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CIURE

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

ROOM 502, 520 E STREET, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

JULY 1969

"SUNDAY IN THE PARK, July 13,1969" — It happened here

by C. Shuford Swift

On Sunday, July 13, the police appeared in force in and around Mountain View Park. Their unusually heavy presence brought an air of tension to the day. The tension erupted into violence following an arrest in the park in the afternoon. Why?

To answer this question the Urban League and Citizens Interracial Committee are conducting an in depth investigation. In order to put the events in some perspective, to raise questions about police methods, and to suggest action to avoid further confrontation, a press conference was held on Friday, July 17. Those representing Southeast San Diego were: Carrol Waymon, Director of CIC; John Johnson, Director of Urban League; Tom Johnson, NAACP; George Stevens, CORE; Charles Bullard, Dave Crippens, Sukumo, Kenny Denmon, Dick Schwitzgebel, Father Frank Curran, Reverend Louis Henderson, Southeast Ministerial Alliance, and many others. What follows is a condensation of their remarks and the "Preliminary Report" distributed there.

San Diego, the All-American City in Motion, is known for its thrilling beauty, matchless climate, scientific progress, recreational offerings, agricultural production, cultural accomplishments and civic vitality. But one area of the city, known as Southeast San Diego, has no golf courses, no public swimming pools, no movie theatres, no commerical auditorium facilities.

It is characterized by segregated and inadequate schools, inferior living conditions, community apathy, chronic unemployment and underemployment, and a resultant attitude of apparent frustration and hopelessness.

Close to the center of Southeast San Diego is Mountain View Park, known there as "The Park." It is a meeting place for hundreds of youth and young people and others from the community, especially during the summer. They meet there to talk and for comradeship. It is a natural form of recreation, the only one available to many of them in the only place available.

In addition to the acceptable social activities, as in other park and beach areas where people gather, there is beer drinking, gambling and pill passing. Except for its bleakness and blackness its activities are little different from those in other parks in San Diego.

In 1964 there were no bathrooms, tennis courts, basketball courts, parking or other facilities. People made do with what there was. For example, they got used to parking where they could. Tennis and basketball courts have been built and bathrooms provided.

Still the response to needs has been so slow and so grudging that as one resident put it on July 13th, "There is a widespread feeling that for so long the people in this area have been ignored in such a way as to make them feel this is their turf. Now even they accept that and treat it as if it were really theirs." People continued to park where they could to make the best of what they had come to feel was theirs.

The park came to be a place not only for innocent recreation, but a place where some came to case "the man" (the police). It came to be a place where police could test their latest surveillance methods of spying on people. All in the line of duty. In short, The Park became a battleground as well as a recreational area.

There has been public discussion of "The Park" over the years. It has been patrolled by citizen's groups They met regularly with the police. Conditions have been discussed with the Chief of Police and Recreation Department officials. All were aware of the shortcomings and tensions. Some accommodations had been made. Patrol cars were stationed a block or two from the park instead of right in the park. Special concerns over likely trouble at the park were again called to the attention of the police this summer. But there was no response to this concern.

However, another type of meeting has been held recently concerning the park. About two months ago people, a number of whom live outside the park area, complained at a meeting about Sunday activities in the park. Police who were present requested them to write to the police regarding incidents at the park. On Monday July 7 the police requested a selected group of residents to meet with them to discuss the park.

No one from CIC, the Urban League or other vitally interested community people were invited. Tom Johnson did receive a call. He declined when he found no other significant community people were invited. There is a feeling now among some that the police called this meeting to get license for their actions on the 13th.

Thus, we come to Sunday, July 13. The park up to this time had been left alone, even ignored, except to spy on it. Despite warnings from responsible community leaders of potential trouble none of them had been invited to participate in any meaningful discussion of the park. In contrast with previous times when community leaders had been consulted concerning park policies, none was advised this time of any change in past policies.

The people in the park were doing nothing they had not done there on every Sunday. The community was quiet.

(Continued on page 4)

CURE

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for the dissemination of information and the expression of opinion among those concerned with combating racism. CURE believes the opinions herein need to be expressed, although they may not represent official policy of CURE.

Chairman Board of Directors: Shuf Swift 223-8602
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INDIAN CHILDREN HAVE SCHOOLING PROBLEMS

Children of the Indians who live in the eastern part of San Diego County have serious educational problems. A chapter of the California Social Workers Organization has pledged support in a united effort to mobilize resources in their behalf. Although the number of Indians in this remote area is small, the number of conditions militating against the Indian child ever being able to achieve or succeed in accord with his potential is quite overwhelming.

One problem in particular which has been noted by both school personnel and social workers is the high percentage of dropouts or explusions at the high school level. Compounding the problem are the Grossmont School District's heavy emphasis on college preparation, absence of school social worker staff, and the long distance an Indian child must travel to get to high school.

The Escondido area which contains the majority of Indian residents has an Office of Economic Opportunity funded service headquarters for Indians, ACCESS, which is coordinating efforts in that section of the county. That source of help is focusing on improving housing conditions (many of the residents continue to live in earth-floored, unplumbed shacks) as its top priority issue, as well as on improved economic opportunities in general.

Another agency serving Indians, funded by OEO and located in the Escondido Department of Public Welfare, is the Inter-Tribal Council. Its purpose is to unite the Indians and to initiate programs which will improve their status. One of the ITC aides, Mr. Chapois, is assigned to the eastern county area and is the person to contact in regard to the chapter's volunteering of manpower to assist in whatever areas the ITC sees as appropriate.

DISEASES OF POOR STUDIED

Formation of a foundation to promote the study of diseases afflicting the poor and minority races has been announced by James Jones, summer youth coordinator for the Salk Institute in La Jolla.

The group will be named the Charles Drew Foundation, after a black doctor who was instrumental in organizing the first blood bank.

Plans call for developing a health education program for the poor, scholarships to the UC San Diego medical school for minority members, and a Charles Drew chair at the medical school.

CURE SUGGESTS Police Talks Needed

Two men, one a black citizen, the other a white policeman, walk toward one another on a shadowed street. The black man could be a vacuum cleaner salesman, out for his evening constitutional, or a high school honor student, or a criminal. The policeman could be exceptionally aware of problems of racial minorities, or he could be dedicated to doing police work in a traditional manner, or he could be extremely hostile to anyone whose skin color is different from his own. The point is, neither knows the other. And the very facts of their existence, of the one being black and the other being a policeman, fills the otherwise ordinary moment with tension. The black man may reach for a handkerchief, and in the policeman's mind, this innocent act can be transformed into a reach for a knife. The policeman may bend down to tie his shoe, and the black man may see him reaching for a billy club or a gun. In fact, as sociologist Anthony Oberschall of Yale University points out, this is exactly what does happen in the minds of many black men and white policemen everywhere in America.

The riot in Southeast San Diego on a balmy July 13 undoubtedly has much in common, as to causes and catalysts, with riots in other places at other times, and these causes, by now, have been fully chronicled, even though the national committment to alleviate them has been lacking. Community resentment of the police, whether justified or not, has nearly always been on the list.

In the particular disturbance at San Diego's Mountain View Park, however, police misjudgment and the community's perception of police injustice, seem to have played a disproportionately large part. Four years ago, at a community meeting, after several encounters of area residents with law officers at the park, the police department agreed to withdraw policemen from the area, while maintaining surveillance at a distance. This policy resulted in peace in the park for four years. Last Sunday police cars returned to the park, and violence ensued.

In a community already tense from the spring school walk-out and from the shooting of a Black Panther and subsequent arrests and searches, the sight of police cars in the area (previously regarded as "ours" by black youths) could only aggravate hostile feelings. And so the question must be asked, Why did police make their presence felt in Mountain View Park?

To answer this special question, and, further, to establish desperately needed communication between law officers and citizens, police-community dialogues should be instituted immediately. CURE urges the Citizens Interracial Committee to reopen its city-wide dialogues (in abeyance for the past month) on the topic of police-community relations, and to sponsor similar discussion sessions in areas of present or potential danger, such as Ocean Beach and Southeast San Diego. CURE urges the police department to join wholeheartedly in these discussions, with high level officers (and not only community relations officers) participating.

So long as police cry "hoodlum" on one side, so long as people cry "pig" on the other, so long as there is no meeting ground between, so long will tragic clashes occur. Dialogues could be a first step toward change, with perhaps more concrete results following. San Diego's people and police must strive together to correct their distorted perceptions and see each other whole, not as "hoodlums" or "pigs", but as men.ALC.

"SUNDAY IN THE PARK, JULY 13, 1969" (continued)

It is their calling of the July 7th meeting, their unusually heavy presence in and pressure on the park early Sunday, and their instant, extreme response in full battle dress that leads the investigators and others to believe there was "preplanning" on the part of the police.

How did the police behave during and after the Sunday outbreak? They fired at a 13 or 14 year old boy running out of a store with a handful of paper or books. They pointed a rifle at Carrol Waymon. No reason given. Ten or twelve heavily armed police stopped John Johnson and surrounded him and several others. No explanation was given. When he was recognized by an arriving officer the group was released.

One mother's story begins, "I was in the backyard barbecuing some chicken and steaks and ribs for my kids and my family. So some of them was upstairs and some of them downstairs. But there were about 15 kids in the house ranging from 2 months old to 13 years old. So one of the kids ran downstairs and said, 'Momma the police are shooting in the park.' Just as I got up to the stair step I saw all these police all in the weeds and grass, tear gas and rifles and pistols.

"So I got on the phone and I called the police station and asked them would they send someone out here so they wouldn't attack my house because wasn't nobody here but my family and kids. The officer that I talked to, I don't know who he was, but he told me to make my kids lie down on the floor and for me to lie down on the floor. And about that time as I went to ask them some questions the police shot tear gas into my front bay window. It was a sergeant because I could see him from my bay window. So then they moved in on us like vultures and surrounded the house. They put everybody out of the house.

"They kicked my door down in the patio. They kicked the one down in the front room. And they also shot through the kitchen window. I ran downstairs screaming and hollering for the kids thinking they were here in the house, which I found out later that some of the boys had put them out. One of the boys who was trying to get them out was arrested, beaten and charged with two felonies. So when I came out the back door from downstairs I reached the police, about 6 or 7 of them in the back yard.

"I was crying and upset and I asked the officer if I could go in my house and see if any of my kids are in the house. By that time he put his pistol to my head and said, 'Move black bitch. I mean move now.' I said 'Officer some of my kids are in that house.' He said, 'Bitch I done told you to move. I'll blow your brains out.' And then he clicked his gun so I didn't have any alternative but to move on. . . . .

"My husband is in the service saying that he is fighting for his country and his kids and wife are here getting tear gas blowed on us and guns and pistols drawed to our heads, and it just ain't right." This story and the personal experiences of Carrol Waymon and John Johnson typify citizens' complaints of police behavior in the area.

The news conference did not question the right of the police to be in the park, nor their right to make an arrest. Rather they asked that the reality of the total situation be examined. The police see it as a simple case of law and order. The black community sees it as a coalescence of long standing issues, issues that make the park what it is. The police say they are not concerned with the larger issues.

The community is concerned with the larger issues. The police say, "Obey the law (me), or I will kill you." However, other laws that are supposed to insure the black man equality are enforced with all deliberate speed. The young blacks say, "you will have to kill me before I will accept this dual system." And the police kill them. As Sukumo put it, "Unless there is order, there can be no law."

When all deliberate speed is good enough for the majority community, but instant and unquestioning subservience at gunpoint is demanded of the black community, then there is no order.

Tom Johnson pointed out in the October 1968 CURE Newsletter that the police harassing tactics, which are simply a reflection of the racist attitude of the majority community, "are backing black youth against a wall and literally forcing a violent situation." His words have gone unheeded and his prophecy has come true.

Contrary to some reports, the investigators have found absolutely no evidence of any conspiracy in the community. Rather the reaction was a predicted and spontaneous response of a tired, frustrated and frightened people to an oppressive racism. In particular it was an angry reaction against the indignities heaped on them for years by the police, whom they perceive as agents of the racist majority community.

One conference participant suggested the community partrol itself, and Waymon's remarks were interpreted by some as requesting the police to withdraw. However, what was requested by Waymon and others was an end to harrassment and overpolicing. A withdrawal of the massive patrols. A return to "routine police service" in the words of the mayor.

Tom Johnson called upon the news media to provide a forum to put the larger problem in perspective so that the park incident could be understood in context. KEBS's Peter Kaye provided such a forum last Friday and Sunday. "One minute interviews, particularly when they focus only on an incident, are ridiculous," he said.

Does color make a difference? What would have been your response had your home full of children been invaded by police on Sunday afternoon? Do you know what recreational facilities are available to people in the Southeast area?

What are your experiences with police - usually at least courteous? Have you ever been afraid of them? Does their behavior reflect your feelings toward black people? Where do you get your information about what goes on in the black community? Do you get information?

The police say they are not concerned with the larger issues, just strict law enforcement. Who should be concerned? Can order prevail when the law is considered racist, dual and capricious by some blacks?

The City Manager uses the police quickly and forcefully to deal with the problem of law and order in the black community. Why aren't park, recreational, street maintenance and similiar public agencies applied with equal urgency? (The Supreme Court decision outlawing de facto segregation is also a law and the schools are public facilities.)

The white community can do something. It can and must change its attitudes. You can being in your own home, then go to a neighbor.

The complete report will be available July 30 from the Urban league or CIC.

BLACK LEADERS COMMENT ON
PETITION TO SCHOOL BOARD

Are blacks opposed to integration? Some whites would not sign CURE's petition to the school board because they felt the black community is not now for integration. The petition requested the board to meet with the Attorney General to work out a plan for integration. CURE posed this question to some of the black leaders. Here are their comments.

CARROL WAYMON, Executive Director, CIC: "It is my conviction that the petition idea was and is an excellent one. There are and will be some black and brown people who will not desire the end result of this lawsuit, just as there are and will be some whites who won't, but the philosophy of those persons and groups which allow for the separatism approach does not necessarily conflict with the suit and or the spirit of the suit. There are several things which might help to clarify this seeming dichotomous position. 1. It is the law of the land. 2. It allows for the blacks and browns to have the "freedom" to choose. 3. It does not preclude all "local control" of given school communities. 4. It still allows for teaching of materials relevant to minorities. 5. It is still a fact that the overwhelming number of blacks and browns favor the elimination of racially segregated schools and or communities. 6. It should be done because it is right to do so; a. For blacks/browns, b. For whites."

GERALDINE RICKMAN, Director of COPE: "I feel the Attorney General's suit is valid. From a legal point of view he had no choice but to file that suit against the San Diego school district. It is in fact de facto segregated. It is my opinion the money allocated to defend the district's position could be better used in educational programs for minority and low income students. As a black person involved in education I see no conflict between the law and the black community's being able to make a choice for local control. The interesting part is that that kind of choice has never been available to the minority community and in point of reality still is not."

CHUCK JOHNSON, President of NAACP, San Diego Chapter: "In the thinking of the NAACP I would have to say that in any area of progress for the betterment of black people the NAACP would stand behind it. We would have to become more aware of this particular fight to make a broader statement in regards to it. I feel that parents should be able to send their children to the proper school that they would like to attend and it should not be compelled for the purposes of integration."

GEORGE STEVENS, Director, San Diego Chapter of CORE: "I believe that the Attorney General's complaint concerning de facto segregation in San Diego is not as relevant now to black people as it was at the time this complaint was originated which was approximately two years ago. The black man since that time has concluded that going to school with a white child does not necessarily enhance his education. I personally would not bus my child to a school in order to elimiate segregated schools and I personally doubt that many whites would do this either. I believe my latter statement would be supported by those whites who have moved out of neighborhoods when black people moved in. I am against bussing of children from one community to another community to attend schools. The reason being that it is whites who segregate and not blacks. Therefore, why should I send my child by bus to catch up with the white child that has just moved from the neighborhood? Had his family remained in my neighborhood, the question of bussing would not be necessary."

HOPE LOGAN, professor of social work, San Diego State College: "I do not find the two approaches (local control and integration) antithetical. Since segregation is now imposed by the white community, it is also the duty of the white community to provide for integration. We are not trying to develop separatism. It is there! Our kids are not going to die while we wait for pie in the sky. So in the meantime it is reasonable that blacks accept the reality of the present and go ahead to try to provide a quality education for their children."

ERNEST HARTZOG Principal, Lincoln High School: "White people control the system and if they really want integration they can bring it about. The whole question boils down to how strong your convictions are. If as an American citizen you feel strongly enough about your ideals and about school integration, (and the laws are certainly clear in support of that position), then you can make it happen. The drive for separatism is born out of anger after long years of frustration. White support of the separatist point of view is a cop out if that white person really professes to be in support of integrated education."

In summary; they want quality education for their children now. And they want a voice in deciding what quality education is. None opposed the petition. None oppose the suit. It is the law. The whites created the problem and the law. If the whites are sincere in wanting to solve the problem let them simply live up to the law. They don't want their children used a pawns to reduce white separatism. None denied integration as an ultimate goal. But integration alone does not guarantee a better education for black children.

It is the whites who oppose integration. The majority of those who refused to sign the petition did so because they oppose integration. A representative number from the minority community did sign the petition. This squares with the Newsweek survey which showed 78% of the blacks still are interested in integration.

CURE recognizes that integration alone is not the answer. "If anyone is so naive as to think that throwing black and white and brown kids all into the same bag and shaking it up is going to solve the problem then they are full of beans." It will also require profound changes in the attitudes of teachers, administrators, parents, students and board members. There must be changes in curriculum, textbooks and teaching methods. Neil Sullivan, Massachusetts Commissioner of Education has said, "The only way you get better education is through integration." Until the majority of whites are personally involved through integration they will not become concerned enough to act upon these essential changes. CURE does not believe this is an either or situation, we must move ahead on all fronts. CSS

SOUTHEAST RESIDENTS WORK TOWARD CO-OP

by Ray Leinbach
San Diego Urban League

A temporary Board of Directors is now coordinating the efforts of Southeast residents who are attempting to establish a community-owned, community-operated co-op grocery store. Mr. James Everette is the board president and Mrs. Greta Richardson, vice-president. Other members are: Mrs. Evelyn Jones, Mr. James McElroy, Mrs. Susie Davenport, Mr. T. A. Logan, Kudumu, Mrs. Cassandra Turner, and Mrs. Anna Brown. Attorney Luther Goodwin has been advising the group.

Questionable quality and high pricing of some Southeast supermarkets and corner grocery stores, plus the co-op principle of local ownership and local control have prompted residents to undertake this effort. Many of the local stores are not locally owned and therefore tend to be less interested in creating and maintaining community pride and self-respect through their stores. A supermarket owned and operated by Southeast residents would be more responsive to local wants and desires and could be a great source of community pride.

The Southeast Co-op Board hopes to offer shares to the public in the near future.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Do you know that the maximum welfare grant, in most counties, for a mother and child is $148.00 per month?

. . . . That the minimum need for a mother and child is approximately $200.00 per month at the very least?

. . . . That the maximum amount of state participation in welfare grants to families was established by the 1957 State Legislature, and has remained at that level over the past twelve years (with the exception of a $1.50 per person federal pass-on provision in 1965)?

. . . . That the Consumer Price Index shows a 25.75% increase in the cost of living in California between October 1957 and June 1968?

. . . . That we spend about $48.00 per month per child to provide needy children with food, housing, clothing, personal needs and school supplies?

. . . . That California can afford to provide a more adequate level of subsistence for these children? The Governor has proposed returning $100 million of existing state funds to the taxpayers.

. . . . Don't you think it would be wiser, more humane and more responsible to invest this money in the adquate support of our needy children?

GOOD NEIGHBORS

COME IN ALL COLORS

CITIZENS UNITED FOR RACIAL EQUALITY
279-8809

I am interested in the areas of:

____education ____housing ____employment ____other

I would like to participate in:

____neighborhood discussions
____volunteer bureau
____speakers bureau
____telephone tree
____writing/production of newsletter
____publicity
____fund raising
____community organization

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES:
Fiscal Year May 1, 1969-April 30, 1970
(includes a newsletter subscription)

student	$2
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contributing	$25
sustaining	$100
organizations	$15
donation	____
subscription without membership	$2

$____ is enclosed for membership for Name ____

Address ____ City ____ Zip ____ Phone ____

Sometimes we receive requests for use of our open mailing list from groups dealing with solutions to racial problems. Please indicate on which list your name should be included ____ open mailing list ____ restricted list.

where the ACTION is

Negotiations: Despite the fact that negotiations have started in Los Angeles between 10 growers of the Coachella Valley (who grow about 15% of California's table grapes) and the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, most of the growers are still refusing to negotiate, are still refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the U.F.W.! The battle is not yet over! Much remains to be done!

Food: Food for the striking farm workers in Coachella Valley is needed now. Call 295-4200 if you have some contributions and cannot bring them to Cardijn Center. Dry beans, canned meats, canned vegetables, rice, bean thread, flour are especially needed. Food stuffs are hauled to Coachella as soon as a car loads up, so bring yours down any time you can but do it soon for the season is very short.

Funds: Operating expenses for the Boycott Office, phone bill, paper and envelopes, mailing costs and some printing expenses must be paid by Boycott Coordinator Carlos LeGerrette. La Huelga would also like to contribute a $20 monthly donation to Cardijn Center to help defray some of their expenses; the Center has been most generous and has housed the office for over a year at no cost. Please send checks to "San Diegans for La Huelga", c/o Boycott Office, 2422 Congress St., San Diego, California, 92110.

Leafleting: Leafleting is now being undertaken with a beautiful response of over 60 leafleteers who did their thing this past week-end. If you can assist please call Carlos at 295-4200.

Volunteers: If someone in your family is already caught up with summer boredom and wants to get with it there is lots and lots and lots of work that can be done at the Boycott Office and also in various neighborhoods. A lot of educating in the communities will be done as soon as we can muster enough people to drop off leaflets. A few hours of your time, and others, will make it possible to inform thousands of people about the farm workers struggle.

Stamps: San Diego's Chicano newspaper needs blue chip stamps to secure equipment to bring out a quality paper. Send your stamps to La Verdad, P.O. Box 13156, San Diego, California, 92113.

Subscriptions: El Malcriado, P.O. Box 130, Delano, California, 93215. Semi-monthly at a cost of $3.50 per year.

La Verdad, San Diego Chicano monthly. P.O. Box 13156, San Diego, Calif. 92113. $3.00 per year.

Department of Defense and grapes. The Department of Defense has increased their purchasing of SCAB grapes 800% since the beginning of the boycott. This July, over 4 million pounds of grapes will be shipped to Vietnam compared to over 400,000 pounds shipped in 1966-1967. On July 15-16, Senator Walter Mondale, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, will hold public hearings in Washington, D.C., on the problems farm workers face in their struggle to organize. These hearings will be on television. The Defense Department's increased buying of scab grapes is certainly one of the farm workers problems. You can help Senator Mondale focus on this problem if you will write him a letter--in English or Spanish--or send a telegram--telling the Senator how you feel about the Government buying grapes. Write to: Senator Walter Mondale, Chairman Senate Subcommitee on Migratory Labor, Old Senate Office Building, Rm. 252, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Human Relations Council of Linda Vista meets every second and fourth Tuesday of every month at the Linda Vista Recreation Center, Levant St., 7:30 p.m. Please come if you live in the area.

Contributions for bail money for youth and young adults is needed and will be received, administered and accounted for by the Episcopal community services Community Crisis Center, 555 19th St., 239-0325, ask for Leonard Depen or Mel Murphy, 234-6493. Endorsed by the Urban League.

The education committee of the University City Interracial Action Committee (UCIAC), is planning a series of meetings beginning with two in August. The multi-ethnic curriculum and its place in the University City schools will be discussed. Attendance is open to all active members of UCIAC and their guests, and those who signed up for the series at the July 10 meeting at which Mr. David Crippens, associate director of Educational Opportunity Program at San Diego State College, spoke on racial imbalance in San Diego's schools. For further information contact Mr. John Burnett, chairman of the education subcommittee, 453-5763.

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CORRECTION

ADD at the very top of page 4

> The police, however, were doing something different. From early in the morning, which is usually without organized patrols, they were at the park in force. When trouble started they were there suddenly ready in full battle dress.

The paragraph beginning "Tom Johnson called" should read:

> Tom Johnson called upon the news media to provide a forum to put the larger problem in perspective so that the park indicent could be understood in context. (KEBS's Peter Kaye provided such a forum last Friday and Sunday) "One minute interviews particularly when they focus only on an indicent, are ridiculous," Johnson said.