thinks they will end up dead and buried without a name in a pauper's grave."

Enrique Morones
GENTE UNIDA



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Chicano leaders call for the Texas Rangers baseball team to reject namesake's violent history

BY CAMILA GONZALEZ | Editor-in-Chief

SC MASCOT CONTROVERSY

College dropped Apaches in 2000

Southwestern College had its own moment of reckoning with an inappropriate nickname and mascot. For reasons long lost to history, in the mid-1960s SC's sports teams were christened the Apaches. An accompanying mascot was a leather-faced profile of a Native American man much like the image on a worn buffalo nickel.



DR. SERAFIN ZASQUETA

For generations the name and mascot mystified thinking people in the community. Southwestern College had Mayan-style architecture and the Apaches never lived in the South Bay. San Diego County is Kumeyaay Country with a little bit of the Shonshone Wedge in the area that is now Escondido.

Like good soldiers, though, faculty and students embraced the Apache. Legendary baseball coach Jerry Bartow – a full-blooded Native American – named the baseball field he built with his own hands Apache Junction. SC's student newspaper, originally called The Southwesterner, changed

APACHES PG 53

Porvenir, Texas, has no Texas Rangers baseball fans. • It has no baseball fans. • It has nobody. • Porvenir is an uninhabited ghost town in the West Texas borderlands because its inhabitants were exterminated or driven off in 1918 by the Texas Rangers – the paramilitary vigilantes, not the baseball team. After murdering every man and teenage boy in the frontier village, the Rangers sent away the surviving widows and children on a forced march into the desiccated prairie.

The Porvenir Massacre was just one of many perpetrated by the Texas Rangers, according to historians. Formed in the 1820s as a private army for a corrupt governor who wanted to rid Texas of Native Americans, the Rangers grew in numbers in the early years after the Civil War to resist settlements by freed Black slaves and Mexican-Americans. They have been described by academics, historians and Latino leaders as "America's Gestapo," "the Nazis of Texas" and "the Lone Star Ku Klux Klan." Many Rangers, in fact, were active members of the KKK.

Gente Unida founder Enrique Morones said he does not understand why a Major League Baseball team would name itself for "a gun slinging, racist, terrorist organization." He is calling for the Texas Rangers baseball team to change its name.

"A name like the Texas Rangers is a mockery to the Mexican people and to all Mexican-Americans," Morones said. "Glorifying a hyper-violent



MURDER AT LA MATANZA – Historians say Texas Rangers killed hundreds, possibly thousands, of Mexicans and Tejanos in South Texas from 1915-19, calling the victims "bandits." They were actually legal landowners, ranchers, farmworkers or Latino Texans traveling in their home state. This photo was taken in October 1915 by Texas Rangers proud of their work. Courtesy Dolph Briscoe Center for American History/University of Texas at Austin

private vigilante army that brutally murdered, raped and expelled people of Mexican ancestry from their own lands was an American genocide. The Texas Rangers have been portrayed as heroic cowboys guarding the range, but they are actually lawless thugs."

Morones, a former vice president with the San Diego Padres, said he is heartened by recent decisions by the Cleveland Indians and Washington NFL franchise to change their names after years of pressure.

"We want Major League Baseball

to accept its responsibility and remove the name of Texas Rangers from its Arlington, Texas franchise," he said. "The league should no longer profit off the suffering inflicted on our people. Neither should MLB confuse the players' popularity with acceptance of the Texas Rangers' namesake nor what those hired guns did to tens of thousands of Americans of Mexican ancestry."

Attorney Sheryl Ring said the Texas Rangers baseball team is

RANGERS PG 53



FRANK HAMER

Francis Augustus Hamer (March 17, 1884 – July 10, 1955) was an American law enforcement officer and Texas Ranger who led the 1934 posse that tracked down and killed criminals Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow.

Renowned for his toughness, marksmanship, and investigative skill, he acquired status in the Southwest as the archetypal Texas Ranger.

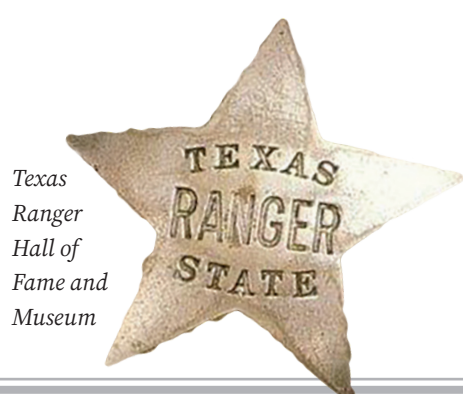
Hamer and the KKK

Hamer also led the fight in Texas against the Ku Klux Klan, starting in 1922, as senior captain of the Texas Rangers, and he is believed to have saved at least 15 people from lynch mobs. He was inducted into the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.

Controversial figure

His professional record and reputation are controversial, particularly with regard to his willingness to use extrajudicial killing even in an increasingly modernized society.

Source: Wikipedia



Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Courtesy Enrique Morones

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RANGERS: Latino leaders insist baseball glorifies violent vigilantes

named for “an American Gestapo.”

“The original Texas Rangers are responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of innocents,” she said. “The Rangers were originally formed in the 1820s to forcibly exterminate Indigenous and Native peoples from Texas, with an appalling body count.”

Ring said the Ranger’s terror campaign continued into the 20th century and included prolific lynchings of Black and Latino Texans well into the 1930s.

“The Rangers killed thousands of innocent civilians in a one-year period during the early days of World War I,” she wrote. “They justified the carnage by saying they were trying to dissuade Mexico from siding with Germany.”

The 1918 Porvenir Massacre was a culmination of these murderous activities, Ring said, but even subsequent hearings in the Texas legislature did not slow down the Rangers. If anything, she said, they further emboldened the Rangers and their extra-judicial executions.

Morones agreed. He said the misanthropic activities of the Texas Rangers never fully abated. After Porvenir the Rangers worked to drive the NAACP from Texas. In 1956 they helped to prevent the integration of Texarkana Junior College, allowing a White mob to hurl rocks and racial slurs at minority students attempting to attend classes. They attacked Black children in towns and cities across the Lone Star State who attempted to integrate K-12 schools.

Journalist Doug J. Swanson’s book, “Cult of Glory: The Bold and Brutal History of the Texas Rangers,” examines the long history of racism and lawlessness.

“They burned peasant villages and slaughtered innocents,” he wrote. “They committed war crimes. Their murders of Mexicans and Mexican Americans made them as feared on the border as the Ku Klux Klan in the South.”

Chicano scholar Dr. José Angel Gutiérrez, a native Texan, said he has first-hand experience with the Ranger’s violent intimidation tactics.

“My first encounter with the Texas Rangers was in 1962 when I was a teenager,” he said. “I attended a rally to oppose segregation in my hometown. As we were heading home we were pulled over by two cop cars. One was Texas Rangers, the other local sheriffs.”

Gutiérrez said he and friends were just a block from their homes when Texas Ranger Alfred Y. Allee forced him from his car, then slapped and kicked him. Gutierrez said his mother saw what was happening and burst out of the house with a loaded shotgun.

“Touch my son one more time and I’ll kill you,” she said.

Gutiérrez said he was sure they were all about to die, but Allee waved off the other cops and they left.



“The league should no longer profit off the suffering inflicted on our people. Neither should MLB confuse the players’ popularity with acceptance of the Texas Rangers’ namesake nor what those hired guns did to tens of thousands of Americans of Mexican ancestry.”

Enrique Morones

GENTE UNIDA

Courtesy José Gutiérrez



“They’re laughing in our faces. (The Texas Rangers commit atrocities) against Mexicans, and yet who goes to the baseball games? Mexicans! That is because we do not know our own history.”

Dr. José Angel Gutiérrez

ATTORNEY, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

In 1966 the Texas Rangers were brought in to break up a strike by farmworkers in a rural area south of Crystal City in Zavala County, Gutiérrez said. Mexican and Mexican-American farmworkers were beaten, kicked and shot. One laborer, Magdaleno Dimas, was killed.

Naming a baseball team for the Texas Rangers is an affront to Latinos, Gutiérrez said.

“They’re laughing in our faces,” he said. “(The Texas Rangers commit atrocities) against Mexicans, and yet who goes to the baseball games? Mexicans! That is because we do not know our own history.”

Morones agreed. Latino players are foundational to MLB, he said. More than 30 percent of major league players are Latinos, including many of its biggest stars.

Gutiérrez said the education system in Texas and most of the United States is “Anglo-centric” and too often overlooks historic episodes of violence and mistreatment of minorities. Most Americans, he said, never heard of Porvenir, the destruction of the Black town Rosewood, Florida or the White riots of Tulsa, Oklahoma which burned a thriving Black business district to the ground. The Texas Rangers, he said, got the Hollywood treatment.

“Everything written about the Rangers is glorious, fantastic, wonderful,” he said. “None of that is true. They are murderers of Mexicans and they have been for a long time.”

While working with the Padres in the 1990s, Morones had an opportunity to meet with the managing owner of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club, Texas governor and future U.S. President George W. Bush. Morones pressed his case that his team should not be named for the Rangers. Bush, generally considered a moderate on race for a Republican, was not receptive.

“I got nothing but a blank stare,” he said. “Governor Bush wasn’t having it.”

Domingo Garcia said he likes baseball, but is no fan of the Texas Rangers moniker. Garcia said his mother, grandmother and grandfather lived in Porvenir. Pedro Cano, his great grandfather, and Chico Cano, a great uncle, lost their land resisting the Texas Rangers.

“Remember, the Anglos write the history,” he said. “So Chico Cano is a Mexican bandit even though he was a resistance fighter and hero to the Latinos. The Texas Rangers are responsible for the lynching of 5,000 Mexican-Americans. They stole the land of Mexican-American people. They committed robbery and arson.”

History books, however, paint the Tejanos as the bad guys and the



ONE TOUGH CAT – After about 35 years as the Apaches, SC switched nicknames in 2000 and became the Jaguars. Sycuan donated \$10,000 to the athletic department for new uniforms. There was little pushback from the community.

CONTINUED FROM PG. S1

APACHES:

Sycuan donation motivated SC name change

its name to The Athapascan, the ancient language spoken by The Apaches.

Efforts by Native Americans in the 1970s and 1980s to pressure high schools and colleges to eliminate Indian mascots bypassed Southwestern. It just did not seem like anyone’s priority, though in the 1980s The Athapascan switched its name to The Sun.

Change came in 1998 after Dr. Serafin Zasueta took the helm as college president. A child development scholar, Zasueta had served in K-12 schools in poverty stricken communities of Southwest U.S. Native American reservations, including the Dine’ (Navajo) and Hopi.

Empathetic to Native American culture and steeped in their history, Zasueta was receptive to a proposal by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation. Newly affluent San Diego County Na-

tive American gaming tribes made a push to eliminate Indian mascots in the region. A Sycuan leader offered Southwestern \$10,000 to purchase brand new uniforms for all its ath-

letic teams if the college would change its name and mascot.

Zasueta and the coaches agreed. There was some pushback in the community, mostly based on nostalgia, but it was insignificant. Zasueta thought the college needed a photogenic, powerful animal from Mesoamerica to tie in with the Mayan architecture. The jaguar pounced at the opportunity and became the college’s new mascot in 2000.

★ **A Sycuan leader offered Southwestern \$10,000 to purchase brand new uniforms for all its athletic teams if the college would change its name and mascot.**

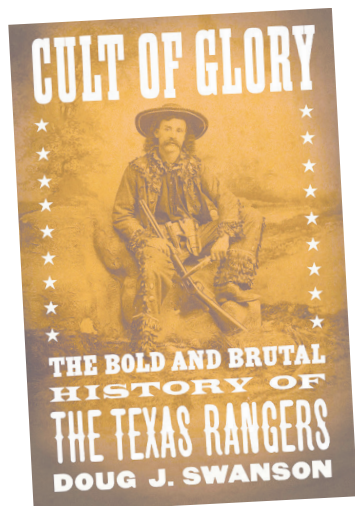
SC’s first jaguar was a kit-tinish spotted cat that did not exactly strike fear in the hearts of collegiate athletic opponents. S/he was sent back to the jungle and replaced with the badass black jag today’s students wear on sweatshirts and football jerseys.

Bartow changed Apache Junction to Jaguar Junction, which he admitted rolled off the tongue with a certain elegance. SC’s Native American godfather sent five Jaguars to Major League Baseball, but none to the Cleveland Indians.



JERRY BARTOW

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BLOODY HISTORY – Doug J. Swanson’s ‘Cult of Glory: The Bold and Brutal History of the Texas Rangers’ is considered a seminal study of the group that began in 1820 as a private army to exterminate Native Americans in the Texas territories.



‘A BLANK STARE’

– Former San Diego Padres executive Enrique Morones said his meeting with former Texas Rangers owner George W. Bush (r, then governor of Texas), elicited just “a blank stare.” Pictured in Bush’s Texas Ranger office are his father, President George H. W. Bush (l) and baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan, an MLB broadcaster. Courtesy Wikipedia

Rangers as the noble heroes, Garcia said.

"No baseball team should be named after a domestic terrorist organization," he said.

Morones said naming a team the Texas Rangers is no different than naming a team after terror organizations such as Isis, Al-Qaeda, Boko Haram or the Proud Boys. Legions of American Latinos of the Southwest are descendants of victims of vigilante crime, he said, and have violence embedded in their family histories.

"We will never erase that stain and we must never forget those innocent people killed or the women violated," he said. "We must not forget families who saw their lands stolen at gun point and their rights denied because of the color of their skin."

Young Americans have begun to challenge the presence of statues and monuments around the nation that glorified the Confederacy, slave owners and people with histories of violence, Morones said. Many Texans are calling for the removal of Confederate statues at the state capitol and on the grounds of the University of Texas. Cities and towns with statues and monuments to the Texas Rangers are also initiating discussions about their appropriateness. Last year Dallas Love Field Airport removed a notorious statue of Jay Banks, a Texas Ranger who recruited other Rangers to assault Black children attempting to go to school.

That is a good start, Morones said, but even cosmopolitan, multicultural San Diego has racist statues.

"In our downtown in Horton Plaza is a statue of Pete Wilson, the architect of Proposition 187, a racist, anti-Latino bill that did a lot of damage to Latinos all over the state," he said. "Wilson is a symbol of hate and division, which has no place in a multicultural city like San Diego. Our city is one third Latino, but has a statue of a man who dehumanized and demonized the Latino community for personal political gain."

A hot, dusty wind drags through what remains of Porvenir. Desolation reigns. Its ghosts have wandered a century, mostly forgotten.

Gutierrez said he will never forget and will not rest until the Texas Rangers join Cleveland in finding a new name. The Rangers, however, are playing hardball and have given no indication they will need new uniform tops any time soon.

"While we may have originally taken our name from the law enforcement agency, since 1971 the Texas Rangers Baseball Club has forged its own, independent identity," read a 2020 statement from the team. "The Texas Rangers Baseball Club stands for equality. We condemn racism, bigotry, and discrimination in all forms."

Ring scoffed. "The Rangers cannot reject bigotry in any form when they are named for an agency created for the purpose of exterminating Indigenous people, murdering Latinos, and attacking Black kids," she said. "The law enforcement agency known as the Texas Rangers are a white supremacist institution."

As American Latinos become wealthier and more powerful, racist marketing campaigns like the Frito Bandito, Taco Bell Chihuahua and Burger King's Texican Whooper are not tolerated and are not long for the air. As once deep-red Texas becomes younger, diverse and purple will the Texas Rangers finally get shot out of the saddle?

"We shouldn't have to wait," Morones said. "The vigilante Texas Rangers were losers. The baseball Texas Rangers need to lose the name - now."

High profile name changes

School and sports nicknames have been slowly evolving since the early 1970s, with dozens of professional and college teams moving away from the use of Native Americans as mascots.

Not fast enough for Native America advocates.

Stephanie Cross, a University of Oklahoma doctoral candidate, said about 770 schools still have Indian-based names or mascots, including at least 100 that still use the derogatory slur "redskins."

"Schools across America are perpetuating the myth of Native Americans as aggressive, warlike and savage," she said.

Cross and the makers of the 2017 documentary "More Than a Word" call for the Kansas City Chiefs,

Chicago Black Hawks and Atlanta Braves to join the Cleveland Indians and Washington Redskins as professional sports franchises that abandon Native American names and imagery.

Native American mascots are the most common among those drawing criticism in the United States today, but there are others. There is organized opposition to names and images that depict white settlers, Confederates and other white supremacists, Crusaders and names hostile to Muslims, and names that glory violence.

Here are some professional teams and universities that have abandoned Native American and white supremacist names or symbols:



1969
Philadelphia Warriors move to San Francisco and become the Golden State Warriors. The team abandons its mascot, a cheerful Indian caricature dribbling a basketball.



1972
Dickinson State University of North Dakota drops The Savages as its mascot and eventually settles on Blue Hawks.

Stanford University changes its name from The Indians to The Cardinal (and later to The Cardinals).



1973
Eastern Washington University discontinues The Savages to become The Eagles.



1974
Dartmouth College stops using The Indians and switches to The Big Green.



1979
St. Bonaventure University dumped The Brown Indians and The Brown Squaws to become The Bonnies.

1991
Eastern Michigan University moves on from The Hurons and rebrands as The Eagles.



1994
New York's St. John's University replaces The Redmen with The Red Storm.



1997
Miami University of Ohio abandons The Redskins to become The Redhawks.



1999
Oklahoma City University retires The Chiefs and becomes The Stars.

North Carolina's Elon University dropped The Fighting Christians and adopted The Phoenix.



2000
The College of William and Mary changed its nickname from The Indians to The Tribe, a name that has not entirely placated its community.

Nebraska Wesleyan University dumps The Plainsman to become The Prairie Wolves.



Seattle University discontinues The Chieftains to become the Redhawks.

Southwestern College stops using The Apaches and rebrands as The Jaguars.



2006
Midwestern State University of Wichita Falls, Texas changes from The Indians to The Mustangs.



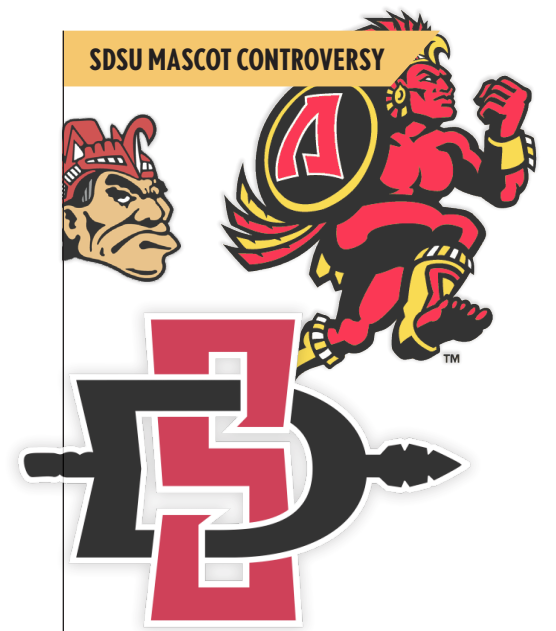
2007
University of Illinois drops its Indian face mascot and logo, but retains the name Illini.

2008
Arkansas State University retires The Indians to become The Red Wolves.

2018
The Cleveland Indians stop using blushing Chief Wahoo as its mascot. In 2021 the team announces it will change its name to The Guardians.



2020
The Washington Redskins, under pressure from FedEx, which purchased naming rights to the stadium, announced it will abandon its name and logo. A new name has yet to be announced.



50 years of debate, but SDSU still the Aztecs

San Diego State University's mascot and nickname, The Aztecs, came to the Montezuma Mesa in 1925 and was generally not controversial until the early 1970s when the



OZZIE MONGE



DR. SALLY ROUSH

American Indian Movement began to gain influence in the United States. Early attempts to start a conversation about the Aztec name and the Monty Montezuma mascot were brushed aside in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. Wealthy alumni threatened to halt donations to the university, which was growing in

enrollment and ambition. In 2001 the university renamed the mascot and gave it a new outfit that was supposed to be less of a beefcake cheerleader and more in line with an Aztec warrior of the 1500s. The new iteration of the mascot first appeared in 2004 to mixed reviews. Traditionalists were upset that Monty Montezuma was sidelined and younger activists, along with a group of SDSU professors, argued that any Aztec mascot was inappropriate.

Zuma the Jaguar was introduced in 2010 as a secondary mascot in an effort to test market an alternative. It was an unsuccessful effort, and Zuma was quietly put out to pasture in 2012.

American Indian Studies Professor Ozzie Monge brought the issue to the public again in 2015 with a paper that argued against the name and the mascot. Monge decried the "noble savage" stereotype and said SDSU had reduced the Aztec people to "a good luck charm."

In 2018 battle lines hardened. SDSU faculty and students organized an effort to do away with the Aztec, while more than 9,000 supporters of the mascot signed an online petition to "Save The Aztec." In February SDSU President Dr. Sally Roush appointed a 17-member Aztec Identity Task Force to re-examine the issue. That May the committee recommended keeping the Aztec name, but was split on whether to retain the warrior mascot. Roush accepted the recommendations and the Aztec remains the moniker of the university. Few people involved said they believe the debate is over.

Sources: San Diego Union-Tribune, SDSU Daily Aztec, SDSU President's Office report Decisions on Aztec Identity

Compiled by The Sun staff