

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN



VOL. 2013 NO. 5

May 2013

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,425

A Negative Lifestyle Changes for the Better

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

At the age of 15, Fabian Vasquez came to the United States from Mexico for what he hoped would be a better



File Photo

Fabian Vasquez

life. But by age 20, he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years to life for second-degree murder.

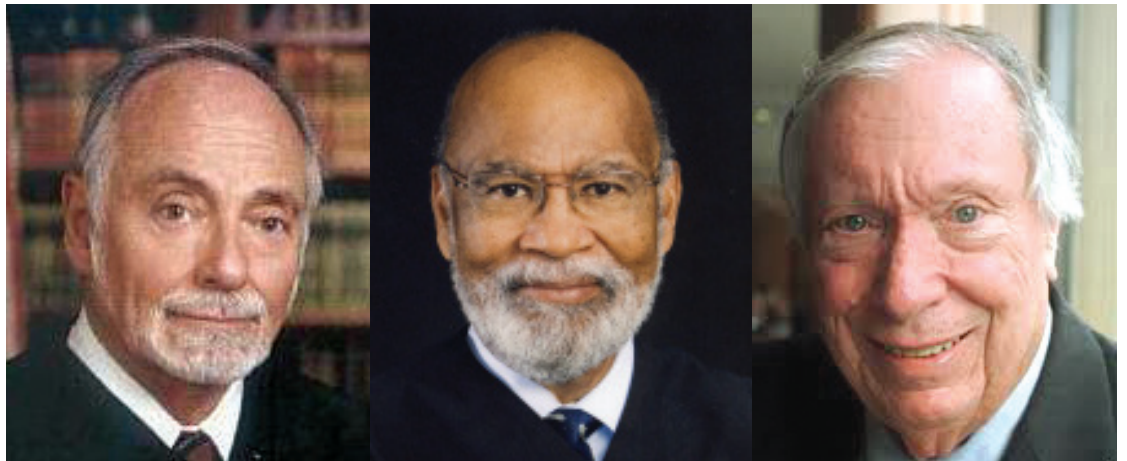
Vasquez spent 15 years in prison before the parole board determined he was no longer a danger to public safety and ordered his release. After being freed, he was deported to Mexico. He said he now wants his story to be an example for everyone as to how they should avoid a life of drugs.

When Vasquez was five years old, his father left Patzcuaro Michoacán in Mexico and came to the United States to try to earn money for his family. Ten years later, Vasquez and his family joined his father in California.

He attended Channel Islands High School in Oxnard, Calif. and then Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Stockton and at both places encountered problems connecting with other students because of his trouble with English.

At age 17, Vasquez began his

See *Negative* on page 4



Official Photos

Federal Judges Lawrence K. Karlton, Thelton Henderson, and Stephen Reinheart

Judges Blast Gov. Brown Over State Prison Mental Health

By San Quentin News Staff

Gov. Jerry Brown's latest effort to end federal supervision of mental health services available to state prisoners received a harsh rebuke by judges who said the state's behavior in supporting the mental health needs of its prisoners was "unprofessional and unethical."

In a motion filed April 5, United States District Court judge Lawrence K. Karlton expressed concern over two state reports about ending oversight of the mental health procedures and concluded that the mental health care in California prisons is sub-par.

"For years the mental health care provided by California's

prisons has fallen short of minimum constitutional requirements and has failed to meet prisoners' basic health needs," the court wrote. "Needless suffering and death have been well-documented."

Yet, state officials contend that they have provided timely

See *State Prison's* on page 4

Three-Judge Panel Pushes Brown on Population

By San Quentin News Staff

Gov. Jerry Brown's effort to shun a federally imposed population cap on California's prisons was met with clear-cut directives by a three-judge panel.

The judges ordered Brown and prison officials to provide a plan outlining what measures are necessary for the state to meet and maintain a federally imposed population cap of 137.5 percent of design capacity on its prison facilities.

The court gave the governor and prison officials until May 2 to submit a "list of all prison



Official Photo

Gov. Jerry Brown

population reduction measures identified or discussed as possible remedies" to met the population cap imposed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011.

The three-judge court criticized the state lawyers for "simply seeking to re-litigate the 137.5 percent question" by attempting to have the court modify the cap to 145 percent. The state's attempt to challenging a legal conclusion is not a permissible basis for modifying the population cap, the three-judge court stated in the May 8 decision. California prisons were operating at 149.7 percent of designed capacity as of April 3, according to prison officials' numbers.

See *Three-Judge* on page 7

Delaware's 'Justice Reinvestment' Improves Criminal Justice System

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

Delaware is making significant improvements to how its criminal justice system operates after the state Legislature approved major changes called "Justice Reinvestment," a research organization reports.

The improvements employ data-driven approaches to criminal justice policy designed to cut corrections spending and reinvest savings into policies

that show an increase in public safety, and hold offenders accountable.

Gov. Jack Markell established the Delaware Justice Reinvestment Task Force in the summer of 2011 to conduct a comprehensive examination of the factors contributing to the size of the corrections population, both pretrial and sentenced individuals.

The task force found that the majority of the prison population was made up of individuals

waiting in county jails.

A policy-outline was developed to address the factors increasing the in prison population.

The factors pointed to a large number of "probationers" spending time in prison, and "Delaware prisoners served long sentences with limited opportunity to earn reductions in their sentences," even when they had made significant steps toward

See *Delaware* on page 5

The Effects of California's 3 Strikes Law

'I do not want to die in prison for the theft of a \$1.16 box of donuts'

By Tommy Winfrey
Contributing Writer

Benny Elmore cannot forget the \$1.16 box of donuts that got him sentenced to prison for the rest of his life.

K Mart security officials say cameras showed Elmore picking up the donuts with the intent of stealing them. Store employees rushed Elmore, subdued him and a struggle ensued. Because of this confrontation, what might have been a misdemeanor became a robbery.

"I do not want to die in prison for the theft of a \$1.16 box of donuts," said Elmore, 65, but indeed he might because his conviction exposed him to the California Three Strikes Law.

Elmore is not alone. Some estimates have been made that thousands of Three Strike California prisoners are facing life sentences for non-violent crimes that can only be described as stupid, even comic, according to a recent Rolling Stone article titled "The Stupidest Law Ever," by political

writer Matt Taibbi.

Last November, voters passed Proposition 36, a reform measure designed to free some of California's Three Strike offenders. It has begun slowly to take hold, but at the same time, the new law left thousands of other prisoners asking, "When is it going to be my turn?"

Proposition 36, according to estimates, might affect up to 2,800 felons. As of early May CDCR released figures showing

See *California* on page 5

NOTICE:

On May 13, Gov. Jerry Brown, along with prison officials filed an appeal against a federal ruling, ordering a cap to its inmate prison population and improvements to the state's health care delivery system. Brown and CDCR claim "the Court did not fully or fairly consider" improvements in the prison health care and the Court refused to "vacate or modify the population cap." An in-depth report on the appeal and its merits will be in the June edition of SQ News.

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Asked On The Line

What Some S.Q. Prisoners Think of Cinco de Mayo

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The World Almanac reports there are cultural celebrations and awareness months throughout the year. February is Black History Month, March is Irish-American Heritage Month, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, September is National Hispanic Heritage Month, October is Diversity Awareness Month, and November is National American Indian Heritage Month.

May 5th of every year features celebrations involving Mexican food, music, and culture in the U.S. and Mexico. But what exactly is being celebrated?

As the "Asked On The Line" column celebrates its two-year anniversary, it revisits the first question it posed to the mainline population at San Quentin in May 2011, when the column began: What is Cinco de Mayo? What do you think Cinco de Mayo celebrates or commemorates?

"Asked On The Line" asked the 19 men who participated in the Mother's Day piece, what they think Cinco de Mayo celebrates. Eleven did not know what is celebrated on that day. "I don't know. Revolution? Independence?" said Eduardo DelaPena. "I don't know what it is," said Kenyatta Leal. "But I know it's not Mexican Independence Day." Joe Demerson said, "I think they attribute that day to some sort of independence day."

Others came to the conclusion that it was some sort of Mexican Heritage celebration or commemoration of some significant event. Trent Capell said, "Mexicans celebrate their liberation from something having to do with the Spanish." Ke Lam said, "I think they celebrate their heritage." Eddie Griffin said, "I had a cultural awareness group. I think the 5th of May represents some hurdle that the people of Mexico crossed or attained. I don't know. A battle or event? Something significant."

Five of the men were familiar with what Cinco de Mayo celebrates. Juan Arballo, Jose Camacho, Jose Linares, and Arturo Avalos all said it was for the "Battle of Puebla". Robert Faltisco got it right when he said, "I think they (Mexicans) celebrate a victory over the French. It was a battle that they won."

We Can Use Your Help

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FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins, Alliance for Change, Anonymous, Bill Anderson, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Iris Biblowitz*, Christopher B., Jeffrey Blank, Bruce and Maris Budner, Kasi Chakravartula, Abby Chin, Yevgenya Chityan, Lita Collins, Kevin Danaher, Christine Dell, Barry Eisenberg, Jesykah Forkash, Geraldine Goldberg, William Hagler, Jordana Hall, Jun Hamamoto*, Danielle Harris, Suzanne Herel*, Mary Hiester, Douglas Horngrad, Jeremy Johnson, Chad Kempel, Richard Keyes, Elsa Legesse*, John Mallen, Rosemary Malvey*, Edwin McCauley, June McKay, Eugenia Milito, Kelly Mortensen, Adriana Navas, Leslie Neale, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Caitlin O'Neil, Pat Palmer, Jay Parafina, Sarah Parish, J.S. Perrella*, Martin Ratner, James Robertson*, Lois and Steven Rockoff, Manuel Roman Jr., Diane Rosenberger, Jennifer Rudnall, Elizabeth Semel, Jonathan Simon, Ameeta Singh, Nancy Street*, Josh Taylor, Jim Thompson, Lori Vasick, Jeanne Windsor, Frank Zimring.

**Have made more than one donation*

Mother's Day Remembrance

The men on the mainline know and remember their mothers well.

"Asked on the Line" conducted random informal interviews with 19 mainliners about the character and personality traits of their mothers and asked: "What character or personality trait did you love most about your mom? Which trait do you both share? If you could give your mother absolutely anything, what would it be?"

Eduardo Delapena loves his mother's perseverance, Juan Arballo loves his mother's discipline, Jose Camacho loves his mother's strength, and Trent Capell loves that his mother is nurturing. Aladdin Pangilinan said, "I love that my mother was passionate about being a mom. She loved us very much and taught us to have compassion for others."

As for personality or character traits they shared with mothers, Arturo Avalos said he and his mother are kind, Robert Faltisco and his mom are both sensitive, Kenyatta and his mom are very private, and Joe Demerson and his mom care about people. Ke Lam said, "One thing about me and my mom is that we are both hella stubborn!"

Jose Linares would give his mom a hug and a kiss, James Burrell would give his mother a million dollars, and Kenyatta Leal would give her his presence. "That is what she wants the most," said Leal. Vaughn Miles said, "I would give my mom her dream home, built from the ground up, wherever she wants." Eddie Griffin said, "She already has my unconditional love, but if I could provide it, I would give her a happy and productive life." Ke Lam said, "My mom lost both her mom and dad. If I could, I would bring her parents back."

-By Angelo Falcone

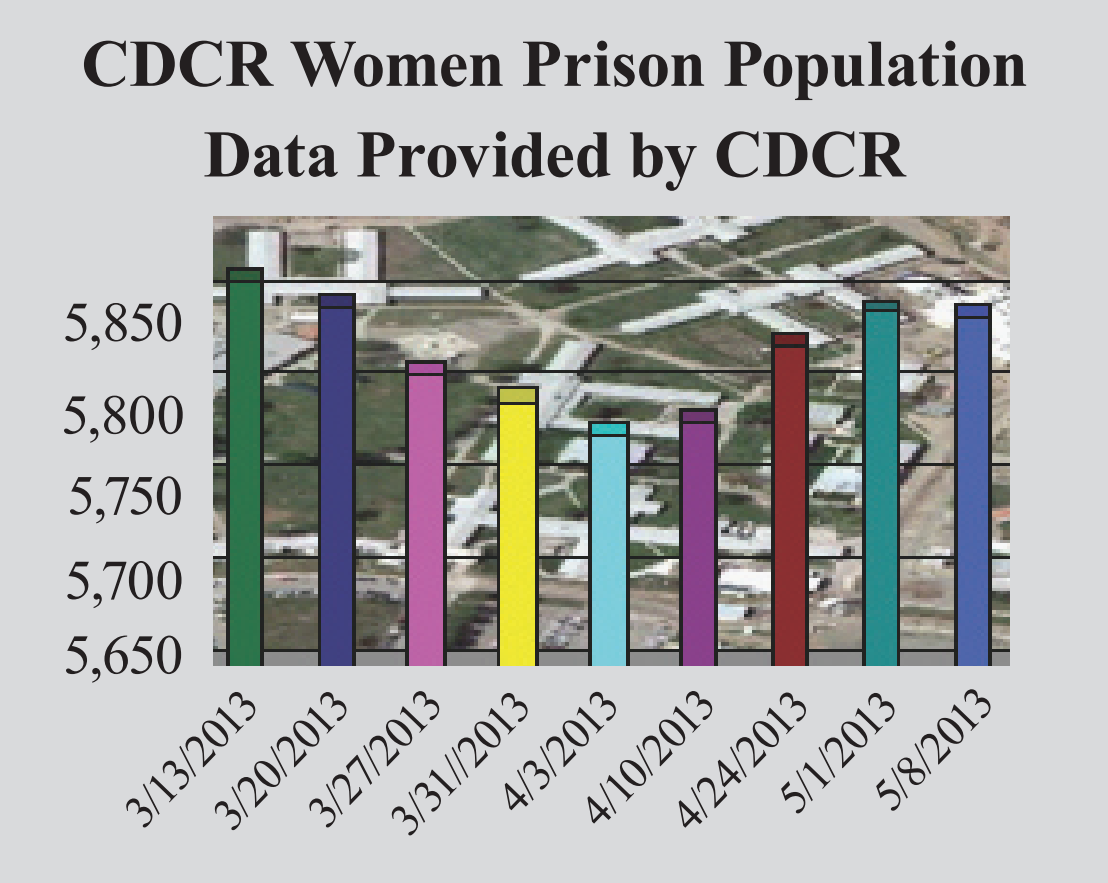
Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN

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

Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael, by donations from readers and the community members.



The Struggle We Have With Personal Choices

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

An ‘OG’s’ Perspective

It’s hard to live in a whore house and not become a trick. Even for the most “virtuous” among us, it would probably be hard to resist the temptation. If you stay inside that house long enough, day in and day out, what might originally have been offensive or immoral or unethical to you becomes normal. Eventually you will find yourself checking your watch and counting your money too.

The same idea goes for living as a prisoner. It’s hard for someone to live in a prison and not be influenced by prevailing attitudes and behaviors contained in such a rigidly regulated environment. It’s also difficult to have the moral courage to stand on principles, resist peer pressure, and maneuver around prison politics. However, it’s not impossible.

For example, Malcolm X (Al Hajj Malik Shabazz) and Nelson Mandela—two of the most iconic prisoners of our time—were able to turn their negative situation into something positive. Despite their conditions, Malcolm and Mandela cultivated self-motivation, rearranged their priorities, elevated their consciousness, and became committed warriors of social justice. This is an example we also can follow.

Malcolm X, self-proclaimed pimp and street-hustler, sentenced to prison, decided to challenge and change those self-destructive views and values defined by his past. He didn’t like what he saw in himself, society

and world. Thus he decided to question the status quo and change the man he was. He challenged himself to study, discover and teach the truth and meaning of his experiences.

And Nelson Mandela, despite his capture, political prosecution, and years of isolation at notorious Robben Island, refused to give up, give in and give out. Finally, Mandela negotiated his release and became the first Black president of a democratic South Africa. He once triumphantly remarked, “In my country, we go to prison first and then become president!”

“To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others” – Nelson Mandela

Keep in mind, that this is certainly not an “OG” argument for “conformity” or for more prisons; nor is it in any way suggesting that Malcolm and Mandela believed that prison is an ideal place for obtaining a good education. Rather, this is a question and a quest for prisoners to understand how these two determined men, sentenced to prison

for completely different reasons, overcame and transcended their surroundings.

Malcolm X once wrote, “in the hectic pace of the world today, there is no time for meditation or for deep thought. A prisoner has the time he can put to good use. I’d put prison second to college as a best place for a man to go if he needs to do some thinking...If he’s motivated, in prison he can change his life.”

Mandela also wrote, “prison itself is a tremendous education in the need for patience and perseverance. It is above all a test of one’s commitment.”

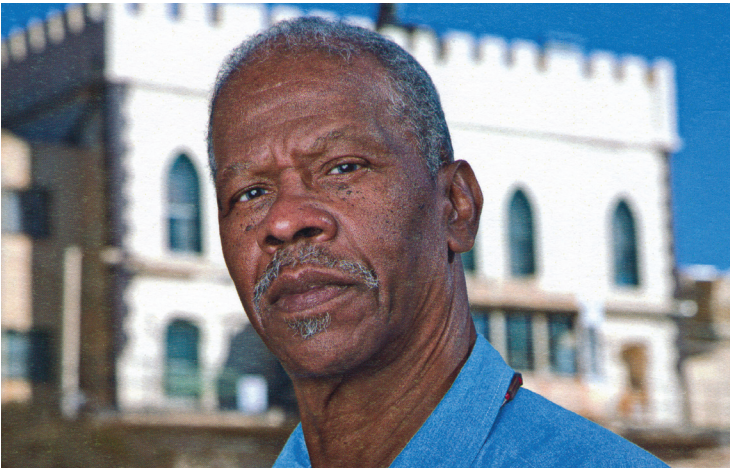
Malcolm and Mandela didn’t allow prison to defeat them but to motivate them. They channeled their time and energy into something educational and beneficial. We all know that prison is essentially a form of institutional violence and not a very humanizing place to be. But, even though prison is bad, the question is how can it be used as a place for good?

It can be argued that both Malcolm and Mandela assumed their generational responsibility by passing the “historical baton” to the younger generation. In addition, it is important to understand that the historical baton is not something you just pass on for the sake of passing it on. There’s a legacy actually behind it. The legacy is concrete. It’s not just about stories told. It’s about the legacy living within the next generation.

At the heart of this process called human history, there’s an obligation for each generation to learn from the previous, incorporate their own experiences, and be responsible for passing the baton on to the next. Our struggle is not simply against ignorance but also against illusion. And the struggle against illusion is the greater battle. For ignorance is simply the absence of knowledge, but illusion is the assumption of knowledge even in its absence. One of our responsibilities and obligations

and protected. This is critical for both the younger and older generations to name and remember what is important and meaningful and not to be subject to circumstances or conditions that would make them believe lies about themselves or weaken the ties for family, identity, and community.

So, whether we’re talking about whore houses, prisons or “hoods,” we are not compelled to submit or surrender to the dictates of those conditions. Although we all have choices, those choices are based on our conditions. Choices arise and are presented to us in a given context. And that context can either impede or inspire human



File Photo

Watani Stiner expressing positive changes

as OG’s is to identify and dispel those illusions.

In order for generations to flow towards the future in health and wisdom in this process, there needs to be a clear space for this essential transmission from one generation to the next. That space is necessary and needs to be created and utilized

possibility. But ultimately, it is up to us whether we choose to surrender to our circumstances or struggle to overcome them. It is up to us to decide if we want to be tricks or free.

*I’ve started receiving answers from March’s “OG” column. Responses will be published in June’s issue.

Pelican Bay Segregated Housing Units Reported as ‘Torturous’

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Conditions at Pelican Bay’s Segregated Housing Units are torturous, according to men in-

terviewed for KQED by reporter Michael Montgomery.

More than 1,000 SHU prisoners at Pelican Bay spend 22 ½ hours a day in a windowless 8-by-10 foot cell in the bunker-

like facility, report states.

Each day, prisoners are given 90 minutes of exercise time in a small yard that has 25-foot walls and a view of the sky.

Civil rights groups say long-

term isolation amounts to torture, while prison officials say SHU units are necessary and conditions are humane.

More than 500 state prisoners have been committed to SHU terms for 10 years or longer, the report states. Seventy-eight have been in the SHU more than 20 years.

San Quentin prisoner Dan Sanders has done a SHU term.

When asked if he considered the conditions torturous, he said, “Yes.”

Pelican Bay SHU prisoner Jeremy Beasley was interviewed for

the KQED report. Montgomery was Beasley’s first visitor since 1994. “I’ve seen guys lose their minds back here,” Beasley said.

A coalition of civil rights groups filed a class action lawsuit last year stating prolonged SHU terms are harsh, inhumane and debilitating – prisoners are denied telephone calls, contact visits and vocational, recreational and educational programming.

Prolonged torment of confinement has produced harmful and predictable psychological deterioration, according to the lawsuit.

Corrections officials maintain that SHU conditions are humane, and that prisoners are “segregated” but not “isolated,” and the purpose of keeping prisoners in SHU is to protect other inmates, staff and the public from men that have been linked to violent prison gangs.

Since last October, officials have reviewed 144 SHU cases and determined 75 should be immediately transferred to mainline prisons.

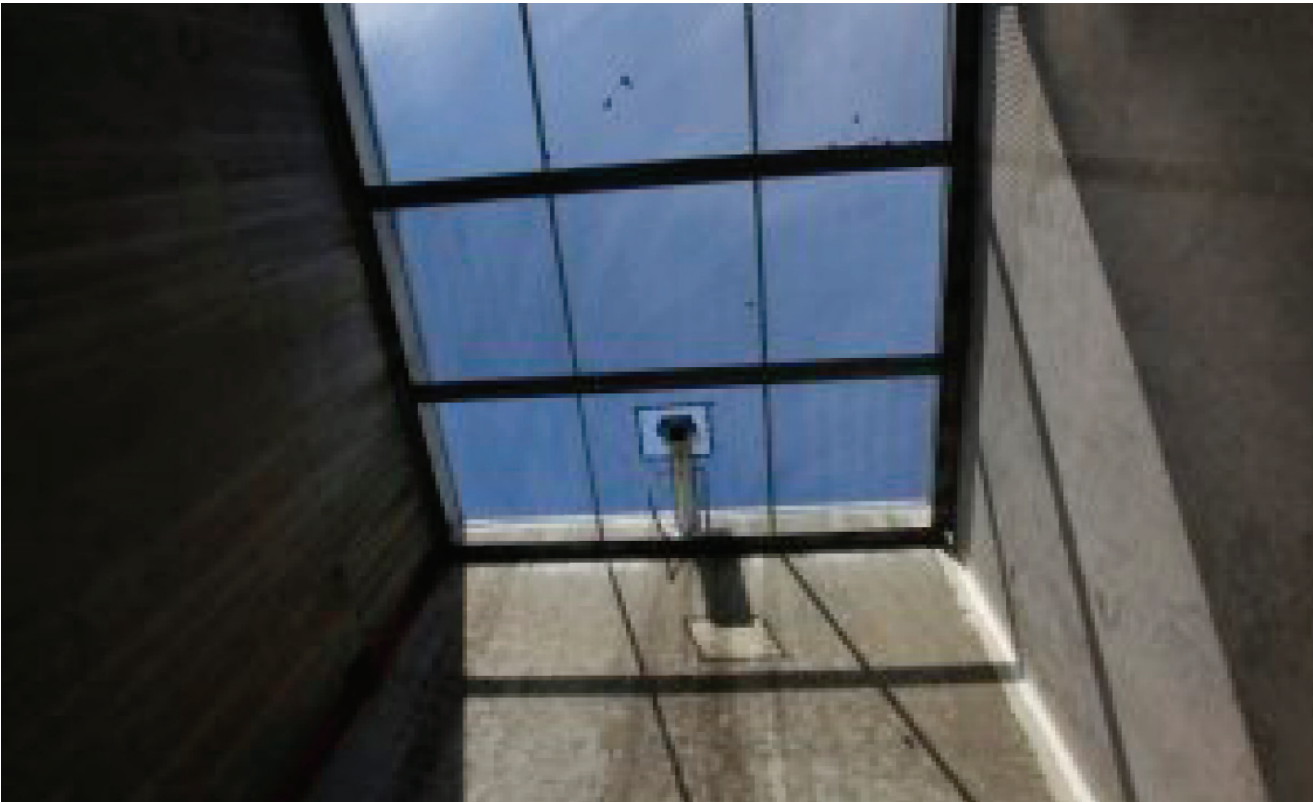


Photo credited to Michael Montgomery and Monica Lam/Center for Investigative Reporting

Units at Pelican Bay’s Security Housing Units

New Class Teaching Diabetics

By Kris Himmelberger
Staff Writer

A new diabetes class began at San Quentin's H-unit in February. "So far the results are promising," said Nurse Appleton.

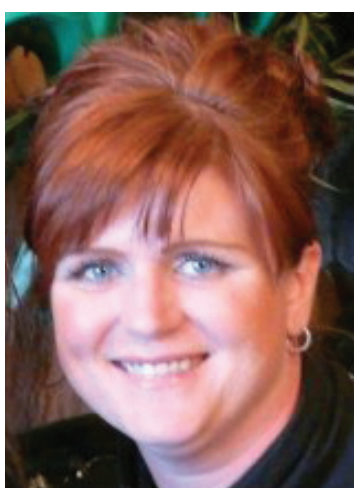
After relocating to San Quentin in 2009, Nurse Appleton was looking for ways to help prisoners improve and manage their health. "We diagnose prisoners with a medical condition but don't educate them on how to manage it," she said.

Nurses monitor and administer insulin treatment to prisoners while they are incarcerated, but once paroled they are given a 30-day supply so they could treat themselves.

Last year, a prisoner asked Nurse Appleton about the possibility of starting a diabetes class in H-unit.

Nurses Appleton and Pederesen decided to start a trial class by using two prisoners trained in diabetes management by Dr. E. Tootell, Chief Medical Officer of San Quentin. "I wanted to combine my love of teaching with my love of humanity," Appleton said.

For the first class, Nurse Appleton selected 10 prisoners who had poor track records for



File Photo

Nurse Appleton

diabetes management or had an upcoming parole date.

"I feel good about the response we have been getting," Nurse Appleton said. "The inmates are enthusiastic and are helping each other."

The group consisted of diverse ethnicities. They received new glucose meters to monitor the glucose levels. At other prisons, these glucose meters are considered contraband, but at San Quentin, they are authorized after prisoners complete three weeks of the diabetes program.

At Pelican Bay, "there was very little humanity," Nurse Appleton said. Prisoners at San Quentin are "more generous and caring," she concluded.

"I feel fortunate to work and teach in San Quentin," Nurse Appleton said. "I feel that education is power and expect to see further good results from the program."

State Prison's Mental Health Care Service in 'Violation'

Continued from Page 1

access to mental health care and are not "deliberately indifferent to the serious needs" of prisoners in need of mental health care.

The court said it was disturbed by the state's action in hiring experts who conducted interviews with prisoners and used the information "gleaned from them" to bolster the claim oversight was unnecessary. More disturbing, the court said, was that interviews were conducted outside the presence of the prisoners' lawyers.

Despite the state's descriptions that the interviews were "simply occasional" and "unintended by-products of the inspections," the court found prisoners were interviewed with serious mental disorders to gather supportive evidence for the state's cases.

The court evaluated mental health services delivered to prisoners from May through mid-September 2012. A court-appointed monitor visited 23 prisons and assessed the mental health services. Document-based reviews were conducted of the other 10 prisons in California.

Among other deficiencies, the court found that the state's

mental health care delivery system did not re-evaluate and update suicide prevention policies and practices, and officials failed to ensure that seriously mentally ill prisoners were properly identified, referred, and transferred to receive higher levels of care.

For more than a decade, a disproportionately high number of prisoners have committed suicide in California's prison system, the court found.

"Inadequate staffing has plagued the delivery of mental health care"

The suicide rate in state prisons in 2006 was about 80 percent higher than the national average for prison populations, and about 72 percent of suicides could have been prevented because they involved some degree of inadequate assessment, treatment or intervention, according to the court finding.

A previous report, conducted in 2011 by the court-appointed

monitor, found that most prisoners who later committed suicide were not referred to higher levels of care when deemed clinically appropriate, were not evaluated or examined in a timely manner, or did not receive adequate emergency responses, among other findings.

According to the court-appointed monitor's most recent report, because prison officials have not yet fully implemented a remedial suicide prevention program, an ongoing constitutional violation remains.

Additionally, the court reported in the motion that mental health staff were managing too large of caseloads to be effective. A prison psychiatrist reported they were "doing about 50 percent of what we should be doing to be effective [for individual prisoners]."

"Inadequate staffing has plagued the delivery of mental health care," the court said in its finding.

The chronic understaffing and high job vacancy rates in mental health staff positions are also evidence of ongoing violations, according to the court. By the end of November 2012, the state's prison mental healthcare program had a 29 percent staffing vacancy.

A Negative Lifestyle Brings Positive Advice From Ex-Con

Continued from Page 1

first job as a part-time busboy in a restaurant to help his family. He said that was where he learned to work hard like his father who worked in the fields. When agriculture was out of season, his father made money in construction and janitorial work cleaning floors in Walgreen stores.

Because of his deficiencies in English, Vasquez did not graduate from high school. So, he found work and obtained his first and only illegal identification card. He began going to night clubs, but did not drink too much because of the ethics his father taught him.

Vasquez said that one day he did not come home and felt guilty when he lied to his father about where he had been. However, after some time, the nightlife scene led him to begin selling drugs, and the bad feelings about lying to his father went away as the money flowed in.

Vasquez sold drugs as a way to earn extra money; half of his paycheck went to his father, as he explained is the custom for Mexicanos who live in their parents' homes.

Selling cocaine made Vasquez a popular person in the club scene. People began

to notice and respect Vasquez because of how he conducted himself, which led him to meet more and more people involved in the drug trade.

As he made more money, Vasquez went to buy a new car, and was told that because of his line of work, his car should not be flashy as to not attract attention from authorities.

In January of 1998, he decided to begin buying and selling his own drugs and develop his own clientele. Eventually, he was doing so well with money that he bought a fancy new car and began transporting large amounts of cocaine — everything he was told not to do.

In February, he quit his job and planned to settle down with his new girlfriend. But on March 11, 1998, Vasquez, his girlfriend and a male friend were all arrested for the murder of Martin Ortega, a man who had owed Vasquez money.

Vasquez said his male friend was given a sentence of 50 years to life, and in an attempt to receive a lighter sentence, he immediately revealed everything that had happened. Six months later -- on September 25 1998 -- all three were sentenced to 15 years to life.

However, even after the judge had delivered his sentence, Vasquez was allowed to stay in the local jail for a month be-

cause his father was diagnosed with a tumor in his lower back and was told that he probably would not survive. His father made it, but Vasquez was devastated that the operation had put his dad in a wheelchair for life.

Vasquez was sent to Lancaster State Prison where he said he was always on lock down and that there were no programs, and that he didn't want anything to do with them anyway. All he thought about was the wrong he had done, and he quietly struggled with how he went from having everything to getting a life sentence.

At the time, he believed that with the no-parole policy of then Governor Gray Davis that he would spend the rest of his life in prison.

In 2000, he was transferred to Pleasant Valley State Prison, and began attending AA meetings only because he wanted them to start a Spanish AA. But in the process, Vasquez began hearing stories that were similar to his.

He soon started to see how others benefited from the programs they were involved in, so he learned English, math and took anger management, breaking barriers, and even a correspondence Bible course. He started to identify faults in his character that also made him aware of the gravity of his crime.

In 2002, just when he was starting to grasp the importance of these programs, Vasquez was transferred to Folsom State Prison. When the inmates were not on lockdown, Vasquez participated in group programs. When they were on lockdown, he and his cellmate took a correspondence course called "Crimminon." He said it made him realize the impact of what his victim's family was going through for the first time.

In 2004, he was transferred to Corcoran State Prison, which offered very few programs and had a lot of violence. Vasquez said that when the inmates were not on lock down he attended the 12-step AA program in Spanish and met with a group of prisoners who wanted to help themselves; it was with these men he started looking at what programs would help him.

In March 2011, Vasquez was transferred to San Quentin State Prison. He said he could not believe the freedom he was given; because he was used to being around violence, it took him four months just to adjust. He decided he wanted to continue participating in programs, and did so with the assistance of tutors, particularly a teacher named Mr. Shimmel. Vasquez fondly remembers Shimmel saying to him, "I will help you finish what you tried to do at

Corcoran."

"He is a good teacher that really takes an interest in helping prisoners. I wish every prison had teachers like him," Vasquez said.

Ten months later, Vasquez took the GED and passed. Immediately, he got into the college program with Patten University and continued with AA, and completed the Green Life Program, which he said helped him understand the importance of preserving our planet.

In October 2012, Vasquez appeared before the parole board for the second time. He said his commitment to the programs made it easy for him to communicate to the board how he had changed, and the board commended him for his transformation. After five hours in the boardroom, he was found suitable for parole.

However, Vasquez was deported back to Mexico in March of 2013. He said he wants to tell his story because he wants other Mexicanos to learn English and take the programs seriously. He said that you must learn to forgive yourself first, because only then can you understand the impact you have made to your victims families and communities.

"When you learn to be truthful you will not fail. Don't just do the programs for the board, do it for yourself," he said.

Delaware Focuses on Policy to Address Prison Population

Continued from Page 1

rehabilitation.

In analyzing the data, Vera Institute of Justice looked at “who was coming to prison, why were they committed, how much time (did) they receive, and what sort of participation they were involved with” www.vera.org/pubs/justice-reinvestment-delaware-model.

VIJ aided the task force by carrying out wide-range examinations and a thorough review of the procedures and practices at state criminal justice agencies.

The task force learned that three of the main factors were “a large pretrial population, violations of probation, and, long lengths of stay for the incarcerated population.”

Because the (Delaware) DOC has custody of both pretrial and sentenced populations, the VIJ study, after examining core elements of pretrial risk assessments, determined that 14 percent of 2010 detainees could be candidates for release rather than imprisonment while waiting for trial.

“This lower-risk group excludes those who might pose a risk of flight or re-arrest,” VIJ study revealed.

“It demonstrated that there was a clear opportunity in the

pretrial arena to reduce the prison population by releasing more people on recognizance or with supervision without jeopardizing public safety.”

The task force made recommendations to reach subsequent goals: “Concentrate detention resources on high-risk defendants, focus supervision and prison resources on high-risk people, hold offenders accountable, reduce barriers to reentry, and protect and support victims of crime.”

They also ensured that limited justice resources were utilized to decrease recidivism and improve public safety.

Based on these findings, VIJ helped the task force develop a policy outline to address “drivers of the corrections population” and ensure that limited justice resources are used to decrease recidivism and improve public safety.

The policy recommendations evolved into Senate bill 226.

The bill served to “make available objective risk and need assessment for judges’ use in sentencing, support improved community supervision practices, and create incentives for those who are incarcerated and under supervision to complete evidence-based programs designed to reduce recidivism,” according to the

report. The legislative changes were also designed help judges make informed decisions about pretrial releases.

The legislative changes had strong bipartisan support and led to a near-unanimous passage. It was signed into law, August 2012 by Gov Markell.

The new legislation is expected to reduce the number of people jailed before trial, provide better rehabilitation programs in prisons and improve the monitoring of former prisoners.

The changes are having positive impacts; however, much more remains to be done, according to VIJ’s study. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance sponsored the project.

Delaware’s justice system is a cohesive one, the report states. It is one of a few judicial systems where the state’s prison system has custody of both pretrial and sentenced populations.

The state’s effort is germane not only to other states, but also to local jurisdictions, which are normally responsible for jail populations.

Delaware’s arrest rate for violent crime was 1 in 322, compared with 1 in 529 for the U.S. as a whole.

“The state was ranked fourth

in America for its violent crime rate,” stated the VIJ. “This would be cause for alarm even if Delaware’s prisons were not overcrowded.”

While other jurisdictions mull over how best to spend slim public safety dollars, Delaware’s understanding offers a supportive example of what can be achieved through close consideration of information and social science, according to VIJ. All four of Delaware’s prisons are over design capacity even through the prison’s intake has been relatively stable.

However, the state’s department of corrections reversed its five-year trend in 2008 of increasing expenditures and began trimming operating costs.

The study showed that “this had a limited impact on overall correctional spending, without reductions in its prison population; Delaware could not spend less on corrections and still protect public safety.”

Prior to getting VIJ involved, Delaware’s policy makers did not have access to opportune, reliable data regarding its criminal justice system. The state had not measured recidivism—the rates at which those exiting prison commit new crimes.

Without knowing how much crime was committed by repeat offenders, it was not possible to know how much of an effect recidivism was having on high rates of violent crime, and how much to target that population.

The new legislation covers evidence-based practices and targets what actually works by identifying data investigation results such as; implementing pretrial risk assessment; responding to violations of supervision appropriately, and addressing needs of the correctional population to reduce recidivism.

VIJ is assisting the Department of Correction, Justice of the Peace Courts, Statistical Analysis Center, Criminal Justice Council, and Administrative Office of the Courts in effectively implementing the new legislation.

VIJ explains, “There are challenges ahead, but Delaware’s experience... can serve as an example of how to invest resources wisely for better public safety outcomes for both states and counties.”

This cost-saving legislation can result in smaller jail populations, reduce rates of recidivism, and it aims to reduce victimization, increase safety, reduce the long-term prison population.

California’s 3 Strikes Law Leaves Some Prisoners Optimistic but Confused

Continued from Page 1

about 500 or 16 percent of these eligible offenders have been re-sentenced since last November.

Almost anyone convicted of a non-serious or non-violent third strike theoretically is eligible to apply for re-sentencing.

The only exclusion to this criterion is a prisoner who was previously convicted of a sexually violent crime, lewd act with a minor, murder, attempted murder, solicitation to commit murder, assault on a peace officer with a machine gun, or possession of a weapon of mass destruction.

Many Three Strikers have never been convicted of the specific crimes that would automatically exclude them, but they do have a non-violent current strike that can best be described as marginal, but in the interpretation of the district attorney and the court, it was enough to result in a life sentence.

All it takes is for a crime to be classified as “serious” under the California Penal Code for the prisoner to be stuck with a life-long third strike.

Crimes making the “serious” list most commonly are burglary and robbery, even if no victim was harmed.

Robbery is a felony, but it varies in severity. Nevertheless, the Three Strikes Law led some dis-

trict attorneys to prosecute apparently petty crimes under the severest interpretation.

According to a Stanford University study titled, *Wobblers & Criminal Justice In California A Study Into Prosecutorial Discretion*, “As the chief law enforcement official in the county, the DA has a duty to act as a zealous advocate for the interests of the State in enforcing the law.”

Julius “Kimya” Humphrey Sr.’s undoing was not donuts, but an automobile part.

Humphrey was imprisoned under Three Strikes for the theft of a car battery. This was the fourth sentence he had served, but he has been picked up on 21 parole violations before the battery incident.

Humphrey says he regrets and is ashamed of being locked up 25 times. After being convicted of his Third Strike, he went back to the cell and told himself, “This is it. Society doesn’t even want anything to do with me.”

Humphrey said he decided to change his ways after he received his life sentence. He attends self-help programs and college classes now.

Humphrey is one of the fortunate ones. He qualifies for re-sentencing under Proposition 36, but he doesn’t think the new law is broad enough.

“Some of the guys who aren’t affected by Proposition 36 have

never hurt anyone.” He adds, “I have violence in my past and I’m going home, but some guys are excluded for breaking into someone’s house, and that just ain’t fair.”

Larry Lechuga, 57, is an example of a prisoner serving life under the Three Strikes Law for first-degree burglary without any violence.

Unassuming and humble, Lechuga looks akin to a homeless man down on his luck. He has been classified as mentally slow and received Social Security Insurance for his mental disabilities.

Almost nine years ago, Lechuga was on parole for burglary, the only crime he had been convicted of at that time. He had a bad drinking problem, and as a result, he had been kicked out of the halfway house where he had been living.

Fearing his parole officer was going to violate his parole for leaving the halfway house, Lechuga said he took to the streets of Sacramento.

One night after drinking, Lechuga went looking for a friend’s house where he had been promised he could sleep in the garage.

Lechuga went to what he thought was his friend’s house, and walked in the back door of the garage. Mistakenly, Lechuga chose the wrong door. He en-



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Larry Lechuga and Benny Elmore standing in front of the Adjustment Center

countered an ex-Marine in the garage he entered.

Lechuga fled, fearing he was going back to prison. He was captured by the resident and brought back to the garage under citizen’s arrest.

“I didn’t touch a thing, I just opened the wrong door by mistake,” Lechuga said. It was costly: a 45-year-to-life sentence.

Had Lechuga been found guilty of illegal entry, he would not have faced Three Strikes.

Taibbi writes, “District attorneys were terrified of the political consequences of not seeking the max for every possible third strike (even when the cases were ‘wobblers,’ what lawyers call a crime that could be charged as either a misdemeanor or a felony, depending upon the circumstances, like petty theft), while judges were legally bound to impose maximum sentences whether they agreed with them or not.”

Both Elmore and Lechuga

could conceivably have been charged with misdemeanors, but they weren’t.

When Proposition 184 – the Three Strikes Law – was approved by California voters, it was touted as a law to get violent criminals off the streets.

The law cast a wide net, though, and ended up netting many offenders that have never hurt anyone.

Proposition 36 was meant to remedy the problem, but there are still plenty of offenders that are non-violent that will not see any relief from the new law.

According to the Legislative Analyst’s Office, as of March 2012, there are about 9,000 three strikers. Almost one-third of these three strikers stand a chance of getting out under Proposition 36, but that leaves many non-violent Three Strikers still doing life.

“I admit I was wrong, but I don’t think the time fits the crime,” Lechuga says.

Report Analyses Criminals Who Earn Money Illegally

By San Quentin News Staff

A new study shows criminals who earn money illegally, are caught, sent to prison, get out and resume their criminal enterprise, earning more money than felons who earn money illegally, but never run into the law.

Crime Pays: The Connection Between Time in Prison and Future Criminal Earnings, analyzes how longer prison terms facilitate an offender's ability to connect with like minded persons to improve ways they could make money illegally. (<http://tpj.sagepub.com/content/92/3/315>)

In 2008, over 2.3 million Americans were in prison or jail, and one of every 48 working-age men was behind bars, according to *The High Budgetary Cost of Incarceration*. (www.cept.net)

Federal, state, and local governments spent about \$75 billion on corrections, the large majority of which was spent on incarceration.

Ninety-five percent of incarcerated Americans will be release back into the community at some point and 70 percent will be back behind bars within three years, according to *Crime Pays*.

Crime Pays examines young adults involved in criminal activity and illustrate two potential outcomes as they mature.

Incarceration potentially interrupts defining life stages, according to *Crime Pays*. Spending significant time in jail or prison deprives a person of the social connections needed for networking and finding gainful employment.

However, *Crime Pays* found when an offender completes high school, or gets a regular job, or goes to college, or joins the military, or gets married and have children these stabi-

lizing milestones re-establishes a connection with the community. Future crime is avoided by these individuals because of a strengthened social web and a commitment to social obligations

Time spent in prison raises the incarcerated person's illegal social and human capital, while depriving them of the same capital acceptable to mainstream society, and keeping them from illegal activities, according to *Crime Pays*. The research found prison strengthens gang and criminal ties, simplifying the ability for offenders to get

involved in illegal activities to learn and grow in sophistication.

When an offender's ability to benefit from stabilizing milestones are slowed down, or blocked, the person seeks money from illegitimate means," *Crime Pays* claims.

"Formerly incarcerated are more likely to participate in drug trafficking than individuals never incarcerated," *Crime Pays* finds. "Prior illegal income, hardcore drug use, criminal and gang associations, race and gender," lead to high levels of illegal earnings.

United States Prisons Approach Future 'Historic Investment'

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

U.S. prisons are headed for an "historic investment" by the U.S. Department of Justice, according to *Fiscal Year 2014 Budget* of the U.S. Government.

With 2.3 million people in U.S. jails and prisons, most states are under fiscal constraints and face growing corrections costs and increasing prison populations.

Some states have responded with Justice Reinvestment strategies to bring down corrections costs by revising sentencing policies, with a goal of reducing recidivism without jeopardizing public safety.

Justice Reinvestment is a data-driven approach based on analysis of information of the latest research from The Counsel of the State Governments about what works to reduce crime. As a result, policy decisions are tailored to the specific public safety needs of local governments.

President Barack Obama's administration is utilizing this comprehensive strategy by helping prisoners with reentry programs and investing in state programs proven to reduce recidivism,

The budget allocates \$27.6 billion to the DOJ, an increase of 3.1 percent from 2012, according to the proposed budget. Law enforcement, court costs, prisons and holding facilities, and other essential government programs, also are funded above 2012 levels, at \$8.6 billion, up 4.3 percent from last year.

The budget's "historic investments," create partnerships with states through the *Justice Investment Act* and provides grants to the states through the *Second Chance Act*.

The SCA allocates \$119 million to states for reentry programs designed to reduce recidivism, \$19 million for drug treatment, and \$44 million for

drug courts and support for the mentally ill and other special needs for offenders, according to the budget.

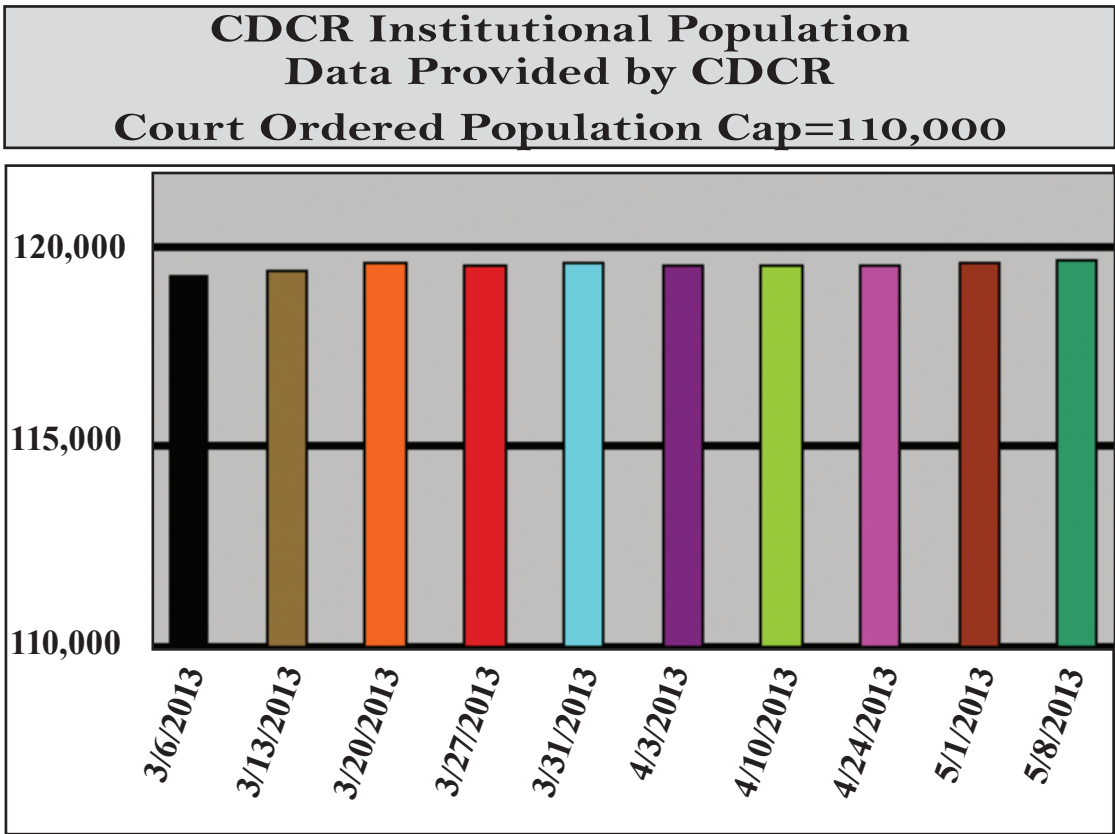
The budget allocates \$85 million to the Reinvestment Initiative in order to decrease needless imprisonment and use the savings for public safety.

With 1 in 32 American adults under correctional supervision, and 71,000 juveniles held in juvenile facilities, SCA programs aim to strengthen family and parental ties, noting public safety would be improved through evidence-based strategies and data-driven approaches.

Here are some of the budget priorities:

- \$440 million to support evidence-based community policing.
- \$413 million to reinforce efforts to combat and respond to violent crimes against women.
- \$222 million for firearm safety and programs in violence prevention to local governments.
- \$150 million for school safety programs.
- \$55 million to the states for improvements in criminal and mental health background checks.
- \$20 million for a Juvenile Justice and Education Collaboration Assistance program to help reduce juvenile arrests (and the "school-to-prison pipeline") while improving school safety.
- \$15 million for police officer safety.
- \$2 million for gun safety mechanisms that prevent the use of firearms by unauthorized.

By embracing these budget priorities, the Obama Administration shows a commitment to a comprehensive strategy to contain incarceration costs over the long term by assisting ex-offenders' reentry into their communities and reducing the risk of individuals going back to prison after being released, according to the proposed budget.



'Positive Changes' in Prisons Credited to 'Peoples' Attitudes'

'No one is reducible to the worst thing they've done'

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

Changes in people's attitudes are essential to make positive changes in prisons, a prison watchdog leader says.

"Prison is good for incarceration but not good at deterring crime or rehabilitation," said John Maki, an executive with John Howard Associates of Illinois. He spoke on Martin Luther King Day at Illinois Wesleyan University. The event was reported by Edith Brady-Lunny of pantagraph.com.

The assumption that punishment must be prison ignores the reality that incarceration is just one method of dealing with offenders, a means that often produces expensive and ineffective results, Maki said.

His group monitors the Illinois prisons and issues reports and recommendations.

Also in attendance was Bob Sutherland, from the

Central Illinois Chapter at the American Civil Liberties Union, who spoke on progressive changes to the Illinois criminal justice system. He recounted the 15 years of work by the ACLU, the League of Women Voters and other criminal justice advocates to find a solution to overcrowding.

"Prison is good for incarceration but not good at deterring crime or rehabilitation,"

A study conducted by McLean County Sheriff Mike Emery in 2009 showed that county officials have kept the 241-bed jail population stable for more than a year, allowing them to avoid outsourcing their inmates to neighboring jails.

Maki also praised Emery

for "doing some phenomenal things" for the mentally ill held in his county's jail. Defendants with mental health and substance abuse problems are offered options other than jail sentences through two countywide programs.

Those programs, along with educational opportunities, can reduce recidivism, according to Sutherland, who is also a member of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

"If we shun (offenders) or turn our backs on them, we are simply inviting a downward spiral that will result in recidivism," Sutherland said.

Maki said that reluctance to reform a national system that currently incarcerates about 2.3 million people may stem from misunderstood notions of prisoners. Because of that, JHA's study of Illinois' prison conditions is based on the philosophy that "no one is reducible to the worst thing they've done," said Maki.

Three-Judge Panel Orders Brown To Produce Prison Reduction Plan

Continued from Page 1

The cap was ordered after the Prison Law Office filed lawsuits against the state for overcrowded conditions and poor mental health care.

The court ruled California’s prisons are overcrowded because there isn’t enough staff and space “to provide constitutionally adequate medical health care and mental health care.”

The court further noted that “given the criminogenic nature of overcrowded prisons, substantial evidence supported the conclusion ‘that a less-crowded prison system would in fact benefit public safety and the proper operation of the criminal justice system.’”

The three-judge court suggested several methods the state could use to meet the cap: “(1) early release through the expansion of good time credits; (2) diversion of technical parole violators; (3) diversion of low-risk offenders with short sentences; (4) expansion of evidence-based rehabilitative programming in prisons or communities; and

(5) sentencing reform and other potential population reduction measures.”

The court recognized “despite the fact that 14 percent of California’s misnamed ‘Lifers’ population—which consists of over 30,000 inmates—are over 55 years old, defendants (the state) have taken no meaningful action to release elderly low-risk prisoners in this category.”

Since the prison population is approximate 119,000 and the prisons are capped at 110,000 the court concluded approximately 4,500 elderly prisoners would be released if the state took this action, accounting for about half needed to meet the cap.

The state’s “greatest failure” was “with respect to...the expansion of good time credits,” the court recognized.

If the state “were to adopt the policies of other jurisdictions and increase the length of good-time credits to 4-6 months and award credits to inmates regardless of their offense or strike level, these changes would, on their own, reduce the prison

population by far more than the amount necessary to comply with the 137.5 percent population cap,” the court claimed.

The three-judge court stated how to comply with the order was up to state officials, but confirmed that complying with the cap was in the May 2011 U.S. Supreme Court decision, capping the prison population. The three-judge court additionally noted the state had four years to comply with the order, considering the lengthy appeals process.

The state adopted AB 109, more commonly known as Realignment, in October 2011 as its way of meeting the cap. The three-judge court noted, “It soon became apparent, however, that Realignment was not sufficient on its own to achieve the 137.5 percent benchmark by June 2013 or to meet the ultimate population cap at any time thereafter, in the absence of additional actions by defendants.”

In a previous hearing, the court extended the June 2013 benchmark to December in

order to allow the state to develop a feasible plan to meet the cap.

The court determined the state’s failure to take all necessary steps to comply with the cap required an order demanding that the state “develop a system to identify prisoners who are unlikely to reoffend or who might otherwise be candidates for early release, to the extent that they have not already done so.”

If the state fails to reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent design capacity in a timely manner, the court process will nevertheless permit compliance with the order through the release of low-risk prisoners, the ruling states. The court gave the state until July 19 to complete “this identification system.”

The prisoners’ lawyers filed papers in the court claiming the state “already had risk instruments by which they could identify low-risk prisoners for release and that implementing a good time credit program was quite straightforward.”

Moreover, the prisoner’s lawyers noted, the state “made no effort to seek the needed legislation” on good time credits or sentencing reform.

This footnote to the case was acknowledged by the three-judge court:

Former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Jeffery Beard testified on behalf of California prisoners at the 2009 trial. Since that testimony, Beard has been appointed as the California director of prisons. He has since revised his position on the crowding issue.

The 71-page decision concludes: “Having been granted a six-month extension, defendants have no further excuse for non-compliance. If defendants do not take all steps necessary to comply with this court’s June 30, 2011 order, as amended by this court’s Jan. 29, 2013 order, including complying with the order filed in conjunction with this opinion, they will without further delay be subject to finds of contempt, individually and collectively.”

Proposition 36 Helps Another 3-Striker

**By JulianGlenn Padgett
Journalism Guild Chairman**

Michael Bernstein is one of many California inmates convicted under the Three Strikes Law, but he has been given a second chance at freedom after the state passed Proposition 36.

“I’m not in prison for violence against anyone. I’m in prison because I was in possession of eight grams of methamphetamines,” Bernstein said. “It was for my own personal use. I wasn’t selling it at all.”

Bernstein said it was in mid-

October 2012 when he found out that he qualified for release under Proposition 36 if the judge found him suitable. Bernstein said he felt like he was being sentenced again.

“I had been bitten once with Proposition 66 under then-Gov. Schwarzenegger,” Bernstein said. “Once Proposition 36 passed, I was excited.”

Bernstein, 48, has been in prison since Jan. 5, 1995.

He said his legal troubles started when he began drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana at age 12 or 13.

“Then, in high school, that

progressed into using other drugs, like Christmas trees and black beauties,” Bernstein said. “These were the names of pills. They’re all uppers.”

Bernstein said he was not running toward something or away from anything. He was looking for the rush and did not realize possessing eight grams of meth would constitute a third strike.

“I didn’t know until my arraignment. That’s when reality set in, when the district attorney said this is a three-strikes case,” Bernstein said.

While in county jail, he mar-

ried his fiancé and was eventually brought back to Santa Clara County for a resentencing hearing to eliminate a strike after his conviction.

“Even my lawyer at the time thought I would get out,” Bernstein said. “The judge said my case deserves to have the strike dropped.”

However, the judge did not drop the strike.

“There was anger – lots of it – when I was done with my ... hearing,” Bernstein said.

Five years later he and his wife were divorced.

While in prison, Bernstein

got his GED, vocation certificates in electronics and computer refurbishing.

“I stayed busy and got some trades. For most of my time I wasn’t able to do any self-help groups because the majority of prisons aren’t like San Quentin. They didn’t have any self-help groups,” Bernstein said.

“The great thing is my attorney found a program for me called Calvary Chapel,” Bernstein said. “It’s a sober-living house, and she’s already got me a bed.”

Bernstein walked out of San Quentin on March 22.

Ex-San Quentin Teacher Heads New Education Program in Illinois

‘Illinois Had a Long History of Being in the Forefront of Offering Higher Education in Prisons’

Before she was a professor at the University of Illinois, Rebecca Ginsburg helped educate San Quentin prisoners. Now, she is building on those experiences to bring college classes to prisoners in Danville, Ill.

The Education Justice Program (EJP) offers classes in the Danville Correctional Center including how to teach English as a second language, science, cultural writing workshops, history, statistics, linguistics and engineering. Inmates can earn college credits but cannot as of yet get degrees.

Ginsburg, a professor of

education policy organization and landscape architecture at the University of Illinois, co-founded EJP and serves as its director.

“The state of Illinois had a long history of being in the forefront of offering higher education in prisons,” Ginsburg said. “Today the only place (in Illinois) where inmates can receive upper-level classes is at the Danville facility.”

While she was a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley, Ginsburg came to San Quentin to teach in an inmate education program similar to EJP.

“At one time, programs like

EJP were widespread, but in 1994 the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act eliminated Pell Grants for prisoners,” Ginsburg said. “Today, only a handful of programs like EJP remain.”

With approximately 50 to 60 faculty, volunteers, student and staff, EJP is driven by its concerns about the cost of imprisonment and the financial and emotional effects on prisoners’ families and community. Funding for the program comes from grants and donations.

Ginsburg said EJP believes in prison education as the tool to address those concerns.

“It allows you to stimulate your mind and reminds you of the good nature of society,” said Emile Santiago, 40, a student in EJP. Santiago’s EJP class schedule includes film noir, theater, other education classes and Shakespeare. “We have a tremendous respect and admiration for the instructors. It reminds you that people are good.”

For inmates to enroll, they must have a high school diploma or its equivalent. “It’s not often that a major university knocks on our door and offers us the opportunity to have free programs and upper-level education opportunities,” said

Debbie Denning, chief of program and support services for the Danville prison. “It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Ginsburg says EJP’s year-round offering of classes, discussions, workshops and other opportunities has earned great admiration from inmates and administrators in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

“Instructors talk about the project as changing their orientation to the world, the way they teach, the way they learn their ideas about who they are and what they can accomplish,” Ginsburg said.

– By JulianGlenn Padgett



"A mother is more than someone who gives birth. A mother is always there for you whether she gave birth to you or not."

-Malik Harris

"We should learn to cherish and honor our mothers, for they are the true matriarch."

-Lamont Cooper

"Thank you, mom, for always being you: loving, caring, providing, protecting, smiling and laughing too. Happy Mother's Day and Happy 91st Birthday. I love you mom."

-Michael

"Being that I'm Jehovah Witness, we do not celebrate Mother's Day on any particular day. We believe that Mother's Day

the love and wisdom she shared in her presence, so in honor of all the mothers who have past over and joined the ancestors, a very Happy Mother's Day!"

-Watani

Para mi madre, Maria: (For my mother, Maria:)

Mi madre Hermosa! (My beautiful mother!)

Soy un hombre, (I am a man,) Soy un padre, y (I am a father, and)

Hasta soy un abuelo, (I am even a grandfather.)

Pero nunca dejare de ser su hijo (But I will never cease to be your son)

!Con todo mi Corazon, Feliz Dia de las Madres! (With all my heart, Happy Mother's Day!)

-Angel Falcone

"Your love and your strength has been the rock that has taken me through. Your love is pure and the greatest gift a son could have. My daughter (your granddaughter) Troyanna is you all over again, and that's a true blessing. Happy Mother's Day!"

-Troy Phillips

should be celebrated every day."

-Richard Alley

"My mother passed away on Aug. 28, 1976. I am the youngest of eight siblings -- four girls and four boys.

Because of the complexity surrounding my upbringing, I have shouldered mixed emotions about my mother. But over the years, since her departure from this world, I have learned forgiveness and transcended the pain. I now realize the unspoken love buried beneath the surface of her heart."

-Dennis Pratt

"Enjoy the love of the mother that you have, for you don't know how long it will last."

-Douglas Collier

"My mom passed over many years ago. I remember getting through the grieving process by realizing that the sadness of her passing was the price paid for

passion, kindness and worth that you have given me in my life."

-Michael A. Tyler

"My wife, the wonderful mother of my children, is more spiritually rooted than I am. I believe that mothers are so impor-



File Photo

Martha Jo and Anthony Lyons

tant and should be honored and treasured. God blessed mothers by anointing them to be the sacred carriers of life. There aren't many things more essential to life than giving birth. Happy Mother's Day!"

-Drew Piazza

"Every day the sun rises, I thank God for you. I recognize that you are the miracle. I apologize for every tear. You shaped my character, you taught me values. I am truly grateful for my mother and for God for sharing her with me."

-J. J.

"I honor my mother today as she has never abandoned me through all my incarcerated years. As a free woman, she has incarcerated herself, for the freedom of her children. Through prayers and her belief in Christ, she has demonstrated what a Godly woman is in God our Father. My mother is the love of my life and is truly a blessing to me."

-James E. Jenkins

"Shining like a beacon on a storm tossed shore, your love has always guided me to safety -- the sentinel standing tall on the horizon of the tempest that has been my life. Thank you for illuminating the darkness within my soul with your warming light. Happy Mother's Day! Love always."

-Tommy Winfrey

"Times like Mother's Day remind us of the reasons why we celebrate. From the time of birth onward, our mothers nurture and cultivate in us the true spirit of humanity -- love, civility and humility; without these components, we would never reach our true potential. Today we honor every mother, for their patience, forgiveness and love."

-Joseph Demerson

"For me, Mother's Day has always been special. It's the one

day that we can show those who gave us life how important they are. I love you, mom!"

-K. Himmelberger-

"To my beloved mother, Carmen, who past away in March 2000. I know she's looking down on her family as we reflect upon the unconditional love she always had for her children. Happy Mother's Day to my wife, the mother of my children, and all the mothers of the world."

-Nick Garcia

"Mother's Day is a very special day to give thanks to all the mothers who work hard to keep

their families nurtured and safe. I would like to say Happy Mother's Day to my mother, grandmother, and wife, Sherry Lynn.

You are truly the strength of our family! I love you all."

-Carl Burnside

"The world is built on the backs of mothers."

-Robert Frye

"I wish my mother the greatest day. I wish I could be there, mom."

-Norm Jackson

"Mothers are meant to be your friend when raising you. However, if you can consider your mother your friend, then that is a gift!"

-Theresa Scott

"Sons, they mean the world to you and knowing the love your son has for you is really important."

-Donna Paciocco

"For me, Mother's Day has always a special day because I have always known the meaning of being a rock. My mother has always been my hero and my rock and shown what a woman

is supposed to be."

-Clinton Martin

"On Mother's Day, I try to show my mother I think of her. If it weren't for my mother, I couldn't be close to David."

-----Linda Stein

"I'm so happy that they allow us to come into prison to visit. That makes Mother's Day."

-Andrea Peterson

"I sure wish I could spend Mother's Day with my mother!"

-Patrick Christensen

"I appreciate my mother for everything she has done for me and I'm happy I can spend this time with her."

-Miguel Quezada

"I am so happy to be able to be with my son. I look forward to many more Mother's Days together."

-Lucilla Quezada

"My wife is the best mother



File Photo

Betty Benjamin, Edwina Allen, Alice Gilmore and Janell Demerson

in the world and it's an honor to spend her special day with her."

-Jabari Elbert

"Love your mother regardless because she brought you into this world. You don't know how important your mother is until you are about to lose her."

-Duquan Yarbrough

"It is important to enjoy the company of family on special days like Mother's Day."

-Alfred Sennie

"Bonding is important on Mother's Day."

-Gloria Dangerfield

"The first mother is Mother Earth and she is the first mother we all come through. Each day should be about having the divine feminine in each of us and we experience that unconditional love."

Mother's Day



File Photo

Michael Tyler and Janet Buckley

-Lisa Melendez

"I certainly appreciate the visiting facility and having the ability to have a more intimate setting on days, like Mother's Day. It's better than a letter."

-Thomas Colt

"Mother's Day to me is just simply love."

-Cleo Cloman

"It can sometimes be challenging because of other family commitments. It's a lot harder to leave him."

-Shannon Cloman

"It's good and bad to share the love of a special woman while not being able to share our lives together. But still I celebrate my mother, daughter and the special woman in my life, with a special love."

-Fanon (Red) Figgers

"Visiting on Mother's Day impacts me more than at other times."

-Tamanicka Johnson

"Mother's Day is like every other visit. I visit every chance I get and they are all a great op-



File Photo

Troy and Troyanna Philips

portunity to be together."

-Loretta Johnson

"I don't stress over it being Mother's Day. I can't do anything about it except pray. Prayer can change things."

-Gerald Johnson

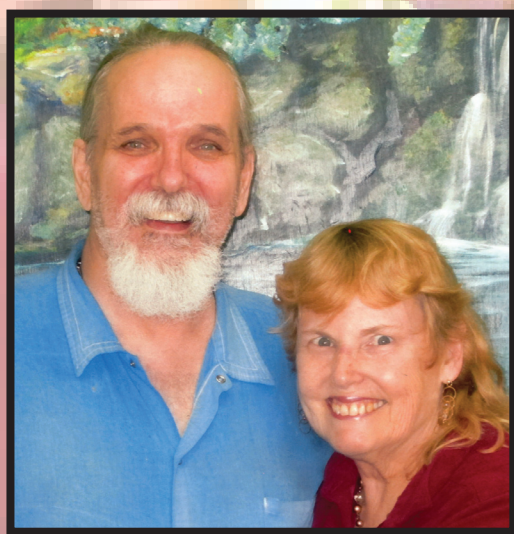
"If he were outside, we would highlight the day with a date on the train to the Sacramento train museum."

Ricky Gaines "I agree with her! Mother's Day is the most important day on the planet."

-V. Gaines

"For me, Mother's Day is about family. I'd like us to all be together and cook. There's nothing more bonding than sharing a meal together."

-Caressa Piazza



File Photo

Dennis and Barbara Pratt

"I love my mother and I wish the best for her and I hope she has a happy Mother's Day. Even though I am not there, I will always be with her in my heart. Hugs and kisses to you, mom."

-Benito Muro

"We should celebrate our mother every day. Please publish that one!"

-Sisilia Lutui

"We all grow up appreciating our mother, but this here (prison) is a school of thought and you learn to appreciate your mother even more. You get a deeper appreciation and wish you could change things for

your mother."

-Jason Green

"Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, especially to my wife, who is special because she is the mother of my children. I'd really like to say happy Mother's Day

to my mother, Elizabeth."

-Able Armengol

"I'm happy my mother is here to see me. I hope she is happy to see me too. I wish my mother a peaceful day with all her wishes coming true."

-An Dao

"His mother's journey was long and her visit is short. But it's quality time with family, and that makes it worthwhile."

-Alison Dao

"My wife is the best mother in the world. She is so helpful and loving to all the kids and I thank God they have a mother like her."

-Timothy Crawford

"I will come any day. Every day is my Mother's Day."

-Marta Cuevas

"It's easy to cherish your mother when she is absolutely gorgeous, like mine."

-Joe Mason

"Honor your father and your mother in order that your days may prove long upon the ground that that Jehovah, your God, has given you." (Exodus 20:12)

-Theresa Alley

"Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, especially my super woman wife."

-Marcellus Pree

"My mother is the greatest woman I've ever known and now I am in love with a younger version of her, my wife."

-Robert Richie

"To my mother: Thank you for being the father I always wanted."

-Zoe Gardner

"Women must be special because God chose them to be mother to the genius of mankind."

-Antoinette Gardner

"My wife is the most amazing mother. I don't know how she finds the time."

-Eric Daniels

"One day of the year does not give mothers their extended due. Every day is Mother's Day."

-Reggie Hunt

"If he was out, we would celebrate Mother's Day by going for a ride on our Harley. We would

find a nice place, make a campfire, and enjoy each other."

-Joy Richardson

"I think it's real important that you do for your loved one on Mother's Day, something that you don't do any other time. That's more important than Mother's Day itself."

-Twig Richardson

"It's amazing to sit back looking at your wife while knowing she is the mother of your children."

-Todd Jones

"I believe that Mother's Day should be a national holiday, because it is devoted to the best job in this world."

-Melissa Jones

"Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there!"

-Danny & Sherry Kramer

"Happy Mother's Day to a very special lady in my life. I love you and hope you have a wonderful Mother's Day."

-Lebert Hayes

"My mother is the best mom ever!"

-Caleb Mendoza

"My wife is definitely a great mother and I can't wait to add to our family."

-David Monroe

"I love my family and being a mother is the greatest blessing in the world."

-Amanda Monroe

"I would like to wish all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day."

-Vernon Louisville

"Mom's day breaks my heart because I let her down."

-Andrew Wilson

"You are and have always stood for me, no matter the circumstances or conditions. You have gone the extra mile and beyond and taken full responsibility for my daughter. You showered her with unconditional love, warmth and appreciation. You are the essence of what

unconditional love really means. Happy Mother's Day, mom!"

-Tu Hijo-Esteban

"Momma, you gave me something more precious than life itself. You gave me the gift of your love. I love you! And special shout-outs to my wife, Ruby Nell, and my sisters, Gwen, Diane, Lonnie and Sherry. Happy Mother's Day!"

-Anthony Lyons

"Hej Mama, Jag Alska dej (I love you)."

-Jerome Boone, Sr.

This blessing goes out to my dear and only sister, Lois and to my lady-friend, 'G' mother.

Happy Mother's Day. Love

-Yah Ya

The Real Deal. The mother of all, my wife and my world. Happy Mother's Day. Love

-Redd



File Photo

Marcia & Aly Tamboura with Elsa Legesse

"I read a poem once that said that before you can understand kindness, one must lose everything. In losing all my material belongings and my freedom, I found that your love and kindness are my everything. You've made me understand the Islamic Hadith that says: 'Heaven lies under the feet of the mother.'"



With love and gratitude."

-Aly Tamboura

"Olivia, words cannot express the love I have for your devotion in raising our daughter, Carmen, alone. You will always be acknowledged as a wonderful mother and I hope you will always know that I appreciate you for this Happy Mother's Day."

-Arnulfo T. Garcia



File Photo

Richard and Janice Honea

Rastafari Remembers The Late Emperor Selassie I

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Journalism Guild Chairman

A group of San Quentin prisoners celebrated the coronation of the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I with a banquet and religious tribute.

Six belief groups called “mansions” from San Quentin’s Rastafari community participated in the March 9 event.

“It was a great day, said Christopher Bell, also known as Ras Jahraiel.

“It was a spiritual day of remembrance, for all Rastafari. The celebration of Emperor Selassie’s coronation means so much, and we’re happy we could have it,” he added.

Born a Rastafari, Bell’s mother is from the mansion of Beta Israelites and his father is from Bobo Ashanti.

“Like in any religion or way of life, for instance Judaism, Islam or Christianity, you have many different schools of belief,” he said. “The three most prominent mansions of Rastafari are the

Nyahbinghi, the Bobo Ashanti, and the Twelve Tribes of Israel.”

Bell said the Rastafari are a relatively new community. The community started with the assistance of the Jewish Chaplain Carole Hyman.

Haile Selassie I was Emperor of Ethiopia for decades. He was crowned Nov. 2, 1930 and was the Emperor of Ethiopia from 1930 to 1974. For the Rastafari community, his coronation is a time to reflect on his teachings.

“This a belated coronation celebration,” said Bell a resident of San Quentin for the last three years.

Thomas Blanks Bongo known as Ras Jahzeal Tafari said it has been very pleasing here in San Quentin and the administration here has gone above and beyond to assist them.

Rastafari are governed under the Christian Church because of the bloodline of Haile Selessie ascending from Kind David, according to Ras Jahzeal.

“The whole purpose of why we wear dreadlocks,” said

Jahzeal. “Is in accordance with the Nazarene, it’s explained in Numbers 6:5 the King James version in Nazarene.”

Jahzeal said one of the misconceptions about the belief of Rastafari is Bob Marley and smoking weed. That could be no further from the truth.

“Western society has indoctrinated the western hemisphere with the belief that all Rastafari is based on is smoking weed,” Jahzeal said. “Bob Marley was singing about love, peace and basic human rights.”

“We see Haile Selassie I as being principled and noble, worthy of our worship,” said Bell. “Today we look at him as the second advent of the Messiah. For instance, our Christians brothers look at Jesus as the Messiah. We look at Haile



Photo provided by C. Gayle

The Late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I

Selessie I as the Messiah.”

Many different Rastafari were at San Quentin’s coronation event, Bell said. Some believe in Christianity, and others believe in the Law of Moses.

“The purpose of the Rastafari

brethren here at San Quentin is to bring awareness and education in its appropriate frame,” Jahzeal said. “Because Rastafari from creation has been to the glorification to our creator JAH RASTAFARI.”

A Criminal’s Transformation And Life-Changing Choices

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Nabat Books is an obscure publishing company “dedicated to reprinting forgotten memoirs by various misfits, outsiders, and rebels.” In 1926, the company printed, *You Can’t Win*, a memoir of Jack Black’s (not the actor) life on the road and living outside the law.

Every locked up person should study this life-changing turn-around adventure.

Black’s mother died when he was a teenager. Shortly thereafter, he parted ways with his father. Years later he reminisced: “I had not spent one hour in the company of an honest person. I had lived in an atmosphere of larceny, theft, crime. I thought in terms of theft. Houses were built to be burglarized, citizens were to be robbed, police to be avoided and hated, stool pigeons to be chastised, and the thieves to be cultivated and protected. That

was my code; the code of my companions. That was the atmosphere I breathed. ‘If you live with wolves, you will learn to howl.’”

You Can’t Win is loaded with colorful con artists, thieves, and hustlers who teach Black the meaning of integrity, honor, and respect given to and between “old school” convicts.

The beggars, bums, and thieves back-in-the-day were not dirty rotten crazies running the streets. In Black’s world, “...beggars are the most reliable and trustworthy, the most self-sacrificing and the quickest to help of any class of people outside the pale of society.”

Black notes. “The beggar minds his own business, settles his own feuds, and I cannot recall ever seeing one of them in

court testifying against anybody for anything.”

However, it was only a matter of time before life as a professional burglar and thief landed Black in prison.

The anguish shackling has on wrongdoers resonates just as strongly nine decades ago as it does today, as Black reports the psychological impact of his incarceration.

“You start doing time the minute the handcuffs are on your wrists. The first day you are locked up is the hardest, and the last day is the easiest. There comes a feeling of helplessness when the prison gates swallow you up – cut you off from the sunshine and flower out in the world – but that feeling soon wears away if you have guts.”

In Black’s later years as a

criminal, he realized the adage “crime doesn’t pay” truly applies to his life. He recognized the value of education and how important it is to stay within the law.

However, when Black assessed how the justice system treated him he wrote, “It seemed to me that the blind goddess got a tough deal herself. Everybody connected with the case outraged her. The first judge took money. The coppers framed me in. The witnesses perjured themselves. The second judge was so feloniously righteous that he stood in with the framing. My lawyer was a receiver of stolen goods—even stole some from me. And the police told me that the Jeweler’s Association beat them out of the reward...It frequently happens that the initial loss in

dollars and cents is as nothing compared to the wrong and injury that radiate from such crimes like ripples on a pond.”

Black said he could only stop using opium by understanding that “the worst hold the drug gets on a man is the mental hold...A man has to keep a hard grip on his mind; he has to want to quit, first, and keep wanting to quit all the time; then he can do it.”

Black appreciated ending his criminal career and his life changes by writing, “I have seen many miraculous reformations. One man may be reformed through a woman, a woman’s plea, a mother’s love. Others might be reformed through the assistance of kindness of friends. But still another might be reformed by an act of kindness from some unexpected source. I believe that one who has been brutalized can be turned right by an act of kindness and be regenerated. It looks reasonable.”

BOOK REVIEW

Report Indicates Prison Visitation Reduces Violence and Recidivism

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Prison visitation is a privilege – not a right – and policies vary widely from state to state despite evidence that visits reduce violence and recidivism, a recent survey reports.

A major factor in visitation is a prisoner’s security classification.

The nearly unrestrained discretion officials have in implementing prison visitation regulations makes clear how

consequential these choices are to a prisoner’s incarceration and life after release, according to *Prison Visitation Policies: A Fifty State Survey*, the study by three Yale Law School students.

Visiting guidelines are established by at the directors’ level of state departments of corrections, according to the survey. Courts have given prison administrators wide latitude in regulating visitation.

New York State’s maximum-security prisons allow up to six-hour visits 365 days a year and

overnight conjugal visits about every two months. California prohibits overnight conjugal visits for prisoners serving life sentences. North Carolina permits no more than one visit per week for two hours per visit, including legal and clergy visits.

New York and California advocate more lenient visitation guidelines in order to “preserve, enhance and strengthen family ties as a result of incarceration,” according to the survey.

Nearly all states offer some form of extended daytime visit.

California, Colorado, Connecticut, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota and Washington allow for overnight family visits. Colorado is the only state that has overnight visits for women prisoners.

Indiana, Minnesota, Oregon, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin use a form of virtual video visitation.

The survey revealed higher security prisoners and those in “administrative segregation” face additional barriers to visita-

tion, such as requirement of ‘no-contact.’

Amending guidelines to allow greater access to visitors may be the most practical approach to advancing policies intended to reduce prison violence and lower recidivism rates, according to the survey.

Participation in visiting programs could be a powerful incentive for good behavior and strengthening family ties, which may ease the transition to home upon release, the survey concludes.

Survey Asked 100 San Quentin Prisoners About Their Reaction and Effect of Prison Suicides

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

On the same week a federal judge refused to end oversight of state prisons mental health services, an unscientific survey asked 100 San Quentin men about prison suicides. The survey discovered 80 percent of the men knew someone who committed suicide while incarcerated. The survey found that 35 percent of prisoners believed suicide was due to feeling hopeless—unhappiness followed at 34 percent. Twenty-four percent said despondency would cause a suicide, while a parole denial garnered 18 percent. Other reasons cited were health issues, deaths in family, divorce and girlfriends leaving them. Comments included, staff abuse and depression

caused by withdrawal of medication. The majority of people, 58 percent, said hanging would be the method of suicide, while 20 percent choose a drug overdose. Other methods included, blood depletion and jumping off tiers. When the person interviewed was asked if he could have done anything to prevent a suicide, only seven percent said yes, while 57 percent said no. Thirty-seven percent of the men said after learning about a suicide, they became angry at prison custody. Thirty-six percent became angry toward the mental health caregivers. Twenty-four percent said they saw signs of suicide before it happened, while 38 percent saw no signs. Only six of the men surveyed said the suicide victims dis-

cussed their problem with mental health services. The following questions were asked and here are the results: Do you think committing suicide is a cowardly act? Yes 24 percent No 41 percent Do you think committing suicide takes a lot of courage? Yes 44 percent No 41 percent If you had known that a person was attempting to commit suicide, would have you done something to prevent the act from occurring? Yes 68 percent No 15 percent Have you ever contemplated suicide? Yes 24 percent No 59 per-

cent Does the mental health department do enough to prevent suicide in prison? Yes 6 percent No 71 percent When the survey asked, What do you think is the best way to prevent suicides in prison? The answers ranged from, alert staff, doctors and mental health staff so that a trusting communication link with inmates could be developed to promote peer interventions and training so that prisoners could recognize suicidal tendencies and actively work to prevent them. The last question requested personal feelings about how suicide affected their lives. Here are some of the final comments: “I’ve personally know of at least seven people committed suicide since I’ve been incar-

cerated. It has had a deep profound affect on my soul and has changed the way I view the time value of life.” “Caring attitude towards them. Don’t view them as “crazy” or “sickies.” Take this condition more seriously as they may be the first line of assistance to them, report to proper care-givers.” “When some “suit” gives you 50-to-life for stealing a cupcake and you’re in your 40’s when it happens, it (suicide) may be the only control over your own life that you’ll ever again see. People are incredibly cruel in the “the justice machine” and it just never ends for some of us. So yeah – suicide is a viable “out”!!” (sic) “Having been incarcerated for over 36 years, I still see many staff members and inmates encouraging suicide rather than discouraging it.”

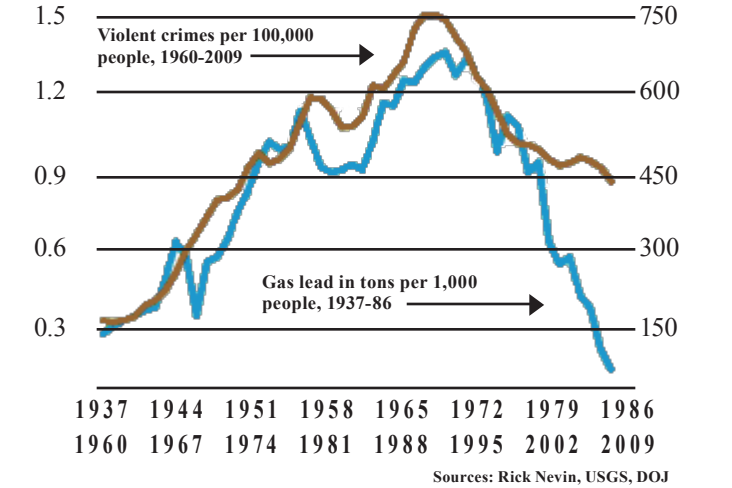
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Suicide Through a Father’s Eyes

In my retirement, I spend most of my time writing. I have written a few pieces about the failed leadership of the Catholic Church, but most of my writing is about my oldest son, a police officer who took his life four years ago. I have learned about cops and suicide, and I have learned about pain and grace. I try to write four days a week, but on Tuesdays, I don’t write, I volunteer. I spend part of each Tuesday at the San Francisco Police Department doing suicide prevention training. I speak to around 25 cops about my son. How he lost his way. The high rate of police suicide, and about current research in this area. I tell them that if this can happen to my son, it can happen to any officer. I remind them that the very things that make them effective and safe on the street can destroy them in their personal life, and that asking for help is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength. I think they are listening. A number of officers have told me that I have helped them. When I finish the training and I’m back in my car, I usually fall apart because I have not been giving an academic lecture, but rather talking about the suicide of my son, my first born, my rock. I sit in my car revisiting the horror of four years ago. I feel God’s grace working in me, not eliminating the pain, but allowing me to feel some satisfaction and a sense that life is still worth living. I am always amazed at the intimate, symbiotic and still for me, mysterious relationship between pain and grace. When I leave the police de-

partment, I drive over the Golden Gate Bridge to San Quentin Prison, where I’ve been volunteering for over seven years. For two hours, I co-lead a spiritual group with 18 inmates, and on Sunday. I go to Mass with the men. I have never been in a place where God’s presence is more tangible. Most of the men I have come to know at San Quentin have been convicted of second-degree murder and were sentenced to 15 years to life in their teens or early 20s. According to sentencing laws, if they fulfilled all the criteria for rehabilitation, they could be paroled in 12 to 15 years. Unlike fixed term prisoners, where the recidivism rate is 70 percent, the recidivism rate for these inmates when they are released is 1 percent. Should they have been held accountable and punished for their crimes? Absolutely, but they have done their time. They are not the same men they were when they did their crime. But the parole boards and governors have been politically reluctant to release them. We need to see them and know them for who they are now, not who they were 20 or 30 years ago. We need to see them as living witnesses to the transforming power of faith. If we are followers of Jesus Christ, then we believe in forgiveness and redemption, and we need to live that belief. They are men of deep spirituality, full of insight and remorse for the crimes they have committed and the great harm and pain they brought to others. They are completely rehabilitated, quali-

fied and capable of returning to the free community. In many cases when they get out, they will serve others. The guys know about my son and they pray for him each year at Mass on the anniversary of his death. One night after the concluding prayer, one of the newer members of the group who had only just learned about my son, came up to me, gave me a hug and said, “You know, he is with God.” Usually when I come into San Quentin on Tuesday, I am tired, depressed from thinking about my son and feeling sorry for myself. Usually when I leave at the end of the session, I am in awe at the faith, insight and spiritual journey of these men, who in their pain, isolation and suffering are closer to God than most people I know on the outside. And I know that God’s grace, not always obvious, is flowing inside those walls, and it also touches those of us who are privileged to come in there once in awhile. Now when I get home late each Tuesday evening, I can say that I have honored my son, covered both ends of the criminal justice system and experienced tangible signs of God’s grace in both those worlds. The secret of volunteer work is that it is a very selfish and rewarding activity. I do this for others, but if I am honest, I do it so I can keep breathing; I do it so I can believe. I do it so I can experience God’s grace. - Brian Cahill, Executive Director of San Francisco Catholic Charities-



Report Links the Level of Lead In the Environment to Violence

By San Quentin News Staff

In a startling report, a recent *Mother Jones* article claims there is a strong connection between lead levels in the environment and violent crime. “Lead emissions from automobiles explain 90 percent of the variation in violent crime in America,” researchers wrote. “Toddlers who ingested high levels of lead in the ‘40s and ‘50s really were more likely to become violent criminals in the ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s.” The report tracked leaded gas consumption and found crime declining at the same rate as consumption. “Where it declined quickly, crime declined quickly,” the researcher found. Researchers continued the study by examining several states and different countries at different times and found the same results—“where consumption of leaded gasoline declined quickly, crime would decline quickly too.” Canada, Great Britain, France, Finland, Italy, New Zealand, and West Germany showed the same correlation between lead levels and violent crime, according to researcher Rick Nevin.

When the *Mother Jones* reporter asked Nevin if he had ever found a county that didn’t fit the theory, he replied, “No, not one.” “Gasoline lead is responsible for a good share of the rise and fall of violent crime over the past half century,” *Mother Jones* reports. The effect of lead on people is worse than thought, *Mother Jones* claims. Neurological research shows early childhood exposure to lead “at nearly any level can seriously and permanently reduce IQ.” Parts of the brain that control aggression and “executive functions” are damaged from high childhood exposure to lead, “and the impact turns out to be greater among boys,” the researchers assert. Childhood exposure to lead damage parts of the brain “that makes us most human.” Not much attention has been paid to the medical reasons for violent crime because researchers traditionally have focused on behavioral causes to explain crime and therefore expect to find a behavioral connection to violent crime, not a medical connection, the *Mother Jones* article concludes.

Expanding Access to Higher Education Behind Bars

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Journalism Guild Chairman

Feather River College is educating one San Quentin prisoner with correspondence courses and is expanding its program in San Quentin and other California prisons.

"No one should be denied access to obtaining a college degree; a college degree holds a special meaning for the incarcerated," said Joan Parkin, associate dean at Feather River College, a community college in Lassen County, Calif. Parkin said her mission is to educate prisoners no matter where they are.

The San Quentin student, Michael Holmes, said he attended multiple self-help groups, such as criminality awareness, substance abuse, anger and stress management. Holmes said the programs piqued his interest in learning about behavioral science, so he wrote numerous letters seeking sponsorship from Project Rebound, the Re-entry Council, Fresno Pacific University, Palo Verde College and the Prison Scholarship Foundation.

He was eventually referred to Coastline College, but he was unable to pay for textbooks and had no access to used copies.

"I had no means to pay for college or books," Holmes said. "On top of that, I had been told California no longer provided grants for inmates" to take college courses.

Then, Holmes' medical care providers suggested he write to Feather River College. The school accepted his application and is covering the costs for tuition and books.

"I'm humbled by this experience, because the person who is the most locked down can go through the program"

"They're very attentive to me and they respond quickly when I have an issue," Holmes said. "For me, Feather River is a godsend."

Feather River's Incarcerated Student Program was launched in 2006 at California Correctional Center, according to Parkin. Dawn Tibbits, the prison's college program facilitator, established a system to verify the educational backgrounds

of those men interested in furthering their education through Feather River. Tibbits also set up a program to distribute textbooks to all the participating students.

"We need more funding to bring Associate of Arts degrees to any inmate who wants one," Parkin said. "I've seen a complete transformation" in men who complete the program in other prisons. Feather River currently educates 400 prisoners in California prisons.

Recently, when Parkin gave a lecture at Pelican Bay State Prison, one prisoner said he came to prison at age 16 and now, at 38, Feather River College gave him his first opportunity at an education.

"I just want to learn something," the prisoner told Parkin.

"I'm humbled by this experience, because the person who is the most locked down can go through the program," she added.

Anyone interested in taking classes through Feather River College should contact Tom Bolema in the San Quentin Education Department. He said Feather River is providing instructional materials for 30 San Quentin prisoners, including Death Row inmates.

Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin

26th Annual Veterans Scholarship Award Banquet



By Chris Schuhmacher
VVG SQ Chairman



The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin is once again rallying the troops for its 26th annual Veterans Scholarship Awards Banquet.

During the event, which scheduled for June 22, group members inside prison have the opportunity to give back to the community by awarding scholarships to deserving high school students with veterans in the family who are preparing to start college.

"I get a sense of pride in participating, because as a military brat myself who has faced the challenge of putting my own daughter through college, I know that every little bit helps go a long way in helping children achieve their educational goals," said group member Darryl Farris.

The veterans group works throughout the year to raise funds for the scholarships through food sales to San Quentin inmates, contributions from various Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups (ILTAG), and donations from outside veterans organizations and supporters.

Last year, the veterans were able to present two scholarship awards totaling \$2,500. This year, in addition to the Veterans Scholarship Award and the Mary Manley Inspirational Award, the VVG-SQ is proud to present the Marcy Orosco Scholarship Award in honor of her generous support from the Salvation Army.

Applications for the scholarships have already been circulated throughout high schools in the northern California area. The VVG SQ Scholarship committee, led by Sergeant of Arms Garvin 'JoJo' Robinson, is eagerly awaiting student submissions.

"I receive the most amazing sense of gratification as I read through the applications, select the candidates, and watch the smiles on their faces when they receive their awards," Robinson said. "I feel empowered with the responsibility to continue to serve ... even while incarcerated." The applicants will be judged on their cumulative GPA, extra-curricular activities, community service and a short essay on what their veteran family member's service to the country means to them. If you know an eligible high school senior who would like to apply for one of the VVG SQ scholarship awards please refer to the contact information for our Chief Sponsor below.

This year the VVG SQ is hoping to double the amount given out at the 2012 awards. This is a worthwhile event and we encourage men of the San Quentin population to fill out a Trust Withdrawal designating '2013 Scholarship Awards' with the amount they would like to contribute and give it to a VVG SQ representative within your housing unit. Laudatory donation chronos will be generated for your records.

If any outside veterans organizations or individuals would like to help support our cause, please contact our Chief Sponsor Rudy Luna at San Quentin State Prison, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA, 94964-0001 (415)454-1460 ext. 5808.



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VIETNAM VETERANS GROUP OF SAN QUENTIN

SERVING AND REPRESENTING ALL MILITARY VETERANS

presents the

2013 VVG SQ Scholarship Awards

Introducing this year the

Marcy Orosco Scholarship Award

Amount \$1,750.00

Veterans Scholarship Award

\$1,250.00

and the

Mary Manley Inspirational Award


\$1,000.00

Application Deadline: Friday May 17th, 2013

Selection Notification: Monday May 24th, 2013

Presentation Ceremony: Saturday June 22nd, 2013

VETERANS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Cinco de Mayo Is Not Mexican Independence Day

By Isabella Cota,
Contributing Writer

Every year on May the 5th, I get a Facebook post on my wall from my French friend Thomas. Sitting on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean, he usually types something like: “Happy Cinco de Mayo, guey. So you beat us. Big deal.”



File Photo

Isabella Cota

His message is poking fun of the American celebrations around this date. Neither of us lives in the United States but we are both aware that on this day, thousands living in the U.S. will

be celebrating Mexico’s Independence Day with tequila shots, Coronas, bright-colored serapes and straw sombreros. We are also aware that this is actually not Mexico’s Independence Day, that the real story behind the date involves his country and that it’s celebration is a bit, well, overdone.

So what actually happened on the 5th of May? In 1862, during a French invasion to Mexico led by Napoleon III, the Mexican army surprised everyone by defeating the French in a bloody battle, even as they were outnumbered and poorly equipped. It’s one of our proudest moments in history, as it was an unlikely and much needed victory. A more recent victory over the French came in the 2010 Soccer World Cup, when we scored two goals and they scored none. They are international soccer superstars. We are not. So a friendly “Suck it frenchies!” was in order.

Yet Cinco de Mayo, or as we call the holiday in Mexico La Batalla del Cinco de Mayo, is not a big national celebration down here. It’s only in the central state of Puebla, whose capital of the same name was the setting for the battle, that the holiday is celebrated with dance, music and performances. Puebla takes this

as an opportunity to celebrate their state and that’s ok with the rest of us Mexicans. We don’t all need to make a big deal out of it, it’s not like it’s our country’s independence we’re talking about.

That’s right. It’s not our Independence Day. How Cinco de Mayo came to be confused with Mexican Independence Day (celebrated on midnight September 15) remains a mystery. But it’s easy to imagine that as the celebration grew more and more popular in the US, without real knowledge over how it came to even exist, there was a need to attribute great meaning to it. A country’s independence is way more meaningful than a one-off, unlikely military victory over a more powerful European country, so, you know, for marketing purposes, we could just celebrate that. It just makes more sense.

This of course begs the question, how did the holiday ever get started in the US? The first celebrations of the original Battle of Puebla began in the battle’s first anniversary, in 1863 in California, according to a paper by the UCLA Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture.

“A desire to support Mexican President Benito Juárez and the Mexican troops galvanized Latinos in California and produced

a collective response that drew together Californios, Mexican immigrants, Central and South American immigrants, and their English-speaking children born in California”, the paper reads.

Cinco de Mayo, as a holiday to be celebrated in the United States, was born as a festive way to unite Americans with immigrants coming from the South, to blend both cultures for one day. From the beginning, it was a moment to forget about the differences that sets the cultures apart and party together instead. And this element of unity remains today.

But underneath the party surface, criticism and disappointment have started to spread in some circles of the Latino community in the US.

“Cinco de Mayo is not just a fiesta anymore, the gringos have taken it on as a good sales pitch”, Frances Martínez, who organized the celebrations in the 1930s in California, told José Alamillo, Professor of Chicano Studies and History at California State University Channel Islands and one of a few academics that have researched and written about the origins of this holiday in the US.

“Back then we used the fiesta to accomplish something and

made it work for la raza,” Martínez is recorded as saying.

The holiday is an annual boost to profits of tequila, chip and beer companies. According to Business Insider, beer companies alone spent \$171 million on Spanish language advertising around Cinco de Mayo.

Naturally, some in the Hispanic community feel like through marketing, the celebration has been perverted, as stereotypes and misconceptions about their cultures are exploited in the name of a wild party. After all, not all Mexican and South Americans are gun-shooting peasants going on tequila binges who pass out in front of a cactus.

But there’s one truth about this holiday that is perhaps more important. In the big melting pot of cultures that is the United States, it’s the freedom to celebrate the victories and culture of its immigrant members that matter the most. Is Cinco de Mayo just an excuse to have a party and celebrate my culture? I’ll take it!

And remember, we owe this one to the French. So next time you’re about to down a tequila shot on the 5th of May, you could swap the “Cheers!” or “Salud!” for a “Santé!”, or perhaps an even more appropriate “Suck it Frenchies!”

By Isabella Cota,
Contributing Writer

Cada año el 5 de mayo, mi amigo Tomás me deja un mensaje en mi muro del Facebook. Desde Francia, en el otro lado del Atlántico, escribe algo así como: “Feliz Cinco de Mayo, guey. Nos ganaron. ¿Y qué?”.

Su mensaje es una burla inocente a las celebraciones en esta fecha. Ninguno de los dos vivimos en los Estados Unidos pero los dos sabemos bien que, en este día, miles de personas que viven en ese país celebran el día de la Independencia de México con caballitos de tequila, cervezas Corona, zarapes de colores y sombreros. Sabemos también que ese día no es el día de la Independencia mexicana, que la verdadera historia detrás de esa fecha involucra a su país y que su celebración allá es, pues, un poco exagerada.

Entonces, ¿qué pasó realmente el cinco de mayo? En 1862, durante la invasión de Francia a México liderada por Napoleón III, el ejército mexicano ganó una batalla larga y sangrienta en contra de los franceses, a pesar de tener muchos menos soldados y tener equipo y armas menos sofisticadas. Es uno de los momentos históricos de mayor orgullo para México, ya que, en ese momento, fue una victoria inesperada y muy necesaria para la moral nacional. Una victoria ante los franceses más reciente se dio en 2010, cuando en un juego de la Copa Mundial de Fútbol México ganó 2 - 0 contra



Francia. A ellos se les considera superestrellas del fútbol. A nosotros no. Por lo tanto, ese fue otro momento en nuestra historia en que dijimos un merecido “¡Nos la pelan, francesitos!”

Sin embargo el cinco de mayo, o como lo llamamos en México “La Batalla del Cinco de Mayo”, no es una gran celebración nacional. Solamente el estado de Puebla, en cuya capital del mismo nombre se llevó a cabo la batalla hace 150 años, celebra con fiesta, danza y espectáculos este día. Es una oportunidad para celebrar el estado y eso nos parece bien al resto de los mexicanos. No todos tenemos que celebrar este día, después de todo, no es como que estamos hablando del Día de la Independencia.

Así es. El cinco de mayo no tiene nada que ver con nuestra independencia, la cual se celebra a la medianoche del 15 de septiembre. Cómo se dio la masiva confusión es un misterio. Pero es fácil imaginar que, la celebración se propagó originalmente sin el conocimiento claro de su origen. Ya que es difícil creer que una celebración

a la que tanta gente se une refiere a una pequeña y sorprendente victoria militar. es posible que la gente simplemente atribuyó semejante celebración a algo tan importante como la independencia.

Lo cual nos lleva a la siguiente pregunta, ¿por qué se empezó a celebrar en los Estados Unidos? Las primeras fiestas del Cinco de Mayo en el país vecino del norte se dieron en el primer aniversario de la batalla de Puebla, en 1863 en California. Esto, de acuerdo a una investigación del Centro de Estudios de Cultura y Salud Latina de UCLA.

“Un deseo por apoyar al Presidente mexicano Benito Juárez y a los soldados mexicanos cautivos a los latinos en California y detonó una respuesta colectiva que atrajo a gente de California, inmigrantes mexicanos, de Centro y Suramérica así como a sus hijos nacidos en California”, dice la investigación.

El Cinco de Mayo, como un día festivo en los Estados Unidos, nació como una manera de unir a los americanos con los inmigrantes que venían del sur de su frontera, de combinar sus culturas por un día. Desde el inicio, fue un momento de olvidar las diferencias que los dividen y pasar un buen rato. Este elemento de la fiesta permanece hasta el día de hoy.

Pero debajo de la superficie festiva, críticas y decepciones se han gestado entre algunos grupos de Latinos.

“El Cinco de Mayo ya no es nada más una fiesta, los gringos

lo tomaron y lo hicieron una oportunidad para vender”, dijo Frances Martínez, uno de los organizadores de la celebración en los 1930s en California, de acuerdo a un escrito del profesor de Estudios Mexico-Americanos y de Historia de la Universidad del Estado de California en las Islas del Canal José Alamillo.

“Antes usábamos la fiesta para lograr algo y lo hacíamos por la raza”, dijo Martínez en el texto.

Y es que esta fiesta representa un incremento en las ganancias de grandes compañías de botanas, tequila y cervezas. Según un reporte de la revista Business Insider, las compañías cerveceras invirtieron un total de \$171 millones en publicidad en Español en torno a ese día.

Es natural que algunos en la comunidad hispana sientan que a través del mercadeo se ha distorsionado la celebración, ya que se explotan estereotipos de los

latinos que afectan de manera negativa en su imagen. Es decir, los mexicanos y suramericanos no son todos campesinos que disparan armas al aire y toman tanto tequila que se quedan dormidos frente a un cactus, como los pinta la publicidad.

Pero en esta discusión permanece una verdad que es tal vez más importante. En la gran mezcla de culturas que caracteriza a los Estados Unidos, lo que importa es que existe la libertad de celebrar, por una vez al año, las victorias y tradiciones de un grupo de inmigrantes. Y si el cinco de mayo nos da una excusa para hacer fiesta y festejar mi cultura, ¡pues yo la tomo!

No olvidemos que esta fiesta se la debemos a los franceses. La próxima vez que vayas a tomarte un shot de tequila en un cinco de mayo, considera cambiar el “¡Salud!” por “Santé!”, o bien soltar un muy merecido “¡Nos la pelan, francesitos!”



Photo by Isabella Cota,

Town Square in Michoacan, Mexico days after the Independence Day celebration

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!



Explain, If it's possible, how you can circle six of these digits that will add up to 21

9 9 9
5 5 5
3 3 3
1 1 1

The answer to last month's puzzle is: The two brothers were a set of triplets.

Congratulations to: Louis Calvin, and Michael Lain for winning last month's puzzle.

Congratulations to: Chris Schuhmacher for getting last month's puzzle right.

Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person. All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winners will be picked by drawing the first two answers from that 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.

Snippets

Betty Friedan wrote a book called *The Feminine Mystique* about breaking the stereotypical mode of empowering women in believing that women are more than housewives.

Omaha Indian women are awarded the property and custody of the children when they get divorced.

Up to 9 ft tall and weighing as much as 150 pounds, the Statue of Liberty has 7 rays of all metal on her crown. Each ray represents the 7 continents.

Queen Victoria was known as the "Grandmother of Europe." She had nine children by her husband Albert.

Under Harriet Tubman's assistance 300 slaves escape slavery. Angry owners offered \$40,000 reward for Tubman's capture.

Ensuring fertility after her wedding ceremony, during the Tudor period in England, a bride would eat her bouquet which was made of Marigold.

The Rafflesia Arnoldii is the world's largest blooming flower. It can grow up to 3 feet across and weigh up to 15 pounds.



Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



NINETEEN MINUTES (By Jodi Picoult) *Deep trauma in the wake of a mass high school shooting in a small New Hampshire town.*



THE AFFAIR (By Lee Child) *Jack Reacher kicks butt and makes waves investigating murder in a small southern town.*



INTO THE FIRE (By Suzanne Brockmann) *Special operative tries to clear his name when suspected of killing a neo-Nazi leader.*



THE ART OF FIELDING (By Chad Harbach) *An all-star shortstop's personal issues threatens his future career and close-knit college team's season.*



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EVERYDAY LAW (By Shea Irving) *General overview and answers to the most frequently asked question.*



THE BLIND SIDE (By Michael Lewis) *Young man adopted by a caring family and displays a talent for football. In this inspiring true story.*

RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one: Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of Larry DeRossett

Sudoku

By Troy "Humphrey" Ashmus

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

CORRECTION:

Last months cartoon was drawn by John Sklut and not Larry DeRossett

Notice:

On the Line: Artwork from San Quentin Prison Arts Project
San Francisco Public Library
Main Branch Civic Center
Jewett Gallery
June 15 – September 1, 2013
Reception and panel from former inmates
Saturday, August 3, 1-4 p.m.
50 artworks, including paintings, silk-screens, linocuts and 3D dioramas

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

1. Richmond County, Ga.— Sheriff’s officials began a new program that charges offenders a \$5 co-pay for medical services, reports the Augusta Chronicle. Medical services cost the sheriff office about \$5 million in 2011, nearly \$800,000 more than the contract for service was supposed to cover, according to the report.

2. Montgomery, Ala.— The state Legislature has moved forward to pardon the nine African-American teenagers, known as the Scottsboro boys, who were falsely accused of raping two white women more than 80 years ago, reports The Los Angeles Times. The bill was unanimously passed by the state Senate. Gov. Robert Bentley said he would sign the bill.

3. Dover, Del. — The State Senate narrowly approved repealing the death penalty by a vote of 11-10, reports The Associated Press. There are currently 17 people on the state’s condemned row. Democratic Gov. Jack Markell has not said whether he will support the legislation.

4. Starke, Fla. — Larry Eugene Mann, 59 was executed by lethal injection on Apr. 10, reports The Associated Press. Mann was convicted for the kidnapping and killing of a 10-year old girl in 1980.

5. Indianapolis, Ind. — The state Senate has voted 46-4 to overhaul its criminal sentencing laws. The changes would send fewer non-violent offenders to prison, while those with the more serious offenses would



spend more time in state prison, according to The Associated Press.

6. Onneaut, Ohio — The American Civil Liberties of Ohio criticized the private prison company, Correctional Corporation of America, for operating an overcrowded facility at the Lake Erie Correctional Institute in northeast Ohio, reports The Associated Press. The ACLU said overcrowding contributed to two recent incidents of fighting among the offenders and attacks on guards.

7. New York, NY — David Ranta spent 23 years in prison

before being released for the 1991 murder of a prominent Hasidic rabbi. Prosecutors acknowledged that the evidence had fallen apart against Ranta, reports The New York Times. Ranta suffered a heart attack on his second day of freedom and is now awaiting surgery to repair his damaged heart.

8. Tupelo, Miss. — The state’s department of corrections has found a new way to teach offenders how to stay out of prison. The federally funded course, Think for a Change, is designed to improve offenders’ “soft-skills and pro-social behaviors,” reports

The Associated Press. “It goes back to social learning,” said James Johnson, associate director of community corrections,” in the AP report. “I grew up in a pro-social environment and learned through family, friends and school programs. Many offenders don’t grow up in these environments. Just like you can learn these bad problem solving skills, we can teach good ones.”

9. Helena, Mont. — A state lawmaker is proposing a bill that would allow convicted offenders the chance to take 10 years off their sentence by agreeing to take 20 lashes, re-

ports The Associated Press. “... perhaps two lashes a year. What would you choose?” said the bill’s sponsor, Republican Rep. Jerry O’Neill.

10. Raleigh, N.C.—Executions are scheduled to resume after more than a six-year halt. The state’s Senate judiciary panel voted along party lines for the measure that would also end a method for death row prisoners seeking life sentences on racial bias claims, reports The Associated Press. There have been no executions in North Carolina since 2006.

11. Carson City, Nev. — Lawmakers are considering a way to limit the use of solitary confinement of prisoners. Prisoners are more dangerous when they are ultimately released, state Sen. Tick Segerblom told the judiciary committee, in an Associated Press release.. Segerblom then showed a video that highlighted seemingly barbaric conditions in some American prisons.

12. New Orleans, La.—The Orleans Parish Prison has been cited for being “so dangerous and poorly run that the facility violates inmates’ constitutional rights by the U.S. Department of Justice,” reports The Associated Press. City officials have asked a judge to appoint a replacement for the sheriff, according to court papers.

13. New York, N.Y.—The state prison commission is recommending county jail law libraries closed because staffing them is becoming unaffordable, reports the Wall Street Journal’s Law Blog.

‘Inner Peace’ Self-help Program Coming to San Quentin Prison

‘Every person is set on a path of self-discovery’

By Lorenzo Robinson
Journalism Guild Writer

A self-help program recognized worldwide for its ability to help individuals discover and enhance their inner peace is coming to San Quentin.

It involves the inner peace philosophy of Prem Rawat, which has been taught in jails, prisons, retirement and veterans groups and directly to citizens of many countries.

“It’s about each one of us, everyone on the face of the earth”

Sherry Weinstein, director of the Peace Education Program, gave a presentation to San Quentin prisoners about classes that uses the philosophy of the Prem Rawat Foundation.

The program’s sponsor, nurse Sue Patrick, said she looks forward to facilitating classes, scheduled to begin in May. Mainliners can enroll in the program via sign-up sheets posted in each building.

The program consists of one-hour classes each week over 10 weeks.

The classes include workshops where participants explore self-awareness, inner strength, peace, clarity of thought, understanding, dignity, choice, hope, and contentment.

The Peace Education Program is unparalleled in its approach to peace. “It’s about each one of us, everyone on the face of the earth,” Weinstein said, quoting Rawat.

The participants watch videos to help them make rational choices, leading to strength and inner peace, according to Weinstein.

Through the enhancement of inner resources such as hope, choice, and clarity of thought, “every person is set on a path of self-discovery,” she said.

More than 12 million people in 50 countries have been certified after completing the program.

The executive director of the Correctional Education Association, Stephen Steerer, endorses the program.

[A Prem Rawat video airs on SOTV daily at 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Check these times]

Editor’s Note

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

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

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

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)

To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send \$1.32 worth of stamps for postage to:

San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month, if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

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Giants Coast to an Easy Victory While Crushing A's in Their Season Opener

By Gary Scott
Sports Editor

In their season opener, the San Quentin Giants hit their way to a 12-5 victory over the San Quentin Athletics.

Down 3-2 in the bottom of the third inning, second baseman Chris Smith crushed a two-run homer to right field, giving the Giants the lead for good. Giants' first baseman Mario Ellis double to center field, moved to third base on a passed ball, and scored on an error. After posting another run on a walk, Jose Sandoval hit a two-run double to right field to give the Giants a 8-3 lead.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Giants third baseman Mark Jordan smacked a lead-off homer to left field.

The Giants extended their

SPORTS



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Lt. Rudy Luna throwing out the first pitch of the game

double to left field. Moments later, Smith hit his second two-run homer of the game from the opposite side of the plate, giving them a 12-3 lead.

"I wanted to be aggressive and just try and get on base," Smith commented about hitting two home runs, one from each side of the

lead in the sixth inning, as Chris Deragon roped a RBI

plate. "I just wanted to get those runs in. And my thing was to get the win, no matter what it took."

The A's tried to respond as in the top of seventh inning as Nghiep "Ke" Lam hit a RBI double to left field. In the top of the eighth inning, after Isaiah Thompson Bonilla doubled, Carlyle Blake drove him home with a RBI single to center field, decreasing their deficit to 12-5. The A's



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Mario Ellis covering first base

never scored again. "The San Quentin have strong unity as a team," Giants head coach Frankie Smith said. "Each player compliments the others and that's the best ingredient for success."

Coach Smith acknowledged some of his standout players. He said, "In my eight years at San Quentin, I have never seen a player hit a home run from both sides of the plate. Jeff Dumont showed his ability to pitch and not just throw, pitching 7 2/3

twice, stealing three bases and was hit by a pitch.



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Chris Smith at 2nd base



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Mark Jordan up to bat and Ruben Harper playing back catcher

San Quentin Warriors Start Season Opener With a Lose

Trailing by eight points at the start of the second half in their much anticipated season-opener, the San Quentin Warriors basketball team could not mount a comeback over the outside Sports Ministry team, falling 92-81.

Down 57-49 at halftime, the Warriors started the second half in a full-court press defense to try and slow down the Sports Ministry's guards. The press defense collapsed as the visitors started the third quarter with 10 consec-

utive points. The Sports Ministry entered into a two-three zone, which seemed to limit the Warriors' offensive effectiveness.

The Warriors went on a scoring drought until forward Anthony Ammons drove down the lane for a layup.

The Sports Ministry immediately responded as Mark Ivy scored on a layup and a baseline fade, increasing their lead to 71-51. Point guard Mike Juco followed with an assist to Ivy and guard Ben Ilegbodu knock down two free throws.

The Warriors countered as Rafael Cuevas made an assist to Allan McIntosh, who slammed the ball with aggression. After a Sports Ministry basket, Jahkeem Stokes-Gullen buried a three from the top of the key and Mike Franklin scored on a put back to decrease their deficit to 77-60.

However, the Warriors could not stop Ilegbodu from scor-



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Allan McIntosh at the free throw line

ing 10 second-half points and 41 overall. "I felt good. I felt like I could hit every thing going up," Ilegbodu said after the game. "I love coming out here to play and have fun."

Center Ted Hahs finished with 20 points for the Sports Ministry

He said, "I tried to play hard. They worked me hard inside. I just wanted to get a win."

Hahs played for the Masters College in Europe.

Forward McIntosh finished with 31 points for the Warriors.

-Gary Scott



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Ben Ilegbodu in the green, waiting for the inside pass