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POPULATION 4,065



Annual Protestant revival brings prisoners together

Hundreds of SQ prisoners attended the 2017 Annual Protestant Revival in the prison's chapel. It was four days of worship and praise.

4



Prisoners rehabilitating with Ruff Start program

Maximum security prisoners are rehabilitating themselves by learning to care for, train and live with rescued shelter dogs.

5



Choice of taking a plea deal to be with his family

After 19 years of claiming innocence, Guy Miles accepted a plea deal, so he can be immediately released and be with his ailing parents.

6



SQ Shakespeare troupe performs 18 plays

The warm humor of inmate Eric Durr began a Shakespeare-inspired explosion of 18 original performances using a full assortment of stagecraft.

8



Music yard show plays to packed audience

The sounds of the 2017 Grand Finale Music Yard Show were the perfect backdrop to hundreds of prisoners on the Lower Yard.

10

Fallen inmate firefighters and rescue response

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Prisoners around the nation rank high on the emergency first responders list when wildfires, hurricanes and other natural disasters strike the country, but are a low priority for rescue efforts, according to a 2017 report by *Natural Hazards Observer*.

Critics say inmate firefighters are regarded as expendable. But California officials disagree.

"When you consider the decades this (program) has been in place, the safety record has been outstanding," said Bill Sessa, spokesman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in a *Daily Beast* article about the five inmate firefighter deaths during the program's 40-year history.

Shawna Lynn Jones, 22, a Los Angeles County Jail inmate firefighter who died last year while on duty, was honored at the 36th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service held in Maryland, just days after major wildfires and destruction struck California's North Bay area in October.

Jones' name will be added to the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial on the National Fire Academy grounds, joining 94 other civilian firefighters who died in previous years, reported the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

"Shawna had a passion for sawyer work on the fire line and wanted to pursue this job in the fire service," said the NFFF website.



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Family of Shawna Lynn Jones being honored at memorial

"Shawna gave her life so that others may live."

In addition to Jones, two other California inmate firefighters lost their lives earlier this year fighting."

The dangers and wages of California's voluntary inmate firefight-

ing program are matters of political debate.

"I want inmates in California to learn new skills—but trading a cell for a wildfire and \$1 a day, that's just crazy," wrote Gayle McLaughlin, a candidate for lieutenant governor in

2018, in an email pitch to potential supporters, the *Daily Beast* reported. "We have to pay everyone real wages and restore the civil rights of people who are serving a sentence."

See **RESPONSE** on Page 11



Photo by John Burduhn

Nigel Poor (inset) speaking at the Hotdocs podcast festival about Ear Hustle

Ear Hustle wraps up first season with over six million downloads

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

The hit podcast Ear Hustle, launched from inside a prison, started its first season with the goal of starting a dialogue about incarceration and humanizing people inside. With 6,268,176 downloads, it has achieved more than it ever dreamed.

"I thought people would be interested, but I didn't think it would be so big," said co-host Professor Nigel Poor. "I see the emails, Twitter, Instagram and I still don't understand what it means. People tell me it's huge; it's changing people's minds."

Ear Hustle features stories told by incarcerated people, often revealing the universal nature of life, no matter where you live. The show is co-hosted by Earlonne Woods. Antwan "Banks" Williams acts as the sound designer, both serving prison time at San Quentin.

"I'm proud of the listeners for not having a judgmental ear," Williams said. "We had people in politics, wardens of other institutions, and people at schools commend us. I'm proud because being incarcerated, people normally throw a wall up."

See **EAR HUSTLE** on Page 4

San Quentin's annual Christmas caroling revives special memories



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

West Block inmates enjoying caroling from the Protestant choir

By Jesse Vasquez
Staff Writer

Nostalgic feelings dampen many inmates' lives during the holiday season, but Christmas caroling in San Quentin State Prison revives happy memories of home and lightens everyone's mood.

A few weeks before Christmas, prison volunteers, the Protestant Church choir and other inmates parade from building to building sharing the joy of the holidays.

"We're so happy to get into San Quentin. Some of our neighbors think we're crazy because we tell them we love coming into the prison," said Kim Lam, a Christian volunteer from Open Arms Church "I love to volunteer

because I get to see men's lives transformed by the love of God."

Christmas caroling in San Quentin State Prison started under former Protestant Chaplain Morris Curry more than a decade ago.

"We love sharing the love of Christ with the men in the buildings," said inmate Trent Capell "It's an amazing feeling just being able to share the joy of Christmas and its real meaning with people—the love of God toward the outcast."

Protestant chaplain Mardi Ralph Jackson continues to encourage and participate in this seasonal tradition.

See **CAROLING** on Page 5



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Bay Area artists tour San Quentin prison's murals

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

San Francisco Bay Area artists took a tour of San Quentin State Prison on Sept. 12 and discovered a treasure chest of sites hidden from the rest of the world.

A mural on the prison's old dungeon first attracted Jordan Stein, who is a curator at Kadist, an international art gallery in San Francisco.

After Stein's visit, members of the prison's Arts in Corrections program invited him back, along with other Bay Area artists, to see San Quentin's many murals.

"I think the visitors were impressed with all the murals, but they were most impressed with the artists themselves," said William James Association art teacher Amy Ho. "They really appreciated the spirit and passion that the

men put in their work."

The visitors began by viewing the mural in the Catholic Chapel, then went to the dungeon, where a mural was once painted.

Next they saw the globe mural painted on a wall on the prison's Upper Yard.

They walked a few yards to see a mural of the Golden Gate Bridge, accented with a seascape of fishing boats and fishery details.

The tour then walked into one of the housing units.

"I didn't realize that two people were living in such a small space," Ho said.

Lawrence Rinder added, "I have never visited a prison before. I felt uncomfortable looking into the inmates' cell. It seemed like a violation of their privacy. I was also uncomfortable to be in the block itself. It just doesn't feel right to be acting like a tourist in

this kind of environment."

Rinder is the director and chief curator of the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.

The Alfredo Santos murals in South Block came next on the tour.

"The Santos murals were amazing! I think they qualify as among the great art treasures of the Bay Area," Rinder said. "Their scale, complexity and variety of styles is mind-boggling. Very impressive work. It is so inspiring to see how art has enriched the prisoners' lives and helped them find a means to persevere and maintain a sense of hope and possibility."

The tour concluded in the small room where the inmates create most of their art.

There inmate Guss "Lumbumba" Edwards gave them an overview of the prison's arts program.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Bay Area artists touring the Upper Yard Mural



Visitors with workers in the Arts in Correction studio and Amy Ho (top left)

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Correction

In November's issue of *San Quentin News*, the correct captioning for the artwork on page 12 is "Back Door Man," block reduction, by Gary Harrell

Study shows government uses distorted data to justify policies

By Jesse Vasquez
Staff Writer

A recent study by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) explains how the government uses distorted data to justify its policies. The study focused on the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), which is cited by elected officials and the media as a legitimate source of information. The Center was founded by White nationalist John Tanton and serves as an anti-immigrant think tank, reported the SPLC. “Oh, I’m convinced that he’s wrong about all the facts and issues. They’re wrong about the impact of immigration on the U.S. economy and on U.S. society,” said Alex Nowasteh, an immigration policy analyst at the CATO institute on NPR in early 2017. The *Intercept* recently published a series of internal emails from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) during immigration raids earlier this year which substantiates the report’s findings that elected officials and media organizations embellish details in order to criminalize the immigration population in the U.S. and justify political policies. “CIS research is always questionable because they torture the data to make it arrive at the conclusion they desire, which is that immigrants are criminals and a burden on the U.S. and our economy. It is the worst kind of deception, but politicians, the conservative media and some Americans

eat it up because it always looks somewhat legitimate at first glance,” said Illinois Rep. Luis Gutierrez, according to the SPLC report. Emails reveal that in February ICE officials were instructed by an ICE executive in Washington to highlight, for the media, the three most notorious cases in each city where a raid was performed in order to support the administration’s immigration agenda, reported *The Intercept*.

“They’re wrong about the impact of immigration on the US economy and on US society”

However, according to the emails, ICE officials had a hard time finding the heinous criminal immigrants that President Donald J. Trump’s administration had promised to target, according to *The Intercept*. “I think what those emails make very clear is that we have a federal law enforcement agency that’s willing to lie, just like Trump is willing to lie, in order to continue the criminalization of immigrant communities,” said Austin City, Texas, councilmember Greg Casar. In February, ICE arrested 51 undocumented immigrants in Austin, Texas. Of those detained 28 had no criminal record, which had many in the community wondering why the city was

a political target, *The Intercept* reported. In November of 2016, Sally Hernandez, Travis County sheriff-elect, had promised to make Austin a sanctuary city. “The sheriff’s office will not be part of a deportation force that sacrifices hundreds and thousands of people, our neighbors, to a broken federal immigration system,” said Hernandez. The issue of politically motivated immigration raids resurfaced in September when ICE officials targeted sanctuary cities in Operation Safe City, *The Intercept* reported. “Yet again, the Trump administration is attempting to terrorize immigrant communities, keep families in fear, and undermine the trust immigrants have in cities that refuse to subsidize federal immigration enforcement,” said Ana Maria Archila, co-director of the Center for Popular Democracy, according to *The*

Intercept. ICE officials claim that they have to conduct more at-large arrests in regions that refuse to uphold ICE detainees, which direct local agencies to keep undocumented immigrants beyond their original sentence. That makes sanctuary cities like Austin and San Francisco targets for ICE. California Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 54, which makes the state a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants. The law’s intent is to promote public safety by alleviating immigrant fears of deportation when they need to interact with local law enforcement agencies. “(The law) reaffirms what we have held since the beginning, which is that California law enforcement should not be used to assist in mass deportations,” said Ed Medrano, president of the California Police Chiefs Association.

“Securus will oversee 2.4 million video calls in 2017, two-thirds of them remote, i.e., paid. Rates vary ... from \$5 to \$12.99 for a 20-minute call,” said Securus Chief Executive Officer Richard Smith to Bloomberg.

BUSINESSWEEK.com Oct. 9, 2017
Securus now controls about a third of the video market.

Michigan and Ohio ban coding books

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Writer

Corrections officials in Michigan and Ohio are stopping their prisoners from receiving educational books that teach computer programming skills. Just like pornography, lewd literature, and racial hate ideology, basic books that can help inmates prepare themselves for gainful employment in computer programming and internet-related industries are now banned, reported Alexa Evans of *LawStreetMedia.com*. “Their decisions to ban educational texts related to programming, alongside erotica and literature published by neo-Nazi groups, are in stark contrast with practices in other states and countries, where prisons include coding in educational programs,” wrote MuckRock, a nonprofit website devoted to sharing public information via the Freedom of Information Act, according to Evans. Titles such as “Windows Game Programming for Dummies” and “Operating Systems Demystified” are on either Michigan’s or Ohio’s list of red-flagged books — even a simple handbook designed to help the elderly familiarize themselves with using computers, MuckRock further detailed. Michigan’s Department of Corrections has said prisoners are specifically banned from reading books which “contain information about computer programs and applications” because these kinds of texts are a “threat to the order and security of the institution.” While some computer books are disallowed under

15 CCR §3134.1(e), California does not prevent its prison population from learning about web design and computer programming language. San Quentin’s flagship program, Code.7370, actually combines web education and computer programming with progressive rehabilitation efforts, aiming to prepare inmates for successful re-entry into society. In 2014, Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti of The Last Mile launched Code.7370 San Quentin — the first computer programming training curriculum of its kind in any U.S. prison. Since then, Code.7370 has branched out to five more California prisons, including two women’s facilities. Redlitz has a five-year plan to make Code.7370 a national program. Inmates in Code.7370 San Quentin work to build apps and develop other software for startup companies and well-known web businesses like Airbnb. The development shop’s coders must complete all their work on a closed network, since prisoners are never allowed internet access. The men and women who successfully complete Code.7370’s intricate curriculum have the potential to earn more than \$16 per hour while still incarcerated. More importantly, Code.7370 inmates learn invaluable entrepreneurial skills which can enable them to start their own careers upon release, versus pursuing the limited job opportunities available to most ex-convicts. According to Law Street Media, CNBC ran a report in April stating a zero percent recidivism rate for all Code.7370 inmates following their parole.

Black immigrants in fear of deportation

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

As federal raids become a daily occurrence, Black immigrants are living in fear. They undergo more scrutiny than other migrant groups across the nation — the result: one in five face deportation, according to a recent Pew Trust article. “We’re worried,” said Patricia Lawrence, policy coordinator for the UndocuBlack Network. “The (Trump administration is) putting people’s hearts and minds in limbo. They’ve got a deportation machine geared up and ready to go.” One thing Black immigrants find out while growing up in America is that they are one thing: Black. The article notes that they face the same challenges as native-born African-Americans, from housing discrimination to unequal treatment in the criminal justice system. In cities like New York, Black immigrant communities are heavily policed, which makes them vulnerable to immigration action, said Michelle Parris, an attorney with the Immigrant Defense Project. “Local policing and practices drive many Black immigrants into the criminal justice system for minor offenses,” Parris said. “That may trigger deportation proceedings and make it harder to fight deportation.”

Such is the case of Abraham Paulos. Born in Sudan to Eritrean parents fleeing war, Paulos came to America in 1981, when he was 9 months old. As a teen he grew up in Chicago, where life was rough. He ended up homeless, jumped a turnstile and stole some library books. The Sept. 27 Pew Trust article highlighted Paulos’ story. Now 36, he is at risk of being deported to Eritrea — a place he has never visited — for a crime he committed nearly 20 years ago. The thing is, if he were deported, the Eritrean government does not accept nationals who’ve been deported back into the country, said the article. This would leave Paulos without a country. “This is how you know we are living in an alternative universe,” Paulos said. “The fact that I don’t have a country works out for me.” There is an influx of immigrants facing deportation because of past crimes, said Mauricio Norona, a staff attorney from the law center at the African Services Committee, a social services organization for immigrants. According to the Pew Trust article, in the past, you’d have to have committed a serious crime to be eligible for deportation. But now any contact with the police, even if it’s just an arrest without a conviction, can get immigrants funneled into the deportation pipeline.

Technically, people who entered the country without legal documentation after January 2014 are considered a high priority for criminal deportation, even if they have committed no other offense. New York’s Brooklyn Flatbush neighborhood is the home of the nation’s largest Black immigrant population, which consists of mostly Caribbean — Haitian and Jamaican — Guyanese and Trinidadian people. And people are seeing and feeling the change around them and are worried, even with New York being a so-called sanctuary city. “At the local bodegas, parents are afraid to use their government-issued WIC cards to feed their children, for fear of drawing attention to themselves,” the Pew article reported. “Parents withdraw mounds of cash from the bank, rather than pay for anything electronically. Landlords looking to take advantage of the city’s gentrification craze tell tenants that they’ll report them to immigration officials if they don’t move.” The Pew report points out while “the face of the immigrant tends to be Latino, specifically, Mexican,” there is as a “rapidly growing group of Black immigrants whose numbers have nearly quadrupled since 1980, to 3.8 million.”

Pope calls teachings of capital punishment inadmissible

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

When the Vicar of Christ speaks about the death penalty, shouldn’t the world listen? Pope Francis visited the United States two years ago and told Congress and the United Nations that he opposes the death penalty. He even went a step further, calling for a revision of official church teachings that would make capital punishment “inadmissible,” Christopher Lamb wrote in the *Religion News Service*. During a speech at the Vatican in October 2017, the Pontiff said the death penalty is “contrary to the Gospel, because it entails the willful suppression of a human life that never ceases to be sacred in the eyes of its Creator.” With these words, the pope is also reshaping what it means to be “pro-life.” He’s moving the Roman Catholic Church “away from primarily opposing abortion and stressing that it means protecting life at every stage, from womb to natural death,” the story said. The U.S. is the nation where the pope’s words should have the most effect. The death penalty is still authorized in more than 30 states and is supported by

fewer than half of all Catholics, according to surveys. A 2016 Pew Research poll shows 43 percent of American Catholics support capital punishment, while 46 percent are opposed. According to the Catholic catechism, the death penalty is allowed if it is “the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.” Yet, the doctrine goes on to say that on occasion the death penalty is not necessary and in practice, carrying out an execution is very rare.

“...protecting life at every stage, from womb to natural death”

1978. The last execution was performed in 2006. In October, the state’s regulators for a second time rejected a proposed new method of carrying out the death penalty by lethal injection, Don Thompson of *The Associated Press* reported. “The Office of Administrative Law did not elaborate in its three-paragraph decision rejecting the rules. But officials previously said the proposal wasn’t clear on how the execution team would be selected and trained, how the drugs would be obtained and administered and how a condemned inmate should be treated in the days and hours before the execution,” Thompson added. The state’s latest decision pits a voter-backed initiative aimed at speeding up executions against “a clear, uncompromising stance of moral opposition to the death penalty by the highest authority of the church,” said Sister Helen Prejean, a prominent opponent of the death penalty whose story was dramatized in the Oscar-nominated film *Dead Man Walking*. Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, sued the state to force the new procedures, and said it is unnecessary for regulators to consider the latest proposal.

Annual Protestant Revival brings SQ prisoners closer together

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Hundreds of San Quentin prisoners attended the 2017 Annual Protestant Revival in the prison’s Garden Chapel. It was four days of worship and praise.

The Oct. 18, 20, 21 and 22 event was themed “For the joy set before Him,” quoting Hebrews 12:2 of the New Testament.

“Looking toward Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and set down at the right hand of the throne of God,” according to the Holy Bible, *New King James Version*.

On the third night Pastor Tony Chikere of One Accord Ministry moved the large prison congregation and the few guests with his sermon “The Presence of God.”

Pastor Chikere’s heavy Nigerian accent was clear when he said, “God gave us the power of love and not the power of fear.”

“You don’t have to be a Bible scholar to see something is wrong in the world today,” Chikere told the crowd. “We are not seeing the signs the way we should. We’re in need of the Holy Spirit, that second touch.”

“Now I can turn my negatives into a positive”

Pastor Chikere talked about what it means to thirst for Jesus and to redirect your priorities. “You should place God’s agenda as the priority,” he said passionately. “When you surrender your



Choir preparing to sing “Bless Your Holy Name”

Photo by E. Phillips



Photo by E. Phillips

Ferrari Moody teaching a sermon

life to God, it’s a different kind of life,” the pastor said. “The things you surrender to the Lord, the Lord lets you keep, but the things you hold on to can be taken away.”

Sister Linda Jackson sang a beautiful rendition of “I love Jesus” before the sermon began.

“I love Jesus, I worship and adore you” sang Jackson, her heavenly voice rising with every lyric. “It’s glory in the cross,” she continued, with the vocal range of Patti LaBelle.

“Every time I come here I get juiced up,” Jackson said.

“If you want some church, you come here.”

The second day, the men in blue led the service. Harry Smith opened with a prayer for the North Bay fire victims.

The chapel drama team performed a mime/dance interpretation to the song “Let Go and Let God” by Dwayne Woods. The Mime Ministry was made up of Andress Yancy, Orlando Harris and Vertrice Laster. The group brought the church to a standing ovation.

Ferrari Moody presented the sermon for the night.

“The revival is for the joy of God,” Moody said. “I see treasure when I look into the crowd. I got faith somebody will be saved tonight.”

Moody paced the stage and aisle, personally engaging the congregation and teaching on having the right understanding and view of God.

The Praise Team (the choir) had the crowd on its feet with bodies waving, heads bowed and hands in the air in deep worship. They sang “Bless Your Holy Name” and “Some Ask Why We Sing.”

The revival was about community and having a relationship with God.

Bishop Lam Chung of ASATT Church in Houston, Texas, gave the San Quentin congregation words of inspiration the first night of the revival.

Pastor Jeff Reed closed the event.

“We want to be humble before God,” Yancy said. “We had different churches coming together in one accord. The revival renewed my spirit that Jesus died for our sins. Now I can turn my negatives into a positive.”

EAR HUSTLE

Dozens of media outlets covered the rise of Ear Hustle without an indictment of its subjects or creators including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Vogue*, NBC’s *The Today Show*, *NBC News*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *Rolling Stone*.

After winning a podcast contest hosted by Radiotopia, Ear Hustle had to produce 10 episodes from behind the walls of San Quentin State Prison.

“I’m proud that Lt. Sam Robinson (Public Information Officer) allowed it to happen,” Woods said. “I’m also proud of the fact that Julie Shapiro (Radiotopia executive producer) and the Radiotopia staff had the vision to choose us.”

Poor said, “I am really most proud of how it is bringing people together. Proud of the hard work, hitting problems and not giving up and keeping in mind that the product is bigger than us, and we have a responsibility to put out really good stories.

“I have a lot of gratitude

to the San Quentin community from the administration to the guys who listen. I think it’s really great. I’m pretty sure this couldn’t happen at any other prison.”

The podcast took off from the first episode, hitting number one in Canada, then hitting number one on iTunes after the *Today Show* featured them. Yet its inventors don’t feel the magnitude of their success.

“I’m still in here,” Williams said. “We haven’t seen the response on the internet; we haven’t heard the chatter.”

Woods added, “Most of what we see (social media responses) is what Poor brings in. When tours come through and there’s a variety of different people and they have heard of Ear Hustle, I think that’s when you get a window to what it’s really like—that people really received it.”

Poor spoke of a listening event in Toronto she attended on behalf of Ear Hustle. Woods and Williams couldn’t be there, so they showed video clips of the two before a packed audience, who clapped for about 30 seconds.

“What an amazing

experience being in a theater packed with people listening to Ear Hustle. Who would have thought that would have come out of a prison?” Poor said.

Ironically, their biggest challenge was not having enough of something prisons usually provide plenty of—time.

“What we wanted to do was start something, start a dialogue and spark change”

Woods, who normally runs laps a few times a week, said he gained 20 pounds because there was no time for anything but Ear Hustle.

“We’re always completing a story. We do edits, sound design, listening sessions, change things around,” Woods said.

He added that the story is never completed until Poor takes the approved story outside of the prison and beyond his second thoughts.

For Williams, their biggest



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Earlone Woods and Nigel Poor interviewing Perry Simpson for an episode of Ear Hustle.

challenge was, “trusting each other because we all have different views at times, trusting that our vision is the same. We’re all trying to get to the same place, not letting our egos and desires get in the way of something so successful.”

Ear Hustle turned Poor’s volunteer work at San Quentin into a full-time job. In addition to co-hosting and editing inside, Poor runs the social media pages on the outside. She has taken a one-year sabbatical from teaching photography at California State University, Sacramento.

“My biggest challenge is trying to find balance in my life because everything I do is Ear Hustle,” Poor said. “The only time I’m not working on Ear Hustle is when I’m sleeping or at the gym. Thank God I have an understanding husband.”

So far, Poor doesn’t miss teaching. “I don’t have time to miss anything except my husband,” Poor said.

Looking back over the season, each has their favorite episode except Poor, who

loves all of them.

Two episodes stand out to Woods: “Misguided Loyalty” and “Left Behind.”

“Those are my favorites based on what they both represented,” Woods said. “Misguided Loyalty hopefully will steer youngsters away from gangs. Left Behind shined the light on a lot of guys caught up by the three-strikes law. It’s Curtis’ (the main character) plea bargains and tribulations of being locked up.”

Williams said, “Boom Boom Room” (about family visiting) probably is my favorite because I’m really close to May, and I know his wife and son personally. To give people an opportunity to know him like I know him ... ‘rawfully’ honest and vulnerable about his situation, is always a good thing.”

Ear Hustle earned eight episodes for the fall and spring seasons for next year.

Woods and Poor expect the next seasons to be better based on the experience gained working together as professional colleagues.

“We had 10 episodes to understand the process,” Woods said. “So our next eight episodes will be way, way profound. I want to have college courses teach Ear Hustle, dissect Ear Hustle and make somebody do a thesis.”

“We didn’t know how to do this when we started; we learned as we went along,” Poor said. “And we need all three of us to make this happen.”

Williams doesn’t feel pressured to repeat last year’s success.

“It’s not about repeating anything,” Williams said. “What we wanted to do was start something, start a dialogue and spark change. It’s about opening a lane for other things to happen. It’s about creating a space and a time where change needs to exist in everybody’s mind. If next season is successful or not, I think we will be OK. We’re still human; life goes on after the judge slams the gavel.”

To listen in on Ear Hustle, go to: www.earhustlesq.com or follow them on Twitter and Instagram: @earhustlesq.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Earlone Woods, Nigel Poor and Antwan Williams on the Lower Yard

Youth offender mix-tape captures generational trauma of incarceration

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Daniel Gutierrez, 21, says with regret that prison has been the norm in his family. “Everyone has been to jail except my mom.

“When I got to San Quentin, I ended up three cells down from where my grandfather was once housed. In the county jail I was in the same dorm my father was once in. I was even on the same (prison) yard with my uncle,” said Gutierrez.

A musician, Gutierrez said he shares a parallel life with his grandfather, Jose Moreno, who has been out of prison two decades. He even reflected on that relationship in a rap song, “The Same Prison as My Grandfather,” on a San Quentin Youth Offender mix-tape project. Gutierrez uses the song for therapeutic relief and guidance for his future.

One in 10 children who have an incarcerated parent will be incarcerated themselves before the age of 18, according to San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership (SF-CIPP). Latino youth are 65 percent more likely to be jailed than their White peers, according to data from the Department of Justice collected in October 2015.

Jose Moreno, Gutierrez’s grandfather, was incarcerated in San Quentin in the late ’80s and early ’90s on drug trafficking charges. Moreno left his daughter Beatriz, 13, to deal with life without

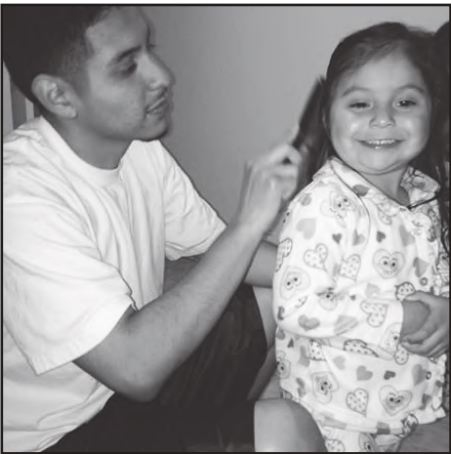


Photo courtesy of Gutierrez family
Daniel Gutierrez with his daughter Kaitlynn



File Photo
Daniel Gutierrez and David Jassy

a father. Although only 13, Beatriz would become a teen mother when she bore Daniel.

“To tell the truth,” said Moreno, “when I was in San Quentin, I thought I was strong, but sometimes I would cry because my daughter had to see me in jail. Family is the most important thing you have in your life. So I know how he (Gutierrez) is feeling about his daughter.”

Now Gutierrez finds himself with his own daughter Kaitlynn growing up with her father in prison. Gutierrez became a father at the age of 14, continuing the cycle of children becoming parents.

“Having a daughter young, I felt I had to grow up quick,” said Gutierrez. “Growing up with the negative influences around me, doing crime was all that I knew.”

Gutierrez admitted to

still being hard-headed and thought he knew it all. He says now he is dealing with the circumstances.

“I feel bad for Daniel,” said Moreno. “I know sometimes you make mistakes, I understand everything. It’s hard to change someone else’s mind.”

Moreno credited attending AA meetings and working as a cook in San Quentin to his transformation. He has been off parole for more than 20 years. He is working with a brother at their family restaurant in Santa Cruz and attending AA meetings.

“You got to be out of the bottle. That’s what helps me,” said Moreno. “When I get off of work I want to rest, but I still go to the AA programs. When you are in jail, it’s hard. I hope Daniel is getting into programs while he’s there. It’s a good place to change.”

Gutierrez reflected on the decisions he made that led

him to San Quentin.

“When my parents separated my world kind of fell apart,” said Gutierrez. “My grandmother passed away, and a friend of mine got murdered. It was so much pain that I didn’t want to care anymore.”

This led to Gutierrez getting expelled from school, running from the police and carrying guns.

“There wasn’t really any teacher I could connect with. There were more distractions outside of school. I was just going there to make my mom happy,” said Gutierrez.

“I was really interested in music then. I think schools should be a little more hands-on and create more alternative programs that will keep kids’ attention,” continued Gutierrez.

“I know (Daniel’s mom) is suffering because her son is in prison. Beatriz is my oldest daughter. She’s really smart, and she tried to do the best she could with Daniel,” Moreno said.

The grandfather said he understands the pain that his grandson is feeling due to his own time spent in prison and wanting to see his own daughter.

“I always try to see my daughters whenever I get a chance, and sometimes she needs help, things get a little hard sometimes, and I try to be there the best I can,” Moreno continued.

Gutierrez is working on getting into parenting classes. He credits working with inmate producer David Jassy

on the Youth Offender mix-tape for changing his outlook on life.

“Jassy transformed my way of thinking and my vocabulary,” said Gutierrez. “You couldn’t cuss on the tape, so he challenged you to come up with a better way to express yourself.

“(Jassy) gave me hope with the music. At first I didn’t care if I got more time or not. Now I’m determined to do better for my daughter and the music,” added Gutierrez.

Monica Moreno, Gutierrez’s aunt, said her dad has a lot of influence on her nephew.

“He (Jose Moreno) did his time. When he got out he switched his whole life around. My dad is a totally different person. I hope my nephew will do the same,” said Monica. “I encourage my nephew to continue rapping. That is his passion. He was doing that before he was in prison.”

Ahna Straube,
Berkeley student,
contributed to this story

Daniel’s Rap Lyrics:

“Now I’m in the same prison as my grandfather / just like him I can’t be there for my own daughter / But now he’s out and he’s there/ so he really changed/ I miss my baby/ wish you were here/ so I’m do the same/ I’m on my way/ just know I coming/ I just hope when I come home/ that she still love me.”

Salinas Valley level 4 prisoners rehabilitating with Ruff Start program

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Writer

Maximum security prisoners are benefiting from a rare opportunity to rehabilitate themselves by learning to care for, train and live with rescued shelter dogs.

In the Ruff Start program at Salinas Valley State Prison, prisoners work in pairs with an assigned dog 24/7 for eight weeks, according to *The Monterey Herald*.

There are some prerequisites that inmates must meet in order to be accepted into the program, including being disciplinary-free for at least one year.

Lt. David Lopez, Ruff Start’s liaison officer, reported the program noticeably affects the prison environment because inmates intentionally avoid trouble in order to earn their chance to care for one of the dogs.

“They’re pretty much model inmates,” Lopez said. “What this equates to is staff safety and rehabilitation for the inmates, who will be



Courtesy of CDCR
Inmates walking dogs on the yard



Courtesy of CDCR
Inmates giving dog commands



Courtesy of CDCR
Dogs going through obstacles on the yard

returning to our communities at some point.”

The program’s most recent cycle involved eight dogs and may include as many as 10 dogs next session.

“This is one of the best rehabilitative programs that we have in our prisons,” Lopez said. “This is my third prison, so I’ve seen quite a few other programs, but I think this one really goes a long way.”

of their own rough history, many of the dogs have various behavioral issues, and some are overly shy.

“Where they would be timid and moving away from everybody, we’d start to see them build their confidence and be able to go up to strangers and interact and be able to be adopted,” said Amanda Mouisset of the Monterey County Society for

CAROLING

The first tier of the cargo ship-sized buildings becomes a stage for the carolers. The upper tier railings fill with inmates that have become accustomed to caroling as a familiar tradition away from home.

“It was amazing going from building to building,” said Lam “I felt the presence of the Lord when we were all singing together.”

Some years there have been almost 100 volunteers from Tiburon Baptist Church, Open Arms Church, and other

Christian church organizations that gather to spread the good tidings through festive songs.

“The first time I saw the carolers, I thought ‘what the heck is this?’ I had never seen anything like it in any prison before,” said inmate Jose from West Block’s second tier, “But now I look forward to it every year.”

According to a *Time* article, the 19th century tradition of caroling from door-to-door started in England by groups of choristers hoping to be awarded with a gift.

“The singing of Christmas carols at a stranger’s door assumes a similarity of culture

among carolers and audiences,” said Chris Brunelle, an assistant professor of classics at St. Olaf College in the *Time* article.

“When the angels first proclaimed the gospel it was to the shepherds that were Israel’s lowliest, outcast citizens,” said inmate Capell. “We are society’s outcasts. So, it’s nice to share in the singing tradition of the angels that announced the good news.”

Caroling this year will be on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 16.

“Our church members can’t wait to come and see the men’s faces light up,” said Lam “I love to see lives change.”



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN
Inmates and volunteers singing in West Block

Tough choice of taking a plea deal to be with his family

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

After 19 years of claiming his innocence, Guy Miles finally got his 75-years-to-life robbery conviction overturned. Miles accepted a plea deal instead of going back to trial, so he can be immediately released and be with his ailing parents.

“It was an impossible decision to make,” said attorney Alissa Bjerkhoel, the litigation coordinator for

the California Innocence Project, who fought to bring Miles home. “He’s been fighting for his innocence for almost 20 years. You have to weigh that against how much time you have left with family. At the end of the day, family won out.”

The California State Appellate Court overturned Miles’ conviction on Jan. 23. However, he remained incarcerated, although new evidence supports his actual innocence.

Three men confessed to being the ones who actually committed the robbery, and there were significant problems with the eyewitness identifications made through suggestive photographic lineups and improper prosecutorial tactics, wrote Appellate Court Justice J. Moore in a separate opinion.

“The majority opinion does not find Miles to be ‘factually innocent.’ But there is a strong likelihood

that an innocent man has spent almost 19 years in custody for a crime he did not commit,” Moore concluded.

“...an innocent man has spent almost 19 years in custody for a crime he did not commit”

view it on their own motion.

“He can’t get out of prison until the whole appellate process is complete,” Bjerkhoel said.

“The ironic thing is, when you win in Superior Court, you go home right away,” Bjerkhoel said. “When you win in Appellate court, more can happen. Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.”

Even when the appeal process was completed on May 10, a mishap kept Miles in prison. The California Supreme Court granted the request to keep the case out of law books and decided not to review the decision. However, their court order for Miles’ release from state custody arrived at the wrong prison. It was reissued, but didn’t arrive at San Quentin until May 22, keeping Miles in prison weeks past the appeal process.

“I feel disrespected,” Miles said. “This process needs to be revisited.”

Miles stayed in prison until June 6, awaiting trans-

portation back to Orange County jail for a June 9 court date.

“Out of 25 cases the Southern California Innocence Project has gotten reversed, I think the prosecution has apologized in one case. It’s pretty clear Guy didn’t do it,” Bjerkhoel said.

On the June 9 court date, his bail was set at \$1,000,000. Miles couldn’t make the bail.

The prosecution took the stance that they would retry Miles.

“It feels like I have to prove it all over again, starting trial all over again,” Miles said. “It’s not a good feeling. I’m sleepless. Anxiety level is so high sometimes I can’t eat, think. I’ve been through a lot of dangerous things on the streets, but nothing compares to the feeling of going to trial for something that I didn’t do.”

The prosecution offered Miles a deal that allowed him to get out of jail without pleading guilty. Miles suspected that his parents had health issues that they were hiding from the family. He took the deal and came home on June 20, in time for his birthday party on July 9.

“He took a deal under People versus West,” Bjerkhoel said. “It allows you to benefit from a plea deal without admitting guilt.”

Miles said, “They (the prosecution) were ready to take me back to trial. I had to get back to my mother and father.”

Now out, Miles enjoys babysitting his grandkids and spending time with his family, but he still worries that his newfound freedom is all a dream.

“Man, being home is a dream come true,” Miles said. “Locked up you have so many dreams of being free and wake and find out you’re still in prison. That what I think is gonna happen now — I’ll wake up and find myself back in prison.”

Man wrongfully convicted of a sex crime cleared after eight years

By **Salvador Solorio**
Journalism Guild Writer

A man who spent eight years in prison for a sex crime he did not commit has finally been cleared, the Northern California Innocence Project reports.

“It took 24 years, but the truth finally came out,” said Paige Kaneb, co-counsel for Ed Easley.

The Shasta County case turned after the adult victim, molested at age seven, admitted she wrongly accused Easley to protect a cousin.

Innocence Project.

Initially a court informed Easley he likely had no case because he was no longer in custody. Four appeals all the way to the state Supreme Court were denied. However, one judge who turned Easley down wrote that the new evidence, including the victim’s recantation, would have not likely resulted in a conviction, granted a new hearing.

The new evidence had to meet the toughest standard in the country and point, “unerringly to innocence and completely undermine the prosecution’s case.” However, two laws that came into effect in January related to issues in Easley’s case en-

abling people released from custody to prove their innocence.

One law changed the standards for introduction of new evidence to prove innocence from “unerringly to innocence” to “more likely than not” and would have made a difference in the original trial.

Innocence Project Director Linda Starr stated, “The new standard is a game-changer.” The charges against Easley were dropped, and the conviction was vacated. Kaneb said Easley can now stop registering wrongly as a sex offender, and he can find a home, take electrical jobs and recover.

“It took 24 years, but the truth finally came out”

Easley’s name is now cleared, and the victim’s conscience can be cleared for the miscarriage of justice said Kaneb.

Easley served an eight-year sentence, and after a five-year parole he was required to register as a sex offender, according to the *San Jose Mercury News*.

After Easley’s release, the victim came clean as a remorseful adult and contacted the Northern California

“... many women’s claims of sexual assault were reflexively and widely disregarded...But many of the remedies...are unjust to men, infantilize women, and ultimately undermine the legitimacy of the fight against sexual violence.”

The Atlantic reported in a three-part series published in September 2017. THEATLANTIC.COM



Guy Miles home with his mother

Going against the machismo culture against women

By **Wayne Boatwright**
Managing Editor

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto honored Women’s Day this March by urging an assault against the machismo culture that generates violence against women.

Pena Nieto urged the eradication of “a deeply rooted machista culture (that) ultimately and truly generates violence against women” *The New York Times* reported in an April 24 article.

Mexico has celebrated male entitlement known as machismo in Hispanic soap operas, movies, work and romantic relationships.

“But times are changing for the Mexican macho man, or ‘machista,’” the article noted. “Soaring crime rates against women in recent years, and a strengthening women’s rights movement, have forced Mexicans to begin addressing machismo and the harm it does through sexism, misogyny and violence.”

A combination of law changes, advocacy groups pushing education, and major Mexican companies have joined the effort to aid Mexican men “learn

new ways of relating to people, particularly women,” said a participant in a group therapy program sponsored by Gendes, a research and advocacy group in Mexico City.

Tecate, a popular Mexican beer brand, has launched a television campaign with a woman covered in bruises. “A man is defined by how he treats a woman. If you don’t respect women, Tecate is not for you,” says the voice-over of the commercial.

For the past decade, the Mexican Congress has worked to implement a legal framework at all levels of government to prevent, address and punish gender-based violence, reports the *Times*.

A number of advocacy groups seek to use group therapy to question and address the cultural beliefs that lie at the heart of machismo, said Antonio Vargas, director and founder of Gendes.

“It is not easy to renounce privilege (of machismo),” admits Vargas.

Reflecting on his efforts in one such program, a participant asked: “Is it actually possible to live without violence? I have to hope that it is.”

In 2016, San Quentin authorized the launch of a Spanish Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) class, the brainchild of two incarcerated Mexican-Americans, Arnulfo T. Garcia (*San Quentin News* executive editor) and Jorge G. Heredia (*San Quentin News* Spanish interpreter). VOEG is a program that puts offenders and victims of crime in dialogue so they can discuss the impact of crime on families and communities.

Jose Segura, sentenced to 15 years to life, credits his success to being found suitable for parole to what he learned in Spanish VOEG.

“When I committed my crime, I had a belief system called machismo. This belief system taught me to have a big ego, be tough, never ask for help, or let another man push you around,” Segura said. “VOEG helped me see and transform the rage inside of me. I learned that asking for help or expressing my emotions is acceptable. It’s not something that makes me weak.”

By **Jerry Maleek Gearin**
Journalism Guild Writer

Elementary school children are being placed in makeshift prison cells. Multiple Iowa school districts are using this controversial isolation as punishment, according to a website article at *ScaryMommy.com*.

A controversial new type of punishment, tiny pine boxes with little to no light or ventilation called “seclusion enclosures,” is designed to confine children and discipline them, said the article, written by Cassandra Stone.

“If I was to do what they did, it would be child abuse .Why is it OK for the school district to do that to a child?,” said Tammy Mims, a former resident of Cedar Rapids.

Iowa defines corporal punishment as “intentional physical punishment of a student” using “unnecessary physical force.” These rooms are able to slide by Iowa’s ban on corporal punishment, reported the article.

“If there is indeed a situation where a child is harming themselves or others, there is no doubt a school official

should intervene immediately. But is a six foot Pine Box of Terror really the best way to do that?” Stone asked.

Parents and guardians who have children in Iowa school districts have been complaining about seclusion rooms since they started sprouting up last year, the article said.

Mims, guardian for a little girl who was locked inside one of these rooms, said she could hear the girl screaming to be let out in the back-ground, according to the article.

State rules say parents have to be notified the same day the punishment occurs. Mims received a call informing her of the girl’s punishment.

A complaint filed earlier this year describes some of the seclusion rooms as “a plywood box lined with foul-smelling black horse stall mats” and flooring made of recycled tires.

“Since when did we start criminalizing kids as a form of discipline?” Stone asked.

Legally, parents don’t have to offer their consent, “probably because no parent of sound mind would ever consent to their child being

locked inside a dark, hot, smelly makeshift closet at school,” the article said.

The intended use for these rooms is to serve as a drastic “time out” for violent kids, but that hasn’t stopped teachers from confining kids for minor grievances, like stepping out of line at recess, the article said.

Students can spend up to an hour in seclusion rooms; schools need “special permission” to extend their time beyond that, the article reported.

“While many of the concerns have already been addressed, the district will continue to develop and implement systemic changes that positively impact the learning environment for all students,” said Kristin Pedersen, community affairs coordinator for the Iowa City Schools District in a statement to *USA Today*.

“We trust school districts with our children’s lives — Iowa schools can do far, far better by parents and students. Further traumatizing them seems inhumane and unnecessary,” the report concludes.

Iowa elementary schools use isolation as punishment

Super Bowl coach and King marcher devote their time to KidCAT

Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

An NFL Super Bowl-winning performance coach and his wife, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., now devote their time to helping young inmates reach their full potential through a self-help program created by juvenile lifers.

“Phil and Gail gave me a voice that I never thought I had,” said Mike Webb, Kid CAT member. “They don’t judge me for what I have done, and I feel that I could share my deepest and darkest secrets with them because they are unconditional, genuine and sincere.”



Phil and Grace Towles

Photo by Raphaele Casale

“Phil and Gail gave me a voice that I never thought I had”

Kid CAT co-founder Antoine Brown said, “Working with Phil and Gail has changed my life. They’ve helped me become a better father by learning how to communicate with my son in a supportive way that’s not judgmental, harsh or alienating.”

When family and friends ask Phil and Grace Towles why they choose to work with prisoners, Phil replies, “The authenticity of the men here won me over. These guys take more personal accountability for their actions than people on the outside; it’s what makes Kid CAT unique—there is a requirement to take ownership of their lives, not just their crimes.”

Phil began his work with the members of Kid CAT through a filmmaker who was working on a documentary with the men.

“Brenda Rhodes, who is a friend of mine, was film-

ing a documentary about the founders of Kid CAT and asked if I could come help the men process the emotions that came out during the filming in a cathartic way,” Phil said.

“I was appreciative of being asked, but there was also mixed feelings of curiosity and fear to be around prisoners,” Phil said. “But being a psychotherapist and a performance coach, my goal is to take people where they are and help them optimize their lives.”

The call by Rhodes turned into a life-changing experience for the men of Kid CAT as well as for Phil and his wife, who would join him in becoming a dedicated Kid CAT volunteer.

“There is nothing that has helped me grow as a human being more so than volunteering and being in San Quentin,” Phil said.

Members of Kid CAT describe the group and individual sessions facilitated by the Towles as life-altering, empowering and deeply impactful.

For Kid CAT member Miguel Sifuentes, individual sessions provided the guidance he needed. “They changed my life; they helped

me deal with anxiety attacks that I had. With their help, I finally feel that I can live up to my potential.”

In a professional career that spans more than 30 years, Phil worked with teams like the St. Louis Rams, Kansas City Chiefs and currently the Los Angeles Rams, along with artists like Metallica, Rage Against the Machine and Rascal Flatts.

Phil received a Super Bowl ring when the St. Louis Rams won in 2000.

No strangers to volunteering with the marginalized, after completing college at the University of Chicago in 1964, the Towles worked to advocate for education and civil rights.

“We have a lot of empathy for those in need, because neither of us came from a privileged background,” Gail said. “We had an education, and we felt the need to help.”

“Phil went to work with street gangs in Chicago, and I helped with teenage girls,” Gail said. “We also stood in solidarity with Martin Luther King Jr. in a walk in Chicago.”

After two years in Chicago, the Towles resettled in Topeka, Kansas, where Phil

received a post-graduate fellowship with the Menninger Foundation.

“After the fellowship, Phil worked two years for the Menninger psychiatric hospital before going into private practice for the next 35 years”, Gail said. “Phil decided that he didn’t want to work with people’s nightmares anymore; he decided he wanted to work with people’s dreams.”

To launch his fledgling business of helping others achieve their dreams, Phil made a cold call to the St. Louis Rams.

“Phil’s been a Los Angeles Rams fan his entire life. When the Rams moved to St. Louis, Phil made a cold call to Dick Vermeil, the head coach,” Gail said. “Phil said to Vermeil, ‘I can come and

help your team,’ Dick then asked him to come to St. Louis, and we were with the St. Louis Rams after that for three years. When they won the Super Bowl, they gave Phil a ring.”

The work with the St. Louis Rams led to other high-profile clients. “While we were working with the Rams, we became friends with Tom Morrello from Rage Against the Machine,” Gail said. “After we won the Super Bowl, Tom called Phil to come work with them in L.A.”

“While Phil was in L.A. working with Rage, he was introduced to the manager of Metallica, who asked Phil if he would come to San Francisco to help them because they were falling apart.”

While working with Me-

tallica, the Towles took part in the filming of the Metallica documentary *Some Kind of Monster*. From their work with the band, they were introduced to other high-profile clients in the Bay Area, and the couple decided to resettle in the Bay Area in 2001.

Phil stayed with Dick Vermeil eight years until his retirement as head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

“Sometimes in life, there are people who want to tell you about conflict resolution or what love, empathy, or compassion is. Then you have people like Phil and Gail, who don’t have to say a word—they just show you,” said Charlie Spence, Kid CAT chairman. “We’re all enriched and grateful for their presence in our lives.”

“...childhood adversity and stress can chemically change the way our brain works,”

said Dr. Robert Anda, a medical epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and developer of the Adverse Childhood Experiences or ACE survey to The New York Times in “Linking Childhood Trauma To Prison’s Revolving Door” nytimes.com/national

Parents often billed for children’s incarceration

Parents often are billed by the state and county for their children’s incarceration.

“Even if a child is later proved innocent, the parents still must pay a nightly rate for the detention. Bills run up to \$1,000 a month, and many of the parents of Philadelphia’s roughly 730 detained children are so poor they can afford monthly installments of only five dollars,” *The Marshall Project* reported.

“I mean, do we think the taxpayers should be supporting these bad kids?” asked attorney Steven Kaplan, a leading proponent of billing parents.

The policy of charging parents for their children’s incarceration varies across the nation.

“Of the nation’s 50 state-level juvenile justice systems, 19 regularly or sometimes bill parents for their children’s detention. California, Pennsylvania and several other states have highly decentralized juvenile justice systems; their state agencies do not bill parents—but most of their counties do,” *The Project* reported.

Advocates have challenged the payment system, arguing that it is taxing parents for their child’s loss of liberty.

“In Philadelphia, the City Council is...(considering)

abolishing the practice. In California—which incarcerates more children than any other state, at a typical cost to parents of \$30 a night—activists have succeeded in getting the practice banned in three counties,” *The Project* reported.

“Aside from all the emotional stuff—holding my son together, holding myself together—now they’re going to say, ‘By the way, you owe us cash for this?’” said Tamisha Walker, one of the mothers who fought successfully for a moratorium in California’s Contra Costa County.

Despite collection efforts by counties, the results are dismal, “Philadelphia netted \$551,261 from parents of delinquent children in fiscal 2016, a small fraction of the \$81,148,521 the city spent on all delinquent placements,” *The Project* reported.

Juvenile correction administrators argue that the payment system keeps parents in the lives of their children. “It increases buy-in. It keeps parents’ skin in the game,” said James Bueche, who heads Louisiana’s Office of Juvenile Justice.

Some of the collection tactics employed by states and counties can be drastic.

“When parents fail to

pay on time, the state can send collection agencies after them, tack on interest, garnish 50 percent of their wages, seize their bank accounts, intercept their tax refunds, suspend their driver’s licenses or charge them with contempt of court,” *The Project* reported.

“In August, Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit weighed in forcefully on the side of Maria Rivera, a parent who sold her house and went bankrupt in order to pay Orange County more than \$9,500 for her son’s incarceration.”

The judge held, “Not only does such a policy unfairly conscript the poorest members of society to bear the cost of public institutions...but it takes advantage of people when they are at their most vulnerable, essentially imposing ‘a tax upon distress.’”

To Kaplan, parents are obligated to pay for whatever housing their children are in, even if it’s a jail.

“Child support is child support is child support,” he said. “It really doesn’t matter if the kids live with Mom, Dad, Aunt Betsy, or with me — Uncle Steve — in detention.”

—John Lam

Dear Kid CAT

My name is Walter “Ahmad” Mcgee, I am 21 years old and was sentenced to nearly 14 years for home invasion. During this prison sentence I have attended multiple groups. However, the Kid CAT curriculum is the most beneficial and in-depth group I’ve attended and it has helped to open my eyes, ears and mind. This program is useful, safe, interactive, and connects with all who attend. This program has empowered me to help my fellow youths and apply the skills and insight to connect with others both young and old. I hope everyone can have the opportunity to take this curriculum, especially the young inmates who could learn the necessary skills to succeed. I want to express my gratitude to all of the Kid CAT facilitators and the volunteers who come in every week and for keeping the classes heartfelt and interesting. Lastly, I want to thank all the lifers who stayed focused and fought to create this program.

Sincerely,
Walter “Ahmad” Mcgee, San Quentin State Prison

Kid CAT curriculum now available

Attention Readers: Kid CAT Childhood development curriculum and facilitator manual is now available.

If you are interested in creating a Kid CAT branch/youth offender support group at your institution, please have your sponsor/volunteer or community partnership manager contact Kid CAT chief sponsor Ronda Wisher at (415) 454-1460 or email her at ronda.wisher@cdcr.ca.gov for a copy of our curriculum and facilitators manual.

The curriculum’s objective is to help participants address the root causes of criminal thinking, childhood trauma and violent behavior. It accomplishes this by helping participants explore three phases of their lives:

- Past (childhood to pre-conviction)
- Present (current incarceration)
- Future (post-release).

The 26-week curriculum is broken into eight modules:

- Masculinity
- Self-identity
- Identifying emotions
- Consequences
- Communication
- Environmental influences
- Compassion
- Empathy and forgiveness

A typical session consists of written assignments, self-exploration, lectures and group discussion.

The Beat Within

A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside



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

- Words from the wise - “In fact, looking at the darkest sides of the U.S. has only made me appreciate the things that we do right, the things that we do beautifully. We are, for all of our mistakes and all of our crimes, a remarkable place.” Junot Diaz (born 1968), creative writing professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This week we want you to break down this quote and tell us why you agree or disagree.

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.**

SQ Shakespeare troupe performs 18 plays over two days

By Wayne Boatwright
Managing Editor

The warm humor of inmate Eric Durr began a Shakespeare-inspired explosion of 18 original performances using a full assortment of stagecraft — from pantomime to prose — to release a range of emotions, especially the experience of loss and letting it go.

An audience of more than 300 outside guests plus inmates filled the Protestant Chapel for two performances by an ensemble of prisoners and Marin Shakespeare Company members as they performed 18 one-act skits in “Parallel Play: Original Theater Inspired by Shakespeare.”

“The men today are acting like men. It takes tremendous courage to stand up here,” producer Lesley Currier said of the performers.

Earlier at San Quentin, Currier had produced and Suraya Keating directed the productions Measure For Measure on May 12 and Richard II on May 19.

Keating summarized the two original plays by Shakespeare, saying “The key themes of power – its application from power over, power within and ultimately power that we share with others.”

The original skits used the theme of power found in the men’s memories and imaginations as a means of inspiration and therapy.

The audiences responded to the multitude of acts with expressions of laughter, cries, sighs, gasps of amazement and applause. This attention and acknowledgement boosted the performers to heights of showmanship with costumes, props, music, voice, drum and dance all on display.

In one of the 18 skits, Angel Falcone used a conversation with God to time-travel, admit past mistakes and show what he had learned. As a serenade for his wife, he sang “Starting Over,” a tribute of a husband to his wife about “What could have been” instead of the betrayal that was.

Eddy DeWeaver expressed how freeing his mind and the power of words helped him share his feelings on the Freedomline Bus. He described a new way to share the emotions and the pain that so many cannot articulate.

In one creative skit, Ray



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Andrew “Drew” Wadsworth in “Granny Always Told Me”

Ray used a single phrase “I LOVE YOU” - “I LOVE YOU TOO” over and over. The seemingly never-ending variety of ways this phrase was used and its range of meanings thrilled the audience.

**“The men today
are acting like
men. It takes
tremendous
courage to
stand up here”**

Then LeMar “Maverick” Harrison explained the raw force of a simple blindfold – “do you see me? What you see as tragedy, we see as reality.” Harrison’s prose, styled after Shakespeare, expressed the fears and the traps of the “misleading macho male mind.”

The tragedy of the street life was explored and the ever-present burden of death—of babies, brothers, mothers and grandmothers, by drive-by, neglect and simply worn out by age.

The skits sought to unleash raw emotions for the audience. The actors inhabiting another character allowed them and everyone watching

**“...O it is excellent
To Have a giant’s strength, but it is tyrannous
To use it like a giant”**

William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*

to explore different facets of our emotional range—from a Black man’s hilarious parody of a White cracker to that of a mother’s pain: “My baby’s dead because of you!”

Ronell “Rauch” Draper exemplified the source of Shakespeare’s enduring legacy “Our faults give us the best pathway to transformation. The only way to change the world is together.”

“Don’t let anyone take away your rhythm,” Robert “Belize” Villafranco shouted as he used drum and dance contrasted with silence and stillness and showed how reggae and true roots allowed him to realize “I’m not a gangster as I got my drum and rhythm back.”

The loudest ovation was for the opportunity to challenge authority in Dear Mr. President, which asked, “What would you say to Trump if you spoke with him?”

The most educational was “How I Got Cast in Marin Shakespeare”, a skit that demonstrated the process of performance. It takes both fear and courage to perform, from rehearsing, memorization and accepting support from the cast and crew. This proud new actor demonstrated the ability to share feelings with action and come out of his shell and be an actor.

Darwin “Tall” Billingsley said he gained “confidence in

my ability to take on the role of acting.”

The identification of the cast as “my other family” by numerous performers was a reminder of the power of live theater to create community.

In the Q&A that followed the performances, one guest visiting from New Zealand asked about the interaction between the inmates in a time of racial tension and the relevance of Shakespeare. The responses consistently affirmed that we face the same issues today as were faced in Shakespeare’s time and how the performances added another layer of humanity beyond teamwork by sharing the stage with a live audience.

The professionals of the Marin Shakespeare Company, which has sponsored Shakespeare at San Quentin since 2003, coordinated the performances. This organization has taken its San Quentin-learned process on the road and currently has programs launched or planned at eight California prisons.

If you’d like to participate or donate to this program, contact lesley@marinshakespeare.org or Marin Shakespeare Company; P.O. Box 4053; San Rafael, CA 94913.

Thanks in part to the California Arts Council; individuals can see videos of past SQ performances at www.marinshakespeare.org



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Jesse James Smith’s play “Dear Mr. President”



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Marin volunteer actors on stage



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Eddie DeWeaver in his play “Bully Breakdown”

The 18 original skits were:

- Uninvited by Nythell “Nate” Collins, Malone X and Llahsram Sirch
- Transformation by Ronell “Rauch” Draper
- Drumming in the Bush by Robert “Belize” Villafranco
- Redemption in the Sea of Revenge & Regrets by Jason “Boo” Robinson
- Starting Over by Angel
- Bully Breakdown by Eddie DeWeaver
- Lost Connection by Jerome Watts
- What Could’ve Been by Philippe “Kells” Kelly
- Fallen to Rise by Edmond Richardson, choreography by Anouthinh Pangthong
- Darkness Falls: The Story of Raiveon’s Corruption by Ray Ray
- The Manipulation & Miseducation of a Maverick
- Mind by LeMar “Maverick” Harrison
- Dear Mr. President by Jesse James Smith III
- Granny Always Told Me by Andrew “Drew” Wadsworth
- Alice and Marie by R. Dean Morris
- My Pride and Pain by Jad Salem
- How I Got Cast in Marin Shakespeare by Darwin “Tall” Billingsley
- Blind Perception by Antwan Williams, Jason Jones & Maurice Reed
- Power of Equality by Llahsram Sirch

Folsom Women’s Facility puts on stage production of Shakespeare play

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

Folsom Women’s Facility has recently become the first women’s prison in California to put on a stage production of a Shakespeare play, the *Sacramento Bee* reports.

The performance, which took place in May, was sponsored by Marin Shakespeare Company, which first began

working with male prisoners at San Quentin in 2003, according to the article.

Thirty guests — including men, women, children and fellow inmates — gathered to watch the 16 incarcerated women and two male volunteers take to the stage and perform “Taming of the Shrew,” one of Shakespeare’s best known plays.

Director Lynn Baker-Nauman, who has been con-

ducting weekly rehearsals and therapy workshops at the facility for more than a year, said, “(The women’s) confidence has grown, and you can see how much they have gained in their own self-worth,” says the report.

Folsom Women’s Facility is 25 miles east of Sacramento. The re-entry hub houses female inmates who have no more than five years left on their sentences.

The Marin Shakespeare Company now works with prisoners at seven California Department of Corrections (CDCR) institutions: Folsom Women’s Facility, San Quentin, California State Prison-Solano, High Desert State Prison, Deuel Vocational Institution, California Medical Facility and California Health Care Facility.

The discipline required to perform Shakespeare serves as a rehabilitative and therapeutic exercise that seems to have a positive impact on the women.

“It’s definitely taught me that I’m able to come out of my shell a lot more,” said Tamsyn Jones, who played the lead role in the production. “It’s taught me what I have inside of me that I never knew was there,”

she said, according to *ABC News 10*.

Many people believe that the work of Shakespeare is timeless. “Shakespeare has a certain universal relevance,” Scott Jackson of Notre Dame University commented, as mentioned by the *Bee* report. “And the themes that are found in his works are still very much in play today. Whether it’s jealousy, greed, murder or infidelity, they are still with us,” Jackson adds.

Most important, preparing for a successful performance calls on the actors to support one another, which contributes to the development of important qualities such as teamwork and non-violent communication.

“They learn skills to present themselves to be able to get jobs and learn about relationships and be back in society,” said Baker-Nauman, according to *ABC News 10*.

Monies obtained through grants from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, facility by the California Arts Council, help cover the cost of maintaining the prisoner Shakespeare program, making it possible, added Ananda Rochita of *ABC News 10*.



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Actors performing on stage



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Actors performing on stage “Taming of the Shrew”



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Shakespeare troupe at Folsom Women’s Facility

Theater holds conference to bring Shakespeare to the incarcerated

By Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

San Diego’s Old Globe Theatre will be hosting a “Shakespeare in Prisons Conference” for people dedicated to bringing Shakespeare to the incarcerated, reports James Herbert of the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

The conference is scheduled for March 2018. The San Diego site was chosen by the

event’s coordinators, Shakespeare at Notre Dame and Shakespeare Behind Bars, reports Herbert.

The conference is working with the Balboa Park theater’s Arts Engagement and Globe for All outreach programs directed by Barry Edelstein, the Globe’s artistic director.

More than 150 people are expected to attend the conference. Here’s how the event is

described:

“The biennial Shakespeare in Prisons Conference gives prison arts practitioners the opportunity to share their collective experiences, rejuvenate passion for their work, and build an expanded network of peers.

“Artists and educators engaged in transformational arts programs using Shakespeare in prisons across the U.S. (and the world) are brought

together to explore and study the effects such programming has on prison populations.

“The conference promotes a collaborative learning forum where participants are exposed to a diverse array of programs that all strive for a common result; ‘the habilitation of the inmate’s mind, heart, body and spirit.’”

Suraya Keating, sponsor for both Shakespeare at San Quentin and Shakespeare for

Social Justice and director for Marin Shakespeare Conference, plans to attend the San Diego event.

“The conference is designed to teach participants how to empower, heal and transform prisoners’ lives,” Keating said. “I will share how my particular approach and Shakespeare helps inmates tell their personal stories and express their voice, witnessed by a loving com-

munity,” added Keating.

Inmate Vance Farland, a Shakespeare participant at San Quentin, said, “Shakespeare has helped me get over my fear of stage fright. It’s given me more confidence. It’s also given me more creativity in my writing.”

Gov. Jerry Brown approved \$8 million in his 2017-18 budget to be used for Arts in Correction programs for all California state prisons.

2017 Grand Finale Music yard show plays to packed audience

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The sounds of San Quentin’s 2017 Grand Finale Music Yard Show were the perfect backdrop to hundreds of prisoners on the Lower Yard engaging in recreational activities and taking in the weekend sunshine.

The Oct. 28 event had most of the older prisoners relaxed in one of the eight rows of chairs placed stage front, reminiscing with the tones of the golden oldies, funk and jazz — other prisoners stood by finger popping and head bobbing.

The affair was the year-ending musical showcase for all of San Quentin’s inmate house bands.

A “One Man Band” consisting of Allen “Squirrel” Ware opened the show with four original jazz pieces to the delight of the small crowd who made their way to the stage. Ware’s wiry fingers danced across the electric keyboard, putting all in mind of Herbie Hancock.

“Music soothes the soul,” said Ware. “It just changes your chemistry and attitude when you hear something good.”

Ware’s radio-worthy jazz tunes were the background music to Jehovah’s Witnesses standing at stage right and passing out pamphlets beside men in white T-shirts and gray shorts working out on the track’s black top.

Ware performed “People All Over the World (yes they do) They Love the Music,” “Turtle Walk” and “One Way Up.” It was his song “Fast-forward in Reverse,” an instrumental that topped



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Continuum performing one of their hits

off a sweet set that drew the loudest applause.

“I’ve been playing and writing music for 40 years,” said Ware. “It’s always nice to see how the crowd reacts to something you have created.”

The rock group “Continuum” was next to take the stage. Lead singer and guitarist Darryl Ferris’ vocal pitch sounded just like Darius Rucker when Rucker played with Hootie and the Blowfish. The group performed two cover songs by Dave Matthews, “So Much to Say,” and “What Would You Say.”

Ferris was backed-up by guitarists Chris Koppe and

Allen Brown. Joe Thurseson worked the drums at the ripe old age of 70, Leonard “Funky Len” Walker handled the bass, Larry “Popeye” Faison was on the Latin percussions and W. “Rico” Rogers assisted on the keyboard.

“Listening to all this music took me back to 1978,” said Faison. “Every level of life needs some form of recreation, and doing music live is a deserving presentation of that.”

Thurseson added, “Playing with these guys you have an opportunity to function with other cultures and learn the origin of different music. I played with Rick Stevens

(Tower of Power singer) when he was in prison. We used to travel to different prisons to play; things was different back then.”

The highlight of their session came when volunteer Denali Gillaspie added her airy voice to “Don’t You Cry,” the band’s original song.

“This day gives the men in blue a boost in morale and something more to do than just walk around”

“Don’t you cry/ don’t you cry/ wipe your eyes/kisses and hugs/ love and love/so you won’t die/ look inside your head/ know that you’re not dead and gone, baby.”

The catchy hook and chorus, blended with the band’s reggae-inspired instrumentals, had most in the audience singing along.

Most of the musicians were a part of the San Quentin Music Program, which is sponsored by San Quentin staff member Raphael Casale, who worked hard to pull off this event.

“Raphael and Denali are amazing,” said Ferris. “They made this day and program happen. This day gives the men in blue a boost in morale and something more to do than just walk around.”

Gillaspie also lent her vocals to the next act “Just Came to Play,” the inmate jazz band. Gillaspie sang “Giving You the Best that I Got” by Anita Baker, which drew a standing ovation from the crowd.

The group performed “What’s Going On” by Marvin Gaye, and “For the Love of You,” a rendition by Norman Brown. Guitar man Charlie Spencer led the musical ensemble that consisted of saxophonist Joe Demerson, vocalist Darryl “Champ” Hill Sr., drummer Charles Ross and keyboardist Gillaspie.

“I’m a music teacher, but when I come here the guys are my music teacher,” said Gillaspie. “I can be shy, but the guys support me. They are a great group of musicians. Being here you learn about growth and forgiveness - shout out to Raphael.”

The group closed their session with Stevie Wonder’s “Master Blaster (Hotter Than July)” that has become a crowd favorite over the years.

“We got so much trouble going on in the world today,” said Hill. “All we are hearing is how we are killing and destroying each other. We need to learn to solve our problems like civilized people.”

“We need to learn how to heal and love each other, and that all starts with God,” concluded Hill.

Ross added, “If you can’t speak, music gives you a voice. It’s never too late to

get into music. If I kept playing in the street I might not be here (prison).”

The band New Syndicate of Funk (NSF) took to the stage and brought the crowd a symphony of funk. They performed soul classics by the Dazz Band and the Isley Brothers.

“Rico” Rogers voice soared on “Slow Dancing,” one of the band’s original songs. Rogers’ keyboard skills were a saucy mix with the guitar mastery of Lee “Jazz” Jaspar. Darryl Ferris played the bass while drummer Dwight Krizman and vocalist Michael Adams rounded out the funk gumbo.

“It’s so much fun playing these shows,” said Krizman. “This is the power of the funk. I get to play with some of the best musicians in San Quentin. I was playing some of these songs on the streets when they first came out.”

“I understand how people in society might feel about us. But we are changing; we are human beings. We are not the worst thing we ever done,” concluded Krizman.

Jaspar took the lead vocal on “What You Won’t Do” by Bobby Caldwell, showing the crowd he had a voice along with his guitar playing. The band ended its set with “Joy and Pain” by Maze featuring Frankie Beverly.

The event did have its hiccups. The hip-hop band “Contagious” was not able to perform because of time restraints and technical difficulties with the sound system. Maybe next year, guys.

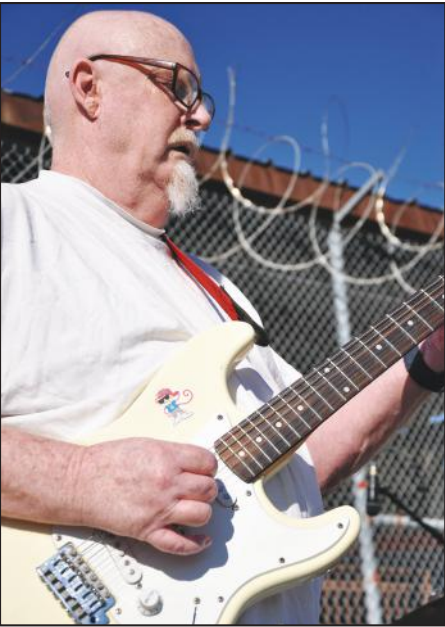


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Guitarist Chris Koppe



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Joe Demerson playing the sax



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Denali Gillaspie signing “Don’t You Cry”



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Larry “Popeye” Faison on Latin percussions



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Dwight Krizman on drums



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Allen “Squirrel” Ware on piano

Inmate firefighter dies in the line of duty from fallen tree

By Jerry Maleek Gearin
Journalism Guild Writer

A prison firefighter died in the line of duty May 24 after a 3,000-pound, 105-year-old tree fell and struck him in the head while he was clearing brush in the Hoopa Valley area in Northern California.

Matthew Beck, a 26-year-old prisoner serving a six-year term for burglary, was operating a chainsaw at the time and did not hear his Cal Fire captain shout, according to articles by KQED and the *Los Angeles Times*.

When the 120-foot Douglas fir tree fell, the captain

rushed over and asked one of the other firefighters to get Beck out from under the tree, according to KQED. That prisoner sawed off a section of the tree, put Beck on a board and moved him out of harm's way, but he died from major head, neck and back injuries before a helicopter could get to him. Another inmate was also hit by the tree and knocked off balance but was not injured.

According to KQED, the supervisor had trouble contacting the agency's Emergency Command Center in Humboldt County because his hand-held radio did not

work due to the remote location. That captain had to run to his vehicle and drive for a quarter-mile before he was able to use the mobile radio.

“...it is a tragic event when we lose one of them”

A Cal Fire preliminary report cited by KQED found that fire officials had noticed the tree before it fell. “The hazard tree was identified prior to the road work being

started and estimated to be outside the work area,” it reported.

State workplace regulators are investigating CDCR in connection to Beck's death, said the KQED report.

California uses about 3,900 state inmates, who fight fires and work on infrastructure projects. Inmates get paid \$2 a day, and \$1 an hour while fighting an active fire, allowing the state to save about \$90 million a year.

Beck was the fourth inmate firefighter killed in the history of the California Department of Corrections

and Rehabilitation (CDCR) conservation camp program. Last year, a female inmate was struck in the head by a falling boulder while fighting a fire in Malibu.

Following the incident, the CDCR issued a statement. “The inmates who year after year help protect our communities from the devastation of fires perform a valuable public service, and it is a tragic event when we lose one of them,” said Scott Kernan, state corrections secretary.

According to *Reuters*, Beck was expected to be parole this October.



Photo courtesy of CDCR
Firefighter Matthew Beck

RESPONSE

She says using prisoners as firefighters amounts to “slave labor” and calls it an example of a criminal justice system “gone deeply wrong.”

“On occasion you have a fringe candidate for elective office who thinks it's a great sound bite to stick in a headline, but if you look at it from the inmate's perspective, it's difficult to call them enslaved when they're volunteering to do the job,” Sessa replied.

“If we can trust inmate populations to the extent that we rely upon them when we are most vulnerable, in the midst of catastrophe, shouldn't they receive better care or potentially incur sentences that avoid imprisonment?” the *Natural Hazards Observer* report asked.

The perception of inmates and how the public acknowledges or ignores the connection between “hero” and “prisoner” can affect the inmates' experiences during a disaster, the report added.

Jones died in February of last year when she was struck by a falling boulder in Malibu while serving as a volunteer inmate firefighter at Conservation Camp 13, part of a CDCR program.

Matthew Beck, 26, died in May when a 120-foot tree uprooted and crushed him in Humboldt County. He was serving six years for a 2014 burglary, according to the *Daily Beast*.

Frank Anaya was killed in San Diego, in July, after he slashed his leg with a chainsaw. The 22-year-old died after undergoing several surgeries. He was serving a three-year sentence for assault on a spouse and weapons charges, the *Daily Beast* reported.

During the massive fires, some inmate crews worked 24 straight hours, the same hours as the professionals—the only difference is that inmates earn \$2 a day in camp, and \$1 an hour to fight a fire, while professionals make a minimum of \$17.70 an hour, the *Daily Beast* reported.

In the Santa Rosa fires, some inmate crews worked 72 hours before they got a 24-hour rest.

Not only are prisoners identified as a labor source, they are also identified as a hazardous population that poses an additional risk to the public, according to the *Natural Hazards Observer* report.

During hurricanes Harvey and Irma in September, thousands of prisoners in Texas and Florida had to be evacuated to more secure facilities. But other prisoners

were stranded at the Beaumont, Texas, federal facility, where authorities decided the inmates had “sufficient food and water supply” to survive the flooding, according to a *Crime Report* article. But prisoners suffered “deteriorating conditions,” the article added.

“This perception of inmates as dangerous also places inmates at risk. If inmates are perceived as dangerous, they might not be given the resources necessary to survive a disaster,” said the *Natural Hazards Observer* report.

Also in September, Hurricane Maria battered Puerto Rico, and 13 prisoners escaped during an evacuation from a federal prison in Guaynabo, where more than 1,300 inmates had been trapped without food and power, said the *Crime Report*.

“When you hear on the news that a fire is X percent contained, that is in some part from what our crews do”

“Prisoners are completely reliant upon prison administrators for their safety and wellbeing,” said the *Crime Report* article. “As the outside world prepares for natural disasters, inmates must await their fate from the confines of their cells.”

During Hurricane Katrina in 2005, deputies fled the coming waters, but the inmates of Orleans Parish Prison (OPP), in Louisiana, were deemed too dangerous to be let out of their cells, even if it meant the inmates might otherwise die, noted *Natural Hazards Observer* report.

However, during the 2010 British Petroleum (BP) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, inmates from Louisiana were used as part of the responders to clean up the spill wearing just “flimsy coveralls and gloves” as protection against the serious health effects of crude oil, said the report.

In February of this year, about 250 California fire camp inmates responded to the Oroville Dam crisis that threatened two county jails in Butte County agricultural lands, businesses and residential property. The inmates cleared loose material before the debris could wash into the waterway, reported KQED.

Such dangerous work outside of prison walls has



Photo courtesy of CDCR
Firefighter Shawna Jones



Photo courtesy of CDCR
Firefighter Frank Anaya



Photo courtesy of Texas Dept of Justice
Prisoners being evacuated during Hurricane Harvey



Photo courtesy of CDCR
Inmate firefighters clearing debris



Photo courtesy of CDCR
Inmate firefighters digging trenches



Photo courtesy of SC national guard
Flooding of Port Arthur, Texas, back in August

a risk of government abuse, said David Fathi, director of the ACLU's National Prison Project. The inmate firefighters may not be aware of the long-term health risks, he added, according to the *Daily Beast*. While TV footage shows professional firefight-

ers in airplanes or on water trucks, the inmates cut fire breaks by hand—clearing stretches of land—to stop the spread of flames, Sessa said, in the same article.

Prisoners are on the frontlines and are on call seven days a week. They also make

up 35 to 40 percent of Cal Fire, the state's firefighting force.

“When you hear on the news that a fire is X percent contained, that is in some part from what our crews do,” Sessa said.

The role of inmates

in disasters must also be evaluated, concluded the *Natural Hazards Observer* report. This includes inmate labor in the costs of disasters and how the use of this cheap prison labor is disguising the rising costs of disasters in the United States.

AROUND THE WORLD



SQN at the grave of Michael Brown



San Quentin News volunteer Stuart Wagner at Niagara Falls, New York

Snippets

Baseball evolved in the early 17th century out of a family of English folk games including rounders, stoolball and cricket.

Ostriches are so powerful that a single kick at a predator, such as a lion, could be fatal.

One of the towers of the Brooklyn Bridge is set on sand instead of bedrock.

Mawsynram in the state of Meghalaya, India, is known as the wettest city in the world. The average annual rainfall is 12,000 mm (39.37 ft.).

Located in Eastern Siberia, Lake Baikal is over 25 million years old, making it the oldest lake in the entire world.

Every year in the U.S., there are more than 100,000 wildfires that devastate four to five million acres of land.

The Egyptian Codex Ebers is the oldest preserved medical document in existence, dating back to 1552 BC, which claimed that garlic was a treatment for heart disorders.

WORDCROSS PUZZLE

By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

What is the name of the 2005 movie which 15, 38, 40 Across & 7, 40, 42 Down stars in?

- Across
- Down
1. Transportation vehicle

4. Caribbean island

9. _____ ridiculous

14. CO's weapon

15. Actress Sarandon

16. Prison friend

17. FDA guideline

18. Women's accessory

19. *Home* _____

20. Absurdity

22. Collegiate official's residence

24. Blunder

25. Outstanding

26. Person of authority (Abbrv.)

28. Margarita ingredient

29. Immigrant's class

32. Glass of *This American Life*

33. A type of bone

35. Brief visit

38. Actress Dunst

40. Actress Biel

41. _____ McDaniel, first Black actress to win an Oscar

42. North African lutes

43. Shred

44. Type of medical insurance account (Abbr.)

45. Oil predecessor

47. "All I Could Do Was Cry" artist James

48. Singer Simon

49. Cadillac model

50. *Real Housewives* locale

53. Animal shelters

56. Follows actor Jon or town

57. _____ Bay, south arm of the White Sea

60. *The Book of* _____

61. One of the five C's

62. Slacker

63. ____ française

64. Agrees

65. Patsy

66. "Promise to Love" R&B artist
1. Throw up

2. Beef regulator

3. What you have when you assemble without instructions

4. Jacob's eighth son

5. Regret

6. Employ

7. Actor Alec

8. Saint celebrated on April 21

9. Nothing but a G' _____

10. Courtney Love's band

11. Love (Fr)

12. Minuscule

13. Look

21. LCD predecessor

23. Anointed

25. Scandinavian actress Lena

26. Often mistaken for a Muslim

27. _____ Heep, rock band or a Charles Dickens char.

29. Canon model

30. Beef cut

31. Lawful

33. VW's race badging

34. Briga of *Great News*

36. Military group

37. Wine country

39. Train stop (Abbr.)

40. Actress Greer

42. Actor Bloom

46. Beer brand Stella

47. Inmates' vacation slip

48. Carriages

49. Chilling

50. AKA Syria

51. Exhaust

52. A type of cuisine

54. Model McPherson

55. Former name of Thailand

56. Private prison company (Abbr.)

58. Christmas movie

59. Ray Ramano show ____ *Shorty*

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Sudoku Corner

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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				7	2			5
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					1			2
8	1	7						

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

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

Answer to last month's Brain Teaser:

23	18	19
16	20	24
21	22	17

This month's Brain Teaser:

Complete the grid so that all rows and columns contain the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Areas with a dotted outline contain numbers that add up to the total shown

15	4	11		5	
			11		6
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	9		9	4	
				6	

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

Hijos de padres encarcelados necesitan acceso a terapeutas

Español

Por Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

El sistema de justicia criminal necesita poner mas atención al impacto que sufren los niños cuando sus

padres son enviados a la cárcel o a la prisión, sugirió un reporte que promueve los derechos de los niños. “Cuando tenía 16 años de edad, la policía llegó y entró a la fuerza pateando la puerta y se llevó a mi mamá”, “me dijeron, llama a alguien para que te cuide”, “estaban tan ocupados tratando de

lleársela, que ni siquiera se preocuparon por mí”. De acuerdo al reporte del San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, el 70% de los niños tuvieron su primera interacción con el Sistema de Justicia Criminal cuando presenciaron el arresto de uno de sus padres o al

observar cómo sus padres fueron esposados. El otro 30% presenció el arresto de sus padres a punto de pistola. Para proteger los derechos de los niños afectados, la asociación del grupo de apoyo Friends Outside ha recopilado una ley de los derechos de los niños con padres encarcelados (Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights).

“Desde que tenía 4 años he vivido más tiempo con mi abuelita”

Estos grupos de apoyo recomiendan hablarles con la verdad sobre la situación legal de sus padres. El reporte añadió, “los adultos frecuentemente tratan de proteger a sus hijos de realidades problemáticas al darles vueltas al asunto u ocultarles la verdad. Sin embargo, cuando los trabajadores sociales, la policía, los familiares u otras personas mienten sobre el arresto o encarcelamiento de alguno de sus padres, existe la probabilidad que los niños experimenten vergüenza, confusión y desconfianza”. A los niños se les debería dar una explicación de acuerdo a su edad y nivel de entendimiento; también, se les debería dar la oportunidad de expresar sus puntos de vista y sentimientos acerca de la

situación familiar. Amanda de 16 años de edad mencionó, “Toda la vida, mi madre a estado entrando y saliendo de la cárcel por robo, posesión de drogas y falsificación. Nunca conocí a mi padre, él también a estado entrando y saliendo de la prisión”, “desde que tenía 4 años he vivido más tiempo con mi abuelita. Siempre lloraba cuando mi madre se iba”. “Me he acostumbrado a ver a mi madre entrar y salir de la prisión que se me hace difícil llorar”. La recomendación del reporte es facilitar el acceso a terapeutas especializados, consejeros, o mentores debido a que muchos de estos niños sufren de problemas tales como: abandono, ausencia paternal, temor a la autoridad, inconformidad en un ambiente institucional, dificultades para formar relaciones basadas en la confianza. El reporte mencionó que “los niños necesitan tener acceso a terapeutas o a un adulto con la experiencia o el entrenamiento apropiado para ayudarlos a superar estas barreras”. El reporte también sugirió que las prisiones o las cárceles asignaran a un coordinador de servicios familiares, ya que los padres encarcelados tienen dificultades para coordinar las visitas de sus hijos. El reporte sugirió que el contar con una persona que se encargue de tramitar y apoyar la reunificación entre padre e hijo podría ayudar a

que estos padres no regresen a la prisión. Al mismo tiempo se estaría ahorrando en asistencia social. Malcolm enfatizó, “No recuerdo los dos primeros años del encarcelamiento de mi madre, pero recuerdo que pasé mucho tiempo sin poderla mirar”. “Después de dos años, empezamos a visitar a nuestra madre. Primero fue una vez al mes, luego dos veces al mes. Mi madre siempre encontraba personas que nos llevaran a las visitas y aprovechábamos cada visita al máximo”. Malcolm indicó, “Nuestra madre trataba de tener un poco de privacidad para platicar con cada uno de nosotros. Se esforzaba para que las tres horas de visita fueran productivas. Más del 60 % de los padres en la prisión, se encuentran a 100 millas de distancia del hogar. Los presos que tienen visitas con regularidad, son seis veces menos probables de regresar a la prisión una vez que son liberados. El reporte concluyó, que para crear fondos que apoyen estos proyectos, cada estado y gobierno federal debería distribuir 5% de su presupuesto para apoyar a las familias de los prisioneros durante su encarcelamiento y después de ser liberados. Esta inversión muy probablemente ayudará a que los padres no regresen a la prisión y a disminuir la tasa de encarcelamiento de una generación a otra. —Traducción por Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

La importancia de una buena comunicación entre padres e hijos

Por John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

La manera en que los padres se comunican con sus hijos puede causarles que no desarrollen un auto-estima saludable, emociones y comportamientos, según al autor del comportamiento infantil. “El problema central con este tipo de comunicación es que se basa primordialmente en un control sobre nuestros hijos. Recurrimos a este tipo de comunicación para imponerles a nuestros hijos lo que queremos que digan (‘pide disculpas’)... lo que deseamos que hagan (‘compórtate bien’); y que pasara si no obedecen (‘quieres que te castigue’), mencionó Jennifer Lehr, autora del Parentspeak, en una columna del Wall Street Journal el 7 de enero. Parentspeak se trata a cerca del cumplimiento- y

esto a menudo nos impide entender los sentimientos, motivaciones, pensamientos y comportamientos de nuestros hijos”, añadió Lehr. “En lugar de enseñarles a como resolver problemas, simplemente los estamos obligando a obedecer”. De acuerdo a Lehr, elogiar a nuestros hijos para que cumplan con nuestras peticiones puede que tampoco sea la herramienta más efectiva para educar a nuestros hijos. “Elogiar a nuestro hijo para que use un abrigo para la lluvia que no desea usar, parece muy ingenuo. Pero si lo hacemos una y otra vez, nuestros hijos aprenden que lo que sienten otras personas es más importante que lo que ellos sienten”. “Psicólogos señalan que los niños que aprenden a cumplir con los deseos de los adultos corren el riesgo de perder contacto con sus propios

deseos y necesidades. Lehr alienta a los padres a platicar con sus hijos y pedirles sus opiniones. “Podríamos tratar de preguntarles a nuestros hijos la razón por la cual no quieren hacer algo y explicarles el por que es importante para nosotros. “Quizás Georgia estaba acalorada de tanto jugar y sabia que se sentiría incomoda usando el abrigo. Tal vez Paula se dirigía al súper mercado y temía que Georgia tuviera frío”. “Una vez que las dos partes (padres e hijos) hayan expuesto sus razones, podemos enfocarnos a la resolución del problema de manera conjunta. Esta es una habilidad que será de mayor beneficio en vez de imponer una obediencia ciega”, concluyó Lehr. —Traducción por Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

Cuando las amenazas se vuelven realidad

Por Wayne Boatwright
Managing Editor

La violencia doméstica es un problema continuó, de acuerdo a un reporte del FBI. Estadísticas señalan que una de cada tres mujeres y uno de cada cuatro hombres en los Estados Unidos han experimentado algún tipo de violencia física por parte de sus parejas íntimas. Los esposos son cinco veces más susceptibles de asesinar a sus esposas que viceversa. Una tercera parte de los homicidios cometidos contra las mujeres han sido perpetuados por sus esposos, ex-esposos, novios, o ex-novios. Melvin Konner del Wall Street Journal subrayó en un estudio reciente sobre la violencia doméstica, “la pregunta clave se refiere a la relación entre las amenazas y la violencia en sí”. En un estudio la Doctora T. K. Logan, mencionó, “Para mí, las amenazas son señales claves”. “Tenemos una tendencia a ignorar las amenazas por que son demasiadas, sin embargo, deberíamos enfocarnos al significado de las amenazas y no ignorarlas”. La Doctora Logan considera que el problema principal en los asuntos de violencia doméstica es la capacidad de poder determinar cuando las palabras indican un peligro real. El estudio de la Doctora Logan fue publicado en un periódico académico titulado “Violencia y Víctimas” en el mes de febrero en el cual provee algunas herramientas confiables para predecir la relación entre palabras ofensivas y acciones violentas. La Doctora

Logan denominó su estudio, “Si No Eres Mía, No Serás De Nadie Mas”, la cual es una amenaza típica que los hombres usan para controlar a las mujeres. Otras amenazas incluyen “Te Voy A Dar Una Paliza” y “Te Voy A Desaparecer”. La autora del artículo, Dr. Logan, descubrió en su estudio, que las amenazas tienen un significado importante. Las mujeres que fueron amenazadas con frecuencia no solo fueron diez veces mas susceptibles a experimentar violencia, si no que también fueron cinco veces mas vulnerables de ser violadas en relación a las mujeres que únicamente fueron amenazadas una sola vez al mes. Como evidencia que el sistema legal sí funciona, el estudio reveló que la intervención de las cortes mediante órdenes de restricción ayudó a disminuir dramáticamente las amenazas para lastimar y las amenazas de muerte, de un 83% a un 19%. La investigación de la Dr. Logan también incluye unas posibles alternativas para mejorar la intervención de las autoridades que les permitan identificar y monitorear aquellas personas que representan un gran peligro. A pesar que la violencia contra las mujeres ha disminuido con el paso del tiempo, aún continúa siendo un gran problema. Los descubrimientos de la doctora demuestran que las palabras que usamos son las que adquieren un gran significado cuando se tratan de la violencia doméstica. N o n - v i o l e n t Communication (NVC) es un programa que está

disponible en la prisión de San Quentin y que ofrece herramientas efectivas para reducir el uso de un lenguaje agresivo que fomenta la violencia. Este programa enseña que la violencia física, el abuso de drogas, la violencia doméstica y el abuso emocional son “expresiones trágicas de unas necesidades no satisfechas”. NVC es un programa que va mas allá de la violencia en sí, y se enfoca en el origen de los factores que ocasionan la violencia. Además ofrece herramientas para solucionar problemas de la vida real sin recurrir a la violencia. —Traducción por Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

COMO REGISTRARSE Las clases de NVC Basics 1, Basics 2 y Next Step se llevan a cabo los miércoles de 3:00 a 5:00 p.m., en el área de la educación. Las hojas de registración están ubicadas en el edificio de la educación y en North Block. Las clases de NVC Basics y Next Step están disponibles en H-unit los miércoles de 3:00 a 5:00 p.m. Los estudiantes pueden obtener información acerca de la registración para estas clases en los dormitorios 4 y 5 mediante el programa Stand Up. Otra alternativa para registrarse en este programa, es presentarse una semana antes del inicio de las clases y hablar con los facilitadores del programa. Las clases inician cada trimestre. El siguiente ciclo está programado para el mes de Diciembre.

Dialogo entre madre e hijo

Los hijos de las madres encarceladas todavía obedecen la disciplina de sus madres.

Por Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Muchas mujeres encarceladas pueden ayudar a prevenir conductas de riesgo en sus hijos adolescentes a través de la forma en que se comunican con ellos. La separación entre madre e hijo puede estar vinculado con altos niveles de ansiedad y depresión, reveló un estudio publicado por el Johns Hopkins University Press. Los Estados Unidos está clasificado como el país con más mujeres encarceladas. Aproximadamente, el 60% de las mujeres vivieron con sus hijos antes de ser encarceladas. Una tercera parte de estas madres reportaron tener más de un hijo. Más de la mitad de estos niños están entre las edades de 10 y 17 años. Muchos de los niños bajo el cuidado de niñeras han experimentado traumas en el pasado como resultado de las condiciones de vida que llevaron y principalmente por el encarcelamiento de sus madres. La falta de contacto con sus madres genera sentimientos de aislamiento y abandono, lo cual contribuye a un estrés psicológico. “Realmente deseo esos momentos que acostumbrábamos a compartir antes que la encarcelaran”, comentó una joven en el estudio. “Algunas veces me enoja el que no este conmigo... y que haya

hecho lo que hizo, por que me pregunto ¿Porqué tenía que hacer eso? ¿Porqué esta encarcelada? Es difícil el no poder verla. A veces me entristezco al ver películas y me enoja observar como los otros niños se reúnen con sus padres y sus madres”.

“Cuando hablamos, es como si fuera una conversación”

Muchos de los problemas abordados en el estudio se referían a la conducta infantil, educación y planes a futuro. De acuerdo al reporte, las madres estaban muy interesadas en la vida de sus hijos y frecuentemente participaban en la disciplina de sus hijos junto con las niñeras cuando se les permitía. “Cuando hablamos, es como si fuera una conversación. Es como si me preguntara como estoy, que hay de nuevo y cosas por el estilo, yo le pregunto acerca de sus amigos en la prisión y otras cosas”, comentó un jovencito. Muchas de las conversaciones con sus madres abarcan diferentes temas entre los cuales se encuentran, deportes, escuela, novios, novias, circunstancias de la vida diaria y la fecha de salida de

la madre. Los hijos de las madres encarceladas todavía obedecen la disciplina de sus madres. Una niñera describió como una madre, a pesar de estar encarcelada, todavía tenía influencia sobre el comportamiento de su hijo. “Mi mama todavía realiza su función como madre porque tengo que platicarle acerca de la actitud de mi hermano... mi madre tiene casi la misma actitud que él, creo que mi hermano lo heredo de ella”. “Algunas veces le digo a mi madre, tienes que hablar con él acerca de esto. Así que ella platica con mi hermano y en realidad lo tranquiliza a pesar de estar encarcelada.” “Cuando la madre platica con su hijo, éste mejora su actitud”, añadió la niñera. Algunas de las relaciones entre madre e hijo pueden describirse como cercanas y otras como caóticas. La mayoría de los niños describieron sus relaciones con sus madres como cercanas. Después del encarcelamiento, muchos niños reconocieron los errores de sus madres y expresaron desilusión y enojo a cerca de sus malas decisiones. “A pesar de esto, la gran mayoría de los jóvenes respetan a sus madres y anhelan una relación mas cercana”, reveló el estudio. —Traducción por Marco Villa y Taré Beltranchuc

Former public defender turned venture capitalist visits Code.7370

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Venture Capitalist (“VC”) David Hornik recently visited a coding class at San Quentin State Prison and shared how he went from being a public defender to one of the top venture capitalists in the country and why he loves it. “It’s a crazy job, a really fun job,” he said. Hornik has been honored as one of the top 100 VCs, according to *Forbes* Magazine. In 2013, he was VC of the year, according to financial firm Deloitte. He was invited to San Quentin by fellow Venture Capitalist Chris Redlitz who, with his wife, Beverly Parenti, founded the coding class, Code.7370. The couple also started The Last Mile, a program that teaches incarcerated people how to become entrepreneurs using technology for a social cause. (One of the assumptions Hornik clarified: you don’t have to be rich to be a venture capitalist.) Hornik entered the classroom on Oct. 25 with the

flair of a charming, self-deprecating comedian. When Redlitz asked him to stand on a platform to address the students, Hornik, who is 5-foot-4, joked that he thought they built the elevated platform just for him. The VC described growing up in New Hampshire as the dyslexic son of a computer scientist. His older sister and little brother were sent to smart kid programs, he wasn’t. Despite dyslexia, Hornik racked up degrees from prestigious colleges while searching for a career. He received an undergraduate degree in computer music from Stanford, a master’s degree in criminology from Cambridge University and a law degree from Harvard. After passing the bar exam, Hornik became a public defender. “I was really good at this job and really bad at this job,” Hornik said. “I settled all the cases but one by saying, ‘let’s figure out how to make this go away in a way that makes everybody happy.’ I got all these great deals.”

Except under the “great deals” his clients weren’t happy. They were the ones who had to serve the time for the cases he settled. He didn’t like having unhappy clients so he decided to “sell out” and move on to a big corporate New York law firm. After working three years representing firms like Ticketmaster, his wife noticed he wasn’t happy. She recommended getting a new job.

“...how do you establish credibility when you don’t yet know anything? Honesty”

“I do whatever Pamela tells me to do because that’s the safer path,” Hornik said. Hornik moved to California to work as an attorney representing startups. He said startups “blew his mind.

They have an idea of how to make the world a better place and they do.” Sitting in on board startup meetings, Hornik began to express opinions beyond his role as the attorney. During one meeting, Hornik contradicted the board member who had put up the money for the company. The board member had Hornik fired. After losing that job, he spent four months learning about being a VC at a friend’s company and was eventually hired.

Being a successful VC doesn’t require money, it requires making good decisions. Hornik’s job is to decide which startups his company should invest in. One of his successes was Pay Cycle, which Intuit bought for \$100 million, netting Hornik and August Capital a big return.

He brokered a deal for August Capital that turned an investment of \$9 million into \$600 million with Splunk, a company that created a search engine that tracks error files, now worth \$10 billion. Hornik also curates for tech TED conferences, blogs for VentureBlog (the first venture capital blog), and does VentureCast (the first venture capital podcast). August Capital, to which he is a general partner, has \$450 million to invest in startups. They have funded companies like PayCycle, eBates, Bill.com, Rocket Lawyer, and Wepay.

One of the errors a VC can make is failing to invest in a company that excels. He said he passed on Facebook, LinkedIn and Uber. Despite the staggering amounts of money Hornik deals with, it’s not making the most money that he regards as his best deals. It’s backing great people. “I reach out to amazing



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN
David Hornik talking to the students of Code.7370

people working on amazing ideas,” Hornik said. “If I think it’s really interesting, I check them out to see if it’s an idea people will need, then I give them \$10 million of someone else’s money.” Hornik’s advice for those wanting to get a startup funded seems like good general advice in life: don’t exaggerate, lie or talk with certainty about things you don’t know. But how do you establish credibility when you don’t yet know anything? “Honesty,” Hornik said. “The right answer is to say...‘I don’t know the answer to that, but I know these things, so I think the answer is this.’”

One student asked him if companies should engage in philanthropy. Hornik answered: “Startups are so hard you shouldn’t be doing anything that isn’t helping your business. Go make your business extremely successful, then take the money and give back. If it turns out giving people a second chance is good for your business, then give people a second chance. The best employee can be a former convict. He’s the best because he’s so grateful we

gave him a second chance that he is astonishingly loyal to the company. I think there are lots of opportunities to make choices that are good for a company and good for society.” Student Harash Patang asked, “What’s the next big thing?” Hornik answered, “I wish I knew. VCs don’t know – we have thoughts; we have guesses. If we knew, we wouldn’t ever fund bad stuff.”

He talked about going to California State Prison-Solano to help out Defy Ventures, an entrepreneur program for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people. “Those entrepreneurs knew something 20-year-olds out of Stanford don’t. They have aging parents – a lot of their ideas were about the aging community and how to take care of them. I promise you a billion-dollar business will come out of that. I look to you because every great business is about solving a problem.” Hornik said he was inspired by the incarcerated coders he met. “They’re a bunch of folks trying to build great stuff – focused on creating, not on the past.”

Inmate locator allows public to access prisoner information

Expanded information about the men and women incarcerated in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is now available to the public on the CDCR-run “Inmate Locator.” The Inmate Locator on the CDCR website allows anyone to search for an inmate by name or CDCR number. The Inmate Locator provides:

- An inmate’s CDCR number
- An inmate’s age
- Where the inmate is housed (with a link to a map of the prison’s location)
- When the inmate was last committed to CDCR
- When the inmate is

scheduled for release from CDCR (month and year only)

- If the Board of Parole Hearings (parole board) is required to recommend the inmate’s release, the Inmate Locator will display the type of hearing, such as:
- A nonviolent offender hearing
- A youth offender hearing
- An elderly parole hearing

Inmates serving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole will not have a parole consideration date displayed. Condemned inmates will not have a parole consideration date displayed.

Inmates who have been recently committed to CDCR will not have parole consideration date available for display nor will inmates who are serving a sentence from another state pursuant to the Interstate Compact Agreement, or other inmates who are similarly situated. Inmates also included in the Inmate Locator are those in a community correctional facility, fire camp, or other facility that is not a prison, but the inmate’s specific location will not be disclosed. Not included in the Inmate Locator are those under witness protection or who are being housed under special circumstances for their own safety. The information on the Inmate Locator will be updated on a regular basis.

Tower of Power rocker died a free man

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

For many musicians, fame comes served with a side of trouble. That was certainly the case for Rick Stevens, the former lead singer for Tower of Power, who recently died, having spent 36 of his 77 years on earth in various California prisons. Stevens’ real name was Don Charles Stevenson, but he later got the nickname “The Junkie” due to his ill-famous drug habit. Stevens had some hits with Tower of Power, including “Sparkling in the Sand” and “You’re Still a Young Man,” but his heroin use eventually got him kicked out of the band. In 1976 Stevens was convicted of double first-degree murder and of manslaughter in a separate case. The singer narrowly escaped the death penalty, according to Scott Herhold of the *Mercury News*, who wrote that the California Supreme Court ruled that such a sentence “did not allow for consideration of mitigating circumstances.” “Stevens was very charming and talented person” stat-



Courtesy of rickstevensmusic.com
Rick Stevens

ed the prosecutor in the case, former DA George Kennedy, remembering the courtroom drama that involved a shocking testimony about sexual relations between Stevens’ attorney and a key witness to the prosecution. “I continue to view it as a fascinating drama because of the legal issues, witnesses, defense lawyers, victims, era and judge.” Superior Court Judge John McNerny stayed in touch with Stevens after the case ended. According to the judge, Stevens told him that

he never appealed his sentence because he felt he got a fair trial. “When they say he found God in prison, he really did find God in prison” stated McNerny on his views of Stevens’ rehabilitation. Two years ago, when Stevens was asked in a TV interview about his path to redemption, he spoke of his spiritual awakening. “One does a lot of praying. One does a lot of self-realization, of realizing drugs are not the way to go.”

Free to Succeed has helped tutor students for the last 20 years

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

For more than six years, Joe Spinelli and Carter Schwonke have spent their Friday evenings inside San Quentin tutoring inmates in math and literature and along the way, Spinelli and Schwonke have become pretty good mentors. “Joe is a soldier in helping us in math,” Robert “Belize” Villafranco said. “He helps us to be supportive of ourselves when we get out of prison. He’s like a father figure to many.” Schwonke, who has a strong sense for social justice, feels that access to education is fundamental to betterment. “I don’t want to live in a country that is so divided between people with opportunities and those without,” Schwonke said as a reason for teaching in prison. She tells inmates that it’s never too late to learn how to read. “She’s an English professor, so she wants to get the best out of us and she sets high standards,” Pedro Espinol said. “I will miss her dedication and love for teaching.” Spinelli and Schwonke spent July 7 as their last day volunteering in the literacy program, Free to Succeed. Spinelli, closing in on 80, is moving to a retirement

home nearly 100 miles away from San Quentin, while Schwonke wants to do other social justice work. “We need a better system than where one bad choice could lead to decades of incarceration,” Schwonke said. “We need to get smarter about sentencing,” she added. “San Quentin has taught me that I just took a tiny stab at social justice. I need to go deeper.” James Metters has been coming to Free to Succeed for about six years. “You have to earn Carter’s trust and show that you’re serious about learning,” Metters said. “Joe is instrumental to the group, just like Carter, but he loves to sit and do math. He will sit with any student and stay there all night long.” Tutoring is in Spinelli’s blood. He’s already contemplating to be of service at Vacaville, “if needed.” “It’s fair to say, San Quentin inmates take their education seriously and they are mature,” Spinelli said. “People on the outside say to me, ‘Oh, you work with the bad guys.’ And, I say, ‘No. I



Courtesy of Joe Spinelli
Joe Spinelli

work with good people who did a bad thing at one point in their lives.’ After I say this to them, I think they understand what I’m saying.” Free to Succeed meets Monday through Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Education Department on the Lower Yard. “Helping someone read better is like tossing pebbles in a pond, except the ripples transform generations,” said George Dykstra, program director of the nonprofit Free to Succeed. Free to Succeed has been helping prisoners at San Quentin State Prison improve their reading skills for nearly 20 years with the aim of making students better readers, so they will earn their GED, which will allow them to enroll in San Quentin’s college program.

Debut novel has familiar plot but from different point of view

Book Review

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Imaginative storytelling, tension and drama linked to how we see the world are what good novels are made of — Zach Wyner does this in: *What We Never Had* (2016).

But what’s unique about this debut novel isn’t the plot, which is a familiar coming-of-age story -- it’s

the second-person point of view. Josh, the protagonist, is a 20-something tutor who gives his 20-something friends the specialized help they need as they confront the challenges of post-college life. In describing these relationships, the second person magically provides both intimacy and distance.

In the process of helping others, Joshua sorts his own life and the issue in his life that gets the most attention is a love relationship gone wrong. Josh is preoccupied with trying to please June,

his on-and-off girlfriend. In the following scene, she has stood him up, and he’s back in his apartment, alone and thinking about what just occurred and noting that his friends had observed what was happening to him long before he did.

“Your infatuation had been one big humiliation, a blind spot that had obfuscated what everyone else saw coming a mile away.”

Joshua, a tutor and mentor to privileged teenagers in an

alternative school, helps the youngsters with their problems. Their privilege, however, does not protect them from the pain of confronting issues everyone faces. We meet a diva who doesn’t think she’s smart enough; we meet kids who are considered odd and whose only goal is to fit in.

“It was the paradox of privilege — take what you need to survive until what you need to survive takes you.”

In the following passage, Wyner uses the second person to capture an experience incarcerated readers will recognize — what it’s like to be isolated when all you have for a window on the world is a 13-inch television set:

“The hum of the ceiling fan obliterated the voices from the television, and you remembered what it was like to be all alone — just you and a modest, clean, quiet multi-level room that the outside world was content to ignore.”

Wyner is particularly skilled at pointing out paradoxes. While Joshua takes one of his dead-beat roommates to a job interview, once again the second person narration puts the reader in the scene:

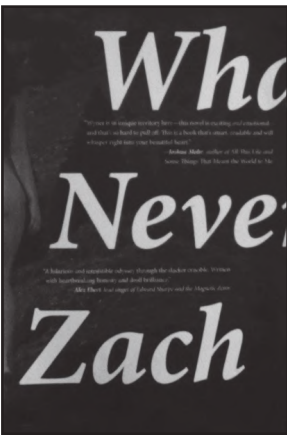
“You navigated the Whole Foods parking lot with caution; sparkling

Lexuses and hulking Escalades circled like hawks, their owners frantic to return to vacant work stations or little children, left in the charge of some matronly, woefully underpaid housekeeper. Amare denounced the drivers as either yuppie, fascist, or liberal scum depending upon their vehicle’s miles per gallon.”

Wyner’s descriptive language immerses the reader in the environment — the book is set in the San Fernando Valley -- and his selection of detail has a way of revealing his characters’ personalities. In the following scene, Joshua and his roommates are in a sports bar.

“The feeble light that seeped through the stained glass windows betrayed no hint as to the time of day; its provenance could just as easily be in a streetlight or noonday sunshine. Half a dozen moribund regulars huddled over their drinks, rooting through the remnants of ravaged popcorn bags and gazing at the Dodgers game on the muted television set. You happily took your seat amongst them.”

As Joshua struggles over what to do about his relationship with the difficult June—should he go after her or should he leave her alone?—he uses the analogy of an art-



“What We Never Had” by Zach Wyner

ist with a work of art as a way of rationalizing pursuing her.

“When an artist finishes a poem or a painting and they put it aside for a period of time, their return to the work accommodates a new perspective and clarifies what they were trying to express.”

But, to the relief of this reader, he decides to move on. When Joshua finally realized that it was best for him to let June live her life the way she wanted to, he concluded that, his “Survival was possible through avoidance.”

Ultimately, though, this unique book is not about avoidance. Through his characters, Wyner deftly touches universal themes: human longing for purpose, for love and community, and for a place in the world.

Holiday Memories

Stories collected by SQN Journalism Guild Class

Bruce Cooper of Los Angeles, 58, recalled: “My baby brother Charles was the first in my family to attend college, which he did on a football scholarship. One year he decided that he wasn’t coming home for Christmas. Instead, he was going to spend it with his very first girlfriend. This surprised and disappointed us. We were missing him at our Christmas dinner, but just as we were about to make a toast, the front door flung open, and Charles came in from the cold. He smiled and opened his arms for everyone. Charles was home for Christmas. His first love was a good woman who had urged him not to miss the holiday with his loved ones.”

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Kenneth Donnelly of West Oakland, 55, had one of the most unique choices for favorite holiday. He always looked forward to the day after Christmas. His reason was simple: he could shop for reduced prices at most outlets. While most people suffered from spending fatigue, Kenneth took advantage of a calculated period that offered huge savings on desired products. He mentioned that he looks forward to resuming the practice upon release.

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“Rain is a homeless person’s worst enemy,” says a staff member at San Quentin State Prison who wishes to remain anonymous. For four years, this San Quentin staffer was homeless in San Francisco, in part from circumstances, in part by choice. On Christmas Eve in the late 1990s, when the weather forecast predicted rain for the week, he decided to hitchhike to Los Angeles, panhandling a few dollars for a BART train that would take him to a station close to the highway, where he caught a ride to Coalinga, halfway to Los Angeles. He waited there for hours, until a guy driving all the way to LA stopped to pick him up. “Hitchhikers always swap stories,” he explained, “this guy told me about his divorce, and I told him about homelessness in San Francisco.” When they finally arrived, the man offered his couch for him to sleep on for the night. He remembered the house as a middle-class home on a quiet street, the living room filled with a Christmas tree and presents. When a little girl woke him up early in the morning to ask who he was, he told her he was Santa’s helper, and she left him alone. Not wanting to intrude any further, he found a piece of paper and wrote “Thank you for all your help,” before closing the door on his way out. Even now, he reflects on this stranger’s hospitality, the spirit of Christmas and being given the ultimate gift of trust.

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“My favorite holiday memory would be Halloween,” says Paul from San Jose. “Oct. 31, 2010, is when my mom, after a long battle, won custody of my younger brother. It was our ‘got ya day,’ but it’s also a sad time — my mom passed away in October of 2013. October 31st takes me back.”

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Billy Ray Woodard, 65, grew up in Lawton, Oklahoma. On Dec. 14, 1975, Lawton was covered in a layer of fresh powdered snow. The sun was sinking below the horizon, and the scent of burning wood filled the air. A piercing scream shattered the stillness of the Woodard home — Ollie Mae Woodard joined the Woodard clan at 6 pounds, 8 ounces. “The birth of my first baby girl is my memorable holiday moment,” said Billy Ray. “Each day she brings me joy and happiness with the sound of her angelic voice on the phone.”

Revive Oakland Coalition offering jobs to ex-offenders

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

The Revive Oakland Coalition and labor unions have negotiated an agreement with CenterPoint to give jobs to people with a criminal record. The jobs will be at the former Oakland Army base that was handed over to the Port of Oakland for redevelopment.

CenterPoint agreed to the so-called ban-the-box policy that will ensure many positions will be available to people with criminal records and formerly incarcerated community members. Ban-the-box is a policy that prohibits employers from putting a check box in the initial job application for applicants to indicate a criminal history.

The coalition said the ban-the-box policy is one of the strongest, yet most negotiated steps forward on any project in the nation because it substantially limits the types of criminal convictions that can disqualify someone from

a job. This provides greater transparency for job applicants and employers as to what might be a disqualifying record.

“workers...will be paid a minimum of \$13.32/hour with benefits”

A massive state-of-the-art 440,800-square-foot warehouse is scheduled to be built on the former Army base. It will connect to the port’s maritime facilities and will funnel cargo from ships to truck transportation networks. It is expected to generate hundreds of jobs, reported the *East Bay Express*.

Many formerly incarcerated people face discrimination when they search for jobs and are often locked out of the market, making it difficult to survive, said Sabir Lockett, an Oakland resident

and former prisoner of 22 years. “This is about building trust in formerly incarcerated people as well as providing a living wage and local [hiring practices] so people can stay in Oakland,” said Lockett.

According to the coalition, workers at the new facility will be paid a minimum of \$13.32/hour with benefits, or \$15.31/hour without benefits. Half of the jobs will be set aside for local area residents, with a hiring priority for people from Oakland’s flatlands zip codes closest to the port.

The deal is important because it is a model for fair economic development in an era when technology is transforming work, said Jahmese Myres, director of Revive Oakland.

As part of the agreement, CenterPoint acquired a 66-year lease for \$1.3 million per year that will rise to \$6.4 million in the year 66. CenterPoint is owned by the California Public Employees Retirement System, the state’s largest public employee pension.

News Briefs

1. Phoenix, Arizona — A judge has warned the state’s top corrections officials that they could be held in civil contempt of court and could face fines for repeatedly falling short in improving health care for inmates, reports the *Mohave Daily News*. The order comes as the judge and attorneys for prisoners have complained that prison officials were slow in making the improvements they promised three years ago when settling a class-action lawsuit that alleged inmates were getting poor health care.

2. Arizona — A group of Arizona State University (ASU) students, Mission Team Seven from ASU’s Next Generation Service Corps (<https://psa.asu.edu/nextgeneration-service-corps>) put on a panel discussion entitled “Modern Day Slavery” in collaboration with Remnant R.E.A.C.H (<https://www.remnantreach.org/>), a nonprofit focused on supporting communities in south Phoenix, at the Beus Center for Law and Society on ASU’s downtown Phoenix campus the night of Sept. 28. The panel discussed the varying elements of the mass incarceration, race, youth education, foster care, employment and homelessness, reports *The State Press*.

3. Florida — One of the largest prison populations in the U.S. is found in Florida. As of 2016, the state has incarcerated 99,000 people (<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/pub/>). The highest number was in 2011 with roughly 102,300 people incarcerated. New research from the Urban Institute (<http://apps.urban.org/features/long-prison-terms/intro.html>) shows long prison sentences are part of the reason for the increase of



incarcerated individuals, not just rates of incarceration. The number of people serving 10 or more years has tripled since 1996. The average prison sentence has grown—from four years to 5.4 years. A larger increase is in sentences for violent offenses—from 5.1 to 7.6 years.

4. Florida — State lawmakers are considering a bill that would require the consideration of the needs of inmates older than 50 years of age, reports *Forgottenmajority.net*. Prison officials would have to adopt health care standards for that population; provide for a supervised conditional elderly release program; provide criteria for program eligibility; authorize arrest of inmate who has been released under supervised conditional elderly release program; defines “elderly and infirm inmate;” permits inmates 65 and over to serve less than 85 percent of their sentences if they receive certain forms of release and requires them to serve a lower minimum percentage of their sentences; expands eligibility for conditional medical release to include elderly and infirm inmates.

5. Huntsville, Texas — Robert Pruett was executed by lethal injection Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017 for the death of

a corrections officer at a South Texas prison in December 1999, the *Houston Chronicle* reports.

6. Iowa — School officials are using six feet by six feet boxes, called “seclusion enclosures” as a means to discipline or punish unruly elementary and secondary school children, the *Huffington Post* reports. The pine boxes have little light or ventilation. Parents aren’t asked for their permission for their use.

7. Nevada — The shortage of prison beds has prompted prison officials to send 200 inmates to a private prison in Eloy, Arizona. The state will pay CoreCivic Inc., formerly known as Corrections Corporation of America, \$9.2 million as a part of a two-year deal, *The Republic* reports. The transfers are scheduled to begin in November, a prisons spokesperson said.

8. Maryland — Nearly 500 incarcerated people who are serving time under mandatory minimum sentences as repeat drug dealers may ask a judge to shorten their time under a package of criminal justice reforms approved by the Democrat-controlled General Assembly last year and signed by Republican Gov. Larry Hogan, reports the *Baltimore Sun*.

Domestic violence advocate speaks at Restorative Justice symposium

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Forgiveness is a key component of healing from abuse and achieving a successful life. And lawsuits can be an alternative to prison sentences, speakers told a Restorative Justice (RJ) Symposium at San Quentin State Prison.

Guest speaker Tracy Sovereign spoke of forgiving an abusive father, who never apologized. She was followed by Esquire Tia Katrina Taruc Canlas, who advocates suing men who commit acts of domestic violence as an alternative to incarceration.

“I feel ... there’s a way that men can be healed in so many directions,” Sovereign said in the prison’s Catholic Chapel before an audience of almost 35 community members and more than 150 incarcerated men. “I just found out my dad was abused. So if we can break that ... cycle, we can all heal.”

Sovereign opened with a gospel song.

Then she described a father who took corporal punishment way too far. The beatings started when she was five. She said he beat her without mercy, leaving welts, bruises and a busted lip. They escalated to pulling a gun on her over bringing home bad grades, shooting it into a mattress to let her know he was serious and then hitting her over the head with a 2x4.

When her brother, 10 years younger, turned seven, the beatings started on him too. While getting beaten together, the two would cry in the corner.

“They say hate begets hate, hurt begets hurt,” Sovereign said. “I remember screaming we weren’t going to do this to our kids. I know in my heart that love is abundant.”

At 16 years old, Sovereign moved out. By 17 she was pregnant and had a baby at 18.

On her 25th birthday, her dad knocked on the door. When her mother answered, he beat her in front of Sovereign’s two sons. Then he called Sovereign over and hit her over the eye with a gun, and said, “I should shoot you in front of your kids. You betrayed me,” according to Sovereign.

With the gun pressed against her forehead, Sovereign prayed out loud. She noticed her father’s face change.

“That wasn’t the man who was supposed to love me,” Sovereign said. She never stopped loving her father. Deep down she knew there was a reason for the way he acted although she didn’t know what it was.

who are all successful. Her brother’s kids are also successful.

Two years ago, the 51-year old learned from her grandmother that her father also was abused as a child.

“To know his story will help you know your story,” Sovereign said. “With my dad I found out he’s from a generation of abusers ... so it was a cycle. We broke that cycle. Now I’m working with my dad to help him release it.”

Sovereign now has an excellent relationship with her dad, who is a church bishop and helps kids get scholarships.

Taruc Canlas began her story with an explanation of why an attorney who sues people stood before the podium at the restorative justice symposium.

“I am a supporter of criminal justice reform,” said Taruc Canlas, executive director and co-founder of the Alipato Project, an organization dedicated to suing domestic violence perpetrators.

“The reason why I do this is because there are better ways to address harm than prison,”

Taruc Canlas said. “It doesn’t actually help the victim when somebody they love goes to prison. As an alternative to prison, we sue them.”

She said at the Oct. 14 event that domestic violence is about control. Men use “gaslighting” (convincing the victim that she is crazy and nothing happened) and financial control as power dynamics. Control dynamics keep women in bad relationships far too long.

Taruc Canlas saw firsthand that financial power dynamics kept her mother in an abusive relationship. Her mother, who barely spoke English, moved from the Philippines to marry someone in the states. Her livelihood and visa required staying married. Grandfather Alipato provided Taruc Canlas’ mother a way out of the abusive relationship. He moved her to another state.

Taruc Canlas believes that while a controlling power dynamic exists, RJ mediation doesn’t work. Getting abused partners to a space where they’re safe and everything is funded sets the stage for restorative justice. So she sues for medical expenses, moving bills, lost wages and moving-on money.

Her pilot program achieved success in four out of five cases. Two settled, two won default judgments (where the defendant doesn’t contest the lawsuit) and one lost a jury trial.

Rose Elizondo, co-founder of the North Oakland Restorative Justice Council, took a few minutes to honor one of the first members of the Restorative Justice Group at San Quentin – Robin Guillen. After serving about 40 years, a parole board found him suitable for release.

“My name is Robin, and I’m a peacemaker,” Guillen said. “It’s a hard, tiring walk, especially in these iron houses. You don’t give up. One thing they can’t take away from you: your attitude, how you think about things, your mind. All my relations thank you.”

“When Tracy tells her walk ... it’s inspiring,” Guillen said. “Tia ... It’s women who come in here and share that assists us in making the changes.”

“If we can break that...cycle, we can all heal”

“He never apologized,” Sovereign said. “I didn’t need the apology. Something in me could not hate him. I had already accepted that everything was OK. My healing came from God.”

After healing, she moved on with her life. She has taught dance and sings and she has a bakery business. Her husband is a worship pastor, and they have three kids

Soledad’s Life CYCLE program brings victims and offenders together

By **Forrest Lee Jones**
Journalism Guild Writer

A unique program that brings crime victims and convicted murderers together to share their stories is an effective way to increase understanding and empathy, and it also reduces recidivism, according to a report on prison Restorative Justice.

Salinas Valley Californian reporter Chelcey Adami describes an encounter last year between Angie Ortega, the mother of murdered Lorraine

Ortega, 23, and Johnny Placencia, 18, a man who murdered Manuel Ortiz, 21, in a gang-related stabbing. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to prevent such tragedies from happening in the future.

Ortega and Placencia are facilitators in prison Restorative Justice programs. Ortega is the president of the Monterey County chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, Inc., and Placencia chairs the rehabilitative group called Life CYCLE for

inmates at the Correctional Training Facility prison in Soledad. The two coordinate visits between members of Parents of Murdered Children and inmates in the Life CYCLE program to educate inmates about how losing a loved one to murder affects families.

“We talk about our loved ones, we share. Sometimes they will talk to us about the crimes they committed, how they feel...It has completely changed my mind of what a prison is like, because I’m seeing the work of the young men in the prison and actually talking about their crime,” Ortega says. “I’m seeing the impact of how it’s affecting them.”

Placencia says his group is about motivating inmates to

assume personal responsibility and to make an effort to change. The effect is powerful when inmates hear decades later how parents still feel the loss, when they learn that the pain never goes away; that’s “insight we can’t read in a book.”

A study entitled “The Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Practices: A Meta-Analysis” by Jeff Latimar, Craig Dowden and Danielle Muise, concludes that the use of restorative justice practices, such as this victim-offender dialogue, lowers recidivism and increases restitution.

Jennie Burciaga, executive of the Monterey County Restorative Justice Partners, Inc., reports that juvenile offenders who voluntarily participate in victim-offender

dialogues have a recidivism rate of 13 percent, compared to a control group that had a 65 percent recidivism rate.

“What we’re finding is when empathy, humanizing or connectedness is involved, [juvenile offenders] involved in these processes are significantly less likely to reoffend,” she said.

Jennifer Schafer, executive officer of the Board of Parole Hearings, agrees. She says that most of the time, inmates who commit these crimes are not thinking about other people. They’re usually very angry and in a phase of life where they’re focused inward. “Part of the transformation we see is people actually getting to a place where they have empathy for others. If they’re in a place in their

life to make that transition, those programs can really help open their eyes to what they did.”

The state currently houses 35,000 lifers. In 2016, 728 former lifers were released due to major changes to parole laws as well as rehabilitative programs like Restorative Justice that transform prisoners’ lives.

“I see this as education, prevention, where we’re giving a voice to our loved ones, the victims that they left behind and the victim survivors,” Ortega said. “If they are released some day, they will have that empathy in their hearts and understand what murder does to victim survivors, to the families, and their own families, and spare a life.”

Back In The Days San Quentin Santa

*“TWAS the night before Christmas
And all through the joint –
Not a convict was stirring,
But that’s not the point!
For, without a chimney
How could old St. Nick,
Bring in his goodies,
And exit as quick?”*

*While the cons were all dreamin’
Of women and cars –
They still hung their socks out
On all the cell bars!
Along about midnight,
There came such a clatter –
And I, out of my rack
To check on the matter!*

*And to my surprise,
I saw out on the tier –
The Big Man himself,
And eight tiny reindeer!
And Santa, he saw me
And I, playin’ the role –
Asked if he brought me
An early parole?*

*But he just shook his head
And said in accord –
“I’m only God’s helper,
Not one of the Board!”
So, with his work finished,
And making his point –
He wished all Merry Christmas,
Then sped from the joint!*

*But I heard him exclaim
As he drove out of sight –
“Keep feedin’ those pigeons,
And keep Christmas white!”*

By T.D. Ventura December, 1970 San Quentin Prison

Decorated Iraqi vet turned journalist visits SQNews

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

A decorated Iraqi war veteran-turned-journalist and author came to San Quentin on Sept. 1 to talk about his book, which portrays what it was like to guard Saddam Hussein in the months prior to his execution.

Will Bardenwerper said the American guards, self-dubbed “Super Twelve,” told him that Hussein was not the person depicted by mainstream media.

“It’s evil what you did, not who you are,” Bardenwerper said he learned from the soldiers. “The guards struggled reconciling this peaceful man to the same person attached to so many terrible things.”

One of the medics who treated Hussein had to go back to the United States on emergency leave. The doctor’s brother was wrestling with drug addiction, alcoholism and committing petty crime. However, the medic displayed genuine concern about Hussein’s well-being while he was away. The medic told Hussein about his brother’s dilemma. Hussein stood up and hugged him, and said, “I will be your brother.” The exchange between doctor and patient was

an example of humanitarianism in spite of circumstance.

Bardenwerper also talked about what it took to investigate and research the book.

Hussein’s childhood was violent and traumatic. He came from one of the most violent parts of Iraq. His father had been killed, his older brother died when he was young and from his earliest days, he had to stand up for himself.

“His environment affected him,” Bardenwerper said. “But, there were many people who grew up like him and were not as violent.”

Pulitzer Prize-winner David Finkel described The Prisoner in his Palace as “a timeless story about duty, honor, cruelty, and most of all, compassion.”

The Super Twelve were young kids, some right out of basic training, Bardenwerper said. “They were very close to him, protected him at all costs and really got to know him.” He added, “The question: to what extent is this manipulation or a genuine human connection or a little of each, is undetermined in the book. I don’t try to connect every dot. It’s up to the reader to choose which of the three scenarios is true.”

As a contributor to *The New York Times* and *The*



Author and Iraqi veteran Will Bardenwerper in the SQ newsroom

Washington Post, Bardenwerper said journalistic neutrality kept him from taking sides on whether the sympathy Hussein gained from his American guards came from sincere or fake displays of emotions.

In San Quentin, the subject shifted to the relationship between officers and inmates in California prisons.

Bardenwerper said he’s just begun educating himself

about American prisons, “but generally speaking, putting a human face on people gets better outcomes than viewing people as just numbers.”

Bardenwerper said he’s always been against the death penalty, but didn’t write the book to make an argument against it.

The Prisoner in His Palace will be reviewed in the next edition of *San Quentin News*.

San Quentin Kings win in overtime over surging Bittermen

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

The San Quentin Kings, Age 40-and-Over basketball team won, 87-85 in overtime, after they withstood the visiting Bittermen’s surging comeback from down 15 points. Oris “Pep” Williams led the Kings with 32 points and 16 rebounds.

“Too many turnovers; you can’t beat a team like that with turnovers,” said Bittermen Geoffrey “Free” Gary, who coaches varsity basketball for the Drew School in San Francisco. “They have knockdown shooters. We did come back from 15 though.”

The game started out close,

but the Kings dominated the second and third quarters.

New King Thomas “T-Top” Hamilton put his team up 46-31 by nailing a trey at buzzer, ending the second quarter with a 15-point lead.

Both teams huddled during half-time for an inspirational talk.

King Aubra-Lamont “Coocoo” McNeely announced that after serving 31 years in prison, a parole board found him suitable for release. If the governor doesn’t contest his parole grant, the Kings will have to find someone else to act as their 3-point specialist.

“I hope the next time I see ya’ll, it will be at a gas station

or something,” McNeely told the Bittermen at halftime. He finished with six points off the bench.

Gary, coming from a just-visiting perspective, remarked that, “This is my third time coming here, and I really look forward to being here.”

The third quarter ended with the Kings still up 15, at 66-51, but the Bittermen surged in the fourth.

Gary scored eight straight points, making two treys and a layup. Then teammate Steven Lamb added a deuce, which made the score 65-68.

Williams responded with a floater, keeping the distance, but the Bittermen wouldn’t go away.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN
Robert Mailer Anderson



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN
Aubra-Lamont McNeely taking one of his last shots as a King

Avenal prison softball championships

Avenal State Prison Coach Eric LaBlanc honored the prison’s sports champions.

On Facility C, the Softball League Champions were Valley Fever.

“They were better than ever,” Coach LaBlanc said. “The Warriors did a fine job to finish in second place.”

The League MVP was D. Marshall with a batting average of .676, going 25 for 37.

The best pitcher nod went to R. Fraser.

“Fraser pitched gem after gem during league play and he

had five wins in the playoffs,” LaBlanc said. “He pitched Valley Fever to a championship title.”

The Best Rookie acknowledgment went to M. Landingham, who went 23 for 42 at bat.

On Facility F, the basketball team Code Red emerged as the champions with their defense.

“This is the stingiest defense this season, holding opponents to 70 points,” League Commissioner E. Andersson said.

E. Rodriguez and G. Doc-tolero led Code Red the second half of the season, with dou-

ble-digit scoring almost every game.

The basketball League MVP went to S. Solo.

“Solo had an amazing season,” LaBlanc said.

The Sportsmanship award went to J. Plasencia for his consistent fair play and respect for all.

The Best Defensive Player acknowledgement went to Albert Orozco with a unanimous vote.

“He stood tall above them all,” LaBlanc said.

—**Rahsaan Thomas**

Oct’s win for Warriors gave 3-8 record



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN
Tevin Fournette guarded by Evan Fjeld

Tevin Fournette led the San Quentin Warriors to a 75-73 victory over the Prison Sports Ministry’s Green Team, despite a 28-point performance by David Liss.

Fournette, back from a high ankle sprain, led the Warriors with 19 points.

You could tell it was his day when at the end of third quarter he shot a jumper that hit the rim, bounced around then dropped after the buzzer sounded. The basket brought the Warriors back within one at 59-58.

“It feels good,” Fournette said.

The lead kept changing throughout the game. Late in the fourth, Andre “NBA” Belion put the Warriors up 74-70 with a three pointer.

Liss, a three-point specialist who nailed a clutch-game winner in the Pan-America games, answered with a three.

Then Liss threatened to tie up the game. With 15 seconds left in regulation and the Green Team down 75-73, Liss came from the top of the key straight down the middle of the court, then pulled up for a floater

eight feet from the basket, catching the defense on the backpedal. It bounced out and Harry “ATL” Smith, the LeBron James of San Quentin, snatched the rebound.

“I thought I had it,” Liss said. “I saw someone under the rim and short changed it. Good run though. Even run the whole way – that’s the best way to play.”

Liss shot 50 percent from three-point land to 15 of his 28 points.

The only other Warrior in double figures was Belion with 12.

For the Green Team, Patrick “Pat Tap” Lacey had 12 points with 13 rebounds, Beau Heidrich added 12 and Johnas Street made 14, shooting 6-14 from the field.

“If Blees was here, we would have won,” Lacey said, referring to a former Claremont-McKenna alumnus and All-American basketball player, who has fallen in love with golf.

Also missing from the Green Team roster was Remy Pinson, who stopped playing basketball to pick grapes in Sonoma. (The fires did not reach the winery where he

works.)

Before, at half-time and at the end of each game, all involved circled around half-court for inspirational talks. At this game, Anthony Maddox, a former Washington General whose team lost every game to the Harlem Globetrotters, spoke about finding your passion and using it to get through tough times.

He uses physical fitness to overcome.

“That’s the way I praise God best, through my passion,” Maddox said.

Warrior Miguel Sifuentes spoke about what a blessing it is to be able to play basketball.

The much needed Oct. 7 triumph made the Warriors’ record 3-8 against the Green Team this season. With only a couple of games left against the Green Team before the San Quentin season ends in November, the Warriors won’t be able to catch up, but the plan is to go out in style.

“We’re going undefeated the rest of the season,” Fournette said. “We gonna have some fun for sure.”

—**Rahsaan Thomas**

Gary hit another three to give the Bittermen its first lead of the game at 71-70 with 5:33 left in regulation.

King Damon “LA” Cooke made his first shot of the game to give the Kings a 72-71 edge. Teammate Joshua “JB” Burton followed with a three-pointer and Williams added two more points from the free-throw line, to make the score Kings 78-72.

Gary scored while getting fouled and completed the “and-one” play followed by Lamb with another deuce, to bring the Bittermen within one at 78-77 with one minute to go.

With 35 seconds on the clock, Bittermen Robert Mailer Anderson, author of Boonville and The Death of Teddy Ballgame, had a chance to put his team ahead from the free-throw line with the score 81-80. He made one free-throw but missed the next.

The Kings had a little help

from Hamisi Spears, a fan who wore a crown made of paper with “Kings” written across the front. He heckled the opposing team’s free-throw shooters with the flair of a court jester, jumping around, rolling his eyes, sticking out his tongue and yelling, “Over here.”

Spears tried out for the Kings and didn’t make the team. He appointed himself mascot and found a proactive way to support the team, said King Head Coach Orlando Harris.

The Bittermen made eight out of 19 free-throws.

“The heckler was the MVP,” Bittermen Center Damien Cosby said.

Anderson added, “I blame gin and Al-Pastor tacos – I thought that was a good training diet.”

No one scored in the final seconds as turnovers cost both teams and sent the game into overtime.

In the OT, the Kings

jumped ahead 87-83 but three turnovers in a row, two by Burton and a backcourt violation by Williams, gave the Bittermen a chance to catch up.

Gary hit a floater that made the score 87-85 with 1:08 on the clock.

With six seconds left and down by three, Bittermen Greg Tang, who had already scored 28 points, took a shot from behind the three-point arc, but missed. The ball ended up in Lamb’s hands, and he shot and missed, which left the Kings up by two points as the time ran out.

Gary had 28 with 10 rebounds. Lamb added 11 with 15 rebounds.

Burton scored 25 points for the Kings.

“It was a competitive game,” Burton said. “Both teams played hard. It didn’t close out too good, but it was a high-intensity team effort. We faced adversity and pulled through it.”

48 and over team proves they still have it

In a 48-and-over full-court basketball game, several older men, like 50-year-old Brad Shells, who slam dunked with one hand, proved they still have it. Old English beat Fully Loaded, 81-77.

“I have a lot of respect for the OGs,” Fully Loaded Coach Jason “Boo” Robinson said. “Where everybody underestimated them, they came out, displayed their talents and let you know they could still compete with the best of them.”

Shells, who plays for the SQ Warriors, added, “I normally play with the younger brothers. This is the first time I ever played with Pep. He makes the game easy; he passes the ball, he hustles, plus he scores a whole lot of points.”

Oris “Pep” Williams, 56, led OE with 31 points, 11 rebounds, four steals and an assist. Teammate Shell dropped 26 points, 24 rebounds, four blocks and four assists, followed by 6-feet-7 Wayne Mobley, 58, with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

“The goal for the game was to take the country’s birthday and get guys, that ain’t been out here in a while, together for unity and fun,” said Aaron “Harun” Taylor, who organized the game played July 2 on the San Quentin Lower Yard. “Pep and [Brad] are co-MVPs and [John] is the Most Outstanding Player for his team.”

Williams said that before he came to prison, the Contra Costa College basketball team picked him up, but he never played a game.

“The sky was the limit until I started messing with drugs,” Williams said.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN
SQ center Brad Shells with JaVale McGee

In the first half, OE dominated. They gained a 19-point lead but Fully Loaded made a run led by John “Dunnie” Windham. He hit a jumper as the third quarter ended. It closed the gap to 62-52.

Shells answered early in the fourth quarter with a one-handed slam-dunk off a fast break, making the score 65-52.

Windham continued to ignite, nailing four three-pointers, a spin move layup and a short-range jumper.

“Box and one, box and one defense,” yelled OE coach Charles Ross. “Pookie [Charles Sylvester] you stay on [John] wherever he goes.”

Windham, 47, finished with 29 points, six steals, five rebounds, one block and an assist.

Fully Loaded closed the gap to within four points at 81-77 with 30 seconds left in regulation after Orlando “Duck” Harris passed the ball inside to R. “Mailman” Ratchford for a layup.

OE’s Sylvester attempted a shot instead of running the clock out. Harris rebounded

the ball, giving Fully Loaded another chance to score with 10 seconds left, still down 4.

Harris passed the ball to Ratchford in the corner. He dribbled toward the rack, spun toward the rim but missed the layup.

Ratchford added 26 points, 12 rebounds, a steal and a block.

“Even though we lost, I still congratulate my team for coming back from a 19-point deficit,” Robinson said.

Coaches Donte Smith and Robinson drafted the teams. Smith picked: Williams, Shells, Sylvester, Mobley, Eugene “Shaylee” Williams, Brian Asey, Anthony Redwood and others.

“[Smith] picked the team,” Ross said. “I filled in as coach because he had to go on a visit.”

Robinson chose Robert “Bishop” Butler, Harris, Windham, Ratchford, Antonio Manning, Andre Yancy, Joe Demerson, Aubra-Lamont “Coocoo” McNeely, and Rodney Chapell.

—**Rahsaan Thomas**

Former Raiders quarterback makes his debut on the Lower Yard

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Former Raiders quarterback Andrew Walter made his San Quentin debut with the visiting Chosen Sports Ministry flag football team and led them to a 28-20 victory over the SQ All-Madden, in a tense battle.

“We are all people,” Walter said. “You have to compete no matter where you are. Being here is special. It’s about community. It’s about my faith in Jesus Christ. I know what it means to have everything taken away from you.

“It made me a much better person. We all have a unique trial to get to know who God is and do things differently,” Walter added.

Walter said he hasn’t played football since being in the New England Patriots training camp in 2009. He retired soon thereafter. Walter took to San Quentin’s tattered football field dressed in all black. His 6-foot-5-inch frame not only towered over most of the players, he was the only one not wearing cleats.

“Man, that guy used to warm up in flip-flops when he was in college,” said Evan Jones of the Chosen. Walter was quarterback for Arizona State University before being drafted by the Oakland Raiders.

The Oct. 21 game started with the All-Madden young defensive team blitzing Walter on every down, to show they were not intimidated. After numerous false starts and overthrown passes, Walters settled in and found Davide Ghilarducci in the middle of the field for a 20-yard first down.

On the next play, Walter, unfazed by the defensive pressure, dropped back and threw a 30-yard bomb to Chosen all-star receiver Antoine “AJ” Haynes, who made a one-handed, over-the-shoulder



Chosen football team with Andrew Walter (top right)

Photo courtesy of Marcus A. Jackson

circus-like catch for the touchdown, with a defender riding his back.

The small crowd and both teams went crazy with oohs and aahs. A few defensive players waved off the pass and argued that he was out of bounds, but referee James Benson’s arms shot straight in the air, signaling it was good. It was a highlight that would have been replayed on any NFL big screen.

“It’s always humbling being here,” Haynes said. “It’s about service. I want the guys to know every day is a blessing. Keep dreaming and keep your head up, because it could always be worse.”

Chosen led 6-0 after missing the 2-point conversion. All-Madden answered back quickly with a series of run plays to loosen up the Chosen defense. Quarterback Devin

Cole hit running back Anastacio Prado on a down-and-out play.

Prado spun away from two defenders, who missed his flags, leaving him a clear path to the end zone to tie the score 6-6. All-Madden failed to get the 2-point conversion.

“It’s about discipline,” Cole said. “We struggled as a team, but we fought back. We just have to learn to trust in the system. We thank the Chosen for coming in.; it’s always good to reconnect with the (outside) community.”

Walter continued to dominate in the first half. After an off-side penalty on the defense, he threw another bomb for 45 yards to player-coach Andre Jackson, who made a diving catch. It took all four downs before Walter found Omar Bennett in the back of the end zone for the 12-6 lead.

“What we bring from the outside in is positivity,” Bennett said. “If you put positivity in, God will give it back to you. What we get from com-

ing here is always a win-win for all of us.”

The Chosen defense stepped up with Aaron Jones and Evan Jones pressuring Cole, the quarterback. E. Jones batted down a pass, and A. Jones open up a hole that had Cole sacked in the end zone for a safety.

That extended the Chosen lead to 14-6. The All-Madden offense went cold and turned the ball over on downs, leaving the Chosen with two minutes on the clock. Walter chipped away at Madden’s secondary by throwing short passes to move the chains to the goal line.

On second and goal, Walter split the defense for a Ghilarducci touchdown, which led to a 20-6 halftime lead.

Pastor Joel Moore gave a brief sermon during halftime on the importance of counting your pains and joys.

“You have to count forward and back to the pain,” Moore said, “because that is your testimony. God is preparing you.

When you are being tried, that means you are being chosen.

“Count your good and bad times; then you will have complete joy. It’s never too late to change and have victory,” Moore concluded.

All-Madden opened the second half on a mission. Head coach Dwight Kennedy mixed a few seasoned veterans in with his young team. Jason Jones came in to cover Haynes, and T. Sayres took over nose guard. Sayres sacked Walter twice, once for a safety, igniting the team.

All-Madden went back to the run, and Cole threw a deep ball that put them on the two-yard line.

On second and goal Jason Jones scored on a slash play to the corner of the end-zone and closed the gap, 14-20.

All-Madden’s defense became active, flushing Walter out the pocket and knocking down his passes. Tofa Sekona and Brontray Moore each blocked two passes. With three minutes left in the game,

All-Madden offense was on the move to score, but an interception by Bennett stopped the momentum.

The Chosen weren’t content with running out the clock. Walter found A. Jackson on two deep passes that set up a game-clinching touchdown by Haynes. On the two-point conversion the Chosen pulled out a trick play that had Walter run a bootleg play to Jackson. Jackson scrambled while Walter eased out to the goal line for the catch and the 28-14 lead.

With 40 seconds left, Cole caught the Chosen defense sleeping and hit receiver Kent Craig for a 20-yard pass. Craig shook a defender for 20 more yards, but speedster Haynes ran him down. Craig scored the next and final play, for a 28-20 finish.

“It’s not how you start, but how you finish,” Pastor Wayne Jackson said. “Don’t let no one take away your joy. The world didn’t give it to you, so it can’t take it away from you.”

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Behind the Scenes

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Green team comes back with a smash

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

The visiting Prison Sports Ministry (“Green Team”) basketball team improved to a 9-3 record versus the San Quentin Warriors with a 60-46 win using its former college basketball player talent. But, General Manager Robert “Bishop” Butler remembers when the program first began: no nets, no uniforms, basketballs made from cheap plastic, and the home team won every game.

“In 2004, no outside teams won a game; we made sure of that,” said Butler, who played for the Warriors then. “As you started recruiting, players’ caliber started to rise.”

Butler recounted how neglected the basketball program was back in 2003.

Since then, sponsors like Shaun Donahue, Don Smith and Bill Epling have helped the program grow tremendously. The SQ team now plays in real NBA practice jerseys donated by the Golden State Warriors and dunks on fiberglass-breakaway rims donated by Prison Sports Ministry. More importantly, the level of talent includes former overseas pros and recruiters of former college

basketball players, mostly from Claremont-McKenna College.

At the Oct. 21 game, two fresh 6-foot-5 recruits from Claremont-McKenna joined the ranks: Richard Harris (class of 2016) and Riley Hall (class of 2017).

“I’ve heard about this for years, so I’ve been excited to come,” Hall said. “I just graduated in May, and I’ve been missing basketball.”

Former D-League Evan Fjeld returned with University of Vermont “Catamounts” alumnus Luke Apfeld.

Claremont alumnus Kevin “K-Mac” Macpherson mentioned that the guests had to sign papers acknowledging that the state will not negotiate for the return of hostages.

“If that’s the case, I hope my jump shot is falling,” joked Apfeld.

“The basketball here better be good then,” Macpherson added.

The game also marked the return of Warrior forward Anthony Ammons. He had been in the Los Angeles County jail awaiting a sentencing hearing. He came back pale, 10 pounds lighter and depressed because he has to go back in January to finish the fight for lesser time.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Evan “The Plumber” Fjeld flushing one down

The Warriors came out aggressive on the opening tip.

Warrior Andre “NBA” Be-lion set the tone with a layup in traffic for the first basket of the game. The Warriors played great defense, keeping the Green Team to 60 points.

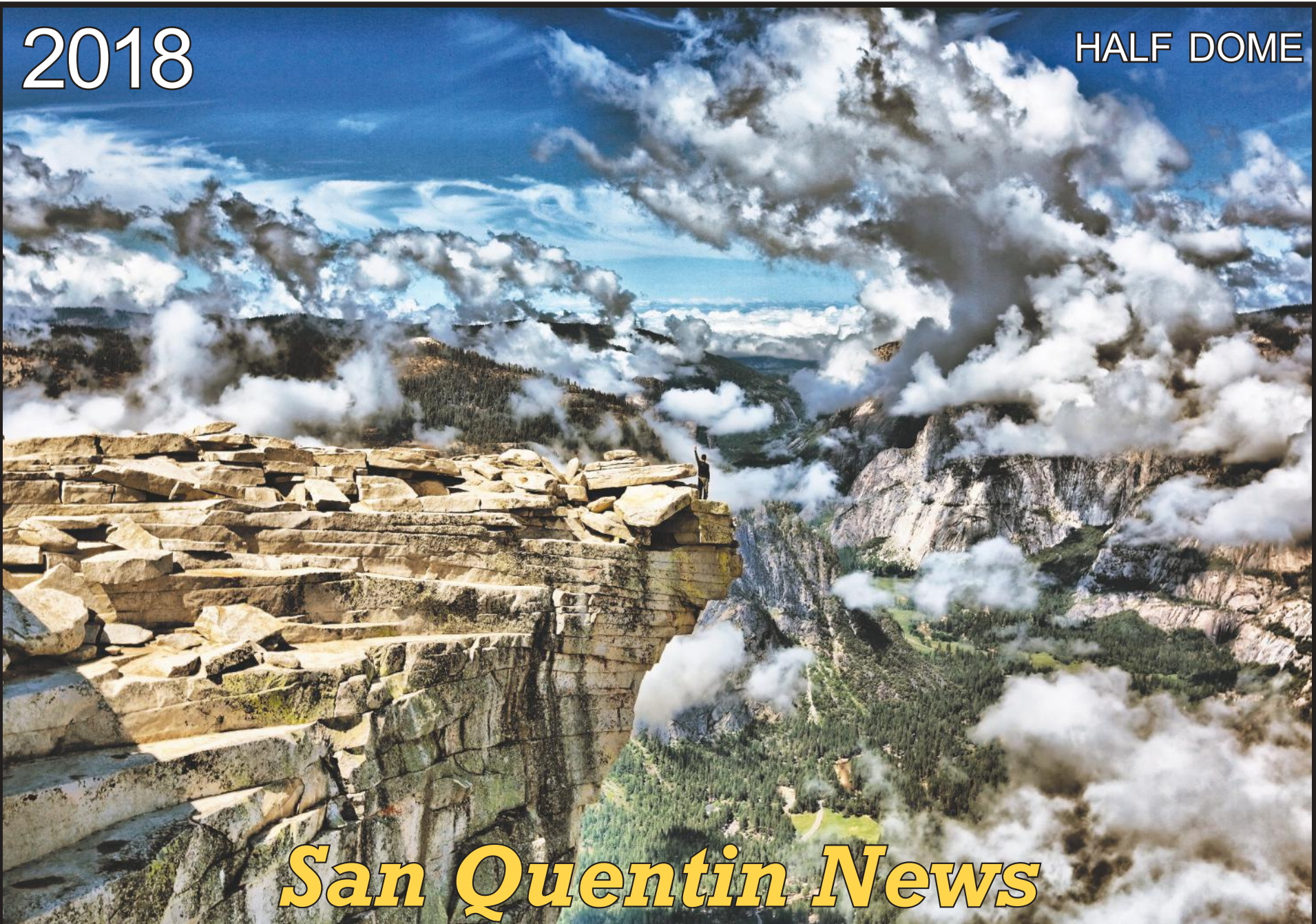
However, the Warriors’ leading scorers were off while Fjeld was on. Fjeld dropped 24 points, doubling the Warriors’ top offensive weapon Allan McIntosh’s 12 points. Harry “ATL” Smith was held to 12 points by the 6-foot-7 Apfeld, and Tevin Fournette, who recently recovered from a high ankle injury, went 0-7 from the field.

In the third quarter, Harris batted one of Fournette’s shot attempts into the fence with a “get that out of here” authority.

By the end of the third quarter, the Green Team led 47-29.

Warriors Coach Rafael Cuevas wants to win every game, but he sees what happens on the green-blue court as something much bigger than basketball.

“This is a service you’re doing for us,” Cuevas said. “You show your humanity just by coming through that door. (When you visit), I see God coming in.”



San Quentin News

Photo by P. Jo

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 <small>NEW YEAR'S DAY</small>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <small>MARTIN L. KING JR. DAY</small>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 <small>INDEPENDENCE DAY</small>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 <small>VALENTINE'S DAY</small>	15	16	17
18	19 <small>PRESIDENT'S DAY</small>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <small>MOTHER'S DAY</small>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 <small>MEMORIAL DAY</small>	29	30	31		

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <small>VETERANS DAY</small>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 <small>THANKSGIVING</small>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 <small>CESAR CHAVEZ</small>

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 <small>FATHER'S DAY</small>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 <small>LABOR DAY</small>	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <small>23/30</small>	24	25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 <small>23/30</small>	24 <small>24/31</small>	25 <small>CHRISTMAS</small>	26	27	28	29