

American Consulate Confirms East Cape Dispute

■ Mike Houston confirms facts in published reports of abuse

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BY CARRIE DUNCAN

Mike Houston, American Consulate for the Los Cabos area, has confirmed that he has been kept advised of the Gringo bullies on the East Cape who are preying on fellow Gringos, and acknowledges that as bizarre as the situ-

ation sounds, the facts as presented in the Gringo Gazette are accurate.

The East Cape is a Gringo enclave of houses about half an hour's drive out a dirt road from San Jose. Peter McGonagal, his brother Ian McGonagal, and Gene Crane have been vandalizing the property of people in the community

who they perceive are a threat to their construction business, as well as people who they just don't like. This has been going on for many years, as we were able to find more victims when we drove out there last week.

When asked what action the Consulate would or *continued on page 2*

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the Mexican police. While he is hoping that the police and immigration officials will follow through and investigate, he pointed out that his power in a foreign country is limited. Since Joe Nied, the latest target of the East Cape bullies, has fled the country, he, Houston, does not anticipate the necessity to represent Nied's rights. Houston acknowledged that the American Consulate has a

copy of the death threat sent to Nied.

He went on to encourage the folks out in the East Cape to speak up and assert their rights without fear of retaliation. Sure. Immigration officials went out looking for Gene Crane, but were told by his neighbour that he has fled the country, although reliable sources have seen him since that time. He seems

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Ph. (562) 856 8914 • Fax (562) 856 8914

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Publisher

Carrie Duncan, carrie@gringogazette.com

Editor

David Flores, david@gringogazette.com

Sales

David Flores • Maria Luisa Abaunza •

Graphic Design

Chipper Dreesse

David Perez

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about, much less now many of those are illegal.

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could do, Houston replied that although he has been in touch with the authorities in this matter, and is following it closely, he has no power to interfere with

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water. When another builder moved into the area, charging the-at that time-standard fee of about \$35 a square foot, the McGonagal brothers' company, called Oceana, was

bourhood telling their clientele what a fair price for a new house was. Nowadays, the spread is much less, with the average house costing about \$60 to \$65 per square foot,

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to only come out at night, and immigration officials are not likely to drive out to the East Cape at night. Meanwhile, this newspaper is investigating further, and have so far located two more victims who are willing to speak about the abuse, but are not willing to be quoted, for fear of property will be damaged. We also found several people who refuse to admit that they have been harassed, although the evidence of their burned signs and testimony of neighbours tells us otherwise. Are they afraid to speak up or are they just very forgiving people? We don't know. What we do know now is why. Why would these people go to such extreme s to drive out competition

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exposed as being way out of line. Obviously, their profits were enormous, but they would not continue that way if even one other builder was in their neigh-

and Oceana getting about twice that on most jobs. So now we know why someone would appear to be so irrational about com-
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to their construction business? After all, there is more work out there than one company can handle. The answer is price.

ciala are not keen on driving all the way out to the East Cape and flushing these bad guys out. They've tried, but the men have hidden, and immigration is still looking for them. But we are working on two ways of driving these bullies from the

country, both methods depend on Mexicans with a lot more clout than we have, and both are on the mainland. But we're working on it. It may take us several months, but those bullies will be gone. That's what a newspaper does. We work to insure justice is done. □

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petition. Oceana would only continue to make their enormous profits if home builders didn't find out that their claims of high costs of building were bogus.

The wheels of justice grind slowly in Mexico, just as they do anywhere else. Local immigration offi-

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