

# San Quentin News

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## S.Q. Warriors Upset NBA Stars

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Incredible, but true: The San Quentin Warriors defeated members of their namesake Golden State Warriors by four points, 92-88, in a hard-fought basketball game on the Lower Yard.

"You guys won the right to be called the 'Real Warriors' fair and square," said the

team's assistant general manager, Kirk Lacob.

The Sept. 26 visit attracted a crowd of some 300 inmates, guests and prison staff. It was Golden State's third game at the prison, but the first time San Quentin won. Last year Mark Jackson and Brian Scalabrine played. In 2012, Draymond Green visited and signed

See NBA on Pg. 19



Photo by Sam Heames

Joshua "JB" Burton raising up over Kurt Lacob

## S.F. Deputies Coping With Mentally Ill Inmates

By **Juan Haines**  
Managing Editor

Deputies learning new skills to cope with offenders with mental health problems are among several changes underway at San Francisco's county jail, according to Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi.

The sheriff's department asserts that more people with severe mental illness have been winding up in jail, according to the July 2014 *City & County of San Francisco Sheriff's Department Newsletter*. Therefore, Mirkarimi said that the sheriff's department is working with mental health professionals to learn how to intervene when an inmate is having a mental breakdown.

"Our deputies must learn new skills to manage tense situations and maintain safety for inmates and staff," Mirkarimi

said in the newsletter.

### Other changes:

Before offenders are released, they're enrolled in the Affordable Care Act.

The jail's commissary prices are scheduled to be reduced.

Inmate telephone costs are

lower.

"Research shows that inmates who preserve ties with their families, especially their spouses and children, have a much better chance of staying in the program."

See San Fran. on Page 8



Photo courtesy of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department

Holding cell for mentally ill inmates



Photo by Sam Heames

Check to recipients of the Joint Venture/Labcon victims compensation fund

## Labcon's Joint Venture Industry Gives Donation

By **Ted Swain**  
Staff Writer

In a ceremony at San Quentin State Prison, two local charitable organizations received \$32,350.91 from a victim compensation fund.

California Prison Industry Authority oversees the Joint Venture program, in which Labcon workers earn the local minimum wage of \$9 per hour.

Even though the inmates do not get all their earnings because of various deductions, including court-ordered restitution and fines, very few inmates earn the kind of money that workers for Labcon do.

The deductions after tax are:

- 20 percent of inmate income is provided to the state

for room and board

- 20 percent is allocated to the inmate's trust account for commissary and other expenses

- 20 percent goes to a family support program

- 20 percent goes to a mandatory savings account

- 20 percent goes to the victim compensation fund or court ordered restitution and fines.

Some of the inmates said they were happy to help worthy causes.

Half the money went to

Community Violence Solutions (CVS), the other half to Sunny Hills Services.

"That's great!" said Deanna Schlauf of CVS, "the funds will help a lot of people." Schlauf is sexual assault response and volunteer coordinator with CVS. "Our services save lives," Schlauf said.

Schlauf and co-worker Andree Montilliano, executive director, participated in the ceremony to receive the funds.

See Labcon on Page 4

## SHU Inmates Win Action Status

By **Kevin D. Sawyer**  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Prisoners held indefinitely in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison have been granted class action status in a lawsuit to end what some call "torture" – the result of spending a decade or longer in isolation.

In *Ashker v. Brown*, federal District Court Judge Claudia Wilken granted the inmates class action status to move forward with a lawsuit that they hope will end the use of long-term isolation in prisons in California.

"This action focuses exclusively on the conditions of confinement within the Pelican Bay SHU," said the court order granting the motion for class certification.

"We pose a fundamental question: Is it constitutional to hold someone in solitary confinement for over a decade?" asked Alexis Agathocleous, an attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights.

"Class certification allows the case to include all Pelican Bay SHU prisoners who have been in solitary confinement for more than 10 years, as well as all prisoners who are serving indefinite SHU terms as a result of gang validation who have not been placed in a new step-down program," reported the *San Francisco Bay View* newspaper.

"CDCR's own regulations treat this group as a distinct class and provide a straightforward framework for distinguishing between class members and non-members," court records said.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, these prisoners say they have suffered "physical and psychological abuse" after long-term confinement in isolation cells.

Bay View reported plaintiffs in the lawsuit allege that prolonged solitary confinement violates their Eighth Amendment rights — protection against cruel and unusual

See SHU on Page 5

**INSIDE EDITION #61**

Labcon's joint venture	1	Curbing truancy	8
S.F. deputies	1	University symposium	8
Golden State Warriors	1	Darkness/Golden State	9
SHU inmates win class	1	SQUIRES program	10-11
Couple retires	2	CDCR puts spotlight	12
Little Hoover Report	3	An 'OG's' Perspective	13
Ballot measure	3	Movie Review	13
Implementing Res. Just.	3	Book Review	13
Study reveals decline	4	Arts & Entertainment	14
Minorities facing racial	4	Transparency lacking	15
ACLU sues Alameda	5	Proposition 36 inspires	15
Report: Eighty to ninety	5	Ex-off. finding employ.	15
Editorial	6	Asked on the Line	16
Letter to the Editor	6	Obituary	16
Tough on crime era	7	News Briefs	17
Stanislaus Co. invests	7	Mentally ill population	17
SB 1010 reduces drug	7	Sports	18
Department of justice	7	Sports	19
Disciplinary policies	8	Music legend	20

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**BEHIND THE SCENES**

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# Couple Retires After Decades Of Performing Inside Prisons



Photo courtesy of John Eagan

Willis and Linda Rice enjoying Christmas together

By **Kenneth R. Brydon**  
Contributing Writer

For uncoupled thousands of prisoners across America, a performance by harpist Linda Rice was a chance to listen and see something completely unexpected, entertaining and inspiring.

Linda is known as "The Harp Lady" in hundreds of prisons across the country. Her husband, Willis, accompanied her on concert trips, hauling her blue harp in an aging van and handling the sound equipment. She also performed a Christmas-time piano concert at the White House for President George W. Bush.

The couple had performed close to a 1,000 times behind bars, touching the hearts of the incarcerated at every stop. However, after years of performing at federal and state prisons, Linda decided to retire.

"When we knew it was over, we just sat in our motel room and cried," said Linda.

Without the use of soundtracks, or any other musical accompaniment, Linda would fuse such diverse sounds as Led Zepelin's "Stairway to Heaven" and Hendrix's "Purple Haze" with traditional Gospel songs. At the same time, and with clarity, the audience could hear both tunes coming through.

"The harp is the most ergonomically incorrect instrument a person can play," explained Willis.

In preparation for performances, Willis said Linda would practice more than eight hours a day. Each performance is well-orchestrated, Willis explained. While Linda was on stage, playing the harp and sharing stories between songs, he would work the portable soundboard. The audio engineer for the rock band "The Who" had put together their equipment at the start, he said. They only needed an electrical outlet to perform.

The reactions have been the same at every prison where they performed, Willis said. It would begin with the audience sitting with arms crossed over chest, politely watching and

waiting for the lady in the glittering jacket to perform. Every concert ended with enthusiastic applause and requests for them to come back soon.

Willis was a Lieutenant Colonel flying out of Travis Air Force Base who retired after 22 years of service. He piloted enormous military transport jets, while Linda taught piano and harp near the base. After he traded in his wings for time with his wife, they took off out on the road.

Their first concerts were only in churches, but while in Colorado, they performed at one of the federal institutions.

Performing at the first prison was all it took to help the couple find their calling of putting smiles on many prisoners' faces, Linda said.

During the prison performances, they would speak of their shared Christian faith. Linda said they were often surprised by the reception from inside.

Willis' cancer diagnosis in

2004 nearly forced the couple to stop touring. Doctors told them it was time to "enjoy" what time Willis had left. Despite the cancer diagnosis, they continued performing and asked prisoners to join them in prayer for his healing. At one point, Willis was on his deathbed, but now doctors report he is cancer-free. They said that they are convinced it is a miracle from God.

Over time, they have cut back to only visiting California prisons. They said that they consider San Quentin their prison. They'd test new musical pieces here before taking them to other prisons.

While still being involved at San Quentin, Linda now only plays the piano at the nearby Tiburon Baptist Church.

"We've had more friends than any two people deserve," said Willis, who has been married to Linda for 47 years. "Our lives are so rich and full, both inside and outside of prison."



Photo courtesy of John Eagan

Linda Rice playing the harp inside Tiburon Baptist Church

# Little Hoover Report Sheds Light on Unsustainable Criminal Justice Policies

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

“Criminal justice policies that rely on building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns are not sustainable” and they will not result in improved public safety, reports the California Little Hoover Commission.

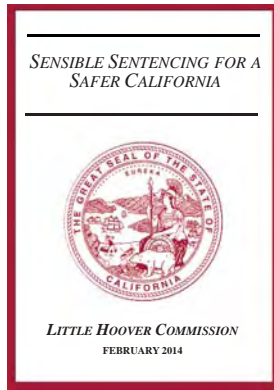
In its February finding, commission Chair Jonathan Shapiro called California’s correctional system “a slow-motion disaster.”

The commission is a bipartisan and independent state oversight agency.

The commission operates in the interest of taxpayers. It holds public hearings, consults with experts and visits government operations in action in order to help government agencies perform better. Its conclusions are given to the governor and Legislature for consideration.

Seven years ago, the commission issued “an unusually blistering report warning that time was running out for California policymakers to resolve the state’s corrections crisis.” (*Solving California’s Corrections Crisis: Time is Running Out*)

The commission urged policymakers to amend the Penal Code to reflect that the purpose of incarceration cannot just be punishment, but also to reduce



recidivism and successful community reintegration. “Rehabilitative programs and reducing crime are not mutually exclusive,” the commission said.

“District attorneys who collectively have opposed even the slightest changes to sentencing laws are going to have to compromise,” the commission report said. Bringing prison population to levels that do not violate the ban against cruel and unusual punishment “cannot be achieved without eliminating the state’s chronic imbalance between what its sentencing laws require and the resources available to incarcerate offenders.”

“Scientific research in the past 40 years has led to significant progress in many areas in Cali-

fornia,” the commission noted. “When it comes to criminal justice sentencing, however, California has ignored the science.”

The commission cited the national trend in attitude toward incarceration policies, noting that taxpayers “do not want to pay for failed policies that cycle offenders in and out of prison or incarcerate the mentally ill and the addicted for lengthy sentences without access to quality treatment.”

The commission recognized that Realignment demonstrated that “California is serious about addressing its prison overcrowding problem.” However, “Realignment alone will not be enough to bring the department into compliance with the Supreme Court order,” according to an April 2012 report issued by CDCR.

The commission cited plans to build new prison beds:

Over the past several years, the state has allocated \$1.7 billion to expand local correctional facilities. The state has awarded \$1.2 billion to 21 counties for an expected expansion of 9,000 jail beds. The Board of State and Community Corrections plans to award another \$500 million to 15 counties for additional local capacity in 2014.

In September 2013, policymakers enacted SB 105, which

authorized \$315 million in the 2014-15 budget and \$1 billion in additional funding over three years for the state to lease additional prison cells, either county jail space or private correctional facilities both in and outside of California.

In the governor’s 2014-15 budget proposal, Brown proposed an additional \$500 million for more expansion and improvements to local facilities for program space.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

The state previously had built 12 prisons over the course of 132 years. During the 20-year building campaign between 1984 and 2005, California policymakers enacted hundreds of laws increasing sentence length, adding sentence enhancements and creating new sentencing laws. The result was that every new prison the state built filled to capacity quickly.

With the exception of the recently completed California Health Care Facility and the planned infill housing previously described, California ended its prison-building boom with the opening of Kern Valley State Prison in 2005. This was after adding 21 new facilities between 1984 and 2005.

Prior to the February 2014 court order, the California De-

partment of Corrections and Rehabilitation projected that the prison population would slowly continue to climb to approximately 136,600 by June 2014 and more than 142,000 by 2019 barring any additional changes, moving the state away from the 137.5 percent of capacity required by the courts.

In its Fall 2013 Adult Population Projections report, CDCR reported a spike in new admissions of offenders with a second strike in 2012-13, an increase of 32.6 percent over the previous fiscal year.

Approximately 20 percent, some 25,000 offenders, are serving term-to-life sentences, for example, 15-years-to-life in prison.

Of these, approximately 10,000 “lifers” have passed their minimum term. Nearly a third of the offenders serving life terms with the possibility of parole, which is more than 8,000 offenders, are 50 years old or older. Almost half of the offenders serving 25 years to life as a result of a third strike, nearly 4,200 offenders, also are older than 50.

CDCR data show that less than 5 percent of lifers released from prison are returned to prison for a new crime, compared to 51 percent of the rest of the prison population released from prison.

## Ballot Measure Would Reclassify 7 Nonviolent Crimes

This November, California voters will decide whether to reclassify seven types of nonviolent drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

Proposition 47 would generally allow people in jail and prison to appear before a judge and have their sentences reflect the lower terms.

The measure would also create a fund for programs intended to reduce crime and support crime victims, according to *California Budget Project*.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates net savings to the overall criminal justice system, both state and local, in the hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

“If Proposition 47 passes, California will be the first state in the nation to end felony sentencing for drug possession and petty theft crimes,” reports *Califor-*

*nians for Safe Neighborhoods & Schools*. “The initiative will permanently reduce incarceration and shift one billion dollars over the next five years alone from state corrections to K-12 school programs and mental health and drug treatment.”

In a recent *San Francisco Chronicle* opinion column, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón said, “Our overincarceration problem cannot be solved until we address our penal code, which is outdated with excessive punishments, especially for drug offenses. But drug use is going up. The *National Survey on Drug Use and Health* found in 2012 that since 2012, illicit drug use increased by 8 percent and 20 million Americans who need substance abuse treatment did not receive it. We’ve failed.”

Gascón added, “Proposition 47 can reverse these trends by

prioritizing prison space for those convicted of violent, serious crimes and investing the savings in mental health treatment, schools and victims — smart strategies to improve public safety. Fear mongering won’t work; the public knows it’s time to rethink our safety priorities. Proposition 47 will help us do that.”

*California Budget Project* reports, “Opponents of Proposition 47, including the California District Attorneys Association and Crime Victims United, argue that ‘California has plenty of laws and programs that allow judges and prosecutors to keep first-time, low-level offenders out of jail if it is appropriate. Proposition 47 would strip judges and prosecutors of that discretion.’ Proposition 47, they argue, ‘will overcrowd jails with dangerous felons who should

be in state prison and jam California’s courts with hearings to provide Get Out of Prison Free cards.’”

The measure increases the threshold dollar amount for a crime that could be considered a felony to \$950 for the following crimes: Check fraud, Forgery, Shoplifting, Petty theft, Petty theft with a prior, Receiving stolen property.

In addition, the measure reclassifies most unlawful drug possession as a misdemeanor.

When a defendant appears before a judge for resentencing, the judge will deny relief if he determines that there is an “unreasonable risk” the person will commit one of several violent felonies.

State parole officers would supervise released offenders unless the court chooses to waive the parole requirement.

Excluded from relief are defendants with “a prior conviction for a serious and/or violent offense, as specified by the measure, or for any registerable sex offense.”

Proposition 47 requires any state savings to be deposited into a special fund beginning in August 2016 exclusively for three purposes:

- Sixty-five percent for mental health treatment, drug treatment and diversion programs in order to reduce crime.
- Twenty-five percent for programs designed to improve outcomes for K-12 public school students by reducing truancy and supporting students who are at risk of dropping out or are victims of crime.
- Ten percent for trauma recovery centers to provide services to victims of crime.

—By Juan Haines

## Implementing Restorative Justice to Keep Kids Out of Prisons

‘A huge part of our work was interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in our own community’

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

A Chicago-based nonprofit is finding success helping at-risk kids stay out of prison by using restorative justice as a model toward resolving disciplinary issues in the classroom.

“A huge part of our work was interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline in our own community,” said Mariame Kaba, the founder and director of the Project NIA organization. It supports youth who

appear headed for the criminal justice system.

The organization committed to a local school, Gale Community Academy, assisting them in addressing disciplinary issues differently, as opposed to sending children to the principal’s office where suspension or in some cases arrest would be imminent. Project NIA teaches local schools the benefit of peace circles and third-party mediation measures.

Kaba says the costs should be borne by local and state

government.

“Chicago Public Schools (CPS) really needed to take on the cost that is needed for a school like Gale...” Kaba said in an interview with Susan Du of *The Chicago Bureau*.

There is not a positive track record with the public school system supporting proactive alternatives to handling disciplinary issues, but there is good reason to be optimistic about future collaboration, the January article reported.

Jadine Chou is the newly appointed head of safety and

security at CPS. Chou has been trained in restorative justice and used it while working with the Chicago Public Housing Authority.

Kaba also asserted that schools are not the inception of the prison pipeline. There has long been talk about there being a cradle-to-prison pipeline, much of which is due to the poverty in urban cities. Where there is poverty, one can usually find an abundance of negative influences and trauma and high percentages of literacy challenged people.

These things contribute to high levels of delinquency, she said.

The schools need to do better at providing adequate training for teachers and classroom management, without relying on punitive measures to restore order, she added.

“CPS has done a great job of taking zero tolerance out of the discipline code, but they haven’t funded the initiatives that are going to be needed to support the practical implications of teaching people how to not be punitive,” Kaba said.

# Study Reveals Decline in Juvenile and Adult Crime Rates and Incarceration

By Chung Kao  
Journalism Guild Writer

California has seen drastic drops in the rates of youth and adult incarceration in the past decades, accompanied by declines in the youth and adult crime rates, says Mike Males of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

The state's rate of youth incarceration has dropped 60 percent compared to that in 1996, and its rate of adult incarceration is 24 percent compared to 1999, according to Males.

"California has all but abolished state imprisonment and has sharply reduced local incarceration of youths to the lowest levels ever recorded – by far," Males said in a March report.

Males reported that there was "a 60 percent drop in the rate of youth incarceration in 17 years, along with a huge shift toward local and shorter terms" and that the current rate "probably (stood) at an all-time low."

In 1996, 20,793 California youths were locked up – 10,115 in state-run youth facilities and 10,678 in local juvenile halls and camps – in a total youth population (ages

10 to 17) of 3.7 million, he said.

As of Dec. 31, 2013, California held only 9,336 youths behind bars – just 683 in state-run youth facilities and 8,653 in local juvenile halls and camps. This is in spite of the fact that the teenaged youth population has grown to 4.1 million since 1996, he added.

Males also reported "an unprecedented reduction in adult incarceration" in the state – adult prisoners decreased by 30,000 since 1999.

About 240,000 adults were held in California state prisons and local jails on an average day in 1999 in an adult population (ages 18 to 69) of 21.7 million, according to Males. In 2013, only 217,000 were incarcerated in an adult population of 25.8 million. "That's a decline in the adult incarceration rate of 24 percent in 14 years, back to the level of 1993," he said.

Such decline in incarcerations "was largely forced on the state by court mandates and budget constraints," Males concluded. Yet California's youth crime rate plummeted to its lowest level since 1957, and adult violent crime declined since 1999 through

the first half of 2013, he said.

"While large-scale de-incarceration of youth and low-level adult offenders in favor of alternative strategies may contribute to long-term ben-

efits, the size of California's crime decrease, especially among youth, suggests much larger forces are at work." He commented that "locking up lots of younger and lesser

offenders is not vital to public safety today and opens up discussion beyond the simplistic debates of the past surrounding get-tough measures and sentencing reform."

## Minorities Facing Racial Disparity in Private Prisons

Minorities make up 89 percent of the inmate population in California's private prisons, according to *Business Insider* news.

Doctoral candidate Christopher Petrella at the University of California, Berkeley, recently conducted a study on nine state prison systems with large private prison populations. The study "revealed for-profit prisons jail minorities even more disproportionately than publicly operated prisons," said Harrison Jacobs, author of the *Business Insider* article.

Jacobs noted that The Sentencing Project, a reform advocacy group, put the number of minorities incarcerated in the United States as high as 60 percent.

"While minorities are disproportionately incarcerated in all prisons in America," Jacobs

said. "The percentage of minorities in private prisons is often higher than 60 percent in some states' private prisons."

Jacobs cited the Petrella study to show the proportion of people of color in California's public prisons is 76 percent, but in its private (outsourced) prisons it is 89 percent. In Mississippi, the number of people of color in public prisons is 66 percent, but in private prisons it is 75 percent.

The Petrella study attributed the higher rate of minorities in private prisons to the for-profit prisons using contractual provisions to target young, healthy (and thus more profitable) inmates, Jacobs wrote, and, according to the study, younger prisoners tend to be minorities.

Petrella found that the private prison companies write exemp-

tions for certain types of prisoners into their contracts with states to target younger and healthier prisoners and avoid "above average" health care costs, Jacobs reported.

Petrella also found that prisoners older than 50 years are predominately white, and those in the 20-to-40-year-old range are far more likely to be black, Hispanic or any other minority, said Jacobs.

Jacobs cited the Petrella study to show that in Texas' public prisons 57 percent of inmates are people of color and in its private prisons the number is 69 percent. At the same time, the percentage of 50-year-or-older inmates in its public prisons is 37, but in Texas' private prisons, older inmates are a mere 17 percent.

—By Chung Kao

## Labcon Industry Offers Prisoners Minimum Wage

*The opportunity will be missed: 'I'm going from \$9 an hour to about 30 cents an hour'*

*Continue from Page 1*

It was "a really big check," said an inmate worker. In fact, the check was about 2 feet wide by 4 feet long.

CVS has an office in Marin, where it provides counseling services for victims of rape and abuse, along with other services.

Speaking to the men, Montilliano said, "I want you to know that your hard work will help women and children." Schlau said, "We provide advisory services from housing to mediation." When counsel-

ing abuse victims, one important aspect is empowerment of the victim, indicated Schlau. She said, "We talk about taking control of their lives." CVS maintains a 24-hour crisis center and receives calls night and day, seven days a week.

Montilliano said that CVS serves several Marin communities and receives referrals from a number of other organizations. CVS works with agencies such as law enforcement and children's services.

"It's a full-time job helping victims find medical attention, housing or counselors,"

said Montilliano. Speaking of the many people who benefit from their services, Montilliano said, "We provide services of one type or another to over 1,000 people every year." According to Schlau, CVS also has a number of volunteers who assist in their work.

The other recipient, Sunny Hills Services, operates Sunny Hills Children's Center.

"What you're doing is a really great thing — giving back to the community," said Karen Bischoff of Sunny Hills to the gathered men.

Although the center's focus

is on children, it also provides services to adults. Bischoff said most of their contact is with women, and there is "hardly any domestic violence support for men." However, according to Rusty Bechtold, administrator of the Inmate Employability Program, "You never know, some time you [men] may need that help."

According to inmates, the ceremony was bittersweet because Labcon is closing its Joint Venture program at San Quentin. The packaging of "tipetts" and "culture tubes" done by Labcon workers is

now going to be performed by a robot. Therefore, affected inmates will soon be losing their income and losing what some say is the best job at San Quentin.

According to Aly Tamboura, "It's nice to have a nest egg when you get out." He said that although he has some money saved for when he leaves prison, he would prefer that Labcon not close. Commenting on the financial state of most paroling inmates, Tamboura said, "When the state gives someone \$200 at the gate, how do they expect them to survive?"

Tamboura was on a waiting list for about 18 months before he could get his Labcon job. Although he has saved some money, "It would be better to have a little more." He said that the \$200 given to newly released prisoners might be one night in a hotel and a meal – and asked, "What do they expect a person to do after that?"

Inmate Labcon worker Al Garner said, "I'd loved to have stayed for the 16 months I have left, but at least I have some savings for parole." Speaking about Labcon he said, "The opportunity is – well there's none like it. I'm going from \$9 an hour to about 30 cents an hour," he said referring to finding a prison job after Labcon is closed.

All the inmates are feeling a little bit at a loss, said Bruley Overda. "I'm proud that we gave all that money to people needing financial help," he said. "We had a good thing."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Labcon employees, prison officials and donation recipients pose with checks outside Labcon work area

# ACLU Sues Alameda County for Forcing Women to Take Mandatory Pregnancy Tests

By Nelson T. Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

A civil rights organization is suing to halt the forced pregnancy testing of women when they are booked into the Alameda County jail.

This amounts to an invasion of the women's privacy, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) said in the lawsuit filed in June against Alameda County Sheriff Greg Ahern.

Plaintiffs are three women, including a 69-year-old political activist, who were forced to submit to the testing. The suit says the forced testing violates priva-

cy rights under both federal and state constitutions, and violates state law allowing inmates to refuse non-emergency medical care.

"The sheriff's policy publicly intrudes into one of the most intimate and private areas of a person's life — reproductive decision-making," the suit states.

This case comes on the heels of the revelation that some women were sterilized by state prison doctors against their will and consent.

Plaintiff Nancy Macias said she was forced to take a pregnancy test after her arrest during an August 2012 political protest.

"Being forced to submit to a pregnancy test against my will was not about my health," Macias told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "It was invasive, offensive and humiliating."

The suit filed in Superior Court included a 2010 letter from Ahern to the ACLU, stating that women who are brought to the Glenn Dyer Jail are tested so they can be provided with the necessary medical treatment. When a woman tests positive, she is transferred to the Santa Rita County Jail where there is an obstetrics clinic, the letter said.

Susan Harman, a political ac-

tivist, was 69 years old when she was forced to take a pregnancy test in 2010 after being arrested during a protest of the Oscar Grant shooting. Harman says the testing was not done out of concern for her health.

"Nobody gave us any explanation," she told the *Chronicle*. Harman, who is diabetic, says officers ignored her requests for her daily insulin shot, but were insistent that she take a pregnancy test. Both Harman and Macias were released the following day, without the results of their tests.

The ACLU says that the proper way to conduct the testing is to offer it on a voluntary basis

as part of the routine health care screening.

A spokesman for Ahern, Sgt. J.D. Nelson, said the forced testing was part of the settlement from a 10-year-old lawsuit against the sheriff's office for not providing pregnancy testing.

"If you tell us that we have to test people and then tell us that we can't test people, what can we do?" Nelson said. He did not provide details of the settled lawsuit or who filed it.

The lawsuit does not seek monetary damages, but instead requests the court to order the sheriff's office to end the practice.

## Report: The 80 to 90 Percent of Women Who Seek Mental Health And Substance Abuse Programs Experienced Violence and Trauma

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Eighty to 90 percent of women seeking services from public mental health and substance abuse programs have experienced violence and trauma, frequently beginning at childhood, according to a September 2013 report.

The Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma has published "a working document" entitled "Trauma-Informed Approaches: Federal Activities and Initiatives" that stresses a "trauma-informed" approach to addressing the consequences of violence and abuse against adult and young women.

"I was shocked by the sobering statistics. Thirty-seven percent of women with disabilities have experienced violence and abuse in their lifetime, compared with 20 percent of women without disabilities," said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy.

The report relies on findings

made by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that sponsored a five-year study on this issue called "Women, Co-Occurring Disorders and Violence."

This long-term study demonstrated that in addressing the needs of women regarding public health and social services, the central focus for a successful recovery must be on the trauma they experienced. New ways of responding to such trauma also were stressed, including evidence-based interventions and education counseling models.

The Federal Partners Committee supports a "trauma-informed" approach to addressing the needs of women and girls and describes efforts to reduce rates of violence and trauma as a multi-agency and multi-pronged strategy, with prevention being a key part of the plan.

The committee reported on "cross-agency" collaboration — the coordination between more than three dozen federal agencies and sub-agencies, based upon a

shared concern about trauma.

"All of us have to be out there convincing folks that this is the right work to be done, and this is the right time to do it," said Commissioner Bryan Samuels of the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families.

The Department of Defense (DOD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (SAPRO) are now assisting women and girls by use of "trauma-specific treatments."

The DOD's sister agency, U.S. Department of Education, is tackling the issue by assigning the women, violence and trauma problem to its Office for Civil Rights (OCR). OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which has brought a significant measure of fair treatment and equal protection to both male and female students. The act prohibits discrimination

based on gender, and protects against sexual harassment and sexual violence in public and private spaces and institutions.

Another major federal agency, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), has also adopted trauma-informed strategy in dealing with women and abuse issues. Its sub-agency, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), states as part of its mission that by learning more about the trajectories by which trauma develops, NIH wants to stimulate innovative psychological and biomedical approaches that can prevent or change these trajectories before the consequences of the trauma occur.

These initiatives and activities on behalf of major agencies of the federal government indicate that cross-collaboration is underway.

Other federal agencies showing distinct orientation toward the trauma-informed strategy include DHHS's Office on Women's Health (OWH), the Department of Justice's National

Institute of Corrections (NIC), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Office for Victims of Crime, each of which are mentioned in the report.

The core finding by SAMHSA, as stated in the report's preface, is that empowering women to tell their own stories produces both healing and a powerful force for change. SAMHSA's influential study conducted from 1998-2003 has been the foundation of the Federal Partners Committee's trauma-informed approach.

However, "One thing was immediately self-evident," says Valorie Carson of Johnson County, Kansas' Interagency Trauma-Informed Care Task Force: "No organization would ever be 'done' implementing trauma-informed care. Once begun, it would be a continuous process requiring ongoing reflection on practices and policies, training for new staff and boosters for long-time staff and an attentive eye on the organization's culture to prevent returning to prior practices."

## SHU Confinement Said to Violate Eighth Amendment Rights

Continue from page 1

punishment — and that SHU placement without meaningful review violates their right to due process.

The class action motion was filed by 10 Pelican Bay inmates in the SHU, but the state has since moved five of them to other quarters. Wilken's order allows the remaining five to represent "500 Pelican Bay prisoners who have spent more than a decade in isolation, and some 1,100 put into solitary because of alleged gang associations," the *Times* reported.

"There is a clear and consistent pattern in the stories articulated by these 10 men about the psychological consequences of spending a decade or longer in the SHU," court records said. "Plaintiffs allege that SHU inmates live in almost total isolation. They spend at least 22 and a half hours per day in windowless, concrete cells."

"They are denied telephone calls, contact visits and vocational, recreational or educational programming. And, because SHU prisoners do not receive any meaningful review of their placement, their isolation can effectively be permanent," *Bay View* reported.

Among the issues in the lawsuit, inmates are challenging the process the state prison system used to decide whom it confines in super-maximum security units "for an indefinite stay," the *Times* reported.

"SHU assignments disproportionately affect Black and Latino prisoners. The percentage of Latinos in the Pelican Bay SHU, for example was 85 percent in 2011, far higher than their representation in the general prison population, which was 41 percent," *Bay View* reported.

Attorneys representing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) say "isolation is necessary... to hinder gang activ-

ity inside and outside prison walls," the *Times* reported.

Wilken did not allow the California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), the prison guard union, to "intervene in the lawsuit," the *Times* reported.

Court records show that the CCPOA argued it has "an interest in protecting the safety of its members" by preventing prisoners from leaving solitary confinement. The guard's union also argued that it "should be granted leave to intervene."

"Neither of these arguments is persuasive," Wilken wrote. "CCPOA has not explained why defendants cannot adequately protect the safety interests of CDCR officers in this litigation."

Many inmates who are part of the lawsuit worked last year to organize a statewide hunger strike to call attention to the use of solitary confinement throughout the prison system.



Inside a Pelican Bay cell

File photo

# The Experiences and Struggles Of Undocumented Immigrants

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Many people wonder what it is like to live in an underground economy. Undocumented immigrants live that life. Living in a country without documents and being a part of an underground economy is something I have experienced. I know what it's like to live in a country where you want to become a citizen, but cannot.

Readers probably are thinking that I wanted to be a citizen of the U.S., but that is not the case. I am a U.S. citizen. I was living as an illegal immigrant in Mexico.

Living undocumented and underground gave me an interesting perspective on U.S. immigration policy. Reflecting on it now, I can feel empathy for the 11 million U.S. undocumented people living in the U.S.

Reflection also brings to mind the saying, "Don't judge me until you've walked a mile in my shoes."

## WALKING IN MY SHOES:

I was facing 123 years to life for a residential burglary under California's Three Strikes law. Before my trial, I got out on bail and fled to Mexico.

Authorities from both countries hunted for me as a fugitive from the U.S. and I had to live underground in Mexico. Even though my entire heritage was Mexican, I couldn't be a citizen while undocumented.

While working on a farm, I met a beautiful woman, settled down and started a family. I had to look over my shoulder all the

## EDITORIAL

time. Despite that fearful feeling, I did my best to settle into my life.

That fear of dodging the authorities made me think of my heritage — of my father when he first came to the U.S.

My situation in Mexico was the opposite of my father's situation. My father was illegally in the U.S.; I was illegally in Mexico. The difference: My father wasn't wanted by the law. Nevertheless, we both lived fearing the authorities.

## U.S. HISTORY GENERALLY UNTOLD:

During World War II, as many U.S. citizens were pressed into military service, there was a gaping need for laborers in the workforce. When Mexico joined the Allied Forces in 1942, the U.S. and Mexican governments entered into the Bracero agreement.

The Bracero program was a series of diplomatic agreements whereby the U. S. hired temporary contract laborers from Mexico for manual labor. However, the program created a new underclass of American workers who were underpaid and who could not climb up the socioeconomic ladder. Americans looked down upon this new immigrant class.

When the war was over, the Braceros were supposed to go back to Mexico, but many had established families in the U.S. Going back to Mexico would mean uprooting their families

and going into a situation best described as uncertain. Moreover, there was an estimated half billion dollars still owed to ex-Braceros. The fight for that money continues even today.

My father came to the U.S. under the Bracero agreement. But, he didn't want to go back to Mexico. He stayed because marriage to my mother brought the responsibilities of raising nine children. Being a hard worker in the U.S. provided the resources to care for them. Thus he became an illegal immigrant.

## IF THE SHOE FITS:

Reflecting on my family history, I am able to see that the Bracero program altered

the fate of many people, the many Mexicans who came to the U.S. seeking a better life for their families.

When I worked as a farm laborer in Mexico and my beautiful daughter was born, I also took on family responsibilities. But, that didn't change the fact that I was a fugitive and living illegally in Mexico. I was caught between two worlds of my own creation—being an outlaw and wanting to take care of my family. In the end, my family came first.

When it comes to the immigrants who are now working in the U.S. but are outside of the law, I think we should

reach out and change the rules because these people are human beings and doing hard labor that really helps the U.S. economy.

It is a "tough on crime" mentality — not wanting the U.S. to look weak — that makes some citizens steadfastly say, "The law is the law."

But we need to face reality: The people who would be helped by immigration reform are people who break their backs to create a better life for their family. There has to be a balance if America is to be considered a place where compassionate people live and it is a country of opportunity in the eyes of the world.

I am suggesting that U.S. immigration policy should provide a path for law-abiding undocumented workers to become citizens. They are the hard working, family-first type of people who Americans respect.

# Respecto a las Apelaciones De Reclusos

Por Kevin D. Sawyer  
Presidente del gremio periodístico

Reclusos a menudo se quejan acerca del rechazo de la tramitación de sus quejas, las cuales son conocidas como apelaciones administrativas, cuando los coordinadores locales las procesan.

El problema se incrementa cuando los reclusos no comprenden completamente el sistema de apelación y los continuos cambios hechos a los Códigos de Regulaciones de California, Estatuto 15 — Title 15— (División 3).

La última revisión importante al proceso de apelación tomo lugar en el 2011, cuando la Regulación y Sucursal de la Gerencia de Póliza (RMPB, por sus siglas en inglés) del Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) presento una Notificación de Cambio de Emergencia a las Regulaciones (NCR) para adoptar y enmendar secciones del Estatuto 15.

Estas nuevas regulaciones introdujeron la Forma CDCR 22, Recluso/Solicitud de Entrevista para ex-reclusos en libertad condicional, Artículo o Servicios (CDCR Form 22, Inmate/Parolee Request for Interview, Item or Services). Esta forma reemplaza el nivel informal de revisión en la Forma CDCR 602 (CDCR Form 602) anterior.

Las apelaciones son presentadas en una Forma CDCR 602, Recluso/Apelación para ex-reclusos (CDCR Form 602 Inmate/Parolee Appeal. Estatuto 15, secciones 3084 y 3084.1 hasta 3084.9 gobiernan la Forma CDCR 602.

No existe referencia a la Forma CDCR 22 en ninguna de estas secciones porque ellas no gobiernan esta nueva forma. La forma 22 es gobernada por el Estatuto 15, sección 3086. Esta sección delinea el procedimiento en como escribir peticiones sólidas.

El Estatuto 15 esta en un continuo estado de desarrollo

porque el CDCR no es una entidad estática. El Estatuto 15 cambia en acorde a las necesidades del departamento, la población presidiaría, y mandatos expuestos en la ley.

*“Todas las regulaciones del CDCR tienen que ser creadas y aprobadas en acorde con los requerimientos del Acta de Procedimientos Administrativos de California (APA)”*

Cambios propuestos para el Estatuto 15 son escritos por el CDCR e imprimidos en NCRs; los reclusos algunas veces se refieren a ellas como “esas cosas rosadas” por el color de la portada.

“Todas las regulaciones del CDCR tienen que ser creadas y aprobadas de acuerdo con los requerimientos del Acta de Procedimientos Administrativos de California (APA),” según al Manual para Prisioneros del Estado de California, por Heather MacKay y la Oficina Legal de Prisiones. “La APA es explicada en la sección del Código de Gobierno 1134 y secuencial. Los estatutos requiriendo al CDCR promulgar reglas conforme a el APA fueron aprobados en 1975, legislativamente anulando una decisión de la corte que había dictaminado que el APA no aplica a las reglas del CDCR.”

El APA manda que los cambios a regulaciones sean disponibles al público con un periodo siguiente para los comentarios públicos. Esto puede suceder al atender una audiencia publica sobre regulaciones propuestas

en fechas y horarios especificados en las oficinas del CDCR 1515 S St., North Building, Sacramento, CA. 95811; Audiencias publicas so sostenidas en otros localidades, de acuerdo a Kristina Khokhobashvili, oficial de Información Publica de CDCR escribiéndole a CDCR RPMB, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA. 94283-0001; enviando un fax al (916) 324-6075; o enviando un correo electrónico a [RPMB@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:RPMB@cdcr.ca.gov). Cuando el periodo de comentario publico termina, información sobre los cambios propuestos a regulaciones es transmitida a la Oficina de Ley Administrativa (OAL)

Para ser analizados en Sacramento. La OAL puede o no aprobar ciertos cambios por muchas razones.

Una Decisión de Desaprobado de Acción Regulatoria puede ser emitida para algunas regulaciones. Regulaciones aprobadas son dirigidas a la Secretaria del Estado de California para ser actualizadas en el Estatuto 15.

Regulaciones en trámite (NCRs) no citadas en una publicación actual del Estatuto 15 pueden ser leídas en las librerías legales de la prisión o en la Internet. Notificaciones “tienen que ser publicadas inmediatamente en cuanto son recibidas en las locaciones accesibles a los reclusos, ex-reclusos bajo libertad-condicional, y empleados en cada instalación del departamento y esfera de actividades...” de acuerdo con el Manual de Operaciones del Departamento.

NCRs también pueden ser enviadas directamente por correo si alguien desea recibir una copia escribiendo al CDCR RPMB y solicitando ser añadido en su lista de direcciones.

Las regulaciones dirigen el uso de las formas CDCR (i.e. CDCR 22, 602, etc.). Comprendiendo como trabaja el proceso de regulación puede hacer la comunicación entre reclusos y personal menos adversaria, partidarios dicen.

—Traducción Jorge Heredia

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### We Offer News Reports, Not Legal Advice

From: Steve L.  
Wasco State Prison:

I enjoyed reading your news on Three Strikes. Good work! I hope your paper continues to be informative on the conditions and well-being of prisoners as well the community.

Would you send me the latest information pertaining to any time cuts for prisoners by Governor Brown? Your response is patiently awaited.

Please send me literature or a list of other things I may buy

with postage stamps.

#### Editor's response:

We are glad that you enjoy the *San Quentin News*, and we appreciate that you have taken the time to write us. You can be sure that we will report on any significant developments concerning time cuts.

Unfortunately, we cannot fulfill your request. We cannot give legal advice and we do not have the resources to send literature to prisoners.

—Emile DeWeaver  
SQ News Staff

## Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

# Report: Tough on Crime Era Resulted in Failure

By Ted Swain  
Staff Writer

Years of “get tough on crime” policies have failed, according to a study by Karol Lucken of the University of Central Flor-

ida. Lucken’s study condensed decades of analysis of mass incarceration policies.

When coupled with reports of the Vera Institute of Justice, clear conclusions can be drawn that demonstrate few winners

in the “get tough on crime” era. According to the analysis, the get-tough era, or as some call it, mass incarceration, has failed in every respect. The perpetual prisoner machine is a broken-down clunker.

Lucken pointed out that financial considerations are bringing criminal justice operatives face-to-face with the reality of their failed policies. Unsustainable practices leading to mass incarceration have caused political jurisdictions to suffer financial strain. Because of their inability to carry the financial burden they created, politicians and bureaucrats are now changing course and their messages.

Public sentiment and penal practices are shifting. Pronouncements fanning public fear as a way into office are giving way to more reasoned policies. According to Lucken, “voters are moved by language that suggests they could be getting more bang for their investment,” when it comes to corrections.

The university report says “policies which defined the era such as the War on Drugs, minimum mandatory sentencing, habitual offender statutes, three strikes and truth in sentencing statutes, have been thoroughly analyzed and disputed.” In addition, according to Lucken, documented effectiveness of the programs has been found lacking.

Years of interpretation by many organizations leads to an inescapable conclusion that the failures are significant. There is a clear lack of success in criminal sentencing practices across the board. The studies show mass incarceration has no demonstrable affect on crime or

recidivism. William Shepherd, chairman of the American Bar Association, said that overcriminalization has in fact produced negative results and made the problem worse.

Newly incarcerated people primarily come from three sources, according to the Vera Institute.

The first group are people who have been just been convicted of a crime. Then there are those who are on probation or parole, who violate the conditions of their probation or parole. This second group of probation or parole violators makes up 44 percent of the national prison population, according to the report.

However, research found when examining the probation/parole group who have committed a new offense in which the evidence is weak, the authorities simply declare the person “in violation of his parole” and do not have to prove anything in court. This makes up the third group.

As a punitive policy experiment, scare tactics of law enforcement propelled the get-tough era. Legal factors such as legislative and statutory changes to penal codes facilitated excessively long sentences, according to Vera.

In the last 40 years, the combined prison population of all states swelled by over 700 percent. During the same period, costs of running state prisons increased from \$6.7 billion to about \$50 billion.

## Department of Justice Focuses On Improving Criminal Justice

By Micheal Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Department of Justice has conducted a review of the criminal justice system to identify reforms needed to ensure the uniform application of federal laws for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This project identified five goals:

1) The devotion of finite resources to the most important law enforcement priorities.

2) To promote even-handed law enforcement and reduce unequal impacts of the criminal justice system.

3) To ensure fair punishments for low-level, nonviolent convictions.

4) Bolster offender re-entry efforts geared to deter crime and reduce recidivism.

5) Strengthen protections for vulnerable populations.

All phases of the criminal justice were reviewed in August 2013 — including charging, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry — to examine which practices are most successful at deterring crime and protecting the public. Demographic disparities of fundamental fairness were also reviewed.

The review suggests a need for a significant change in the approach to enforcing the nation’s laws. It found the cycle of poverty, criminality and incarceration snares too many Americans and debilitates communities,

and many aspects of the criminal justice system may actually exacerbate these problems.

Although aggressive enforcement of federal laws is necessary, the government cannot prosecute its way to becoming a safer nation, according to the study. Federal efforts must also focus on prevention and re-entry to be effective. The report also acknowledged it is time to rethink the nation’s system of mass incarceration. In 2010 alone, state and federal incarceration budgets cost \$80 billion nationwide.

The DOJ wants to shift away from over-reliance on incarceration for low-level offenders and concentrate resources on law enforcement priorities, such as violence prevention and protection of vulnerable populations.

The Justice Department’s initial package of reforms is dubbed the “Smart on Crime” initiative. It is the start of an ongoing effort to update the criminal justice system. The DOJ proposed these principles for getting smart on crime:

Prioritized prosecutions focused on the most serious crimes that implicate clear, substantial federal interests. These interests include protecting citizens from national security threats, violent crime and financial fraud as well as, protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

Reform sentencing to eliminate unfair disparities and re-

duce overburdened prisons. The rising cost of maintaining prisons imposes an oppressive burden on taxpayers and communities. The Bureau of Prisons comprises one-third of the Justice Department’s budget.

Pursue alternatives to incarceration for low-level, non-violent crimes. Incarceration is not the answer in every case. Alternatives to confinement include substance abuse treatment programs and better supervision as a means to reducing recidivism.

Improve re-entry to curb repeat offenses and re-victimization. Recidivism rates are high. A reduction of even one or two percentage points in the recidivism rate could create long-lasting benefits for the formerly incarcerated and their communities.

“Surge” resources to violence prevention and protecting the most vulnerable populations.

Even though crime rates have fallen, neighborhoods still suffer high levels of homicide, shootings and aggravated assaults. Exploring cost-effective reforms to the prison system will allow law enforcement to redirect scarce resources toward violence prevention.

In addition to these violence prevention efforts, the Department of Justice also remains focused on serving victims of crime. It will empower survivors who need assistance the most.

## Stanislaus County Invests Millions For Re-entry and Bed Expansion

By David Eugene Archer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Stanislaus County has launched a \$113 million construction program to add 480 jail beds and a re-entry center.

It is the largest capital project in county history. The jail expansion includes a medical and mental health wing, *The Modesto Bee* reported.

“It is good for jobs and the builders, but the outcome of jail expansion has been nothing but failure,” said Vonya Quarles, an organizer for All of Us or None. She has organized rallies against jail expansion in River-side County.

“It costs \$52,000 a year to put someone in county jail. That would be better spent on mental health services, substance-abuse treatment or early education,” Quarles told *The Bee*.

As part of Realignment, the state awarded \$80 million for jail expansion and \$40 million for the re-entry center in

Modesto.

Patty Hill Thomas, the county’s chief operating officer, expects construction work to start in September and be completed in late 2016.

**“It is good for jobs and the builders, but the outcome of jail expansion has been nothing but failure”**

The state’s jail construction financing program coincides with the public safety Realignment program passed by the California Legislature. It had been proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown in response to court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. It keeps some lower-level prisoners in county custody, instead of locking them up

in state prison.

The county will cap the current expansion with 288 beds of transition jail housing in the new re-entry facility, which will have classrooms and resources for inmates who are within a year of release.

The new jail beds will allow the antiquated men’s jail in downtown Modesto to be emptied, the newspaper reported.

Jill Silva, chief probation officer, said at an Aug. 15 kickoff ceremony that programs are changing the lives of criminal offenders. The new jail facilities will come with services for those struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse and addiction.

Hensel Phelps of San Jose will construct the maximum-security units and support facilities under contracts totaling \$82.6 million. The county awarded a \$4.4 million contract for Simile Construction of Modesto to build the probation reporting center.

## Gov. Brown Signs Senate Bill 1010

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

Legislation to eliminate disparities for certain drug crimes has made its way through the California Legislature.

The measure, SB 1010, would “reduce the penalty for possession for sale of cocaine base to be the same as that for powder cocaine” and revises “the guidelines for probation eligibility for both the possession for sale of powder cocaine and cocaine base.”

The bill, titled the *California Fair Sentencing Act*, is authored by Sen. Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles.

Opposition to the measure has surfaced from the California Narcotics Officers Association and California Police Chiefs Association.

The CPCA is quoted in the bill analysis as saying, “We believe that the preferable approach is to raise the penalties for powder cocaine trafficking to the same level that currently exists for trafficking in cocaine base ... Although we support equalizing the penalty structures, we do not believe that drug traffickers — who visit real harm on communities — should be the beneficiaries of legislation that equalizes the penalty structure.”

Advocates for SB 1010 include Susan Burton, Michelle Alexander, Jonathan Simon and

Dr. Joy Degrew. They suggest that for years disproportionately targeted sentencing practices have her book, *A New Way of Life*, Burton wrote that, “For far too many years, we have had to watch harsh penalties applied disproportionately to black and brown urban communities.”

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports that from 2005 to 2010, statistics show that blacks accounted for 77.4 percent, Latinos 18.1 percent and whites less than 2 percent of the people who were convicted and sentenced to prison for the possession and sales of crack cocaine.

Delia de la Vara, vice president of the National Council for La Raza, California Region, told the ACLU, “Statistics don’t lie. Communities of color are treated differently within California’s judicial system, often subjected to harsher sentencing for essentially the same crimes as their white counterparts.”

Supporters of the bill include Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey, Santa Clara District Attorney Jeff Rosen, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón and Santa Barbara District Attorney Joyce Dudley.

After Assembly approval, SB 1010 advanced to the full Senate for final legislative action. On Sept. 29, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill.

# Disciplinary Policies Send Black Preschoolers To Court Instead of Principal's Office

By **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**  
Journalism Guild Writer

President Obama's administration has advised educators to abandon overly zealous disciplinary policies, many of which send students to courts instead of the principals' offices, reports *The Associated Press*.

Black children make up about 18 percent of the nation's preschoolers but almost half of the students who were suspended

more than once, the American Education Department's (AED) civil rights arm reported earlier this year.

Highlighted in the report were racial disparities, lack of access to advanced classes and quality instruction, and discipline policies within the educational system. These lead to the argument that due to racial disparities associated with the handling of disciplinary issues, black children begin to gravitate toward

criminal behavior.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said something must be done immediately.

"Every data point represents a life impacted and a future potentially diverted or derailed. This administration is moving aggressively to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in order to ensure that all of our young people have equal educational opportunities," Holder said.

The report drew this response

of U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan: "It is clear that the United States has a great distance to go to meet our goal of providing opportunities for every student to succeed."

The AED study on pre-school children suspension disparities was a first. However, it is widely recognized that get-tough suspension and arrest policies target minority students and contribute to the "school-to-prison" pipeline, according to the AP report.

"The racial disparities in American education, from access to high-level classes and experienced teachers to discipline" were highlighted in the AED report.

There is more training going on to ensure teachers are aware of the importance of keeping students in school, said Reggie Felton, associate director at the National School Boards Association.

ciation.

National Education Association teachers' union President Dennis Van Roekel said, "too many children don't have equitable access to experienced and fully licensed teachers."

Van Roekel said he believes that today's policies, at least in part, disregard the professionalism of teaching, and there is a revolving door of under-prepared teachers, resulting in the inability to make a notable difference.

The report also gave statistics on Hispanic children who face similar disciplinary improprieties.

While Hispanics make up nearly one-third of the preschooler population, they made up 25 percent of the preschoolers suspended once and 20 percent of preschoolers suspended more than once.

## Curbing Truancy in California to Prevent Dropouts

By **N.T. Butler**  
Journalism Guild Writer

A campaign is underway to curb truancy in California, termed a crisis that frequently leads to dropouts, crime and prison.

"We take this matter very seriously," Attorney General Kamala Harris said in a March news conference to endorse a series of bills in the Legislature to combat truancy.

She said more than 690,000 elementary (K-6) students – 20 percent of the total – were truant at least once in the 2011-12 school year.

If not stopped in elementary grades, students are more likely to drop out of high school, and dropouts are more likely to wind up in prison, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Harris said.

Five bills introduced in March of this year aim to strengthen accountability by both state and local school districts when it comes to the collection and reporting of truancy statistics. Truancy is defined as any student who is late to class by 30 minutes or more without a valid excuse three times during the year.

"We need to try to get ahold of our young people early and make sure they end up in the classroom and not the courtroom," said Assemblyman Chris Holden, D-Pasadena, during the news conference. Holden is the author of one of the proposed bills.

"With this slate of bills, we are not putting more students in the juvenile justice system, but inviting communities to intervene before they end up in the penal system," said Holden.

The proposed legislation would require that the Attorney General's Office issue a report each year, increase truancy data collection and require counties to create school attendance review boards that issue reports on truancy intervention programs. It also requires prosecutors to issue reports whenever charges are filed against a parent or student to enforce attendance laws.

"We act like it's a surprise, but it's not," Harris said during the press conference. "Almost all of it is predictable. Instead of being reactive, this data will allow us to be preventive."

Harris said her interest in the truancy issue began when she was San Francisco district attorney. She noted that 94 percent of San Francisco's homicide victims under the age of 25 were high school dropouts.

In September 2013, Harris released her report of the truancy problem in the state, which was the first statewide assessment of truancy specifically addressing elementary schools and the financial impact on counties.

The report concluded chronic truancy and absenteeism in the state's schools caused California to lose \$1.4 billion a year in funding and suffer lower test scores and a higher dropout rate. The report estimates that society lost \$46 billion a year when other factors are added, including reduced earnings, increased welfare services and higher crime rates for high school dropouts.

Calaveras County reported the highest truancy rate at 31 percent of the county's elementary school students. Yuba County had the lowest rate, with only 4.9 percent of elementary students being truant.

## University Symposium To Focus on Education

By **Thomas Gardner**  
Journalism Guild Writer

California needs to continue reducing prison overcrowding and focus more attention on education and communities, according to a recent university symposium.

The University of California Merced's Center for the Humanities sponsored the event, titled "30 Years of Mass Incarceration."

"We don't want to save money, we want to spend it on education and the bettering of the community," said activist and author Ruth Wilson Gilmore, as reported by the *Merced Sun Star*.

"Things do not have to be the way they became. There were alternatives away from mass incarceration, but they weren't taken," Gilmore added.

The event featured professors

and authors as part of the university's seminar series called "Race and Justice in Transnational Perspective."

On the subject of race and injustice, mass incarceration cannot be avoided, said Associate Professor Tanya Golash-Boza, organizer of the symposium.

"When we talk about race disparities and injustice, incarceration is a big issue," she said.

Two of the university's professors from the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, Nigel Hatton and Zulema Valdez, also volunteer their time and energy with the Prison University Project. The professors said the inmates they have worked with appreciate the access to education, the *Sun Star* reported.

Golash-Boza noted that symposium attendees included students, organizers of projects and public defenders.

## San Francisco Sheriff's Department Aids Mentally Ill Inmates

*Continued from Page 1*

ing out of jail once released," Mirkarimi said in a *San Francisco Bay Guardian* opinion piece. "Keeping in touch is almost an impossible reality considering the jolting cost of making a \$1 per minute in-state, long-distance or pre-paid collect call."

In the *Guardian*, Mirkarimi said the jail's new telephone contract with GTL includes a 70 percent reduction for a 15-minute collect or pre-paid collect, in-state, long-distance call — from \$13.35 to \$4.05. There is also a 32 percent reduction for a 15-minute, debit, in-state, long-distance call — from \$5.98 to \$4.05.

"We are now entering into a new commissary contract with lower fees," Mirkarimi said in the *City & County of San Francisco Sheriff's Department Newsletter*. "Having a family member in jail creates

many financial hardships, and every few dollars saved lessens that burden."

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department is implementing a new city law allowing its staff to enroll inmates into health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, Mirkarimi told *The California Report*.

Mirkarimi said that he believes making sure people have health coverage when they are released will help prevent them from committing another crime and coming back.

"With the Affordable Care Act, you can now qualify for Medi-Cal based on income," said Tanya Mara, the director of the health division of jail re-entry services. Medi-Cal allows health insurance for low income Californians.

The Affordable Care Act has expanded Medicaid to include adults who have no children, which qualifies most prisoners for the government health coverage at no cost when they are

released. In addition, the new coverage includes treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders, problems af-

fecting more than half the people in prison or jail, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Justice.

"You have a captive audience," Mirkarimi told *The California Report*.

*The California Report* cites Mirkarimi as wanting to ensure that "the 30,000 prisoners who come through the jail system every year are covered on the day they're released." Howev-

er, he recognizes even if someone has a Medi-Cal card, that doesn't mean they will know how to use it.

"We, and our staff, help them get ready. But ultimately, it's on them," Mirkarimi said in the report.



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Inside San Bruno County Jail's housing unit



# 'DARKNESS IN THE GOLDEN STATE'

By Leslie Lakes  
Contributing Writer

A well-attended fundraising event sponsored by Legal Services For Prisoners With Children (LSPC) was held in August at the Luggage Room Gallery on Market Street in San Francisco.

LSPC is a nonprofit organization located at 1540 Market St. in San Francisco. Its main mission is to organize communities impacted by the criminal justice system and advocate to release incarcerated people, to restore

human and civil rights and to reunify families and communities. LSPC focuses on providing legal support, trainings, advocacy, public education, grassroots mobilization and development of community partnerships.

Dorsey Nunn, executive director of LSPC, has more than 35 years of experience working on prison-related issues. He was a co-founder of All of Us or None, an LSPC project started by formerly incarcerated people in 2003. Nunn was involved with many social justice organiza-

tions from their beginnings, including Critical Resistance and the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

This event was to raise public awareness about the horrific effects Security Housing Units, often referred to as "solitary confinement," through visual and written art forms donated by inmates currently incarcerated in Pelican Bay State Prison, San Quentin Prison and prisons elsewhere in the country. Featured were works by San Quentin inmate artists Thomas Winfrey, Ronnie Goodman and others.

In addition to thought-provoking art, photos and written works on display, Nunn read his original poems and Mark G. performed a dramatic monologue.

The evening also featured a screening of a short film, "Well Contested Sites," a 13-minute dance/theater performance that explores the issue of mass incarceration and the complexity of experiences faced by those incarcerated. The film was a collaborative effort by Bay Area performing artists — some of whom were previously incarcerated — and filmmaker Austin Forbord and choreographer Amie Dowling. The performance piece was developed and filmed on Alcatraz Island.

After the event, a senior friend who attended commented, "I grew up pretty straight-laced without much prior sympathy for those who committed crimes and have to pay the penalty. Thus, I know prison life is awful, especially solitary confinement ... Fortunately, the beliefs we grow up with often change or diminish as we age, and from my own experience, I can now empathize with the feeling of isolation."



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Painting created by Criss Garcia, who is in Pelican Bay (SHU). Photo also serves as the media flyer for the event



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Admirers scan the wall for interesting art pieces



Photo by Leslie Lakes

From an unknown artist in Pelican Bay (SHU)



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Artwork courtesy of Rudy Villa



Photo by Leslie Lakes

One of many people enjoying the artworks on display

The evening's purpose was summed up by Amie Dowling, co-director and choreographer of "Well Contested Sites:"  
"... (may) our efforts and investments continue to interrupt

the oppression of mass incarceration and celebrate the artistic and intellectual genius that resides in the men and women most impacted by the prison industrial complex."



# CDCR Puts Spotlight on Gender-Responsive Strategies

By Krissi Khokhobashvili  
CDCR Public Information  
Officer

Women are different from men. While this may seem like a simple statement, it's a fact many people, businesses and organizations have long ignored. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), however, takes the needs of female offenders seriously, understanding how gender-responsive strategies are vital to reducing recidivism.

This was the basis of the Gender Responsive Strategies Conference, held recently in Folsom. CDCR welcomed corrections officials, stakeholders and employees from headquarters and California's three female prisons: Central California Women's Facility (CCWF), California Institution for Women (CIW) and Folsom Women's Facility (FWF). The two-day event gave insight into the work CDCR is doing to rehabilitate female offenders, from health care and programming to parole and re-entry services.

Jay Virbel, Associate Director, Female Offender Programs and Services, said the intent of the conference is not only to gauge CDCR's success so far, but to look to the future and how the department will continue to help women succeed.

"It takes everyone in this room to make that happen," he said, "from the community, to the leaders, to the academics, all the way through. It takes all of us. Thank you for wanting to participate. Thank you for taking time to participate and making this meaningful."

Participants were invited to tour FWF. Correctional officers and program directors led groups throughout the institution, where they met inmates furthering their education and gaining tangible job skills through the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA).



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

## Inmate Danilla Espiritu is training this dog through the Canine Companions for Independence program at Folsom Women's Facility

A group of inmates at FWF are training dogs through Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization providing service dogs to people who can't otherwise afford them. The puppies, Penley and Nieve, were a hit with the FWF tour groups.

CALPIA's headquarters are just steps away from FWF, and women in the construction program there have been hard at work installing a modular building, including pouring the foundation and creating a park-like area in front.

On the second day of the conference, Shannon Swain, Deputy Chief Superintendent, Office of Correctional Education, emphasized the importance of getting the right inmate in the right program at the right time, and having a variety of programming available makes this possible. The biggest lie in the world, she told the audience to much laughter, is "one size fits all."

"The same is absolutely true about programs and about edu-

cation," she added. "We have 35 individual (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)-accredited schools with principals and staff out there, teaching academic and Career Technical Education every day. Those types of CTE programs include everything — building maintenance, carpentry, electrical, small engine repair ... there are many opportunities for people in our prisons to get an education if they want one."

Working alongside re-entry programs is the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO), which has specialized programs in place for supervising female parolees. Maritza Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Administrator of DAPO, said the department's practices have evolved from surveilling offenders and re-arresting violators to supporting parolees in their efforts to not return to prison.

Rodriguez discussed the HEAL Initiative (Housing, Employment and Linking services), a partnership between DAPO and the Division of Rehabilitative Programs created to reduce female offender recidivism. Components include pre-parole classes at Re-Entry Hubs, Female Offender Treatment and Employment Programs, specialized caseloads to address unique re-entry challenges for females and statewide staff training in gender responsiveness. These efforts, Rodriguez said, are paying off.

"We have a huge uptick in how many parolees we have in really good programming," she said. "We were kind of in this business of just getting them to the door; now we're in the business of trying to keep them in the door."

CDCR staffers aren't the only ones helping women change their lives. The conference included several people who have made it their life's work to help women. Dr. Stephanie Covington, PhD, LCSW, of the Institute for Relational Development and Center for Gender and Justice, developed the Beyond Violence program at CCWF and CIW.

Beyond Violence employs the Social-Ecological Model used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to

understand violence, as well as by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) research on women in prison. This four-level model of violence prevention considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community and societal factors and addresses the issues that put women at risk for experiencing or perpetrating violence.

Covington told conference attendees it is a myth women are becoming more violent. She said the perception exists because of changes in policies and the justice system which are over-highlighted by the media. But it doesn't mean they don't exist.

"The majority of women who are incarcerated for violent, aggressive crimes," she said, "are women who themselves have been victims of violence."

Virginia Dunstone, Executive Director of Women 4 Change, is the creator of LifeScripting, an 80-hour workshop at CCWF in which female offenders analyze their behaviors and choices. Dunstone asked the audience how many of them spoke English. When everybody raised her hand, she asked how many of them have been told to stop speaking English, a language

most learned in childhood. The room was quiet.

"You don't tell yourself to stop speaking the language you learned," she said. "And yet we learn every single belief solidly, in our childhood, and we get up day after day telling people, 'Just stop your behavior.' Behavior has to be recognized before it can be changed."

More than 600 women have gone through the program at CCWF, Dunstone said, with 550 on the waiting list. Training will be conducted soon to expand the program statewide, as women have let CDCR know the program has changed how they think about themselves and how they communicate with others, including their families.

"Because of the things I've learned in this class, I am going to lead a positive, more empowered life," one inmate wrote about participating in LifeScripting. "This class has also taught me how to be a better mother, sister, granddaughter, etc., when I parole. I am now in charge of my own life."

Dunstone said it's all about information.

"They don't need me, they need information, and when that information affects them, they talk," Dunstone said. "It happens with so many of your programs. Because you care about women — they know it. And they go and sign up and tell everybody, 'Please go to the program, it will serve you.'"

Dr. Barbara Owen, PhD, helped CDCR revise its Gender Responsive Strategies training, which is required for all correctional and institutional staff working in female facilities. She said research has proven time and again such strategies, combined with programming such as Beyond Violence, work.

"Women are not men," she said. "And I think we know that from our own lives — I think everyone who works in women's facilities knows they're different than male facilities. We now have the evidence, which we kind of knew already, that gender-responsive practices lead not only to improved outcomes, but vastly improved outcomes."



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

A tour group learns about the California Prison Industry Authority's Green Valley Training Center located near Folsom Women's Facility



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Dr. Stephanie Covington shares information about the Beyond Violence program she developed that helps female offenders work through their own trauma to understand how to make positive choices

By Larry Stiner Jr.  
Contributing Writer

# A Story I Knew All Too Well

## An 'OG's' Perspective

Recently, I ran into a childhood friend and asked what he'd been up to. "Just came back from another funeral," he answered. I shook my head, wondering what violent act had cursed our community this time.

You see, for many in South Los Angeles, it is more common to hear about death by the gun than by natural causes.

"I'm tired of seeing these young brothers buried," he added before I could ask the details about another inner-city life cut way too short. Actually, I didn't need to ask. I was sure it was just a different version of a story I knew all too well: The temporary silence of the night is interrupted by automatic gunfire.

A black male body drops. Loud cries of despair bounce against angry shouts for retaliation. Faint sounds of sirens

grow louder as the emergency vehicles close in on the scene. A sudden beam of light from the hovering police helicopter turns the dark street into an eerily bright spot on the city map. Soon, yellow caution tape sets the boundaries and, eventually, a white sheet covers the lifeless victim. Disturbingly, the triggerman could be a gang banger, a neighborhood watchman or a police officer. And lately, the lines between them seem to have gotten more blurry.

When my friend sighed, my thoughts transitioned from the people directly involved in this type of community violence to those on the sideline who witness it by sight or sound.



Larry Stiner Jr.

What goes through the young, impressionable mind of a little girl who constantly hears the sounds of gang-related gunshots just outside her bedroom window? What

is the teenaged boy feeling while huddled with his friends at school asking if any of them heard about the Florida kid who was shot and killed on his way home from buying a bag of Skittles?

And what about the pain of the parents whose young son, despite being unarmed and having his hands up, was shot multiple times and killed in the street by an officer of the law?

With tragedies like these being witnessed, I am not surprised that more and more people from the inner cities are being diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), despite having never ventured near a battlefield. Then again, we did see

police in military vehicles with roof-mounted machine guns ready to shoot as they patrolled the streets of Ferguson, Mo.

We did see camouflage-clad police snipers pointing laser-scoped rifles at unarmed citizens who assembled to protest the excessive force a policeman used. Though on a smaller scale, I think this is not unlike the experience of many citizens on the sideline in the war zones of Iraq, Afghanistan and Gaza.

As my friend walked away, I wondered how a lifetime of tragic events in the "hood" had affected him. I thought of myself and some of the things I had seen growing up in the inner city. And I contemplated ways to lessen the likelihood of our children and their children becoming a part of a story I knew all too well.

This guest column is by Larry Stiner Jr., the eldest son of Watani Stiner.

# Half-Mad Hero Battles Big Baddie

By SQ Reviews

*Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* is a movie that entertains, but its plot is close to slipping into absurdity.

Professor James Moriarty (Jared Harris), the most brilliant criminal in Europe, murders and buys his way into control of key business industries, so he can start a world war. His endgame is to sell guns and cotton — yes, cotton — to both sides.

The movie is directed by Guy Ritchie, who pits the half-mad mind of Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) against the half-sane mind of Moriarty in a cat-and-mouse game that unfolds in Europe during the Victorian era.

Rahsaan Thomas defended the story's plausibility. To a prisoner who grew up hearing stories about how the CIA flooded inner cities with drugs while the government made a business

## MOVIE REVIEW

out of fighting drugs, the story is not far-fetched. "After watching Bush use the wars after 9/11 to feed Halliburton's pockets," Thomas said, "this movie screams plausible."

It is difficult to argue with Thomas' experience. The plot, however, feels shallow, not because of what occurs, but because of why events occur and the character that makes them happen. Moriarty is wealthy, but if he succeeds in his schemes without being executed for treason, he will have ... he will be ... wealthy. We expect evil genius to make better risk-reward assessments. We would have liked the movie more if iconic genius had spawned a plan with aims more original than money.

Fortunately, talented actors salvage the plot. Downey and

Jude Law continue with the chemistry that helped the success of the first *Sherlock Holmes*. Downey plays the stimulant-abusing, self-centered gentleman with charm, and Law convincingly affects long-suffering love for a friend who is both ridiculous and deeply flawed.

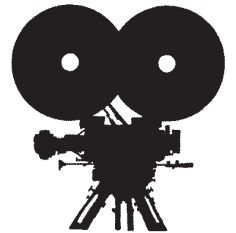
Jared Harris inhabits Moriarty and transforms any scene that lingers on him. He radiates malevolent power through an aloof demeanor, and his smile imparts the feeling that one is sinking in quicksand.

When SQ Reviews met to discuss *A Game of Shadows*, one of the points of contention was the film's historical inaccuracies. Tommy Winfrey was the biggest proponent of the film's right to set aside historical accuracy. "It's not a historical movie,"

Winfrey said. "It's supposed to be attention-grabbing, and the scenes do that."

Winfrey found little support for his position. Most of us belong to the prison demographic that reads a lot, and we can get indignant when we feel like our screenwriters are not taking the time to read at least an encyclopedia before writing a story of Victorian England. To Winfrey and the film's credit, it turns out the rest of us need to read a book on the steampunk genre, which is the setting for *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows*.

Steampunk is a subgenre of speculative fiction that posits an alternate reality where steam instead of fossil fuel became Western civilization's preeminent power source. A hallmark of this genre is a more advanced level of technology than would otherwise be associated with a given era. Though Victorian alternate history settings are common, steampunk is not limited



to this era.

Other movies from the steampunk genre include 2011's *Three Musketeers*, starring Orlando Bloom, and *Wild West*, starring Will Smith.

We averaged out our ratings, and on a scale of one to five canteen items, the film rated two and a half bags of potato chips. Though opinions conflicted, we all agree that if you like to watch trees explode in slow motion, you will like *A Game of Shadows*.

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Aaron Taylor, Erin O'Connor, Juan Meza, Miguel Quezada, Rahsaan Thomas and Tommy Winfrey

# Historical Account of One Guard's Career

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Imagine sitting in a waiting room, and you pick up this over-sized beautiful looking coffee-table book. You open it up and read about a horrific murder. This scraggly faced guard stares at you and you then realize—this is the beginning of a journey, you never expected.

Reading and seeing what's contained in this historical account makes an inmate think about doing time in that fearful place versus this programming place—it's San Quentin.

Detailed anecdotes, beginning with George Jackson, tell known stories from another perspective—analysis I never knew or read about. *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin* is fresh, at least in my limited learned mind.

Nevertheless, it seems a bit eerie seeing these large print

## BOOK REVIEW

black and whites, knowing the violent history of San Quentin, its grave yard, the walls, and Golden sitting with his side arm—a .357 magnum.

Golden has his take on convicts, as he calls us, and prison life, including the food he admits to like and eat. Big difference for me, as this food has turned me into a quasi-vegetarian. All the same, Golden's perception about the ins and outs of prison life is interesting and fascinating, even remarkable in its attention-grabbing style.

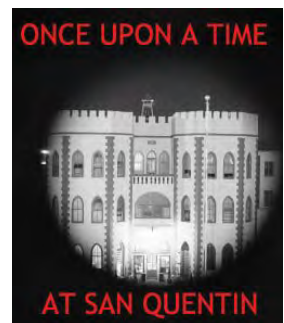
He calls the Adjustment Center the Dungeon of Death, a place back then where correctional officers, "who through the unfortunate fate found themselves sentenced by

a vindictive administration to work."

*Once Upon a Time at San Quentin* gets to some criticisms about the criminal justice system:

*Self centered and arrogant 'Johnny Law' believes what happens on the streets should totally consume on-duty prison guards, while street police have little or no concept of life in prison. Worse still, judges, prosecutors and juries have condemned these hapless California State victims to the living hell called San Quentin.*

The account, *If you Build It, They Will Come* is more criticism, this time aimed at the Pennsylvanian Quakers who "had a bad idea" when they decided to "put these long metal



bars on all the windows."

Golden makes his point clear in *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin*:

"The focus of true prison reform must be on seven groups of people, both in prison and on the streets, listed by social importance.

- 1) Street victims of violent crime.
- 2) Juries.
- 3) Tax Payers.

4) Prison Correctional Staff.

5) Innocent Inmates, in prison and wrongly convicted of crime.

6) Prison Inmates who are victims of violent crime while imprisoned.

7) Guilty incarcerated Inmates.

Failure to recognize all seven of these categories will eventually lead to a breakdown in all social cohesion."

That being said, Golden has his own radical ideas about fixing penal problems in America, including the use of a firing squad to execute the guilty within 30 days of sentencing. I guess many of the guilty subject to a firing squad would be putting off their sentencing indefinitely.

Editor's Note: *San Quentin News* endorses *Once Upon a Time at San Quentin* because its sales are directly tied to donations that help print and distribute newspapers to inmates who otherwise would not be able to read all about it.

# Arts & Entertainment

## ***Sudoku Corner***

7		8		5				9
5	1			9	2			
9				1				3
		3		2		7		6
4		7		6		3		
1			5					7
		4	2				3	5
3				9		8		2

1	8	6		5	2			
		5		6			8	
3		4		1		5		
	4							5
8		3		2		4		7
5							3	
		7		3		8		9
	3			8		7		
			7	4		3	2	6

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

4	8	6	5	9	3	1	7	2
5	7	2	4	8	1	3	9	6
3	1	9	7	6	2	8	5	4
7	4	3	9	1	6	5	2	8
2	6	8	3	5	4	7	1	9
1	9	5	8	2	7	4	6	3
9	2	7	1	4	8	6	3	5
6	3	4	2	7	5	9	8	1
8	5	1	6	3	9	2	4	7

9	7	8	6	3	4	2	1	5
1	5	6	8	2	9	7	3	4
2	3	4	5	7	1	8	6	9
4	6	5	7	8	2	3	9	1
7	1	3	9	4	5	6	8	2
8	2	9	3	1	6	4	5	7
3	8	2	1	9	7	5	4	6
6	9	7	4	5	8	1	2	3
5	4	1	2	6	3	9	7	8

From Around the World is a new section in *San Quentin News*. We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the newspaper. We hope you would include a well-known landmark in the background of your photo. We also invite you to give your take on the newspaper. So far, readers from Amsterdam, Germany, Africa and Dominican Republic have answered the call. Let's hear from the rest of the world.

### Snippets

**M**ajor League Baseball, manager Dusty Baker, led the San Francisco Giants to 103 wins in 1993. Unfortunately their record did not help them, they were defeated by the Atlanta Braves in the National League West race.

**O**ctober brings the Halloween celebration for many Americans. The name Halloween originated from the word 'Allhallows' which is to honor all saints.

**N**ightmares often occur when evil spirits visit and haunt those that are asleep, according to folklore.

**S**tephen King has written 34 books that were turned into movies. He is the highest grossing living author. His films' net gross is \$835.9 million.

**T**he author Mary Shelley created Dr. Frankenstein as a young medical student who creates a monster which ended up destroying him.

**E**ntertaining millions of viewers, the music video *Thriller* by singer Michael Jackson sold more than 900,000 units.

**R**esembling and appearing as a soul, spirit and demon, a ghost often visits the living.

*Featured Photo by P. Jo*



**Brooklyn Bridge**

# Transparency Lacking in Private Prisons

By Chung Kao  
Journalism Guild Writer

The increasing use of private prisons in the United States has created a growing problem: contracting away transparency and government accountability by federal and state governments, said a reform advocacy report.

A recent report by the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) criticized the trend of privatizing prisons by the federal and state governments that results in a lack of public access to the records maintained by the outsourced prisons.

"Privatizing entities once under exclusive governmental control has eliminated a key component of public accountability — access to information that explains how the prisons are being run, at what cost and the extent to which they are engaging in

abuses that deprive prisoners of their basic civil liberties," proclaimed the CREW report.

## PUBLIC RECORDS

Records of federal public prisons are maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Prisons, and are subject to the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Similarly, records of state public prisons are maintained by the respective state departments of corrections and are subject to the state open records laws, such as the California Public Records Act.

The FOIA and the states' open records laws provide the public with a mechanism to access governmental records, which promotes transparency of the public services and accountability of the government bodies that are responsible for providing the services.

"By contrast, private prisons

are not subject to the FOIA and generally are not subject to state open records laws," the CREW report said. "... As a result, the public is denied access to basic information that would provide a full picture of the workings and conditions of private prisons."

## CREW REPORTS

According to the CREW report, 18.6 percent of the federal prison population and more than 7 percent of state prison populations were incarcerated in private facilities as of Dec. 31, 2012. Corrections Corporations of America (CCA), the nation's largest private prison company, and GEO Group, the world's largest, monopolize the federal prison market, with CCA also running 53 facilities from state and local governments, the report said.

The CREW report detailed how CCA and GEO Group —

who as for-profit entities serve the interests of "shareholders and the bottom line rather than the public" — have strategies to get and stay where they are today. They have lobbied heavily against any legislation that might have threatened their interests; provided generous campaign contributions to congressional and state political candidates, parties and other entities; and used philanthropic giving as a way to curry influence, the report showed.

## PPIA

The private prison industry has lobbied successfully against the passage of five versions of the Private Prison Information Act (PPIA), which would have subjected private prisons to the FOIA. "This legislation has never been voted out of committee in the House of Representatives," said the CREW report.

The private prison industry also has successfully blocked attempts by the Arizona Legislature to make the state's private prison records public, the report noted.

The CREW report proposed these solutions:

- Enactment of a statute like the PPIA and similar state legislation.
- Congressional hearings to monitor private prisons.
- Legislation other than amendment of the FOIA that requires disclosure.
- Authorization of data collection from private prisons by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.
- Congressional oversight.
- Investigation and studies by the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Offices of the Inspectors General at DOJ and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Grassroots efforts.

# Proposition 36 Inspires Further Sentencing Reform

*'We might have to look more holistically at the penal code to see if it makes sense, to see if some of the structures of sentencing are too harsh, especially with various kinds of enhancements'*

A Stanford University law professor reaffirmed the need for further reform of California's sentencing laws in an interview held on the anniversary of Proposition 36, the Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012.

California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36 in November 2012. Proposition 36 amended the Three Strikes Law so a third strike,

which carries a 25-year-to-life sentence, must generally be a serious or a violent felony. It also provides for petitions for reduction of sentence by prisoners who are serving life sentences for crimes that no longer qualified as third strikes.

"The interesting thing about Proposition 36 is that it was a major structural change in the penal code, in the sentencing

law. I do think that, and the governor has indicated this, we might have to look more holistically at the penal code to see if it makes sense, to see if some of the structures of sentencing are too harsh, especially with various kinds of enhancements," said Robert Weisberg in an interview with "The California Report" show on KQED last November.

Weisberg is a professor of law and co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center.

When Proposition 36 passed, it was the first time that voters, anywhere in the United States, passed a retroactive sentence reduction for inmates, according to Scott Shafer of "The California Report."

"If you look around the nation over the last 15 years or

so, there's been what you might call a fair amount of political buyer's remorse about the extremely harsh sentencing regimes that were instituted," Weisberg said, "...and we've had a lot of initiatives that had led to reductions in incarceration in other places."

Indeed, in recent years Congress has stepped up efforts to reform the federal mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws — having passed the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 and introduced the Justice Safety Valve Act and the Smarter Sentencing Act of 2013.

Mandatory minimum drug sentences have significantly contributed to overcrowding and racial disparities in the federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission and a recent report by the Congressional Research Service. BOP is operating at about 140 percent of capacity.

Similarly, the California Blue Ribbon Commission in its 2005 report on corrections identified the draconian and confusing sentence enhancement laws as the primary cause of overcrowding in California's prisons and urged the governor and the legislature to reform them. Not coincidentally, the state corrections system is running at about 140 percent capacity, dropping from over 180 percent after federal court orders.

Also interviewed on "The California Report" show was Bonnie Dumanis, district attorney of San Diego County. Of the more than 130 prisoners released to San Diego County under Proposition 36 only two have reoffended. Dumanis cautioned, however, "I'm really worried that with the Realignment, and the Three Strikes, and all that's going on with limited resources, that there is a definite public safety risk."

—By Chung Kao

# Study Reveals Problems Ex-Offenders Have Finding Employment After Prison

*'More support of government efforts by voters would help'*

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

With the number of jobs scant and new job creation scarce nationwide, future employment for some ex-offenders is harder than it is for others, according to a recent study.

Finding work after prison "is not equally distributed across race and ethnic groups," according to the study *Criminal Stigma, Race, Gender, and Employment: An Expanded Assessment of the Consequences of Imprisonment for Employment*. The authors of the study are Scott H. Decker, Ph.D., Cassia Spohn, Ph.D., Natalie Ro Ortiz, M.S., and Eric Hedberg, Ph.D., who used funds provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.

It is more difficult for African-Americans and Hispanics to find a job after being released from prison than for whites, the study finds. "Further complicating the problem is the fact that these two minority groups comprise the largest and fastest-growing segment of the prison population."

Gainful employment is a major component for a sound re-entry, the study finds. How-

ever, what is missing are the particular skills ex-offenders need to meet market demands. Additionally, ex-offenders suffer from their criminal past, as researchers have discovered a symbiotic relationship between criminality and the unskilled worker.

The lack of gainful employment is also a major concern to public safety officials, according to the study. Without access to resources that will lead to the training needed to compete in today's job market, ex-offenders are likely to return to criminal behavior, various studies show. The data shows that men and women who have a prison record do far worse attaining gainful employment than those without a record.

What these men and women need is vocational training as well as training in online application processes and creating a resume, the study concludes.

The lack of community involvement also factors into high percentages of recidivism, the study shows.

The community needs to become more aware that men and women in prison will be returning to society at some point.

There needs to be a better understanding and willingness by community members to give ex-offenders a chance to succeed.

Various efforts are underway to ease hindrances against ex-offenders. One taking root nationwide is a campaign called Ban-the-Box. The campaign stops employers from asking an applicant to disclose whether they have a felony conviction on job applications.

"More support of government efforts by voters would help to begin finding resolution to this problem," said Kim Richman, Ph.D., professor of sociology and legal studies, at the University of San Francisco. "Our local business owners and their employees need to be willing to give these men and women opportunities to succeed. They set the tone as to whether or not a chance should be given to those returning home. Ban-the-Box is a step in that direction."

Ban-the-Box has been implemented in several cities in California, including Oakland and Richmond.

However, Richman noted, "There is a lack of policies supporting these efforts, and there

are laws that place barriers on development of these programs that really don't need to be there."

Aside from legislative barriers, there is the issue of community acceptance of these programs in their neighborhoods. Re-entry programs, while seen as a major conduit for returning ex-offenders and their successful re-socialization, often must deal with the indifference of the community, the study says.

San Francisco has assembled a Re-entry Council to assist ex-offenders once released from jail or prison. The council consists of the mayor, district attorney, chief public defender, sheriff and chief of police, a judicial appointee and the public health representative.

San Francisco city has implemented programs that begin with stable living conditions for ex-offenders. Ex-offenders are taught how to prepare resumes. Employment is sought for the ex-offender through a network of professional and private entrepreneurs.

Recently the County of Santa Clara began a similar program using the Reentry Council of San Francisco's model.

# 'What Steps Have You Made to Take Personal Responsibility in Your Life?'

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The autumn season is in full swing. The World Almanac reports the month of October has the following national observances: National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diversity Awareness Month and National Popcorn Poppin' Month.

Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Friday, Oct. 3, Columbus Day is on Monday, Oct. 13, and Halloween is on Friday, Oct. 31.

After October, only two months remain before we close out 2014. Similarly, many of the men who have served decades in prison may be getting closer to the door to freedom if they can convince the parole board that they are not "currently dangerous."

Mainliners who have served the minimum terms of their life sentences with the possibility of parole prepare themselves to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings. Many chose to rehabilitate themselves through workshops offered by ILTAGs such as the San Quentin TRUST, Alliance for

## Asked On The Line

Change, Kid CAT or ELITE.

Others took college courses offered through Patten University, Coastline College or Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

Some participated in Peer Health Education training offered through Centerforce or learned to understand and curb their violent tendencies, manage their anger or heal from the trauma of child abuse through various groups offered by the Insight Prison Project.

Men on the mainline recently were asked, "What steps have you made to take personal responsibility in your life?"

George "Mesro" Coles-El thought this was a great question. "First, I had to inform myself of my own ignorance. This was the biggest hurdle because arrogance is strong in the male ego. Once that happened, I began making amends with my family and friends as best I could while becoming more of a person of service — helping others help me be a better man.

In doing so, I have learned that I am the sole force responsible for everything that happens to me. No one else was responsible for my actions except me, in that no one can influence my decisions and life unless I let them. The best step to take in being responsible for my life is making the best choices I can in life. Peace."

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez said, "I have taken groups and utilized the skills taught in each group to communicate better with my family. I am able to talk with my family about issues we had difficulty talking about when I was growing up. This broke the cycle. Today, I share with them all of the skills I have learned while in prison."

Tim Thompson said, "I have used education as one way of taking personal responsibility. Responsibility is not just saying I am sorry and that I will not do it again. Responsibility for me is also teaching others so they will not make the same mistakes that I made. Educa-

tion gives me the information and ability to not only recognize my faults, but to also show others why my actions were wrong."

Teddy Fields said, "I have quit blaming others for my woes and have learned the concept of accountability. I have come to realize that I am the sole dictator of my happiness and blaming others will not contribute to a wholesome life."

Terrell Merritt said, "First of all, I had to make a choice of what direction I wanted my life to take. Once I did that, I began to try to match my actions with my intentions. Now I try to surround myself with like-minded individuals in order to strengthen my resolve to continue to move forward. I own my own mistakes and work to identify my shortcomings in order to turn them into strengths."

Randy Maluenda said, "I live as if I will die tomorrow, but I learn as if I will live forever. Tomorrow is not guaranteed,

so I live and breathe the serenity prayer: accept the unchangeable, try to change what I can and have the wisdom to know the difference in this adventurous life, with God's help."

Leroy Lucas stated, "The first step that I took was attaining my GED. Getting that allowed me to understand the concept of accomplishment. I also thought honestly about my past actions and how I could redeem my mistakes. I began to take the initiative and read self-help books, which led me to take various self-help classes. Now I am a straight-A college student."

David Le was poetic in his response. He said, "When I wake up, I ask myself: What have I left undone? When I go to sleep, I ask myself: What have I done?"

Jesus Flores said, "I had to learn to respect authority and follow the rules. When I was young, I didn't want to listen and I broke the rules because I did not respect authority. I also learned that no matter how tough I thought I was, there was always someone tougher than me. I also got older and learned that it's better to make friends than enemies, because you never know where you are going to end up."

## Obituary: Honoring the Life Of Russell Mefford

Russell Mefford died of cancer at 6:57 p.m. on Aug. 22.

His devoted wife, Denise, lost a husband. His three sons — Andrew, Austin and Adrian — lost a father. His family lost a member. "As a result of Russell's death, San Quentin will be a less happy place," Michael Wolke said.

Wolke said he met Russ, 50, on the Level III yard at Solano. They came to San Quentin on the same bus in 2009 and struck up a friendship that Wolke says carried them happily through these last years.

"Russ was an honorable and principled man who carried himself in a dignified way,"



Russell Mefford

ing (in their cell), but also his presence and humor."

Russ's co-workers at his prison job where he was a welder in the maintenance department said he would be missed.

His many friends from throughout the years of his incarceration will also miss him. Russ will be especially missed at San Quentin by the ones who hold him in a corner of their hearts.

"Russ, my friend, if there is nothing after this, it was a privilege to know you," Wolke said. "But if there is a place for the likes of us, well, I guess I will see you there. Rest in peace."

Wolke said. "He was a chef of outstanding quality." His cellie, Gary Valentine, added, "I'll miss not only his cook-

### San Quentin News

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The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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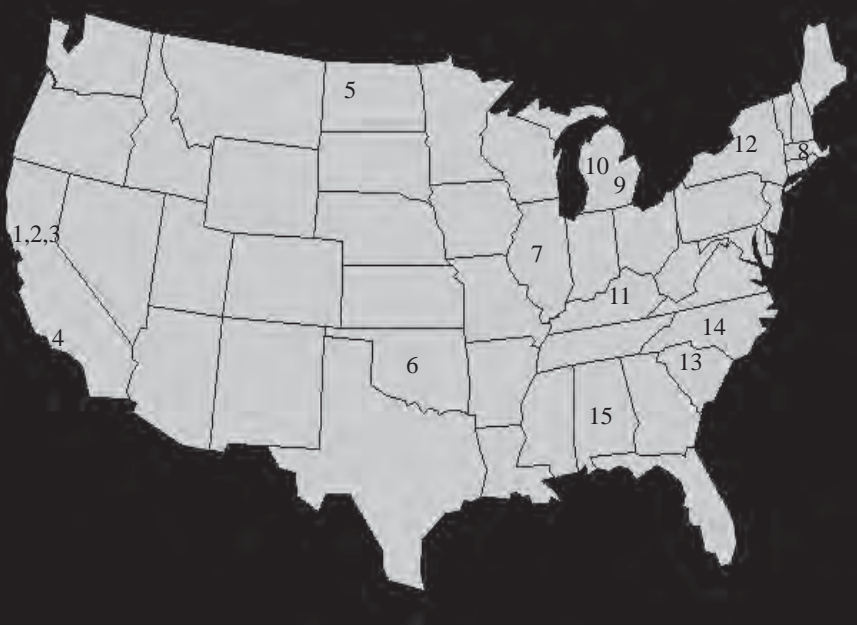
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# News Briefs



**1. Sacramento**—A bill designed to allow inmates in Security Housing Units to keep pictures and make a phone call after three months of good behavior died in the state Legislature because of concerns that Gov. Jerry Brown would veto it, said a representative for State Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, in a report by *Reuters*.

**2. Sacramento**—California lawmakers sent Gov. Jerry Brown a pair of bills to sign. The first bill would require law enforcement agencies to inform defendants when they have evidence that could be tested for DNA and allow judges to order DNA evidence to be run through the FBI's database for a match, reports *The Associated Press*. The second bill would allow deliberating juries to consider a prosecutors' failure to disclose information favorable to the defendant that would have supported reasonable doubt.

**3. Sacramento**— Corrections officials agreed to house mentally ill inmates in separate specialized housing units with more treatment, reports *The Associated Press*. The decision came after a federal judge ruled that treatment of the state's mentally ill inmates violates constitutional safeguards against cruel and unusual punishment.

**4. Long Beach**—The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that deputies could not probe a detainee's anal cavity without medical assistance, reports Nicole Flatow of *ThinkProgress*. Pulling things out of an individual's body cavity without medical assistance poses particular danger to the inmate, the court concluded.

**5. Williston, N.D.**—Court delays are causing an increasing amount of detainees who are awaiting trial behind bars to

be in jail longer than the typical sentence for their alleged crimes, a county sheriff told the *Williston Herald*. The court delays result from the oil boom in North Dakota which has rapidly increased the population.

**6. Oklahoma City**—The *Oklahoma Observer*, the *Guardian US*, the national office and the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and freelance journalist Katie Fretland have filed a lawsuit contending that closing the blinds midway through the execution of Clayton D. Lockett kept the media, and by extension the public, from witnessing what they say is the most powerful governmental procedure: the taking of a life.

**7. Peoria, Ill.**—The housing

of 600 mentally ill inmates in segregated housing units at several prisons throughout the state prompted a doctor to testified in federal court that the Illinois is lagging behind in improving conditions to comply with a May 2013 lawsuit over the conditions, reports *The Associated Press*.

**8. Chicopee, Mass.**—A federal judge agreed with female inmates that their right to basic human dignity was violated when male guards routinely videotaped them during strip searches. The court ruled that the searches serve no legitimate purpose and therefore are unconstitutional, reports Ian Millhiser of *ThinkProgress*.

**9. Detroit**—"Michigan spends

more money on corrections than on higher education — about \$2 billion annually, or \$35,000 per prisoner," according to a *Detroit News* editorial. It's one of just a few states that continue to spend so much, despite data over the past several years that shows decreasing the number of people in prison correlates to decreased crime rates.

**10. Kalkaska, Mich.**—DNA testing cleared Jamie Peterson of the rape and murder of 68-year-old retired schoolteacher Geraldine Montgomery, reports *The Associated Press*. Peterson spent 16 years in prison before the DNA evidence cleared him of the crime.

**11. Frankfort, Ky.**—An alternative sentencing law for lower-

level drug crimes passed three years ago has helped reduce the state's prison population and is saving the state money, reports *The Associated Press*. However, the law also gives drug offenders a way out of a rigorous two-year treatment program provided by a drug court. Kentucky's Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr., is urging lawmakers to give offenders a reason to choose the drug court: erase their criminal charge if they complete the program.

**12. New York**—A federal judge has approved New York City's \$41 million settlement with the five men who were wrongly convicted in the 1989 rape and beating of a Central Park jogger. Mayor Bill de Blasio called the settlement an "act of justice" that's "long overdue," reports *The Associated Press*.

**13. Columbia, S.C.**—The number of prisoners age 55 and older has more than doubled in the past decade, reports Cassie Cope of *The State*. About 9 percent of South Carolina inmates now are 55 or older. In 2013, the average cost to incarcerate an inmate in the state was \$16,542 a year, up from \$12,353 in 2003. The California cost is \$60,000 per inmate per year.

**14. Raleigh, N.C.**—Henry and James McCollum were freed after spending more than 30 years in prison for a murder that DNA evidence showed they didn't commit, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

**15. Montgomery, Ala.**—An Alabama appeals court has ruled that a U.S. Supreme Court decision about juvenile murderers is not retroactive, reports *The Associated Press*. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Eighth Amendment forbids a sentence of mandatory life in prison without parole for juvenile offenders.

## Mentally Ill Population in Jails and Prisons Is Increasing

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Journalism Guild Writer

Jails and prisons have become America's "new asylums" for the seriously mentally ill, a new survey concludes.

This situation was caused by the closing of mental hospitals and the failure to provide adequate community support, according to a joint survey by the Treatment Advocacy Center.

"The number of individuals with serious mental illness in prisons and jails now exceeds the number in state psychiatric hospitals tenfold," the center's April 2014 report stated.

The Los Angeles County Jail is *de facto* the largest "mental institution" in California and most of the time is in the running for the dubious honor of being the largest psychiatric institution in the nation, the center said.

The survey reported the increase of inmates with mental illness in California state prisons "from 19 percent in 2007 to 25 percent in 2012," according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"From the 1830s to the 1960s, we confined such individuals in

hospitals, in large part because there were no effective treatments available. Now that we have effective treatment available, we continue to confine these individuals but in prisons and jails where the treatments are largely not available," the report says.

"We characterize seriously mentally ill individuals as having a thinking disorder, but surely it is no worse than our own."

The report cited a 2013 *New York Times* story saying the suicide rate in California prisons is twice the national average.

On a recent visit to San Quentin's mental health unit, the researcher reported he had to wear a protective suit and full mask to protect him from body fluids that might be thrown at him.

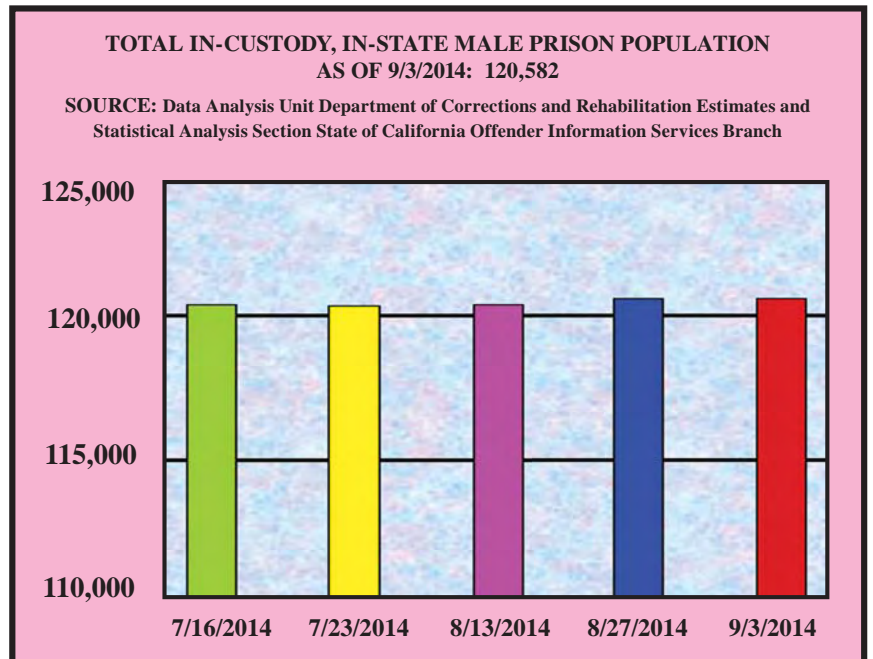
The survey cautioned that when released from jail, mentally ill inmates receive no aftercare.

One thing the survey cited that would improve the situation is the widespread use of assisted outpatient treatment (AOT), known as Laura's Law, which has the potential to decrease the number of mentally ill people who end up in jails.

State law requires a judge's approval before involuntary treatment is initiated. Such treatment requires that the inmate "is gravely disabled and

lacks the capacity to consent to or refuse treatment with psychiatric medications" or "is a danger to self or others if not medicated."

The Advocacy Center strongly recommends appropriate treatment be provided for prison and jail inmates with serious mental illness.





# Oldest Living N.Y. Yankee Attends Season Finale

## SPORTS

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

San Quentin hosted the oldest living former New York Yankee at the season finale for the prison's inmate baseball teams, the Giants and A's.

The Giants won, 7-6, after old-timer Rugger Ardizioia was escorted to the mound by Giant Jeff Dumont and Athletic Isaiah "Raheem" Thompson-Bonnilla. Ardizioia threw the first pitch with all the players from both teams standing proudly behind him.

"I am proud to be asked to come to the final game and for, after all those years, being recognized and signing autographs," said Ardizioia.

Ardizioia was given a fancy black baseball bat as a gift in appreciation of his career and attendance. Public Information Lt. Sam Robinson, all the players, the coaches and even the correctional officers at the front gate who let the outside teams in signed the bat, said coach Reichardt.

Ardizioia pitched for the Yankees 1941-1942 until called to go to war in 1943. He's pitched against the likes of Ted Williams. After returning from World War II, he was sent from Yankee spring training to play for the Oakland Acorns of the

Pacific Coast League, he said.

He proudly wears a gold-ring bearing the Yankee logo and carries a Yankee Season Pass from 1947.

"You had to show your card to get into the games or nobody would know who you were," said Ardizioia.

His Yankee salary was a then-generous \$5,000 a year. That's how much he paid for a house that would now be valued at around \$700,000-800,000, said Ardizioia with a smile.

Years ago, Ardizioia playing for visiting baseball teams in San Quentin, Folsom and Vacaville State Prisons.

"I miss playing here. We had some good games in the '50s," said the 94-year-old Ardizioia.

The A's jumped out with a 3-1 lead on the hot, sunny Saturday, but the Giants rallied in the third. Shon "Jahid" Ruffin led off with a single, followed by Richard Zorns, who smacked a double into left field. Then Anthony Sorrell, who's due to be released, playing his last game as an S.Q. Giant, was walked. Angelo Mecchi hit a two RBI shot that tied the score 3-3.

Mike Tyler got on base on a fielder's choice and Dumont walked. With two men on, Giant Christopher "Cuddy Bo" Smith knocked a shot all the way to the barbed wire fence for a three-run homer and 6-3 lead.

"It felt tremendous to come thru cause I've been slumping.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

New York Yankee Rugger Ardizioia receives autographed bat from S.Q. Giants and A's players

My Coach and team told me to go yard and I came thru against our number one rival," said C. Smith.

The A's didn't go away. In the top of the ninth with the score 7-5 Giants, the A's started to rally back, but it was stopped by an umpire call.

The A's had a runner on third and Chris Marshall on first with two outs and Carlyle "Otter" Blake at bat. He banged a line drive straight down the first baseline that rolled deep

into right field. A run came in while Marshall and Blake ran the bases, but the umpire called Marshall out. "The ball hit the runner, automatic out," said the umpire.

"It did not hit me, but that was the call and the Giants earned the win. Tone (Sorrell) saved them today; he's the MVP," said Marshall.

"Well-fought ball game. Clutch hitting, great defensive on both sides. Probably one of the best games all year," Giants assistant coach Frankie Smith said about the three-hour and 50-minute battle.

Another old-timer in attendance was Lou Profumo. The East Bay native played in the minor leagues for the Red Sox, Pirates and Angeles. He's coached youths from 1972-93, including Steve Lubratich and Nick Rodriguez.

Also visiting was Clayton Norfolk, who directed a crew filming the game for a Heist Production documentary on San Quentin's baseball pro-

gram.

George Lavender covered the game for a National Public Radio piece to be aired on WBUR in Boston.

The pro veterans' attendance was secured during S.Q. baseball sponsor Steve Reichardt's search for information about his great-uncle, Sam Fenech. Fenech was signed to play pro for Oakland 1944-45; however, the backup catcher only played in a few games.

No one seemed to know much about Fenech except baseball historian Mark McCrae, who met Reichardt at a baseball card show. McCrae actually knew Reichardt's great-uncle and had the contracts for both years Fenech played for Oakland.

McCrae said he chanced upon the contracts after hearing they were saved from bulldozers about to tear down the old stadium in 1957.

McCrae invited Reichardt to his Annual Pacific Coast League Player and Family Reunion. There, Reichardt met Ardizioia, who used to be president of the Old-Timers Organization.

"There are hundreds of 85-year-olds cutting their lawns that played pro ball. They think guys won't remember them, but they are remembered," said McCrae.

"The season was a success. We had about 40-50 games with outside teams. All the teams were impressed with the program and they plan to come again next year," said sponsor Elliot Smith.

"If I could come in all year, I would," said Giants sponsor Mike Deeble. He's using the off-season to research training drills "so we can have a stronger team."

"I realized a lot of people here come from different backgrounds...it makes me realize not everybody has had it easy, but we're all on the same team," said Luke Murphy, a visitor at the Aug. 30 season finale.

## Diego Bros Thump Hardtimers, 26-18

The visiting Diego Bros softball team beat the San Quentin Hardtimers, 26-18, after a double play stopped the Hardtimers cold.

The bottom of the sixth found the Hardtimers down, 19-12.

"I don't think it's enough. These guys can score in bunches. They're a good team," said Diego Bros coach Phil about the lead.

Diego Bros pitcher Jim Grove didn't feel safe with the seven-point lead either.

"It's scary. I'm terrified of Ke Lam," said Grove. "It can change any minute; you never know."

Shon "Jahid" Ruffin started a rally with a single. Michael "Hawkeye" Fleming followed with another. Then Ke Lam banged a homer off the Education Building roof, closing the score to 19-16.

"It's the vitamins!" Ke Lam joked. "It feels great to be able to contribute."

DuPriest Brown hit a single and stole third when a ball hit an outfielder in the knee. Windham kept the rally going with a double that made the score 19-17, Diego Bros.

"This team wakes up late, then crawls back into it; they never give up," Hardtimer coach Dan said.

Top of the seventh, the Diego Bros were held scoreless with a double play. The ball went straight at Fleming on the mound. He caught it and threw to Ke Lam at second, who completed the double



Photo by Sam Hearnes

DuPriest Brown rounding third base

play to Cory Woods at first.

Bottom of the seventh, the Hardtimers weren't able to score and the game was scheduled to end, but it was still early and the Diego Bros agree to go nine.

The Diego Bros poured on more runs in the extra innings, including a two-run homer slammed by Sean "Captain" Morgan. Diego Bros increased the lead to 26-17 by the bottom of the ninth.

"You guys have a distinct home field advantage and I wanted to use it to my advantage," commented Morgan, smiling.

"These are the hardest guys to pitch to...Every one of these guys can hit a home run," said

Fleming. "They're my favorite team to pitch against 'cause you know they go hard every inning."

Windham hit two home runs during the game, but no runners were on base either time.

"I do what I can. My coach asked for a home run, so I gave it a try," said Windham.

Eric Post singled, followed by another hit by Caleb McClelland; however, C. Long hit right to shortstop Mike Bristow. Bristow fired the ball to John Tillman at second, who completed the double play to first base. That ended the Hardtimers' comeback attempt in the Aug. 29 game.

-By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Defending Tennis Champ Serves New Challengers

By **Michael Panella**  
Journalism Guild Writer

and eliminated him in straight sets.

The finals matched up Paul Oliver, who defeated Terry Slaughter to advance, against Hunt. Hunt managed to beat Oliver in straight sets, winning 7-4 and 7-2 to maintain his status as the champion.

David Archer, another newcomer who played in the first match, squared off against two-time champion Paul Alleyne. Alleyne dominated Archer in straight sets, allowing his opponent to score two points in the second set.

In the second match, Slaughter upset the hard-hitting Al Lee to play against Oliver.

"I am happy to see the new players participating in our tournament and to see Troy Smith taking his game to the next level," said Ronnie Mohamed, captain of the San Quentin Inside Tennis Team.

Rick Hunt defeated some talented challengers to win the Don De Nevi Challenger Series Tennis Tournament.

Newcomer Troy Smith faced veteran Raymond Bodine for a spot in the semi-finals. Smith dropped the first set (9-7) but settled in and played some quality points in the Labor Day weekend event. Smith shook off the nerves and went to work. He won the next two sets (7-1, 7-3), giving Bodine no chance to advance.

"I'm just happy to have made it to the semifinals in my first tournament," Smith said after the win.

Next Smith faced Hunt, the champion from the last tournament during the Fourth of July weekend. Hunt exploited a few holes in Smith's game

# Graced Out Practices Christianity Through Basketball

**By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor**

Graced Out Youth Ministries held basketball competitions that brought San Quentin inmates together who don't normally go to church to see Christianity being practiced.

"Basketball and food bring people together. When they get here and see the unity and the camaraderie, then they will know we have more in common than what we thought," said Ferrari Moody, a Graced Out member.

Other Graced Out members include inmates Antoine Watie, Fanon Figgers, James Metters, Darell "Obadiah" Flowers, Jack Osby, Dwight Kennedy, Antwan "Banks" Williams, Marlon Beason and Lemar "Maverick" Harrison. The founders are Moody, Watie and Figgers.

Chaplin Mardi Jackson and church elder Derrick Holloway came up with the idea of Graced Out Ministries. They challenged the faithful young men "to do something different to bring the word to the youth," stated Metters.

One of the ways they responded was with basketball.

"The modern religious settings don't really identify with the youth today. Therefore, we came up with ideas that use common grounds to relate the word of God to the youth," said Metters.

"We want to show them that God hasn't forgotten them, and we are going to use any and all things at our disposal," said Watie.

"Our mission? If y'all won't come to church, we'll bring the church to y'all. God is everywhere," Moody said to the crowd during the first event last year.

The contests consisted of a three-on-three half-court elimination tournament, a three-point contest, a free-throw contest and a raffle, with canteen items as prizes.

Top winners of the basketball contest:

Three-on-three team (with one sub): Julio Saca, Quoc Chau, Phillip Brown and Terrance Horton overcame former S.Q. Warriors players Marcus Cosby,

Erick Nelson and current S.Q. King player Charles Sylvester in the final to win it all.

"It was fun. We were average ball players but ... if you have fundamental players that communicate, anything is possible," said P. Brown. "May the grace and glory be to God."

Jay Brown won both the free-throw and three-point competitions. He says he won the free-throw contest easily, hitting 14 of 15. The three-point contest went to sudden death against Larry "TY" Jones.

"I had to wear him down. I'm a set shooter!" J. Brown exclaimed. "It was a blessing. These guys put on a good show."

Using basketball works for P. Brown. "Sports is a stress release. It gets me through a lot of my hard times, especially basketball," he said.

"It was successful. I've started seeing many new brothers in church that were at last year's event," said Fanon Figgers.

"Here you see love - a sense you can be whoever you are, togetherness and unity," said Osby

about the Aug. 30 event.

"It feels good to give back like this. It connects me to people," said Flowers.

To reach those with violent pasts, the message has "to be raw, uncut and rugged. The youth are, at this moment, in such great and grave danger," said Watie. "There is violence in the streets, with many dying without a relationship with God."

"It's our goal as youth ministers to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the future that He has for them as productive men of God. It is meant for them as much as anyone else," Watie added.

"It's not about making an instant 360-degree change; it's



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jay Brown in an intermural game looking for the pass in bounds

about taking that first step, and allowing God to transform you," added Moody.

Graced Out meets in the Protestant Chapel one Friday every other month. The group often opens with Christian rappers Williams, Harrison, Beason and/or Metters. Graced Out invites all to "come and discover their true identity," said Metters.

## NBA's Golden State Warriors Lose to Prisoners, 92-88

*Continued from Page 1*

autographs.

"This gives the guys something to look forward to," said Lt. Sam Robinson, San Quentin's public information officer. "Prison existence is mundane; these guys coming in here is nothing but uplifting."

The Golden State team included assistant coaches and former NBA players Luke Walton and Jarron Collins, Golden State General Manager Bob Myers, Johnny "Logo" West (Jerry West's son), Chris DeMarco, Nick Uren and Lacob.

The game remained close, ending in upset when the prisoners beat the group of former NBA players.

With less than two minutes left in the game, Lacob knocked down a three-pointer, bringing Golden State to within one point at 89-88.

With time running out, Lacob fouled Joshua Burton to stop the clock. Burton made both clutch free throws, leaving the score 91-88.

With 30 seconds left, Golden State fouled Burton again. This time he hit one free throw, giving San Quentin a four-point lead.

Walton then went for the three-pointer and missed. Anthony Ammons rebounded the ball for San Quentin. Myers, who led Golden State with 27 points, fouled him hard to stop the clock at :10.

"Bob Myers just committed his first felony with that foul there," joked San Quentin commentator Aaron "Huron" Taylor.

Ammons missed both free throws. With time running out and four points to recover, Golden State went for another three-pointer but missed, leaving San Quentin the winner at the buzzer.

"What makes basketball a beautiful sport is that it brings



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Luke Walton attempts to block Anthony Ammons shot while Jarron Collins and Bob Myers watch

us all together," said Golden State Warrior head coach Steve Kerr. "A mutual love of basketball connects us."

Active Golden State players Marreese "Mo" Speights, Ognjen Kuzmic and Festus Ezeli couldn't play in the game because they are under contract, but watched from the bench. Rookies Mitchell Watt from the University of Buffalo, Aaron Craft from Ohio State and James McAdoo from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, also attended. They are currently trying out for the team.

"I'm happy I can share with the prisoners," Ezeli said. "It's a humbling experience. Even in here, everybody is able to move on and find peace and happiness. This is a way we can help them serve their time."

The prisoners also enjoyed the event, which they have been looking forward to all year.

"This is the biggest event

yet," said inmate Robert Butler, general manager for the San Quentin team. "You have four generations of basketball players in here."

The game was full of highlights.

With two seconds left on the clock at the end of the first quarter, San Quentin was up four points. DeMarco got the ball and made a half-court, three-point shot at the buzzer. The crowd of inmates, guards and volunteers erupted.

"That's my range. I'll do it again right

now," DeMarco joked after the game.

Thad Fleeton, the 5-foot-10 power forward for San Quentin, made an up and under layup in the middle of 6-foot-6 and 7-foot competitors, taking a 26-24 lead early in the second quarter.

The game was just as close at the start of the fourth quarter, with the score tied at 72-72. San Quentin Warrior Joshua Burton threw up an alley-oop to Allan McIntosh for a tie-breaking slam-dunk. McIntosh led all scorers with 33 points.

"McIntosh was great," Myers said.

In the fourth quarter, Harry "ATL" Smith blocked Collins at the rim as he went up for a dunk. The crowd erupted.

Smith finished with 22 points and 14 rebounds, showing his talent with a couple of monster jams and blocks. Collins finished with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

"My players, after all the hard work and listening to

my mouth, came through in a big way," said inmate Daniel Wright, who coaches the San Quentin team.

Golden State Warriors assistant coach Alvin Gentry delivered an inspirational message to the crowd.

"Our God loves everyone the same no matter whom or where you are. Everybody has a purpose," Gentry said. "We want to get to know you and have fun doing it. Nobody forced us to come; we're here because we want to be. One silly mistake shouldn't define your whole life. This is an opportunity to help with rehabilitation so you can be productive in the outside world."

The Warriors said they would be back next year to prove themselves after the loss.

"They deserved it today. They beat us good," Myers said. "It gives me more motivation for next year."

*-Marcus Henderson and Nelson T. Butler contributed to this story.*



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Harry "ATL" Smith goes for the dunk as Chris DeMarco tries to swat it

# Music Legend Collaborates With Prisoners For Jazz Performance on the Lower Yard

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

R&B and jazz music filled the air as more than 300 head-bopping, finger-snapping inmates took in the sounds of two inmate bands performing on the Lower Yard of San Quentin State Prison.

Inmates crowded near the stage to hear Bread and Roses guitarist Gail Muldrow join in with the bands on Aug. 16. Two weeks before, Muldrow played at San Quentin's Day of Peace celebration. She first played at San Quentin during the 2012 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

"It's just like at home — I kind of fit in," Muldrow said about playing at San Quentin. "I got into music because my older brother kept a lot of records, and I'd play them all the time. But I didn't start playing the guitar until after Jimi Hendrix died."

Muldrow has her own band, The Gail Muldrow Band, but also plays with The Brides of Funkenstein and Painiacs.

"Blues run deep in my family," said trumpeter Larry "Popeye" Faison. "Playing with Gail took me back to my roots." Faison has played with the jazz band Just Came to Play since 2008.

"The yard show was very enlightening," said Allen "Squirrel" Ware, keyboardist for Just Came to Play. "I've played jazz with Reggie for years and other artists throughout my many years of incarceration. But today playing with and listening to Gail play and sing was truly uplifting."

Walter Ridley said he has been at San Quentin for 13 years and has seen dozens of yard shows. "I'm 53 years old, and these bands are playing the kind of music I grew up with. I can appreciate this music," Ridley said. "I've seen Jim Brown, Louis Farrakhan, Ron Carter, E-40 — all kinds of celebrities at San Quentin. This is the best show of all of them."

New Syndicate of Funk



Photo by Raphael Casale

Gail "Mojo" Muldrow jamming with Greg "Dee" Dixon on guitar

drummer, Charles King, said he grew up playing drums in the church. "It's fun and enjoyable to see some of the guys come out to see us play," King said.

***"I'm glad to hear that more money is going to Arts in Corrections. Hopefully, it will give some of the younger guys something positive to do while doing their time"***

"Playing music is a stress reliever for me," said conga player Jimmy Rojas for the jazz band Just Came to Play. "It's a way to express myself

and bring a positive feeling."

Arts programs in 14 state prisons are getting \$2.5 million during the next two years from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, administered through the California Arts Council.

"I'm glad to hear that more money is going to Arts in Corrections," said Eric Wilson, keyboard player for R&B band New Syndicate of Funk. "Hopefully, it will give some of the younger guys something positive to do while doing their time," Wilson said. "I came from a level four prison. We couldn't have yard shows like this."

Just Came to Play member Reggie Austin said, "This group has been playing together for about a year. Having someone like Gail play so well with us after so little practice shows her level of professionalism. I look forward to working with her on the streets."

"It was a great experience, playing with Gail," bass player Darryl Farris said. "She's easy to work with. We were just playing off the top of our heads."

Farris said he has played every genre of music, from R&B to punk. "The way I grew up in the South, there wasn't very much black music on the radio," he said. "So I listened to a lot of rock."

Farris said that he advises younger musicians to get out of their comfort zone so that they might appreciate music more.

Muldrow said she looks forward to teaching a guitar workshop at San Quentin in the fall.

*New Syndicate of Funk:* Wilber "Rico" Rogers, Joe Demerson on saxophone, Darryl Farris on bass, Lee Jaspas on guitar and bass, Eric Wilson on keyboard and Charles King on drums.

*Just Came to Play:* Reggie Austin on keyboard, Jimmy Rojas on congas, Greg "Dee" Dixon on guitar, Dwight Krizman on drums, Allen "Squirrel" Ware on keyboard and Lee Jaspas on bass.



Photo by Raphael Casale

Jimmy Rojas releases his stress through playing the conga. *'It brings a positive feeling'* – Rojas



Gail Muldrow: It's my Life album (Feelin' Good Records 2007). Besides playing the guitar Gail also plays the bass guitar, keys and drums. Her guitar skills has been compared to Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page.

## Website Offers Help to Families Of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://www.PrisonPath.com), provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.