

San Quentin News

THE
REVA & DAVID LOGAN
FOUNDATION

WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISTS



VOL. 2017 NO. 7

July 2017

Edition 94

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,000

Celebration of fathers and family with GOTB

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Dozens of children with painted faces posed for pictures to show men doing time in San Quentin what Father's Day means to them. Thanks to Get

on the Bus (GOTB), sons and daughters, mothers and fathers boarded buses on June 2 and traveled from cities as far as Los Angeles to visit their incarcerated relatives.

See *GOTB* on Page 9



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Lakayla Nettles seeing her father Malcolm for the first time

Inmates striving to become working citizens

Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

The dozens of employers and organizations that support rehabilitation by visiting San Quentin to interview inmates have captured the attention of the state's top corrections official.

In May, the prison hosted its fifth Prison to Employment Connection (PEC) event in two years. This time, Scott Kernan, secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), took notice.

See *Employment* on Page 5



Photo by Harold Meeks

Prison University Project's graduating class of 2017

14 PUP graduates face bright future with college degrees

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

The mark of a champion is turning tragedy into triumph. 14 incarcerated men, new champions, marched down the aisle wearing black caps and gowns to standing applause in a packed visiting room at the 2017 Prison University Project graduation.

The Prison University Project (PUP) provides men incarcerated in San Quentin State Prison an opportunity to earn an associate's degree, tuition free, under the tutelage of professors.

A 2013 Rand study shows that educating incarcerated people significantly reduces recidivism.

"The reduction in recidivism saves the state money. California and this nation are better off thanks to PUP," said the valedictorian, Angel Falcone. "This program would not be successful without the hard work of all the volunteers. You care more about our future success than our past failures. PUP gave me my first second chance."

Falcone joked that graduating brought more joy than anything,

except maybe dating Rihanna. The Honorable Judge Steve White of Sacramento County gave the keynote address congratulating these men, like the many men he used to sentence to prison.

Justice White told a story about meeting a 23-year-old Hispanic gang member about to parole. He asked the young man what he thought he was going to do when he went home and the man answered, "I guess go to prison."

See *PUP* on Page 10

San Quentin comes together to celebrate Day of Peace 2017



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Taiko Drummers playing to a packed crowd on San Quentin's Lower Yard

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The rehabilitative spirit flowed deeply at San Quentin's 11th Annual Day of Peace celebration. The San Quentin com-

munity came together on the Lower Yard to build relationship bridges and support the incarcerated's transformation.

"This is a day I want to share with the spirit of Tiffany Dawn Boyce," said Carlos Smith, who

drew a mural as a memorial to his crime victim. "It's a time of remembrance, and I want to share this with her family in this time of healing."

See *Day of Peace* on Page 20



Photo by Brian Asey

Taina Vargas-Edmond, Natasha Terry-Robinson, Marie Levin and Zoe Willmott at SQ Media Center

Essie Justice Group advocates behind and outside the walls

Women whose lives have been impacted by having incarcerated loved ones banded together as a sisterhood called Essie Justice Group. During a visit to San Quentin State Prison, they talked about how they support each other without judgment and advocate

for changing the system and the community.

"Essie Justice Group is a loving, powerful community of women with incarcerated loved ones," said spokesperson Marie Levin.

See *Essie* on Page 4

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Home after two decades of prison and accomplishments

By Juan Haines
 Senior Editor

Tommy Winfrey's life sentence is over. Nearly two decades ago he was convicted of second-degree murder with a firearm. His journey back to the streets began on May 11 when he walked out of San Quentin. The day before he left, he sat down in the San Quentin newsroom for an interview about his prison experience.

"Prison has been a part of my existence for so long," said

the mild-mannered 39-year-old. "It's a place I grew up and built friendships and did all the normal things in life — except I couldn't leave. You have to do it all in a space the size of a parking lot, and you spend years after years there."

An offensive tattoo glares in the middle of his chest — it's one of several he has — and he freely talks about them. The tattoos are the result of his early days of incarceration. He, like many young men arriving in prison, just wanted to fit in and find acceptance.

But, Winfrey said, he quickly learned that kind of fitting in gives a false sense of self.

"I made some bad decisions in my life," Winfrey said. "I was really influenced by people around me, and I felt like I had to prove myself at a young age. I think what's different now is that I found myself in these prison walls, and I don't have a need to prove myself like I did when I was younger. I'm not impressed by people's outer strength anymore."

Winfrey's life behind bars

began changing when he started reading and educating himself. After enrolling in college classes and interacting with a wide-ranging and dynamic number of personalities, his life turned around.

Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, editor-in-chief of the San Quentin News, said, "I learned from Tommy that not all things are what they appear to be. Tommy taught me how to laugh in some of the most dreadful situations I've faced during my incarceration." Richardson added, "He's very authentic. I believe there is only one Tommy Winfrey in this world."

After the personal growth that came with learning, Winfrey said many other opportunities came forth, including an entrepreneurial program, The Last Mile, and a computer coding class, Code.7370. He graduated from both.

"Tommy is one of the smartest, funniest and most creative people I've ever known," said Jody Lewen, executive director of Prison University Project. "He was a terrific clerk, always helping staff and inmates."

Winfrey said the training has given him the tools to be successful out of prison, adding that he couldn't have figured things out without good mentors.

Returning citizen Robert Frye and art instructor Pat Maloney are mentors who helped guide Winfrey's rehabilitation efforts.

"Robert Frye, because he was OK with being who he was and he still hasn't forgotten where he's come from, and that's a great lesson for me," Winfrey said. "Pat Maloney because of his unwavering dedication to the men in here."

Winfrey is an award-winning writer, and several San Quentin offices display his art.

"Art helped me see that even though there are constants hemmed by the rules of life, there is always room for creativity. Paint flows off the brush a certain way. It obeys the law of physics. But even with that, there are ways to create and make the paint do what you want," he added.

"Before in my life it always felt like the rules or the laws hemmed me in and put me in a position to either break them or be oppressed by them. Art helped me see that's not the case."



Courtesy of Tommy Winfrey

Tommy enjoying a taco

Associate Warden Paul Baker, a man of respect, dignity and beloved by all

Paul Baker was an Associate Warden beloved by everyone and is remembered as a man who treated everybody he met with dignity and respect. He passed away peacefully on the morning of June 20 at the age of 44.

On June 29, a celebration of life was held in Marin County.

"Paul's contribution to this prison, and to CDCR as a trainer in the academy, was tremendous," Warden Ron Davis said. "The people he touched will have a lasting impression, whether they are just beginning their careers or they have many years of service."

"Paul was the kind of person who, even in the most chaotic times, kept an even keel, stayed in control, operated with integrity and in a loving way with all his subordinates," Warden Davis added. "That is an important legacy for staff to see."

Chief Deputy Warden (A), Patrick Covello, said, "Paul was always reliable and a hard worker. He took pride and ownership in his work and was a key player in the management team. He will truly be missed by everyone here at San Quentin."

Soon after Baker passed, Associate Warden of Health Care Services, Steve Allbritton, walked the prison grounds talking to staff in remembrance.

"Not only was he a great man, he made it so easy for people to like him," Allbritton said. "He was always so helpful and understanding to staff. And he applied those same principles to the inmates who also had good things

to say about him."

Captain Virdell Larkins, added, "He was always smiling and cheerful, very respectful and treated everyone fairly. There were lots of happy memories."

Correctional Officer, John Wilkerson said, "Associate Warden Baker was a humble man. He was the kind of person who would see you while walking with other administrators and would come over to you and ask how you're doing."

Wilkerson recalled how Baker would "literately lean in, make eye contact, shake hands, and give comfort."

Wilkerson said even if your day was already going well, Baker would make it better. "Good people leave too soon."

AW Baker, an avid baseball fan, supported the prison's baseball program, inmate coaches Terry Burton and John Parratt noted.

"Associate Warden Baker should be remembered as a person with a caring heart," said Parratt.

Burton added, "He should be remembered as a human being who was approachable and where inmates could get a straight answer to anything asked. He wouldn't beat around the bush. He was a good person and friendly."

Men's Advisory Council Chairman, Darryl Hill, said, "Associate Warden Baker was one who listened to the concerns of the general population, and went to great lengths, within reason, to solve them. He never seemed to have a bad day, and he always took the time to listen to our



Photo by Sgt. C. Silino

Associate Warden Paul Baker

concerns. He stayed cheerful and treated each of us with respect." Hill continued, "He should be remembered as a man with integrity, decency, understanding and a man of God. He will be missed greatly."

—Juan Haines

Baker began his career with CDCR on Jan. 6, 1996, at California State Prison, Solano. In 2005, while at CSP-Solano, Baker was promoted to Sergeant. Baker transferred to Richard A. McGee Correctional Training Facility in 2006. While at Folsom State Prison, he was promoted to Lieutenant in 2009. He transferred to San Quentin in 2012 and was promoted to Captain in 2014. Earlier this year, Baker was promoted to Associate Warden.

Aug. 19th march will challenge 13th amendment practices

Historically, Black and Brown people have been especially affected by mass incarceration

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

A major demonstration is scheduled for the nation's capital to protest "the new slavery" in America — the use of free labor in prisons.

The Millions for Prisoners Human Rights March is planned for Aug. 19, to challenge the rarely acknowledged exception clause in the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

"We demand the 13th Amendment enslavement clause of the United States Constitution be amended to abolish legalized slavery in America," wrote an advocate of Jailhouse Lawyers Speak in the *No Shackles* newsletter of the "iamWE Prison Advocacy Network," one of the organizers of the march.

"We demand a congressional

hearing on the 13th Amendment enslavement clause being recognized as in violation of international law, the general principles of human rights and its direct links to," among others, private entities exploiting prison labor, private entities contracted to build and operate prisons and felony disenfranchisement laws.

Section 1 of the 13th Amendment reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The 13th Amendment has been linked to mass incarceration by some activists, and it inspired director Ava Duvernay's documentary *13th*.

"We must realize that the criminal justice system is not

broken. It's operating just as it was intended," said Amani Sawari, editor of the *No Shackles* newsletter.

"It's proven that the incarceration of a child is not a rehabilitative action..."

The article adds that private companies, such as banks, clothing manufacturers, food distributors and telephone networks, profit from low-wage prison labor, while overcharging prisoners for goods and services.

Historically, Black and Brown people have been especially



affected by mass incarceration. But, with television series like *Orange Is the New Black* and *Making a Murderer* on Netflix, public awareness about the human rights issues of mass incarceration has increased.

Orange Is the New Black is based on an upper-middle-class White woman imprisoned for a high-profile drug crime. *Making a Murderer* is a story about a lower-class White man. The vast majority of the other characters inhabiting the prisons are people of color.

"We should all be afraid when a system has become so monstrous that it eats up everyone, men, women and children, for the pettiest of behaviors," Sawari wrote. "It's proven that the incarceration of a child is not a rehabilitative action. It only increases the likelihood of their future arrest."

The United States has the highest incarceration rate of any

industrialized country at 698 per 100,000 citizens, according to World Prison Population List: 11th Edition, Roy Walmsley.

"If you don't see the problem with the reservation of slavery for punishment, then look at the lives of millions of families broken," she added.

Convict leasing, Black Codes, Jim Crow, Nixon's war on drugs and Bill Clinton's 1994 crime bill represent the different transitions of criminalization throughout the generations, she advocates claim.

Organizers say the march will be a platform to call out a multitude of companies that profit from prison labor. These can range from big oil companies that use prison labor to clean up their spills to banks and financial entities that hold stocks in private prisons and detention centers.

For more information go to the Millions for Prisoners March Facebook page.

Body-worn cameras means to catch bad behavior on both sides

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Police departments across the country are using unreasonable force during interactions with people from minority communities. Even those who have or are perceived to have mental illness are targeted.

A 2017 study by the Vera Institute of Justice stated, "Police departments are beginning to view body-worn cameras, the majority of which are typically placed on the upper placket of an officer's uniform with a forward-facing viewable area, as an essential 'third-eye' that can capture events and interactions between officers and the public, including traffic or street stops, arrests, searches, interrogations and critical incidents such as officer-involved shootings."

"Body-worn cameras have emerged as an important tool for law enforcement ... (that) needs to be integrated with key principles and core values in police/community relations, agency-wide training, policy development and enforcement, and efforts to enhance transparency," said Terrence M. Cunningham, president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Body cameras provide a contemporaneous and an objective record of a broader set of police-civilian encounters. A number of police departments

and community leaders believe this device can be a key apparatus to:

- Improve police interactions with people and communities;
- Identify and correct problems when they occur, thus enhancing police performance;
- Vindicate officers from false or unwarranted complaints;
- Increase public trust in law enforcement, by demonstrating a willingness to open itself up to outside scrutiny;
- Strengthen police accountability.

"Body-worn cameras have emerged as an important tool for law enforcement"

The study shows evidence that "cameras can prevent and deter unprofessional, illegal and inappropriate behaviors by both the police and the public due to the 'surveillance effect' that is thought to drive people to comply with accepted rules of conduct."

The use of body cameras is likely to cause officers to think

more carefully when considering actions that could become a liability to the department or that could become a personal liability. The Vera Institute study discovered that body cameras can contribute to an overall reduction in the number of use-of-force incidents.

At least 26 states and the District of Columbia passed laws or a resolution in 2015 and 2016 to explore, mandate and inform use of and access to footage from body-worn cameras in certain situations.

In 2015, California legislators passed Senate Bill 85 that requires the California Highway Patrol establish a pilot program to explore the use of body-worn cameras, including when the cameras should be activated, where on the body they should be attached, how best to notify the public that they are being recorded, and mechanisms for reviewing camera policies.

The number of statutes enacted in 2015 and 2016 represents a change in the course of policing reform with a proliferation of legislation in nearly two-thirds of states that affect law enforcement practice and policy, the study added.

The study shows how video footage captured by police body-worn cameras has provided crucial evidence in a number of high-profile encounters that resulted in civilian deaths.

Bipartisan members of Congress voice support for public safety and reducing recidivism

By Achilles Williams
Journalism Guild Writer

Numerous bipartisan members of Congress are urging continued support of three programs aimed at increasing public safety and reducing recidivism, the Justice Center reports.

Ninety-two members of the House of Representatives

urged continued funding for the Second Chance Act, signed into law in 2008. It has made more than 800 grants in 49 states to improve re-entry programs.

Sixty-eight House members supported continued funding for the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act. It funds mental health courts and treatments within

the criminal justice system.

Fifty-two House members urged continued funding for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. It aims to reduce corrections spending and reinvesting in community programs that improve public safety.

The Justice Center is affiliated with the Council of State Governments. It reports the actions in April.

Federal judge speaks against mandatory minimums

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Retired federal Judge Shira A. Scheindlin reported that mandatory minimum sentencing made her feel more like a computer than a judge.

"Mandatory minimums were almost always excessive, and they made me feel unethical, even dirty," Scheindlin wrote in the *Washington Post*.

Sentencing guidelines assign crimes a place on a grid. Seriousness of the crime, number, and nature of prior convictions produce a range of months in prison. Adjustments for offense level can be made, but judges were required to mandatory sentences without exceptions.

Two decades after guidelines took effect, the Supreme Court found guidelines unconstitutional in 2005. Some discretion was returned to the judges except with respect to mandatory minimum statutes.

Scheindlin and many other federal judges routinely sentenced below guidelines, particularly for first-time, non-violent drug offenders. In 2015 only 36.5 percent of all drug offenses nationwide resulted in guideline-compliant sentences. Scheindlin sentenced more than 200 defendants of narcotics offenses with a lighter-than-advised sentence 80 percent of the time.

After Scheindlin left the

bench, she and her last law clerk, Peter Dubrowski, reviewed sentencing protocols for each of the 200 defendants and found similar story lines. The majority were indigent, 72 percent had children to support, many were under the age of 25, more than half did not graduate from high school, and most had no GED.

A majority battled alcohol or drug addiction or both, and began substance-abuse at age 14. Most were unemployed, came from single-parent homes, and most had at least one parent who was or had been incarcerated.

Scheindlin wrote, "These common characteristics suggested that the defendants needed a brand of justice to get their lives back on track, rather than deprive them of future jobs, roles supporting their families and chances to become productive in their communities. The right punishment would have given them a chance to achieve those goals." Scheindlin nonetheless was required to impose many mandatory sentences.

Scheindlin questions if length of sentence deters people from committing crimes, "This is a popular idea in our country. Over time I came to believe it is fiction." A report from the Sentencing Project, a nonprofit that studies criminal punishment, found evidence of mandatory sentences "fails to support" deterrence.

SB620 would let judges waive gun enhancements

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Senate Bill 620, currently before the California legislature, if passed, will provide judges the power to waive gun enhancements.

Currently, gun enhancement laws, Penal Code 12022.5 and 12022.53, require mandatory additional terms of three years to 25-to-life for each victim. These enhancements often mean serving long consecutive sentences for crimes committed with a firearm.

For example, an armed robbery, which carries about five years, would net an additional mandatory 10-year sentence if committed with a gun.

"This bill would delete the

prohibition on striking an allegation or finding and, instead, would allow a court, in the interest of justice and at the time of sentencing or resentencing, to strike an enhancement otherwise required to be imposed by the above provisions of law," states Senate Bill 620, introduced by State Sen. Steve Bradford.

In most cases, these enhancements carry much more time than the primary crime committed, and they can force people into taking stiff plea deals. This was the case with Jerome Watts, currently incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison.

Watts felt pressured to take a deal for 25 years because he faced multiple life sentences that were mandatory under charges

involving an attempted robbery that turned into an attempted murder with the use of a gun.

"This bill would delete the prohibition on striking an allegation or finding..."

In 2007, he and two co-defendants attempted to commit a robbery. One of them shot the victim in the back; however, tests taken right after the crime revealed Watts did not have any gunshot residue on him. There

was gunshot residue found on Watts' co-defendants, according to a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department scientific services bureau laboratory report.

Pressured by the threat of multiple life sentences and the victim's identification of Watts as the shooter, he took a deal for 25 years, which included 20 years for the personal use of a gun to commit the crime.

"I was scared into taking that deal because the victim pointed me out as the shooter, and they said I would get 64-to-life if I went to trial and lost," Watts said.

Watts was 23 years old at the time, and he said the attempted robbery was his first offense. Since then, Watts said he's doing everything he can to

better himself, including taking college courses with the Prison University Program, a financial literacy class, painting in the Arts-in-Corrections program, acting with Marin Shakespeare and working in the kitchen.

"I feel so remorseful for what I did, and it drives me to focus on doing positive things to help the community," Watts said. "I have changed — I've taken anger management and also learned sign language. I'm taking steps to have a brighter future by voluntarily taking programs."

For questions or comments about Senate Bill 620, contact Sue Kateley, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Steve Bradford, State Capitol, Room 2062; Sacramento, CA 95814 or suekateley@sen.ca.gov.

Public comments can help boost good-time credits

New plans to give time reduction credits for nearly every inmate statewide

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

Thanks to a recent ballot measure, California will soon be drafting new plans to give time reduction credits for nearly every inmate statewide. Your voice could help shape those changes.

"Once the draft regulations are published, there will be a 45-day written public comment period," said Taina Vargas-Edmond, Founder and Executive Director of Initiate Justice (IJ). "All written comments submitted to CDCR (California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) must be responded to," she said.

After the public comment period, a public hearing at CDCR's headquarters in Sacramento will happen.

"Currently, we are waiting

for the draft regulations to be released, which will hopefully reflect some of the changes we have been fighting for," Vargas-Edmond said.

Initiate Justice is a policy-driven nonprofit built by and for incarcerated people, formerly incarcerated people, and their loved ones, said Vargas-Edmond. IJ is currently working on how to implement Proposition 57, the initiative that allows for the credit revisions. The proposition passed in November with 64 percent of the vote.

The initiative created early release consideration for people serving sentences for nonviolent offenses and expanded time reductions for people in CDCR. Only those serving life without possibility of parole and on Death Row are excluded. The measure also eliminated the ability of

district attorneys to prosecute juveniles in adult courts, giving that power to a judge instead.

"CDCR was granted much flexibility in how they implement the nonviolent parole consideration and credit-earning aspects of the legislation," Vargas-Edmond said.

Last March, CDCR released temporary new regulations. IJ responded by mailing CDCR's temporary regulations to more than 2,300 incarcerated people, along with an informational flyer.

The flyer stated that beginning May 1, 2017, good time credits would be expanded; on July 1, 2017, a Public Safety Screening for nonviolent early parole consideration would begin; and on Aug. 1, 2017, Milestones and Educational Merit Credits will take effect.

Additionally, IJ, in conjunction with Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), surveyed incarcerated people regarding the proposed changes. They found that incarcerated people wanted to:

- Include Third Strikers and Lifers in non-violent early parole consideration
- Allow all people in prison to earn 50 percent good-time credits
- Make all good-time credit earning retroactive
- Allow every Youth Offender or Elderly Parole Hearing eligible person to earn time off of their earliest parole hearing date
- Award retroactive Education Merit Credits for each achievement

IJ also went to Sacramento to seek support from the staff of

several state legislators, as well as CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan.

CDCR is creating its draft regulations based on the temporary regulations. Inmate response will also help determine those draft regulations.

"Initiate Justice will continue to push for our demands through the budget process and the Regular Regulations process," Vargas-Edmond said. "The fight is not over, and it is now more critical than ever that people who are in prison, and their loved ones, have their voices heard."

Initiate Justice encourages interested parties to join the Initiate Justice mailing list. Write to: PO Box 4962, Oakland, CA 94605.

You can also email the organization: initiatejustice@gmail.com.

Essie

Continued from Page 1

Taina Vargas-Edmond, founder of Initiate Justice, added, "Women with incarcerated loved ones are the ones who experience the harm firsthand, so we are the experts on it. We have a unique experience to share. Therefore, we should be at the center of advocacy change. We already have to fight to visit them, fight to keep money on the phone, so we are ready-made advocates."

Attorney Gina Clayton, a Harvard graduate, founded Essie Justice Group after seeing firsthand how women are harmed by the criminal justice system because of their connection to an incarcerated person.

While Clayton couldn't make the visit to San Quentin, four women who embodied the meaning of sisterhood and strength did. The guests included Levin, Vargas-Edmond, Zoe Willmott and Natasha Terry-Robinson.

Levin, as part of Prison Hunger Strike Solidarity Coalition (PHSSC), helped change how California determines who goes to security housing units (SHU), where her older brother Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa spent 31 years.

"What Marie brings to the movement is the kind of leadership that takes power from the system and gives it back to the people," Willmott said. "What we saw with the hunger strike was a movement on the inside and on the outside. Without each other and without Marie, we wouldn't have won."

"...We already have to fight to visit them, fight to keep money on the phone so we are ready-made advocates"

Levin started visiting her brother consistently after her sister died and her mother, who died in 2014, wasn't able to visit him anymore. For the first few years, those visits took place through a glass window with phone receivers on each side.

"It's inhuman; it's painful. You strain trying to hear through a phone," Levin said. "When my brother came out of the SHU and we hugged for the first time, everybody who had passed away

flashed through his mind. It was painful."

Levin plans to further help incarcerated people by expanding her Momm's Pastries business with the goal of hiring the formerly incarcerated.

Vargas-Edmond and Terry-Robinson are married to men serving time.

Vargas-Edmond uses a background of a political science degree and former employment of a California Assemblyperson to advocate and guide women through dealing with the system. A friend told her that marrying a man in prison was the stupidest thing in the world.

Vargas-Edmond said, "I think people can't wrap their heads around why we would make the sacrifice we make to love somebody in prison. They think that anyone is better than someone in prison, but when you find the right person, you find the right person."

Her husband Richard Edmond-Vargas, who took her last name too, teaches financial literacy. He's serving 10 years.

Terry-Robinson's husband, Silas Robinson, is serving 25 years to life. He counsels his household using skills learned in groups like the Prison Outreach Program and Restorative Justice. However, Terry-Robinson's

minister thought she shouldn't marry the incarcerated man.

"It's really hard to be without my husband, showing up to events, concerts alone, watching your friends all booed up and I'm going home by myself," Terry-Robinson said. "It's challenging, but my husband is worth it."

Essie Justice Group helps both women stay strong.

"Essie helps me, I think for the most part, just to have somebody in the room listening to you, instead of judging you," Terry-Robinson said. "Whatever feedback you get is coming from a genuine place, and the sisters want to see you win."

Terry-Robinson also uses poetry to cope and advocate. She wrote a poem right on the spot during their May 22 visit called *Essie Was Here*, that started,

As I walked through the lower yard, I saw human beings,

The system said they're criminals but their polite character intrigued me.

These men were humble, respectful and kind.

All deserving of leaving their crime behind.

The women constantly complimented each other and displayed a camaraderie that

dispelled the myth behind the old saying, "Two women can't cook in the same kitchen."

"It's actually proven that women are better collaborators and more efficient than men; it's science," Vargas-Edmond said. "That's why women get more bills passed."

Willmott, the behind-the-scenes organizer for Essie, said they are working on fixing the bail system that leaves poor people in prison defending against, sometimes minor, criminal charges. Also, Essie is seeking to expand its membership.

Nominees come together over nine weeks to learn advocating for self, advocating for family and advocating for the community.

To nominate a female for membership, write a letter with the name of the female nominee, your relationship to her, why you are nominating her, and her contact information, then mail it to:

Essie Justice Group
300 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza,
Suite 420

Oakland, CA 94612

Or email:

www.essiejusticegroup.org/nominate

Women can also nominate themselves.

—Rahsaan Thomas

Texas sheriff scales back on immigrant deportation

By Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

Sheriff Sally Hernandez of Travis County, Texas, made good on her campaign promise of scaling back her cooperation with federal immigration officials to screen inmates for deportation, reports the *Texas Tribune*.

"The public must be confident

that local law enforcement is focused on local public safety, not on federal immigration enforcement," Hernandez said. She said that her jail is not a place to house federal immigration offenders and that her policy will save taxpayer money, reports the *Tribune*.

However, the announcement sets up a battle between Hernandez and Gov. Greg

Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who have made a commitment to get rid of "sanctuary cities." Sanctuary cities is a term used to define law enforcement officials who refuse to enforce immigration laws.

Hernandez said holding a person longer than required by law is a violation of that person's rights and said her job is to protect public safety, the *Tribune* reports.

"This office will not increase our liability or set unwise public safety priorities simply to ease the burden of the federal government," she said.

However, the sheriff's office reported it will retain people with serious crimes like capital murder, first-degree murder, aggravated sexual assault or human smuggling.

Hernandez said she would

comply with the government's requests if their officers follow the law by obtaining a warrant from a judge ordering the confinement.

Governor Abbott's response was different. In a tweet Friday evening, he stated, "The Governor's Office will cut funding [for] Travis County for adopting sanctuary policies. Stiffer penalties [are] coming."

Employment

Continued from Page 1

"It was really important to be here today," said Kernan. "It's a very common-sense objective to get people employed." He said Gov. Jerry Brown is making employment "a merging priority" with rehabilitation. "Giving someone a chance to earn a living wage reduces recidivism."

San Quentin Warden Ron Davis spoke briefly, thanking the outside guests for their support and wishing the inmates "good luck."

During the 12-week employment connection workshop, more than 35 inmates learned how to present themselves on paper with cover letters, résumés and follow-up letters. They also learned how to conduct themselves during an interview.

Jennifer Rudd from City College of San Francisco's culinary and hospitality program said everyone was organized. "I have been incredibly impressed with the preparation the men have put into their turnaround portfolios."

"I think it's a good opportunity for people to learn



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Inmates interviewing with potential employers in SQ's Protestant Chapel

how to interview," said Oscar Gonzales, 46, who had been incarcerated four years. He thought he had a potential job lined up with one employer. He paroled in June.

Steve Emrick, the prison's community partnership manager, said some men were sent to prison at a young age and don't understand the process of getting a job. "We're taking guys out of prison and preparing them for employment," he said. "This really breaks down those barriers and gives them that experience."

Patrick Fletcher, 53, didn't know the ins and outs of getting a job. He was incarcerated at age 19. "I didn't at-

tach myself to values and principles until I matured," Fletcher said. "By then I was in prison for about 10 years."

While incarcerated, Fletcher earned his GED, learned carpentry, welding, janitorial work, and how to drive a forklift. Earlier this year he completed a Microsoft course, in addition to the work he's done in self-help programs. His final step was learning what to do with this knowledge.

"It's all coming together," said Fletcher. "For him [Kernan] and Warden Davis to be in the room together says a lot about the governor's plans for the prison system, and I'm glad to be a part of it." Fletcher will appear before the Board of Parole Hearings later this year.

Diana Williams, who co-founded the PEC workshop with inmate Noble Butler under its previous name, Employment Readiness Seminar, said CDCR recidivism was at 65 percent in 2010. Today, she said it has dropped to 45 percent.

Statistically though, 16 of the men at the seminar will return to prison within three years of their release.

"We're taking guys out of prison and preparing them for employment"

"I've spent the last 12 weeks with these men. To think 16 will return, I know you can do better than that," said Williams.

"I had trouble talking to people," said Joe Loreda, 48. "It [PEC] gave me hope and opportunity to achieve a lifelong dream to establish myself as a hard-working citizen." He paroled in June.

Diana Velasquez of One Stop Career Center said they provide services to help people with résumés, cover letters, interviews, clothing, and workshops. They also help

individuals with their credit and housing, and allow them free use of computers.

A representative from Center for Employment Opportunity told the men, "It's easy to get a job when you've got a job," emphasizing the importance of finding employment as soon as possible.

"When I heard about it, I thought it was amazing," said Gabrielle Nicolett, a former juvenile probation officer. She volunteers to help facilitate the program with activities such as grant writing. "It's extremely inspiring. It's great to see them [inmates] so excited," she said.

Inmates said they were particularly pleased that the employers didn't treat them like prisoners.

Williams said about 180 interviews took place. The employers filled out 152 assessments on the interviews and ranked them as follows:

- 9% of the interviewees scored low.
- 49% of the interviewees scored good.
- 40% of the interviewees scored excellent.

Williams provided the graduates with certificates of completion and a list of employers who hire parolees. "Use the employers on this list," she said. "They won't give you 'the look.'"

Butler said originally he did this for himself because he wanted to know how to get a job. But it turned into something bigger. "I had an idea, but when I was introduced to [Williams] it really took off."

Butler's idea seemingly underscores the sentiment of Gov. Brown, as expressed by Kernan when he said, "We're changing the way we incarcerate like nowhere in the nation."

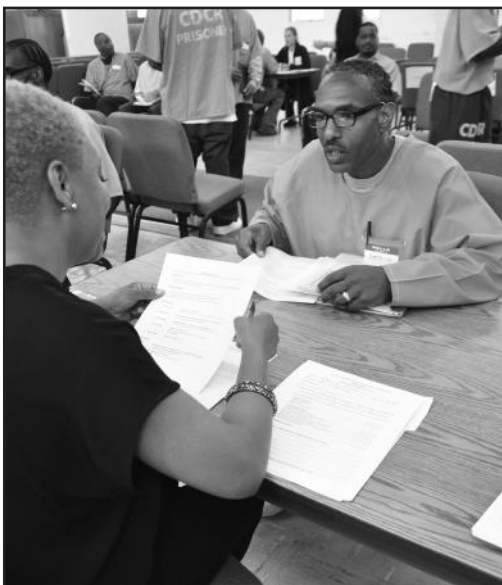


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Patrick Fletcher talking about his résumé

PEN America

Prison Writing Program Annual Writing Contest:

Deadline: September 1, 2017 Winners announced March 2018.

Type manuscripts and double-spaced whenever possible, or legibly handwrite on 8.5-by-11-inch paper.

Poetry: 10 poems max; 20-page total limit Fiction: Short story or excerpt from a longer piece; 25-page max. Drama: Monologues, scenes, or stage/screen plays; 25-page max. Nonfiction: Essay, observation, journal excerpt, editorial, article or memoir; 25-page max.

Submit cover letter with name, identification number, and mailing address.

Submit only one entry in each category, except in poetry, which has a 20-page total limit.

Only unpublished manuscripts, except those appearing in publications for prison populations only.

Do not send originals.

PEN America

c/o Writing Contest

588 Broadway, Suite 303

New York, NY 10012

Prisoner medical co-pay looks cheap on the surface

Charging incarcerated people medical co-pays forces them to make difficult choices

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Medical co-payments for prisoners nationwide could be doing more damage than good, according to a recent report from the Prison Policy Initiative (PPI).

Wendy Sawyer, author of the PPI report, compared the cost of medical co-pays in prisons and jails to what people on the outside pay, relative to their wages.

"A \$2 to \$5 medical co-pay in prison or jail may not seem expensive on its face. But, when we consider the relative cost of these co-pays to incarcerated people who typically earn 14 to 63 cents per hour, it's clear how they can be cost-prohibitive," stated the report.

In most states, prisoners pay medical co-payments for physician visits, medications, dental treatment and other health services.

Sawyer calculated how many work hours it would take an incarcerated worker in each state to make a co-payment. She converted the hours of the low-paid incarcerated worker to the minimum wages earned by a non-incarcerated worker in the same state.

"Fees are ... meant to deter people from unnecessary doctor's visits"

In California, prisoners pay a \$5 medical co-payment and earn as little as eight cents an hour. It would require 62.5 hours of work to afford one co-payment. The equivalent co-pay for a free Californian earning \$10.50 at the state's minimum wage would be

\$656.25.

A single doctor visit for an incarcerated West Virginian who makes \$6 dollars per month would cost almost an entire month's pay. The equivalent co-pay, based on that state's minimum wage and the same 125 hours to earn, would cost \$1,093.

"People incarcerated in these states must rely on deposits into their personal accounts — typically from family — to pay medical fees. In most places, funds are automatically withdrawn from these accounts until the balance is paid, creating a debt that can follow them even after release," reported the PPI.

Sawyer found that 13 states charge medical co-payments that are equivalent to charging minimum-wage workers more than \$200.

Texas does not pay incarcerated people for their work; however, it

charges a flat \$100 yearly health services fee, and some officials are actually trying to double it to \$200, said the report.

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina also don't pay prisoners for work but do charge inmates co-pays for medical services.

"Fees are ... meant to deter people from unnecessary doctor's visits. Unfortunately, high fees may be doing more harm than good: deterring sick people from getting the care they really do need," the PPI report said.

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) said abuses of sick calls can be managed with "a good triage system," without imposing fees that also deter necessary medical services.

Charging incarcerated people medical co-pays forces them to make difficult choices, said the

report. NCCCHC warns that co-pays may actually jeopardize the health of incarcerated populations, staff and the public.

"First, when sick people avoid the doctor, disease is more likely to spread to others in the facility — and into the community, when people are released before being treated. Second, illnesses are likely to worsen as long as people avoid the doctor," said the report.

This could mean more aggressive and expensive treatment when they can no longer go without it.

"Correctional agencies may be willing to take that risk and hope that by the time people seek care, their treatment will be someone else's problem," said the report.

Nevertheless, providers must treat people regardless of their ability to pay. Incarcerated people with "low health literacy" may not understand this right, said the report.

New Folsom's health care inadequate due to shortage of doctors

By Achilles Williams
Journalism Guild Writer

Inmates at the high-security California State Prison, Sacramento, better known as "New Folsom," may not receive adequate medical care because of a "critical shortage" of doctors, according to findings from a state audit reported by the *Sacramento Bee*.

The audit by the Office of the

Inspector General found "that the prison had an acute shortage of doctors and an 11 percent vacancy rate among its 137 medical positions," including a 43 percent shortage of primary care providers.

The doctors there "complained that current work conditions were unsustainable, and many were actively looking for employment elsewhere," according to the report. The audit

was based primarily on records between July and September 2016.

New Folsom is considered one of the most dangerous prisons in the state and a difficult place to work. The maximum-security facility houses inmates with behavior problems, mental health issues and high-risk medical conditions.

"When you put all of these factors together, when doctors choose to work in a state prison facility, they have other places that might be more attractive," said Joyce Hayhoe, a spokeswoman for a court-appointed federal receivership that took control of prison healthcare in the state in 2006.

Hayhoe told the *Sacramento Bee* that New Folsom was an exception to an overall improvement in medical services in state prisons. The federal program has been returning the management of such services to the state as they demonstrate better care. She said that most prisons are expected to leave the receivership this year.

Specifically, the inspector general cited seven "adverse" events in its audit. One inmate

diagnosed with coronary artery disease died several months after he ran out of pills from his prescription for a cholesterol drug.

"He did not get a refill, and he did not see a doctor for the eight months..."

"He did not get a refill, and he did not see a doctor for the eight months he spent in California State Prison, Sacramento," the *Bee* reported.

In another case, an inmate was turned away twice by nurses after he complained about bloody diarrhea. He was transferred to an outside hospital only after a third appeal for help.

The report also mentioned an unresponsive patient who did not receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation for 12 minutes after he became unconscious from an accidental overdose.

According to the *Sacramento*

Bee's summary of the report, the medical staff at the prison was slow to respond to emergencies, properly review medical files, maintain oversight of inmates receiving opioid-based medication and arrange medical appointments for new inmates.

The prison "has remained in the bottom tier of prison health services" since the inspector general began publishing regular reports on prison health care in 2010, the audit noted.

The audit result, also acknowledged that New Folsom had projects underway that could improve healthcare in the future, such as the construction of a new primary care clinic for patients with serious mental health diagnoses, renovation of other clinics and the development of a new central health services building.

The prison will also be among one of 12 prisons that will offer doctors a 15 percent pay raise through 2020, said the report. That would be on top of a 9 percent wage increase planned for all prison doctors in the next three years. In 2014, state prison doctors earned \$240,000 a year on average.

Luring more prison doctors with big raises

The average pay for the employees in 2014 was approximately \$240,000 a year

By Mike Little
Journalism Guild Writer

Doctors at a dozen understaffed California prisons could receive a 24 percent pay raise under a new proposed contract. Other doctors would get 9 percent hikes.

The raises could be paid over the next four years, pending approval by their union and the state legislature, according to an article in the *Sacramento Bee*.

"We're hoping that the new agreement will help us fill our critical vacancies," said Joyce Hayhoe, spokeswoman for the federal receivership. California prison health care has been under federal receivership since 2006.

The average pay for the employees in 2014 was approximately \$240,000 a year. According to the 2017-18 California Budget proposal, the average cost per inmate for medical, mental and dental services will be \$21,582 per year.

The contract with the union expired last July, and its members had taken the unusual step of authorizing a strike. The original offer was an 8 percent

increase over four years with few other financial incentives.

"We were waiting for it to be an offer that we could recommend" said Suzanne Wilson, the union spokeswoman.

Wilson said the administration offered a better package including wage increases for specific jobs and substantial recruitment and retention packages.

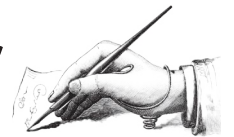
The Union of American Physicians and Dentists represents approximately 1,500 workers.

California State Prison-Sacramento and Mule Creek State Prison are two of the facilities deemed understaffed that will be able to offer these new incentives.

Some prisons have vacancy rates that have climbed as high as 30 percent. The more lucrative incentives are designed to retain doctors at these prisons, the article stated.

To prevent medical staff members from leaving state facilities that are near the prisons, the state is offering recruitment and retention incentives to doctors at 15 other state hospitals, centers for people with developmental disabilities, and veteran facilities.

Letters To The Editor



S. Nieves

I just found out about the *San Quentin News* (by accident). There are 22 women on condemned row here in Chowchilla, yet we've never heard of nor seen this newspaper before. We aren't allowed access to go to our library. We request books by title, author or subject, through institutional mail (only). Is there any way that you can send me a copy (or two) each month that we can circulate between us here on the row? It would be greatly appreciated by all of us, my address info is above, in the "from" section.

Please remember there are 22 women on the row, who want to know what's going on. It's not our fault we're in Chowchilla, California.

Sincerely,
S. Nieves

Dear Ms. Nieves

I am surprised to hear that the 22 women on Death Row do not receive our newspaper. Then again, when I think about how inmates in the general population must face the wall when condemned inmates are being escorted by, I feel as if they don't want us to notice that you are human too.

We truly apologize for missing the opportunity to fully represent the condemned population, including the women. We will try to do a better job and thank you for taking interest in reaching out to *San Quentin News*.

Sincerely,
Richard "Bonaru" Richardson

AB1308 would expand parole eligibility to the age of 25

Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Legislature is considering legislation to improve chances for parole of inmates sentenced to lengthy prison terms for crimes committed at age 25 or younger.

The measure is AB1308 by Assemblyman Mark Stone, D-Santa Cruz.

"AB1308 would align public policy with scientific research. This measure would expand eligibility of the youth parole hearing process to (those) 25 or under when they committed a crime for which they received a lengthy or life sentence for a youth offender parole hearing," said Stone.

The bill is an expansion of SB260 (2013) and SB261 (2015), which require the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) to consider the youthfulness of the offender as a mitigating factor when considering parole suitability.

"Since the passage of SB260 and SB261, motivation to focus on rehabilitation has increased," Stone said. "An offender is more likely to enroll in school, drop out of a gang or participate in positive programs if they can sit before a parole board sooner ... and have a chance of being released."

One of those who would be impacted by AB1308 is Jose Rivera, 45, who is serving a 47-years-to-life sentence for kidnap and robbery and has been incarcerated for 22 years.

"I was 23 when I committed my crime, but mentally I was

a kid," said Rivera. "I remember laughing and telling people I would do something one day that would give me 10 to 20 years, but I didn't know what that meant."

In his 22 years of incarceration, Rivera has participated in various support groups and will be graduating next year with an associate degree.

"I didn't want to become the person that I was when I first came in. That was the motivation for me to attend these self-help groups and attend college," Rivera said. "I wanted to better myself, and if the opportunity presented itself, I want to demonstrate how I have changed into a different person."

During his incarceration, Rivera received one disciplinary infraction in 1996 for disobeying orders. Without AB1308, Rivera would not be eligible for a parole hearing until 2041, when he will be 70 years old.

"Scientific evidence and studies from universities all confirm that brain development of ... the parts affecting judgment and decision-making, do not fully develop until the early to mid-20s," according to the California

Attorneys for Criminal Justice, which supports AB1308.

Commenting on AB1308, Kid CAT Chairman Charlie Spence said, "To finally see the acknowledgement of the science of brain development extend to its proper age is an inspiration to us all.

"As a juvenile offender group, we recently extended our membership age to 25, because it is important for us to offer the same rights we are afforded to those who may have been older when they committed their crimes but still did not possess a fully mature brain when they did so."

The California District Attorneys Association and the San Diego County District Attorney oppose AB1308, stating, "We challenge the sweeping generalization embedded in the bill that holds all persons under the age of 25 to a lower standard of culpability just as we did in 2015 when Senate Bill 261 was introduced."

The association added, "There are no incentives in AB1308 for these adult offenders to pursue education, vocational training or to attend AA meetings to be

eligible. They just have to do their time."

Travis Westly, 34, who was sentenced to 17-years-to-life for second-degree murder and gang enhancement at the age of 23, said, "Nothing I have done is for the board or for release because I never thought that was an option. Everything I have ever done during my incarceration has been about making amends."

Westly, who has been incarcerated 11 years, has participated in and taught various support groups. He will be graduating in July with a bachelor of science degree with emphasis on criminology and is currently enrolling for a master's degree in business.

"There's this idea that this bill will get people to the board sooner — and there will be some form of mass release — but that is not the case. We still must take the steps necessary to ensure that we no longer pose a threat to society," Westly added.

If the proposed legislation is signed into law, the bill will require parole hearings for qualifying youth offenders by Jan. 1, 2020.

Housing young inmates drain prison resources

Problems may plague states across the country as they race to develop specialized prisons for housing adults under the age of 25.

"Investing in new facilities draws scarce resources and attention away from reforms that work, including local, small-scale and community-driven alternatives to incarceration," said Maureen Washburn of the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (JJIE).

"Developing a separate prison system...for young adults ... shortchange(s) meaningful progress toward improved public safety by expending political capital on prison improvements in place of investment in the communities hardest hit by mass incarceration."

In January, California Gov. Jerry Brown included a recommendation in the state budget proposal to build a facility called the California Leadership Academy (CLA), which can house up to 250 18-to-25-year-old males.

"If approved, the CLA would increase California's capacity for

incarceration at a time when the state's prison and jail populations are fallingThe CLA would establish a lasting incentive for incarcerating young people and create a new fiscal burden for the state," the JJIE reported.

In addition to California, Connecticut, Maine and Pennsylvania are seeking to build or reopen facilities to house young adults, according to JJIE.

Past "efforts to redesign the architecture, restructure programming, introduce new leadership, and change the population did little to alter the daily reality of life in a congregate institution," said Daniel Macallair, author of *After the Doors Were Locked*, which documents California's Youth Authority scandals and abuses.

The report published in April by JJIE on specialized facility expansion urged law makers to "be wary of reform efforts that absolve (them) of the responsibility for instituting comprehensive reforms and risk increasing state reliance on lock-ups."

—John Lam

States upping age for juvenile prosecution

Some states across the country are increasing the age at which juveniles are prosecuted as adults.

"Legislatures around the country are voting to treat 17-year-old offenders as juveniles," the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange (JJIE) reported. ... Louisiana acted last year, as did South Carolina, leaving just seven states nationwide that still prosecute all youth under 18 as adults," the JJIE reported.

In April, New York became the latest state to make the decision not to charge juveniles as adults, leaving just six states that still prosecute such juveniles.

"New York, which had automatically treated even 16-year-olds as adults, enacted a sweeping overhaul that included raising the age to 18, effective next year," the Exchange reported.

These changes are frustrating

some lawmakers in states that haven't made the change in how and when juvenile offenders are prosecuted.

Texas State Rep. Gene Wu said, "So many people here are saying, 'Well, Texas is Texas, and it doesn't matter what the rest of the country is doing.' But it does, and we should do better on this issue."

Wu has introduced a bill to increase the state's age of criminal responsibility to 18.

"Last year Texas was one of nine states, and when we filed this bill there were seven, and now six," Wu said. "North Carolina is probably going to raise the age this year and maybe Georgia, so we just keep falling behind, and there is no reason for it."

Opponents in Texas argue, "Such measures would cost too much to implement, overrun juvenile justice court systems and

could, potentially, leave dangerous youth on the street," the Exchange reported.

Supporters of lowering the age point to extensive studies that show drastic reductions in recidivism rates and money saved for taxpayers.

"We have statistics showing that 30 percent of all children put into the juvenile system will not reoffend, will never become adult criminals," said Wu.

"That is tangible. People can see ... the savings when you aren't going to have to keep putting more people into adult prisons, or take care of them when they can't get a job or a home because they did something stupid as a 17-year-old kid."

The most important reason to raise the age is because it is the moral thing to do for youth and society, Wu added.

—John Lam

Dear Kid CAT

Dear Kid CAT,

My name is Sang "David" Kim. I am 31 years old and serving a 15 to life sentence for second-degree murder. I committed my offense when I was 20 years old. My goal is to help at-risk youth not to make the same mistakes I did. I've written several letters to Prison Letters 4 Our Struggling Youth, and I've written to a kid who is currently locked up in juvenile hall through a pastor. I'm writing because I wanted to know what I needed to qualify as a mentor/youth counselor (what type of schooling or training do I need)? This is something I'm interested in doing when I get out. Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely,
S. Kim

Dear David,

Thank you for writing to us. Your positive change and willingness to help others with your story is inspiring. You have taken the most important step to become a mentor/youth counselor by writing and corresponding with a youth in juvenile hall.

To be honest, it's not about a particular type of schooling or training that makes a person a mentor. A mentor is willing to help others, be genuine in their work, and to love others as they love themselves. If you can be there in times of good or difficulty, you will have fulfilled your role as a mentor.

In order to be a counselor, one must first get educated. You can begin by taking college correspondence courses to get your associate's degree. If you have already done that, and have the means to continue, you can get a bachelor's degree and even a master's degree from within these walls.

Continue to stay positive and strive toward your goals and never give up.

The Beat Within

A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside



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

That decision - Think about a decision that was made for you when you were younger, a decision in which you did not have any input. If you could choose to go back and reverse that decision, would you? Tell us, who made the decision for you? What was the decision and how did it affect you? Now, write a detailed explanation about the decision and your choice.

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

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men who committed their crimes in their teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from all 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.**

Over 20 years of advocating for women prisoners

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

“Two steps forward - We won't step back,” declares the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) on their website.

The grassroots social justice organization has been a voice for the often forgotten incarcerated women and transgender populations for more than 20 years.

The CCWP brought attention to a high number of suicide attempts and deaths occurring at the California Institution for Women (CIW).

Advocates for the Los Angeles CCWP chapter visit inmates weekly at Chino's CIW. They push to see those on suicide watch and insist this issue no longer be treated as “business as usual.”

In 2016, CCWP held a vigil directly in front of CIW with the families, friends and women formerly incarcerated in the prison.

“When I faced the hardest situation of my life, CCWP was there for me,” said Sheri Graves, a grieving mother at the vigil. “The very day I received the tragic news of the death of my daughter, Shaylene Graves, CCWP reached out to me and my family.”

Prior to the vigil, the group gathered in Oakland at Eastside Arts Alliance for a town hall event titled, “Shout Their Names.” The grief-stricken crowd chanted, “Shout their names; no more deaths; bring our loved ones home alive,” reported the CCWP's *Fire Inside Newsletter*. The newsletter highlights the struggles and transformation of women prisoners through its members inside and outside of prison.

As the organization continues the struggle for awareness of suicides and deaths in CIW, they are



Photo by Hafsa Al-Amin

CCWP founders and The Fire Inside members

preparing to provide legal advocacy and support at all the women's prisons in California. Five teams will visit on a bi-monthly basis. Currently the L.A. team is being expanded to respond to the CIW crisis.

The wardens at CIW and Central California Women's Facility chose retirement in 2016 after the head of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation determined that change in leadership at those prisons was necessary following recent reviews that identified problems, according to Assistant Secretary of Communications Jeffrey Callison. Molly Hill was appointed CIW warden in May

2017. She had been acting warden since 2016 and served as chief deputy administrator in 2016. Derral Adams has been acting warden at CCWF since July 2016.

CIW has implemented changes that are yielding positive results. Those changes include increased training for staff; amplification of additional rehabilitative programs focused on giving inmates an education and skills (community college, computer coding, gardening, self-help), the establishment of town hall meetings between the warden and inmates and an increased focus on mental health programs.

“We finally succeeded in win-

ning an independent investigation of CIW by the State Auditor,” reports the group website. “We built community at the same time as we advocated for systemic policy changes.”

CCWP is networking with people across the nation to resist escalating racist, sexist, heightened criminalization and imprisonment of immigrants, the website noted.

In addition to these efforts and successes, CCWP collaborated with the Trans Advocacy Group, to coordinate more support for trans-men held in women's prisons. They have launched, “A Living Chance,” a multimedia

storytelling project, about women sentenced to Life Without Parole (LWOP), highlighting unjust sentencing. CCWP also participated in the national “Survived & Punished” network, which advocates for people like Bresha Meadows, a young Black woman who was arrested for defending herself against her abusive father.

“Together, collectively, we will stand firm on our core principles of justice and love,” CCWP declares on its website.

California Coalition for Women Prisoners 1540 Market St., Suite 490 San Francisco, CA 94102
info@womenprisoners.org
Please donate today.

Protestors aim to block pilot video visitation program for inmates

By Mike Little
Journalism Guild Writer

Five people were arrested for protesting jail video visitation in Durham, N.C.

The Inside-Outside Alliance members demonstrated at a county commission meeting, according to an article by Virginia

Bridges for the community news website, *newsobservers.com*.

“We don't have confidence we will be able to keep (Sheriff Mike Andrews) from making it video only,” said one of those arrested, Joe Stapleton, 27, youth pastor at Cornerstone Community Church.

The five were charged with disorderly conduct, resisting ar-

rest and inciting a riot, all misdemeanors, the March 18 story noted.

Pastor Stapleton, Rann Bar-On, a Duke University math professor, and some students were charged and released on a \$1,500 unsecured bond.

Sheriff Andrews's office reported plans to launch a pilot

program, in which visitors would meet with the inmates via a video monitor in the jail's lobby.

Sheriff Andrews plans to use a hybrid approach that will include both video and in-person visits, Brian Jones, a spokesman for the sheriff's office, wrote in an email.

Tamara Gibbs, sheriff's office spokeswoman, added in an email, there are two options for video-visiting, one the person can visit with his or her own computer or mobile device, the other the person goes to the facility and communicates with the inmate via a screen.

These forms of communication typically have user fees, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit.

The sheriff's office has yet to decide if they will offer remote visits or charge for them. Bernadette Rabuy, senior policy analyst with the Prison Policy Initiative, said more county jails are moving toward video visitation, while prisons, state and federal, are offering both in-person and video options.

Inside-Outside Alliance members said they decided to interrupt the Durham County commissioners' meeting by reading inmates' letters because they don't think Sheriff Andrews is accessible and this was their best way to raise awareness.

From 2015 to 2016 visitation at

the jail dropped from 29,770 to 15,201. The detention staff hasn't explored why this occurred, Gibbs said.

Some county leaders fear that the video visits could become the inmates' only connection to the outside world.

The sheriff's office has been creating infrastructure to facilitate video visiting. In 2015 and 2016 the jail moved to an online scheduling system, which can be accessed through a kiosk in the jail lobby.

Wendy Jacobs, Durham County chairwoman, said she and other commissioners don't support ending in-person visits. In general, the county commissioners have no direct control over the sheriff's office, which oversees the jail, beyond approving the flow of county money to the agency.

Sheriff Andrews told Jacobs he wasn't ending in-person visits, but video presentation will be an option for the future, according to the article.

Inside-Outside Alliance has a website called Amplify Voices Inside, which publishes letters, statements and surveys from people in Durham County jail.

The group has protested jail conditions, health care access, the quality of food and is demanding a community inspection of the jail.

Former female inmate helps reunite families with Get On The Bus

The fondest wish of many prisoners is to see their children. The Get On The Bus (GOTB) program has made that happen for thousands of California prisoners.

One of its leaders is former inmate Michelle Garcia, who is the new regional director for Ventura County, according to *The Simi Valley Acorn*.

“Once I left prison, I knew I wanted to do something to help in the community. What better way than to help other moms who are in prison?” Garcia said.

She met a volunteer for GOTB, the nonprofit program that provides free bus transportation to prisons for children. That convinced her she had found a new direction for her life.

Garcia spent five years in Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla and said she understands the loneliness and despair inside a prison.

“They are hurting and feel isolated. I want to make sure that they know that their kids are not alone,” she added.

Last year Garcia worked for a program that sent buses to visit fathers at Salinas Valley State Prison and moms in Chowchilla for Mother's Day.

This year two parishes are scheduled to send a bus load of children to San Quentin State Prison for Father's Day.

“When you watch some of these reunions with the kids and the parents, it's just amazing,” said Brian Clements, a deacon at

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church. “It really makes it all worthwhile.”

GOTB was started in 1999 by Sister Suzanne Jabro of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. It is run by the Center for Restorative Justice Works, a North Hollywood nonprofit.

On the trips, children are given pillows and blankets, a kind of comfort bag for the journey. They are also given a stationery kit to encourage them to stay in contact with their parents. They also get to take a picture with their parent.

“It's to encourage the children to keep in contact,” Garcia said. “Being previously incarcerated, I know how important those letters from home can be.”

—Mike Little

Get On The Bus helps maintain the bonds of a family

GOTB

Continued from Page 1

GOTB, in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), has held the pre-Father's Day event for 17 years.

Sara L. Smith and Tami Falconer from the CDCR Office of the Ombudsman stood in the prison's visiting room watching little children run and play with their incarcerated fathers.

"That's a little cutie," Falconer said as a toddler rambled by, pushing a toy lawnmower.

"We're here to provide support and ensure that it's a smooth process for visitors to see their loved ones," Smith said. "We get a pleasure from seeing the dads with big smiles from being with their families."

GOTB does all the paperwork for the visit. It also provides chaperones for children who have no adult to accompany them. It charts the buses to and from the prisons and provides all the meals during the trip.

Darnell "Moe" Washington's mother Bobbie Young, two of his daughters, and his granddaughter came to visit.

Since 2011, Young has been able to visit Washington through GOTB.

"We started seeing him

through Get on the Bus when he was at another prison," Young said. "The volunteers are nice. Some of the parents really don't want to come, but they let their kids come to see their fathers. That's good, because the kids get to know their fathers. But, we need more volunteers from the community. Both of Moe's daughters came today, because they love coming up here."

Center for Restorative Justice Works representative Walter Hammond, 54, has been assisting GOTB for three years. He supervises GOTB regional managers, volunteers and buses as well as the program's donors, churches and other civic organization that support GOTB and the families who use its services.

"My whole thing is I don't want any of those children to have to go through what their parents have gone through," Hammond said. "They can hope and dream and know that there is purpose in their lives, regardless of having an incarcerated parent. These are their parents, and they should have a loving relationship with their parent."

Christopher Jasso, 44, arrived on Death Row in January 2010.

The 2017 visit was the first time his daughters, Anastasia Torres, 22, and Alisha Marlene-Torres, 21, have seen him. Alisha brought her 4-year-old daughter.

"With not being able to see my



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Death Row inmate Christopher Jasso with his family inside the visiting cage

father in seven years has been challenging because my daughter needed to meet him," Alisha said. "It's been a great experience for her."

Anastasia added, "I feel excited and lots of joy. I feel really happy to be here. Hopefully, the next time, we'll drive up to see him."

GOTB reports that more than 1.5 million children across America currently have a parent incarcerated. In addition, more than 5 million U.S. children have had an incarcerated parent, according to *Parents Behind*

Bars: What Happens to Their Children.

Jamar Smith, 36, has been incarcerated for 14 years. He's been at San Quentin since 2011. Smith's mother, Pamela Dortch-Lee, lives in Los Angeles. She normally visits Smith once a year, but last year she wasn't able to make the trip.

"It makes him feel like he's wanted," she said about why she travels so far to see her son. Her son said, "Seeing my mother, makes me feel human and like my family is there for me."

Smith said getting his

mother's support keeps him out of trouble in prison and gives him an incentive to do more with his life.

Smith is getting out of prison around Christmas time.

Dortch-Lee talked about how difficult it is when her son misses events on the outside. "The hardest thing I had to do was telling him his father and grandfather died," she said. Now she's having health issues. "I'm just glad he's coming home. He made a promise to his grandfather that he'll take care of me." Her son smiled and nodded in agreement when she added, "He tells me all the time, I'm sorry about being in here."

More than half of children whose parents are incarcerated live more than 100 miles from their parent, and 10 percent live more than 500 miles away, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Visits from family and friends offer a means of establishing, maintaining or enhancing social support networks, according to a study by Minnesota Department of Corrections Research Director Grant Duwe.

The study found that visitation can reduce recidivism by maintaining prisoners' social ties with family members and by helping prisoners develop new bonds with clergy or mentors. In doing so, offenders can sustain or broaden their social support networks.

www.getonthebus.us.



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Jamar Smith and his mom Pamela



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Oscar Arana with his daughter Arianna



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

GOTB volunteer paints a child's face



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Darnell "Moe" Washington enjoying the day with his family members

14 Prison University Project graduates

PUP

Continued from Page 1

“Because his mother, father, uncle, cousins went to prisons, he had a world without perceived possibilities,” Justice White said. “He didn’t believe he had the character and discipline to do better. As you know from achieving your degree, you have to have the smarts and the horsepower, but more than that, you need the discipline and strength of character to make it happen.”

“This day is an accumulation of sacrifice, hard work, family support, love, a willingness not to give up and a wife that puts up with me”

After the judge finished speaking, host Phil Melendez, an incarcerated man, joked, “Thanks your honor. I never thought I’d say thank you, your honor.”

Executive Director of PUP Jody Lewen, Ph.D., beamed, like a proud parent, as graduates

George “Mesro” Coles-El and Troy Phillips recited poems for the audience.

Coles-El recited a poem about the periodic table of elements, called the *Human Element*, and Phillips recited *Man Cries*. Phillips described finding his voice in PUP.

“I’ve never been good at expressing my emotions,” Phillips said just before reciting his poem. “I was in a creative writing class that told me I could write it down.”

Phillips also uses the organization skills he learned in PUP in his work as vice-president of the self-help group Alliance for Change.

Aaqilah Islam, Ph.D., who taught Phillips, said, “Troy sat in the first row. He applied the material well, not just to get a good grade, but to improve his life.”

Islam volunteers her time to teach incarcerated men. “I believe in the potential of change because of my own experience with education. It gave me a community. I’m contributing to a legacy and I get to work with folks I admire,” said Islam.

President Thomas Stewart, Ph.D. says PUP is the only higher-learning program in a California prison where the students learn from instructors in person.

“I think it’s great that there are correspondence courses where that’s all that’s available, but I don’t think learning can



Photo by E. Philip Phillips

Valedictorian Angelo Falcone speaking with emcee Philip Melendez and PUP Executive Director Jody Lewen

fully happen without access to conversation and exposure to other people’s ideas,” said PUP’s Amy Jamgochian, Ph.D. “I think education is about civic engagement. It says to society that people are citizens and deserve the rights of citizenship.”

As a teenager growing up in San Francisco, Shadeed Wallace-Stepter chased the allure of the streets over sitting in a classroom. At 35, the graduate now understands the value of education. He has a TEDx talk on YouTube called *The New American*

Hustle, where he shares how the skills he learned selling drugs can be applied to legal entrepreneurial endeavors.

“He’s the first college graduate of my five sons,” said Lateefah Ali-Robinson, Wallace-Stepter’s mother. “It means that my gene pool is strong and what I gave him is going to manifest into something great.”

Graduate William Blackwell also realized the importance of education in prison.

“I wasn’t interested in school on the street,” he said. “Now I realize education is more

important than having street knowledge to be a success in society as a whole.”

Brothers Eddie, 42, and Emile DeWeaver, 38, graduated together before their family members.

“I’m so honored, blessed and excited about the future for them,” said their aunt, Evangelist Candace Hunter.

Volunteer teacher Hiba Fakhri gets off work, takes a quick nap, comes into San Quentin to teach, then takes a nap and goes to work again. Seeing the men graduate made her feel it’s worth it.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Aunt Peggy Stovall celebrates with graduate Shawn Garth and cousin Lakeisha Scott



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Graduate Isiah Caldwell commemorates his achievement with PUP instructor Nathan Moore



Photo by Harold Meeks

Sister Sophia, mom Sandra, graduate Eddie Herena, and sister Monica



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Troy Phillips with PUP teacher Aaqilah Islam

ates triumph to earn college degrees



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Keynote speaker Judge Steve White



Photo by Harold Meeks

Aunt Oleta Hamilton, niece Brittany DeWeaver, graduate Eddie DeWeaver, grandma Lonnie Westburry, graduate Emile DeWeaver and aunt Candice Hunter

"I do this because I feel like this community is so marginalized, so starved for education that they need it the most so they will make better decisions later on in life," Fakhri said. "It's to society's benefit."

Algebra teacher Susannah Raub started teaching in a prison because, "I wanted to do something to address issues around criminal justice and I keep coming back for the

students. They are dedicated and really fun."

The complete graduating class of PUP 2017 included: William Blackwell, Peter Bommerito, Isiah Caldwell, Chris Deragon, Eddie and Emile DeWeaver, Angel Falcone, Shawn Garth, Sam Hearnese, Eddie Herena, George "Mesro" Coles-El, Troy Phillips, Ruben Ramirez and Shadeed Wallace-Stepter.

"This day is an accumulation

of sacrifice, hard work, family support, love, a willingness not to give up and a wife that puts up with me," Deragon said as he sat with his wife, mother, aunt, uncle, cousin and friends seated around him.

Deragon's mom, Vickie, said, "I'm proud, just proud. It's taken a lot of time, a lot of hard work and knowing he stuck to it through some very trying times — I'm just proud."



Photo by Harold Meeks

Lateefah Ali with her son graduate Shadeed Wallace-Stepter

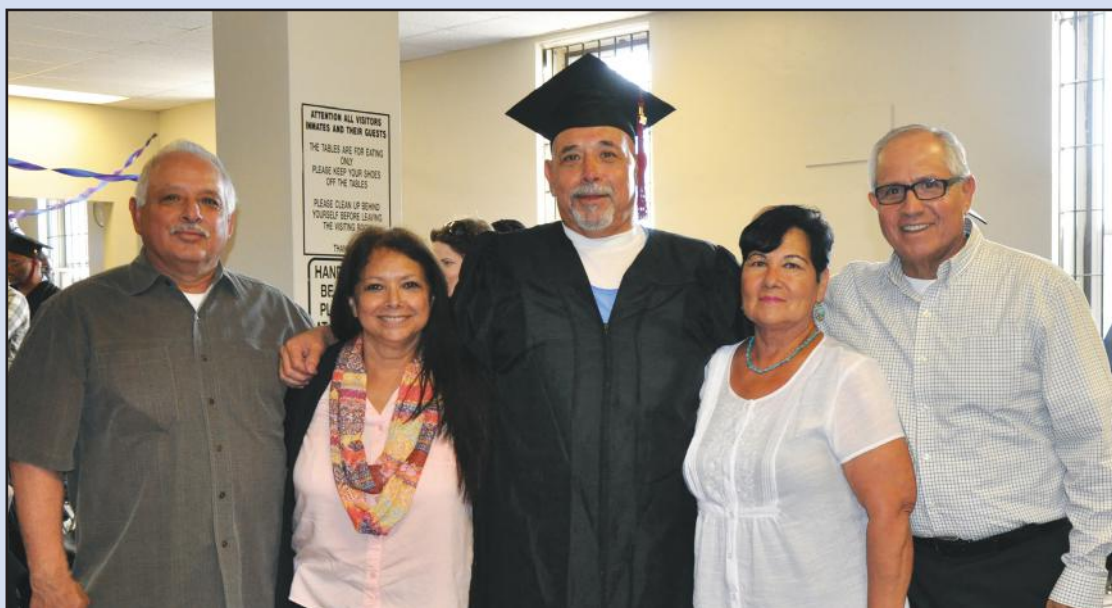


Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Brother Albino, sister Virginia, graduate Ruben Ramirez, sister-in-law Margie and brother Robert celebrating his achievement



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Graduate George "Mesro" Coles-El celebrating with SQ GED instructor D. Searle



Photo by Greg Eskridge

Uncle Robert Ortiz, aunt Veda Ortiz with graduate Chris Deragon, mom Vickie Deragon and wife Sarah Deragon enjoying the festivities



Photo by Jonathan Chiu

Graduate Samuel Hearnese

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

San Quentin Choppers



Drawing by James Norton

Ink drawing done by an inmate titled 'San Quentin Chopper'

FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Photo by Barry Zack

Rata Oka Joseph, Tony Butler, Natasha Ginnivan and Kimberlie Dean at the Kirby Institute in Sydney, Australia

Snippets

Purring is a possible bonding mechanism between kittens and their mother. Research suggests when a kitten purrs it's telling her mother: "I'm okay" and "I'm here."

In 1707, medical pioneer John Flower of Staffordshire, invented a stopwatch to measure the human pulse.

Flies are the only insect to have two winds whereas all other insects have four.

Fingernails and hair are both made up of a protein called keratin.

Looking at intense patterns, like high-contrast stripes or repeating, identical shapes, can trigger migraine headaches.

Each human hand (give or take a few), and each foot has 33.

WORDCROSS PUZZLE

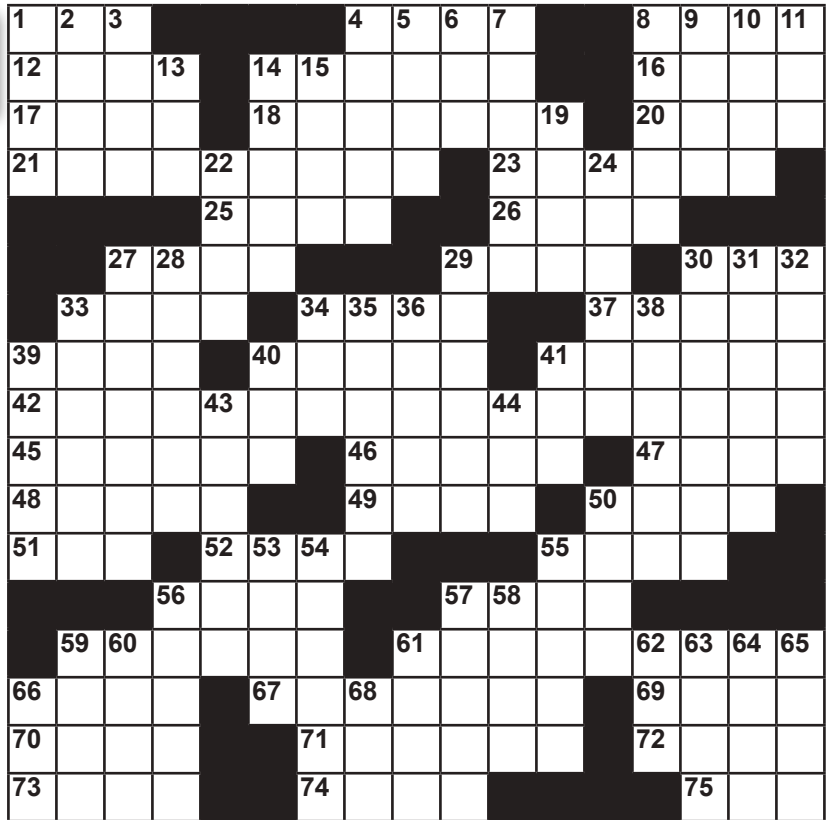
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

1. Chess piece (Abbrev.)
4. Clint Eastwood's org. (Abbrev.)
8. Manage
12. Cooking ingredient
14. Member of the Zoroastrian sect
16. Novel detective Cross
17. French or Spanish liqueur
18. Actor Hopkins
20. Actor Jean
21. '80s, '90s, '00s and '10s action movie star
23. Actress Thandie
25. Singer Murs
26. River in N. Switzerland flowing into the Rhine
27. Actress Sedgwick
29. Actress Polo
30. Hollywood agency (Abbrev.)
33. Compensatory weight allotted for waste during transportation
34. Corn dough (Mex)
37. Groups
39. Vegas hotel
40. Jean material
41. Locale E. of Kisangani, Zaire and a river S. of Maputo, Mozambique
42. Action movie franchise starring many of the actors in this crossword
45. Property title deeds
46. Aids
47. Parisian milk
48. Excrete
49. Missing clue word in Feb. crossword
50. Prefix for hertz, bytes or flops
51. Lair
52. _____ Jabel: locale N. of Tunis on the Mediterranean Sea
55. Tree of the mezereum family
56. Famous ship captain
57. Score people worry about
59. River in Papa W. of Budapest
61. Actor Laurence
66. Neurotransmitter that suppresses nerve activity
67. Language inventor Louis
69. Precedes horn, lace or bill
70. Fashion brand _____ Lemon
71. Actor Ving
72. 1900s Brit. philosopher Alfred Jules
73. Tech site
74. Rests
75. Crafty

Down

1. Ethiopia plant that is a stimulant
2. Vegas game
3. Cut
4. _____-fartsy
5. NY tennis stadium name
6. Music group Speedwagon
7. Contour feather (Alt.)
8. _____ blanche: full authority
9. Margarine
10. Tennis brand or college team
11. Outside (prefix)
13. Type of four year degree (Abbrev.)
14. Actress Patton
15. Indigo
19. Molly Shannon movie _____ of the Dog
22. Fraudulent act
24. Jots
27. Actress Scott Thomas
28. Beer and bread starters
29. Women's bathroom dispenser item
30. Kimchi ingredient
31. Pilot Earhart
32. Plus
33. Assign degrees of urgency to (wounded or ill patients)
34. Guys
35. R&B singer Baker and professor Hill
36. Actor Pegg
38. Actor Estevez
39. Energized
40. Juarez two
41. Possible result from misusing _____ Down (Abbrev.)
43. Of medical doctors
44. Spanish stadium cheer
50. Lump of grease
53. A friend to T.E. Lawrence
54. Whirring sounds
55. Pains
56. German word for 30 down
57. Movies
58. _____ Royale: island in N. Lake Superior, Michigan
59. Must (Scot.)
60. Competent
61. Auto maker who bought out Chrysler
62. Olympic stadium chant
63. Actor Jonathan _____-Meyers
64. Christmas name
65. Mysterious
66. Mercedes model
68. Tuna (Hawaiian)



Correction to last month's puzzle: 74 Down clue for Long waited World Series winner is 75 Down

Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

Brain Teaser

The Great Detective is hot on the trail of the guilty party who has perpetrated some atrocious puns. "Intent to deceive" is the charge, and he is now interrogating three suspects. George says, "I'm innocent—Jane is too." Jane says, "Sally did it, and George is innocent." Sally says, "I'm innocent and Jane did it." The guilty one lied, and the innocent both told the truth. Who is the perpetrator?

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

Más vivir y menos sobrevivir: las historias que no conocemos Parte 4

Español

Por Lucía de la Fuente
Editora en español

Bien se sabe que “nadie experimenta en cabeza ajena”. Cuanto más se nos dice que “no”, más nos empeñamos en hacer lo contrario, como si estuviéramos obsesionados. Y no, no es que tengamos una fijación con el antónimo de todo aquello que se nos advierte; sino que, efectivamente, no podemos vivir una experiencia a través de los comentarios o consejos de otra persona. Además, no sabemos qué es lo que hay detrás del “no” de quien nos está indicando que nos detengamos. Peor aún,

cuando somos nosotros los que le sugerimos que “no” a alguien, olvidamos de que nos habíamos dicho que no íbamos a experimentar en cabeza ajena y, por tanto, borramos de nuestra cabeza que ellos tampoco experimentarán en la nuestra.

Cuando no somos las víctimas y vemos un crimen o cómo otra persona es herida, saltamos precipitadamente a conclusiones que carecen de un sano fundamento. Somos los primeros en dar nuestra opinión (porque creemos que todo lo sabemos) y en emitir un juicio contundente. Como si fuéramos la mujer de la justicia, salimos corriendo a ciegas con la espada verbal: damos cuchilladas a diestra y

sinistra con nuestro veredicto. Ponemos calificativos a las acciones observadas y adjetivamos al ofensor y al ofendido; todo ello sin saber qué hay detrás de la trágica decisión del ofensor, de lastimar a alguien más. Sin conocer qué es lo que está sucediendo en su vida en ese preciso momento, nos subimos al pódium y comenzamos a dar un discurso de, no sólo lo que la persona hizo, sino de todo aquello que creemos que está mal en ella. “Es un enfermo”. “Que se pudra en la cárcel”. “No tiene corazón”. “Es un pobre diablo que no vale un centavo”. Y el ofendido, entonces, se convierte en una pequeña partícula de “¡ay! Qué pena lo que le pasó”.

“Pobrecito”.

Por un lado, cuando caemos en esta dañina y condescendiente dinámica, le quitamos el poder al ofendido o a la víctima de su propia búsqueda de la verdad y la oportunidad de sanar; y por el otro, reducimos al agresor a una mera acción, quitándole una parte fundamental: la del reconocimiento de su condición humana —y una vez más, lo hacemos sin conocer sus historias. Nada justifica el crimen y la violencia; no obstante, si nos diéramos a la tarea de no llegar a conclusiones abruptamente y nos detuviéramos a escuchar lo que la otra persona tiene que decir, en “nuestra boca no entrarían moscas” —y disculpe estimado lector, la sinceridad con la que le escribo hoy.

Lo mismo pasa con la justicia moderna occidental. Hay una víctima y un criminal. El criminal es llamado a la corte a escuchar el veredicto final. La sentencia la dicta la ley; una ley que no observó lo sucedido y mucho menos, se detuvo a escuchar al criminal y a la víctima. Aquí el ofensor ya se convirtió en criminal y el ofendido en víctima; y ambos han perdido la oportunidad de entenderse mutuamente, de manera humana y no legal. La sociedad y el sistema criminal comienzan a confeccionar adjetivos calificativos para ambos y el “pobrecito” y “es

un animal” se escucha salir de la boca de muchos.

La justicia restaurativa dista de ser perfecta, pero es la mejor opción que tenemos ante la crudeza y la crueldad del actual sistema criminal de justicia. Por lo contrario, si antes de llegar a la corte, el ofensor y el ofendido tuvieran la oportunidad de sanarse, habría menos gente que saldría corriendo con los ojos vendados, empuñando una espada retributiva. Porque eso es lo que la justicia restaurativa busca: reparar, encontrar y sanar. Darle espacio a la persona que ha sido herida para que exprese sus necesidades y dolor, y espacio al ofensor para que asuma responsabilidad, repare el daño que causó y entienda qué era lo que estaba pasando en su vida, que lo llevó a cometer la ofensa.

Ahí estaba otra vez ella... la “justiciera”. Agarré la espada de la mujer de la justicia y se la clavé a la última mosca que salió de mi boca. Luego le quité la venda que tenía en los ojos y le sequé las lágrimas. La invité a sentarse en el suelo y me puse a hablar con ella. Ella, la mujer de la justicia, era mi otro yo. Ella y yo empezamos a conversar. Ella me escuchó, yo la escuché y pude entenderme un poco mejor.

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

Paternalidad desde la prisión

Por Harry C. Goodall, Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Existen 24 millones de niños en América, y por cada tres, uno vive sin un padre biológico en el hogar, calculó el U.S. Census Bureau.

La ausencia de un padre en la familia puede ocasionar: problemas de conducta, abuso y negligencia, mortalidad infantil, uso de drogas, abandono escolar, obesidad un aumento en la probabilidad de ir a la prisión, de acuerdo a un estudio realizado por el National Fatherhood Initiative.

Para ayudar a remediar el problema, algunos presos de la Prisión de Solano en el Estado de California se han aliado a una clase de paternidad llamada Parenting Inside Out.

En la clase, los presos descubrieron que para ser un buen padre primero era necesario analizar sus propias relaciones con sus padres, mencionó Justine Lee en un artículo escrito por la KALW, “Ser un padre desde la prisión”.

Al ser cuestionados sobre sus

experiencias con respecto al tipo de disciplina que recibieron durante su infancia, los hombres comentaron que la disciplina fue necesaria, pero también era indispensable una explicación del “porque” de la disciplina.

El preso Abraham Glasper declaró “Debido a que no existe un manual de cómo ser un buen padre y debido a que en muchas ocasiones nuestros padres solamente nos transmiten lo que sus padres les enseñaron, esta es una oportunidad para aprender cosas que no recibimos de nuestros padres”.

Dameion “Nation” Brown, un preso que estuvo en la Prisión de Solano, añadió, “Las cosas que no pude enseñarle a mis hijos, se las enseñé a los prisioneros jóvenes de la prisión”.

Dameion fue encontrado culpable de abusar físicamente a sus hijos y recibió una sentencia de 23 años a vida. En la clase de paternidad aprendió a cerca de los efectos dañinos del castigo corporal.

Brown obtuvo su libertad condicional gracias a que el Dr. Mary Jo Bauen abogó por él.

Bauen trabaja para Community Works West y dirigió la clase de paternidad a la que asistió Brown.

A partir de su liberación condicional, Brown fue contratado para el manejo de casos en el Community Works West, una organización que ayuda a personas de 18 a 25 años que han salido de la prisión. Brown participó el verano pasado en la producción de “Otello” de la Compañía de Marín Shakespeare.

En la Prisión Estatal de San Quentin, L. Harrison fue entrevistado con respecto al efecto negativo que su encarcelamiento ha tenido en sus hijos. “Creo que debido a que mi padre no formó parte de mi vida”, Harrison dijo, “No tuve esa figura paterna para imitar como debe ser un buen padre. Un aspecto importante de estar involucrados en la vida de nuestros hijos es poder ayudarles a identificar quienes son y su importancia dentro de la familia”.

—Traducción por Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

Hispanic officers agree that recent fatal shootings by police are isolated

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Writer

Hispanic police officers tend to agree with White police officers in thinking that recent fatal shootings of Blacks by the police are isolated incidents that do not represent a larger racial problem.

Quite the opposite is true when asked about the changing emphasis on immigration enforcement, where Hispanic officers' viewpoints tend to differ from White officers and agree with Black police officers' views.

In an online article by Gustavo Lopez for the Pew Research Center, a survey shows that 72 percent of Hispanic officers and 72 percent of White officers alike do not believe that police-involved shooting deaths of Blacks are a sign of serious racism within law en-

forcement. In contrast, 57 percent of Black police officers see these shooting incidents as signs of a much larger racial problem.

When asked to share their views on the protests following these shootings, less than half of Latino officers — 42 percent, and only 27 percent of White officers — believe that a genuine desire to hold police accountable is the underlying motivation for the protesters. On the other hand, a majority of Black officers — 69 percent — view the protests as motivated by a sincere interest in reforming police accountability.

Hispanic and Black police officers, however, do tend to agree that it is not their job to pursue and detain undocumented immigrants. Over half of those surveyed — 60 percent of Latino officers and 64 percent of Black officers — feel

that identifying illegal immigrants should be left in the hands of federal authorities.

The majority of White police officers, however — 59 percent — said that local law enforcement should take an active role in the identification of undocumented immigrants.

Hispanics are the most rapidly growing racial or ethnic group within local police departments in the United States. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Hispanic police made up 12 percent of full-time sworn officers in 2013, which is up seven percentage points since the 1980s.

By the numbers, Latinos are still underrepresented compared to their relative share of the U.S. population. Black police officers have gained parity and appear to represent equally the Black share of the popula-

México lucha para erradicar la cultura machista

Por Wayne Boatwright
Managing Editor

El Presidente mexicano Enrique Peña Nieto honró el Día de la Mujer este marzo sugiriendo la necesidad de poner un alto a la cultura del machismo que genera violencia contra las mujeres.

Peña Nieto propuso la erradicación de “una cultura machista bien arraigada que únicamente genera violencia contra las mujeres”, reportó el New York Times en un artículo del 24 de abril.

México ha celebrado el poder masculino, mejor conocido como el machismo, a través de las novelas hispanas, películas, trabajo y en las relaciones románticas.

“Pero los tiempos del hombre macho o machismo están cambiando” subrayó el artículo. “El aumento en la tasa de crímenes contra las mujeres en años recientes y el fortalecimiento del movimiento de los derechos de las mujeres, han obligado a los mexicanos a afrontar el problema del machismo y del daño que causa a través del sexismo, misoginia y violencia.”

Los cambios en materia legal, los grupos de apoyo a favor de la educación y las notables compañías mexicanas han unido esfuerzos para ayudar a los mexicanos a “aprender nuevas maneras de

relacionarse con otras personas, en particular con las mujeres”, comentó un participante en un programa de terapia grupal patrocinado por Gendes, grupo de apoyo e investigación con base en la Ciudad de México.

Tecate, cerveza mexicana popular, ha lanzado una campaña televisiva utilizando el retrato de una mujer con moretones en el cuerpo. “Un hombre se define por la manera en que trata a la mujer. Si no respetas a las mujeres, Tecate no es para tí”, enfatiza el comercial.

En la década anterior, el Congreso Mexicano ha trabajado para implementar una estructura legal en todos los niveles del gobierno para prevenir, tratar y castigar la violencia basada en el género, reportó el Times.

Varios grupos de apoyo intentan utilizar la terapia grupal “para poner en evidencia y erradicar las creencias culturales que sustentan el machismo”, comentó Antonio Vargas, director y fundador del Gendes.

“No es fácil renunciar a un privilegio (el machismo)”, admitió Vargas.

Reflexionando sobre sus esfuerzos en el programa, un participante preguntó: “¿Es posible vivir sin violencia? Tengo la esperanza que sí se puede”.

—Traducción por Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

Lower Yard gets upgrade with new guard shack

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Executive Editor

When the guard shack fell on San Quentin's Lower Yard, it wasn't an accident or an earthquake — it was inmates tearing it down.

Charlie Spence drove a forklift, circling it four times, bringing down the old 7-foot-by-7-foot shack. Watching with anticipation, his co-workers cheered until the final bits hit the dirt.

"Driving the forklift for this project was a challenge," Spence said. "We had very little room for error." The certified forklift driver added, "The guys wouldn't have been happy with me if I tore the roof off. I would have never heard the end of it. This made it fun."

The shack, with its old and rotten wood, looked ancient — a real aesthetic challenge in the prison known for its historic property and buildings.

When the shack laid in ruin, Spence's co-workers took to a jigsaw, cutting the old thing to pieces.

Marco Villa, a shop leader, grabbed a sledgehammer and



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

The construction technology crew with instructor Dante Callegari (second from right)

banged away as he yelled, "Look at Marco getting his workout!"

The men used hammers and crowbars to finish off the roof. About an hour later, the crew shoveled and brushed away the leftovers, throwing everything into a dumpster.

It was a team effort, plotting the shack's takedown on March 21.

Next, the forklift raised the concrete slab, removing what was left from the foundation. Again, the men pounded away with sledgehammers. The cleanup finished, the ground was graded for a new foundation.

While taking down the old shack was fun, the real work came next. These men are all part of a program that teaches them the latest construction technology. They applied these newfound skills to build a new guard shack.

The instructor, Dante Callegari, has graduated dozens of men from this program — so many that outside employers call the prison asking if there are graduates being paroled.

"Most of the students in this program have demonstrated a willingness to learn, which makes my job much easier. It's another way to help prisoners," Callegari said. "They learn masonry, roofing, pipefitting and, most of all,

safety."

The program is an opportunity for younger men to learn a trade that will carry them for decades, Villa said.

Villa has been in the program about three years. He has experience in framing construction, but at San Quentin he said he has acquired knowledge of the entire construction process.

"We build everything from the ground up," Villa said. "Foundations, concrete, rebar, trenches, plumbing, setting blocks, floors, walls and roofs."

Villa also attends the prison's college program.

"Education is important for everyone; however, working in construction brings value," Villa said. "This kind of work is essential in everyday life."

Beltranchuc Tare, another student of the prison's college program, said learning the ins and outs of construction has provided him with new tools that will increase his chances to obtain a job as soon as he gets out of prison. "Tools that I can teach my son and leave him a legacy," Tare said.

"I appreciate this education, especially since English is my sec-

ond language," Tare said, adding that the vocational program has also allowed him to interact with different races and understand different cultures.

"In the past, I was selfish," Beltranchuc said. "But working in this environment has allowed me to develop compassion and empathy for others."

Callegari's program gives men a real skill set that is transferable to real-time experience. He said his students learn and develop a work ethic far exceeding his expectations.

Callegari has been an employee of the California prison system for 28 years. He has taught at California State Prison-Solano and California Correctional Center. He has two credentials granted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing as well as OSHA training.

Through his teaching, construction technology at San Quentin is reaching new heights in providing training for inmates.

"These men have taken their first steps to better lives," Callegari said. "These men have learned to make the best of a bad situation."



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

New guard shack on San Quentin's Lower Yard

Average inmate pay drops despite billions spent on prisons

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

In a billion-dollar prison labor market, wages for incarcerated people nationwide have declined since 2001, a recent report says.

The April report by Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) said the average minimum wages paid per day to incarcerated workers for non-industry prison jobs is now 86 cents, down from 93 cents in 2001. This means that the average maximum daily wage also declined from \$4.73 in 2001 to \$3.45 today.

"The vast majority of prison labor is not even cloaked in the idea of rehabilitation," said Heather Thompson of the University of Michigan, as reported in *The Economist*.

Individual states also employ over 60,000 prison laborers in a market worth well over \$1 billion in revenue. California's industries alone are expected to generate \$232 million in sales this year; much of it from construction and textiles; \$10

million is also expected from meat-cutting, reported *The Economist*.

California non-industries jobs pay as low as eight cents to a high of 37 cents per hour, while jobs for state-owned businesses or "correctional industries" pay an hourly low of 30 cents to a high of 95 cents.

"Only about 6 percent of people incarcerated in state prisons earn these 'higher' wages," said the PPI report. "An even tinier portion of incarcerated workers are eligible for 'prevailing local wages' working for private businesses that contract with states through the PIE (Prison Industry Enhancement) program."

At least seven states appear to have lowered their maximum wages. South Carolina no longer pays wages for most regular prison jobs assignments that paid up to \$4.80 per day in 2001.

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Texas also don't pay for regular prison jobs, reported PPI.

The majority of jobs are cus-

tomial, maintenance, grounds-keeping or food service in the institutions that confine them.

The report observes that incarcerated people have little possibility of earning "real money" and that "hurts their chances of success when released." Even so, "The meager earnings from prison work assignments can be essential to a person's success — and even survival — when they return to their community."

"With little to no savings, how can they possibly afford the immediate costs of food, housing, healthcare, transportation, child support and supervision fees?" asked the PPI report.

On the federal level, the Federal Prison Industries earned \$500 million in sales in 2016, while paying prisoners roughly 90 cents an hour to produce everything from mattresses, spectacles, road signs and body armor for government agencies. The prisoners also produced official seals for the Department of Defense and Department of State, a bureau spokesman con-

firmed to *The Economist*.

"The question of wages paid for prison labor is an important one, especially when we consider the relative costs of fees charged and things sold to incarcerated people," said the PPI report. "The value of a dollar is different when you earn pennies per hour."

These wages don't include deductions that can be used to pay court-assessed fines, court costs, and victim witness assessments. New Mexico deducts 15 to 50 percent of each paycheck for Crime Victims Reparations Fund, discharge money and family support. California deducts 55 percent (50 percent to court-assessed fines and a 5 percent administrative fee).

"These policies arguably serve legitimate purposes, but such deductions also mean that \$1 per day earned to make day-to-day life behind bars more bearable is really 50 cents or even less," the report noted.

An incarcerated woman in Colorado has to save up two

weeks' wages to buy a box of tampons, the report stated, while people in a Pennsylvania prison have to save up close to two weeks for a \$10 phone card. In Massachusetts, at least half of a prisoner paycheck goes into a savings account to pay for expenses after release.

The public must acknowledge that almost everyone in prison will eventually be released, the report noted.

"Their success and independence depends largely on financial stability, which is undermined by low wages, nickel and diming through 'user fees,' mandatory deductions, and work that does little to prepare them for work outside of prisons," said the report.

"And they may leave prison with just a bus ticket and \$50 of 'gate money,' if they have no other savings," the report added. "Forward-thinking policymakers must consider the importance of earnings and relevant job training for people they hope will be independent one day."

Kurt Vonnegut's take on a Shakespeare play

Book Review

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. cleverly converts Shakespeare's "to be or not to be" to *2BR02B*, his version of the decision "to be or not to be."

Vonnegut's futuristic world, "to be or not to be," is relevant to population control. Earth now has a fixed number of 40 million

people. And each person gets to independently decide for himself or herself: do you wish "not to be?"

2BR02B begins:

Everything was perfectly swell. There were no prisons, no slums, no insane asylums, no cripples, no poverty, no wars. All diseases were conquered. So was old age.

The quality of life becomes redefined when humanity creates utopia and it is common for peo-

ple to live to be 200 years old. Eternal life elicits questionable feelings about having the authority to interpret one's existence based on personal insight and outlook. Unlimited dreams arise from the neverending ability to produce art, technology and science. This kind of creativity and ability stretches the potential of every citizen. On the other hand, the troublesome ingredients of greed, selfishness and deprivation will never be absent from man's true nature.

Vonnegut opens for discussion what Viktor E. Frankl addressed in *Man's Search for Meaning*. What does a person want out of his or her life? How do people determine self-worth? Ultimately, what keeps you alive?

If the answer comes back a complete blank, Vonnegut's solution is for people to pick up the phone and dial *2BR02B*. There they can choose many soothing ways out of life, such as "Weep-no-more," or "Why Worry?" or "Kiss-me-quick" and make an appointment with the Federal Bureau of Termination (FBT) to end it all.

So, in *2BR02B* the protagonist, Edward K. Wehling, sits in a hospital waiting room. At age 56, he is going to be a father for the first time. Ultrasound have revealed his wife is going to have triplets.

Here is Wehling's dilemma:

The world's population has a zero-net sum of 40 million people, which means for an extra child to be born, someone has to "check out" at FBT.

Enforcement of the FBT policy of one in-one out forced Wehling to think: Which one of his babies would live and which would have to be aborted?

Wehling didn't want to choose. He wanted to keep all his children, which is the crux of the story.



In next month's book, *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood, the protagonist, Offred, is in an entirely different set of circumstances. Offred is a handmaid of the Republic of Gilead. She lives in a world of declining births. She is needed only for her reproductive abilities.

For me, there is strangeness in these stories about population control. Both suggest flaws in our civilization, specifically: why would people cede to the state some of the most fundamental rights of humankind?

Vonnegut and Atwood are masterful storytellers, delivering a chain of intriguing "what ifs," and "thought-provoking dilemmas" in the storylines and plots that drive each story.

News Briefs

1. Alabama — Thomas Arthur, 75, was executed on May 25 by lethal injection. The majority of death sentences are handed down in 2 two percent of the nation's counties. The average time people spend on Death Row before execution has increased from six years in 1994 to 15. Nineteen states have abolished capital punishment or imposed a moratorium on executions.

2. Sacramento — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a state law that gives prison authorities responsibility for establishing procedures for lethal injection executions. After voters passed a plan in November intended to speed up executions, the Northern California ACLU challenged the law that gave California's corrections department wide authority to establish an execution protocol. Another lawsuit to overturn the measure is still pending before the California Supreme Court.

3. Florida — The state's highest court has ordered that Ralph Daniel Wright Jr. be acquitted of the murder charge that sent him to Death Row. He is the 159th person since 1973 exonerated from capital punishment in the U.S., the *Death Penalty Information Center* reported.

4. New Mexico — A mentally ill woman who spent eight months of her 2.5-year sentence in solitary confinement while in county jail was awarded \$1.6 million, *Albuquerque Journal* reports. Subsequently, state Legislators passed a bill aimed at limiting the use of solitary confinement against the seriously mentally ill children and pregnant women. Gov. Susana Martinez vetoed the bill, explaining it "oversimplifies and misconstrues isolated confinement in such a way so as to eliminate flexibility and endanger the lives of inmates and staff alike."

5. Los Angeles — The city's police department paid nearly \$81 million in legal settlements last fiscal year, the *Los Angeles Times* reports. Two of the settlements were for wrongful murder convictions. The prisoners each spent more than 25 years behind bars. They were awarded a combined almost \$24 million; \$15 million went to a boy left paralyzed after an officer shot him. Over the last five years, the department's settlements and judgments are about \$215 million, according to *The Times*.

6. Georgia — Between February and April, Gwinnett County police flagged nearly 500 immigrants to ICE for potential immigration violations. Approximately 70 percent were arrested for traffic-



related violations, *The Intercept* reported.

7. Toledo, Ohio — Human Rights Defense Center filed a federal lawsuit claiming soft-cover books it sent to inmates at a privately run prison were sent back because they weren't pre-approved by management. The center publishes *Prison Legal News*. It also publishes a catalog of soft-cover books to educate prisoners about various topics, including criminal justice policies, legal research and health care.

8. New York — The Rikers Island jail is too dangerous to accept inmate transfers from outside the city, *The New York Times* reports. *New York Daily News* reports that corrections officials are sending prisoners who repeatedly attack staff and other prisoners to county jails throughout the state.

9. Washington — The Federal Bureau of Prisons awarded Geo Group two 10-year contracts for 3,532 beds in Big Spring, Texas. The contracts are expected to generate revenues of approximately \$664 million.

10. Washington — The U.S. Congress is investigating the Federal Bureau of Prisons' handling of "egregious" misconduct at a government-run detention facility in Coleman, Fla. Despite female staffers' persistent allegations of sexual harassment, the warden and other officials were awarded thousands of dollars in bonuses, according to *USA Today*.

11. Louisiana — The highest incarceration rate in the world, exceeding 750 prisoners per 100,000 persons, is Louisiana. Gov. John Bel Edwards, the only Democratic governor in the Deep South, and some top Republican lawmakers have joined to back legislation that will overhaul the corrections system and curtail the prisoner population, reports *The New York Times*. Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia are the states with the highest levels of incarceration.

12. New Jersey — The state has begun a new statewide bail

system that essentially eliminates cash bail. The new system requires courts to detain - or release - defendants before trial based on their risk to public safety rather than their ability to pay, reports *The Wall Street Journal*. According to Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 62 percent of the people in jail in 2015 had not been convicted of a crime but were awaiting trial.

13. Colorado — About 8,000 Colorado inmates are part of a pilot program that expects to deliver electronic tablets to more than 18,000 inmates in all 20 private and public prisons in the state, *The Denver Post* reports. The program is designed to give inmates access to a wide range of media, including educational programming.

14. Ohio — With one of the highest opioid overdose death rates of any state, a lawsuit was filed against five drug companies by the state's Attorney General. The lawsuit alleged the companies fueled the opioid addiction crises by misrepresenting the addictive risks of its prescription painkillers, reports *The New York Times*. The state's Republican Attorney General Mike Dewine said opioid addiction has hurt the state. Stark County has seen a 20 percent increase in opioid-related deaths in the past year. County officials requested a cold storage trailer because the morgue is full, reports *The Washington Post*.

15. Augusta, Me. — Republican Gov. Paul LePage, who has earned the reputation as tough-on-crime, announced in May a plan to release an unknown number of "lower-risk" prisoners from the state's over-crowded correctional facilities, reports *The Associated Press*.

16. Trenton, N.J. — Legislation has been submitted to change the way incarcerated individuals are counted for legislative redistricting purposes. The bill cleared the state's Assembly on May 22. The bill requires that incarcerated individuals in state and federal facilities in New Jersey be counted at their last-known complete address.

SQ veterans pay tribute on Memorial Day



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

Veterans raising POW-MIA flag on SQ's Lower Yard

On Memorial Day, more than two dozen men serving time in San Quentin paid tribute to the fallen soldiers of America's wars.

The men stood in military formation. Across from them, a color guard stood 100 yards away. The American and POW-MIA flags were flapping in the cool morning air.

An older veteran began reading a poem about the perils of combat.

San Quentin has 360 veterans serving time here. Thirty-one veterans attended this event. Eighteen of them had served in

Vietnam.

As 13 Canada geese fluttered down on the prison's Lower Yard to join the single goose waiting, Larry "Popeye" Fasion performed "Taps" and veterans saluted the flags.

"I think this is a very positive thing," inmate Salvador Solorio said, while watching the tribute with his hand over his heart. "We owe a lot to our vets."

Members of the San Quentin Color Guard were Carl Raybon, Michael Elmore, David Tarvan and Craig Johnson.

—Juan Haines

High tech training draws huge inauguration crowd

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

To enrich your life, “clear out the old and bring in the new,” Titan Gilroy said to more than two dozen inmates getting ready for a new vocational training course.

“Learn these skills if you want to honor your community and your family,” Gilroy added while pointing at a shop full of high-tech Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines. He spoke while standing in the machine shop of San Quentin’s newest Career Technical Education (CTE) vocational program, called Titans of CNC Academy.

San Quentin musicians joined The Maxx Cabello Jr. Band to entertain the crowd of about 100 people, including inmates, prison staffers, CTE manager Michael Valdez, director of CD-CR’s Office of Correctional Education Brant Choate and Warden Ron Davis.

“It was about two years ago, Titan and Mike pitched the idea to me,” Davis said. “All I had to do is say, ‘Do this.’ It’s the hard work of the volunteers, inmates and staff who got us here.”

Davis pointed out that programs like Titans of CNC Academy give inmates the skills they need to stay out of prison and drive down recidivism rates, which saves taxpayers money.

“There are 132,000 incarcerated men and women in the state’s prisons,” Valdez added. “Out of that, 70 percent will go home someday. That means about 90,000 are getting out. These skills make them a positive force in the community. These programs allow them to take advantage — to look at themselves in



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

Titan Gilroy cutting the tape of the Titan Machine Shop at San Quentin

the mirror, identify their rough edges and change them.”

Choate chimed in, “This pilot project will allow us to take our success to three prisons that currently have machine shop programs.”

Gilroy gave a tour of the shop while wearing his traditional black t-shirt that sports a soaring eagle and Titans of CNC in big white letters on its front and “Made in the USA” on its back. Two years ago, he assembled a team of experts and recruited several inmates to set up the shop. The grand opening was May 17.

“The entire project has been amazing. Besides my family and employees, this is the best thing

I’ve been involved with my entire life,” Gilroy said. “I was one guy coming out of prison and wanted to come back,” he added, “This restoration is going to happen. There are things that we need to conquer. We need to get rid of the darkness and dust and build this facility.”

Titan said he was impressed by the level of dedication shown by the students, particularly inmate Carlos Smith.

“Carlos was over there programming when I came in,” Gilroy said while pointing at the rows of donated laptop computers for the students. “Out there, they say you can’t program until year two. But guys like Carlos are doing it within months. We are here so that you can learn a skill to get a job and take care of your families and kids. It’s about serving society and families and taking pride in that.”

Valdez said he brought the band members to the grand opening as an inspirational gesture to the inmates and for

encouragement.

Maxx Cabello Jr. said he grew up from humble beginnings on the streets of San Jose.

**“Learn these
skills if you want
to honor your
community and
your family”**

“Being in this machine shop inside a prison is an aspect of life that I would normally never see,” Cabello said. “It could have been easy for me to make one bad choice, and I knew people who did make one bad choice — that has always stayed with me. So, rehabilitation and all the programs are amazing and important to do.”

Alex Cabello, Maxx’s older brother, said, “Coming inside San Quentin is satisfying. There’s an educational atmosphere in the

machine shop.” The 38-year-old bass player added, “It’s definitely more than I expected — the shop has great opportunities for the inmates.”

Drummer Eric Loera said, “I always see the prison from the outside. I didn’t come here to judge people. We’re all human. Music brings people together.” He added, “I wasn’t expecting to see such a clean shop.”

Before the ribbon cutting ceremony, Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson addressed the crowd.

“Today is another extraordinary day in San Quentin. The men in blue reconstructed this place from a place indescribable to a model of what vocational training is today,” Robinson said. “This big guy came in with his black shirt and big truck, shaking and rumbling, with this idea of reinventing machining inside a prison, and our operations got modernized for people to leave here with hope and opportunity to live the American Dream.”

Dental procedures before modern medicine

Back In The Days

L. L. Stanley, prison physician at San Quentin for the past 25 years, gave many interesting details of his work in a talk given at Rotary club Tuesday.

Stanley pointed out that the prison was first established on a barge at Vallejo in 1849, that Vallejo at the time had aspirations to be the capital of California and did not appreciate having the prison in their “front yard,” so the barge was towed down the bay and anchored at the point where the prison is now located.

From that small beginning, the prison has grown to one of the largest in the United States. Stanley first became connected with the institution in 1913, at which time he had only one convict assistant, who, after the operation, would steal the alcohol the instruments had been sterilized in and get gloriously drunk.

Stanley told of how, in the early days, dentistry was practiced, teeth being pulled by inmates while others forcibly held them down. The dental department now is ultra-modern, with 30 technicians on the staff.

Since his affiliation with the prison, Stanley stated that 50,000 men had come under his observa-

tion that over 800 had died there and more than 150 hanged.

PRISON PROCEDURE

He described the procedure of receiving new inmates, telling of the thorough physical examination given in which it is found that 10 percent have syphilis, 1 percent have tuberculosis, and 10 percent are feeble-minded.

Through research, every effort is made to improve the physical condition of convicts before glandular treatment and voluntary sterilization.

Dr. Stanley told of many personal experiences in connection with his work, his talk being greatly enjoyed by the Rotarians.

Other guest accompanying Dr. Stanley were his wife and his mother, Mrs. M. E. Stanley and Smith’s cousin, Mrs. D. A. Knox of Garden City, Kansas.

William Bromley was program chairman and introduced the family guest.

Visitors included Dr. R.A. Cushman, Howard Martin, James E. Busch, Arthur Tracy, Dr. R. B. Toller, Mrs. C. M. Fulkerson, and Chet Collins of Santa Rosa.

Henri DeLotti, manger of Sun Glo Dry Ice Corporation, was announced as a new member.

George Merk presided.

Hundreds come to celebrate peace, health and prosperity on Good Friday

Inside San Quentin State Prison last April, hundreds of prisoners heeded the meaning of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Jehovah’s Witnesses invited the men-in-blue, on April 11, to listen to an explanation of how the death of Jesus Christ could benefit them and their families.

The explanation, according to Peace, Health and Prosperity—Everyone’s Dream, read,

“Centuries ago, a divinely inspired prophet foretold the time when man would be at peace with nature. Illness would be eliminated. Families would build their own houses, plant their own fields, and enjoy the fruits of their labors.

“Jesus performed powerful works that showed on a small scale how such prophecies will become a global reality. His death was fundamental to the future elimination of every cause of sorrow. So important was Jesus’ death to the fulfillment of God’s purpose that Je-

sus commanded his disciples to commemorate it.”

Catholics and Protestants held Good Friday services on April 14.

Dozens of prisoners singing spirituals filled both chapels.

In the Catholic chapel, the sermon began by focusing on the redemption of humanity through the sacrifice. Chapter 19 of St. John explains the circumstances that led to Jesus’ crucifixion and the treatment of his body.

The sanctity of the Catholic Chapel gave the men-in-blue the chance to tell each other that they “come in peace” as well as to send prayers all over the world, including the men and women on Death Row as well as those who do not believe in Jesus.

The congregation was invited to the stage to touch the cross.

Some held the feet of Christ, while others crossed themselves. Many others kissed his

feet, some left near tears.

Meanwhile in the Protestant chapel, each patron was given a little red book *Who I Am in Christ*. Its caption reads, “I was once far away from God, my heavenly Father, but because of the blood sacrifice of Christ Jesus, I now accept that I have been brought near to God.”

Several men-in-blue took the stage to preach the relevance of Jesus’ sacrifice.

“The old was temporary—the new way is permanent—Christ’s blood is what made it permanent,” one prisoner said. “The power comes from the blood of Christ. His innocent, untainted blood is saving humankind and giving us eternal life. The blood of Christ will never lose its power.” “Christ died for the righteous and the sinner,” another said. “The blood of Christ covers everyone. The sprinkling of the blood of Jesus changes a man to his spiritual self.”

—Juan Haines

Sports Ministry sweeps SQ Warriors and Kings

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

The visiting Prison Sports Ministry's Green Team swept the San Quentin Warriors and Kings. They beat the Warriors for the third straight time this season, winning 79-76. The Kings fell short at the buzzer, losing 62-59.

"The Kings are not as athletic as the Warriors, but they play better as a unit – smart team basketball," Green Team's Patrick Lacey said.

Eleven Green Team players showed up, including Evan Fjeld, who played in the NBA D-league, as well as former Claremont-McKenna college basketball players Chris Blee, Lacey, Remy Pinson, Kevin Sullivan and Jack Grodahl. Newcomers Eric Grodahl, Jack's brother, who played for Stanford, and Finis Jones, who played for Cal-State Eastbay, Hayward back in 2009, joined the fold.

The Warriors tried to beat the Green Team with isolation plays by the likes of Tevin Fournette, Harry "ATL" Smith, Allan McIntosh, Cornell Shields and Andre "NBA" Belion.

The game came down to who missed first. Smith put the Warriors up, 71-69, with a beast



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Green Team's Patrick Lacey making a move to the basket

move to the basket. He was fouled with 1:30 left but missed the free throw.

Pinson took the lead back with a three-pointer, making the score 72-71.

With 24 seconds left and the Warriors down 78-74, McIntosh rebounded a teammate's missed shot and laid it up, leaving the Warriors down two. They fouled Blee to stop the clock, but he missed both free throws, leaving the Warriors with the ball and 12 seconds.

The buzzer sounded with the

Warriors down 79-76.

Smith led the Warriors with 20 points and 20 rebounds.

Fjeld led the Green Team with 22 points and 16 rebounds. Pinson and Jack Grodahl each scored 14 points.

Before the Kings game, Fjeld, Blee, Pinson, the Grodahl brothers and Kevin Sullivan left the prison, leaving the Green Team with only five players and one starter.

Lacey accepted the challenge, leading the Green Team over the Kings with 27 points and 16 re-

"Pep" Williams.

Williams led the Kings with 19 points. Cooke came off the bench and had 10 boards and three points.

The game came down to the final seconds. The Green Team led 60-58 with the ball and 39 seconds left.

The Kings fouled Jones, whose game is more defense than offense.

"You fouled the wrong guy this time," claimed Green Team sponsor Don Smith, who attended the game with his wife,

bounds with help from San Quentin resident Matthew Carnegie.

"They made plays down the stretch, and we didn't," said Kings Head Coach Orlando Harris. "I'm satisfied with how we played; we were leading until about five minutes left in the game."

The Kings looked crisp with sharp passes, the aggressive rebounding of Damon Cooke and shooting of Oris

Annie.

Jones made one free throw, increasing the lead to 61-58.

"The trash talking made me feel like family," Jones said.

Then Kevin Macpherson fouled King Joshua Burton while blocking his shot.

Burton made the first free throw and missed the second. Carnegie snatched the rebound, leaving 10 seconds on the clock.

The Kings fouled Lacey. His free throw made the score 62-59 with eight seconds.

King trey-specialist Aubra-Lamont "Coo-coo" McNeely had the ball behind the arc with a good look. He took the potential game-tying shot but missed. Carnegie grabbed the rebound as the buzzer sounded.

"The key to victory was keeping Harry out of the game," smirked Green Team's Harry Webb about his one for 11 shooting from the field. He rode the bench in the fourth quarter.

Webb delivered a half-time message to both teams about God's unconditional love for everyone.

"I had a perfect life, but I cheated and ended up in a downward spiral," Webb said. "We all battle with giving up, but no matter what you do, God will never give up on you."

Delayed flight did not stop Oscar winner's team Love from coming

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Chairman

A delayed flight and an absent academy award winner did not prevent the visiting Los Angeles Love baseball team from torching the San Quentin Giants 15-6.

"Manchester By the Sea" Oscar winner, actor and producer Casey Affleck had a prior engagement and couldn't make the trip. But the rest of the team set out on the journey, only to be stuck on the airport runway for three hours.

"We were going to play this game no matter what," said Love's Ben Gavin.

And play is what they did from first to last. The Love's Brian Nichols smacked a grand slam homerun over the left-field fence to put the icing on the game in the ninth inning.

This was payback for a walk-off grand slam homerun last year by the then San Quentin All-Stars that gave the Love a 7-6 defeat.

"We were very impacted by this experience. You can see the power of this sport and the way it brings a quality of redemption," said David Gould, the Love's coach. "When you are on that field you don't feel like you are in a prison. This is a restorative

program and the prisons need restorative programs to bring people back to who they really are."

The Giants defense opened the game sluggishly.

Pitcher Gary "Cool Aid" Towne, who's normally stellar at the mound, hit two batters and gave up three quick runs in the first inning.

The rest of the Giants missed throws and fly-balls that extended innings.

"We came out flat. We didn't play Giants baseball," Anthony Redwood said. "Today they were the better team. We just thank them for coming all this way and

giving us a chance to play."

L.A. Love blew the game open in the third, scoring a whopping six runs. Justin Halpern and Alex Ansolenga led off with singles, and then Gavin came up big with a homerun over the center-field fence.

The Love's Jeff Pruitt smashed a double to score Matt Zajack, who was hit by a pitch, and Kody McCarty. Pruitt was singled in by Gould.

The Giants big hitters who helped score runs were Redwood, Ruben Harper, and Angelo Mecchi. Pitcher Mark Barger relieved Towne, but he also hit a player and gave up the grand

slam.

"This program helps us relieve stress and come together as a community," Barger said. "It teaches us to communicate and not to use violence as the answer."

Pruitt added, "These guys grew up like me, but they had different situations. Most of these guys came in at a young age. I think they deserve a second chance. They have taken responsibility for the things they done."

The L.A. Love is from the Beverly Hills Wood Bat League. The club was started eight years ago by Affleck and Gould.

Independent filmmaker documents the lives of the 1000 Mile Club

Independent documentary filmmaker Christine Yoo ventured into San Quentin to film how incarcerated runners in the 1000 Mile Club create a life out of life sentences.

When I hit the yard that Friday just after 7 a.m., several fellow runners were already awaiting the expected 9 a.m. arrival of the camera crew.

My fellow runners and I are men who changed our lives and are eager to be seen for who we are now, instead of the guys who took the perp walk on the news decades ago.

Except for cameras stationed around the yard, a woman wearing a baseball cap directing people and a camera operator running along side us from time to time, the 10-mile race went as normal.

Markelle Taylor took first place, Eddie Herena edged out Chris Scull for second. Steve Reitz came in fourth, and Tommy Wickerd broke the

50-and-over record with a time of 1:14:12, securing sixth place. Mike Keyes, 69, broke the 60-and-over record for 10 miles in 1:21:06.

Newcomer Brandon Waters, 21, joined the club that morning and completed the race. He doubled the most miles he had ever run alone, with a time of 1:16:20 for seventh place.

"I like the motivation and competition that came from running with the club," Waters said.

As usual, I came in last with a time of 1:49:04. Therefore, I was surprised when Yoo announced that Taylor, Wickerd and I were going to be among the featured runners in her film because we represent different aspects of both running and prison.

Yoo is a seasoned filmmaker. She directed, produced and co-wrote her debut film, "Wedding Palace," which starred Brian Tee ("Chicago Med"), Bobby Lee, Margaret Cho and Kang

Hye-jung ("Oldboy"). Also, she co-wrote "Afro Samurai," which starred Samuel L. Jackson.

I asked Yoo why she thought anyone would care about a bunch of convicted murderers running around in circles. She talked about the correlation between incarcerated people and their backgrounds including drugs, poverty and broken families.

"People make mistakes, but they're still human," Yoo said. "I hope this film will inspire people and provide them with a better understanding of the nuances of the lives of the incarcerated."

Yoo, a "non-serious" runner, said she connected with the humanity of incarcerated people after working on a screenplay about Eddie Kang, an incarcerated man she believes is innocent. Their similar backgrounds and shared Korean-American heritage gave her empathy for

the incarcerated.

After completing the race 49 minutes after Taylor, I still managed to catch up with Wickerd. He told me about overcoming a background of gangs and drugs and the difficulty of being a parent from prison.

"My son is everything to me," Wickerd said. "He's the reason I changed. When he was 5, I was about to make a bad decision, but my mom looked at me and said, 'you're his only parent.'"

After the boy's mother died, Wickerd's wife adopted him.

"She pushes me to be a better person," Wickerd said. "Without Marion, I'd be a basket case in here. She's working two or three jobs and making sure I'm a part of society. With that kind of support, it makes it a totally different life in here."

Wickerd says he's been discipline-free for 17 years and drug-free for 15.

Wickerd said, "At a banquet at Lancaster, my mom said,

'You're finally the son we raised you to be.'"

After talking with Wickerd, I introduced myself to production assistant Finn Kupel, who by the way, is also a member of indie band Charlie's Dream Life. It was her first time inside a prison, and I wanted her hear the perspective of prisoners.

"People here are more respectful than those outside," Kupel said. "Some people I talk to described an intense sense of camaraderie and a support system that offers a sense of escape and connectivity."

Kyle Ballard, owner of Runner's Mind, came out to analyze the runners' gaits.

The certified gait analyzer advised runners, "It's not about going as fast as you can go, it's about running efficiently. Running is more mental than physical."

So is making a life out of a life sentence.

—Rahsaan Thomas

Somona Stompers crush San Quentin All-Stars, 10-4

**By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman**

The San Quentin All-Stars baseball team fought hard against the visiting Sonoma Stompers, but too many mental

errors against a professional team caused a 10-4 loss.

The 2016 Pacific Association Baseball League champion Stompers opened the game with a 3-0 lead. The Stompers Isaac Wenrich and Matt Lococo both

smashed deep balls for doubles to score runs. Matt Hibert singled in Lococo, who ran the bases with superb speed.

"Coming here helps you understand what happiness is," said Wenrich. "It lets you know, you

have a choice in your happiness, and your day can't be that bad. These guys are finding happiness where they can. Some people take things for granted."

All-Stars pitcher Brendan Terrell had a strong day on the mound. He pitched all nine innings. But the All-Stars defense had a slow start, bobbling balls, overthrowing bases and not hustling for pop-flies.

"We had a big challenge to overcome with them being who they are," said Terrell. "I prayed all morning for God to let me use my God-given talent to have a good game. Even with all the mental errors, we still had fun."

Terrell smashed a homerun over the left-field gate to score himself and Ruben Harper in the fourth inning to close the lead 4-2.

"It's an honor to be here. This is our way to support the sport," said John Sebastiani, the Stompers new owner. "I think this event has a positive influence on the guys, because they get to play men who could get called up to the majors. It was a real honor to keep the Stompers in the Sonoma community. I'm a big believer in community, and we hope to make coming here an annual event."

Terrell stepped again to the plate in the sixth inning and crushed a two-run double to tie the score, 4-4, giving the All-Stars some motivation.

"The thing about this program is, it helps you function with the community both inside and out," said All-Star Christopher Smith. "This experience is an opportunity to tear down walls and borders and built bridges."

The Stompers added runs in

the sixth and seventh innings for the 6-4 lead. But in the ninth, their batters went to work. Yuki Yasuda, who traveled from Japan for the big leagues, singled past second. Kevin Ferry followed with a line drive single in the center-field gap. Lococo brought both men in with a deep homerun over the right-field gate, causing the ball to bounce off a bungalow's roof for the 9-4 lead.

"You could feel the good vibes all-around. The guys really wanted us to come in and compete," said Stomper Hibert. "You can tell by the way they light up. They still have the ability to inspire. No one is feeling sorry for themselves here; they are striving for more."

The All-Stars players were from the San Quentin A's and Giants teams.

"I am really proud of the guys. They brought it, minus the errors," said John "Yah Yah" Parratt, the All-Stars inmate coach from the SQ A's. "Everybody stepped up. We thanked the Stompers for coming in."

Terry Burton, inmate coach from the SQ Giants, added, "We were competitive. We played our game."

The May 27 game had good will heckling from the small crowd of baseball fans and the teams. The event closed with all the players and coaches meeting on the mound for an inspirational prayer.

"This was a great event for Sonoma and San Quentin; it's humbling," said Takashi "Yoshi" Miyoshi, the Stompers manager. "This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience; it makes you appreciate what you have."

Warriors hard fought battle ends in a loss, 74-72

**By Montrell McDuffie
Contributing Writer**

The San Quentin Warriors fought a hard battle from beginning to the end but they could not overcome the visiting Imago Dei basketball team's fluid ball movement. There were a lot of exciting plays, blocks, dunks and crossovers, but when it was over, Imago Dei escaped with a 74-72 victory.

Imago Dei started out strong. During the first quarter, Teohn Conner stole the ball, drove coast to coast and finished at the rack for a layup. Mike Kehrig, who ran point guard for Imago Dei, surprised the crowd with shifty moves, creating space to knock down shots. He also had two clutch three pointers in crunch time to seal the deal. Kehrig finished with 18 points, 10 assists and 5 rebounds.

"This is one big brotherhood. We love coming in to support each other and be there for one another," said Kehrig.

With four seconds left in the second quarter, Teohn Conner stole the ball, drove into traffic and finished with contact to get the foul and the bucket at the

buzzer, which left Imago Dei up 43-28 at halftime.

"It's a blessing to be back here. These guys seem to wake my competitive spirit," said Conner.

Conner led his team with 27 points, 5 rebounds, 9 steals and 2 assists.

During the second half the Warriors D'Romeo Allen and Tevin Fournette's high-intensity defense seemed to snap the team out of its funk, leading a 10-2 run to cut the lead to single digits.

Harry "ATL" Smith's monstrous 6'5" frame seemed to take things into his own hands. From the top of the key, Smith drove to the basket and missed the first attempt. He grabbed his own rebound and got one bucket to bring the Warriors down by two. He dropped 31 points with eight rebounds.

With Conner in foul trouble, Imago Dei Ervin Anderson picked up the defensive slack by blocking shots and grabbing rebounds. He had a total of seven blocks and nine rebounds.

With 2:34 seconds left in the fourth quarter Conner drove left and the Warriors rotated, leaving Kehrig open in the corner from where he knocked down a clutch three pointer, that put Imago Dei



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News
Teohn Conner

up by five.

Once again, the Warriors put the ball into Smith's hands and backed down his defender for a turn around hook shot.

"We played extremely hard, and we were up against a very good team, but missed a lot of good opportunities and we need to build more chemistry," said Smith.

With four seconds left on the clock, Imago Dei intercepted a cross-court pass to seal the May 27 win, 74-72.

Many fans agreed that had the Warriors started with their high-pressure defense, they would have won the game.

San Quentin News

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Behind the Scenes

The San Quentin News is printed by Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael.

Richmond Soulful Sunday seeks unity through softball

The visiting Richmond Soulful Sunday's softball team returned bigger and faster but still couldn't handle all the big hits from the San Quentin Hardtimers, falling 22-15.

Soulful Sunday's team includes community activists who engage in curbing street violence. Paul Chambers of Fox News captured the game on the invite of Rodney "Alamo" Brown, Soulful Sunday's head coach and event planner.

"We are coming here to build bridges of peace right at the epicenter, and softball is the vehicle we use to do what really needs to be done," said Brown.

Soulful Sunday's is an annual event to bring warring faction's in cities like Richmond, Oakland and Berkeley together to promote peace through softball.

"It's not just about Richmond," said inmate Reggie Hunt, who is from Richmond. "It's about reaching out to every city, because what they bring is unity. It's a heartfelt feeling to know that in our time of despair they came in here to put a smile on our faces."

Hunt played with Soulful Sunday's when he was free, and he plans to rejoin once he paroles.

The Soulful Sunday's jumped to a 7-0 lead in the first inning by finding the infield gaps. Anthony "TJ" Jones and Jeremiah Fisher both whacked homeruns.



Photo by Eddie Herena- San Quentin News

Soulful Sunday Softball working to unite Richmond through softball, covered by Fox News' Paul Chambers

The Hardtimers answered with a big third inning. Michael "Hawkeye" Flemings tripled to score two runs. Cordiare "Tune" McDonald smashed a deep ball to centerfield for a three-run infield homerun, his first of two for the game.

Hardtimer Brendan Terrell sent a scorching deep ball over the left-field fence for three more runs that took the lead 9-7.

"Softball is my therapy; I know it can do wonders for them," said Jones. "Being here gives you appreciation for what you have and lets you know someone else has it harder than you do. It's one of our goals to help this program grow."

The Hardtimers added three

runs in the fourth. Robert Polzin scored three runs off a triple, and Terrell hit another two-run homer to extend the lead 18-10.

In Soulful Sunday's last at bat, Fisher popped a two-run homer over the right-field fence, but the Hardtimers turned the defensive plays need for the June 4 victory.

"We look forward to this all year," said Mervin Saucer. We are glad channel 2 (Fox) came here to help get out our message of love, peace and unity out."

Brown concluded, "You could see the unity from the guys here; it wasn't about North, South or Central Richmond. They all were just from Richmond."

-Marcus Henderson

11th annual Day of Peace rolls strong with celebrations

Day of Peace

Continued from Page 1

The celebration was born out of a violent race riot in 2006, just before a scheduled yard event. The incident occurred when San Quentin and the whole California prison system were at their highest level of overcrowding. The violent outbreak led to a multiracial group of men, most serving life sentences, asking the San Quentin administration for a Day of Peace.

To commemorate that incident, the men in blue wore white T-shirts, as they walked around the yard visiting tables for numerous self-help programs.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," said Associate Warden S. Albritton, quoting Matthew 5:9 from the New Testament, as he welcomed the inmates, guests and volunteers to the May 20 event. He greeted the crowd with the words of Warden Ron Davis, who noted that access to rehabilitation programs fosters a peaceful environment.

"This was the closest thing to transitioning back to society," said prisoner Kahlil Dallas. "This day gave you insight into the different forms of rehabilitation. Prison being what it is, today broke down a lot of barriers. It teaches you in the time of confrontation there is always time for peace."

The event looked like a job fair held in a park with inmates, volunteers and staff mingling around tables representing various services.

"Today is a way we can explain to people about our college program," said volunteer Fakhri Hiba, for the Prison University Project (PUP). "It also gives us a chance to see the different side of our students away from the classroom. This is a testament that everybody can integrate with programs and make a 180-degree turn."

Bread & Roses, a Marin County organization that has been bringing entertainment inside the walls of San Quentin for many years, provided music and performances.

"I wanted to share my gift of music with the men, and they seem to love it," said Francesca Lee, lead singer of her group, Francesca Lee Trio.



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

Participants pause for the moment of silence on the Day of Peace

"Everything is obsolete when you connect with music. There is no judgment; and in this moment of time you can let go of the past."

The band performed hit songs, including "Crossroads" by Robert Johnson and "No Woman No Cry" by Bob Marley and received loud applause.

"This day generated a lot of positive energy. I feel lucky playing here knowing the history of this day," said Donovan Plant, the trio's guitar player.

The prisoners received a gift bag of snacks donated by the package vendor company Walkenhorst's. Josh Walkenhorst and Natalie Tovar staffed their table as the prisoners walked by expressing their appreciation.

Day of Peace bracelets, made of rubberized plastic, were traded among the men, who exchanged different color bracelets while eating candy and chips from their bags.

"We intentionally chose to use the different color bands. It helped the people to communicate with each other, who wouldn't talk before this day," said prisoner Darnell "Moe" Washington, who emceed the event. "More men are coming out to participate, and this symbolizes our growing unity."

Last year, rain ended the Day of Peace celebration early and caused the yearly sidewalk art contest judging to be postponed. The sunny weather was welcome.

"More men are coming out to participate, and this symbolizes our growing unity"

The sidewalk art contest, sponsored by William James Association, crowned Jerry "Maleek" Gearin this year's winner with his multi-color peace sign, square #33. Jose Olivarez took second place with a marijuana leaf and a 420 theme, square #17. The pavement on the Lower Yard was divided into two-foot by two-foot squares where 31 artists created imaginative drawings in chalk.

Fred Tinsley and Gerald Morgan placed third with a fierce-looking rabbit holding a peace symbol; square #6 and James Craft received an honorable mention with a Mona Lisa portrait with her hand making the peace sign, square #10. Volun-

teer Patrick Mahoney judged each of the 31 entries, all of which featured "peace" as its subject.

Healing and remembrance were also at the heart of the day as noon hit, and the crowd of hundreds stopped and faced the stage. The audience members lowered their heads and slowly raised their hands in two-finger peace signs for a minute-long moment of silence.

"I love the interaction of day and the diversity; it was a wonderful thing," said prisoner S. Dang, monitoring the Origami group table. "You could tell the connections with people was pure."

At the Origami table, guests and inmates learned how to make paper hearts and dragons. Origami is the ancient Japanese art of folding paper. The group meets in the chapel area and provides a therapeutic meditative process through personal creation.

Other lesser-known groups like The Urban Ministry Institute and Enneagram Prison Project got a chance to introduce programs to the yard and received a large number of sign-ups.

Enneagram is a 16-week curriculum that teaches you how to trace your patterns of thoughts

and how to recognize different personality types. The Urban Ministry is a three-year seminary program structured around serving the urban communities.

"We believe we are raising an army of believers here, and these soldiers won't be afraid of going into the dark and dangerous place," said Pastor Bernard Emerson, facilitator. "We want them to have the tools to do it with."

"This event was big for me; it was good to be somewhere other than the chapel. It gave us time to share their (inmates') lives for a day," added Pastor Emerson.

One of the special moments was the performance by the Japanese group Taiko Drummers, known as the drumming grannies. This year they added some youth to the show. With every verbal cry from the group, the crowd shouted along with the drumming.

"This is the one event we talk about all year," said Peter Yung, Shaku Hachi's flute player. "Since coming here, you can see a lot of the misconceptions about prison, even though we are only seeing a little part of it. But, what I do see is the smiles and what they do; it's amazing and I'm hopeful."



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

Francesca Lee Trio performs on stage



Photo by Eddie Herena-San Quentin News

Volunteers draw peace murals on the Lower Yard