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Saturday, October 19, 1985

Santa Clara County edition

Mystery student vanishes

By Jason Cole
Special to the Times Tribune

Palo Alto High School's mystery runner disappeared this week, leaving behind an untraceable story and an apparently false name.

The young man, who identified himself to police and school officials as both 16-year-old Riiikv Huntsman and Jay Huntsman, apparently has not returned to school or his Palo Alto residence after he was detained earlier this week by Santa Clara County juvenile authorities, sources said Friday.

The Times Tribune has learned that the name the youth was using when he enrolled at Palo Alto High late last month was the name of a San Diego child who died in infancy.

Youth leaves Palo Alto, high school

Meanwhile, police, probation and school officials said they still do not know the mystery youth's real identity.

Police said they confronted the youth Tuesday night about the name he was using.

"He still says he is Jay Huntsman," Palo Alto police Sgt. Judy Dunn said.

"Every lead we have had has ended up in a dead end," police Capt. Lynne Johnson said.

The youth showed up at Palo Alto High School four weeks ago and enrolled as Jay Mitchell Huntsman, school officials said.

Since then, he has impressed track coaches as potentially one of

the best cross-country runners in California.

He told school officials, and later police, that he had received an informal education from tutors at a Nevada commune where he had lived since he was 8 years old.

The teen-ager first drew attention to himself when, calling himself Riiikv Huntsman, he appeared to win the Stanford Invitational high school cross-country meet on Oct. 7.

Racing in the large-school division, the youth was leading just before the finish, but ran off the course at the last moment because he was ineligible to race.

His enrollment at Palo Alto High

had not been confirmed and he was not allowed to compete as a member of the school's cross-country team.

High school coaches at the meet praised the youth as a potential running superstar.

When the youth showed up at Palo Alto High to enroll, he lacked the adequate paper work, such as a birth certificate and a transcript from a previous school, according to Principal Jim Shroyer.

All he had was a story about who he was, according to Shroyer and police.

School district officials then enlisted the help of the Palo Alto Police Department in attempting to verify his story.

The youth told police that his legal name was Jay Mitchell Huntsman and that he was born on Jan.

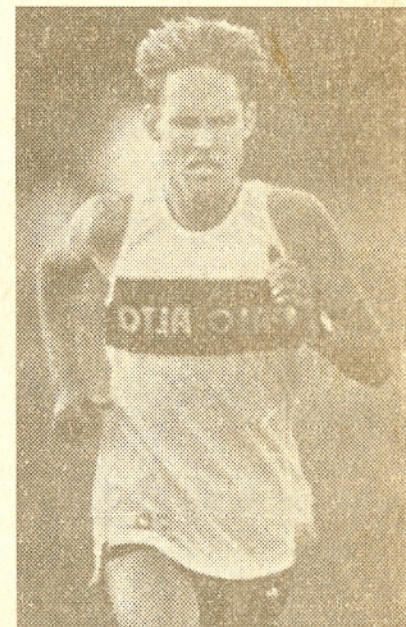
19, 1969, in San Diego County.

The San Diego County Recorder's Office confirmed last week that a birth certificate shows that a Jay Mitchell Huntsman was born on Jan. 19, 1969.

However, a death certificate shows that Jay Mitchell Huntsman died Jan. 21, 1969, of respiratory complications caused by pneumonia, according to the recorder's office.

The youth also told school and police officials that he had moved with his parents to a farm commune in the northeastern part of Nevada when he was 8 and had lived there until he was 16. He said that he left on his own volition recently to seek an education.

Elko County sheriff's deputies



Riiikv Huntsman — also known as Jay Huntsman — ran in the Stanford Invitational high school cross country meet on Oct. 7.

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Times Tribune

25 cents

Friday, October 25, 1985

... Final stocks

The mystery runner's history

By John Raess
and Jason Cole
Times Tribune staff

Athlete exposed in Palo Alto still making no statements

Palo Alto High School's mystery star athlete turned out to be a mid-dling 26-year-old ex-college runner from Kansas who has bounced from one university to another in the past eight years.

James Arthur Hogue, who gave his name as Jay Mitchell Huntsman and Riivk Huntsman to high school officials, ran cross country

for the University of Wyoming and attempted to run for the University of Texas, according to officials at both schools.

Thursday, Palo Alto police identified Hogue, who turned 26 Tuesday, as the man who fooled them and high school officials with his background story as a 16-year-old ex-resident of a Nevada commune.

Deputy District Attorney Ronald

Rico is evaluating police reports to determine whether Hogue could be charged with giving false information to police and fraudulently obtaining public services.

Since he first attracted attention at Palo Alto High School, Hogue has shied away from interviews and publicity.

Palo Alto attorney Richard Such said Hogue may release a state-

ment within the next few days.

The young man who impressed school officials with burning running talent and hunger for an education turned out to be a former engineering student with an undistinguished college running career.

"He was mischievous, but I thought he would have grown out of it by now," said Judy Fuller, a cross country runner at the Univer-

sity of Wyoming in the mid- to late '70s. Fuller's husband is a former coach at Wyoming and she competed at the same time as Hogue.

Hogue's family in Kansas City, Kan., was stunned Thursday after hearing the story.

"I thought he went out there to go to college. That doesn't sound like my brother," said a woman who identified herself as Hogue's sister.

Eugene Hogue said he had not seen his son in more than a year.

although he had talked to him during that time.

Hogue apparently left Austin, Texas, in May 1984, according to Andrea LeBlanc, who shared an apartment with him.

Records at the registrar's office of the University of Texas at Austin indicate that Hogue was registered in the fall of 1983 as a senior in chemical engineering.

Hogue had attempted to join the

Please see RUNNER A-14

RUNNER

Continued from A-1

Texas cross country team in 1979 or 1980, according to James Blackwood, head athletic recruiter at Texas and the university's cross country coach from 1972 until this year.

"He wasn't a bad college runner, probably better than average. Decent. I heard he was a pretty good high school runner in Kansas," Blackwood said.

"I don't know why, but I think he thought he was better than a lot of the guys (on the Texas team). But then he got out there with them and they ran him into the ground."

Hogue enrolled in Austin Community College before attempting to join the cross country team,

Blackwood said.

"He got into the running crowd at Austin, but never got his eligibility straightened out. I don't know why, he just never did," Blackwood said.

According to Kevin McKinney, sports information director for the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Hogue competed with the cross country team there in 1977 and 1978, lettering both years.

Hogue did compete in the 1977 National Collegiate Athletic Association cross country finals, but failed to place either in the top 250 finishers or among the top five of his teammates, McKinney said. In 1978, he finished 226th in the NCAA finals.

As Riivk Huntsman, Hogue easily won the Stanford Invitational high school cross country race Oct. 7, running unofficially for Palo Alto High School.

Hogue showed up at the high school Sept. 10, gave the name of Jay Mitchell Huntsman, stated his age as 16 and said he hoped to enroll at the school.

He told school officials, and later police, that he had spent the past eight years at a Nevada commune.

The name he gave turned out to be that of a San Diego baby who died as an infant.

Craig and Rosemary Huntsman, the parents of the deceased baby, said they had never heard of Hogue but had been told that he lived in Springville, Utah, for a time. Springville is near the town where their son is buried.

Commune members in Nevada also had no recollection of the youth.

LeBlanc remembers Hogue as an introspective roommate who kept to his own part of the two-bedroom,

two-bath apartment near the university.

"If they believed that, (Hogue's claimed age) well, God, OK," LeBlanc said with a chuckle.

"He did look young, you know, because he was so healthy, but he didn't look younger than 21 or 22."

Hogue told her he was doing electrical work on construction sites, and "toward the end he wasn't working," LeBlanc said.

Hogue left Austin in May, she said, apparently heading west. Her last contact was a phone call from Colorado he charged to her phone number, she said.

Students at Palo Alto High said their reactions ranged from anger to astonishment that they could be fooled so easily.

One student, who wished to remain unidentified, said Wednesday: "A lot of people are really upset because he seemed sincere."

▼ A 30-year-old Hogue, in his party hat (left), joined Captain Bill Burke (fifth from left) last fall to welcome new members of the cross-country team.

serve a prison sentence in Utah for possession of stolen property—and was wanted there for skipping parole.

And so, two weeks ago, two plain-clothes Princeton Borough detectives entered Hogue's geology class and handcuffed him on a fugitive warrant. Then last week, while the stately campus reeled in astonishment, a tense Hogue managed

had been living on a commune in Nev., for eight years. Cole did not know Hogue until he came to the cross-country meet and learned enough, that no such commune existed. Hogue left Palo Alto High School before Cole's first story appeared.

This time, the story emerged. Hogue had the chance to boot him. The wonder is that he was able to hold on for so long. He was an average student with a reputation for excelling in class science courses, an excellent athlete who wove fabulous stories about his wild youth and slept on the floor of a room at Holder Hall. As a member of prominence, Hogue was recruited to join Ivy, an aristocratic Princeton dining club whose former members included Secretary of State Jim Baker and Prince al Highness Saud Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

Two of his track teammates, Bill Burke and Alexis Rochford, were on Hogue's deceptions. Said Hogue: "He said he'd lived outside in the woods and berries and hadn't seen a car in years. He built a complete mystique that he was an ar-



PHIL MCGREYSS

He Conned the Ivy L

Princeton's track star actually an ex-con

BY JAMES BARRON
and M.A. FARBER

3-17-91

New York

Across the Ivy League in the spring of 1988, bleary-eyed deans poring over the usual stack of superlative-filled recommendations and stratospheric SAT scores were intrigued by one application — the one from the boy who said he had taught himself everything that he needed to know while working as a ranch hand and sleeping under the starry Utah sky next to his horse, Good Enough.

Other applicants sent in laudatory letters from high-school teachers and coaches who vouched for the head-of-the-class qualifications the students described.

But Alexi Indris-Santana's file contained only a note from the Lazy T Ranch in Utah, where he said he had ridden with the best. Also in the folder were a few newspaper clippings about track meets he had competed in, and his own smoothly worded essay about why he wanted to attend an Ivy League school.

On campus after campus, puzzled admissions officers wondered how someone who claimed not to have been in a schoolroom since kindergarten could have scored 730 on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test and 680 on the mathematics — far above the national average.

But the skeptics, if there were any, put aside their doubts. At Brown University, one administrator recalls how the dean of admissions "sat there with the file in his hand and said, 'There's something wrong with this file. I can't put my finger on it, so I guess we ought to take him.'"

Princeton University also accepted Indris-

Santana and offered a substantial amount of financial aid to help him meet the \$20,000-a-year costs of tuition, room and board.

Yale turned him down, as did Harvard, but only after he did not respond to repeated requests for more information about his background. He chose Princeton but put off enrolling for a year. He was apparently in prison at the time, after being convicted on a stolen-property charge in Utah, though he did not tell the university that.

Once enrolled, Indris-Santana projected the Princeton image so well that hardly any of his

The fugitive was offered a substantial amount of financial aid to help him meet tuition, room and board

classmates asked him about apparent discrepancies in the stories he told about himself.

Indeed, if someone from his past had not called Princeton, suggesting that Indris-Santana was not what he advertised, he might still be the Princeton track team's hope for victory in next year's long-distance meets.

But Princeton was told a few weeks ago that it had been fooled, and the student known as Indris-Santana was arrested on a fugitive warrant from Utah, where officials said he had served time in prison.

The fine points of the story remain sketchy,

league

on the run

but police in Princeton say he admitted that he was the man named in the Utah warrant, James A. Hogue, who was wanted for violating parole.

To Princeton's chagrin, it turned out that the Lazy T Ranch did not exist. It also turned out that Hogue, now 31, had posed as other people at least twice before, in California and Colorado, and had attended at least two colleges under his real name.

Hogue grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Kansas City, Kan., where neighbors described his father as a retired railroad worker. Hogue's parents refused repeated requests for interviews, as did Hogue.

But it is possible to piece together something of his life before he left home. The principal at Washington High School, John Burke, said that Hogue graduated in 1977. "He was an A and B student," Burke said. In athletics, Burke said, Hogue was a star runner and was pictured in the yearbook with the track team.

Hogue had his high school transcript forwarded to the University of Wyoming, Burke said. Officials at the campus in Cheyenne said he enrolled there the September after he graduated from Washington High, and earned a place on the varsity cross-country team as a freshman and a sophomore. He left the university after that.

It is not clear how he spent the next couple of years. He registered at the University of Texas in the early 1980s but did not graduate.

The next time Hogue is known to have registered for a class was not at a college but at Palo Alto High School in California in 1985.

"The story was he originally tried to go over and enroll in Stanford University, just across the street," said James Schroyer, who was the principal at the time. "Somebody there said if you haven't graduated from high school, you have to do that first, so he ends up at the high school."

Schroyer said recently that he had misgivings about the new student, who had enrolled under the name Jay Huntsman. "I think my initial reaction was, 'Are you sure you're not a little bit older than 17?'" Schroyer said.

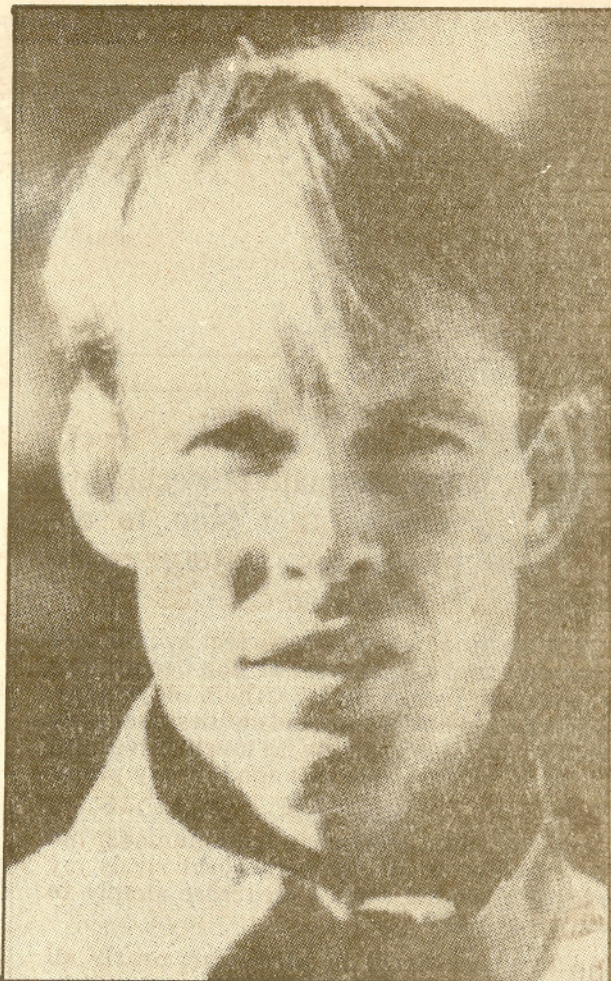
Hogue, Schroyer said, claimed to have been born in Los Angeles and to have lost both parents in an automobile accident. But a Palo Alto police officer who did community-relations duty at the school checked with police in Los Angeles and cast doubt on the story.

By the time the report came back from Los Angeles, Schroyer said, Hogue had impressed the athletic coaches with his speed and endurance as a runner. Competing against students who were actually seven or eight years his junior, Hogue won the high school division of the Stanford invitational cross-country meet in 1985.

But almost as quickly as he appeared at the school, Hogue dropped out, Schroyer said, after police got word from Los Angeles and questioned him about his background.

A few months later, he was arrested on a check-forgery charge. After that charge was dropped, he left Palo Alto. But he took with him a new title. When he turned up in Colorado, he said he had a doctorate in bioengineering from Stanford and was on the faculty there.

And he got a job with a sports cross-training camp in Vail, Colo., joining a roster of world-class athletes that included Frank Shorter, the Olympic marathoner. His tenure in Vail ended when Jim Davis, who founded the camp, got a tip from a runner.



BY NEW YORK TIMES

Princeton was surprised to discover that one of its star athletes, Alexi Indris-Santana, was an ex-con violating his parole: James A. Hogue

In one corner, Jacobson found resumes and copies of letters to Ivy League schools, all in the name of Alexi Indris-Santana.

Princeton had accepted Indris-Santana despite what he said was his lack of a high school transcript or diploma. Fred Hargadon, Princeton's dean of admissions (and, ironically, former director of admissions at Stanford), said the applicant submitted a reading list as evidence of his qualifications.

Princeton had high hopes for the unconventional newcomer when he arrived in the fall of 1989.

The track coach, Lawrence T. Ellis, said he believed that Indris-Santana could develop into the best two-miler that Princeton ever had. But

The principal at Palo Alto High thought his new student looked a bit older than 17

before Indris-Santana arrived on campus, he injured a tendon. That slowed him down, and he never quite lived up to the coach's expectations.

Although the university would not release his academic transcript, some classmates said he told them of racking up A's in some science courses.

But Professor Zoltan Geza Soos, who taught Indris-Santana in an honors chemistry class last year, said Indris-Santana's performance was uneven. He was in the top third of the class at the beginning of the semester, Soos said, but fell off as time went on and was in the bottom third when the final grades for the term came out.

"Basically, he said he had seen one of my brochures and saw that Hogue was on staff," Davis said. "He said, 'James Hogue is a fraud, his antics have to stop, he's been doing this for a number of years, he should be stopped before he does some real damage.'"

Davis said that he called Stanford and was told that there was no James Hogue on the faculty there. Davis then confronted his running-class instructor. "He didn't say too much," Davis said. "I don't think he ever admitted he wasn't who he said he was. He never apologized. It was like, 'Hey, I got busted, I'll go somewhere else and scam them.'"

Davis said Hogue headed for Aspen, Colo., and began inventing the role that he played in the Ivy League, borrowing his new first name from Alexi Grewal, an Olympic cyclist. At about the same time, Hogue was involved in the incident that would finally lead to his unmasking in Princeton. Dave Tesch, a California bicycle-builder who also worked at Davis' camp, reported a burglary at his shop. About \$20,000 worth of bike frames and tools were stolen, Tesch said, after someone climbed in through a vent in the roof.

Hogue, who had stayed with Tesch until shortly before the break-in, was questioned by police, Tesch said. But he was not charged with the burglary. More than a year later, a cyclist in St. George, Utah, noticed that Hogue — working as a bicycle mechanic — had a wrench engraved with Tesch's name and several of Tesch's distinctive bike frames. The cyclist called Tesch, who notified police.

Detective Matt Jacobson of the St. George Police Department arrested Hogue for possession of stolen property — the tools and bicycle frames. He was convicted and sentenced to up to five years in prison.

Utah officials said that he was paroled in March 1989 after serving 10 months and that he last checked in with parole officials in August 1989. After he missed his next scheduled appointment, they issued the warrant on which he was arrested in Princeton.

"The thing is, he's a likable guy," said Davis, the camp organizer. "It's not like he's a shyster-looking guy from Las Vegas who's going to steal your money. Now that I hear Princeton got duped, I don't feel like such a hick from the mountains."

The connection to Princeton turned up in the storage locker Hogue had rented in St. George — where he kept Tesch's tools and the bike frames.

Princeton learned of Indris-Santana's real identity after a Yale student from Palo Alto recognized him at an Ivy League track meet and called the high school track coach in Palo Alto.

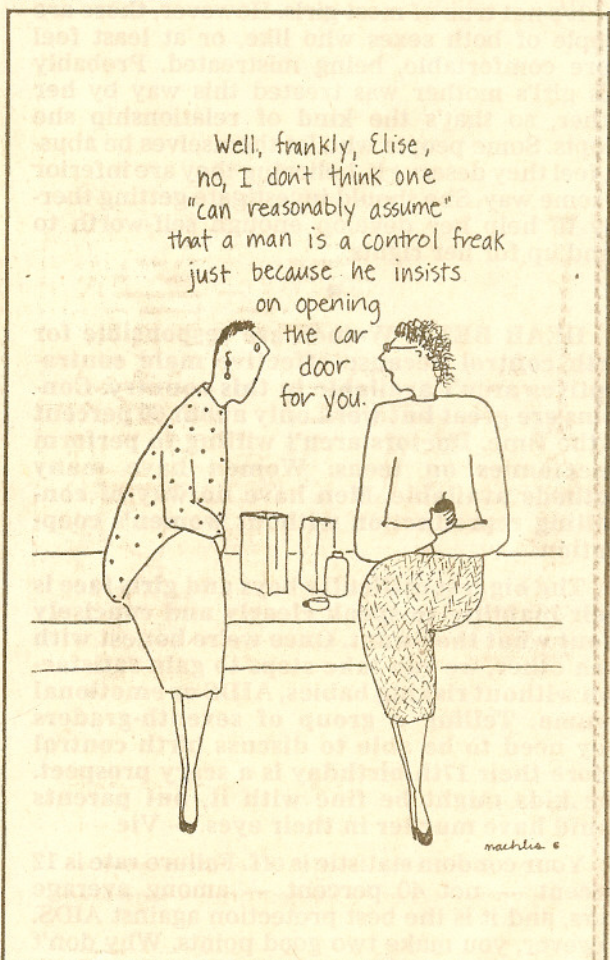
Jason Cole, a reporter at the Peninsula Times-Tribune in Palo Alto who had written about Hogue, heard that he was attending Princeton and called the university.

The next day, Princeton police called Indris-Santana out of a geology class and arrested him on the fugitive warrant.

He is being held in the Mercer County Detention Center in Trenton while prosecutors consider whether to extradite him to Utah or bring fraud charges against him under New Jersey law.

New York Times

MACHLIS



'85 P.A. impostor arrested at Princeton

By De Tran
Mercury News Staff Writer

3-1-91

James Arthur Hogue is rarely himself, a fact that has landed the great impostor in legal trouble again.

The 31-year-old man was arrested Tuesday while in his geology lab at Princeton University and charged with parole violation. He apparently left the state of Utah without telling his parole officer.

But the significance of his arrest is that police say Hogue was passing himself off as 20-year-old student, Alexi Indris-Santana, at the New Jersey school.

It marked the latest in a saga full of lies and pretensions that probably some day could make Hogue a subject of at least a made-for-TV movie.

Posed as orphan

In 1985, Hogue, 25 years old at the time, attended Palo Alto High School after convincing people that he was a 16-year-old orphan named Jay Mitchell Huntsman from Utah. He stayed long enough to win the high school division of the Stanford Invitational track meet in October of 1985.

Indeed, one of the constants in Hogue's life is his affection for track and field.

And that love apparently led to



James Arthur Hogue
... Posed as 20-year-old

his latest downfall.

While watching an Ivy League track meet, a former Palo Alto High student, Renee Pacheco, recently recognized Hogue.

"I'll never forget his face and that bowl haircut," Pacheco, a Yale senior, told the Peninsula Times Tribune.

Pacheco had been a junior in 1985 when Hogue's hoax was dis-

covered.

"I walked right up to him. I'm surprised he didn't recognize me," she said. "I wanted to just scream at him, but then I thought better of it."

Other than his love of track, Hogue's life has been a legacy of lies and inconsistencies.

He quickly left Palo Alto after his true identity was discovered, and he moved to Colorado where he posed as Dr. James Hogue, Stanford Ph.D. in bioengineering. He worked there at a cross-training clinic among other respected names in running, bicycling and swimming.

Near grad at Texas

In reality, Hogue graduated from Washington High School in Kansas City, where he was a record-setting runner. He ran varsity track at the University of Wyoming and almost graduated as a chemical engineering major from the University of Texas.

It's a reality that Hogue often strayed from.

In 1988, under the pseudonym Alexi Indris-Santana, Hogue impressed college officials enough that they admitted him to prestigious Princeton University.

"Santana" claimed that he was self-educated and that he had been

a cowboy on a Utah ranch. He produced several newspaper clippings about his successes in amateur track and field.

He scored more than 1,400 points on the SAT, according to the Times Tribune.

Impressive reading list

Admission officials at the Ivy League school also were impressed by the reading list that Hogue produced.

"He did well enough that we admitted him," said Justin Harmon, Princeton director of communications.

Hogue didn't enter Princeton, however, until the fall of 1989. He took a one-year deferment from Princeton, claiming he wanted to spend time with his ailing mother in Switzerland.

In reality, Hogue spent the time serving a prison term for possession of stolen property.

Once he made parole, he headed for Princeton, where he joined the track team.

Hogue is being held by Princeton Borough police on a warrant issued by the Salt Lake City probation department.

Princeton officials are considering pressing criminal charges against Hogue for fraudulently filing for financial aid, Harmon said.

Alias is new; not the M.O.

Impostor held at Princeton

By De Tran

Mercury News Staff Writer

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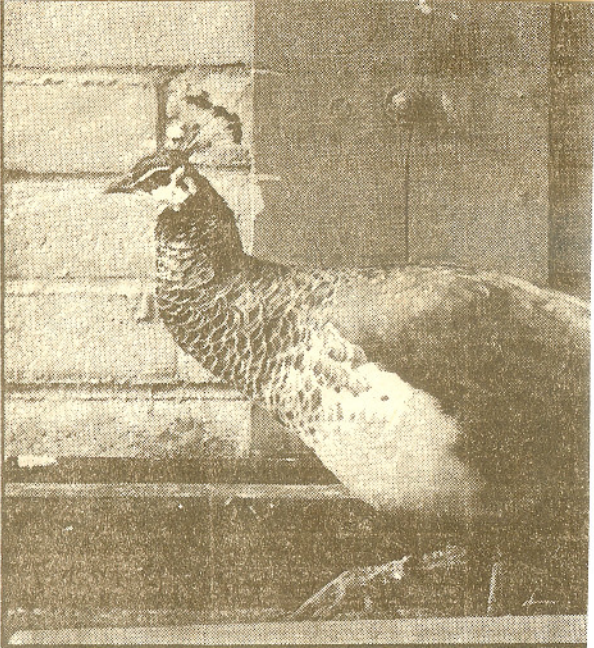
Indeed, one of the constants in Hogue's life is his affection for track and field.

And that love apparently led to his latest downfall. While watching an Ivy League track meet, a former



Hogue

See HOGUE, Page 2R



Eugene Lou

Despite the posting, Saffie, a peahen, has Third and San Carlos streets in central San Francisco for four months. People who work in the area have the bird, which is indigenous to east Asia. Saffie, and she also bums french fries at a fast-food stand.

1985 Paly High imp arrested as parole vi

HOGUE, from Page 1B

Palo Alto High student, Renee Pacheco, recently recognized Hogue.

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Pacheco had been a junior in 1985 when Hogue's hoax was discovered.

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Admission off League school al



James Hogue
... back to jail. 2-27-91

Impostor stayed on same track

JASON COLE / STAFF

Six years after he hoodwinked Palo Alto High School officials and students, James Hogue was arrested Tuesday after allegedly trying to pull off the most elaborate and successful scheme in a legacy of lies.

He was tripped up by a chance meeting with one of the people he reportedly deceived in Palo Alto. <

For the past three years, Hogue, 31, apparently has fooled Princeton University officials into admitting him to the school and allowing him to compete in track and field. <

The elaborate scheme came to a crashing halt when Hogue was arrested during a class at Princeton.

Hogue, who passed himself off at Princeton as 20-year-old Alexi Indris-Santana, was arrested on a fugitive warrant from Utah based on information provided to authorities by the Peninsula Times Tribune.

Police have established no motive for Hogue's masquerading. School officials across the nation said he had nothing to gain financially by passing himself off as a student. His coaches said he was a good prospect for college-level track competition, but far from Olympic material. Even Hogue himself, when questioned by police, could offer no explanation.

Hogue is being held by the Princeton Borough Police Department. He declined a request for an interview, Sgt. Jerry Patterson said.

In the aftermath of the arrest and revelation of his identity, Princeton has declared

TRACK

Continued from A-1

that he is no longer a student. The school is considering pressing criminal charges against him, Princeton Director of Communications Justin Harmon said.

> But if not for a chance meeting with another Ivy League student at a track meet between Princeton, Yale and Harvard on Feb. 16 at New Haven, Conn., Hogue might still be on his way to a degree.

"I'll never forget his face and that bowl haircut," said Yale senior Renee Pacheco, who was a junior at Palo Alto High in 1985.

Pacheco, the daughter of former Stanford University and current University of Texas professor Arturo Pacheco, was at the track meet to see a friend compete and couldn't believe her eyes.

"I walked right up to him. I'm surprised he didn't recognize me," Pacheco said. "I wanted to just scream at him, but then I thought better of it." *Over reaction*

> In 1985, Pacheco and many other Palo Alto High students befriended Hogue during his first major scheme. Hogue enrolled briefly at the high school, using the name of a young boy who died in infancy. He made up a story that has certain parallels to the story he used with Princeton officials and fellow students.

Pacheco isn't the only person who would like to vent frustration at Hogue.

> "I'm really disappointed and hurt about the lies," said Princeton track coach Larry Ellis, who was the U.S. Olympic men's track coach in 1984. "We were trying to do anything we could to help him. It really hurts."

> Princeton Dean of Admissions Fred Hargadon, who spent 15 years in the same position at Stanford, also expressed disappointment. Although Hargadon was not the dean of admissions when

Hogue was accepted, he said he was both flabbergasted and angry.

> Hogue's family in Kansas City, Kan., was stunned by the news of their son's life of pathological lies.

"I haven't talked to him in at least a couple of years," said Hogue's father, Eugene, in an unsettled tone. "He called one time to say he was all right, but that was a long time ago. I had no idea what he was doing."

Princeton officials are only the latest group to be fooled during Hogue's six-year dalliance with fiction all over the United States. He also convinced people in Colorado that he got a Ph.D. in bioengineering from Stanford.

In the fall of 1985, Hogue said he was Jay Mitchell Huntsman and enrolled at Palo Alto High. Among other things, he claimed to be 16, the orphan of parents who had been killed in Bolivia. He said he had been reared at a commune in Nevada, had been tutored there and had come to Palo Alto to get a formal education.

> But the other thing that Hogue wanted to do was compete in cross country. Although Palo Alto High would not make him eligible until it could find a birth certificate or other verification of age, Hogue was allowed to run unofficially.

Claiming that he had taught himself to run, as he did later to Yale's Ellis, Hogue won the prestigious high school division of the Stanford Invitational cross country meet on Oct. 7, 1985. He was hailed as a budding star.

In the aftermath, one newspaper even ran a full account of the Huntsman story, complete with quotes from school officials.

> But Hogue's story quickly began to unravel. After checking records in San Diego, the Times Tribune discovered that the real Jay Mitchell Huntsman died of pneumonia only three days after being born in 1969. Huntsman's real parents were still alive, residing in Utah.

> The Times Tribune also revealed that Hogue, who graduated

as a record-setting runner from Washington High in Kansas City in 1977, attended and competed in cross country at the University of Wyoming for two years in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s, he attended Austin, Tex., Community College and the University of Texas, majoring in chemical engineering.

After the story broke, Hogue left Palo Alto High, but his travails in Palo Alto weren't over. In February 1986, Hogue was arrested in Palo Alto on a check-forgery charge. The charge was eventually dropped.

He left Palo Alto and ended up in Colorado in 1986. According to a story published in 1988 by the San Jose Mercury News, Hogue began to pass himself off as Dr. James Hogue, Stanford Ph.D. in bioengineering. Based on his impressive ability to run and on his word, he was hired in May 1986 to teach at a cross-training clinic. The clinic featured other respected names in running, bicycling and swimming.

Hogue also began to live a nomadic life, staying with friends in Utah, Colorado, Southern California and Texas.

His significant trouble with the law began in 1987. Hogue allegedly stole several thousand dollars worth of bicycles and tools from David Tesch, a mountain bike frame maker in Southern California who had befriended him.

Hogue was not arrested for the crime until March 30, 1988. Police in St. George, Utah, discovered the stolen property in a storage locker that Hogue had rented there, St. George police Detective Matt Jacobson said. In the locker, police also found correspondence between Hogue and several Ivy League schools. The correspondences all used the name Alexi Santana.

Beginning in January 1988, Hogue wrote to several Ivy League schools. As Santana, Hogue claimed that he was 17, self-taught and interested in attending college. He also said he was working

as a cowboy on a ranch in Utah, and claimed he had lived in Switzerland, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Morocco. He claimed his father had died in Costa Rica.

"From what I can piece together from his file, the school was very intrigued by him," Hargadon said after going over files from the tenure of former Princeton Dean of Admissions Anthony Cummings.

To evaluate him, Princeton asked Hogue to take the SAT and submit a list of the books he had read and their subject areas. He scored more than 1,400 on the SAT, and Hargadon said the reading list was "quite impressive."

Hogue also indicated that he would be interested in running track. Ellis was notified and he began to correspond with Hogue by mail. Ellis asked for proof of the times that Hogue had run. Hogue sent Ellis several newspaper clippings listing the times that he, as Santana, actually ran in age-group events. The times were exceptional for an untrained runner.

> "From his times, he was the best distance runner I'd ever recruited," Ellis said. "It was early to talk about Olympic potential, but he definitely had college star potential if the times and age were correct."

All of this led to Princeton accepting Hogue in April 1988. But after the arrest in March 1988, Hogue eventually was sentenced to Utah state prison in Draper on May 19, 1988.

He wrote to Princeton asking that his entrance be deferred for one year. He claimed that his mother was suffering with leukemia in Switzerland and that he wanted to spend time with her.

Princeton agreed to the deferment. After he was paroled from prison on March 28, 1989, Hogue contacted Ellis and told him he was ready to come to Princeton. Hogue showed up at the school around June and began classes in the fall of 1989, Ellis said.