San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

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San Quentin Escapee Is Captured in Los Angeles

The San Quentin convict who escaped last November when he was taken to Larkspur for a doctor's appointment was captured Thursday night in Los Angeles when he was reportedly caught in a burglary.

Mike Madding, San Quentin information officer, said the Los angeles County Sheriff's Department arrested Richard Thompson in the act of a burglary, but he did not know further details.

After the arrest, officials discovered that Thompson was the man who escaped with the aid of an armed accomplice on Nov. 24.

The 42-year-old convict had been taken to a doctor's office on South Eliseo Boulevard for a test in connection with his longtime hearing problems. As he was being led back to a prison van by a correctional officer and a medical technician, both unarmed, a friend of Thompson's got up from a bench outside and pulled a sawed-off rifle.

The accomplice took the keys to Thompson's handcuffs and the van, locked the prison employees inside the vehicle and left it behind the medical office. The two managed to get the attention of a woman walking her dog who called the prison and police. Eventually, someone brought keys from San Quentin to unlock the van and free the two.

Work Furlough for 'Dago' and 'Sacto'

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 6260-65, the Department of Corrections has entered into a community reentry program contract for male and female felons with Model Ex-Offenders, Inc. The location of the facility is Model Ex-Offenders, Inc., 1719 National Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113, Phone (714) 234-6191.

Model Ex-Offenders is an established, community-managed program. The CDC contract provides for supervision, room, board and such other services stipulated in the Community Facility Guidelines. The contract provides for 25 participants per day for inmates who are closer than 30 days — but no more than 90 days — from their scheduled parole date.

Candidates must be scheduled for release in the San Diego area. In addition to the Classification Manual screening criteria, all placements will be approved by mutual consent of the Department of Corrections and Model Ex-Offenders staff.

Another community reentry program contract for male felons has been established with the California Congress of Ex-Offenders, Inc. This facility is in The Sacramento area and is called The Sojourner House, located at 1921 28th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816.

The Sojourner House program is an established private community program. The Department of Corrections' contract provides for two beds for female felons. The purpose of the program is to provide a stable, care-giving, stimulating environment for eligible female inmates and their infant children.

Shots End Fight

A total of six shots were fired to break up an altercation between two convicts—and eventually involved a correctional sergeant who tried to break up the fight.

According to Mike Madding, prison information officer, two inmates began fighting at approximately 5:30 p.m. Two warning shots were fired to break it up and then, as a crowd began to gather, the two inmates began fighting again—causing the gunrail to fire two more rounds.

The correctional sergeant who ran to the scene was reportedly struck in the face by a convict in the crowd gathering to watch the incident. Two more rounds were fired by the gunrail, ending the incident. The two men involved in the dispute and the convict who allegedly struck the sergeant were all locked up pending investigation of the incident.

Oregon Bill Would Legalize Possession

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregonians could legally possess up to three marijuana plants and up to 1 ounce of dried marijuana in their homes under a bill introduced Friday by the Oregon House Judiciary Committee.

Legal possession would require a $20 annual license from the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

The bill also would outlaw sale to minors of drug paraphernalia, such as water pipes or so-called roach clips. Violations would carry penalties of up to one year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

It now is a crime to possess more than 1 ounce of marijuana or to possess any plants.

A Nine-Year Ordeal

Owens Declared 'Not Guilty'

Anyone who has been in prison for any length of time has heard fellow prisoners proclaim their innocence, "Yeah, we're all innocent."

Unfortunately, this is sometimes a reality. People do spend years in prison for crimes they did not commit. San Quentin is presently housing at least one such individual.

Aaron "Knowman" Owens, a 37-year-old man from Oakland, has been in San Quentin and Folsom for the past nine years. He stands convicted of two counts of first-degree murder. Two crimes he did not commit.

Throughout the ordeal, Aaron has gone through one lawyer after another. As expected, they attacked the problem by claiming procedural error at the trial level. None would listen to Aaron's claim that he was innocent. As a result, he became caught up in the system. The appeal process offered no relief, and he began making appearances before the parole authorities. "Unsuitable for parole" was the result — year after year. Not guilty of the crime, but unsuitable for parole. The frustration grew with each denial.

At a recent parole hearing, Aaron concluded that his attorneys were doing him no good. He decided to see whether the assistant district attorney attending his parole hearings would be willing to listen. An unusual situation, for sure. His lawyer would not listen to Aaron, but the prosecutor there to argue against his being granted parole would — and did.

The assistant district attorney examined the facts Aaron presented to him. They aroused sufficient question to warrant an investigation, so a special investigator was assigned to look into the situation. The investigator's findings were presented to Mr. Lowell Jensen, district attorney for Alameda County. Mr. Jensen was apparently convinced of the accuracy of the conclusion, and he has initiated procedures to win Aaron's release.

"I expect a full pardon," Aaron explained. "It may mean having to accept a parole until the pardon has been signed by the Governor, but at least I'm on my way."

The inevitable question as to whether he's bitter prompted this response from Aaron, "Yes, I'm bitter. Not to the point where my thinking has become distorted, but I feel just as anyone would who spent nine years in prison for something he didn't do. It hasn't been a pleasant experience, believe me. I've lost the pleasure I would have had watching my kids grow up. I regret not having been allowed to attend my father's funeral. The material things I've lost can be replaced, but nothing can replace the years I had to spend locked up."

Aaron will be leaving San Quentin within 30 days. He will be going back into the outside world to rebuild his life. He takes with him the memories and experiences of the ordeal. "All I can do is start over." Aaron explained. "If I had to say what all I've learned from this I'd say, 'A lot.' One of the main things is directed towards the lawyers who represent people in prison. They tend to follow the presumption of guilt that comes into effect when someone has been found guilty by a judge or jury. From that point on a man is presumed to be guilty, and many lawyers have become too complacent or lazy to investigate a case. Whether they like it or not, there *are* people in prison who did not commit the crimes for which they stand convicted. And not all of them will be leaving with the same frame of mind I have. Believe me, the years of frustration take their toll."

Convict Stabbed Twice At Dry Cleaning Plant

A San Quentin prisoner suffered two minor stab wounds after being assaulted at the vocational dry cleaning plant Feb. 11, according to Mike Madding, prison information officer.

Madding said that officers responding to the scene apprehended one suspect and retrieved a rusty, 12" prison-made knife. The victim was treated and released from the prison hospital following the stabbing.

Autopsy Results

Chase's Death Called Suicide

S.F. Chronicle

The death last month at San Quentin Prison of Richard Chase, dubbed the "Vampire Killer" because he reportedly drank the blood of some of his six victims, was a suicide, according to the Marin County coroner.

A San Quentin officer found Chase dead in his Death Row cell on Dec. 26. An autopsy released Thursday by the coroner revealed Chase ingested a fatal dose of an antidepressant medication, Doxepin.

Mike Madding, prison information officer, said Chase had been on heavy medication because of mental problems. He said the murderer probably saved up some doses to take his own life by pretending to swallow pills given him.

San Quentin prisoners are given medicine one dose at a time, but sometimes they pretend to take a dose by putting it under the tongue until the officer leaves.

Chase, a former mental patient, was found guilty of the murders of two men, two women, a young boy and an infant in December 1978 and January 1979 in a residential area northeast of Sacramento.

Authorities said the infant was decapitated and the women, one an expectant mother, were mutilated.

Chase, who made several requests for blood while in prison, told officials he drank some of his victims' blood to ward off the effects of poison he had been given.

Violent Group Proposal

Attorney General George Deukmejian says he will sponsor a bill that would make it a felony to knowingly belong to a "violent group," a measure sure to create controversy.

The conservative Republican announced last Friday that Sen. Diane Watson, a black liberal Democrat from Los Angeles, would introduce the measure next week.

Deukmejian said the bill would apply to the Ku Klux Klan, among other organizations. Deputy Attorney General Vance Raye said that to convict someone under the bill it would have to be proven the member knew of the "violent nature of the group and had specific intent to further its violent goals."

The measure will undoubtedly draw strong opposition from civil liberties groups. Brent Barnhart, a lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union, said his organization would have "serious problems" with the bill.

Gunfire Roars In 'A' Section

A warning shot had to be fired in A Section Feb. 7 at 12:31 p.m. to break up a fistfight between two convicts embroiled in a personal dispute.

State's Prison Terms Criticized

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California's increasingly stiff prison sentences appear to have no effect on the crime rate but are a "time bomb" for the state prison system, a state official said last week.

The most recent statistics show that California has longer prison sentences than other states, and a higher percentage of its population in custody than any nation except South Africa and the Soviet Union, said Brian Taugher, deputy secretary of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency.

But Taugher told the Assembly Criminal Justice Committee that there was "no evidence that by increasing sentence lengths . . . you have any effect whatsoever on crime rates."

He conceded that criminals sentenced to additional years in prison couldn't commit new crimes on the public for those years, but said that while 9000 persons a year are sentenced to prison, as many as a million crimes are reported in California each year.

Taugher also noted that the Legislature, while increasing sentences for most crimes in the last few years and requiring prison terms for many crimes, hasn't approved any new prisons.

The statistics on sentencing came from 1976 and 1977, before California passed a series of laws doubling sentences for non-capital murders and repeat rapes, and requiring prison sentences in most or all cases for such crimes as rape, night-time residential burglary and infliction of serious injury.

In 1976, Taugher said, California prison sentences for all crimes averaged 34 months; no other large state averaged more than 20 months.

In 1977, California had 256 persons in prison, jail, the Youth Authority or some other custody for each 100,000 of its population, a figure that has certainly risen since then, Taugher said.

United Nations figures showed South Africa had 460 per 100,000, the Soviet Union 391 and the United States 208, Taugher said. Great Britain had 84, West Germany 60, France 56 and the Netherlands 22.

—WEEKEND MOVIE—

"Dracula"

In this version by Andy Warhol, Dracula craves the blood of virgins, only. As you might expect, he's constantly on the verge of starvation. Stars Joe Dallesandro. Rated R.

—HOLIDAY MOVIE—

The Blue Lagoon

This movie focuses on the adolescent experiences of an English boy and girl who are castaway on a South Seas island in 1908. Brooke Shields stars as the girl. Rated R.

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Corrections — A Conflict of Views

Contributed By Carl D. McQuillion

Moralists, as a rule, tend to subscribe to a philosophy that, by definition, undertakes to prescribe individual conduct from a standpoint of good and evil.

In practice, in my opinion, most moralists live a life of contradictions and, for that reason — initially — I rejected Western religion. Later I learned the difference between idealisms and application, or interpretation.

What has never set well with me was the idea of worshipping a father-figure image portrayed as the Almighty, the Creator, or God, someone who looked like Santa Claus, or Moses. Such an image seems to confine the concept of God into terms symbolized for human comprehension. Worship becomes a ritual conducted for an external entity. To define God in true terms is really beyond the average human comprehension.

Man is a creation not of his own but of his environment, his experiences, his education and culture, his perceptions and responses, and his value system. As an externally motivated creature, he caters to influences outside of himself to bring fulfillment. He pursues diverse goals — money, love, fame, fine homes, parties, cruises, successful careers, etc. — in the hopes and expecting that these things will bring happiness.

This concept is carried over into religion, and Western man in particular supplicates and confesses before a mental image of what he believes represents God.

America is a country of diverse cultures and racial origins. It is a melting pot of philosophies and sanctions. It is a society where men are divided into many classes and where each class finds something about the others to be prejudeced about.

Within such an environment, parents raise their children, and parents raise themselves. Some people grow into healthy, well-adjusted spiritual people. Some live unhappy but law-abiding lives. Some are so poorly envolved that they manifest destruction everywhere thay go.

Because Western man is run by his ego-self (conditioned-self, outer-self), those who subscribe to law-and-order endorse laws that are harsh and vindictive, thinking perhaps, that such measures reform, or deter — "I'll bet he won't do that again!"

But the same emotions that drive leaders to enact laws that are contrary to the mental health of all men are the same emotions in prisoners that come into play as the effects of those harsh and retributive laws. They only manifest differently because of their idiosyncratic value systems and thought patterns.

Criminal laws are made by emotional men and women responding to their own anger about and fear of crime — especially violent crime — and without understanding of the actual effects that will occur. The jails and prisons reflect in their horrid physical and psychological conditions society's dim view of crime and criminals. Criminals are less than human, an evil entity to be feared always, to be forever suspect, unchangeable, intractable, without redeemable qualities.

The tragic thing about it all is that those conditions create tremendous, pervasive psychological pressures that most prisoners, feeling like dogs in a cage poked by a stick, respond to with rage and bitterness — some manifest it through physical violence; some keep it bottled up inside and there it becomes a living influence on how they conduct themselves.

It eats away respect for law, for government, for bureaucrats, for other people, and for themselves.

It eats away the compassion that healthy humans have.

It limits awareness and men become narrow-minded; they become callous to the needs of others; and they slowly shut down the positive capacities of their hearts.

This shutting-down process is a means to cope with the double-standards of their principles, and with the contradictions permeating their lives.

Some prisoners survived without too much damage, but virtually all lose their respect for the system. This is evident by the fact that 80% of all felonies are committed by repeat offenders.

In much the same way, John Q. Citizen lives his life, bitter with the government; at the bureaucratic mentality that mismanages the economy; angered because of the many government regulatory agencies he must address in supplication in order to be allowed to do anything — driver's license, hunting license, real estate license, license for this, licenses for that, forms for this, forms for that, taxes, taxes, and more taxes, etc.

John Q. Citizen fears crime and is angry because the police cannot adequately protect him. But, even though John Q. Citizen considers himself to be law abiding in his conduct, his own idiosyncratic value system will allow him to rationalize, when the occasion permits, a compromise when it is wrong or unethical. Strategies in business, they are called, using loopholes in the law to justify actions contrary to ethical standards, and morally wrong. It is said that every man has his price.

Criminals, on the other hand, because of their own idiosyncratic value systems, respond to stressful situations in more obvious incorrect and unacceptable fashions, some by violence as the perceived means to alleviate their own suffering (anger, hate, depression, neurosis, etc.), and some by theft in order to acquire the things they expect will bring happiness and contentment.

of good and evil as the moralists would have everyone believe, but rather of mental development. Western man has somehow evolved in a regressive fashion where he no longer subscribes to a naturalistic value system but to a system where his values are unstable, contradictory, and confusing, and where his belief system is structured accordingly. Rationalizations replace rational thought. Expediency replaces efficiency and competence. Politics replace integrity and truth.

I have heard prisoners say, time and again, that they are not interested in materialistic success, that what they want is happiness and fulfillment, yet few can define the vague term happiness. Fewer still have any concrete or meaningful goals, but then again, the same can be said for much of free society. Many people do not realize that they can have both happiness and material success.

Eastern thought subscribes to the concept that in order for man to become happy and fulfilled he must first deny his ego-self and turn inward to his inner self (soul, essence, spirit).

Happiness is the absence of pain. Much pain is caused by having expectations we have no right to, by disillusionment when an experience doesn't fit our picture of it, by the stresses of labeling things and experiences good or bad, and by our own frustrated desires.

Such pain occurs from external factors, and the degree of influence in our lives is in direct proportion to the level of energy we put into that pain. The more energy we give it, the more power it has over us. We give it life by embracing it.

Since the subsconscious mind (which controls habits and attitudes) does not know fantasy from reality, what the conscious mind dwells upon registers in the subconscious mind as reality. Perceived injustices impacts upon thought patterns and belief structures, and modifies them, thereby modifying one's idiosyncratic value system. An externally-derived idiosyncratic value system fluctuates with the emotions.

The Eastern path to spirituality guides one according to a naturalistic value system. One turns inward through meditation to find his true self. He loses his ego as the dominating force in his life. By specific techniques he realigns and purifies his thought patterns, belief structures and idiosyncratic value system.

He becomes health-conscious, compassionate and strong. His nervous system becomes purified and he evolves into happiness, spontaneity and fulfillment. He finds contentment in being rather than having.

What public pressure, law-and-order mentalities, legislators, and correctional administrators are doing in making and maintaining the harsh, vindictive and repressive measures to criminal conduct are, in most cases, forging an increasingly dangerous threat to society by inciting psychological responses in prisoners that further their criminality.

What the indignant and angered moralists are doing is far worse because of its emotional deliberateness than most of the crimes committed.

Does it make any sense at all to deal with men who have committed crime in such a way as to make them more vicious than they ever were? Each human alive has the capacity inherent in his make-up to be constructive or destructive, to be mature or immature, to be callous or compassionate, etc. How he is treated and how he perceives this treatment determines what his manifestations will be. Current correctional methods and environmental conditions simply encourage the growth of negative manifestations.

In this article, I do not intend to exduse criminals for their conduct. Each man must learn individual responsibility and be accountable for what he does. But first, one must be able to understand life, himself, and behavior. He must have the desire to reorganize his life. He must be encouraged to do so, not treated in such a way that breeds anger and bitterness.

By Joe Morse

This stinking job is starting to tax my limited abilities. I'm expected to knock out an objective editorial from time to time, but have ya ever tried to be objective when you're in a ¢%#@ the world mood? It ain't easy, believe me.

What I oughta do is shine the whole thing on this week, but it has become a matter of principle. A decent writer is supposed to be able to overcome his moods. So . . . I'm gonna prove that the state made a bad investment when they hired me. Then again, I don't know what the hell they expect for 25 bucks a month. Looks like what ya get is what ya get.

Okay, back to my responsibilities. This ain't the week to do any backsliding. Our new journalism advisor begins her duties this week, and I gotta do my best to dazzle the broad with my skills. The rest of the News staff is busily knocking out copy — but the weary editor sits at his typewriter muttering, "Drop the damn bomb!"

This reminds me of the days when I used to knock out editorials while recovering from a hangover. I used to knock out some real zingers then too. My editorials used to be so consistently bad the reader assumed that was my writing style. And I had an answer for everything. Just toss out the quandry, and I'd provide the solution. Let me tell ya, folks, if they had followed my suggestions there would be no problems in SQ today.

Has the problem with the kitchen workers been solved. Hell no! I had no way to get around the fact that people don't like working all week for little or no pay, but I did offer a solution. I suggested the kitchen workers be expected to work nine days a week for a few months. That would no doubt make a six or seven day week seem like an improvement in conditions. Right? I'm telling ya, man, I have a million of 'em.

Yeah, those were the good old days. Ya should have seen the way I handled the conditions of the cell blocks. Remember the wind that used to blow through the broken panes of glass? Well, in case ya ain't noticed, it still does. If they had followed my suggestion to cement up all the openings for the windows, we wouldn't have to sleep in thermal underwear in June.

I still hear comments on the way I dealt with the problem of inmate-staff relationships. It seems they were having a slight communications problem, but any dummy could have figured out the best way to handle it. We just stop talking to each other. How the hell can arguments start between a con and a guard if they ain't talking to each other? Makes me wonder how they got along without me.

I tackled the pay number issue with equal fervor, but it too resulted in failure. This was one of the few times when the mainline should have chosen someone else to champion the cause. I knew we had booked a loser when I made my first demand, "We want higher pay numbers!"

The staff member I was addressing looked down at the file before him and replied, "What the hell are you complaining about? It says here you've never worked on the streets. Why wait till you get here to start demanding decent wages?"

Rest assured, the SQ News staff didn't take that lying down. We stayed out of the office for three weeks. Unfortunately, no one noticed the fact that the paper wasn't coming out.

Well, rather than sit here pondering the good old days, I'll deal with the present and let ya know about the improvements ya may or may not see in the future issues of the News.

As I said, we've taken on a journalism advisor. Some broad who has been a reporter for a few years and teaches journalism at the College of Marin. You'll have to read about her in other sections of the paper. The moment she walked in the door, Jimmy swooped on her and started muttering, "Make me a journalist, lady. I kin write reel good."

The broad has no say as to the content of the paper. Like it or not, you'll continue getting what you get. However, there should be an improvement in the quality of the things you do read. Up till now, the News staff has had to rely on my judgment — and that ain't too cool. My only test for quality has been running the article. If it doesn't get me stabbed, fired or shipped out I figure it must be okay.

That's your issue for this week, folks. Keep those cards and letters rolling in. At last count, our circulation has increased by six. Six new readers! Man, oh, man. If the parole board could see me now.

Vocational Training

An Alternative to Looting, Plundering

By B. Washington

There are 14 vocational training programs being offered behind the walls of SQ. Many people have chosen vocational training as an alternative to the trade, or lack of trade, that brought them here in the first place. At present there are 197 men enrolled in a vocational training program which has a capacity for 237 men. The 14 trades range from the highly technical to the very creative with each having a definite place in today's job market.

Recently, new custody and level placement changes are taking place throughout the CDC. The effect of it is being felt in the vocational programs. Men have been pulled out of their trades and transferred to various institutions. More often than not, the new institutions do not offer his trade. The auto shop here in SQ is one such victim of the custody change policy. Filled with new equipment, it remains accessible to only a very few because of its location near the bay.

With SQ being designated a Level IV prison, there has been an increase in the close-custody population, and this has caused a few variations in the vocational programs. Because of where most of the trades are located, the close-custody men can't participate.

Ernie Bradford, supervisor of vocational instruction, realizing the existing problem, has created classroom-training programs in the education building for those close-custody individuals wanting to learn a trade. However, a person can only learn so much from a book or a chart. There reaches a point where practical application is in order. To fill that need SQ is trying to purchase technical equipment fit for classroom situations, such as a computerized welding machine that does everything except shoot an arc of flame. It'll tell the student whether he's doing the particular piece of work right or wrong and allows him to make adjustments. Yet, even though the welding computer is invaluable to the classroom setting, it still remains only a dream of Ernie Bradford until SQ receives the necessary funding.

Vocational Meat Cutting

As of now this program only covers wholesale cutting, not the specialized retail cuts.

This is a 4000-hour course with two special requirements: you must have a tolerance to cold, and no communicable diseases.

Because of the constant change in instructors there hasn't been any help available in finding jobs upon completion of this course. However, after completing this course a person should have no problem in finding a job on their own.

The course includes classroom sessions, and a buddy system is used to help new students. There are also four pay numbers available that alternate between a 15-man crew.

Electric Shop

This is an 8000-hour course. The special requirements are 8.5 grade placement level and one year of algebra. Upon completion of this course a person can become an indentured apprentice. At the present time there are six indentured apprentices enrolled in the class.

Paroling cons can get job assistance through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Also, the trade instructor offers assistance through his various contacts on the outside.

There are only four pay positions in the electric shop and they go to the advanced students.

Electronic Technology

This course is the newest of the vocational programs. The instructor Mr. Jarvis, says that the only requirement is to "have the desire to learn."

The fundemental class is a 63-week course that will cover everything from televisions to computers. The type of equipment used will be updated and deversified. And upon completion of the course you should be able to get licenced.

Because of the newness of the course its job placement assistance upon completion level is ?. And as of now there is no pay number available.

Vocational Baking

In the recent ACA tour this was the only part of the kitchen to pass the inspection.

This is a 3300-hour course with three special requirements: you must have a tolerance to heat, you can't have any communicable diseases, and you should have the ability to lift at least 100 lbs.

This course is an accredited apprenticeship program. Some people completing the course have also recieved assistance in finding employment upon release. As of now there is no pay number available.

Dry Cleaning

This 3,500-hour course takes a grade placement level of 8.5 to get into. Its other special requirements are good health and good hands.

Parolees from this trade can find job assistance through the dry cleaners union and also through the instructor.

All positions are paid wages due to the employee work done.

Landscape Gardening

This is a 2,000-hour course with the following special requirements: good health, and no child molesting.

Job assistance is available through the instructor and the program is directly affiliated with the California Landscape Contractors Association.

There are some paid positions.

Machine Shop

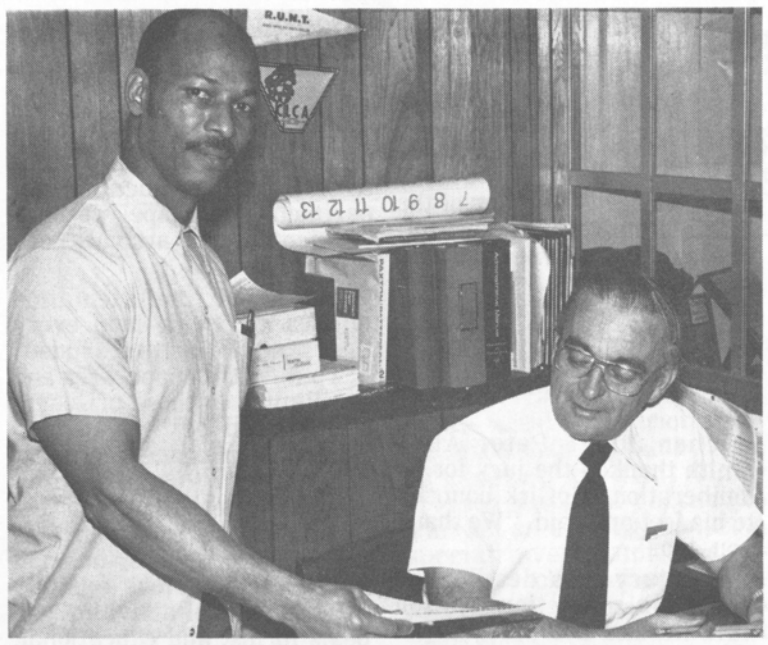
For this trade, along with having a 8.5 grade placement level, students must also pass a 30-day probation period to see if they qualify for the class.

At completion of this course enrollees can become indentured apprentices. Job assistance is available through the union and the instructor.

There are four pay positions that alternate between a 14-man crew.

Sheet Metal

This course is 8,000 hours in length. Its special requirements are 8.5 grade placement level, working knowledge of basic math, and the willingness to learn.



BILL FIELDS AND ERNIE BRADFORD

At completion of this course enrollees can become indentured apprentices. The sheet metal union meets quarterly with students that want to join.

Job assistance is available through the union.

There are some paid positions that go to the advanced students for maintenance work done.

Welding

This course is 2,250 hours in length. The special requirements are: 8.5 grade placement level, no visual limits, and no respiratory illnesses.

The instructor in this course sends out fliers to different companies so that he can keep his class up to date on new techniques. The trade advisory council also assists by getting students ready for the job market.

There are no paid positions in this shop.

Electronic Data Processing

The special requirements for this class are 9.0 grade placement level, and the desire to learn.

The course is 3,750 hours in length and covers everything from computer programming to systems analyzation. The course gives a student a chance to gain computer knowledge at his own pace. The student also sets his own limitations.

The waiting list for this class is extremely long. With the field being so demanding it's been hard finding another instructor willing to work here with a reduction in prevailing street wages.

Parolees leaving from this course haven't had any trouble finding jobs. Once a month potential employers visit the class to see if what students are being taught is hireable in today's job market.

There are a few pay numbers in this class that go to the advanced students for outside work orders done.

Office Machine Repair

This course is 4,800 hours in length and requires a 8.5 grade placement level to get into. There are no other special requirements for this class.

Right now the trade is operating under a relief instructor. But before the last instructor retired he set up strong TAC ties for his class. The course is an apprenticeship-backed course and paroling individuals can get job assistance through them.

There are a few pay numbers available to the advanced students for maintenance work done.

Plumbing

This course is 6,720 hours in length and its only special requirement is a 8.5 grade placement level.

Students finishing this course have had help in finding jobs through the instructor and through the union. Persons on this course can become indentured apprentices by passing the test given every so often.

There are a few pay numbers available for maintenance work done.

Offset Press

This course takes 5040 hours to complete. The special requirements are normal color vision and no forgery or counterfeiting.

Upon completion of this course you will be hireable as a pressman. However it should be noted that in the six years Bill Little has been teaching this class no-one has completed it yet. Those statistics shouldn't be a deterrent for anyone wishing to enroll in this class. Out of all the classes we've looked at so far this class has the best level of placement upon parole rate yet. Just about everyone that's taken this class has had help in finding a job, especially those paroling in the bay area.

Due to the outside work that's done in the shop pay numbers are available.

Compositing

This is a 5,000 hour course with two special limitations: You can't have either a forgery or a counterfeiting on your jacket. You must have a 10.5 grade placement level in English mechanics — spelling and punctuation.

This trade is not affiliated with a union. Job assistance is available through the instructor.

There are five paid positions.

Letters

Dear Editor:

First off, let me congratulate you on your most prestigious awards received from the Southern Illinois School of Journalism. The stories you received awards for were excellent stories.

On a more somber note, I have the duty to my writers to point out when one of their stories is printed in another paper and they are not given credit for the story. The story in question appeared in your Dec. 19 edition and was entitled "A Christmas Remembered" — supposedly written by Ronald James Hebrard. This story appeared in the December 1979 edition of the "Vacavalley Star" and was written By Vern McKee, who is a very close friend of mine.

Vern relates that he is flattered that Mr. Hebrard thinks enough of his writing to want to take credit for it, but you and I both know we cannot tolerate plagiarism in any form. I would be most happy to send you the printed version of the December 1979 issue of the Star if you do not have it in your file already — to verify that what I am relating to you is, indeed, true. You will see that Mr. Hebrard copied the story almost word for word.

On another note, the Star is currently closed down. I was locked out of my office Jan. 5. We have been getting good press coverage and we hope to be back in court within a week to have the Star reopened.

Once again, congratulations on your success with the News and I pray that we all will be able to continue to do the job we have set out to do — that of reporting the life we live in state prison.

Sincerely,

Vic Diaz, Editor
Vacavalley Star

African Cultural Message From Sate

By G. B. La Rue

Do you desire to gain more knowledge concerning Africa, her proud people and the connection you may share with them? If your answer to the preceding question was yes then the rest of this article is definitely for you.

If your reply was no then it would serve you best to reflect back on the words of sister Cayow, "Wake up! You better wake up!" If you are one of the fortunate persons who has already begun to awaken but are uninformed, you'll be pleased to learn that the Reverend Daina M. Clark is devoted to your total awakening.

Sister Clark has been reaching behind the walls of San Quentin with the Nguzo message for quite some time. She is noted and highly respected for her knowledge and work in several areas of black history, religious education, philosophy, sociology, theology and many other impressive studies.

This wonderful woman has taught, directed research, and lectured in major schools and universities throughout California and she remains a driving force to this day. She has done more than her share in the community and her many contributions to ours can never be forgotten.

Sister Clark holds services in the Protestant chapel on the first and third Sunday of each month from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. Unfortunately services conflict with our lunch hour, but they are well worth skipping chow to attend because the spiritual and intellectual refreshment you'll receive from this experience will surely fill you in the right places.

Frequently joining the Reverend Clark during worship services are brothers Herman Hollands, Jr., and Phil Colston, bringing with them the ceremonial drum rhythms of African cultures.

Services also include song, poetry, and other inspired readings. Sister Clark is also a very talented speaker as is evident in the graceful sermons she delivers to the congregation. She provides insight which will channel you through Africa and fill you with ancestral wisdom. She'll install in your heart greater understanding and appreciation for the Seven Principles, and your brothers and sisters. For as far as the imagination can reach, you'll travel through the history of Afro-America and view those who made major contributions that benefit our lives today.

At times the foundation of the Protestant chapel itself will seem to be resting on the soul of the Mother of Africa.

The brothers of the Sate organization also play an active part in these services just as you are invited to do so as a collective group. Future services bring a wider span of outside participation with the prospects being choirs, ensemble groups, ministers and outstanding bay persons as inspiring speakers.

You as individuals must decide if you are heavy enough intellectually to accept the educational opportunities which demand so little of your time and complete attention. You are encouraged to join us in worship Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m.—and on the first and third Sunday of each month come see what unity is all about.

San Quentin News

Entered as second class matter, April 23, 1944, at the San Quentin Post Office, CA 94964 under the act of March 3,1879.

Second Hung Jury

The Unsinkable Escape Suspects

S.F. Cronicle

For the second time in two months, a Marin jury has refused to convict two convicts who escaped from San Quentin in a canoe they made in the prison.

After two days of deliberation, a jury announced that it could not reach a verdict in the cases of William McGirk and John Waller, who are both 38 years old and serving time in San Quentin for robbery.

According to San Quentin authorities, McGirk, Waller, and another convict, 60-year -old Forrest Tucker, sailed away from San Quentin in August 1979, in a 14-foot-long canoe they built of wood and plastic sheets.

On the side of the boat was painted "Rub-a-Dub-Dub Marin Yacht Club," which made the vessel appear so innocent that a guard in the San Quentin tower who saw the men sailing away with some difficulty called to them to ask if they were all right. The men assured him they were — and McGirk was not seen again until he was arrested as a escaped prisoner in San Rafael two months later. Waller was captured in Gilroy in April of 1980, but Tucker has disappeared.

Twice the Marin District Attorney's office thought it had an open and shut case, but a jury has disagreed twice.

Deputy District Attorney Frank Nelson, who prosecuted the men in both trails, said yesterday he "couldn't explain" why the jury failed to convict the two men.

But one of the defense attorneys, Richard Hostetler of the Marin Public Defender's office, said the jury heard inconsistent testimony from prison personel. He said one of the guards testified that he had talked to McGirk inside the prison at 3:05 p.m. the same day.

When Judge Peter Allen Smith thanked the jury for its deliberation, McGirk bounded to his feet and said, "We thank you, too."

The jury was deadlocked 8-to-4 for conviction. Nelson said he had not decided yet whether to seek a third trail for the men.

Obligations

Your only obligation in any lifetime is to be true to yourself.

Richard Bach — "Illusions"

Publication Advisor To Assist SQ News

The San Quentin News is pleased to announce that an outside professional journalist will begin working with us as a publication advisor starting Tuesday.

Joan Lisetor, who is presently employed as a journalism instructor at the College of Marin, will begin as a volunteer consultant to the News staff two days a week.

Having worked for the Marin County Independent Journal for 15 years and with the San Francisco Chronicle for five, we at the News look forward to the benefit of Ms. Lisetor's experience.

Orientation Begins For New Arrivals

The Men's advisory Council recently joined with a Donner section counselor, representatives from the education department and chapel workers to orientate new arrivals here at San Quentin.

At present, the orientation classes are being held every Thursday (holidays excluded) at 2 p.m. in the chapel area and are limited to those prisoners still on "red-lock" status in D section. Attendance is by ducat only.

Areas covered in the orientations include such topics as visiting procedures, housing unit criteria, close custody policies, chapel activities, appeals forms, and educational, vocational and creative arts programs.

Mark Gale, vocational counselor for the education department, outlined the education programs here — from literacy training through lower division college classes — and utilized slides to review the 14 vocational programs available at San Quentin.

Walter Speights, president of the MAC, advised the new arrivals as to the function of the MAC being that of laison between the staff and prisoners here. Speights covered a variety of subjects, including appeals procedures, quarterly package authorizations, medical and dental needs, canteen and visiting procedures. Speights said that the MAC has been concerned about the need for these orientations and that he is pleased to see it finally underway.

Donner section counselor Tom Goughnour commented that they will need to modify the present schedule so that the prisoners will attend the orientations before going to initial classification.

Mexico Offers Alternative To Long-Term Prisoners

OTTAWA — Mary Lozano, a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology and a research officer with the Department of the Navy (USA), recently did a study on Mexico's revolutionary federal penal colony, Las Islas Marias, a 145-square-kilometre island paradise off the Pacific coast of Mexico where male inmates and their families are separated from escape by 90 miles of shark-infested waters.

She was in Ottawa to talk to Commissioner Yeomans and Senior Management Committee members about her six-month observations of the island prison.

Las Islas Marias is an amazing place. It's a maximum-security penitentiary where inmates are sent from mainland prisons.

They arrive by the weekly boat, a seven-hour trip, and their first sight of the island is one of residents waving a welcome to them.

New prisoners can elect to move in with other offenders from their region in Mexico, they can live in college-type dormitories or they can be assigned a house for themselves and their families.

There are no ID cards on Las Islas Marias, mail is not censored and long-distance calls are available if you can pay for them.

Prisoners work, prepare their meals, do their laundry, visit the doctor, repair their houses, see their guidance counselor, go to restaurants, send their children off to the local school each morning, and run their own business if they wish to.

Only two requirements separate them from free citizens; they must stay on the island and they must work.

No one has ever escaped and an offender who won't work is returned to another prison on the mainland. The island has so many benefits that this almost never happens, said Dr. Lozano.

Prisoners must find themselves employment from such occupations as farming, cattle raising, gardening, care of orchards, mechanics, electrical work, carpentry, tailoring, production of lime, salt and slab, construction, clerical, lumbering, domestic labor and service industries like barbering, restaurants, laundries, etc.

In this prison colony, rent and utilities are free and every offender gets a monthly food and clothing allowance as well as his subsistance pay from his job which supports him, and, if he works hard, his family as well.

There is no warden, no guards and no classification of inmates (being labelled dangerous only makes you more so, the Mexican government believes). However, there is a director and sailors from the Naval base serve as "police" or security staff.

There are movies, the beaches and lots of recreational activities. Inmates can roam anywhere after work is done although there is a 9 p.m. curfew. The Mexican Navy patrols the island 24 hours a day.

About 2,300 people live on the island of which 800 are prisoners. The naval base there also provides a source of jobs for offenders. Schools are good and so are medical facilities since Mexican citizens consider it a plum to work on Las Islas Marias because they can easily save money and because the penal colony is such an interesting and unique place, Dr. Lozano says.

Mexico plans to set up another similar colony in the jungles of Yucatan.

Las Islas Marias (there are several islands) became a prison in 1905 during the Mexican revolution and housed political prisoners in "ghastly conditions." In 1930 it became a federal penitentiary and 10 years later a penal colony for inmates and their families.

Inmates don't have to be married to go to Las Islas Marias. They can form liaisons or marry after their arrival. Many offenders marry the daughters of other offenders. Sons are sent to the mainland, by law, at 16, to get them away from the prison atmosphere but daughters are free to stay or leave as they choose.

The colony has been very successful, says Dr. Lozano, because of its uniquely humane conditions. Fifty percent of offenders are murderers serving sentences of 10 to 15 years. Offenders know that if either they, or their wives, misbehave, they will be sent off the island and this acts as a strong deterrent.

It's not necessarily true what they say about Mexican prisons, said Dr. Lozano. She has visited several and found them to be attractive, exceptionally humane places — much, much better than many institutions in the U.S.

Mexican official penal policy holds that prisoners should be deprived of their freedom but not their humanity. Family unity is considered to be exceptionally important to social rehabilitation.

Unfortunately recidivism statistics were not readily available but there was no doubt that Las Islas Marias provides for a reasonably normal environment — but in relative isolation or exile.

The possibility of long-term offenders being incarcerated in a penal colony has long interested Canadian correctional observers and critics. Recommendation 63 of the Subcommittee Report on Penitentiaries is an example. It calls for an "in-depth study of the feasibility and viability of penal communities in reasonably inaccessible areas as an alternative to confinement in conventional institutions for inmates serving long sentences without elibibility for parole."

CANTEEN PRICE LIST

February 13, 1981

FOODSTUFFS	
A-1 Sauce	$1.00
Bean Dip, Jalapenos	.60
Beef Sticks	.30
Candy, Bags	.65
Candy Bars & Lifesavers	.20
Candy Bars, lg.	.85
Cheese, Sliced	1.20
Cheese, Loaf, 2 lb.	3.85
Cheetos	.85
Chile Con Carne	.60
Chile Peppers	.95
Chile Sauce	.75
Chunky Beef Soup	.70
Cookies	1.10
Crackers, Graham	.90
Crackers, Ritz	1.10
Crackers, Saltine.	.80
Cupcakes & Fried Pies	.40
Dill Pickles	1.15
Donuts, Assorted	1.20
Dry Cereal	.20
Fritos	.70
Funyuns	.70
Honey Butter	.90
Honey Natural	1.05
Hot Sauce, Louisiana	.40
Ice Cream Novelties	.15
Ice Cream, Pint	.55
Jalapenos Peppers	.50
Jam	1.25
Marshmallows	.50
Mayonnaise, Miracle Whip	.55
Menudo Stew, 7½ oz. can	.40
Mustard	.40
Onion Rings	.70
Peanuts, Spanish, Salted	.45
Peanut Butter	1.40
Peacan Pies	.40
Pico Pica Sauce	.45
Popcorn	.15
Potato Chips, Bar-B-Que & Plain	.70
Pretzels	.70
Rolls, Assorted	1.30
Salami	1.05
Sardines	.75
Soup, Cup of	.15
Sugar Cubes, 1 lb.	.80
Top Ramen Soup	.35
Tortillas, Floured	.90
Tuna Fish	1.15

BEVERAGES	
Breakfast Drink	1.30
Cocoa Mix, 1¾ lb. bag	2.35
Coffee, Hills Brothers, 2 oz.	1.05
Coffee, MJB, 10 oz.	3.75
Coffee, Tasters's Choice	5.05
Dairy Creamer, Maxwell	.80
Egg Nog, qt.	1.05
Kool-Aid, 2 qts.	.65
Lemonade, qt.	.30
Milk, Chocolate, qt.	.65
Milk, Fresh, qt.	.65
Milk, Powdered	1.30
Ovaltine	1.65
Soda Pop, Canned	.30

BEVERAGES CONT.	
Tea Bags, 100	$2.75
Tea, Instant	.80
V-8 Vegetable Juice	.35

TOBACCO & ACCESSORIES	
Beechnut Tobacco	.50
Borkum Riff, 1.5 oz.	.65
Bond Street	.55
Bugler, 7 oz.	2.10
Cigarettes, Carton	5.50
Dutch Masters Panatellas	.85
Garcia y Vega Cigars, 5-box	.35
House of Windsor	.20
King Edward Imperials	.45
King Edward Specials	.30
Lighter, Butane	.70
London Dock	.55
Mixture 79	.55
Papers, B&W	.15
Papers, Yorkshire Long	1.05
Pipe Cleaners	.30
Pipe Filters	.15
Pipes, Doctor Grabow	2.55
Pipes, Kaywoodie	6.50
Prince Albert	.40
Prince Albert, lg.	3.85
Red Dot	.60
Roll-ese Reg. & Menthol	1.20
Rolling Kit, Bugler	1.95
Snuff, Copenhagen	.60
Top, 7 oz. tin	1.95
Top, Kite	.30
Velvet, lg.	3.90
Velvet, sm.	.50
White Owl Panatellas	.75

SUNDRIES	
Aerogrammes	.22
Alarm Clock	7.30
Album, Photo	2.45
Album, Refills	.55
Art Corners	.45
Bags, Zipper, Canvas	6.00
Batteries, AA (4)	.45
Batteries, C-size, D-size	.40
Batteries, 9-volt.	.60
Binder, 3-ring, 8½× 11	3.70
Binder paper, 3-hole	.80
Can Openers	.40
Christmas Cards, Box. 1.69 to	3.29
Christmas Cards	5.00
Cards, Greetings .25, .35 &	.50
Cards, Greetings .15 to	2.50
Decanter, Plastic	1.80
Dissolution, Regulatory	3.00
Divorce, Summary	5.00
Envelopes, Blank	.02
Envelopes, color 24	.55
Envelopes, Expanding	1.50
Envelopes, Plain, Manila	.10
Envelopes, Stamped	.17
Fingernail Clippers	.40
Ink, Refills, Shaeffer	.15
Handkerchiefs	.70
Padlock, Combination	2.90
Paper, Blue Bond 16 lb.	3.80

SUNDRIES CONT.	
Paper, Bond 16 lb.	$4.70
Paper, Bond 20 lb.	5.45
Paper, Legal 26-line 10 for	.13
Paper, Legal 32-line 10 for	.16
Papermate Refill	.75
Pen, Lindy, Ballpoint	.25
Pen, Papermate, Ballpoint	.75
Pencil, Lead	.10
Pencil, Mech	.75
Plastic Containers, 4/set	2.20
Pocketbook & Magazines 75 to	3.90
Postcards, SQ (5-pict)	.90
Postcards, Standard	.10
Room Freshener	.80
Scripto Lead	.45
Shoe Polish, Blk. & Brn.	.40
Shower Slippers, sm., lg., x-lg.	.80
Spoons, Plastic 2 for	.05
Stamps	.15
Sun Glasses	2.40
Sun Glasses, Clip-on	2.50
Tablet, Colored	.95
Tablet, yellow, ruled	.75
Tablet, white, ruled	.60
Toenail Clippers	.90
Tumblers	.70
Tweezers	.55
Watchband, Exp.	1.80
Watchband, Nylon	1.35
Watch, Pocket, Westclox	9.45
Watch, Wrist, Timex	17.90

TOILET ARTICLES	
Afta Shave	1.10
Brush, Shaving	3.80
Brut 33 Cologne	1.55
Brut 33 Deodorant Stick	1.15
Copper Tone Tan Lotion	1.30
Cocoa Butter	.85
Chenti Panthenol Lotion	4.25
Colgate Shaving Soap, cup	.30
Colgate Rapid Shave	.90
Intensive Care Baby Oil	1.20
Jergens Direct Aid Lotion	1.15
Magic Shave	.65
Mennen Cream, Brushless	.65
Mennen Cream, Lather	.65
Mennen Skin Bracer	1.10
Mennen Deod. Stick, 1¾ oz.	1.00
Noxema Cream, Brushless	1.05
Noxema Skin Cream	1.30
Pond's Milk Skin Care	1.20
Powder, Casmere Bouquet	.70
Powder, Magic Shave	.70
Powder, Mennen, Bath	1.15
Powder, Mennen, Face	.60
Razor, Double II	1.45
Razor Blades, Double II	1.25
Styptic Pencil	.30
Soap Dish	.50
Washcloth, White	.40

HAIR ACC. & CONDITIONERS	
Alberto VO-5	1.80
Breck Cream Rinse	.90

HAIR ACC. & CONDITIONERS CONT.	
Brut 33 Hairspray	$1.80
Chenti Panthenol Rinse	1.65
Combs, Natural	.60
Combs, Regular	.45
Comb, Natural Pick	1.00
Combout	1.25
Dixie Peach, lg.	1.15
End Paper	.90
Hair Brush	1.40
Hair Food	1.65
Hair Glo	.95
Hair Oil Hqz	.65
Magnetic Hair Rolls, med. & lg.	.90
Mustache Wax	1.05
Proline Combout	1.30
Proline Cond.	1.10
Proline Cond., Gel	3.35
Protein 29	1.15
Roller Pins	.35
Ultra Sheen Kit	6.35
Vitalis, Super Hold	2.30
Wave Rods	1.20

SOAPS & SHAMPOO	
Shampoo, Chenti Panthenol	1.65
Shampoo, Head-n-Shoulders	.80
Shampoo, Prell	.85
Shampoo, Pro-Line	.90
Shampoo, Sebutone Tar	2.35
Shampoo, Subtilex, Med.	1.90
Shampoo, Sulphur 8	1.80
Shampoo, Woodbury, 16 oz.	.75
Soap, Cocoa Butter	.80
Soap, Dial	.50
Soap, Irish Spring	.40
Soap, Palmolive	.35
Soap, Sestid	1.45

DENTAL SUPPLIES	
Binaca Breath Drops	1.15
Cepacol Mouthwash	1.75
Dental Floss	.65
Denture Brush	1.20
Efferdent Cleaner	1.80
Polident Cleanser	1.65
Poligrip Adhesive	.75
Toothbrush	.30
Toothpaste, Colgate 7 oz.	1.00
Toothpaste, Pepsodent, sm.	.25
Toothpaste, Topol, 3 oz.	3.25
Toothpicks	.45
Toothpowder, Colgate	.90

DRUGS	
Alacer Multi-Vitamin, 7 oz.	10.10
Alka Seltzer, Pkg. of 2	.10
Clearasil	2.20
Cough Drops	.30
Hoffman's Energol, 8 oz.	4.80
Hoffman's Hi-Pro Pwd., 1lb.	3.45
Lip Ice	.45
Quinsana Footpowder	1.45
Tums	.30
Vicks Vapo-Rub	1.35
Visine Eye Drops	1.70

The main canteen will accept whole $1 ducats during the first week in months that have two dead weeks.

—W. Riebling, Canteen Manager II

Sate To Hold Elections Soon

The Sate organization of San Quentin will soon be holding elections for the positions of president, vice president, executive secretary, rules director and program coordinator.

Nominations for the various positions will be taken on Feb. 15. The election will be held Feb. 22.

In order to be nominated to one of the positions, the prisoner must be a member of the Sate organization and demonstrate a willingness to work for the betterment of the black population and the organization itself.

Sate holds its general meetings above the MAC office, and this has been selected as the locale of the elections. The entire black population is allowed to vote. One man, one vote.