

San Quentin News

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JOURNALISTS
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Celebrating Black history month



Courtesy of The National Baseball Hall of Fame

Arthur "Rube" Foster

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Arthur "Rube" Foster holds an honored place in Black sports history, but most people know nothing about him.

"He was a shrewd, determined businessman with superior organization skills," wrote William C. Rhoden, author of a book titled *Forty Million Dollar Slaves*.

See *Black History* on Page 10

New CDCR regulations proposal

These regulations have not been certified for emergency adoption by the Office of Administrative Law yet and therefore haven't been noticed to the public for public comment yet. They are posted by OAL for 10 days and the public may challenge the necessity for the emergency adoption but not the details of the proposed changes themselves. The public comment period has not opened yet because the regulations are not in emergency effect. Emergency adoption is different from regular rulemaking which seeks public comment before the regulations are certified for adoption.

CDCR will post them on its website after (and if) OAL approves them for temporary emergency adoption. OAL may require changes to the regulation text as a condition of emergency approval.

TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

In the following, underline indicates additional text, and ~~strikethrough~~ indicates deleted text.

See *Proposal* on Page 5



Photos by Jonathan Mumm, Television Specialist, CIW

CIW graduates proudly display their certificates and the pink hard hats they received with their industry-accredited certification

CIW accredits 25 CTE graduates

By Allie Powell
CDCR Public Information Officer,
and Michele Kane, Chief of External
Affairs, CALPIA

Twenty-five female inmates beam with pride as they entered the auditorium to a thunderous round of applause from prison

leaders, staff, family members, and fellow inmates. On this December afternoon, these women are looked at, not as inmates inside the California Institution for Women (CIW), but graduates who are bettering themselves for their future.

Scott Kernan, CDCR Secretary and Chair of the Prison Industry Board, delivered

the keynote address and emphasized the importance of programming and successful rehabilitation. "I wish the public could see the faces of the offenders and the staff as they celebrate this achievement. This is what rehabilitation is all about."

See *CIW* on Page 4

SQ artists on display at the Smithsonian

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

A group of incarcerated men with no architectural experience, created design ideas for a better America that were displayed in a museum overlooking New York's Central Park.

"It's surreal. It's something

to be proud of," said Noah Wright, one of the four incarcerated designers of the Genesis Project. "Sitting in here, you don't expect that people want to hear what you have to say. It's a new and exciting feeling."

See *Smithsonian* on Page 4



Courtesy of Deanna Van Buren

Deanna Van Buren at the SQ display in the Smithsonian



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Rafael Cuevas (center) speaks about getting the right people to teach rehabilitative programs

San Quentin News hosts nationwide DA forum

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, joined by more than two dozen prosecutors from around the country, visited San Quentin to discuss criminal justice policy with 30 inmates participating in restorative justice programs.

"Our job does not end when the person we convict goes to

prison, said Baltimore, MD, State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby. "At some point, the prisoners are transitioning back to society. There needs to be reentry services."

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez told the other prosecutors, "One of the things to take away is be courageous.

See *DA Forum* on Page 20

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News Briefs

1. Eloy, Arizona — The inmates at La Palma Correctional Facility painted the four walls of a multipurpose room in memory of their California homes *Cronkite News* reports. The inmates, who were transferred to Arizona as part of a contract with the California prison system, are in a drug and alcohol treatment program. The private prison is operated by Corrections Corporation of America, which recently rebranded as CoreCivic.

2. Milwaukee, Wis. — The *Huffington Post* reported that four people have died in custody in county jail since last April, including two inmates with medical emergencies, a man with mental-health issues who succumbed to "profound dehydration" and a baby who died following the ignored repeated requests of a detained pregnant woman in labor. Based on an independent investigation, the deaths were likely caused by delays in access to care, personnel shortages and a lack of staff oversight.

3. Illinois — Illinois has been selected for participation in the National Criminal Justice Reform Project (NCJRP). NCJRP offers technical assistance in planning and implementing data-driven, evidence-based practices in pretrial reform, re-entry and offender recidivism, mental health and substance abuse, reducing incarceration, and information sharing. The state was one of three states selected for participation from more than 20 applicants across the country.

4. Somerville, Mass. — John Valverde, 47, spent 16 years in prison for killing a man accused of raping his girlfriend, *SF Gate* reports. While in prison, Valverde earned two college degrees and taught fellow inmates how to read and write. He also worked as an HIV/AIDS counselor. Valverde is the new chief executive of YouthBuild USA Inc. It is an organization with a worldwide set of programs aimed at helping young, low-income

dropouts to improve their lives. The program began in 1978 in New York City's East Harlem. It has now grown to 250 programs around the U.S. and more than 80 programs in 21 other countries. Participants work toward their high school diplomas or equivalency while learning job skills by building affordable housing, performing community service and participating in leadership training, *SF Gates* report.

5. Connecticut — Democrat Gov. Dannel Malloy has reduced the state's inmate population to a 20-year low as rates of violent crime are falling, according to *The Crime Report*.

6. Pennsylvania — According to *PennLive.com*, the prison officials ended the "food loaf" policy in an effort to "humanize" how the most dangerous and quarrelsome prisoners are treated, the department's executive deputy secretary, Shirley Moore Smeal, said. The loaves, made of rice, raw potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and oatmeal, were replaced by a more nutritionally balanced meal delivered in a paper bag to inmates deemed deserving of a "behavior-modifying meal."

7. Pennsylvania — A recent report from a criminal justice reform group said Pennsylvania should stop automatically suspending driver's licenses for drug convictions not related to driving. The report by the Prison Policy Initiative focuses on the 12 states, including Pennsylvania and Washington D.C., that automatically suspend driver's licenses for all drug convictions. These laws make it harder for those with such convictions to access jobs, the report said. The report noted that only Virginia, Michigan, Florida and New Jersey suspend more licenses annually than Pennsylvania.

8. Arkansas — The state's lethal injection supply of potassium chloride is set to run out. The state has not had an execution since 2005 as its 35 Death Row inmates are waiting for the state Supreme Court to decide on the legality of the state's secrecy law, which requires the Department of

Correction of conceal the maker, seller and other information about capital punishment drugs.

9. Alabama — Lynneice Washington will be the first district attorney in Jefferson County who is not a white man. When she takes office next month, Washington will be the first Black woman serving as a district attorney in the history of the state. She will also join a very small club nationwide: Ninety-five percent of elected prosecutors are White and just 1 percent are women of color, according to a report released last summer by the Reflective Democracy Campaign.

10. Atmore, Ala. — Ronald Bert Smith Jr., 45, was executed on Dec. 8. Smith killed a store clerk more than two decades ago. Thirteen minutes into the execution two consciousness tests were conducted as Smith heaved and coughed, *The Associated Press* reports. The *AP* article quoted, "In a consciousness test, a prison officer says the inmate's name, brushes his eyelashes and then pinches his left arm. During the first one, Smith moved his arm. He slightly raised his right arm again after the second consciousness test."

11. Jackson, Ga. — William Sallie was put to death on Dec. 6. Sallie killed his father-in-law, shooting and wounding his mother-in-law and abducting and sexually assaulting his wife and her sister, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* reports. Georgia executed five people in 2015 and led the nation in executions last year with nine. Texas was second, with seven executions.

12. USA — While the incarceration rates in federal prisons, state jails and state prisons fell by more than 8 percent from 2010 to 2015, violent and property crimes have dropped at even higher levels — a combined 14.6 percent. A study released by the Pew Charitable Trusts showed that the 10 states with the largest declines in imprisonment during that time span, including California, Texas and New Jersey, saw crime fall an average of 14.4 percent.

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



We Want To Hear From You!

The *San Quentin News* encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the *San Quentin News*. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and artwork (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
San Quentin News
 1 Main Street
 San Quentin, CA 94964

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

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

Behind the Scenes
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Radio journalist wins Bay Area award

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

A state prisoner's feature story won a prestigious journalism award after beating out over 200 entries from more than 100 professionals representing 29 media organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The broadcast story titled *Lady Jay Talks About Being Transgender in Prison* won the 2016 San Francisco Peninsula Press Club award for Overall Excellence. It aired on radio station KALW 91.7 FM late last year.

"I thought it would be an interesting topic — a transgender inside of a male facility," said the story's reporter, San Quentin prisoner Louis A. Scott. "It's about the discrimination that an individual goes through on a daily basis — what most of us take for granted is a constant struggle for a transgender inside prison. Something as simple as getting a shower or being subjected to torment and ridicule because of one's desire to be who they truly are."

Getting the story out to the public had its challenges, Scott said.

"It took me 18 months for

the story to be released. Part of that was because of rape allegations being made by one of the participants in the story, which had to be investigated by CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation)."

Scott said winning the award reinforces the work that he and his fellow incarcerated journalists do in bringing socially responsible and newsworthy discussions beyond prison walls to the outside world.

"Society needs to know that every individual has a story and that we are not defined by our last bad act," Scott said. "There's a slew of information behind these prison walls that could be most helpful in solving some of the most difficult social issues. If doing these kinds of stories addresses some of those problems, then I can honestly say that I'm proud of being a reporter."

Scott is currently interviewing inmates who appear before the parole board but are not found suitable for release. He said he wanted to know how they cope with the denial.

"There is no availability for mental health services for those denied" Scott said.

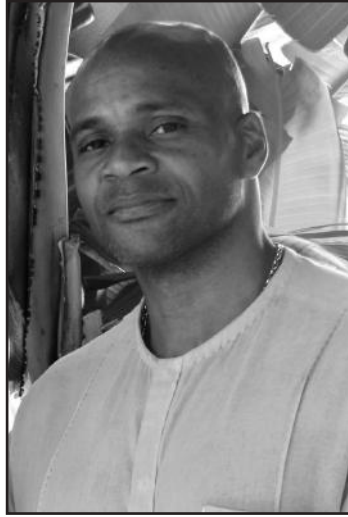


Photo by Greg Eskridge

Louis A. Scott

"Some equate being denied parole to losing a family member, which is one of the most difficult things to deal with while incarcerated — that of being permitted closure when a family member dies."

Scott said being incarcerated is an important element for reporting on prisons and their conditions.

"The reality of the situation is that no one can provide a better perception than those of us who are incarcerated," Scott said. "As a journalist, I am committed to show the better side of those who are incarcerated. There is not a day that I do not witness rehabilitation and transformation within these walls."

Criminal justice advocates seeking bail system reform

By Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

Criminal justice advocates are seeking to reform the California bail system reports online journalist Steven Greenhaut.

Opponents say the system forces poor people to plea bargain their cases to avoid spending months in jail and a slow judicial process but allows wealthy defendants to be free pending trial.

Greenhaut reported last November on *reason.com* that bills will be introduced in the next California Legislature session to reform the bail system.

The stated purpose of bail is to ensure the appearance of a defendant in court.

Proponents of the system say the system works well. "When it comes to guaranteeing appearance at court, surety bail outperforms every form of public sector pretrial release and own recognizance release as well," according to the American Bail Coalition.

Opponents point out some of the problems. "Over time the discussion about bail [has become]: Does it really serve its purpose of keeping people safe? Because if you're wealthy and you commit a

heinous crime, you can make bail," California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said in a March 2016 editorial board meeting with the *Sacramento Bee*.

Their lives become disenfranchised if they are incarcerated and not working, resulting in losing their possessions and housing. Moreover, they lose custody of their children to Child Protective Services. This is a problem for 60 percent of people incarcerated in California jails, who have not yet been sentenced, said the report.

A study done by nonpartisan Public Policy Institute shows: "From 2000 to 2009...The median bail amount in California (\$50,000) is more than five times the median amount in the rest of the nation (less than \$10,000)."

The U.S. Justice Department found in Georgia that bail practices "incarcerate indigent individuals before trial solely because of their inability to pay for their release." That violates the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the department reported.

Greenhaut was the Union-Tribune's California columnist. He is western region director for the R Street Institute and is based in Sacramento.

Securus stalls efforts to reduce inmate telephone rates

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Regulatory efforts to reduce the price of in-state telephone calls made by inmates were stalled by Securus Technologies, Inc.

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) attempt to cap the rates at no more than \$0.31 per minute was stayed by the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit after Securus filed a petition.

"A lack of regulation or price caps allows companies like Securus, Global Tel*Link and others to charge whatever rates they and the (county jails) in which they operate choose," the *International Business Times* reported in the online publication RT America. "As a result, the cost of a 15-minute conversation can cost over \$15."

According to the *Times*, the FCC made several attempts to reduce the costs of in-state calls in 2016. The agency wanted to place a cap on the price of calls from \$0.11 to \$0.22 per minute on both interstate and in-state calls from prisons. Global Tel*Link, the industry leader in providing inmate calling services, blocked that attempt, followed by Securus filing for a stay in the regulations, pending a lawsuit against the FCC.

"That isn't to say that the FCC has accomplished nothing in their battle," according to RT America. "They did manage to

implement a \$0.21 per minute cap on interstate calls, according to *Ars Technica*. But the result has been an increase on (in-state) calls."

Securus has already gained a reputation for hardnosed deals regarding the video calling service offered in correctional facilities across the country with the condition that these lockup facilities get rid of face-to-face visiting.

"While families may be growing frustrated with the increasing expenses, there is little incentive for local governments to intervene on their behalf," RT America reported, explaining that some county facilities receive millions of dollars in commissions from the providers of inmate calling services.

Last year, Securus CEO Rick Smith, told the *Times* that the increasing rates for in-state calls are due to the FCC's not banning commissions to sheriff and prison officials.

"The lower rates that were highly publicized never went into effect because the FCC failed to do their job and tried to set rates below our cost," said Smith. "There are no rate caps on (in-state) and local calls, only on interstate calls. I understand that inmates and families are upset that rates didn't decrease, it's the FCC's fault."

According to the *Times*, Securus Technologies is reported to have made \$531 million in gross revenue in 2015.

Calif. bail system disproportionately affects the poor and minorities

By David Le
Staff Writer

California's bail system disproportionately affects low-income people and people of color, and needs to be reformed, the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) reported.

A bail industry representative said that their services provide public safety and "enhance racial justice" in a hearing held by the Assembly Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color to reform the California's bail system.

Contrary to the bail industry's claim, panelists and com-

munity members of the hearing said that the bail system works to keep low-income people in jail and negatively impacts people of color, the CJCJ wrote.

According to the CJCJ, the bail system is used as leverage to force defendants to take plea deals resulting in jail overcrowding by holding people who are not a public safety risk but cannot afford bail.

There are courts that have pre-trial diversion programs that allow people the opportunity to return to their homes, jobs and families while awaiting trial. Some diversion programs even offer high-risk people the same opportunity if they agreed to be monitored, the CJCJ noted.

Beyond cost, the risk assessment process also fills the jails. For example, the common use of the Public Safety Assessment tool (PSA), created by the Arnold Foundation, considers only negative factors such as pending charges, previous incarceration, and failure to appear to calculate an individual's risk, the CJCJ reported.

Calling for bail reform, the CJCJ said "California bail reform advocates and policymakers should support legislation that requires all counties to establish and implement evidence-based and data-driven pre-trial diversion programs."

CDCR's new detection system clamps down on cell phones

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

Two hundred and seventy-two Cellsense Plus detection systems will be provided to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by Metrasens and Global Tel*Link in an effort to rid state prisons of inmate-owned cell phones.

The Cellsense Plus by Metrasens claims to be the most durable and effective tool in locating cell-phones, whether on or off, inside or outside the body. The system can also be used freestanding or mounted and is capable of finding the smallest of contraband items like razor blades, paper clips or staples,

according to an article on the website *WeAreWVVProud.com*.

"We are delighted CDCR has selected Metrasens as a partner in the fight against contraband," said Jim Viscardi, vice president of Metrasens' security division, the article quoted.

The Cellsense Plus is the most versatile detection tool in the industry for screening staff, visitors, vendors, laundry, mail, inmates and their property, the article stated.

The tool can be used anywhere inside a correctional facility.

Metrasens is a company that develops and applies advanced magnetic detection technologies in healthcare and security markets.

Gov. Brown veto of SB 1157 allows jails to ban visits

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Gov. Jerry Brown has vetoed a bill that would have prohibited exclusive use of video visits at local correctional facilities.

Brown said in his September veto message of SB 1157 that he is concerned by the recent trend in cutting back in-person jail visits. But he said the bill lacks flexibility and provides a strict ban on video visits.

Sen. Holly J. Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, who authored the bill said, "I'm saddened by the

fact that while the governor expressed concern about the lack of in-person visits with family negatively impacting rehabilitative goals, he fell woefully short of protecting a basic human right."

"My heart is so heavy right now," said Zoevina Pariani-Delgado, *The Oakland Post* reported. She said when incarcerated, she received in-person visits from family members. "Visitation had such a big impact on my re-entry and on my family. Real visits allowed me to stay connected with my children."

According to the *Post*, California has at least 18 counties that "severely restrict" in-person visits, have eliminated them, or plan to eliminate them in some jails. Because SB 1157 was vetoed, family and friends of incarcerated children, women and men will have to pay for video calls from home or travel to county lockups and visit by video.

"Both the visitor and the incarcerated person are in the same building," the *Post* reported. "But instead of having a real visit, they can only see each

other through a video screen." If there is an equipment failure, they are unable to see their loved ones at all.

"This is horrible news for families of incarcerated people," said Mike Cortez, according to the *Post*. "We're human beings. We need to have a connection with our family members."

A 2015 report by Prison Policy Initiative stated 74 percent of the county jails in the United States that adopt video visitation technology eventually eliminate in-person visits.

"The increased use of video

visitation as a replacement for in-person visitation in California is part of a nationwide trend," the group said.

In 2014, a federal Department of Justice study found that maintaining contact with family through in-person visits is one of the essentials to reduce recidivism and increase the possibility of successful re-entry to society.

Brown said, "I am directing the Board of State and Community Corrections to work with stakeholders to explore ways to address these issues."

CIW

Continued from Page 1

The women are being recognized after participating in the California Prison Industry Authority's (CALPIA's) Pre-Apprentice Carpentry, Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor or Healthcare Facilities Maintenance programs. One-by-one, they are called to the stage accepting their industry-accredited certifications and a pink hard hat, the audience cheering for every woman as loudly as the last.

The encouraging atmosphere resonated with acting Warden

Dawn Davison, who came out of retirement in August 2016, to help smooth a transitional period for the institution. A former Warden at CIW, Davison was hugely popular among staff and inmates for seven years due to the reforms she put in place before retiring in 2009.

Davison praised the graduates and talked about their futures. "You ladies made a choice to do the right thing. You came to work every day. And that took a lot of fortitude."

Davison was also joined on stage by Chief Deputy Warden Molly Hill who on Jan. 1, 2017, accepted CIW's acting Warden position. Davison and Hill congratulated the women while

passing out the certificates with Secretary Kernan.

"It was challenging and to know that we can do it is a beautiful thing."

The Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor graduates are part of CALPIA's Career Technical Education programs which have some of the lowest recidivism rates in the country, with a cumulative rate of 7.13%.

What is unique about these

programs is CALPIA partners with the trade unions and released offenders are eligible for placement in full-scale apprenticeship programs. CALPIA provides those graduates with a full set of tools and pays their first year of union dues. Offenders in the Healthcare Facilities Maintenance program train for 3-6 months and are eligible to take state employment exams upon parole to apply for state jobs such as maintenance technicians.

CALPIA also invited representatives from their respective trade unions to network with the newly certified trainees after the ceremony.

Lissette Cruz, representing the Carpenter's Training Center in

Whittier, said she is waiting for the prospective apprentices with open arms. "The will of the spirit to overcome — that's something wonderful to witness."

Dawn Osborne, a Pre-Apprentice Carpentry graduate, has twenty-two days left to go on her sentence and is excited about her future and transformation. "I had no clue that I would even be interested in something like this. I came from a home that was very broken. I dropped out of school. Coming to prison I've done a lot of productive things with my time. I've accomplished my GED and I've been drug-free. It was challenging and to know that we can do it is a beautiful thing."

Smithsonian

Continued from Page 1

The Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt Museum exhibit displayed more than 60 design ideas about building a better society. The exhibit, called "By the People: Designing a Better America," included the contribution of three teams of men incarcerated at San Quentin.

One, Project Genesis, envisions a community where everyone has something at stake and the motto, "Do good and you will receive good in return." Members start living there in a tent and then build tailor-made homes with the aid of the community.

The other three Project Genesis designers are Chanthon Bun, Vaughn Miles and Omid Mokri.

Daeanna Van Buren spearheaded getting prisoners' restorative space ideas included at the Smithsonian. She took time out from her own practice, Designing Justice, Designing Spaces, and held a workshop inside San Quentin teaching how to design restorative spaces.

"If I'm designing a building, it's not for me; it's for the people," said Van Buren. "It's a place for you, so I have to do it with you. I'm not going to interview you; I'm going to show you how to design and you build the model."

Van Buren made a security-friendly tool kit that prisons allow her to bring inside for incarcerated people to make models.

When the Smithsonian called on her to submit her students' work, she teamed up with Inside Prison Project's Karena Montag and Williams James Association's Duya Alwan to call on incarcerated men for the project. Artist Amy Ho,

architects Pryce Jones and Zoey Parsigian also helped with the workshop.

"Nobody was talking to incarcerated people, and they stand the most to gain in the changes," said Van Buren. "Slaves built the pyramids, slaves built the Taj Mahal, and slaves built the White House. When we go to build an equitable society, the people who are going to use it should have a say in the design."

Richard Zorns, Chris Marshall, Tommy Ross and Michael Williams designed A New World, another model displayed.

A New World seeks to make Restorative Justice an experience positively reinforced wherever you turn. It is filled with reminders of Restorative Justice concepts, like video screens of people reciting, "Violence is not the solution to any problem."

"Restorative Justice is an experience," said Zorns. "If you give it the opportunity, it can bloom, blossom and become something. I would like to see it built. I think it would bring communities together."

The Restorative Justice Design Group was created by Gary Harrell, Manuel Murillo, Orlando Harris, Chris Christensen and Mark Stanley. They envision a community designed to foster healing for people who caused harm, the people harmed, their families and the community. It features circular living spaces and an open atmosphere.

"We created an atmosphere that was open so they (people) would feel nature and a connection to the area," said Harrell.

Van Buren added, "The reaction: People were really inspired; they were moved by it. I think people are ready to be dispelled of the myths of who



Courtesy of Deanna Van Buren

Project Genesis project created by SQ inmates

an incarcerated person is. They want to see the whole person. I think our project taps into empathy and makes people see in a different way."

"These were like thesis projects," said Alwan. "They were comprehensive approaches to address why people land in prison. One had a drug treatment center for families."

The workshop started with five teams of which the three design models were chosen.

"I was worried they were only gonna pick one," said Van Buren. "The fact that they choose more is a testament to the quality of the work."

Ho added, "I love that this project is a reflection of people who have been incarcerated themselves, instead of just academics and politicians. The amount of creativity and talent



Courtesy of Deanna Van Buren

Visitors looking at the display on opening night at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum

that was expressed through this project was incredibly inspiring."

The exhibit runs until Feb.

26 at the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, 2 East 91st St., Manhattan; 212-849-2950; cooperhewitt.org.

SQ inmates experience a spiritual journey to Mecca

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The San Quentin Muslim community was treated to a slide show of the trials and benefits of the spiritual journey to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, that millions of pilgrims throughout the world take. The pilgrimage, known as Hajj, is to visit the Holy Mosque (the House of God).

The pictures showed acts of worship performed at Mecca such as the seven circles around the Ka'ba (the squared house, known as The House) and the running back and forth through the hills of Safa and Marwa.

"Seeing the Hajj for someone like me inspired an overwhelming desire to complete that momentous task," said Abd Allah Mustafaa. "Knowing that one who completes the obligation solely for the pleasure of Allah, all his/her previous sin would be forgiven, demonstrates God's awesome mercy."

Hajj is the fifth principle of the Islamic faith. Hajj comes from the traditions of Abraham, the father of the monotheist faiths. The House was built by Abraham and his son Ishmael. According to the principle, those who have the means must perform a Hajj at least once in his/her lifetime.

Imam H.Q. Hussein, the Islamic chaplain, and guest volunteer Mustafa Oscar Pena shared the experiences of their Hajj and used the slides to point out sacred sites.

Chaplain Imam Hussein passed around two pieces of unstitched white wraps called an Ihram (pilgrim garb) to the audience. He demonstrated the proper way to wrap the items, one covering his body from his neck to his waist and the other from his waist to his feet. He explained how this is to be done before entering Mecca and once there when you begin to chant.

"Yes, here I am O'Lord, here I am. There is no partner for

you. Yes, here I am."

The desert heat and the patience one must exhibit while being among a large crowd of people takes a lot of fortitude, Pena stated. He added, "This is relevant because Hajj puts you in harmony with the rest of the world. It teaches you not to complain and to appreciate God's gifts.

"If we've done wrong, we need to seek forgiveness and don't think anything is insignificant because that could be the thing holding you back from getting your blessings."

The men were instructed on cutting or shaving their heads for the trip, not wearing or using hygiene products and no

intimate relations with your wife once you are in Ihram (pilgrim garb).

"The presentation actually put you there," said Jihad Muhammad-Bey. "It helps you put in perspective the books you read on Hajj."

The end of Hajj is marked by a special prayer and a celebration of the Islamic year. It commemorates Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael.

"It's in our oral history to pass down our benefits and mistakes," said Pena. "To give the men a firsthand look of the environment in Mecca and the rituals to be performed helps them to get prepared now."

Youth offenders face possible deportation by Trump

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Children who immigrated to America and later acquired a criminal record will likely be deported under Donald J. Trump's administration, a potential deportee says.

"We are getting them out of our country or we are going to incarcerate," Trump has said. His administration will "get the people that are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers... probably two million, it could be even three million (people)."

Concern is expressed in a *New York Times* op-ed by Lundy Khoy, an immigrant. "I'm not a gang member. I'm not a drug dealer. But I have a criminal record and I'm afraid.

"I am not an American citi-

zen, but there is no way I am not an American," Khoy added in the Nov. 24 op-ed.

"I arrived in the United States on Nov. 12, 1981, when I was 1. My parents fled the Pol Pot genocide in Cambodia, in which over two million people were murdered. I was born in a refugee camp in Thailand before moving to California."

His brother and sister, who were born here, are citizens. Khoy described the three of them as typical American kids; eating Cheerios, going to Disneyland and watching the Fourth of July fireworks.

"In the spring of 2000 ... I was carrying seven tablets of Ecstasy (when) I was arrested for possession with intent to sell, which is a felony in Virginia."

Khoy pleaded guilty, and was given a four-year suspended sen-

tence.

In 2004 he was arrested at a probation office by an officer from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"I am not an American citizen, but there is no way I am not an American"

He was told his conviction meant he would most likely be deported.

"For me this was a second punishment for the very same crime, and this one, though never discussed or even mentioned three years earlier when I pleaded guilty, was worse than the first."

The Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SARAC) states that people facing deportation to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam often share similar experiences as refugee children. Around 65 to 85 percent of deportation orders to these countries are because of old criminal convictions.

"If I was deported, I would be sent to Cambodia. But I had never even been to Cambodia!" Khoy added.

After being held for nine months in detention, Khoy was released under supervision.

"I returned once again to college and started working at a university as an enrollment counselor. I married and had a son," Khoy said.

Last year he received a pardon from the governor of Virginia that mentioned his "commitment to good citizenship."

"But immigration law is separate from criminal law, and my record still exists. Even though the state has forgiven my crime, the federal government could still decide to deport me.

"I implore Mr. Trump and his supporters to look past my mistakes. I've lived my entire life: as an American."

According to SARAC, "Because of unusual repatriation agreements between the U.S. and Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, thousands of people remain in the U.S. for years or even decades with final orders of removal, never knowing when they might be deported."

For more information regarding criminal deportation, write to: Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, 1628 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009 or call (202) 601-2968.

Proposal

Continued from Page 1

California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Division 3, Adult Institutions, Programs, and Parole

Chapter 1. Rules and Regulations of Adult Operations and Programs

Article 1. Behavior

3000. Definitions.

Section 3000 is amended to alphabetically merge the definition below with those already in the regulations.

Classification Staff Representative (CSR) means a departmental employee designated to represent the Director in the classification process during the review, approval, or deferral of actions by institution classification committees, including but not limited to inmate transfers, inmate special housing program placements/retention, and custody designations. Any Correctional Counselor III may be designated to perform the duties of a CSR.

Lethal electrified fence is a high voltage fence installed for the lethal infliction of injury to escaping inmates.

Non-secure Facility means any of the following Departmental facilities: Minimum Support Facilities, Camps and Community Correctional Centers (i.e. Community Correctional Reentry Centers,

Restitution Centers, Community Correctional Facilities, Drug Treatment Furlough, halfway back facilities, Community Reentry Programs, etc.); and comparable facilities in another law enforcement jurisdiction (i.e. county road camps, county detoxification center, etc.)

Secure Level I facility is a Level I facility with a secure perimeter as defined in section 3000 that includes razor wire to prevent the escape of inmates.

Totally disabled means a diagnosis provided by a physician and/or psychiatrist indicating that an inmate is incapable of performing an assignment.

3375.2 Administrative

Determinants.

Subsections 3375.2(a) through 3375.2(a)(5) are unchanged but shown as reference.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(6) is amended to read:

(6) An inmate serving a sentence of life without possibility of parole (LWOP) shall not be housed in a facility with a security level lower than Level HH II, except when authorized by the Departmental Review Board (DRB). Additionally, an LWOP inmate housed within a general population facility with a security level of II, III, or IV shall be housed in a facility with a lethal electrified fence as defined in section 3000.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(7) is unchanged but shown as reference.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(8) is amended to read:

(8) An inmate serving a life term with the possibility of parole shall not be housed in a Level I non-secure facility as defined in section 3000 nor assigned to a program outside a security perimeter unless the exceptional criteria specified within this subsection has been met. Exceptions may only occur when Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) grants parole, the release date is within 3 years, and the Governor's Office has completed its review and either formally approved parole or taken no action. When all three conditions are met and the inmate is otherwise eligible for a custody reduction, the inmate shall be evaluated by an ICC for the custody reduction.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(9) is renumbered to 3375.2(a)(11)

New Subsection 3375.2(a)(9) is adopted to read:

(9) An inmate serving a life term with the possibility of parole shall be housed in a facility with a security level of II or higher unless the exceptional criteria specified within subsections 3375.2(a)(8) or 3375.2(a)(10) through 3375.2(a)(10)(I) have been met.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(10) is renumbered to 3375.2(a)(12)

New Subsection 3375.2(a)(10) is adopted to read:

(10) An inmate serving a life term with the possibility of parole may be housed in a secure Level I facility as defined in

section 3000 when all of the following criteria are met for the inmate:

Subsections 3375.2(a)(10)(A) through 3375.2(a)(10)(I) are adopted to read:

(A) Preliminary score of 18 or less.

(B) Their most recent parole consideration hearing resulted in no more than a three year denial by the BPH.

(C) Their most recent Comprehensive Risk Assessment, completed by a licensed psychologist employed by the BPH, identifies the inmate's potential risk for future violence as low or moderate, or they have been granted parole by the BPH.

(D) Does not have a VIO administrative determinant currently imposed.

(E) Not identified as a Public Interest Case as defined in section 3000.

(F) Does not have an "R" Suffix imposed.

(G) Does not have a history of escape or attempted escape with force from any correctional setting or armed escort, escape or attempted escape from a correctional setting with a secure perimeter as defined in section 3000, and plotting or planning to escape from a correctional setting with a secure perimeter as defined in section 3000 or from an armed escort.

(H) Does not require Maximum or Close custody.

(I) Does not have a mandatory minimum score factor currently

imposed which would preclude secure Level I placement. Where determined eligible for placement, the mandatory minimum score factor for "other life term" shall be removed/not imposed.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(9) is renumbered to 3375.2(a)(11):

(11) An inmate serving a life term whose placement score is not consistent with a Level I or II security level shall not be housed in a Level I or Level II facility except when approved by the Departmental Review Board.

Subsection 3375.2(a)(11) is renumbered to 3375.2(a)(13) and amended to read:

(13) An inmate with a case factor described in sections 3377.2(b)(2)(A), 3377.2(b)(2)(B) or 3377.2(b)(2)(C), shall be ineligible for minimum custody. An inmate with a history of one or more walkaways from nonsecure settings, not to include Drug Treatment Furlough, and Community Correctional Reentry Centers, and Community Reentry Programs, shall not be placed in minimum custody settings for at least 10 years following the latest walkaway.

Editor's Note:

These are not the proposed regulations in their entirety. This leaves out a substantial portion of the proposed regulations, which is understandable considering our space issue. If you would wish to read the full proposed regulation, please go to oal.ca.gov.

The history and accomplishment of Black Americans

Editorial

By Richard "Bonaru" Richardson
Editor-in-Chief

Slavery underlies the history of Blacks in America. Though many people would rather forget it ever existed, slavery walked down American history as soon as the country was settled.

Slavery was abolished under the 13th Amendment, with one exception: felony conviction.

The first colony to consider slavery a legal institution was Massachusetts in 1641, according to author Raymond M. Corbin's *Facts about Blacks*. Governor Theophilus Eaton of Connecticut freed his slaves, according to Corbin, an extraordi-

nary act for 1646.

Then, in 1664, Maryland passed various laws forbidding marriage between Black men and White women, and by the 18th century Rhode Island was the leader in the slave trade.

Vermont became the first state to abolish slavery in 1777; in 1778 the Continental Congress outlawed slavery in all the northwestern territories of the country, and Boston became the only U.S. city to be without slaves in 1790. During that same year, the first census recorded that 19.3 percent of Americans were Black.

Historian and author Howard Zinn wrote in *A People's History of the United States* that "by 1800, 10 to 15 million blacks had been transported as slaves to the

Americas..."

However, from 1750 to the 1840s, countless slaves escaped and joined the Seminole Nation to fight for territorial claims against the U.S. government, according to Corbin.

During this time, other slaves began to rebel, and many outbreaks erupted throughout the colonies and continued after independence from England.

Gabriel Prosser, who orchestrated a 1,000-slave revolt in Richmond, Virginia, led one, in 1800. Fifty-nine years later John Brown led five Blacks and 17 Whites in an attack against the U.S. arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in an attempt to spark a general uprising, Corbin wrote.

"Only one fear was greater than the fear of black rebellion

in the new American colonies. That was the fear that discontented whites would join black slaves to overthrow the existing order," Zinn notes.

Blacks and Whites have struggled with and against each other to escape the embrace of slavery's legacy.

In April of 1887, the Ku Klux Klan met in Nashville, Tennessee, even after Congress passed a second confiscation act that sought to protect ex-slaves against the torches of the KKK.

As America grew, Black and White people showed they could work together in a positive manner by forming the NAACP in 1907. Forty-seven Whites and six Blacks founded it.

Soon afterward, the seeds of a Black history month were sewn in Chicago during the late summer of 1915.

"An alumnus of the University of Chicago with many friends in the city, Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington, D.C., to participate in a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the state of Illinois," according to the article *The Black History Month* by Professor Daryl Michael Scott.

Professor Scott wrote that Dr. Woodson "believed that publishing scientific history would transform race relations by dispelling the widespread falsehoods about the achievements of Africans and peoples of African descent. He hoped that others would popularize the findings that he and other black intellectuals would publish in *The Journal of Negro History*, which he established in 1916."

Woodson chose February for Black History Month to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. "Since Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the black community, along with other Republicans, had been celebrating the fallen President's birthday. And since the late 1890s, black communi-

ties across the country had been celebrating Douglass'."

Before Black History Month was celebrated, Blacks had made significant progress in America, ranging from people like James Derham, who was the first Black physician in 1783, to Henry Blair, who became the first Black person to receive a U.S. patent in 1834.

Before the battle of Trenton in 1776, it was African-American soldier Oliver Cromwell who rowed General George Washington across the Delaware River.

Mathematician and astronomer Benjamin Banneker published 10 almanacs between the years 1792 and 1802, while Mary Jane Patterson became the first Black woman to receive a degree from Oberlin College in 1862.

Alexandria, Virginia, became the first southern city to allow Black people to vote on March 2, 1866, and Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi to give African American women the right to vote in 1913.

Black contractor John Muller invented the asphalt-paving machine named the Muller Paver. Jewel Prestage became the first Black woman to earn her Ph.D. in political science, and Edward A. Bouchet was the first Black man to earn his Ph.D. in physics. Mae C. Jamison was the first Black space mission specialist woman to go into space on the shuttle Endeavor in 1992.

Black people have come a long way since the dark days of slavery.

America has had its first Black President with Barack Obama, and there are currently three members of the U.S. Senate, including Kamala Harris of California, Tim Scott (R-SC) and Corey Booker (D-N.J.) and 46 members in the House of Representatives.

America must not forget that there is a lot more to be accomplished before we can truly consider ourselves in a united state.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

In reading the latest edition of the San Quentin News (December 2016), there is an article in the MAC Corner, "SQ's television signal gets an upgrade."

We do not know what television the author of the article was watching, but the signal in West Block is not as described in the article in many respects; it is worse than it was prior to the "upgrade." The Bay Area over-the-air digital channels are not stable, while prior to the upgrade these channels were stable. In speaking to individuals in North Block, they are having similar problems with over-the-air television reception also. The consensus is that the article as written regarding improved over-the-air television reception is in error. That sentiment is prior to the recent inclement weather that we are now experiencing.

For example, why would one mount the antenna on the West Block roof that is facing Sacramento barely above the roof ventilator that houses an electrical motor? Electrical motors have magnified fields that negatively affect television signals. Even when turned off the wires carrying the electricity to the motor emits an electrical/magnetic field. (This is how an induction volt-ohmmeter works without the need to contact bare wires). To have an antenna that has to reach a further distance mounted low on its respective mast defies common sense. The further away a signal is the higher the antenna should be placed.

It is requested that before printing articles of this nature that have an effect upon the population of San Quentin that those facts be checked and confirmed. As written now, the article allows complaints regarding television reception to be interpreted as frivolous, whining and generally not credible. The institutional staff can point to this article about MAC saying that everything is fixed and operating, which, as stated previously, is in error.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sahnuun Ahmad Rasheed

To San Quentin News,

I'm writing from Salinas Valley State Prison, A-Facility, and want to give props to our warden, Mr. Muniz, and his underbosses, Mr. Solis and Mr. Binkle, for giving us the tools we need to be able to stand up and be accountable as men. I'm in a college level class called T.U.M.I. and it's changing the landscape of this prison yard. Our warden believes in rehabilitation and second chances. Because even though we're some of society's best rejects, we still have to reach for redemption with sincere hearts and be men. So, instead of being on a collision course with a cell in a SHU somewhere, Warden Muniz has given us a chance to grow as human beings, and he needs to be recognized and respected for the olive branch he's extending to us here at S.V.S.P.

Sincerely,

Anderson, H-81578
Salinas Valley State Prison, A-2-209

Parole grants skewed by race in New York State

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Even in prison, it is a privilege to be White, according to a recent study. It showed that the New York State Board of Parole grants Whites parole more often than Blacks who committed the same crimes.

"Before a black inmate takes a seat in the hearing room and utters a word, the odds are stacked against him. Guards punish black men in some prisons at twice the rate of whites, send them to solitary confinement more often and keep them there longer," a *New York Times* analysis of nearly 60,000 cases found.

New York parole commissioners viewing the case are all White except for one Black man, the study said. The White men mainly come from upstate areas and have mostly law enforcement backgrounds.

The boards hear up to 80 cases in two days through video screens, and only give incarcer-

ated men 10 minutes to plead their cases. However, these are just part of New York's broken parole system, according to the *Times* Dec. 2016 article.

The story titled "For Blacks Facing Parole in New York State, Signs of a Broken System" said research revealed racial disparity in parole decisions.

The newspaper found a clear pattern of racial inequity from analyzing more than 13,876 parole board decisions for first-time appearances from May 2013 to 2016.

Violent offenders were denied parole 90 percent of the time, no matter what race they were. Non-violent offenders were released significantly more. Forty-one percent of White third-degree burglary offenders were paroled compared to 30 percent of Blacks and Hispanics.

The story cited the cases of Braxton Bostic, a young Black man, and Robert Summa, a 49-year-old White man. Bostic, at 17, stole some money from a

purse in church. The court gave him probation, but a probation violation sent him to prison for one to three years.

Summa, who has a history of convictions for theft, drugs and robbery, and has spent 12 of the last 15 years in prison, was serving three and a half to seven years for robbing a deli. Bostic had one minor disciplinary infraction, and Summa had two.

They both told the board they had family and jobs waiting upon release. Summa completed all his programs, Bostic, who was serving less time, did not.

The board denied Bostic parole for at least one year but released Summa. Within months after being freed, Summa robbed a Chinese restaurant.

At Clinton Correctional Facility, the *Times* found only one of 998 guards is Black, and Blacks incarcerated there were nearly four times more likely than Whites to be sent to isolation for longer periods of time.

After the Dec. 5 *Times* story broke, Gov. Andrew Cuomo or-

dered an investigation into the practice of punishing incarcerated Blacks more than Whites.

"I am directing the state inspector general to investigate the allegations of racial disparities in discipline in state prisons and to recommend appropriate reforms for immediate implementations," wrote Cuomo in a statement.

Parole board members are almost all White men from upstate New York, the newspaper stated. This means they have more in common with White prisoners than Black men from the inner city, leading to more favorable parole decisions for Whites.

Last June Cuomo nominated new commissioners, including several minorities, but the corrections hearing committee never confirmed any of them. Cuomo said he plans to advance new appointments soon to make the current parole board panel more reflective of the three-fourths Black and Hispanic prison population.

State Sen. Patrick Gallivan, a Republican chairman of the committee that oversees the department of corrections, said, the committee would review any new appointments right away, according to the *Times* article

Appealing a parole board decision takes about two years, which is almost the same as the time it takes to get a new hearing. Plus, all the state Supreme Court can do is order a new hearing, according to the article.

A state judicial commission in 2014 recommended doing away with parole boards in favor of determinate sentences. For 20 years, sentences with pre-defined parole board dates have been issued for half of the state's offenders, including most drug offenders. However, the *Times* found doing away with parole boards keeps everyone in prison longer and destroys the incentive to take rehabilitative programs in order to earn good time for early release.

Stockton mayor believes in the power of forgiveness

Kid CAT Speaks!

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Last year, California voters turned down a chance to end the death penalty, choosing instead to speed up the process—an indication they don't believe murder should be forgiven. However, Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs believes in forgiveness.

On Facebook, the newly elected mayor posted his acceptance of an apology from a murderer incarcerated at San Quentin.

"When I look at you, I think of Moses who committed murder but God used to do amazing things," said Tubbs at a symposium that united survivors of violent crimes and men who committed violent crimes as juveniles.

The two groups came together to talk about rehabilitation and Restorative Justice as solutions. That was on Oct. 13, when Tubbs, then a City Council member en-

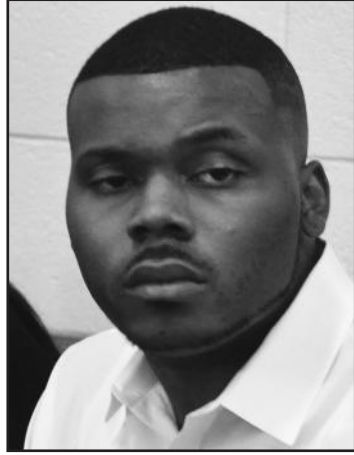


Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Stockton Mayor
Michael Tubbs

dorsed by Oprah Winfrey, attended the Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) self-help group event at San Quentin State Prison.

To end structural violence, "It's going to take people who have survived crimes, and who have committed crimes and sometimes they are one and the

same," said Tubbs.

The symposium also heard a speech from Anouthinh Pangthong, the incarcerated man who apologized for a murder he committed at 15.

Pangthong spoke candidly about the crime he committed as a gang member, his remorse and some of the factors that led to it, such as intergenerational trauma passed down from parents who fled war-torn Laos and ended up in a refugee camp.

He also talked about joining a gang in search of an identity. Then he spoke about the rehabilitative groups that helped restore his humanity, including Restoring One's Original True Self (ROOTS), Criminal Gang Anonymous (CGA) and Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG).

"I never considered the ripple effects from pulling the trigger," said Pangthong. "It took me writing out my crime in detail, then it hit me—the magnitude of what I'd done. That was my first assignment from VOEG. My ac-

tions ... have a ripple effect that reached far out."

At the end of his speech, Pangthong apologized directly to Tubbs for "terrorizing Stockton."

While going to Stanford, Tubbs researched how governmental decisions affect the choices people make in the inner-city.

"Every single break from school, somebody was in prison or dead," said Tubbs. "There had to be something going on deeper than individual choices."

Tubbs' dad has been incarcerated since he was 12 years old. Instead of writing off men, like his father, who have made bad choices, the 26-year old mayor came searching for a way to "take the skills and brain power to restore, create better communities and build bridges over bad choices."

That night, after the symposium Tubbs posted on Facebook, *Reflections from San Quentin*:

"Afterwards, there were circles with offenders, survivors, and community members that were both healing and instructive. My

circle grappled with the definition of rehabilitation and defined it as community and reciprocal accountability. The tragedy was that the brilliant and insightful men in blue found their selves and their voice while locked in cages but not in our schools, churches, or community centers. 2 of the other keynote speakers were from Stockton and are finishing their sentences before they come back home. Before I left one said, 'Mr. Tubbs I apologize for the harms I caused our community when I was 15. (He's now 35).'"

I responded with, "We forgive you, now come back and help us improve, you are part of the solution. Ironic that I would see a model of humanity, love, humility and community in San Quentin."

Pangthong responded: "I'm humbled and touched by the mayor's response but, the real work is still to be done. Our communities are suffering, so healing them is where my focus is."

New adolescent research could impact juvenile justice

By **John Lam**
Journalism Guild Writer

City leaders are urged to adopt juvenile justice reform practices that are based on recent adolescent development research.

In a memo addressed to city leaders, the Institute for Youth Education and Families (IYEF) outlined the following three key aspects for city officials to focus on.

A. Youth crime stems more from adolescence than

"criminality"

The memo noted, "Recent adolescent brain development research confirms that misbehavior, even crime... [are] due to particular qualities of this unique developmental phase."

The teen brain seeks immediate gratification, excitement, and peer approval and lacks impulse control and the ability to weigh long-term consequences. In fact, delinquent acts represent one manifestation among many adolescent risk taking be-

haviors. Others include driver deaths, unintentional drownings, unintended pregnancies and self-inflicted injuries.

According to IYEF, the type of crime a young person commits does not accurately predict future ongoing criminal activity. The memo states, "we cannot predict that a youth who carries a gun is more or less likely than a youth who shoplifts to become a career criminal."

B. More severe consequences do not prove more effective

According to IYEF, the threat of immediate or light consequences plays the greatest role in deterring youth crime. By contrast, serious punishment such as arrest and prosecution may actually increase the short and long-term cost to public systems and risks to public safety.

Regarding cost to the public system, IYEF points to two studies that found youth who experience intensive involvement in the juvenile justice system suffered worse life outcomes, including incidences of physical and sexual abuse and related trauma in juvenile detention facilities and an increase in truancy and dropping out.

Regarding increased risks to public safety, arrested and prosecuted youth showed the following negative outcomes:

They are more likely to reoffend within six months;

They are more likely to be re-arrested within two years; and

They reduce offending more slowly over a subsequent period of two years.

C. Provide well-targeted services to achieve positive out-

comes

IYEF advocates the following to improve community practices:

Use a more expansive risk-and-needs assessment tool such as Youth Level of Service Inventory to match the right youth with the right services.

Form a continuum of community-based services, including mentorships, community services and extracurricular activities that promote independent decision making and critical thinking.

Use restorative practices that have a proven positive outcome, such as community conferencing, to engage young people in decision making.

IYEF relied on four studies to reach its conclusion: the University of California Irvine study "Crossroads"; the University of Pittsburg study "Pathways to Desistance"; the National Research Council study "Reforming Juvenile Justice: a Developmental Approach"; and the Municipal Leadership in Juvenile Justice Reform.

Children with incarcerated parents struggle with stigma

By **Harry Goodall Jr.**
Journalism Guild Writer

Children with incarcerated parents find it hard to fight off the stigma.

There are an estimated 10 million children whose parents have been incarcerated at some point in their life, according to "Collateral Costs," a Pew Charitable Trusts (PCT) report. One in nine Black children, one in 28 Latino children, and one in 57 White children have a parent incarcerated.

Such children have a greater chance of experiencing physical and mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, according to "Shared Sentence," a published report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Families that are financially unstable are more likely to be homeless. Studies support that children of incarcerated parents are three times more likely to become incarcerated also.

Seventeen-year-old Luna Garcia is one of those children who has chosen not to tell people her dad's in jail. She was interviewed for a *San Francisco*

Chronicle article by Jill Tucker called "Parent in Prison—Child a Captive."

"It becomes something you can use against me," Garcia said. "It starts becoming a label you carry around with you."

She was asked by a teacher, who knew of her father's situation, if she was trying to follow in his footsteps because of a classroom disruption.

The article says that most children of incarcerated parents (CIPs), who call themselves sips, don't want to talk much about their lives. Those willing to talk can be guarded, mistrustful and sometimes angry. No one understands what CIPs go through, they say. And no one seems to want to.

"I'm way more things than a CIP," Garcia was quoted as saying. "It's not all we have to offer."

Garcia has a father who served time in San Quentin State Prison, and she aspires to become a writer or a politician.

There is a debate on whether children should visit parents while in prison. Some warn against it, noting the potential

trauma of seeing parents in inmate attire amid armed guards. A growing consensus of experts considers the interaction beneficial to children and the locked up parents.

"It is an enormously important issue, but it remains a subtext to this country's ongoing epidemic of mass incarceration," the article quotes State Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, as saying.

"In this rush to lock them up, three strikes and you're out, we've been completely blind to the impact on families," Leno added.

Studies show that such children have a harder time being productive and leading successful lives. Only 15 percent of kids with an incarcerated father and 2 percent of those with an incarcerated mother earn a college degree, according to Pew statistics.

"Family is about love, commitment and dedication," said school co-director Jessica Huang at Garcia's high school graduation. Garcia graduated high school, and is now attending City College of San Francisco.

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

Does it matter?— In November, California voters approved Proposition 57, which is rooted in the belief that rehabilitation works. The new law has the potential to strengthen California's justice system and increase public safety by expanding rehabilitation in prisons and improving the process by which youth can be tried as adults. Proposition 57 requires judges, rather than prosecutors (DAs), to decide whether minors as young as 14 years old should be tried as adults and sent to adult prison. It allows people convicted of a non-violent felony and sentenced to state prison to be eligible for parole consideration after completing the full term of their primary offense. Whether or not you live in California, how important is it to have a judge, not a district attorney, make the decision that a juvenile will be tried as an adult? What are your thoughts on the current system you find yourself dealing with? Does it need to be improved? How?

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 under the age of 25 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 the juvenile lifers, 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.**

Cycle of incarceration trap mother and son

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Devin Cole last saw his mom when he was 2 years old. Then she went to prison. That was 22 years ago, when Alisa “Lee Lee” Stanifer began serving a life sentence at the California Institution for Women (CIW) in Corona.

Cole has been wearing denim at San Quentin for a year serving five years on a domestic violence conviction.

Mother-son incarceration on felony charges is rare indeed and Cole says it is not easy. Over the years, he says he has learned to forgive, cope, and is struggling to break this generational prison life.

One in eight African American children has a parent behind bars and one in 10 children of prisoners will be incarcerated before reaching the age of 18, according to San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership.

Cole is trapped in this statistic. “I can’t wait to see my mother face to face,” Cole said. “I will

give her the longest hug; I know we both need it.”

After his mother went to prison Cole was raised by his grandparents in Pittsburg, Calif. “When I would ask about my mother, the conversation wouldn’t last long,” Cole said. “They would show me pictures of her and tell me she was in prison.” When he was older, they finally told him, she was in prison for murder and robbery.

His mother would phone home for the holidays, but Cole admitted he didn’t know what to say. He had become numb emotionally because he didn’t know her.

“Our calls were real short,” he said. “We never talked about when she was coming home.

“I remember at age 10, I got a bike from a church who said your mother sent you this; I really felt she was real in my life at that time.”

Cole had to grow up fast once his grandmother died. His grandfather was a good provider, but he lacked the nurturing of a mother.

A move from Pittsburg to



Photo by SQN

Devin Cole

Turlock at the age of 11 led Cole into trouble and juvenile hall after being bullied by other teens who resented the newcomer. Cole retrieved his grandfather’s gun and committed an assault with a deadly weapon.

At the age of 14, sitting in juvenile hall, Cole would see his mother on a TV program called Lock Up.

“She looked liked she was doing good,” he said. “She was talking about prison life and how she was dealing with her situation. At the end of the show, the guard said she was constantly in



Courtesy of Devin Cole

Alisa “Lee Lee” Stanifer

trouble.

“I started to think my mom is a real gangster, but being in prison myself I see that she was just going through her struggles.”

Cole sometimes thinks about what life would be like if she had never gone to prison.

Cole, 25, is serving his sentence in San Quentin because of violence against a longtime girlfriend, who happened to be older than he is.

“I started to look at her like a mother figure,” Cole said. “I started to lash out at her when I couldn’t get what I wanted.

I truly apologize to her and I know I messed up. I had so much jealousy and anger build-up from my childhood.”

Cole says he accepts responsibility for his action. He has taken advantage of rehabilitative programs by completing Nonviolent Communication and is presently in the Next Step program. He is a computer programming class member and plays on the prison’s flag football team.

“I learned to show empathy because I wasn’t doing that,” he said. “You have to have empathy to connect with people.”

He currently is going through the approval process to correspond through letters with his mother in CIW.

“I wish it was a way I could just hear her voice,” he said. “Just like with the writing process, we should be able to talk for birthdays or holidays. Prison policy does not allow family members in separate institutions to have phone calls.

“I love and miss her; I just hope she does what she needs to do for the parole board.”

President’s nominee for attorney general draws controversy

By Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

President Donald Trump’s controversial nomination of Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama) for United States Attorney General (AG) is expected to be approved by Congress despite liberal opposition, according to Josh Gerstein of *Politico*.

Trump team representative

Jason Miller believes Sessions will be confirmed.

“Senator Sessions is someone who is universally respected across party lines in the U.S. Senate,” Miller said. “We feel very confident that Senator Sessions has the background and the support to receive confirmation.”

But, critics say the selection of Sessions as AG has created

a great deal of concern among Justice Department lawyers, setting the stage for a mass exodus, reports Gerstein.

During the run-up to the election, senior department lawyers, who implement voting rights, investigate police brutality and prosecute hate crimes, were worried about the consequences of a Trump presidency. Now with the

selection of Sessions, those fears have been realized.

“If there was a level above DEFCON One, it would be that,” said Sam Bagenstos, a civil rights division official. “Jeff Sessions has a unique and uniquely troubled history with the civil rights division ... From the perspective of the work of the enforcement of civil rights, I think the Sessions pick is a particularly troublesome one — more than anyone else you can think of.”

One of the concerns comes from the department’s anti-discrimination unit, regarding racist comments made by Sessions to a Black lawyer. In a 1986 judgeship nomination before a Senate Judiciary Committee, a Black lawyer testified that Sen. Sessions referred to him as “boy,” and another lawyer testified Sessions saying the Ku Klux Klan was “OK, until I heard that they smoked pot.”

Moreover, the Justice Department complaints are not just related to Sen. Sessions’ comments but his unsuccessful prosecution of Black civil rights leaders for ballot-tampering.

Albert Turner, a former assistant to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was acquitted, once described the prosecution as more like a “witch hunt” by Sen. Sessions.

Supporters of Sen. Session say the allegations being made are unfounded and a cover for liberals’ disagreements with the senator’s political views.

“Throughout three intervening decades of public life, Mr. Sessions hasn’t evinced an iota of racial animus,” said Quin Hillyer, a columnist in Mobile, Ala., in *The Wall Street Journal*. Further, Sen. Sessions has demonstrated his pursuit of equal justice as one of three sponsors of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, which reduced differences in sentencing terms

between crack and powdered cocaine. “Mr. Sessions specifically argued that this created unfair racial disparities, since crack was the drug of poor inner cities,” reported the *The Wall Street Journal*.

“The only reason folks are criticizing him is because people don’t like his conservative principles,” said Hans von Spakovsky, a former official in the Justice Department’s civil rights division under President George W. Bush. “He’s a very good guy. The claims resurrecting these claims of racism are complete and total bull.”

Von Spakovsky says critics fail to acknowledge Sen. Sessions’ efforts to fight the Klan in his state.

“It was his case that he filed against the KKK that helped break the back of the Klan in Alabama,” Von Spakovsky said.

Von Spakovsky acknowledged there will be a large number of resignations in the civil rights division. He hopes they do because of their liberal views.

“There may be an exodus. I hope, frankly, there is,” said von Spakovsky.

Lisa Graves, a former lawyer during the Clinton administration, is concerned what impact an appointment by Sen. Sessions would have upon police brutality cases.

“With respect to Sessions’ background, I think it’s a really serious question of whether he will at all continue the Justice Department’s process of examining these cases where people are shot who are unarmed and often African-American,” Graves said. “I just don’t have any confidence he’ll do the right thing.”

According to Gerstein, while Democrats express concern about Sessions, they say they will reserve judgment until confirmation hearings start.

CoreCivic claims success for educational programs

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

CoreCivic is boasting higher than expected success rates in its educational programs, *The Eloy Enterprise* reports.

At La Palma Correctional Center in Eloy (CCA operated private prison facility), “as of late August, 94 inmates had received their GED in 2016 through the programs offered. In addition, 557 inmates have also received vocational certificates in everything from electrical, to carpentry and plumbing, according to a CoreCivic press release,” says Tanner Clinch of *The Eloy Enterprise*.

This figure is on course to surpass that of the previous year, where 73 inmates obtained their GEDs, and another 747 inmates obtained vocational certificates, Clinch says.

La Palma Correctional Center’s Principal of Education, Yolanda Fernandez-Carr, said, “These inmates are able to change their lifestyle just by the fact that they either continue their education or they get into one of the trades when they get out,” Clinch reports.

It has been recognized that inmates who participate in education while incarcerated are 43

percent less likely to re-offend and have a 13 percent higher chance of gaining employment when released. A study from the Research and Development Corporation has affirmed this statistic, according to Clinch.

“It’s incumbent upon all of us to educate these students as much as possible because these people will return to the community, and we’re trying to develop productive citizens,” said Ramirez-Carr, Clinch reports.

Approximately 3,000 inmates are housed at La Palma on behalf of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). In addition, CoreCivic runs three other prison facilities in Eloy, according to *The Eloy Enterprise* report.

CDCR Public Information Officer Joe Orlando noted, “Education has always been a priority throughout our prison system, whether the inmate is housed in-state or at one of the contract bed units,

Speaking on behalf of CoreCivic, Director of Educational Services Michelle Cotter, according to the report, said, “We know that quality education and vocational training are crucial to successful reentry, and we are always working to pro-

vide those opportunities for the individuals in our care.”

Ramirez-Carr credits CoreCivic’s educational success rates to hard-working teachers and tutoring programs they have been able to offer.

According to Clinch’s report, at La Palma, 67 percent of inmates who take the GED test pass it.

Additionally, CoreCivic is also “looking to supply more advanced education opportunities at La Palma, hoping to add an associate’s program in construction management to their curriculum to go along with the horticulture and master gardener certifications they offer through a partnership with the University of Arizona,”

Currently, CoreCivic is also working on growth, with a new facility in the making. A “\$34 million, 97,000-square-foot expansion will house eight 50-bed dorms for prisoners, along with support facilities such as food and medical service, as well as recreation such as basketball courts, libraries, a baseball field and, of course, education. The new facility will offer more opportunities for vocational education in computing and electrical training,” Clinch reported.

Inmate's path back from a very bad start

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

Charlie Spence dreams of going home after two decades in prison, but he may never go home because of decisions he made as a teenager.

Spence gave up on school when teachers humiliated him; he started using drugs so other kids would accept him, and when he was 16 years old, he committed his first robbery.

"My earliest memory was of my father trying to urinate on my baby brother in his crib," Spence said, retelling the moments in his life that he believes led him to a place where he was able to commit violence against another human being. "My mother tried to stop him, and he just beat her."

Spence said that two abusive father figures damaged his ability to form relationships with other males. Mistrust led to isolation that was exacerbated by placement in Special Education at school.

He eventually started hanging out with drug users, and communal drug use eased his sense of alienation. "It didn't matter that I was stupid; it didn't matter that I was worthless. These guys accepted me."

According to Spence, court records reflect that Spence's friend Thomas tried to rob a victim while Spence was using the bathroom. The victim grabbed the gun, and Thomas shot him.

"I ran back into the room, and he was ..." Spence paused, unable to speak for a moment. His muscular jaw flexed beneath a blond beard that doesn't quite cover a thick scar that curves from his eye to cheek. "He was dead. I don't have words for that moment. I was devastated. I called for an ambulance. We were arrested."

The robbery in which Spence participated resulted in the victim's death. Under California's felony-murder rule, Spence would be found guilty of murder if the district attorney proved that he had intended to commit a robbery.

"It's how I make meaning out of my past"

Spence was a juvenile then, and the law places the burden on the juvenile's defense to prove in a special hearing that the child is eligible to be considered as a juvenile by the court. (California's Proposition 57 is trying to change this practice, which is called direct filing.)

In court, a Sacramento County sheriff escorted Spence to what is called a 707(b) hearing to determine whether a 16-year-old kid was eligible to be treated like a 16-year-old kid. The court, according to Spence, can consid-



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Charlie Spence

er a juvenile an adult if it finds any of the following: the crime is too severe, the juvenile can't be rehabilitated by the time he or she is 25 years old, the juvenile's crime shows an adult amount of sophistication, or the juvenile has a past record.

Spence had never been arrested, but the district attorney argued that because Spence used drugs, that meant he was a criminal living a criminal lifestyle. According to Spence, this was enough by law to try Spence as an adult, but the district attorney also argued that Spence showed adult sophistication because he used a butter knife to jimmy the door to his mother's bedroom to retrieve the gun with which Thomas eventually killed the victim.

The court tried Spence as an

adult and sentenced him to 25 years to life.

"The moment after I committed my crime, I was committed to change my life," Spence said, responding to the court's idea that he couldn't be rehabilitated. "After the court sentenced me, I eventually arrived at High Desert State Prison in 1998. It was a violent, maximum security prison, and thoughts of changing my life went out the window. Life became about surviving."

High Desert didn't offer the rehabilitative programs Spence needed to address his traumas and turn his life onto a positive course. Just as he'd done in school when he became involved with communal drug use, he found acceptance in the prison drug culture.

Though he was still making irresponsible decisions, Spence still managed to make gradual changes in his life.

"I was a programmer," he said. Programmer is a term that designates an incarcerated person who practices self-improvement and doesn't cause problems for correctional officers. "But I still had one foot in and one foot out of the right kind of lifestyle. I was still seeking acceptance in ways that devalued my worth. It took me 15 years to realize that I was behaving in the same way that had caused me to commit my crime when I was 16."

Today, Spence works with youth offenders, people who

committed their crimes before their rational faculties have fully developed. He teaches them to locate the human values inside them and allow these values to inform their emotions and actions. He said he wants to empower them to constructively contribute to their environments and to themselves.

"It's how I make meaning out of my past," Spence said. He's a peer counselor in VOEG (Victim Offenders Education Group), where he helps men process their traumatic histories. He hopes to bring them healing, so that one day, they'll be able to pay that healing forward to others.

Spence has a lot of plans for the future. He's a few classes away from a bachelor's degree in specialized studies, psychology and leadership. He's also studying the LSAT, so he can attend law school upon his release.

"I have the experience of a young man coming into the system, and with a law degree I'll have the credibility with the audience I want to address."

He also wants to return to Agate Beach, a special place for him on the coast of the California-Oregon border. His grandfather used to fish there from the shoreline into the surf for perch.

"I used to watch him from a little plateau on the beach. I could sit there for hours, absorbing the sounds and sights and him. I dream of going back there."

Happy Valentines Day

I love you two more than anything in this world. HAPPY valentine's day my loves. -Chad Cleveland

I'm with her. When your other half is your better half, two people in love together forever equals longevity. -Anthony Denard

valentine's Day is a time to celebrate that special love in your life. I'm truly blessed and thankful to have an amzaing wife to enjoy it with. -Greg Eskridge

Happy valentine's Day to the loves of my life. -Caleb Eller

Celebrating the unknown accomplishments

Ali's battles beyond the ring

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Muhammad Ali risked going to prison during the prime years of his boxing career to stand up for his beliefs. The fight for equality didn't end after his last heavyweight match; he dedicated his retirement to continuing the struggle. Ali died on June 3, 2016 at age 74, but his achievements still affect the lives of many, including incarcerated people.

"Ali was the greatest," said incarcerated boxing enthusiast Perry Simpson. "He was a father figure, an uncle figure — someone to look up to. His history speaks for itself. His strength and character, the way he stuck to things, and all the stuff he went through during the times he went through them. He was a real-life superman."

In 1964, at 22 years old, Ali became one of the youngest heavyweight champions by defeating Sonny Liston. Two years later, Ali took on the United States government when the army called on him to serve in the Vietnam War.

"War is against the teachings of the Qur'an," said Ali. "I'm not trying to dodge the draft. Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go ten-thousand miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like

dogs and denied simple human rights?"

The government arrested Ali, found him guilty of draft evasion and stripped him of his boxing titles and licenses. Ali didn't fight again for nearly four years, from ages 25-29, according to Wikipedia.

"I really believe we missed seeing him develop a whole lot of his skill level," said Perry. "We didn't get to see those prime years. That was a tragedy to all who loved him."

Ali remained free pending appeal of the court's decision overturning his conviction in 1971. Ali regained the heavyweight title at age 32 by beating George Foreman in "The Rumble in the Jungle" on Oct. 30, 1974.

"Youngsters are looking at him and they see a man they should be, could be and ought to be"

Long after Ali's last round, he is still remembered at San Quentin State Prison. In 2014, one of Ali's robes was donated to Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP), a program aimed at helping people stop their violence. Called the "Victory Robe," it is awarded to someone in the program who has overcome challenges and is deeply dedicated to serving the community.

Every year the robe passes on to the new recipient whose name is embroidered in gold on it, right under the name of the past honorees Robin Guil-

len, Jenny Lyons and Melissa Davis. Outstanding work facilitating the GRIP program wins the award. The honorees come from diverse backgrounds. Guillen is incarcerated. Lyons was a victim of crime and Davis, of the Marin County Probation Department, teaches domestic violence prevention.

"They may be ordinary people, but they're still the greatest," said GRIP founder Jacques Verduin.

The robe honoring an ambassador of peace reflects Ali's principles. After the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, Ali stated, "Islam is a religion of peace" and "does not promote terrorism or killing people."

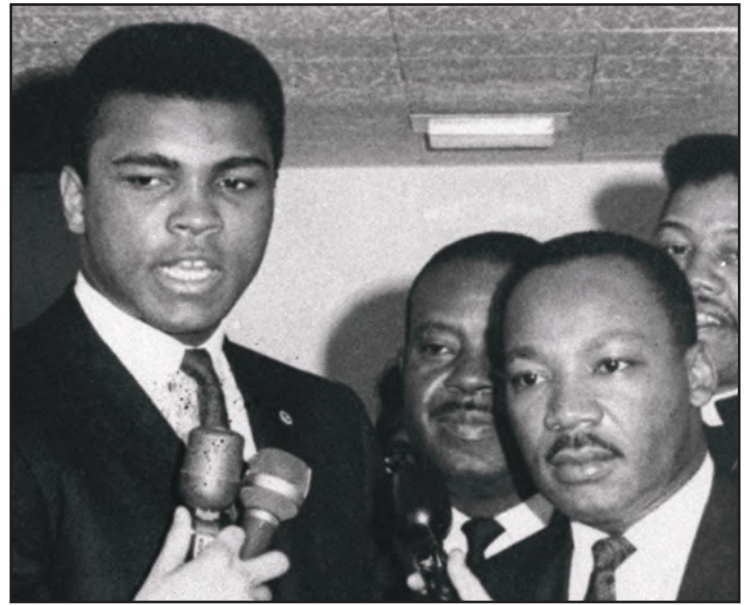
After Ali retired from boxing in 1981, he got "ready to meet God" by aiding charitable causes and working for peace around the world.

Part of that charity included visiting California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in 1985. While there, he signed autographs and demonstrated magic tricks for the women prisoners.

Next, Ali went to the men's side of CRC where he offered noon prayers with the Muslim community, then went to the gym where he boxed with an incarcerated man. He also donated 200 books.

Ali was a big influence on hip-hop music. According to *Rolling Stone*, his "freestyle skills ... rhymes, flow, and braggadocio" would "one day become typical of old school MCs" such as Run D.M.C. and LL Cool J.

Ali used rhyme schemes in spoken word poetry, political activism and trash talked opponents long before *The Last Poets* in 1968, Gil Scott Heron in 1970 or *Rapper's Delight*,



File Photo

Muhammad Ali with Martin Luther King, Jr.

the first Hip Hop record in late 1970s. In 1963, Ali released an album of spoken word music on Columbia Records titled *I Am the Greatest*.

Ali used his lyrical skill to fight against injustice. He wrote a poem, speaking out against what happened when then-New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller called in the National Guard and state police to retake Attica Prison from incarcerated men protesting their conditions. When the turmoil ended, 33 prisoners and 10 correctional employees were dead, according to *Blood in the Water* (2016) by Heather Ann Thompson.

"To die fighting to be free, what better ending could there be," said Ali. "They opened fire on us, but they died telling it like it was."

Ali fought past medical advice from his doctor Ferdie Pacheco, who advised him to retire in 1977. He ended his career with back-to-back losses

to Larry Holmes in 1980 and Trevor Berbick in 1981, with a record of 61 fights, 56 wins, 37 by knockout, and 5 losses.

In 1984, Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which some experts believe can result from head trauma.

A respiratory illness hospitalized Ali on June 2, 2016. He died the following day from septic shock.

Immediately following Ali's death, he trended as the number one topic on Twitter for 12 hours and on Facebook for days. ESPN, CNN, BBC, Fox News, and ABC News covered him extensively and BET aired *Muhammad Ali: Made In Miami*.

"Ali's death is a great loss, but it's a rebirth too because now the light has been shined on him and the things he did in his life are coming back full circle," said Perry. "Youngsters are looking at him and they see a man they should be, could be and ought to be."

Black History

Continued from Page 1

Unlike Jackie Robinson, his goal wasn't to become the first Black in a White-defined league. His goal was creation of a professional baseball league owned, organized, managed and played by African-Americans, Rhoden wrote.

Foster created baseball's Negro National League in 1920. That marked one of the last times that Blacks controlled and owned a major-league sports organization.

"It would be a crime for the Negro, who has such an abundance of talent in such a progressive age, to sit idly by and see his race forever doomed to America's greatest and foremost sport," Foster once wrote.

Foster was a star pitcher, a manager and a team owner who spearheaded a groundbreaking league. The fast pace of the Negro league drew a cross-section of fans attracted by the bunting, the stealing of bases, the spikes-first slides and the circus-like catches.

Foster envisioned a well-run and competitive league when it was time to negotiate with the major leagues, because he knew that integration was inevitable,

Rhoden wrote.

"Organization is our only hope — we have the players, and it could not be a failure, as the same territory is traveled now by all clubs, with no organization or money," Foster wrote in the *Indianapolis Freeman* newspaper.

Foster called a meeting of the Black owners of the eight strongest teams to Kansas City. They formed the Negro league. Foster did not want any White owners, but J.L. Wilkinson, owner of the Kansas City Monarchs, was admitted as part of the nine-team founding group.

Before Foster, Black teams were just traveling and playing hit-or-miss exhibition games, local neighborhood teams or White major leaguers looking to make extra money on the side, Rhoden noted.

This circuit was known as barnstorming and under that tradition, Whites were the sole controlling booking agents. The Negro league helped break the agents' strong hold.

As word spread about the league, the White-run Eastern League of Colored Baseball



File Photo

Rube Foster

(ELCB) offered to buy Foster out. The ELCB offered Foster a team of his own and the opportunity to play in a \$100,000 stadium if he came to their league. Foster turned down the offer and began booking games successfully, preventing the other leagues from controlling all the big-time Black names in baseball.

The league began to blossom with each city having a team to cheer for, players to identify with, and a pennant race to follow.

Foster was the league's greatest strength but also its weakness, Rhoden wrote. He ordered

team uniforms and equipment. As commissioner, he settled disputes, and he sent his own players from his Chicago Giants to weaker teams to keep the league competitive. He made a lot of money by getting a percentage of the gross of each gate, but he poured money into unstable franchises and guaranteed hotel bills for teams stranded on the road.

In 1926, Foster negotiated with American League President Ban Johnson and New York Yankees Manager

John McGraw for his team to play their squads when they visited Chicago. But, the Major League commissioner killed the idea.

This dealt a blow to Foster, realizing his league would never become a part of White baseball. Foster suffered a nervous breakdown and died at age 51.

Without the vision of Foster, the league died in 1932.

Gus Greenlee formed his Negro Baseball League in 1933. He and Alex Pompez, the owner of the New York Black Yankees, were the only owners of their

own stadiums.

They fell to the same opposition as Foster. However, various Negro leagues sprang up throughout the 1940s and finally died out in the 1960s, but none accomplished what Foster did.

Civil rights activist Audley "Queen Mother" Moore expressed regret for fighting to integrate individual players and not whole teams into the Major Leagues.

"Organization is our only hope..."

"When our teams played in the communities throughout the country, our communities were ablaze with activity — our hotels, we had hotels and all, we used to have taxis, shoeshine boys, old women selling candies and peanuts and everything," said Moore. "Now you have a Negro or 10 Negro or 20 Negroes there, but the White man gets all the gate."

Foster stood on principle, Rhoden noted. He had the opportunity to leave Black baseball for the majors, but he wanted to take whole teams and owners with him. But, even to this day, there's no Black owner of a major league baseball team.

s of Ali, Foster and other Black Americans

Historic Black American's first achievements

The accomplishments of African-Americans like Martin Luther King and Malcolm X are well known, but history records many African-Americans who also contributed to the progress of Black people in America. Their stories are rarely read or celebrated.

Here are some examples from three sources detailing Black history:

James Durham overcame being born a slave to become the first American Black physician in 1783.

In 1800, Gabriel Prosser led an attempted revolt of 1,000 slaves in Richmond, Va.

In 1921, the Pace Phonograph Company became the first Black-owned record company. Henry Pace estab-

lished the label. Its claim to fame was Ethel Waters' hit, *Down Home Blues/Oh, Daddy*.

In 1963, *Ebony* Magazine named Jeanne Noble, author of *The Negro Woman's College Education*, one of the most influential Negroes of the Emancipation Centennial Year.

Yvonne Braithwaite Burke became the first Black woman elected to the California Assembly in 1967.

The first Black California Supreme Court justice was Wiley E. Manuel in 1977.

Clarence Page became the first Black columnist awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1989.

In 1991, Siraj Wahaj became the first Muslim to give an invocation in the U.S. House Representatives.

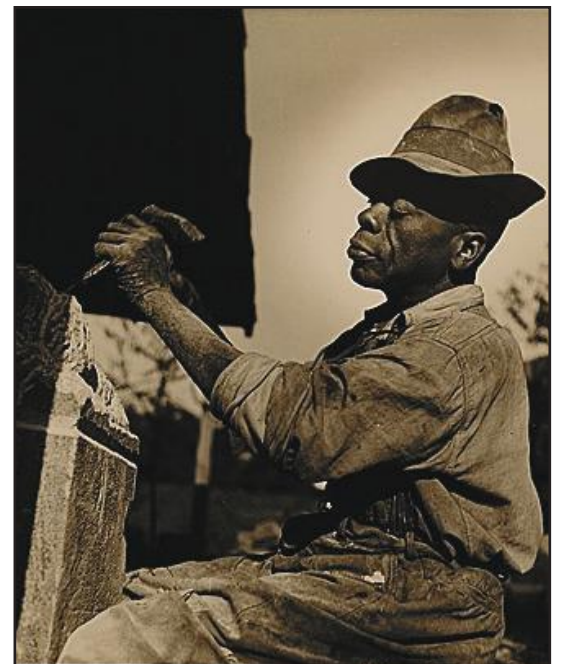
Sources: *1999 Facts about Blacks*, 2nd edition by Raymond M. Corbin; *Black-Firsts*, 2nd Edition by Jessie Carney Smith; *A History of Racial Injustice*, 2016 Calendar by The Equal Justice.

—**Marcus Henderson & Rahsaan Thomas**



Courtesy of thehistorymakers.com

Jenny R. Patrick-Yeboah became the first American Black woman to earn a doctorate in chemical engineering in either 1979 or 1981, depending on which source is correct.



By Louise Dahl-Wolfe—Archives of American Art

In 1937 William Edmondson became the first Black artist featured in a solo exhibit at New York's Museum of Modern Art from Oct. 20 to Dec. 12, 1937.



Courtesy of archpaper.com

In 1954, Norma Merrick Skiarek became New York State's first Black woman registered as an architect. She also became California's first Black licensed architect in 1962.



By blackpost.org

Clarence Page became the first Black columnist awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1989.



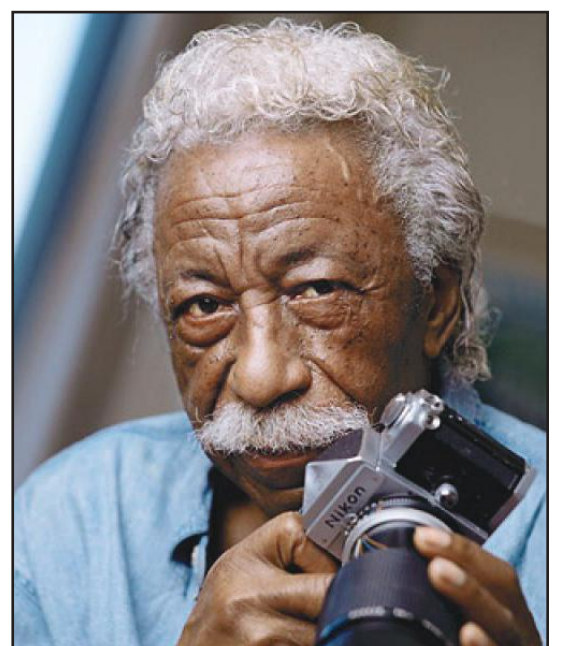
Courtesy of classyblackgirl.com

In 1990, Carole Gist became the first African-American crowned Miss USA.



Courtesy of Black Fives Foundation

The New York Renaissance has the distinction of becoming the first Black pro basketball team in 1923. The team disbanded in 1948 after a segregated NBA denied them admission.



File Photo

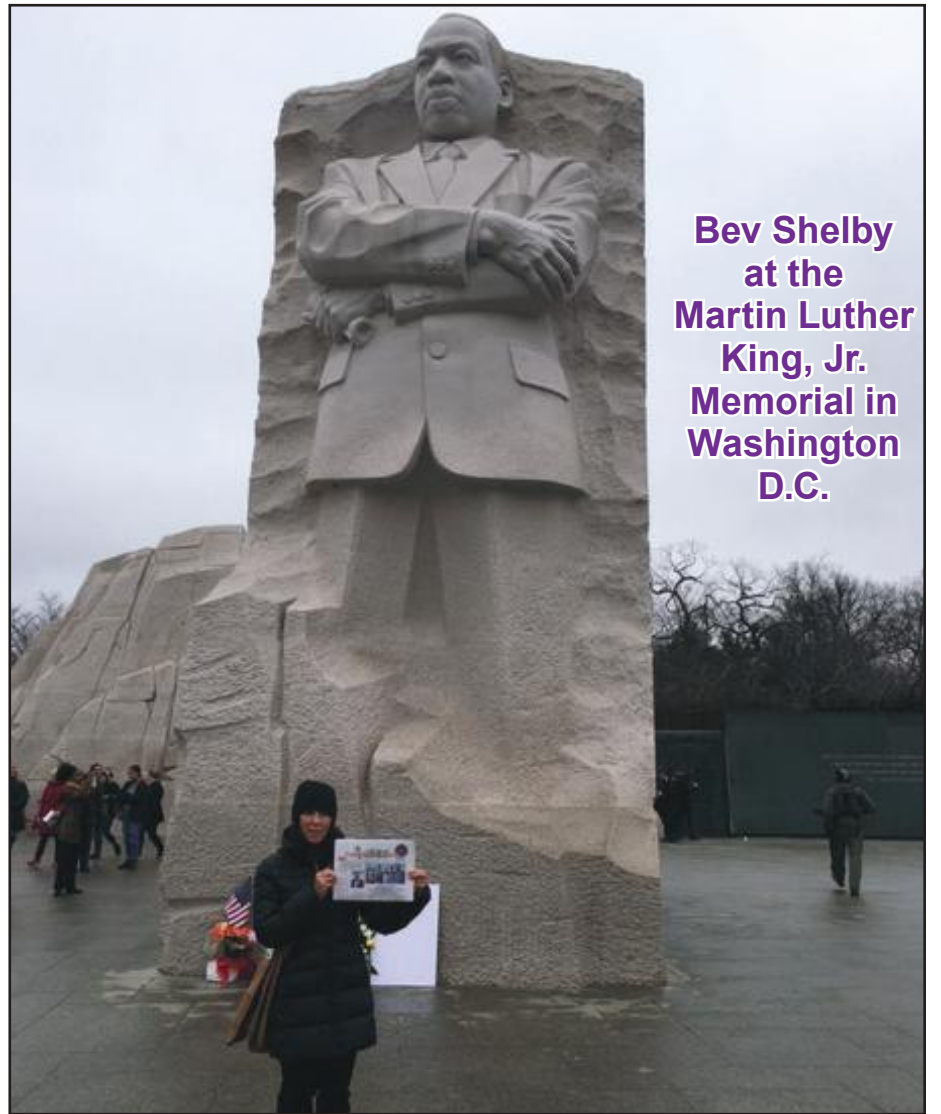
The first Black photojournalist was Gordon A. Parks Sr. in 1949. He worked for *Life* magazine. Parks also became the first Black to direct movies for a major movie studio, including the movie *Shaft*, starring Richard Roundtree.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD



**Yukari Kane
at the
Norauank Monastery
in Armenia built in
the 13th century**

Courtesy of Yukari Kane



**Bev Shelby
at the
Martin Luther
King, Jr.
Memorial in
Washington
D.C.**

Courtesy of Bev Shelby

Arts & Entertainment



Pencil drawing of Jimi Hendrix and James Hetfield of Metallica

Drawings by Paul Irish Kirvan

Snippets

Bullet ants inflict the most painful sting in the world. The throbbing, burning waves of pain from its paralyzing venom last for longer than 24 hours.

Earth is an oblate spheroid—meaning it's roundish, but bulges in the center, at the equator. This is due to the centrifugal force of Earth's rotation.

Leaded gasoline was phased out from 1993 and banned in 1995. However, fuel containing lead may continue to be sold for off-road uses, including aircraft, racing cars, farm equipment and marine engines.

It takes about 540 peanuts to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter.

Each human hand has 29 major joints (give or take a few), 123 ligaments, 48 nerves, and 30 arteries.

WORDCROSS PUZZLE

By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

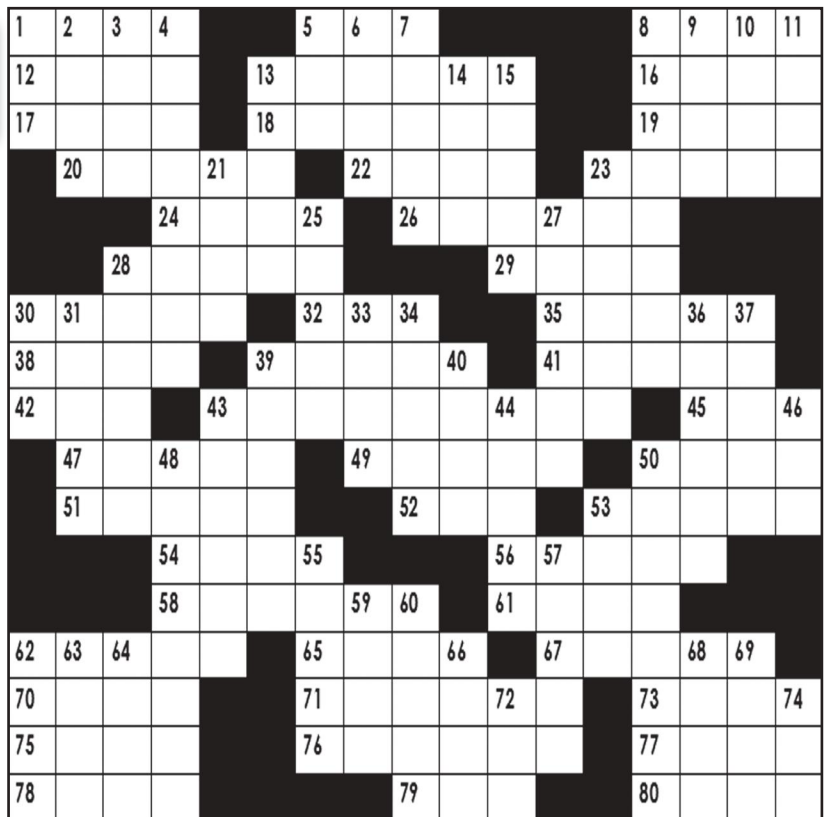
Across

1. As a matter of...
5. What you open at a bar
8. Without (L)
12. Locale inside Parc National De La Pendjar in West Africa
13. Cool beers
16. You can run this way
17. Author of the Oz books
18. College football Ducks locale
19. Austin Powers' _____-Me
20. Key and Peele 2016 movie about a cat
22. *Beavis and Butthead Do America's* Moore
23. Type of beverage jar
24. Clark's love interest
26. Movie that made everyone want to be a fighter pilot
28. A type of celeb
29. Kind
30. Locale on the Indian/Pakistan border west of New Dehli
32. Anne Kirkpatrick is the Chief of this Dept. (Abbrev.)
35. One of a widespread genus
38. Pulau _____: island on the Singapore/Malaysia border
39. Comic Robinson and a star of *The Office*
41. Scottish chief land owner
42. A male turkey
43. Comic and host of *The Price Is Right*
45. Nutritional supplement store (Abbrev.)
47. Obama's daughter
49. Transition without break
50. When doubled, the name of indie band with the album *Details*
51. *Paul* _____: *Mall Cop*
52. _____ can cook
53. Al who parody songs
54. A notable of _____ who
56. 23 Down's movie *Shrek the* _____
58. City in S. Bihar, NE India
61. Precedes list, bird or fest
62. Witchy town
65. Common computer go to
67. Cartoon Network's _____ Swim
70. Image
71. *Last Week Tonight with John*
73. Young of *Ace Ventura*
75. Undercover drug cop (Slang)
76. *Atlanta* star and Childish Gambino's Glover
77. Burden of proof

78. Give satisfaction for an injury
79. District representative (Abbrev.)
80. Dorsal portion of an insect (Pl)

Down

1. Delightful (Abbrev.)
2. City in WC Iran
3. Mystery board game
4. Comic and star of *Last Man Standing*
5. Dinosaur and lung killer
6. Fine wine and cheese are this
7. Sire
8. *Full Frontal with* _____ *Bee*
9. British writer Kingsley
10. Forbidden
11. You can get under someone's
13. Comic C.K.
14. Cowboy's second string QB
15. Metal shears
21. Guy of Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*
23. Comic Eddie of *Life*
25. NBC comedy *Super* _____
27. Douche facial hair
28. *National Lampoon's* _____ *House*
30. What you can get stuck in
31. What a bad comic can be on stage (2 words)
33. Animal hands
34. Hazardous situations
36. Bergman of *Casablanca*
37. Common greeting in Mexico
39. Rock formation of the Earth's crust
40. Superbowl's Lady
43. UAE's monetary unit
44. Little kids (Slang)
46. Cattle's stomach content
48. Co-star of 23 down in *Life*
50. Comic Craig and co-star of 43 across '90s sitcom
53. *Gone With the* _____
55. A young cod or haddock
57. An enormous crowd
59. Airplane alternative (Abbrev.)
60. Menzel of *Frozen*
62. Ed Sheeran song
63. LA resident necessity (2 words)
64. Myth
66. Best shape for an office
68. Comic who collects cars
69. No slack
72. Ancient times
74. Eavesdropping agency



Correction to last month's puzzle for following Down clues: 55 is 54, 57 is 56, 61 is 60, 62 is 61, 64 is 63, 65 is 64, 66 is 65, 67 is 66, 69 is 68, 70 is 69, 72 is 71 and 73 is 72.

Sudoku Corner

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

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

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

The Month of February

- February is the only month in a year that does not have a fixed number of days. All other months have either thirty (30) or thirty-one (31) days.
- February generally has twenty-eight (28) days, but every four years, during "leap year," has twenty-nine (29) days. Unlike all other months in 2017, February has four of each day of the week.
- Groundhog Day is on Thursday, Feb. 2. There will be a full moon on Friday, Feb. 10. Saint Valentine's Day is on Tuesday, Feb. 14, and President's Day is on Monday, Feb. 20.
- For Christians, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is on Thursday, Feb. 2, and the Memorial of Saint Blaise is on Friday, Feb. 3. For Eastern Orthodox Christians, Lent begins on Monday, Feb. 27.
- For Canadian Nationals, Family Day is celebrated in British Columbia on Monday, Feb. 13, and for the rest of Canada, on Monday, Feb. 20.
- For Mexican Nationals, Constitution Day is on Monday, Feb. 6, and Flag Day is on Friday, Feb. 24.
- According to the World Almanac, February is Black History Month, American Heart Month, Library Lovers Month, Youth Leadership Month, and Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month.
- There are two astrological signs in February: Aquarius, the sign of the Water Bearer (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) and Pisces, the sign of the Fishes (Feb. 19 to March 20).
- According to the Jewelry Industry Council, the February birthstone is the Amethyst.

San Quentin News would like to know:

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

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

Estudio examina como los presos pueden mejorar sus oportunidades ante el comité de audiencias

Por Wayne Boatwright
Managing Editor

Por décadas, los presos con una sentencia de vida difícilmente obtenían su libertad condicional. Actualmente, más del 20% están siendo liberados. Todo esto gracias a los cambios a nivel legal, ejecutivo, y administrativo.

La aprobación de la proposición 57 en Noviembre del 2016, permitirá que muchos prisioneros tengan acceso a la libertad condicional y que otros miles de presos puedan tener una audiencia ante un comité (Board of Parole Hearings), para determinar si son elegibles

a la libertad condicional.

Estas son excelentes noticias para los presos que se encuentran en San Quentin con deseos de regresar a casa. Solo necesitan aprovechar estos cambios.

En el primero de tres artículos, los cuales están basados en un nuevo estudio por la Universidad de Stanford, publicados en el Federal Sentencing Reporter (Stanford Report) en el mes de Abril del 2016, tendremos la oportunidad de observar como funciona el sistema.

Actualmente existen aproximadamente 35,000 prisioneros en el sistema carcelario de California que se encuentran cumpliendo una sentencia de

vida con posibilidad de libertad condicional. Estas sentencias "indeterminadas" eran catalogadas como vida, "tener una sentencia de vida significa que podrías pasar el resto de tu vida en la prisión" porque únicamente muy pocos presos con estas sentencias eran hallados elegibles. Las razones por las cuales se les negaba su libertad no eran claras; y esto se debe a que "la comunidad no tiene idea" de como funciona el proceso para determinar la elegibilidad de un preso, informó de Stanford Report.

Menos de 50 empleados estatales presiden la enorme carga de audiencias. Esta carga es equiv-

alente a un tercio de los presos en los Estados Unidos con sentencias indefinidas (sentencia de vida con posibilidad de libertad condicional). Entre estos empleados 12 son comisionados asignados por el gobernador y un poco mas de 30 de ellos son comisionados de servicio civil. Cada audiencia es presidida por un comisionado de gobierno y un comisionado civil.

Antes de la audiencia, la administración de la prisión prepara un archivo para cada uno de los comisionados. Este archivo incluye documentos relevantes que se encuentran en el archivo central del preso (C-File), y que contiene: un resumen del crimen, el historial criminal del preso, una evaluación psicológica, un reporte del progreso obtenido posterior al encarcelamiento, y cualquier decisión de audiencias anteriores.

Los presos con una sentencia indeterminada tienen su audiencia inicial un año antes de su fecha potencial de salida mínima.

Con la excepción de dos ordenes de la Suprema Corte de California en el 2008, prácticamente ningún preso era encontrado elegible para ser puesto en libertad. Entre los años de 1979 y 2007, los comisionados encontraron elegibles a menos del 3% de los presos. Sin embargo, la mayoría de estas decisiones fueron revertidas por el Gobernador de California, según el Stanford Report.

La Comisión de Audiencias (BPH) inicia la conferencia con la opinión legal de que un preso es elegible para obtener su libertad condicional al menos que "al considerar la seguridad pública se requiera una periodo extenso de encarcelamiento" (Código Penal de California 401 (b)). A pesar de eso, muy pocos presos obtuvieron un resultado favorable por parte de los comisiona-

dos.

El proceso requiere que la Comisión de Audiencias (BPH) considere 15 factores enumerados en el Código de Regulaciones de California (CCR), título 15, 2402 (a). Seis factores se refieren a las razones por las cuales se les niega la libertad al preso. Estos factores incluyen: crímenes muy crueles, un historial de mucha violencia, problemas psicológicos, mal comportamiento dentro de la institución, historial previo de violencia u ofensas sexuales sadísticas, y si carecen de un plan al ser liberados. Los otros nueve factores restantes demuestran la elegibilidad del preso y estos incluyen: evidencia que muestren remordimiento por el crimen, ausencia de un historial delictivo juvenil, y un historial social estable.

El porcentaje de elegibilidad para presos con sentencias indefinidas ha incrementado dramáticamente de un 8% en el año 2008 a un 30% en el 2015. El aumento se debe a que la Comisión de Audiencias (BPH) ha "encontrado elegibles a más presos". A pesar de que el gobernador revocó la libertad a una quinta parte de estos presos, casi el 25% de aquellos presos que tuvieron una audiencia en el 2015 ganaron su libertad condicional.

En los próximos artículos consideraremos como se lleva a cabo la decisión de elegibilidad, las características de la audiencia y las variables que tienen un gran impacto estadístico sobre las probabilidades de obtener la libertad condicional.

Una copia del "Stanford Report" esta disponible a través de Patten University esta disponible solo para estudiantes.

—Traducción por
Marco Villa y
Taré Beltranchuc

Origen del Día del Amor y la Amistad

Por Marco Villa y
Taré Beltranchuc

El 14 de Febrero, a pesar de ser una fecha muy anhelada y popular entre las parejas, muy pocos conocen la historia de esta tradición. Esta celebración es conocida como el Día de los Enamorados, el Día del Amor y la Amistad, o como el Día de San Valentín.

San Valentín fue un medico Romano bondadoso que decidió hacerse cristiano y ordenarse como sacerdote alrededor del siglo III. Durante esta época se prohibía el matrimonio entre soldados ya que se creía que los hombres solteros rendían más en el campo de batalla.

No obstante, San Valentín decidió ignorar el mandato del Emperador Claudio II y empezó a realizar matrimonios en secreto. La popularidad de San Valentín aumento significativamente al grado que la información llego a oídos del

emperador.

San Valentín fue llamado a comparecer ante el emperador, quien aprovecho esta oportunidad para tratar de convertir al emperador al cristianismo. Sin embargo, lejos de convencer al emperador, éste decide mandar al oficial Asterius ha arrestarlo y castigarlo

Posteriormente el emperador intento burlarse de la religión de San Valentín (cristianismo) poniéndolo a prueba al pedirle que le devolviera la vista a Julia, una de las hijas de Asterius, quien era ciega de nacimiento. Afortunadamente para Asterius, el Dios de San Valentín milagrosamente le devolvió la vista a su hija. A pesar de este milagro, San Valentín fue decapitado por órdenes del emperador el 14 de Febrero del año 270.

Sucesivamente, San Valentín fue hecho un santo por intervenir en el milagro que le devolvió la vista a la hija de Asterius y por su valentía al

casar jóvenes enamorados, en contra del decreto del Emperador Romano Claudio II.

En memoria de San Valentín, la gente empezó a conmemorar cada 14 de Febrero como el Día de los Enamorados, pero fue hasta el año 496 que el Papa Gelasius instauró el 14 de Febrero como el Día de San Valentín.

Con el paso del tiempo, esta festividad empezó a ganar popularidad en países como Francia, Alemania e Italia. Para el año 1842, Esther Ángel Howland, comenzó a vender las primeras tarjetas de San Valentín en América en forma de corazón o Cupido, mejor conocidas como "valentines".

Actualmente, en la ciudad italiana de Terni, existe una basílica que lleva el nombre de San Valentín en honor a éste sacerdote y cada 14 de Febrero, las parejas con deseos de contraer matrimonio al año siguiente asisten a esta basílica a formalizar su compromiso.

El 'Project Rebound' ayuda a ex-convictos a obtener educación universitaria

Por Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

El programa Project Rebound (PR) con base en la Universidad San Francisco State, tiene una tasa de éxito impresionante, reportó Emily DeRuy del The Atlantic; y esta ayudando a ex-convictos a obtener educación universitaria.

El programa fue iniciado en 1967 por un ex-convicto y un profesor de sociología llamado, John Irwin, comentó DeRuy.

La ideología de Irwin era que cuando los ex-convictos obtienen un título universitario, las posibilidades de regresar a prisión disminuyen.

El estudio también muestra un gran contraste en el índice de graduaciones entre los estudiantes del PR y los estudiantes de la universidad: el 90% de los estudiantes del PR se graduaron, en comparación del 50% de los estudiantes universitarios, indica el reporte.

Jason Bell, quien llegó a ser director del PR en el 2005, dice

que los hombres y mujeres que participan en este programa tienen "resistencia psicológica." Bell es un ex-convicto que pasó sus años veintes en prisión por un intento de muerte, de acuerdo al reporte.

Bell tuvo dificultad para graduarse de la preparatoria (High School). Y durante su encarcelamiento continuó con su educación hasta adquirir el diploma de la preparatoria. Bell no se detuvo y siguió con su educación, obteniendo 25 créditos de la Universidad de Ohio. Al conseguir su libertad condicional transfirió sus créditos a la Universidad de San Francisco State, donde obtuvo su licenciatura y maestría. Finalmente, llegó a ser presidente del PR. "Reconocí como la educación había cambiado mi vida y no quería que se terminara", menciona Bell refiriéndose a su sucesor, John Irwin.

La función de Bell y su personal consiste en responder la correspondencia de los pri-

sioneros, procesar las aplicaciones, crear una cuenta de correo electrónico para los estudiantes, enseñar a los estudiantes a poner su trabajo en la red y ofrecerles bonos para comida, dinero para transporte, libros, y hospedaje.

Durante el periodo de Bell como director, más de 140 estudiantes se graduaron por medio del PR. Estos números están propensos a seguir creciendo, ya que, actualmente, Bell esta expandiendo el programa a otros siete colegios en el sistema de la Universidad del Estado de California.

De acuerdo a los oficiales de la Universidad del Estado de San Francisco, la expansión está diseñada para ayudar a reducir el índice de reincidencia en California (44.6%). Un estudio en el 2010 demostró que solamente un 3% de los participantes de PR volvieron a cometer un crimen, expreso DeRuy.

A pesar de que la Universidad de San Francisco State apoya el programa, algunos estudiantes creen que este programa tendría

más éxito si estuviera dirigido por una persona que no fuera ex-convicta. Joseph Miles, un estudiante ex-convicto quien cursa su último año de estudio en el programa PR, está en desacuerdo.

Miles comenta, "no hay forma de reemplazar esa experiencia (la encarcelación)". Los estudiantes tienen más confianza cuando los encargados del programa conocen lo que los estudiantes han vivido. Es muy importante que los estudiantes observen a personas, con pasados similares a los de ellos, para obtener sus títulos universitarios, tener éxito en la vida, y motivarlos a continuar con su educación.

Miles estuvo en prisión por venta de narcóticos a finales de sus años veintes y principios de los treinta. Miles mencionó que el programa le ayudó porque, "había compañerismo". Después de la visita de DeRuy, un vocero de la Universidad de San Francisco State, Miles expresó en un correo electrónico que el director de la escuela siempre ha creí-

do que la misión y las metas del PR dan mejor resultado con un líder que ha estado encarcelado.

Curtis Penn, un ex-prisionero de San Quentin y el nuevo director del PR, añadió, "cuando recibimos cartas de hombres y mujeres que se encuentran tras las rejas y están interesados en alcanzar niveles más altos de educación, actuamos con urgencia y empatía, como si estuviéramos en su lugar y ellos en el lugar de nosotros".

No obstante, Bell cree que el programa tendrá éxito a pesar de cualquier adversidad.

Cuando a los prisioneros se les ofrece una oportunidad de acceso al colegio, Bell menciona que "las personas hacen fila alrededor de la yarda". La oportunidad para obtener un título después de salir en libertad condicional es el paso lógico a seguir.

"Es como un nuevo inicio," expresa Bell.

—Traducción por
Marco Villa y
Taré Beltranchuc

PUP's big open-mic night winds up its year

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Teachers and aides with the Prison University Project, at San Quentin, along with inmates and prison staffers, roared with laughter on Dec. 30 to a sing-along spoof of the *Twelve Days of Christmas* by Alex Brigg.

The parody made fun of police harassment as the audience chimed in with, "On the Fifth Day of Christmas, the police brought to me, five DUIs."

The event was part of an annual open-mic of comedy, poetry, spoken word and musical performances by inmates enrolled in the prison's college. More than 150 people enjoyed the show.

"I heard about San Quentin way before I got here," Brigg said in the Protestant Chapel. "San Quentin has a culture. For a prisoner getting here is like a dream come true, which is an odd thing for someone incarcerated to say. It's because here we have a voice, unlike other prisons. For me, that's important because my family gets to see me in a way they've never seen me."

Aaron "Showtime" Taylor, an inmate, sang the chorus lines for Brigg's routine.

In an earlier performance, Taylor sang his own spoofs, while playing guitar.

Instead of *The Thrill Is Gone*, Taylor sang *My Grill Is Gone*. Then, after making clear he is Muslim, made fun of Islamic dietary beliefs by singing, "I want to eat fried bologna sandwiches." He finished by spoofing *Some-*



Photo by Eddie Herena San Quentin News

Michael Vick reading "Vanguard of the Oppressed" to a packed house

body's *Watching Me with I Feel Like Inmates Are Stalking Me*. A song that joked about inmates following him, snitching on him and then being sent to the hole.

Other performances touched upon recent politics and social issues.

Eddie DeWeaver said he's suffering from PTED — Post Traumatic Election Disorder. He said the best medicine for his ailment is laughter and proceeded to tell a series of corny jokes, such as, "What vegetable has impeccable rhyme?"

"Beets."

Antwan "Banks" Williams and Lemar "Maverick" Harrison performed *Kneel with Me*. They said it was inspired by 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem before each football game as a protest against the treatment of minorities in America.

Some acts focused on how hard it is to be incarcerated.

Micheal Cooke read *No Hardship Lasts Forever*. It underlined the cost of accepting criminal thinking while incarcerated. Cooke never succumbed to the pressures of the "wretched situation" and believes there is always hope.

Kevin D. Sawyer read three poems expressing the importance of keeping one's identity, no matter what is happening in life. Sawyer's poetry articulates a passionate viewpoint criticizing the practice of incarcerating individuals for many years — a practice that ultimately oppresses the human spirit, he said.

Jesse James Smith rapped *I Need You*. In the rap, Smith admitted to the damaging effects of the streets and, in prison, how much a father's love and God are needed.

Comedy performances making fun of common phrases and slang had the audience laughing.

Robert Barnes' stand-up piece — Really?!? Yeah ... No! — joked about casual phrases such as I know, I'm just saying, Let me be completely honest and Right? "What bothers me is when I'm in the middle of a heavy conversation and someone says, 'Let me be completely honest,'" Barnes joked. "Well, how am I supposed to take that? You mean all up until now, you've been dishonest?"

Jonathan Chiu had the audience moaning with laughter at his political incorrectness as he poked fun at Asian stereotypes: bad driving, good in math and suitable only to working in sweatshops.

Heads in the audience were bobbing to the musical performances, several receiving standing ovations.

Lee Jaspar wrote *Krya*. He played the original jazzy tune on keyboard with Greg Dixon

on bass and Dwight Krizman on drums accompanying. They dedicated the performance to the spirit of San Quentin.

In honor of winter solace, Gregory Coates played a homecoming song on the wood flute.

Elton Mings read *In Holiday Style*. The poem is about the festivities enjoyed around the holiday season in the free world that are envied by the incarcerated.

A. Kevin Valvardi read two poems, *Chapel Gardens* and *To the USA and Its Allies*.

Emile DeWeaver read two poems. *Broken News* made light of news delivery. *Comic* reflected on the honesty of inmates during parole hearings.

Michael Vick read *Vanguard of the Oppressed*. One person who cares about the community could make a difference, Vick contends. "I am a loyal and responsible person," he read. "I dream of not having to dream about my dreams, hopes and desires."

George "Mesro" Coles-El did a spoken-word version of *Rocket Man* that was inspired by an episode of *Family Guy*.

Keith Wroten took the stage wearing a bandana and spoke how he could conquer and dominate a world. He said the piece

was inspired after his mentor told him he does not have what it takes to be a grandmaster in chess.

Eusebio Gonzalez read *Culture Tradition*. It was about the pain of witnessing domestic violence as a teenager. The 31-year-old Mexican National said he was deeply affected by the violence his grandmother endured from his grandfather. With Greg Dixon's keyboard in the background, Gonzalez spoke about the negative and controlling impact of machismo, which still exists. He dedicated his performance to his grandmother, after finding out the day before that she passed away in 2014. Richard Lathan's *Unnamed Piece* honored all the victims of violence.

Fateen Jackson's spoken word, *Mission for Redemption*, is a spiritual journey for correcting his life mistakes that caused harm to his community and family.

Andrew Gazzeny read a poem, *Your Attention Please*. He spoke passionately about the comforting effect of being listened to and the sadness that comes from being rejected. "Your silence is death to me," Gazzeny said. "I have more to say, always."

Closing the night out was Upumoni Ama, who played a ukulele donated by Zak Williams, the son of Robin Williams, while he sang *Nothing Compares to You*. Ama dedicated the performance to Williams and "the late great artist formerly known as Prince."

As Robert "Belize" Villafranco's congas beat away, the audience danced out of the chapel, smiling.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Robert Barnes performing "Really?!? Yeah ... No!"



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Alex Briggs performing the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

Kwanzaa celebration offers solutions for the community

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

The timing of Kwanzaa's 50th anniversary celebration in San Quentin was apt because the event happened on the third night of Kwanzaa when communities come together to share and solve problems.

More than 100 men attended the event, which was hosted by Darnell "Moe" Washington. The celebration featured music, spoken word poetry and impromptu speeches about the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Many of the men used the opportunity to share the problem of not being able to be with their families for the holidays, and they leaned on each other to be that family for one another.

Each fulfilled opportunity exemplified Kwanzaa's third principle: Ujima, or collective work and responsibility.

"I came to support my friend (Darnell "Moe" Washington) and the idea of unity," one of the attendees, Bruce Engleton, said.

Robert "Belize" Villafranco sang a Bemba Soul Song as he beat a drum between his legs. The song illuminated Bemba birth rituals, rites of passage, and death rites. Villafranco said that the piece was restorative because the song can help African-Americans restore familial and community relationships by reconnecting with their roots.

The night's highlight was a performance by outside guest Naima Shalhoub, who sang and

played guitar, accompanied by Lee "Jazz" Jaspar on keyboard. Jaspar had never heard Shalhoub's songs, but he embodied the sixth principle — creativity — by improvising his accompaniment.

Shalhoub's performance also turned into an exercise in Kwanzaa's first principle, Umoja or unity, when men were so moved by the music that they joined the musicians on stage. Dwight Krizman joined Shalhoub during her first song, adding his drum accompaniment.

When Shalhoub sang about a man struggling to rise from "a street corner next to a house that's got it all," Leonard "Funky Len" Walker joined the growing ensemble with a bass guitar.

Next, Gino Sevacos joined with the Conga drum. Sevacos later played an African rainforest solo.

"I loved it. It made me happy," Shalhoub said. With Krizman, Jaspar, and Sevacos being White, the impromptu band epitomized a point Shalhoub made that unity wasn't about being the same, but about coming together.

John Grain, attending his second Kwanzaa celebration at San Quentin, said that he enjoyed the celebration. "Your heart has to be open to all faiths and all races," he said.

At the end, Washington led the evening to a close by honoring Kwanzaa's seventh principle: faith in people. He praised two dozen men in the audience for

their community work.

"I need all you brothers and we all need each other," Washington said. "That's my gift to you and you are my gift to me."

The following are the seven principles of Kwanzaa:

- Umoja/Unity
- Kujichagulia/Self-Determination
- Ujima/Collective Work and Responsibility
- Ujamaa/Cooperative Economics
- Nia/Purpose
- Kuumba/Creativity
- Imani/Faith

Webster's New College Dictionary defines Kwanzaa as an African-American cultural festival observed from Dec. 26-Jan. 1.

Brown Is The New White makes book of the year

Book Review

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

There is a book I read, but Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton did not. If they had read *Brown is the New White*, Steve Phillips (2016) and had taken its advice, I believe Democrats would be holding both houses of Congress and the presidency in 2017.

Phillips accurately pointed out some solid historical facts about why Progressives failed by not paying attention to who matters the most in elections—people rather than abstract issues.

One of the most striking claims in *Brown is the New White* are the facts it uses to show how the Democrats lost the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010 and subsequently lost the Senate in 2014. Phillips attributes both losses to

the Democratic Party ignoring issues relevant to the New American Majority. His facts show they stayed home and did not vote, which they also did in 2016, and that pointedly affected the elections.

“America has a progressive, multiracial majority right now that has the power to elect presidents and reshape American politics, policies, and priorities for decades to come,” Phillips wrote. “Progressive people of color now comprise 23 percent of all the eligible voters in America, and progressive Whites account for 28 percent of all eligible voters. Together, these constituencies make up 51 percent of the country’s citizen voting age population, and that majority is getting bigger every single day.”

Therefore, my vote for best book of 2016 is the one that, if heeded, would have changed the national picture we see today.

While the best book in 2015 was *What I Wish I Knew When*

I was 20, Tina Seelig (2011) last year was full of enjoyable, serious and sobering reviews.

An interesting aspect of 2016 book reviews is relating the author’s plot or storyline to the experience of being imprisoned.

There were a group of books that directly addressed incarceration.

Toxic Schools, Bowen Paille (2013) studied the interactions between at-risk children and teachers. Paille addressed ways to keep kids in schools and out of prison. *Zek: An American Prison Story*, Arthur Longworth (2016) gave an honest look at what could happen to a dropout. The newsletter, *Fire Inside*, gave a women’s side on incarceration.

Then there were the books on war.

The politics of war was an interesting topic in *Johnny Got His Gun*, Dalton Trumbo (1939). It took readers inside the mind of the wounded warrior. Trumbo questions a society

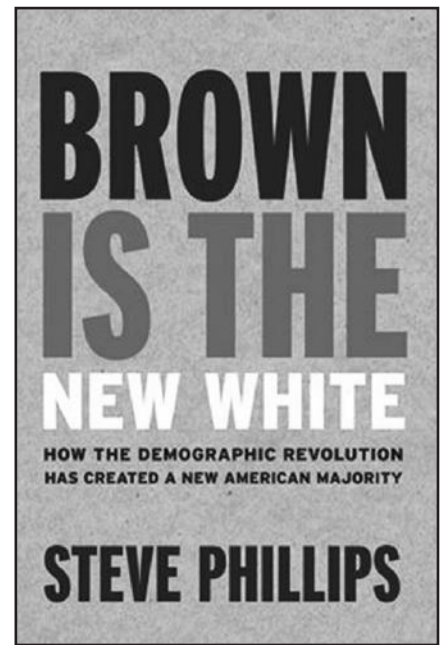
comfortable while living in a perpetual state of war. *The Red Badge of Courage*, Stephen Crane (1895) looked into war and its morality, while *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Ishmael Beah (2007) gave a first-hand account of war’s cruelty.

Several authors, who have ventured inside this prison, have had their books reviewed by the San Quentin News. One author, Tommy Winfrey, resides here.

Winfrey won first place in a prestigious writing contest for *Stray* (2015). His touching story about the love between a boy and his dog shows the insight, transformation and resilience of the human soul.

Author Tobias Wolff visited San Quentin’s creative writing class. He discussed the commonalities found in his short story, *The Chain*. Wolff’s conversation with the inmates centered on the nature of retaliation and revenge found in *The Chain* that were similar to criminal thinking and its consequences.

Jennifer Richter also visited the creative writing class and shared her poetry from *No Acute Distress*, (2016). Julien Poirier, author of *Out of Print* (2016),



teaches poetry at San Quentin. Rosemary Jenkins made an impact on San Quentin News readers with *Leticia in Her Wedding Dress and Others* (2005).

Ready Player One, Ernest Cline (2011) is about the world of gamers. Incarcerated readers, who have never accessed the internet or played with social media, enjoyed Cline’s hero journey.

As I look forward to the 2017 book reviews, I believe that the lessons of *Brown is the New White* are still available, and if taken seriously could get Democrats back on track.

Alliance for Change grads learn social justice for the community

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Several men, ranging from 23 years old to great-grandfathers, were honored at the Alliance for Change graduation for completing the rehabilitative course that taught them how to achieve social justice for their communities.

“This is the dopest class ever,” said graduate Phillip Kelly. “When I go out to my community, I look to build it up and procedural justice taught me how to do that. If they kill me in the process it will be worth it if I change one life.”

Alliance for Change has a social justice mission. The program focuses on teaching seven different kinds of justice — Restorative, Procedural, Distributive, Transitional, Transformative, Community and Social. Alliance examines these forms of social justice and educates the men in ways of achieving social harmony in their communities.

Graduate Brandon Hidalgo, 23, said, “This class was really good because of all the wisdom and experience from older guys and ambition and new ideas from the younger generation.”

Sponsor Mana Jaundoo added, “Every cycle keeps me inspired to continue to sponsor Alliance. For this cycle it was watching the two generations come together and seeing the growth that they achieved by learning from, and with, each other.”

The Alliance graduation opened with founding sponsor Karen Lovaas reading some words from former Alliance President Isaiah “Raheem” Thompson-Bonilla, who transferred to another prison.

Thompson-Bonilla wrote about social justice being a

living organism that should lead to the fair and righteous treatment of all human beings. He advised the graduates that sacrifice and compromise were necessary to achieve change.

Alliance Vice-President Troy Phillips calls the four-days-a-week, 16-week course “rigorous. You miss more than two days without a legitimate excuse you may be excused from the program. We want the guys to be accountable.”

“This class taught me ways to fight injustice peacefully”

As facilitator Marty Walters gave out certificates enclosed in a fancy blue binder, he told the graduates, “Each person must say something they learned about the program and something positive they learned about the next man.”

The responses ranged from inspiring to hilarious.

Hidalgo, who doesn’t need to take a self-help group in order to parole, said he enrolled in Alliance because he wanted to use his time for education. Now he plans to use what he learned in his community.

“This class taught me ways to fight injustice peacefully,” Hidalgo said. “I believe there is a lot of injustice and hate crimes against illegal immigrants.”

Great-grandfather Charles Marsaw said he wants to give what he learned to his grandkids so they don’t ever come to prison.

Kenny Brydon joked, “You young whippersnappers were more mindful than I thought you would be.” The elderly man claims he can still beat the

youngsters in handball.

Davis mentioned that prior to taking Alliance, all he knew was street justice.

Roman said, “I will try to convince people I hang out with to take this class. I would like to thank Raheem. He said I would learn a lot here.”

Branden Riddle-Terrell said, “This helped get me back on track of wanting to help people. You facilitators helped us in a fun way. I want to get out there and help communities too.”

For a few alumni who support the group in mentor and facilitator roles, the Jan. 4 Alliance graduation will be their last because they are scheduled to parole. Cleo Cloman said he paroled five months later. Sam Johnson was scheduled to parole in 2017.

“I learned a lot about restorative justice and that’s what I want to give society — the true me,” said Johnson.

After the graduation, Nathaniel Moore, an Alliance sponsor since 2011, remarked, “I always learn a ton from you folks and it’s a privilege to be able to take it outside. ... What you’re doing is pretty important.”

Graduates

- David Worthington
- Angel Villafan
- Tiith Ton
- David Taylor
- Don Spence
- Robert Seabock
- Branden Riddle-Terrell
- Ezequiel Roman
- Cordiare McDonald
- Charles Marsaw
- Eric Crutcher
- Cory Grant
- Edgar Hatton
- Michael Davis
- Brandon Hidalgo
- Philippe Kelly
- Tamon Halfin
- Kenny Brydon

Exciting experiences for the palate

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

A popular social activity on Valentine’s Day is the romantic dinner. Introducing our palates to new and exotic foods can be fun and make a lasting impression. For many, fast food or being cheap is not an option — especially if it’s a first date. Many individuals brush up on a foreign language to impress their dates as they order at a fancy, exotic restaurant. Others may opt to cook an exotic dish for their dates at home and serve it by candlelight.

“Asked On The Line” asked some of the men on the mainline, “If you could try, or learn to cook, a new type of food that you have not tried before, what would it be? If you could learn a foreign language, what would it be?”

N. Andino: “I would like to try food from India but would like to learn to speak Chinese.”

B. Muro: “I would like to try eating a big, freshly caught fish cooked on hot coals and served with a shrimp cocktail. I would also like to learn to speak Portuguese because I like Brazilian women.”

G. Pureco: “I would really like to try any Korean dish made with dog meat and I would like to learn to speak Italian.”

M. Jones: “I would like to try ‘real’ fried chicken again because I haven’t had real fried

chicken in 35 years. It has to be cooked crisp and golden with salt and pepper. I would also like to learn to speak British English like people speak in Great Britain.”

V. Nguyen: “I would like to try Japanese food like sushi and tempura and I would like to learn to speak Japanese, too.”

M. Angulo: “I would like to try real, homemade menudo and I would like to learn to speak French.”

M. Morales: “I would like to try deer meat and learn to speak Chinese.”

M. Benitez: “I would like to try seafood, all types of seafood, and I would like to learn to speak a language called Mien.”

A. Torres: “I would like to try a New York steak with a baked potato and garlic bread. I would like to learn to speak French or Italian.”

P. Feliciano: “I would like to try real Italian food and learn to speak Italian or French.”

M. Saldana: “I would like to try food from any other country except the USA and learn to speak German.”

R. Malo: “I would like to try real, authentic Mexican food and learn to speak Spanish.”

M. Lopez: “I would like to try any new dish that has ‘camarones’ and I would be interested in learning how to speak Chinese.”

M. Velazquez: “I would like to try cooking white rice, sausages with jelly or jam together. Also, I would like to learn to speak French.”

Veterans and Shakespeare converge to tell war stories

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

A group of San Quentin veterans joined some Shakespearean actors to portray the traumas they endured in war.

Recently, over 30 guests came into San Quentin as our nation's former heroes performed excerpts from their lives alongside Shakespearean actors. The veterans enacted their war traumas to show the cost of war on the country's soul.

"What we are talking about is the imprint each generation leaves on the next," said Ron Self, the founder of Veterans Healing Veterans, the veterans' support group that hosted the play. "Some call [the imprint] generational trauma. As human beings, we pass the torch of war to our children."

The play, directed by Marin Shakespeare's Lesley Currier, was called *The High Cost of Freedom* and portrayed the family story of Joe, Manny, and Junior — a grandfather, father, and son who respectively served in Pearl Harbor, Vietnam, and Iraq.

The story was performed in a room predominantly used for drug counseling and peer education programs. There were no PA systems and no lighting apart from the fluorescent tubes overhead and sunlight streaming through east-facing windows. The only stage props were two water guns, chairs and the rolling screens that drug counselors use for their clients' privacy.

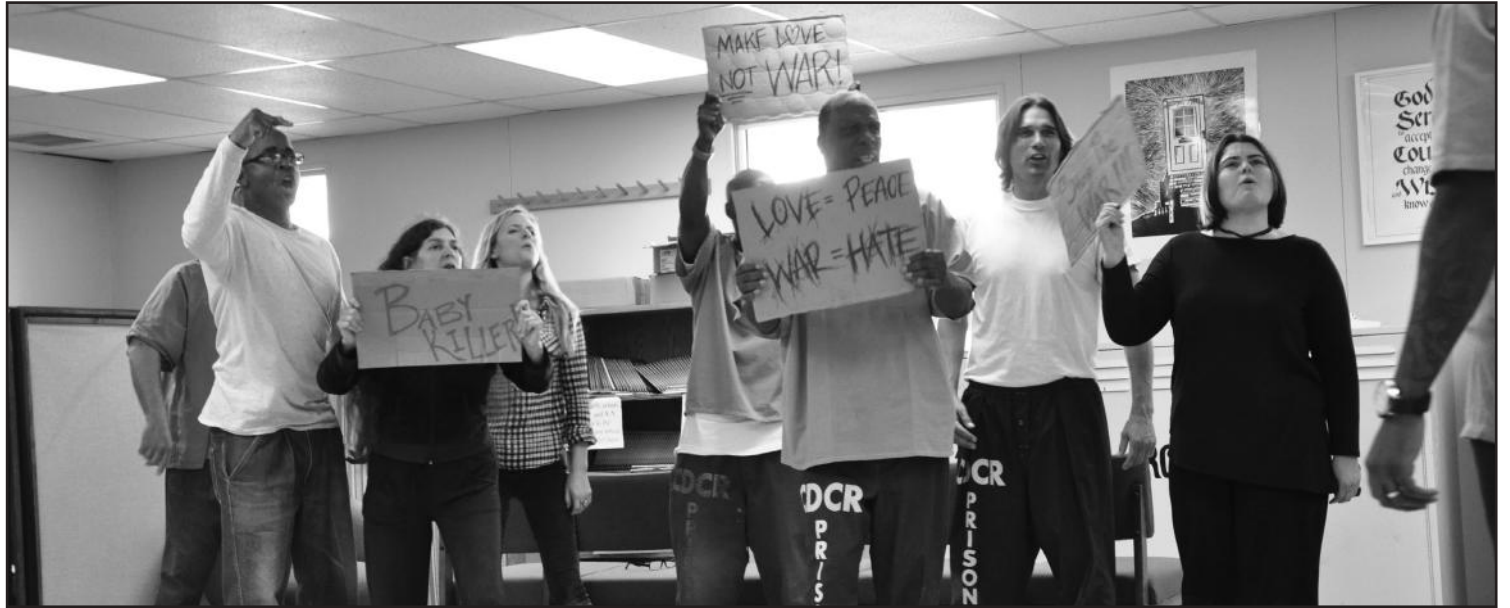


Photo by Eddie Herena San Quentin News

Lesley Currier (second from left) along with veterans and Shakespeare actors reenacting the protest of returning Vietnam veterans

The audience didn't seem to mind the low-tech production.

The play shifted between emotional scenes such as a military "firefight," a suicide bombing, and a family's effort to reconnect with simple but effective choreography. A notable example of these shifts came when Bernard Werner hobbled onstage as Joe returned home with a cane after America's victory in World War II. People cheered on both sides of the stage as Joe's son, played by Caleb L. McClelland on his knees, barraged him with innocent questions about war.

"I can't talk about it," Joe said to his son as each cast member echoed Joe's words, striking

a symbolic posture and gliding offstage. In the next scene, cheering actors morphed into somber cast members who collapsed, one by one, on center stage.

The inability to talk about "it" — the unspoken trauma veterans pass on to their children and the fear and uncertainty their wives carry like heavy burdens — emerged as a dominant theme in the play. Juxtaposed against a history of silence, stark monologues revealed the truths of veterans healing veterans in the present.

In one scene in a Vietnam jungle, McClelland performed a monologue about feeling "bamboozled" by his country. Amid a "firefight," he ducked behind a chair and popped up sporadically to deliver his monologue to the audience.

The scene might have been exciting and energizing if it weren't for the realization that the men were not performing fiction. Many were reliving the most traumatic moments in their lives.

"I can't breathe," said Sandy Zuber, who attended the play. "Listening to the experiences of the soldiers

who have fought for democracy and freedom, I felt transported into that family's life. And then I had to take a step back and realize this wasn't just a script. The wars that they've been in were prisons, and now they're telling their story from prison. There's just so much unfairness that just hit me."

"I know what it's like to be spit on and talked bad about, and all I ever did was follow orders."

John Robb, a Vietnam veteran, said, "I know what it's like to be spit on and talked bad about, and all I ever did was follow orders." His words echoed McClelland's portrayal of a soldier returning from war's trauma only to be abused by the citizens for whom he fought.

Juan Carlos Meza played Junior, an Iraq war veteran who came home with a missing arm. Like his father and grandfather, Junior refused to talk about the "individuality," "dignity," and "moral compass" he sacrificed for his country.

The play culminated when grandfather, father, and son finally come together to talk about the cost of war. Other veterans joined them onstage, providing a window into a veterans' support group. Chris Marshall talked about his tour in Nicaragua. Norfleet "Cadillac" Stewart talked about shooting a 4-year-old girl in Vietnam because she

had grenades strapped to her body.

"I've been one who's always concealed my emotions," Stewart said. "But [talking] helps. It relieves a lot of pain I had inside me."

The veterans also spoke about unemployment, broken promises and addiction.

The play ended with a standing ovation, and audience members mingled with the actors. Cast member Luisa Frascioni said she would carry with her "the inner lives of veterans that we don't see from the outside, a glimpse of what veterans are carrying in their heart."

Frascioni recently starred in a production of *Othello* with the first formerly incarcerated lead in a Marin Shakespeare play.

"It's so humanizing coming in here," she said. "There are all these people who are trying to do their best to live their lives."

At the end, Self, the Veterans Healing Veterans founder, asked the audience, "With the inevitable emotional cost [of war on soldiers and their families], what does it take to change the essence of a man?"

He continued, "We don't have the answer, but the fact that we're addressing it [with the play] is the start of a solution because we're thinking about it. All solutions begin with thinking about them."



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Homecoming scene of injured WWII veteran meeting his son and wife

Study explores lifers going before the parole board

By Wayne Boatwright
Managing Editor

California is releasing more lifers on parole, according to a Stanford University report.

Between 2008 and 2015, the parole grant rate increased from 8 to 25 percent for those who appeared before the Parole Board in 2015.

"Parole has been viewed increasingly as a means of managing the state prison population," according to the April 2016 *Federal Sentencing Reporter* (Stanford Report).

This has not always been the case. Between 1980 and 2008, the grant rate for lifers was virtually zero. Not only were there few grants, California's reliance on indeterminate life sentences

differs significantly from other states.

While California has approximately 35,000 lifers, Texas is in second place with fewer than 9,000. More than 30 percent of California's prison population is serving indeterminate life sentences, followed by Utah (29.2 percent) and Nevada (21.5 percent).

The Stanford Report authors acknowledge that "the number is enormous, representing not only a significant percentage of California prisoners, but a substantial portion of the nation's lifers."

The developing trend toward parole grants and release decisions is due to the courts, legislation and Gov. Jerry Brown.

The California Supreme Court issued two rulings in 2008 (*In*

re Lawrence and *In re Shaputis*) that said an inmate could not be denied parole based solely on the outrageousness of the crime committed. Rather, the assessment must be based on the "current dangerousness" of the inmate.

These rulings were counterbalanced with the passage of Proposition 9, Marsy's Law, in November 2008. Prior to 2008, the default denial length was one year. Marsy's Law changed parole denials' default length to 15 years, which could only be reduced where there was "clear and convincing evidence that safety considerations did not require longer incarceration."

Even after the passage of Marsy's Law, the parole grant rate continued to increase. The

2011 *U.S. Supreme Court Brown v. Plata* ruling that California's overcrowded prisons violate the Eighth Amendment has forced the state to take numerous actions to reduce prison population.

With lifers as a significant portion of California's inmate population, Governor Brown led a restart of the parole process. Brown appointed Jennifer Shaffer as the executive officer of the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) in 2011.

Shaffer has overseen both administrative changes and new professional development training resulting in an increase in grant rates to over 25 percent in 2015. These suitability findings are overturned rarely under Brown. Since 2011, Brown has reversed fewer than 20 percent of

the rising number of BPH grants.

The Stanford Report brings Money Ball-style statistical reasoning to understanding the BPH decision-making process. The next article in this series will present a crude statistical model for predicting outcomes.

The model is based on knowledge — meaning anything that increases your ability to predict an outcome. It will help you make better predictions than trusting your cell-mate. In the Stanford Report, the statistical model has over 150 different factors and it determines how much weight to give each particular factor.

A copy of the above-mentioned Stanford Report is available through the Prison University Project (PUP) to all PUP students.



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Miguel Rodriguez on right with goggles

Pastor brings more than just sports to inmates

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

Even when Pastor Miguel Rodriguez (CQ) was recovering from surgery for a burst appendix in 2015, he stayed involved with the Prison Sports Ministry. From his sick bed he recruited teams to visit the prison.

For 10 years Pastor Rodriguez has been a hard-core sponsor. He has played and brought teams in to play basketball, baseball and football, and he's working on recruiting teams for soccer.

"I really work hard for these guys. I think everyone deserves a second chance. God can take the ordinary and make it extraordinary," Rodriguez said.

He started coming here with the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary (GGBS) and took over as the director. The seminary is now called Gate Way Seminary. Gate Way teaches college courses on ministry to inmates.

"What he reflects is character," said Lincoln Hill player John Galiste. "He loves the people here and he loves all people. His fire never goes out. He is an inspiration. He always lets us know when there's a game and always shows up."

"It's not about the sports or the wins and losses," said SQ Warrior General Manager Robert "Bishop" Butler. "It's about

the message these men bring in here. I had a chance to study with the pastor in the chapel. He truly has a pastor heart. His faith and dedication inspires us all, especially him taking time off from his church and family. He is a quality person who has contributed a lot to this program."

Pastor Rodriguez said, "When I was 5, I knew God was real when I knew death was real. I was watching a cowboy movie and I asked my mom, 'Do people really die?'"

Armed with that little bit of information, 9-year-old Rodriguez moved to Honduras with his grandparents. He felt rejected there because people were calling him a gringo. But coming back to the states didn't make it better because they were calling him a dirty Mexican.

"I felt I didn't belong anywhere until I found my identity in Christ," Rodriguez said. "I credit the Youth Ministry Group for that. As a youth, that's where you need structure. You need adults to believe in you. Sometimes all we need is a touch that everything will be OK. I can imagine that some of the people here probably wouldn't have done what they did with just a touch."

Pastor Rodriguez tries to bring that "touch" to those he sponsors.

First place in handball wins more than granola bars



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Handball players competing in the Lower Yard alley

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

On Christmas Eve, four pairs of handball players met in the alley on San Quentin Prison's Lower Yard to compete in a holiday tournament for granola bar prizes.

"The prize doesn't so much matter; it's coming out here for the fellowship and being part of a community to get through these holidays together," said Jeff Williams, who took first place with his partner, B. McClelland.

The first-place winner received 30 granola bars, second place 20, and third place 10. With four teams in the competition, only one would leave empty-handed.

"This is the smallest tournament we have ever had," said David Mageo. "We usually have eight to nine teams."

In the first round, Kevin Thomas, 43, and Thomas Scott, 61, matched up against Mageo, 43, and Sedric Shaffer, 52.

Thomas and Scott slapped the blue handball against the wall better than their opponents, edging out a 15-12 victory to advance.

"I play handball because it keeps you in shape," said Scott. "I'm 61 and I'm still taking people down."

In the next round, the youngest and the oldest men in the tournament teamed up. Jamar Smith, 36, and Bozzie Burton, 64, played Williams and McClelland.

"I'm 61 and I'm still taking people down"

Williams played with more passion. He dived on the ground to hit the ball with his left hand twice. Backed by McClelland, they easily won, 15-5, advancing to the finals.

"Jeff is active; He's a good partner to have," said McClelland.

Williams said he learned how to play handball in prison 26 years ago. Once he realized it was something at which he was good, he continued to play, earning the nickname "Spiderman."

"It's full dedication, like a

dog after a bone," said Williams about why he dives on concrete to make plays.

"In order to be successful here, you have to know how to play with both hands," said Eric Post, who ran the tournament on behalf of the prison.

Williams and McClelland faced off with Thomas and Scott for first place. Williams and McClelland jumped out to a 5-0 lead. That increased to 14-7 when Thomas and Scott rallied hard to come back. They fell short at 15-9.

McClelland said he loves handball because, "It's a high cardio exercise and you have to carry your own weight."

Burton and Smith battled Mageo and Shaffer for third place.

"Everybody had the potential to win," said Burton.

Burton and Smith took third, winning 15-7.

"It's all about change," said Williams. "We aren't who we were when we committed our crimes. Part of that change is finding our humanity and that comes from coming together to play by the rules and having fun."

The 2016 SQ Warrior's losing season still a win

The San Quentin Warriors started the 2016 season with high expectations. They recruited new talent, including a former Memphis University player, but ended the season 5-8 against Christian Sports Ministry, their worst record in years, yet they are still smiling.

"I'm surprised we won as much as we did," said Bill Epling, the sponsor of the Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team — the S.Q. Warriors' toughest regular competitors. "The guy from Memphis didn't help them too much."

SQ Warriors Coach Daniel Wright said, "Arguably the most talented team since I got here in 2011."

The former Memphis University player, 6-foot-7 Mack Simekins, showed promise in his first games, averaging 16 points a game as a Warrior, but he walked away from the team early in the season.

"Simekins didn't meet my attitude requirements," Wright said.

Similarly, when Simekins played for Memphis University, his team made the NCAA tournament's Sweet 16, but he didn't get to play because of a suspension over off-court problems.

The SQ Warriors roster still looked improved from last year with the addition of Tevin Fournette. He averages 14 points per game, third on the team behind veteran players Allan McIntosh (18.8 ppg) and Harry "ATL" Smith (16 ppg). This allowed forward/guard Anthony Ammons, a starter last year, to become the sixth man. He averaged 10.8 ppg.

"We were a better team talent wise, but not team wise," McIntosh said. "We didn't play together as a team in any of the 20 something games. We get that team chemistry, we'll be unstoppable."



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Harry "ATL" Smith dunking at SQ Warrior practice

The Golden State Warriors model the type of chemistry their incarcerated namesakes need. Golden State logged almost 500 more assists than the second-highest scoring NBA team. Their 68 field goal percentage comes mostly comes

from assists, according to a *New York Times* article by John Branch.

"We play a certain style where everybody is involved," said Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors in *The New York Times* interview. "There's a lot of skill involved — skill that's showcased by ball movement and flow."

The SQ Warriors' lack of chemistry led to their first losing season since Daniel Wright came on as coach, five years ago. They went 5-8 against the Green Team and 11-13 over all. (They were 2-2 against Imago Dei, 4-2 against Lincoln Hill, and 0-1 against the Golden State Warriors staff.)

SQ Warriors General Manager Robert Butler said, "It's the first losing season in 13 years, going by the records. However, it's never a losing season in my mind. We set up this program to teach life skills through basket-

ball, and we have been successful at that."

SQ Warrior Harry "ATL" Smith also considers the season a success.

"This was my most spiritually fulfilling season in regard to maturity," Smith said. "I learned a lot dealing with patience and humbleness. I also got to meet Draymond Green, Kevin Durant and play against Willie Green."

Butler added, "In fact I think this has been the best season ever. Never in the history of prison basketball have inmates been given the chance to play against the level of former NBA, overseas pro and college player talent that we have. Plus we were on ESPN this year."

McIntosh plans to do his part to improve the team next season.

"I'm gonna work out hard and come back in shape," McIntosh said. "I'll be more outspoken about team chemistry."

—Rahsaan Thomas

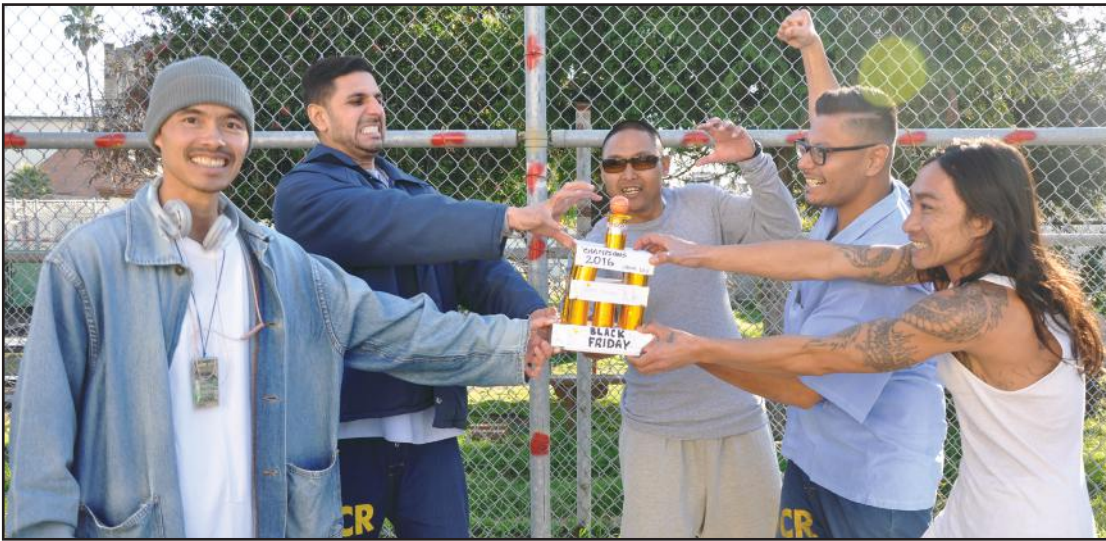


Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

North Block battles West Block for Becky With the Good Hair Trophy

North Block keeps Becky after Christmas tournament

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

A slow start, a late opposing West Block team surge, a closed gym and playing outdoors in cold weather didn't stop North Block from barely three-peating in the Asian-Pacific Islander Holiday Basketball Tournament where the prize was keeping the Becky with the Good Hair trophy.

"It was 42 degree out here. I can't feel my feet," said North Block's (NB) center Damon Cooke right after the winning game.

NB guard Chau Vi responded, "Champs don't care; we play in elements. We three-peat."

The battle for the trophy named Becky with the Good Hair came down to back-to-back controversial referee calls and making a clutch free throw. NB beat West Block (WB) by one point in the first-to-30-points contest.

"That was a good game," said Tith Ton of WB.

The championship match was held up by NB's Upu Ama singing the national anthem – in its entirety. Some players placed their hands over their hearts and other took a knee like SF 49er Colin Kaepernick has done.

NB needed one more point to win, after taking a 29-22 lead. But Rafael Cuevas started a WB comeback by nailing two free throws, making the score 29-24. Then he stole the ball and launched it down court to WB

guard Phirank Kim for a layup at 29-26.

NB's Upa Ama missed a shot that Cuevas rebounded. The ball shifted to Zitsue Lee's hands. Lee took a shot and missed. His teammate Vadim Zankarchenko rebounded the ball and scored at 29-28 as the crowd erupted with cheers.

Kim stole the ball from NB and led a three-on-one fast break down the court. Kim went up for the layup with the outstretched arm of a NB defender blocking the basket, so he passed from the air to a wide-open Charlie Srey right under the rim. Srey gathered himself for the easy potential game-winning layup, but a referee called traveling, leaving the score 29-28 NB.

"They won by my team's mistakes," said Zankarchenko.

On the other end, WB's Lee aggressively guarded Adnan Khan and the referee called foul. That sent Khan to the free-throw line, where either one of two attempts would win. Khan nailed the first, winning the game and keeping Becky in North Block for the third tournament.

"That wasn't a foul," said Lee. "But I accept the results."

"That was the ugliest win," said Khan.

"We came out and played and did our best," said Kim.

Becky, made of carbon, wrapped in glossy-gold paper and topped with a ping-pong sized ball resembling a miniature basketball, became the

grand prize since its creation for a Labor Day tournament where NB beat WB. It goes back up for grabs with each new holiday tournament.

For the Christmas tournament, WB brought back Coach Nick Lopez, who managed to guide his team back to the finals again.

"He (Lopez) made a difference," said Ton. "He knows how to pull people in and out. He's a good coach."

"They played hard and I'm hella proud of them," said Lopez. "They didn't give up all the way to the end."

On the NB team was Chau Vi, Khan, Dahvee Sophal, Ama, Juan Meza, Cooke and Alladin Pangilinan.

West Block: Cuevas, Lee, Srey, Bikkar Singh, Kevin Neang, Ton, Zankarchenko and Kim.

Early on, NB was nearly eliminated from the tournament. Six games decided which of three teams made to the finals and North Block was down two losses to one win. One more loss would have put NB out the tourney.

NB stepped up and beat H-unit, 24-15, tying all three teams' records at 2-2. To break the tie, NB played H-unit in an extra game for a spot in the championship game and won, 24-18.

"I would like to continue this interview, but I have to go find Becky," joked Upu after the game.

Sports fan behavior is said to be normal



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Ramon Watkins with his Raider memorabilia and a picture of his Raider tattoo (inset)

Walking down the fifth tier in San Quentin State Prison's North Block, you'll see several 8"x11" signs with the logos of football teams, including the Cowboys, Steelers and, mostly, Raiders.

One individual has the Raider emblem tattooed on his stomach, wears a Raider bracelet, has the Raider crest on his coffee cup and is known as the "San Quentin Raiders General." He and many others root for the Raiders even though the team hasn't been to the playoff since 2002.

For Ramon Watkins, the San Quentin Raiders General, and fellow fan Larry White, their

deep connection to the Raiders stems from childhood.

"I grew up one block from the Oakland Coliseum and, as a kid, I used to watch the Raiders through the gate so much the staff started letting me in for free," said Watkins. "They taught me about the game and gave me a positive place to go besides the streets."

White said, "My stepfather was a Raiders fan, and he introduced me to the team when I was 5. I've been a fan ever since."

These childhood memories make football more than just a game for the two men.

Such a deep connection to sports may seem over the top to some. But that behavior is normal for basic human psychology, neuroscience and cognitive tendencies, according to a May 16 *New Yorker* book review of *This is Your Brain on Sports*.

The book's authors, L. Jon Wertheim and Sam Sommers, wrote, "Your brain on sports is just your regular brain acting as it does in other contexts."

The reviewer explains that people are aware of their thoughts and feelings, but they cannot connect those thoughts and feelings to what actually happens in the brain or the rest of the body.

People experience the same anxiety over the thought of a kicker missing a 30-yard field goal as they do at the thought of being shot by their best friend. Although one is irrational and the other is rational, the raw chemistry is identical.

"The brain of someone whose team has just lost the Super Bowl is indistinguishable from the brain of someone who is grieving for the death of a loved one. No one would say those experiences are equivalent," reviewer Louis Menand noted.

Menand explained that people like rooting for underdogs, even though underdogs are more likely to lose. This is partly because seeing them win pays off a marginal psychic rush greater than the potential pain if they lost.

In San Quentin, Watkins remembers seeing the Raiders win all their championships. With the Raiders' first winning season in 14 years, Watkins and White hope this will be the year the Raiders finally win the Super Bowl again. For them, they said, it would be almost as good as getting released from prison.

—Rahsaan Thomas

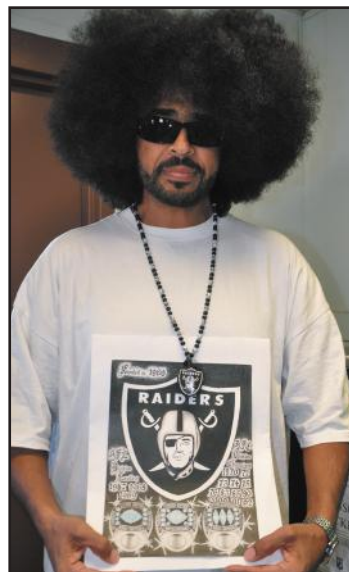


Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Larry White with his prison made Raider artwork

Drug program ends season for gym basketball league

For years, the gym hosted the Championship Basketball League during winter evenings at San Quentin. The League provided an opportunity for competition and camaraderie. But the 2016-2017 tournament ended abruptly one evening in mid-December when the administration closed the gym for recreation to house a treatment program there temporarily.

The closure coincided with some of the worst rain storms in the Bay Area. For at least three weeks in January, men often had no place to go for recreation.

CBL founder Aaron "Harun" Taylor said that he had scheduled games in the gym on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings to give people something to do during the off-season for the S.Q. Kings and Warriors.

"That's also the rainy season and Daylight Saving Time," he said. "We can't play outside in the evening — it's too dark, too cold and too wet."

Public Information Officer Lt. S. Robinson said that the prison had a mandate to start the substance abuse program (SAP) in December and the gym had been the only space available. "We are looking at alternative locations for SAP," he said, adding that the administration planned to re-open the gym at nights and on weekends. The gym reopened on Jan. 27 for all general population inmates for weeknights and weekends.

In the past, the CBL season had run from December to February. The CBL hosts a half-court basketball league for men 38 years old and over, often coached by

men in their 20s. The league, which is one of the most anticipated winter events, features an NBA-style draft to select players and referees for games. Taylor even keeps stats and holds an all-star game mid-season.

But this year, Taylor said there wouldn't be enough time to fit in a full CBL season before the start of the official 2017 SQ Warriors and Kings season.

"I'm disappointed the CBL was canceled because it gave me, as an old guy, a sports activity to do and a way to set an example as a leader for the youngsters," said player Eugene Williams.

Player Brad Shells said the CBL brings people together. "Basketball is just a guise. Who doesn't love basketball?" he said. "Recreation is a big part of keeping the population grounded."

Taylor said he created the CBL while at Centinela, a Level III prison, in 2008 to give the men a positive outlet. He added that it "virtually ended violence on the yard from 2008 to 2011 among Blacks and Asians."

Originally called the Convict's All-Star Basketball League, he changed the name to Championship Basketball League to reflect the rehabilitative culture at San Quentin.

Taylor said he hopes to plan more sports events such as one-day tournaments on holidays.

"As long as I'm in CDCR, I'm going to stay organizing sports leagues that need little to no assistance from the administration because that in itself shows we need no supervision to do positive things," he said.

—Rahsaan Thomas

A forum to address nationwide criminal justice

DA Forum

Continued from Page 1

I had a lot of reservations and challenges before coming in here and talking to the inmates. I represent the victims and I have had their families sitting behind me in the courtroom. But, coming in here to these forums has made me a better prosecutor. As these men come out of prison, we want them to be accountable."

During the Jan. 26 meeting, inmates shared their stories about life behind bars, their paths to rehabilitation, and ideas for re-entering society successfully. The meeting took place in the prison's Protestant Chapel. Five circles of chairs were set up in a typical group therapy style, for face-to-face conversations.

Seattle, Washington, District Attorney Dan Satterberg asked the inmates why the circle process works in restorative justice programs.

"The circle process forces us to look at ourselves," inmate Lynn Beyett said. "When we're sitting in the circle, listening to each other's stories, all you have to do is close your eyes and you'll hear your own story."

Joe Mason said that he felt the circle created a safe environment to express his feelings. "We have all different races from different places, and we find out that we're all in it together," he said.

Phoehn You said the circle also helps everyone to be heard. "In a circle you can't run or hide," You said. "Sometimes a child only needs to be heard in order to help."

Robert Richie, a member of Criminal Gangs Anonymous (CGA), said San Quentin and its programs helped him improve himself.

"The environment at San Quentin was different than other prisons," Richie said. "At other prisons, lots of guys keep doing wrong. When I got to San Quentin, I met up with some of those same guys. They were changed and positive. That gave me the incentive to change myself."

Richie said CGA changed his criminal thinking. He said having people come in from the Bay Area community to facilitate the group made him feel like a normal person.

"CGA helped me understand that I was addicted to a criminal lifestyle," Richie said. "Now I am a CGA sponsor. I went from a taker to a giver."

The inmates also spoke about



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

The national District Attorney forum on January 26 at the Garden Chapel in San Quentin State Prison

the long process of getting out of the violence and isolation found in maximum-security prisons and transferring to San Quentin. For many inmates, it took more than 10 years.

Samuel Hearnese described the road that led him to San Quentin. He joined a gang at 17 years old, and he tried to live up to the image of a gang-banger. He is serving a life sentence for a murder he committed at age 18 trying to live up to that image.

Hearnese said that even before he got to prison, he wanted to change his lifestyle, but when he got to prison, he had to first focus on "survival."

"I wanted to learn trades," Hearnese said, "but every time I'd get into a program, something like a riot or lock-down would interrupt it. This went on for about 10 years, until I got to San Quentin."

Charlie Spence, a mentor, told the prosecutors about the awkwardness that people feel when they get here from other prisons because they aren't used to interacting with the outside community. "The majority of people at other prisons are going home without having the opportunity to reconnect the way San Quentin inmates do," he said. "They are only used to talking to other people in blue."

Chicago State's Attorney Kim Foxx acknowledged that high-security prisons do not give inmates good opportunities for change. She praised the services available at San Quentin.

"However, I just heard at other prisons, there were drug deals and violence. That means that systems are failing," she said.

"Why aren't we doing something about that?"

The inmates provided suggestions for how to connect inmates to rehabilitative programs sooner in their incarceration.

Fateen Jackson, a Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP) mentor, proposed tangible benefits such as time reductions for inmates.

"I want to take programs to redeem myself from the harm I've created"

Rafael Cuevas, also a GRIP mentor, suggested that people who had already gone through rehabilitative programs might be best to teach restorative justice curricula. "The success relies on getting the right people in place," he said.

Jacques Verduin, the executive director of Insight-Out, spoke about GRIP, a 52-week comprehensive offender accountability program that takes participants on a healing journey deep inside themselves so they can transform into change agents, giving back to the communities they once took from, working with at-risk youth and teaching those who are still incarcerated.

"It is a best-practices model, born from 20 years of pioneering and working with thousands of prisoners," said Verduin, who teaches GRIP in five California prisons. "You're discovering

here that these men have become emotionally intelligent. These guys are taking what they have learned on their side of the pipeline and are putting it to work on the other side of that pipeline, with challenged youth, to prevent crime and incarceration. We also employ them to teach what they have learned to their brothers and sisters that are still incarcerated. We call it 'Turning the stigma into a badge.'"

Inmate Guss Edwards said, "GRIP allowed me to really look at myself and understand the moments when I need to respond as it should be to what's happening in my life instead of reacting violently. The program made me understand how to do this. The program saved my life."

Edwards added, "I may sound aggressive, but I'm a puppy."

Jackson said he does not have to appear before a parole board to get out of prison.

"I took advantage of the programs for myself," Jackson said. "I want to take programs to redeem myself from the harm I've created. It's a life-changing program. GRIP helps me understand myself. It teaches that you can keep your dignity and own your truth."

Jamie Sanchez a Spanish GRIP member said while growing up, he always tried to satisfy others. He told the prosecutors that the rehabilitative programs at San Quentin helped him understand himself.

"I don't have to be perfect, but I can be helpful," Sanchez said about mentoring other inmates. "I've never been help-

ful in my life. Now, I'm doing something helpful. It was hard for me to move into forgiving myself and to understand and accept my crime. I learned how to move from being a murderer to Jamie."

Oscar Arana talked about a crime prevention strategy that may have kept him from turning to crime. He said that although he witnessed the consequences of many bad choices, as a juvenile, he felt like bad things could never happen to him.

"What could have worked for me would be seeing the consequences of my actions through someone like a mother who lost her child to a drug overdose or drunk driver. At the time, I couldn't personally connect with what I was doing. If a kid were able to personally connect with the impact of his actions, he could change them."

The inmates were asked what the community could do to help those released from prison.

"We need to know and be reminded that we're human beings," Mathew Edwards said. "When people learn that we've been to prison, it's like the scarlet letter. We need to be welcomed. We need another shot for responsibility."

The Portland, Oregon, district attorney Rodney Dale Underhill wanted suggestions on how he could make better-informed decisions when he knows he has a conviction and must advise on a prison sentence.

"Be able to talk to us," Anthony Ammons said.

Vaughn Miles added, "Trust your judgment about what you've witnessed today."



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby (center) talks about prisoner re-entry



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx with Robert Richie speaking to the crowd



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Oscar Arana shares his idea on crime prevention strategies