

# San Quentin News

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Photo By Tom Bolema

Day of Peace participants celebrating on the Lower Yard

Turn to pages 6-7 to see pictures of San Quentin's Annual Day of Peace

## Hammer Drops in On The Last Mile Group

By Lizzie Buchen  
San Quentin News Advisor

Rapper MC Hammer is proof that anyone can become master of his own message. Last month, during a visit with San Quentin's "Last Mile" group, Hammer explained how he transformed himself from '90s punchline to social media mogul and savvy businessman.

"Every man has made mistakes," Hammer told the men. "Social media is a platform that gives you the opportunity to tell your own story."

Hammer was speaking from personal experience. He rocketed to fame in the late '80s and early '90s with hits "U Can't Touch This" and "2 Legit 2 Quit," but his reputation quickly imploded when he filed for bankruptcy in 1996. Now, Hammer is a respectable entrepreneur. He's used social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, to take control of his story and reinvent himself in the eyes of the public. As of mid-May, Hammer (@MCHammer) had 2.7 million followers on Twitter.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

MC Hammer and Chris Redlitz

Hammer's journey was of interest to the men of the Last

See *Hammer S.Q.* on Page 2

## Inmate Found Dead In Cell

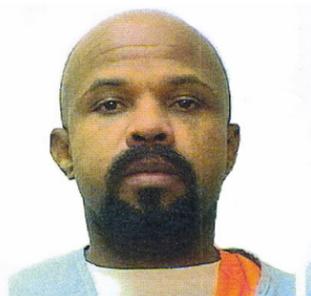
LAVELT DUVERNE SUICIDE GRIPS SAN QUENTIN

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

"When I returned to my cell, I instinctively knew something was wrong," Danny Cox said. "There was a sheet on the door blocking the view inside the cell and it was dark. I called his name three or four times. 'Lavelt' But he didn't answer."

Cox spent five days in Administrative Segregation until cleared by prison authorities regarding the suicide of his cellie, Lavelt Duverne.

Cox found Duverne on his knees slumped over. "I saw him



Official Prison Photo

Lavelt Duverne

hanging," said Cox. "I saw a sight I pray no one will ever have to see. I left for work at 6:30 in the morning we said good-bye, like we normally did. But I came

back early at 2:30," said Cox. He was supposed to work with other prisoners on a scheduled prison event, called "The Day of Peace."

Cox said he reported finding Duverne to the North Block correctional officers immediately.

Subsequently prison authorities followed the policy of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by placing Cox in The Hole pending an investigation. "Once a person is traumatized like this, placing

See *Lavelt Duverne* on Page 4

## CDCR Aims To Change Basic Policies

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

California prison officials are asking for court permission to keep its prisons filled to 145 percent of designed capacity. The request translates to about 5,900 inmates added to the U.S. Supreme Court population cap set in 2011, according to the Legislative Analyst Office.

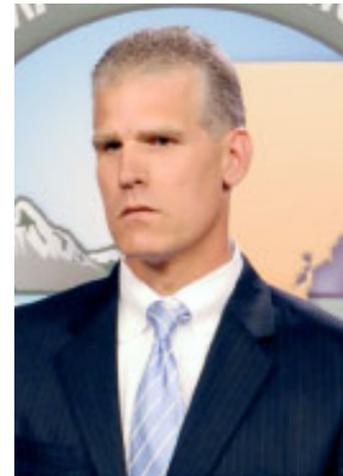
In June 2013, officials say the prison population is projected to be at 141 percent of designed capacity, even after realignment has been fully implemented. Without a modification raising the final benchmark to 145 percent, alternatives such as continuing to house prisoners out-of-state will have to be considered, the plan warns.

Prison officials claim that by fully implementing their plan, called *The Future of California Corrections*, they will be able to "satisfy the Supreme Court's order, end the class-action cases, maintain an effective prison system, and achieve significant savings."

Officials expect the plan to accomplish the following:

- Classify a prisoner's dangerousness so that it accurately reflects where that offender should

See *CDCR Policy* on Page 4



Official Photo

CDCR Secretary Cate

## Cate Visits Education Programs

By Bobby D. Evans, Jr.  
Contributing Writer

San Quentin's evening literacy program got a boost when California's top prison administrator visited the prison to talk to inmates and volunteers who facilitate the program.

The program was set back when the 2009-10 budget

See *Matthew Cate* on Page 4

## Noted Program Leader Leaves S.Q. This Summer

By Paul Stauffer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Laura Bowman-Salzsieder, who has been integral to building San Quentin's reputation as a "programming prison," will be leaving this summer.

Some 70 programs that help men turn their lives around have been assisted by Bowman-Salzsieder, manager of community partnerships at San Quentin.

After leaving San Quentin, she and her husband, a lieutenant colonel who has been in the Army for 26 years, will be moving to Florida.

For the last eight years, Bowman-Salzsieder has linked the outside community with prisoners and staff, helping facilitate a

rehabilitative atmosphere seen at no other California prison.

"Good things are possible when good people work together," said Bowman-Salzsieder.

She is the primary liaison to the local community on almost all things regarding the institution's delivery of rehabilitation services, particularly San Quentin's community participation programs, or Leisure Time Activity Groups. Bowman-Salzsieder coordinates the more than 3,000 visitors and volunteers that come into the prison each year.

She began as a bridging teacher in the prison's Education Department, where Tony Bee-

See *Bowman-Salzsieder* on Page 4

# Prisoners Show Savvy at 'The Last Mile' Demo Day



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate and California's First Lady Anne Gust-Brown talk to prisoner James Cavitt after the demonstration in the Protestant Chapel.

## San Quentin News Staff

San Quentin held its own version of *Shark Tank*, the popular reality show where contestants pitch business plans, in May. The biggest difference? The aspiring entrepreneurs were pitching their ideas from behind bars. Five prisoners unveiled their plans to a cheering audience of venture capitalists, dignitaries and fellow San Quentin prisoners.

"This is an opportunity for these men to demonstrate their ability to help our economy grow, and show that the glass is not half empty, it is half full," said Dave Dahl, an Oregon convict and owner of Dave's Killer Bread.

The Last Mile is a program established by volunteers Kathleen Jackson, Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti. The curriculum prepares prisoners for eventual employment in Silicon Valley by teaching them how to engage in social media and other new technologies. The men develop their own business plans by the end of the nine-month program, and venture capitalists are invited into the prison to network

and assess the feasibility of the ideas.

Also attending the demonstration were California's first lady, Anne Gust-Brown, and CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate. The event was a first for any California prison.

Cate said The Last Mile is an example of a program that can reduce recidivism and create a safer public.

"I'm so proud of The Last Mile students," said Parenti. "It is truly an honor to work with them. Their dedication and willingness to learn is impressive. I wish everyone could see the transformation that I've seen."

The first presenter was Tulio Cardozo, a former San Quentin prisoner. He connected with Redlitz and Parenti in January, and has been working with the group ever since. "Getting out of prison was a test of will and focus," said Cardozo. The difficulties he encountered finding employment with a criminal history gave him the idea for a business called Collaborative Benefit, which builds relationships between inmates and the business community.

James "JC" Cavitt pitched his idea for Mobile Cuts. Cavitt sees the need to accommodate the fast-paced life — and thin wallets — of young men who want to look good. Cavitt's idea for Mobile Cuts incorporates a multitude of advanced technologies into buses to bring grooming services to the people.

James Houston's business, TeenTechHub, is designed to provide an after-school program to nurture at-risk young men and women. Houston has already connected with outside groups like TeensInTech and Hackstar Academy; TeenTechHub is set to launch in 2013.

E. 'Phil' Phillips wants to allow musicians world-wide to collaborate without all the red tape now associated with producing music. Phillips describes Phixx the Mixx as the Facebook of musicians.

David Monroe Jr. created Custom My Clothing. Monroe envisions using the Internet to design and create individual styles of clothing. He says personalized clothing is a \$23 billion industry that can be used to address youth unemployment.

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal's idea, Coach Potato, builds upon the massive interactions between fantasy football players. His mobile application will allow football fans to try to pick the most successful plays during live games to win prizes.

Anne Gust-Brown said she was impressed by the organization of the event and thought that the business plans were intelligently presented.

"Working side by side, we can work at creating a safe community," said Jackson.

The music was provided by Neu Dae, consisting of lead singers Richard Napoleon Brown and Darryl Buckhana, Darryl Farris on bass, and Wilbert Rogers on keyboard and vocals.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

E. Phillips, James Houston, Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal (Back) Kathleen Jackson, Beverly Parenti, MC Hammer, James Cavitt and Chris Redlitz (Front)

## Hammer's S.Q. Visit

*Continued from Page 1*

Mile, who learn to develop business ideas that utilize new technologies, particularly social media. The men are active on sites like Twitter (@thelastmilesq) and Quora, which they use via free volunteers.

The April meeting kicked off with four powerful pieces of spoken word performed by James "JC" Cavitt. The men then each presented their business ideas, which they have been developing over the past nine months. Hammer listened with interest and offered both advice and business connections — he is involved with dozens of companies as an adviser or an investor. "If I'm in a room," he explained, "I should be doing business with one out of every four people in the room."

Hammer's latest venture is a mixed martial arts (MMA) management company. He also has his hands in dozens of companies as an adviser or investor, including the health and clean

energy sectors. "I want to make sure I'm in those spaces," he said. "They're not the sexiest of plays, but in the long term, they're good plays."

Hammer has always been on the cutting edge. When he was at his rapping peak, monopolies ran the music industry, he said. "I didn't want BET and MTV deciding who sees my music." As early as 1992 he was using AOL as a platform for delivering his music.

"By the time we got to Friendster, MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, I had already thought about how to maximize them." Hammer encouraged the men to continue to use social media to build their brands, not only with the start-ups they hope to create, but also their personal brands. The men will be up against those who will label them as criminals long after they have earned their freedom.

"Don't relinquish control of your story," he said. "Tell it how you want it told."

## CDCR Contractor to Block Illegal Prison Cell Phones

By Micheal Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prison telephone service provider Global Tel Link has agreed to pay for and install technology to block illegal cell phone use by California prisoners, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

The company may profit from the move because they also own the pay phones legally used by prisoners. Once the illegal cell phones are disabled, company officials say they expect the demand for pay phones will skyrocket.

More than 15,000 contraband cell phones were confiscated from prisons and conservation camps last year, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports.

"This groundbreaking and momentous technology will enable [us] to crack down on the potentially dangerous communications by inmates," CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate, told *The Times*.

Dana Simas, a public information officer for the CDCR, says the Office of Victim of Sur-

vivor Rights and Services has processed "hundreds of claims... in which victims or next of kin have complained about harassment via cell phone use." Simas acknowledged, however, that the CDCR does not know how much criminal activity has occurred as a result of contraband cell phone use.

Prisoners say cell phones are used to communicate with family and friends outside. Prison calls on pay phones are limited to 15 minutes at a time and are repeatedly interrupted by the operator. Each call, which must be made collect, also costs around two dollars for the recipient.

"The lines of communication between prisoners and family should be as open as possible," Rebekah Evenson, an attorney for the Prison Law Office in Berkeley, told *The Times*. Federal prisons allow inmates secure email accounts, and Evenson believes this might be a better way to monitor prisoners' communications.

-- Additional reporting by Lizzie Buchen, San Quentin News adviser

## Conversion of Chowchilla on Hold

By Richard Lindsey  
Journalism Writer

Facing a court challenge and community opposition, California prison officials say they will temporarily shelve plans to convert a women's prison to a men's facility.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced conversion plans in December. Because of realignment plans cutting the number of female prisoners, CDCR said it would no longer need Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, one of three state prisons for women.

The *Merced Sun Star* quotes prison officials saying they will delay the conversion until a court rules on whether an en-

vironmental impact study is required. The ruling is expected in September.

Local officials oppose the conversion because they say that it would negatively affect their community, according to the *Chowchilla News*. The newspaper quoted residents of VSPW as saying a transfer would mean giving up long-established rehabilitation programs. The women mailed numerous letters to the office of Madera County Supervisor David Rogers expressing anxiety over the conversion, the *Sacramento Bee* reported.

The *Bee* also reported that VSPW is known for its unique rehabilitative atmosphere and programming culture. The prison offers a variety of self-help

programs ranging from substance abuse, violence prevention and conflict resolution to parenting and victim awareness groups. Some women prisoners facilitate the programs they were instrumental in establishing.

State officials say the conversion plan would transfer the nearly 3,000 women currently housed in VSPW to the state's other two women's prisons and soon-to-be repurposed Folsom Women's Facility. Nearby, the Central California Women's Facility houses about 3,400 women, with a designed capacity of 2,000. The California Institute for Women, located in Southern California, houses 2,000 women, with a designed capacity of 1,200.

# Kathleen Jackson's Journey to S.Q.

## A Life of Educational Experience Now Benefits Prisoners

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Rehabilitation programs and job training are the key to solving California's revolving prison doors, says Kathleen Jackson, a retired San Anselmo schoolteacher who's been working with San Quentin prisoners for seven years.

Jackson was a teacher and administrator at Marin Country Day School in Corte Madera for 24 years, and taught 12<sup>th</sup> grade English at an inner city Oakland public school for three years.

Now, at least four days a week, she volunteers at San Quentin, teaching convicted criminals how to change the way they think about themselves and their community, by facilitating programs like VOEG. VOEG is a program that connects victims with offenders in hopes of revealing how unaddressed past traumas contribute to deviant behavior. After that trauma is addressed, offenders can meet with a panel of victims of crime in order to heal the community.

"When San Quentin prisoners go through self-help and ed-



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Kathleen Jackson walks the walk for The Last Mile and T.R.U.S.T.

ucational programs and work at various jobs that increase their skills, they do receive many benefits," said Jackson.

In 2008, Jackson became executive director of T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Tech-

niques). T.R.U.S.T. utilizes a series of lessons built upon a simple, clear belief: thinking controls actions. This program has been lauded by prison administrators as a positive training tool, giving offenders insight into criminal behavior

and allowing prisoners a chance to understand themselves.

Jackson helped set up a new program called The Last Mile, with the assistance of venture capitalist Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti. It is an entrepreneurial-orientated program and

had its first group of participants demonstrate their business ideas this month.

On Friday evenings, she helps teach the Christian creative writing in the Protestant Chapel.

Jackson got her beginning in 2005. She wanted to find a way to do community service, so she sat in on a San Quentin college class. "I felt extremely at home there: it was a place where I really wanted to be," Jackson said in a 2010 interview with *Marin Magazine*.

Jackson is always looking to improve the program's ability to assist offenders. In April, she went to Los Angeles to get a tour of Homeboy Industries, which provides jobs as alternatives to gangs.

"What Homeboy Industries provides is a composite of each client's needs," says Jackson. The visit reaffirmed her strategy of employing the same approach with T.R.U.S.T. "Wouldn't it be the best to have case management for every prisoner, so that the door to the free world would open only to the outside with no need to swing inward?"

## California Medical Facility Construction Gets Underway

By Arnulfo Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Ground-breaking construction has begun on a new medical facility in Stockton designed to deliver improved services to California prisoners who are aging or have mental health issues, says prison officials.

The California Health Care Facility is designed to help meet the mandates of last year's federal court order to upgrade state prison medical care to constitutional standards, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The 1.2-million square-foot, 1,722-bed facility comes at a time when the city of Stockton is on the verge of bankruptcy.

Construction costs of \$900 million are expected to create up to 9,200 jobs, and generate an economic impact of about \$1 billion for the city, according to prison officials.

Completion is projected by the summer of 2013. At full-capacity operations, the facility is expected to support nearly 2,800 jobs in the regional economy and generate an annual income of about \$220 million.

Key features of the medical facility complex include:

- High security correctional perimeter



Official Photo

Construction crew putting down building foundation

- 13-foot tall lethal electrified fence surrounding the facility
- Vehicle inspection point incorporated into the fencing
- 24-hour patrol
- 11 45-foot tall guard towers
- A central utilities plant
- Diagnostic and treatment centers
- Central kitchen, warehousing and support facilities
- Significant economic impact aspects:
- More than \$3 million to roadway improvements
- More than \$690,000 direct contribution to schools

- More than \$690,000 direct contribution to government
- Estimated \$1 million in sales taxes to San Joaquin County from purchase of construction materials
- CDCR is scheduled to make financial contributions to local and regional transportation systems through payments of traffic mitigation fees.
- CDCR intends to pay \$679,794 to San Joaquin County and \$1,229,196 to the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

### DISABILITY PROGRAM

The San Quentin administration has announced that prisoners will be interviewing for six newly created positions: helping disabled inmates.

The assistance will include wake-up calls, escorts to appointments, education, work programs, and to the visiting room.

Additional duties include, but are not limited to, assisting disabled inmates in preparing their laundry bags.

Program restrictions include inmates who have a history of specific sex offenses and/or violence.

Assigned inmate workers will be required to submit to monthly urinalysis testing.

Interested applicants should submit an inmate request for interview to the Inmate Assignments Lt. Graham.

## PIA Worker Layoffs

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's Prison Industry Authority has cut approximately half of its labor force over the past year due to a drop in state-wide sales. The workers specialize in manufacturing office furniture for government agencies, and bedding used by prisons and state colleges.

PIA was created to provide prisoners with job training that could be used once they are released from prison. A 2011 audit indicates PIA workers recidivate at lower rates, which in turn saves taxpayers nearly \$8.5 million annually in incarceration cost.

Richard Napoleon Brown worked in the furniture department for eight months, earning 40 cents an hour. "Earning an income allowed me to take care of my personal needs," he said. "The job occupied my time, giving me something useful to do throughout the day. After being laid off, I've had to readjust and

look for other work that has not been easy to come by."

Before being laid off, W.F. Stephens was employed in the chair upholstery department for six years and earned 65 cents an hour. "I was learning a skill I could've used in a work place, once I parole. It gave me great joy getting up in the morning, going to work. It made me feel good about myself and created confidence in me. Once I was laid off, it affected both my confidence and deprived me of my only income," said Stephens.

An anonymous prisoner, earning 55 cents an hour making pillows, said, "I was learning how to operate different machines, and gaining skills similar to what is needed by companies on the streets. I felt good about going to work every day, knowing I had a paycheck coming every month. The job also occupied my time, giving me something responsible to do. Once I got laid off, it's been difficult to find another job. It's affected my morale and confidence."



Photo By Tom Bolema

Community Partnership Manager  
Laura Bowman-Salzsieder

## Bowman-Salzsieder Leaving This Summer

*Continued from Page 1*

be, the current principal, was a mentor to her, she says. She admits that when she took the community partnership position, it increased her workload so tremendously that her time became spread very thin. Yet despite all the responsibilities her position imposed on her, she said she has thoroughly enjoyed the job.

"It is very hard to think back to only one fond memory that I have had here at San Quen-

tin," said Bowman-Salzsieder. "There have been so many."

She enthusiastically points to the prison's Vietnam Veterans Group, Shakespeare in San Quentin, the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, the Get on The Bus Program, the 1000-Mile Club, and all the various graduations that she has attended as examples of the successes that are possible when people come together.

--Aly Tamboura contributed to this story.

## Matthew Cate Visits Education Programs

*Continued from Page 1*

slashed \$205 million out of rehabilitation programs statewide, resulting in San Quentin's Education Department losing about 25 educators, according to literacy coordinator Tom Bolema. The plan was to replace lost staff with prisoners. However, the plan has yet to be implemented.

The prisoners asked California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary Matthew Cate to implement the plan by utilizing the skills and experience of prisoners, who already have achieved educational success, to tutor other prisoners. This will require creating additional inmate jobs. In addition, the prisoners told Cate that a more receptive environment for volunteers was needed, and that could be accomplished by building a stronger relationship between the San

Quentin Education Department and the volunteers.

"I like what I hear, and I will go to Sacramento and present this to the governor," said Cate.

He told the prisoners that the number one position of CDCR is public safety, and that prison-based education goes a long way in ensuring that goal.

Acting Warden Kevin Chappell indicated support for such a program.

Included in the meeting were Laura Bowman-Salzsieder, the community partnership manager; Jody Lewen, director of Prison University Project; and Carly Stair, an evening GED program volunteer. Each voiced support of the evening literacy program, indicating that earning a GED high school equivalency is an important step toward a higher education and reducing recidivism.

# CDCR Policy Changes

*Continued from Page 1*

be housed. Prison officials believe this will allow inmates improved access to rehabilitative programs.

- Bring back the out-of-state offenders to stop the \$318 million of taxpayer dollars going to other states. However, according to a 2010 state audit, taxpayers will have to spend an additional \$30 to \$75 million annually to bring these prisoners back to California and house them in state prisons.

- Increase access to rehabilitative programs for offenders, which will in turn reduce recidivism by better preparing them to be productive members of society. In addition, the plan establishes reentry hubs at certain prisons. This will concentrate program resources and better prepare inmates as they get closer to being released. The plan creates enhanced programming facilities to reward prisoners who demonstrate positive behavioral patterns.

- Enact new and uniform staffing standards for each institution that will enable the department to operate more efficiently and safely.

### SPECIAL NEEDS

The plan notes that CDCR scores from the Inspector General for medical care systems have been steadily improving. Furthermore, the capacity of the health care system will increase as the California Health Care Facility in Stockton, designed to

house inmates requiring long-term medical care and intensive mental health treatment, will be completed during the summer of 2013.

Its annex, the DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility, will reopen in the summer of 2014 as an adult facility to create a unified Stockton complex, allowing both facilities to efficiently transition inmate patients between the two, while avoiding transportation and security costs as well as the need for expensive services in community hospitals and clinics. These projects, in addition to ongoing mental health, dental projects, and new plans to increase medical clinical capacity at existing prisons, will satisfy court imposed requirements, according to the plan.

The strategy still calls for over 27,000 special needs beds across 33 facilities statewide for offenders who are unable to effectively program in the general population. It also implements a new gang management strategy that modifies current procedures for identifying gang members and provides support for those wanting to disengage from gang involvement.

The plan calls for a reduction of 6,400 prison employees, including the elimination of 2,500 guard positions. As many as 257 academic and vocational instructors would be hired over the next two years, with heavy reliance on involvement from volunteer community-based organizations to provide the majority of self-help programs for prisoners.

### REACTIONS

Californians United for a Responsible Budget, an alliance of over 40 organizations that works to reduce prison spending, issued the following recommendations in response to *The Future of California Corrections*:

- Ensure that CDCR is held responsible for reaching the 137.5 percent reduction benchmark.

- Cancel all of the remaining prison and jail expansion funding, not just the \$4.1 billion. Proposed in the plan.

- Reject the \$810 million requested by CDCR to expand prisons.

- Stop the conversion of Valley State Prison for Women to a men's prison and close it permanently.

- Stop the conversion of the Folsom Transitional Treatment Facility to a woman's facility.

- Ensure that every person in prison has access to programming.

- Implement geriatric parole and expand compassionate release.

- Expand the Alternative Custody program to include women who have prior convictions classified as serious or violent, and remove its barriers to include male prisoners and the elderly.

CURB supports the plan to stop out-of-state transfers and the downgrading of prisoners' classification levels.

--Richard Lindsey contributed to this story

## Right to Assistance in Plea Deals

By Stephen Yair Lieb  
Legal Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court says criminal defendants have a right to effective legal assistance during plea negotiations, and a lawyer must inform the client of any favorable deals the prosecution offers.

A defendant who rejects a plea bargain based on incorrect legal advice by a lawyer has been denied the right to effective assistance of counsel, the court ruled.

The court issued two decisions (*Missouri v. Frye* and

*Lafler v. Cooper*) where ineffective assistance of counsel caused rejection of a plea offer and led to conviction with a greater punishment.

In *Frye*, defense counsel failed to inform the defendant of the plea offer. After the offer expired, the defendant still plead guilty but received a more severe sentence.

In *Cooper*, the attorney communicated the plea offer to the defendant but gave him incorrect legal advice that resulted in rejection of the plea. The defendant went to trial and

was found guilty. He received a punishment that was greater than the one offered through the plea.

A defendant must show that had he not received ineffective legal advice, there is a reasonable probability that he would have accepted the plea; the court would have accepted its terms; and the conviction or sentence or both would have been less severe.

The Supreme Court said that the remedy in circumstances like these is to order the state to re-offer the plea agreement.

## Lavelt Duverne Dies in His Cell

*Continued from Page 1*

them in The Hole isn't conducive to their mental health," Cox said. "God gave me strength, but another man might not be strong enough."

Every prisoner housed in North Block was interviewed by mental health services.

In 2011, Duverne, 39, a native of Haiti, suffered a heart attack while waiting to attend a class at Prison University Project (PUP). Afterwards, San Quentin medical placed him on several medi-

cations for his heart condition. "Duverne complained to me that the pills were interfering with his sleep," Cox said. "When he did sleep, it was a minimum of three hours."

Kara Urion, PUP program assistant, said all of Duverne's teachers contacted her, distraught at hearing the news. They commented about Duverne's engaging and intelligent conversation.

"My final prayer would be to contact his mom and let her

know that he was a wonderful person," said Cox. "But I saw no signs or symptoms," Cox said. "It just happened spontaneously."

"I really felt honored to hear him teach our research class about the importance of universal health care," said Juan Haines. "I find it somewhat ironic that his last public words would be on a subject like that. He was also a member of the San Quentin Journalism Guild, and a concerned citizen of Haiti."

# Death Penalty in Limbo



Official Photo

Newly constructed S.Q. death chamber sits idol

By San Quentin News Staff  
and  
San Quentin Journalism  
Guild

California is taking steps to resume executions while voters are deciding whether to abolish capital punishment in November.

Gov. Jerry Brown ordered prison officials to clear hurdles allowing the single-drug execution option after courts banned the three-drug combination that critics claimed caused unnecessary pain.

Meanwhile, the man who spearheaded the expansion of capital punishment in California is now backing a new initiative to repeal it. "When I wrote (the expansion law), I believed in capital punishment," Donald Heller said in a *Los Angeles Times* interview.

Heller is the author of the 1978 initiative that broadened the umbrella of crimes eligible for the death penalty.

Brown's directive was part of a notice of appeal filed by Attorney General Kamala D. Harris seeking to activate capital punishment. "My administration is working to ensure that California's laws on capital punishment are upheld," Brown's office responded when asked about the directive.

California's capital punishment procedure has come under increased scrutiny. Critics cite a system marred by lengthy appeals, leaving those convicted to death to spend decades on San

Quentin's Death Row, costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars. However, Heller's change of heart seems rooted more in morality than it does the cost.

He told the *LA Times* that he "started noticing the toll it took on judges pronouncing a sentence of death," and that there have been aggressive prosecutions of defendants by prosecutors seeking death. "It became, with some, a game," he said.

If approved by voters in November, the 700-plus men and women condemned to die would have their sentences converted to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

On another front, the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation filed a petition with the State Court of Appeal attempting to resume executions. The conservative law and order foundation noted nearly two dozen executions have been conducted in three other states using a single-drug.

In addition, Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley filed court papers, attempting to get an order for the execution of Mitchell Carleton Sims, 52, and Tiequon Aundray Cox, 46 by a single-drug method.

The latest report on the effectiveness of the death penalty found that its deterrent factor is unknown, because of the lack of comprehensive data collection and the failure to ask the right questions to those who commit murder.

The report, funded by The Research Counsel of the National

Academies, *Deterrence and the Death Penalty*. It concluded that in the 30 years of studying capital punishment and its potential effects on homicide rates, all of the studies contain the same flaws.

All previous studies fail to include the effects of other forms of punishment—such as life in prison without possibility of parole, the report said. They do not consider whether potential murderers think about the possibility of spending their lives in prison or ending up on Death Row before they commit their crimes. The report pointed out, it is difficult to determine the death penalty's deterrent factor in crimes committed in the heat of passion, or under a diminished capacity.

"We recognize this conclusion will be controversial to some, but nobody is well-served by unfounded claims about the death penalty," said Daniel Nagin, chairman of the report.

The report concludes that research has consistently failed to determine whether capital punishment decreases, increases or has no effect on homicide rates.

The report says researchers may find answers to the deterrence of the death penalty by asking:

Whether the legal status of the death penalty affects homicide rates

If the intensity of use of the death penalty affects homicide rates

How executions affect homicide rates in the short run.

The report issued the following recommendations:

Collecting data required for a complete consideration of capital and non-capital punishment for murder

Conducting studies on how potential murders perceive capital punishment as a penalty for murder

Use methods that make credible assumptions about the effect of capital punishment.

—Aly Tamboura, Juan Haines, and Charles David Henry contributed to this story.

## EDUCATION CORNER

# Distance Learning Scaled Back for Summer Semester

By Tom Bolema  
Literacy Coordinator

The college correspondence classes offered at San Quentin will be limited this summer. The shortfall of classes is because Lassen and Palo Verde colleges are closed until the fall semester, Coastline will not have a summer session, and Prison University Project's enrollment is capped until fall.

These colleges are a part of the Distance Learning program that provides correspondence courses to prisoners in coordination with the colleges' teaching staff.

Access to higher education is becoming increasingly competitive. A serious student needs practical short- and long-term plans and goals, a thorough knowledge of available services, and a network of staff and resident scholar/collaborators to successfully navigate the prison college culture.

The privately operated Prison University Project offers prisoners an Associate of Arts degree. Prisoners can receive a Bachelor of Arts degree by completing

correspondence courses offered by Ohio University. San Quentin educators are canvassing local Bay Area universities for broader access to B.A. programs.

Those seeking to earn higher education milestones with release dates prior to April 2013 must be currently enrolled, or have completed their courses by December 2012, in order to process and enjoy a reduced sentence.

College classes are typically worth three credit hours each, and successful completion of a class results in a three-week sentence reduction.

Enrollment in the San Quentin Volunteer Education Program offers students college preparatory classroom time for upcoming semesters. VEP coordinators serve as liaisons to the colleges.

Students and potential students may consult with the Distance Learning or VEP coordinators regarding their higher education goals for the remainder of the year. Contact the San Quentin VEP coordinators at the main Education Building, classroom one.

## JUNE EVENTS

June 10th- S.Q. Peace Walk (Lower Yard) 8-2

June 15th- Hamlet (Protestant Chapel) 11:30-2:30

June 29th- Golden Gate Seminary Graduation (Protestant Chapel)

June 30th Hitland will hold concert on the Lower Yard with free hotdogs

June 30th- Mindfulness Meditation/Yoga day long training (Gym) 8-3:30

# Minister Ordinations Held in The Garden Chapel

By Clarence Bailey  
Journalism Guild Writer

Denominational leaders from across America attended the recent ordination of five San Quentin prisoners as ministers in the American Evangelical Christian Churches.

The two-hour rite held in the Garden Chapel brought the AECC's board of trustees from across the United States. Unlike most prisoner ordinations, which are often performed by mail, AECC ordinations must have the leaders present.

"It was emotional and confirming when the elders of AECC prayed for me and laid hands," said Michael D. Adams, a seven-year resident of San Quentin who was ordained. "When I was arrested, I asked God how I was to live and face this sentence, this challenge. He said I could only do it in his son Jesus."

Denomination president Charles Walsielewski, Sr., from New York says the group has been involved with San Quentin for seven years. The AECC had received a

letter from Robert Lott, a resident of San Quentin who wanted to be licensed, and then-Chaplain Curry asked the organization if they could ordain the prisoner. "Any person called of God has the right to be ordained."

Also ordained were Garrett Martin, Eddie Lee Johnson II, Derrick Holloway, and Robert Butler.

Holloway has spent 15 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Upon his release, he plans to be in ministry. "This is my calling in

prison or on the street, wherever God wants me to go," he said.

Johnson compared being a Christian to a sporting event. "Do it in such a way that you won't be disqualified. Remember, if you do compete, you will not receive the crown unless you compete according to the rules."

"I've been in prison for 18 years and nine of it has been here," said Butler. "It is an honor being ordained and a privilege because the Pastor-Teacher gift can be revoked. I believe God has called me to raise a

church of strong, committed Christian men and women."

Martin, an eight-year resident of San Quentin, said for 14 years he has been working toward this goal. "It's a fulfillment for me, a genesis but also an end, God has been gracious to me."

Denominational leaders Dr. Douglas Schlumber from California, Dr. Lowell Ford from Ohio, Dr. Michael Ward Sr. from Indiana, and Dr. Gordon Elliot from Minnesota also attended the event.

—Julian Glenn Padgett assisted with this article.

# ANNUAL DAY OF PEACE

## Prisoners, Staff and Community Stand Against Violence in Prison

By Christopher Christensen  
Journalism Guild Writer

Six years ago, several inmates frustrated by the violent nature of prison had a simple idea: All inmates should come together on the yard and observe a day of peace.

"We needed to do something to curb and stem the senseless and idiotic violence," said Richard Vincent Poma, who was part of the multi-racial committee that organized the event.

A few years after the first meeting, local community members were incorporated into the celebration.

This year the lower yard of San Quentin State Prison served as the stage for the Day of Peace. It was a new experience for the hundreds of prisoners who recently transferred from various institutions state-wide.

The April 28 event included concession stands, musical acts from inside and outside San Quentin, speeches, and testimonies from community members who have experienced violence firsthand. Community members and prisoners shared ideas about how to create more peaceful communities inside and outside of prison.

Prisoners also gathered at a large table set in the middle of the yard to sign their names on a banner or to write messages of hope, while others wrote, in memoriam, the name of a loved one.

Each participant was given refreshments and a wristband with a message of peace.



Participants of the Day of Piece gave the San Quentin News their thoughts on the event. Here are what they had to say:

"These types of events generate unity and prepare us to re-enter society. I couldn't see this happening at Soledad because of the staff." - S. Wells

"The day of peace allows the public to hear about men acting as they should in the community." - Luke Fredricks, volunteer

"At Solano, we were looking for stuff like this. We would like to get rid of the old ways and get with the new ways. We were open to rehab, but we had to get over the administration." - "Just Us"

"I've been in prison 17 years, 11 at San Quentin. It's a privilege to take advantage of all the programs here. There's a lot of respect between inmates, the staff, and community members." - Michael Ware

"A lot of people seem hungry to show some type of solidarity." - Safa, bass player for Rupa and the April Fishes

"They wouldn't even let us celebrate Juneteenth at Soledad. I didn't even know there was such an event as day of peace. I support this because if you got peaceful spirits, nothing else gonna bother you." - Kevin Thomas

"The administration at San Quentin focuses on rehabilitation, and getting us ready for release to society. Even though there are no jobs here, there's plenty to do with all the programs." - Ken Polk

"The new people I saw were excited because all races are getting along. People aren't stand-offish at San Quentin. We like to interact with each other." - Kevin Carr

"I think the public misses out on what it's really like in here. When I tell my neighbors that I'm going to work inside of San Quentin, they can't imagine what I see in the men I work with everyday." - Kara Urion, Prison University Project

"San Quentin is the flagship of CDCR as far as programs to help us adjust back to society. This kind of atmosphere is what the public should see, because they have a misconception about the people under the prison system." - Nicky Burns

"As a prisoner volunteer I do it for its own sake. I want to be involved in more volunteering. It's good for the soul, and I believe that everyone should be a volunteer." - Ruben Ramirez

"There weren't any programs like this at Solano. This is a place of unity. The public is unaware of the brothers here who are truly rehabilitated. It would be a shame to waste them. God Bless us all." - Brother Jackson

"This is a special day, which we hope will always be. I get to meet Jesus when I come into San Quentin." - Jim Ryan, volunteer

"I feel it's a good thing for us. We all need some peace in our lives." - TY

"It's good to see everybody hanging out and for the first time it's good to see everybody in white, which represents peace. The atmosphere in San Quentin is peace today." - Ronald Lew

"I especially loved the band playing the R&B music. They were really good. The way the prisoners interacted showed a lot of respect for each other." - Correctional Officer McClean

"In 2006 there was a riot on the San Quentin yard. In 2007 we came together and had our first peace event to bring awareness and show that peace can work." - Stephen Pascascio

"I feel that today people put their racial stuff to the side. I wonder if prisoners can do this on the streets." - Ke Lam

"I am contributing to the community and raising awareness to others to be positive role models." - Jorge Heredia

"This is an event I will always remember. I look forward to working to make this event bigger next year, and when I go home I will always remember this and carry the message of peace. I like this, all of us coming together." - Robert Curtis

"For the 34 plus years that I've been locked up I've seen a lot of violence, and I wonder why so many had to lose their lives or be hurt. This has affected not only us inside, but also our families. This event really shows that we can come together and mend our differences to continue this peace. This should be in every prison." - Nick Garcia

"This Day of Peace should be like any other day, not only in prison but in society as well. Peace should not be contained or restricted. It should be passed down from generation to generation. If we don't leave anything else behind for our children to remember, we should at least teach them about peace." - "Catfish"

"Peace brings freedom, freedom brings love." - Randy "Pup" Carey



Photos By Tom Bolema

## SPORTS

# Warriors Lose Season Opener

By Gary "Malachi" Scott  
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team's season opener against the outside basketball team, called The Chosen was a heartbreaking 109-89 loss.

Down by seven going into the fourth quarter, the Warriors tried to make a comeback as Richard "Mujahid" Munns hit a baseline jumper, cutting their deficit down to two at 83-81.

Both teams traded baskets until Amir Tyson of The Chosen took over the game. He scored on a driving layup going to his right, and made two free throws, increasing the lead to 95-87.

The Warriors tried to make a final push as Jhavonte Carr drove to the basket strong and laid the basketball softly off the board, but The Chosen never looked back after that.

Tyson scored 12 fourth-quarter points, which was a huge reason for the Chosen's victory.

Going into the third quarter, Tyson scored on back-to-back lay-ups, increasing the lead to 55-43.

Then M. Cosby made important plays for the Warriors, making an assist to Ishmael Auxila-PierreLouis, then returning for a midrange jumper. Then P. Walker of the Warriors hustled and scored on a tip-in off a missed shot and Carr knocked down a three-pointer, decreasing the Warriors deficit to 59-56. However, the Warriors ended the third quarter down 70-63.

Amir Tyson finished with a game-high 33 points.

When asked after the game about their approach to the game, Tyson said, "Our objective was to fellowship with our team as well as fellowship with the Warriors. And of course, win."

Tyson played basketball for a year at San Jose City College.

Cosby commented, "It was a great way to tip-off a season. It was exciting for all of the Warriors. Even though we lost, we grew as a team overnight."

Cosby finished as the leading scorer for the Warriors with 19 points. He also had 12 rebounds.

# Spires Grabs the Crown As H-Unit's Fastest Man



Photo by Eric Phillips

## Davante Spires Blazes to Victory

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

The first "Run Like You Stole Something" 100-yard dash on the H-Unit yard was a hit, evoking cheers and jeers from both prisoners and staff.

Billed as the fastest man on the yard contest, Davante Spires, a young and swift runner, won the event after running four heats in which he took on all challengers.

In the first race, Spires, 18, lined up against Building 4's Cleo Franks, who towered over him by at least a foot. Off the line, the runners were even in step. However, after the first 10 paces, Franks began losing his poise and took a tumble head first onto the black top.

The H-Unit sergeant stopped the event and had Franks go to medical, where he was checked for injuries. A

few minutes later, he returned with a few minor scrapes and scratches, and the races resumed.

In quick succession, Spires ran two more heats, blazing down the track in his prison-issued tennis shoes, beating his opponents with his lightning speed.

In what was scheduled to be the final heat of the April 22 event, Spires lined up alongside of Wilbert Bridges. As the crowd lowered their chatter, the two racers flew down the asphalt with Spires easily crossing the finish line for the victory.

Taunted by a prisoner who was watching the races through the chain link fence of the ranch, Spires agreed to his challenge of one more race.

The challenger, Leon Powell, boasted that he was indeed the fastest man on the yard, claiming he was "the Usain Bolt" of the institution.

Spires, still trying to gain his breath from the previous race, lined up again for the challenge race. In his toughest test of the day, Spires beat Powell by a little less than half a second, to the applause of the entire prison yard.

# Learning Boxing's Skills from a Long-Time Coach

An unfortunate experience led Achilles Williams to start boxing as a youth. "In 1962 some people took my shoes in Washington D.C. My sister took me to the gym, and she said we can't have that," he said. His sister introduced him to a boxing trainer named "Football." He became a father figure to Williams in an environment where seven out of 10 people knew how to box. From that experience, Williams became one of the Golden Gloves' highest-level amateurs.

Williams does not train just anyone, he said. He does not train bullies or people that like to boast. He offers training to men who are humble and respectful to others.

## TRAINING

"The first thing I push my students to do is get in shape physically. They have to start running, start doing sit-ups, and work on footwork and hand foot coordination" he said.

He emphasized that boxing can be a positive outlet for at-risk youth. "I think boxing is one way to get them off the streets and bring them to a strong family structure. It can keep them out of trouble and be a potential career for them," he said.

Antoine Brown, a trainee of Williams, explains the fundamentals of boxing. He said, "First and foremost it teaches one discipline, and it forces you to focus on different part



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

## Achilles Williams on the lower yard

of your body that you usually don't focus on like your footwork, which is the basics of boxing. Without your feet being firmly placed up under you and knowing how to move properly on them then you become useless."

Consistency is important when it comes to training, he

said. "Training is like anything else. If you don't make it repetitive then nothing of the boxing aspects that you learn becomes second nature to you. Everything would have been in vain," said Brown.

Perry "Spike" Simpson, one of the men Williams trained, explains why he trains.

"First and foremost I train to stay healthy; second it works towards my development of skills to be efficient as possible."

## COPING WITH PRISON

He says training helps him cope with his incarceration. "Training helps to relieve a little stress," said Simpson. "Once you harness your aggression, you move to a more calm level of open mindedness. To get there you have to relieve negative stress. Breathing and balance is important. You cannot live to your full potential if your mind is not at peace."

## POSITIVE RESULTS

He also says that he will use his training honorably. "Boxing is a sport. I have found that the more I get better at my craft

the calmer I become. I've been bestowed the responsibility to choose to do good with the skills I've learned from the man that trained me. He said he would never train a bully. I will take that with me and pass it down to

***"Once you harness your aggression, you move to a more calm level of open-mindedness"***

people. If the teacher is positive, the student will be positive and do positive things. My intent is to be positive and pass it on to the kids.

—Gary Scott



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

## Williams demonstrating his boxing skills

# Kings Edge Sports Ministry in Overtime

By Gary Scott  
Sport Editor

The San Quentin Kings basketball team for 40 and older men defeated the outside basketball team called the Sports Ministry in their season opener 83-82 in overtime, which was in a nail-biter.

The Sports Ministry was trailing by 18 points at halftime. However, they made an unbelievable comeback, tying the game in the closing seconds of the contest with an assist from Andrew Strong to Danny Sullivan, sending the game into overtime.

***“It’s a great experience bringing joy to peoples lives and having fun...”***

In overtime, Paul Robinson made an assist to Sean Pierce and then Pierce returned to make two foul shots, giving the Kings an 80-76 lead.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

S.Q. Kings 2012 Basket Ball Team

The Sports Ministry came back as Strong made a layup and Sullivan returned to knock down a three-pointer off a screen, giving the visitors their first lead at 81-80.

Then both teams’ only points came off free throws as Strong

made one free throw to tie the game at 82-82

In the closing seconds, Robinson sank a clutch foul shot for the game winner.

Going into the second half, Sullivan contributed to their comeback as he hit a jumper

and a three-pointer. He later drove for a layup and hit a three-pointer, cutting into the deficit to 46-40.

After Robinson’s layup, Kurt Thomas hit a baseline jumper to increase the Kings’ lead to 50-40. The Kings pulled away as

Robinson, Pierce, E. Quinn and Brian Asey each made layups.

Sports Ministry was down by 19 points at 70-51. They began cutting into the Kings lead by making five three-pointers, two jump shots, two free throws and two layups, sending the game into overtime. However, they struggled to score in overtime as the Kings won by a single Robinson free throw.

After the game, Robinson said, “I feel good about our first game because we got to see how our team developed. In overtime, once we got settled, I knew we were going to pull it out.”

Robinson finished as the leading scorer for the Kings with 26 points.

“It’s a great experience bringing joy to peoples lives and having fun. We got down early, got it into overtime, and unfortunately we lost,” said Sullivan, who described his experience in playing the Kings.

Sullivan, a former Arizona State University football player, had a game high 29 points.

## Athletes Share Personal Hardships With Men of S.Q.

Even successful athletes of the University of California Berkeley Bears football team had hardships during their childhoods.

During their March visit with SQUIRES (San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies), they shared the hardships they faced growing up, and how they overcame those challenges to become successful college athletes. SQUIRES works with local youth to encourage family relationships and deter youth crime.

Freshman defensive tackle Viliami Moala said that he made many bad decisions growing up in Sacramento. He

points to God for his positive redirection. He started going to church to turn his life around.

“Playing football allowed me to stay off the streets,” said Moala. He credits his two little brothers with motivating him to try hard in high school.

Sophomore outside linebacker Chris McCain of North Carolina overcame a rough childhood. “My parents always have been there, though they had it hard. My brother went in out of jail.” He explained how he overcame doubts and criticism of pass coaches. “There were coaches who told me that I was not going to make it pass the 10th grade. Throughout

my career, I had coaches that doubted me and told recruiters [for college teams] that I was a bad kid. The only people that supported me were my parents.”

Freshman running back Daniel Lasco of Houston spoke about his difficult childhood. “I had difficulties growing up. I did not know my dad until I was 15. My mom got into heavy drugs. We had to live on government checks, child support, *et cetera*,” he said.

“I had to be the man of the house early on. It made me mature faster. My mom was my motivation to push harder. She was definitely my inspiration,” Lasco said.

Sophomore safety Avery Walls disclosed how he was able to escape negative influences. “I found God and just changed my whole life and understanding,” he said. “My mom put in a lot of time to put me in the right areas and communities to succeed.”

Visiting the SQUIRES program gave him useful information and was “a great opportunity to see what goes on here. It was a chance to see whether you want this life or a better life,” Walls said.

Freshman corner back Stefan McClure of Southern California described his hardships growing up. “My parents were divorced, and it was hard go-

ing between houses and seeing my parents every day,” he said. “Both of my parents pushed me as well as my Vista High School coaches, Williams and Ware.”

Moala encouraged the prisoners to keep track of the Bears season, adding, “Tell them we’re going to try to represent [them] by putting San Quentin on our towels.”

A group of kids were also visiting the prisoners that day. Cal quarterback Zach Maynard promised to invite youngsters to a Bears game, should they ask. Also visiting were Bears coaches, including Kevin Parker who brought his sons along.

—By Gary Scott

## Students Learn the Wrenching Story of Change in Africa

Despite a devastating slave trade and European colonial domination, Africa today is able to adapt, change and redefine its people and cultures, two Prison University Project history teachers told a class of San Quentin Prison students.

Nathaniel Moore described pre-colonial Africa as a continent of great nations and kingdoms.

“There were numerous prosperous kingdoms and civilizations throughout the continent, including the Egyptian, Zulu, Yoruba, Mali, Ethiopian and Nubian empires,” he said. “These empires maintained complex central governments, trading networks and robust societies with many achievements and innovations.”

The arrival of Europeans dramatically changed the develop-

ment of the African continent, he said. “The transatlantic slave trade disrupted many societies throughout Africa by depriving societies of their most promising young people and stunting technological innovation,” Moore added.

After the slave trade, the imperial European powers divided Africa up during the Berlin Conference of 1884 and promised not to interfere with each other as they colonized the continent. “Colonialism brought uncountable changes to African communities, everything from gender roles to language to land ownership to resource control,” said Moore.

“African communities resisted their colonial rulers in a variety of ways, but it wasn’t until the 1960s and 1970s that most African nations were able to achieve

independence. After independence, African nations have faced a number of challenges in political, economic, and social areas. However, the continent continues to possess diverse, dynamic, and vibrant culture and communities,” he added.

Anne Henry, who co-teaches the class with Moore, pointed out the ways in which past colonialism in Africa still affects Africans today. “Colonialism has had a large impact on the continent, and those impacts can be seen from the statues commemorating European officers who colonized African lands and from the European languages spoken all over the continent,” she said.

“Many countries’ governments and economic systems are still organized accordingly to colonial structures. Roads still

connect resource-rich areas to the coast. Urban areas have distinctly more infrastructure than rural areas.

“Most newspapers, TV shows, and other media are in European languages. Most Africans will speak at least one European language,” Henry said.

“Travelers would see the colonial influence in the products you would buy at a store, for example. Grocery stores are full of all sorts of products from England, France, Portugal, *et cetera*. However, on a day-to-day basis, especially in urban areas, you will see Africans from all over the continent wearing name brand clothing similar to what we might see anywhere in the United States or Europe,” said Moore.

Henry concluded by emphasizing how Africans are gradually recovering from the colonialism. “Despite the impacts that colonialism still holds in the continent, the people of Africa have been able to adapt and change to the positive or negative influences that have come their way. Even though colonialism still impacts Africans, African societies continue to define themselves.”

Antoine Brown, one of the students of the class, said, “I learned a lot about Africa that I did not know before due to the fact that schools don’t teach it in history class. Knowing about what I know now gives me a different perspective about the continent and what Africans went through.”

—By Gary Scott

# Prisoners Told Education Is the Key to Success

By Forrest Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

Education has the power to change a prisoner's attitude about himself and paves the way for a fruitful life in society, says a San Quentin volunteer.

The key to success is staying focused and motivated, said Xan Sarah Chacko, a native of India who is working on a Ph.D. degree in cultural studies at the University of California at Davis.

She is a volunteer with the Prison University Project, which offers San Quentin prisoners classes in the humanities, social sciences, math and science, leading to an Associate of Arts degree.

Chacko came to the United States in 2001 as an undergraduate student at Wellesley College in Boston, majoring in physics and women studies. After re-

turning from India, she came back to the United States in 2011 to attend UC-Davis.

She said PUP "is a fantastic opportunity for the students and volunteers. I feel fortunate to participate."

The PUP mission is "to provide excellent higher education to San Quentin prisoners and to stimulate public awareness and meaningful dialogue about higher education and criminal justice in California and across the United States."

Educational programs such as PUP have been shown to have a considerable effect on recidivism rates. According to a study by the US Department of Education, the re-arrest, re-conviction, and re-incarceration recidivism rates were lower for education participants than non-participants, and in every category the differences were statistically significant."

# Court to Rule on Juvenile LWOP

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

The US Supreme Court is mulling over the constitutionality of sentencing a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). In March, the Court heard arguments in two separate cases in which 14-year old offenders were sentenced to LWOP. They are expected to rule on the cases, *Miller v Alabama* and *Jackson v Hobbs*, this summer.

The United States is the only country in the world that sentences juvenile murderers to LWOP, according to Amnesty International. Today there are over 2,300 juveniles serving LWOP sentences in the United States.

"It is an absolute tragedy when a person's life is taken by another human being," said Borey Ai, who was sentenced to a life term with the possibility of parole for a second-degree murder he committed at age 14. "But condemning children to life in prison is not the only solution."

Ai is vice chairman of Kid CAT, a group at San Quentin whose goals include educating incarcerated men and mentoring juveniles.

Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer representing the 14-year-olds, argued that juveniles have deficits in understanding and judgment, rendering them less culpable for their actions and thus less deserving of harsh punishments. Further, because the character of juveniles is not fully formed, they should have a chance at parole after they mature and rehabilitate.

Stevenson's argument was bolstered by briefs submitted by the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association which contended juveniles are particularly vulnerable and lack control over their environment.

Amnesty International filed an amicus brief asserting that international standards on punishment of juveniles must shape the court's view on contemporary standards of de-

termining whether a sentence is cruel and unusual.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child bars sentencing juveniles to LWOP, an agreement that has been ratified by every country except Somalia and the United States. The U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled that it was unconstitutional to sentence juveniles to death or to LWOP for a non-homicide crime.

Michael Nelson, chairman of Kid CAT, thinks any adult sentence is wrong for a juvenile. "Juveniles who commit crimes, including murder, are as guilty in inflicting pain and suffering on their victims as an adult who commits the same crime," said Michael Nelson, who was sentenced to a life term with the possibility of parole for a first-degree murder he committed at age 15. "However, they should not be tried as adults or sentenced according to laws that apply to adults, because that further devalues human life and ignores the profound redemptive capacity of young offenders."

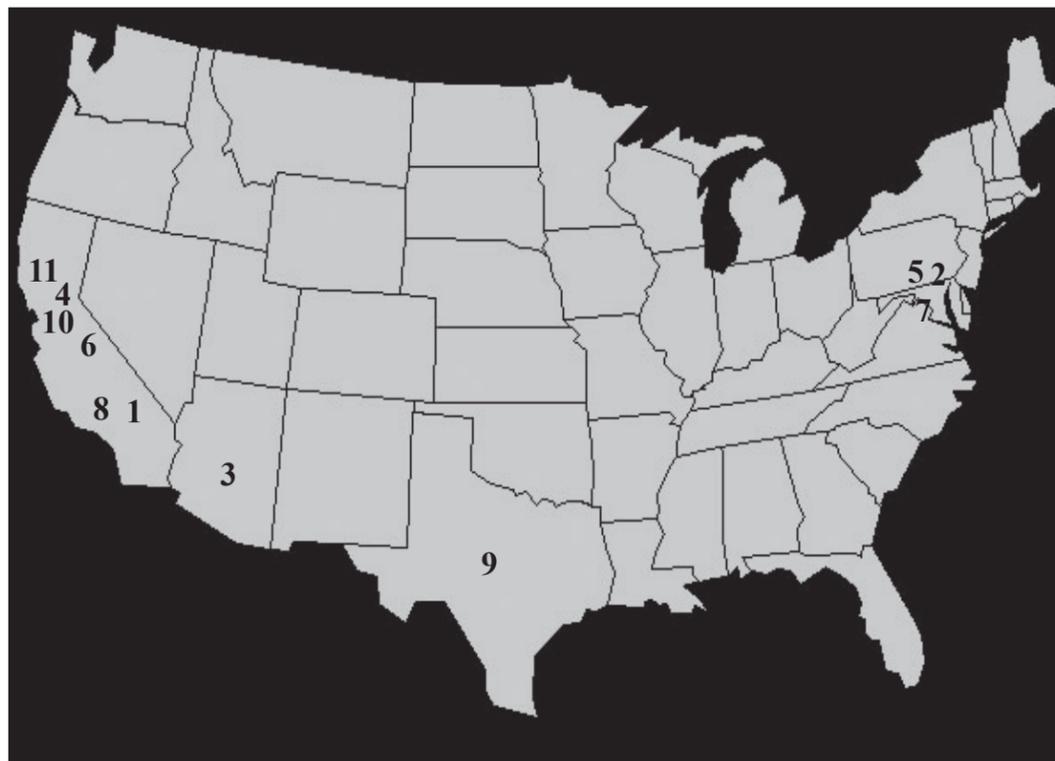
**1. RIVERSIDE**—The non-profit Prison Law Office, which successfully sued the state over inadequate prison medical care, says it's worried that the same problem is cropping up in county jails. Referring to realignment of prisoners from state to county lockups, PLO Director Don Specter told the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "It's not that these jails were doing well before; it's just worse with realignment. In some ways, counties are worse than [state prisons]...and certainly the harm on prisoners who stay there longer is going to be greater."

**2. WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission voted to change its recommendations to employers on how to assess job applicants' criminal histories. The new guidelines state that employers cannot deny an applicant based on his or her criminal history unless it is "job-related and consistent with business necessity." McClatchy Newspapers reported about 65 million Americans have some type of criminal record, which research has found cuts in half chances for finding employment.

**3. ARIZONA**—A man convicted of killing a college student for \$200 was executed April 25. "I regret nothing," said Thomas Arnold Kemp, 63, with his final words.

**4. SACRAMENTO**—The CDCR population has reached the federal court benchmark of 155 percent of design capacity two months early, according to population reports. The population of in-state adult prisons was 123,287, or 154.5 percent of design capacity, as of April 25, 2012. The federal court set the benchmark for June 27, 2012.

## News Briefs



**5. WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Charles Colson, special counsel to President Richard Nixon who went to prison for his role in a Watergate-related case and became a Christian evangelical, died April 21. He was 80. Colson created the Prison Fellowship Ministries in 1976 to minister to prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. It provided work-release programs, marriage seminars and classes to help former prisoners. An international offshoot established chapters around the world. He wrote more than 20 books, including "Born Again: What Really Happened to the White House Hatchet Man." That book was the basis of a movie. The Associated Press reported royalties from all his books went to

his ministry programs, as did the \$1 million Templeton Prize, which he won in 1993.

**6. SACRAMENTO**—Supporters of a proposition that will allow a court to review some of California's three-strike sentences have apparently submitted enough signatures to qualify for the ballot in November. Over 830,000 signatures of registered voters were turned into the Secretary of State's office with 504,760 needed to qualify for the ballot.

**7. WASHINGTON, D.C.**—As the U.S. Congress continue to cut discretionary spending, state and local juvenile justice programs will most likely take significant cuts, The Crime Report says. In fiscal year 2010, juvenile justice funding was \$424

million. The proposed amount for this fiscal year is \$209 million, wrote Ted Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists.

**8. PASADENA**—A new trial has been granted to Frank O'Connell, who spent 27 years behind bars for a murder he insists he didn't commit. A Superior Court judge tossed out the conviction after ruling detectives did not disclose information indicating another person committed the crime. In addition, one of the witnesses to the murder said that he never got a good look at the killer and felt pressure to make a positive identification in a lineup. O'Connell was released on \$75,000 bail, pending a prosecution decision on whether to hold a new trial.

**9. DALLAS**—Three men have been exonerated for a 1994 purse-snatching case at the request of Dallas District Attorney Craig Watkins. Watkins said Darryl Washington, Marcus Lashun Smith and Shakara Robertson were convicted even though the victim could not identify them. Their conviction was based on faulty witness identifications and evidence prosecutors did not give to the defense attorneys, Watkins said. Washington received a 99-year sentence, while Smith and Robertson accepted plea deals and were sentenced to probation. Washington and Robertson remained imprisoned for other convictions. Smith is an ordained minister who has been free for years. The district attorney recently called for a review of Texas capital punishment after launching a Conviction Integrity Unit to investigate wrongful convictions. "We have a responsibility, and that's to seek justice," Watkins told the Los Angeles Times.

**10. SACRAMENTO**—Shirley Ree Smith's conviction for shaking her baby grandson to death was commuted by Gov. Jerry Brown, who agreed with an appeals court decision saying that her second-degree murder conviction was a likely miscarriage of justice.

**11. SAN FRANCISCO**—A man who spent 21 years in prison before his murder conviction was overturned is suing San Francisco and police for violating his civil rights. Maurice Caldwell's federal civil rights lawsuit claims police fabricated a 1990 drug-related murder charge against him based on an unreliable witness.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

Which of the following numbers is different from the others, and how?

100, 300, 400, 900, 81, 25, 3600



Congratulations to: Jeff Stoner, and Allen Webb for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Hal Martine, John Johnson, Robert Bacon, Mark Tedeschi, Kevin Alexander, Son Hong Nguyen, Peter Chhem, Timothy Long, Bernie Castro, Steven Lacerda, Brian Carnes, John Vernacchio, Chris Schuhmacher, Edwin Carevato, Jose Molina, Frank Valdivia, Marcus Lopes, Doug Dworak, David Westerfield, John Donaldson, Troy Ashmus, and Jeff DuMont for correctly answering the puzzle. Last months winners were drawn from a hat.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**A RELIABLE WIFE** (By Robert Goolrick) Shady pasts propel hidden agendas of mail-order bride and her husband.



**AIN'T NOBODY'S BUSINESS IF YOU DO** (By Pete McWilliams) Lively tales and absurd examples of various victimless crimes.



**THE SILVER CHAIR** (By C. S. Lewis) Magic Lion helps King Caspian battle mind-controlling Underworld Queen and search for Prince Rilian in this #4 of the Chronicles of Narnia.



**THE RAINBOW** (By D. H. Lawrence) Screwed up love lives of three generations negate the flowery prose in this overrated classic.

### RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:



Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

## Snippets

Parent pigeons, both male and female, produce a substance called "pigeon milk" to feed their young hatchlings for the first seven days of their lives.

Employed by the Miller Brothers 1905 Wild West Show, William Pickett was the star attraction and the first Black American inducted to the National Rodeo Hall of Fame.

According to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, American currency is 75% cotton and 25% linen.

Coughing releases a blast of air which can travel at speeds up to 60 mph. A sneeze, on the other hand, can exceed 100 mph.

Entrepreneur and comedian Silvero Perez coined the term Chupacabra, describing a legendary bear-like creature that roams Latin America sucking the blood from livestock, especially goats.

## POETRY

### DIASPORA

By R. Calix

*In the Gulag by the Bay*

*Where a remnant still survives*

*Our colored souls in distress*

*Where unfreedom songs arise*

*Where blues croon red*

*And cold is hot*

*I sit and set*

*Not wanting nor waiting*

*But churning away*

*Inside this exile.*

*Back in a 6x9 Cell*

By NIGEL HENRY

*I'm back ya'll, locked up in jail, sitting in a 6x9 cell.*

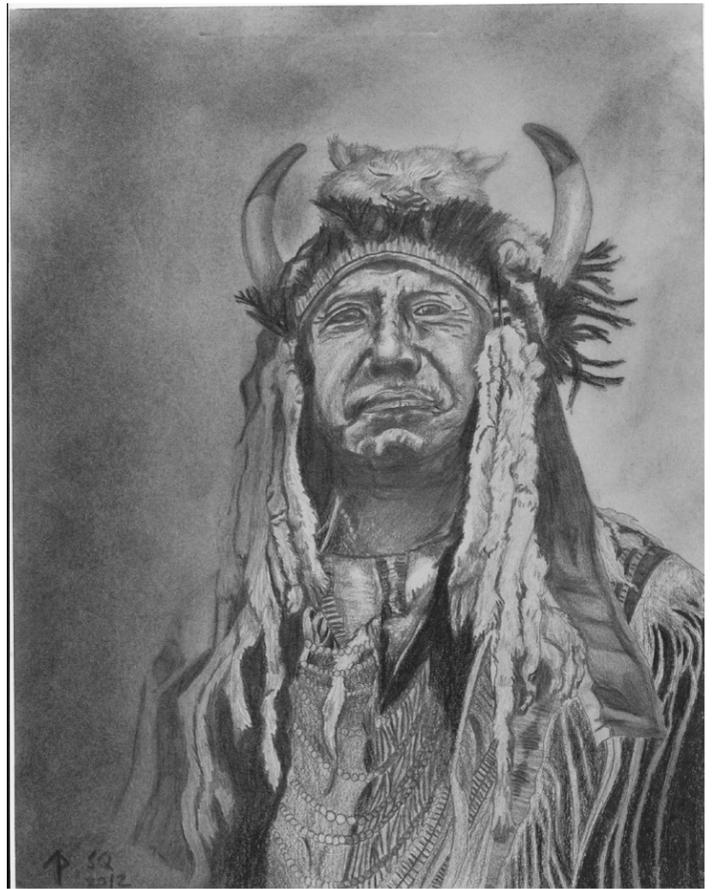
*Watching the mailman walk by, these two c/o's with their messed up smile.*

*Listening to this BS all day and night, waiting for the shut down to call it a night.*

*To wake up to the same mess beginning of the next, sitting by your bars hoping you're next.*

*A kind word from the one you love, to have a smile instead of a frown, something to do while you're locked down.*

*Trying to ease the messed up thoughts that's running around, these psychologists are easy to fool, you tell them anything and they say you're cool.*



Featured artwork of Thomas Winfrey

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Journalism Guild Writer

Puha is a Comanche word used by many tribes, including Paiute, Ute, Panamint, Shoshone, Mono Yokuts.

These tribes share a linguistic stock that goes back tens of thousands of years. Indians who can speak one of the languages can understand other tribal dialects, which are of Uto-Aztecan stock.

The word refers to the power, energy, or supernatural force received from a helping spirit. Puha can also mean the doctoring power given by the spirit helper.

The helping spirit usually comes to a person in a series of dreams, granting the dreamer power. The supernatural force can also be attained through vision quests at a power spot.

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The issue of innocent men in prison has gained attention recently as DNA evidence has proved that some convicted people were not guilty. Before DNA, there was little hope of justice for those prisoners.

"Asked on the Line" conducted informal random interviews with 42 men on the mainline and asked, "Do you believe that there are men serving time in prison for crimes they did not commit?"

If the answer was "No," the men were asked: "Did you read your Probation Report? Does it accurately describe you and the crime you committed?"

However, if the answer to the first question was "Yes," the men were asked: "Does it depend on the nature of the crime and do you have to know a man to believe in his innocence?"

Only three men or seven percent replied "No" — that there

were *no* men in prison serving time for crimes they did not commit. "If you are in prison, you did something to deserve being here," said Ed. "You know what you did." The other two asked to remain anonymous. However, the three men all said their Probation Reports did not accurately portray them and their crimes.

Thirty-nine men — 93 percent of men interviewed — answered "Yes" and said they believe there are innocent men in prison. However, of the 39, 46 percent said they have to get to know a man before they believe in his innocence.

"I have to get to know them, read their case, talk to them, listen to them," said Glenn. Commented Edward, "If a man says he's innocent, you have to get to know him first." For some, it depends on the crime. "If he's in here for something dirty, I don't know about that," said Jesus. "I don't have to know them, but it

does depend on the crime," said Armando.

The other 21 maintain they do not have to know a man to believe in his innocence and that their crime doesn't matter. "Every system makes mistakes" said Vinny. It has nothing to do with the nature of your crime, Bonaru said. "It has to do with how our judges stereotype people," he added. Kenyatta said, "It's not about me believing them; I don't try to determine who's innocent and who isn't." Alfonso maintains that he doesn't have to know a person to believe in his innocence. "I know there are some innocent men in prison — not many. But what I do know is that I *am* guilty."

Do outside people believe there are innocent men in prison? When three volunteers were asked, they all believed that there are innocent men behind bars. "I just know that the criminal justice system is corrupt," said Julie.

## Men Urged to Change by 'Being More of Who You Really Are'

### OPINION

By Thomas Tartar, MD  
Contributing Writer

"What I did is not who I am."

It's a powerful statement for someone who has felt the pain of doing wrong. Reflecting on the disconnect between one's values and one's actions requires substantial courage and inner strength — qualities we all possess. When you choose to use life's experiences as your teacher, you learn the true nature of the world and your part in it.

#### DIFFERENCES

We all come into this world with advantages and disadvantages. Broken homes, violence, alcoholism, drug addiction, bigotry and indigence are all too common. Circumstances that affect where we find ourselves and our attitudes about how we perceive our place in life vary a great deal. Some of us were born on second base and think we hit a double; others have two strikes against them before they step up to the plate.

Regardless of the surroundings that life provides for us, we all have feelings, needs and responsibilities. Those feelings and needs make us human and keep us connected to each other; responsibility, particularly to ourselves, ultimately defines who we are as human beings. There is not one among us who, at some time in his life, did not feel compassion for another, nor is there one who has not

felt anger and disappointment. Once we truly recognize that compassion as well as anger and disappointment are integral parts of being human, we can no longer separate these qualities from who we are anymore than we can separate a sunbeam from daylight.

It is imperative that we prevent ourselves from being separated from our compassionate nature and giving in to manipu-

*"Realize that for a moment you gave up the essence of who you are."*

lation and violence. This is not a subject to be discussed lightly over coffee and placed in some philosophical cloud and dismissed, because the outcome of such a disconnect can be devastating — devastating to the point of long-term incarceration or death.

Prevention requires remaining anchored to those inner values, which are truly important to us, and communicating in ways that reflect that commitment.

#### COMMUNICATION

Non-violent communication gives us a blueprint for self-expression, and permits us to remain compassionate human beings in the process. It helps prevent us from falling into the trap we set for ourselves and redirects our energies into satisfying our true needs. It teaches you to use your feelings so that you may identify your

needs and those of others, letting you communicate responsibly and with humanity. You learn to replace a quick reaction with a thoughtful, considerate response to obtain the goal of mutual understanding.

#### MAKING CHANGES

The correctional system requires inmates to make substantial changes before returning to society and becoming productive members of that society. Change is always difficult, but it is much more of a burden when it is made to please someone else. What's important is not just to change, in the usual sense, but to become more of who you really are.

A person can only get to this point after he has taken a cold hard look at himself, using honest observation and introspection. Realizing that, for a moment in your life, you gave up the essence of who you really are — in a dispassionate, selfish and destructive way — can be an incredibly useful tool.

This knowledge connects you to every other person on the planet in a way that demands compassion and consideration for all, including yourself. More importantly, once attained, you can then experience the true value of remorse, experience your life as a child of God and be unafraid of what life has in store for you.

— Dr. Thomas Tartar was a guest speaker for the Non-Violent Communication Group at San Quentin.

## We Want To Hear From You!

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 may 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.

Send Submissions to:  
CSP - San Quentin  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No street address required)

## San Quentin News

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### BEHIND THE SCENES

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