

San Quentin News

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Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Women performing in the SQ chapel Native Americans' 50 years of struggle

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The San Quentin Native American community is celebrating 50 years of campaigning to protect and preserve their culture.

Plans are underway to have another of the Native American Spiritual Group's Pow Wows later this year. The Pow Wow is only one part of a larger set of activities, which includes honoring elders and traveling the "Red

Road," a spiritual and cultural journey to recovery and reconnection back to their traditional ways.

"The Red Road is a lifetime commitment to learn and teach our ceremonial ways," said Hector Frank Heredia, Native American chaplain and spiritual advisor. "It's a humble path; it's a spiritual crave, a hunger to get in touch with Mother-Earth."

See *Red Road* on Page 10

CALPIA's Pattillo explains the options of prison job training

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

The jobs inmates do in California's prisons are diverse, and they demand skills that can be used in the outside workforce, according to Charles Pattillo, General Manager of the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA).

Over the years, CALPIA has expanded from making license plates to producing a wide variety of different products including furniture, baked goods and agriculture. Now the agency is providing training in a number of highly skilled trades, such as computer coding, Computer-Aided Design,

commercial diving and iron working.

Pattillo said that inmates working in the Healthcare Facilities Maintenance (HFM) program and similar inmate jobs could be eligible to continue working for the state, once released from prison. The only place Pattillo said ex-inmates could not work is in the Capitol building and where there are highly sensitive computers.

Pattillo has expanded HFM jobs (hospital janitorial work) from 900 positions to 1,200 positions. In an interview, Pattillo was asked why he has increased janitorial jobs in the state's prisons. "Not everyone can be a computer coder," he said.

Pattillo is currently working to make the workplace more accessible for workers who need substance abuse programs as well as educational services.

Pattillo said having those services on-site eliminates an inmate having to choose between working or going to a self-help program. "It's a win-win situation."

Innovative ideas got Pattillo national recognition late last year when the National Correctional Industries Association (NCIA) selected him for the 2017 Rodli Award.



Courtesy of CDCR

Charles Pattillo

See *Pattillo* on Page 4

Man found innocent after 19 years



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Guy Miles with his grandchildren at SQ's Get On The Bus event

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

While serving 75 years to life for a robbery he didn't commit, Guy Miles missed seeing his children grow up, the birth of his grandkids and the death

of family members. Throughout the whole time, he has professed his innocence to the courts, various innocence projects and fellow prisoners.

The courts overturned his conviction after 19 years of persistence, a chance meeting

with one of the actual robbers, the help of the California Innocence Project, three evidentiary hearings and a change in the standard for review of new evidence.

See *Miles* on Page 4



File Photo

Pope Francis Pope Francis supports clemency

By Miguel Sifuentes
Journalism Guild Writer

In early November, Pope Francis appealed to world governments to mark the end of the Year of Mercy by extending clemency to deserving inmates, according to the National Catholic Reporter.

"Every time I visit a prison, I ask myself: 'Why them and not me?' We can all make mistakes, all of us. And in one way or another, we have," he said, departing from his prepared text, humanizing both himself and prisoners with his typical humility.

See *Pope Francis* on Page 5

Veterans pay tribute à

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin paid tribute to Mary Donovan for her dedication to veterans programs.

Donovan is an inspirational beacon for many incarcerated veterans who are dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She has played a critical role in the volunteer team that has helped build the Veterans Healing Veterans from the Inside Out (VHV) program.

Donovan recalls, "This all began about four years ago as a volunteer tutor with the Prison University Project (PUP). I was helping Marine Special Forces inmate Ron Self work on a paper covering therapeutic shared trauma narratives. He found this type of therapy proved especially effective for veterans struggling in the aftermath of combat trauma.



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Mary Donovan

See *Donovan* on Page 4

INSIDE EDITION #90

Man found innocent	1	Inmates are 20 percent	8
Native Americans' 50 years	1	Looking back on 42 years	9
CALPIA's Pattillo	1	DDS Morley's heartfelt	9
Pope Francis supports	1	The history	10-11
Veterans pay tribute	1	Arts & Entertainment	12-13
News Briefs	2	Consulado Mexicano	14
PPI advocates for inmates'	3	Mas vivir y menos	14
Probe finds officers create	3	Two views of how Prop. 47	15
Re-imagining new uses	3	Employment	15
'Debtors' prison' policy	3	Louisiana lacks funding	15
SQ inmates raises over	4	Book Review	16
Flood of SQ media attention	5	Asked On The Line	16
California tries once again	5	45 bikes for Christmas	16
Four leaders honored	6	Folsom prisoners	16
Letters to the Editor	6	SQ inmates victory lures	17
Survey finds crime victims	6	Higher age, fewer write-ups	17
Kid CAT Speaks	7	Sports	18
SQ hosts national	8	Sports	19
Oak Glen firecamp reopens	8	Mexican consulate in SF	20



News Briefs

- Alaska** — Lawmakers adopted a measure to limit prison growth and reduce recidivism, *The Sentencing Project* reports. The legislation expands alternatives to incarceration, reduces jail terms for misdemeanors, reclassifies drug possession as a misdemeanor, reduces felony-sentence ranges, expanded parole eligibility, streamlines releases for persons sentenced for first-time nonviolent offenses, and caps incarceration for technical violations of probation and paroles.
- Louisiana** — State lawmakers raised the age for criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, *The Sentencing Project* reports.
- Arkansas** — Legal problems with disclosing where lethal drugs come from have stalled the state's use of capital punishment, *RT America* reports. In 2005, nine inmates challenged the state's secrecy law, arguing that failure to disclose manufacturers violates the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- Augusta, Ga.** — Nearly a year after Richard Strickland, 31, and Cody Lee Vestal, 37, died after being pulled out of smoke-filled prison cells, there is no explanation as to how the fire started, *The Augusta Chronicle* reports. It is difficult to determine what happened from the incident reports submitted. But it is important for prison officials to conduct a thorough investigation and determine what policy or procedure changes are needed, a representative of the Southern Center for Human Rights said. Complaints about stabbings, beatings and gang activity in the prisons continue to be reported to the Center.
- Missouri** — Last year, state prisoners participating in the Restorative Justice Garden Program donated nearly 137 tons of fresh produce to pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and other organizations, television station *KFVS-12* reports. George A. Lombardi, director of corrections, said, "It is truly amazing that so many food pantries and individuals all across the state have come to depend on the produce

- that comes from these gardens. Restorative Justice Programs like this one provide offenders the means to help repay their debt to society, while teaching them the value of compassion, a quality many of them lack in their lives."
- Illinois** — Lawmakers enacted a measure that would report racial information when people are arrested but not charged with a crime and in cases when diversion from prosecution is applied, *The Sentencing Project* reports.
 - Lansing, Mich.** — The state's prison food contractor, Trinity Services Group, has to pay penalties of \$905,750 for unauthorized meal substitutions, \$357,000 for delays serving meals, \$356,000 for inadequate staffing levels, and \$294,500 for sanitation violations, among other penalties, *Detroit Free Press* reports.
 - Pennsylvania** — Prison Policy Initiative issued a report advising the state to stop automatically suspending driver's licenses for drug convictions not related to driving, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reports. The law makes it harder for those with such convictions to access jobs, according to the report. Only Virginia, Michigan, Florida and New Jersey suspend more licenses annually than Pennsylvania.
 - Virginia** — Gov. Terry McAuliffe issued several executive orders automatically restoring voting rights to persons who had completed their sentence including probation or parole, *The Sentencing Project* reports.
 - Massachusetts** — Prisoners' Legal Services says the state's use of solitary confinement is inhumane and ineffective, especially for people with mental illness. The state's mental healthcare system was examined, including care provided in the state's prisons, where at least 30 percent of inmates suffer from mental illness.
 - New Hampshire** — New visitation room policies have been implemented that are intended to curb drug smuggling into the state's prisons, prison officials revealed in a *Concord Monitor* report. At all facilities, hugs are

- limited to three seconds. Inmates and their loved ones cannot kiss. Those inmates who fail to comply with the new policy will have their visits immediately terminated and risk missing future visits. Prisoners can hold hands with their visitors, but only on top of a table where visible. They also must maintain physical space between each other during visits, although young children are still permitted to sit on their incarcerated father's or mother's lap. All vending machines and board games have been removed from visiting rooms.
- Baltimore, Md.** — While the city is on target for more than 300 shootings for the second consecutive year, deadly shootings in Park Heights are on the decline. The drop is credited to Safe Streets, a program run by the city's Health Department that hires ex-offenders to help resolve potentially deadly confrontations, reported *Detroit Free Press* in a series examining innovative policies in other cities.
 - Maryland** — Lawmakers passed a measure repealing mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug crimes, establishing graduated sanctions short of re-imprisonment for parole and probation violators, allowing geriatric and medical parole at earlier ages for certain offenses, and increasing credits earned toward release for completion of educational programs in prison, *The Sentencing Project* reports.
 - Delaware** — The state scaled back its "Three Strikes" Law by increasing the number of prior convictions for certain offenses before a defendant would be classified as a habitual offender, *The Sentencing Project* reports. Prior to the law change, the criminal code required a mandatory life sentence upon a third conviction for a violent offense and required persons with three prior non-violent felonies and then a violent felony conviction to receive the maximum allowable sentence for the violent felony. The legislation is retroactive and allows for sentence modification for persons convicted under the old law.

CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S ISSUE

The name Michael Vick in the PUP's big open-mic article and photo caption was misprinted. The correct spelling is James Vick.

Printing and distribution of the *San Quentin News* is supported solely by donations and grants from the outside community. To make a donation please visit our website at: sanquentinnews.com or send your tax-deductible check or money order to: **Friends of San Quentin News**, P.O. Box 494, San Quentin, CA 94964. Under the check memo section, please write "Friends of San Quentin News" Thank you for your support.

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



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 will 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 artwork (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point. Send Submissions to:

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1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964

For inmates that want to receive a copy of the *San Quentin News* in the mail, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to the above address.

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

Behind the Scenes

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PPI advocates for inmates' well-being

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

When it comes to jail and prison procedures, the Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), an advocacy organization in Northampton, MA, has led the way in fighting for real changes in policies that affect the well-being of inmates.

In its 2015-16 annual report, PPI celebrated successes. The organization led a campaign for legislation that would protect in-person visits in California jails and juvenile facilities (SB 1157).

The bill passed both chambers after Bernadette Rabuy, senior policy analyst, traveled to California to testify before the Senate Public Safety Committee. However, Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed the bill.

"We are working with our allies on other strategies to protect visitation in California," Peter Wagner, PPI Executive Director, wrote in the report.

Regarding inmate telephone calls, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a series of historic regulations to reduce costs after PPI exposed big corporate phone companies' attempts to exploit loopholes.

The phone companies went to the courts to fight the regulations and won a temporary stay on part of the order, but some rate-reduction parts went in to effect on schedule.

"We're continuing to support the FCC by supplying much-needed research on this billion-dollar industry," the report stated.

PPI also challenged the way electronic communications, electronic messaging and emails are handled in prisons. Prisons can charge up to \$1.25 for a one-way and limited-length single message. That's three times more costly than a first class letter.

"We hope the FCC will take on this industry after they fully address the prison telephone industry," the report expressed.

PPI challenged states around the nation that have or try to introduce postcard-only policies for its jails in an attempt to eliminate letters in regular envelopes.

PPI released two reports Return to Sender: Postcard-Only Mail Policies in Jails and Protecting Written Family Communication in Jails: A 50-State Survey.

The reports played a role in a successful campaign against a letter ban in the Santa Barbara County jail. In September 2014 the jail announced that incarcerated people would once again be allowed to receive letters from family and friends.

These reports "serve as a tool against future letter bans by identifying the agencies that oversee jail mail standards in each state and spelling out their policies on written communication," the report stated.

Sheriffs in Macomb County, Mich., and Flagler County, Fla., agreed to lift postcard-only policies. Lawsuits are underway challenging postcard-only policies in Knox County, Tenn., and Wilson County, Kansas.

PPI made major steps toward convincing the U.S. Census Bureau to count incarcerated people as residents of their home addresses in the 2020 Census to fight prison gerrymandering.

"The way the Census Bureau counts incarcerated people labels many prison-hosting counties as diverse when they are, in reality, anything but," the report stated.

"We organized 100,000 people to call on the Census Bureau to end prison gerrymandering. The Census Bureau published two Federal Register notices about prison gerrymandering. Ninety-six percent of the comments submitted in the summer of 2015 were supportive of reform." The summer of 2016 comments have yet to be published by the bureau, PPI noted.

PPI challenged a federal policy that requires states to automatically suspend the driver's licenses of people convicted of drug offenses. The District of Columbia and 12 other states still suspend driver's licenses for any type of drug offense — even if the offense has nothing to do with operating a vehicle or road safety.

"We're making sure the remaining states have the information they need to repeal this costly and counterintuitive law," PPI said.

The Prison Policy Initiative was formed with two goals in mind: first, to achieve real change on specific criminal justice reform issues, Wagner wrote. And second, to make the larger point that the harm of mass criminalization extends far beyond the people who are locked up.



Courtesy of CDCR

Aerial photograph of High Desert State Prison

Probe finds officers create a culture of racism at HDSP

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

At High Desert State Prison (HDSP) the correctional officers see the inmates as "little more than wild animals" reports Don Thompson for *The Associated Press*.

"Black inmates were disproportionately likely to face discipline and use of force," according to the *AP*.

In 2015, the Inspectors General's Office found there was a "culture of racism" created by officers.

Corrections Secretary Scott Kernan ordered the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) to investigate the prison.

According to ASCA, there were, "little evidence of overt racism, but plenty of other problems at the maximum security prison housing about 3,800 inmates near Susanville, nearly 200 miles from Sacramento."

The lack of leadership and communication at the prison "has left the staff without a clear sense of direction, and in particular unaware of the change toward rehabilitation in the department's mission," according to the report.

"In their view, efforts to rehabilitate inmates of the type housed at HDSP, who they view as little more than wild animals, are both futile and dangerous."

The ASCA report also found that officers rarely interacted with inmates unless violence erupted. "It was as if the officers and the inmates had reached an agreement. 'You can do your thing, and we'll do ours, so long as you don't get violent.'"

This sort of attitude is what led to allowing illegal activities such as gambling, which was just a way to keep the peace, reports the ASCA.

Reviewers also found that, "white inmates were disproportionately assigned to skilled

jobs, while Latinos were under-represented."

Although the ASCA examined slightly different factors than the Inspectors General's Office, both agencies seemed to find the same amount of statistical problems.

According to the Prison Law Office, HDSP inmates were often subjected to racist comments, said Don Spector, the Prison Law Office's director. "It's incredibly difficult for the Department of Corrections to rehabilitate prisoners when at least some of the staff have those kinds of comments — suggesting that the prisoners are not human or, even milder, not fit for rehabilitation," said Spector.

Kernan said the officers at HDSP worked under difficult circumstances, but they will continue to strive for improvements. "Our overarching goal is to ensure safety for everyone and to promote rehabilitation in support of public safety."

Re-imagining new uses for shuttered prisons

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Shuttered prisons across the nation are given new life by private developers, non-profits and community leaders as economic development and social benefit centers.

"In recent years, entrepre-

neurs, elected officials and community leaders in a handful of states have re-imagined sites that once incarcerated prisoners for new uses," *The Sentencing Project* reported in a December policy brief.

Since 2011, there have been 94 closures and pending closures of correctional facilities. There were also 1,195 fewer juvenile facilities in 2014 than 2000, a 39 percent decline, according to the brief.

The brief outlined some of the planned projects around the country, which included:

In New York, the Arthur Kill Correctional Facility that once housed 931 male inmates was sold to Brooklyn Broadway Stages for \$7 million. It will be converted into a movie studio. The studio is expected to generate more than 1,500 new jobs over a five-year period.

In Tennessee, the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, built in 1896, is being repurposed by a private developer into a distillery and tourist attraction.

In North Carolina, the Haywood Correctional Center is being repurposed into a multi-use site that includes a halfway house, homeless shelter and soup kitchen.

At least four states — Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia — have converted closed prisons into tourist destinations open to visitors and available to host Halloween events.

But, these developments are not uniform across the country, despite the drop in overall U.S. prison population, the brief noted.

"Some states have announced since 2013 that they may open new correctional facilities, add new beds to existing facilities, or reopen facilities that had previously been shuttered," the project reported.

"Re-imagining the use for a closed prison offers states and local communities opportunities to address the scale of incarceration," said Nicole D. Porter, director of state advocacy at *The Sentencing Project*.

'Debtors' Prison' policy scrapped

Due to a lawsuit filed last fall by the ACLU on behalf of Jayne Fuentes, the Benton County Commissioners of Richland, Wash., decided to end their "debtors' prison" policy, reports Rick Anderson for the *Los Angeles Times*.

The lawsuit was based on a U.S. Supreme Court precedent that bans the jailing of defendants for being too poor to pay a fine.

Fuentes, who was convicted on three counts of minor theft, had built up \$3,000 in fines and restitution charges, reported Anderson.

In an effort to work off her debt, Fuentes said she accepted a work crew job "but when I was done with the work crew, I still owed \$2,700 on another debt. I could have ended up in jail again." It was at this point that the lawsuit was filed.

According to Doug Honig, a spokesperson for the ACLU, similar lawsuits were filed and settled in Biloxi, Miss., Colorado Springs, Colo., and Eastpointe, Mich.

"Across the country, counties and cities seeking revenue are using jail and forced labor to coerce poor people to pay fines and

fees they cannot afford," said Nusrat Choudhury, an attorney for the ACLU.

The Fuentes lawsuit argued that 320 Benton County inmates were jailed in a six and a half month period for being unable to pay their fines.

"This wasn't about trying to get out of paying my fines," said Fuentes. "If I had to go back to jail I'd lose my car, my house — everything I worked for. Maybe now I have a chance."

Fuentes and two other defendants each got a \$1,000 settlement fee from Benton County.

—Noel Scott

SQ inmates raised over \$30,000 for charities in 2016

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

By the end of 2016, San Quentin prisoners and their respective activities groups raised \$32,629 in donations for many charitable nonprofit organizations through food sales.

Project Avary, a Bay Area organization that provides numerous programs such as summer camps, teen leadership and family unity programs for children of incarcerated parents, was one of the agencies receiving a donation.

"We are all in this together," Zachary Whelan, Project Avary Executive Director, said. "To make a better life for the kids, it warms our hearts, and I speak

for the whole organization that you guys are doing your part." "I always speak highly about the men at San Quentin, Solano and Avenal that raise money for the kids; it's incredible."

The San Quentin Financial Literacy Group held a Panda Express Chinese Kitchen food sale that raised \$829 for Project Avary.

Hundreds of incarcerated men filled the Lower Yard to pick up beef and broccoli platters, orange chicken or a vegetable platter at \$10.50 each, with 70 percent of the profits going to charity and 30 percent to the warden's charity of choice.

Some of the men, who make as little as \$0.08 an hour on a prison labor job, had to save for months

to make a purchase, "It's always good to purchase food from the outside," said Elijah Fejeran. "But it's even better when you can give back to the community, especially the kids, it can give them an advantage we didn't have."

Inmate Robert Lee added, "I love that our money is going where it should be going. It makes the food sale that much more enjoyable, instead of giving to some unknown place. Knowing it's for kids of incarcerated parents makes us feel useful...I think if we had better prices and a variety of other stuff to buy, more money could have been raised. Regardless, it still put us on track to give back to our community."

The Financial Literacy Program teaches incarcerated men financial empowerment and responsibilities. The Financial Empowerment Emotional Literacy (FEEL) philosophy is built around money management, saving, borrowing, cost control, and diversification.

"This is just a small token that could be made," Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, Financial Literacy Group Chairman, said. "The goal is to help fund the many programs they have for the kids."

"The lesson for us is our knowledge to affect change, through the better management of our own finances, so we can give back and donate," Carroll added.

The Special Olympics is an-

other cause that staff and inmates donate to statewide. San Quentin youth offenders program, Kid CAT, raised money and held a hygiene drive for Huckleberry Youth, a multi-service center in San Francisco.

Exploring Leadership and Improving Transitional Effectiveness (ELITE) raised funds in support of the Global Sojourns Giving Circle, a charity that aids education and empowerment of girls in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Funds also were raised for the Rahima Foundation, a safe house and transitional services provider for battered women.

The Veterans Group of San Quentin held a Christmas toy drive with Toy for Tots.

Miles

Continued from Page 1

"Guy Miles is in state prison for 75 years to life," wrote 4th District Appeals Court in its opinion granting relief. "A jury convicted him of armed robbery, and he has been in custody for almost 19 years. ... But now he has presented 'new evidence' to this court that is of such decisive force and value that it would have more likely than not changed the outcome of the trial."

Miles has always claimed he was innocent of the armed robbery committed by three men. Two prosecution witnesses identified him as one of the robbers. One of those witnesses couldn't identify Miles until the prosecutor showed her a color photo of Miles right before her in-court identification, according to the court's opinion.

Several witnesses placed Miles in Las Vegas at the time of the

robbery in Orange County.

Miles never gave up. For nine years, he said he filed about 13 writs (appeals) on his own, without any new evidence.

"Keep fighting, keep hope alive and never let nobody tell you that you can't make it happen," said Miles.

He also said he wrote to about six different organizations for help. The Innocence Project took his case.

"I wrote Innocence Project back in 2001," said Miles "They kept denying me, but I kept writing them. I probably wrote them three times. I refused to believe that an organization like that wouldn't jump at the chance to find the truth."

While imprisoned, he met Jason Steward, who admitted to committing the crime with two other men. The Innocence Project helped him get statements from Bernard Teamer, Steward and Harold Bailey, who all confessed that they committed the robbery and that Miles had no

part of it.

The Innocence Project filed a writ in the Orange County Superior Court in 2010. Bailey refused to testify, but Steward and Teamer both did. Applying the old standard, the court found that the new evidence did not point unerringly to Miles' innocence.

In 2013, the appellate court again ordered an evidentiary hearing held by a referee, Orange County Superior Judge Thomas M. Goethals. The judge found that Miles did not meet the standard for habeas relief because the witnesses did not have credibility.

Previously the State Supreme Court ruled that new evidence must point unerringly to innocence and completely undermine the prosecution's case.

The procedural law changed when Senate Bill 1134 went into effect Jan. 1. (Cal. Penal Code, 1473, subd. (b)(3)(A).) Sen. Mark Leno D-San Francisco sponsored the bill that Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law.

Miles' case was the first to have the new evidence standard applied, according to a *San Francisco Daily Journal* article.

"The old standard was pretty impossible to meet. The new standard put us on a much stronger foothold," California Innocence Project Litigation Director Alissa Bjerkhoel said.

The California Innocence Project was the primary entity which pioneered the new evidence standard law change. They drafted the bill's language and helped get it pushed through Sacramento.

Bjerkhoel said that new evidence cases denied under the old standard could refile using the same evidence for review under the new standard.

"They can try again," said Bjerkhoel.

In 2016, State Appellate Court ordered another referee to make evidentiary findings. The Orange County Superior Court denied relief for a third time.

When Miles re-filed his case in the State Appellate court, they

granted relief on Jan. 23.

Judge J. Moore wrote in a separate opinion that, "I believe there were significant problems with the eyewitness identifications, including suggestive photographic lineups and improper prosecutorial tactics which resulted in Miles' conviction."

"The majority opinion does not find Miles to be 'factually innocent.' But there is a strong likelihood that an innocent man has spent almost 19 years in custody for a crime he did not commit."

Miles said, "They have 60 days to retry me or let me go. All the letdowns you have while you're doing time taught me not to over think it."

If Miles goes home on actual innocence, he won't get the standard help parolees get, like \$200 at the prison exit gate or transitional housing.

"I'll get thrown out in the street without any financial support except a lawsuit if it gets granted," said Miles. "I'm blessed to have my family's support."

Donovan

Continued from Page 1

"It was impossible for me to look away from the men who had faced battles, who are by all definition brutally traumatized and/or morally stressed. I switched over from PUP to volunteer, facilitate and eventually sponsor the VHV Group that Self was starting up,"

Donovan says.

The facilitators' duties consist of being mediators, mentors, referees and cheerleaders. VHV attempts to unlock and release the intensive past residing within many of these tormented war veterans. This can be a long and, at times, grueling journey.

Gaining trust with each other is the first major hurdle. Donovan says that she breaks through these icebergs by sharing her own life's

ups, downs, tears, fears and inspirations.

As many of these veterans know, there is no such thing as a quick fix for PTSD. Many saw their best friends shot, blown apart and/or killed during the heat of battle and could not stop to mourn their loss. Writing these events on paper is sometimes the only way to recall painful moments and memories.

Another statistic that facilita-

tors never forget is about 20 veterans commit suicide everyday in the United States, according to a study from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This amounts to approximately 7,000 deaths a year.

"I took on the role of director/coordinator when we got fiscal sponsorship from the Insight Prison Project in January 2014," Donovan says.

One of the main goals at VHV is to let the nearly 400 SQ veterans and those at other prisons know that they are not alone. Their motto is, "I got your 6," which means, "I got your back." All SQ veterans are encouraged to try the ongoing classes.

"We have also expanded to Deuel Vocational Institution and hope to work with other prisons thanks to the new CDCR Innovative Programming Grant process," Donovan states.

VHV inmate member R. Cooper said, "Mary understands the Yin and Yang of the group. I don't think she realizes how much she truly brings to these groups."

VHV inmate facilitator S. Gaskins agreed, saying, "Mary is an intricate part that is absolutely necessary. She makes us feel human after all these years of pent-up anger. She brings a calming effect that is critical during heated discussions, by providing other avenues and ways for looking at

things."

J. Dunbar, the SQVA clerk, added, "Mary is an active participant who gives personal feedback and counseling."

VHV member R. Coleman said, "Mary brings a feminine perspective that helps open our eyes to empathy and compassion for others."

Donovan has a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's degree in media studies. She uses her negotiating skills to assist the growing VHV community inside and out of prison gates. She attends senate hearings and conducts meetings with various local and regional veterans' agencies.

After working with PTSD veterans, she contends that "there is a real need to raise awareness at the intersection of criminal justice and military junctions. All veterans returning from service and/or re-entering society from prison need stable housing to re-acclimate themselves to civilian life. We are poised to start a VHV group for outside veterans also."

"I've learned so much about myself in the process of working with these veterans and their experiences. I am proud to be a part of this dedicated nation of men and women who have given their all for us," Donovan said.

For more information, see the VHV website at veteranshealingveterans.org

Pattillo

Continued from Page 1

The Rodli Award was first given in 1978, and Pattillo is the first director from California to receive it.

Pattillo, who's been on the job for 10 years, is the longest serving director in CALPIA history.

"Chuck has not only been a leader in the Correctional Industry field through his work at CALPIA, but he is also eager to share his expertise and resources to help other Correctional Industries across the country launch new programs and/or problem-solve challenges," said NCIA Executive Director Gina Honeycutt in a CALPIA press release. "Chuck has volunteered countless hours of his own time

to support NCIA in its mission to support the professional development of our members and we are thrilled to recognize, him with this highest honor."

California's top corrections official Scott Kernan said, "Mr. Pattillo is tasked with one of the hardest jobs in California government: rehabilitating offenders in prison by developing and implementing results-based employment training in the framework of a profitable, self-sufficient and diversified business model. Mr. Pattillo has demonstrated great discernment, business judgment and sound government principles in ensuring CALPIA's success despite an often challenging environment that includes times of decreasing resources, correctional reorganization, public safety realignment and the extreme uncer-

tainty of politics. He is a great proponent and practitioner of collaboration at all levels, finding ways to accomplish goals even in the toughest of times."

Pattillo cited many different numbers and statistics that support what CALPIA has accomplished over the past years, but the statistic he said he's most proud of is the low recidivism rate of CALPIA employees. CALPIA employees return to prison on average 26 to 38 percent less often than offenders released from the general population, and CALPIA's Career Technical Education programs have a cumulative recidivism rate of 7.13 percent.

Pattillo, proud of the work his team does, says that inmates employed by CALPIA is the best savings for Californians in tax dollars and public safety.

Flood of SQ media attention draws back Van Jones

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Incarcerated men at San Quentin are getting a lot of press for their accomplishments. The media work produced by and featuring incarcerated men attracted a visit from a CNN anchor and the mayor of Mill Valley.

Van Jones, host of CNN's "The Messy Truth," and Jessica Sloan, mayor of Mill Valley, came to San Quentin Prison's Media Center on Jan. 27.

Among the men they met with were Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, Adnan Khan and Anouthinh Pangthong, three men who committed murder when they were teenagers, now featured in a video on Alicia Keys' We Are Here Movement website. The video received more than 63,000 hits within its first few days.

Earlone Woods and Antwan "Banks" Williams, the incarcerated men who crafted the podcast Ear Hustle, produced the We Are Here video.

Pangthong, Khan and Carroll were also featured in a segment called My Magnificent Moment on KQED's "News Hour" the night before Jones and Sloan visited. They spoke about taking accountability and the factors that led them to commit crimes.

Sloan, Alexandra Mallick Williams and Jones started their meeting around a circular table with Carroll, Khan, David

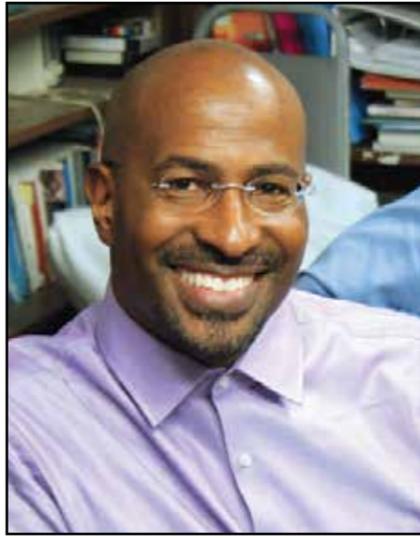


Photo by Earlone Woods

Van Jones

Jassy and two Mac computers in the background. Alexandra Williams, sponsor of the Financial Literacy Program at San Quentin, brought in the guests.

"I can't imagine trying to create world-class ideas under the conditions that you are doing it," Jones said.

Jassy, a Grammy-nominated rapper and producer from Sweden, was featured on KQED's "Newsroom" in a piece called Standup San Quentin.

Jones, a human rights activist and Yale Law School graduate, last visited San Quentin in 2009, and three days later went to the White House as a special adviser for President Obama on

green jobs, enterprise and innovation, until stepping down. Jones also co-founded the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

"He's an inspiring man," Alexandra Williams said about Jones.

As they talked about the media work being done, Khan said, "The moral dilemma that I struggle with from being part of all this good media stuff is how can I deserve anything when I'm convicted of murder?"

Khan was convicted of robbery-murder after his co-defendant stabbed a victim in a robbery when he was 18 years old.

Carroll weighed in, saying he felt the opposite. He feels obligated to do something meaningful with his time. Carroll created a financial literacy program in which he teaches people how their emotions affect their spending habits and how to trade stocks successfully. He believes teaching financial literacy can stop crime.

Sloan, a former Death Row attorney, said that doing good work gives back to the community and that society shouldn't throw away genius.

She added, "In Swedish culture you are taught from

a young age to never get the credit for what you do. You'd be embarrassed by it."

Jones said, "Keep the ego small but strong. Too big an ego is no good. Be beautiful, be authentic, be honest."

Alexandra Williams said, "(Khan) has a duty to do great things. He has to give back to society. Wall Street's TED talk, Adnan (Khan) and David performing on PBS, that's all giving back to society."

"I can't imagine trying to create world-class ideas under the conditions that you are doing it"

Antwan Williams said, "We don't deserve anything. We have an obligation to take advantage of every opportunity to do better and be better. We put a tear in the universe with our crimes that can never be fixed. Now we need to cause a positive shift."

Khan concluded, "I feel I have to be honest with myself. The struggle I'm having is growing to a point where the sincere remorse for my crime isn't an anchor in the pursuit of happiness."

Jones mentioned a new

show called "The Redemption Project" that he pitched to CNN. The show chronicles the actual experience of a daughter who went to visit the person who murdered her mother.

The group further discussed how allowing people who have been harmed to meet those who imposed the harm can help both heal and move forward.

Carroll talked about his struggles that stem from forming unique ideas about trading stocks from prison. "People don't get it. I'm talking about finance, and no one else is," said Carroll.

Jones advised, "When you have a new idea or a new set of insights, it's a big responsibility. The creator doesn't give big ideas to weak people. It does become lonely; it doesn't matter if it's NASA or San Quentin. When you have a big idea, the whole world conspires to get you to talk about something else."

"So then you have three choices: give up the idea, run into the buzz saw of the machine gun fire, or get just as smart about moving the idea as you are about the idea."

Later, Antwan Williams and Woods showed the guests the new videos they are working on.

Jones complimented Antwan Williams on a video made with three lights, a camera, and music he produced. "Brilliant," he said, "genius thing you do at the end."

California tries once again to stamp out prison cell phones

By **Kevin D. Sawyer**
Associate Editor

After years of failure, California's state prison system is taking a new approach to stamp out contraband cellphones.

According to *The Associated Press (AP)*, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is equipping its prisons with close to 1,000 scanners, metal detectors and "hidden" security cameras to curb the use

of illegal cellphones.

Among some of the new hardware to be deployed to locate mobile phones are scanners that detect magnetic signals, and other devices that decrypt and analyze wireless signals, according to the *AP*.

Metrasens, an Illinois-based company, provides the magnetic-signal detectors, the *AP* reported. "The sensitive scanners can detect tiny metal objects even if they are inside a body cavity, a common way of smuggling phones and weapons inside prison," according to reporter Don Thompson.

The *AP* reported CDCR Press Secretary Vicky Waters saying it's too early to say if the scanners will replace body cavity searches or surveillance confinements, also known as "potty watches," where prisoners suspected of ingesting or concealing contraband in body cavities are isolated and restrained for several days or until they complete at least three bowel movements.

Five years ago, Governor Brown's administration and the CDCR deployed equipment to block the use of unauthorized cellphones used by state prisoners. At the time, the technology was criticized for being "unproven and could undermine public safety," according to a KQED article by journalist Michael Montgomery.

At that time, bipartisan members of the California State Senate asked the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) to "analyze the overall issue of contraband cellphones as well as the viability of a specific proposed system for

managing cellphone access in prisons, Managed Access Systems."

According to the CCST study released in 2012, there were "significant concerns" about plans to install "managed access technology" in the state's prisons. In a letter to the state senate, it concluded "the technology shows promise, but is not ready for deployment."

"Managed access as proposed will not do the job that the CDCR wants done," said Susan Hackwood, the CCST's executive director.

Global Tel*Link (GTL), the nation's lead provider of inmate calling services, provided Managed Access to CDCR. Mitch Volkart, a GTL product manager, told the *AP*, "There is no magic bullet. You can't try to address the demand because the demand is always going to be there."

The *AP* reported that there are cellphone signal-capturing devices installed at 18 CDCR prisons that interrupted an average of more than 350,000 calls and text messages each week last year, more than double that of 2015.

"The number of seized cellphones had been dropping since California began using the call-intercepting devices, from 15,000 phones in 2011 to fewer than 8,000 last year," the *AP* reported. But that number is again increasing with nearly 8,000 cell phones found by August 2016.

Pope Francis

Continued from Page 1

He called for renewed efforts to ensure justice systems not only punish crimes, but also work to give prisoners hope for the future. These comments followed his homily after the Pope's celebration of a jubilee Mass for prisoners during his Sunday Angelus address in St. Peter's Square.

Civil authorities must work to improve living conditions for those serving time "so that the human dignity of prisoners may be fully respected," he said.

The Pope's appeal for clemency came for the imprisoned "who are considered eligible to benefit from (it)," he said.

"Hope is a gift of God. We must ask for it," he told the crowd of approximately 1,000 current and former prisoners from 12 countries, as well as priests and those who work in prison ministry.

Detainees from several prisons in Italy and Spain were given special permission to attend the Mass as altar

servers and as part of the choir along with volunteers from the Dozza prison in Bologna.

"(Hope) is placed deep within each human heart in order to shed light on this life, so often troubled and clouded by so many situations that bring sadness and pain."

Hope is especially present "whenever someone makes a mistake," but feels the awakening of repentance and forgiveness through God's mercy, which is greater, he added.

"Paying for the wrong we have done is one thing, but another thing entirely is the 'breath' of hope, which cannot be stifled by anyone or anything. ... Hope must not falter," he said.

While the past cannot be undone, learning from one's mistakes "can open a new chapter of your lives."

Prisoners are not the only ones imprisoned, the Pope warned. The physically free can hold "a certain hypocrisy" that judges the current and formerly incarcerated "as wrongdoers for whom prison is the sole answer," and not as people who can change.

This hypocrisy can blind

them to the fact that they, too, are prisoners willingly locked up within the walls of prejudice, ideology, individualism, self-sufficiency, and the idols of "a false sense of well-being." They are, therefore, "deprived of the truth that sets us free."

"Pointing the finger against someone who has made mistakes cannot become an alibi for concealing our own contradictions," he added.

Pope Francis spoke of how both repentance and forgiveness are possible through the power of our faith. Members of the San Quentin community will recognize the values represented throughout the Pope's speech. Accountability, empathy, communication and trust, as well as the transformative power of a "victim offender" dialogue can all be seen in his words.

"When violence is met with forgiveness, even the hearts of those who have done wrong can be conquered by the love that triumphs over every form of evil...God raises up true witnesses and workers of mercy," he said.

Four leaders honored for juvenile justice reforms

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Four individuals have been honored for their work in reforming the Tennessee juvenile justice system.

"We wanted to honor these leaders because they understand that Tennessee's youth justice system is like a maze, with too many entrances and lots of dead ends," said Sarah Bryer, who directs the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN).

"They've each done crucial work to redesign the maze with fewer entrances and clearer pathways out, so that our justice system makes sense and kids can be rehabilitated and

contribute to their communities."

The four recipients were: Tennessee State Representative Raumesh Akbari received NJJN's "Reformer Award" for spearheading bipartisan criminal justice reform legislation.

"We nominated Representative Akbari because of her courageous and compassionate work," said Josh Spickler, executive director of Just City, the Memphis justice reform organization that nominated Akbari for the honor.

"Representative Akbari has distinguished herself by working with a variety of community partners, fellow legislators, and the Governor's Office to keep our communities safe

and support better outcomes for youth and their families."

Mahal Burr and Evan John Ross Morrison, co-workers at BRIDGES, are recipients of the network's "Advocate Award." They created a leadership program for youth in lockup called Incarcerated Youth Speaking Out for Change. It is aimed at preventing other youth from becoming incarcerated, and tackling youth violence in Memphis.

Burr said that without the insights of those who know the problems best, we are blind. "Listen to these young men if you want to know what needs to be done to strengthen our schools, communities and jails."

"Ms. Burr and Mr. Morrison asked a simple question: 'Who understands the problems these youth face better than the young people themselves?'" Spickler said. "The result is a powerful program that can transform the lives of children who find themselves in trouble with the law — and our justice system."

Lauren Wilson Young of the Kemmons Wilson Family Foundation received the network's "Servant Award" for her work in making her community safer by helping youth in trouble with the law.

Young serves as chair of the board for the Juvenile Intervention and Faith-Based Follow-up program, which focuses on helping youth break the cycle of crime and offering them hope and employment for a productive future.

"Lauren has long known that changing outcomes for young people who are in contact with the justice system will depend wholly on the opportunities, support, and truly rehabilitative programming they receive during and immediately after incarceration," Spickler said. "Her personal leadership in finding these kinds of solutions for Memphis children and their families is an inspiration to our entire community."

The NJJN is composed of coalitions, organizations and alumni of the Youth Justice Leadership Institute across 43 states and the District of Columbia, all of whom advocate for a fairer justice system for children and teens.

The awards were reported June 30, 2016, on the njjn.org website.

Letters To The Editor



Dear Editor,

I read in a December issue of *Newsweek* magazine that approximately 3,000 American inmates currently in solitary confinement have been there for six or more years. There are a significantly higher total number of prisoners living in solitary confinement throughout the country. Now I am disappointed to learn that there are men here in California who have spent nearly 50 years in isolated administrative segregation. Having spent only a few months of my present sentence in ad-seg myself, I actually feel physically ill at the thought of spending any prolonged period of time under those circumstances.

I consider this to be nothing less than cruel and unusual punishment. The lasting effects of long-term isolation are counterproductive and potentially devastating not only to the particular individual subjected to it, but it is also traumatic and highly stressful for their loved ones.

This should be an urgent concern to the American public. Flagrant disregard for "rehabilitation" within a civilized society's prison system is inherently dangerous, inhumane and morally outrageous. I do, however, enjoy reading the *San Quentin News*! I find it informative and encouraging. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lacee Ross
California Institution for Women

Mr. Richardson, Editor in Chief,

I entered Death Row in East Block (San Quentin State Prison) on September 29, 1996. I received a reversal on the death penalty on July 16, 2012. On July 14, 2016, I was moved from San Quentin to D.V.I. at Tracy, Calif. As of today, I have been here in the reception center for 165 days. I was told I would only be here no more than a few weeks, no more than two months.

I would then be moved to another facility where I would be on the mainline, able to once again use the phone, receive all my property, TV, typewriter, hot pot, etc. All this time, I cannot call my attorney, relatives or friends. I cannot even boil water for a cup of tea. I am 81 years old. I hope to be sent to San Luis Obispo — C.M.C.

My main reason for writing to the *SQ News* is an article on the front page about C.O. Cuevas, on how three inmates saved Mr. Cuevas' life. Kudos to those three guys. I was elated that Mr. Cuevas is still with us. *SQ News* is not easy to come by in here.

I was on Death Row for 20 years, knew Mr. Cuevas for many years. I respected him as a C.O. and most of all as a friend. Whenever he came into East Block, He would always say hello to me. My cell was 2-62, the first cell on the end tier so I had a bird's eye view of the rotunda.

I would like to see in more detail and a picture with Mr. Cuevas together with the inmates who saved his life.

You should also bring it to the attention of channel 5 (KPIX 5, a CBS affiliate station) evening news. Cuevas' favorite is Roberta Gonzales, who was the weather lady and now I think is an on-scene reporter.

How great would it be for Mr. Cuevas to be interviewed by Roberta and a picture with her and Mr. Cuevas? Mr. Cuevas would be thrilled just to meet Roberta! There should be more C.O.s like Mr. Cuevas who always has a smile for everyone.

Sincerely,

John A. Riccardi

Dear Editor,

Hello. My name is Richard Cochran. I am an inmate here at D.V.I. in reception, leaving for Susanville (Calif.).

I am writing in regards to your article in the December (2016) issue of *San Quentin News*, the one about the three prisoners saving one officer, A. Cuevas' life on March 11.

I commend the three prisoners for their selfless act and would appreciate very much if they knew so. The article brought a tear to my eye. Why? I don't know. I was praising the men and officer. I guess it was the part about the men in self-help programs inside and turning their lives around. That is exactly what I am trying to do as a first-timer at 54 years old.

I don't know these men, but I will keep them in my thoughts and prayers. Please let them know.

For the officer, Mr. Cuevas, on his quest to fulfill his dream to be a correctional officer even at my age inspires me to not give up on my dreams.

A very touching article and I thank you for it.

I am an inmate, yet I respect the badge as my son was a San Francisco police officer for some time.

God bless and good day. I enjoy *San Quentin News*.

Sincerely,

Richard Cochran

Survey finds crime victims want more say in convictions

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

In the past 10 years, one in four people in the U.S. has been a victim of a crime. A recent survey found crime victims wished for prosecutors to consider their opinion about what it takes to recover from the criminal acts committed against them, even if it resulted in fewer convictions.

According to Crime Survivors Speak Report, such survivors also preferred that more resources be allocated toward problems in the neighborhood and more invested in rehabilitative programs to prevent repeat crimes.

Instead of building more prisons and jails, a national survey found that six in 10 victims prefer shorter prison sentences for perpetrators of crime and more spending for crime prevention.

- 15 to one survivors asked for more investments in schools and education
- 10 to one survivors wanted more job creation
- 7 to one survivors wanted increased funding in mental health care

A majority of crime survivors support the reforms, even for the most serious crimes such as rape or murder of a family member.

Most survivors suffered from at least one symptom of trauma such as stress, fear, anxiety, or difficulty sleeping. Nevertheless, two out of three did not receive assistance from the justice system following the incident. Those who did receive assistance were far more likely to receive it from family or friends.

Two in 10 victims were injured or experienced medical problems from the incident.

Survivor Aswad of California was robbed and shot twice in the back during a convenience store robbery.

"Those bullets ended my basketball career," Aswad said. "I didn't know what I needed to heal from the trauma: how to access the physical and emotional

support necessary to fully recover. It was overwhelming just to pay medical bills, handle inquiries from law enforcement and return to work.

"...too little is invested in helping victims or our hardest hit communities"

"There's no shortage of resources; it's that too little is invested in helping victims or our hardest hit communities. I'm committed to changing that," Aswad added. He was injured in 2009.

Crime survivors who were victimized multiple times, as opposed to those who were victimized once, have an increased likelihood of developing mental health problems. These include higher levels of depression, anxiety and symptoms related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), according to nationally available data shown in the survey.

The National Survey of Victims' Views (NSVV) identifies the victims and what they say they need to recover from the crimes committed against them.

Survivors said in the survey that too many people are sent to prison, for too long, and that our current incarceration policies make people more — not less — likely to commit another crime.

The NSVV contacted a representative sample of 3,165 people nationwide and, from that pool, identified and interviewed more than 800 victims in both English and Spanish during a 10-year reference period. The poll was administered by telephone -- both landlines and mobile phones -- as well as online. The findings were published in August 2016.

LA hosts juvenile justice summit: 'Smart on Safety'

Setting an agenda for the next steps in California

Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

A panel of California's criminal justice reform leaders recently held a summit to discuss what's next on the agenda.

"A ballroom full of lawmakers, academics and criminal justice reform advocates, with a sprinkling of state and local officials...gathered in LA's Millennium Biltmore Hotel" for (an) all-day summit called "Smart on Safety" to discuss next steps in the world of California's justice reform, *Witness LA* reported.

"Among the day's most persuasive voices calling for criminal justice reform was former film producer Scott Budnick,

best known for producing the *Hangover* movie franchise, who left Hollywood behind to found the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)," according to *Witness LA*.

Budnick was instrumental in the passage of SB 260 and SB 261, a law that gives a second chance at parole to kids who are serving adult sentences for crimes committed before the age of 18.

Budnick shared the experience he had with a youth offender who is now about 60 years old at California's Pelican Bay State Prison.

"I can't get it out of my memory," said Budnick. The man had been incarcerated for around 40 years for a teenage crime. Thirty of those years had been in isolation.

"And we told him about SB

260, he started weeping...knowing that he had the ability to now come home," Budnick continued. Because the man was still in segregated housing, Budnick could not talk to him face-to-face. Instead "he stuck his little finger through the hole in the case, and he shook my finger and said, 'You're the first person I've ever touched in 30 years.'"

Budnick said he next wants to focus on sentencing enhancements, which can turn a relatively short sentence into one of multiple decades for young people, particularly if he or she is a gang member.

Budnick also announced that he is working to raise \$300 million to launch a new social justice-focused film company to "tell the right stories, and change the narrative," Budnick said.

Fellow panel member Elizabeth Calvin, a children's rights attorney for Human Rights Watch, called for additional reforms such as ending solitary confinement for juveniles and how juveniles get prosecuted as adults.

"You're the first person I've ever touched in 30 years"

Calling for a repeal of Proposition 21, a ballot initiative that was passed in 2000 that increased the criminal penalty for crimes committed by youths, Robert Rooks, organizing director for Californians

for Safety and Justice (CSJ) said "Prop. 21 has been talked about a number of times today. It's so past time to stop babies as young as 14 being tried as adults. So it's time to go to the ballot to overturn Prop. 21," reported *Witness LA*.

Panelist Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen spoke about how prosecutors could make a bigger difference.

Rosen shared what he learned from his tour of Germany's progressive prison system. "I began to understand...the distinction between crime victim and defendant is often artificial, and many of the defendants we were prosecuting were victimized early in their lives...and that if we did a better job helping people that were victims of crime, we may have fewer defendants in the future."

Kid CAT's new chair seeks to build meaningful relationships

By Charlie Spence
Contributing Writer

Over the years, I have come to believe that life only matters in the influence and meaning it has on other lives. This is because of the crime I committed nearly 20 years ago, which left nothing but hurt and devastation in the lives of others.

It is the idea of constructive influence and meaning on other lives that guides the majority of decisions and choices I make daily. Nowhere is this more important to me than in my new role as Kid CAT chairman.

It is my purpose as Kid CAT's new leader to build meaningful relationships with everyone who is part of our organization, while

connecting us with all of you out there. It is my personal goal to inspire us all to tap into our natural talents in order to serve our larger community as a whole.

I believe great leadership starts and ends with each of us growing and learning as a result of our interactions with one another. For this reason, it is my hope that I might serve Kid CAT in such a way that each of us leaves our relationship more attuned with who we are as people and better equipped to serve our organizational mission.

In my new role with Kid CAT, I want to tell all of you how inspired I am by the many letters we receive to Kid CAT Speaks each month. They serve as humbling reminders of how signifi-

cant the work is and how each of us in the organization represents the population of youth offenders.

Unfortunately, I feel like this responsibility is sometimes lost on us in the daily grind of life at San Quentin. It is important for us to be reminded of the meaningful connection we share with all of you. That is why your letters are so important to us, and we have implemented a new procedure to make sure we respond to every letter we receive.

In fact, we recently received a letter from a young man who was extremely frustrated with the Youth Offender Program (YOP). We were struck by his deep desire for transformation and change, yet the YOP program

was unable to take advantage of his desire.

For that reason, Kid CAT has recently begun working with a group of YOP prisoners at San Quentin to create a curriculum designed for YOP prisoners. We hope to have this curriculum done and ready to send out to all of you by the middle of 2017.

Many of the letters we receive from the "more mature" juvenile offenders express the need for a deeper level of growth and insight. We are making it our priority for 2017 to have Kid CAT's curriculum and facilitators' manual ready to send out as well.

Our curriculum team is meeting to discuss needed changes and strategies for the best way to accomplish this task. We hope the curriculum will make a meaningful difference for all of you seeking to gain a deeper level of understanding about yourselves and the crimes you committed.

Additionally, Kid CAT has taken a step toward being more inclusive to our population. Recently, the membership voted to

reserve 10 percent of our membership capacity for those who committed their crimes between the ages of 20-25.

It is our hope that in the near future we can help persuade lawmakers to extend SB261 to apply through the age of 25, as the neuroscience clearly indicates this is when the brain fully matures. We believe by recognizing this, we will provide more credibility with those we hope to persuade, while offering those in this age group the opportunity to speak for themselves.

Lastly, one goal in 2017 will be to assist CDCR to take a more restorative approach to justice, as envisioned by Secretary Scott Kernan. Another goal is to support legislation proposed by organizations such as Human Rights Watch and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

Major changes are on the horizon for the criminal justice system. We encourage our members and supporters to take advantage of every opportunity to work for positive changes in their lives.

Dear Kid CAT

Dear Kid CAT,

I want to first of all thank you for inviting me and our staff into San Quentin to help assemble hygiene kits. We were both humbled and gratified at your honest desire to help our Huckleberry youth. I've distributed the hygiene supplies to our clinic and Huckleberry House and they will certainly help those in need.

We also received a check in the amount of \$1,305.78. This was a complete surprise and so generous! We can't begin to tell you the impact that day has had on all of us. I've been sharing the experience with staff and discussing the importance of our work to keep youth out of systems, not to mention increasing our advocacy efforts to recognize that acts committed as traumatized and marginalized youth should be viewed with that lens.

Thank you so much.

With warmest regards,

Mollie Brown
Director of Programs and Community Development
Huckleberry Youth Health Center

Dear Kid CAT,

We appreciate your recent gift-in-kind donation of Holiday Cards to UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. Your support allows us to do what we do best: provide exceptional care for thousands of children each year. Children like 8-year-old Ariana, who has been treated for cerebral palsy since she was just a toddler. In the words of her mother:

"It's all about believing in the power of yes - of having faith in the kids. That's exactly what those incredible doctors had in Ariana. They believed in her. I would have been lost without them."

Thank you for helping to fuel the power of yes!

Sincerely,

Erin Hickey
Assistant Vice Chancellor of Development for Children's Hospital

The Beat Within
A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside



Kid CAT and *The Beat Within* hold monthly writing workshops. *The Beat Within* conducts writing workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout the country. Kid CAT Speaks will publish one topic each month. Your writing should reflect a positive message that may help the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of the publication. Your story can make a difference. Tell *The Beat Within* you read about them in Kid CAT Speaks!

Words of Encouragement - Let's face it: sometimes we could all use a little motivation, encouragement, inspiration or support. Sometimes our prospects don't seem very exciting. Sometimes we lose sight of what matters. Knowing what you know, who in your life needs words of encouragement? What are those words of support you can offer? If you can't think of anyone in particular, what thoughtful words can you share with *The Beat Within* community of writers and readers?

The Beat Within
P.O. Box 34310
San Francisco, CA 94134

SQ hosts national conference on incarcerated veterans

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Corrections officials from around the nation, who are working on veterans' issues, came to San Quentin, where they found new ways to serve ex-military. The visitors also discovered that it is no easy task to get the job done.

"San Quentin is different than any other prison in the state," Warden Ron Davis said at the Feb. 8 meeting in the prison's Protestant chapel. "There are a lot of volunteers who come in and help with programs, which has created a culture where guys are taking responsibility and are being accountable for their crimes."

James Dunbar and Ron Self offer aid to the prison's veterans. State employee Madeline Tenney and community volunteer Mary Donovan support the prison's two veterans programs.

Inmate Dunbar is the clerk for Vietnam Veterans of San Quentin (VVSQ). Tenney gives direct support to VVSQ.

"I never thought of myself as someone entitled, until a friend dragged me to a veterans meeting," Dunbar said. "After involving myself with the veterans group, I have been on the right track and have been a more responsible person."



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Ron Self, Mary Donovan, James Dunbar and Madeline Tenney

Dunbar amasses information he believes would be useful to incarcerated veterans and posts it in the housing units. VVSQ provides the veterans with forms to obtain benefits, housing or other relief. Then the forms are filed with the Veterans Administration (VA). Dunbar admits that getting benefits from the VA is

an adversarial process, especially when the resource guides are outdated.

"There are many veterans in the prison system who do not know they are entitled to benefits, such as upgraded discharge status. There is no clear way of getting the information to the inmates who need the services,"

said Donovan, executive director of Veterans Healing Veterans From the Inside Out (VHV).

"Two and a half million Americans served in Vietnam, and 500,000 are in jail or prison," incarcerated veteran Gary Cooper said.

San Quentin has 361 veterans, 79 of them on Death Row.

VVSQ as well as VHV serve any inmate seeking information about veterans' services.

Inmate Self is the clerk for VHV.

To heal old wounds, VHV offers veterans narrative therapy, which is writing about past traumas in order to resolve issues, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

VHV also offers the veterans yoga sessions and drama therapy.

Rodney Capell said drama therapy helps him through role-play. Now he can talk about himself in an honest and personal way, as well as interact with inmates of different races and cultures in ways he could not at other prisons.

Craig Johnson said, "I was able to recall things in my life, I thought I'd forgotten," through narrative therapy.

"These kinds of transformations are remarkable," said VHV free staff volunteer Emilio Rojas. "There are notable changes in how they carry themselves, after being in the groups."

Warden Davis added, "Anything that gets these guys ready for release and helps keep them from coming back without burdening the taxpayers is something that should be supported."

Oak Glen firecamp reopens to house long-term jail inmates

By Mike Little
Journalism Guild Writer

Storied San Bernardino fire camp Oak Glen has signed a contract with the state to provide minimum-security beds for long-term jail inmates at the state's 160-bed camp.

Bill Sessa, a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) spokesperson, said the plan is part of new legislation aimed at reducing the prison population, according to an article by Harvey Kahn of IECN.

"People are not going to be let out of prison early, and we are not lowering our standards," Sessa explained.

"No one with a pattern of violent behavior is accepted. You get one chance. If you are disruptive in any form, you are returned to an electronically fenced facility."

Gangs and other rivalries must set aside their differences in order to function as a team.

Fire camp work is extremely taxing but pays better than most prison labor jobs at \$2 per hour, plus an extra dollar per hour while fighting fires,



Courtesy of CDCR

Oak Glen firecamp entrance

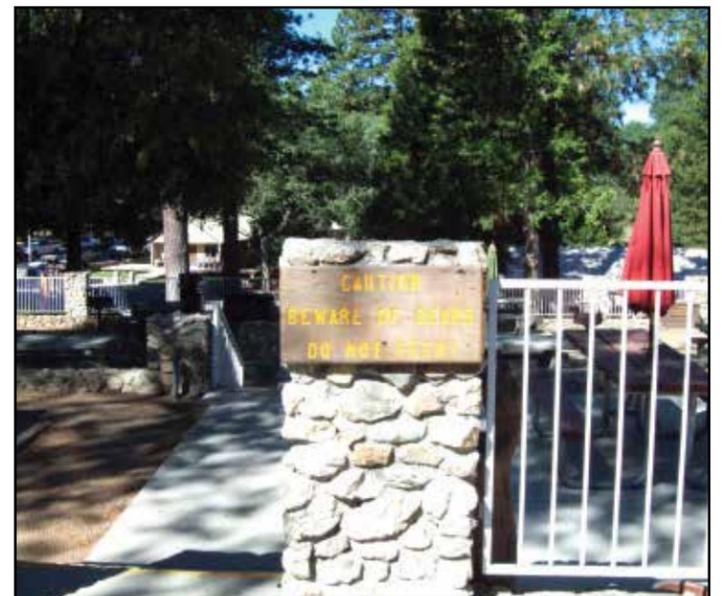
according to the article.

"They get a day-for-day off their sentence," Sessa said. "During the time on a fire line, they get two days off their sentence for each day worked."

Established 90 years ago, the Oak Glen Conservation Camp was the first of its kind and is the largest of 43 in Califor-

nia. As early as 1928, honor crews built roads and worked on county parks projects, flood control and water main systems.

In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt used the camp for a Civilian Conservation Corps federal jobs program. In 1963 President Lyndon B. Johnson



Courtesy of CDCR

Oak Glen firecamp

picked the site to be the location of a pilot training program during his tenure.

He also used the camp for high school dropouts, under his 1963 Anti-Poverty Act, with the Riverside County Schools designating the local funds.

President Richard Nixon reverted the camp to a penal in-

stitution; by 1972 it was under the control of the California Youth Authority. Through the 1980s the state financed millions of dollars to upgrade the camp, according to the article.

"Oak Glen Conservation Camp has never been a problem in the community," CDCR said in an official statement.

Inmates are 20 percent of California fire crews

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

Many California prisoners find gratifying work fighting wildfires. Roughly 20 percent of the state's fire crews are inmates, according to a CBS News report.

"They're among the first to hit the front lines of California's dangerous wildfires. The orange uniforms let people know — these firefighters are inmates," accord-

ing to Chris Martinez of CBS News.

Certain offenses, often involving violence, exclude prisoners from participating in the firefighting program, however, there are exceptions: Robert Lane, in prison for great bodily injury (GBI — a "violent" crime), has been in the program for about five years, Martinez reports.

"It's a big opportunity. I'm giving back to the community for what I did. ...

We're treated as firefighters ... it lets you know you're worth something," Lane says.

California's prisoner firefighting program is the largest of its kind in the country; and the inmates perform dangerous work for \$2 per hour, the news report says.

Keith Guillory of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation says, "It is dangerous work and

a volunteer program, so we shouldn't take it for granted just because they're inmates that they have to be out there."

The inmate firefighter crews perform the crucial task of digging fire containment lines and clearing paths so that other crews can reach the flames.

Inmate firefighters say that the experience has impacted them in a positive way, giving them a sense of pride for when they leave prison, CBS reports.

Looking back on 42 years of service at San Quentin

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

In June 1975, Donald Graham left the California Department of Corrections' training academy after two weeks and took his first job assignment at San Quentin State Prison.

An Air Force veteran with college degrees in computer science and mathematics from California State University at Sonoma, Graham came to work for the department with a proactive perspective for problem solving.

His stance toward the incarcerated population was unique. As a new recruit, fresh out of the academy, he acknowledged that many problems with the correctional staff and the general population could be generally resolved without conflict.

"It takes a little time to gain an inmate's trust, but after that, problems are easily solved," he said.

Throughout his long career, Graham had the good fortune of spending all 42 years at San Quentin. During the '70s, new recruits out of the academy worked the graveyard. He spent six months walking the gun rail in West Block.

The '70s were also turbulent. Prisoners were frustrated and restless. On occasion, cultural tensions soared among the races. Graham was later assigned to work the West Block's upper yard. There he had opportunities to intermingle and speak with inmates. Even though he spent two weeks at the academy, he knew his on-the-job training would come from



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Lt. Donald Graham

working with these men.

How to combine safety and security with compassion toward the inmate population was then and is today a set of contradictory ideas and terms for staff to understand and implement. For Graham, this dexterity was simple.

"I'm paid to work as a correctional officer. These men should be treated with respect when deserving," he said.

From late 1975 through 1976, he worked H Unit's kitchen area. Relationships with Blacks, Hispanics and Whites were fragile. Being an enthusiastic new recruit with problem-solving skills, "I often found myself caught in the middle," Graham said. But he managed to find a simple solution for many complex racial problems. Often "a little patience and understanding" was needed.

After a year, he started working other units. Alpine, Donner and West Block general populations continued to grow. The Adjustment Center, Badger and East Block became the overflow, which gave him broader exposure to the prison.

Working in different units added to his all-embracing perspective of how to enforce the rules of safety and security without being offensive.

During this time, East and North

Blocks became the maximum security units. "North Seg" was the only unit that housed condemned and Death Row inmates in the late '70s and early '80s. He had to approach these inmates with a different mindset. However, despite their attitude and disposition toward staff and problems with their prison living conditions, interacting with these men taught him their problems, too, were easily resolved. "Take the time and listen to them," was his mantra.

In 1983, Graham was promoted to sergeant and then went back to West Block. During these times, the general population was in a state of flux. The unit was converted to a reception center. Overcrowded county jails in the Bay Area sent their excess to San Quentin. There was very little

stability in the housing unit because inmates were constantly arriving and departing the prison. Violence erupted regularly among the ranks.

It became difficult to maintain respect with his proactive attitude. Many daily activities resulted in serious rule violations. In many instances, he applied common sense to fix problems, but often he had no choice but to follow the rules and procedures. "I tried to be fair in my assessment of the problems and applied the best solution to the situation."

"I'm paid to work as a correctional officer. These men should be treated with respect when deserving"

In 1996, a young correctional officer from East Oakland came to work on Death Row with Graham, who was then a lieutenant. Like most officers fresh out of the academy, Sam Robinson wanted very little contact with his immediate supervisor, let alone a lieutenant. But it was different with Graham. "He was always approachable and easy to get along with," Robinson said. Death Row inmates require special handling, but he and Graham worked well together.

Late in 2006, Lt. Graham became San Quentin's Inmate Assignment supervisor. This

new job operated under a completely different set of challenges, procedures, requirements, rules and problems.

Over the next 10 years, the department's interest in incarceration, rehabilitation and re-entry metamorphosed as a result of federal court orders, and the demand for change became more urgent. Lt. Graham's days were filled with an onslaught of rapid decisions that had to be made.

His wit and proactive perspective for problem-solving was needed to handle the Prison Industry Authority operations, vocational training programs, joint ventures, assigning inmates to GED classes, to yard and kitchen job positions.

In mid-2015, San Quentin Prison implemented the Strategic Offender Management System (SOMS), a computer system used statewide to monitor inmate programming status. All self-help activities, daily dentist, medical and mental health ducats are processed through Lt. Graham's office.

When asked why he never promoted to captain, Graham simply said, "I came to the department to be a correctional officer. I make a good living by working with the general population. I'm committed to them. The political part of being an administrator is of no real interest to me."

Though not yet retiring, Graham was nonetheless asked about his legacy. He answered, "I want to be remembered for my accountability and commitment."

DDS Morley's heartfelt goodbye after 19 years at SQ

'The dental department is going to lose a wonderful dentist'

By Eddie Herena
San Quentin News Photographer

Making people smile is something Jerry Morley is good at; it is something he does for a living. He is not a therapist, and he does not work in a pharmacy. He is San Quentin's longtime dentist, and he is retiring at the end of this month.

The 69-year-old dentist, whose hands are hardly idle, has worked for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the past 20 years. He spent 19 of those years at San Quentin, where he became known as Death Row's dentist because his dental chair was often occupied by condemned men.

Over the years Dr. Morley has also gained a reputation among the prison's general population for not being like typical CDCR dentists who Edgar Salazar, a prisoner serving life for a 1995 murder, describes as "evil tooth fairies" who are "stingy with the gauze."

Although numerous prisoners share Salazar's sentiment, Dr. Morley is in a different category.

"I'd like to dispel the rumor that all we do is 'pull' teeth,"

said Dr. Morley, with pen in hand and eyes roaming over a patient's chart. "We fix and adjust partials and dentures, conduct annual examinations and do fillings."

He and his colleagues do a wide spectrum of work under CDCR policies and procedures, but their efforts are often undermined by the stigma their patients attach to the healthcare providers.

"He leaves us better than he found us"

Even though Dr. Morley has pulled his share of teeth over the years, he has also "put some back," said patient Rodney Baylas, who smiles with confidence because of the partial denture he received.

It is common at San Quentin to see toothless men. Many have a long history of drug use, which often results in the loss of teeth. In addition, prison can be a violent place, so you never know whether an individual got popped in the mouth. Regardless of why people lost a tooth, Dr. Morley has given their smiles back to plenty of them.

"He leaves us better than he found us," said Richard Tully, a man who has been on Death Row for more than two decades. "The words 'going to the dentist' normally generate feelings of fear and dread, but the extremely sharp and unkind instruments are wielded with skill and gentleness when in Dr. Morley's hands," Tully added.

The high praise he receives from most of his patients is mirrored by his colleagues, who benefit from having Dr. Morley around because he increases the quality of their own work. Soon they will miss that benefit.

"I've learned so much from Dr. Morley," said S. Cooley, one of six San Quentin dental providers. "He has made me a better dentist,"

Debbie Vasquez Green, a longtime dental assistant who recently retired, expressed similar feelings: "The dental department is going to lose a wonderful dentist."

Dr. Morley started his dental career in 1973, after graduating from dental school at Creighton University. The same year he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served as captain before retiring in 1996. Only then did he join CDCR at

Valley State Prison for Women in the Central Valley before making the Bay Area his home and the people of San Quentin his extended family.

The doctor's departure is "going to be a sad day for us and great day for him," said fellow colleague Dr. Eifert.

George Greenwood, a nine-year patient of Dr. Morley, said that the veteran dentist made him feel like he was more than a prison number.

"His care is of the utmost professional quality," said Ali R. Muhammad, whose past dental experiences both outside and inside prison walls were traumatic. Bottom line, Dr. Morley cares, and people like him "are hard to come by."

"I don't make any distinctions about my patients," Dr. Morley said. "I treat them with their best interest at heart."

For prisoner James Benson, that makes all the difference because, according to him,

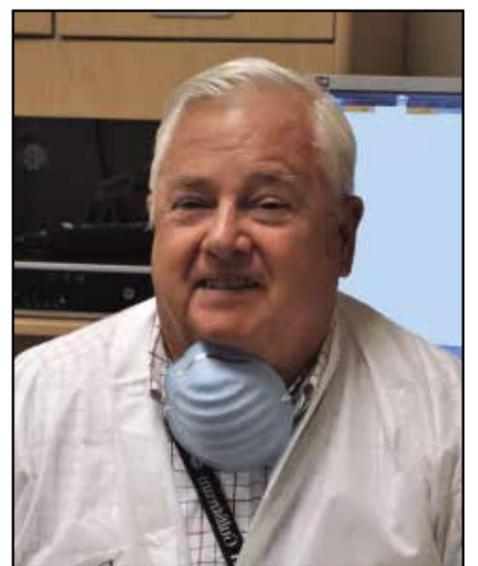


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

DDS Jerry Morley

healthcare in prison lacks "care."

It might seem unbelievable that someone could have the type of impact that Dr. Morley has had, but the people who have had bad experiences with dentists while incarcerated know when a gem is in their presence.

"I'd like to think that people will miss you for the work you have done," Dr. Morley said.

The people at San Quentin are those people.

The history and celebration of San Quentin

Red Road

Continued from Page 1

There are more than 200 Native Americans housed in San Quentin with at least a dozen on Death Row. Most California tribes are known as Bear clans, but these Natives are from various tribes and clans.

Historically Native culture has faced bans on traditional dancing, drumming, speaking their Native languages and wearing long hair.

“Most Native inmates come from a predominately Catholic or Protestant background,” said Heredia. “Even those who came from reservations don’t know the rituals.”

For some Native Americans, San Quentin has become their first reintegration into their cultural identity throughout the years.

In 1976, San Quentin became the first prison in the nation to set up a sweat lodge with the passing of the Freedom of Religion Act for prisoners.

“Archie Fire Lame-Deer from the Lakota Sioux tribe was sent by elders to light the ceremony fire,” said Heredia.

The fire keeper is a sacred position. He begins the spiritual purification ceremony by placing the rocks in order, saying the prayers and lighting the fire.



One of the first Pow Wow held o

From that day to this, the Native inmate community is sweating for eternal cleansing.

The Death Row Natives do not take part in the sweat lodge, because the grounds are on the Lower Yard for gen-

eral population, but they can participate in the sacred pipe ceremony in their yard area.

“It’s about re-educating our people, so they can see first-hand the traditions,” Heredia added. “It’s for them to get well and to identify as human beings with something hundreds of years old, but new to them.”

Even after the opening of the sweat lodge the Natives still struggled for office space. In 1978, the San Quentin American Indians Cultural Group (AICG) converted their cells into satellite offices after the administration rejected giving them office space. The group executive body, composed of Eddie Dreamer, Pete Dominguez and Wally Gorbet, adapted to the situation and performed clerical work, coordinated programs and stored materials in their cell offices. These men helped pave the way for a future office, a con-

verted supply closet; which is currently in San Quentin Central Plaza with all other faith groups.

“It’s about re-educating our people, so they can see first-hand the traditions”

In 1967, the American Indian Cultural Group (AICG) held its first Pow Wow with outside sponsor Adam Nordwall Sr. leading the ceremony. Nordwall was a leader of Indian Affairs throughout the U.S. He was a congressional candidate for California’s 8th District. Nordwall was concerned about his people both inside and outside of prison.

In 1968, the second Pow Wow

was dedicated to Sen. Robert Kennedy, after his death. There were 60 Indians, 43 being inmates in full ceremonial dress representing 20 tribes, celebrating the life and support of Kennedy to their causes.

“O Great Spirit, I pray thee be good to our dear friend, an unforgettable warrior Robert Kennedy, toward the great pine trees, north cold wind, treat him kindly,” a part of the prayer read.

Ethel Kennedy, Robert’s wife, wrote to the group and thanked them for their condolence.

In the Pow Wows of 1970 and 71, in honor of their women, Amelia Jane Clark was crowned AICG Princess.

“I will do my best to truly represent you in all things,” said Clark, reported the *SQ News* in 1971.

They also held the Best Dancer Award, which Michael Jackson, Chairman of the Unit-



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Women and children in traditional tribal dress in SQ



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Traditional dancer on the Lower Yard



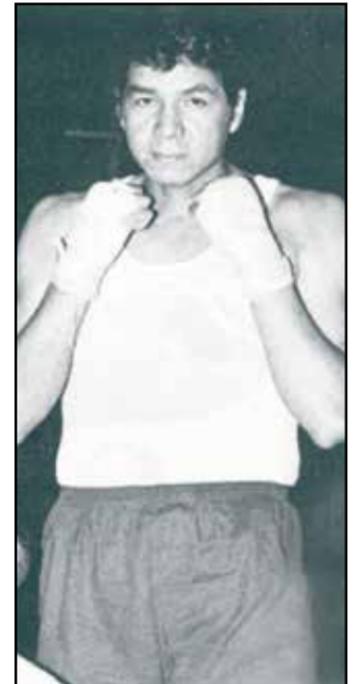
Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Adam Nordwall Sr.



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Wellbriety sacred medicine wheel called the Hoop of 100 Eagle Feathers



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

1980 SQ boxing champ Edward Dreamer

Native Americans traveling the Red Road



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

on the San Quentin's Lower Yard

ed Bay Council of San Leandro, won twice during these same years.

In 1980, Edward Dreamer became the first Indian to hold a San Quentin boxing championship. He won the lightweight trophy, and at San Quentin's 12th Annual Pow Wow he donated it to the American Indian Movement for Freedom Survival School. Dreamer donated the trophy to the school for assisting the AICG and providing Christmas packages to less fortunate Indian inmates, reported the *SQ News* in November 1980.

In 1993, Don L. Coyhis from the Mohican tribe founded the White Bison 12-step program called the "Red Road to Wellbriety," a combination of wellness and sobriety. To combat the high rate of alcoholism and trauma in the Native communities, the program takes the 12-steps of Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous and places the steps in the Native traditional circle.

San Quentin's Native Americans still practice the traditions and program of Wellbriety.

"It's about spiritual, physical and emotional health," said Greg "White Eagle" Coates, the current ceremonial dancer. "That is true Wellbriety. It comes in the context that healthy people cannot grow in diseased minds and bodies; there is no sovereignty without sobriety, Wellbriety. I thank Coyhis and the elders for their visions."

Among Coyhis' visions was Wellbriety's sacred medicine wheel, which is called the Hoop of 100 Eagle Feathers, used for finding the four corners of healing, hope, unity and forgiveness.

The number four carries deep significance for the Native culture. Their medicine wheel represents the four directions. The pow wow drum is sometimes played in the rhythm of four

to imitate the heartbeat of life. Different tribal communities have various fundamentals of fours that direct their lives. The four seasons govern time and the four elements build all life.

In 2016, the San Quentin Natives were the first ones to pay tribute to Manuel Elias Limones, a Native World War II Air Force gunner. They awarded him a traditional Beaded Metal of Honor. Limones was set to receive the Silver Medal of Honor, but after facing so much discrimination throughout his years of service; he felt it was best to receive honor from this community.

"It was a chance for them to honor an elder for doing something good for the country and representing our people in the face of discrimination," Heredia added.

Veteran and Native inmate Ron Self also was recognized with the Beaded Metal of Honor for his service in the Marines.

For 2017, the Native community is honoring The Friendship House American

Indian Healing Center in San Francisco and the Intertribal Friendship House in Oakland for their contribution and donations to their incarcerated brothers.

The Center has donated tra-

ditional sacramental foods like salmon, squash, corn and fried bread for the San Quentin annual Pow Wows.

The Center was founded to serve the needs of American Indian people relocated

from reservations to the San Francisco Bay Area. Both houses have been working for the American Indians since the 1950s.

The 2017 Pow Wow is planned for the spring season, which is the Native New Year, when the bear wakes up. These celebrations typically are centered on the four seasons, but prison policy only allows for two events a year and the second one likely will be planned for the winter, which is the time of giving thanks.

With the national attention focused on the Standing Rock, N.D. oil pipeline protests, the Native community offers their prayers.

"Our elders said women will step forward and begin to lead, to bring our nations and families back in balance," said "White Eagle" Coates. "As well, we will see young people with old spirits and sound like the elders when they talk."

Heredia added, "It was an historical moment—water affects everybody," referring to the Standing Rock movement. "For the first time it bought hundreds of tribes and the world together, you saw veterans, priests and rabbis coming together."

But inside the walls of San Quentin, for at least five decades, prisoners who claim to be Native Americans have sought to preserve their identity and use it to inspire other prisoners to get their lives together.



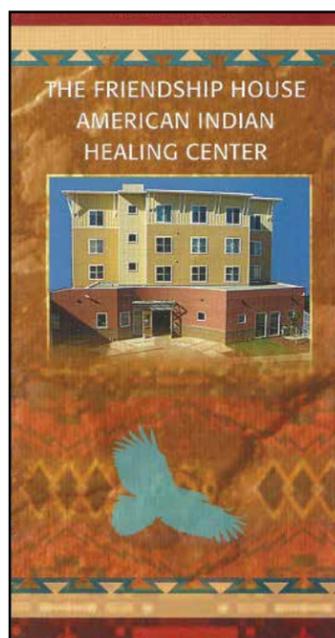
File Photo

2007 Pow Wow at San Quentin State Prison



File Photo

Gregory "White Eagle" Coates at the annual San Quentin 2015 Pow Wow



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Friendship House



Courtesy of the SQ Native American Group

Amelia Jane Clark was crowned AICG Princess

Arts & Entertainment

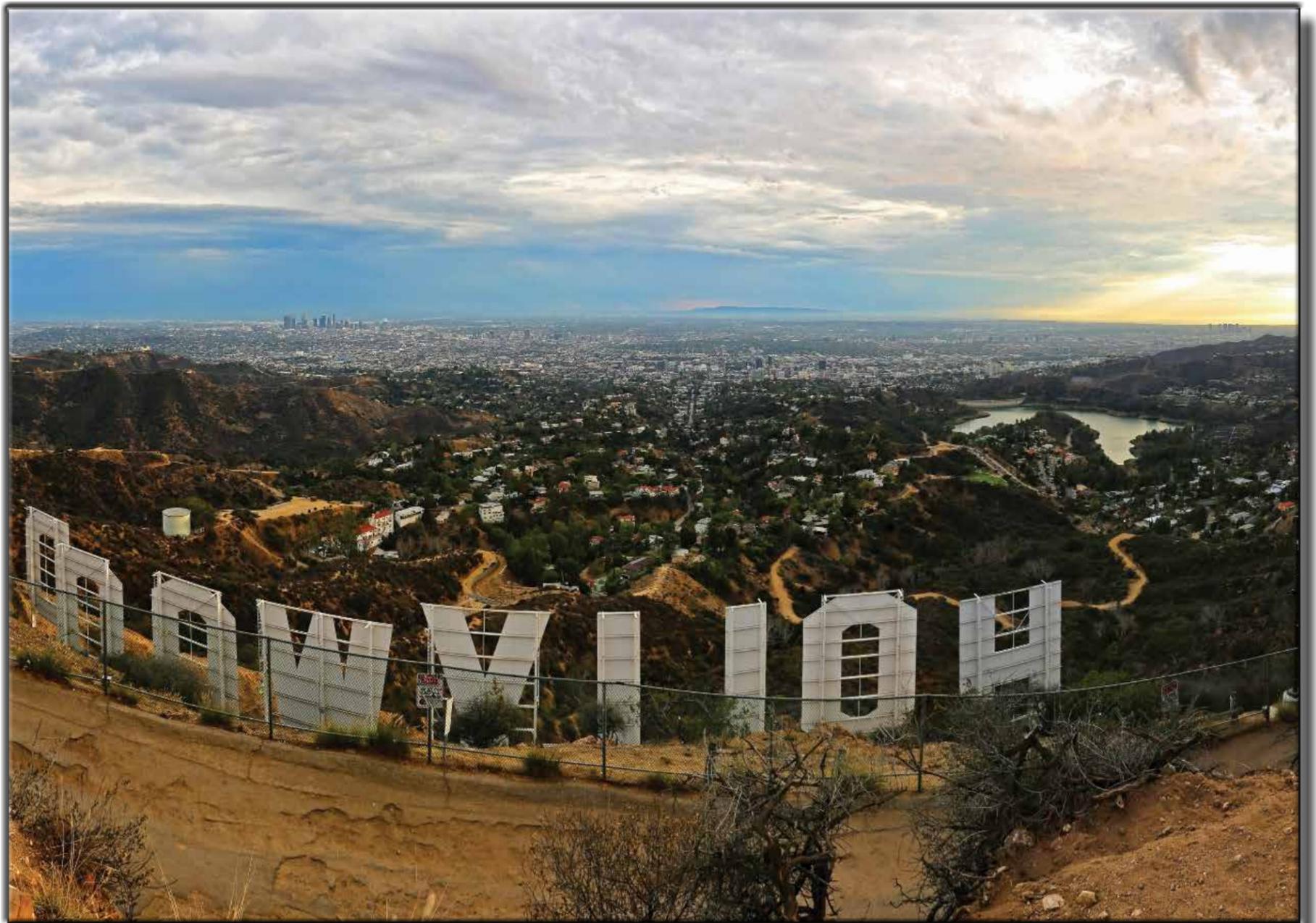
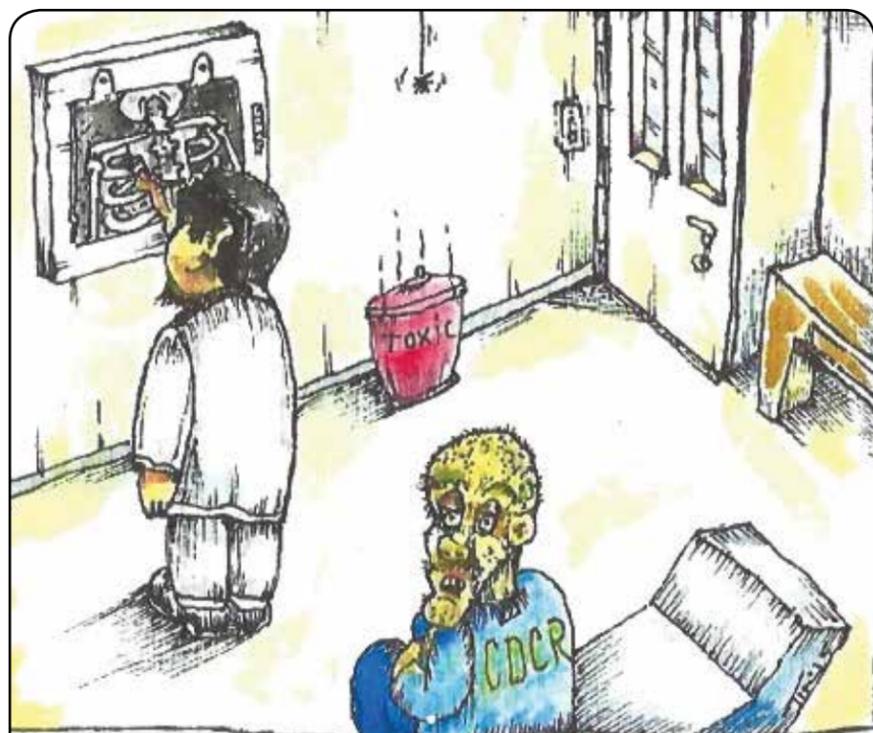


Photo of the Hollywood Sign in Los Angeles

Photo by P. Jo

COMIC

Illustration by Fred Tinsley
Concept by J. Chiu



"Well, Mr. James, judging from your X-ray- you have a broken rib and pneumonia. We'll start you on Ibuprofen and call you back in six months..."



Pencil drawing of Gary Harrell's family

Drawings by Omid Mokri

Snippets

It was a banker who built the first Buddhist monastery.

No formal treaty was ever signed to end the Hundred Years' War.

Uranus is the third largest planet volume wise, fourth mass wise and the coldest planet.

The platypus was first discovered by European explorers in 1849 and called it a beaverduck. The plural of platypus is "platypi".

In the course of its elliptical orbit, a comet's tail grows as it approaches the sun.

Lincoln is credited with creating a national banking system with the National Banking Act of 1863, which resulted in standardizing the US currency.

Earth's only natural satellite is the Moon.

WORDCROSS PUZZLE

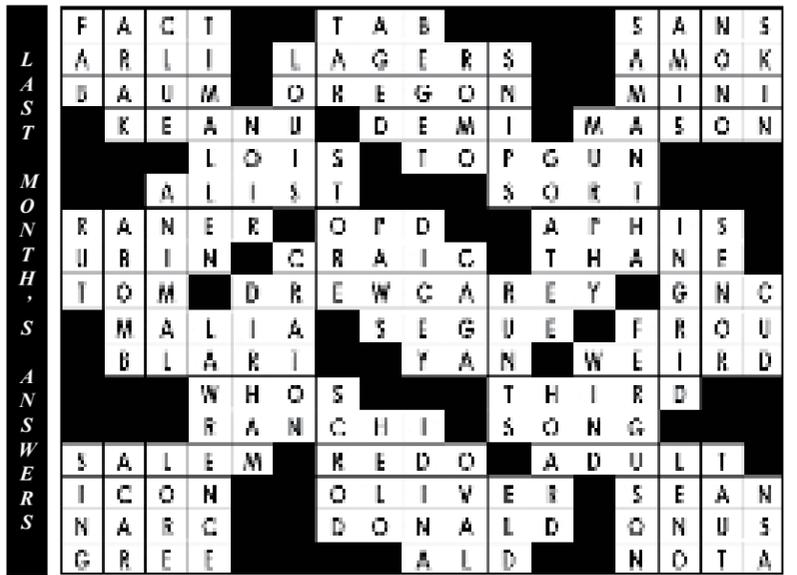
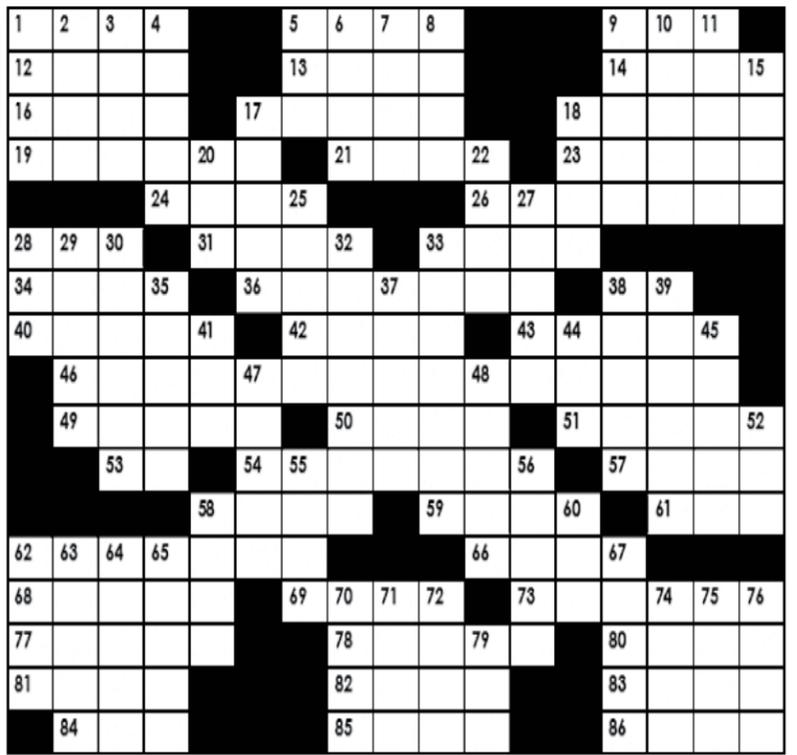
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

1. Fashion designer Jacobs
5. Irritating bug
9. Liquid used as an insulator in electrical equipment (Abbrev.)
12. Locale in Sweden near the Gulf of Bothnia
13. Walter White's drug
14. River near Whitehaven in the UK
16. Shakespeare's *King*
17. '90s MTV sketch show
18. Vertical piece in a panel
19. Transport out
21. Win with ease
23. Cough drop maker
24. *Patriot's Day* director Peter
26. 4th century Gr. painter
28. Intuition
31. UFC fighter Nate
33. Armisen of *Portlandia*
34. Poke
36. Champion
38. Common abbr. on an address
40. '90s computer drawing program
42. Common Vietnamese last name
43. A type of tot
46. 1st initial and last name of CDCR PIO II (Hint: answer within this paper)
49. Mysterious
50. *Ward of Independence Day: Resurgence*
51. Blink 182 album _____ *Of The State*
53. Lexus model
54. Charms
57. Paradise
58. Program for youths
59. Chaste and virtuous wife
61. Traded 3rd in the world with below the Euro and Pound (Abbrev.)
62. *Bachelor's* weapon
66. Can go before ball of or spin a _____
68. CW superhero show
69. Headphone and electronics brand
73. Aviator maker
77. Pus-filled infections
78. *A Prairie Home Companion* host Chris
80. Actress Kate or Rooney
81. Passive
82. Donovan of *Love Potion No. 9*
83. Butt (Slang)
84. Chicago above ground trains
85. Horror movie about the Antichrist or a warning
86. Daughter of Hera and Zeus

Down

1. Drug smuggler
2. MasterCard alternative (Abbrev.)
3. Harvest
4. Chocolate substitute
5. International time line (Abbrev.)
6. Close
7. Preface to 10⁻¹⁸
8. Not us
9. Part of 61 Across
10. Glenn Close movie *The Big _____*
11. Disney's "*Beauty*" princess
15. Scotland's Loch
17. Precedes down, out or club
18. Outhouse
20. Taylor Swift album
22. Trim down
25. Brooks of song *Friends in Low Places*
27. Capital of W. Australia
28. Ironic prison computer keyboard button
29. Supply
30. Jason Statham and J. Lo movie
32. Game theory in which the winner takes all
33. What TV brings in June
35. Beth of *2 Broke Girls*
37. When doubled, finishes the phrase "_____, set the table"
38. Author R.L.
39. *Mydaus javanensis*
41. Business doc. (Abbrev.)
44. Common abbr. on an address
45. Singer LeAnn
47. 1800 English poet John
48. Asian form of cooking
52. In addition
55. Rapper Mills
56. OneRepublic song *Stop and _____*
58. Adult female pigs
60. Company offering
62. Austrian-born US physicist Issac
63. City in Tamil Nadu state in S. India
64. Power tool
65. Actor's choices
67. Nature goddess
70. *Miranda of 24 Legacy*
71. Bluff
72. Follows web or work
74. Naked
75. A type of Spring
76. Parker of *Birth of a Nation*
79. "*Steal My Sunshine*" group



Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

The Month of March

- March is the second of seven months in the year with 31 days. In 2017, March has five Wednesdays, five Thursdays, and five Fridays.
- Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, Saint Patrick's Day is on Friday, March 17, and Spring—or the Vernal Equinox—begins on Monday, March 20.
- For Christians, Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, March 1, the First Sunday of Lent is on Sunday, March 5, the Memorial of Saint Patrick is on Friday, March 17, Saint Joseph's Day is on Sunday, March 19, and the Annunciation of the Lord is on Saturday, March 25.
- For Mexican Nationals, Benito Juarez's Birthday is observed on Monday, March 20.
- According to the World Almanac, March is Irish-American Heritage Month, Women's History Month, American Red Cross Month, National Frozen Food Month, and National Talk With Your Teen About Sex Month.
- There are two astrological signs in March: Pisces, the sign of the Fish (Feb. 19 to March 20), and Aries, the sign of the Ram (March 21 to April 19).
- According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the March birthstone is the Bloodstone or Aquamarine.

San Quentin News would like to know:

- | What prison are you at and how do you receive the *San Quentin News*? _____
- | Does your library provide you with a copy of the *San Quentin News*? _____
- | Do all facilities/yards at your prison receive the *San Quentin News*? _____
- | What stories did you like the most and why? _____
- | What story did you like the least and why? _____
- | What kind of story would you like to read? _____

Mail to: San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964

Consulado Mexicano visita San Quentin

Español

Por Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Prisioneros Mexicanos e hispanos de diferentes nacionalidades en California enfrentan grandes retos para rehabilitarse y cambiar sus vidas.

Esa fue la impresión que se llevaron los oficiales del Consulado Mexicano de San Francisco quienes recientemente visitaron la Prisión de San Quentin.

De acuerdo a Javier Issac Delgadillo, quien trabaja en el Departamento de Asuntos Legales y Protección en el consulado Mexicano de San Francisco, la póliza de inmigración de Estados Unidos anuncia la deportación de mexicanos nacionales y otros inmigrantes indocumentados al ser liberados de prisión. Delgadillo comenta que en las audiencias de inmigración los jueces se enfocan en el crimen que la persona cometió, "Prestan muy poca atención en el esfuerzo que la persona a invertido en su rehabilitación".

Delgadillo acompañado por tres oficiales del consulado vinieron el 4 de Febrero a visitar el programa en español de GRIP (Trasformando la Ira en Poder), escucharon a hombres de habla hispana hablar de que fue lo que paso que los llevo a prisión.



Photo by Ralpheale Casale

Facilitadores y participantes inician la sesión con un ejercicio de meditación

"Creo que si una persona esta por salir de prisión después de completar un programa como este y esta listo para reintegrarse a la sociedad y trabajar por su familia, esa persona merece una oportunidad, solamente basado en los derechos humanos", comento Gemi Gonzáles, Consulado General de México, San Francisco.

GRIP es un programa de comprensión y aceptación de responsabilidad con una duración de 52 semanas donde los participantes recorren un trayecto de

sanacion, para transformarlos en agentes de bien. Agentes de bien que regresan a dar a la comunidad a la que un día ellos le quitaron, trabajan con jóvenes y enseñan a los que todavía están encarcelados.

GRIP es una creación de Jacques Verduin, director ejecutivo de Insight out, la cual es la organización que trajo este programa a San Quentin. Este currículo es el primero en su categoría específicamente diseñado para los prisioneros de habla hispana. Cerca de tres docenas de perso-

nas están recientemente tomando este curso, con un total de 609 años combinando los años servidos en prisión. La Dr. Lucia de la fuente es la traductora y facilitadora del grupo.

"Es muy importante tomar este programa en español", comento de la fuente. "Es vital y crucial el escuchar y aprender en tu propio lenguaje. Muchos de los hispanos encarcelados no hablan español. Deberían de tener la oportunidad de escoger, si desean tomar un programa para mejorarse ellos mismos, sin basarlo en que el programa este en ingles".

La sesión tomo lugar en un salón de clase donde los participantes se sentaron formando un círculo. En un pizarrón blanco hay información escrita con detalle y en español mostrando a los participantes como conectarse con sus emociones para evitar tendencias violentas.

Verduin dice que piensa que los hispanos tienen una experiencia más dificultosa por causa de la barrera del ingles, añadiéndole que muchos de ellos están propensos a una deportación.

"Como resultado se mantienen unidos causando la formación de pandillas", comento Verduin. "Las pandillas en Latino América fueron exportadas de las prisiones de Estados Unidos. Creo que nuestro presidente quiere poner una barda alrededor de estas personas. GRIP les ayudara a romper las paredes interiores, y nadie podrá apuntarlos con el dedo y disminuir su dignidad. Es importante en nuestra sociedad crear mas dignidad para aquellos que llamamos los "otros".

Con los pies firmemente plantados en el suelo y las manos en las piernas, da comienzo el ejercicio de la meditación. Se trata de relajación, dice Luis Lopez en español. Pongan atención a su cuerpo y piensen en pensamientos placenteros acerca de su familia.

"Es una oportunidad para los hombres de sentirse seguros en mirar dentro de sus almas," menciona Nadeshda Vargas, abogada para el consulado Mexicano. "Programas como este ayudan a las personas a darse cuenta que no son los únicos que cometen errores. Si una persona se siente seguro de hablar de sus problemas puede haber mas apoyo. Se obtiene mediante la habilidad de compartir el uno con el otro que eres capaz de dar".

Un preso se paro en frente del grupo para explicar de como se obtuvo el nombre de la Tribu 609. Menciona que se llevo a ese número al combinar todo el tiempo que cada uno de los presos a pasado hasta este momento en la prisión.

Los presos hablaron confiadamente y con sinceridad. Pudieron hablar abiertamente porque todos tienen un acuerdo de nunca discutir lo que ocurre en el círculo fuera del círculo.

La confidencialidad permite revelar información confidencial, y es tal la emoción que se coloca una caja de kleenex en medio del salón para el participante que derrame lágrimas.

Otro participante explico brevemente como reconocer cuando una persona esta en peligro inminente a través de las sensaciones corporales. Reconocer las emociones y los pensamientos antes de responder a una situación difícil es importante. De acuerdo al currículo de GRIP, el estar consientes de este proceso permite que los participantes se relajen y tengan la oportunidad de responder sin recurrir a la violencia.

Durante la presentación de un ejercicio conocido como "asuntos inconclusos" era evidente mirar cabezas inclinadas, caras con expresiones de dolor al escuchar a un participante compartir su historia en medio del círculo. Unas sillas son colocadas enfrente del participante que representan personas imaginarias a quienes va dirigida la carta. Es una oportunidad para decir las cosas que nunca se dijeron a las personas amadas: madres, padres, hermanos, hermanas, hijos e hijas. Unos espectadores levantan las manos en oración, otros se cubren sus bocas.

"Aprendí que los programas realmente ayudan a evolucionar a las personas," comento Wilma Gandoy, Cónsul para Protección y Asuntos Legales, quien anteriormente visito la Tribu 609 dos semanas después que se inicio el curso. "Con esta segunda visita puedo mirar el crecimiento y mejoramiento, los hombres expresan mejor sus experiencias y están mas abiertos al cambio", comento Gandoy. "Esta clase de programa se debería expandir porque les ayuda a regresar a la comunidad como mejores personas".

—Traducción por
Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

Mas vivir y menos sobrevivir: la Justicia Restaurativa y el perdón humano

Por Lucía de la Fuente,
PhD. El Candidato
SQNews Consejero

La justicia suele personificarse con la imagen de una mujer con los ojos vendados, sosteniendo una balanza y una espada. La mujer, inspirada en la diosa griega Temis (algunos dicen que proviene de la diosa Maat del antiguo Egipto), representa el orden y la "divina justicia", y tiene los ojos vendados como emblema de la imparcialidad y la objetividad. La balanza en la mano izquierda simboliza la justicia moderna y contrarresta el peso de cada lado; busca el equilibrio y nos dice que "nadie va a perder". La espada en la mano derecha, encarnando la importancia de la ejecución de las medidas (o las normas), constituye la fuerza inflexible de las leyes.

Sin embargo la justicia no es ciega, ni equitativa, ni equilibrada, ni "convencedora". La justicia moderna occidental, como la conocemos y vivimos, es punitiva y castiga a todos aquellos que la desafían. La justicia es la espada: venga, corta, separa y nos hace duros. Por eso, cuando se viola una norma, la justicia se aplica a la persona que rompió dicha ley. Es decir, las consecuencias las impone la justicia acorde sus leyes y las paga la persona. Pero, ¿qué pasaría si en vez de enfocarnos en el castigo, lo hacemos en el perdón? ¿Quiénes seríamos si en vez de poner rejas, barrotes y sanciones, nos centráramos en el ser humano? ¿Y si en vez de que la justicia castigue al individuo, el ofensor pudiera reparar el daño que



Courtesy of Lucía de la Fuente

Lucía de la Fuente

causó, directamente con la persona a quien ofendió? Al final de cuentas, la justicia no se hiere, se hieren las personas.

Nuestra sociedad sería distinta si en vez de perseguir el perdón de la justicia, persiguiéramos el perdón de las personas. De humano a humano. Este perdón se llama Justicia Restaurativa. Perdonar a quien me lastimó, pedir perdón a quienes les falté y perdonarme a mí mismo por haber fallado.

Después de décadas de resentimiento, apatía e ira contra todo y todos quienes me rodeaban, me di cuenta de que yo no iba a albergar más que odio, a menos de que me diera a la difícil y dura tarea de buscar el perdón. Me han ofendido, pero yo también he ofendido. Merezco que me perdonen aquellos a quienes lastimé, pero también debo de perdonar a quienes me hirieron. Y si no lo merezco, al

menos he de intentarlo. Estoy cansada de pretender ser feliz. Estoy cansada de poner toda mi engría en sentimientos aterradoros. Estoy cansada de vivir en un cuarto oscuro. Yo era la mujer con los ojos vendados, sosteniendo una espada. Mi balanza, pesada como una roca, se equilibraba con desesperanza en un lado y odio en el otro. Me quité la venda que me cegaba, tiré la espada y me senté con la balanza. Durante años me dediqué a averiguar de dónde venía esa desesperanza y odio. "Nadie va a perder", me dijo la balanza muchas veces; pero la que siempre perdía era yo. No tenía forma de ganar. ¿Cómo hacerlo cargando todo ese peso? "Las leyes se hicieron para violarlas", me dije muchas veces. No. No se hicieron para violarlas; más bien, fueron creadas para sustituir nuestra adormecida capacidad de perdón. La figura de "la mujer de la justicia" que tantas veces he visto en los libros y en los periódicos, la tengo grabada en cada neurona de mi cerebro. Normas, reglas, castigos y silencios. Me los sé de memoria. Pero entre tanto estudio y práctica de la ley, olvidé cómo es que se pide perdón a otro igual a mí. A otro humano. Lo olvidé hasta que conocí lo que hoy muchos le llaman "Justicia Restaurativa". "¡Ja! ¿Y eso qué es?" me pregunté. "Sanar y perdonar", me respondieron. "Quizá sea el dejar de sobrevivir al dolor y al odio, para empezar a vivir", me dije.

La segunda parte de este artículo será publicada en el siguiente número de *San Quentin News*.

Two views of how Prop. 47 is working out: : Barriers to employment were reduced

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Proposition 47 has allowed many former offenders access to better jobs and opportunities.

The voter-approved initiative downgraded drug possession and some thefts from felonies to misdemeanors.

"This wave of new workers will inevitably benefit the economy, but it also decreases the likelihood of re-arrest," *USA Today* reported. "According to recidivism experts and

scientific studies, convicts are far less likely to re-offend if they get a good job when their incarceration ends, and yet this is the exact kind of employment that is often out of reach for felons.

"Unable to compete in the job market, they have few choices: suffer perpetual poverty in a low-paying job, hide their felony from employers or return to crime and risk another stint behind bars."

In 2014, voters passed Proposition 47. It downgraded 198,000 felony convictions

to misdemeanors and at least 13,500 inmates were released from incarceration, according to an analysis by *USA Today* Network-California journalists.

Some companies forbid the hiring of felons and most will turn away an applicant if a candidate with no convictions is available. Felons also have more difficulty obtaining professional licenses — whether they cut hair, sell homes or practice law. For those who reduced all of their felonies under Proposition 47, no conviction

now stands between them and employment. Even individuals with some of their felonies reduced become more employable, the newspaper noted.

Lenore Anderson, a prison reform advocate who helped write Proposition 47, stated, "We created a system where there's so many collateral impacts to having a felony conviction on your record that you cannot sustain yourself. You cannot find employment. You cannot find housing. You cannot integrate back with your family. These are all things that lead to recidivism."

Economist Sung Won Sohn of Cal State Channel Islands stated Proposition 47's reduction of convictions will create

an influx of new workers and will also allow the state to get more production out of the workers it already has. Some working felons are likely over-qualified for their current jobs but now can move up the ladder to better jobs.

Vonya Quarles, who launched the nonprofit StartinGOverInc in Corona, said many of the Proposition 47 petitioners have abandoned their "I'll take-any-kind-of-job-we-can-get" attitude. Politicians may debate how much money the proposition has saved, and police might worry about a bump in property crime, but Quarles insists the biggest impact of Proposition 47 is also the hardest to measure — new hope.

Negative: Parolees leave prison homeless and jobless

By David Eugene Archer Sr.
Journalism Guild Writer

At least 13,500 low-level drug offenders were freed from prisons and jails by California voters in 2014, reported *USA Today*.

"Did Prop 47 help?" the newspaper asked. The answer appears to be "not much."

Thousands are now homeless, jobless and again committing petty crimes.

The Prop 47 releases exposed the limits of California's neglected social service programs.

The proposition earmarked millions of dollars saved from prison costs for inmate rehabilitation, but not one penny was spent — even though expanding rehabilitation programs would be infinitely more effective in combating addiction and less expensive than housing people in prison. California has 565,000 drug-dependent adults, and treating them at a cost of \$20,000 per person would be less than a third of the cost a year in jail or prison.

"The problem is, if you don't actually do anything to change conditions of their lives, they're going to be back on the streets anyway," Elliot Currie, a criminologist at UC Irvine, told *USA Today* reporters.

"Prop 47 was not a cure-all. ... It is one piece in ... the puzzle in our communities"

"What's to prevent them from going back to the same old ways when they get out? The answer is nothing," he added.

"Prop 47 was not a cure-all. ... It is one piece in ... the puzzle in our communities," said Michael Romano, Stanford law expert.

In 1968 Governor Ronald Reagan closed nine state mental hospitals, but vetoed the transfer of funds for county treatment programs.

"Jails turned into the mental health system, so in many we have to finally grapple with the problem we should've fixed in the first place," Currie said.

AB 109, passed by the state legislature, changed sentencing laws so thousands of non-serious and non-violent offenders were sentenced to county jail, whereas before they would have served time in state prison.

"If we want criminal justice reform and social justice reform to work ... it's about fixing the system that comes out and supports them when they come out," said Eunisses Hernandez, a Drug Policy Alliance advocate.

Drug court programs that directed offenders into treatment facilities instead of jail are emptying, according to the *USA Today* report. The enrollment in Los Angeles' longest-running drug court program has dropped from 80 people to only four.

David Ramage, who leads the drug court program, said Prop 47 "tore it apart."

Employment still the biggest obstacle for parolees

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

One of the biggest obstacle prisoners face upon release is finding a job. This applies to both violent and nonviolent offenders.

"Recently the American Bar Association estimated that there are 44,000 different barriers to re-entry at the state and federal level," said Dominik Taylor, a staff attorney with Root and Rebound, an Oakland-based nonprofit organization that offers re-entry support.

A majority of employers still require applicants to reveal their criminal record history, according to Oakland North reporter Andrew Beale.

"Research shows that just that question alone has a dramatic impact on making people a lot less likely to apply for jobs," Taylor said. "Even if they're qualified, they see that question, and often times they're afraid to turn in the application."

On top of all this, "Your parole officer can violate you, give you a violation, if you don't have stable employment," Taylor said. "So usually if you don't have a job, you're going to get violated and you'll go back to prison, you'll go back to jail."

Re-entering society requires determination when applying for employment. According to a 2015 study, recidivism drops to around 3.3 to 8 percent when ex-inmates find employment rapidly, according to America Works, a job-training firm, and the Manhattan Institute, a non-partisan research group.

San Francisco is the only city in California to "ban the box" for private employment. Even then, if there are fewer than 15 employees, those businesses are exempt from this ban, notes Beale.

Root and Rebound deputy director Sonja Tonnesen said that

Title VII federal law prohibits blanket hiring bans against formerly incarcerated people.

"It is very illegal to ban all people with felonies from a job. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (the government agency charged with enforcing Title VII) has said that because people of color are disproportionately incarcerated, arrested, sentenced, convicted in this country, that when you ban all people with felonies, all people with a criminal record, it has an unfair impact, a disparate impact on people of color, and thus violates civil rights laws," Tonnesen told reporter Beale.

Project Bayview Men's and Women's Homes executive director Shawn Gordon is the founder of Huli Huli restaurant. He also served a 12-year prison term for narcotics distribution.

Huli Huli restaurant is a prime example of what ex-inmates can achieve when given the opportunity, according to Beale. The employees of Huli Huli are all ex-cons who have received training in culinary skills.

Project Bayview also offers training in life skills, including anger management and parenting classes. Clients are encouraged to enroll in addiction recovery programs.

Gordon told Beale it's important to give people opportunities.

"In a time and place in their life where other people would be a little hesitant to take that same chance," Gordon said, "we're set up and we're built to take that chance."

The re-entry program Root and Rebound recently launched an online site, <http://reentry-traininghub.org/> that offers a step-by-step guide called "Roadmap to Re-entry," instructions for how to obtain an ID-Card, parole, probation and deal any other barriers and obstacles.

Louisiana lacks funding in juvenile LWOP sentencing hearings

'The state public defender's budget has been "stagnant" at about \$33 million'

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Louisiana public defenders lack funding to represent life-without-parole (LWOP) juvenile offenders at sentencing hearings, the *New Orleans Advocate* reported.

In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against laws mandating LWOP for juveniles as unconstitutional in *Miller v. Alabama*. Subsequent rulings made it retroactive.

Today, juveniles facing a sentence of LWOP are required to get "individualized sentencing hearings" before such a harsh sentence can be

handed down," said Carol Kolinchak, a compliance officer for the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

According to *the Advocate*, during these hearings the public defender is mandated to investigate and present to the court evidence about the youth and the circumstances surrounding his or her crime.

But the mandate isn't cheap, and it's also unfunded, and comes at a cost of \$60,000 to \$75,000 per client, said Kolinchak.

The shortfall in funding is having a systemic impact on cases handled by public defenders, the state public

defender's budget has been "stagnant" at about \$33 million for the past several years, (and) the threat of a 5 percent cut looms ahead, said Jay Dixon, a state public defender.

Budget constraints are preventing public defenders from representing indigent juveniles in individualized sentencing hearings, Dixon told SLP. "We don't have an answer. This is the kind of thing that funding or lack of funding creates."

According to Kolinchak, there are nearly 300 juveniles eligible for such individualized hearings throughout the state of Louisiana.

The rocky road traveled by Black American athletes

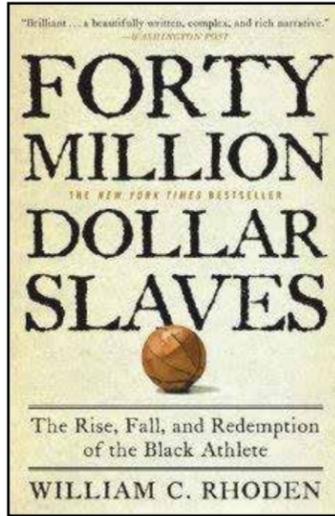
Book Review

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Professional athletes have always earned higher salaries than the average wage earner. Yet, the lack of African-Americans in sports team ownership is a carefully crafted plan, according to *Forty Million Dollar Slaves: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of the Black Athlete* (2006) by William C. Rhoden.

To show athletes are in a slave/master relationship, Rhoden, who is a sports writer for *The New York Times* and a Peabody Award winner, links a number of historical facts.

Forty Million Dollar Slaves considers how games and sports were acceptable pastimes for slaves, so it was routine for slaves to excel in individual sports, such as running, wrestling and boxing.



"Sports, as well as dance and music, were vehicles through which transcendence and transformation could be achieved, in which slave could be master, the powerless could become powerful," Rhoden writes.

In American sports teams, players were largely drawn

along racial lines. Yet, when Blacks began organizing their own sports teams and created a level of socio-economic independence, the integration of Blacks into baseball, basketball and football had the effect of actually stalling and reversing the gains.

"Integration fixed in place myriad problems: a destructive power dynamic between black talent and white ownership; a chronic psychological burden for black athletes, who constantly had to prove their worth; disconnection of the athlete from his or her community; and the emergence of the apolitical black athlete, who had to be careful what he or she said or stood for, so as not to offend white paymasters. At the same time, it destroyed an autonomous zone of black industry, practically eliminated every black person involved in sports — coaches, owners, trainers, accountants, lawyers, secretaries, and so on — ex-

cept the precious on-the-field talent," *Forty Million Dollar Slaves* concludes.

Rhoden puts forth a clear argument, showing how the socio-economic and political stagnation of Blacks connect to what he terms "The Jockey Syndrome."

The Jockey Syndrome refers to events that ended African-Americans as the predominant riders in thoroughbred horseracing.

Little known fact:

The first Kentucky Derby winner in 1875 was a Black man named Oliver Lewis; moreover, 13 of the 15 riders in the first Derby were Black.

However, when the earnings from thoroughbred horseracing began to skyrocket, White jockeys, backed by White owners, excluded Blacks from riding by forming the Jockey's Guild, and overnight there were no more Black jockeys.

This phenomenon was not an isolated incident.

In 1920, Arthur "Rube" Foster created the Negro National League. It was a professional baseball league of Black owners — organized, managed and played by African-Americans.

"It would be a crime for the

Negro who has such an abundance of talent in such a progressive age to sit idly by and see his race forever doomed to [be excluded from] America's greatest and foremost sport," Foster said, as the reason for creating the league.

When the Negro League faded into the history books, Rhoden wrote, "A black institution was dead, while a white institution grew richer and stronger. This was the result of integration." The solution, according to Rhoden, is Black ownership.

"At a time when the number of black males attending college is increasing at a slower rate than the number being incarcerated, young black men with stellar athletic ability are still hotly pursued, coddled, and showered with gifts for a promise to attend major colleges and universities," Rhoden writes.

Forty Million Dollar Slaves is critical of these modern African-American athletes. They have unfettered access to young minds and have more influence than politicians and clergy — "their reach could potentially extend so much wider, and deeper."

Women's History Month prompts answers to 'Who's the greatest?'

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

Among other celebrations and observations, March is Women's History Month. In honor of women, "Asked On The Line" approached mainliners and inquired, "Who do you think is the greatest woman in history? Name a woman you know whom you admire and respect."

M. Jones: "I think the greatest woman in history is Harriet Tubman because she helped blacks get to freedom. A woman I admire is Ethel Waters. She was a great singer in jazz and blues."

M. Benito: "My mother, Socorro, is the greatest woman in my life, and I admire her because she is wonderful, gave me life, and taught me to walk."

V. Nguyen: "I think that the greatest woman in history is Queen Isabella."

A woman I admire is my mom because she raised my five brothers and me on her own after 1975, when South Vietnam fell to the Communist

regime, and my father was sent to a prison camp."

F. Pedro: "The greatest woman in history was Mariana Grajales. She helped gain independence for all the Cuban people."

A woman I admire is Valentina Teleskova. She was the first woman to go into outer space."

Y. Jose: "My mom is the greatest woman in history. She took care of all six of her children. After mom is my grandmother."

A woman I admire and respect is Eleanor Roosevelt."

M. Luna-Saldana: "The greatest woman in history is Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is the greatest example of humility, tenderness and love."

I admire my mother, Guadalupe Saldana. She gave me life, tenderness and love."

L. Jesus: "My mom is the greatest woman in history and is a woman I admire and respect."

T. Alberto: "The greatest woman in history is Queen Elizabeth of England. A woman I admire is former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton."

R. Wimbert: "The greatest woman in history and a woman I admire and respect is my

mom."

M. Ronald: "The greatest woman in history, and a woman I admire, is my mother. She raised my brother and me and taught us about life."

V. Joseph: "The greatest woman in history and a woman I admire is a famous Mexican singer, Lola Beltran. For me, she was the greatest female singer in the world, was very beautiful, and was known to have a good sense of humor."

H. Bridges: "I think the greatest woman in history is my mom. She has taught me about life, about being a man, about choosing the right way to live. She is the greatest and most beautiful woman I know and she loves Jesus. I also admire my sister and my wife. Both are like my mom."

A. Antonio: "The greatest woman in history is Niurka. She is a very famous and talented dancer and a successful actress."

The woman I admire the most is my mother, Teresa, because she shows people love and compassion."

Z. Richard: "The greatest woman in history, for me, is my mother."

A woman I respect and admire is my wife."

45 bikes for Christmas, thanks to DVI inmates

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisoners at Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI) made sure 45 kids got bikes for Christmas.

DVI inmates rebuilt the bikes for the Boys & Girls Club of Tracy, reported the Tracy Press. The bike-refurbishing program has been going for five years now, and has grown steadily each year.

About 20 inmates in the prison's vocational auto body repair program refurbished the bikes, which come from salvage yards and from the Tracy Police Department.

Inmates choose from a collection of bikes and completely refurbish them by stripping, painting and replacing whatever items are needed.

"You hear about a lot of toy drives or bike drives with new bikes," Lt. Christine Zoucha, spokeswoman for DVI, said.

"The purpose of this is to take something that could have been junk or disposed of and then

teaching (inmates) new skills... When we deliver the bikes to the auto body area, they are like little kids. They get so excited. ... You can tell it is truly an endeavor of love."

"I would rate their work a 10," said Steve Macias, teacher of the auto-body repair class. "They repaired them and cleaned them up. They spent hours polishing the chrome with steel wool, hours sanding it down to the metal, priming and then painting."

One inmate, a welder by trade, created a custom-made super-hero Batman bike. The bat sign was made with sheet metal with a custom paint job.

Once refurbished, the bikes were sent via correctional officers and the Tracy Police Department to the Richard O. Hastie Clubhouse. Tracy's seven Boys & Girls Clubs gave out the Christmas bikes, reported the *Tracy Press*.

In addition to the bikes, inmates also created and carved more than 50 wooden toy cars for the clubs.

Folsom prisoners refurbish 200 Christmas bikes for needy children

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

An inmate in Folsom State Prison's bicycle program has single-handedly refurbished 200 bicycles that were gifted to local youths for Christmas, the Folsom Telegraph reported.

"Each morning Argueta Mauricio... heads off to work where he spends his days restoring and repairing bicycles... within the walls of Folsom Prison where inmates, like himself, have been restoring bicycles for decades," the *Telegraph* reported.

The Folsom Prison Bicycle Restoration Program has been operating since 1986, with help from the Cameron Park Rotary and Ponderosa High School's Interact Clubs.

"We've been doing this for more than 20 years," said Joe Ryan of the Cameron Park Rotary Club. "It feels good for everyone involved, starting with the inmates, to the many high school students who help deliver the bikes, to the children who receive them. It's a wonderful experience."

Throughout the year, Ryan and his Rotary members procure donated bicycles, regardless of their conditions,

from individuals, businesses and disposal sites, the *Telegraph* reported.

"It's pretty common to see people just drive up to the front gates and drop off a bike their kids have outgrown," said Lt. Elton Soriano, administrative assistant and public information officer at Folsom Prison.

Even bicycles that are irreparable are given new life. "They use every part they can off the badly damaged bikes to restore those that need extra parts or a complete rebuild," said Soriano. "The Rotary provides items like new tubes, lubricants and the tools necessary to make the repairs

throughout the year."

Mauricio competed in the El Salvador equivalent of the Tour de France at the age of 16. "I have always loved repairing bicycles," he said. "When I get out, my hope is to work for a bike shop and eventually open my own place. I love helping people, especially young people, and I want to continue doing that when I am out."

To qualify for the bike program, inmates must be non-violent offenders and have 42 months or less remaining on their sentences. Mauricio is currently the sole inmate in the program.

SQ inmates' victory lures the biggies of internet podcasting

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

The CEO of a major podcasting network, along with other executives, took an eventful trip from the East Coast to meet with the incarcerated men who defeated more than 1,500 entries from 53 countries in a storytelling contest.

PRX CEO Kerri Hoffman and Radiotopia Executive Producer Julie Shapiro entered San Quentin State Prison for the first time and met Earlonne Woods and Antwan "Banks" Williams. Previously, the executives had only met Nigel Poor, the co-host and producer of the show Ear Hustle. Poor represents the trio beyond the prison walls.

"It's great to meet these guys in person after communicating through Nigel," Shapiro said. "I'm so excited about the project. Ear Hustle is gonna be huge."

Ear Hustle is scheduled to air on Radiotopia, an online radio network, in May. The executives believe it can break barriers.

"From a network point of view we want to attract more listeners," Shapiro said. "And there's a creative itch we are scratching, empowering these three to tell stories in the long form about life inside usually told by statistics. The impact it can have ... It questions our own presumptions about who's in prison. Who are the people behind the criminal? It helps us think about the inmates as people who have opinions and emotions."

Shapiro said listeners' re-



Photo by Brian Asey

Kerri Hoffman, Nigel Poor, Antwan "Banks" Williams, Julie Shapiro, Curtis Fox and Earlonne Woods

sponse was overwhelmingly positive except for a little push-back about why a White woman's voice was part of telling incarcerated men's stories.

"They had such a crystal clear concept of why Nigel is crucial to creating that dialogue," Shapiro said, referring to Woods and Williams.

"Her race doesn't matter," Woods said. "She's a very talented woman."

Williams added, "Regardless of what race you are — White, Black, Hispanic, Asian — if you're a woman and you choose to come in here, you deserve all the respect you have coming."

They agreed that Poor gives them a unique kind of credibil-

ity with the outside world, and working with her proves that incarcerated people and free people can work together as colleagues.

Shapiro said Ear Hustle stood out from the other 1,537 entries in the Radiotopia-hosted international contest for a spot on the PRX network.

"We had entries about everything under the sun. The Ear Hustle clip took us by our ears," Shapiro said. "We were hearing from a world we have no access to. The artfulness of it let us know they were doing something brand-new."

Woods added, "She had the audacity to give us a chance. She's a down-to-earth person

who is really thoughtful."

Shapiro described the ordeal it took to reach San Quentin. She said her flight was delayed; her BART train hit a tree, and she jumped into an Uber with strangers in order to visit the prison's media center and see where Ear Hustle will be created.

"I feel extremely privileged that they made the trip," Williams said. "Their flight was probably longer than their time with us. People in the business world don't have to fly to go visit some incarcerated people. I believe they did it because they see us as people."

Radiotopia works with producers, handles the business

and marketing end for podcasts while the 'casters concentrate on making great stories, Shapiro said.

Working with Radiotopia has exposed Woods and Williams to more colleagues in their field, such as Consulting Producer Curtis Fox (Fox Productions).

"I listen to all the work that they've done, and I've already helped rewrite the scripts," Fox said. "They are largely self-taught, and they've done an amazing job. My role is to coach and bring them to a higher level."

Ear Hustle's intro piece can be heard at letsearhustle.com. Look for Ear Hustle in May or at <http://www.Radiotopia.fm/>

Higher age, fewer write-ups boost parole chances

By **Wayne Boatwright**
Managing Editor

Recent legal and regulatory changes have vastly improved the likelihood of an inmate being granted parole.

During the past decades of California's "tough on crime" era it seemed like a soccer game. No one ever seemed to score a parole grant. It was not just the parole board "referees" calling it close. If you were breathing, it seemed like you were issued a red card and ejected from the match.

There is now a real chance of being found suitable for parole. In addition, we have a governor who is much less likely to revoke the board's finding of suitability if you score a grant. Though there are no guarantees for getting a date, there are certain factors that can significantly improve your odds of being found suitable for parole, according to a Stanford University report published in the April 2016 Federal Sentencing Reporter (Stanford Report). The report reviewed 754 hearings.

The Stanford Report brings "Money Ball" style statistical reasoning to parole hearing outcomes. It uses statistics and probability to measure over 150 different factors and estimate how much weight the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) gives each particular factor.

PREPARING FOR THE BOARD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT SINCE INCARCERATION

Most lifers find preparing for the Board very stressful. In the November 2014 Prison University Project Newsletter's "What It's Like Preparing for the Board of Parole Hearings," Kim (All-Amin) McAdoo said it represents "the most important event of my life since being incarcerated. It is an opportunity where I can possibly regain my freedom."

As there is no record of the actual final private deliberations of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, the Stanford team identified 12 subjects and 152 separate variables in each transcript: basic information, background, crime, prior history, prison progress, exit plans, psychological report, District Attorney's statement, inmate's testimony, victim testimony, program participation and reasons for the Board's decision.

With a 2015 grant rate near 30 percent, a better understanding of the BPH decision-making process becomes all the more relevant for those facing an indeterminate life sentence.

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS

Of the demographic variables (race, sex, age, etc.), only age had a significant impact. The

older an inmate is at a BPH hearing, the better their chances. For each extra 10 years of age, an inmate is 1.3 to 5 times more likely to earn a parole grant, according to the report.

Age at crime commission, however, has a negative impact. For example, committing your crime at 30 instead of 20 reduced the likelihood of a parole grant by half.

Consistent with multiple studies, the Stanford Report "found no significant effects of an inmate's race [or gender]" on either parole grant or denials.

Both positive and negative behavior in prison impacts parole grants. Participating in substance abuse programming has a positive impact. "Surprisingly, participation in other types of programs, which included educational and vocational programming, was not" significantly correlated to obtaining a grant, according to the report.

Negative behavior was measured by the number of # 128 (minor) and # 115 (major) rules violations an inmate had. The more # 115s you have, the lower the odds of earning a parole grant. "An increase of ten # 115s divided an inmate's odds in half" the report said.

Psychiatric evaluations were significant in suitability decisions. "An inmate who receives only scores of 'low' (with regard to risk of violence) is more

than twice as likely to receive a grant, compared to an inmate who receives at least one score that is not 'low,'" the report discovered.

Conduct at the parole hearing itself may impact getting a date. The Stanford Report found three categories of factors that impacted an inmate's odds of release: 1. Hearing characteristics; 2. Inmate testimony; and 3. Whether other people were present at the hearing.

Regardless of hearing start time (morning or afternoon), there was no difference in being granted parole. Inmates were almost as likely to be granted parole at the first hearing of the day as at subsequent hearings.

Inmate responses to questions demonstrated that if you have participated in a 12-step program, participants should know those steps. Those who failed a specific question (like being asked "What is step four?"), were only one-fifth as likely to be granted parole as those who answered correctly.

The fact that victims or victims' next of kin attend about 10 percent of hearings, however, did not significantly impact hearing results.

District Attorneys (DA) attend a majority of hearings, typically to oppose release. Both DA non-attendance and the DA's support of release improved the likelihood of a grant.

The term "insight" best defines the various intangibles that can impact a hearing. "One of the challenges that many of us inmates face at the board hearing is articulating insight," McAdoo said. "One of the biggest lessons I've learned is being both accountable and responsible."

As someone who works with lifers every day, the Executive Director of the Prison University Project (PUP) at San Quentin, Jody Lewen, expressed the concept of "insight" in the April 2016 PUP Newsletter, Vol. 22, No.1, April 2016:

"One of the great ironies of San Quentin is how many people living there have developed a level of emotional mindfulness and sense of personal accountability that is rarely seen outside of prison. Many people have worked so hard, over years, to understand themselves, to take responsibility for harm that they have caused. Perhaps it is in part precisely that highly attuned sense of personal responsibility that can make the parole review process even more overwhelming."

PUP was a 2015 recipient of the National Humanities Medal.

A copy of the above-mentioned Stanford Report is available to current students through the Prison University Project co-located in the education building.



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Rafael Cuevas leading his team as a point guard in 2016 will now leads as the coach

Warriors' guard turns coach

Cuevas's new post is 'Great new beginning'

After five years of leading his team from the point guard position, Rafael Cuevas is now the head coach of the San Quentin Warriors.

"Great new beginning," said Warriors backup center Donte Smith.

The former Warriors head coach, Daniel "Bear" Wright, left the yard. Cuevas talked to S.Q. Warriors General Manager, Robert "Bishop" Butler about the coaching job.

"We thought Rafael was the best fit for what we're trying to do – teach life skills through basketball," said Butler.

Cuevas has plans to make the Warriors better and more inclusive. His plans include replacing practice night scrimmage games with drills on fundamentals, like passing, boxing out, shooting jumpers, and team defense.

"I've been told I won't be able to coach these guys using fundamental basketball because nobody's gonna be receptive. But I don't think that's true," Cuevas said. "I believe the guys here can play fundamentally at a high level and in a cohesive manner."

He wants to create a D-league culture for those who don't make the team. It starts with ranking everyone who tries out. The top 12 players make the team, and the next five will be on the practice squad. There will be special practices for everyone else to come learn the fundamentals.

"This will keep everyone included," said Cuevas. "They can work their way up and make the team if they become a better

asset to the program. Nobody's job is safe."

He believes his point guard past will make a good coach.

"I know how to see passing lanes and make good decisions," said Cuevas. "If you can see the game unfolding before it happens then you can prevent it."

Cuevas said he played basketball at Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco as a small forward.

"I was a role player with good skills," said Cuevas. "I made the team by hustling my tail off and playing dee."

Cuevas said he went to City College of San Francisco, but he didn't play basketball there. He held a job doing stonework at Andrea's Marble.

He said at age 22, misguided anger led him to stabbing a man five times in a fight after a Giants game.

"At that point in my life I was just really dangerous," said Cuevas. "I had some problems with guys in neighborhoods next to mine. We had gunplay. It made me hyper-vigilant. I was walking around ready to fight for my life at the drop of a dime. Everything seemed way bigger than it really was. He didn't do anything to deserve it."

While in prison serving 16 years-to-life, Cuevas has completed self-help groups like Restoring Our Original True Selves (ROOTS) and Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP). He's in a computer coding program called Code.7370.

Basketball is part of his transformation.

"Basketball has always been

a way to connect with people," said Cuevas.

Former teammates expressed their approval of Cuevas as their coach.

"Great choice," said Allan McIntosh.

Anthony Ammons added, "I'm thankful for the opportunity to play for a person who I admire. This will be fun."

His former teammates shouldn't expect favoritism.

"Guys know what they are gonna get from me, and it's not gonna be favoritism," said Cuevas. "It's gonna be based on hard work, team buy-in and respect for the program."

While Wright coached alone, Cuevas has added a staff. Aaron "Harun" Taylor, San Quentin's play-by-play announcer, will be his lead assistant coach. Tony Evans will be his strength and conditioning coach. Robbie Robins and Charlie Ross are also part of his staff.

"We're gonna turn this yard into a basketball training camp," said Cuevas.

He added it isn't all about basketball.

"The outside teams always say it's about God first, basketball second," said Cuevas. "I love the humanity behind the basketball. We received a blessing we didn't earn from the people outside coming in and giving us this program. I really appreciate it."

Winning is still important.

"I plan on winning every game so the competition is in for some rough years," Cuevas said.

—Rahsaan Thomas

SQ Kings search for new talent in tryouts

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Older men made up the new talent trying out for the San Quentin Kings' 40 and over basketball team.

On Jan. 28 and 29, the Kings held tryouts for the 2017 season schedule that begins March 11 against the Bittermen.

Bittermen Coach Ted Saltviet assembles players, mostly K-12 school teachers, from the surrounding Bay Area to come to San Quentin for a day of basketball.

After several seasons, 2016 represented the first time the Bittermen ever recorded a winning record against the Kings. This prompted Kings coaches Orlando Harris and Ishmael Freelon to scout the prison for new talent.

"I'm looking for defense, rebounding and a high basketball IQ," Harris said. Then he paused and added, "I'm looking for dudes who can play together."

Players who met that profile included new arrivals to the yard, Robert Polzin, 41, who is 6-feet-4, 254 pounds, and Wayne Mobley, 58, who's 6-feet-7 and 240 pounds. Mobley said he used to play for the University of Milwaukee.

"It would be an honor to play amongst the brothers already here," Mobley said. "My objective is to make the team better, not necessarily start."

In the practice consisting of full-court scrimmage games,

Polzin and Cooke clicked with the offense, making timely passes and scoring.

"I tried a few different line-ups to see how people mesh. I saw some good things," Harris said. "The size of big men — Polzin, Cooke and Mobley — allows me to go big or small. Now we can match up against anybody."

Azaad Baker, Anthony Prater and former King Edward Quinn (2008-10) also came to try out.

"I love playing basketball," Prater said. "It would mean a lot to make the Kings. By being a Christian, I can let my light shine on and off the court."

Baker came to tryouts because one of the guys on last year's team asked him to.

"Making the Kings would prove I'm still able to play on a minimum level," Baker said. "I still have the enthusiasm and will to compete."

Baker, Quinn and Prater tried out hard but didn't make the team.

The 2017 Kings are:

Veterans: Oris "Pep" Williams, Thad Fleeton, Tare "Cancun" Beltran, Abralamont "Coocoo" McNeely, D. "Zayd" Nickolson, Demond Lewis, Charles "Pookie" Sylvester, and Jamal Green.

New Kings included Polzin, Cooke, Mobley, the returning Paul Oliver, 60, and Edward Moss.

"We definitely have a better team this year," Harris said. "The Bittermen better beware — we're back."



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Veteran King Demond Lewis facing off against defense

SQ aims to share fútbol's worldwide growth

The Federal Internacional Football Association is adding 16 new teams to its international soccer tournament. Meanwhile, soccer players at San Quentin hope their 2017 season expands to playing more than just one outside team.

FIFA currently has teams from 32 nations that compete for the world cup every four years. The FIFA governing council approved a plan to go from a

32-nation format to 48 by 2026.

"We are in the 21st Century, and we have to shape the football World Cup of the 21st century," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in the New York Times. "Football is more than just Europe and South America. Football is global."

San Quentin allows teams from the outside community to compete inside

its walls. However, soccer games went nearly a decade without playing outside teams until last year, San Quentin Soccer Coach Garvin Robinson said.

Students from University of California at Berkeley were the first outside soccer team to break the drought. The team, Hermanos Unidos, returned to San Quentin's Lower Yard to play three games against two teams of incarcer-

ated men before the season ended last year.

"When the sports season restarts in February, we expect to have more games against more teams," Robinson said. "We're also working on getting new goal post, jerseys and cleats."

Players at San Quentin just hope to play more games than they did last year.

—Rahsaan Thomas

Looking back on the history of SQ baseball

Kent Philpott and Earl Smith played leading roles

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

When you talk about San Quentin baseball history, you cannot leave out 75-year-old coach and sponsor of the old San Quentin Pirates, Kent Philpott, who took over the team in 1997.

Philpott played semi-pro ball in Los Angeles and four years in the military in leagues in Solano County with a team of medics he recruited.

Philpott came into San Quentin in 1969, volunteering in the Protestant Chapel teaching Bible scripture to the men in blue until the George Jackson shoot-out in 1972. After 13 years he found his way back in to work with Chaplain Earl Smith in 1985. Due to prison violence and administration changes, the baseball program suffered and eventually died out.

Ten years later Chaplain Smith resurrected the baseball program in 1995, when he saw inmate James "Jimbo" Gardino in the Catholic Chapel sitting with a catcher's mitt on his work desk.

"Earl asked him if he knew how to use it," said Philpott. "The rest is history."

This would be the third awakening for the SQ Pirates, he added. Chaplain Smith recruited Philpott and Dan Jones to help with the program because of their baseball backgrounds.

Chaplain Smith was able to breathe life back into the program, but two years later he stepped down due to medical reasons.

Philpott and Jones took over the Pirates and continue to build the program.

"Dan and I were together with the team for four years, and then Dan had a medical



File Photo

The San Quentin Pirates baseball team with Sponsor/Coach Kent Philpott (right in black)

situation," said Philpott. "I was doing it alone, but we had great help."

That great help was inmate players Leonard Neal, Mike Nyg, Jason Gottlieb, and Jimbo.

"It was so many great guys, we had terrific seasons. It was so much fun," Philpott added.

In 1999, the Pirates became the SQ Giants. He managed the team for three more seasons. Then Chaplain Smith decided he wanted to control the team again.

"I left and reformed the Pirates—with Earl's support," Philpott said.

One year later, the Pirates were forced out of existence. Tom Alioto took over the Giants and Philpott started the softball program using the old Pirates uniforms. He coached softball for two years and turned it over to Richard Neuberger, the

softball team became the Hardtimers. Philpott went back to coaching the Pirates.

The baseball program increased in popularity and a second team was started—the A's.

"I still remember the day my wife Katie and I drove over to the Oakland Coliseum and loaded up my pickup with all kinds of A's stuff."

Philpott being on a roll of getting things done started the eight-man flag football team, which his son Vernon took over.

Smith moved on to become the chaplain for San Francisco Giants, the Golden State Warriors, and the San Francisco 49ers. "That was incredible but he did it," said Philpott.

But in 2007, the baseball season was a disaster, he added.

"It was constant conflict between the personnel of the two teams, miserable really, and it

became apparent that a major change was needed. The first important step had been too severe the baseball program from the chapel."

Philpott said, a meeting was held and it was agreed he would run the program.

He spoke with Alioto to pool the teams' talent and form one team in order to be a skilled and competitive team and avoid the hostility that existed between the two teams.

"I presented a Giants team of six outfielders, eight infielders, three catchers, and eight pitchers," he said. "Any other inmates who wanted to play could be directed to the softball program or an intramural baseball program would be created."

Alioto agreed to the proposal said Philpott, but was telling people the teams were still separated. After the stress,

threats from prisoners, and other interesting stuff, Philpott found himself kicked out of the prison.

"I am innocent," said Philpott. "But my motto is it's for the love of the game, I got that line from the film starring Kevin Costner but it suits me as well."

He is beginning his tenth year as baseball coach at a Marin County High School, this year, Novato High.

But SQ baseball still holds a special place for him. Philpott found himself back in SQ in 2016 to witness the final game of the now SQ All-Stars baseball team.

"I have been told not enough guys are coming out for baseball, but if that changes, and a new team is needed, well, I still have the old Pirates uniforms plus the Skull and Cross-Bones flag we used to fly."

Barnes rekindles his sports passion while pursuing coding

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

In most prisons, you won't find a tennis court, mini-college campus, Microsoft Certification, coding program or a newspaper written and run by incarcerated men, as you do at San Quentin.

Robert Barnes, 54, took a class to learn how to play tennis in college for fun back in the '80s. A horrible decision led to a seven-to-life sentence with a five-year enhancement. He said he started programming the day he was arrested to turn his life around. Housed at Centinela State Prison, there weren't many programs available. Once he read the San Quentin News, he knew where he needed to transfer. He said he stayed discipline-free so he could get to San Quentin.

"I read the San Quentin News at Centinela," Barnes said. "I knew about tennis and the Last Mile. I came here to try to get into Code.7370."

He arrived at Quentin in September 2015 and applied for coding class twice but hasn't

been accepted yet. He has joined a group on the yard called Convicts to Coders to prepare for Code.7370. In the meantime, Barnes can be seen on the tennis court hitting balls, going to Patten College classes or helping fellow students figure out Intermediate Algebra.

"Tennis helps me in the classroom; when it's done right there is a high level camaraderie and etiquette," Barnes said. "In my English class I liked the group dynamics — we learned a lot from one another."

Also Barnes noted tennis, coding and Intermediate Algebra require repetition to learn.

"You are not gonna get a math skill the first time," Barnes said. "You have to go through several repetitions to get good."

"Tennis has a steep learning curve; it requires touch, ball spin control, and dedication. You can't quit. Having developed and applied that mind-set has made me a better student and a better player."

Tennis and college aren't the only opportunities Barnes takes advantage of. Since arriving at San Quentin, he completed



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Robert Barnes playing tennis on the Lower Yard

a theological training course, and he's become a tutor for men studying to get their GEDs.

"I take my programming really seriously," Barnes said.

Tennis wasn't Barnes's first love. He said he played football at John Muir High School in Pasadena. His favorite NFL team is the Seattle Seahawks.

"I'm a fan of Pete Carroll; he has a great work ethic, and he's

a player's coach," Barnes said. "I never had a coach like that. I really like the way he owned the mistake of the interception in Super Bowl against the Patriots a couple of years ago."

Barnes models Carroll's work ethic. He said he makes it a point to attend class, with one exception, the Super Bowl, which he considers a national holiday, but Patten doesn't.

"I love the teacher's enthusiasm and work ethic," Barnes said. "Part of work ethic is showing up and being prepared. I won't miss another class."

He also puts his work ethic into his tennis game.

"My tennis game is pretty good and improving because I continue to work on it," Barnes said. "I look for people that do well the things that I don't and learn from them."

I needed to work on my serve, and it's gotten much better. I try to hit at least five times a week."

Prior to arriving at Quentin, Barnes did take some groups. He took Celebrate Recovery, a four-year seminary program called The Urban Ministry Institute, taught a GED class, and became

an Alternatives to Violence Program gold-level facilitator.

In society, he worked as a full-time parent to his two children, including a son with autism.

"Being my son's full-time caregiver was my most rewarding job," Barnes said.

Barnes has actually had to choose between programs at Quentin. He stopped taking Christian Creative Writing because it clashed with Intermediate Algebra.

"That was a tough one," Barnes said. "My commitment to Patten is strong; my commitment to Christian Creative Writing is strong, but it conflicted with Patten. It's hard to give up Christian Creative Writing because it's both a self-help group and a writing workshop; it fills both niches."

Barnes still hopes to get into coding, but in the meantime, he said he was chosen for a pilot Microsoft Certification program with about eight other students. He sees the opportunity to be in the Microsoft program as an obligation to do well so that the program will continue and spread to other prisons.

Mexican consulate in SF pays visit to SQ rehab program



Photo by Ralphele Casale

Facilitators and inmates opening up the group with a grounding meditation

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Mexican nationals and other Spanish-speakers imprisoned in California face particularly high barriers to rehabilitation and getting their lives on the right track.

That was the assessment of officials from the Mexican consulate in San Francisco who visited San Quentin Prison recently.

According to Xavier Issac Delgadillo, who works in the Department of Legal Affairs and Protection at the Mexican consulate in San Francisco, U.S. immigration policy calls for the deportation of Mexican nationals and other undocumented immigrants released from prison. In immigration hearings, judges focus on the crime that the person committed, "They pay little attention to the rehabilitative efforts the person has undergone," Delgadillo said.

Delgadillo, accompanied by three other consulate officials, came to San Quentin on Feb. 4, to

listen to Spanish-speaking men, in a program called Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP), talk about what went wrong in their lives and how they landed in prison.

"I think that if someone is getting out of prison after completing a program like this and is ready to integrate into society and work for his family, then that person deserves a chance to do so, just based on human rights," said Gemi Gonzalez, Consul General of Mexico, San Francisco.

GRIP is a 52-week comprehensive offender accountability program that takes participants on a healing journey deep inside themselves, so they can transform into change agents. Change agents give back to the communities they once took from, work with at-risk youth and teach those who are still incarcerated.

GRIP is the brainchild of Jacques Verduin, executive director of Insight-Out, the organization that brought the

program to San Quentin. It is a first-of-its-kind curriculum, specifically designed for Spanish speaking prisoners. Nearly three dozen men, with a combined 609 years behind bars, are taking the course, translated to Spanish and facilitated by Dr. Lucia de la Fuente.

"It is very important to do this program in Spanish," de la Fuente said. "It is vital and crucial to hear and learn in your own language. Most incarcerated Hispanics do not speak English. They should have the opportunity to choose, if they want, to take a program to better themselves, not based on the whether the program is in English."

The session took place in a classroom where the participants sat in a large circle. A large white board has detailed information written in Spanish and shows participants how to connect with their emotions in order to avoid violent tendencies.

Verduin says he believes that Hispanics have a more difficult

ordeal in prison because of the language barrier, in addition to many being undocumented and subject to deportation.

"This kind of program should be replicated because it helps them come back to the community as better people"

"So, as a result they stick to each other and that causes gang formation," Verduin said. "The gangs in Latin America were exported from U.S. prisons. I feel like if our president wants to put a wall around these people, that represents the ultimate other. GRIP will help them tear down the interior walls, and nobody can point a finger at them and diminish their dignity. It's important in our society to create more dignity for the ones we call the 'others.'"

With their feet firmly planted on the floor and hands in their laps, they began a meditation exercise. It is about relaxation, Luis Lopez says in Spanish. Pay attention to your body and think pleasant thoughts about your family.

"It is an opportunity for the men to safely look inside of their souls," said Nadeshda Vargas, attorney for the Mexican consulate. "Programs like this help people realize that they are not the only ones that make mistakes. If the person is able to safely talk about their problems, there can be more support. It comes from the ability to share with each other that you are able to give."

An inmate stood before the circle and explained how the group found its name, Tribe 609. The number, he said, comes from combining all of the time the

men served behind bars and the total amount of time it took to commit the crimes they are incarcerated for.

The inmates spoke confidently and with candor. They were able to be open because they all agreed never to discuss what happens in the circle, outside of the circle.

The confidentiality allows for the disclosure of personal information so emotionally charged that a box of tissues sits on the floor for the tears that flow from the speakers and listeners.

Another inmate gave a brief reminder on how participants could recognize when they are in imminent danger of committing a violent act. Track your body sensations, he says. Know your emotions and thoughts before you respond to any upsetting situation. According to the GRIP curriculum, the exercise slows things down and gives the participant the chance to respond non-violently.

Heads were bowed, others faces expressed concern while listening to a fellow inmate do an exercise called "unfinished business" — a written exercise read aloud while the reader is sitting in the middle of the circle. Chairs are placed across from the reader for an imaginary person to sit in. It is an opportunity to tell mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters things they never said, things they wished they had said. Listeners held their hands in prayer, or over their mouths, or folded their arms across their chests.

"I learned that programs really help the evolution of people," said Wilma Gandoy, Consul for Protection and Legal Affairs, who first came to see Tribe 609 two weeks after they began the course. "I can tell from the second time, men are better able to share their experiences and are open to change," Gandoy said. "This kind of program should be replicated because it helps them come back to the community as better people."



Photo by Ralphele Casale

Spanish GRIP facilitators and group participants with the Mexican consulate