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SINCE 1882

Councilman McCann: The books were cooked

NOT POSSIBLE, SAYS FORMER CITY MGR.

By Tawny Maya McCray
STAFF WRITER

In an interview that ran last week, Chula Vista City Councilman John McCann told a columnist for *voiceofsandiego* he believed the city's budget problems were the result of someone at

City Hall "cooking the books." "I don't know how I can eloquently say this but, off the record, the former city manager was cooking the books." McCann told *voice* columnist and editor Scott Lewis.

Lewis wrote in his column that when he informed McCann that he hadn't agreed to go off the record and was quoting him, McCann said he had to get to a meeting and hung up the phone.

"It's not true, number one," said Dave Rowlands, former city man-

ager of Chula Vista, who answered the question on the chance that McCann was referring to him. "People who know me and people who know McCann know the truth. It's really simple. His allegations are totally false."

And the truth is, according to Rowlands?

"Nobody can 'cook the books,'" he said. "You have an independent audit and a finance director

SEE BOOKS, PAGE 12

HOLLYWOOD
CHULA VISTA



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JUST

FALL SPOIL
ANNO

SANTA'S HELPER



BOOKS

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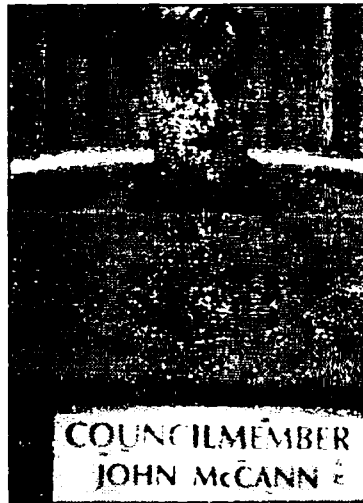
and other budget staff involved in the process."

According to investopedia.com, the term cook the books is "a buzzword describing fraudulent activities performed by corporations in order to falsify their financial statements. Typically, cooking the books involves augmenting financial data to yield previously non-existent earnings."

"I never had anybody in my office falsify any numbers," Rowlands said. "Nobody on my staff put in any funny figures. I never dictated to put in another however million dollars in sales tax to balance the budget."

Rowlands said he was involved in two budget cycles for the city, the last one being for fiscal year 2005-2006. He said he gave recommendations for the 2006-2007 budget but by the time it was passed he was gone.

Rowlands said he's dealing with the statement by sticking to the advice his mom always



In an interview with *voiceofsandiego*, Chula Vista Councilman John McCann claimed that a former city manager "cooked the books." Though he was not named directly by McCann, former city manager Dave Rowlands said it's impossible for any sort of accounting chicanery to occur.

gave to him.

"Consider the source and then just ignore it," he said. "McCann has mistaken facts a couple of times."

McCann did not return phone calls seeking comment.

REACH

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expulsion.

"If you haven't noticed four guys are no longer with us because they made a bad decision," Thompson said to the boys.

"Everybody who's here has an opportunity and if you make good choices you'll be rewarded for them."

He added, "You don't know how many people I've spoken with who have gotten locked up and said 'I wish I would've just listened.'"

Gonzales told them to "remem-

JOURNALISTS

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evision studio on wheels.

"Many of our students work in the KMMI television studio, but

this experience shows them the latest equipment and what can be done on a deadline," said KMMI coordinator Kathleen Obrist. "We want to expose students to as many work-based learning opportunities as possible," Obrist said.

ber the three p's—patience, passion and persistence. If you write it down you can accomplish it no matter what it is."

He said when he was first beginning his career he was told he wouldn't amount to much.

"I asked why and the person said because you have a spanish accent," he said. "I said 'well I'm

from Mexico."

Gonzales spent 26 years in San Diego police department before becoming chief of National City three years ago and he said the thing he did once he was hired was to hire an african american league to a high ranking position.

"This was such a unique learning experience, and it was so timely because of next year's presidential elections."

Throughout their presentation, C-SPAN reporters showed students the differences in media coverage between network news and the government cable channel. Subtle differences, such as the size of the picture of the person talking and whether there were headlines

scrolling across the screen, can make a difference in how viewers consciously absorb news. KMMI students from their own broadcast of the experience.

Students from Mar Vista High were also instructed in showing local education benefits of their media program. Mar Vista

GUESS WHO IS COMING



Taylor Keene of St. Rose of Lima School in Chula Vista was recognized for winning an essay contest hosted by Sara Lee. Taylor's winning essay was "High School Musical." She will come to the school and serve as a \$5,000 grant to help with school improvements.

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 Hablo Español

What's black & white