

# San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN



VOL. 2013 NO. 7

July 2013

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,389



File Photo

Alliance for CHANGE posing for a group photo

## Alliance Holds Its Fifth Graduation

By San Quentin News Staff

San Quentin State Prison hosted six outside guests during its fifth graduation of a prison self-help group aimed at assisting ex-offenders return home safely.

After four months of instruc-

tion, discussion, and training, 14 men in blue incorporated into their lives, the importance of distributive justice, retributive justice, procedural justice, restorative justice, community and transformative justice.

See Alliance on page 20

## Freedom After 15 Years In Prison

By Richard Richardson  
Design Editor

It's a new and strange world for Gary Scott, who was arrested for second-degree murder at the age of 15 and recently paroled after spending 15 years in prison.

"It's surreal," Scott told and Oakland Tribune columnist Tammerlin Drummond. "The first night I couldn't sleep because I was afraid it was a dream and when I woke up it wouldn't be real."

Scott, whose nickname is Malachi, was sports editor of the San Quentin News.

"When I found out that I was found suitable, it felt like a heavy burden was lifted off of my chest, and I was smiling from ear to ear. However, people don't know how much my heart hurts for the person and his family I destroyed," Scott said.

During a failed robbery Scott said, "I tried to shoot him in the arm during a struggle for the gun, instead I ended up taking his life."

See Free on page 4



File Photo

Gary "Malachi" Scott

"In 2002 I had terrible nightmares. I felt guilt and shame. Even on the streets I felt like there was a dark cloud hovering over me everywhere I went," he said.

Despite having haunting nightmares, Scott said he continued to "pray and ask for forgiveness." Scott said his transformation was first spiritual. Attending only AA and NA classes at Corcoran State Prison because the programs were limited, Scott said he was denied parole suitability due to rule violations for grooming standards, delaying lockup and delaying feeding.

Born in 1982 and raised in South Central Los Angeles by Brenda Wimbish, Scott said he grew up without knowing his biological father. "I would love to have seen and met him," he said. "I felt a sense of uncertainty about my history. I acted like I

## 60 Men Honored for Their Accomplishments in 2013

By San Quentin News Staff

It was standing room only as prisoners, volunteers, staff and family members filled the Protestant Chapel to honor more than 60 San Quentin residents for achieving a variety of vocational and educational goals.

Children playing, crying and cooing colored the backdrop as family members cheered their spouses, fathers, uncles, and brothers for doing something beneficial to public safety—achieve an educational milestone while incarcerated.

"I just want to say what a joy



File Photo

Graduates celebrating their accomplishments

it is to hear little kids' voices," said Prison University Program Director Dr. Jody Lewen.

"You guys have proven that success is possible," said keynote speaker Elvin Padilla. "You

all have an obligation and responsibility to your peers that success is possible."

Padilla, originally from

See 2013 on page 20

## Supreme Court Ruling on Habeas Corpus Reported as 'Limited' for State Prisoners

By Charles David Henry  
Staff Writer

A recent unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruling has underscored the limits of habeas corpus as a remedy for state prisoners, according to Michael C. Dorf, professor of law at Cornell University.

The court in *Metrish v. Lancaster* refused relief for a man convicted of murder; despite the fact that justices knew Michigan courts violated his constitutional

right to due process.

Lancaster admitted he committed murder but used a diminished capacity defense that was on the books at the time to negate specific intent. However, counsel for the defendant was prevented from arguing it at trial.

The Michigan Supreme Court upheld the lower courts' rulings, so he took the case to federal court.

"The U.S. Court of Appeal for the Sixth Circuit found his

argument compelling," according to Dorf, and ordered habeas relief. The U.S. Supreme Court reversed the ruling, reinstating Lancaster's conviction.

In two previous rulings, the court's evaluation of retroactivity was upheld in one case but not the other.

In a 1964 case, *Bouie v. City of Columbia*, the court held that due process forbade a state from retroactively applying a statute.

See Habeas Corpus on page 4

## A Deeper Look Inside David Carpenter's Life

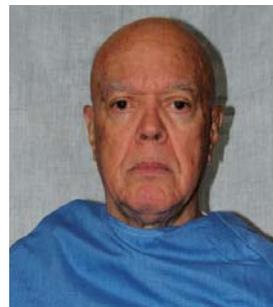
By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

One of the most recognized prisoners on San Quentin's Death Row was, born May 6, 1930 in San Francisco. His name is David Joseph Carpenter.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Carpenter was convicted of 10 homicides, which gave him the moniker—The Trailside Killer.

Carpenter says he spends the better part of every day writing letters and working on his complex legal case.

"There are many [court] cases to research and staying up with laws pertaining to my case is essential to my on-going appeal,"



File Photo

David Carpenter

said Carpenter. During the 30-minute interview, Carpenter picked up a very long, handwritten letter from his bunk, "This letter is for my sister who will be 79 years old this year.

We are very close," he said.

Sitting at the end of his bunk, Carpenter said, speaking through the heavily meshed screen covering the bars on his cell door, that he is a devout Catholic. He attends a service every week in the East Block section of Death Row. Carpenter said he has a great relationship with San Quentin's priest, Father George Williams and enjoys conversations with him often.

According to Father Williams, Carpenter "is a very devout, well informed Catholic who attends all services provided to the men on his yard on death row. He is well liked by many of the guys

See David Carpenter on page 5

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## We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. To use a credit card, go to our website, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com), click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed. The following groups and individuals have already made contributions:

### FOUNDATIONS

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

### INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins, Lisa Ahrens, Alliance for Change, Anonymous, Bill Anderson, Daniel Barton\*/Attorney at Law, Iris Biblowitz\*, Christopher B., Jeremy D. 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 Hiestler, Douglas Horngrad, Jeremy Johnson, Susanne Karch, Chad Kempel, Richard Keyes, Elsa Legesse\*, John Mallen, Rosemary Malvey\*, Edwin McCauley, June McKay\*, Eugenia Milioto, 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

### Contributions by:



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 with donations from readers and community members.

# Kid C.A.T Welcomes Guest

'I was impressed that an associate warden came'

By San Quentin News Staff

An audience of around 250 inmates, including many juvenile lifers, mingled with free people inside a prison chapel to learn about the introductory curriculum of a self-help group aimed at teaching juveniles who were tried as adults principles rooted in restorative justice.

The group, called Kid Creating Awareness Together, commonly called Kid C.A.T., teaches a three-phased curriculum, in eight modules over a 24-week period "to encourage continued self-discovery/improvement, accountability, cultivated consciousness, and empowerment," according to the group's promotional material.

The idea for the program came from San Quentin staff members and several prisoners who wanted to demonstrate to the public how young men that if given the chance could mature into responsible citizens, even though their incarceration began as juveniles.

"I became enamored about the stories of these men," said Brenda Rhodes, Kid C.A.T. sponsor. "They wanted to have a voice in the world. Telling their story to the world has a huge risk. It should be a story of opportunity and as a means to show redemption."

The group's facilitators are committed to educating its members through projects, including journal writing, creating short stories, poems, essays and artwork. The creativity is intended to inspire, and educate, placing emphasis on the human sides of participants.

San Francisco Public Defender Jeff Adachi spoke at the event and said that though he was unaware of Kid C.A.T. the group helps the public understand the criminal justice system. "Once people hear the stories, they will be willing to change some of the harsh laws that focus more on punishment than rehabilitation," he said. "The criminal justice system needs to do a better job in humanizing people who encounter it."

Kid C.A.T. member Miguel



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Brenda Galilee, Michael Tyler and Jordana Hall

Quezada, 32, who has been incarcerated since age 16, said, "Since the event included prison administrators and external community members who were connecting with prisoners, it created the bridge necessary to bring about changes that Kid C.A.T. envisions."

Several members of the group were featured in a three-minute trailer to a documentary. The men described who they were prior to incarceration, the process of maturing behind bars, and an understanding of the impact their crimes had on the victims, their families, and themselves. See the trailer is at [www.crvingsideways.com](http://www.crvingsideways.com).

*"The criminal justice system needs to do a better job in humanizing people who encounter it"*

Kid C.A.T. advisor Mike King said one of the focuses of the group is to create an outside organizing system that reaches kids through education and mentorship programs before they begin committing crimes.

"As an educator, the hardest thing to do is to check (his or her) ego at the door, said group facilitator Sonya Shah. "As educators, we need to make any learning experience about the group so they can develop themselves."

Antoine Brown, 35, who has

been incarcerated since age 17, said he was most impressed with speaker Phil Towle because of the interaction Towle had with his 17-year-old son.

"Phil was interested in the conversation I had with my son," he said. "That impressed me, to know that he's in tune with a man who's trying to be a father behind bars. That was motivation for me to stay on the right path."

Kid C.A.T. member, Michael Tyler emceed the event. Tyler has been incarcerated since age 17. "I compare this event to the Oscars," he said as he pointed out the "similarities" that all attendees shared, such as community, healing, and justice. "We're just trying to make the world a better place."

"I thought the event went well," said Elizabeth Calvin of Human Rights Watch. Calvin sponsored SB 260 which is legislation that permits juvenile offenders the opportunity for a sentence review after a specified period behind bars and good behavior.

"I was impressed that an associate warden came to see what we're about," said the group's chairman, Michael Nelson. For Nelson's, 31, incarceration began at age 15. He is serving a life sentence for first-degree murder.

Solano's Associate Warden, Kim Young, said she heard about our program from prisoners who transferred to Solano from San Quentin. She seemed intrigued to hear about us—wanting to get a program like Kid C.A.T. there. For an associate warden to recognize value in our program is really good."

"Elizabeth Calvin was also impressive," Nelson said. "She's worked on behalf of youth very diligently. One of her goals is to ensure the safety and welfare, of not just children, but public safety at the same time. The event inspired me to not wait for a possible parole date to begin change, rather to begin change today."

Kid C.A.T. has a newsletter, gives out pamphlets at reception centers, and has a juvenile lifers support group.

Community volunteer Jaimee Karroll was honored with a special seat at the event.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Guest and Kid C.A.T. Members enjoying the banquet

# California Passed its First Eugenics Law in 1909

By Tommy Winfrey  
Contributing Writer

As a part of a “racial betterment plan,” Germany practiced eugenics during the 1930s, according to the *British Journal of Urology*, but history shows California used the practice decades before the Germans.

Eugenics is not a word in everyday language. Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, coined the term. It means, “The science which deals with all influences that improve inborn qualities,” according to *British Journal of Urology*.

California passed its first eugenics law in 1909—specifically targeting patients in state hospitals and state prisoners, “who were inmates for life” or “showing sex or moral perversions, or were certain repeat offenders.”

In the heyday of California eugenics policies, 70 percent of sterilizations were performed on people who were mentally ill, and “those suffering from perversion or marked departures from normal mentality,” accord-

ing to *Eugenics Nation*.

Records show 20,108 people were forcibly sterilized before medical science discredited and disavowed this practice in the 1960s, reports *Eugenics Nation*. However, because of the “sensitive nature of sterilization records, many are difficult to access or may have been altered,” which, according to *From Legislation to Lived Experience*, may have deflated the actual number of people sterilized.

Under the eugenics program, San Quentin and Folsom State prisons sterilized numerous inmates as a way to alleviate undesirable traits, according to *Eugenics Nation*.

No medical sterilizations are being performed today, but California sentencing policies are achieving the same objective as turn of the century supporters

of eugenics.

As an example, offenders with life sentences are excluded from receiving conjugal visits from their spouses. Therefore,



Photo by www.asylumprojects.org

Norwalk State Hospital, now known as Metropolitan State Hospital, housed 825 patients in July 2002

these offenders cannot procreate.

Political writer Matt Taibbi of Rolling Stone magazine said something similar in a recent commentary about California’s Three Strike law in an article titled *The Stupidest Law Ever*.

Taibbi wrote, “Another re-

sult was that instead of dealing with problems like poverty, drug abuse and mental illness, we increasingly just removed them all from view by putting them in jail.”

Once incarcerated with life terms, individuals are removed from society and cannot produce offspring.

American history is inundated with examples of policies similar to eugenics.

During the 1950’s, states targeted African Americans, attempting to legislate sterilization of women on welfare, according to *Eugenics Nation*.

As late as 1994, there was legislation proposed by a group offering \$200 to women agreeing to sterilization. This was an effort to eliminate abuse of crack cocaine during the war on drugs, according to *The Real Costs of*

*Prisons*.

In a Prison Focus article, *Are Gang Members Special?* from The California Supreme Court To Pelican Bay, criminal justice policy is scrutinized for its treatment of so-called gang members: “By examining gang practices as special and unique, through the lens of clinical expertise, we have relegated gang members to the status of incorrigible specimens, who can only be studied, controlled, governed, and suppressed through special, dehumanizing technologies.”

Consistent with Eugenics Nation and the intent in the legislation purposed in the 1950’s and 1994, supporters of eugenics policies attempt to eliminate what lawmakers consider wayward elements of society “by segregating defectives in institutions and removing their ability to reproduce.”

The movement was so disturbing to then-Gov. Gray Davis, that he issued an official apology to the victims of eugenics in March of 2003, according to *Eugenics Nation*.

## Conservative Policies That Could Reduce Prison Cost and Recidivism

By San Quentin News Staff

Some leading conservative Republicans are behind some innovative criminal justice policies designed to bring down the cost of incarceration, reduce recidivism, and hold offenders accountable, while keeping communities safe, according to several reports.

The group spearheading the effort is Right on Crime [www.rightoncrime.com] a national campaign for conservative criminal justice reforms led by the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Marc Levin leads the campaign. He said the group utilizes some of the ideas that produced *The Second Chance Act* which

was passed by Congress April of 2008.

The U.S. Congress passed *The Second Chance Act*, April 2008.

Supporters said enhancing drug treatment for low-level offenders would help them overcome addictions. The act also provides finances for mentoring programs for children of incarcerated parents.

### SUPPORTERS

Supporters of *Right on Crime* include a former speaker of the U.S. House of Representative, Newt Gingrich, and a former leader of the California Republican Party, Pat Nolan.

“Our prisons might be worth

the current cost if the recidivism rate were not so high, but, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, half of the prisoners released this year are expected to be back in prison within three years,” Gingrich wrote in the Washington Post two years ago. “If our prison policies are failing half of the time, and we know that there are more humane, effective alternatives, it is time to fundamentally rethink how we treat and rehabilitate our prisoners.”

The conservative states of Texas, Georgia and South Dakota have changed their laws and budgets to reform their criminal justice systems. These changes have resulted in the states’ most-

dangerous offenders landing in prison, while low-level drug and mentally ill offenders are steered into treatment programs.

### POLICIES

Numerous conservative politicians across the nation have begun to support criminal justice policies that have a proven record for helping reintegrate ex-offenders back into communities, according to the *Weekly Standard*.

“While some politicians may have once judged their success in corrections by how many people are in prison, today we are asking different questions,” said Levin in a *Right on Crime* news release early this year. “How much crime

are we reducing with every dollar spent? How many victims are obtaining restitution? How many nonviolent ex-offenders are now in the workforce? In short, we must move from a system that grows when it fails to one that rewards results, and conservatives are on the front lines of this movement.”

An example of using some of the innovative policies supported by Right on Crime is New York, where the prison population has fallen by a quarter since 1999. At the same time, crime has fallen to the lowest rate since the 1960s, thanks in part to innovative policing strategies in New York City, according to *Right on Crime*.

## An Opinion About the 19 Women Sentenced To Life Without the Possibility of Paroling

By Jane Dorotik  
Contributing Writer

Today at the California Institute for Women, there are 19 women who have been sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Their profiles, their individual sentencing factors, their time incarcerated and their in-prison behavior exemplify two specific factors:

The main reason these women received this inhumane sentence is not because their crime was so much more egregious than any other serious crime. It is well recognized that the imposition of an LWOP sentence, as opposed to a term-to-life sentence, is much more a reflection of the judicial climate of the county where the prisoner is convicted, and the political aspirations of that particular district attorney.

These women present no

greater threat to public safety, if released into the community, than any other life prisoner. All of these women have been disciplinary-free for many years and present no danger to their community. Virtually all of them committed one single crime many years ago and are very unlikely to ever do so again. No one is attempting to minimize the tragedy of the occurrence, but are these women kept behind bars because they are a danger to society or to satisfy some perverted sense of blood lust for their crime?

We are specifically advocating that these women be considered eligible for an Elderly Alternative Custody Program (in other words, be eligible to spend the rest of their years in the community with an ankle bracelet).

These women have collectively spent 544 years in prison.

Utilizing an average life expectancy of age 80, they will spend another 355 remaining years collectively behind prison bars. Recognizing that all but five of these women are currently “Golden Girls,” costing an average of \$138,000, per year, per woman, to continue to incarcerate (and assuming the cost of incarceration will remain at today’s costs), the state will spend an additional \$48,000 per inmate to keep these 19 women behind bars for the rest of their lives.

The question becomes: is this really a wise use of valuable state funds?

Human Rights Watch publication *Old Behind Bars*, January 2012, asks the following question: “Does the continued incarceration of the aging and infirm constitute disproportionately severe punishment that

WOMEN LWOP PRISONERS			
Name	Prison ID#	Age	Medical
Karen Allen	W-18127	62	Yes
Connie Barbo	W-16869	63	Yes
Susan Bustamante	W-27953	57	No
Janet Dixon	W-15978	51	No
Rosemary Dyer	W-30483	60	Yes
June Gravlee	W-36328	59	Yes
Sally Hasper	W-25932	67	Yes
Velma Henderson	W-24470	78	No
Donna Jelenic	W-20077	68	No
Mary Jones	W-28413	73	Yes
Glynnis McKinney	W-42359	51	No
Ruby Padgett	W-26787	47	Yes
Roberta Pearce	W-36284	65	No
Mary Jane Richardson	W-55660	57	No
Doris Roldan	W-18177	74	Yes
Laura Troiani	W-27746	51	No
Mary Wry	W-16325	69	No
Debra Bockorny	W-50264	57	Yes
Patricia Ordway	X-22671	51	Yes

**These women have collectively spent 544 years in prison. Utilizing a average life expectancy of the age 80. They will spend another 355 years behind prison walls. An average cost of \$138,000 per year, per woman, to continue to incarcerate them. An additional \$48,990,000 will be spent to keep these 19 women behind bars for the rest of their lives.**

violates human rights even assuming acceptable conditions of confinement?”

In a recent report, *No Exit, The Expanded Use of Life Sentences in America*, one of the

recommendations for reform in eliminating sentences of life without parole.

–Jane Dorotik is a prisoner at the California Institute for Women.

# Uncounted Imprisoned Black Men Skew Census Data

## Estimate: Correct count would make bad numbers even worse

By Micheal “Yahya” Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

Researchers from the University of Washington have concluded that failing to include imprisoned black men in census data on the standing of African-Americans overstates black progress.

### STUDY

In an effort to quantify the growing proportion of black men incarcerated by age 20, Becky Pettit and Brian Skyes, sociologists at the University of Washington, focused their research on black men born between 1975 and 1979, who were high school dropouts. The implication of their study determined that “more young, black, low-skill men had been to prison than were alive.”

Pettit has presented her research in *Invisible Men: Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress*. According to the report, 68 percent of black men born between 1975 and 1979 who had dropped out of high school had been imprisoned at some point by 2009. Thirty-seven percent of blacks were incarcerated in that year alone.

One in four black children will have experienced the imprisonment of a parent by the time they turn 18. More young black dropouts are in prison or jail than have paying jobs. Black men are more likely to go to prison than to graduate with a four-year college degree or complete military service.

Black dropouts are more likely to spend at least a year in prison than to get married.

“Among low-skill black men,

spending time in prison has become a normative life event, furthering their segregation from mainstream society,” Pettit wrote.

She estimates that if black inmates were counted, the high school dropout rate would escalate to 19 percent and the employment rate among dropouts would decline to 26 percent — far more alarming than the statistics cited.

African-Americans make up nearly half of the 2.3 million people in prison. Neglecting to include them in the calculation of black progress, she argues, is akin to leaving states out of national counts.

“We collect data to evaluate public policy and allocate resources,” she said. “One could argue that we already provide social services to inmates, but

leaving them out of the data distorts measures of progress.”

Heather Mac Donald, of the conservative Manhattan Institute, said Pettit’s premise was credible but warned the fluctuating prison population might not be statistically large enough to take into consideration.

### DATA

According to federal data, 3.1 percent of black men were in state or federal prison at the end of 2010. Among black men age 30 to 34, 7.3 percent were serving a sentence of more than a year.

Orlando Patterson, a Harvard sociologist, said while “black progress is not a myth, the simple tragic truth is that a large number of young black men do engage in violent acts and other forms of criminal behavior.”

“Over 80 percent of black children have been abandoned emotionally and, usually economically by their fathers,” he said. “It is not the case that black children are deprived of paternal, emotional, and economic support because their fathers are in prison; rather, their fathers are in prison in good part because their own fathers had abandoned them emotionally and economically.”

The reason can be argued ad infinitum, but Pettit is firm in her premise: “Decades of penal expansion coupled with the concentration of incarceration among men, black, and those with low levels of education, have generated a statistical portrait that overstates the educational and economic progress and political engagement of African-Americans.”

# Habeas Corpus Ruling Limit Prisoners Constitutional Rights

Continued from Page 1

Thirty-seven years later, in *Rogers v. Tennessee*, the court permitted the retroactive refusal to apply a common law rule.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg who wrote the court’s opinion said, “Taking away the diminished capacity defense after the fact is more like a due process violation than the non-violation found in *Rogers*, but less like a due process violation than the violation found in *Bouie*.”

In other words, Lancaster’s conviction was like a due pro-

cess violation but not enough to matter, Dorf concludes. Pundits, who have observed long-term trends on the Court, were surprised by this recent unanimous decision.

### STATUTE

Dorf said, “In deference to the supposed good faith of the state courts, the statute and the relevant precedent say that state courts need only try to apply the rules that were on the books at the time of the state court proceedings.”

He continued, “So long as there is room for a reasonable

disagreement, then the Michigan courts refusal to find a due process violation in Lancaster’s could not be deemed unreasonable.”

Federal courts were reluctant to grant relief — even a flawed one, so long as the state court had proper jurisdiction over the case.

According to Dorf, there are three reasons the U.S. Supreme Court made this decision, even if Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act justified its ruling

First, he contends, “Politicians at every level and in both

major parties have little to lose by being tough on crime. Republicans and Democratic politicians have mostly concluded that there is no political angle for them in supporting civil liberties for criminal defendants.”

Secondly, he said, “That attitude has seeped into the judiciary, including Democratic appointees.”

### DECISION

After all, it was Justice Ginsberg, a President Clinton appointee, who argued that the Michigan courts’ decision on Lancaster’s due process viola-

tion was not “unreasonable.”

“It is nearly impossible to imagine a similar opinion being written by any of the earlier generation of liberal Justices,” said Dorf. “They appeared to think that the constitutional right to habeas corpus extends to collateral review of state court convictions.

Even though his third reason is highly speculative, Dorf said, “it is possible that the court’s unanimous willingness to interpret the habeas rights of state prisoner narrowly arises out of the Bush/Obama detention policies.”

# Free After 15 Years of Incarceration

Continued from Page 1

didn’t care about not knowing my father. Knowing him probably would’ve given me more of an identity.”

Adding to his insecurities, Scott said, his mother “was trying to raise me right; however, the male role models that I encountered were not helpful to my growth.”

Without a strong foundation, Scott said he felt detached from his household. “My disconnection with my family made it easy for me to turn towards the streets and into the gang life at the age of 13,” he said.

During the first few years of incarceration, Scott said he felt “fear, anxiety, and a sense of hopelessness and helplessness. I was uncertain of my future and unsure what would happen to me. I thought I would spend the rest of my life in prison.”

Once Scott arrived at San Quentin in 2008, he said he took advantage of various programs, including Non-Violent Communication, VEOG, and IMPACT. He said he was the first in his family to get a col-

lege degree when he graduated from Patten University this year.

“A collaboration of people has been supportive and instrumental to my growth during this process -- Stewart and Israel, Darnell Hill, Shaheed. It is just too many people to name,” Scott said smiling.

**“People don’t know how much my heart hurts for the person and his family I destroyed”**

The New York Times published an article he wrote “about how prison is too violent for young offenders and the transformations that should take place for juveniles,” adding, “Prison is too violent for juveniles, they should be in a setting that’s conducive towards rehabilitation.”

As a convicted teenager, Scott said he spent his time focusing on youth issues.

In 2010, he co-founded Kid C.A.T. Creating Awareness Together, a program that “inspires humanity through education, mentorship, and restorative practices,” according to its mission statement.

On June 12, during the Kid C.A.T. banquet, Chairman Michael Nelson gave a special congratulation to Scott for overcoming his incarceration and being paroled.

Scott was also involved with the SQUIRES program—an organization within San Quentin that mentors at-risk youth in hopes of encouraging young people in a positive direction. “Working with the kids, seeing the way we impact their lives, makes me want to continue the process,” Scott said.

“Malachi is one of the most thoughtful and sincere people I know,” said San Quentin Facebook adviser Lizzie Buchen. “I’ve learned a lot from him — how to stay focused on your priorities, how to confront people with compassion, how to



Photo by Kay McNamara

Richard Lindsey, San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez, Gary Scott and S.Q. News Adviser Steve McNamara at Insight Prison Project showing of documentary “Unlikely Friends.”

approach every situation with integrity and an open heart. I can’t wait to see what he accomplishes now that he’s free.”

“He showed me the ropes on how to cover a sports story for the S.Q. News, and I hope I can make him proud,” said San Quentin A’s player Ruben Harper, who is now handling sports for the newspaper.

Scott said rehabilitation begins with “learning about us, learning how our behaviors

impact others. Keep taking responsibility; until that happens you don’t know where to start.”

“The first thing I want to do is work with at-risk youth. And I want to be a motivational speaker through Hip Hop,” said Scott. He added, “I want to come back and give back to San Quentin or anywhere to tell my story.”

— Phoeun You contributed to this article

## EDITORIAL

# Make a Change for the Better

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

The San Quentin News has added four pages for a total of 20, plus more color photos, and expanded distribution to other prisons. We plan to continue these evidences of growth, providing funds from contributors are available.

The new and improved San Quentin News allows us to provide more news stories and photos based on matters that are of interest and importance to prisoners, staff and the public.

One important source of stories and funds is fellow prisoners. We appreciate you wanting to participate in our effort to publish the best prisoner publication possible. Prisoners' personal stories may help others understand why they chose a life of crime. We welcome contributions and stories that

tell about the turning point in a prisoner's life.

Those who have not made that choice to change their lifestyle should also write us and tell us why. Would you accept help from those who may provide you with helpful information or guidance? Let us know.

One of those stories is my own. Here's an overview:

I was 47 years old before I decided my lifestyle was getting me nowhere, except back to prison. This time with a sentence of 65 years-to-life for burglary and failure to appear. I was sentenced under the Three Strikes Law.

San Quentin has more self-help programs than any of the 33 California prisons.

What changed for me was when my mother bailed me out of jail after everyone else gave up on me. She wanted me to promise her that I would quit using heroin. I knew it would

be difficult, but I did.

I went to Mexico because I wanted to change. I didn't want to spend another day in prison, and Mexico was where my life was transformed.

I worked on a ranch alongside other Mexicanos who never complained about hard work or low pay. That's where I learned to appreciate the American dollar.

I wouldn't work in the United States for minimum wages, but it was OK to work for 600 pesos a week, the equivalent of 45 American dollars, well below the U.S. minimum wage.

I fled to Mexico, a country that is labeled for exporting drugs into the United States, allegedly causing so much addiction. However, the truth is there would be no drug traffic without drug users in America.

The United States government wants to spend billions of dollars on trying to take down

the drug cartels, which are now filling the Mexican prisons and having the same overcrowding problems California prisons are having. The strategy won't solve the problem. End the demand, and the drug problem will evaporate.

The solution: treat our addicts, and provide alternatives to our people including education and job training.

My mother always told me that if I have a child, I would change and appreciate the value of life. She was right, because I kicked my heroin addiction in Mexico and fathered a child who made me want to be with her everyday of her life.

My mother died while I was in Mexico, but I stayed sober to raise my daughter. A phone call

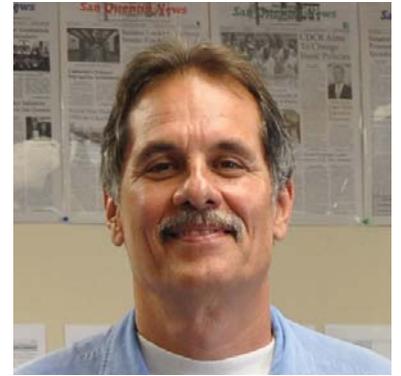


Photo by Sam Heames

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia

back to the U.S. caused my arrest in Mexico 18 months after her death.

At the age of 60, I have been clean for over 13 years. As Editor-in-Chief of the San Quentin News, I am heavily involved with several self-help groups. I have participated in and completed more than 30 such groups over the past 13 years. I encourage others to look into what is available.

Here's my advice: no matter how old you are, you can turn your life around if you're willing to make the effort.

# Carpenter Reveals Himself to San Quentin News

'A few friends come to visit me, and I am extremely grateful to them'

*Continued from Page 1*

there and those who are in contact with him."

"A few friends come to visit me, and I am extremely grateful to them," Carpenter said that he receives visits about once a month. When he's not working on his legal case or writing letters, his favorite television stations are ABC's Channel 7 and KQED-Channel 9. He listens to both 1050 and 1140 AM Bay Area sports radio stations for daily updates on his favorite teams.

Carpenter 83, is the oldest man on San Quentin's Death Row and one of the oldest in the country, and he has been on Death Row since 1984. "Despite my age, I'm relatively healthy. My medical issues are minor in comparison to others here [on death row] and I have them under control," Carpenter insisted.

David Carpenter insisted that he is innocent of the murders of which he was convicted.

Authorities said Carpenter was guilty of these crimes based on his association with a young student. "They claimed I was the logical suspect. By then, everyone believed I was the Trailside Killer. It began because I was supposed to pick up Heather Scaggs on May 2, 1981 but I did not. That is why I became the logical suspect," said Carpenter.

"I was convicted by the media long before I was even found guilty of a crime."

According to [www.CrimeLibrary.com](http://www.CrimeLibrary.com), "A DNA sample obtained from the evidence was matched to Carpenter through state Department of Justice files. In February 2010, San Francisco police confirmed the match with a recently obtained sample from Carpenter."

Carpenter says he commits many waking hours to pouring over the details of his murder convictions. After 30 years, he said he knows the details by heart. His claims of innocence have been rejected at every level of the judicial system.

The trailside killings involved multiple victims on hiking trails near San Francisco and Santa Cruz.

Carpenter pointed out some investigators thought he might, in fact, be the Zodiac Killer, who was also active some years before and who was never caught. But they later dropped that line of inquiry after handwriting and DNA analysis cleared him. Carpenter said this was proof that investigators had it in for him.

At this point during the interview, because of the din of San Quentin's East Block Condemned Row, to better facilitate the interview, Carpenter scooted closer toward the front of his bunk in the small condemned cell to be heard more clearly.

Carpenter, who has a pronounced speech impediment, accommodated the interviewer in front of his cell, #1-EB-114L, on San Quentin's Death Row, at midday on June 18, 2013.

He was unyielding while making his argument about not being the "monster" as painted by the media. "For weeks, newspapers published stories about me, the supposed Trailside Killer," said Carpenter.

On July 6, 1984, in Los Angeles County, Carpenter was convicted of first-degree murder. The penalty phase jury found multiple "special circumstances" that warranted the death penalty.

***"I was convicted by the media long before I was even found guilty of a crime."***

Carpenter's second trial involving a second group of victims began in San Diego in January 1988. Although few witnesses were called to testify in his defense in his Los Angeles trial, in the San Diego trial, more than 30 defense witness testified.

Carpenter disagrees with accounts that he had no alibi during some of the murders. "Investigators said that if I did not have an alibi, then I must be guilty. I produced credible alibis and they knew it. But even where there wasn't an alibi, that does not make someone guilty," he said.

Prosecutors assert that Carpenter "offered carefully constructed alibis," by claiming

that he had either "altered or that he's been mistaken about some of the dates." Carpenter said that prosecutors' accounts of his alibis were "carefully twisted to sway the jury into believing my alibis were false."

Carpenter took the stand, but in May that same year, he was convicted of five more murders. Just as the Los Angeles jury had done, the San Diego jury also recommended the death penalty.

His mantra is, "prosecutorial misconduct" or abuses by law enforcement.

Carpenter's defense team, he said, "discovered that jury forewoman, Barbara Durham, revealed she lied under oath" of her knowledge about his convictions in Los Angeles in 1984 for the Santa Cruz murders. A fact that he said prosecutors were aware of beforehand. A new trial was ordered by Appeals Court Judge Herbert Hoffman who said by law he "had to order a new trial."

The state Supreme Court, however, upheld the death penalty on two of the killings in 1997, and upheld Carpenter's death penalty from his second trial in 1999. Six of seven judges agreed that Carpenter had a fair trial for the Marin County and Santa Cruz murders and had been sentenced appropriately.

On March 6, 1995 Carpenter was denied a new trial by the California Supreme Court in San Francisco, overturning Judge Hoffman's order for a new trial. Justice Armand

Arabian said it was "virtually impossible to keep secrets in such cases," and he "believed that the forewoman's knowledge had not unduly biased the jury."

With just a few minutes left on the interview, Carpenter said he could not go into any further details due to his ongoing appeals and the advice of his attorneys.

To close the interview, Carpenter was asked, "If and when authorities ever catch the real Trailside Killer, what do you hope happens to that person?"

Carpenter's response was, "I hope he gets a fair trial."

David Carpenter remains on Death Row in San Quentin pending the exhaustion of all his appeals, which he suspects might take up to four more years, and possible execution.

San Quentin's Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson said that Carpenter "has been very compliant and conforming during the time he has spent on death row. He's not been a problem."

According to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), "Since 1978, 59 condemned prisoners in California have died from natural causes, 22 have committed suicide and 13 have been executed." There are 725 prisoners on death row in California. The last state sanctioned execution carried out in California was in 2006, bringing the number to 13—all men.

# Facing the World on Your Own at a Young Age

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Independence is a goal that many men and women strive for as they reach adulthood. One of the first steps that many make in the direction of independence is to leave their parents' home and get a job.

"Asked On The Line" conducted random, informal interviews with 21 mainliners and asked: How old were you when you left your parent's home to live on your own? What was your first paycheck job? What did you do?

Twelve of the 21 men, or about 57 percent, who were interviewed left home as teenagers, between the ages of 13 and 19.

Ten of the men, or about 48 percent, were minors under the age of 18 when they left home.

Nou Thou, P.J. Ai, and Andre Yance never had a job and left home to be on their own as they came straight into the prison system. They each began their incarceration as juveniles.

Danny Ho and Al Fredericks were both 20 when they left home. Ho's first paycheck came through working for a temporary agency as an electronics assembler. Fredericks worked as a dishwasher at a restaurant.

E. Philips was 18 when he left home to work at UPS.

Six men left home at the age of 17: Darnell Hill, Brian Asey, Armando Mendez, Chris Scull, Kenyatta Leal, and Ar-Raheem Malik.

Hill worked at a liquor store as a stock person and cashier, Asey worked at Burger King as a crew worker, Scull worked at Subway Sandwiches as a sandwich artist, Leal worked at Don's Furniture as a re-furbisher, and Malik worked at a YMCA as a janitor.

"I started as a crew worker and

then went to cashier and within six months I was crew chief," said Asey.

"I worked a variety of jobs," said Leal. "After Don's Furniture, I worked at a restaurant called Steer & Stine as a dishwasher, at Howard's Buffet as a busboy, at Vaughn's as a stock boy, and then at a construction company called Rancho Trust hanging drywall."

Mendez never had a job. "I got involved in delinquencies to support myself," said Mendez.

Martin Gomez, Ruben Harp-

er, and Dean Thomas were all 16 when they left home.

Gomez's first job was as a field worker, Harper worked at McDonald's, and Thomas worked as a mechanic.

Arturo Avalos left home at 15, while Andre Yance left at 14.

Avalos' first job was at a sewing machine company in Mexico but Yance's never had a job with a paycheck. "I made money by washing and vacuuming cars for cash. I charged \$3 per car," said Yance. "I couldn't get a regular job at that age because I had to take care of my little brother."

Some waited a bit longer to leave home. Jim Mardis left his parent's home when he was 27 and his first job was as a bus-

## Asked On The Line

## Guest Lecturer Francis Chan Makes Special Appearance at San Quentin

By Kenneth Brydon  
Contributing Writer

The Golden Gate Baptist Seminary at San Quentin received guest lecturer Francis Chan, 45, on May 17.

Chan's story is that of a man who, in the Christian realm, "had it all." As the pastor of a mega church and author of books on the New York Times Best Seller list, he enjoyed fame, fortune and status that was both commendable and respectable. Chan said he "gave it all up" to do what he sees as

God's true call and the purpose for his life.

A crowd of about 20 seminary students sat in the Garden Chapel Fellowship listening to Chan speak with great energy and satisfaction at the choices that ultimately brought him to the Bay Area two years ago.

"The world understood better what I'm doing than those in the church," said Chan of his decision to sell everything and move with his wife and five children to slums in India where they ministered to the poor.

Their journey took them from India to China and then to Thailand. Chan's work centered on service to rejected members of society and in helping those enslaved by human trafficking. He said it led him to understand that Christianity comes with a heavy price.

"You'll only call yourself a Christian if you're ready to give everything up," Chan said. "How they live in China and India, that's the Bible that I read about."

Still, Chan felt a call to return to the U.S. and to minister in San Francisco's Tenderloin. As he was searching out the reason for coming to this area, a man with tattoos on his face stopped and asked if he was Francis Chan.

"I did your video series in prison," he told Chan.

Soon, the ex-con and his family were living with Chan and his family. From his initial



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

The Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in San Quentin's Central Plaza

ministry to this one individual, it grew to a restaurant out on Hunters Point, and the beginnings of a ministry to disciple people who are paroling and in difficult circumstances.

Chan is now involved in a growing dynamic of *Home Churches*. From a congregation of over 5,000, he now pastors a flock of 20. He intends that in about a year's time, the congregation he is now leading will go off and start other

*Home Churches*.

"I used to be Kobe, but now I'm Phil Jackson. I'm a coach, not the star," Chan said, comparing his new role to that of his former ministry.

Chan remains connected to the churches in which his ministry once stood out. He sees himself living moment by moment here and now, and believes God is directing him to minister to parolees and the incarcerated.

## A Texas Prison Official Finds Inmate Friendship

By Samuel Hearnes  
Journalism Guild Writer

Texas prison officials determined that Facebook friendships alone do not violate the ban on fraternization between prisoners and staff, according to an American-Statesman news story.

The decision came after a correctional sergeant at Huntsville State Prison was fired last May for being Facebook friends with an inmate at the prison.

Huntsville Warden James Jones fired Heath Lara, the correctional sergeant, according to the report. The regional director upheld the decision.

Lara appealed because the prisoner, Gary Wayne Sanders, who is currently serving 72 years for a 1990 murder conviction, was "merely a high-school acquaintance." Lara said he did not know Sanders was a prisoner at the institution where he was employed, the report states.

Through his own efforts, Lara found that Sanders was Facebook friends with more than a dozen other correctional employees, including Jerry McGinty, the director of finance for the Texas Department of Criminal

Justice, according to the report. According to Jason Clark, a representative for the department, McGinty was also unaware that Sanders was incarcerated.

Because of this revelation, Lara, a 10-year veteran with the department with no previous rule violations, was reinstated.

"Additional investigation showed he had no relationship with this inmate," Clark said. "There was no correspondence or anything. There was no security concern there."

Facebook is a social networking site where, among other things, users can contact and maintain ties with long lost friends and relatives. Users type in the name of the person they wish to befriend, and it is then up to the other party to accept or deny the friendship request.

In the months following Lara's case, many wardens have ordered investigations into Texas prison guards' Facebook accounts. At least three other employees have been fired for having Facebook friends who are either currently or formerly incarcerated, and many say they have been ordered to remove anyone they do not personally know from their friends.

## Oregon Groups Debate Over Voter-Approved Mandatory Minimum Prison Sentences

By Micheal "Yahya" Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

Oregon politicians and law enforcement groups are fighting over efforts to reduce voter-approved mandatory minimum prison sentences.

### MANDATORY MINIMUM

Liberals claim the mandatory minimum terms are too harsh, and will overload prisons, and law enforcement ranks insist they are appropriate, the *Register-Guard* newspaper reported.

While the legislators continue to press for removing mandatory minimum sentences for property and drug offenses, amendments to drop mandatory minimums for violent crimes are being rejected.

"The goal has been to shift costs out of 'hard' (prison) beds

and make an investment at the community level," said Democratic Sen. Floyd Prozanski, who played a central role in examining prison reforms.

If the state can successfully reduce the prison population, the projected saving of approximately \$30 million over the next two years was to be divvied up among Oregon's 36 counties. Those counties would determine which community corrections programs to fund.

### COMPROMISE

Some of the proposed reforms violate "truth in sentencing" legislation, a Lane County district attorney said to the *Register-Guard*. The money offered by the state for "community corrections" isn't enough to drive down the need for prison beds, he added.

A compromise counter-

proposal by Oregon district attorneys includes removing mandatory minimum sentences for repeat drug offenders. Law officials might agree to legislation for new sentencing changes only if the prison population grew to the point where a new prison facility is required, stated an official from the district attorney's office.

### ADVOCATES

Advocates insist the proposed reforms of mandatory sentences for property and drug offenses are needed, said Shannon Wight of the Portland-based *Partnership for Safety and Justice*.

"We hope (lawmakers) are going to stay on track" with their proposal," she said. "It's about getting back to what the system does best, and that's funding (preventive) programs at the local level."

# Fighting for a Chance at a New Beginning

'I truly believe I was locked up before I ever experienced a prison cell'

By Tommy Winfrey  
Contributing Writer

After 25 years in and out of prison, Adam Verdoux, 42, is preparing to parole for the fourth time. But this time will be different, he said.

First incarcerated when he was 17, Verdoux has served time in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina before he migrated to California, where he robbed a bank in San Francisco, leading to his most recent conviction.

He has taken a more proactive approach to this parole.

Already, he has set up an internship with the violence prevention program Man-Alive, which he became involved with in jail. He plans to continue his education with support from Project Rebound, which will help him to obtain a masters degree in social work from San Francisco State University.

The path to an internship and graduate school was hardly a straight one.

Verdoux said he grew up surrounded by violence. At the age of 8, he attacked his stepfather when he saw him beating his mother. From that moment on, fighting became a way of life.

He dropped out of high school at the age of 15. By 17, he was incarcerated.

"I truly believe I was locked up before I ever experienced a prison cell," Verdoux said.

In the county jail, Verdoux began to seek help. He tried to



Photo by Sgt. Baxter

Warden K. Chappell shaking hands with Adam Verdoux outside San Quentin prison walls

get into a drug program, but he was rejected because of his violent history. Verdoux scoffed at this news because he did not believe he had a problem with violence. But the program coordinator reminded him that he was locked in administrative segregation for fighting.

He was, however, accepted into Man-Alive, the violence prevention program where he is interning after his release.

"The Man-Alive program changed my life," he said.

The program helped him

realize that he was not born violent, but the violence was a learned behavior. He stayed in the Man-Alive program for two years until he was sent to prison.

He arrived at the San Quentin reception center in March 2010 and was sent to the mainline in June of the same year.

Verdoux took all the skills he had learned in the county jail and applied them to his life in prison. He enrolled in self-help programs and the Prison University Program, which were

instrumental in validating the things he learned through the violence prevention program.

He said academia — classes like sociology, social psychology and neuroscience — allowed him to examine objectively the cycle of violence that he had been immersed in his whole life.

Verdoux said he knows that if he had not been raised in a violent home, his life might have been different. But his first memories are of crying, arguing and violence, so that is

how he adapted to the world.

"A child must be taught a moral education," he said, quoting Aristotle.

Now, he is using his fighting spirit to obtain positive change in his life. The fear of the unknown makes stepping out of prison scarier this time, he said, because he will be living life in a different way.

But Verdoux believes the transformation he underwent during his incarceration has brought the freedom he had been missing his whole life.

## Survey Show Many Former Foster Care Residents Are Homeless or Imprisoned

By Charles David Henry  
Staff Writer

A significant number of former foster care residents wind up homeless or in prison, according to a survey by the state Senate Office of Research and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

More than 2,500 male and female prison inmates who were due for parole were surveyed. Fourteen percent were former foster care children.

"There were 171,000 inmates incarcerated in California's prison system in 2008," the survey reported. More than 350 respondents, who served time, said they had "been in foster care homes and group homes at some point in their lives."

### REPORT

In the report, "31 percent of the males, and 35 percent of the females" lived in foster care.

A larger number of inmates lived in group homes. Fifty-two percent of male and 45 percent of female respondents spent time in these facilities.

The report suggests that inmates with a foster care history may need programs tailored to their particular experiences. It also suggests that children be allowed to remain in foster care up to age 21. They are now excluded, in most cases, at age 18.

It was reported that 41 percent of men lived in foster care one to five years. Forty percent of the females stayed in these facilities for more than five years.

Seventy percent of those surveyed were between 13 and 19 years old when they left foster care.

Twenty-one percent of the males reportedly left because they reached the foster care age limit of 18 years. Fifteen percent were females, according to the report.

One category in the survey revealed the amount of time between leaving foster care and going to prison. It showed more than 49 percent of the male and female inmates entered prison more than five years after leaving foster care. Fifty-five percent were men.

### STATISTIC

One important statistic had the number for males and females who left foster care before turning 18-years-old. The report revealed 35 percent of the females' surveyed left foster care because they "reunited with family before reaching age 18," while 30 percent of the males reconnected with their family before reaching 18.

Another startling statistic showed 33 percent of females "ran away from foster care," compared to 11 percent for males.

In the report, males and females who aged out of the

system were asked to describe their housing arrangements after leaving foster care. Fifty-two percent of the females said they "had a place to stay for one year or more." Six women interviewed were "homeless with no plan for housing" after leaving foster care. Thirty-five percent of males said they had housing for at least a year, but 26 men went homeless with no plan for housing after leaving foster care.

"Of the surveyed inmates who had either aged out or run away from their foster care arrangement, slightly more than one-third (36 percent) of the male and female inmates had been homeless at some point during the first year on their own. A higher percentage of females (43 percent) compared to males (35 percent) reported being without a home during their first year after foster care," the report states.

Latino males made up 34 percent of California's population in 2008, but made up the largest

percentage (39%) of men in prison in 2008. Sixty-six Latinos interviewed for the study had lived in foster care.

### POPULATION

The report showed black males made up only six percent of the overall population of California in 2008, but comprised 29 percent of the prison system. Thirty-three percent of those surveyed lived in foster care before going to prison.

According to the report, white men made up 45 percent of California's population in 2008. They made up 26 percent of the prison population that year. Thirty-one percent said they "lived in foster care before going to prison."

"Policymakers could improve and develop new services for foster care teens who are trying to navigate their paths to independence — particularly services that could more effectively help ward off potential interactions with the criminal justice system," the report concludes.

# Juvenile Lifer Finds Hope in Senate Bill 260

*The San Quentin News accepted this article from an anonymous lifer because of the importance of its content to young men and women who had to mature under extremely adverse conditions. DLS said he believes more of his peers would identify with it if the story were published this way.*

## By Inmate DLS

At the age of 11, lacking inner strength and maturity, I had given in to peer pressures and began using drugs and committing crimes. At 13, I began abusing alcohol, and at 14 I was initiated as a member of a street gang.

When I was 16 years old my "friend," another gang member, and I were armed with a firearm when we committed a robbery that resulted in a young man being brutally and senselessly murdered.

## VICTIM

Our victim, who was only 11 years old, at the very onset of a promising and a hopeful future, lost his life and was forever taken away from his loving family. My crime partner and I received "life" terms in state prison and had thoroughly devastated our own families and our local community by our actions. I've since lived everyday of the last fifteen years with deep regret for all of the harm I caused.

After being sentenced to 16-

years-to-life for second-degree murder, I was moved from juvenile detention to a state prison reception center before being transferred to a level 4 maximum-security prison mainline. Being incarcerated for the first time, I was terrified for my safety and my future although I made every effort not to show it. I was soon led to thoroughly believe that as a "lifer" I was eventually going to die in prison one way or another, and that there was no chance of ever going home.

I felt as if there was nothing to work towards; no reason to want to better myself, and my future was ultimately death in prison. Thinking that adaptation was the key to mental and physical survival. I wrongly chose to submerge myself into the penitentiary "convict" lifestyle and culture, and I took on the related mentality and distorted system of values that exists within these prison walls.

It was almost ten years into my prison sentence before I finally had my "wake-up" moment. I finally saw the "light at the end of the tunnel" and I started to feel like I might actually make it out of prison one day, have a normal life, and live it right. I was given a real sense of hope. But it was seriously enforced upon me that my release would have to be earned.

Reform, self-awareness, positive growth, self-rehabilitation, the development and exercise of

self-control, self-discipline, integrity, and moral values were to become an everyday mandatory program. Just as much as rolling up my mattress first thing every morning, and keeping my shoes on all day until the bar-lock was racked closed every night.

## CHANGE

I now had an incentive with something positive to work hard towards. Seeing other inmates repair their lives, making amends, giving back, finding inner peace, and actually being released was an enormous inspiration to me.

In retrospect though, did it really need to take so long for me to realize that I could be rehabilitated. That I should want to be, and that rehabilitation was the key to "freedom" within myself and to possibly being released someday?

If hope, an incentive, and inspiration were given or at least offered to me as a viable option when I first came into prison at 17 years old, would it have taken so long for me to get my priorities straight, fix my life up, steer myself away from "115's" (disciplinary citations), stay out of Administrative Segregation and keep myself away from all the internal prison "politics" and negativity that would serve to stunt my personal growth and keep me here in prison?

I take full responsibility and I don't blame anyone or anything

else for all the negative choices I've made in my life and while here in prison. But as a juvenile offender, if more specific and personalized consideration was given to both my obvious and underlying rehabilitative needs by the courts and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, would it have made a positive difference in my life, to my future, and to my ability to contribute back to society? Yes. And the same would hold true for any other juvenile offender.

Recently a bill was introduced that addresses the issue of juveniles sentenced as adults for serious crimes. Senate Bill 260 serves to show errant youth that society still cares about them, and believes that they can be rehabilitated and one day become a contributing member of society as a mature, responsible adult; and that they don't have to waste their lives away in prison. This is not a "get out of jail free card."

It will hold juvenile offenders responsible for their harmful acts by requiring them to serve a minimum of 10 years in prison before being able to petition to a court for a review of the remainder of their sentence.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

A petitioner must demonstrate their acceptance of responsibility and their level of remorse for their crime and their victims.

They must show that they've made every effort to rehabilitate themselves through self-help groups and programming. They must show that they have acquired marketable job skills and furthered their education. Their prison disciplinary record will be taken into consideration. And the victim(s) and/or victim's family will be notified, and allowed to attend any possible re-sentencing hearing, and be able to make statements. A judge would then have the discretion to suspend, modify, or stay the remainder of the juvenile offender's sentence based on an evaluation of all these factors. Senate Bill 260 gives minors who have taken a turn down the wrong path the desperately needed hope and incentive that they need to truly want to better themselves in an effort to be able to earn their freedom. Senate Bill 260 inspires positive change for our errant youth, and shows that society still wants them to have a better future.

I hereby pledge my full support for this bill, authored by Loni Hancock, which is currently undergoing the legislative process before hopefully going up to the governor to be signed into law. Without a doubt, much more needs to be done to prevent juveniles from committing crimes in our neighborhoods, to help at-risk youths and incarcerated minors, and for juvenile justice reform. [www.fairsentencingforyouth.org](http://www.fairsentencingforyouth.org).

**1. Washington, D.C.** – In an effort to reduce the number of prisoners in federal penitentiaries, Utah Republican Rep. Jason Chaffetz, is proposing a post-sentencing bill that would send drug offenders and other low-risk offenders to halfway houses or home confinement using ankle-bracket monitoring, reports The Salt Lake Tribune.

**2. St. Louis, Mo.** – The state's Department of Corrections is celebrating its 10th year helping local underprivileged school-children with school supplies, reports St. Louis Today.com. Offenders in the DOC Restorative Justice program provide KidSmart, a nonprofit organization, with coloring books, journals, flashcards, bookmarks, notepads, and learning games. No tax dollars are used in the endeavor.

**3. Roanoke, Va.** – More than 25 percent of the 12,000 prisoners released by the state each year return within three years. Virginia CARES assists more than 400 of the ex-offenders with employment services, reports Roanoke.com. The organization works with a \$105,000 annual budget.

**4. Miami, FL.** – All 60 prison facilities are scheduled to offer kosher meals by end of the year, reports The Associated Press. Prison officials say the plan will follow strict Jewish dietary rules.

**5. Tennessee** – GED certifi-



cates were awarded to 36 prisoners incarcerated at Corrections Corporation of America's Hardeman County Correctional Center on May 17, reports the Jackson Sun.

**6. Jackson, Miss.** – A class-action lawsuit filed against a state prison alleges prisoners are isolated for long periods in "barbaric" conditions, with cell infested with rats and broken toilets. In addition, the suit claims prisoners are denied access to medical and mental health services, The

Associated Press reports.

**7. Hennepin County, Minn.** – Drug busts doubled from 2010 to 2012, according to county officials. Heroin deaths and overdoses climbed to a record level. There have been 37 drug-related deaths so far this year, with 15 of them due to heroin overdoses, reports the Star Tribune.

**8. Anniston, Ala.** – State officials report its prisons are 192 percent over designed capacity. To avoid a federal order implementing a population cap for

prisons, state representatives are planning to build a new women's prison.

**9. New Haven, Mich.** – Prison officials are bringing community college courses and vocational training into the prison system. The program targets a small number of offenders who are near parole, the Detroit News reports. There are 42,000 prisoners in the state's 31 prisons, and nearly half begin their sentences without a high school diploma or GED.

**10. New York, N.Y.** – A task force studied the 1.1 million-student city school system to find out how student misbehavior was handled during the 2011-12 school years, reports the New York Times. The report found that an "overwhelming majority" of 70,000 suspensions were for minor misconduct, which was a 40 percent increase from the previous six years. The report recommended that an inter-agency leadership team be developed, comprised of educators, social service officials and court officials, with the goal of keeping students safe in school while decreasing the use of the harshest punishments.

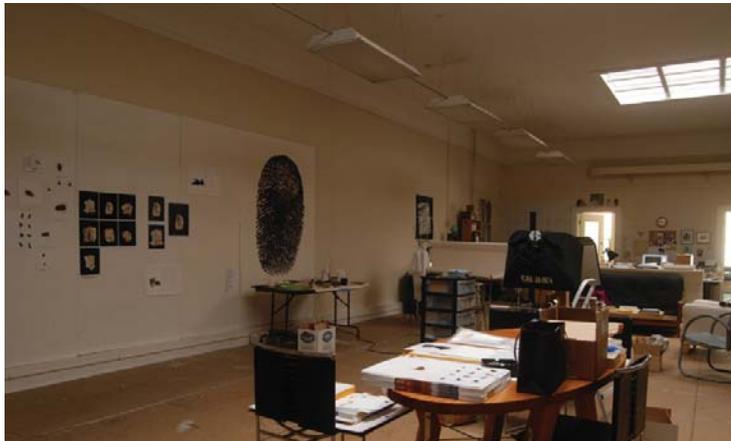
**11. Richmond, Va.** – Ras-Solomon Tarari, 35, spent more than 10 years in segregation for refusing to cut hair, reports the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Tarari said he conformed to the grooming standards so he can be transferred from the prison where he suffered beatings, a stroke, and other injuries.

**12. Ohio** – Three of the state's juvenile correctional facilities are among the top 13 facilities in the U.S. for rape and other sexual acts forcefully committed against juvenile offenders, reports The Columbus Dispatch. The U.S. Justice Department of Bureau of Justice Statistics found the three juvenile facilities had sexual-assault rates of 30.3, 23.3, and 19.8 percent respectively.

# Nigel Poor's Passion for Photography

By Tommy Winfrey  
Contributing Writer

In the nearly three years Nigel Poor, 50, has been volunteering in San Quentin, her perceptions about life have broadened.



The studio where Poor enjoys her works

"I have been privileged to see the people some of society considers invisible," she said.

Poor is an artist who has tenure at Sacramento State, where she has taught photography for the last 10 years.

She started teaching an art appreciation class on photography with Doug Dertinger at San Quentin through the Prison University Project, which gave her the opportunity to meet the men in blue.

Human nature has always fascinated Poor—a fascination that led her to teaching at San Quentin. Although she has always considered herself an artist, Poor has worked various odd jobs to support her endeavors, including being a cook, maid, chauffeur, English as a second language teacher and studio assistant.

"It's not what you do for a living, it's about ideas," Poor said, explaining how she has been exposed to ideas she could never have conceived of before coming into San Quentin. "I hear stuff I never imagined, things I never thought of before."

After growing up in Boston, she went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Bennington College in Vermont, followed by a graduate degree at Massachusetts College of Art in Boston.

Poor said her work at San Quentin has helped

her to figure out the direction of her own life; just as the men she interacts with in San Quentin have been forced to discover who they are. She said she's taken their experiences as a lesson in life to figure out who she is.

Poor defines herself by what she does in life as an artist, teacher, and volunteer.

As an artist Poor says, she is always looking for the story under the surface. She says she sees the story in the humble objects in every day life. Objects such as a crumpled up piece of paper or used t-shirt fascinates her. One of the projects she undertook was to photograph a different object that she found discarded by people everyday for a year.

Poor says there is extraordinary in the ordinary, and after

viewing her artwork, "I hope people think about the humble object."

Poor says she hopes people will see something more besides the obvious in life, and quotes one of her San Quentin students Ruben Ramirez,

when she said, "After taking the photography class I see fascination everywhere."

She says this is the fascination she has for everything.

Poor's greatest influences as an artist have come from the German photographer August Sanders and Walker Evans, creator of American photographs. These photographers tried to create order out of the chaos of life, she said.

Poor seems almost amazed that after spending time in San Quentin her interest in photographing people has returned.

She said after years of creating portraits her interest had waned, but now she is taking pictures of people both inside of prison and outside as well.

This interest in human behavior has pushed her into one of her new projects, working with the San Quentin Prison Report.

She is working with prisoners Troy Williams, Tommy "Shaqur" Ross, Wallace-Stepter, and Greg Estridge to produce radio shows for KAWL.



Photo by Nigel Poor

The fly collection designed by Poor

The radio spots are the first time San Quentin has produced radio shows for over 50 years.

She is helping to bring the stories of the men that fascinate her to the public.

In a project she is producing outside the walls of prison, she is photographing the objects in people's homes when they are not there. She says



Photo by Nigel Poor

Various photos arranged by Poor



Photo by Nigel Poor

A self portrait of Nigel Poor

the point is to see the person through their possessions.

Pictures of possessions turn into portraits of people when they are shot through the lens of Poor's camera.

When asked what a portrait of her would look like if she was not in it she said, "A piece of paper that I have written on and erased several times, and there would be words you couldn't really make out left on the page."

## Prisoners Celebrate Juneteenth on the San Quentin Lower Yard

June 19, 1865, is labeled the birth of Juneteenth

By Lorenzo Robinson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Several hundred prisoners were drawn to San Quentin's Lower Yard by a historical account of Juneteenth, the music of inmate-bands and several rappers. The host kept the audience engaged in the extravaganza with comedy and a Father's Day message.

It was five hours of celebratory entertainment acknowledging the holiday.

Watani Stiner gave a his-

torical account of the origin and significance of Juneteenth called "Juneteenth: A Celebration of Historical Ignorance."

**"We can always be a father to someone who doesn't have a father"**

Stiner said news of the Emancipation Proclamation decree issued by President Abraham

Lincoln in 1863, abolishing slavery, "as a military strategy" in the Confederate states, took 2 1/2 years to reach the enslaved Africans of Texas. They got the news on June 19, 1865, the birth of Juneteenth.

"So, let this Juneteenth celebration today be more than a remembrance of what the enslaved Africans in Galveston, Texas did not know," said Stiner. "Let us, instead celebrate what we do know, and what we do know is that we have a responsibility and an obligation to remember and

learn from our history. Let us remember the sacrifices we've made, the obstacles we've overcome, and the struggles we must continue to wage in order to move human history forward."

The music included the jazz of "We Came to Play," the funk of "NSF," and the blues of "Cold Blue Steel."

Several rappers performed, touching subjects such as the Civil Rights movement, personal experiences and moving forward while retaining a historical perspective.

As the men-in-blue made their way to the makeshift stage, emcee Aaron Taylor reminded the men the day was also Father's Day. He blessed the event with a prayer and shared a few poignant words about fatherhood.

"Fatherhood is situational," he said. "We can always be a father to someone who doesn't have a father."

In closing the event, Taylor returned to the stage and delivered a few humorous updates on San Quentin sports and displayed his rapping skills.

# San Quentin's SQUIRES Program

"I was interested to learn the backgrounds of all the people in here. It gives me a chance to learn what not to do."  
-Leslie Salazar, Rotary Club sponsor

"I like the experience. You too!"  
-Fernando Gama

"I like the program. I like the fact that we can see what can happen to you. Hearing from the people here let's you know that if you are not careful, even you can wind up here."  
-Lorenzo Llamas

"You guys get 'junk food' and live like animals."  
-Juan Cruz

"I've got to be safe and not mess up. Those showers are nasty!"  
-Rigo Lepe

"This teaches you to stay out of trouble. I didn't know you can be sentenced to life for shooting out of a vehicle. The people in here messed up big time."  
-Isaac Nunez

"I don't want to live in North Block and shower with that many people. I don't want to come to prison."  
-Adrian Lopez

"The showers are bad and the inmate stories make me feel sorry for them. I've learned to stay away from gangs."  
-Angel Moreno

"That North Block is a horrible place to live. The inmates I met have changed though."  
-Susanne Karch, Rotary Club sponsor

"This is an eye opener for the kids. They can think about how they might wind up here!"  
-Frankie Lazo

"I thought all prison inmates were cold blooded killers. These inmates are just like me. The smallest thing can go bad and determine the rest of your life."  
-Harold De Llave, Sponsor

"You might think this all fun and games, but this is serious business because once they give you a number you become a product of the state!"



SQUIRES members and at-risk-kids sitting down for an alarm in the South Block Rotunda

"I was doing bad things and that is the reason I'm here. But listening to you guys shows me it's not worth being in here!"  
-Frankie Santana

"It's horrible in here. I can't shower like that. You can't even wash your clothes every day."  
-Jose Zambravo

"My Mom sent me to About Face. She didn't even tell me, she just said we were going shopping and she dropped me off there. Now I'm here. This place is terrible."  
-Cindy Rodriguez

"It's heartbreaking. Kids in situations they shouldn't be in. It's hard to hear the inmates



SQUIRES Chairman, David Basile explaining to the guardians about the rules of the program



Jack Jacqua Co-founder of the Omega Boys Club

"I hate being here!"  
-Maynor Soriano

"I've learned that it's hard to be here. The food is bad. There's no privacy!"

"My daughter was goofing up both school and life. There is just no help out there for that type of bad behavior. I learned about the About Face program and it has helped a lot. This is a sobering experience and very important. I'm glad she could come here and see what this is actually like."  
-Rosa Rodriguez, Mom.

"Any little thing and they can send you to prison for a long time. It's doesn't scare me, but I don't want to live in a tiny little cell. This is an attitude changer."  
-Wilson Diaz

"We should learn from the prisoner's mistakes so we don't make the same mistake. The stories are interesting and scary."



Co Sponsors David and Joseph Robinson standing in the Central Plaza

Photo by Raphaela Casale

By Ted Swain  
Journalism Guild Writer

"I don't want to be here," a young boy said as he toured the cellblocks in San Quentin Prison. He was one of the 24 at-risk young men hosted March 16 by inmate members of the SQUIRES Program. The tour gave the young men from the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation of Richmond a view of what their future could be if they made bad life choices.

The SQUIRES Program conducts tours and counseling for teens who demonstrate a propensity to engage in juvenile delinquency conduct. Participant Tiapepe Vitale, a De La Salle High School athletic star, said the visit to San Quentin was one of the best experiences of his life.

"I want to see my brother come in here (on a tour)," the 17-year-old said.

The counseling and tour are designed to shell-shock the young men into a realization that they might well one day reside here if they don't change their ways.

SQUIRES workshops are conducted monthly and include graphic, frank language about how they will be searched and looked at all over for contraband when they come to prison. No detail is spared. Some of the parents accompany their son or child, and some are more shocked than the kids. "It's not a positive experience," said Bernice Zamora, mother to Trevon. Upon being locked up in a Donner Section cell, a visitor named Omar quickly exclaimed, "I'm not a bad kid! I want to be successful." However, his grandmother, Juanita Pagan, felt he needed more. "I want to bring him back again, so it sinks in," she commented.

Lanny Kelly, nephew of founder Terrance Kelly, said it doesn't take but a minute and a bad choice to wind up in prison. The Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation was formed after Terrence's son was gunned down two days before he was to start college. Lanny said he started every sort of bad behavior after the cousin died. It caused him to wind up in San Quentin. "I went into a tail spin," he lamented. "However, I finally came to the conclusion that there is just no excuse for not doing the right thing."

After college, Lanny came back to the Richmond area for the specific purpose to take over the foundation.

"I went to Howard University in New York and intended to stay there after graduation, but I came back to change Richmond," he said.



Co-Sponsor Mana Jaundoo

Photo by Sam Hearns



At-risk-kids facing the Adjustment Center while being lectured by SQUIRES member Mike Tyler

Photo by Raphaela Casale

Kenneth Paz

"Juvenile Hall is easier. This is something that can change your attitude. One thing that is real important is that the inmates are just like us. That means that we can wind up here too! If we don't change, that is."  
-Jesse Valazquez

"You can see their privates and they can see yours."  
-Obaria Gonzalez

"An inmate's life just repeat it's self day after day. That's no life."  
-Jason Arivalos

"I just want to thank you for opening my eyes!"  
-Jonathan Burguete

"Seeing the entrance to Condemned Row, that is really shocking. Think before you make a wrong decision or you'll wind up somewhere you don't



SQUIRES Sponsor Raphaela Casale

Photo by Li Luna

-Arnulfo T.Garcia

"I hope the boot camp cadets learn their lesson. This gives us another chance to shape up."  
-Jose Zambravo

state is in the way more then they are positive factors."  
-Amy Skeeters, Sponsor

"What's scary is how many humans are impacted forever by 15 second decisions."  
-Rajeb Hossain, Sponsor

"This is a life changing experience. It's very frightening to hear stories of life inside prison."  
-Brendan Bigelow

"I kinda feel like God put me here. I could even meet someone from my hometown."  
-Matthew Cochran

"I got a whole new perspective on life."  
-Brenden Scarlett

"The SQUIRES conducted at San Quentin state prison consist of a group of dedicated sponsors, volunteers, and inmates sharing a common goal to reach out, help, and empower at risk kids.

SQUIRES incarcerated men share their own life experiences, teaching and educating through effective communication providing the youth with the necessary tools to make healthy and wise life style choices.

The reward of an at risk youth turning their lives around are priceless."  
-Nadine Fernandez



Co-Sponsors Mana Jaundoo, Nadine Fernandez and Chief Sponsor Lt. Rudy Luna

Photo by Raphaela Casale

want to be."  
-Carlos Garcia.

"As the incoming Chairperson of the Rotary Club in my area, I would like to find out what I can do to support Squires more. In the words of General MacArthur, I'll be back!"  
-Susanne Karch, Rotary Club sponsor

"This is an eye opener for the kids. They can think about how they might wind up here!"  
-Harold De Llave, Sponsor

"I thought all prison inmates were cold blooded killers. These inmates are just like me. The smallest thing can go bad and determine the rest of your life."  
-Frankie Lazo

"You might think this all fun and games, but this is serious business because once they give you a number you become a product of the state!"



At-risk-kids leaving R&R after going through the process of what to expect after being sent to prison

Photo by Raphaela Casale



Lt. Luna briefing the at-risk-kids before entering prison grounds

Photo by Raphaela Casale

# 'Get on the Bus' Brings Joy Behind Bars

By San Quentin News Staff

It was a picture-perfect day in San Quentin's visiting room as prisoners' loved ones arrived from around the state to enjoy themselves with face painting, games, hugs and kisses.

Around Mother's Day and Fa-



Photo by Courtesy of Folsom State Prison

Mother and daughter visiting in Folsom prison

ther's Day, each year, Get on the Bus provides free transportation to the visiting rooms of several prisons for the relatives of convicts who live in communities as far north as the community of Citrus Heights as well as the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Esteban, Makayla and Rose Marie Cuevas

southern city of San Diego.

"This is a much neglected population," said community organizer, Cathy Kalin. "People may have a certain outlook about the person behind bars, but the children shouldn't suffer from their parent's mistakes."

The event is financed on a shoestring budget, said program director, Hilary Carson. Faith-based organizations put on bake sales and raffles, along with small donations from ordinary people who support the program, she said.

This year, Pelican Bay was included in the event for the

first time, said Kalin. "In the future, we hope to include some federal prisons."

Providing better access to phones, letters, and visitation with family members are instrumental to limit the "pains of incarceration," and has a positive influence on offenders, according to The Impact of Family Visitation on Incarcerated Youth's Behavior and School Performance: Findings from the Families as Partners Project, by Vera Institute of Justice.

"We as a society should help the children by assisting them build a relationship with their parent because one day the parent will get out of prison," said Kalin.

to see other children in similar situation as they are in—to see another child with an incarcerated parent."

"You will always be a parent," is quoted from Sesame Street handout, Tips for Incarcerated Parents. "Even though you are incarcerated, you can still play an important role in your child's life," it reads.

With an estimated 297,000 children having a parent in jail or prison, the greatest barrier to visitation is distance, according to Get on the Bus and The Impact of Family Visitation.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Myesha, Andre and E'man Post

miles from their children. The Impact of Family Visitation suggest that prison officials could greatly benefit by modifying



Photo Courtesy of Folsom State Prison

Playground area in Folsom Prison where women visited their children and guest

visitation policies "to encourage frequent contact" between families.

"A lot of children are the only person in their classroom with an incarcerated parent. When they come to a Get on the Bus event, they have the opportunity

to see much of the prison and this is another part of the puzzle."

"It's good to see some of the guys have normal interactions with their families," said Nigel Poor. Poor is a photographer who has been coming inside San Quentin for the past two years teaching her craft to the prisoners. "I'm interested in the nuances of human behavior. You may have assumptions of how a person is but you get to see these men in a new way. I don't get to see much of the prison and this is another part of the puzzle."

"It is always a blessing because I only get to see my niece and two nephews on this day,"



Photo by Sam Hearnes

The Martinez family

said Troy Williams. "I feel happy that I get to see him. I really love my uncle," said Erika Smith Troy's niece. "This is a very emotional today," said Melva Williams, Troy's sister. "I haven't seen him since 1993. I love him very much," she said.

The Impact of Family Visitation shows when incarcerated adults receive visits from their children they have reduced incidents of disciplinary infractions. The reduced behavioral problems translate to a decreased risk to public safety when they are returned to the community.

"I think the Get on the Bus program is the best program they have for fathers who are unable to see their families," said Brian Asey. "If it wasn't for Get on the Bus, I wouldn't be able to see my kid. The last time I saw my son was at last year's Get on the Bus." Asey was visited by his mother, Charlotte Casey, his son, Isaiah Martinez, his daughter, Desire Asey and his nephew Caldwell's grandson Zaedyn. "Last year was the first time I saw my dad in about nine years," said Caldwell's daughter, Allen Gonsoulin, Jr.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Isaiah Martinez, Brian Asey, Charlotte Casey, Allen Gonsoulin Jr. and Desire Asey

Get on the Bus provides travel bags, comfort care bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the trip (breakfast, snacks on the bus, lunch at the prison, and dinner on the way home), all at no cost to the children's family. On the bus trip home each child receives a "stay connected bag" which consists of pens, paper, stamps and other goodies to keep the children connected with their incarcerated parents.

Jaquan, Jamal, and Jacinda's back facing the camera and Johnnie

over filled with joy to see me," said Green. "This program was a blessing. My children said they had a ball and can't wait till the next Get on the Bus event next year. My kids are grateful that this prison is allowing me to become a much better person before I return to them."

Antoine Brown's son, Romel Brown came to visit him. "The last time I saw my son was last year and it was because of Get on the Bus," said Antoine Brown. "Although my son is shy, I could tell by our interaction that he enjoyed our time together."

"I'm glad I did this," said Isaiah Caldwell. "I like seeing papa," said



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Faydra, Zaedyn and Isaiah Caldwell

ter, Faydra. "I had a six-hour ride that originated from Los Angeles. I think it's a blessing to be able to use this service."

"To not give the child and parent the opportunity to have a bond is tragic. For most of these kids they are the only one that has a parent incarcerated and



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jaquan, Jamal, and Jacinda's back facing the camera and Johnnie

to come here and see they are not alone is fantastic." —Cathy Kalin

"The event at Folsom was a carnival style event where the children played volleyball and other games," said Carson. "Most people have learned about the program by word of mouth."

Three families of Death Row prisoners were accommodated by the Get on the Bus program.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Destiny "Player", Khalieah, and Darnell Washington with Bobbie Young



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Antoine and Romel Brown

# Advice That Could Make a Difference

By Watani Stiner  
Staff Writer

**Question: If you, the OG, had the ear of the young people, what would you tell them?**

Dear OG Watani,

My name is La-La, and I am 49 years old. In your April "OG" column, you asked an important question: "What would I say to the current generation of youth that could make a difference in their lives today?" I thought about this question long and hard before deciding to respond. There probably is not just one thing I could say that would alter the lives of any young person. Instead, I thought about what I could do to make a difference in their lives.

I have accepted the "historical baton," and I am doing all that I can to hand that baton to the next generation. I have learned several crucial things from the generation that came before me – things from their successes as well as from their mistakes. I believe that everything in life should be a lesson and not a let-down.

Moreover, I realize that this historical baton conveys more than a message and a meaning. It compels us to accept and practice one of the most indispensable obligations embodied

in every generation: "Each one teach one."

In a very practical sense, I am engaging the youth. Of course, I realize that not all will listen and many of those who do listen are not always paying attention. However, each and everyday I try to engage and teach at least one youngster something. My lessons can vary from merely listening to and discussing the lyrics of one of their favorite rap songs to even starting a conversation about some sensational event that took place in the news. I try not to be judgmental, instead, I try getting that person or persons to think and hear another perspective.

## "OG" PERSPECTIVE:

One thing that is quite clear in "OG" La-La's response is his assessment that it's difficult to get the younger generation to stop and listen to an OG. Sometimes the resistance is because of generational differences. Other times it is the perceived condescending manner in which the information or lesson is conveyed. However, one thing is clear, the breakdown in communication is the result of neither side listening.

Listening is the most neglected aspect of any relationship. Communication and good relationships come with mutual understanding and respect that requires listening and not just talking—on both sides. To come to a "teachable moment," the younger person needs to be heard and not simply preached to.

Listening well and really trying to put one's self in the other's shoes is a radical act. For example, I was better able to understand some of my own children's struggle when I heard about the terrible abuse they suffered in foster care. Before hearing that, I was just responding to their behavior and not understanding where that behavior was coming from. It's like a microcosm of the broken criminal justice system. It looks only at behavior and then tries to correct behavior by imposing laws and incarceration. It essentially targets the symptoms while completely ignoring the causes. The solution (like the problem) has both a personal and social dimension to it. Therefore, it requires transformation on both levels.

From an OG's perspective,

one of the biggest misconceptions in our communication is our inability to discern the difference between criticism and condemnation. Condemnation is the wholesale denunciation or attack on the total person. Another word for condemnation—"Haterism."

On the other hand, criticism is identifying and correcting human weaknesses or limitations in order to make the person stronger or healthier. It is not just about correcting shortcomings, but also about affirming what someone is doing well. OGs should not only see their role as teaching. They should also reflect back on what is good, and be willing to listen. We must find a way to open some doors inside young minds that have not had the opportunities or support to be self-reflective. Young peo-

ple must see and believe that what they do matters in the big picture.

In today's digital world of instant gratification, drugs and violence, there are many distractions impacting the lives of young people. Requiring OGs, such as La-La, to be creative, courageous and committed in getting their message across. The task is neither glorious nor easy. This certainly does not give any OG an excuse not to try to reach out. It does not exempt OGs from their generational responsibility and obligation to pass the historical baton.

Learning is essentially reinforcement through repetition, and that repetition must provide both an invitation to young people, as well as an opportunity to reflect and grapple with ideas that promote and protect their growth and development. Above all, one must be ready to hear and listen to the message before the lesson can begin.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Looking at Society and the Status Quo

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Four characters make up Franz Kafka's short story, *The Penal Colony*. Each character represents a particular kind of citizen in society.

#### POWER

Society's power elite makes use of these characters to maintain the status quo. The Officer is used to carry out the special interests of the power elite.

The story line of *The Penal Colony* is structured around how the Officer demonstrates to another character, the Explorer, the practicalities of The Apparatus, which represents how society treats deviant behavior.

The analogy that the Apparatus has to the functioning of the American criminal justice system is shocking to me. For instance, while the harrow (a needling/tattooing machine) physically brands the condemned man, the U.S. criminal justice system's label of "felon" has the same effect—being branded a felon in the U.S. has dire consequences for the individual, ranging from loss of financial status, material disposition to loss of family status,

one's legacy.

The Condemned Man represents society's deviant.

I found it interesting that the Condemned Man did not understand the language contained in the judgment that was made against him—typical of the poor or the common man who become subject to legalese, mannerisms and technicalities involved in judicial proceedings. It is not uncommon for people to break laws, which they have no idea exist, let alone understand or even care about. However, society's power elite often remind its citizens—ignorance of the law is no excuse.

#### EXPLORER

The Explorer represents society's ethics and principles.

The inquisitive nature of The Explorer creates a balance in the storyline that allows the reader to question whether laws should be made that punish the perplexing nature of human behavior as criminal.

Finally, there is the Soldier who represents the common man, in a context very much similar to the famous study of human behavior by Stanley Milgram, replicated by Philip

Zimbardo in the 1974 Stanford University experiment that examined prison guard/inmate interactions. The experiments tested the limits ordinary people would take in the name of authority. Both studies found that ordinary people did unspeakable things to strangers under the guise of the law.

#### LOCATION

The location of the penal colony is mysterious—representing the secret nature that the wards of prisons believe they need in order to carry out what they consider their duty. The remoteness and isolation of the colony gives The Officer confidence to use The Apparatus subjectively, and be ignorant of the actual cruelty involved of its use — literally to be able to carry out punishment out of sight and out of mind of the rest of society.

When the reader learns the crime of The Condemned Man, the punishment seems very severe to such a trivial act. However, the point stressed in this story is to make a statement about the worker's failure to respect authority — which has historically been a very serious offense against the power elite.

## Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin

### Honor Guard

By Chris Schuhmacher  
Staff Writer

Being incarcerated has not deterred the members of the VVGSQ from continuing to display a high-level of military decorum inside San Quentin State Prison.

The group's Honor Guard embodies the sense of duty and patriotism learned in the military by performing the posting of the nation's colors at various events throughout the institution.

The Honor Guard is comprised of self-trained members within the group. They can be seen preparing for events as they drill, march, and practice turns in formation. In addition, several of them men take part on a flag folding committee where they learn the proper way to fold and present the American flag for memorial services.

David Tarvin, the flag folding squad leader says of his participation, "I think it's important for people to know that just because we're in prison, we haven't lost the qualities that inspired us to join the military in the first place. I still continue to look for ways to honorably represent our country."

Last year, the Honor Guard performed at the Veterans Day roll call held inside the prison. The event opened with the posting of the U.S. and POW/MIA flag. Members of the San Quentin veterans' community then proceeded to read off names of those killed in action during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This year the Honor Guard will be presenting the colors during SQ baseball's Opening Day, All-Star Game, and a GED/College/Vocational Graduation Ceremony held in the Garden Chapel. When asked what serving on the Honor Guard meant to their squad leader Craig Johnson, he replied, "It gives me a sense of patriotism and being of service...even after 34 years of incarceration."

On May 27, the VVGSQ and the Honor Guard held a Memorial Day formation on San Quentin's Field of Dreams at 1200 hours. The group and invited guests observed a moment of silence for fallen veterans. The guard marched the flags across the field and Larry Faison, VVGSQ member and trumpet player, marked the solemn occasion with the playing of Taps.

To learn more about the VVGSQ and the Honor Guard, go to our website at <http://vvgsq.tripod.com>.

If you are interested in having the VVGSQ Honor Guard perform at an event within the San Quentin community, please contact the VVGSQ Secretary by sending a request to the Education Department. Or, contact our Chief Sponsor, Lt. Rudy Luna, at San Quentin State Prison (415) 454-1460 ext. 5808.

# Unexpected Encounter Prompts Successful Diabetes Program

By Kris Himmelberger  
Staff Writer

It was a chance encounter that led to development of a promising diabetes-control program that might improve the health of many San Quentin inmates, says inmate Clinton Martin.

In the summer of 2012, San Quentin's Chief Medical Executive Dr. E. Tootell was chairing a meeting for the Breast Cancer Walk. She happened to ask Martin if he knew any inmates who were diabetics, because she had wanted to get a diabetic program going for several years.

"It just so happens that I am a diabetic," said Martin.

One year after the inception of the diabetes class, Tootell declares, "The class has been a success."

According to Tootell, 10 percent of San Quentin's prison population has diabetes, a potentially debilitating disease that prevents the individuals from metabolizing sugar appropriately.

Prison meals are rich in sugar and simple carbohydrates, which presents a problem for diabetics. Most medical authorities say these foods are detrimental to diabetics. By continuously consuming refined foods such as sugar, white bread, and sugary soft drinks, a person can develop insulin resistance, says Dr. Shari Lieberman, the author of the *Glycemic Index Food Guide*.

San Quentin's diabetic pop-

ulation is slightly higher than the U.S. population, which according to researcher Mark Kane is approximately 8.3 percent. Kane wrote an assessment of the San Quentin program in support of his master's degree in public health.

Tootell conceived the idea for a diabetes class in 2008. She observed that most of her patients diagnosed with diabetes and other chronic illnesses had very little understanding of their disease. "I wanted the program to be targeted toward the general population and based on a balance of diet, exercise, and medication," she said.

She thought it would be beneficial to have an inmate with diabetes help facilitate the classes. "Control of diabetes is a way of life. There is only so much that I can explain about diabetes to prisoners, not knowing what it's like to live in prison," she said.

Shortly after his meeting with Tootell, Martin started working on curriculum. He was able to draw on some of the material from the diabetic class he took in Soledad State Prison. Martin wanted to improve the class and see glucometers issued to inmates so they could monitor their blood sugar.

Glucometers and the small needles called lancets used to draw blood from fingers have been previously banned under prison policy, because they can be used as a weapon or tattooing device.

Diabetic prisoners also must

contend with scheduling conflicts, because medications, including insulin, are issued only at designated times. Prison officials consider syringes to be a controlled item, and certain medications used to manage diabetic nerve conditions may be used to induce a high.

But Centinela State Prison developed a pilot program that was accepted by the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation for use in all prisons.

Participants in the San Quentin program are required to attend a weekly class. They are also required to maintain a food log and monitor their blood sugar on a daily basis.

During the class, Dr. Tootell analyses the food log with the participants. She found the kitchen food was healthier than the food the inmates prepared themselves.

"Diabetes is complicated to detect because there are no symptoms," Tootell said. "As it progresses, individuals can experience thirst, frequent urination, and even weight loss."

Early in 2002, inmate Haro Agakian was working as a visiting room porter when he got dizzy and fell. "At the hospital, I learned I had pancreatitis and the blood test showed I had Type II diabetes." Physicians put Agakian on a medication called metformin. After several years of taking medication, he lost 15 to 20 pounds and was taken off medication.

The diabetes program is comprised of two levels—basic and advanced.

The basic course consists of two-hour sessions held over 11 weeks. It "covers the core principle," said inmate facilitator Martin. "Participants are taught the difference between Type I and II diabetes. They receive general dietary information and learn how to read food labels. They even learn about neuropathy, and how exercise helps."

Martin emphasized that keeping the food log was the most important tool.

The advanced course is 18 training sessions, held over 36

## S.Q. Food Menu

**Breakfast:** Stewed prunes, cracked wheat cereal, scrambled eggs, pinto beans, flour tortillas.

**Lunch:** Peanut butter, jelly, wheat bread, almonds, cookies, fresh fruit, beverage pack.

**Dinner:** Dressed green salad, turkey tetrazzini, green beans, dinner roll, margarine, seasonal fruit, and beverage pack.

## Health & Wellness

Dr. E. Tootell  
San Quentin Chief Medical Officer

### What's the Leading Cause of Death for Former Inmates?

In 2007, the New England Journal of Medicine published an article titled "Release from Prison- a High Risk of Death for Former Inmates."

The researchers looked at 443 deaths of more than 30,000 inmates released from the Washington State Department of Corrections from 1999 to 2003 and compared them to the mortality rate of other state residents who were of the same age, race, and sex.

The average age of inmates at the time of release was 33 years old; most of the people were white and male, with an average incarceration of 2 years.

Results of the study are shocking.

In the first 2 weeks after release, former inmates were 12.7 times more likely to die than similar, non-incarcerated, Washington state residents.

The rate was also much higher compared to men and women who stayed in prison. The researchers collected data for 2 years after the inmate had been released. Over the course of those 2 years, the former inmates were still 3.5 times more likely to die.

The leading causes of death of the released inmates were drug overdose, heart attacks, and homicides (in that order).

The article demonstrated that parole or discharge from prison is a significant risk of death.

Several themes demonstrated that there might be things incarcerated adults can do to decrease their risk on release:

**Avoid drugs and alcohol.** Overdose was the cause of death of at least one quarter of all the deaths. Many inmates have serious addiction problems that have not been confronted. Get treatment now by joining AA or NA inside prison. Don't "celebrate" on release. After being incarcerated, the body no longer has the same tolerance to drugs and an overdose may happen unintentionally.

**Avoid guns.** Firearms were involved in 12 percent of the deaths which included homicide, suicide, and accidents.

**Take your medications.** Heart attacks and strokes were the second leading cause of death in this study. Some of the heart attacks or strokes may also have been caused by illegal drugs. If you have high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or diabetes, it is important for you to continue to receive treatment for these conditions.

**Don't smoke.** Cancer (mostly lung) was the cause of death 6 percent of the cases.

## Diabetic Class Curriculum

### Basic Course

- Week 1: Type I and II
- Week 2: Food & Nutritional, Food Logs & Labels
- Week 3: Log and Reading / Pass out meter
- Week 4: Sugar levels
- Week 5: Dietary Information
- Week 6: Exercise part I- What exercise does
- Week 7: Medication
- Week 8: Neuropathy Part I
- Week 9: Meditation & Breathing, Part I
- Week 10: Health care Maintenance
- Week 11: AIC Reading

### Advance Course

- Week 1: Glucose Control
- Week 2: Carb counting, Part I
- Week 3: Carbs
- Week 4: Hyper-Hypoglycemia
- Week 5: Cholesterol (LDL-HDL)
- Week 6: Hypertension (HBP)
- Week 7: Mental Health & Diabetes
- Week 8: Dental Care
- Week 9: Neurobiology I
- Week 10: Exercise II
- Week 11: Mediation & Breathing
- Week 12: Heart Disease
- Week 13: Neurobiology II
- Week 14: Eye Care
- Week 15: Medications

weeks.

A pharmacy technician, who assists with the class and happens to be diabetic herself, said, "I even learned something from three classes. Being a part of these classes, I learned how to balance my sugar. I think that this program should be taught at Kaiser (the health maintenance organization)."

Master candidate Kane observed both that advanced course participants and waiting list respondents voiced dissatisfaction with the prison meals. They said the food is rich in sugar and carbohydrates, and they have no healthy alternatives. The biggest concern was the daily box lunch.

Inmate D. Williams, who recommends the class, took the basic and advanced versions to learn more about neuropathy, a condition that deadens the nerves. He said, "The chow hall food is largely starchy, and there are no alternatives. For me, tracking and counting carbs is important because we don't have a diabetic diet."

Language also plays a role in health mindfulness. Inmate

P. Felciano, who immigrated to the United State from Cuba, said, "There are many people who have trouble comprehending English that would benefit from this program being taught in Spanish."

In his assessment of the San Quentin program, Kane concluded, "respondents from both groups reported significantly higher medication adherence rates compared to the general public."

He added, "Research demonstrates the difficulty with encouraging participants to increase their levels of exercise with lifestyle management and education. However, both the advanced and waiting list respondents demonstrated high levels of exercise and blood glucose monitoring."

Dr. Tootell said the diabetic class has been a good experience. She recommends diabetes screening for anybody age 35 or over.

If you would like information on diabetes or if you think you might be exhibiting signs of diabetes, you can request a diabetes test by submitting a 7362 (Medical Request Form).

## CDC Says Youth Violence in America Has Become a Public Health Problem

By Charles David Henry  
Staff Writer

Youth violence has become a public health problem across the United States, according to several reports by the Centers for Disease Control. It is the second leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

Bullying occurred against 25 percent of high school students during 2007-08, according to Understanding Bullying. A much higher percentage of middle schools reported daily or weekly occurrences of bullying compared to high schools.

Bullying is one of the major reasons for youth violence. The report found, anyone could be a bully, a victim or both.

San Quentin prisoner Mark Edwards was asked whether he was ever a bully, bullied or both. He said, "The use of violence was sometimes necessary when I was in middle and high school." He added, "I had to fight to protect myself. There were other times when I had to show off. No one got seriously hurt."

Approximately seven percent of teachers reported being threatened with injury or physical attacks by students from their schools, the report said.

School bullying prevention programs are widely implemented but infrequently evalu-

ated, according to the report.

In 2010, 17 children aged 5 to 18 years old were murdered on school campus, reports Understanding School Violence. Almost 5,000 young people aged 10 to 24 were victims of homicide away from school property, reports Understanding Youth Violence. An average of 13 youths died each day, the report found.

Deaths resulting from school violence are only part of the problem.

In 2010, 828,000 nonfatal injuries occurred at schools among students ages 12 to 18. The injuries included minor cuts, bruises and broken bones, according to the report.

More than 707,000 young people ages 10-24 were treated in emergency rooms after being physically assaulted in 2011 – an average of 1,938 each day.

Five percent of high school students reportedly took weapons to school.

Because of these statistics, the U.S. Surgeon General's goal is "to stop school violence from happening in the first place."

The CDC and Surgeon General are encouraging school administrators and parents to learn how to report any act of violence or bullying.

The CDC is also corroborating with the U.S. Department of Education to study schools from around the country linked with

violence deaths, in an effort to monitor this public health concern.

To learn more about these prevention programs, school administrators, law enforcement members and parents can visit:

Centers for Disease Control Division of Violence Prevention  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention) Centers for Disease Control Division of Adolescent and School Health

[www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/index.htm) STRYVE

[www.vetoviolence.org/stryve/home.html](http://www.vetoviolence.org/stryve/home.html) Stop bullying

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence [www.surgeon-general.gov/library/youthviolence](http://www.surgeon-general.gov/library/youthviolence)

School-Associated Violent Death Study

[www.cdc.gov/gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/SAVD.HTM/](http://www.cdc.gov/gov/ViolencePrevention/youthviolence/SAVD.HTM/)

School Health Policies and Practices Study (SHPPS)

[www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/shpps](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/shpps)

School Health Index (SHI)

[www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/shi](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/shi)

Academic Centers for Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACEEs)

[www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/ACE](http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/ACE)

Guide to Community Prevention Services

[www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org)



Photo contributed by William Fisher

Mentally ill prisoner being chained to a bed

## Report: U.S. Mentally Ill Prisoners Quadrupled

By Phoeun You  
Design Editor

A 2006 report from the Human Rights Watch concluded that the numbers of mentally ill prisoners in the U.S. has quadrupled since 2000, demonstrating a failure on the part of the prison system, which failed to properly treat mentally ill prisoners.

More than half the prisoners in the U.S. experienced some mental health problem, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. According to reports issues that qualify are: symptoms of major depression, mania and psychotic disorders. In 2006, approximately 705,600 incarcerated adults are in state prisons, federal prisons and local jails also suffer from the growing mental health population. Statistics concluded that 78,000 federal inmates and 479,000 prisoners are in local jails. An estimated 56.2 percent of the prison population suffers from mental health issues. In the adult general population it is 11 percent, according to BJS.

Reports find that doctors have diagnosed a quarter of incarcerated women with a psychiatric disorder. An estimated 73 percent of women in state prisons and 75 percent in local jails have mental health problems.

The growing numbers of mentally ill prisoners should be in hospital treatment programs rather than prisons. According to William Fisher's article "Mentally Ill in Prison."

Prison staffs are untrained to handle sick people whose illness can do more than incarcerate them, said Fisher.

As a result of having untrained prison officials, many staff have "turned to solitary confinement as a way to manage difficult or dangerous [mentally ill] prisoners," said Fisher. Mentally ill prisoners can remain in solitary confinement for years, further damaging their conditions, Fisher adds.

When the mentally ill prisoners are released back to society, prisoners often leave the mental health system under-treated or not treated at all. Prisoners with mental health problems face a limited qualified staff, lack of facilities and prison policies that interfere with their treatment, according to Human Rights Watch.

While the numbers of mentally ill prisoners increases, prisons remain a dangerous and damaging place for them, said Director of Human Rights Watch Jamie Fellner.

Reports by HRW said that when mentally ill prisoners show signs of their illness such as being noisy, refusing orders, self-mutilating or attempted suicide, prison medical staffs attempt to resolve these disruptive prisoners by isolating them in solitary confinement that can push them into acute psychosis.

Fellner compares solitary confinement for the mentally ill prisoners to torturing an asthmatic by leaving them in a room with no air.

Human Rights Watch reported that people with mental illness, particularly those who are poor, homeless or struggling with substance abuse couldn't get the treatment they need. When crimes are committed by the mentally ill, punitive sentencing laws mandate imprisonment.

Reports revealed that prisoners with mental illness were likely to have been physically or sexually abused in the past, living with family members with drug abuse problems, and have family members who had been incarcerated. Approximately 42 percent of mentally ill inmates suffered from drug dependence or abuse.

Miami-Dade County Judge Steve Leifman, recognizes the ongoing issues concerning what mentally ill prisoners face in the justice system and is working to do more than incarcerate them.

Leifman's ideas involved focusing on the mentally ill prisoners who commit non-violent crimes to seek out treatment rather than sending them through the prison system.

According to reports, many politicians who considered improving care for the mentally ill prisoners admit that the issue was not their highest priority. Some political leaders fear it would cost taxpayers more money on improving medications to care for the mentally ill that are housed in state hospitals. Former president of the American Psychiatric Association Dr. Francis J. Braceland maintains that "prescription of drugs for the mentally ill was and is a wise policy."

## County Jails in Iowa Foot Most Of the Role With Mentally Ill Prisoners

By Emile DeWeaver  
Journalism Guild Writer

There was a time most mentally ill people received treatment in hospitals staffed by mental health professionals. However, county jails have taken over much of this responsibility, said Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald of Story County in Iowa.

"Mental health is a crisis," Fitzgerald said in an interview. He was president of the National Sheriffs Association last

year. "Whether it's Oklahoma, California, Florida or Maine, mental health is a crisis. But unfortunately when you're developing county budgets, state budgets or even the federal budget, one of the first things cut is support for mental health."

Jails, however, are often the worst places for the mentally ill, for they're prone to outbursts and misbehaviors, Fitzgerald said. As a result of disruptive behavior, they'll be in county jails longer and cost taxpayers more money.

Fitzgerald says counties should pool resources to employ mental health professionals to evaluate offenders to give them the help needed. He noted his small county's jail relies on a counselor who tracks non-violent, mentally ill inmates after their release to ensure they're taking medication and staying clear of trouble.

However, using county jails as our primary mental health treatment facility is expensive, ineffective and dangerous, he said.

## New York Mayor's Focus on Treatment Instead of Incarceration for the Mentally Ill

By A. Kevin Valvardi  
Journalism Guild Writer

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has begun an initiative focused on treatment programs for the mentally ill, rather than incarceration.

One-third of the city's jail population is comprised of mentally ill offenders who serve almost twice the amount of time as offenders without a mental illness, city officials report.

Longer incarcerations result from the mentally ill having fewer resources for posting bail.

They often lack personal finances, or family members or friends willing to post their bail.

Mayor Bloomberg's plan creates centralized teams to compile an offender's mental health history. Such teams can provide risk assessments to judges more quickly to help them make informed decisions regarding bail availability, placement in community-based treatment programs, or other possible choices that might be considered.

The teams can also keep the courts apprised of a defendant's progress.

The initiative is an improvement but not a total solution. There is still the problem of ensuring the mentally ill receive appropriate drug treatments and other disability benefits to reduce the chance that behavior causes them to be re-incarcerated.

City officials say they hope the program will take care of mentally ill people who commit minor offenses and pose no threat to public safety by sending them directly to treatment programs, rather than jail or prison.

## EDUCATION CORNER

# Vice Principal Beebe Heads Rehabilitation for Prisoners

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

The San Quentin education program is expanding after severe budget cuts in recent years. Leading the changes is Tony Beebe, acting principal of the prison's Robert Burton Adult School.

"The statistics are very clear," said Beebe. "If you get an education while in prison, recidivism rates drop."

When people argue against educating, the incarcerated and the benefits that can come from it, Beebe speaks from experience.

"My argument is: educating the incarcerated works. The question is: what's the price we are willing to pay for failing to do it?" Beebe said. "For me personally, that price is too high."

In 2004, Beebe began working at San Quentin. Subsequently, he transferred to California Medical Facility for about two years, returning to San Quentin in 2012. "I was the vice principal at CMF and it was really excellent," he said. "It was one of the best learning experiences I've ever had."

Discussing educational history, Beebe said education was denied to African-

Americans but it was forced on Native Americans. "I'm from the Tsalagi (Cherokee Indian) nation, as my mother, my grandmother and all of my great-grandmothers," he explains. "Children were taken from their tribes and beaten if they didn't learn the language, but that has not affected my outlook on correctional education."

*"If you get an education while in prison, recidivism rates drop"*

A graduate of Sacramento State University, Beebe received a degree in education administration. He said his style of leadership is to adjust to the situation and assume everyone is professional and doing what is expected of him or her.

"My hand is expected to be on the wheel and in some cases my influence will be applied to get the desired outcome," Beebe said. "My tendency is not to hinder people. If you're doing a great job, you'll not hear from me."

"We do have two new voca-

tional instructors, Mr. Ronald Romo and Mr. Dante Callegari," said Beebe. "Mr. Romo is our electronics teacher. Mr. Callegari is the building maintenance instructor."

"We are approved for 12 computers to be delivered and installed," Beebe said. The computers were bought with federal funds; and will be used to assist prisoners seeking GEDs (high school equivalencies), and college degrees.

Beebe said he expects the separate computer literacy program will be open in August. "It will be serving about 70 percent of eligible inmates," Beebe said.



Photo by Sam Heames

Vice Principal Beebe

## Investigation Finds Global Tel\*Link's Prepaid Service Misleads Customers

The company says it expects to recover the investment by increased inmate pay calls

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Global Tel\*Link (GTL) has misled customers to pay in advance if they want to continue receiving collect calls from inmates in prison, a San Quentin News investigation has discovered.

This was accomplished by notifying customers that they must subscribe to GTL's prepaid service, Advance Pay account. The plan was contained in a form letter mailed Oct. 26 to GTL customers who were currently receiving inmate collect calls made from state prison.

### LETTER

The letter stated that effective Nov. 26, 2012 "the mechanism used for your Global Tel\*Link Direct Billed account will no longer be in operation."

The letter gives the impression that a change in service is mandatory.

Prisoners and called parties have complained. The letter said, "You must establish an Advance Pay account between Nov. 15 and Nov. 25, 2012 in order to avoid an interruption in service."

Late last year, after contacting the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), sending unanswered e-mails to GTL, and searching the Internet, the San Quentin News obtained a copy of GTL's tariff to provide prison pay phone service.

GTL's tariff filed with the CPUC reveals contradictory in-

formation from what is printed in its form letter to customers. For example, customers have the option to remain on their existing service, Direct Billed account, if they choose to, according to the language in the tariff.

GTL's customer service department was contacted by the newspaper on March 22 in order to obtain more information. A GTL representative (Yolanda) referred the call to the company's escalation desk (Daniel) who said, "We don't answer questions."

### CLARIFICATION

The reporter was advised to contact GTL's legal department (Andrea Rivera at gtl.net) for clarification on whether customers are allowed to remain on their existing service, and if customers would be allowed to switch back to their previous service, without charge. As of the newspaper deadline, no responses have been received after numerous efforts.

One question the newspaper wanted to ask is whether the Advance Pay accounts letter has anything to do with GTL being awarded the contract to provide technology to block inmate use of contraband cell phones in California prisons.

GTL has a contract to install the equipment and to maintain the use of the technology in each of the state's 33 prisons. The installation cost to GTL is estimated at \$33 million dollars. The company says it expects to recover the investment by increased inmate pay calls.

Five times during April, beginning with an "undeliverable" e-mail, the newspaper was referred to customer service with its questions. It was later referred to technical service, and then back to customer service. Information pursued on line [www.offenderconnect.com](http://www.offenderconnect.com) was no help.

### INCONSISTENCY

Other inconsistent information discovered when comparing GTL's form letter to its tariff is the amount of the minimum deposit for Advance Pay. The letter said it "allows you to make deposits with a \$5 minimum."

However, according to the tariff, "The minimum amount required to set up the Advance Pay account is \$25."

Some customers, however, continue to utilize the existing Direct Billed account service, while others were unknowingly coaxed to make the change to an Advance Pay account.

According to GTL's tariff, "In those areas where the company (GTL) does not have a direct billing agreement with the existing local exchange carrier, or upon a customer's request, the company will set up an Advance Pay account with the called party for payment of collect calls placed from institutions served by Global Tel\*Link."

The tariff also said, "The customer may close the Advance Pay account at any time." The San Quentin News was unable to ascertain whether GTL's Direct Billed account service will be discontinued.

## 2009 Study Shows Youth Gang Violence Rising

By Phoeun You  
Design Editor

Since 1980, gang violence among young people has been a growing problem throughout America, according to a 2009 study.

An innovative gang prevention strategy was introduced to several communities focusing on teenagers involved with gangs and their families.

The prevention strategy supports local organizations that help transition troubled youngsters away from negativity towards being productive members of society.

Supported by law enforcement 65 cities were surveyed that reported serious gang problems.

After the survey, the following suggestions were made:

**Community mobilization:** This involves a community effort, including ex-gang members, community leaders, and programs.

**Opportunities provision:** Program development aimed towards education, employ-

ment, and gang-involved youth.

**Social intervention:** Provide services such as schools, grassroots groups, religious organizations, law enforcement and criminal institutions for youth gangs and families.

**Suppression:** Supervision and monitoring gang youth by agencies of the community, schools, and the criminal justice system.

**Organization change and development:** Implementing regulations policies by effectively using potential resources, within and across agencies.

The Gang Violence Reduction Program was developed from the research, a project that lasted five years. The results included a decrease in violence and property crimes through the participation with older gang members.

Based on the program, researchers found that there was a decrease in gang participation and a decline in violence and drug arrest.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

50 competitors enter a singles ping-pong contest, how many games are required to decide the winner if the players are eliminated as soon as they are defeated?

The answer to last month's puzzle is: first you weigh 3 dimes against 3 other dimes. If the weight is equal, then the defective dime is with the 3 not weighed. Then you weigh 2 dimes out the 3 against one another, if they don't weigh equally the lighter dime is the defective one. If it's equal, the dime not weighed is the defective one.

If on the first weighing the dimes are not balanced than the lighter scale has the defective dime. You can than repeat the second step from the process above.

Congratulations to Robert B. Lomas, for winning last months contest.

Congratulations to all the following participants who entered the contest: Joseph S. Orozco, and Louie Calvin. Due to shortage of supplies, hats will no longer be issued as prize.

**Rules:**

The prize 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 winner will be picked by drawing a name from that hat.

Prize winner will receive: 4 Granola Bars Prize 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 name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

**NOTICE:**  
Anyone interesting in Coastline College and Feather River College  
Please contact Literacy Coordinator, Tom Bolema, at San Quentin Education Department. [tom.bolema@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:tom.bolema@cdcr.ca.gov)

## Sudoku Corner

By Troy "Humphrey" Ashmus

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

## POETRY CORNER

By Billy Combs  
What "I love you"  
Means to me

To some "I love you " are just 3 simple words,  
To me these words can break down walls,  
To me these words can make Empires fall,  
To me these words can make a legless man walk tall,  
To me these words can make the blind see all,  
To some "I love you" means nothing at all,  
To me "I love you" are not words at all.

## CORRECTION

San Quentin News would like to apologize to Scott Mc Kinstry for the misuse and inaccurate author labeling of his painting in last month's newspaper Edition 47.

Also in last month's issue was the good works that led to James Houston's release from San Quentin on May 29. Houston praised the article but would like to correct the record on details of the crime that landed him in prison. His email to the S.Q. News reads as the follow:

"Thanks for the great article on me. To honor my victim as well as show respect to his family I have to clear up the statements around my crime."

"My neighbor and her boyfriend were having a domestic dispute when I chose to intervene. I asked Mr. Hightower to give the money back that he had taken from Miss Phillips. Mr. Hightower said, 'Mind your business' and that is when I pulled the gun I was carrying on Mr. Hightower. Mr. Hightower reached for my gun and I pulled back and shot him."

"Thank you for clearing this up as best you can."

Sincerely, James Houston

## Snippets

Sunspots are dark spots that are visible on the surface of the sun. They are magnetic areas, which has a magnetic field that is a thousand times are stronger than the Earth's magnetic field .

Pouring out silver and melted gold, a volcano was discovered by scientist off the coast of Papua New Guinea in the Bismarck Sea.

As a sign of good luck during battle, men wore jewelry, which also symbolized a social status in society.

Relocating to California from Germany, China, France, and Turkey were people who wanted to join the gold rush in 1849.

Key elements to making gunpowder are: 10 percent sulfur, 75 percent potassium nitrate, and 15 percent carbon.

Lightening temperature can reach up to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit and can contain a hundred million electrical volts. It can also stretch out over five miles in length.

Electric light bulb was discovered by Thomas Edison in 1879. However, Sir Humphrey Davy was actually the first to connect two wires to a battery and connect that to a charcoal strip which caused the charcoal to glow making it the first lamp in 1809.

Reaching the ripe age of 70, Benjamin Franklin was the oldest person to sign the Declaration of Independence.



## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**MOBY-DICK** (By Herman Melville)  
High adventure pursuit intercut with whale industry trivia and philosophy sidebars.



**SWITCH** (By Chip and Dan Heath)  
Better living through forming better habits.



**THE COPYRIGHT HANDBOOK** (By Stephan Fishman)  
Guide on getting protection for your creations.



**THE LADY AND THE LAPDOG** (By Anton Chekov)  
Jaded/married man going emo with amarried young woman is the headliner in this classic short story collection.

RATINGS:

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

# Poetic Justice Project's Helping Hand

By Boston Woodard  
Staff Writer

"Every human being has a spark of something in them that can be ignited for the good of mankind.... Someone getting out of prison has to make their own choices. Whether they end up sleeping under a bridge or whatever, they have to make the choice not to commit another crime. But when someone lends a helping hand, it makes a world of difference."

These are the words of former prisoner Guillermo Willie being interviewed about the Poetic Justice Project by the online news magazine aNewsCafe.com. An actor in several PJP productions, Willie is now on the advisory board for the innovative reentry program that provides formerly incarcerated people opportunities to involve themselves with the arts.

Based in Santa Maria, the Poetic Justice Project was founded by Deborah Tobola in 2009.

A former journalist and teacher with a Master of Fine Arts degree, Tobola taught writing classes for 12 years at the following prisons: Tehachapi, Wasco, Delano and the California Men's Colony West Facility. Later she facilitated music, art and drama classes for the Arts in Corrections program, which has since been discontinued due to budget cuts.

Tobola says she has a passion for working with imprisoned people involved with the arts. "The qualities it takes to be a successful artist—commitment, discipline, honesty, integrity—are the same ones that could help these guys in everything."

"PJP's motto, 'Unlocking hearts and minds with bold, original theater' works both ways."

## Dramatic Arts Inside Prisons

In the late 1960s, San Quentin prisoner Rick Cluchey wrote a play called, *The Cage*. After a successful run through out the country, it was made into *WEEDS*, the box office hit movie starring Nick Nolte.

Theater groups have produced plays within the prison system for decades. For example, in the 1980s, a full-fledged production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* was performed in San Quentin, sponsored by the Arts In Corrections program. In the mid-1980s Arts Coordinator Jim Carlson brought in a Swedish director, Jan Jonson, who trained prisoner actors involved in the AIC, including Spoon Jackson [www.spoonjackson.com](http://www.spoonjackson.com) who played the pretentious "Pozzo." Jonson produced the play under the auspices of Samuel Beckett himself from his home in France.

The play's audience included San Quentin prisoners, as well as visitors brought into the prison from around the San Francisco Bay Area. The production

said Tobola. "For the actors, it's powerful for them to be accepted by the audience. They have felt stigmatized. For the audience, the performers may make people feel differently about men and women who have been incarcerated and are seeking to return [to society] as part of the community."

Tobola's late father was at one time a prison guard. Although her dad passed away before she began working behind prison walls, she remembers he was a great mentor. "He would have loved what I am doing today," she said.

John Steinbeck was one of her father's favorite writers and Tobola said he would have particularly loved PJP's production, *Of Mice and Men*, based on Steinbeck's novel.

PJP advisor Willie, who played George in *Of Mice and Men*, also performed in several other PJP productions. "Everyone reentering society from behind prison walls should have a vehicle for expression," Willie said. "Many parolees get ridiculed, put down and shunned because of their criminal history. It's sort of a sad mode of expression that folks adapt regarding ex-cons, and it shouldn't have to be that way."

There are approximately 75 ex-prisoners, both men and women, participating in the Poetic Justice Project. Women make up approximately a third of the participants.

The PJP has presented seven plays, many of them original.

In addition to *Of Mice and Men* they include: *Off The Hook* by Deborah Tobola, *The Exonerated* by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen, *Blue Train* by Cliff Ray, *What If?* by students at Los Prietos Boys Camp, *Planet Of Love* by Deborah Tobola, and *Women*

was written and talked about internationally for years.

Today, the San Quentin Shakespeare group [www.Marin-Shakespeare.org](http://www.Marin-Shakespeare.org) consists of 12 prisoner/performers. The program was started 10 years ago by Lesley Currier, co-director of the Marin Shakespeare Company, and is taught by Suraya Keating, a professional drama therapist.

Currier and Keating work as a team while directing the plays at San Quentin. Dr. Emily Slopance acts as the dramaturge for the Shakespeare productions at San Quentin, explaining the language, scenes, and logistics of the play to the group of performers.

San Quentin actor Julian-Glenn Padgett played "Hamlet" last year and was "Shylock" in this year's production of *The Merchant of Venice*. Reflecting on the experience, he said, "For me, acting opens doors to other worlds that are as imaginative as they are complex."

—Boston Woodard

*Behind Walls* by Claire Braz-Valentine.

This fall PJP is scheduled to perform *In The Kitchen With A Knife*, a murder mystery. Four PJP actors will appear in the

the PJP can be a lifesaver, she said.

Recidivism has skyrocketed, over-all rehabilitation programs have diminished, and promising opportunities are far-and-few-



Photo contributed by Deborah Tobola

Guillermo Willie and Nick Homick  
in the play *Of Mice and Men*

play, *The Hairy Ape*, in Arroyo Grande, California.

When asked if she missed working behind prison walls with artists, Tobola said, "I do miss it very much."

Tobola recently had a chance to do a 12-week workshop on the arts at the Los Prietos Boys Camp. During this time, the students explored creative writing, art, music, and theater improvisation; their efforts culminated in the PJP play, *What If?* For artistically talented people reentering society after imprisonment,

in-between for those adjusting to outside life. Nearly 70 percent of those released from California prisons return within a three-year period, at a cost of nearly \$51,000 annually per prisoner, according to the online prison news magazine, [www.aNewsCafe.com](http://www.aNewsCafe.com).

The Poetic Justice Project attempts to punch a hole in these grim statistics. "If we keep 20 people out here from going back to prison," said Tobola, "we save taxpayers \$1 million annually."

Former prisoner Willie added,

### 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](http://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.

"Statistics dictate that many parolees will soon go back to crime. Lending a helping hand to men and women who truly want to turn their lives around is a noble gesture. That is exactly what the PJP does for people like me."

The PJP operates on funds donated to the program. Various venues are used to practice and prepare for the plays. Sometimes, local churches step up and provide space and time for the PJP to get its production ready. In return, some of the volunteers and actors do work for the church, construction, painting, cleaning, or what ever is needed.

The Poetic Justice Project [www.poeticjustice.org](http://www.poeticjustice.org) is interested in looking at original plays. Stories can be about prison, redemption, points of view from prisoner's families, associates of prisoners or the prison system, etc. Stories should be serious and/or light hearted. The PJP is not looking to be a forum for personal political complaints or to demean anyone or the system.

Tobola emphasized the PJP wants to give parolees the opportunity to feel connected after returning to society. "The project also gives people a way to contribute to the community and at the same time have a creative community of their own, with actors and technical people, so it's like a big family," said Tobola. "We hope to enlighten people to this invisible subculture."

## San Quentin News

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# Warriors Take a Backseat to the Christian Ministries

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Contributing Sports Writer

## SPORTS

and at the line, taking a four point-lead at 80-76.  
Down four with 10 seconds

Despite a size advantage, the San Quentin Warriors basketball team missed critical free throws and lost to the outside Christian Ministries basketball team, 80-79 on June 15.

The Warriors lead the game most of the way, living up to center Chris Mujahid Munns' pre-game statement, "Nobody is coming in here imposing their will on us no more." Making the best of their size advantage and

a slow start by Ministries player Ben Ilegbodu, who missed three lay-ups early on, they lead by as much as nine points.

With seven seconds left in the game and the Warriors down one point, Vines went up from the key to make a potential game-winning jumper, but Ministries' player Ilegbodu blocked the shot.

It was called a foul and Vines

went to the free throw line to shoot two. He air-balled the first shot and also missed the second, and time ran out.

With 5:00 left in the second quarter, Warriors' outside-to-inside offensive game plan seemed to be working as they lead 37-28.

At halftime the Warriors trailed 46-45 against the smaller, energetic Ministries' guards, who managed to make key steals.

"We lost the lead on bad decisions and not taking advantage of their lack of size," said Warriors coach Daniel Wright.

The third quarter went back and forth, with one tie and two lead changes until the Warriors reclaimed the lead, 59-53, on great playing by Allen McIntosh, who scored eight during that period.

In the fourth, forward Ilegbodu, who scored 39 points, and center Mark Ivy led the Ministries back with strong inside moves, getting to the rack and the line.

Ministries tied the score at 71, with 3:20 left in the game when guard Matt Nash completed one of two free throws after being



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Ministries player Ben Ilegbodu bringing the ball up court



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Warriors player John Windham going for a layup against Christian Ministries player Mark Ivy

fouled going to the rack.

Ministries coach Bill Epling never panicked. "They have the size advantage, but we have the better guards," he said during a timeout.

With less than 1:00 left, Ministries guards stole the ball from Munns and McIntosh on back-to-back plays, followed by Ilegbodu scoring from inside

left in the game, Warriors player John Windham revived his team's final chances of winning by hitting an "in your face" three-pointer, reducing their deficit 80-79.

With seven seconds left, Ministries could have padded their one-point lead when Ilegbodu went to the line, but he missed both free throws.

## 4th Annual Six-Mile Race

By **Ruben Harper**  
Contributing Sports Writer

On a cool Friday evening, Miguel Quezada finished strong and posted a record-breaking 38:48 time to win San Quentin's 4th Annual Six Mile Race.

"I think it's good because records are meant to be broken. He earned it because he put in the work," said all-time San Quentin 1,000 Mile Club six-mile record-holder Eddie Herena about Quezada's new record.

Quezada won first place in San Quentin's 2013 1,000 Mile Club six-mile race that included 13 other runners.

His record placed him in San Quentin's 1,000 Mile Club among elite runners such as Lorenzo Hopson and Herena.

"Lorenzo had set a new San Quentin 1,000 Mile Club marathon record of 3:26:58 in the first race of 2013," said Quezada.

Quezada's winning record beat Herena's all-time record by 91 seconds.

"Eddie has maintained a 39:29 six-mile record since 2011," said Quezada.

Quezada achieved the new six-mile record by a progressive running pace of 6:49; 6:44; 6:36; 6:25; 6:13 to 6:01.

Herena finished second with a time of 39:39. Third place was Morceli Abdul Kader's time of 40:53.

"Eddie began the race five

minutes after the six-mile race had officially started, and he had no knowledge of what exact time he was running," said San Quentin's 1,000 Mile Club coach and community volunteer Frank Ruona.

Herena began to fade in his second to fifth mile of the six-mile track meet. However, he finished just 10 seconds after his 2011 six-mile record.

Herena lead the first mile at 6:16, and ended his last mile at 6:37 for his second place finish to Quezada.

He described his running experience as a way to push himself to train more. "I think that runners have gotten much faster. I have to work twice as hard if I want to win next time."

Ruona described Kader's third-place run as a similar pace which Herena recorded.

"Morceli Abdul ran a successful third-place spot of 40:53. He started at 6:41; 6:47; 7:00! 7:01 and finished his last mile with 6:40," said Ruona.

"In 2008, I got injured in a race, and since that day I never could get rid of my pain," said Kader about his preparation towards his next 1,000 Mile Club track competition.

Kader expressed his personal growth as an admiration for his running coach Ruona.

"He is an older man; he tells us all to stay strong, have fun, and stay in shape. I am happy to have him as one of my running coaches," said Kader.

## San Quentin Warriors Basketball Leaders Through June 22-July 6, 2013

Scoring				Rebounds			
Names	Games	Points	Average	Games	Points	Average	
Franklin	2	53	26 1/2	Eskridge	2	20	10
McIntosh	3	35	15	Munns	1	9	9
Strokes 2	27	13 1/2		Ammons	2	17	8 1/2
Hanks	2	24	12	Franklin	2	15	7 1/2
Windham	2	24	12	McIntosh	3	19	6.33
Cosby	1	10	10	Hanks	2	13	6 1/2
Ammons	3	16	8	Nelson	2	6	3
Eskridge	2	16	8				
Munns	1	8	8				
Nelson	2	14	7				
Vines	2	13	6 1/2				
Jones	2	7	3 1/2				



Photo by sam Hearnes

Morceli Abdul running around the track on the Lower Yard

# 2013 Graduation Ceremony for Achievements

*Continued from Page 1*

Brooklyn, New York, is involved in community development in San Francisco's Tenderloin District. He said he wants to build community arts in the Tenderloin, so that everyone has access to the arts.

"The arts gets to what's in the heart," Padilla said. "Art centers can send a message that we only need help. Needing help doesn't mean we're helpless. We want to get past this constant message that we're helpless and hopeless. Just because we're broken, doesn't mean that you don't belong."

Alan Wesson, a teacher at the private school Lick-Wilmerding in San Francisco, came inside San Quentin for the first time. "The graduation was awesome,"

he said, adding "I think it's a little surreal, thinking about not being about to leave this place."

The 2013 graduation consisted of 29 GED graduates, five machine shop graduates, 18 sheet metal graduates, a graduate from Coastline Community College, Palo Verde College, Blackstone Career Institute, and seven graduates from Patten University.

"My diploma gave me a newfound understanding for academic achievement," said PUP valedictorian Michael Nelson.

Nelson said he's going to use his education to better the lives around him. "Choose to be free, in whatever this word means to you," Nelson said.

"I want to thank all the graduates, because you're the reason we're here," said PUP facilitator Kara Orion. "We never ever say

enough to the 100-150 volunteers who help run this program."

PUP volunteer Dominique Brassey said she's leaving the country to travel, learn, and teach.

"I wish I could take all the San Quentin guys with me," she said. "I'll be thinking about them wherever I am in the world." Brassey gave credit to the administration, in particular to acting community partnership manager Steve Emrick. "He's a good gentleman, and a hard worker. We all appreciate him."

"I saw Gary Scott (recently released on parole) on the streets yesterday while riding my bike," Brassey said. "I'm so proud of him for graduating."

Scott was incarcerated since he was 15 years old and served nearly 16 years for second-degree murder. He was involved in several groups at San Quentin, including Kid Cat, SQUIRES, and he was sports editor for San Quentin News.

Among the guests was Debra Sheldon who transferred in



Photo by Sam Hearnes

## Graduates and family members prepare for the opening ceremony

2009 from San Quentin to a Southern California prison, and has subsequently retired from CDCR. Some of the groups Sheldon was involved with were the Veterans Group, Day of Peace committee, and the literacy group, Project Reach.

"Education has a way to transport a person out of their existence," said San Quentin's first two-time valedictorian, Christopher Shuhmacher, as he referred to how education influenced his life in prison.

"Not having a high school diploma is something I've always regretted," said GED Valedictorian Steve Piazza. "Now that I have a GED, a great weight has been lifted off my shoulders." The audience applauded this statement as Piazza told his fellow graduates: "Don't let what you've learned go to rest. Most

of us have done things we regret; we can't change that. But, the one thing we can change is our future."

"Being in education is like being in an out-of-body moment," literacy coordinator Gary Shimmel told the audience. "When I'm asked how to spell hero, I say, 'It's you.' Every day I come here, I leave a better person because of you."

Music was provided by James Metters and Marlon Beason, singing My Congratulations, the group called Banks and Maverick, singing I Hope You're Proud of Me, and Sebastian Sprague on piano playing musical interludes.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of the American flag and closed by retiring the colors by the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Marco Villa and his family at the graduation

## Alliance for Change Embraces the Men in Blue's Success

*Continued from Page 1*

Alliance for CHANGE examines these forms of social justice "educates the men in ways of achieving social harmony in a pro-social way," said President Malik Harris, who helped create the group five years ago.

"One of the main differences in this graduating class was the stark differences on how the ethnic groups interpreted how laws are applied," said Isaiah Raheem Thompson, the group's vice president. "Our course explains the theory of these applications, tears it down, and tries

finding ways to reconstruct it, so students' perspective of the law is more universal and evenly understood."

Social justice is how people feel about the fairness and equality of allocating resources. For example, it analyzes how schools, police and other public services are funded along with what factors are considered in distribution of funds, according to Harris.

"People's perception about the law affects how they operate in society," said Dr. Kim Richman, who helped form the group.

Richman the president of the Board of Directors. Her administrative duties include operating the group's non-profit status, streamlining the program's operations and bringing guests into the prison to support classes given by it facilitators.

Richman teaches criminal justice classes at the University of San Francisco and assists Alliance for CHANGE by teaching inmate instructors how to facilitate classes.

Facilitators strive to teach the course without giving participants an opportunity to speculate as to how or what the content of the classes might consider regarding social justice and criminal justice—giving participants an exceptional perspective about equity and fairness.

The discussion groups have several types of exercises which give participants experience in how certain types of criminal justice policies affect them.

"Since we've begun this program, we've had about 60 graduates," said Harris. "David Cowen graduated in 2011. He paroled from San Quentin and is now is our director for re-integration." Cowen picks up new parolees, and helps them with things like getting identifica-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dr. Karen Lovaas and Olga Mitchell presenting Nathan Gillespie with his certificate

tion, clothes and housing, Harris said.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE GRADUATES

BeltranChuc Tare  
Blake, Carlyle "Otter"  
Butler, Nelson "Noble"  
Freelon, Karl  
Gillespie, Nathan  
Kim, Phirak "Kid"  
Little, Jefferey  
Pangthong, Anouthinh  
Parratt, John "Yahyah"  
Potter, Theodore  
Stephens, David "Lumpy"  
Villa, Marco  
White Larry  
Yazzie, Eldridge

### ANGER MANAGEMENT GRADUATES

Adams, Kaseem  
BeltranChuc Tare  
Brewer, Robert  
Burton, Terrence  
Deragon, Christopher  
Flowers, Darell  
Green, Jason  
Hill, Ernest  
McKinney, Nathan  
Pangthong, Anouthinh  
Rogers, Wilbert  
Stephens, David "Lumpy"  
Taylor, David  
Villa, Marco  
White Larry  
Zorns, Richard



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Alliance graduates in the ARC building applaud their success before the graduation ceremony begins