

San Quentin News



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POPULATION 3,933

GRIP Graduates 72 Peacemakers



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Robert Frye, Richard Palmer and Robin Gullien presented Ms. Jeni Lyons with a robe donated by Muhammad Ali robe

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Dozens of incarcerated men showed that they could guide their rage into power and transform themselves into peacemakers before a Nov. 21 audience that included local mayors, prison administrators, public safety officials and fellow convicted criminals.

The violence prevention program, Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP), held its fourth graduation of 72 San Quentin State Prison inmates, along with 12 inmates who had completed a domestic violence counselor curriculum.

"GRIP taught me to be accountable for my crime, to stop looking at external factors," said Vaughn Miles, 41, who graduated from GRIP last year. "It's an obligation for taking a life, causing a mother hurt that will never be quenched. My

senseless act can't be undone, but I refused to sit around and make it anymore senseless."

Conceived by Jacques Verduin, GRIP is a comprehensive offender accountability pro-

See **GRIP** on Page 12

New Warden At San Quentin

By CDCR Press Office



San Quentin's new acting warden, Ronald Davis, began his career with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in 1994 as a correctional officer at California State Prison, California Training Facility, Soledad.

Computer Coding Class Comes to San Quentin

The Last Mile's program prepares inmates for good outside jobs

Inmates enrolled in a computer coding class showcased their work at a press conference on Nov. 12.

The class, called Code.7370, allows inmates to learn HTML, CSS and JavaScript virtually from coding teachers who work at Hack Reactor, a coding academy in San Francisco.

Inmates receive instruction through video conference calls with teachers on an administrative network, and take the class in an offline computer lab, according to a California Prison Industry Authority press release by Michele Kane.

"This is exciting for San Quentin," said then Acting Warden Kelly Mitchell. "It's something that the department fully



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Larry Histon concentrating on computer codes

supports

Code.7370 is a collaboration between Hack Reactor, CALPIA General Manager Charles Pattillo and Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti — Silicon Valley venture capitalists who co-founded inmate entrepreneurship training program The Last Mile (TLM).

The training program TLM, established in 2010, invites successful technology and business professionals to work with inmates and "help bridge the gap

See **Computer** on Page 4

See **San Quentin** on Page 16

Centerforce Holds Graduation Ceremony

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Forty inmates received certificates of completion in October after graduating from a peer health program taught by Centerforce.

The graduation ceremonies were spread over two days. Prior to the graduations, two 11-week training sessions were held. During the sessions, the men learned about the pervading transmission and prevention of STDs and infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, B and C, HIV/AIDS, communication and other subjects.

"It's been eye opening and inspirational. It's a privilege to be here," said Daniel Sterling, one of the inmate graduates.

Centerforce transitional case manager Shannon Gordhamer told the men, "In the history of the world there has never been another you, and there never will be." She then quoted Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Another inmate said it was his second time taking the class and that he learns something new each time.

"It's a very informative class," said Khalil Thrower. "It has given me the skills to communicate more effectively about diseases."

During the closing ceremony, each class participant was urged to continue with post-training knowledge and to recognize the bond formed

See **Centerforce** on Page 14

'Curly Joe' Inspires Others to Change

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation knows him as inmate James L. Burrell, #C34144. However, around San Quentin's Vocational Machine Shop (VMS) program, he was affectionately known as "Curly Joe," a curmudgeonly, gruff-acting inmate with a hidden heart of gold.

Curly Joe paroled last February after being incarcerated for nearly 33 years, all of which were served right here at San Quentin.

Curly Joe managed the Tool Room within the VMS

program and ran it with a no-nonsense efficiency. He had responsibility and accountability for every piece of equipment that either left or entered the tool crib. When a student needed a particular tool, he would quickly identify it and provide the student with what was required to get the job done. You could often hear his familiar bark around the shop, yelling for someone to either pick up or turn in their tools.

The one person who knows him best is his friend and fellow machine shop student and lead man, Duane Butler. "I

See **Curly Joe** on Page 7



File Photo

'Curly Joe' enjoying a meal in the free world

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Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the



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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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Nurse Raney Dixon's Retirement

'Thank you Ms. Dixon for your patience and kindness'

Nurse Raney Dixon retired at the end of December after more than 10 years at San Quentin.

Members of the medical staff and co-workers of Dixon had this to say about the retiree:

Beverly Allison: Ms. Dixon is a very caring person, and she has really cared about the well-being of the inmates. I have known her from the first day that she started. I know for sure she is one that you don't mess with. When it comes to her job duties, she takes that very seriously. So, please know what you are talking about when you tell her something.

RN Manny Aldip: The time that I've known and worked with Raney – almost nine years – she has shared with me some of her experiences from more than 30 years as an RN, especially her experiences here at San Quentin. This I truly appreciate as it has improved my overall understanding of the patient population that we are caring for. Throughout the past several years, I've come to know a wonderful, smart, courageous and fair woman who sticks to her guns; goes by the book when it comes to her nursing practice; but, always opens her heart and her mind to people who need a shoulder or someone to listen. She will be missed, not only by the staff, who have had the opportunity to interact with her, but also by the people and patients she has helped and encouraged. Raney, enjoy your retirement and the good things that come with it.

Marielle Almares: It has been a pleasure getting to know Raney not only as a co-worker but as a friend. Along with her passion and dedication to fairness and proper care of patients, she has a good heart and always puts others first. Thank you for all your advice, support and encouragement. You will truly be missed!

Rosemary Smith: Ms. Dixon is such a kindhearted person. Working in the appeals department with her was such a joy. Whenever I had a question or needed assistance, she was always willing to help. I am going to miss her, and her beautiful smile. Wishing you much luck in the next chapter of your life. May God continue to bless you.

Angel Llano: Raney is a patient co-worker and focused RN. She does her best to help her patients and co-workers. Congratulations and good luck!

RN Sue Patrick: Always available and supportive of her fellow nurses. Helping many of us through her wise experience and being an SEIU steward. She has been a very strong presence



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Nurse Dixon in the Lower Yard gymnasium during the Health Fair

in SEIU. She takes many hours of her own time to counsel and learn. I have great respect for Raney. Not to mention her daily beautiful smile and happy attitude. She is an awesome nurse, kind and considerate to all inmates. She is a wonderful cook also. I will miss her, but she has earned her retirement! I wish her all the best!

LVN Stephen Bale: Each end brings a new beginning, but you will be missed!

Lori Scharf: I have not known Raney very long, but I feel like I have known her forever. She is warm and caring – the perfect person to be the patient advocate. San Quentin won't be the

this great relationship; after all, they are building more restaurants in Emeryville.

Correctional Officer Stubs: The best nurse I've had the pleasure of working with. Prisoners show their respect:

Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla CHSB Porter/Clerk: I will always remember Ms. Dixon as the person of reason. She always smiled and spoke with a kind sobering voice. She will be remembered for her wealth of wisdom.

Ms. Dixon is a good person who always walks around with a smile on her face and ready to talk about those Raiders. It is a true blessing to see a woman who smiles and enjoys what she does. Thank you, Ms. Dixon, for your smile and your great work; also, for not judging me because of where I am but as who I've become.

Anthony Ammons, CHSB Porter: Ms. Dixon always stood strong in delivering bedside skills and coordinating with multiple agents securing safe transportations of inmate/patients. As a steward, she has taught me the value in being courageous. She resonates Maya Angelou's words,



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Nurse Dixon posing for the camera

same without her.

RN Nina Podolsky: I've known you since the day I was searching for a friendly shoulder to cry on, warm heart to feel for me and cool head to help me with my problems. You have always been so patient, and always had time to listen to my problems, no matter big or small. All these years I've known you, you have been a great advocate for your co-workers and for patients. You are my model nurse, model friend and I know that I'm so lucky that you are present in my life. It is really a privilege to work with you, and I will sure miss our discussions, laughs, food and more. And, there is no goodbye from me because I hope that we will continue

“One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous or honest.” For this, I will always be grateful to her. Her ability to express what was true and right — knowing insurmountable work would be attached — but because it was the “right thing to do” has persevered in many of us. Ms. Dixon is among the best nurses I have met in four states I have worked in over 35 years. These principles enable nurses to secure the receiver-ship's goals with the care much needed by our inmate/patients. Thank you Ms. Dixon for your patience and kindness.

Three-Strikers Learn What Leads to Release

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

There is a possibility that many of the nearly 9,000 Three-Strikers currently incarcerated in California will be eligible for parole in 2018. Many are asking what specific requirements the board is looking for in order to approve their release.

Executive Officer of the Board of Parole Hearings Jennifer Shaffer said people hoping to parole need to know who they were, who they are today and the difference between the two.

Hope for Strikers, San Quentin's Three-Strike self-help



Photo by CDCR

Executive Officer of the Board of Parole Hearings Jennifer Shaffer

group, held a forum on Oct. 10 that included Shaffer and Chief Counsel for the Board of Parole Hearings Howard E. Moseley.

Hope for Strikers is a support group that has adapted the 12-step program from Alcoholics Anonymous. One of the group's objectives is to prepare inmates to meet the board successfully.

As the forum progressed, Shaffer made it clear that Three-Strikers coming before the board will be judged by the same standard as every lifer, i.e. whether they pose a current danger to public safety.

"I don't think anything is different about these hearings," Shaffer said. She explained that the board will be asking

Three-Strikers the same questions they ask other lifers, and the board will want to see the same kind of growth in both violent and non-violent offenders.

"People hoping to parole need to know who they were, who they are today, and the difference between the two"

"Anger issues and substance abuse issues you haven't addressed" are the things commissioners will look for, said Shaffer. Whether an offender is non-violent or violent, the same criminal thinking leads to crimes, and non-violent crimes can become violent crimes when situations unexpectedly spin out of control, she said.

Shaffer also answered ques-

tions about the recent court decisions capping California's prison inmate population. "Do not come to us asking for projections on who we're going to let out," She said. "That's not what we're about. We take it case by case and don't form policies with population reduction in mind."

Shaffer said that all activities in which the men participate would affect board hearings, ranging from self-help groups addressing past behavior to rules violations while incarcerated.

Shaffer has given talks to prosecutors, community groups, inmate council groups and victims' advocacy groups. She stated that her goal is to dispel conspiracy theories that the board has bias.

"To me, the biggest resource we have is our integrity," Shaffer said. "We don't have an interest in the outcome of our hearings other than that the hearings are fair, unbiased and that the decisions rendered can withstand judicial scrutiny."

'Horroric' Pepper Spray Use Prompts New Curb

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge has sharply curbed the use of pepper spray on mentally ill California prisoners.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton signed off Aug. 1 on a state reform plan drawn up in compliance with a court order, reported Julie Small for The California Report on Aug. 19.

"Horroric" is the word used by Karlton to describe video evidence submitted to the court that shows pepper spray being used on a hallucinating inmate, said Small. The inmate, Jermaine Padilla, would not leave his cell in order to receive medication, she said.

"He has described this as making him feel like less than an animal," said Padilla's attorney, Lori Rifkin. Padilla believes the experience at Corcoran worsened his schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder and has permanently damaged him, Rifkin added.

The plan by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is designed to detail changes in the use of force on mentally ill inmates, reported Small.

The move on behalf of CDCR comes in response to an April federal court order mandating that changes be made concerning when and how correctional officers can use pepper spray to force uncooperative inmates to leave their cells or follow or-



File Photo

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton

that changes are needed regarding psychiatric care.

Small quoted a national expert on correctional mental health, Terry Kupers, as saying, "The pepper spray, the cell extractions, the beatings, the violence among prisoners – all those constitute reenactments of trauma in people who were previously traumatized and make them more emotionally disabled."

The California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) also recognizes a problem with the current use of force, and considers the court-ordered changes long overdue, Small reported.

Karlton's April court order bans the use of pepper spray on mentally ill inmates in cells and psychiatric holding facilities with few exceptions, noted Small.

"The critical element is to appropriately train our members to recognize what they are dealing with," said Craig Brown, a lobbyist for CCPOA, speaking of the reform plan, according to Small.

Principal among the changes is that prison staff will be trained to collaborate and to use force only as an absolute last measure after all other options have failed, said Small.

The California Report reported that some negotiations are still under way, yet CDCR officials plan on full implementation of the reforms by the end of this year.

ders, reported Small.

Pepper spray possibly played a part in the deaths of three inmates, Small reported.

Lesser injuries also may have been caused by pepper spray, added Small. The exact number is unknown because CDCR does not consider the effects of pepper spray an injury, Small reported.

The California Report stated that there are 37,000 inmates in California with mild to severe mental illness, about one-quarter of the overall prison population.

Small reported that over the past two decades a number of lawsuits brought by inmates have revealed a "correctional system poorly equipped to deliver adequate care to the needs of these inmates.

Karlton determined last fall

Law Banning Forced Sterilization Signed

In 27 Of The 39 Cases, The Audit Showed a Physician Did Not Sign The Required Consent Form

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation banning forced and coerced sterilizations of women in California jails and prisons.

The bill bans tubal ligations except to save a patient's life or to treat a medical condition when no less drastic procedure is possible. The new law takes effect Jan. 1.

"It's clear that we need to do more to make sure that forced or coerced sterilizations never again occur in our jails

and prisons," said the author of SB1135, Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara. "Pressuring a vulnerable population into making permanent reproductive choices without informed consent violates our most basic human rights."

Prison rules allowed women prisoners to have their tubes tied as part of regular obstetrical care, the Reuters news agency reported.

An audit released in June showed that there were errors

in obtaining informed consent from 39 women inmates out of 144 who had their tubes tied while incarcerated between 2005 and 2011, Reuters reported. In 27 of the 39 cases, the audit showed a physician did not sign the required consent form.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is under court orders to improve medical and mental health care delivery in its overcrowded prisons.

—By Thomas Gardner

Public Interest Attorney Wagner Cited for Advocacy

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

The American Constitution Society (ACS) has recognized a public interest attorney for his "advocacy on behalf of marginalized people."

Peter J. Wagner, executive director and co-founder of Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), was awarded the ACS's David Carliner Public Interest Award at its National Convention earlier this year.

"I went to law school a decade ago when prison populations were going up, and up, and up seemed like the only future," said Wagner.

An ACS press release said it gives this annual award to a mid-career public interest lawyer whose work best exemplifies David Carliner's legacy of "fearless, uncompromising and creative advocacy..."

Wagner said the ACS award, named after Carliner, a champion of human rights, is "a huge honor because it recognizes criminal justice issues, and the victories we have all in this room won together over the last decade."

In a speech at the ACS convention, Wagner said medical doctors are guided by the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm. He said the U.S. criminal justice system is not designed using the same standard. Instead, it has "a set of policies that do more to exacerbate existing racial and economic disparities in our country than they do to respond to crime."

"I co-founded the Prison Policy Initiative to change that reality," said Wagner. "It is absolutely essential that our justice policies be fair, and it

is critical that our policies actually make our communities stronger and safer."

Under Wagner, PPI brought prison gerrymandering, a U.S. Census policy that counts prisoners where they are incarcerated instead of where they are from, to the forefront of national consciousness.

"I took on prison gerrymandering more than a decade ago," Wagner told the ACS audience. "I connected the dots and built a broad multi-sector movement that has permanently changed how our democracy works..."

Some of Wagner's work with PPI also includes updating policy-makers with accurate data on mass incarceration and recently convincing the Federal Communications Commission to impose regulations on the prison phone industry by placing a cap on the cost of calls when prisoners call home.

"I'm confident that, if all of the different parts of the legal profession work together, we can make a better, safer and more just world," Wagner said in his speech at the ACS convention.

PPI has three full-time staffers and one part-time staff member. On occasion, consultants and student volunteers work with the organization.

Wagner received his Juris Doctor from Western New England College School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he majored in social thought and political economy, with a minor in African-American studies.

Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group Celebrates Makahiki

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

“ALOOOOOHA!” Damon Cooke greeted the guests and set the tone at the second annual Makahiki ceremony, on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group in San Quentin’s Arc building.

“Today is about paying homage to our ancestors and everyone who has helped us form our identity and grow as a unit,” said Cooke, an inmate organizer.

“Aloha is a greeting, salutation and farewell all in one word,” said Reginald Hola. “Broken down, aloha is sharing...spreading, sunshine...aloha is love.”

The spirit of aloha was felt throughout the ceremony from its inclusiveness in everything from the sharing of Hawaiian culture to story telling, dances and the menu.

“They are bringing Hawaiian culture, all feeling present and aloha spirit,” said guest Mo-

nique LeSarre. “I’m amazed by their spirit of generosity, strength, channeled manhood, power and connection through love and spirit related to culture. They have invited many nationalities to share in their culture.”

Makahiki is the season of Lono.

“Lono is the patron spirit of agriculture, fertility, peace and healing,” A. Panthong told the crowd.

Many of the men in blue, who performed the spiritual dances, weren’t Hawaiian, but that didn’t matter.

“You don’t have to be from Hawaii to be a part of it. If you believe in love and togetherness, you are part of it,” said Vinh Nguyen, who is Vietnamese. “I got involved to help with paperwork -- I can’t dance.”

“I embraced their culture, and they embraced me,” said Donald Ray Walker Jr., an African-American. “I learned the dances in the native Hawaiian group on Saturdays.”

“I personally embrace those who embrace my culture,” said Hawaiian elder D. Kualapai.

“Being a Pakistani and having so many Samoan and Hawaiian cell mates, they wanted me to come to their services,” Adnan Khan said. “I noticed everybody’s culture is universal. It is very relatable to Pakistan culture and Islam -- unity, oneness, doing righteous deeds and fostering brotherhood.”

“Our weaknesses are strengthened by diversity. Everybody learns from everybody,” added Hola. “Our main goal is giving self-ID through tradition and culture. Everybody is part of Pacific Island Asian culture, so we decided to give everybody a chance to promote unity.”

The dances, like the Kila Kila, Manu Samoa and Aoteroa Haka, were done with aggressive stances, bare feet stomping to a single drum beat, hostile looks, tongues sticking out, eyes bulging, beating of chest, strong arm movements and chants done in an intimidating fashion.

“It was symbolic of a battle; literally and figuratively. There was bloodshed, but there was a spiritual battle too,” said Cooke. “We mean you no harm; peace is in our hearts. In this culture, it’s love.”

Indeed, the Haka dances are fostering peace. The Hawaiian community has been seen performing the Haka at many events, including Roots, a Restorative Justice symposium, and a Patton University graduation.

“I am here because of the performance at last year’s graduation, I was so moved by it on a metaphysical and spiritual level, it was exciting,” said Joy Brooke Fairfield, Prison University



Photo by Michael Nelson

Guests enjoying the Makahiki celebration

Project instructor.

“We have a huge community that includes these guys, and they didn’t have a venue,” said Kara Urion, a Patton coordinator. “Almost every person who performed the Haka is in our program.”

Many stories were shared. Among them tales about “Uku,” the custom of reciprocity and how it spreads prosperity.

“I live in a prison cell, but that’s not my home. I have to reconnect to the heart to navigate my way home,” said Upu Ama.

Khan explained the concept of “Mana.”

“Mana is the energy you can’t see, but you feel it,” said Khan. “Senior spirits disturbed it everywhere. In humans, it’s our talents, our strength, our intelligence, our leadership and charisma. Mana is what made Jordan, Jordan. If you abuse Mana, you will lose it. Don’t lose your Mana — be righteous people”

“We were all newborns representing new hope, love and opportunities,” Ama said from the podium in between dances. “As I grew up, I got lost and became the enemy who attacked and destroyed the village. Today we are aiding rebirth — a process of reconciliation.”

Even the menu showed the thoughtfulness of the Native Hawaiian Spiritual Group. They served 13 different entrees, which included several options for everybody—Halal, vegan

and Kosher.

“Our culture is family oriented. Once we get to know you, you are automatically family. We are into oneness; that’s indicative of our culture,” said Grace Taholo, the group’s sponsor.

Aunties (older ladies in the community) and Kasi Chakravartula, a Roots volunteer, made the leis the guys wore.

“We didn’t have enough money for leis,” said Jun “Auntie Jun” Hamamoto. “But a friend taught us how to make them for free when she found out who it was for. I put a call out to the aunties, and just like that, they were there. They came, and we made 25 leis.”

After everyone ate, the event ended with calls for Nick Lopez to dance. An impromptu half-circle was made on stage and the dancers performed the male Hula. Lopez was cast into the center where he delivered. Also, O. Hameti hilariously incorporated the Cabbage-Patch dance into the traditional moves.

“The Hula and story-telling were amazing,” said Chakravartula.

“I’m honored that they reached out to me and were inclusive,” said Earlonne Woods.

“These guys are a new group. I’m amazed by how much they’ve accomplished,” Hamamoto said.

-Aaron “Harun” Taylor contributed to this story.



Photo by Michael Nelson

Reginald Hola, Jeremiah Stephens and Elijah Fejeran pose outside the ARC building before performing the “Haka” ceremonial dance

Computer Coding Classes at San Quentin Begin

Continued from Page 1

between the penal system and the technology sector,” the CALPIA press release reports.

“It has taken a lot of work to prepare the classroom for the first 18 inmates,” Pattillo said. CALPIA doled out about a quarter million dollars to construct the San Quentin classroom, with an annual operating cost of about \$180,000, according to Pattillo.

According to Pattillo, the program saves the state money because it lowers the recidivism rate. Inmates who participated in the CALPIA’s Career Technical Training program have a 7.1 percent recidivism rate, while the total three-year recidivism rate for all felons released between fiscal years 2002-03 and 2008-09 is 61 percent, according to a 2013 CDCR report: http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Adult_Research_Branch/Research_documents/Outcome_evaluation_Report_2013.pdf.

“It costs about \$60,000 a year to incarcerate the 18 men in this classroom,” Pattillo

said. “Do the math, that’s a cost of \$1,080,000.”

The challenge is to provide this type of training to prisons located in remote places and be able to teach the curriculum without Internet access, Pattillo said. He added that he is optimistic that the program could expand to other prisons, emphasizing the women’s prisons.

“When I found out about The Last Mile and the Code.7370 class, I wanted to get involved,” said Jon Gripshover, one of the program’s instructors who used to work with at-risk

youths. “The coding class gives the inmates tools that they could use to help them find jobs once they are released from prison.”

The curriculum is administered in two-day blocks called sprints, where inmates are paired up and given specific programming tasks and projects to complete together.

“The team concept in problem solving is really helpful,” said Jason Jones, a 31-year-old inmate who is one of the program’s students. “When we get problems, my partner might

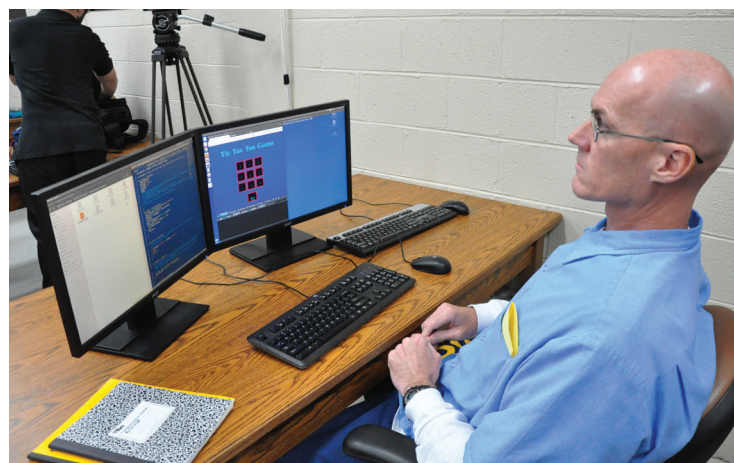


Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Erin O’Connor displaying his work



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Class Code 7370 learning the meaning of coding

see a solution to a problem that I may not see. So, I’m learning from him. Two heads are better than one.”

Jones has been in prison since 2006 and is scheduled to be released in 2017.

Following the press conference, Redlitz went on to facilitate the current session of TLM. At the session, about 14 new inmates — not participating in the coding program — are learning how to develop business ideas that have a so-

cially responsible component.

Inmates stood before the class to pitch their ideas, which range from ways to allow musicians to share and profit from their work to apps that would give users detailed information about food choices.

“Teaching inmates to do this type of work keeps jobs in America,” said Redlitz. “This program shifts the out-sourcing of jobs, bringing good jobs back to the U.S.”

-By Juan Haines

Original Production of Waterline Calls Forth a Standing Ovation

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

Art often imitates life, and when executed well, an audience is able to draw connections between the performance and reality through the power of the narrative. On Oct. 4, the original prison production of *Waterline* did just that.

Waterline is an interpre-

know it was going to turn into something bigger.

“With the creative vision of the directors, our stories became woven together over an eight-month period,” said Pangthong.

The directors guided the men in choreographing and turning their stories into a performance worth viewing.

The production was not

seats in the Protestant Chapel at San Quentin. More than 60 citizens and 100 prisoners crowded into the building to watch the production.

At the start of the show, the actors lay in fetal positions. “It quenches our thirst and aids in our birth,” a voice narrated to the sound of the rain. The image of water was present in most of the scenes as a figurative thread to help tie the stories together. In several respects, water served as a metaphor for life in all its forms, both stagnant and fast-paced.

Throughout the play, different life stories were woven into the production in a seamless fashion.

One cast member led each story, accompanied by the movements of the other actors.

Carlos Meza, who performs under the name “Losdini,” commanded the audience’s attention as he walked in a serpentine manner stepping on pieces of white paper placed at his feet by the other actors. At the end of his movement, he said: “I am not what I was. I am aware. I am.”

Meza explained that the white papers symbolize the endless court documents that often dictate the direction of prisoners’ lives behind bars.

Later on in the show, Pangthong narrated his life story as a Laotian refugee. His story mirrored that of Kroung Songkra, a Cambodian refugee who paroled in 2014 prior to the performance. Meza played Songkra in his life depiction.

Both Pangthong and Songkra’s stories told of generational trauma, the repercussions of tragic experiences passed from one generation to the next. Songkra’s mother was forced to watch the Khmer Rouge eat her own father’s heart, a scene that was depicted in the play. Pangthong told the story of his pregnant mother crossing a river in a bicycle inner-tube in hopes of providing her son with a better life on the other side.

Their life stories circled back to their own births, which were depicted through dance. Some audience members shed tears as they witnessed the reenactments of these two men’s births.

The show ended with the story of Rodney Capell imagining his release from prison after 25 years of incarceration. “I wonder if, after a quarter century, a quarter-pounder with cheese tastes the same,” Capell laments.

The statement provoked thought: What else has this man missed out on in 25 years of incarceration?

The Insight Prison Project, a restorative justice program and



Photo by San Hearnes

GINNO SAVACOS SERENADING THE CROWD WHILE BEING LIFTED AWAY

tative performance utilizing modern dance and dramatic monologue. Based on the life stories of five prisoners, *Waterline* was performed by the Artistic Ensemble, a drama therapy group of 14 men at San Quentin. Prior to the play’s debut, these men collaborated to write, choreograph

without its challenges. “There were some creative differences that arose, but at the end of the day, we put our egos aside and made it work,” Pangthong admitted.

During rehearsals, the troupe of actors would break up into groups to go over lines after warm-ups, which includ-



Photo by San Hearnes

CHRIS MARSHALL PLAYING THE ARRESTING OFFICER ESCORTING GARY MARTIN, WHO WAS STRUCK OUT TO PRISON

and produce this piece of art. It brought the audience to a standing ovation at its finish.

The directors helped the men to tell their stories by first having them workshop their written stories. At the time of the writing workshop, Anouthinh Pangthong, an actor in *Waterline*, said he didn’t

ed tongue-twisters, movement exercises, improvising and a lot of laughing, according to Pangthong.

“*Waterline* was one of the most moving things I’ve seen since I arrived at San Quentin,” said Dwight Krizman.

The sound of rain greeted viewers as they took their



Photo by San Hearnes

JUAN MESA HOLDING ANOUTHINH PANGTHONG ILLUSTRATING THE STORY ABOUT A MOTHER BEING CARRIED ACROSS A RIVER TO GIVE BIRTH

nonprofit, sponsors the Artistic Ensemble inside the walls of San Quentin.

According to a statement in the front of the *Waterline* program, “The Artistic Ensemble is a rigorous, creative practice at San Quentin Prison where participants develop artistic tools with which to explore personal journeys and their

performance. We spent time talking, writing, and discussing issues,” Dowling said. “In the end, the stories that got told are the ones the men wanted to be heard.”

Cast members included Adnan Khan, Anouthinh Pangthong, Antwon William, Carlos Flores, Chris Marshall, Sr., Eric Lowery, Garey Mar-



Photo by San Hearnes

GINO SAVACOS AND CARLOS FLORES ROLLING BODIES ACROSS THE FLOOR

intersection with systemic forces of poverty, violence, power and incarceration.”

Waterline director Amy Dowling said the group did not initially intend to produce a public performance.

“When we first met, we were not moving towards a

tin, Gary Harrell, Gino Sevacos, Ira Perry, Julian Glenn Padgett, Losdini, Nate Collins, Neiland Franks, Richie Morris, Rodney Capell and Upumoni Ama. Directors included Amie Dowling, Freddy Gutierrez, Tatiana Chaterji and Sebastian Alvarez.



Photo by San Hearnes

JUAN MEZA, CARLOS FLORES, JULIAN GLENN PADGETT AND ANTOINE WILLIAMS PULLING FORWARD BECAUSE THEY DON’T WANT TO BE STUCK

The Immigration Muddle

EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo Garcia,
Editor-in-Chief

The 2014 elections put both houses of Congress under Republican control.

In spite of this, President Barack Obama is using his executive power to ease the pathway to citizenship for the nearly 5 million immigrants who contribute to the U.S. economy.

Obama's speech addressed illegal immigration and the effects that deportation has on children with undocumented parents.

He said, "I've seen the heartbreak and anxiety of children whose mothers might be taken away from them just because they didn't have the right papers."

"I continue to believe that the best way to solve this

problem is by working together to pass that kind of common sense law. But until that happens, there are actions I have the legal authority to take as President – the same kinds of actions taken by Democratic and Republican presidents before me – that will help make our immigration system more fair and more just."

"But today, our immigration system is broken -- and everybody knows it.

"Families who enter our country the right way and play by the rules watch others flout the rules. Business owners who offer their workers good wages and benefits see the competition exploit undocumented immigrants by paying them far less.

"All of us take offense to anyone who reaps the rewards

of living in America without taking on the responsibilities of living in America. And undocumented immigrants who desperately want to embrace those responsibilities see little option but to remain in the shadows, or risk their families being torn apart."

"But today, our immigration system is broken -- and everybody knows it"

Until an immigration plan is established, the threat of deportation puts millions of children of undocumented immigrants at risk. The children struggle with cognitive,

emotional and social problems because of the possibility of being separated from their parents.

The lack of clarity in the immigration policy weakens families and leads to inequality of children's life chances. The differences in living conditions and disparate access to resources and social safety nets cause disruption. The disruption affects thinking and has long-term consequences for children of immigrants.

In turn, this puts children at risk by impeding their integration or ability to settle into local communities. The health, education and economic integration of those at-risk children also define the nation's future.

Since this population is an obvious determinant of our future, it must be addressed now.

It was those observations and the lack of Republican support on a comprehensive immigration strategy that guided the Obama administration into action.

The number of children in the U.S. with at least one

foreign-born parent is growing rapidly and is becoming a significant portion of the U.S. population. Understanding this dynamic, the future immigration policy will some day fall into the hands of people our leaders have failed and refused to consider.

More than half of the children of immigrants today come from Latin-American origin, and over 40 percent come from one country: Mexico.

Two other areas provide virtually all children of immigrants today. Asia, which includes China, makes up about 20 percent, and those of Caribbean origin contribute the balance.

By failing to address the undocumented and the immigration issue, the U.S. is casting a wide net of possible failure and negative result, for a huge portion of our future generations.

Political leaders must get real, and face the fact that past government policies have failed to address ever-growing numbers of undocumented immigrants living among us.

Lío de la Inmigración

Por Arnulfo García
Jefe de Edición

Las elecciones del 2014 sitúan ambas casas del Congreso bajo el control de los Republicanos.

A pesar de esto, el Presidente Barack Obama esta utilizando su poder ejecutivo para facilitar el camino a la ciudadanía de casi cinco millones de inmigrantes que contribuyen a la economía de los estados Unidos.

El discurso de Obama fue dirigido a la inmigración ilegal y a los efectos que la deportación ocasiona a los niños con padres indocumentados.

Él dijo, "He visto el sufrimiento y la ansiedad de los niños cuyas madres podrían ser arrebatadas solo por no tener los documentos adecuados."

"Sigo creyendo que la mejor forma para resolver este problema es trabajando juntos para aprobar esa ley de sentido común. Pero hasta que eso ocurra, existen acciones que como presidente tengo la autoridad legal para tomar – la misma clase de acciones tomadas por los anteriores presidentes Demócratas y Republicanos – esto ayudara a que nuestro sistema de inmigración sea más justo e imparcial."

"Pero en este momento, nuestro sistema de inmigración esta desintegrado – y todos lo saben."

"Las familias que entran a nuestro país de la manera apropiada y obedecen las reglas, observan como otras personas ignoran las leyes. Los empresarios que ofrecen a sus trabajadores buen salario y beneficios observan como la

competencia explota a los inmigrantes indocumentados al pagarles menos."

"Todos nosotros nos ofendemos cuando alguien obtiene los beneficios de vivir en América sin asumir las responsabilidades que conlleva vivir en América. Inmigrantes indocumentados que quieren desesperadamente aceptar esas responsabilidades no tiene mucha opción más que permanecer en las sombras o correr el riesgo de que sus familias sean separadas."

Hasta que un plan de inmigración sea establecido, la amenaza de la deportación pone en riesgo a millones de niños de padres indocumentados. Los niños luchan con problemas sociales, emocionales y cognitivos porque existe la posibilidad de ser separados de sus padres.

La falta de claridad en la póliza de inmigración debilita las familias y esto lleva a la desigualdad de oportunidades en la vida de los niños. Las diferencias en las condiciones de vida y la desigualdad de acceso a los recursos y redes de seguridad social ocasionan una alteración. La alteración afecta la forma de pensar y tiene consecuencias a largo plazo para los hijos de inmigrantes.

A su vez, esto pone en riesgo a los niños ya que dificulta su integración o aptitud para establecerse en las comunidades locales. La salud, educación y la integración económica de esos niños que están en riesgo también determinan el futuro de la nación.

Debido a que esta población es un determinante obvio de

nuestro futuro, debe ser tomado en consideración ahora.

Estas observaciones y la falta de apoyo de los Republicanos sobre una estrategia integral de inmigración fue lo que llevo a la administración de Obama a tomar cartas en el asunto.

El número de niños en los Estados Unidos con al menos un padre nacido en el extranjero esta creciendo rápidamente y esta llegando a ser una porción significativa de la población de los Estados Unidos. Entendiendo esta dinámica, la póliza de inmigración futura algún día caerá en las manos de esa gente que nuestros líderes se han rehusado y fallado a considerar.

Más de la mitad de los hijos de inmigrantes de ahora son de origen Latino-Americano, y más del 40% provienen de un país-México.

Hoy, otras dos áreas suministran virtualmente todos los hijos de inmigrantes: Asia, la cual incluye China, forman cerca del 20%, y aquellos de origen caribeño contribuyen el resto.

Al no considerar a los indocumentados y el tema de inmigración, los Estados Unidos, están arrojando una red amplia de posibles fracasos y resultados negativos para una gran parte de nuestras futuras generaciones.

Los líderes políticos deben ser realistas y enfrentar la realidad que las pólizas gubernamentales previas han fallado en considerar el constante incremento del número de inmigrantes indocumentados viviendo entre nosotros.

–Traducción por
Marco Villa/ Tare Beltranchuc

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Appreciation of Knowledge

From Patty:

Hello Lt. Robinson,
I just wanted to reach out and say I really appreciated the article about Officer Hauwert's transition. It's incredibly brave of her to be so open, and I think the author of the article did a good job of reporting on

the story in a fair way. I really believe transgender hatred comes from fear and lack of knowledge, so sharing these stories is really important. If it is appropriate to pass on my sentiment to either or both people, please do. Thank you for approving this story.

Patty

Los Angeles County Jail Lawsuit and Realignment

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Los Angeles expects a lawsuit will challenge the overcrowding and poor conditions in its jails resulting from Realignment, the county district attorney says.

"You know another lawsuit is coming," says L.A. District Attorney Jackie Lacey. "We're next."

Imagine triple-stacked bunk beds spaced one foot apart with toilets placed in the middle rows without partitions. This describes one of the temporary living quarters crammed with more than 200 inmates at the Men's Central Jail (MCJ) in Los Angeles.

According to Christina Villacorte of the *L.A. Daily News*, Sheriff's Capt. Daniel Dyer grimaced during a recent inspection as he pointed out the men having to eat and sleep a few feet from the toilets. "That's just wrong," he said.

MCJ was built in 1963 and has a long history of failing pipes, rusted gates, broken doors, leaking sewage, failing air conditioning systems. Most of the businesses that produced replacement parts to repair these problems no longer exist.

Juan Hernandez, a drug offender said, "Attitudes are popping off." Another drug offender, Andy Gurule, said he preferred being homeless on the streets rather than being held at MCJ.

Prison Realignment (AB 109) has pushed this overcrowding to the point of forcing L.A. County to hold more than two or three state prison populations. MCJ's population was about 15,000 three years ago and it now holds 19,000 – 4,000 more than government regulations allow, the newspaper reported.

Gov. Jerry Brown has created a crisis by requiring counties to keep low-level offenders who were once shipped to a state prison, noted County Assistant Chief Executive Officer Ryan Alsop.

The federal courts prompted Realignment when California prisons were declared so overcrowded they violate the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The price tag to fix the MCJ situation permanently is a whopping \$1.7 billion to demolish the facility and build a modern corrections facility on that site, according to a recent environmental study requested by the county Board of Supervisors.

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper. 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.

From Nearly Dead ... to Alive and Near Release

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Journalism Guild Writer

After 34 years in prison, Dennis Wayne Pratt is scheduled to walk out of San Quentin on Feb. 1 – a former drug addict who has turned his life in a completely new direction.

His transformation began on Aug. 28, 1988, when drug-filled balloons broke inside his body.

“I thought I was going to die,” Pratt recalls. “I yelled out to

God: ‘If you get me through this, I will never use drugs or drink again!’”

Pratt ended up being taken to the hospital and later was charged with drug possession.

“I’ve been clean and sober ever since, but I’m still involved with drugs. Only this time I’m a state-certified addiction counselor. I went from one extreme to another,” Pratt said.

Pratt also gives credit to the self-help group Victim’s Offend-

er’s Education Group (VOEG), which he says helped him understand the victim’s point of view.

“I had to become truthful and honest with myself and own up to my stuff and walk through the fire,” Pratt said.

“Prior to this hearing, every one of my parole board hearings resembled the Clint Eastwood movie ‘The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,’ said Pratt. “I’d go in there, sit down and as soon as the commissioners would begin asking me questions, I’d hear the theme song from that movie in my mind.”

Pratt equates his current success of being found suitable with three things: pursuing his education, taking self-help classes and the connection with his wife.

As a child he was told he was mentally retarded, and for many years believed that.

Now he has an Associate of Arts degree from Patten College Prison University Project, a diploma from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and is three classes away from getting a second seminary diploma.

He and four other prisoners earned drug counseling certificates. “We’re the first in the world to become (CADC) addiction counselors while still incarcerated,” he said.

The CADC exams were the most difficult tests he had ever taken in his life, Pratt said.

“Yet I passed. A mentally challenged individual may not have been able to accomplish that,” said Pratt. “While I attended Patten, I proved to myself that I’m not dumb, I’m not stupid and I am somebody.”

Other programs he complet-

ed were Brother’s Keepers and Addiction Counseling Training (ACT), which taught him how to identify his problems.

“Understand, when I first came to prison these self-help groups weren’t available for prisoners, and they should have been,” said Pratt. “Because years after my incarceration I was still getting into serious trouble.”

Pratt, 57, was born in 1957 and convicted of the second-degree murder of Edward Sexton.

“I was burglarizing his home at the time, and Mr. Sexton woke up and confronted me; unfortunately, I made the worst decision ever, and I took his life,” Pratt said. “I was a drug addict and my thought process was so messed up at that time I was thinking I didn’t want to get busted for burglary.”

Pratt said it has taken him years to learn how to think and take responsibility for his crimes. Now is not the time to play games with the board, especially by going in there and spouting law to the board members, he advises.

“Telling them what they can and can’t do — no way. Now is the time to go in there and own your stuff and don’t make excuses, and if it puts you in a worse light, so be it,” he said. “That shows them you’re taking full responsibility.”

Pratt emphasizes answering their questions truthfully and honestly.

“If the truth of your crime is ugly, they want to know how you got to the point in your life where you chose to take another person’s life, because it shows

that you’re being honest with yourself and that you’re not trying to hide anything,” said Pratt.

His journey through CDCR has taken him from San Quentin to Old Folsom in 1981, to Soledad Central in 1983, to CMC in 1986 and back to San Quentin in 1993, where he has been ever since.

Even though he has made positive strides with his addiction, Pratt said that he would like to improve his relationship with family members.

“I’ve been disowned by my sister, and she considers me to be dead. She bases her decision on both my crime and my incarceration,” Pratt said.

Pratt also has a daughter who was six months old when he came to prison. She has three sons he has never met.

“I would love to have a relationship with my daughter and my grandsons. But I understand that will take time, too,” said Pratt.

Even without having a relationship with his sister and his daughter, Pratt says he still has found happiness with his wife, who he married in 1997.

“That was one of the most incredible experiences in my life when I saw her the first time, all dressed up and coming toward me. She took my breath away,” said Pratt. “And she still takes my breath away every time I see her, oh yeah.”

Pratt said the first thing that he is going to do is when he gets out is go fishing.

“I want to have barbecue and get my garden started and put a sign on my door that says ‘Gone Fishing,’ oh yeah.”



File Photo

Dennis Pratt in the San Quentin visiting room

Study Shows Recidivism Rate Still a Problem

Three Out Of Four Inmates Are Re-Incarcerated Within Five Years Of Release

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Recidivism is alive and doing well, according to a federal study.

The Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics conducted a recidivism statistics study from 2005

to 2010 in 30 states. On average, 75 percent of all prisoners released were re-incarcerated within a three- to five-year-period.

SURVEY

Three out of four inmates are re-incarcerated within five years of release, according to

the survey.

“Prisoners released after serving time for a property offense were the most likely to be arrested,” according to the statisticians. Drugs and public order was next, followed closely by violent offenders.

The statistics illustrated that if a prisoner had been ar-

rested more than 10 times, the chances of recidivism were much higher. Statisticians term these inmates as “recidivist.”

VIOLENT CRIME

The survey shows that 33.1 percent of violent crime offenders were typically re-ar-

rested for violent crime offenses during this five-year period.

When the statistics are broken down into ages, the under-24 group had the highest rate of five-year recidivism at 84.1 percent, and the over-40 group was lower at 69.2 percent.

A recent background update for the bureau is if they started sharing data with the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS), and the International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets) to provide the Department of Justice access to criminal history records as of 2008. A security agreement was executed between these agencies to ensure confidentiality.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Nlets developed the Criminal History Records Information Sharing (CHRIS) automated collection system for statistics bureaus to retrieve nationwide criminal history records.

There are several statistical avenues and logical paths to manipulate these percentages by race, gender, crimes, geographic locations, and states, but they all point to the same average for re-incarceration.

‘Curly Joe’s’ Golden Heart of Inspiration

Continued from Page 1

met Curly around 1996. He is a caring and giving person. He is the kind of person you would love to have as a brother. He is the definition of what you call a true friend. No matter what his personal situation may be, Curly will try to help you. He is honest and straight up. You don’t find many men like that around a place like this. He is a man truly blessed by God. He will always be a part of my family.”

Lead-man and machinist apprentice Ed Ballenger said, “I’ve gotten to know him quite well over the years, and he’s a great guy. He will be missed.”

He had a unique perspective to see several changes inside the prison. Along with changes in the administration, he

has watched the start and end of the careers of several correctional officers and staff.

He has witnessed the changes in San Quentin’s character as the prison population has flipped over several times.

“I came in as a young man for a crime I sincerely regret,” Burrell said before leaving San Quentin. “I’ve seen a lot of changes going on around here. Some for the better, some worse, but the one thing that’s remained constant is the monotony and tediousness of it all. I’ve been fortunate to find peace, and a position within the machine shop that’s given me a modicum of responsibility and lots of friendships I will always cherish.”

Burrell was one of the longest-tenured prisoners on San Quentin’s mainline.



File Photo

‘Curly Joe’, Larry Williams and Richard Lindsey having a wonderful day

10,000 Weekly Parolees Have No Place to Call Home

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

Many of the approximately 10,000 men and women who parole weekly from U.S. prisons have no home to go to, which contributes to ineffective reintegration and higher recidivism, reported Christopher Moraff in *Next City* magazine.

Moraff wrote that 10 percent of those paroled are homeless immediately after their release. In the larger urban cities, where parolees were addicted to drugs, the number was as high as 30 percent.

Faith Lutze, criminal justice

professor at Washington State University, said, "Without a safe and stable place to live where they can focus on improving themselves and securing their future, all of their energy is focused on the immediate need to survive the streets." When surviving the streets becomes the primary goal of the formerly incarcerated, there is less time spent on effectively and successfully reintegrating.

For parolees, finding drug treatment facilities, employment, education and for some, mental health treatment is essential to successful reintegration. However, before any of

these factors can be pursued, stable housing is imperative in order for an individual's parole plan to have a chance of succeeding.

Moraff reported that the formerly incarcerated often have difficulty locating property owners who will rent to them, and more importantly, have trouble accumulating the three months' rent usually required to rent a dwelling.

A team of researchers recently completed a comprehensive assessment of a Washington state program that aims to reduce recidivism. The program's goal was to provide a year of

housing support for high-risk offenders upon their release. The results showed a significant reduction in the number of inmates returning to prison and fewer paroles revoked.

Historically, only a few pioneering nonprofits focus their efforts on providing housing for ex-cons. In New York, the Fortune Society runs two successful transitional housing programs. The Delancey Street Foundation in San Francisco provides housing along with its drug treatment program.

With the success of such programs, state governments are beginning to take notice.

In New York, the Department of Corrections helped launch a housing program called FUSE (Frequent User Service Enhancement) to keep 200 homeless ex-inmates out of jails and shelters. Not only did the program benefit the individuals involved, it also reduced overall yearly costs by \$15,000 per person.

Similar programs now are being implemented in a dozen other cities nationwide. In the near future, the increased availability of transitional housing could enhance public safety and greatly reduce the economic and human costs of recidivism.

State Audit Slams How Mentally Ill Can Acquire Guns

34 Of 58 County Superior Courts Failed To File At Least 2,300 Prohibited Person Reports

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

An audit conducted by the Bureau of State Audits last October slammed the California Department of Justice and the courts for failing to identify thousands of mentally ill people who shouldn't have access to firearms, reported the *Sacramento Bee*.

The audit revealed that 34

out of 58 county Superior Courts failed to file at least 2,300 prohibited person reports to the Department of Justice's mental health unit from 2010-2012. The actual number of unfiled reports may even be higher because of under-reporting, according to the audit.

Legislation by lawmakers early last year appropriated \$24 million to the department

to reduce the backlog of cases of prohibited individuals possessing guns. That number was nearly 21,000 in July 2013. The audit cautioned that public security is jeopardized by the failure of authorities to gather and process prohibited person reports from the courts and mental health institutions.

"It is critical that justice improve its outreach and internal processes so its agents

can better protect the public from armed prohibited persons," the audit said, requesting the Justice Department to increase its outreach and for lawmakers to mandate that reports be filed within 24 hours on all mental health-related prohibited persons.

The Armed Prohibited Persons System, which logs people who cannot purchase or possess a gun, is supposed to receive these reports following a court's finding that a mentally ill person poses a danger to others.

Court officials in the majority of the 34 laggard counties said they were not aware of the filing requirements and accused the Justice Department of failing to remind them or mental-health facilities. The audit also found the Justice Department has struggled to process the reports it does receive.

Stephen J. Lindley, chief of the Justice Department's Bureau of Firearms, said it agrees with the audit's recommendations and plans to communicate more with the courts and other entities required to file the reports.

The Administration Office of the Courts said, however, opposed the audit's recommendation for legislation requiring the courts to file prohibited-person reports within 24 hours. Current law requires the reports "immediately." (A

law to extend the time to two court workdays took effect in early 2014.)

"It is critical that justice improve its outreach and internal processes so its agents can better protect the public from armed prohibited persons"

"Given the unprecedented budget cuts to the judicial branch, limited business hours and staff, and other resource issues, the shorter deadline is not recommended," said Stephen Jahr, the administrative director of the courts. Nevertheless, auditors stood by their recommendation, calling the suggested change "important to public safety."

A statement by Assemblymen Katcho Achadjian (R-San Luis Obispo) said the report "confirmed our worst fears — that information about individuals who should be on the list of armed prohibited persons is not being fully reported and is not being reported immediately as required by law."

Who Checks on the Jails in 58 Counties?

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

Recent legislation has made county jails and agencies responsible for housing and treating non-violent offenders. But who is responsible for those overseeing 58 counties in California? The answer is California's Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), reported The Chronicle of Social Change.

BSCC is a relatively unknown agency with 83 employees and a relatively modest annual budget (\$16 million), but some believe it is capable of exerting tremendous influence because it controls the money that county and state agencies need to treat offenders, renovate jails and build new facilities.

"The BSCC is arguably the most powerful corrections

body in the state," said Brian Goldstein, a policy analyst who works for the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJC). "They oversee data collection, programming and facility grants and the development of regulations across California's 58 counties."

"The BSCC is arguably the most powerful corrections body in the state"

The agency has been criticized for approving money for programs whose success or failure has not been connected to the collected data, reported CSC. Board members attribute their problems to inadequate

and outdated resources and a complicated system.

Two examples given in the report of complications are that there is no agreed-upon definition for recidivism, and that data collection is difficult. According to board Chair Linda Penner (Fresno County's former probation chief), data collection is problematic because, "There are 58 counties, doing it 58 different ways."

Gov. Jerry Brown formed the BSCC in 2012, appointing one member of the public to sit with 10 law enforcement officials, one juvenile justice expert and one adult treatment expert. According to CSC, it was formed to be an administrative leader that influences policy and manages costs.

They monitor about 500 California jails and holding cells as well as about 100 juvenile halls and camps.

L.A. Times Reports Surge in Early Releases From Overcrowded County Jails

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

California's prison Realignment has surged early releases from overcrowded county jails, according to a *Los Angeles Times* report.

"It changes criminal justice in California," the *Times* reported, quoting Monterey County Chief Deputy Edward Laverone. "The 'lock them up and throw away the key' is gone," says Laverone, who supervises the jail.

Realignment shifted responsibility for low-level offenders from prisons to county jails, beginning in 2011. It was in response to federal court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. Overcrowding stems from more

than four decades of increasing harsh sentencing passed during the war on drugs and three strikes law.

A *Times* investigation showed a large shift in who is being released out of jails. The change has increased from an average of 9,700 a month in 2011 to 13,500 this year, according to state jail commission figures. Records show 17,000 released from county jails last October.

Los Angeles, which has 25 percent of California's jail population, often releases male prisoners after serving just 10 percent of their sentences; women are often freed after serving 5 percent of their sentence, the Aug. 18 story reported.

To make sure there is very little danger to the public, both state and local officials are letting out the ones they believed to be the least risky inmates, such as parole violators and those convicted of misdemeanors, said the *Times*.

Sidney DeAvila, a convicted sex offender, was jailed 11 times between 2012 and 2013 and freed nearly every time within 24 hours. Days after he got out in February 2013, he raped and killed his 76-year-old grandmother, chopped her body into pieces and was found later that day wearing her jewelry around his neck. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

"Leopoldo Arellano, 39, was

in and out of custody at least 18 times from 2012 to 2014 for violating parole, criminal threats and at least four incidents of domestic battery, according to Los Angeles County jail logs," the newspaper reported.

"It's justice by Nerf ball. We designed a system that doesn't work," said Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman, D-Stockton.

"Shifting the location of incarceration" from prisons to jails doesn't change much, said Barry Krisberg, a University of California at Berkeley law professor.

An independent state policy agency, the Little Hoover Commission, recommended last year that California re-

form its complex sentencing laws, which have overwhelmed prisons with many long-term inmates, said the *Times*.

"We actually have a de facto sentencing commission in our sheriffs," said Carle D'Elia, the acting executive director of the Little Hoover Commission. "You have a crazy system of 'Is the jail full today?'"

Superior Court Judge Richard A. Viavianos of San Joaquin County said allowing jailers to override judges "does nothing but undercut integrity ... it loses public confidence. You lose integrity with the defendants. All the way around, it is a bad thing," he told the *Times*.

New Law Shields Young Offenders

Kid CAT Speaks

By Anouthinh Pangthong
Kid CAT Contributor

Under a new state law, offenders under the age of 22 no longer can be automatically placed in California's highest security prisons, which have a reputation for violence.

This shift is the result of AB1276, which Gov. Jerry Brown signed Sept. 26. It requires California prison administrators to review the placement of young offenders when they first arrive at prison. The law aims to keep youthful inmates out of Level IV prison yards – which offer fewer rehabilitation opportunities for prisoners. Instead, they will be placed in lower-level prisons where access to self-help, vocational training and educational

opportunities are more available.

"One purpose of incarceration is rehabilitation, and young adults can be especially influenced by positive or negative models," the bill reads. "There are often negative influences at higher custody level facilities. In addition, younger inmates tend to be more vulnerable to physical and sexual assault at those facilities."

"Young people are more susceptible than older adults to influences around them, both good and bad. This new law is an opportunity to positively shape the direction of a young person's life," said Elizabeth Calvin of Human Rights Watch.

The law is not a guaranteed ticket to a low-security prison for youth, however. According

to the bill, "if the youth offender demonstrates he or she is a safety risk to inmates, staff or the public, and does not otherwise demonstrate a commitment to rehabilitation, the youth offender shall be reclassified and placed at a security level that is consistent with department regulations and procedures."

Once convicted, prisoners are

given a "classification score" – a number that designates the security level of the prison in which they will be housed. A specially trained committee reviews cases annually.

The law will afford youth offenders who are denied or disqualified from lower-level placement a hearing to reconsider their placement within the prison system. These hearings will be available to young inmates until they are 25, according to the Legislative Councils Digest.

This latest law is one in a series aimed at shifting how the state handles young prisoners. One law, SB9, aimed to re-sentence juveniles convicted to life sentences without the possibility of parole. Another, SB260, changed the way parole boards consider youth cases.

AB1276 was authored by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica) and co-sponsored by the Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Human Rights Watch and Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey.

Michigan Brags About Being Tough on Youth

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Michigan's criminal justice policy is following a national trend to get "tough on crime." State lawmakers proclaim their policies are the "toughest in the nation."

Under the state's justice system, a youth of any age can be charged, tried and sentenced as an adult, requiring offenders to serve 100 percent of their minimum sentence.

"In the past 10 years, about 82 percent of the youth in prison had no high school diploma, nor had they completed a GED"

According to a new study, "Youth Behind Bars," by the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, incarcerated teens have a higher tendency for violent behavior toward officers and other inmates. In addition, the stressors of confinement also contribute to mental health issues. Juveniles entering Michigan's prisons are enrolled automatically in the "Outpatient Mental Health Treatment System."

Youth sent to adult prisons have an elevated percentage of being beaten and sexually assaulted and are 36 times more likely to commit suicide. The ones who are eventually released are 34 percent more likely to reoffend and commit violent crimes.

"People who are treated inhumanely become more inhumane — this is especially true for young people in prison," said Patricia Caruso, former director of the Michigan Department of

Corrections.

Most of the juveniles charged as adults rely on public defenders. However, the study finds that the state's public defense delivery system is "one of the worst in the nation, fraught with inconsistent funding, under-resourced attorneys and a lack of oversight."

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2012 took steps to see that "children under 18 must be treated differently from adults in the criminal system" and mandatory "life without parole for those under 18 is cruel and unusual punishment and unconstitutional."

The Michigan study found that of the youth probationers, 91 percent were 17 years old at the time of their offense and most, 71 percent, committed non-violent offenses. About two-thirds had no previous juvenile record.

According to the study, "In the past 10 years, about 82 percent of the youth in prison had no high school diploma, nor had they completed a GED."

The study recommends

Raise the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 18. This alone would impact 95 percent of the children currently being sent into adult corrections.

Remove youth from adult jails and prisons.

Require oversight and public reporting on youth in the adult system.

Require judicial review of all transfer cases.

Develop policies to reduce the over-representation of youth of color in the adult system.

Provide effective legal representation to youth.

Offer developmentally appropriate and rehabilitative alternatives to youth in the community.

Restrict the use of segregation.

End the option to sentence youth to life without the possibility of parole.

Effectively partner with families and victims at all stages of the criminal justice system.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kid CAT member Antoine Brown and their sponsor Brenda Galilee-Rhodes

Vera Report Says a Better Approach Is Needed for Juvenile Truants, Runaways

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs to move the handling of juvenile truants and runaways from the courts to community-based organizations, the nonprofit, nonpartisan Vera Institute of Justice reports.

"Despite the noncriminal nature of these behaviors, youth in approximately 10,400 cases spent time in detention," the institute's December 2013 report said.

"A new paradigm has emerged: Connect families with social services in their communities, instead of turning to the courts," the report noted. This saves millions of dollars, Vera said.

This status offense response is needed when a juvenile runs away from home or routinely skips school, possibly engaging in bad behavior because of his or her age. A study showed around 137,000 status offense cases were reported in 2010. Nearly 50,000, or 36 percent, were going to court for allegations of truancy, said Vera.

In one case, Teresa, a 14-year-old Florida girl, lost her mother and was overwhelmed with the loss, her father grieving in his own way. She began sneaking out at night to be with her 20-year-old boyfriend. When the father found out, he disciplined her

harshly, which made matters worse, and one day she went to school and did not come back home, the report said.

Her father called the police. When the police found her, they took her to the respite shelter to be safe. In a very short time, a crisis counselor started working with her and she was back with her father in three days.

"Despite the noncriminal nature of these behaviors, youth in approximately 10,400 cases spent time in detention"

If she had been in a state without status offense response, the father might have had to file a status offense complaint, as his daughter had run away. She might have gone to court and then to a corrections facility for juveniles, said the institute.

The change is cost-effective and helps children morally and ethically to be at home rather than in juvenile detention, which could make the problem worse, Vera concluded.

Most courts are not suited for status offense cases, as such juvenile cases are called, the report said. Most courts are overloaded, which causes slow response time. Even a few days can be a crisis and put the youths at risk and make it harder for them to come back to their parents, Vera said.

"Families require a faster response and a different kind of response than courts and the juvenile justice system as a whole can offer," the report said.

The Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) in Calcasieu Parish, La., has a centralized point for intake for families. Since this agency started, the number of status offense cases petitioned in court has decreased to only 1 percent of all referrals. "The delay between seeking help and receiving help has dropped dramatically, from 50 days or more to roughly two hours," said the institute.

Does the community-based programming work? Yes, says the Vera Institute. The state of Florida has a network of nonprofit organizations that run 24 hours a day and seven days a week to assist families in crisis. A 2011 cost-benefit study estimated the state saved more than \$160 million in juvenile justice out-of-home placement costs.

NEW REENTRY APPROACH

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

A watchdog group from Oakland is sponsoring a reentry program for men ages 19 to 30 who are currently incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison and Santa Rita Jail.

The organization named PUEBLO is a police watchdog and advocacy organization that also operates youth projects such as Alameda County's Highway to Work programs and the Youth Urban Harvest, according to Pamela Drake of the San Francisco Bay Area Independent Media Center.

PUEBLO is expanding its offerings with the award of a contract from the Alameda County Mental Health Department with funding from Assembly Bill 109, designed to assist formerly incarcerated young men, Drake said.

This new approach to reentry will focus on practical ways to seek employment and housing while assisting with other social service needs. Other program services, which include mental health, family relations and restorative justice, are designed for "both the community and the formerly incarcerated," Drake said.

The organization's programs provide Balancing the Inner and Outer (BIO) support with an integrated holistic approach combined with skilled training, enterprise development and mentorship.

The programs are designed

to address trauma, "helping released individuals repair the harm they have caused and establishing productive relationships with their community," according to the Innovations in Reentry website.

"We've been operating 11 years without support from government agencies because its funding mechanisms are too rigid and restrictive"

One key component of BIO's program is focusing on the damage and harm caused by these young men's criminal behavior so that they may have "productive relationships with their community," Drake said.

The director of this new project is Isaac Taggart, who was the reentry coordinator under former Oakland Mayor Ron Dellum, Drake said.

"He is in the process of developing an intake structure at San Quentin and Santa Rita so that PUEBLO's client will be able to seamlessly reintegrate into the support this program provides," Drake said. Taggart's advocacy experience working with disenfranchised

youth in Oakland will be an enormous asset to the new organization, Drake added.

His background and experience as an independent bookstore operator and activist in Oakland gives him credibility to reach out to other businesses in the community to find jobs for his clients, she said.

"Our program services focus on reentry throughout the state," said Allyson West, executive director of the California Reentry Program, another reentry program at San Quentin. Her organization provides services in career advice, college, financial aid, substance abuse treatment, employment, housing referrals and child support exclusively for San Quentin inmates of all ages.

PUEBLO's new program platform will concentrate on reentry of men in Alameda County only.

"We've been operating 11 years without support from government agencies because its funding mechanisms are too rigid and restrictive," West said. Her nonprofit organization raises money the old-fashioned way: The California Reentry Program writes grants and solicits contributions and donations from private individuals.

The California Reentry Program meets every Tuesday and Thursday. "We are looking forward to working with PUEBLO wherever they get set up here at San Quentin," West said.

New York Shows Good Reentry Programs Are Essential to Curbing Recidivism

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Helping jail prisoners reenter the community is essential to curb recidivism.

"There is a clear need for greater emphasis on jail reentry because of the sheer volume of the jail population and the importance of addressing their needs," concluded a report on crime and delinquency by SAGE Publications.

REPORT

The report, "Exploring Inmate Reentry in a Local Jail Setting: Implications for Outreach, Service Use and Recidivism," focused on a reentry program developed 10 years ago in New York City as a successful example of civic investment in improving participants' lives and lower recidivism.

"It functions as an in-reach, outreach program in which the

New York City Department of Corrections pays for up to 90 days of post-release services," the report said.

INVEST

Civic administrators have long been reluctant to invest in reentry programs because of the many failed attempts in the past.

In 2004, the City of New York ended this debate by creating a discharge mandate for reentry participation, which required comprehensive pre- and post-release services to inmates of Rikers Island. The Rikers Island Discharge Enhancement (RIDE) program begins by motivating Rikers inmates through videos, literature, posters, billboards and persistent reminders from the jail staff. After release, RIDE links former inmates with appropriate health and human service organizations in the community in order to provide

a continuum of care during a 90-day reentry process.

The history of reentry programs shows that inmates need a tremendous amount of pre- and post-release support to get positive results. K. Coughlin, deputy commissioner of discharge planning for NYC, said on July 5, 2007, that "program-weary and program-wary" inmates were disappointed by numerous social service systems.

RESEARCH

But ultimately, reentry researchers found that inmates who completed a full 90 days of post-release services had far better results than those who received fewer than 90 days of post-release service or those who did not participate at all.

Since then, a number of jurisdictions across the country have started to implement programs similar to the RIDE program.

exacerbated," reports the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ).

"African Americans are still more likely to be arrested for marijuana offenses after reform than all other races and ethnicities were before reform," reported Mike Males and Lizzie Buchen of CJCJ.

The report is titled *Reforming*

Marijuana Laws: Which Approach Best Reduces the Harms of Criminalization? A Five-State Analysis. It studied California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Colorado and Washington and measured the "effectiveness in reducing marijuana arrests and their impact on various health and safety outcomes."

The report also concluded:

Veterans Column

All Military Veterans Are Now Welcomed

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's veterans organization has adopted changes designed to welcome all military veterans, not just those who served in Vietnam.

Part of that effort changes the group's name from Vietnam Veterans' Group of San Quentin to Veterans' Group of San Quentin.

"We see the group as not only veterans that served with honorable service, but citizens of the country they love who are trying to earn a chance at reintegration into American society to live the freedom they fought for," said Chairman Chris Schumacher.

"We see the group as not only veterans that served with honorable service, but citizens of the country they love"

When formed in 1987, the intention was to serve all honorably discharged veterans of any branch of the United States armed services from any era.

It continues to be the vision

of the VGSQ to bring structure and personal accountability into the lives of its members. Outreach has become an integral part of the VGSQ's efforts. The intent is to reintegrate veterans into society and give veterans the opportunity to serve their communities inside and outside prison.

Since 1990, America has experienced other military conflicts such as Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Iraq and Afghanistan, and now battles terrorist organizations such as ISIS/ISIL, as well as Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram in Africa.

Outreach includes these activities:

1) The Holiday Toy Program, which receives Christmas gifts for children from the Marines' Toys for Tots program.

2) Operation MOM, which packs care packages for troops overseas.

3) The Veterans' Scholarship Award, which gives money to children of veterans for college.

4) The Veterans' Issues Group (VIG), which helps incarcerated veterans with a variety of issues including but not limited to PTSD, substance abuse, addictions and trauma.

5) Tabs for Tots, in which the VGSQ collects tabs from aluminum soda cans, which are then mailed to the Ronald McDonald House.

New Facility Help Ready Females to Reenter Society

By Rudy Morales
Journalism Guild Writer

CDCR has established a new facility to help prepare female inmates to reenter society successfully.

The Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program in San Diego will provide women inmates with rehabilitative and transitional services, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced in an August news release.

"This reentry facility is yet another example of California's commitment to rehabilitation and better preparing inmates for life after their release," said CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard.

"Investing in rehabilitation

pays dividends in the long run. For every offender who successfully transitions back into society, California taxpayers save thousands of dollars."

The state currently spends some \$60,000 per year per prison inmate. The new center has an annual operating budget of \$2.4 million. The nonprofit WestCare Foundation signed a four-year contract to operate the facility.

The CDCR-owned facility will house 82 women inmates, with the possibility of increasing to 118 in the future. Prospective inmates must have less than 24 months left to serve in prison.

Programs will include employment guidance, family reunification and substance abuse.

Despite Reforms, 'Staggering Racial Disparities Remain' in Drug Arrests

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Policymakers, researchers and law enforcement report reforms in marijuana laws have had positive effects on criminal justice policy and could save billions of dollars. But "staggering racial disparities remain" in drug use arrests, "and in some cases are

exacerbated," reports the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ).

"African Americans are still more likely to be arrested for marijuana offenses after reform than all other races and ethnicities were before reform," reported Mike Males and Lizzie Buchen of CJCJ.

The report is titled *Reforming*

Marijuana Laws: Which Approach Best Reduces the Harms of Criminalization? A Five-State Analysis. It studied California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Colorado and Washington and measured the "effectiveness in reducing marijuana arrests and their impact on various health and safety outcomes."

The report also concluded:

Decriminalization in California has not resulted in harmful consequences for teenagers, such as increased crime, drug overdose, driving under the influence or school dropout. In fact, California teenagers showed improvements in all risk areas after reform.

Decriminalization more effectively reduced associated

harms of drug use arrests, such as fines, jail time, community service, a criminal record, loss of student loans and court costs for people of all ages, particularly for young people.

All states experienced substantial declines in marijuana possession arrests, but further reforms are needed to address racial disparities.

Judge Tells Santa Clara to Expand Its Residential Treatment Centers

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Last September, a Superior Court judge ordered the county of Santa Clara to expand its residential treatment centers to accommodate newly released offenders from its jails, reported Jennifer Wadsworth in *San Jose Inside*.

The county Board of Supervisors considered allocating \$526,000 of Assembly Bill 109

funds to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Services to add up to 130 treatment beds in order to comply with the Superior Court order.

The need for the extra beds results from a federal court order capping California's prison population at 137.5 percent of designed capacity in 2011. The state responded to the order by shifting the responsibility for low-level offenders to county governments.

"The department determined that the current residential capacity was not adequate to meet the needs of the criminal justice system," according to a memo presented to the supervisors, *San Jose Inside* reported. "Offering more inpatient drug treatment would reduce the jail population and improve outcomes of defendants," the memo continued.

The outcomes for residential treatment are better than for outpatient services, Wadsworth

reported. Of the 171 patients released from county-contracted residential rehab last year, 70 percent completed treatment and 18 percent left with satisfactory progress. For outpatient clients, 39 percent left with satisfactory

progress while fewer completed treatment.

Wadsworth noted that it takes more time for someone in jail to get into residential rehab (25-day waiting list) than someone off the streets (16 days).



Santa Clara County Jail

LATINOS AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Latinos are disproportionately victims of crime and the criminal justice system, according to a report by Californians for Safety and Justice.

The report states that Latinos are significantly overrepresented in the state's courts, jails and prisons, and as crime victims.

Latinos are the largest ethnic group in California, and "have been dis-served by current criminal justice practices," said Lenore Anderson, executive director of the non-profit advocacy organization, as reported by Brenda Gazar of the Los Angeles Daily News.

"Unless and until we start to incorporate the experiences of the Latino community in our policy priorities, we'll continue to see both over-incarceration rates as well as probably disproportionate rates of victimization," Anderson added.

Californians for Safety and Justice said it aims to increase public safety and reduce waste in the state's criminal justice system. It commissioned Roberto Suro of the University of Southern California to compile and analyze much of the report's data. The research indicates that three decades of a failed system has particularly harmed Latino communities.

The findings cited that Latinos were murdered in California in 2011 at twice the rate of whites (5.1 per 100,000 compared to 2.4) and even higher for Latinos under the age of 30 (6.1).

Firearms were used nearly 73 percent of the time that year

versus 54 percent of the time for whites. Latinos were more likely to have been murdered by strangers than were whites (40.5 percent vs. 26 percent), according to the California Attorney General's Office.

"It ends up being a pipeline to incarceration that begins at the police station in the moments after the arrest"

A 2011 federal report found that Latinos, more than any other ethnic group, were convicted of offenses receiving mandatory sentences. A 2005 analysis of felony defendants in urban courts found that Latinos were less likely to be released on their own recognition, more likely to be denied bail and issued higher bail amounts than African-Americans or whites in similar circumstances, according to a *Justice Quarterly* article.

Those who are in jail while awaiting trial can end up coping pleas in order to get out or have difficulty mounting a defense because of limited access to attorneys, witnesses and their community, the report said.

"It ends up being a pipeline to incarceration that begins at the police station in the moments after the arrest," Suro commented. "One in which Latinos are particularly vulnerable by virtue of language,

income, lack of knowledge of the system," commented Suro.

While the consequences were severe and disproportionate for Latinos, the results for African-Americans were even worse by many measures, Suro added.

The report indicated the justice system should provide culturally competent and Spanish-language services to meet the community's needs and improve support and services for Latino survivors of crime.

The States Leading the Federal System In Rethinking Drug Sentencing Laws

'Sentence reduction for low-level drug offenses would reduce the federal prison population'

The federal government may be rethinking drug sentencing laws, but many states have done it already, according to a report by the Pew Research Center.

"Federal drug policy is in the midst of a major conceptual shift away from the long, automatic prison sentences and zero-tolerance policies of the 'War on Drugs' era," the April 2 report says. "But it's the states, whose prisons house the vast bulk of U.S. convicts, that have been leading the way in changing drug laws.

"Much of the current rethinking of America's drug war speaks to today's environment: Violent crime has fallen, attitudes toward drugs have shifted and the Great Recession has squeezed pub-

lic budgets."

A main factor has been the increased cost of keeping people locked in prisons, from \$14,603 per prisoner in Kentucky to a high of \$60,076 in New York, based on 2010 data reported by the Vera Institute. The average cost in 2014 for California is \$60,000 per prisoner per year, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said sentence reduction for low-level drug offenses would reduce the federal prison population.

The Pew research shows 67 percent of the public want drug offenders treated instead of imprisoned. Also, 63 percent say states should do away with mandatory pris-

on sentences for non-violent drug offenders.

Holder points out that about half of the 200,000 federal inmates have been convicted of a drug offense.

Many states have made lowered penalties for possession and use of illegal drugs. They have cut mandatory sentence enhancements and have jurisdiction of drug courts outside the regular criminal justice system, according to the Pew report.

A March survey by Pew Research found that 72 percent of Americans believe efforts to enforce marijuana laws cost more than it is worth. Sixty percent said federal anti-marijuana laws should not be enforced in states where marijuana is legal.

—By Wesley R. Eisiminger

Erasing Misdemeanor Records Boosts Job Opportunities

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Expunging misdemeanors from criminal records can help applicants get jobs, according to David Stern, executive director of a Washington-based nonprofit called Equal Justice Works (EJW).

EJW recently won \$1.4 million from AmeriCorps to launch an Employment Opportunity Legal Corps.

Karen Sloan of the National Law Journal (NLJ) reported that organizers of EJW plan to send 40 lawyers and 360 law students to legal aid organizations throughout the

country. Beginning in August 2014, the teams will help poor people eliminate some of the legal problems that hurt their chances of securing employment.

"At least half of African-American men are arrested by the time they are 23 years old"

According to the NLJ report, EFW Director Stern said,

"Sixty-five million Americans have criminal records," and "misdemeanors can be a blemish when employers do a criminal record check. These applicants don't get called back for interviews."

Two-thirds of all criminal records involve misdemeanors and more than 90 percent of employers use criminal records to screen employees, Sloan reported.

Stern said research has shown that job applicants who report a criminal record are 50 percent less likely to get a call back than someone who does not report such a record. The numbers are far worse for

blacks with criminal records, who are 250 percent less likely to get a call back.

"At least half of African-American men are arrested by the time they are 23 years old," Stern said, adding, "No matter how much vocational training people have, criminal backgrounds prevent them from getting a job."

Research done by a legal aid clinic run by the UC Berkeley School of Law found that expunging criminal records increased a person's earnings by 20 percent and that 73 percent of people whose records were expunged got jobs within four months.

"There are a lot of layers to the process," said Stern, noting that although 40 states now allow removal of minor infractions from criminal records, legal assistance is required.

Since employers use credit report agencies to perform checks, EJW corps will ensure that these reporting agencies receive the updated information.

According to Sloan's NLJ article, "The program is modeled after Equal Justice Works' Veteran's Legal Corps, which sends lawyers and law students into temporary jobs assisting veterans.

GRIP Graduation Honors 72

Continued from Page 1

gram. "It is a best-practices model, born from 18 years of pioneering and working with thousands of prisoners," its program read.

Verduin is executive director of Insight-Out, a process used by GRIP, which takes participants on a healing journey deep inside themselves to come back out transformed and ready to serve others.

The Insight-Out process uses former prisoners as "Change Agents." The Change Agents say they are ready to give back to the communities they once took from, work with at-risk youth and teach those who are still incarcerated.

Esmirna Tibay, who is inmate Damon Cooke's girlfriend said that she has noticed "big changes" in Cooke. "His anger is gone," she said. "If it weren't for GRIP, I might have left him," she joked — "maybe," she added, smiling at him.

"I'm really excited to be here



Photo by San Hearnes

Tribe 671 raising their hands for the purpose of for us by us about us

and understand the hurt you've made, we welcome you. I know you can make a difference. We all have the chance to be a peacemaker. I want you all to take that pledge. I look forward to seeing you on the streets."

Mitchell said that she sees a

lifers have come back since I've been here and both only for parole violations. So I know it makes a difference."

The GRIP program recognizes its graduates through a ceremony called "A Rite of Passage."

belong. The larger community that bears witness to the GRIP graduation ritual serves to actualize this right of passage when members transition from offenders to servants."

Robert Frye, a GRIP graduate, paroled from San Quentin

other paroled GRIP graduate, Richard Polma. "What a beautiful thing to be free, knowing that the work we're doing helps create true peacemakers. These men are saving lives and are carrying the peacemaking word to the world. That's the



Photo by San Hearnes

Alfonza Merritt receives his certificate and is greeted by Senior Probation Officer Mike Daly and Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell

because I get the opportunity to witness lives being and continuing to be transformed," added Natalie Tovar, a Walkenhorst Customer Relationship Manager.

Speaking to the graduating inmates, then Acting Warden Kelly Mitchell said, "Each one of you, who have the courage

big difference between Pelican Bay and San Quentin. She said that programs like the ones at San Quentin bring down the amount of inmate violence. She continued talking about how programs help offenders once they are released from prison.

"Our inmates get out and stay out," Mitchell said. "Only two

The Rite of Passage reads, "Together we learn that being free isn't just a geographic fact; it's not just the other side of the gate. At the heart of being free is not knowing where you are, but knowing who you are. That identity is sustained by building a tribe or community that helps remind you how and where you

several months ago.

He said that he is currently employed as an electrician and that he and several other San Quentin alumni conduct speaking engagements at local colleges and youth facilities, touting GRIP, Victim Offender Education Group and Restorative Justice practices.

"Today is a glorious day. It's a day of recognition," added an-

greatest gift we can give toward public safety."

Gayle McLaughlin, who termed out as Richmond mayor, now sits on the city council and continues to support the self-help group The Richmond Project.

McLaughlin said that "Richmond Rises" is an anti-violence group that welcomes returning citizens to a safe environment.



Photo by San Hearnes

Clearance Hill excepting his certificate



Photo by San Hearnes

Jaime Sanchez, Miguel Salazar and Tare Beltranchuc



Photo by San Hearnes

Albert Montgomery, Vance Andrew and wife with Gilbert Garcia and family

'Peace Making' Participants



Photo by San Hearnes

Graduates are being congratulated by their sponsors, friends and outside guests

"There's a real commitment by the men in The Richmond Project to give back to the youth," she said. "We are working on a one-stop center in Richmond for returning citizens, called the Welcoming Center."

"Excellent, beautiful feeling to be here — my son came all the way from Sweden to be here," said inmate David Jassy, 40, one of the graduates. "GRIP teaches getting in touch with your emotions and emotional intelligence and conflict resolution. We're all humans and we're all the same; we just go through different journeys. These are things I want to teach my son. I want him to see that all these men chose certain paths, and this is where they ended up. Since I can't be out there and teach him, at least this gives him an opportunity to see a role model. Even if just for a few hours ... It takes away from the stereotypical ... I hope it inspires him to be a peacemaker."

"I sincerely hope Jeffrey Beard and all the wardens recognize the excellent programming being offered at San Quentin. It should be funded and offered at all California institutions," said Mike Daly, a senior probation officer.

Eric Villanueva: The number one reason I became involved in the GRIP group is to stop my violence and to have the tools and knowledge so never again will I feel the need to do harm to anyone.

Johnnie Walker: What I got out of the GRIP program is number one; how to stop my vi-

olence and do no harm; number two; how I practice turning the tool from the GRIP program into life skills; and number three; the importance of becoming a peacemaker.

take things personal and to be patient with my actions in order to respond to things instead of reacting. Be in peace Mr. Clarence Hill!

Charlie Thao (Tribe 654):

no harm. Best of all, I learned to develop emotional intelligence. Now I am free from problems and blame. I now know to trust my experience with my identity.



Photo by San Hearnes

Survivors of violent crimes, Jeni Lyons, Christine and Keith DeBlasi addressing the audience about forgiveness and change

Joseph Demerson: What I really enjoyed about the GRIP program was that the program created a safe environment for me to analyze my past to be able to understand my present emotional state. Secondly, GRIP allowed me to process the pain from my past with a deep understanding of emotional intelligence.

Clayborne Dennis: Being part of Tribe 654 has opened my eyes to understand not to

Through GRIP, I learned that *hurt people hurt people, healed people, heal people*, and that only through forgiveness of ourselves and from others that can cease this rage.

Thomas R. Jeffery: In GRIP I've learned to put a handle on violence, how to stop and think, how not to take everything personal, how to embrace life, the good and the bad.

Lam Hong: From GRIP, I learn to stop my violence and do

Jeffery A. Williams (Tribe 654): Most importantly, the GRIP program has clearly demonstrated my part in becoming a peacemaker. I and I alone am responsible for how I respond to life's challenges.

Tare Beltranchuc: The GRIP program has equipped me with the tools and techniques to cope with potential violent situations in a skillful manner.

Jaime Sanchez: About the GRIP program, I learn that

even though I grew up in a difficult place and that a lot of my character defects are the result in grand part of my up-bringing. I do not have to remain stuck in my old ways but instead I can choose to become a better person, a person capable of being what I was meant to be in the first place. A person which new priority is to be a peacekeeper.

Johnny Gomez: The best thing about graduating from GRIP was the expression of pride on my mom's, dad's and son's face.

Benny Wiggins: What I've learned in the GRIP program is process my emotions by feeling them and releasing my emotions assertively and properly non-violent communication.

Ricky Penalzo: What I get out of this self-help group GRIP is how to deal with my anger, attitude and feelings for other people and how to communicate as a peacemaker.

Damon L. Cooke (Tribe 654): If we live long enough, changes are we'll experience the crossroads of "Integrity" and the questions that haunt us all when confronted. GRIP is the answer.

Ron Ehde: The GRIP program has helped me to come out of my shell to learn, grow and be a part of something bigger than myself.

Jesse Smith: I have a sense of understanding and insight into my feelings that have been bottled up for so long. I also have dealt with problems better. Now I'm able to take a step back.

James Wortham: I understand my sensations, emotions and thoughts and how they coincided in harmony allows me to be more compassionate and respond skillfully.

Terry Clark (Tribe 654): GRIP helped me to understand victims impact, to make amends and make peace with the life. I had no right to take, to transform myself to become a peacemaker.

Ernest Hill (Tribe 654): What GRIP means to me and what I gain from the program is the self of family and being willing to express any feelings and emotions without individual judging me behind showing those emotions.

Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story



Photo by San Hearnes

Vaughn Miles and Gayle McLaughlin standing outside the Protestant Chapel



Photo by San Hearnes

Terence Jassy listens to his father David Jassy as he performs at the graduation

Ministers List Bay Area Reentry Program Opportunities

'You have to be prepared to work harder than you ever did in your life'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Two experts on offender reentry programs recently came to San Quentin to talk about opportunities available to parolees released in the Bay Area. Evelyn Vigil and Dora Ford, who are both ordained ministers, said there are plenty of prospects, but many more are needed.

Ford talked about the Taylor Street Services Center, a 65-bed reentry facility at 111 Taylor St. in San Francisco. Vigil spoke about her connections with reentry facilities in Santa Clara County.

In order to get into the Taylor Street program, a person must be referred by the parole office, Ford explained. Rather than trying to get there on your own, "It's possible for someone with parole services to meet you at the prison gate," she said. Once at Taylor Street, "You can go to school or look for work. You can stay there for three months, and then get it extended." Room and board and classes are free.

"We work with people who want to get out of gang life. The pressures to be a man in our society today are greater than they were 50 years ago"

Ford, who served as the director of Taylor Street Services Center for 20 years, said the inmates can learn about their strengths and weaknesses and how to move forward in life. "You can learn jobs skills, resume writing. Some of the best agencies are nearby in the Tenderloin

area," she said.

Ford compared the Taylor Street Center to Delancey Street or Walden House. The facility has televisions in all the rooms. There is a recreation room and programs such as meditation, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, religious services and GED classes. There are also job-training classes in construction and plumbing.

To start over as an ex-felon, "You have to be prepared to work harder than you ever did in your life," Ford said. "The first weeks you're there, you don't have to do anything except plan your future."

Ford describes the Taylor Street Center as a clean and sober living environment where residents learn how to deal with anger and learn to understand their history and risk factors.

"If you come from a family with abuse problems, it is a factor that you'd have to consider," Ford said. "Having a clean and sober living environment is helpful."

Both women agree that the need is great and more could be done to help parolees get a fresh start. Ford said, "Facilities like this need more resources allocated to them. And the food can be better," she said, laughing.

"It's difficult to find a job with a prison record. The cost of living is high," added Vigil. "Re-establishing relationships isn't easy. We underestimate how hard it is to be out of prison. It comes down to being flexible and knowing how to deal with frustration."

Vigil said that her reentry service experience began while working at California Medical Facility at Vacaville. There she worked with release planning as a chaplain. Currently, Vigil works in the Santa Clara County Jail as facility chaplain.

Vigil's job is to coordinate bilingual services for all faiths at the jail. She said that yoga, creative writing, relaxing classes and forgiveness



File Photo

Minister Evelyn Vigil resting at home

classes are offered in the jail, even in the maximum-security services areas.

Vigil said the one-on-one services provided to serious offenders are "what we do best." A Stanford professor teaches the forgiveness classes.

"We are getting more and more level fours," Vigil said, referring to the more serious offenders. She observes that younger detainees are being arrested for more serious offenses. Moreover, offenders are being held in jail for longer periods.

"One guy has been in for seven years fighting his case," she said. "That's a long time to be in county jail with a lot of active gang members."

"Our services are effectively getting through to some of the gang members," Vigil said. "I remember once while going to a grocery store, this guy says 'Hey, church lady, I'd like you to meet my wife or kid.' And, he says, 'I'm working and taking care of my family.' I say, 'Thank

God.' It's powerful to see the success.

"We work with people who want to get out of gang life. The pressures to be a man in our society today are greater than they were 50 years ago. Before you just went into the military, but today, there're so many choices."

Vigil pointed out that there are reentry services throughout Santa Clara County.

"The idea is that the inmates come out of jail with a community," Vigil said.

There are many faith-based services available that provide clothes, transportation and health kits to newly released offenders. "It's hands-on services," Vigil said. "Churches pick up people when they're released. We need to get other churches involved to help with the housing problems. A [Santa Clara] homeless encampment called 'the jungle' is the largest in the country. But, there's no place for them to be housed. The county is working hard to try to find housing."

Vigil said the high real estate cost in the Bay Area makes it hard for people reentering after incarceration. "People who have records have problems finding housing based on all these issues," she said. "A lot of newly released people don't want to go to the homeless shelters because there are a lot of bad influences in those places."

According to Vigil, one of the better places that take in ex-cons is Goodwill Industries on 7th Street in San Jose. Goodwill has a parolee job-training program that lasts a year. However, the program has a long waiting list. "A lot of the guys coming out of prison aren't used to working," Vigil noted. "But in all areas, Goodwill has great programs that teach jobs skills."

The Salvation Army facility is another training option but it also is hard to get into, Vigil said. "If you can follow the rules, you can stay there for a year. It's a 'one-stop shop' from transportation to health care."

Centerforce Graduates 40 Inmates From Health Program

Continued from Page 1

with each other and skills acquired throughout the program.

"When we have these classes and I see a light go on (among students), that makes me feel motivated and inspired," said Lonnie Morris, an incarcerated facilitator for the program. "This has been an enlightening experience for me."

The atmosphere in the room was festive as the men applauded and cheered each other on. "Congratulations, brother" could be heard spoken from one inmate to another.

"I want to thank and commend you for being committed and consistent," said Jessica McGhie, who is Centerforce's manager of the peer health program and one of its transitional case managers. She said this is

the third class she has taught at San Quentin. "I appreciated the opportunity to teach this class."

A cultural ritual, marking the completion of each class, is to have the men form a circle. They then toss a ball of string to someone across the circle. As the process is repeated it eventually forms a web in the center; a symbol that reinforces their bond.

"Luz, vida, esperanza," (light, life, hope) is what each man said as they wrapped the string three times around their hand. They then shared something experienced or learned in the class.

"I appreciate it so much," said Samuel Woige as he thanked the class. He said a friend of his died of AIDS.

"I've learned that the information is priceless," said Jessie

Reed. "I took the class because I wanted to know more."

Centerforce teaches four 11-week training sessions a year at San Quentin with an additional ongoing class to provide general information that meets on Fridays.

"Every person in a cell should take this class," said Thrower. "It teaches you how to avoid certain things in prison."

Centerforce is one the oldest groups at San Quentin. It was founded in 1975 "to address the needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration," according to one of its pamphlets.

The program has been around for so long that people are familiar with it, McGhie said.

For more than 15 years, Centerforce has provided its peer

education class at San Quentin. Today the program is offered at Central California Women's Facility, Valley State Prison and Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail, providing peer health education to more than 300 inmates a year.

McGhie said Centerforce's transitional case managers assist men with parole dates to prepare for return to the community.

While Centerforce focuses on health and disease prevention in prison, it also provides parolees with housing referrals, links those with chronic illnesses to transitional case management providers and assists with education and employment goals.

Centerforce is a nonprofit organization funded by grants and donations. It is one of the primary sponsors of the annu-

al TRUST Health Fair at San Quentin.

Centerforce literature says it "Hires, trains, supervises and supports people living in prison."

At San Quentin, Centerforce's primary staff of three includes Dr. Julie Lifshay, program specialist and project manager; McGhie, peer health program manager and transitional case manager; and Gordhamer, transitional case manager (Alameda County). Delores Lyles, Abayomi Brame and Jannette Smith work on the outside and come into San Quentin as needed. Larry Hill is the executive director based in Oakland.

Upon departing, one inmate said, "This class was really insightful; with all the information I learned it's going to help me live a healthy life."

San Quentin's Inmate Radio Crew Honored With Award

By Krissi Khokhobashvili
CDCR Public Information
Officer

Stories of hope, recovery and rehabilitation are hitting the airwaves thanks to an inmate-run radio program at San Quentin.

Now in its third year, the hard-working San Quentin Prison Report (SQPR) radio crew can now say they are an award-winning radio station. The inmates, staff and volunteers who create the program were honored with a Society of Professional Journalists Northern California 2014

Excellence in Journalism Award for Community Journalism.

"To me, what makes it exceptionally special is that it's not just for one person, it's for a group working together," said Nigel Poor, the lead volunteer at SQPR. "It's so wonderful to be able to feel proud about a group of people and have it not just be about one person. Sharing that news with the guys was one of the highlights of my life."

Those guys make up a creative, efficient, well-trained team of journalists who spend countless hours creating the show, from pitching story ideas to interviewing subjects, transcribing and editing audio – the end result being a professional-quality show.

Volunteer Nigel Poor discusses the radio program's production process while Shadeed Wallace-Stepster looks on.

The program is aired not only on closed circuit to SQPR inmates, but also to the public via the Bay Area's KALW, the program's community partner and fellow recipient of the award. In addition to providing a public forum for the show, KALW has also provided training to the inmates on how to produce a radio show.

While KALW does training and provides suggested edits, the entire show is produced by the inmates – right down to the music, which is composed and recorded by inmate David Jassy, a lifelong musician.

"One thing we wanted when we got the training is we wanted to make that we were put in the position to tell our stories and not have somebody else tell our stories," said inmate Troy Williams.

"We'd watch all these shows about prison, and they always talk about prison from somebody else's perspective. They always talk about it from the bad side; they never talk about



Photo by San Hearnes

Back row standing: Greg Eskridge, Lt. Robinson and Jason Jones
Front row: Tommy Ross, Holly Kernan, Sha Wallace-Stepter, Nigel Poor, Curtis Carrol, Luis Scott, David Jassy and Troy Williams

redemption, they never talk about transformation, they never talk about the struggles that a person goes through trying to change in this type of environment."

Williams, inmate facilitator of the San Quentin Prison Report, paroled in October after 18 years in prison, thanks in large part to his participation in numerous rehabilitative programs. He paroled just days after learning about the SPJ award.



Photo by San Hearnes

Education teacher Mr. Tom Bolema and Phill E. Phillips

In addition to working on SQPR, Williams has been an inmate facilitator of numerous rehabilitation programs, including Victim Offender Education Group, Restorative Justice, Project Choice and San Quentin T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Responsibility by Utilizing Sociological Training), which assists inmates in positive restoration of themselves, their families and, ultimately, the community.

Williams said being involved in rehabilitative programs was key to being approved for parole.

"Going through the programs allows you to gain the insight and the empathy to relate to your victims and what you did," he said. Williams plans to re-enter the film and radio industry, this time from the outside, continuing SQPR's storytelling. He said he'll seek out community stories to share, creating a "part-

nership between the inside and the outside, so we're covering those issues that are affecting our community."

Williams said for him, the SPJ award shows the hard work inmates, staff and volunteers put into making the program happen has paid off. He said he'll proudly attend the Nov. 12 ceremony in San Francisco to accept the award on behalf of all involved.

David Jassy composes and records music for the San Quentin Prison Report. "It was worth it, because now the community is really hearing our voices," he said. "They're really listening to us, and what we have to say has value. That goes a long way, especially when you've spent most of your life not feeling that your words have value."

SQPR program members learn not only about reporting and storytelling, but also develop technical skills that will serve them well on the outside.

All of the equipment and software is donated, often by journalists and multi-

media experts who share their knowledge through workshops at SQPR. The inmates use Pro Tools, the industry standard for editing, which was donated by Mark Jeffery, one of the original engineers of the software. Jeffery also taught the crew how to use it.

It's these partnerships which make SQPR work, from prison officials supporting the program to outside volunteers giving their time to teach. SQPR members emphasized the work of KALW's Holly Kernan, named in the award, for her many hours of time volunteering at the prison.

SQPR also produces film projects, under the guidance of TV Specialist Larry Schneider. It was Schneider who convinced Williams to branch out from film to radio, and who was a strong promoter of starting the radio program. San Quentin State Prison Television Specialist Larry Schneider was a driving force behind getting the radio program started at the prison.

"Maybe it sounds like a cliché, but 'each one, teach one,'" Schneider said. "When I first came to this prison I had a crew of five guys. I taught them, and at that point they started teaching each other, and we became a room full of teachers teaching each other."

When asked what the most powerful stories they've shared are, the inmates ticked off a list of topics, from a man meeting his son for the first time in prison to the story on an immigrant

coming to terms with incarceration.

Williams once shared a story about being denied parole, and Greg Eskridge produced a story about getting out of gangs. But every story, they said, is powerful.

"We have a personal approach to a lot of the stories we tell, because we're all incarcerated," Eskridge said. "We know that side, and so to be able to tell an accurate story of somebody else's life story, we take that really personal."

Greg Eskridge said in addition to the valuable technical skills he's learning, being part of the San Quentin Prison Report allows him to share positive stories with his family.

Eskridge added that another benefit of being in the program is having a way to share with loved ones the journey of rehabilitation the crew is on.

"For me, it's really a proud thing to be able to call home and tell my family, 'Go on this website and hear my story.' When I left the streets 20 years ago, the only image my family had of me was in a negative way doing negative things out there in the streets," Eskridge said. "Now, 20 years later, they get to hear me doing something positive."

The San Quentin Prison Report airs on KALW, and is archived at <http://kalw.org/term/sanquentin-prison-report>.

Did you know?

San Quentin also features an inmate-produced newspaper. Read more about it at <http://www.insidecdcr.ca.gov/2014/06/extra-extra-san-quentins-inmate-journalists-share-theirtalents/>

San Quentin State Prison is California's oldest correctional institution. Construction began in 1852 on the site known as Point San Quentin, Marin County, on 20 acres of land. San Quentin was initially established to replace a prison ship known as the Waban. There are no historical proof of facts, but according to folklore, on July 14, 1852, (Bastille Day) the Waban arrived off shore with 40 to 50 convicts. San Quentin State Prison has been known as "Bastille by the Bay." Read more at <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/FacilitiesLocator/SQ-SpecialNotes.html>

See the photo gallery: <http://www.insidecdcr.ca.gov/2014/11/san-quentin-inmate-radio-show-winsjournalism-award-tells-stories-of-redemption-rehabilitation/>



Photo by San Hearnes

Ruben Ramirez filming an event on the Lower Yard



Photo by San Hearnes

Harold Meeks, Greg Eskridge, Sha Wallace-Stepter, Andress Yancy, Troy Williams, Brian Asey, Tommy Ross,

View Life Through the Windshield

An 'OG's' Perspective

By Larry Stiner Jr.
Contributing Writer

Driving north on Interstate 5 heading from Los Angeles to San Quentin State Prison, the anticipation of visiting my father pushed my thoughts to a quote I had recently heard: *Live life through the windshield, not the rearview mirror.*

I found momentary comfort in those words as I focused on the joy of soon seeing him rather than on my belief that he never should have been incarcerated.

Living life through the windshield is a philosophy based upon forward thinking. It encourages one to truly live in the present while focusing strongly on the future. The idea is that very little comes from looking back, dwelling on the past or concerning oneself with things that have already taken place and cannot be changed.

Foot on the gas pedal, I cruised along a highway flanked by graffiti-covered walls and, further north, stretches of greenery while wondering what it would

mean for me to actually adopt a consistent attitude of forward thinking.

"I often needed to glance at myself in the rearview mirror to be reminded of racial profiling"

I understood the concept of working to rid myself of personal regret, grudges and negative memories that might hinder any attempt to successfully move forward. And I could clearly see the potential benefit of training my mind to focus on the opportunities in front of me as opposed to the missed opportunities behind me.

Still, there was a part of me that struggled mightily with the notion of not glancing often into the figurative rearview mirror. There were some unpleasant experiences behind me that I need-

ed to remember. There were certain occurrences that I needed to remain heated about and needed to use as teaching tools and motivation.

My rearview mirror refused to let me forget my history and the struggles along the road my family had traveled. Among many things, it reminded me of the letter my grandfather received in 1957 from the University of Houston denying him entry because he was a *Negro*.

It also reminded me of the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) that set out to "neutralize" any movement towards a righting of the injustices piled on black people in America played a large part in both my father and uncle being sentenced to life in prison in 1969. How could I only look forward through the windshield when there was still smoke rising from the wreckage behind me?

Continuing my ride toward the prison, I recalled times in Los Angeles County when flashing blue police lights lit up my rear-

view mirror for no apparent reason. I remembered pulling over and watching through that same mirror as two uniformed figures slowly approached my vehicle. The beam of a large flashlight would penetrate the car on the driver's side as one officer motioned for me to roll the window down. On the other side of the car, the second officer would stand at a distance peering inside while one hand gripped his holstered weapon.

Soon, I'd find myself standing on the sidewalk watching my vehicle being illegally searched. The phony explanation, if there was one given at all, was usually the same: I fit the description of someone who had stolen a car that happened to be the same color, make and model as the one I was driving.

Tellingly, it seemed to make no difference what part of town I found myself in, what I was wearing or whether I drove a used Chevy or a new Mercedes-Benz. It wasn't very long before I sadly concluded that I often needed to glance at my-

self in the rearview mirror to be reminded of racial profiling and the dangerous situations I could find myself in simply because I dared to be driving while black.

Seven hours into my road trip, I could finally see the notorious prison up ahead. Oddly, that picture through my windshield symbolized a loving reunion, good conversation and hope.

I began to look forward and tried to focus on the special visiting time that I saw ahead of me. Yet and still, I remained conscious of the things behind me and never lost sight of the past. I recognized those prior experiences as vital in keeping me grounded, alert and motivated to continually seek change so that others might possibly travel a smoother road.

In essence, on that ride from Los Angeles to San Quentin, I made up my mind to live life through the windshield *and* the rearview mirror.

This guest column is by the son of Watani Stiner, the regular OG Perspective columnist for the San Quentin News.

A Familiar Plight of Coping With Enduring Patience

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In *Snow Falling on Cedars*, (1995) author David Guterson portrays a bleak part of U.S. history for Japanese-Americans through intensely astute characters.

The murder trial infused into this saga loses its luster as bigotry, love, hatred and a devotion to family make *Snow Falling on Cedars* an exceptional read.

Set in the blistering dead of winter, the author constructs the tale around land ownership, losing land and being the victim of circumstances. These ideas are juxtaposed against honor, respect and doing right for powerless folks.

The story follows Hatsue Imada, who was sent to an internment camp shortly after Pearl Harbor. At the camp, Hatsue's mother discovers her relationship with her adored

childhood companion, Ishmael Chambers. While Hatsue survived the camp, the war took Ishmael to a dreadful beach landing, where he became wounded beyond comprehension. Nevertheless, at war's passing, life goes on, save for Ishmael's everyday torment — a "vague sense of waiting for Hatsue — a fantasy — to return to him."

The plight of enduring patience resonates with prison inmates, who are also distant from their loved ones. Even though we can't compare the circumstances of our incarcerations to the experiences of war heroes, the emotional turmoil that comes with separation is something that we also undergo.

As the narrative progresses, we follow Hatsue's life as she enters marriage and starts raising a family. After a period of family life, Kabuo, Hatsue's husband who is Japanese, is ar-

rested and put on trial for killing Carl Heine, a fellow angler who is German.

Through this turn of events, Guterson incorporates social commentary about the root of racism as a distinctive part of the storyline. During the closing arguments of the trial, Kabuo's defense attorney, Nels Gudmundsson, explores this issue by lamenting on how people "hate one another," and are "the victims of irrational fears."

Snow Falling on Cedars also uses universal norms about marriage and the love of one's spouse as literary devices to show flawless empathy. When Kabuo awakens from a nightmare about the war, Hatsue was there to comfort him by taking

"a piece of (Kabuo's) sorrow" and storing "it for him in her own heart," until his fears subside.

During one of Hatsue's visits at Kabuo's trial, the narrative also crafts a sentimental moment. As Kabuo is watching the snow falling outside, he asks Hatsue: "Do you remember that snow at Manzanar?" In the passage, the narrative points out that this "was not the sort of thing he would normally have said to her, these romantic words," and that "perhaps jail had taught him to release what otherwise he might conceal."

This scene portrays a moment in which Kabuo foregoes his stoic exterior and displays a rare moment of sentimental-

ity — weaving a sense of interiority into the story that allows readers to empathize with the characters.

The story also appeals to readers by using straightforward language. For example, Guterson describes how there was "no window anywhere in his basement cell, no portal through which the autumn light could come to him," luring readers into Kabuo's state of mind while he is waiting in jail. The use of direct details such as the snowfall that Kabuo "witnessed out of the corners of his eyes" and "struck him as infinitely beautiful," grabbed me, drew me into the story and made *Snow Falling on Cedars* an enjoyable read.

San Quentin's New Warden

Continued from Page 1

In 1996, Davis was transferred to Salinas Valley State Prison, where he held multiple positions including correctional lieutenant, correctional sergeant and correctional officer until 2002, when he was transferred to Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran. There, he held multiple positions, including business manager and correctional lieutenant. His career at Substance Abuse Treatment Facility lasted until 2006.

From 2006 to 2010, Davis held multiple positions at California State Prison, Corcoran, including correctional administrator, facility captain and correctional captain. In 2010 he began as chief deputy warden at Avenal State Prison, where he remained until 2012.

Davis, 45, was next appointed to Valley State Prison, Chowchilla. He served as acting warden until April 5, 2013, when he was appointed VSP warden by Gov. Jerry Brown. Davis was assigned to be acting warden of San Quentin on Dec. 1, 2014.

Bind the Testimony: Book Signing Event

"Imagine sitting in a circle of fifteen men, men dressed in sky blue shirts and navy blue pants that have "CDCR Prisoner" stamped in bold yellow letters down one leg, men of varying ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds, men whose crimes include burglary, kidnapping, and murder. In my wildest imagination, I could not have pictured myself as part of that scene, and yet I have been sitting in such a circle at San Quentin State Prison, facilitating the Christian Creative Writing Class, for over two years, loving every moment and marveling at the men's intensity. On a particular Friday morning in September of 2013, the men and I prayed and began the work of our class. After commenting on a piece of writing one of the students had shared, our conversation turned to a discussion of ways we could glorify God through our writing. James piped up:

"I think we should each write a testimony of how we came to Christ and put them all together in a book!" The fifteen men in the circle looked at one another and at me and grinned. And that was the genesis of *Bind the Testimony*". - Kathleen Jackson

Kathleen Jackson, a retired English teacher, volunteers at San Quentin State Prison as a facilitator, sponsor, and mentor for several groups, including Houses of Healing, CGA (Criminals and Gang Members Anonymous), Christian Creative Writing, VOEG (Victim Offender Education

Group), and TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training). She is a member of the Garden Chapel Drama Team and the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Warden.

Date and Time:
Jan. 24, 2015 at 1 p.m.
Location: Book Passages
51 Tamal Vista Blvd
Corte Madera, 94925



Kathleen Jackson and her Christian Creative Writing class

Photo by Sam Hearn

Remembering Holiday Happiness

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The last month of the year brings the warmth of the holidays, the cold of winter and many celebrations.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is on Monday, Dec. 8; the day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on Friday, Dec. 12; Hanukkah begins at sundown on Tuesday, Dec. 16; the first day of winter on Sunday, Dec. 21; Christmas is on Thursday, Dec. 25; New Year's Eve is on Wednesday, Dec. 31, and Kwanzaa is celebrated from Friday, Dec. 26, to Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015.

The World Almanac reports that December also celebrates Universal Human Rights Month, National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, National Tie Month and National Colorectal Cancer Education and Awareness Month.

Finally, there are two astrological signs in December: Sagittarius, the archer (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) and Capricorn, the goat (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19).

During the fall and winter seasons some celebrations are more memorable than others. Some holiday memories are so wonderful, touching or fun that if people could go back and repeat that holiday sea-

son, they wouldn't change a single thing.

"Asked On The Line" asked mainliners at San Quentin: "If you could repeat a holiday season without changing a single thing, how old would you be? Who are you with? Where are you?"

Almost every person replied with a smile.

Orlando Harris said he would return to 1974 when he was 11 years old. "My entire family was at my grandmother's house for Christmas dinner. I was with my uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers and sisters. There was a feeling of being loved and we were overwhelmed with gifts and love."

Eric Boles would be with his family. He would choose to be 36 again, in Downey, Calif., and spending the holidays with his daughter and immediate family.

Juan Arballo would repeat a Christmas holiday in Mexico. "I would be 7 years old with my mother, grandmother, god-sister and my god-sister's family. I will never forget the two piñatas that we had. My mother and I had made them. It was the first piñata I had ever made."

Valeray Richardson said he would repeat a Christmas morning in Los Angeles. "I was 12 years old and I and my brothers got mini bikes for Christmas. I remember that I started mine up, right there in the living room! I got into trouble and was not allowed to use it for four weeks."

Tommy Ross said he would relive a Thanksgiving holiday. "I was 8 years old and I was with my whole family. I remember I had a cousin who



File Photo

Miniature Christmas tree inside the Education building

had come for Thanksgiving. She was a political activist -- a celebrated activist -- and I thought she was very interesting."

Michael Tyler would also relive a Thanksgiving holiday. "It would have to be Thanksgiving at my grandmama's house. I was 8 years old. I was special to my grandmother and she spoiled me with everything. I had pies and a space at the table just for me. I still love to eat."

Philip Senegal would relive a Christmas holiday season. "The year would be 1988 between Christmas and New Year's Day. I was 21 years of age. At that time, I was with Tammy, my baby mama. I would be at home with her, making love. It was during this time that our daughter, Teshi, was conceived."

Jesus Flores said that he would go back to his grandparents' house when he was 10 years old and spend the Christmas holiday with his entire family. He remembers

getting lots of Christmas gifts.

Tyrone Allen would not go back in time. He would prefer to predict a nice holiday in the future. "In 2016, I will have Thanksgiving dinner with my grandchildren and all of my adult children in my own home. I will have the fireplace burning, eggnog on ice, and we would be sharing stories," said Allen.

Syden Hong said that he would be 10 years old again. He would be with his mom, sister, little brother and his dad. "We would be in Salt Lake City, Utah, when we decorated the house with Christmas lights."

David Le said that he would be 11 years old in 1996. He remembers that he was in the fifth grade. "I was with my brother, walking down the aisle at Walgreen's in Oakland near Lake Merritt, next to Lucky's. I told him, 'I want that game,' pointing at a Monopoly board game. He bought it for me and said, 'This is your Christmas present.'"



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Syden Hong and Chhem Phy in the Catholic Chapel

This Superman Zooms Into a World of Modern Problems

MOVIE REVIEW

By San Quentin Reviews

What separates Director Zack Snyder's *Man of Steel* from previous Superman movies is an attention to realistic detail. In this latest version, plenty of people look into the sky and see not a bird or a plane, but an alien threat to national security.

Viewers get a fresh take on Kryptonite that makes it a more plausible Achilles heel, and motivations rooted in values that prevail in contemporary society provide depth to the movie's villain.

Man of Steel is a character-driven "origins story" and an action movie. Therein lies its challenge, for a movie that tries to be two different things runs the risk of being nothing at all. Historically, most good Superman stories don't center on Superman kicking butt because he is so powerful and few villains pose a direct threat to him. The most compelling Superman stories focus on his battles with himself, particularly his moral



choices.

When directors portray Superman's moral life poorly, he comes off as a Boy Scout with oversimplified answers to complex questions. That kind of Superman tends to alienate prisoners who dislike pat

portrayals like the black-and-white caricatures of criminals in the media.

Snyder dramatizes Superman's moral choices well. In one scene, a trucker pushes Superman (Henry Cavill), pours beer on him and pelts

him in the head with a can. Clark does the right thing and walks away, but after he leaves the bar, he vents his anger at the trucker in a way that not only gives the audience a laugh, it assures viewers that Clark is just a man.

An inspiring message is at the heart of Clark's expression of anger: If the legend can be angry or afraid like us, then we can be heroic and responsible like the legend.

Or not.

"I think a lot of movies are someone's attempt to indoctrinate us," says Rahsaan Thomas when S.Q. Reviews assembles to discuss *Man of Steel*.

"Let's run with that," Emile DeWeaver says. "What's the propaganda in *Man of Steel*?"

"It sells Midwest values," Juan Meza says. He ticks points off by tapping his fingers. "Be content to work very hard for very little. Be submissive to authority even if you're bulletproof. You know, all the things that people with money and power never are, but need us to be."

Sitting on the edge of his seat, Meza drops his hands, smiles, and seems on the verge of taking a bow.

Thomas says, "The movie's

propaganda is that America is the best country in the world, and anybody that doesn't agree gets beat down. Superman chose humans over his own people."

Thomas explains that he believes the humans in *Man of Steel* represent America, and choosing humans represent choosing the American way.

"I'm a pretty radical guy, so I'm going to say that the humans represented humanity," Meza says. "Superman chose humanity and human ideals over his people."

Thomas is from Brooklyn, and the smirk on Meza's face brings out Thomas' native lingo. "But who's saying what those ideals are, son? The American media. Truth, justice and the American way. He's a savior figure whose costume is red and blue. His skin is white — he's the American Ideal flying in to save the day."

The 6-year-olds in us give *Man of Steel* three out of four dinner cookies for the shockwaves, exploding glass and a super-hot Kryptonian lieutenant who throws Superman through a diner. The adults in us rate the movie two and a half cookies.

CDCR Ups Its War Against Illegal Cell Phones

'Contraband Cell Phone Usage Is a Problem That CDCR Takes Very Seriously'

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Illegal cell phones are again on the rise in California prisons, state officials report.

"Contraband cell phone usage is a problem that CDCR takes very seriously," the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation posted on the CDCR website. "Cell phone use by inmates poses a security risk by circumventing the monitoring processes in prison."

Since 2006, the number of cell phones confiscated from inmates has increased, reaching a peak of 15,000 in 2011. The following year, the numbers dipped by 3,200 but have been on the rise ever since, according to CDCR statistics.

"In response to this problem, CDCR established a Warden's Advisory Group (WAG) on Cell Phone Interdiction. WAG is charged with examining cell phone interdiction and related technologies," the department reported.

In the first three months of 2014, there were 2,809 contraband cell phones confiscated from inmates in the prison system, CDCR reported.

CDCR reported that in 2011 it ran tests on Managed Access Systems (MAS) technology that interrupts contraband cell phone signals at two of its prisons. The CDCR reported it plans to have MAS installed "at all institutions by 2015."

"Currently, 18 CDCR prisons have Managed Access System technology installed

and in use," said Terry Thornton, CDCR deputy press secretary. "CDCR is not disclosing which prisons are using MAS technology for safety and security reasons."

In March, the CDCR reported 40 illegal cell phones were confiscated at Pleasant Valley State Prison, along with drugs, after inmates inundated local law enforcement's 911 emergency system with more than 400 calls. Officials said it was an attempt to bypass the current Managed Access System.

According to a 2012 KCRA television news report, Avenal State Prison was the first prison to install managed access.

With MAS, instead of receiving a dial tone, inmates are supposed to receive this pre-recorded message: "The cellular device that you are using at Avenal State Prison has been identified as contraband. It is illegal to possess."

KCRA reported that Avenal prison staff using authorized cell phones have their numbers programmed into MAS to work. "All other cell phones inside the prison will be blocked."

However, "blocking is not an accurate description, as blocking cellular signals is illegal. Managed access prevents the signal from unauthorized cell phones from accessing the carrier's network," said Deputy Press Secretary Terry Thornton, CDCR Press Office. <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Contraband-Cell-Phones/managed-access.html>.

The CDCR website defines managed access as a system that "deploys a secure cellular umbrella over a specified area" within a prison facil-

ity. MAS will either permit or deny access from wireless transmissions in that area.

"The Managed Access System technology of today is not mature enough for immediate large-scale deployments"

Thornton said, "CDCR is currently in Phase I" of MAS implementation. "The deployment schedule for Phase II sites has not been completed at this time, but CDCR expects to take 18 months to complete once work begins."

In 2012, the California Council on Science and Technology released a 72-page report that said in part that "MAS technology (at that time was) not yet proven for prison environments."

"The Managed Access System technology of today is not mature enough for immediate large-scale deployments, such as that proposed by CDCR at California's 33 state prisons," CCST reported. California has 34 prisons; however, at the time the report was written, 33 was correct.

"A detailed site survey and radio frequency study will need to be completed at each facility site where managed access would be deployed to ensure that no adverse impacts would be realized" on the public, the CDCR reported.

A HIGHER RISK OF DEATH

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Former prisoners are at high risk of death after release, especially during the first two weeks of freedom, a research paper concludes.

"Interventions are necessary to reduce the risk of death after release from prison," a group of doctors said in a January 2007 manuscript published by the National Institutes of Health.

The first two weeks indicate the risk of death is 12.7 times higher for ex-inmates than it is for other state residents.

The stress of reentering society has been proven as enormous and, in fact, more overwhelming a task than being in prison, the paper concluded, based on data on Washington state prison releases.

Obtaining housing, jobs, transportation, healthcare, acclimating and re-acquainting into the family structure for most former inmates can prove to be a living nightmare.

At the end of 2004, more

than 3 percent of adults in the U.S. were in jail, on probation or parole. High mortality rates have also been noted in European and Australian studies concerning former inmates with histories of drug abuse.

"Interventions are necessary to reduce the risk of death after release from prison"

Women have a much higher rate of death than men do after release from incarceration. Cocaine was the largest contributing factor for overdoses, then heroin, meth and alcohol. The second leading cause of death overall was cardiovascular disease. Homicide (mostly from firearms) came in third. Suicide, cancer and motor vehicles were also important contributors in this

survey.

Death from violence, unintentional injury and a lapse in treatment of chronic conditions are also major factors for former inmates after release.

The transition from prison to community intervention programs including halfway houses, work release, drug treatment, education on overdoses and preventive care to modify cardiac stress could help lower these risk factors.

Improving access to intensive medical and mental health care case management after releasing inmates could also benefit society by increasing public safety and reducing recidivism in the long term, the paper said.

The Washington state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Death Index and the Online Data for Epidemiological Research systems of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were used to produce these comparisons of released inmates between July 1999 and December 2003.

'Overcrowding Mandate Is No Issue in Parole Grants'

'The Prison Population Has No Bearing on the Governor's Decision'

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

The rise in California life prisoners' parole grants has had nothing to do with the federal court mandate to reduce overcrowding in California's prisons, said Gov.

Jerry Brown's office.

"The prison population has no bearing on the governor's decision to reverse or not act on a parole grant," said Evan Westrup, a spokesperson for Brown.

"Authorities say the higher numbers are primarily

the result of a state Supreme Court decision in 2008 that set a new legal standard for the Board of Parole Hearings and the Governor's Office to use when determining who is suitable for parole," reported the *San Diego Union Tribune*.

Until the early 2000s, the prospects were slim for prisoners sentenced to life with the possibility of parole in California ever to walk out of prison. According to the *California Lifer Newsletter*, Gov. Gray Davis paroled only eight life prisoners during his administration from 1999 to 2003.

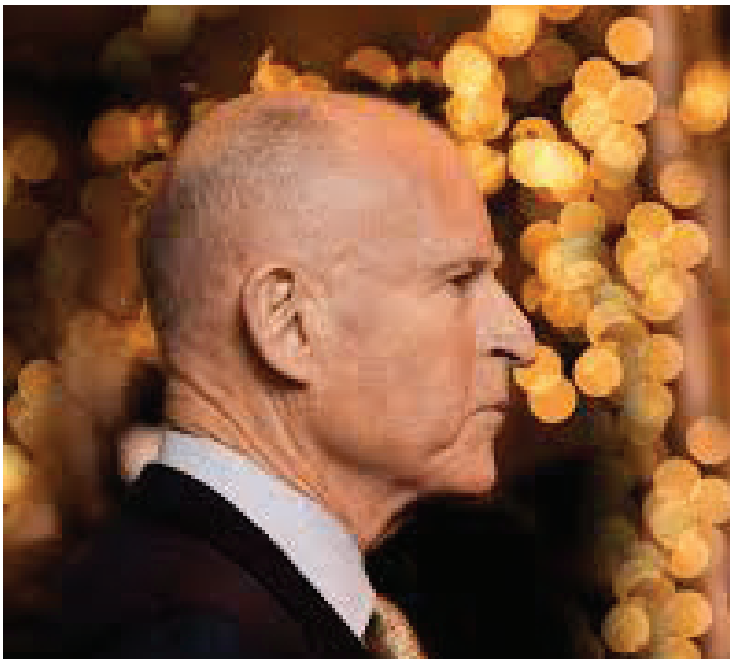
But things have changed. In 2008, the state Supreme Court

decided that parole could not be denied simply because the life prisoner's crime was "heinous, atrocious or cruel." The denial must be based on whether the prisoner remains a danger to public safety if released.

In 2009, a federal three-judge court decided that overcrowding in California's prisons was the primary cause for the state's failure to provide adequate medical care to its prisoners. It ordered a cap on the state prison population of 137.5 percent of design capacity and required Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to submit plans to reduce overcrowding in the state prisons.

Since then the numbers of lifer prisoners paroled have steadily increased, from 221 in 2009 to 596 in 2013, according to the *San Diego Union Tribune*. This year, more than 280 life prisoners were paroled from prison as of June 30.

State law bars the parole board from taking prison overcrowding into account when making its decisions. However, there may be a perception that the issues are related because of the state's efforts to comply with the federal court order, said Jennifer Shaffer, executive officer of the Board of Parole Hearings.



File Photo

California Governor Jerry Brown

Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, 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.

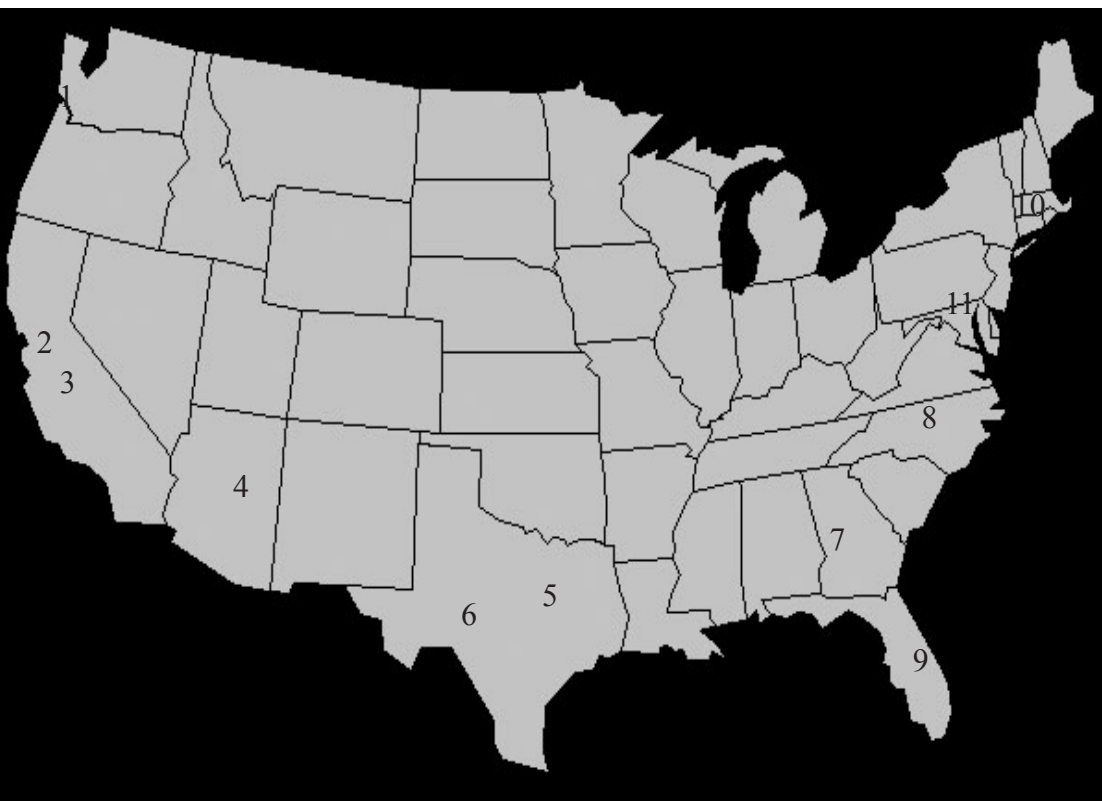
1. Longview, Wash. — A court reversed Thomas Kennedy's 2001 conviction for raping his 11-year-old daughter after she later testified that the story was fabricated, *The Associated Press* reports. Under the state's Wrongful Conviction Compensation Act, Kennedy was paid \$519,973 for the 11 years he served in prison. He was also compensated for the year he had to register as a sex offender and his attorney's fees.

2. Sacramento — New figures from the California Department of Justice show that Californians today are less likely to be victims of violent crimes than they were a few years — and even decades — ago, the *Sacramento Bee* reports. In 2013, the murder rate was 4.6 murders for every 100,000 state residents, down 8 percent from 2012 and 64 percent since 1993.

3. Sierra Nevada — Forestry officials have opened an inquiry into the near-fatal experience of 12 firefighters during a fire in the Sierra Nevada in September, reports *Reuters*. The group of firefighters, which included 10 prisoner-firefighters, was almost entirely engulfed in a wall of flames until a helicopter found them and guided them to safety. The incident is now under review by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Cal Fire.

4. Arizona — The state must improve general health and mental health treatment for about 30,000 inmates, according to the terms of a proposed settlement for a 2012 class action lawsuit brought by prison rights groups. According to *The Arizona Republic*, the settlement would reduce the time mentally ill inmates can be placed in solitary confinement as well as restrict

News Briefs



the use of pepper spray to control prisoners. Under the proposed settlement, the state would not admit any wrongdoing.

5. Huntsville, Texas — Former death row inmate Manuel Velez was released from prison in September after his death sentence was thrown out in 2012 by an appeals court, reports *The Associated Press*. His conviction was reversed because of a faulty testimony at Velez's 2008 trial for the death of his girlfriend's young son. Velez, whose attorney insisted he is innocent, was released after pleading no contest to a lesser charge of injury to a child.

6. San Antonio — The highest criminal appeals court in Texas upheld a lower court's decision

to throw out the murder conviction of Vanessa Cameron, the daughter of a San Antonio police sergeant. Cameron was found guilty in 2012 of orchestrating the kidnapping and murder of her child's father, 26-year-old Samuel Allen Johnson Jr. The lower Court of Appeals granted Cameron a new trial last year, saying that her "constitutional right to a public jury trial was violated" because her supporters could not observe jury selection, according to the *San Antonio Express-News*.

7. Woodbine, Ga. — The Camden County sheriff has found a way to keep his jail's GED courses funded and running despite recent budget cuts to the

program. Sheriff Jim Proctor, who believes that such courses help reduce recidivism rates in the county, was able to use profits from the jail's commissary to provide funds for the GED classes. Proctor said that he could not think of a better place to put the money, according to the *Florida Times Union*.

8. Raleigh, N.C. — An autopsy report on Anthony Michael Kerr, an inmate who died after being held in solitary confinement at Alexander Correctional Institution, determined that he died of severe dehydration, according to *The Associated Press*. Kerr, who was diagnosed with severe mental illness, was found unresponsive March 12 in a van

while being transferred from Alexander Correctional Institution to Central Prison in Raleigh. The state Department of Public Safety later fired a captain and four nurses. A fifth nurse and staff psychologist later resigned.

9. Fort Lauderdale, Fl. — The family of Aleshia Napier settled a lawsuit for \$500,000 over Napier's death with the Florida Department of Corrections and the private companies contracted to provide medical and mental health services at the prison. Napier, then 18, hanged herself with a bed sheet in 2006 while placed in solitary confinement at Broward Correctional Institution. Prior to her death, Napier was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and clinical depression with psychotic features, according to *The Root*.

10. Bridgewater, Mass. — State prison officials fired three correctional officers following an internal investigation into an inmate's death in 2009. The investigation looked into the death of 23-year-old Joshua Messier, who suffered a heart attack at Bridgewater State Hospital after guards strapped him to a small bed at the prison for inmates who are mentally ill. According to the *Boston Globe*, a department spokesman said hearings conducted over the summer showed that the correctional officers' actions violated the department's policies.

11. Washington — The District of Columbia decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana in October, reports *The Associated Press*. A person found carrying less than 10 grams of marijuana will now receive a \$100 fine for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for a third offense.

We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. **Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964.** To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

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INDIVIDUALS

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*Have made more than one donation

Arts & Entertainment



Photo by P. Jo

TREASURE ISLAND OVERLOOK

‘Message From Around The World’

San Quentin News Adviser Joan Lisetor, while on vacation in Hawaii, continues her passion for the paper.



File Photo

Snippets

Janism is a religion of ancient India. They teach people that the way to personal freedom and a life of happiness is to live harmlessness and renunciation.

On the lips? Philematology is the scientific term for the name kissing.

Longest English word according to the Oxford English dictionary is pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanokoniosis.

Love at first sight helped President Obama solidify his relationship with his now wife Michelle.

You may find it hard to believe that marijuana was one of the crops that grew on George Washington’s farm.

Sudoku Corner

Last Issue’s Sudoku Solution

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

All-Madden Slams The Chosen, 44-18

SPORTS

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

Four sacks and three interceptions propelled the San Quentin All-Madden flag football team to a 44-18 win over The Chosen visitors.

All-Madden had been waiting to play an outside team all season and made the most of the chance that finally happened after many mishaps.

All-Madden was sensational on both sides of the ball. To close the game, All-Madden quarterback Antonio "Boobie" Cavitt threw a screen pass to running back Cleo Cloman for a five-yard walk-in touchdown, bringing the score to 43-18.

The one-point conversion

came at the hands of wide receiver John Windham. He made a leaping one-hand catch in the back of the end zone that was out of this world.

"I had fun. I tested the limits coming off of surgery and being able to go to that upper room to get that ball," said Windham.

Tyson Amir of The Chosen commented, "It was great fellowship; they played well organized and disciplined. We also look forward to playing them again."

Windham wasn't the only player with sure hands. The All-Madden defense intercepted The Chosen quarterback Dante Perez three times and all resulted in rushing touchdowns.

The first one came off the chest of The Chosen wide receiver Andre Jackson into the hands of Royce Rose in the first

half. Cloman made a 10-yard run for a touchdown, making the score 18-0.

The second half started with back-to-back interceptions. Donald "Texas" Walker Jr. grabbed one out of the air and ran it back 30 yards before being stopped. Cavitt followed with a 25-yard touchdown run, making the score 30-12.

Cloman tagged on another interception with a one-hand snatch while going out of bounds, giving All-Madden the final pick of the game.

"This is a no-flight zone," said Cloman.

Windham converted the interception into a touchdown with a three-yard run, for a 36-12 lead.

"We wanted to get physical off the top. We have a run-then-pass quarterback," said All-Madden coach Chris



Photo by Lt. Robinson

All-Madden playing defense against The Chosen

Markham. "All the things we've been practicing, we were able to execute to the fullest. Our defensive line — Kevin Carr, D. Zayd Nichol, Anthony Sorrell and Mario Washington — kept pressure on their QB all game."

The All-Madden defensive line's pressure sacked Perez four times. Nichols got him twice, Sorrell once and Washington once.

The All-Madden offensive line kept its QB pretty well protected, only giving up one sack by De Phil Volta of The Chosen.

"We came to handle business and we did that," said All-Madden center Andre "Escalade" Black.

Offensive tackle Anthony Redwood of All-Madden added, "It was a battle; the other team brought it."

The Chosen showed major promise in the first half, although coming up short. They scored two touchdowns in the final two minutes of the first half. Perez found Jackson for a 20-yard pass over the hands of

Walker for a TD.

With only 21 seconds left in the half, Perez handed the ball off to the speedy Amir, who slashed his way 10 yards into the end zone, closing the scoring gap, 18-12.

Unfortunately for The Chosen, there were still 13 seconds left on the clock. All-Madden used two plays and a timeout to go 60 yards, which ended with a deep crossing pass to Kent Craig for a TD and 24-12 lead.

The Chosen didn't score again until there were four minutes left in the second half. Amir caught a 15-yard pass in the center of the end zone, making the score 37-18.

"The victory is really playing these guys," said Perez.

Jackson added, "It's a ministry thing; we just don't come to play basketball and football."

The two teams came together to form one big huddle, and The Chosen coach Wayne "Preacher" Jackson ended with a prayer. "When God sees your faith, things happen," Jackson said.

Baseball Players Awarded

By Michael Panella
Journalism Guild Writer

Athletic Achievement Awards were presented to eight outstanding members of San Quentin's 2014 baseball teams. They are:

From the S.Q. Giants: Jeff Dumont/Jose Sandoval (Most Valuable Player), Anthony Sorrell (Most Improved Player), Michael Panella (Gold Glove).

From the S.Q. Athletics: Anthony Denard (Most Valuable Player), Royce Rose (Most Improved Player), Bilal Coleman (Gold Glove), Isaiah "The General" Thompson-Bonilla (A's Pitcher of the Year).

The 2014 San Quentin Rehabilitation Baseball Program had a memorable season of competition, plus a few big names in the world of professional sports were drawn to the Field of Dreams.

On a bright Saturday morning the S.Q. Giants were locked in the battle of a one-run game when the atmosphere became electric. The 49ers head coach, Jim Harbaugh, appeared with his 2014 rookie draft class.

"I see you've got runners on, and it's a close game," said Harbaugh as he walked up to the Giants dugout. Chris Deragon had just hit a double, moving Jose Sandoval to third. Harbaugh and the rookies looked on as Jeff "Dewey" Dumont stepped into the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Giant Co-MVPs Jose Sandoval and Jeff Dumont

batters box and crushed a fastball for a three-run homer that blew the game open. Harbaugh gave a fist-pump and cheered as the Giants dugout erupted.

On another occasion Rugged Ardzioia, the oldest living New York Yankee player, watched a S.Q. Giants versus A's game, signed some autographs and threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Ardzioia, 94, is a personal friend of the S.Q. A's head coach, Steve Reichardt.

"It's an honor to have a living legend like Rugged come in to see our program," said Reichardt.

The Giants and Athletics signed a bat that was presented to Ardzioia by both teams.

World Series pitcher and Red Sox Hall of Famer Bill "Spaceman" Lee is a regular at The Q. He pitched a couple of innings for the San Rafael Pacifics, a

minor league team that came in to play the S.Q. All-Stars. He also came in with a local men's league team, the Rockies.

A documentary film crew, Heist Media, came in to film the Giants practice and games and interviewed players from both S.Q. teams.

The 2014 season saw an influx of ex-pro and minor league caliber pitchers brought in to face off against the notorious Bad Boys of Summer. The S.Q. baseball program is known for fielding teams that play at a high level.

"The teams are comprised of first-rate ballplayers," said Stewart Sallo of the visiting Dodger Town team. He added that they play "semi-pro quality baseball."

Giants coach Frankie Smith said, "It's been a pure pleasure to coach this team, I enjoyed watching new players develop and it gives me personal satisfaction to share baseball knowledge with them."

"I always have mixed emotions about the last game of the season, but I'm glad we made it through without any injuries," said Smith.

Athletics coach John "Yahya" Parratt said, "Coaching this year was about getting these guys to come together and recognize their weaknesses, faults and make adjustments."

The 2014 season also welcomed a new visiting team to the schedule, the Santa Barbara Riptide. They are the fourth Southern California team to come to The Q.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

A's most improved player Royce Rose, MVP Anthony Denard and Cleo Cloman

N.Y. Times Video Features S.Q. Baseball Program

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

An up-close video of San Quentin baseball players in action was posted on the *The New York Times* website recently.

The video titled *San Quentin's Giants* was beautifully filmed by the Heist Media film crew and edited and directed by Clayton Norfolk. It highlights baseball's effect on the rehabilitation efforts of incarcerated players.

"When I'm on that field, I'm not locked up. This is home field like no other," said Anthony Sorrell, who played for the S.Q. Giants before paroling recently.

The video captures the Lower Yard's Field of Dreams, a tier in North Block and the chow hall as the background of scenes featuring S.Q. Giants players Jeff "Dewey" Dumont, Chris Deragon, Frankie Smith, Anthony Sorrell and Jose Sandoval.

S.Q. A's players Royce Rose, Cleo Cloman and Anthony Denard are shown strolling to the field before a game. A's catcher John Windham was their featured speaker. A's coach John "Yahya" Parratt was also shown in his cell, adjusting the many baseball card photos of S.Q. players on his wall.

Dumont's fastball is shown in slow motion while he is heard

describing a love for baseball. Deragon and Sorrell are pictured at bat and speaking of baseball's positive effects.

"Baseball is a game of patience; you fail more than you succeed," said Sorrell. "It's not a time to get down on yourself ... you have to think about what can I change? What can I fix? Then you have to be patient, just like life, just like doing time."

"I owe a debt. Eric was murdered for nothing," said Deragon, expressing remorse for his crime. He joined the team because he "wanted to make changes. I wanted to make my life about more than prison."

"Baseball is a way for you to learn how to live in prison, to maybe find camaraderie and diversity," Smith said. "You can throw away color, whatever gangs you were in. When you're on this field, you're a team."

Baseball is like "a university, a place to learn and grow. To me, it's school -- at school we play ball," said Windham with a smile.

"If it wasn't for sports, who knows what I'd be going through right now," said Sorrell.

"It was emotional," said Smith after seeing the video. "It showed the genuine and humane side of us."

Glimpse of Student-Athletes at the Q

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

Athletics, education and self-help programs are major factors on changing lives in San Quentin State Prison. Here are some of the people who found rehabilitation behind the walls:

Thaddeus Fleeton, 49. 2nd-degree murder, serving a 15-life sentence. SQN: What has it been like playing for the S.Q. Kings these past two seasons?

It's been a great experience -- coming across paths with people from the street; the competitive spirit, the positive vibes and the enlightening conversations.

SQN: How long have you been involved in sports overall?

I started boxing at the age of 8 through 20; I picked up football at 12, and then basketball at 15.

SQN: Are you involved with any self-help groups?

Anger Management, AA/NA and Justice for the People. In addition, while I was at Salinas Valley Level IV, I took part in meditation. Breaking Barriers (Old Folsom '89) ... Walking a Path -- juveniles (Mule Creek '95-96)

SQN: What is the difference between the Thaddeus that first came into the system and the Thaddeus giving SQN this interview?

The "Thad" that came in was violent. That Thad had been to every Ad-Seg in every prison, and it was behind violence; I was reactionary; the Thad at The Q is a thinker, a positive individual; a people person, father, brother, son and uncle. I finally came to grips with my crime and owning up to it.

SQN: "Rehabilitated." What does this word mean to you?

You have to look yourself in the mirror and own up to your responsibilities and obligations.

SQN: What would you say to that young person who'll read

this, and they are thinking that coming to prison is a "rite of passage?"

A young person thinking about this path ... you won't hug ya moms, can't go outside when you want ... you'll have to follow orders -- from authority, whether you want to or not.

Trevor Bird, 34. Convicted of 1st-degree murder, sentenced to 26 to life. SQN: How long have you been here at San Quentin?

Seventeen months.

SQN: What sports have you played at The Q?

I played two seasons with All-Madden flag football; in baseball, one full season with the Giants, starting at second base. I play tennis, soccer, as well as the Intramural League Basketball.

SQN: What self-help groups have you taken since your arrival?

Kid Cat, Last Mile, G.R.I.P. (Guiding Rage into Power); through R.E.A.C.H., I became a tutor for VEP, and GED prep. I'm also in the machine shop.



Thaddeus Fleeton fighting through Bittermen boxout

SQN: Have you taken any college courses?

I completed Principles in Accounting toward my bachelor's in Adam's State in Colorado. I have previously earned an A.A. through Coastline Community College.



Christopher Deragon

SQN: What does it mean to you to be a student athlete?

The athletics keep my body fit. The academics keep the mind sharp. That's how I can complete myself within these walls -- sharp mind, fit body.

SQN: What is it about The Q that has allowed you to key in on the projects that you're involved in?

This is the first prison that I've been to that's linked to the greater metropolitan area. These groups offer connections to the community. The inmate community is so mature and like-minded that it makes everything we do so much more accepting than any place I've been. This entire environment is focused toward the person, not the skin tone.

Christopher Deragon, 35. Convicted of 1st-degree murder, 26 to life. SQN: How long have you been at the Q?

Almost five years.

SQN: The Chris that arrived here over four years ago was...?

Still somebody caught up in the prison mentality.

SQN: Did sports play a part in changing that?

Yeah, it did. This is the first prison I played interracial sports. When I first I arrived, I wasn't going to play because it was integrated. However, I came down to the yard every day and watched the practice, and finally my cellie told me, "Just play

baseball, who cares?" He was right. I asked myself, "Who cares? If I don't, who else will?"

SQN: What self-help groups are you involved in?

Impact, Trust, VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group), Real Choices, Alliance for Change; I'm currently the co-leader for the Education Department. I'm in charge of all the inside and outside facilitators, and making sure that the curriculum is run correctly.

SQN: What does it feel like to be a student-athlete?

It's a challenge because you have to manage your schedule at the Q. I have a full-time job, plus I out-count from three to five. I have Real Choices, which is youth diversion. Therefore, I get kids to focus on. Trying to find time to play baseball is difficult, but being able to break those barriers to play with someone without looking at the color of their skin is powerful in this prison environment. As an athlete, it opens the rest of my life to see people the same way.

Marvin Cosby, 39. Convicted of three attempted first-degree murders, three life terms, plus 24 years. SQN: What sports have you played since being here at SQ?

I'm an original All-Madden flag football player, for two seasons; I played with the S.Q. Warriors, three seasons; Intramural League, two seasons.

SQN: What self-help groups have you taken part in?

CGA (Criminals and Gangsters Anonymous) and AA/NA.

SQN: So, being at The Q is unique in the area of groups.

Well, the variety of groups helps you in many ways. They teach how to take the road to become a man.

SQN: You had a health issue that took you off the court; how do you teach the game to the players on the current Warriors team?

It's dealing with adversity. Sometimes you have to turn a

negative into a positive; it's not all about the offense, it's the defensive side of the game, staying focused, but most importantly, having fun. If you play hard, you can get good results.

SQN: How does that transfer over into life skills?

Well, it's a team sport. You have to learn to coexist with other people. Sometimes, teammates are hard to get along with. Playing basketball teaches you how to acquire that team mentality.

Andrew Vance, 37; 2nd-degree murder -- 15 to life. SQN: How long have you been involved in sports in general?

Since I was 7 years old -- started with soccer at 7 ... Little League at 10; no football, but playing basketball my whole term, since High Desert, 2000.

SQN: What programs have you been involved with since your arrival at The Q?

Anger Management with Dr. Richmond, AA, ARC -- Addiction Recovery Counseling, GRIP alumni, and a facilitator for GRIP

SQN: Which group has had the most profound impact on you as a person?

GRIP and ARC, one for substance abuse and the other for anger, finding your authentic self.

SQN: You also play the guitar.

Yes, since the age of 12.

SQN: Do you find any therapeutic value in music overall?

Yes I do. Playing guitar can be mood-altering -- soothing to an angry state, soothing to someone with heartbreak -- very inspiring. It can make you feel like you achieved goals along the way.

SQN: Tell the people what it means to be, in your mind, "rehabilitated."

CDCR didn't rehabilitate me; I had to start with myself. What The Q did was offer the opportunity to take it upon myself to find the avenues of rehabilitation.

Vice Films Inside Tennis Team

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

A view of tennis inside San Quentin was documented by Vice Media, featuring prisoners and outside tennis specialists.

The stated purpose was to learn about the socialization of sports.

"What makes an individual pick a certain sport?" asked Dan Bradley, head producer of Vice Sports.

"Why play tennis? What is it that is special for them?" Vice host Kaj Larsen asked the players in San Quentin. "Most never played growing up."

Vice found the Inside Tennis Team enthusiastically playing against 6.0-4.5 ranked guests Matthew Berry, Charlie Cutler, Kent and Patti Anderson, Alex Rosinski and Leslie Lava.

"I'm trying to teach (Mark) Jordan the kick serve. He picked up the concept fast," said Berry, a 6.0-ranked pro who now teaches tennis. Berry used to play for the University of San Francisco

and on the Men's Open circuit.

"It means the world that these pros come in here. It's such a blessing because all you do is learn," said Jordan. "A kick serve is when you serve with a bounce, high and away from you."

"It has a lot of spin. It's like the curve ball of tennis," added Berry.

Cutler helped Paul Alleyne with his serve and on backhand grips.

"Paul is pretty clean," said Cutler. "It seems like he's worked hard at it."

Here are answers to questions posed by Vice:

"After eight years in prison, I picked up the racket. I started playing because I was tired of guys arguing all the time on the basketball courts," said Orlando Harris, head coach of the S.Q. Kings basketball team.

"I started in the Army Officers Club to meet a girl," said Paul Oliver. "It's relaxing. It takes away a lot of stress. A little green ball acts like a heavy bag."

Before tennis, Alleyne played racket and volleyball.

"Fellow prisoner Bernard Wright took me under his wing and taught me," said Alleyne. "I got hooked. It's a very nuanced sport; I like the challenge of learning all the different strokes."

Guest Berry learned how to play using the tennis courts of Pollsmoor prison in South Africa, when the inmates weren't present. They were the closest tennis courts to his home.

"Never played with them -- just used their courts," said Berry, who said he enjoys coming into the Q. to play with inmates.

"I coach for a living and can see you guys really love the game. Kids be like, 'Oh, I'm tired, coach.' It's nice to see the appreciation," said Berry.

"My dad played, so I grew up on the court," said Cutler. "As soon as I could walk, I was hitting balloons."

"My sport was golf, then I met Kent in college and took lessons from him," said Patti Ander-



Inside Tennis Team at work

son. She traded dinner for the lessons. He expected roast beef and mashed potatoes, and got yogurt and tuna fish, but stayed for dinner anyway. Now they are married.

"I believe in the tennis program and enjoy interaction with the guys," Lava said.

"Overall, athlete programs with community volunteers is a good thing," added Patti Anderson. "Tennis teaches respect, communication and acceptance."

"You are all human beings.

It's nice to get a chance to get to know you guys and be a help," added her husband. "It's giving back to the San Quentin community."

The day ended with inmate Rafael Calix speaking to the volunteers with the S.Q. team circled around.

"We want to thank you for coming in and giving us an opportunity to (feel like we're on) parole in the middle of San Quentin," said Calix. "Everyone say 'tennis' on three. One, two, three ... TENNIS!"

Warriors Lose Season Finale at Buzzer

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Juston Willis drained a three at the buzzer for the comeback, 84-82, Green Team victory in the season finale against the San Quentin Warriors.

"#\$@!&*" and other unprintable expletives, said Warriors coach Daniel Wright about the loss.

"It's a joyous feeling to hit that shot. You can't script anything like that to happen," said Willis. "It's another catalyst for coming back next season."

San Quentin basketball season ended with the Nov. 15 game and resumes in March.

The game was literally a battle, said Todd Hahs. He showed off six wounds after the game.

The almost 7-foot center scored seven of his 28 points from the free-throw line.

Hahs played pro in Portugal and is now a minister. Hahs has ministered to prisoners in South



Maurice Hanks guarded by Tyree McCary

America along with the transformourworld.org website.

The Warriors led from the jump, up 22-17 at the end of the first quarter and 49-42 at the end of the second. Maurice Hanks

led the early charge for the Warriors going hard in what was his last game as a Warrior because he is scheduled to parole before next season.

"When you're out, you're off the team. We'll miss you but don't ever come back to play in here," said Green Team sponsor Bill Epling. "I remember when Maurice was an angry young fella. Now he's somebody who a father wouldn't mind dating his daughter ... I didn't say my daughter," Epling joked.

Hanks finished his Warriors career with a double double, 21 points and 10 boards.

In the fourth quarter, Green Team was up 81-78 with 53 sec-

onds left when Harry "ATL" Smith stole the ball and laid it up for the Warriors.

On the Green Team possession, Hahs decided to try to put a "nail in the coffin" of the Warriors, but missed the short jumper, which Alias Jones rebounded and launched down court. Allan McIntosh finished the play with a layup, giving the Warriors an 82-81 lead with 25 seconds left.

In the last possession, Kyle Fowler took control, slowing the game down for a last-second shot. As the Warriors focused on him and Hahs, nobody guarded Willis, who was wide open at the three-point line, where he received the dish and released his shot with one second left. The ball swished through the net as time expired and the crowd erupted in excitement.

Willis finished with 14 points, two blocks and a steal. Fowler added 12 points and Tyree McCary scored 12 with 11 boards for the Green Team.

McIntosh finished with 26 points, seven rebounds, two steals and one assist.

The game was characteristic of Warriors-Green Team games. Many went down to the wire or into overtime and could have been won by either team. However, the Green Team holds the edge at 10-5 for this season. The Warriors still emerged with a winning 14-12 record overall. They only lost two games to their other rivals, Imago Dei and the Outsiders, and scored big wins over the Golden State Warriors and Pacific Union College.

"It's been a great season," said Christian Sports Ministry sponsor Don Smith. "We had the most events this year, 25 basketball games, six softball and one flag-football. Next year I want to add soccer and more football."

"Another successful season," said Warriors general manager Robert "Bishop" Butler. "Basketball is the reason, but Jesus is the hook."

Kings Fall to Green Team in OT, 79-78

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Writer

A last-second free throw boosted the visiting Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team to a 79-78 fast-paced overtime victory over the San Quentin Kings in the season finale.

"It was a good game, but the turnovers at the wrong time killed us," said Charles Sylvester.

In the fourth quarter, the Kings were up 68-65. Green Team power forward Bobby Williams in bounded the ball to shooting guard Ross Pusey. He ran to the corner three-point line and shot over a King defender, knocking down the

three, tying the score with three seconds left in regulation.

The Kings' attempt to make a play in the remaining seconds was stopped when Green Team center Tyree McCary swatted down the inbound pass. Williams picked up the loose ball and fired off a half-court shot that bounced off the rim, nearly going in.

"This is unlike any pick-up game anywhere. This atmosphere is great," said Green Team guard Mike Picone.

In overtime, the Green Team controlled the opening tip, until Kings' guard Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc stole the ball from Pusey, ran down court and hit

a pull-up jumper, starting a 6-1 Kings run.

Beltranchuc's basket was followed by Sylvester stealing the ball from Picone as he crossed half-court, setting off a fast break. Sylvester found Thad Fleton on his wing and dished him the ball. Fleton hit a turn-around short-range jumper over Williams.

Williams was fouled on the next play and hit one of two free throws. With the ball back in his hands, Beltranchuc found Demond Lewis wide open. Lewis nailed the shot, making the score 75-69.

With their backs against the wall, the Green Team came out of a timeout and made a run.

Pusey made a sweet pass in traffic to Williams, who scored the layup between two defenders, making it 75-73 Kings.

The Kings' Fleton responded with an and-one layup, completing the three-point play with a free throw, giving the Kings a commanding 78-73 lead.

The Green Team was not deterred. With a minute left, Pusey received the inbound pass from guard Picone and went coast-to-coast, weaving between Kings defenders for the layup off the backboard and closing the deficit to 78-75.

With 45 seconds left, the Kings tried to run the clock out, which forced the Green Team to foul King guard Brian Asey to stop the clock. Asey missed both critical free throws and rebounded his own miss, but lost the ball out of bounds.

Pusey quickly dribble-drove the ball down court toward the basket, which drew in the Kings defenders. He then passed the rock to wide open McCary, who swished the three-pointer, tying the score 78-78.

The Kings rushed the inbound pass. It bounced off Faten Jackson's hands. Williams picked the ball from the ground and headed for the basket, but was fouled. He made one of the two free throws, giving the Green Team a 79-78 point lead with five seconds left in overtime.

Time expired with the Kings down one after having led by six, leaving them in shock in the season finale.

"This is the best thing to do on a Saturday; the competition is good. I appreciate my situation much more," Williams said.

Leading scorers for the Kings were J. "Mailman" Ratchford with 18, Fleton 15, P. "Strange" Walker 11 and Sylvester 9.

Pusey led the Green Team with 27 points. Williams had 24, McCary 10 and Picone 6.

The Kings finished the season with an 11-10 record, but were 1-8 against the Green Team, whose only loss came when McCary wasn't available.

"I came in here and never lost and next year will be the same," said McCary.

Third Straight Win for 'Running Man'

By **Harun Taylor**
Sports Writer

With a slight breeze blowing and the sun shining, 60-year-old Lorenzo "The Running Man" Hopson out-paced the other 1,000 Mile Club members in a Nov. 14 marathon run and once again triumphed.

He completed the 26.2 miles in 3:31:47, just missing the San Quentin record of 3:26:00, which he set earlier, by 5 minutes and 47 seconds.

"The yard going down, that messes up your rhythm," Hopson said after the race. "I've been No. 1 three times in row, but this one is the second fastest time."

Darren Settlemeyer, who ran 20 miles, said, "It was a fantastic run. Having Diane, Frank, Kevin, RJ and Jim come in to help and contribute is awesome."

After 16 miles Louis Hunter stepped off the track. "I got too many injuries this trip and I'm trying to work through it. I took three weeks off attempting to rest up, but I might've taken too much time," said Hunter, who started an hour and 20 minutes after all the other runners.

Edward "Wakil" Scott only

ran four miles. "I had intentions to run more, but Allah gave me what I put in. I didn't put in any work, so I didn't get any more than I put in," said Scott.

Eric "Abdu'l Wahid" Moody completed 13.1 miles, a personal best, in 2 hours and 21 minutes. "I thought I had at least 75 percent of it in me, but my calves started burning and I got tired. I'm not ready for the full 26.2 yet, but I'll get there," said Moody.

Eddie DeWeaver ran 13.1 miles. "I'm really tired. I went to Ad Seg last night; my whole schedule is thrown off -- eating, sleeping, everything. But, I still came out to support the program," he said.

Bernard "Abdur RaHiym" Ballard, completed 13.1 miles in 2:10:18 for the first time. "I'm exhausted. I'm going to use this as a stepping stone for the next season," he said.

During their run the runners took salt pills and plenty of water. After the run they received granola bars.

"This is the half training, half marathon run today," said Chris Schumacher, laughing. He completed 13.1 miles in 1:52:08.

The 1,000 Mile Club is a group of San Quentin athletes who have committed themselves to running as a way to aid in their personal rehabilitation.

Sponsor Kevin Runyon said, "Running and sports within the prison setting in general are goal orientated: physical fitness, meditation and even prayer for some. We know what it is, however, whether the powers that be see it that way is another story."

Larry Ford finished the run 3:55:26 and was reflective. "It was tough. At 58 - I'll be 59 in December - it was tough, but if I'm running, I'm vertical. If I'm vertical, I'm running," said Ford.

Other 26.2 miles Finishers:

Glen Mason	
Age: 53 Time: 03:46:44	
Sergio Carrillo	
41	03:52:48
Larry Ford	
58	03:55:26
Miguel Quezada	
32	04:09:38
Carlos Ramirez	
32	04:10:38
Michael Keeeyes	
67	04:29:00
Clifton Williams	
52	04:58:10



Charles Sylvester facing Ross Pusey



San Quentin's Dining Hall

Photo by P. Jo

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 <small>New Year's Day</small>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <small>Martin L. King Jr. Day</small>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <small>President's Day</small>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 <small>Clear Chances Day</small>				

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25 <small>Memorial Day</small>	26	27	28	29	30

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <small>Labor Day</small>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <small>Veteran's Day</small>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 <small>Thanksgiving Holiday</small>	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 <small>Christmas Day</small>	26
27	28	29	30	31		