

# San Quentin News

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## A Victory For America

By ALY TAMBOURA

In an election that is truly one for the history books, Barack Obama won his bid for the White House in a sweeping victory, capturing an overwhelming number of the nation's electoral college votes in a fashion which the nation has rarely seen.

By 7:30 pacific time, Fox News had announced Obama the victor and president-elect. The other major networks followed suit of the announcement, forecasting Obama as the next president. Over the next few hours, as the vote counts were broadcast on television, it became evident that Obama had overwhelmingly won the election.

Obama made his victory speech to a quarter of a million supporters in Chicago's Grant Park shortly after the networks announced him the victor. The speech moved many in the crowd to tears of joy, including celebrities such as Jesse Jackson and Oprah Winfrey, who were both in attendance. Obama's message of change was clear in his speech, along with a direct appeal for help from the American people.



President-Elect Barack Obama

"The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there," said Obama.

Obama used the story of

106-year old Ann Nixon Cooper as a symbol of the African-American struggle.

"Born just a generation past slavery, but for many years could not vote for two reasons, because she was a woman and because of the color of her skin.

See **Obama**, Page 5



Volunteers Doris Fendt and Kathryn Jackson at the ballot box  
(Photo by Troy Williams)

## Prisoners Conduct Mock Election

By KAMAL SEFELDEEN

In a well organized peaceful civil-dissent to state law that prohibits state prisoners and parolees from voting in local municipalities and national elections, San Quentin inmates conducted a mock election on Oct. 25 which marked the beginning of absentee voting in California.

The ballot contained the presidential candidates, Obama-Biden (Democrat), McCain-Palin (Republican), Nader-Gonzales (Independent) and McKinney-Clemente (Green Party). It also included five state propositions from the Nov. 4 election, Proposition 5—the Nonviolent Offender Rehabilitation Act (Nora), Proposition 6—The Safe Neighborhood Act, Proposition 7—Renewable

Fuel Sources, Proposition 8—Protect Marriage Act, and Proposition 9—Victim's Rights and Protection Act.

Classrooms became voting stations and community volunteers became poll workers and election monitors.

Inmates lined up for voting, each presenting his prison I.D. with picture identification at the check-in table where a volunteer and an inmate marks his name in the official print-out provided by the administration.

"Just to make sure nobody votes twice," says Red, 57, an inmate with a big smile.

"I voted against Proposition 8, because I don't think they should amend the Constitution. I voted against Proposition 9, because It's a vengeful bill," says Red.

## California Officials Openly Defy Federal Judge

By DAVID MARSH

California officials face fines of up to \$2 million per day for refusing a federal judge's order to turn over more than \$250 million in state funds. The money is needed to jumpstart construction on more than \$8 billion in improvements ordered to bring the medical facilities in its state prisons up to constitutional standards.

The state's long-running battle with U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson heated up Oct. 25 when lawyers for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and State Controller John Chiang questioned the judge's authority to force the state to hand over the funds. They also questioned his authority to order the changes in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's medical facilities.

Henderson, in 2006 appointed a federal overseer to manage the state's beleaguered prison health care system. He responded to the attack on his authority at the hearing with an order that the funds be transferred by Nov. 5. Failure to

comply with his directive will result in both Schwarzenegger and Chiang facing a hearing for contempt the following week, the judge said. That raises the potential for as much as \$2 million per day in fines, he said.

Deputy Attorney General Daniel Powell told Henderson that although the state has the funds, it is the state's position that Henderson has failed to provide sufficient information regarding his plans for the money. He said that any plans that Henderson has for state prison construction must be approved by the Legislature before the state will release any funds.

Plans submitted by the federal manager, law professor Clark Kelso, call for the building of seven prison health care centers, a dental care center and improving some existing facilities.

The state faces a trial in federal court Nov. 17 before a three-judge panel that will include Henderson. Among the issues to be decided during the trial are claims that chronic overcrowding has led to unconstitutionally sub-standard medical care.

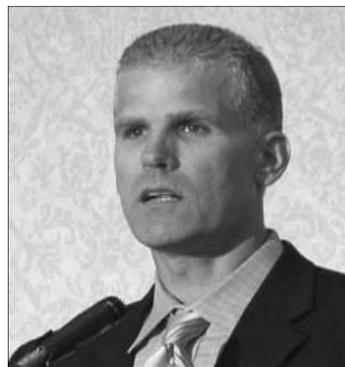
## Centerforce Holds 2008 Prison Reform Summit

By NAN SINCERO

The Pew Center on the States has stated that there are now more than one in 100 adults incarcerated in the United States – more than any other nation.

Centerforce, whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration, hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual "Inside/Out Summit" on Oct. 6-7 at the Double Tree Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Part, California. The theme, *More Than One in One Hundred: the Crisis, the Issues, the Solutions*, was in response to the report that came out.

The successful two-day event included 15 workshops on a variety of subjects: Reentry, Employment and Mental Health, Employment for Veterans, Substance Abuse Treatment, Eliminating the Death Penalty, California Prop. 5 (NORA), Props. 6&9, Inside Arts Programs, Visitation Programs, Restorative Justice, HIV Programming, Supporting Children and Families, Making, Mending and Maintaining Rela-



Matthew Cate, Secretary of CDCR

tionships, and Advocacy.

Special panelists and speakers included, Secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Matthew Cate, actor of M\*A\*S\*H fame Mike Farrell, Chief Medical Officer Receiver Clark Kelso, Dr. Terry Hill, and Centerforce Executive Director Carol F. Burton. The keynote speech was delivered by Superior Court Judge and author Norbert Ehrenfreund who was a journalist at the Nuremberg Trials in 1945. His powerful and emotional message resonated through the hall as he spoke passionately about the

legacy of Nuremberg and its effects on due process and fair trial. He also addressed the audience as an influential force – a large group of people who understand three words: "people can change."

Special plenary sessions included: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Socratic Dialogue, Incarcerated Medicine Session, Sentencing Reform Caucus, and Ask-a-Funder. Phillip Jay Seiler, a formerly incarcerated Lifer at San Quentin Prison participated on the Socratic Dialogue panel along with representatives from 10 organizations; California Inspector General, David Shaw; CCPOA, Pam Douglas; Stanford Criminal Justice Center, Kara Dansky; Prison Law Office, Don Specter; Prison Legal News, Paul Wright; Crime Victims United of California, Nina Salarno-Ashford; Probation-Parole and former Warden of San Quentin, Jeanne Woodford; author of 3 books on incarceration, Sasha Abramsky; Vacaville Police Chief, Rich Word, and Taxpayers for Improving public Safety, David Warren.

See **Centerforce**, Page 2

# No More Tears

## 'Putting a Face On Crime'



Top Row: Lonnie Morris, Jerry Elster, George Jurand, No More Tears Group  
Bottom Row: Mona and Bobby G. Hall Sr., Maddie Scott and Paulette Brown

### An Interview with Denise Banister of No More Tears

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS

*San Quentin News:* What is No More Tears, and what role do you play in it?

*Denise Banister:* NMT is a violence and crime prevention program conceived of by SQ prisoners. It was developed through collaboration between NMT founders Lonnie Morris,

Jerry Elster, Bobby Dean Evans, Jr., and Lafayette Nelson, community and staff volunteers Vernell Crittendon, Mick Gardner, Cat Aboudara and Yolanda Najera, of Centerforce. Centerforce is the umbrella organization over NMT. The Muslim Chaplain, R.S. Hassan, is the chief sponsor of NMT, as well as a founding member. I am a co-sponsor of NMT, serve on the steering committee, perform administrative duties for the program, coordinate volunteer efforts

and help implement workshops and events.

*SQN:* What inspired you to work with NMT? And how long has the organization been in existence?

*D.B.:* NMT was "born" in 2001. I came on board in 2004. What inspired me to work with NMT was the hope I experienced when I first came to San Quentin to observe the program. Let me say that again; I found HOPE at San Quentin. I almost didn't come that first day; I was skeptical and expected to find just another group of people who sit around talking about issues of violence in our communities; I was so tired of talk. I grew up in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond, and was disheartened by the deterioration of those communities due to disenfranchisement, economic disparities, and the infusion of drugs and dwindling of economic opportunities. What I found at NMT was a group of dedicated people working to proactively address all the issues underlying the growing violence in our communities; particularly the youth-on-youth violence.

See *Healing Circle*, Page 3



Candelaria Podesta registering prisoners to vote  
(Photo by Troy Williams)

## Mock Election

Continued from Page 1

Scott, 47, an inmate standing by the voting classroom conducting an exit-poll said, "I'm doing this to see how close our thinking process aligns with the outside community. It shows, even though we are not allowed to vote, that we are still involved and pay attention to the issues affecting our community."

Mike Dunne, a community volunteer in S.Q. Film Makers Project, followed by a handful of inmates with expensive TV cameras, believes in rehabilitation instead of incarceration. "This idea of conducting voting here at S. Q. at the start of the absentee voting in California is an idea and a project by the inmates themselves. It has historic implications. It's voting of the un-counted. It's training for the inmates to follow the issues and to form independent decisions based upon what is real, and objectively caring rather than subjective interests," says Dunne.

According to Dunne, the ballots will be tabulated and sealed until Nov. 4. Similar voting will take place for inmates in H-Unit. Today's designated for the 743 inmates of North Block. The check-in records reflect that 66 percent of the population voted in this mock election.

"In Europe over 75 percent of eligible voters vote. I know how it feels to be disenfranchised. I'm one of the disenfranchised. I can't vote because I'm not a citizen. This election is about the men here. There are too many issues at stake in this election. I would like them to have hope by connecting to common issues," says Doris, a German citizen and a graduate of San Francisco State University with a degree in psychology. Doris, who refers to S.Q. inmates as "the men," believes that Prop. 9 is catastrophic. "We ought to direct our social

education toward building a society of citizens rather than of consumers," said Doris, before paying full attention to the entire football team, arriving in their team uniforms to vote. Someone said, "They may run-out of ballots." Another inmate shouted "Florida, Florida!" Laughter and comments before Doris responded, "We have the ballot template, and if we need more we will get copies."

Kathleen, a seventh-grade teacher who teaches English to S.Q. inmates participating in Patten University, believes that a great number of the inmates are more aware of the socio-economic issues than many people on the outside. She finds most of the inmates knowledgeable, engaging and seeking redemption by trying to learn more. "This election gives them a sense of hope that someone really cares," says Kathleen, who is not a democrat but does intend to vote for Obama, "because he gives hope to many."

When asked if this mock election would make any difference, she responded with deep earnestness, "There is a man who came and voted, and after he was done he said, 'I don't feel like a criminal right now.' The fact (that) people don't understand that people can change is a crime," says Kathleen.

In Switzerland, the government faces pandemic drug addictions. They don't consider it a criminal problem, but they consider it a health problem that requires a health solution.

The advocates of the Swiss solution say that criminalizing similar problems in the U.S. would enlarge the problem, that sending adolescents and adults to prison for drug use would expand the power of a corporate vigil-justice driven by a rich lobby. Others advocate Prop-5 as a solution.

## Flu Vaccine is being Offered

By Dr. ELENA TOOTELL, CMO

Flu Season is here once again. On Nov. 7 and Nov. 8, vaccinations were given out to those who wanted them. Flu is spread easily, and the older we get, the worse it can affect us.

If you have any kind of health condition, like heart disease, lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, diabetes, HIV, or seizures disorders, getting the flu can be much worse. Last year a prison in Southern California didn't vaccinate everyone, and some died from complications.

"I don't want a shot; it'll make me sick," is what many people say. You CAN'T get the flu by getting a flu shot. You need vaccination every year. If you have had an allergic reaction to a previous vaccination, or if you're allergic to eggs, you need to tell that to the nurse.

Our nurses are trained to give injections properly, and, IT WON'T HURT for longer than a second. It's worth the small inconvenience.

## Student Injured in Print Shop

By ALY TAMBOURA

Andre Taylor, a vocational student, was seriously injured while operating a paper cutter in the San Quentin Print Shop. Taylor's hand was caught in the clamp which holds the paper for cutting, as a result, three of the fingers on his right hand were crushed and partially severed.

The seriousness of the injuries warranted emergency response by the San Quentin Fire

Department which arrived on the scene within minutes of the accident. Taylor was stabilized and transported to an outside hospital for emergency surgery. Taylor was returned to the prison infirmary after surgery where he is recovering.

According to the infirmary staff, Taylor's fingers were reattached and he is expected to make a full recovery and is expected to retain the use of his hand.

Print shop instructor John

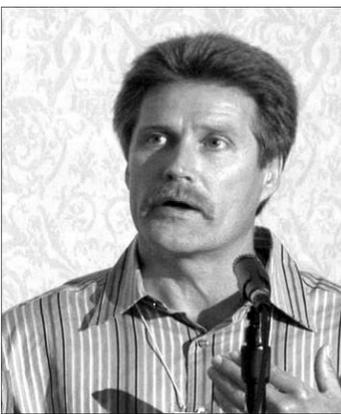
Wilkerson says, "All students are trained to safely operate the equipment in the Print Shop and are constantly reminded of safe-operating procedures throughout their vocational training."

The paper cutter involved in the accident has been taken off-line until completion of the investigation by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The accident remains under investigation.

## Centerforce Summit

Continued from Page 1

The moderator was Ron Clement, formerly of the Haigh-Scatena Foundation. The format of the Socratic Dialog involves revealing a hypothetical scenario in which the



Phillip Jay Sieler

panelists must discuss outcomes in order to foster positive solutions.

The Incarceration Medicine Session was moderated by Dr.

Jacqueline Tulsy and featured an update on the Receivership by Dr. Terry Hill, chief medical officer under Receiver Clark Kelso. Panelists who posed questions to Dr. Hill were Doctors Lisa Pratt, MD of San Quentin and Denise Taylor, MD of California Men's Colony. The session was followed by an audience question and answer period.

The Sentencing Reform Caucus was moderated by Carol F. Burton and included panelists Mike Farrel of Death Penalty Focus, Dan Abrahamson of Drug Policy Alliance and Elizabeth Gaynes of Osborne Association. This session was unique because it included questions for the panel that were blogged into the Centerforce website prior to the Summit.

This year the "Jeanne Woodford Award," for recognition of Outstanding Leadership in Proactive Correctional Community Collaboration, went to San



Norbert Ehrenfreund

Quentin Warden Robert Ayers, Jr.

The Socratic Dialogue keynote speech featured Secretary Cate. Incarceration Medicine and the Sentencing Reform Caucus will air on SQTV sometime in November or December. Look for your weekly programming updates!

Article provided by



# A Portrait From the Past

## Clinton Duffy: Mr. San Quentin 1940-51

By DON (COACH) DENEVI

No one would have believed that as late as the summer of 1940 San Quentin was on the brink of deadly riots certain to reverse efforts in rehabilitation by 100 years.

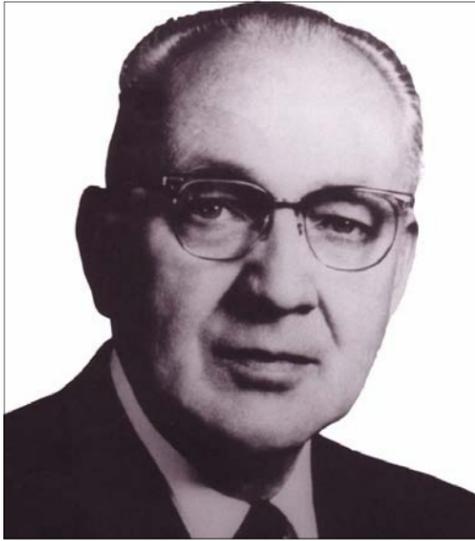
San Quentin was considered a "modern" prison where Warden Jimmy Johnston had ended officer barbarism in 1919 and Warden James Holohan instilled imprisoned men with new dignity and inspiration in the 1930s.

Now the tough, hard-boiled Warden Court Smith had adamantly refused to end "the shame of San Quentin," a 50-foot long dungeon that was constructed under the old hospital with seven niches cut into the subterranean rock on each side to serve as cells. Hundreds of convicts trembled with so much hate and fear that some were arming themselves to escape or kill as many guards as they could.

With the growing crisis no longer kept secret from a public well aware that the "Big House By the Bay" was a city of nightmares, Gov. Culbert Olson ousted the entire Board of Prison directors. And on the

morning of July 13, a new five man board convened in the conference room of the warden's office at San Quentin to fire Smith. Four years of bloodshed, strife, and some officers insisted, rot and corruption during his brief tenure were about to end. Clinton Truman Duffy, a 42-year-old Parole Board secretary who was born, bread, married and now lived on the prison grounds, was summoned along with several other witnesses for questioning about the increasing abuses and chaos.

"I sat on a long polished bench outside the meeting room for what seemed like hours, mopping my face and listening to the wildest kind of rumors," Duffy wrote 10 years later in his autobiography: *The San Quentin Story*. "I was sure I was due for the chopping block since a number of official heads had already been lopped off that morning. Then and there I made up my mind to quit prison work for good. Warden Smith was called before the new board around noon and for several hours loud voices filtered out into the hall. Smith emerged at



Clinton Duffy: Warden 1940-1951

four o'clock and clumped down the hall and out the door without a word."

After several other flushed and nervous administrators entered and exited the conference room, someone called out, "Duffy, you're wanted inside." Duffy walked in and sat down, wiping his glasses to conceal his nervousness. He didn't want to get fired; he wanted to quit. After all, his father had been a highly respected guard for more than 30 years. Suddenly someone said, "We have not agreed upon a new warden. You've

been around here all your life and you know all the spots. We understand your dad taught you the cardinal rule of reform: no man can ever be redeemed by using the whip. How about taking over for the next 30 days?"

Duffy, from his autobiography, writes, "I could have crawled under the rug. 'Taking over?' I asked mechanically."

"Yes, as acting warden."

It was about six o'clock when Duffy called his wife Gladys about the news. They reflected upon how their old way of life was finished and that he was now assuming a great responsibility to the people of California and to the thousands of men behind the walls. "Before I come home, I have something important to do," he said quietly and hung up.

Duffy then walked down San Quentin's long main street to the house closest to the East Gate and knocked on the door. Captain Ralph New, under whom guards had used the dungeon, the straps, and

the rubber hoses so frequently they had cost an old warden his job, opened the door. The unsmiling new acting warden said simply, "I've just been appointed to take control of the prison and staff. I'm making changes and as of this minute, you're through." He turned and walked back to the warden's office.

Upon entering the deserted office, he immediately telephoned Joseph Fletcher, a guard he had observed for years. "I'm appointing you Captain of the Yard and your first official act within the next hour is to abolish the dungeon."

"By eight o'clock that night, the moldy, foul 50-foot cave where hundreds of men had suffered unbelievable tortures through the decades had ceased to exist," Duffy would say in later years.

*Part two of this three part biographical sketch of "Mister San Quentin," as Time Magazine referred to him in a January 7, 1942, article, will appear in the next issue of the SQ News.*

## Healing Circle

Continued from Page 2

I felt the genius of the program was that men who had once been the offenders were now the mentors for positive change and healing. They reminded me of some very special individuals who took time to mentor me in my youth and turned me from the path of self-destruction. NMT allows me to give back, to thank those who helped me, to serve my community; and as I said, it gives me hope.

*SQN:* What is the Mission Statement of NMT?

*D.B.:* NMT Mission Statement: To curb violence and detrimental behaviors within targeted communities by utilizing the specialized knowledge and experience of former perpetrators of violence and crime. These former perpetrators hold themselves accountable to bring solutions to the communities where once they had contributed to the problems.

*SQN:* And where do you see the group going in the future?

*D.B.:* I see NMT reaching out into the community, providing mentors who have successfully overcome the negative to model positive change and offer guidance and hope to our youth. Our communities are suffering from a terrible disunity at the core; the result of racism, classism, social injustice, economic imbalance and the systematic destruction of hope. I believe NMT's greatest value will be in collaboration

with groups such as the Healing Circle, partnering our efforts to provide forums for healing, growth and positive change. For any of our programs and efforts to have a lasting effect, we must learn to value each other and work together across all lines, to create a strong, unified, diverse community that fosters and sustains the well-being of all our children and all of our people.

*SQN:* Who/ How many people are in NMT?

*D.B.:* Who: Incarcerated men who, through word of mouth, have been intrigued to investigate NMT and been inspired to work with us. Outside: Various community volunteers from all walks of life. How many: NMT has maintained an average of 55 inside and 15 outside participants over the last four years.

*SQN:* If someone were interested in becoming a part of your group, how would they go about doing this?

*D.B.:* Those interested in joined NMT should speak to one of the Steering Committee members. We try to keep a balance of long-termers and short-termers (sentence), so that we know a good percentage of our members will be going home in the next few years to bring what they've learned from NMT into their communities.

*SQN:* What is the Healing Circle and how does it relate to your group?

*D.B.:* The Healing Circle for the Soul Support (HCSS) is a

group of individuals who have lost loved ones to murder; many of them have lost one or more children. The founders of the HCSS, and the chief sponsor, George Jurand, formed the group to provide culturally appropriate and sensitive support to communities of color who traditionally have not had their needs considered by existing services. The format and the methods are so effective that persons across all cultures participate and find solace in the HCSS.

NMT began collaborating with the HCSS in 2007, in a series of dialogs that examine all aspects of violence and its impact. Side by side "victim" and "offender" have found empathy and common ground. We have learned to cross the lines we imagine divide us to create a forum for support, healing and empowerment. From our initial collaboration we also developed additional workshops such as "Reconnecting the Community Through Communication," where young incarcerated adults and community members rediscover the value in each other, and explore breaking down barriers and creating solutions in an effort to rewrite the community.

*SQN:* What do you expect out of a relationship between the two groups?

*D.B.:* NMT and HCSS are currently working to broaden the scope of our collaboration and develop a solid curriculum, to make this powerful forum available to other communities and venues.

*SQN:* What are some of the things you would like our readers to know?

*D.B.:* I would like your readers to know that every one of you is valuable and necessary. No matter what previous experience you have had, what wrong you have done (and we all have done wrong, sometime), you have talents and abilities that you can develop and use to make your life a good life, to help yourself, your family and your community.

*SQN:* Are others in training for Leadership positions?

*D.B.:* Yes, we have other co-facilitators that are connecting with the groups, each in his own, unique way: Marvin Mitchell, Marcus Williams, Eugene "MC" Montgomery and Michael Lewis.

*SQN* contacted NMT's co-founder Jerry Elster for comment.

*Jerry Elster:* Our original intent at NMT was to expose perpetrators to victims, and victims to perpetrators. And in that way to put a face on crime. It's a lot harder to commit crime when you put a face on the victim. Our goal is to make everybody accountable for public safety.

*SQN:* Could you comment on Denise Bannister's role at NMT.

*JE:* She puts in a tireless effort to keep NMT together, no doubt. Denise is the glue that holds it all together. And I'd like to mention Lonnie (Morris), because NMT is his idea. Without Lonnie, there is no NMT. Everybody puts in a good effort to make this all happen, to all come together.

*More on the Healing Circle next issue.*

## PROPOSITIONS 5 & 6

By DAVID MARSH

In an election that was quite clearly overshadowed by the uncertain economic times, Americans went to the polls and voted their pocket books in sending Propositions 5 and 6 down to decisive defeat.

Prop. 5, known as the Non-Violent Offenders Act, would have diverted drug and non-violent offenders into rehabilitation and diversion programs, making it much more difficult to incarcerate them. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the initiative could have eventually cost the state over \$1 billion a year, off set by an additional \$1 billion a year in savings from reduced parole and prison costs.

Voters who participated in exit polls cited the certainty of the projected expenditures in deciding to reject the initiative.

Prop. 6, A Police and Law Enforcement Funding initiative, would have mandated an initial outlay of \$965,000,000 per year to fund police, sheriffs, district attorneys, adult probation and jails, an increase of several hundred million per year over current levels of spending. It proposed numerous changes in current laws related to membership in gangs, as well as sentencing changes. The measure was soundly defeated by voters.



# 'Songbirds in a Golden Cage'



Red Frye & Jaimee Karroll tuning up to play

By **RONNIE COHEN**

Jaimee Karroll shares her tale of violence with a dozen of San Quentin's most violent

As a teenager and young adult, Jaimee Karroll sang. She played guitar and sang mostly dark folk songs until she realized that she used her voice to disassociate from herself, a coping technique she says she learned in the wake of a childhood kidnap and rape.

Karroll, now 53, quit singing more than 20 years ago. She put away her guitar and never picked it up again until last week, when she changed the strings and tuned it up to sing to a group of San Quentin State Prison convicts.

In her deep, melodic voice, Karroll explains that she had to quit singing to begin healing. "Why would I stop singing?" she asks, sitting on a floral futon next to her Labrador retriever and her cat in her El Cerrito home overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge. "In order to use my voice, I would lose awareness of myself. I fled myself in order to not be conscious of what happened. I wanted to become whole." So, after a psychiatric hospitalization, she

stopped singing completely. Not even in the shower. In the meantime, she underwent intensive psychotherapy and sought to regain and process repressed memories of the 1963 day when she was abducted and assaulted.

She joined Bay Area Women Against Rape, counseling other victims, and a few years ago began working inside San Quentin with men serving time for crimes like the one she says silenced her. Inside the prison overlooking San Francisco Bay in Marin County, Karroll began to forgive the three men she says abducted and assaulted her when she was 9-years old.

This weekend, the Marin-based Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance will give Karroll a Hero of Forgiveness award.

"Forgiveness was not achieved in a single moment but has unfolded over two decades," she says. First Karroll had to remember a crime she had long tried to forget. Though some have questioned the claims of people with repressed memories of crimes, Karroll's story has been heartfelt enough

to earn not only the forgiveness award but the trust of her colleagues working in the prison and the prisoners themselves.

At a recent dinner party with the leaders of the Insight Prison Project, a nonprofit program through which Karroll trained to run a weekly prison group, Rochelle Edwards invited Karroll to sing to her 11-year-old daughter. She sang "My Songbird," a 1977 ballad that Jesse Winchester wrote and Emmylou Harris made famous.

When he heard Karroll sing, Jacques Verduin, Insight Prison Project's executive director and founder, asked her to sing for his prison group. Karroll hesitated. But another event nudged Karroll to more openly confront her past and to overcome her hesitation. About a year ago, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

To prepare for her first performance in two decades, Karroll reunited with her old

sort of attention commonly reserved for religious leaders and rock stars.

Karroll crosses and recrosses her legs as she addresses her rapt audience. She lost her long, brown hair to chemotherapy. Short, gray, curly hair frames her face.

The day after Thanksgiving, when she was 9-years old, she was walking about a block from her house. "I heard brakes screech and felt two hands grab me," she says. "I was immediately bound and attacked for approximately 10 hours."

Her assailants raped her repeatedly with the handle of a knife, she says. "If you can imagine being 9 and having the knife inside of you. It was terrifying."

"It was a day of complete violation. In that day, I totally lost myself. I broke in so many ways.

"I just couldn't tell my parents anything about what happened. Basically, I came home and went to war with my family."

The prisoners stare contemplatively

and empathetically.

Karroll says that she married, became a singer and tried to bury her pain by drinking. "When I was a performer," she says, "I still didn't have a voice. In order to have a full experience of myself, I had to let go of that."

"Violence renders people silent."

She tells the men that they understand her in a deep way. "You really know what happened to me," she says. "I can't think of a better way to inter-

rupt the cycle of violence than to be right here in this prison. This work in the prison has helped me grasp the depths of humanity and the possibility of transformation."

Phillip Seiler, a well-groomed 47-year-old prisoner serving time for murder, thanks Karroll for telling her story. "What a brave little girl," he says.

Performing terrifies Karroll. But she feels compelled to share her story and her song with the criminals.

"It feels really profound to do it with you," she says, "to do it with men who've committed acts of violence and are committed to transcending that. It just feels important to tell you how I lost my voice as a result of that crime and to share it with you."

For more than five minutes, the men focus on Karroll while she tunes her guitar.

"All right," she says finally, beginning to strum, "don't expect much."

"It sounds good already," Seiler says, smiling tenderly.

Swaying back and forth, her legs still crossed, Karroll's harmonious voice fills the room as she sings "My Songbird."

*Songbird in a golden cage  
She'd prefer the blue  
How I crave the liquor of her song*

*Poor bird who has done no harm  
What harm could she do*

*She shall be my prisoner her life long  
My songbird wants her freedom*

*Now don't you think I know  
But I can't find it in myself  
To let my songbird go  
I just can't let her go*

See *Songbirds*, Page 7

**"Prison has helped me grasp the depths of humanity and the possibility of transformation."**

voice teacher and tuned up her long-silenced instrument.

Last week, dressed completely in black with tights and a turtleneck beneath a long skirt and a jacket despite the summer heat, she sat in a circle with 12 inmates, many of them serving life sentences for murder, in a San Quentin prison classroom. The only window looks out on a hallway.

The men, wearing denim and sneakers, all intently concentrate on Karroll, giving her the

## How to Persuade a Judge

By **STEPHEN LIEBB**

When faced with someone who sits in judgment over us, we need wisdom and skill to persuade that judge to rule in our favor. We all must appear before the "Judge of the whole earth" (Genesis 18:25). Antonin Scalia, an associate justice of the Supreme Court, has written a practical guide called, "Making Your Case: The Art of Persuading Judges." Justice Scalia provides clear and concise principles to be an effective advocate.

An advocate's character is important. Justice Scalia writes, "All of us are more apt to be persuaded by someone we admire than by someone we detest... Your objective in every argument, therefore, is to show yourself worthy of trust and affection. Trust is lost by dissembling or conveying false information not just intentionally but even carelessly; by mischaracterizing precedent to suit your case; by making arguments that could appeal only to the stupid or informed; by ig-

noring rather than confronting whatever weighs against your case. Trust is won by fairly presenting the facts of the case and honestly characterizing the issues; by owning up to those points that cut against you and addressing them forthrightly; and by showing respect for the intelligence of your audience."

Justice Scalia states that judges can be persuaded only when three conditions are met: (1.) They must have a clear idea what you're asking the court to do. (2.) They must be assured that it's within the court's power to do it. (3.) They must conclude that what you're asking is best-both in your case and in cases that follow.

Among the principles that Justice Scalia presents for effective argumentation are:

- Your arguments must make logical sense. Always outline your brief.
- Know your audience.
- Know your case.
- Know your adversary's case.

- Never overstate your case. Be scrupulously accurate.

- If possible lead with the strongest argument.

- Select the most easily defensible position that favors your case.

- Don't try to defend the indefensible. Draw the sting out of unpleasant facts by presenting them yourself.

- Select your best argument and concentrate your fire. Justice Scalia quotes Quintilian, who said, "We must not always burden the judge with all the arguments we have discovered since by doing so we shall at once bore him and render him less inclined to believe us."

- Communicate clearly and concisely. An advocate's job is to present clearly the laws and the facts favoring your side of the case. It is not the judge's job to piece the elements together from a wordy or confusing brief or argument. Scalia states that successful arguments are marked by brevity. Courts don't want to hear you repeat

yourself. He advises advocates to compress their writing by eliminating sentences, phrases, and words that do not help.

- Appeal not just to rules but to justice and common sense.

- Reason is paramount with judges and overt appeal to their emotions is resented.

- Assume a posture of respectful intellectual equality with the judge. "An advocate should be instructive without being condescending, respectful without being obsequious and forceful without being obnoxious."

- Restrain your emotions and don't accuse.

- Close powerfully and say explicitly what you think the court should do.

Justice Scalia's advice is a powerful tool to improve the art of communication. Communication is about trust and that is why honesty and fairness are important characteristics for a judge and for anyone who

wants to persuade a judge. When Moses was chosen to be an advocate for the Hebrews, before Pharaoh, he protested to God: "I am not a man of words...my speech is difficult and my tongue is difficult." (Exodus 4:10) God responded: "Who gave man a mouth...Is it not I, God? Now go, and I will be your mouth." (4:11-12).

Moses, a man who was not a "talker" became a powerful and effective advocate because of humility. He got out of the way of his arguments. Moses was an effective advocate because he was not in love with his own words and arguments. Moses did not let ego dilute or distort his message. He absorbed higher wisdom and became a channel to convey knowledge and truth greater than himself. These principles, when applied, can help us to become more effective advocates before those who judge us.



The President-Elect & VP Joe Biden

# Obama

Continued from Page 1

She was there for the busses in Montgomery, the hoses in Birmingham, a bridge in Selma and a preacher from Atlanta who told people that we shall overcome. Yes we can," said Obama to an exuberant crowd.

John McCain watched the voter results from his campaign headquarters in Arizona, where he graciously conceded the election. "I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my president," said McCain to a sympathetic crowd.

McCain's speech was the defining point which ended his decade long quest for the White House. He praised his supporters and his running mate, Sarah Palin, calling her, "one of the best campaigners I have ever seen, and an impressive new

voice in our party for reform."

Pundits are crediting Obama's defeat of McCain to what is being called the best run political campaign in modern history. By early Wednesday morning Obama had an astonishing 338 electoral votes with McCain's tally at a diminutive 156, with Obama winning the popular vote by over 7 million.

Countries across the globe celebrated Obama's victory with Americans. In Kenya, his father's home country, President Mwai Kibaki proclaimed that Thursday would be a public holiday. Desmond Tutu of South Africa praised Obama's victory. The Iraqi foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told the press that he thinks Obama "will not have the same enthusiasm and momentum for this situation," speaking of the on-going war in Iraq.

George W. Bush commented that Obama's win is "especially uplifting for a generation of Americans who witnessed the struggle for civil rights with their own eyes and four decades later see a dream fulfilled." He also invited the president-elect to visit the White House, while vowing to keep him informed during the transition of power.

"At this defining moment change has come to America..." Said Barack Obama, president-elect.

# Condemned Row Inmates Form Advisory Council

By SAMUEL CAPERS

East Block's Condemned Row has been a world of its own. It's known to house the worst of the worst. It is a man's final stop before his ill-awaited fate is to be carried out. But many out on the mainline do not know that there are quite a few changes taking place here on the row. And, though there may be no hope for the condemned in the eyes of others, we see things a lot differently. We no longer sit under rocks and simply accept the fact that many of us may never see the streets again.

There were many issues that needed to be addressed within the East Block unit and absolutely no kind of communication when it came to staff and prisoners. This, of course, caused many difficulties and gaps that to this day remain, except for the reality that these issues are "fixable." With that said, the East Block Advisory Council came into play. The "EBAC" members

work along with the unit staff and administration on the row to make life easier and the program run smoother, for both staff and prisoners. It is a council of the condemned that have been here anywhere from upwards of many years to just a few. We are all working together to make this program more suitable and beneficial to all.

There are six "Grade A" yards here, and on each yard there are four EBAC representatives, one for each of the basic four ethnic groups, and one yard chairman who goes to the scheduled meetings with the staff. The issues brought up vary, such as: canteen, medical, property, and general unit issues that involved the condemned population as a whole. The staff needs to know that we are willing to work out issues with them on an advisory level, instead of using the Inmate Appeal Process (CDCR 602). Thru the EBAC reps speaking to their

constituents, we can now bring to the staff's attention issues that have an adverse effect on a certain group of prisoners, or a single person. On many occasions, the individual issue could turn into a population issue. By being able to address the staff using the EBAC process, we can now be at ease to know that most problems will be worked out on a timely basis and resolved.

Condemned Row has a history of not being able to function as others do out on the mainline. By working to resolve the problems on the row, we have now shown that not all inmates are program failures and many are willing to function like any other prisoner housed in the CDCR.

It's the EBAC's hope that the line we now have to the staff and administration can remain open so that programs can continue to run smoothly.

Condemned Row is now stepping out.

"He who opens a school door closes a prison."  
—Victor Marie Hugo (1802-1885)

## Arts & Entertainment

### Tips for Prison life

Here is a tip you may wish to pass on: The sodas that we get are not cold. So, all you need do is soak a sock in water, place the whole thing in front of the vent, and let evaporation do the rest.

By Fernando Caro

We all need to make a serious effort to re-establish an old and very effective program – the Post Card system. We had good results in the past. It allowed fast notes from home (2-3 days). A mailroom sergeant said they can process up to 20 post cards in the time it takes to do one envelope. That saves time for getting the mail out faster.

Post cards must have CDCR Number and your proper housing address in big bold letters. It worked very well before. It also saves 15 cents a letter, and a larger post card can hold a good size "letter" on both sides. If we'll all get on board, it works well.

By Douglas Clark

### Think You Can Write? Contest Held for Writers

Resilience Multimedia, publisher of the widely praised book, "Think Outside the Cell: An Entrepreneur's Guide for the Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated," is sponsoring a writing contest for people who are or were in prison, and their loved ones. The best submissions will be included in books in Resilience's "Think Outside the Cell," series, which is intended to help the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated tackle hard challenges and have successful lives.

Contestants may share personal stories about one or more of these topics: reentering society after incarceration, waiting for loved ones to return home from prison, or prison marriages and relationships. Three winners will be chosen for each topic and will receive cash prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$75. Stories that do not win cash prizes will still be eligible for inclusion in the series. Writers whose stories are selected will receive a free copy of the book in which their work appears.

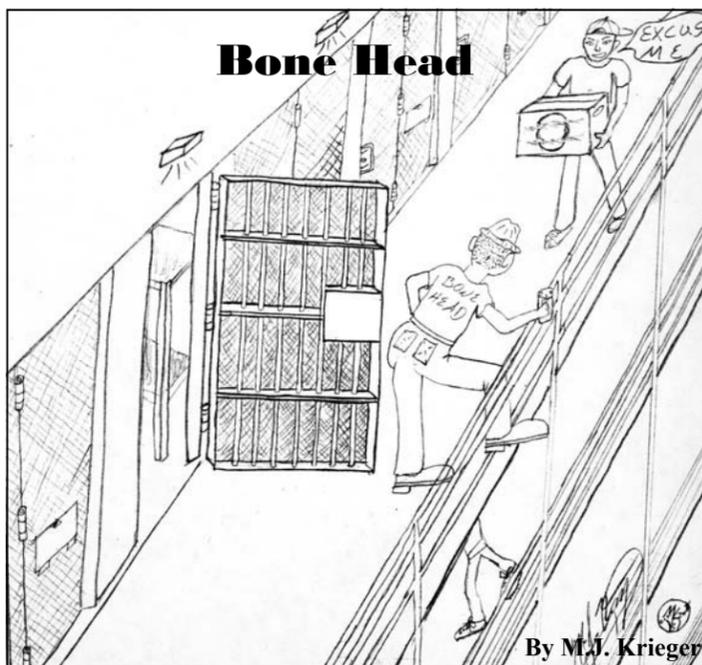
The Contest rules are as follows: All stories must be original and about situations or events that actually happened. You may submit stories on more than one topic. Stories

may be up to 3,000 words. Stories should be typewritten and double-spaced. Handwritten stories will be accepted as long as they are legible. Each page must include page number, your name, contact information and story title. Resilience Multimedia reserves the right to edit stories for clarity, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Story entries will not be returned. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 30, 2008. Winners and other selected stories will be announced on February 01, 2009 at [www.thinkoutsidethecell.com](http://www.thinkoutsidethecell.com) and in a press release.

Emailed stories can be submitted to [resiliencemultimedia@verizon.net](mailto:resiliencemultimedia@verizon.net). Stories submitted by mail can be sent to: Resilience Multimedia, 511 Avenue of the Americas Suite 525, New York NY 10011

#### LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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



## SUDOKU

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

Sudoku Puzzles by George Lowe

## Religion

# Chaplains Serving Hope on All Levels

By KENNETH R. BRYDON

Just as the U.S. military hires spiritual counselors, so does the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The makeup of San Quentin's five chaplains is as diverse as the population: Catholic, Islamic, Jewish, Native American and Protestant. The Chaplains serve Condemned Row, Reception Center, North Block, and H-Unit, as well as the Hospital.

San Quentin Chaplains go through extensive theological training and education in their respective beliefs. Each Chaplain conducts religious services for those of their faith in areas appropriate for the prison security, and, when necessary, becomes the bearer of bad news for family tragedies to many who aren't expecting to hear it.

Each chaplain brings a focus to their religious convictions, with the intention of providing a depth of understanding and ability to participate and practice in their chosen faith. Interviews with the five chaplains: Father Stephen Barber, Imam Rafeeq Hassan, Rabbi Carol Hymen, Hector Heredia and Pastor Morris Curry were quite revealing as to how each one approaches his or her responsibilities.



Father Stephen Barber

Father Stephen Barber started at San Quentin as a volunteer in 1996 along with other Jesuit priests from Berkeley where he attended the School of Theology and received his Master of Divinity degree. He entered the Jesuit Order in 1989, and was ordained a priest in 1998.

Upon being hired as a chaplain for San Quentin, former Warden Jeanie Woodford told him, "You are the priest and chaplain for San Quentin." After being appointed to San Quentin by Archbishop Levada, he was told the same thing by

the Archbishop.

When asked what was the most difficult issue that he's had to deal with, Father Barber pointed to seeing his parishioners in blue who had passed on. He pointed to the death of Ricky Earl, a three-strike Lifer. Ricky had grown to embrace the Catholic faith, and many saw in him a caring and sincere individual. Father Barber visited Ricky in the prison hospice program at California Medical Facility before his death.

In serving the San Quentin community, Father Barber says he seeks to be of help wherever he can. He recognizes the diverse ethnic and age group here that represents California as a whole. One of the great joys he receives in this job is seeing people enhance their own dignity and humanity, and grow in their walk with God.

Looking into the future, Father Barber wants to be around to see the Condemned Row population housed in the new building being constructed. He continues to work on his Spanish to better serve the Hispanic population. He hopes to be an example to all who have become a part of the



Imam Rafeeq S. Hassan

Muslim Chaplain, Imam Rafeeq S. Hassan began volunteering at San Quentin State Prison in 1985 under the endorsement and sponsorship of Masjid Waritheen of Oakland, CA. Imam Hassan officially became the Muslim Chaplain at San Quentin in 1986. Imam John Faqir had been the Chaplain at San Quentin for 10 years prior to Imam Hassan becoming the Chaplain for the Muslim Community at San Quentin. Imam Hassan is a student of Imam W.D. Mohammad.

Prior to his arrival here at San Quentin, Imam Hassan, came from Detroit, Michigan, where he worked as a fashion coordinator for the fa-

mous singing group "The Temptations."

As part of his religious training he received an Islamic scholarship from the Islamic Society of North America ("ISNA"), in Indianapolis, Indiana. His studies included the following subjects: Fiqh Al Sunnah, Fiqh Al Hadith, and Fiqh Al Qur'an.

Imam Hassan facilitates Jum'ah, Ta'leem, and Islamic study programs for the Mainline, Condemned Row, and Reception Center prisoners. He also finds time to facilitate various self-help programs which include, No More Tears, San Quentin Trust, and Milatti Islami (12-Step).

Imam Hassan anticipates sponsoring a Halal program in the near future that will allow prisoners to meet their religious dietary requirements. Imam Hassan constantly encourages Muslims and other incarcerated men to try and fulfill their obligations as fathers and for becoming productive members of society.

His 23 years of service here at San Quentin has allowed Imam Hassan the opportunity to work with and assist men of all faiths.



Rabbi Carol Hymen

In November 2004 Carol Hymen came to San Quentin part time as the Jewish Chaplain. She brings a background of institutional experience to her work. First at Napa Hospital, and then California Medical Facility and Solano. She now has a Master of Divinity from Graduate Theology University in Berkeley, and continues work on her Doctorate in Ministry. When asked why her interests had taken her in this direction, she spoke of an intense desire to see people change in life's path.

"Teshuvah" is the Hebrew word, for the process of repentance. Rabbi Hymen

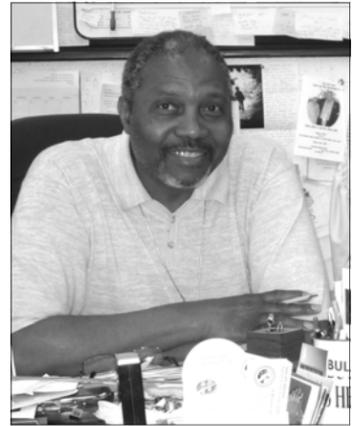
says, "I seek a balance of being honest about the past in a factual way, while living under the circumstance in which prisoners find themselves." She recognizes that many who come to her are facing very difficult issues, and many have sunk into deep despair. Her focus is in helping them to find a balance without trying to justify mistakes made.

Rabbi Hymen's goals for the future are to improve the San Quentin image of being a place where redemption can and does take place. She sees her duties as a chaplain and a rabbi as being over a single congregation rather than each being isolated from the others. "They have a sense of being part of a larger whole," she says. Whether it's Condemned Row, Reception Center, or the Mainline, she intends that each one see themselves included.

"This is my vocation," Rabbi Hymen says, "and I'm in the right place."

*The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the hearts.*

*Proverbs 17:3*



Pastor Morris Curry

In the early 1990s, Pastor Morris Curry began teaching "Biblical Counseling Foundation" (BCF) as a volunteer. Recommended by then Protestant Chaplain Earl Smith, who saw a group of Lifers eager to learn.

With an interest in Prison Ministry inspired from his congregation, Pastor Curry began teaching the program to Lifers who passed on their understanding to short-term prisoners being released. These first students went on to eventually teach the program themselves.

Pastor Curry's interest in prisoners continued to grow over the years. He continued teaching BCF along with bringing his church congregation into San Quentin. In March of 2006, he was at the prison to renew his volunteer status when he discovered that Chaplain Earl Smith had retired. His friend and fellow BCF teacher, Dave Haggy, pressed him to apply for the position. In September, 2006, Pastor Curry was the new chaplain.

He brings to San Quentin 22 years of service, and he set about to make the incarcerated church no different than the outside congregation. "Everything is done decently and in order," he said. Moving forward, he is developing ties with churches who are interested in meeting the needs of those about to parole. A major project is the "Meet Me at The Gate" program.

He sees himself as pastor for all of San Quentin, he has a vision of the many Lifers leaving prison and going on to be of service in their communities. Pastor Curry ran for mayor of a city in Napa County, but lost to the incumbent.



Chaplain Hector Heredia

At age 57, the Native American Indian (AMI) chaplain, Hector Heredia has been involved in Indian Spiritual affairs for 40 years. He was brought up in the teachings by two Shaman, Charlie Kills Enemy and Shelby White Bear, and introduced into

the "Fire Place," Inner Circle to be trained in the traditional Indian Way.

Hector was taught the prophecies of the "Red Road," that were Native practices to gather the people back. The Shamans of all tribes had come together in one accord saying that there should be one tribe. At the heart of the practice is the "Sweat Lodge Ceremony," a purification ritual. The Native American population of San Quentin includes the 52 Native Americans on Condemned Row.

Coming to San Quentin in 1995 to rebuild the lodge, Heredia came as a "Sun Dancer," participating in a four-day dancing ceremony (without water and food). Welcomed back by the previous AMI Chaplain, Lee Palanoc, he became a regular at

San Quentin, and was offered a job at Folsom as an adviser.

Working with an average of 352 prisoners, religious services are provided for Reception Center, Mainline, and Condemned Row. Some of the other ceremonies that are provided for the population are the: Smudging (burning herbs) and Chanpua (Chawnupa) Pipe Ceremony.

He says his most important duties at San Quentin are teaching the elders here. He sees his biggest challenge as the distraction of alcoholism and drug use inside and outside the prison. He encourages respect for grandparents, who exemplify the Way. Looking down the road, he is working on transition housing for the AMI's being paroled, and facilitating programs for AMI females at Chowchilla.

## Forgiving

By DOC CHILDRE and HOWARD MARTIN

The incoherence that results from holding on to resentments and unforgiving attitudes keeps you from being aligned with your true self. It can block you from your next level of quality life experience. Metaphorically, it's the curtain standing between the room you're living in now and a new room, much larger and full of beautiful objects. The act of forgiveness removes the curtain. Clearing up your old accounts can free up so much energy that you jump right into a whole new house. Forgiving releases you from the punishment of a self-made prison where you are both the inmate and the jailer.

## Testigos de Jehova

Las Reuniones en español para los Testigos de Jehova, son cada Segundo Sabado y cada cuarto Sabado del mes.

El horario para dichas reuniones es de 12:00 P.M. del medio día alas 2:30 p.m.

Lugar de reunion es dentro de la Liberia de la Iglesia Protestante.

## Opinion

# In America Slaves Have No Voting Rights

By LAMONTA McBROOM

Participation in the electoral process has always been important for many reasons, but more so now. November 4, a black president was elected and we are being thrust into a historical event, but none of this would be significant without the right to vote.

Have you ever wondered why in Saddam Hussein's Iraq prisoners are allowed to vote whereas in the majority of the states of this Union prisoners have no voting rights, even those on parole?

Some would cry, Saddam's voting rights are a meaningless ploy, a ruse, a hoax. I say, whatever you call it, they got to vote; what's your excuse America?

To deprive individuals of the right to vote is to silence them, to prevent them from obtaining representation, and to keep them in a status that is less than human.

We think slavery ended somewhere in the 1800s, but the truth is slavery never ended in the United States of America.

We all know, during America's slavery period, justification for maintaining slavery is based upon social economics that elevates some to think they

are superior to others. That never changed. Prisoners are commodities and an economic factor where the penal system becomes a corporate fact.

The United States Constitution, 13th Amendment § 1 says; "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

As you can see, there is an exception where slavery is permitted even today. The 13th Amendment removes slave ownership from the private citizen and places it exclusively in government hands.

In other words, when you become a prisoner you are also a slave. While you are on parole, technically, you are still a prisoner but are housed at your own home, at your own expense and still pay taxes, still slaves. Less than human, because parolees have no right to vote.

The mock election conducted at San Quentin reminds me of my slave status, the importance of the right to vote and the reasons for which prisoners are treated as less than human, but also a commodity.

## The Son of My Strength

By E.P.KIE

Somehow this year has managed to slip by, one day at a time. Birthdays & many other special days. Some that hurt more than most. Father's day is a biggie for me, not one single word mutually shared this year. It's not like we didn't think of each other on that special day, In years past we sent letters and words to each other.

Some good, and some not so good. But letters and words - none the less. My son, is my son - the son of my youth and my strength. Number two he was born in the family. Baseball & catch - fishing & camping - building that all-important fort! Times of imagination in an attic over the garage. Trips to airports and visits to space ports. Satellite's made in our shop And opened together upon their return to earth.

Building model airplanes & crashes of those that didn't fly all that well :) Bird feeders & rabbit cages - fixing cars, trips to see fishes in a huge tank - Disneyland and birthdays

some of my memories we did share. Sweden that land way up north that hangs like a cluster of grapes. To the north of Europe beckoned the soul of the son of my strength. Will he be able to remain strong and continue his fight? To the head of the stream? Or will he succumb to the lack of language, Dollars or fear of the unknown or the yet untried?

I have seen his sheer tenacity in the land down under years past. I've witnessed his ability to hang in there in a foreign land. It's this dad's observation that the son of my strength will succeed in the putting of his hand to the plow. You're in my prayers my son, stay the course, keep your vision, it's your time to till the ground.

Make every step count and remember to keep your focus on the goal not on the past. This - the story of the son of my strength, 'tis truth that I now have brought to light - take wings my son of my strength & FLY!

# San Quentin..... Yesterday and Today

.....a biographical, historical and introspective look  
at our world behind the walls, the way it is, as well as the way it was.

By DAVID MARSH

The newly formed Legislature of the fledgling state of California authorized the state's first prison in 1852, and the merchant ship, Waban, was purchased by the state for the princely sum of \$850. Anchored in the waters off Point Quentin, the 13-year-old wooden vessel was outfitted and remodeled to imprison up to 40 inmates in its dark, dank hold. Within months the state was to encounter its first prison overcrowding as the nightly total of inmates chained in the Waban's hold regularly exceeded 60 men. Four men at a time typically occupied each of the Waban's tiny 8'x 8' cells.

*San Quentin today sprawls over 432 acres of prime real estate at Point Quentin on the shores of San Francisco Bay. The average daily population of approximately 5,250 inmates is housed in a variety of accommodations from cells to dormitories. California's Condemned Row, as well as its execution chamber, are located behind the walls at San Quentin. With an annual operating budget in excess of \$ 210 million, it is the world's most expensive prison to operate.*

By January of 1853, 150 cons were packed in deplorable conditions on the tiny Waban, and the state's first prison expansion project was undertaken. The Legislature authorized the purchase for \$10,000 of 20 bay-side acres near Mission San Rafael. An additional \$135,000 was set aside to build a new prison designed to hold 250 inmates. Inmate labor was to be used during the construction process. Also in 1853, the first warden's residence, also utilizing inmate labor, was completed at a cost of \$14,453.75.

*State prison expansion pro-*

*jects are alive and booming in our state as Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a 2007 bill providing \$7.9 billion to add one prison and 53,000 additional beds to the system which currently consists of 34 prisons housing approximately 153,000 male and female inmates.*

By 1854, the newly constructed prison, christened Corte Madera Prison, already exceeded its designed capacity of 250 inmates. They were housed in 48 small 10'x6' cells and one long room on the prison's bottom floor that was designed for overflow inmates. An original cell description described them as "8' to 9' feet high in the center with an arched ceiling, tapering to a height of 5' at the sides. A solid iron door featured a small slit in the center to allow the cell's occupants their only chance to gulp fresh air or peek thru to the world outside their tiny cell." The Waban, which had by now been towed to Marin Island in the Bay, was still used to hold the worst of the convicts, as was the island itself.

In the early days of the state's new prison system, the average con was a 25-year-old serving about a two-year stretch behind the walls.

*Today's inmate population is aging noticeably, and the recent "tough on crime" era has resulted in legislated sentencing enhancements that have significantly lengthened the average inmate's stay behind bars. Excluding the inmates housed on Condemned Row, the average con at San Quentin is much older, an average of 37 years old, and serving a term that is considerably longer in duration than at any time in the state's history, approximately 48 months.*

December 27, 1854 witnessed the prison system's first major prison break when 22 cons stole a boat and fled from Marin Island. A number of the fleeing inmates were killed in the running gun battle which ensued.

Records reflect that the new Corte Madera Prison was a co-ed facility, with the women, of course, housed separately from the male inmates. In 1855, amid allegations of drunken guards, well-heeled inmates enjoying daily excursions outside the prison grounds, and charges of cohabitation between guards and female inmates, the state stepped in and took back operation of the prison from its contractor/operator.

The accepted practice of allowing inmate trustees to venture off the grounds to enjoy cocktails in nearby San Rafael was curtailed under the state's tutelage, much to the trustee's chagrin.

In 1858, over 500 inmates were crowded into the state's only prison. Recognizing a need to get a handle on the overcrowding problem, the state agreed to construct a new prison in the small town of Folsom. Actual construction at Folsom was not to begin until 20 more years had passed.

**DOES THIS SITUATION SOUND FAMILIAR?**

*In the next issue: a mass prison break of 200 inmates, the advent of striped uniforms, construction of the new prison at Folsom, and a closer look at the daily routine of a San Quentin inmate.*

*Also, in 1860, the first JOINT VENTURE program utilizing private contractors and inmate labor comes to San Quentin.*

## Songbirds

Continued from Page 4

When she finishes, Robert Frye, 38, who has spent 20 years incarcerated, asks, "How did that feel?"

"I was a little bit nervous," Karroll responds. "I could hear it in my voice."

"Why did you like that song?" Seiler asks.

"I was drawn to that song because I was in a cage," Karroll says. "But how does it feel to you guys to be in a cage?"

"It's different for you," says an inmate who requests anonymity. "You're innocent. How long were you in a cage?"

"A lifetime," Karroll says. "Jaimee," says Pat Mims, 46, who has spent 20 years in

prison for second-degree murder, "I've known you for about one-and-a-half years now, and I've never known your story. I live a life of restitution. I never know if my restitution is being paid out to Kevin's family. When you come in and share your story and play your music, it makes everything I'm doing worth it. It's beautiful. Thank you."

The prisoner who requested anonymity holds the microphone for Karroll while she plays a Leonard Cohen song.

When she finishes, Manuel Nieto, 47, who has been behind bars for 24 years for a drunken-driving homicide, says, "I'm very touched by your story. Do you have any nightmares?"

The two talk about their nightmares.

"I think lives are turned in the midst of these acts," Kar-

roll says. "My life was turned in one direction, and the men who hurt me, their lives were turned in another direction."

"What happened to those people who were so awful to you?" the inmate who held the microphone asks.

"I don't know," Karroll answers.

"You never went to [the] police? So you let them have a free slate?"

Karroll fires back, "It's not free."

*Reprinted by permission of the Pacific Sun*

If we practice an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, soon the whole world will be blind and toothless.

—Mahatma Gandhi

# Parolee Arrested in Carjacking

By ALY TAMBOURA

A man recently paroled from San Quentin is accused of stealing a truck and crashing it into another car, killing one woman and injuring two others, while being chased by the Richmond police, say officials.

The suspect, Jordan Taitano, took police on a high speed chase which ended on San Pablo Dam Road in El Sabrante where the crash occurred. The truck, which Taitano was driving, smashed into a Mercedes, hurtling it into several parked cars.

The rear seat passenger in the Mercedes, a 57-year-old

woman, was killed from the impact of the crash. The driver and front seat passenger were both seriously injured.

A woman who tried to get away from the suspect before the chase started was also seriously injured, said the police.

Taitano is accused of robbing a husband and wife at a local inn where the couple was staying. Police said the husband fought with the suspect while his wife escaped by jumping through a closed window. The woman suffered significant injuries from the escape.

Police said the suspect left the scene of the robbery on foot

and carjacked a passing motorist. The Richmond police recognized the carjacked vehicle minutes later and gave chase. The chase began at relatively low speeds but eventually progressed to very high speeds prior to the crash.

Taitano fled the site of the accident and was apprehended shortly afterward. He was booked into the Contra Costa County Jail on suspicion of vehicular homicide, carjacking and robbery, said authorities.

Taitano was paroled from San Quentin one week before the incident, according to authorities.

# State High Court: Governor Erred in Parole Denial

By PAUL ELIAS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – A divided state Supreme Court has ruled Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was wrong to deny parole to a murderer who was a model prisoner during the more than 23 years she served behind bars.

In a 4-3 decision, California's high court said the governor must consider more than just the nature of the crime when he overturns Board of Parole Hearings' decisions granting parole. The majority decision, written by Chief Justice Ronald George, said the governor must show "some evidence" the parolee is a danger to public safety.

The governor's legal affairs secretary, Andrea Hoch, said the ruling "adds an inappropriate level of review, which unnecessarily limits the governor's discretion to decide the parole of a convicted murderer based on ... the best interest of public safety."

The court's ruling stems from the board's decision to grant parole in 2005 to Sandra Davis Lawrence, 61, who after rejecting a plea deal for a two-year prison sentence was convicted of first-degree murder in 1983 and sentenced to a life term for killing her lover's wife 12 years earlier.

In August 2005, the parole board for the fourth time in 12 years granted her parole because it found her to be a well-behaved prisoner who accepted responsibility for the killing, expressed remorse and showed no signs of being a danger to the public.

Lawrence volunteered for many prison organizations and earned a master's degree in business administration.

Still, Schwarzenegger reversed the panel's decision as he had done previously, finding the killing to be particularly egregious. Lawrence shot and stabbed Rubye Williams to death in 1971 and then spent 11 years as a fugitive before turning herself in to police accompanied by the late Los Angeles attorney Johnnie Cochran.

Schwarzenegger said in his 2006 veto that Lawrence's crime was "a cold, premeditated murder carried out in an especially cruel manner and committed for an incredibly petty reason."

Governors Pete Wilson and Gray Davis made similar reversals when they were in office, likewise determining the nature of Lawrence's crime made her a danger to society.

In a second, related case, a unanimous court upheld Schwarzenegger's denial of parole to an El Cajon murderer it said remained a danger to public safety. Using the legal standards spelled out in Lawrence's case, George wrote that Schwarzenegger was right to deny parole to Richard Shaputis because the prisoner failed to take responsibility for killing his wife, and there was "some evidence" he remains a danger to society. Shaputis was convicted of second-degree murder in 1987 for shooting his wife, Erma Jeanne Shaputis, 47, and was sentenced to 17 years to life in prison.

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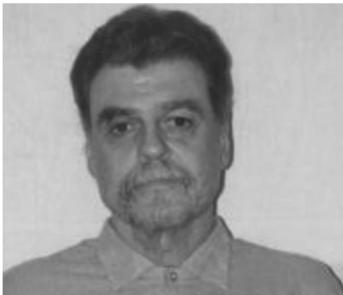
# Condemned Inmate Found Dead

By GARY KLIEN

A condemned inmate at San Quentin State Prison was found dead in his cell Thursday in an apparent suicide, authorities said.

Edward Dean Bridges, 55, had been on death row since 1992, when he was sentenced for a kidnapping and murder in Riverside County. Bridges was found unconscious in his cell early Thursday morning in an apparent hanging, said Darrell Harris, a Marin County coroner's investigator.

"Our pathologist didn't have anything to indicate it was anything other than self-



Edward Dean Bridges  
Photo provided by California Department of Corrections

asphyxiation by suicide," Harris said.

Bridges was housed in a cell by himself. He left no suicide message and had no

history of suicidal behavior, Harris said.

Since California reinstated capital punishment in 1978, 41 condemned inmates have died of natural causes, 15 committed suicide, 13 were executed in California, one was executed in Missouri and five died of other causes, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

There are now 677 inmates on California's death row, said Terry Thornton, spokeswoman for the CDCR.

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The San Quentin News welcomes and encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and people and entities outside of the institution to submit articles for this publication.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Please limit your submitted articles to no more than 350 words.
- Articles will be edited for con-

tent and length. • The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances, use the prison appeals process.

However, we do encourage submitting stories and/or articles which are news worthy, and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.

- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

• Art work is welcomed (i.e. poems, songs, cartoons, drawings, and photos).

• Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

• Submissions need to be copies that don't require to be returned.

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# Remembering Matthew Solomon

Matthew Solomon, a former student in the San Quentin College Program, was shot and killed in San Francisco on Thursday, September 4 while standing on the street, talking to his friend Noel Espinoza, who was also killed. Matthew was 23 years old. He was an extraordinarily kind and creative person who had been building a life and working hard to support his two small children. Articles about his death (and the overwhelming number of shootings that have occurred in San Francisco) appeared in the SF Chronicle and in the Goodwill Industries newsletter, where he worked and had recently received a promotion. Those who knew him will always remember his sweet smile and his stunningly brilliant spoken word poetry.

In case any one would like to send a donation, Goodwill has established a designated



account at Wells Fargo to help defray burial costs and provide support for the children:

Matthew Fund  
c/o Goodwill Industries  
1500 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Attention: Vince DeVictor

By Prison University Project

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