

San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



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Upcoming Events for San Quentin in July



San Quentin Day of Peace
July 13th
Lower Yard



Ken Burns documentary
July 24th
Protestant Chapel
11:00-1:00pm



San Quentin Barbershop Dialogue
July 26th
Protestant Chapel
10:00-3:00pm



San Quentin Education Graduation
July 26th



San Quentin Yard Show
July 27th
Lower Yard

Convicts and San Francisco Cops *San Quentin News hosts forum for public safety*

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Chairman



Photo by LT. S. Robinson

Jason Samuel with Commander David Lazar, Asst. Chief Toney Chaplin, Marisa Rodriguez and Steve McNamara

Chiefs and Commanding Officers from the San Francisco Police Department converged on San Quentin State Prison to confront preconceived biases for mingling with prisoners for a candid discussion.

Former SF Deputy District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez helped spearhead the unprecedented March 24 event. Recently appointed director for the city's new Office of Cannabis, Rodriguez also brought her own staff to join in the conversation.

"Being a kid from the inner city, I know my path would have taken a bunch of different turns—but for people who showed they care," said Rodriguez during her introduction. "I didn't always have the best interactions with police as a young person."

See **CONVICTS** Page 5

Prison to Employment Connection prepares men for the workforce

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Prison to Employment Connection (PEC) at San Quentin graduated 44 men from its ninth session in June. The week before graduation, more than 40 business, career and education professionals attended Employer Day at the prison to do one-on-one interviews with the men.

PEC's 15-week program prepares men to be "job ready" before paroling. According to statistics from Diana Williams, PEC executive director, 210 men have graduated from the program since 2015. Of that number, 96 have paroled and only one has returned to custody.

See **PRISON** Page 11



Photo by Juan Espinosa, SQN

Inmate Alonzo J. Woods sits with Jeff Hanak for a job interview



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Families eating, playing games, and enjoying GOTB 2019

Get On The Bus unites families at SQ

By David Ditto
Staff Writer

The laughter, tears and warm embraces of family reunions filled the San Quentin visiting rooms during the day-long Get On The Bus (GOTB) event on Friday, May 31.

Daughters, sons and grandchildren reconnected with their incarcerated fathers and grandfathers after years—even decades—of separation.

See **GOTB** Page 10

Quentin Cooks culinary program serves up big audience

By Aron Roy
Staff Writer

A documentary filmmaker spent a year in San Quentin filming a cooking program as it progressed. He found that learning high-end culinary arts changed the way incarcerated people see the world.

"The guys really talk about the pride of cooking for the other guys," said filmmaker Santhosh Daniel, "When you cook for someone else and put your soul into it, it changes you from thinking about yourself to thinking about the people around you. The word is love."

See **COOKS** Page 8



Photo by Aron Roy, SQN

Graduate Derry Brown receiving certificate from Chef Huw Thornton

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Jesse Vasquez, *SQN* former editor-in-chief paroled

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Jesse Vasquez, 36, former editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News*, paroled in late May from San Quentin State Prison after spending all of his adult years in prison and a little more than half his life.

Vasquez paroled with a different state of mind from the one his 17-year-old younger self arrived with in 2001.

"When I was a teenager, I knew I was already being formed for prison," said Vasquez. "When I came to prison it wasn't a surprise to me. I wasn't bitter, angry or sad."

"My mother used to tell me if I continued down that lifestyle I'd either end up dead or in prison for the rest of my life."

A drive-by shooting, attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon confirmed his mother's warning and Vasquez was eventually convicted of those crimes. He once told a tour visiting the prison that he came to prison with a destructive past and no future.

Somewhere along the way, Vasquez became his own man and decided to change his life. "In the course of serving my time, I realized there was a better way to live," he said. "It wasn't always about trying to fit in with the crowd."



Photo Courtesy of Tom Short

Jesse Vasquez eating cheesecake

In 2010, Vasquez earned his GED and never looked back. "It was more about finding purpose for myself," he said.

Vasquez transferred from Folsom State Prison and arrived at San Quentin in November 2016. He frequently told the story about reading *San Quentin News* at Folsom, thinking it was "fake news" and the programs were not real.

Once Vasquez arrived at San Quentin, he immediately became involved with the rehabilitative programs. He joined the Journalism Guild, the newspaper's farm team, and in April 2017 was hired as a staff writer for *San Quentin News*.

"My direct supervisor, Lt. Sam Robinson [San Quentin's public information officer], was more like a mentor than a cop," said Vasquez.

Four months later, Vasquez became the newspaper's managing editor, and by August 2018 he was its editor in chief. "The guys in the newsroom accepted me for who I was, and I was able to grow because of it," he said. "They're family to me."

"When I arrived at San Quentin, I started realizing how important it was to be open to other perspectives and cultures," said Vasquez. "When I started working for the newspaper, I started to see the world from a completely different perspective."

Vasquez recalled a time at the *News* when the former guild instructor, Yukari Kane, told the class to look at circumstances and events objectively because personal feelings might taint what we see.

"My direct supervisor, Lt. Sam Robinson [San Quentin's Public Information Officer], was more like a mentor than a cop"

Having a different outlook, Vasquez enrolled in the Prison University Project (PUP) to broaden his horizon further. "I didn't think I was close-minded," he said.

He said that Amy Jamgochian, PUP's project director, always challenged his thinking. "Every time I would try to explain to her my predicament in prison and how I felt powerless, she would have some smart remark about power dynamics, and how knowledge is liberating because it opens up your mind to a bigger world."

"I thought I was open-minded, but because I was raised in prison I'd gotten stuck in that 'it-is-what-it-is' mentality," said Vasquez.

The problems Vasquez faced in and out of prison, he said, could have been avoided if he'd taken the time to listen to people who were trying to warn him as they observed him take the wrong path.

Vasquez served his time at Folsom State Prison, Wasco State Prison, Calipatria State Prison, Ironwood State Prison, Centinela State Prison, and San Quentin.

With an eye on his uncertain future, Vasquez started completing a number of rehabilitative programs such as



Photo courtesy of Tom Short

Jesse Vasquez in Downtown Oakland

Restorative Justice, Non-violent Communication, Criminals and Gangs Anonymous, Green Life, Celebrate Recovery, Life Skills, Anger Management. He also learned trades, such as carpentry.

In August 2018, Gov. Brown recognized Vasquez's rehabilitation and commuted his two life sentences to 15 years to life. He later appeared before the Board of Parole Hearings in February 2019 and was found suitable.

Vasquez is planning to earn a BA in psychology and to work with at-risk youth. "I plan on attending California State University East Bay and getting certification as an at-risk youth counselor," he said.

Because of his time as the *News'* top editor, Vasquez said he would also like to continue writing. He plans to stay connected to *San Quentin News* and is interested in covering issues at the front end of the criminal justice system—issues such as poverty and childhood trauma.

"I think, eventually, I'd like to write a screen play about what drives prison and how it's almost impossible for people without a support group to succeed because all of the transitional housing programs offered by the state are in crime ridden, drug infested neighborhoods."

In the past two decades of imprisonment, Vasquez said he learned a lot about himself. "I think my biggest take away from the whole prison experience is to admit it's okay that you don't know everything and to ask for help."

Princeton students support ex-cons getting higher education

“Formerly incarcerated applicants are among the most vulnerable, and we should treat them with respect, if not admiration”

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Princeton University has taken a stance against a student movement called “Ban the Box.” The “box” refers to a section of the college admissions application that inquires about a prospective

student’s criminal history. Applicants with criminal histories are very likely to be rejected from academic institutions. Students argue that by allowing criminal histories to weigh into admissions decisions, the Princeton administration is perpetuating inequality and is

unfairly denying the formerly incarcerated second chances. Higher education is also an important contributor to decreasing recidivism.

During a meeting held at the Council of the Princeton University Community, a mixture of opinions emerged regarding how ex-

offender applicants should be treated.

Some, including many students, thought that once a person has served his or her time, he or she should be able to regain all the rights of full citizenship.

Some, representatives of Princeton expressed their

opposition. “I think there are some kinds of criminal activity that may be related to risks that could occur on campus,” said Christopher Eisgruber, President of Princeton University. “We take those risks seriously.”

outside FitzRandolph Gate than on campus. Princeton claims to protect its campus community above all else. Some say that the university is okay with the violence as long as it happens outside its campus gates.

Utah professor claims wrongful convictions are minimal in our society

By Anthony Manuel
Carvalho
Journalism Guild Writer

A professor educating future attorneys claims wrongful convictions are quite minimal in our justice system.

Viewing the likelihood of wrongful convictions as freakishly low, Paul Cassel, a Professor at the University of Utah’s Law School, has compiled data supporting his wrongful conviction figures. His research placed the range of wrongful convictions in the entire American criminal justice system “at only at 0.016 to 0.063 percent”— or less than one percent.

The rate of wrongful convictions has long been a topic of scholarly dispute. In response, *The Crime Report* printed an opinion piece by James Doyle, a Boston de-

fense lawyer and published author in his own right.

Doyle rejects the acceptance of any wrongful convictions because of “the harms they produce [that] radiate outward in concentric circles: to the exonerated, the original victims, and to the future victims...when the wrongfully convicted man serves the real criminal’s time.”

The statistical data announced by Cassel, a former Associate Deputy Attorney General and a former U.S. District Judge in Utah, was significantly lower than that of New York’s District Judge and leading advocate against wrongful convictions, the Honorable Jed Rakoff.

Judge Rakoff’s numbers, composed by Pew Research in 2017 and reported by *Readers’ Digest*, estimated wrongful convictions at 2 to 8%.

Doyle opined that Cassel appears to argue wrongful convictions rarely happen and “the cost of errors that do occur can often be discounted because of the ‘moral blame-worthiness’ of many of the people wrongly convicted.”

He pointed out that although “an exact authoritative rate of wrongful convictions may be impossible, we do know something about their distribution—especially

their racial distribution—that may repay further study.”

Doyle advocates a joint effort that includes law scholars, frontline practitioners and institutes of justice to “probe the sources of wrongful convictions” with the goal of “avoiding repetitions” and improving the criminal justice system by making it accountable for every wrongful investigation, arrest and conviction.

“I think there are some kinds of criminal activity that may be related to risks that could occur on campus”

Samuel Aftel, a Princeton University student, expressed frustration at the university’s reasoning for maintaining the box. He said that according to the university’s logic, a former convict will be more likely to commit violence

“We take those risks seriously”

There is limited research on the potential impacts of banning the box and no hard data suggests a formerly incarcerated person will endanger other students. Some feel that to deny a person’s civil liberties after incarceration is to essentially keep that person incarcerated after his or her release.

“Formerly incarcerated applicants are among the most vulnerable, and we should treat them with respect, if not admiration,” says Aftel.

Nevada introducing bill for the formerly incarcerated to vote

By Timothy Hicks
Contributing Writer

Nevada Democratic Assembly Speaker Jason Frierson is introducing a new bill that would restore voting rights to formerly incarcerated men and women. According to *The Nevada Independent*, the 90,000 Nevadans who were not able to vote in the 2016 election because of their prior convictions may now have the right to vote in the upcoming election in 2020.

“I believe when we have folks involved in the criminal justice system and expect them to reintegrate into society, there is, especially in this day and time, no better way to motivate someone to stick to the rules, to comply with societal norms, than to allow them to participate in the electoral process,” said Frierson.

The *Independent* notes that, before 2003, all those with felony convictions in the state of Nevada could not serve on juries or vote unless

they individually petitioned the Department of Public Safety or were granted a pardon.

In 2003, lawmakers approved a bill allowing for the automatic restoration of voting rights for most people convicted of a felony. According to *The Independent*, the law included a few exemptions including whether the person had an honorable discharge from parole or probation and whether the person had committed a category A felony or certain types of category B felonies.

According to the article, former Gov. Brian Sandoval vetoed a 2011 bill that would have automatically restored the voting rights to any person upon release from prison. Instead, he signed AB181 into law in 2017, restoring voting rights to individuals convicted of a nonviolent Category B felony or lesser felony charge or was dishonorably discharged from parole or probation. The bill also retroactively restored

civil rights such as jury services and voting rights to anyone released from prison or discharged from parole or probation prior to Oct. 1, 2017.

The article said that the 2017 bill did not apply to individuals convicted of multiple felonies. Category B and Category A felonies would not meet the criteria. That law took effect in January and was not in place prior to the 2018 midterm elections.

Felonies in Nevada are categorized from A to E with Category A being the most severe and subject to the most punitive punishments.

According to the article, Frierson’s bill would automatically restore the voting rights to any person regardless of the severity of their crimes. Likewise, the bill would almost instantaneously restore the rights to vote for any person released from prison living in Nevada, even if they had not served time in the state or were released prior to the passage of the bill.

“We don’t have thrown away citizens,” Frierson said. “We believe in second chances in my opinion. The spirit behind the existing law came from a period where we threw away citizens, where we didn’t value everyone’s input, and it was only those who had the wherewithal to fully participate that were able to do so.”

Few Republicans have shown their support of the bill. Senator Keith Pickard and former Assemblyman Paul Anderson were the only two Republicans who supported the 2017 legislation.

Other states are also making adjustments to their laws to allow felons the right to vote, while others never even took felons’ voting rights away to begin with. Nearly 65% of Florida voters approved a 2018 ballot measure automatically restoring the right to vote for any person with a prior felony conviction upon their release from prison, except for murder or sexual offenses.

USSC denies stay of execution because of constitutional issues

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

Over the last three months, six executions in the United States have been stayed or rescheduled because of constitutional issues regarding the method of execution or who can be present in the death chamber, according to *Reuters*.

At the helm of this controversy is the state of Alabama, according to recent articles featured in *Reuters* and *Mother Jones*.

Christopher Price was scheduled to be executed at the beginning of April. Price filed an appeal when he found out that he was to be lethally injected. He wants to die by lethal gas. The lower courts granted him a 60-day stay

of execution. The state of Alabama appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

After some last minute arguing, the court decided 5-4 along ideological lines, with a conservative majority voting to proceed with the execution. The decision, which was issued at 3 a.m., was too late. The death warrant had expired. Alabama will have to set a new execution date.

The Alabama ruling comes at a time when the justices have been clashing over capital punishment. Conservative justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that an eleventh-hour stay of execution should be an “extreme exception.” It appears that the case of Christopher Price did not rise to that standard. The issue for the state of Alabama was the timing.

The state contends that Price and his lawyers had ample time to alert the state and let them know how Price wanted to be executed.

The liberal side of the high court maintained that the hasty decision made in the middle of the night undermined the criminal justice system. Justice Stephen Breyer, one of the liberal justices, called the litigation an example of arbitrary administration of the death penalty. He wrote that Price’s claim failed because of a minor oversight by his lawyer when filing evidence to support his argument.

“To proceed in this way calls into question the basic principles of fairness that should underlie our criminal justice system,” Breyer wrote.

Price, who was convicted of killing a minister, has no objection to dying. He contends that the three-drug protocol would cause him severe pain, and that nitrogen hypoxia would reduce that risk.

In a similar case, Russell Bucklew, a convicted murderer, sought to die by lethal gas. He has a rare medical condition that he claims could make his execution by lethal injection “gruesome.” He requested that the execution be delayed 60 days so he could proceed with his request to be executed by lethal gas. The Supreme Court, however, was not persuaded. In a 5-4 decision, the court ruled that the Constitution does not guarantee a condemned prisoner “a painless death.”

San Quentin News

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- 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.

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Behind the Scenes



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Bob Goff returns to San Quentin with friends



Photo Courtesy of Capt. Escalera

Bob Goff speaking to the crowd about ambition



Photo Courtesy of Capt. Escalera

Kevin Neang with Singer Lauren Daigle



Photo Courtesy of Capt. Escalera

Comedian Michael Jr. performing on love thy neighbor

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Bob Goff refers to himself as a “recovering lawyer” after practicing law for 25 years. In May, he returned to San Quentin, along with some friends, to speak with the inmates who assist the many guests who tour the prison.

Goff met these inmates when he toured San Quentin, and he wanted to speak directly to them. He first engaged them in the Protestant Chapel with dialog that involved comedy. Then he asked about their ambitions.

“When people know what you want they want to help you,” Goff said. He said people who know what they want will do what it takes

to achieve their goal, and he warned that, “Hoping is not a strategy.”

One inmate named Jerry said he wants to be a sound engineer. “Jerry wants to be a sound engineer,” Goff repeated. “Tell everyone what you want,” said Goff.

Inmate Brian Asey said he wants to change the perception of how people view the incarcerated. Goff responded by acknowledging how the rehabilitative programs at San Quentin allow men to “get to know the man under the hat.”

“You’ll never honor God if you don’t honor each other,” said Goff. He advised the men to surround themselves with people who have good character because it’s a reflection of who they are. “I’m

big on the idea of love thy neighbor.”

“You’ll start seeing the opportunity when you know what you want,” said Goff. “When you have an opportunity, take the next step.” He said there are also people outside who don’t know what they want.

That’s the same kind of advice and motivation Goff delivered in the form of comedy to a larger audience at the prison in February. His message both times was “Love Does.” It’s also the title of a book he wrote that’s a best-seller. He uses the money from the millions of books sold to build schools around the world.

“God doesn’t pass us messages, he gives us people,” said Goff. On this evening,

without sounding preachy, he told the men “You were forgiven before you were even born.”

Like his last visit, Goff told jokes to keep the audience engaged. But the laughter didn’t dilute his positive message. “It starts by knowing what you want,” he repeated. “Know yourself.”

Goff’s friend and fellow comedian who goes by Michael Jr. took the stage after he spoke. “He knows how to be a friend,” said Michael Jr. about Goff. “I read people for a living.” He explained, to do comedy he has to pay attention to people.

Making the men laugh was only a small part of Michael Jr.’s act. He also discussed the art of telling jokes. He said a good story and joke

comes from the setup, using hard work, hardship, tragedy, skill, talent, and other abilities are what everyone receives, but the punch line is what’s delivered from all of it.

“Setbacks,” Michael Jr. said, are also the key to the setup for a good story or joke. He said bouncing back from adversity and setbacks is like being placed in a sling shot: The further you’re pulled back, the further you’ll reach. “Where will you aim?” he asked, and said, “Where ever that is, focus.”

Later, Lauren Daigle, a mentor and voice coach for contestants on American Idol took the stage.

“There are people who are not looking at you as your crime,” she said, explaining

some people’s point of view about the incarcerated.

In her clear strong voice, Daigle sang her song “You Say” to the men over a prerecorded CD that played the music on the chapel’s PA system.

The final performance came when a local father and daughter duo, Pastor Zach and Abby, sang together. Zach finger-picked arpeggios on his acoustic guitar as Abby sang *Reckless Love* and other songs. Zach joined in later vocals.

Abby ended the evening with a prayer on the stage as those in the audience bowed their heads. Before the crowd dispersed the men mingled and got autographs from Goff, Michael Jr., Daigle, Abby and Zach.

Goff said he plans to come back to San Quentin, probably in the fall.

SQ’s No Limits dance crew performs

“The EOP program has enriched my life”

By Aron Roy
Staff Writer

San Quentin’s No Limits Dance Crew raised the roof once again during their May performance. The crew stepped it up and debuted their first piece of original choreography in the education department of the prison’s dormitory yard.

“The men came up with most of the moves, I just directed them in the space,” said Ms. Bridges, the program facilitator, “I’m so proud of them.”

The squad danced to an instrumental version of the song I Got Five On It with a pleasantly surprising violin

added into the mix. It provided the perfect backdrop for their routine’s style—hip-hop and ballet fusion.

A standout feature of the routine was a dance circle, in which each performed a solo, displaying their distinctive styles.

“Heeeyyy! Hooo! Heeeyyy! Hooo!” the crew chanted in unison, as their fellow dancers jumped into the middle of the circle one by one, showing off their moves.

Dancer Gary Brown showed off his newly created dance that he named The Swang, in which he swung one hand in a circular motion above his head while

he fluidly mimicked the circular motion with his knees.

Then, dancer Matthew Paradise garnered cheers from the crowd as he confidently performed a popular dance called The Floss.

The following sequence was a mock dance battle, showing off synchronized step moves and precise pliés, which is a ballet movement with the knees bent and the back straight.

The whole routine ended with crewmember Steele performing a “Krunk” solo, swinging his hands forward and backwards with intense emotion.

All the dancers then stood up and bowed as the crowd cheered, encouraging three encore performances.

The No Limits Dance Crew has been gaining a loyal fan base throughout the prison. Audience members from nearby H-Unit as well as the distant CHSB main hospital attended.

“We want to thank everybody for showing up,” the No Limits Dance Crew said in a joint statement, “We always want to give a round of applause to our audience.”

The No Limits Dance Crew is part of the rehabilitative programming offered by the Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP). EOP is a

mental health treatment program.

Ms. Bridges, an EOP clinician, created the dance crew as a therapeutic tool for the participants’ mental health issues.

She brings to the program 20 years of dance and choreography experience, as well as a degree in dance.

To prepare, the team practiced twice a week in one-and-a-half hour sessions. Practicing the moves helped the men with their fine muscle motor coordination.

The idea to fuse ballet with hip-hop was inspired by a movie the crew watched called Street Dance, which they described as a British

version of the dance movie *Step Up*.

Creating their own original choreography presented challenges, which the men turned into learning opportunities.

Controversies arose as each man tried to contribute his unique ideas to create an exciting routine.

“Even though we have disagreements, when we come together, we end up making something better,” dancer Steele said, “It’s all about teamwork.”

“The EOP program has enriched my life,” said crewmember Brown, “I want to thank Ms. Bridges and the No Limits Dance Crew. EOP is a blessing.”

Landmark Prop.57 ruling: In re McGhee



Photo Courtesy of Eric Ambercrombie

Petitioner Tijue McGhee with his legal guide Rudy Wilkins

A California appeals court has ruled that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has improperly denied parole hearings to thousands of incarcerated individuals.

Approximately 4,450 non-violent offenders who were

denied parole consideration due to in-prison rules violations will now be eligible for early release due to the landmark ruling, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reports.

“The whole objective was to not only find relief for me, but for all those who

are similarly situated,” said Tijue McGhee, the petitioner in the case, “All people deserve the same treatment under the law.”

McGhee was sentenced to nine years in state prison, four years for a burglary and five years for a previous felony enhancement.

Under the regulations implemented after Proposition 57 passed, McGhee would have been eligible for parole consideration as a non-violent offender after serving four years.

He had been denied a parole hearing due to receiving a Division A(1) Rules Violation for possession of a weapon and for serving a Security Housing Unit (SHU) term, two issues

which were related. As a result, McGhee lost good time credits and was also given a DA referral. He was convicted of possession of a weapon within an institution and sentenced to an additional four years at 80% as a non-violent offense.

“What inspired me to file was that the law was being introduced in 2016 [Prop 57] to further reduce the CA state prison population. It was supposed to be a tool for those who are non-violent offenders as a remedy for further overcrowding,” said McGhee. “Also, non-violent offenders would have liberty interest that was established by the state law which amended the California Constitution Article 1 section 32 A(1)(A).”

The latest ruling from the California Appellate Court is the third against the CDCR regarding nonviolent parole hearings, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The first ruling struck down restrictions that excluded non-violent three strike convictions from being considered for early parole. The second ruling, which was issued in January 2019, struck down an exclusion of incarcerated individuals who were previously sentenced for a sex crime, but were currently serving time for a nonviolent crime. The latest ruling bars CDCR from excluding nonviolent offenders from parole hearings due to in-prison conduct.

“The ultimate decision is to be made by the (parole) board, not the department,”

said Presiding Justice Stuart Polack in the 3-0 ruling.

McGhee filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus in Solano County Superior Court while he was being held within their jurisdiction. His friend and legal mastermind Rudy Wilkins assisted him while he crafted the documents.

“More inmates should really begin a study of their constitutional privileges, provisions, and protections that are allotted to them as citizens of the United States,” said Wilkins, “I think this inspires an individual to not so much challenge the authority, but to challenge the procedure and to make sure that the procedure is accurate with regard to all current laws and provisions provided for prisoners.”

—Aron Roy

San Francisco's DA has challenged the status quo again

By Anthony Manuel Carvalho
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, a leader in restorative justice and social reform, has challenged the status quo again.

At the 14th annual Harry Frank Guggenheim Symposium at John Jay College in New York, the ex-police chief turned prosecutor, described the incarceration of people in both our county jails and state prisons as an entry into the "universities of crime."

"We are more violent, collectively, than the people we're afraid of," said Gascon. "We get angry at people and throw them in jail and forget about them."

Gascon reflected on his creation of Neighborhood Courts in 2012. The precedent-setting community justice system initiated the training of neighboring volunteers to hear non-violent misdemeanor cases.

This allowed the social web of a community to heal by empowering the Neighborhood Courts to

engage with both the low-level offender and their victims to expedite a more thorough healing process for all involved.

After hearing the legal matters of a case, the representatives of the Neighborhood Courts issue "directives" to offenders about making amends. According to *Megan Hadley* of *The Crime Report*, the sanctions in the Neighborhood Courts included writing an apology letter, fixing damages caused and paying for damages.

Hadley also said, the district attorney believes victims are satisfied because they get to take part in the restorative process.

Not everyone agrees with the more holistic approach to punishment that Gascon envisioned when he created the Neighborhood Courts in 2012.

In fact, when he ran for re-election in 2014, police unions, whose income and retirements hinge on prosecution and incarceration, attempted to create political discord by

objecting through local radio stations and social media.

The Crime Report revealed during Gascon's re-election bid that the unions said, "Don't expect the DA to do anything about victims of crime."

Later, Gascon reflected on his department's expungement of 9,000 marijuana cases once cannabis became legal in California. The first legal reversal of its kind in the nation, Gascon remembered, "I was criticized at first, but then people followed."

Gascon defined the "universities of crime" approach when he spoke at the symposium, saying the public perception is that offenders "are not part of the rest of us" thus creating an "us against them" that puts them in the corner and "isolates them to the point of no return."

Gascon concluded his speech by stating, "If crime is down, and incarceration is no longer doing it, why should we incarcerate people on the levels we do? Why?"

CONVICTS

Continued from Page 1

"It wasn't my original goal to go into law and become a prosecutor, but I realized it would give me the opportunity to be a voice, and that my voice mattered."

Rodriguez used her voice to convince six upper echelon members of the SFPD that it would be worth their while to go beyond the entry gates of San Quentin.

"We have some big guns here today. These aren't just anyone," said Rodriguez. "These are the top brass of San Francisco's Police Department."

San Francisco Police Chief Will Scott had been slated to attend the forum, but an interdepartmental crisis demanded his full attention back in the city.

"Chief Scott wanted to be here today," said Assistant Chief Toney Chaplin. "I will speak for him. He respects this process and will be here next time."

Focusing on the prisoners' first memories involving police interaction, the guests joined small circles of inmates to listen to the experiences of men with criminal pasts—pasts they have left behind in search of rehabilitation.

Rodriguez directed part of the discussion toward how the "war on drugs" era in criminal prosecutions may have unduly affected these men's lives before and after their incarceration.

The prisoners' stories resonated deeply with Director of Crime Strategies Division Tiffany Sutton. "I have to tell you that all of you gave me hope," she told them before opening up about her own incarcerated

brother, who was tried as an adult at the age of 16.

"As a sister, as family—I see it from the other side," said Director Sutton. "I know change is possible, as long as there are people who show that they care."

"I couldn't believe how we all sat together and spoke without any barriers," said Si Dang, incarcerated for the last 23 years. "We got to talk to one another just person to person. ..."

They really seemed committed to finding solutions to the problems that exist between police and the communities they serve.

"We do community immersion right now," said Chief Chaplin. "We have to keep in mind that this [SQ] is part of that community. We need to make this part of the immersion process."

"There's a lot of power and authority behind that badge we carry. We can do a lot of damage—or we can do a lot of good."

Jason Samuel appreciated the opportunity to share his own background about attempting to kill a police officer. Today that same officer is his friend through the Victim Offender Dialogue process—and he advocated for Samuel's upcoming parole.

"Didn't I see you on Van Jones?" said Chief Chaplin as he realized he'd watched Samuel recently on CNN's Redemption Project.

"That was the highlight of my week," Samuel later told *San Quentin News*. "I didn't expect to have such a deep discussion with them. I was surprised when they clapped after I shared my story. ... Hopefully they can do the things we talked about: understanding the communities they patrol and bring that humanizing element to their police work."

Deputy Chief Ann Mannix shared her deep concern for "two big things"—the origins of criminal behavior and its often direct nexus to mental health.

"The goal is to see far less people in prison—far less people committing crimes," said Chief Mannix. "We need to figure out how to reach the young people on the streets, because they hate cops."

Commander Daryl Fong agreed. "We're supposed to be there to protect our communities," he said. "When I hear that [hatred for police], it makes me cringe. ... What can we do as a community, as a police department?"

Deputy Chief Greg McEachern expressed a commitment to getting more of his department into SQ to gain insight.

"If I can send some of my line level detectives in here, they'll start to think a little bit differently," said Deputy Chief McEachern. "I look at things completely differently now, compared to when I started 29 years ago. ... What can we do to better police officers right now?"

McEachern shared with the prisoners that his son is a recent addition to the SFPD.

"What can I do to make my son a better police officer than I was?" he asked.

Commander David Lazar visited SQ in 1997 as part of the SQUIRES (San Quentin's Utilization of Inmate Resources, Experiences and Studies) program.

"Collaboration is key to all this stuff," said Commander Lazar. "We can bring in people. Let's build this. ... SQUIRES was powerful. I'm sorry it's taken me all these years to come back."

"As I listen to all of you, I think of the missed opportunities. If we could fill this room (with troubled youths) and let them listen to you—it'd be

such an opportunity to turn them around."

"We've all seen the victim impacts," said Assistant Chief Chaplin. "But we rarely get to see this side. ..."

All you men in blue—we want you to have the opportunity to wear any color you want to."

John Lam, who had his sentence commuted by Governor Brown and was just found suitable for parole, spoke to the outside guests in his circle: "We're impacted by the stories you share. ..."

The first impression I had of a police officer—growing up in my neighborhood—was adversarial. 'He's not here to protect me. He's the enemy.' Now I can see these people actually do care—that's a major shift."

"In the last three to four years—we've seen it—the world's changing," said Deputy Chief McEachern. "All of our officers now are required to go through Implicit Bias Training, trying to change their mindset. ... We don't want them going into every situation immediately thinking it's going to be negative."

"When people take responsibility and accountability for their crimes, there's definitely a healing process that occurs—one that's sweeping the country, if not the world," said Chief Chaplin. "Let's make it worth something. Let's not make it worth nothing when someone gets locked up."

Rodriguez wants to make it an imperative that San Francisco's Office of Cannabis offer equity toward the once illegal marijuana growers and distributors who hope to be included in the now legal—and thriving—cannabis industry. That's why she wanted her staff—Deputy Director Eugene Hillsman, Associate Director Ray Law, and Permit Analyst Alexandra Sandoval to experience SQ for them-

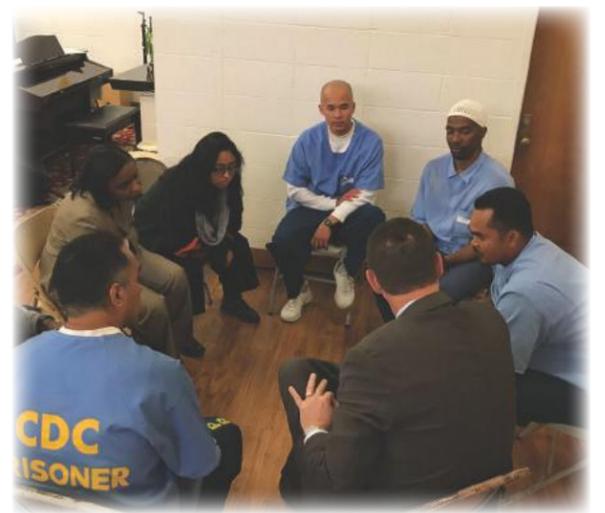


Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Tiffany Sutton, Alexandra Sandoval & D.Chief Greg McEachern

selves. Permit Analyst Jeremy Schwartz had a pre-existing family event but hopes to attend a future forum.

"Our directive, essentially, is to right the wrong that was created by the war on drugs," said Rodriguez.

"We were arresting people for marijuana all the time back then," said Chief McEachern, reflecting on all his years in the department.

Chief Mannix originally had envisioned bringing teenagers into SQ to provide insight into incarceration and rehabilitation, but she realized the message may be better received by even younger prospects.

"I'm going to come back with a group of 12-year-olds, bring in some young kids to hear your stories," she said. "It's been a yearning of mine to make a difference."

All the commanders and chiefs assured the SQ community that this meet-and-greet was the beginning of bigger things to come.

"We have the ability to start a program where we can bring in 10 or 12 officers ev-

ery month or so," said Chief McEachern. "My gang unit could hear some of these stories to get a different perspective."

Rodriguez and Commander Lazar suggested bringing in new recruits and newly graduated officers.

"We've got a lot of work to do," noted Commander Lazar.

"This helps everybody on both sides," said Chief Chaplin. "Chief Scott definitely missed out."

"There's moments in history where every now and then we get it right," said Rodriguez as she closed the forum. "I'm so touched, grateful and excited."

"Across the country, there's a lot of pain right now—with Black Lives Matter, with Blue Lives Matter. ... Thank you all for being on the right side of history today."

The visitors suggested a name for a future forum incorporating more of their SFPD peers and SQ prisoners: "A Blue and Blue Conversation."



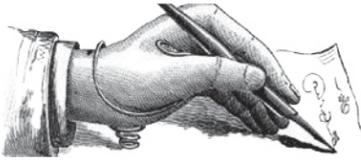
Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Deputy Chief Ann Mannix, Eugene Hillsman and Farah Makras with participants



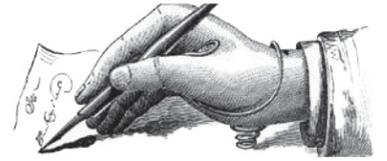
Photo Courtesy of Marisa Rodriguez

San Quentin participants, McNamara, San Francisco Police Department and Office of Cannabis staff



LET THE PEOPLE SPEAK

Letters to the Editor:

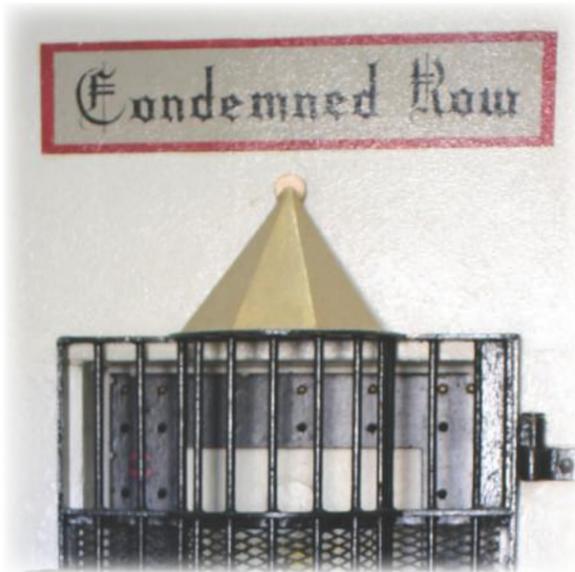


In the Baemba tribe of South Africa, when a person acts irresponsibly or unjustly, he is placed in the center of the village, alone and unfettered. All work ceases, and every man, woman, and child in the village gathers in a large circle around the accused individual. Then each person in the tribe speaks to the accused, one at a time, about all the good things the person has done in his lifetime. All his positive attributes, good deeds, strengths, and kindnesses are recited carefully and at length. The tribal ceremony often lasts several days. At the end, the tribal circle is broken, a joyous celebration takes place, and the person is symbolically and literally welcomed back into the tribe.

Alice Walker
The Sun magazine July 2007

I figured you might want to include this in your next issue. When I read this it gives me a surge of hope that one day we may "get" it again ... a way to respond with health to a wrongdoing. I deeply appreciate our SQN!

Nyla Blair
(Donor)



File Photo

Michael Flinner SQSP Death Row

Lung cancer ended my father's precious life in 2016. In our last earthly chat, his strained voice whispered, "A man can preach a much better sermon with his life than with his lips."

He explained that our tolerant humanity regularly takes fate for granted – that we must live for today, plan for tomorrow, and remember yesterday. By design, we should find a way to leave our mark upon this world, however slight.

In my daily reading, I stumbled upon some legal statistics that swirled around my brain for days. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (Feds) are responsible for housing a tiny 10% of the national prison population. The other 90% of prisoners in America are in state custody.

The Feds have a protocol in place which permits federal prisoners to donate living vital organs, tissue, and bone marrow to biological match worthy immediate family members in need of life-saving transplants. Who knew that a living organ donation policy for prisoners to save a family member's life might be a good idea?

Let me tell you who doesn't know. Every state prison system – including California. Are you sitting down? The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has assembled an Advanced Health Care Directive. It is made available to California state prisoners by the medical department at each facility upon request.

Part III of said medical directive pertains to inmate organ donation. At no time are any California state prisoners permitted to donate living vital organs or tissues. A prisoner may only donate an organ in the event of his/her death.

How this purports to serve the nation's citizenry is beyond me.

If California had been remotely willing to create a donation protocol modeled after the existing Feds' policy, my father would still be alive today. I would have given him one of my lungs – no questions asked.

That said, upwards of 25 Americans die each day while awaiting a life-saving transplant when more than ample resources exist. Is this how our government answers the call when protecting its citizens?

My hope is to evoke visceral, vocal, and visible participation from families, activists, academic, and legal circles – people ready to replace destruction with life.

I want to dispel the myth whereby prisoners are without redemptive value – devoid of civic responsibility through social action and political awareness.

But for this project's promise and potential, we may never have learned of the judicial fallibilities and hurdles which stand in the way while the sick (our family members) languish in numbers that far outstrip national supply for match worthy living donors.

The closer we all are to death, the harder we cling to life.

Michael Flinner
CSP-SQSP



File Photo

Shon Pernice Moberly Correctional Facility

What if everyone was one color? Then we would either like or dislike one another based on character and actions. It is impossible to physically change your birth color, but it's in your mind what you see.

The United States Marine Corps has one color for all of its service members: GREEN. The Marine Corps is a unit -- a team of men and women who disregard their racial differences so they can efficiently eat, sleep, and train together 24 hours a day. Black and White are opposites and too different. Black Marines are dark green and White Marines are light green. If you have two Marines with the last name Smith, and one is White and one is Black, you'd refer to either light green Smith or dark green Smith. Too easy.

As a combat medic, I treated many different people. Black, White, Latino, Asian, and Middle Eastern all bled the same, their pain was the same, as their fear of dying was the same. The last moments of their lives—no different either. That is because they are all human and race had no status. Mortar rounds, rockets, and RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) did not discriminate due to the color of a person's skin. When those weapons are fired, they are aimed at "to whom it may concern."

For me it all hurt the same. Black, White, Brown- all my brothers and sisters in arms- I miss them dearly. We are all born the same and take our last breath the same. My challenge to you: treat one another between that period of birth and death—the same.

Shon Pernice 1236421
Moberly Correctional Facility
Missouri

Living in the Shadows

I'm a tattoo artist living in the shadows of my own trade. It's my hustle, my passion, my way of life. I tattoo with tools I create and find within these walls. I'm clean and respect my craft, still it's unsanitary and against the rules in CDCR.

Yes I live in the shadows of a trade accepted in our times, acknowledged as a profession. Worthy of a skill to support me upon release. Yet, the very place I learned my craft punishes me for doing it.

I believe in change and seek to help our prison system change its policy on prison tattoos. I understand the negatives it can bring with this much freedom to express the arts. Yet I know we can regulate this with a policy to help us to perform our skills in a safe environment. Teach us safe practices as well, with the requirements needed and the importance of sanitation habits.

There are inmates who risk infections and diseases via poor cleaning habits due to doing all they can to hide their tattoos from staff. This creates a problem in which they must choose seeking medical attention and risking a 115 write-up. A good analogy: CDCR recently created a policy to prevent those having sexual relations with other inmates from spreading diseases by allowing condoms in our institutions yet are prohibited to act on any use of the condoms. Well, there are many if not all inmates who participate or practice the craft of tattooing. We should have a policy to inform inmates of the risk of infection and poor habits.

The culture of prison tattoo work will never go away. Within these walls it's a way to express one's trials and tribulations along with their tenacities and victories. This culture is not a secret. The best we can do is accept that we need a change. We need to embrace this craft as a possible vocation to teach those seeking this skill. We could finally bring along all our tattoo artists, including myself, out of the shadows. Thank You.

J. Ortiz "JB"

Correction to last issue:
The photo caption for the Rehab Dogs is
Farand Hoaglin and Love Davis

**"In the Name of God, Most Gracious,
Most Merciful"
"May Peace and Blessing be Upon You."**

Dear San Quentin News,

My name is Dontae Wynne and I'm 42 years old. I'm an African American that grew up on South Central LA, where I became a gang member. I have been incarcerated for 17 years; this October will be 18 years of incarceration. My base term is five years and I have 20 years of enhancements—that gave me a total term of 25 without life.

For the past five years I have been residing at Salinas Valley State Prison, level 4 B-Yard GP. On March 25th, 2019, I was given the opportunity by facility B Captain and Ms. T Frost C.R.M to establish: Higher Steps, which is a gang p[revention program; that has allowed me to launch the Bury Your Hood Beef Movement.

With the recent death of Nipsey Hustle, rival gangs of South Central Los Angeles at Salinas Valley State Prison have entered the Gang Prevention Program and steps are being taken to establish a ceasefire and present to the mayor of Los Angeles, Mr. Eric Garcetti, a strategy to prevent Gang Violence within the City of Los Angeles. We at Salinas Valley State Prison (B-Yard) would like for *San Quentin News* to know that the spirit of change is catching and we also are playing our part to make our life better, and the lives of others. Thank you for your time, and do spread the word.

Dontae Wynne
Salinas Valley State Prison

NEWSLETTER HERE AND NOW Editor's Letter:

I've been on this yard since it began. I've watched people who had thought they would die in prison go home to their families. It has been a blessing to watch people grow and take active roles in their recovery. Free from the bondage of prison gangs and addiction, people on this yard have reinvented themselves.

You cannot imagine the disappointment at the local media when I saw the words "Prison Riot at R.J. Donovan" flashing on the television screen. At the top and bottom of every hour there was an update about how many ambulances were called and the number of inmates involved. It made me sad.

I understand the motto "If it bleeds, it leads," but this was much different. Having been on Facility-C, and Facility-B, I can tell you that there were far more newsworthy events that took place.

There are a few key points I would like to make here. First, the news doesn't take into consideration how the people involved in the riot think and feel at the time and after the riot. The news wants you to believe that the individuals involved are mindless monsters who constantly attack each other without conscience. Isn't it just as likely that some of those guys were scared or didn't want to do it? Not one of those news sources will ever do a story on P.T.S.D. in prison. There are inmates who suffer from P.T.S.D. just as much as veterans. Combat is combat.

Where is the story on the aftermath of this event so the next group of people who might engage in violence can see what it is really about?!

The second point is the difference between yards. We are lucky here. We had a few key people in key positions that allowed this yard to succeed. It has been the inmates on this yard buying into the idea that change is possible. It has been the inmates here spearheading the change being made throughout CDCR.

Sometimes it feels like no one cares about the good we do. How is it that two men stabbed and the words "Prison Riot" received more attention than the picture of hundreds of inmates coming together with candles to spell out the words "NO VIOLENCE," and that is just one example.

I was hurt when I saw this institution on the news for such a negative thing because, in a way, I feel like it is a representation of my time here too. No matter how hard I try, there will always be that stigma. To some, I will always be the person I was when I committed my crime. So I consider it my duty to represent all inmates in a positive way.

I challenge the news media to show us in a positive light when we succeed. When "Prison Riot" reaches more people than "No Violence," how are you choosing to represent your future neighbors? What message are you trying to send the public?

Steven Ross Westcott
RJ Donovan

Letters to Editor

We thank you and encourage your letters to the editor. San Quentin News reserves the right to edit letters for content and length. Please keep letters to a maximum of 350 words.

Scholarship recipient overcame a dark and troubled past

“I only knew what others had told me: that I was worthless, stupid, and a failure”

KidCAT Speaks!

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Chairman

Prison taught Daniel Henson the value of education, and now he has earned a college scholarship.

“I did not finish kindergarten because of my parents’ bitter separation,” said Henson. “As a result, from then until I was 14 years old, I bounced from school to school.”

After failing out of 8th grade in 1996, Henson said that he “quickly spiraled out of control, associating with other delinquents and engaging in substance abuse. I did not go to school to learn. I went to socialize.

“I only knew what others had told me: that I was worthless, stupid, and a failure. I did not care. I did not understand the purpose or point of an education.”

Henson, now 37, was 16 when he was tried as

an adult and sentenced to 176-years-to-life.

In prison, Henson discovered a passion for education. He earned a high school diploma and became certified as both a welder and fiber optic installer before taking the plunge into college, where he credits his instructors with helping him shape his intellect.

“I hated English my entire life and failed every test. I had no clue I could do so well,” said Henson. “With applied effort and the help of my Merced College professors, I surprised myself.

“I’m one of three who made history April 6, 2019, when we were awarded scholarships from the statewide honor society. And I wanted you to know a juvenile tried as an adult was one of them — me,” he wrote in a letter to KidCAT Speaks.

“This just shows what ‘we’ (any of us) can do if given the opportunity.”

For their scholastic accomplishments within the Merced College program at

Valley State Prison, Henson and David Flores each received \$1,000 scholarships through Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS), the Academic Honor Society and Service Organization of the California Community Colleges.

Anthony Medina received \$1,600 from AGS for outstanding service. All three men were celebrated in absentia during the 93rd Annual AGS Convention this year in Ontario, Calif.

Jennifer McBride, an adviser on Merced College’s English faculty, witnessed Henson’s exceptional progress firsthand.

“I have worked with many incarcerated students, but Daniel stands out to me as a student who seems to have embraced the idea of rehabilitation through education,” said McBride when recommending Henson for the award. “Daniel has learned much about himself during his educational journey behind bars.”

Michael Barba, professor of English at Merced Col-

lege, joined McBride in describing Henson’s present-day scholastic drive.

“I find Daniel’s intellectual curiosity and maturity are rare for students at Merced College,” said Barba. “He is an outstanding student in multiple respects.

“Daniel made sure to dedicate the time and effort, not only to complete the task and complete it well, but to also assist others. He is truly a leader among his peers and fellow students.”

Henson also mentors young men in the Youth Offender Program.

“Daniel has shown a selfless commitment to assisting other inmates in their rehabilitation — in particular, youth offenders,” said McBride.

According to McBride, Henson developed and implemented MAGIC (Maturity + Accountability + Growth + Inspiration = Change) — a program that brings in outside community speakers. Also, she credits him with hosting The Day of Hope: Teenagers are Salvageable.

“This event is aimed at helping adult inmates, who

were sentenced as youths, understand their value and potential,” said McBride.

“Yet, my greatest accomplishment is one you may not expect,” said Henson. “The fact is, I learned that I can learn.

“I learned that I do have value and worth. I learned that I can still be of use — regardless of how badly I have been, or am, damaged. I learned that my yesterday does not define my tomorrow.

“I have a very dark past, but a much brighter future.”

U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs

By Caroline Wolf Harlow, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

68% of State prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma. About 26% of State prison inmates said they had completed the GED while serving time in a correctional facility.

California court rules against juveniles under 16 tried as adults

A California appellate court ruled in late April that juveniles under the age of 16 cannot be tried as adults—or face adult life sentences.

The court upheld the new law established last year under Senate Bill 1391. Solano County prosecutors attempted to challenge SB1391 in the case of Alexander Cervantes—a young man who was 14 when he committed the attempted murder and sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl, said the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The new law acknowledges “overwhelming scientific evidence that children who are 14 years old have a fundamentally different brain functioning and level of culpability,” said Peter Obstler, attorney for Cervantes. “Not like an adult criminal.”

SB1391 serves to recognize this now accepted scientific fact regarding youth offenders.

As it stands, “juvenile life” sentences mean the offenders can only be held in custody until they are 25. Cervantes previously had been tried as an adult and handed a 61-years-to-life sentence under statutes in place since 1995.

Solano County’s prosecution team tried to argue that

2016’s Proposition 57 permitted Cervantes’ adult life sentence to remain because Prop. 57 included wording that allows a juvenile-court judge discretion to transfer a juvenile’s case into adult court.

Prop. 57 “left in place mechanisms to protect the public from violent offenders who preyed on the innocent, took advantage of the vulnerable, and acted with violence,” said Solano County’s court filing. Because Prop. 57 was enacted through the statewide vote of the people, the prosecutors argued that it could not be circumvented by a legislative bill.

In the First District Court of Appeal’s 3-0 ruling, Justice Alison Tucher stated that Prop. 57 “sought to promote juvenile rehabilitation by channeling more minors into the juvenile system”—a system theoretically geared toward creating educational and training opportunities for its youth, said the *Chronicle*.

SB1391 “is consistent with and furthers Proposition 57’s goal of emphasizing rehabilitation,” said Tucher.

She also noted that advocates of Prop. 57 say keeping young offenders within the juvenile justice system—rather than mixing them into

adult courts—actually increases and promotes public safety because “minors who remain under juvenile court supervision are less likely to commit new crimes.”

Solano County may still continue to argue against Cervantes’ reduced sentence by challenging the appellate ruling in California’s Supreme Court.

Prop. 57 allows a juvenile court judge the discretion to consider a juvenile offender’s criminal and personal history, their capacity for rehabilitation, as well as the very nature of their charged crime—and based on that criteria, determine whether their case belongs in an adult court.

SB1391, which took effect at the onset of 2019, prevents any offender under the age of 16 from being prosecuted as an adult. Therein lies the crux of this ongoing legal debate.

And although youth offenders sentenced to juvenile life face release at the age of 25, the juvenile court system still holds the authority to order a “safety hold” to continue detention if necessary—either in a medical center, mental health facility or some other secure institution.

—Joe Garcia

Dear KidCAT,

Thank you for the \$1,155.88 donation in support of Huckleberry Youth Programs. It’s funders like you that have enabled Huckleberry to partner with youth and families for over 50 years to reach their dreams.

Huckleberry strengthens families and empowers young people with services that promote **safety** in times of crisis, physical and emotional **health**, social **justice** in communities facing inequality, and **educational** success. We seek to empower youth to develop and maintain healthy relationships and promote their talents, leadership and health; to assist youth and their families in overcoming the obstacles they may encounter (including substance use, mental health issues, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, violence, social and economic inequalities, and abuse); and to assist clients in navigating complex welfare, educational and justice systems. We are guided by our **mission to educate, inspire and support underserved youth to develop healthy life choices, to maximize their potential and to realize their dreams.**

Last year, with **YOUR support**, Huckleberry accomplished the following:

- 97% of youth sheltered at Huckleberry House participated in family reunification and strengthening services.
- 95% of Huckleberry Wellness Academy participants **graduated high school!**
- 72% of youth brought to the Huckleberry Community Assessment & Resource Center were **not re-arrested** within the year following program completion.
- Over 1,800 youth accessed Huckleberry **health and/or mental health services.**
- Over 6,000 youth participated in Huckleberry **health education** workshops.

Again, THANK YOU for your support and shared commitment to helping youth recognize their strengths and reach their full potential. Together, we can build a better, more equitable community for all!

Sincerely,
Amy Carlson McConnell, JD
Director of Development

Any inmates interested in receiving the KidCAT curriculum must ask the Community Partnership Manager (CPM) at their facility to contact the CPM at San Quentin. As of February, 2019, KidCAT’s curriculum can only be distributed to inmates through their CPM.

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 helps 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 from the wise, quote of the month: “It’s not about being perfect. It’s not about where you get yourself in the end. There’s power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. And there’s grace in being willing to know and hear others. This, for me, is how we become.” — Michelle Obama (born 1964) is an American writer, lawyer, and university administrator who served as the First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. What are your thoughts on this week’s quote? Can you relate?

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

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men who committed their crimes in their teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group’s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from all offenders, educators, and policymakers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Attn: Kid CAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94964.

New York parolees renovated transition house

By Marcus Henderson
Editor in Chief

Parolees leaving New York's prisons were having trouble finding housing, so they took matters into their own hands, with help from the New Beginnings program, which bought a vacant dilapidated dwelling for the formerly incarcerated men renovate.

New Beginnings is a transitional housing program in New York and was created by Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison to deal with the reentry issue.

"It was a huge leap...a magnificent leap of faith," Damian Rossney, project manager for New Beginnings told *San Quentin News*, referring to the purchase of a run-down single-family home in Ossining, NY, near the notorious Sing

Sing prison, and having ex-prisoners carry out the renovation.

Hudson Link has awarded more than 800 college degrees in the New York State prison system during the past 20 years, according to its website. It provided vocational training and reentry services programs for graduating students who have returned home.

"The relationship with our students doesn't end when they get a degree," said Rossney, who is also a former prisoner. "By far the biggest transition is when you come home and being able to demonstrate how you've changed your life."

Hudson Link began hiring its former students and increasing services for others, but some were leaving prison only to end up in a homeless shelter.

Rossney paroled to a family that had a support system for his reentry, but he still struggled with the readjustment to society, so this work is personal to him. Rossney went to prison at 18 and came home at age 34.

Hudson Link purchased the single-family home that had remained vacant for seven years. The purchase was made possible with the help of private funders. The home needed to be gutted. Sean Pica, the formerly incarcerated founder and executive director of the organization, was the first to take a sledgehammer to the house interior.

"We believe the future residents of this home, having fulfilled their debts to society, have every right to a second chance," said Pica.

The reentry home didn't open without controversy,

as some neighborhood parents signed a petition in opposition to the housing plan. The parents cited the house being across the street from a school. Hudson Link reassured parents that sex offenders, who are prohibited from living within 1,000 feet of a school, would not be allowed to live in the building.

"The home was empty and dilapidated until these guys came," said Lisette Marino, a neighbor. "I don't have any of those same anxieties. I've had a completely different experience. They've already done a service for the community by rehabilitating this house."

The home will accommodate up to five people. There is a basement with a bathroom, laundry room and a big open space. The main floor has the living

room, dining area, kitchen, front patio and back patio.

The upstairs has bedrooms and two bathrooms. The living room has pocket doors so the men can create private spaces, if they need to meet with family or their parole officer.

"This is not a shelter; this is a family," Rossney said. "This is a family of five formerly incarcerated people living together."

One neighbor went so far as putting a security camera on their porch facing the reentry home. Meanwhile, the Hudson Link home has its own camera and security system, Rossney said.

Having launched the reentry housing program, Hudson Link is looking into offering more comprehensive services to assist people leaving prison. This first home for men is going to be a true

test to see if the organization can handle housing.

Hudson Link purchased another home about five minutes away to serve women leaving prison. It is expected to open within one year and will have four or five bedrooms.

All residents would be college graduates of Hudson Link program.

"It's about second chances. That's what's ringing in my head right now," said William Garland, a student of Hudson Link, who helped renovate the home. "It's about people being in the communities and getting a second chance."

"Also, you have part of society that says no second chances. You have to deal with it," Garland concluded.

—Freelance writer Emily Nonko contributed to this story.



Photo Courtesy of Hudson Link

Single-family home Hudson Link purchased



Photo Courtesy of Hudson Link

Ex prisoner working on renovation



Photo Courtesy of Hudson Link

Hudson Link transitional house renovated

COOKS

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The six men who completed the 12-week course on May 22 will use their new skills to obtain employment upon their release from prison.

Warden Ron Davis addressed the crowd at their graduation.

"I get to see a lot of things here at San Quentin and this is one of the things we're really proud of," Davis said. To the graduates, he said, "Believe in yourself."

The incarcerated cooks prepared a four-course gourmet meal for guests from the Bay Area Culinary community.

The appetizer was grilled shrimp with a fennel and Meyer lemon aioli.

Next up: toast covered with asparagus, ricotta, mushrooms, fava beans, and peas.

The main course was braised short ribs with a side of cauliflower, almonds, snap peas, and Calabrian chilies.

To finish it off: a banana pudding tart with strawberries and pecans.

"Everything is so delicious," said Dipti Ghosh, whose favorite dish was the toast and asparagus. "You don't get something this complex in a restaurant. There are so many different flavors and textures."

Helaine Helnitzer, a Quentin Cooks co-founder, addressed the graduating men and the guests, saying how



Photo by Aron Roy, SQN

Dipti Ghosh enjoys dessert



Photo by Aron Roy, SQN

Chef Huw serving food prepared by the graduates

proud of the graduates she was. Helnitzer read a letter from Daniel Martinez, a former classmate of the graduates.

Martinez wrote, emotionally, that he wanted to attend the graduation dinner but was unable because he'd paroled a few days earlier. Helnitzer joked about the irony that someone released from prison wants to come back in.

"We aim to be much more than a get-out-of-prison program," said Helnitzer, who owns a wholesale bakery in

San Francisco and is involved with several other rehabilitation programs at San Quentin. "We aim to be a stay-out-of-prison program."

Three former graduates of the program returned to inspire the incarcerated men with some words of advice.

"Take a look around. All these people are here for you. It's hard out there, but I know one thing. All of you can make it out there," said returning Quentin Cooks graduate Joel McCarter. "This graduation is just the first step."

Chef Huw Thornton and Chef Adelaar Rogers taught the course. They not only taught the incarcerated men skills in the kitchen, but also skills for life.

During an earlier class session, the incarcerated men practiced their knife skills with onions. If the onion is cut against the grain, the onion slices stay together, which is called Parisian. If the onion is cut with the grain, the onion slices fall apart, which is called julienne.

"One rule about kitchen work—first things first—sec-

ond things second," Chef Huw said. "Slice through the onions first, then chop the pile."

The graduates practiced preparing, cooking, and plating dishes from scratch using ingredients and cooking equipment donated by program sponsors The Chef's Warehouse and VegiWorks, Inc. Co-founder Lisa Dombroski encouraged her employer, The Chef's Warehouse, to donate all the dry goods and equipment for the program, while VegiWorks donated all of the produce and meat.

The six graduates of Quentin Cooks Class 5 were Alvis Taylor, Derry Brown, Phillip Sims, Ronnie Simmons, Kerry Rudd, and Daniel Martinez.

"Most people would look in a fridge and see nothing. Now I see a meal," said graduate Phil Sims, "This food right here gives you a taste of freedom!"

Aaron Tillis, Quentin Cooks teaching assistant, said, "Hold on to everything you learned in this class and keep your mind open to learning new things. The world is full of possibilities."

Britain's Derby law school members visit San Quentin

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Future cops, probation officers and students of criminal justice from Britain got an up-close view of an American prison during a visit to San Quentin. They met the incarcerated artists who had donated paintings to the University of Derby's gallery.

The art hangs in Friar Gate Square — "It's a big copper building. People call it the copper box," said Charlotte Hargreaves, head of the university's criminology and social science departments. "The art tells a story — you don't see the inmate; you see the art."

On the May 30 visit, Hargreaves was joined by 12 undergrads and Tony Blockley, head of policing.

Hargreaves and Blockley mingled with the artists in the prison's art studio while the undergrads toured the prison. When the students completed the tour, they joined the professors in the studio.

"The students are very honest with their questions to the artists," said Carol Newborg, manager of the San Quentin Arts in Corrections program. "They've been all

over the U.S. touring, but San Quentin is the only place where they meet incarcerated people."

Orlando Smith talked about the piece he donated. "I envisioned it as the future," Smith said. "I'm wearing prison clothes, and then I'm at Comic-Con. What that means is that the future is yet to be written — so the piece is called, This or That."

Stanley Bey has donated art to Derby for the past three years.

"My art talks about the struggles of humanity shouldered by women and men together because without them things will never go to the future and will stay in the past," Bey said.

Second-year student Ellen Moss said, "I love the art. Each one has a message behind it." She recalled a painting of a train donated last year by James Norton, "That really stood out."

Moss said she plans to work for criminal justice reform in the United Kingdom by getting rehabilitation programs into every prison.

"I want young people to get rehabilitation so that they don't resort to gang activity," Moss said. "I won't give up. I'll write angry letters to all

of the leadership, including the prime minister, until they get sick of hearing from me. I'll tell them when things are bad or they've done something awful."

Hargreaves said the idea of the U.S. trip was "to get an international aspect of criminology and to let the students see systems that are not Euro-centric."

The students also toured Alcatraz, went on a ride-along with Berkeley police, and visited the San Francisco public defender and probation departments.

The students also visited a state university in Los Angeles to study a gang-reduction program, a juvenile hall, a shooting range and the county jail.

"That was awful," Hargreaves said about the jail conditions. What struck her was the number of people in the U.S. serving sentences of "proper life," or "life without the possibility of parole."

There are a significantly lower number of prisoners serving "proper life" in England, only several hundred, while in the U.S. there are tens of thousands. She also noted that the lengths of sentences in the U.S. are much longer for



Photo courtesy of LT. Sam Robinson

SQ Tour guides speak about prison experiences to Derby law school

the same kind of crimes in England.

Second-year student Rachael Livermore said she best enjoyed the ride-along with Berkeley police.

"They showed us areas where crime occurs," Livermore said. "It was interesting."

Livermore says that she would like to become a probation officer and help people with mental illnesses.

"In my family, mental health is a big thing — it's impacted my family," she

said. "But, I couldn't work in a prison. I'd come home in tears too many days."

Livermore said that watching media influenced her perspective about incarcerated people.

"You see things in the media and it's so harsh. It's so humbling to talk to you all — you all are so friendly."

Asked to consider how crime victims might take that statement, Livermore said, "Even though the victim's families need justice and punishment — many times

after decades of incarceration the person who committed, even an awful crime, might not be the same person — people change."

Livermore liked the painting donated last year that resembled *The Scream*, "It describes life on the inside very well," she said.

While in San Francisco, the students served meals to the homeless.

Blockley commented on how working in a soup kitchen affected the students: "When they are serving food, they realize that they are serving human beings and they realize the blessing of their circumstance."

Hargreaves noticed "the stark difference between rich and poor" in San Francisco. Adding, serving the homeless "humanized the poor. I think our students will learn more this week than their whole three years from the bachelor's program."

Hargreaves took notice of armed police officers in the U.S. British police officers are normally unarmed. She said the concept of millions of guns and millions of incarcerated people seems almost "inconceivable," adding, "the population of San Quentin is equivalent to one of our small towns."

Next year the university plans to visit Holland before coming to the U.S. with an idea to give students a broader perspective on the treatment of incarcerated people.

Hargreaves talked about her work with juveniles. She said she found it troubling that 14-15-year-old youngsters read at a 5th grade level and "the system did nothing to address it." Nevertheless, she said that the UK juvenile system went from incarcerating about 10,000 children to around 800.

"There needs to be much more in rehabilitation and educational opportunities for incarcerated people," Hargreaves said.

Blockley commented that new police recruits must earn a bachelor's degree.

"A college degree gives them the tools to critically think about the people they deal with on a daily basis," Blockley said.

"If we are able to communicate, we are able to see things differently. That's what an education can do," Blockley said. "It can allow the officer to consider the cultural differences in the country."

Blockley said, "If we're truly about education, it's about preparing the students for the rest of their lives. The experience that they get from coming inside San Quentin will be remembered for the rest of their lives."

"When our students come in to San Quentin and talk to the artists, that experience cannot be taken away."



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Derby law school stops by the San Quentin News room to hear about its history



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Derby students reading SQ News

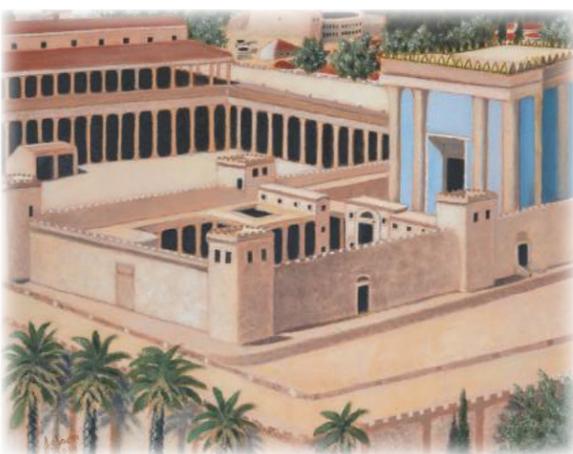


Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

"Herod's Temple", by Jeffrey Isom



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Derby students get a first hand look at SQ prison cells



Photo by Peter Merts

"Ancestor's home near Derby" by Bruce Fowler



Photo by Peter Merts

"The Mother" by Lamavis Comundoiwilla

Get On The Bus supports family relationships

“Today I saw my daughter and wife together for the first time in 24 years.”

GOTB

Continued from Page 1

“It’s amazing—it’s finally happening!” said 57-year-old inmate Nathaniel Sparks. “Today I saw my daughter and wife together for the first time in 24 years.”

His 25-year-old daughter Natalia was born when he was in county jail.

“I still have every letter my daughter has written me. At times it was the only thing that kept me going,” said Sparks.

Sparks also met his six-year-old grandson George for the first time at the visit.

“He was really excited,” said George’s mom, Natalia. “When I came to see my dad when I was little, it was exciting and fun. I knew it would be for my son. Six years old is old enough to remember.”

“Those are memories they’ll have forever,” said GOTB volunteer Sabrina Coca de Gómez. She is a bus coordinator who has volunteered with the program for the last four years. Coca de Gómez helped organize a bus that left from Sacramento at 3:15am with about ten visiting family members, then picked

up more in Oakland on its way to San Quentin. Buses from southern California left the night before.

“I do it for the children—that’s my passion,” said Coca de Gómez.

“The joy on their faces—some have tears—it’s just beautiful. I couldn’t stop crying,” she said about the morning’s reunions.

Another first-time meeting was between Terron Toliver and his incarcerated father, Curtiss Frazier.

“I wanted to cry,” said Toliver, “It’s been 25 years and I never met this man. I wanted to know where I come from.” He said that although he had a great stepdad, he never felt like he belonged.

“I’m happy and sad. Sad that it took so long. Sad that he’s behind bars,” Toliver explained. “Happy because today I get to meet my dad—my biological dad. It’s a great feeling.”

“We look the same,” said Toliver, “I found my twin!” Then he laughed, saying, “When I first saw him, I wanted to take off my name tag and run like hell.” Toliver works, goes to school and is a father himself now, helping raise two small children of his own.

“I’m proud of him,” said Toliver’s father, Curtiss, who is paroling soon. “My number one goal is to make things right and build a relationship with my kids and grandkids,” he said.

Ángel Villafan is another incarcerated father going home soon. “When I first came in I was crying because I hadn’t seen my son in three years,” he said. He hadn’t held him in about five years, because their visit in county jail was behind glass.

“It’s definitely a lot of work, but this is what we get: happy people, happy families...”

“I ran to him because I missed him,” said Villafan’s six-year-old son, Alex Servin. “I feel so happy.” Servin said he is graduating from kindergarten and can’t wait to play soccer with his dad when he comes home.

“He was so excited,” said Alex’s grandmother, Gloria Servin. “We broke into tears.

What Ángel wants most is to be with Alex.” She expressed her gratitude to the GOTB program for the joyous reunion, “Thank you so much!”

“It’s so uplifting,” said Stephanie Stubbs, a volunteer GOTB bus coordinator. She helped organize families for pickup at the Saint Columbus Church in Oakland. The bus took them to Saint Sebastian’s Church in Kentfield, where volunteers prepared and served breakfast to all the families before heading to San Quentin.

“It’s definitely a lot of work, but this is what we get: happy people, happy families—at least for a little while,” said Moisés Farias, who has volunteered with Stubbs for five years.

“I can really connect with them because I haven’t seen my mom for 12 years. Not because she’s in prison, but because she’s in Mexico. I can’t go to Mexico,” said Farias. “It’s really satisfying to see them connect,” he added.

“I’m excited! I haven’t seen my kids since 2013,” said 42-year-old incarcerated father Dion DeMerrill. “When I left, my youngest son was still in Pampers.”

His daughter D’oni just turned 18, old enough to chaperone her younger brothers on their first GOTB visit with their dad. “Today is about holding, touching, and hugging our dad—that’s the main thing,” she said. Dion Junior, 12, and Dr’Lon, eight, agreed.

DeMerrill explained that his wife cannot come because she is on the same criminal case. “Thank you for letting me spend the day with my kids,” he said to the GOTB program.

Benito Muro and family have been reunited five times through GOTB. Muro has been incarcerated at San Quentin for over seven years and about 15 years total. He was visiting with his four children, wife and mother.

With the help of dozens of volunteers, sponsors and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, GOTB has held the annual event for 19 years. Each year, GOTB reunites thousands of children with their parents at many of the men’s and women’s prisons across the state.

Millions of children have incarcerated parents

nationwide. The strong family connections built by programs like Get On The Bus contribute to successful reentry when parolees rejoin their communities.

“Today is a blessing—thanks to Get On The Bus and Walkenhorst,” said 32-year-old incarcerated father Juan Navarro. He was visiting with his daughter Emily, 13, son Ivan, 11, and their mother LuzMaria Velis, 31.

Navarro said the program was not available at the other three prisons he was in, but he read about it in the *San Quentin News*. He transferred to The Q about a year ago. “It would be great if this program was available in every prison,” he said.

“I’m overwhelmed with emotion—happy and sad,” said 47-year-old incarcerated father Tyrone Douglass, who also arrived at San Quentin last year. He was teaching his 13-year-old daughter, Kassara, sign language and teaching his 11-year-old son, Tyrone Junior, how to play chess.

“Time flies—it’s almost over,” Douglas said, glancing up at the clock. “I’m already missing them.”

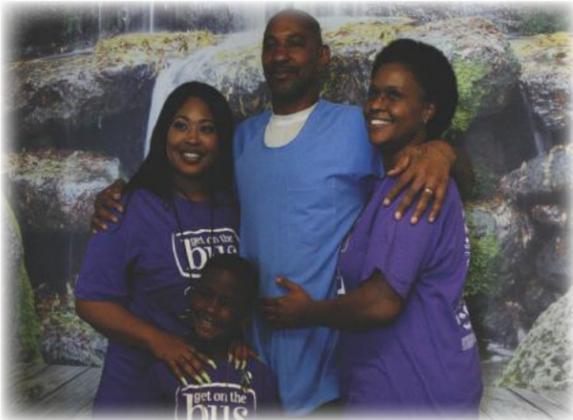


Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Nathaniel Sparks with his wife, daughter, and grandson



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Juan Navarro with his daughter Emily



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Boy Gets his face painted by volunteer Rachel



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Ángel Villafan with his son Alex



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Bobby Robertson with daughter & grandchildren



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Travis Banks playing with grandson



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Get On The Bus volunteers



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Benito Muro with his mother Socorro Delgadillo Ayala, wife Susana Aguirre Luna, and children

Ninth Prison to Employment Connection session graduates 44



Photo by Juan Espinosa, SQN

Employers conducting interviews with inmates

PRISON

Continued from Page 1

"We're all here this afternoon to connect with each other," said Williams, who discussed how recidivism rates run between 31% and 71%. For those who find employment after prison, the numbers are 3% to 8%. PEC outdoes those figures with its 1.41% recidivism rate.

"At the beginning of the program, we promised you that we'd meet you halfway," Williams said to the graduates. "I expect each of you to come see us when you get out because we're here to help you."

Inmate Norman Willhoite, 57, is serving a second prison term. He served 28 years the first time. With no clear direction when he was released, he went back to what he knew. He said the employers coming in give inmates an opportunity that wasn't here 10 years ago. "It (PEC) gave me back self-confidence."

"It's a good program," said inmate Jesse Buruca, 27. "I feel they (PEC) do provide the information you need to be able to prepare to be job ready." He learned how to conduct himself at a job interview, "to be comfortable and be yourself."

Inmate Jaryd Newton, 31, said he recommends all inmates take the class. "They've dedicated their hard work and time, and I can't be more appreciative," he said. "You guys (guests) didn't look at us as inmates."

West Oakland Job Resource Center interviewed inmate Hamisi X. Spears, 46, and discussed employment opportunities. The center provides apprentice training programs, job referrals and other services. "I really enjoyed this class," said Spears. "It prepares you for the future. And it gives you the skills to help you get a job."

"I learned there are more job opportunities than I thought for the formerly incarcerated," said inmate Lemuel Brown, 57, who has been incarcerated for two years. "If you have to be here (in prison), don't make it a total waste. I don't see any other way to make an opportunity."

Michael Erickson of SF Made attended PEC's employer day for the first time. "This is incredible," he said. "I'm absolutely blown away by this, I'm really glad I came up today." His organization

prepares people to interview who are involved with manufacturing, and holds careers in manufacturing workshops.

Mark Kidd, 35, an inmate who volunteers for PEC, participated in the program about two years ago. "When I went through the program, I saw how beneficial it was for us inmates to parole with a job." He returned to volunteer because he saw how much it helped him. He said looking at many younger inmates wasting time doing nothing, compared to those he's helped, "is really a good feeling to give back." He said PEC was genuine about helping the men. "I wanted to become one of those guys" (who help people).

"I think I have something to offer," said inmate Robert Polzin, 43. He's a PEC volunteer who graduated from the program in 2017. "It's just been a great opportunity to offer my experience," he said. "It seems like the job world is a little more liberal than it used to be."

Jennifer Rudd from City College of San Francisco said she's happy to represent its culinary arts basic training and management, baking and pastry, and culinary and service skills training certificate programs. It was her third PEC appearance. "As usual, I'm super impressed with the preparation of the men," she said.

Lisa Trustin, a first-time PEC volunteer, attended the workshops, employer day and graduation. "It has all the right elements to help someone get a job," she said. She has a career counseling background, with 15 years as a career counselor. She learned about the program while volunteering with California Reentry Institute.

"I like helping the underdog," said PEC volunteer Gabrielle Nicolet. It was her fifth session. "This is the most inspiring place I've been." For three and a half years, she's volunteered at San Quentin. She said people always talk about helping others, but they're generally not referring to incarcerated people because so many people dislike prisoners, but no one needs help more than the incarcerated. "I like helping people who need it."

Over the years, Nicolet has worked in different areas of the criminal justice system. She currently works as a defense paralegal. She received training from the University of the Pacific and is currently pursuing law school.

Other organizations that attended Employer Day were



Photo by Juan Espinosa, SQN

Prison to Employment Connection graduates and volunteers



Photo by Juan Espinosa, SQN

Employer giving an inmate a interview



Photo by Juan Espinosa, SQN

PEC staff and inmate volunteers

the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County, the District Council of Northern California, Saved By Grace, Positive Resource Center, Goodwill Industries, and CEO Works.

Oakland's Private Industry Council was there to assist the men with reentry programs. Part of its stated mission is to "support the journey toward equitable sustainable employment."

Before the men received their certificates at graduation, they offered comments and feedback to the PEC staff and inmate volunteers:

"I always thought I wasn't employable."

"I learned proper etiquette when talking to employers."

"You've pushed me and helped me through this process."

"Sometimes I gotta swallow my pride."

"It takes a lot of courage to ask for help," said Robert Frye, who often speaks at PEC graduations, to encourage the men. "It's always bit-

tersweet to see new and old faces," he said. He paroled from San Quentin about five years ago after serving 25 years in prison. "I'm no better than you," he told the men. "I just got lucky and got out."

Frye did a quick question-and-answer session fielding inquiries such as how long did it take him to feel like a citizen? How'd you feel about technology? He said he felt normal in about six months, especially when he started paying bills. Because he was allowed to use computers in prison, he "adapted well" outside.

The men applauded Frye after listening to his inspirational speech and stories of his accomplishments after he paroled.

"Good luck is when preparation meets opportunity," said Angel Falcone, an inmate PEC facilitator. "When you do the best you can, people won't forget that and will help you." He advised the men to think about the future, get a Roth IRA, to not

depend on Social Security, and get medical insurance.

Clif Bar of Emeryville, Calif., worked with PEC again this session. Its human resources and other departments helped the men with resume writing and interview skills.

"It kind of humanizes the (prison) experience," said Kim who works in HR at Clif Bar. "It really is about building partnerships."

Alicia who works in marketing at Clif Bar didn't know what to expect coming inside a prison. "It was really cool to see the growth and confidence built," she said. "It's very moving."

Salesforce recruiter and volunteer resume writer, Laura Pedersen, heard about PEC through someone who comes in to play basketball with the inmates at San Quentin. "I like people to have hope," she said. "I think it's awesome."

Williams said of the nine PEC sessions, this was only the second time that 100% of the men interviewed the same or better than people outside

of prison. "You were better than the class that came before you."

Williams provided interview statistics ranging from 1 as poor, 2 below average, 3 average, 4 above average, and 5 excellent. She said there were no scores of one or two. The men received the following ratings from employers:

- 1 = 0%
- 2 = 0%
- 3 = 19%
- 4 = 39%
- 5 = 42%

The height of the last four months came when each graduates' name was called. One by one, they walked to the stage area, shook hands with the volunteers, and were handed certificates and packets of useful employment information that will help them transition back to society and enter the work force. Everyone applauded to support each other. At the end, Williams yelled, "Job!"

The graduates all responded with "Ready!" as part of PEC's customary mantra.



Photo by Juan Espinosa, SQN

PEC volunteers, employers, career and education professionals at Employer Day

The nature of our addiction

"The men at Avenal State Prison find support in rehabilitation"



Photo Courtesy of Avenal State prison

The men at Avenal State Prison program participants

By Omar Jacuinde
Contributing Writer from
Avenal State prison

Today is a day of Victory. For most just an ordinary day, but for some of us, that's not the case. As we manage to live one more day, hour and minute from the destructive addiction that is trying to destroy not only us, everyone we come across, every day of our lives.

As addicts, we lost hope and gave up the idea that one day we would be able to stop this deadly addiction. In most situations it takes years to actually accept and admit that our lives had become out of control.

It isn't until we suffer the separation from family members, society and dealing with courts, prisons and ultimately total withdrawal from moral decency and abandonment of

spiritual hope that we realized the negative effects that our addiction led us to.

We are fortunate to have a program like Narcotics Anonymous, where the primary purpose is to stay clean and carry the message to the addict who still suffers. NA has taught us that if you're serious about recovery, it WILL work.

Through the support of the group, sponsors and volunteers, we began to change at-

itudes, choices and decisions, rather than support our old way of thinking.

In this Edition of the *San Quentin Newspaper*, we dedicate this article to Avenal State Prison "B Yard" Narcotics Anonymous group. None of this would be possible if not for our Warden R. NDOH, B yard Captain N. Gonzalez and supporting staff and volunteers who actively participated. Thanks to Ms. Jimenez

who recently volunteered her time to be part of this new initiative to promote rehabilitation to those inmates seeking ways to better themselves.

We would like to give special thanks to our Facility B NA sponsors, L. Robitaille of 2 1/2 yrs. and J. Hignojoz, our newest sponsor. On behalf of the whole group, we would like to thank them for their endless hard work and sincere dedi-

cation to provide necessary materials to make this group a huge success. It's because of people like them who believe in rehabilitation, that we are able to see this program truly succeed. Thank you for participating in this new chapter of our lives. Now we seek to develop and exercise a better way of living, reaching out to help others find the same peace we are finding.

Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs checks out San Quentin Enneagram program

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs and his wife, Anna, came to San Quentin to join a class aimed at helping prisoners gain self-respect and overcome childhood trauma.

Anna Tubbs said they came to the prison because they're "both social justice concerned. It's important to meet people directly impacted by policy choices—to be seen personally—to understand the needs of the people."

The incarcerated men partake in a program led by Susan Olesek. It is called The

Enneagram Prison Project (EPP): Freeing the Incarcerated from the Prisons of Our Own Making. The program takes participants on a 20-week journey aimed at getting a better sense of self.

Prior to class on June 3rd, Micheal Tubbs sat down for an interview. He compared the city of Stockton and its "significant amount of resources" with coming inside a prison to see programs such as EPP, computer coding, and college programs. His reaction: "Why did I have to come inside a prison to see this? Why don't we have these programs on the outside?"

Once the class started, Raiveon "Ray Ray" Wooden read a poem, "Temptation Within Myself."

He then told a story about childhood abuse and how it traumatized him. Trauma turned to shame, he said, which turned to doubt that warped his thinking about himself.

Wooden said coming to prison gave him the chance to rethink his life from "being one of distant loneliness to finding support and love."

"It's hard to share these things and not worry about my pride," Wooden said as he cited a stanza from his poem:

"How to love yourself—how to find yourself"

"I came to prison to be safe," Wooden said.

Olesek told the class that Wooden's story is "one of a hero's journey, on how to reclaim his life; to say it out loud to people makes them look at you in a good way."

She commented on how adults don't recognize painful lives in their children. Looking at Wooden she added, "Where did he get the idea that he had no worth? Who wasn't there?"

Olesek turned to the class and said, "Don't put yourself down by only focusing on

what you did to get in prison without putting your life in the context of the circumstances."

She told the class that "trauma is when you keep reliving the past."

Then, she asked how many participants suffered from a childhood trauma. All hands went up, including Michael and Anna.

"How do we organize our society so that we value families?" Michael asked. His concern is to provide a safe and healthy environment for growing families.

"How can you protect your child?" Anna asked. "You

can't control everything, but you can be there 100 percent as a parent who decides to bring a child into the world."

Anna talked about working with students who felt like they couldn't tell their own stories.

"But when these kids do get the opportunity to share their stories, they find out that they are not alone and share similar experiences—the sharing gives them the chance to connect," Anna said.

Some people are locked up emotionally, the mayor implied. "You don't have to be in San Quentin to be in prison," he said.



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Michael Tubbs & wife Anna with Enneagram class & Sponsors



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Enneagram class on lower yard with Micheal Tubbs & wife Anna Tubbs

Snippets

VIPERS ARE VENOMOUS SNAKES, BUT NOT POISONOUS, WITH TWO EXCEPTIONS.

AMINO ACIDS ARE BUILDING BLOCKS OF PROTEINS, WHICH ARE THE MACHINERY OF LIFE ON OUR PLANET.

LIGHTNING BOLTS TAKE ONLY A FEW THOUSANDTHS OF A SECOND TO SPLIT THROUGH THE AIR.

OWLS BELONG TO THE ORDER STRIGIFORMES, AND THERE ARE OVER 200 SPECIES OF OWLS.

ROGUE WAVES CAN HAPPEN IN LAKES AS WELL AS IN THE OCEAN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

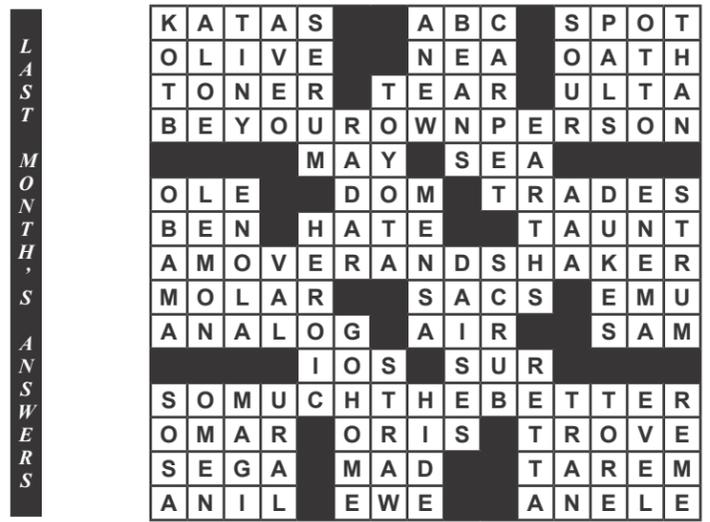
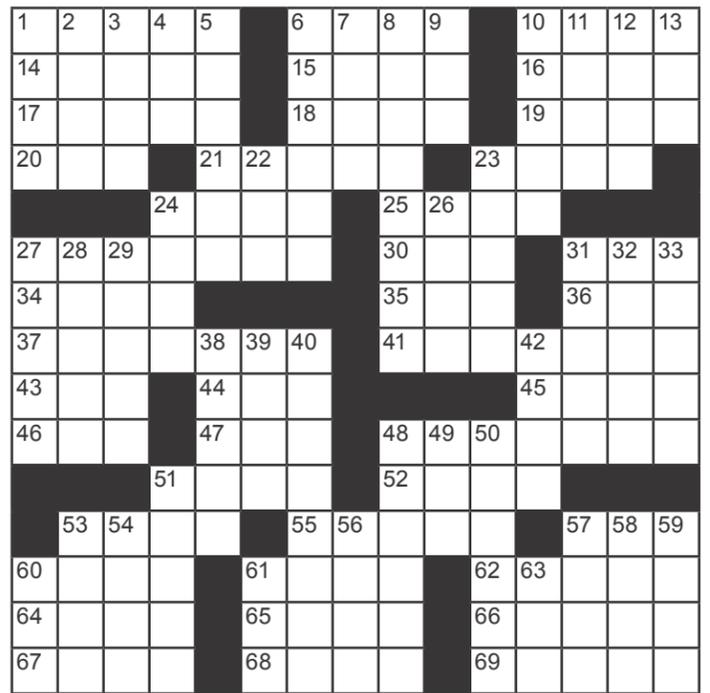
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

- Lead actress in *Pitch Perfect*
- Promotional flyer for a book
- Lead actor in *Searching*
- Nearby
- Floating mattress on water
- Imagine
- Reality show necessity
- Web addresses
- In neutral
- Roadside assistance comp.
- Toyota car model
- Sour
- Singer Bareilles
- Scottish shirt
- Represent
- It runs in veins
- Govt. agcy.
- Solo in opera
- Actor Cage, informally
- Cable network
- Former lead singer for Wham
- Lead actress of *Captain Marvel*
- Digest
- Cool
- Irishman's name of his home country
- Football scores (Abbr.)
- Mountain (prefix)
- Jacket worn in the middle ages
- Streaming platform
- Region SW Saudi Arabia, on the Red Sea
- Men's brand of cologne
- Interrogate
- Weight
- Web diary
- Baldwin of *SNL*
- Alpaca's cousin
- Flash
- Speed label
- Official residence in China
- Singer of "I Will Remember You"
- City in the winegrowing region in Italy
- Type of pad

Down

- Alan of *Tower Heist*
- Director Ephron
- University org.
- Military weapon (Abbr.)
- Rapper of album "Damn"
- Type of DVD
- Monetary unit of Malta
- Actress who played Annie on *Community*
- Rapper ____-Def
- Title character of movie played starring Keanu Reeves
- Monetary unit in Ghana
- Seized
- Ed Sheeran or U2 song
- Glass of *This American Life*
- Asian betel palm tree
- FOX TV show
- Seed covering
- Luxury brand of watches
- Mythological mountain nymph
- Uprisings
- Official reply
- Long knife
- Actresses Hathaway and Archer
- Tile separator
- FOX TV show *My Name Is* ____
- Lead actor in *The American President*
- Back
- Chinese form of meditation
- Hand lang.
- Lead actor in *Notting Hill*
- Singer Joel and actor Zane
- Producer Jason of the *Insidious* movies
- Blushing
- Geom. shape
- ____ Impala
- Bad sign
- MP3 player
- Follows sports model or strapless
- Doctors' org.
- Long's partner (Abbrv.)



Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

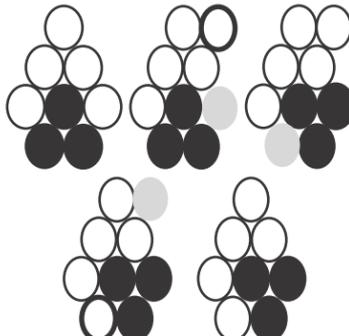
1	3	6	2	8	5	7	9	4
8	4	9	6	7	1	5	2	3
5	2	7	4	9	3	6	1	8
2	6	5	1	4	7	8	3	9
3	9	1	8	5	2	4	7	6
4	7	8	3	6	9	1	5	2
7	8	3	9	1	6	2	4	5
6	1	2	5	3	4	9	8	7
9	5	4	7	2	8	3	6	1

Last month's Brain Teasers

H	T	E	A
A	E	T	H
T	H	A	E
E	A	H	T

HAPPINESS IS A STOCK THAT SPLITS THREE FOR ONE THE DAY AFTER YOU BUY IT.

Goal One



BRAIN TEASERS OF THE MONTH

TIC-TAC-TOE: PLAY TO LOSE

In this tic-tac-toe game, each player has moved twice. The player whose turn it is wants to let the other player win, but must block threats normally so the other player doesn't realize what's going on. (Both players are equally skilled and do not miss any chances to directly block a row from being formed.) Whose turn is it and where should the next play be?

	X	
	O	
X	O	

If King George IV was ruler of England during the American Revolution, cross out all the N's, l's, and D's. If not, cross out all the O's, U's, B's. If Paul Revere was not a real person, cross out all the E's and P's. If he was real, cross out the W's, R's, and S's. If General Lafayette fought on the side of the Colonies, cross out the X's, F's, and T's. If not, cross out all the C's. Well?

I B O N U U D W E R P S E S N S D X E X N F C T E T

FOREST FIGURES

Similarly to a cryptogram, each digit in this sum has been consistently replaced with a different letter. Can you replace all the letters to make the sum correct?

B	A	R	K
B	A	R	K
+			
T	R	E	E

Tom is younger than Rose, but older than Will and Jack, in that order. Rose is younger than Susie, but older than Jack. Jack is younger than Jim. Susie is older than Rose, but younger than Jim. Jim is older than Tom. Who is older?

If you would like to submit a photograph to be placed in SQ News just because, please send it with name(s) and a brief message to go with your photo. Please understand, we will not be able to return your photo so send a copy and address the letter to:

San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964

Profesores voluntarios promotores de la educación y rehabilitación de prisioneros



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Profesores de PUP Laura Wagner and Paco Brito

Por Juan Espinosa
Diseñador gráfico y escritor

Prison University Project (PUP) está localizada en una de las prisiones más notorias en el mundo: La Prisión de San Quentin en California. PUP incluye un selecto grupo de profesores, tutores, y voluntarios de varias universidades prestigiosas como U.C. Berkeley, Stanford, San Francisco State, San Jose State, y varias otras universidades locales y de alrededor del mundo.

Estos participantes son una parte esencial en la educación y rehabilitación de los hombres encarcelados en San Quentin.

Dos de esos profesores voluntarios son Paco Brito y Laura Wagner. Ellos son mejor conocidos por los estudiantes por su primer nombre en lugar de su apellido.

Paco y Laura comparten una historia interesante. Ellos se conocieron por primera vez en una protesta por el alza de pago en colegiaturas en la Universidad de Berke-

ley y desarrollaron una conexión personal.

Los dos comparten la misma idea de que todas las personas deberían tener la oportunidad de tener una educación.

“Empezamos a organizar eventos juntos en la universidad,” Paco explicó en una reciente entrevista. Laura agregó que su intención era hacer cambios en la cultura de los estudiantes.

“Comencé a ser voluntario de PUP en el 2012 porque recordé cuando la educación era una prioridad en California”, dijo Paco. “Después de la noche al mañana cambio a la construcción de prisiones”.

Laura se enteró de PUP por una amiga. “me hice voluntaria para enseñar un curso de inglés”, dijo ella. Laura enseñó varios cursos de inglés y, en una ocasión, compartió las aulas con Paco enseñando una clase de investigación avanzada. Laura dijo, “Cuando empecé a relacionarme con mis estudiantes, mi perspectiva cambio

porque fui capaz de ver su humanidad”.

“Ms. Wagner es una persona especial”. Dijo Steve Brooks, un preso quien tomó clases con Laura. “ella es atenta, cordial, y siempre anima a sus estudiantes”.

“Como profesora es excepcional”, dijo Brooks, “Ella es muy consciente y todo el tiempo trata de que los estudiantes se envuelvan en las conversaciones en clase. Y cuando estos no quieren participar les da un pequeño empujón (figurativamente hablando) para que sientan más confianza”.

Paco enseñó inglés y español, él dice, “Me sorprendió cuando los estudiantes retaban y cuestionaban todo”, dice Brito, “Me gustó el intercambio de ideas entre los estudiantes y profesores”.

“Paco es un profesor excelente”, dijo Carlos Salmón quien enseñó un curso de español con él. “Su forma de enseñar es fácil y eficiente”.

Richard Richardson un estudiante de PUP quien tomo clases de español con Paco,

dice Paco hizo el aprender español muy fácil aun para las personas como yo que no teníamos idea de cómo escribir español y mucho menos lo hablábamos. “Nos enseñó a conjugar los verbos en una forma fácil de entender”.

Richardson dijo, “Paco es una persona muy buena, atenta y es muy difícil no llevarse bien con él. Y lo que siempre me llamó la atención es que siempre está contento”.

Paco y Laura están de acuerdo en que los estudiantes encarcelados de colegio son diferentes a los estudiantes de colegio tradicionales. “estos tienen la disposición de cuestionar el proyecto y se envuelven en este,” dijo Laura. “Yo encontré formas diferentes para enseñar mi material y para que fuera más relevante”.

La pareja recientemente se movió para el sur de California en donde Laura consiguió un trabajo en un colegio comunitario. Laura dijo, “estoy muy emocionada de comenzar mi carrera oficial como catedrática”.

La jardinería es de rehabilitación para Leopoldo Zaragoza

Por Carlos Drouaillet
Journalista

A Leopoldo Zaragoza es fácil encontrarlo en el área educacional de la Prisión Estatal de San Quentin. Después de su clase para obtener su diploma de preparatoria (GED) se le puede ver trabajando en los jardines que adornan los anexos educativos.

Zaragoza es un prisionero de 50 años, oriundo de Chapa, Jalisco que ha tomado las “riendas” (como dice él), del trabajo necesario para hermoear los jardines llenos de margaritas, crisantemos, geranios y rosales.

“El jardinero de azul”, como algunos le conocen, se pasa varias horas al día podando las flores, cuidando que tengan agua, además de que mantiene un diseño muy colorido con una distribución ordenada de los diferentes tipos de flores.

Cuando alguien le pregunta a Zaragoza cómo consiguió ese trabajo y cuánto le pagan, Leo contesta, “Yo mismo me lo conseguí y el pago es muy bueno”. Y añade, “me siento atraído por las flores, como si yo fuera una mariposa, y como me gustan las flores pues más las cuido”.

El contraste de colores que el “jardinero de azul”

ha diseñado se pudiera comparar a los diseños profesionales que se ven en revistas de jardinería.

Pueden admirarse gladiolas y buganvillas pegadas al exterior de los salones, y junto a las veredas pequeñas diseñadas por él mismo, se encuentran las fresas, las rosas de saharon y las petunias.

Al preguntarle qué es lo que le motiva a trabajar sin recibir pago, Zaragoza simplemente dice, “Me motiva el estar ocupado y así siento que los días de mi sentencia, se pasan más rápido” y sin parar de podar o mover la tierra, continúa, “con este trabajo no pienso en la desgracia de estar encerrado en esta prisión”.

El jardinero hace una pausa para acomodarse los guantes y al levantarse dice, “Pero le doy gracias a Dios que estoy sano, tengo mis brazos y piernas fuertes y un corazón muy saludable”.

Cualquiera que camine por las rampas que están antes de entrar a los salones de clase, puede respirar el aroma de las “morning glory” (gloria de la mañana), las “buttercup” (copas de mantequilla) y de esas otras flores coloridas y aromáticas, que parecieran invitar a la lectura y al estudio. A diario se ve a algunos prisioneros leyendo,



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Rosas de Saharon y otras plantas floreciendo en los jardines SQ

meditando, orando, o tan solo caminando y platicando acerca de los jardines y su belleza.

S.Q.News, entrevistó a Zaragoza sobre la labor que desempeña en San Quentin.

SQNews: ¿Cuántas horas trabajas en el mantenimiento de estos jardines?

Z: Trabajo seis horas diarias y todos los siete días de la semana. Vengo cuatro horas durante el día y dos horas después de la cena para ponerles agua, pues es

mejor ponerles agua después que se mete el sol.

SQNews: ¿Consideras este trabajo como terapia para reducir la tensión nerviosa?

Z: Claro que sí, pues es un trabajo muy relajante y afuera de los edificios. No sé cómo explicarlo, pero haciendo este trabajo me siento libre, como si estuviera fuera de aquí.

SQNews: ¿Deseas añadir algo más que no te hallamos preguntado?

Z: Pues solo que este trabajo que hago en los jardines, me sirve como un escape que me transporta fuera de aquí pues se me olvida por momentos que estoy preso.

Zaragoza prepara el abono para las flores y plantas, también tiene un vivero en el cual produce plantas y las trasplanta donde se vean bien de acuerdo al diseño que él desea.

Para poder trabajar, Leo pide autorización todos los

días y le notifica al oficial encargado en qué área trabajara ese día, en caso de alguna alarma.

Haciendo su trabajo voluntario, Zaragoza continúa demostrando su dedicación, usando sus manos expertas y rudas como su mejor herramienta en medio de las flores de alcatraz y las dalias, sin olvidar los pequeños cactus, que delinean el perímetro de su área de trabajo, contrastando su uniforme azul con el jardín azulado.



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Diferente clases de flores plantadas por Leopoldo Zaragoza



File Photo

Leopoldo Zaragoza



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Hermosas flores moradas floreciendo



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Rosas de Saharon en los jardines de SQ

Reñido Partido de Fútbol entre Earthquakes y Outsiders

Por Carlos Drouaillet
Escritor contribuyente

Desde muy temprano se sintió el ambiente amistoso en el parque deportivo de San Quentin State Prison (SQSP). Los integrantes del equipo de fútbol los "San Quentin Earthquakes" se prepararon para recibir al equipo visitante, los "Outsiders" del área de la Bahía.

El partido amistoso fue programado a jugarse a la 1 p.m., pero los Earthquakes salieron a calentar desde temprano mientras esperaban.

Los Outsiders del área de la Bahía, están integrados por jóvenes deportistas de diferentes equipos y son invitados por el coordinador y coach Andrew Crawford.

Se llegó a la hora del partido y el árbitro oficial Chris Marshall, dio la señal y el partido empezó a la una de la tarde, con una temperatura del medio-ambiente de 85 grados Fahrenheit.

Movió el balón Gustavo por los Outsiders pasando el esférico a Christopher Yin que la llevó por la derecha y trato de dar pase a Sugandan Barathy, pero el defensa de los Earthquakes Rolando Tut intercepto la jugada y en drible personal activo a Carlos Meza que, al minuto 3, desde fuera del área grande hizo un disparo que paso a pulgadas arriba del marco de los Outsiders.

Se notó el dominio por parte de los Earthquakes en los minutos iniciales del par-

tido pues el mediocampista Ronald Luna también bombardeo la portería en el minuto 4, pero con destreza el portero de los Outsiders desvió para tiro de esquina. Sin perder tiempo, otro mediocampista Tare Beltranchuc mando elevado el servicio de esquina, pero Michael del equipo visitante, cabeza hacia afuera y provoco otro tiro de esquina, esta vez por el lado izquierdo. Esta vez lo cobro Luna en dirección a Tut que como venía disparo, solo que muy arriba de la puerta.

El entrenador Crawford dió indicaciones a su delantera y motivo a los jugadores invitados a apoyarse más en equipo.

A su vez el entrenador Juárez daba algunas instrucciones a su equipo.

De pronto al minuto 6 se vino una descolgada de izquierda, por los Outsiders, cuando Anthony Yoo, que controlando la acción, envió pase largo al delantero Ramchandani y a su vez Ramchandany habilita a Barathi que con derecho certero sorprende al portero López de los Earthquakes poniendo el marcador uno a cero Outsiders.

Los dos equipos compartieron el control de las acciones; unos momentos eran los Earthquakes y en seguida los Outsiders y así continuaron jugando un partido reñido pero muy limpio por los dos equipos.

Juárez hizo el primer cambio en el minuto 20, Saco a

Fausto "sonny" Fabián y metió a Ángel Villazan para reforzar la defensiva y al minuto 25, saco a Ronaldo Tut y metió a José Shadow, la temperatura ambiente subió a más de 90 Fahrenheit y algunos jugadores se notaban muy agotados.

"Cuco" Juárez decidió hacer todos los cambios necesarios y así mantener los jugadores bien hidratados; salió Jonatán Rivas que se sintió enfermo y metió a Oscar "Flaco" Aguilar.

Ya con gente fresca en el campo los Earthquakes parecía que dominaban pues con pase de Francisco "Chicali" Huizar a Luna casi anotan el gol del empate; pero nada, pues el equipo visitante venía muy completo con una defensiva impenetrable.

Así con tiros de Tare, del "Flaco" Aguilar, de Huizar y de Luna se fue pasando el primer tiempo de juego; mientras que la portería de los Earthquakes defendida por López, era bombardeada por Brendan Grant, Aidan, Davi Dulinsky, y el medio central Peter Wilson, causán-



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Los San Quentin Earthquakes y los Outsiders disputándose el juego en la Lower Yard

dole dolores de cabeza al portero y a los defensas de Earthquakes.

El árbitro Marshall dio por terminado el primer tiempo, con marcador de uno a cero a favor de Outsiders.

Durante el descanso del medio tiempo, los jugadores de ambos equipos recibieron instrucciones por sus respectivos entrenadores y asistentes.

Crawford los motivaba mientras los asistentes Kerry Moller y Matt McClellan examinaron sus jugadores; mientras también Juárez y el técnico de los Earthquakes brevemente conversaron de algunas tácticas para el segundo tiempo.

A la señal del árbitro Marshall (un prisionero que voluntariamente hace ese delicado trabajo), se inició el segundo tiempo bajo un sol fatigante y en ausencia de la esperada brisa, típica de San Quentin.

Dominando el balón los mediocampistas Pramish y Tai de los Outsiders, le hacen un pase a Rohit Ramchandani que tiro a la puerta de Earthquakes, haciendo que López se lanzara para agarrar el balón casi al entrar en su lado derecho.

Al minuto 60 hubo otros cambios, salió Shadow y entro

Adamu Chan de los Earthquakes, y por parte de los Outsiders salió Ian Dempsey # 18 y entro Gustavo # 1.

Ambos porteros con los uniformes empolvados demostraron de que estaban hechos pues a pesar de tantos tiros a sus puertas el marcador seguio 1-0 Outsiders.

En el 70 entro Jorge Lopezmeza y salió Huizar; en un intento de Juárez para reforzar la delantera de los Earthquakes.

Pareció que la táctica de Juárez surtía efecto pues por medio de Ángel Villazan el equipo local hizo un pase alto a la cabeza de "Venado" Ramirez, que impactando el esférico casi le anota a los Outsiders; La porra local se quedó a medio celebrar; pues no entro el gol del empate, escuchándose solamente un "AAAAH" de descontento.

Insistiendo los locales en tiro de esquina de Adamu Chan pareció que la meteria Beltranchuc de cabeza; pero anticipándose el defensa de los visitantes que nuevamente en contraataque y dribleando de jugador a jugador el llevo la pelota a Davi Dubinsky que anoto el segundo gol de los Outsiders at minuto 89.

Y sin más acciones el árbitro dio por terminado el

partido quedando Outsiders 2-Earthquakes 0.

Como es costumbre en SQSP, los eventos deportivos aparte de competitivos son de enlace social para ayuda personal de los prisioneros y de experiencia única para los visitantes; así que formando un círculo en el campo de juego y entremezclados los jugadores y técnicos comparten palabras de apoyo y agradecimiento.

Tare Beltranchuc y Carlos Meza se turnan dirigiéndose a los visitantes en nombre del equipo, el haber venido a pasar la tarde en San Quentin.

Beltranchuc, les pregunta cómo les pareció la experiencia de visitar la prisión?

Davi Dubinsky, autor del segundo gol dijo, "I was a Little nervous to come with the team" "yo estaba un poco nervioso de venir con el equipo") What make you nervous? Que causo tus nervios? Pregunto Beltranchuc and Dubinsky added "I really didn't know what to expect" ("no sabia que esperar")

Kerry Moller, entrenador asistente de los visitantes dijo, "to me it was a great game" ("Para mí fue un gran partido").

Mano de obra barata en cárceles atraen la inversión de compañías extranjeras

Por Juan Espinosa
Diseñador gráfico y escritor

Empresas usan mano de obra barata en cárceles de Perú y Tailandia.

Una empresa de ropa danesa lanzó al mercado en el 2016 una línea de prendas llamada Carcel.

Esta línea de ropa debe su nombre al hecho de que las prendas son hechas por mujeres encarceladas en prisiones de Tailandia y Perú.

De acuerdo a un artículo publicado por Vox, esta empresa en Europa no se avergüenza de anunciar que las prendas son hechas en cárceles.

Vox citó comentarios de la revista de modas Vogue, que afirmó que en Perú la empresa danesa "está ayudando a las trabajadoras peruanas a encontrar su independencia".

Otra revista, I-D Vice aplaudió a la marca Carcel por darle a las mujeres encarceladas "una vida decente, un poco de dignidad, y la oportunidad de romper el círculo de pobreza y tráfico de drogas", según reportó Vox.

Sin embargo, Carcel ha recibido un torrente de críticas en las redes sociales por parte de personas que cuestionan las prácticas de la empresa y las tachan de explotadoras.

Ante esos comentarios Carcel mantiene su postura y alega que "le está dando oportunidades a mujeres marginalizadas que de otra manera no podrían tenerlas", citó Vox.

El pago que reciben las trabajadoras peruanas fluctúa entre los 650 a 1100 soles por mes, equivalentes a entre \$180 a 329 dólares por mes. De esa cantidad, la prisión deduce un 10% de los salarios y las prisioneras se quedan con una pequeña porción del pago. El resto del dinero va a las cuentas de banco de familiares.

Vox reportó que un "suéter hecho en Perú cuesta \$350 dólares, mucho más de lo que les pagan a la costureras en un mes".

Vox reportó que en un blog de la compañía se explicó que el costo de producir un suéter de lana es de aproximadamente \$99.40 dólares, una cifra mucho menor al precio final del suéter. El blog fue borrado del internet.

La ganancia es contradictoria con el análisis de la propia empresa, según el cual su margen de ganancia es de solo 2.8%.

En el 2018 la empresa entró al mercado asiático en la prisión para mujeres in Chiang Mai, Tailandia.

En esta prisión las mujeres encarceladas fabrican faldas de seda con la marca Thaimade. Producir una de estas prendas según la empresa le cuesta \$75.30 dólares, y el precio al mercado es de \$283 dólares. La ganancia neta es de aproximadamente 375%.

En las redes sociales se sigue cuestionando las prácticas de la empresa.

Un usuario en Facebook escribió, "Esto es como re-

nombrar y mercantilizar la justicia social, tomando la estética de su lenguaje y usándola para vender ropa", reportó Vox.

"Carcel ha sido comparada con diferentes anuncios de publicidad como Pepsi en Black Lives Matter, la cual ha usado mercadería similar para aumentar su publicidad y ganancias", dijo el usuario de Facebook citado por Vox.

Los críticos no cuestionan el que la compañía use mano de obra de encarceladas, el problema es cuánto les pagan. Esto no ayuda a aliviar la pobreza en países como en Perú o Tailandia sin abordar las causas "La criminalización por pobreza es la razón por la que (empresas como Carcel existen", dijo otro usuario de redes sociales citado por Vox.

Muchos de estos críticos alegan que aunque las intenciones de Carcel parecen ser buenas, los problemas de pobreza y encarcelamiento masivo no se pueden resolver por empresas privadas usando mano de obra carcelaria, especialmente cuando estos no son dueños de los frutos de su trabajo.

El artículo remarca que algunos problemas como la pobreza, la desigualdad y el encarcelamiento masivo son el resultado de un sistema económico y social que necesita cambiar el rumbo para enfocarse en el bienestar de todos.

Bạo Lực Của Hệ Thống Công Lý

VIETNAMESE

Tác giả Anthony
Manuel Carvalho
Hội Đoàn Tác Giả Nhà Báo

Cộng tố viên của San Francisco, ông George Gascon, người dẫn đầu trong phục hồi công lý và cải cách xã hội, lại một lần nữa đã thách thức cái hiện trạng (status quo).

Cuộc hội thảo Harry Frank Guggenheim lần thứ 14 tại John Jay College ở Nữ Ước, một cựu cảnh sát trưởng trở thành công tố viên đã diễn tả sự tống giam người vào tù địa phương lần đầu tiên bang như là chỗ vào "đại học tội phạm."

"Chúng ta còn bạo hành hơn là người chúng ta sợ," ông nói, "chúng ta tức giận phạm nhân và ném họ vào tù để lãng quên họ." Ông Gascon nghĩ đến Tòa Hàng Xóm (Neighborhood Court) mà ông đã thành lập năm 2012. Nó là một công lý

cộng đồng và có chức năng huấn luyện những tình nguyện viên trong xóm để xét xử những tội phạm nhỏ và bắt bạo hành.

Bằng cách trao quyền cho Tòa Hàng Xóm giải quyết những người phạm tội nhỏ và nạn nhân của họ sẽ đem lại sự hàn gắn cho cộng đồng và quá trình trị liệu cho những người có liên quan nhanh hơn.

Sau khi nghe xong vấn đề pháp lý, đại diện của Tòa Hàng Xóm đưa ra "chỉ thị" đến thủ phạm để sửa đổi. Theo bà Megan Hadley, hình phạt gồm có viết một lá thư xin lỗi hoặc bồi thường những thiệt hại đã gây ra.

Bà Hadley nói thêm rằng công tố viên tin là nạn nhân được thỏa mãn bởi vì họ được tham gia vào quá trình phục hồi công lý.

Nhưng không phải ai cũng đồng ý với cách trừng phạt mà ông Gascon đã hình dung khi ta sáng lập ra Tòa Hàng Xóm.

Thật ra, khi ông ta tái tranh cử vào năm 2014, nghiệp đoàn

cảnh sát, thu nhập và hưu trí của họ tùy thuộc vào khối tổ và bỏ tù, đã cố gắng tạo ra sự bất hòa chính trị bằng cách phân đôi qua làn sóng phát thanh địa phương và trên mạng xã hội.

The Crime Report cũng tiết lộ rằng lúc ông Gascon ra tái tranh cử, nghiệp đoàn đã lên tiếng, "Đừng có mong công tố viên sẽ làm được điều gì cho nạn nhân."

Khi phát biểu tại hội thảo, ông Gascon định nghĩa "đại học tội phạm" là sự nhận thức của quần chúng rằng những người phạm tội không phải là phần tử của xã hội. Cho nên tạo ra sự đối nghịch giữa hai bên. Từ tri kiến sai lầm ấy, những kẻ phạm bị bỏ xó và có lập đến nỗi không có cơ hội làm lại từ đầu.

Ông Gascon kết luận rằng, "Nếu tội phạm giảm xuống và tù giam không phải là nguyên do, thì tại sao chúng ta bỏ tù nhiều người như mức độ hiện nay. Tại sao?"

—Dịch giả: Dũng Trần

Report: Prison commissaries have legal monopoly

lack of competition results in soaring costs for prisoners

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

The costs taxpayers spend to incarcerate men and women are often augmented by prisoners and their families, according to a study by Prison Policy Initiative (PPI).

For the basic necessities state prisons do not provide, prisoners must find a way to fill this deficit. Prison commissaries are one method of transference of a state's obligation to care for prisoners. The result, more often than not, is the enrichment of private companies that provide packages to prisoners, PPI reported.

"Commissary operators have a legal monopoly," according to PPI, "so they don't have to worry about price competition, and thus do not incur costs associated with special sales or discounts."

PPI analyzed commissary sales in Illinois, Massachusetts and Washington and, "We found that incarcerated people in these states spent more on commissary than our previous research suggested, and most of that money goes to food and hygiene products."

"In Illinois and Massachusetts, incarcerated people spent an average of over \$1,000 per (prisoner) at

the commissary during the course of a year," PPI reported. "Per-person commissary sales for the three sampled states amounted to \$947, well over the typical amount incarcerated people can earn working regular prison jobs in these states (\$180 to \$660 per year)."

"Incarceration is becoming increasingly expensive — especially for those behind bars and their families"

"I remember when we could still get packages from home," said Steve 'Rhashiyd' Zinnamon, 53, a prisoner at San Quentin State Prison, who has been incarcerated since 1995. "That was their [his family's] way of supplementing to fill the void."

In California, personal packages mailed from home ended sometime between 2003 and 2004.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 15 states,

in part: "Inmate packages shall be ordered by inmates or their correspondents via a departmentally-approved inmate package vendor." There are similar provisions to purchase items on the prison commissary or canteen.

"For many people in prison, their meager earnings go right back to the prison commissary, not unlike the sharecroppers and coal miners who were forced to use the 'company store,'" PPI reported.

"You got people that don't even have a pay number (job) so they can't even go to the store," said inmate Eric Post, 54. He also said the price of items on canteen lists in California have increased, but inmate wages have not kept pace with inflation over the years.

According to PPI, when prisoners' wages can't cover the cost of canteen items, they have to turn to family members to send money to their prison trust accounts, which means "families are effectively forced to subsidize the prison system."

Those who have no outside support can't afford the canteen. Some turn to prison "underground" economy and the barter system.

Inmates who arrive in California prison reception

centers receive a "fish kit" that generally contains a roll of toilet paper, a four-inch toothbrush, a finger-size tube of toothpaste, a comb, a golf pencil, a small bar of soap and a single-blade razor. All food is served in prison dining halls.

"Not surprisingly, food dominates the sales reports," PPI reported, adding "prison and jail cafeterias are notorious for serving small portions of unappealing food. Another leading problem with prison food is inadequate nutritional content."

For a price, a prison commissary can serve as a supplement to the deficiency of calories in dining halls, but "it does not compensate for poor quality," PPI reported. "No fresh food is available, and most commissary food items are heavily processed. Snacks and ready-to-eat food are major sellers, which is unsurprising given that many people need more food than the prison provides, and the easiest — if not only — alternatives are ramen and candy bars."

"The poorest people in prison, such as those considered 'indigent' by the state, spend little to nothing at the commissary," PPI reported.

Some California prisoners whose families can afford

to make deposits on a loved one's prison trust account refuse to do so because of the exorbitant percentage of restitution fines imposed by sentencing courts and deducted by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Terry Kitchen, 33, said he used to shop at the prison canteen when restitution was 22 percent. "Because restitution is so high, they're robbing from my family," he said.

In the last 20 years, the CDCR has raised the percentage of restitution deductions from inmate trust accounts from 22 percent to 33 percent, 44 percent, reaching its current 55 percent. And, up until a couple of months ago, inmates were charged a \$5 copayment for requesting healthcare services.

"Incarceration is becoming increasingly expensive — especially for those behind bars and their families," PPI reported. "While prisons find new ways to shift the costs of corrections to incarcerated people (think medical copays and pay-to-stay fees), vendors are aggressively pushing new digital products that will further monetize incarcerated people."

The PPI study also outlined the expansive nature

of other monopoly contracts given exclusively to vendors serving "a captive market."

"You got people that don't even have a pay number (job) so they can't even go to the store"

"In the long term, when incarcerated people can't afford goods and services vital to their well-being, society pays the price. In the short term, however, these costs are falling on families, who are overwhelmingly poor and disproportionately come from communities of color," PPI concluded. "If the cost of food and soap is too much for states to bear, they should find ways to reduce the number of people in prison, rather than nickel-and-dime incarcerated people and their families."

Prison Policy Initiative is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 2001 to expose the broader harm of mass criminalization and spark advocacy campaigns to create a more just society.

State auditor reports CDCR has been unsuccessful in rehabilitation needs

By Aron Roy
and Kevin D. Sawyer
Staff Writers

A new study by California's state auditor reported that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has failed to meet the rehabilitative needs for more than half of inmates released.

The study indicated that the CDCR has been unsuccessful in its efforts to place inmates in proper rehabilitation programs. This situation leads to many inmates paroling from prison without needs being met that contribute to high recidivism—reintegration being the most problematic.

"Corrections has neither consistently placed inmates on waiting lists for needed rehabilitation programs nor prioritized those with the highest need correctly," State Auditor Elaine Howle reported. "Although the number of inmates housed in state prisons has decreased in recent years, recidivism rates for inmates in California have remained stubbornly high, averaging around 50 percent over the past decade."

The report found that in fiscal year 2017–18, Corrections failed to meet the rehabilitative needs of 62 percent of the inmates who'd been assessed at risk to recidivate.

California defines recidivism as conviction of a new crime within the three year period after individuals are released from custody.

"Because the Legislature provided Corrections with a significant budget increase so that it could expand rehabilitation programs to all prisons in the state, it is vital that Corrections demonstrate

that the additional investment was worthwhile," Howle said in a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom and lawmakers.

The state's rehabilitation budget went from \$64 million in 2013 to about \$300 million in 2018, according to *Courthouse News Service (CNS)*.

"We take the state auditor's findings seriously and have already implemented, or are in the process of implementing, most of the recommendations," stated CDCR press secretary Vicky Waters in an email to CNS. Waters' email also noted the data used in the audit predates the department's expansion of rehabilitation programming and new methods used to assess the success of those programs.

The 71-page audit, published in January 2019, stated that the CDCR's "poor administrative practices have hindered reductions in recidivism and denied inmates access to in-prison rehabilitation programs."

According to the report, inmates may not be receiving needed rehabilitation programs because the CDCR is having difficulty fully staffing the programs at all of its prisons.

The audit asserted that the department needs to collect additional data and take steps to ensure it delivers cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) programs to inmates in all of its prisons. But the report also concluded that inmates who completed these in-prison programs "recidivated at about the same rate as inmates who did not complete the programs."

"The audit only analyzed one type of rehabilitation program known as cognitive behavioral therapy and did not analyze any restorative

justice programs or victim awareness programs," wrote Adnan Khan in CALmatters. He paroled from San Quentin earlier this year after spending more than 15 years locked up.

Khan wrote that his rehabilitation benefits came from San Quentin's college program and the self-help groups he attended. He said these programs were not funded, nor run by, the CDCR. "Rather, they were provided by nonprofit grassroots organizations and volunteers who would come in (to the prison) weekly to support us."

Unlike many CDCR prisons, Khan wrote, "San Quentin had a rehabilitative culture." But he also pointed out that a culture of power and control hovered "like dark clouds." Contributing to this culture are random searches, pat downs, abusive controlling language and verbal disrespect which "reminded us constantly that we were incarcerated, a separate class that, in the view of some, is not fully human."

In response, Michele Hanisee, the president of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, said, "If we are releasing more people from prisons and jails and the recidivism rate is the same, as the audit shows, the effort is a disaster."

Upon arrival at a state prison reception center, incarcerated individuals have their rehabilitative needs assessed and the information is used to place them in necessary classes.

San Quentin resident Emerald "Nunu" Kemp-Aikens is involved in the substance abuse disorder treatment program, but he does not believe that he needs to be enrolled. "On the street, I don't do

drugs except weed," he said. "They assigned me 'cause I told them I smoke weed in that packet in reception. In the class there's a bunch of guys talkin' 'bout crystal, heroin—stuff I don't do."

The first tool, the California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) score, is derived from a person's prior criminal history. The second, Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS), measures an incarcerated person's need for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and vocational education. Finally, Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE), measures an inmate's need for academic education programs.

Although the TABE test was validated by an outside agency in 2017, COMPAS has not undergone review since 2010 and CSRA had not been reviewed since 2013.

"One potential reason why our overall analysis did not find that CBT rehabilitation programs are related to reductions in recidivism is that Corrections has not revalidated the accuracy of the tools it uses to assess inmates' rehabilitative needs since recent statutory changes caused a major shift in the State's prison population," the report stated.

Underutilization of enrollment capacity is another factor identified in the report, with a three-prison review revealing that, on average, only 76 percent of the seats in CBT classes are occupied.

Despite the criticism and low enrollment rates, the CDCR has expanded CBT, academic, and vocational programs to all 36 state prisons. The CBT programs introduced consist of four

classes: Substance abuse disorder treatment, anger management, criminal thinking and family relationships.

In 2011, federal courts ordered California to reduce its prison population to 137.5% of prison design capacity. Since then, changes in the law such as AB 109 "Realignment," Propositions 36, 47 and 57 have afforded many inmates the opportunity for early release.

"The prospect of early release of dangerous prisoners who haven't undergone any meaningful rehabilitation is positively unnerving," said Hanisee.

The audit made recommendations "to ensure that inmates with the highest risks and needs are wait-listed, prioritized, and assigned appropriately." It said the CDCR should do the following:

- Require correctional counselors to place inmates onto waiting lists once they have five years or less on their sentences.

- Update its waiting list system to prioritize inmates with rehabilitative needs and risks in its target population.

- Assign inmates to rehabilitation programs in accordance with its policies.

In a statement, CDCR press secretary Vicky Waters said rehabilitation will continue to be a top priority to make sure inmates get the skills and education they need to transition back to their communities, CNS reported.

Ronald Joseph Lum Jr., a participant in San Quentin's substance abuse disorder treatment and anger management classes, offered his observation that since his teacher Ms. Rivera left the program, the instructors have been inconsistent.



Photo Courtesy of State Auditors website
State Auditor Elaine Howle

Lum said, There has been a revolving door of fill-in teachers who are not familiar with the curriculum, so the flow of the curriculum has been disrupted. Because of that, some students in the class are helping to guide the class forward.

"The group never knows where we're going to start or continue in the curriculum day to day," Lum explained, "[So] the people who are taking the group seriously take control of the group and continue with the curriculum."

Although the state of rehabilitative programs in California state prisons could use improvement, some incarcerated people say they undeniably benefit from CBT programs.

"I feel that these classes will keep me from coming back to prison," Lum says. What he's learned in these programs has taught him why he came to prison in the first place. "I'm greatly and highly honored and privileged to have these classes."

East Oakland Times publisher Tio MacDonald

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Many people in the San Quentin writing community are familiar with *East Oakland Times* and its publisher, Tio MacDonald. Dime after dime goes to his Global Tel-Link account to keep in telephone contact with the more than 120 people in his literary group of incarcerated people all over the state.

A few months ago, I got my hands on one of his publications, *Learning Curve*, by Death Row inmate Johnny Duane Miles. The story was powerful, but it was the preface really caught my attention.

JH: In the Introduction of *Learning Curve*, you said that you correspond with around 120 inmates. How do you manage that?

TM: *The East Oakland Times* is a full-time endeavor.

I accept calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. In 2018, I spent over 740 hours on the phone with incarcerated people. The only way I could imagine creating literary works beneficial for both citizens and inmates was to be fully available to the people willing to work with me.

Many people call just to talk. Death Row inmates have a profound need for relationships outside of prison. My work is a balance between an act of compassion for individuals and a concentrated effort to develop writings of literary and public merit.

JH: What have you learned about taking risks in telling the stories of incarcerated people?

TM: I believe that, as people, it is in taking risks that we move forward. By risk, I mean anything done for the sake of others' happiness or well-being, because, the most important lesson from my interactions with incarcerated people includes writing,

phone calls, and visits to now over 25 people, is to take risk.

The *East Oakland Times* is a type of Northern California built in a garage production. The currency at this point that keeps the lights on is the relationships I have formed with people, primarily incarcerated people. The risk I took to write my student and then to reach out to people at San Quentin and other prisons has been for me a verification of the adage that it is better to give than receive. I understand that all people have needs, and here in California we also have wants, but life ultimately is in considerable proportion about how we treat and respect others.

JH: Why are you interested in the stories of incarcerated people?

TM: I pursued my correspondence with the incarcerated knowing two things, the reputation of present-day San Quentin as a rehabilitation-focused penal institution that heavily emphasizes the liberal and creative arts and that

I wanted to create a publication with incarcerated writers. I had never interacted with persons in prison before reaching out to a student of mine, who is imprisoned with a life sentence. Through correspondence, I began to meet the incarcerated people with whom I would produce a collection of uplifting stories for the people of East Oakland. The work was called *Rehabilitation* and has been distributed by hand, without cost to the recipients, to over 200 people on the streets of East Oakland.

After *Rehabilitation*, a few dedicated incarcerated ghostwriters and I developed the *My Crime Series*, which is a collection of biographies on the incarcerated. These stories are meant to candidly communicate the upbringing, life experience, character and motivations of the incarcerated in order to grant the broader public an understanding of the men and women in California prisons.

In my interactions with the incarcerated, I came to learn of the life experiences of men and women in prison. I was shocked to hear of the abuses, influences, temptations and life experiences of many incarcerated people. The *My Crime series* is meant to produce empathy for the sake of California citizens' better understanding and better evaluation of who the incarcerated are and why each is in prison. The *My Crime series* accomplishes several goods in that the stories shed light on the mitigating factors contributing to crime in California and the subjects telling their stories gain a sense of giving back.

JH: What is public's interest in stories from incarcerated people?

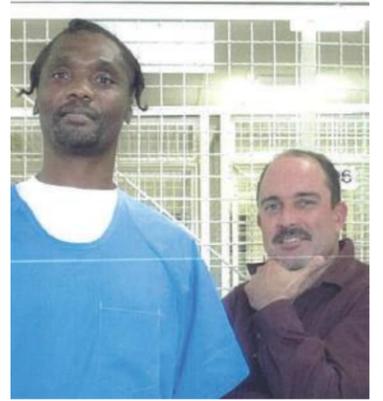


Photo Courtesy of Tio MacDonald

Duane Miles & Tio MacDonald

TM: The reviews on the *My Crime series* as well as *Learning Curve*, have been favorable. Looking at the incredible impact of the podcast, *Ear Hustle* has had is encouraging. I aim to create 20 *My Crime series* books so a wide range of life experiences can be brought to public attention.

NEWS BRIEFS

1. Vermont—The ACLU of Vermont and the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at Harvard Law School filed a class action lawsuit challenging the state's refusal to treat hundreds of inmates with Hepatitis C, Vermont Business Magazine reports. The lawsuit claims that the inmates are systematically denied medication that would cure their chronic Hepatitis C, which they claim violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act. The inmates are asking the court to end prison officials' policy of categorically denying effective, efficient and medically appropriate treatment.

2. Michigan, Jackson—Hakim Crampton was charged with homicide in Milwaukee in 1991 on another person's false confession. Crampton spent 15 years in prison before he was granted parole, after working to prove his innocence, *WLNS* reports. More than 10 years later, he's collaborated with schools across Michigan and built a curriculum called SLAM that helps kids stay engaged with their work through poetry and lyrics.

3. Illinois—In late January, prison staff removed dozens of books from the Danville prison library *Illinois Public Media* reports. The titles include "Visiting Day," a children's book about visiting a parent in prison by author, Jacqueline Woodson; two titles written by Black scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., a book by philosopher Cornel West, "Up From Slavery" by Booker T. Washington, and "Mapping Your Future: A Guide to Successful Reentry 2017-2018" written by the college in prison program's reentry team. A majority of the books removed from the program's library are about race.

4. Michigan—A federal judge ruled that the state's sex offender registry is unconstitutional — the registry lets the public see local offenders in their area, *CNN*



reports. The judge gave officials until September to bring the registry to constitutional levels.

5. Arizona—Prisoners are billed for medical procedures that should be billed to the state, *KJZZ* reports. The charges show up on credit reports, which add to returning citizens' challenges.

6. New York—Prison officials cite a drop in crime as well as incarceration rates for the closure of two prisons, the *Daily News* reports. The Lincoln Correctional Facility, located at the northern edge of Central Park is scheduled to close before September. The Livingston Correctional Facility in upstate New York is also scheduled to be closed, prison officials say.

7. Oklahoma—*Mother Jones* reports that last year, Oklahoma beat out Louisiana for the label the "world's prison capital" by incarcerating a higher proportion of its residents than any other state or country. Lawmakers and concerned Oklahomans seek to reform the state's criminal justice system. Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt campaigned on a promise to reduce the prison population, however, the state's prison population is expected grow by 14% over the next decade, according to an analysis by *FWD.us*, an immigration and criminal justice reform advocacy group co-founded by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

8. Oregon—A judge last May ordered the state to house a transgender female inmate in a cell separate from male inmates and to protect her from harassment, *Oregon Live* reports. The decision is believed to be a first in the state at a men's prison.

Florida county jail injury

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

A mentally ill prisoner at the Broward County Jail in Florida used a razor to commit an act of self-mutilation, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

"I have a real medical emergency," the prisoner, who goes

by the initials J.I., told an officer. "I just cut off my penis and flushed it down the toilet. I have no need for it anymore."

J.I. was sent to solitary confinement for yelling at staff and had been there for 112 days prior to the incident. Even before his placement in solitary confinement he exhibited

abnormal behavior -- he refused to eat or take his medication and had public masturbation episodes.

These behaviors were red flags that the doctors overseeing J.I.'s care failed to notice. J.I.'s medical files contained little information about his status and, as his mental state declined, his treatment plan was not updated. Prisoners in solitary are isolated in a cell roughly the size of a parking space. These conditions are often consequential for an individual's mental health, which should be assessed and monitored before placement in solitary. J.I. was not assessed before his placement in solitary, according to the ACLU.

J.I.'s self-mutilation was only one case involving prisoners with mental health issues at the Broward County Jail. One prisoner diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder starved himself to death. Months before, another prisoner starved to death—standing six-foot-two-inches tall and weighing 240 pounds at his arrest, he weighed a mere 120 pounds at his death.

Prior to J.I.'s mutilation, a court-appointed expert issued a report finding life-threatening shortcomings with the jail's mental health program, citing a failure to exclude patients with serious mental illness from solitary confinement. The expert concluded that the mistreatment and neglect of those with mental illness at the jail was "absolutely inhumane." The ACLU has filed a civil rights lawsuit on behalf of the prisoners at Broward County Jail.

A comprehensive plan to remedy the problems has been crafted but must be approved by a federal judge before it is implemented. Once approved, those with serious mental health issues will be excluded from solitary, treatment plans will be developed, and patients will be placed in psychiatric hospitals rather than being housed at the county jail.

By: Aimee Gana & Paige Linville
California Institution for Women (CIW)

There is always a story behind a story. There is much to be said about each of the participants who invested their time and emotions sharing intensely personal stories about how lives are affected by crime during the Transformative Justice Symposium held on Oct 5-6, 2018 at the California Institution for Women (CIW).

The first day of the event consisted of survivors and offenders exchanging personal experiences about trauma and resilience. Participants were arranged in small circles of two to three offenders, two to three victim survivors and three to four community members.

If you were there, you could feel how eager offenders were to share their insights but at the same time, concerned about the emotional state of the survivors and whether what they wanted to say would re-traumatize them. Victim survivors also approached the event with a desire to be honest, yet aware of the impact that their words would have on incarcerated people.

For some of the crime survivors, it may not have necessarily provided closure, but it brought many of them a sense of peace. One survivor shared, "My experience was filled with deep meaning. In some ways we are all damaged goods in need of repair. One person in our group was still in the healing process. At first, I didn't see a benefit for those from within to experience her negative emotion. Then I realized that maybe she was not there for the prisoners but for her healing journey, which is equally important. I learned that those who come in are sometimes a gift for those within, while others are an assignment to help them heal. I witnessed no judgment toward the victim from the four girls in our circle. In fact, I saw deep sensitivity and care. Overall, it was truly an amazing experience, I got to sit with a group of humans that need love, acceptance and compassion."

The trauma that brought everyone to the event was painful to relive and witness, but the support offered by others was also deeply healing. Noteworthy was when one of the law students said that the picture she had in her head after the first day was that of an offender being held and hugged by Nora, one of the crime survivors, as the offender emotionally shared her story. Nora looked her in the eye and said, "I forgive you." This moment was life-changing for the offender, survivor and observers.

The second day of the symposium focused on policy. The two main issues discussed were the needs of survivor family members when the person responsible for the crime was never arrested, and also the impact of criminal justice reform on all stakeholders. Each topic was introduced by both survivor and offender speakers, then discussed.

The sharing of the first day was used as the foundation for an honest conversation about how restorative justice practices can help to guide criminal justice reform towards healing rather than retribution. Many unmet needs were identified including: more extensive services for survivor family members, greater transparency throughout the criminal justice process, more information on offenders' in-prison behavior, and increased responsiveness to the actual needs of everyone affected by crime.

The symposium was a great avenue of healing for all sides. For offenders, it was an opportunity to take responsibility for what they did and to show genuine remorse. Crime survivors and community members came with questions that were of importance for their healing and safety. For instance, some of them mentioned they would feel some kind of peace when they find out that an offender shows signs of rehabilitation. When an offender is shown to be working on their personal growth, it is easier for survivors to accept the possibility of their re-entry into society.

This event was the result of a collaboration between RE:STORE JUSTICE, the CIW Administration, CDCR's Office of Victim's Rights & Services, and Healing Hearts Restoring Hope. It consisted of over sixty individuals including offenders, victim survivors, district attorneys, law students, and representatives of advocacy groups.



SPORTS @ THE Q

In depth with All Madden Football's Dwight Kennedy



Photo by Eddie Herena

Dwight Kennedy

By Aaron Taylor
Sports Editor

Dwight Kennedy, 45 years old, from San Diego, was convicted of Possession of a Firearm and received 25 years-to-life under the

California Three Strikes Act in 1999. As of the date of this interview, he was still awaiting his Prop 57 updated paperwork.

Last season, he became the head coach of the San Quentin All Madden Flag Football team, and I caught him as he was about to begin his workout routine on the lower yard.

AT: What keeps you focused as coach with the All-Madden team?

DK: The young guys coming out to play. And my family as well.

AT: What do you mean by "the young guys"? Do you see yourself as a mentor?

DK: Yes.

AT: In what way?

DK: I'm always teaching life skills, showing them a better way in this community as well as when they get back home.

AT: What drives you? I mean, you haven't, as of this interview, received any relief from Prop 57, so, what makes you go out of your way to help others?

DK: God gives us a spirit of love and to see young men get to a better place. And I try to help them get there by exhibiting that love. That's what drives me. It doesn't matter what the state has or hasn't done for me with the law, I'm still going to give of myself because that's what I'm called to do. This is bigger than prison, man! This is about life and I'm going to assist no matter where I am!

AT: That's cool. We need more people who feel like you in the system to get involved. Who are some of your role models in sports?

DK: Walter Payton, off the top. His legacy speaks for itself on and off the field. Magic Johnson is someone doing phenomenal work with youth and mentoring in the communities where it's needed. His life is a testament to falling from the highest in sports,

to rising higher in his humanitarian efforts. Larry Fitzgerald is another person I see in the eyes of the Lord for his on and off the field character.

AT: What school did you go to in San Diego?

DK: Point Loma High School.

AT: Name some players who went pro from the greater San Diego area that you've sought to emulate on the field.

DK: Marcus Allen, Terrell Davis, Marshall Faulk, Junior Seau, Tony Gwynn, Rahsaan Salaam.

AT: So, you come from a long line of San Diego athletics?

DK: Definitely. It's more than that but you caught me during my workout and I can't think right now. (We both laugh at this comment)

AT: What educational opportunities have you taken here at The Q?

DK: PUP, I'm a 2009-10 graduate, received an Associate Liberal Arts degree..

AT: What about self-help groups?

DK: Multiple... almost all of them.

AT: Name some.

DK: Victim Offender Education Group, Restorative Justice, No More Tears, Criminals and Gangsters Anonymous and Prison Employment Connection. Also Non-violent Communication, I II & III and Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things (I.M.P.A.C.T.) That group was profound even though it no longer exists. Some others as well.

AT: From your perspective, how has the overall sports program here at The Q helped people in their rehabilitation?

DK: I think it involves individuals exhibiting who they are on the field or court... they expose their authentic selves. Now, that could be positive or negative and it's not always associated with group participation. Sometimes? Some people have emotional intelligence that's more elevated than others. Add to that, the focus on rehabilitation is what buoys a person to recognize the need for some self-correction. Sports instills discipline, self-dignity, honor and respect for others. That's the foundation for rehabilitation.

AT: Okay, fun time. You get to name your All Star All Time NFL Football team...but, you can only

pick White players. (As Coach Kennedy knew from previous interviews, this question isn't racial in origin but a way of narrowing the choices to test his knowledge of the league.)

Let's go position-by-position:

DK: Oh damn, really? All White? Okay, QB: Montana and Peyton Manning. RB: Mike Alstott and John Riggins. FB: Rocky Blier. TE: Jay Novacek and Mark Bavaro. WR: Dwight Clark; Steve Largent; Chris Collingsworth; Wes Welker and Julian Edelman. KR: Ed McCaffery Jr.

DE: Howie Long and Merlin Olsen. DT: Lyle Alzado. LB: Keuchly; Carl Mecklenberg; Jack Ham and Jack Youngblood. Safeties: Mark Kelso and John Lynch. DB: Jason Sehorn and Eric Weddle. K: Adam Vinateri. P: Ray Guy

AT: That was tough. It only took you an hour and a half and 15 people helping you out!

DK: That was hard as hell. (Laughing)

AT: Okay, you have the closing statement.

DK: "In all that you say and do? Believe in yourself."

AT: Thanks coach, I appreciate you taking time from your workout to do this.

DK: You're welcome.

Henderson hits a homer in San Quentin on her first pitch



Photo Courtesy of

Emily Henderson holding her home run ball

Leonard F. Brown
Journalism Guild Writer

Emily Henderson, on her first visit to San Quentin State Prison to play softball, hit a 300ft home run into left field. She set a record as the first woman to ever hit a homerun in softball at The Q.

Henderson, a high school coach, said she came in to the prison because, "Any opportunity I get to play softball, I am there."

It was the first pitch to Henderson, the second batter in the first inning of the May 5 game against the Hardtimers, whose 28-7 victory was eclipsed by the homer.

California NFL Draft Picks

OAKLAND RAIDERS

1st Round:

#4 Colin Ferrell DE

Clemson

#24 Josh Jacobs RB

Alabama

#27 Jonathan Abram S

Mississippi State

2nd Round:

#40 Trayvon Mullen CB

Clemson

4th Round:

#106 Maxx Crosby DE

Eastern Michigan

#129 Isaiah Johnson CB

Houston

#137 Foster Moreau TE

LSU

5th Round:

#149 Hunter Renfrow WR

Clemson

7th Round:

#230 Quinton Bell DE

Prairieview A&M

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

1st Round:

#2 Nick Bosa DE

Ohio State

2nd Round:

#36 Deebo Samuel WR

South Carolina

3rd Round:

#67 Jalen Hurst WR

Baylor

4th Round:

#110 Mitch Wishnowsky P

Utah

5th Round:

#148 Dre Greenlaw LB

Arkansas

6th Round:

#176 Kaden Smith TE

Stanford

#183 Justin Skule T

Vanderbilt

#198 Tim Harris CB

Virginia

LOS ANGELES RAMS

2nd Round:

#61 Taylor Rapp S

Washington

3rd Round:

#70 Darrell Henderson RB

Memphis

#79 David Long CB

Michigan

#97 Bobby Evans OT

Oklahoma

4th Round:

#134 Greg Gaines DT

Washington

5th Round:

#169 David Edwards T

Wisconsin

6th Round:

#243 Nick Scott S

Penn State

#251 Dakota Allen LB

Texas Tech

LA CHARGERS

1st Round:

#28 Jerry Tillery DT

Notre Dame

2nd Round:

#60 Nasir Adderly S

Delaware

3rd Round:

Trey Pipkins OT

Sioux Falls

4th Round:

#130 Drue Tranquill LB

Notre Dame

6th Round:

#200 Emeke Egbule LB

Houston

7th Round:

#242 Cortez Broughton DT

Cincinnati

THE SKINNY

The Cardinals, with the #1 pick, get Kyler Murray? He breaks all the stereotypes at QB and trading Josh Rosen was a good move... Washington getting OSU QB Dwayne Haskins at #15: you have to wonder what the G-Men were thinking (or not) passing on Haskins and picking Jones from Duke with the 6th overall pick, the same Jones who threw 9 interceptions in one game, while Haskins threw for 50 TD's in his final NCAA season...

The Raiders, drafting two defensive players in the first round (6 of 9 overall) had the best draft in at least two decades. If you're a Raider fan and John Gruden is looking like a "savant" for trading Kahlil Mack last season? We'll see what happens with that. The AFC- West just got interesting.

—Aaron Taylor

Did he really say that? Nick Bosa's tweet about Colin Kaepernick

So, the #2 overall first round draft pick, defensive end Nick Bosa, as a high school student, supported then candidate Donald J. Trump. Is that bad? No, of course not.

There are many people who supported then candidate Trump, who just wanted to see a change in the political environment in America.

Let's be fair, even if we disagree with his opinion, okay? We're not ones to judge others, are we? Of course not.

But, there's that pesky tweet where he called Colin Kaepernick a 'clown'. A 'clown'?

Because Kaep took a first amendment right to protest police brutality?

For kneeling during the national anthem to draw attention to the issue since others were completely ignoring it?

Was that a clownish statement, position to take, or view to have? Of course not.

Many of us are very supportive of Kaep and appreciate him putting himself on the line to highlight the situation.

He's the millennial version of Muhammad Ali.

Here's a way to look at this if you're a 49er fan, and you want to support your team, but you have serious issues with what the young Mr. Bosa called #Imwith-Kaep:

Many of us were risk takers in high school, just think back.

We've all said some numskull, childish, immature, stupid, idiotic, moronic, not well thought out, insensitive, uninformed and buffoonish things while we were young and still in grade school. Just like Nick Bosa.

In a sense, he's just like the rest of us, right?

Thankfully, he's in the Bay Area now and can be exposed to what life is really like, where people who may not agree with each other's lifestyles and choices learn to get along and co-exist and be tolerant of each other as Americans citizens.

Maybe he's changed since high school... maybe. Let's hope so, for his and our sake.

—Aaron Taylor

The documentary Q Ball premieres at San Quentin

“My first visit to The Q with the Warriors was an experience I will never forget”

**By Steve Brooks
Contributing Writer**

On a rainy Wednesday evening in the middle of May, *Q Ball* premiered in the Protestant chapel. The documentary chronicles the lives of some members of the San Quentin Warriors.

Two-time NBA Champion Kevin Durant is its executive producer through his company, Thirty Five Ventures.

“My first visit to The Q with the Warriors was an experience I will never forget,” Durant wrote via e-mail. “Despite their circumstances, the men were using basketball as a positive force and a way to keep going, which was really remarkable. With this documentary, we wanted to tell their stories... using basketball as the lens.”

“It’s an amazing film that creates a conversation about mass incarceration,” said the film’s producer, Rebecca Ferguson of Heist Projects.

As the film began for the 120-plus men and members of the production team from Heist Projects, Fox Sports and CNN, it didn’t disappoint.

It began with a heart-pounding, adrenaline-pumping, real-life 4 on 2 fight scene on The Q’s lower yard. That was followed by compelling images of blood soaked floors and chalked outlines of bodies; pictures of Charles Manson, Sirhan Sirhan and other notorious criminals and images of SQ’s infamous death row. Vivid images of ancient torture chambers are displayed on screen—a stark reminder of how dark this world can be during his monologue.

“SQ is a place where torture chambers were once used to rehabilitate people,” Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson states.

The film stars Rafael Cuevas, who coached the SQ Warriors for two seasons (2017-18); recently paroled Harry “ATL” Smith; Chaplain Mardi Jackson;

Anthony Ammons, who was serving more than 100 years for a gang related murder before receiving a commutation from then Gov. Jerry Brown, reducing his sentence; Allen McIntosh, in for a gun possession; and play by play announcer Aaron “Showtime” Taylor, both whom are currently waiting for release through passage of Prop 57.

All of the men use their love of the game to help cope with the reality of serving long prison sentences. Each of these men goes through a process of discovering that basketball is more than just a game.

“Many of the guys should have been playing Division-I basketball for some college, but for whatever reason—like many of us—we ended up here,” Taylor says in the film.

“Sports is always teaching life lessons that are bigger than what’s on the court,” said Mike Tolajian, the film’s producer. “*Q Ball* ended up being about these individuals’ journey to become better men.”

Tolajian received financing from Thirty Five Ventures, which signed him on to produce the feature film which aired on FSI on May 28th, 2019.

Throughout this film there is laughter and applause.

Rahsaan Thomas reminisces about touching the NBA Championship trophy—“Neither Barkley nor Ewing got to touch it, but we got to party with that thing when the SQ Warriors beat the Warriors.”

The Q’s resident heckler, Caesar McDowell, stands on the sideline, calling the GS Warrior players “bums.”

Taylor explains how he gives each player a nickname suited to their style of play on the court.

“McIntosh is ‘PTSB’ (Programmed To Score Baskets) because he’s the all-time leading scorer for the Warriors. Smith is ‘The Phenom’ because I had never

seen a guy like him in prison with his natural physical build and potential to get out and actually make it as a pro player. Ammons is ‘½ Man ½ Amazing’ for his ability to slash to the basket. Fournette is ‘Swaggy Smooth’ due to his effortless way of using his Euro-step to elude defenders on his way to a lay-up or dunk.”

There are also several moments in this film where the room becomes eerily silent.

As Cuevas relives the killing of Tim Griffith at Giants Stadium, original TV news footage and the tears of Griffith’s mother are shown onscreen, making this moment extremely raw and emotional.

Other sad moments in this film occur when Ammons talks about why he became involved with gangs and when Smith’s mother cries as she relives the moment of her son’s arrest, a son she thought had a promising NBA career ahead of him.

The soulful music of Eric “Maserati E” Abercrombie helps to capture the essence of what this film is about during those moments.

“There has to be a place that allows people the opportunity to redeem themselves,” LT. Robinson suggests. “The reality is 90% of California inmates are going to get out of prison. The question is, who do you want living next door to you: someone who has truly been rehabilitated? Or someone worse than they were when they entered the system?”

Ammons stated, after watching *Q Ball*, that he was excited about the future.

“I am excited about the film. I hope it changes kids’ lives, and show the world that we that committed crimes can better ourselves and become better men and citizens. But I also acknowledge those that come in every Saturday. Pat Lacy, Teon Connors, Pastor Miguel and Griffin take time



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

Members of the San Quentin general population, Heist Projects and CNN watching *Q Ball*.

from their families to teach us humanity. Giving yourself teaches us about humanity. It is not about money that changes people’s lives.”

McIntosh was asked about his favorite memory. “My most memorable moment? Getting a rebound dunk with Bob Myers, Warriors general manager, looking up at me and me holding the NBA trophy with Curt Jacob.”

Asked about Mark Jackson, Warriors former head coach McIntosh said, “He has unbelievable passing skills.”

Jamal Green, who was thinking of quitting the team during filming, changed his mind when he saw Golden State Warriors GM Bob Myers wearing a SQ Warriors jersey during a post-game interview. Green said, “Being a Warrior has been life changing, providing me with a platform that has been rewarding.”

SQ Warrior Dejon Joy was reflective: “I grew up in a really tough neighborhood in San Diego. When I came out to play basketball, they told me I had next. And I am still waiting. I didn’t really play until I came to jail. In here, it has been my compass. When I say compass, it gives me direction away from the

drama, prison politics and the everyday prison (expletive).”

Q Ball’s overall lesson teaches that basketball, and team sports in general, can help facilitate rehabilitation. Sports brings people together of all races and social classes who otherwise may never meet. It provides a sense of family, community and a strong support system where people can confide in one another. It can help build character and life skills that can be transferred into the real world.”

The film takes its audience on an emotional journey toward understanding the thing many people don’t understand: everyone has a story, and many of these stories can touch the soul. This film moves you. It makes you feel natural, human emotion. And it makes you believe in redemption.

—Salvatore Solorio, Leonard Brown and Malik Ali – all of the Journalism Guild – contributed to this story.



Photo by Eddie Herena

Mike Tolajian & Harry Smith during the filming of *Q Ball*

San Quentin A’s Statistical Round Up



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
M. Stone

By Aaron Taylor and Anthony Manuel Carvalho

GAMES (as of 5/25/2019)

- #1 Mission-4 A’s -16
- #2 Rockies-5 A’s -17
- #2 Barons-6 A’s -13
- #4 Rockies-4 A’s -8
- #5 Dealers-4 A’s -18

TOTAL RUNS:

72--14.4rpg

BATTING AVERAGE:

M. Stone	.625
A. Thurman	.565
A. Denard	.500
J. Navarro	.500
R. Stockton	.500

HITS:

C. Russelle	9
A. Thurman	9

B. Riddle-Terrell	7
J. Navarro	7
RBI's:	
A. Thurman	10
J. Navarro	8
B. Riddle-Terrell	7
HOME RUNS:	
A. Thurman	3
J. Navarro	2
B. Riddle-Terrell	1
L. Olden	1

RUNS:	
A. Thurman	12
C. Russelle	9
J. Navarro	7
ON BASE %:	
M. Stone	.826
T. Halfin	.750
A. Denard	.750
J. Navarro	.665

DOUBLES:	
C. Russelle	3
R. Stockton	3
A. Denard	3

TRIPLES:	
A. Thurman	1
A. Denard	1

3-RUN HOMER RUN:	
J. Navarro	1

PITCHING LEADERS:	
A. Thurman	1

WINS	
R. Polzein	3



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN

C. Russelle

R. Rose	2
INNINGS PITCHED	
R. Polzein	15
R. Rose	13
G. Townes	7
HITS ALLOWED:	
R. Polzein	5
R. Rose	7
G. Townes	8

ERA:

R. Rose	.055
R. Polzein	1.80

BATTERS FACED:

R. Polzein	66 4.4bpi
R. Rose	54 4.1bpi
G. Townes	43 6.0bpi

PITCHING AVG:

R. Polzein	140ppg 17.5ppi
R. Rose	100.8ppg 11.7ppi

STRIKE OUTS:

R. Polzein	16
------------	----

R. Rose	5
C. Russelle	4
WALKS:	
R. Polzein	20
G. Townes	7
C. Russelle	4
R. Rose	3
% 1ST PITCH STRIKES:	
R. Rose	58%
C. Russelle	52%
R. Polzein	52%

SAVES:

N/A

GAME HIGHLIGHTS:

Game #1

M. Stone goes 4 for 4
L. Olden hits A’s 1st home run, 300ft to left field
J. Navarro 3-run home run, 360ft to center

Game #2

B. Riddle-Terrell, a double away from hitting for the cycle

Game #3

A. Thurman, a double away from hitting for the cycle; 5 for 2 singles, a triple and a 2-run homerun

Game #4

C. Russelle, 5 stolen bases

Game #5

Polzein & Rose combine for a 4-hitter; A’s get 18 runs, highest this season.

Sports Quiz

Are you good at sports trivia? Here’s a test that you can take to see if you can match the player to the nickname. Let’s have some fun!

- Kobe Bryant
- Darryl Dawkins
- Dominique Wilkins
- Dominick Hasek
- Marshawn Lynch
- Mike Ditka
- Ervin Johnson
- Azuma Nelson
- Pernell Whitaker
- Muhammad Ali
- Steve McNair
- Frank Thomas
- Walter Payton
- John Madden
- Joe Greene
- Mark Eaton
- Kenny Walker
- Dikembe Mutumbo
- Vince Carter
- Ted Dibiassi
- Dwayne Johnson
- Thomas Hearn
- Reggie Jackson
- Joe Louis
- James Smith
- Earl Monroe
- Walt Frazier
- John Mugabe

- Mad Man*
- Air*
- Magic*
- The Beast*
- Mean*
- The Rock*
- Sweetness*
- Man Mountain*
- Million Dollar Man*
- Chocolate Thunder*
- Clyde the Glide*
- Sweet Pea*
- Black Mamba*
- Sky*
- Iron*
- Human Highlight Reel*
- Beast Mode*
- Hitman*
- The Professor*
- Louisville Lip*
- Big Hurt*
- ½ Man ½ Amazing*
- Bone Crusher*
- The Pearl*
- The Dominator*
- Brown Bomber*
- Mount*
- Mr. October*

SQ Garden Chapel hosts Christmas banquet

“Jesus is not only the reason for the season – but for all 365 days a year.”

By David Ditto
Staff Writer

The gospel song “Lord, We Praise Your Name” rang loudly throughout the San Quentin Garden Chapel as the prison choir greeted more than 300 inmates and guests to celebrate its annual Christmas Banquet.

The May 11 event brought fellowship, food and festivities to honor the hundreds of volunteers who have steadfastly shared the love of Christ with the inmates throughout the year. The banquet is the only time members of the dozens of churches that participate can get to know each other.

The event was scheduled for Christmas time, but was postponed twice due to prison lockdowns, including a quarantine. A gold and white banner hanging on the pulpit simply said “Victory,” capturing the faith and determination of the worshipers, volunteers and organizers.

“I am pinching myself because it is finally happening,” said Chaplain Mardi Ralph Jackson, who welcomed the crowd. “It was a long journey. Thank you, Jesus – Halleluia!”

Elder Derrick Holloway opened in prayer, “Jesus is not only the reason for the season – but for all 365 days a year.”

The dozens of volunteers mingled with the incarcerated worshipers as they all sat together at tables spread with tablecloths and bouquets. The overflow crowd meant extra chairs were placed around the walls, where many prisoners waited for an opening at a table.

The music by the prison’s Garden Chapel Worship Team had bodies swaying with hands waving high in the air as the large crowd joined in singing “We praise your name, Lord, and we lift you higher, higher.”

The audience remained standing for the uplifting

performance by The Prodigal Sons – a inmate quartet – that sang an original gospel song titled “God Answers Prayers.”

Sanet Allen, sporting a red jacket, took the stage next. She dazzled the crowd with an operatic solo of The Lord’s Prayer, prompting a rousing standing ovation.

“Music ministry is part of my life,” Allen told a *San Quentin News* reporter. “I like to give something back.” She began volunteering in San Quentin last fall. She said she found something unexpected in the prison.

“There was so much love and joy; it was overwhelming,” Allen said. “Now I’m addicted.”

Allen’s professional music career includes singing with the Cape Town Opera in South Africa and touring internationally.

Allen volunteers with the Tiburon Baptist Church, one of dozens of churches and groups that sponsor Christian services in the prison chapel.

“They guide us and let us know we’re not alone,” said Quincy Paige, a 31-year-old inmate. He has attended the services on Saturdays and Sundays since transferring to San Quentin about a year ago.

“When I’m in this chapel, I don’t feel like I’m in prison.”

Paige added that today he was here for the fellowship and the food.

The meal was far finer fare than standard prison chow. Each guest was served roast beef, barbecued chicken, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, corn, carrots, a biscuit, punch, apple crisp, and a cookie.

“This is a banquet indeed,” said one content diner.

“Hace 10 años que no me siento en una mesa con un florero,” (It’s been 10 years since I’ve sat at a table with a bouquet), said 64-year-old inmate Arnaldo Rivas. It re-



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
Opera Singer Sanet Allen

minded him of being home – with friends and family. Rivas attends the services in Spanish on Friday and Sunday nights.

“I was a soldier for a prison gang for years,” said 53-year-old David Rodriguez. Incarcerated for 27 years, he rededicated his life to Christ in 2010. This was Rodriguez’ first banquet. Two days earlier, he was found suitable for parole. “I’m a true miracle of the Lord – He opened the doors.”

This was also the first banquet for Susie Erin, who has been volunteering in San Quentin for over five years. Every three months she comes in with Tiburon Baptist Church on Saturday evenings. Their pastor delivers the message and Erin sings with their choir.

“The guys sing better than we do, but we sing anyway and they appreciate it,” Erin said.

“The guys that come in are really exuberant. They’re not just coming here to get out of their cells. They really want to worship,” Erin said that was unexpected at first.

After the meal, the celebration continued with some comedy by inmate Jessie Ayers. On stage, he said he was asked to do



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
Volunteers & Inmate guest chatting in pre-banquet fellowship as music plays



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
The Prodigal Sons delivering “God Answers Prayers”

a clean comedy act, but couldn’t comply – because he got barbecue sauce on his shirt. The comedian wished the mothers a happy Mother’s Day and added, “I want to invite you all to the Mother’s Day banquet. It will be in December – right around Christmas.” The chapel roared with laughter through Ayers’ entire routine.

Musical worship by Sister Linda Jackson and The Well got the audience singing and moving again.

Then Chaplain Jackson took the stage. “We’d like to acknowledge all the vol-

unteers with certificates of appreciation,” she said.

“The San Quentin Garden Chapel Christian Fellowship presents this certificate to (each group) with our deepest gratitude and thanks. This certificate expresses our gratitude for you and all you do to share the love and fellowship of Jesus Christ with us,” Chaplain Jackson read.

Some of the groups and volunteers recognized were Cornerstone, One Accord Ministry, Malachi Dads, Aldo Yannon, Steve Wiegert, Overcomers, Evangelist Leslie Smith, Brother

Donald Mack, Pastor Tom Pham, Elder Darryl Jenkins, Nathaniel Sparks, Anthony Evans, and Sister Hipple.

Chaplain Jackson concluded, “I really do love each and every one of you. God bless you.”

Solid gospel by New Faith Cathedral had the entire crowd on their feet, clapping, swaying, and repeating full-volume, “Halle – Halle, luiah – luiah!”

After the grand gospel finale, the audience settled down for the closing prayer by Brother Patrick Baylis.

—*Marcus Henderson contributed to this story*



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
Pastor Tom Pham praying with Vietnamese Bible study group



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
Tiburon Baptist Church volunteers John Eagan, Susie Erin & Sanet Allen



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
Comedian Jessie Ayers



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
Guest with Andrew & James Vick



Photo by Javier Jimenez, SQN
New Faith Cathedral with Andress Yancy, Darnell Hill, Leonard Walken, Greg Dixon and Markee Carter