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CBS' Ted Koppel visits Ear Hustle

As part of a 1961 class project, a Stanford student named Ted Koppel, age 21, went inside San Quentin to study the U.S. criminal justice system. And 57 years later, he came back, this time as a correspondent with *CBS Sunday Morning*.

"It's that we incarcerate more people than any other nation," Koppel said referring to the high incarceration rate in the United States (700 prisoners per 100,000 population). He added, "That seems to be contradictory to who we are as a nation."

The U.S. has 5 percent of the world's population. However, 25 percent of the world's incarcerated

people are locked away in American prisons and jails.

When Koppel returned to Stanford last December, Dustin Stephens, a *CBS Sunday Morning* producer, knew Koppel was interested in doing a story about California.

"I've listened to almost all of the Ear Hustle podcasts," Stephens said, referring to the San Quentin audio project featuring Earlonne Woods and Nigel Poor. Koppel, who won acclaim as the anchor of the ABC News program *Nightline*, thought they would make good subjects.

See **KOPPEL** on page 20



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQM

Ted Koppel with Ear Hustle in the SQ Media Center



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

David Angel, Jeff Rosen, and Sean Webby talks with the San Quentin News staff

Santa Clara County's head DA discusses solutions to crime

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen did something few prosecutors would have the guts to do. He went inside San Quentin and walked across its prison yard, in order to sit down with several inmates to talk about ways to keep the streets free of crime.

Rosen's Feb. 16 visit was not his first. In 2014, he and several members of his staff attended a San Quentin News forum — the topic was incarceration, rehabilitation, and reentry. Last year, Rosen did something else that is a rarity for a prosecutor. He went to Germany to see how its prison system works and compared what he saw to what is done in California. The result is that he has veered from

the conventional wisdom about incarceration.

With 192 prosecutors in his office, Rosen wants them all to visit San Quentin.

On this visit, David Angel, head of the prosecutor's Conviction Integrity Unit and Sean Webby, communications director, accompanied Rosen.

See **ROSEN** on page 5



The thought of dying in prison is every inmate's worst fear, be it the death from violence, old age or disease. It's a nightmare.

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Youth offenders graduate Pre-Apprentice Program

By **William Earl Tolbert**
Journalism Guild Writer

STOCKTON -- Ten youth offenders graduated with a marketable job skill after completing the first Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor Program at the N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility.

After completing six months of preparation, the young men were certified for construction work and possible union membership, according to the *Stockton Record*.

The youth-offenders were trained in welding, carpentry and ironwork.

They were taught how to drive forklifts, dig holes, form and pour cement.

Program graduates are eligible to sign up at a union hall in California once they parole. They can also apply to have their union dues paid for a year by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).

"I was looking forward to going to the penitentiary," said Luis Huerta, 18, a program graduate.

See **YOUTH** on page 4



Photo by Ike Dodson

N.A. Chaderjian youth graduate Luis Alvarado receiving his certificate



Photo by Babita Patel

Hudson Link graduate celebrates with her family and Pres. Michael Scales

NY's Hudson Link makes history with women graduates

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Chairman

Incarcerated women made history when they graduated for the first time from a prison college program in New York state.

Five women prisoners and one formerly incarcerated woman at the Taconic Correctional Facility received their associate degrees bestowed by Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison.

The program is a partnership with Nyack College in New York.

"We could not be prouder of the six graduates and the 37 women still pur-

suing their degrees," said Sean Pica, Hudson Link's executive director, according to a press release.

The Jan. 24 ceremony marked Hudson Link's first time ever adding women to a roster of more than 500 male prisoners who have graduated from the college program in six different New York state prisons.

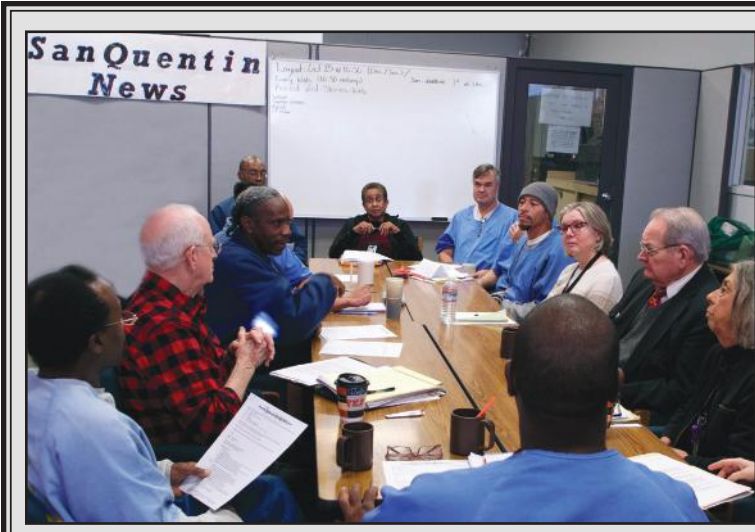
"This experience was amazing," said Shelly. (Her last name was not released). She returned to the prison to receive her degree after she paroled. She couldn't miss the opportunity to walk with her class, she said

See **HUDSON LINK** on page 11



The message of peace and racial justice from Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years ago is still being echoed in 2018 America. Nonviolent protests around the country are seen in recent Occupy Movements, Black Lives Matter, #METOO, Time's Up and March for Our Lives movements.

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California aims to restore the right to vote for felons

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

California is joining the nationwide trend aimed at restoring the right to vote to convicted felons.

A nonprofit called Initiate Justice is seeking support for the Restore Democracy Act, which would restore voting rights to everyone incarcerated and on parole in California. If it gets enough signatures to

get on the ballot and is passed by the voters in this November's election, it would restore voting rights to approximately 162,000 Californians, according to Initiate Justice founder Taina Vargas-Edmund.

The petition needs to obtain more than 585,407 signatures by April 17 to make the ballot.

"What people can do is encourage their loved ones on the outside to help us gather petition signatures and to contact initiatejustice.org so we can send them petition forms, on our website or email," Vargas-Edmund said in an interview.

Voting rights vary from state to state. Some states impose lifetime bans unless pardoned by the governor, while others restore voting rights upon completion of parole or probation. Only Maine and Vermont allow voting for people serving state prison sentences. In California, people can vote in county jail while awaiting trial and on probation, but voting is taken away from those serving prison sen-

tences or on parole.

Florida bars voting by released felons unless an Executive Clemency Board restores the right. Critics of Gov. Rick Scott say his whims influence the decisions, according to a *Slate* article by Mark Joseph Stern.

role and paying any required restitution, according to the *Slate* article. The amendment excludes those convicted of murder or sex crimes, according to the article. The amendment qualified for the November 2018 ballot with 760,000 certified signatures.

A recent federal court decision may help restore voting rights to 1.7 million citizens, including one in five Blacks, even if the initiative measure isn't passed by voters.

U.S. District Court Judge Mark Walker found that the process for restoring voting rights under Scott violates the First Amendment right to free association and free expression.

Critics accused Scott of bias and say he restored voting rights only to those persons who had witnesses attest to their conservative principles.

While the U.S. Supreme Court has not ruled on whether the First Amendment protects voting rights, Walker, in reaching his conclusion, cited two opinions by U.S. Supreme

Court Justice Samuel Alito, statements that strongly suggest the act of voting constitutes a form of protected expression under the First Amendment, according to the *Slate* article.

Mississippi has a lifetime ban on voting for those convicted of certain felonies unless restored by legislation or the governor.

The lifetime banned felonies include: arson, armed robbery, bigamy, bribery, embezzlement, extortion, felony bad check, felony shoplifting, forgery, larceny, murder, obtaining money or goods under false pretense, perjury, rape, receiving stolen property, robbery, theft, timber larceny, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, statutory rape, carjacking and larceny under lease or rental agreement.

A 2016 study conducted by the Sentencing Project found that 9.6 percent of Mississippi's adult population is ineligible to vote.

Members of the Mississippi state house unanimously voted for the creation of a commission to study restoration of voting rights for those who have committed crimes, according to a *Daily Journal* article by Bobby Harrison.

"The whole idea about restoring suffrage is to make sure people have a fair shot of getting back on their feet," said Rep. Cheikh Taylor, D-Starkville, a co-author of the Mississippi legislation, according to the *Daily Journal*. Taylor also said restoring voting rights would help felons who had served their time become responsible citizens.

The push to separate voting from a penalty for committing a crime is active in other states, too.

Virginia, which, like Florida, has a lifetime ban on voting for those convicted of crimes, has two amendments going to the voters to decide the issue. In the meantime, former Gov. Terry McAuliffe restored voting rights to 173,000 former felons through individual pardons. Current Gov. Ralph Northam has reportedly vowed to reinstate voting rights to the formerly incarcerated as well.

In Louisiana, a lawsuit is underway challenging whether the definition "under a sentence of confinement" applies to those on parole or probation.

Restoring voting rights to all citizens in Florida alone might have affected the elections of George W. Bush and Donald Trump.



Courtesy of Taina Vargas Edmund

Initiate Justice member explains the Restore Democracy Act

San Quentin News

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

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Behind the Scenes
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People at the voting booth

Photo by Odyssey



Registered voters signing the initiative

Courtesy of Taina Vargas Edmund

Running from the prison cell to public office

‘Should we bear the burden of our past when our present has been involved in fixing the future?’

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Lewis Conway Jr., a formerly incarcerated man, is challenging disenfranchisement by running for public office in Austin, Texas.

“We want people with arrests and convictions to engage in the democratic process,” Bill Cobb, deputy director of the American Civil Liberties

Union’s Campaign for Smart Justice, said in an article by Jordan Smith for *theintercept.com* “Lewis has dedicated his life not only to serving his community, but specifically to leveraging his leadership in a way that provides hope to people who have been where he’s been, who have served time in our nation’s jails and prisons. We ... need a lot more Lewis Conways.”

An estimated 100 million people nationwide have faced disenfranchisement because of contact with the criminal justice system. This often results in the loss of access to housing, employment opportunities and full participation in the democratic process — sometimes forever.

Conway, now 48, served eight years in prison for voluntary manslaughter and 12 years

on parole. Now he is running for an Austin City Council seat representing the neighborhood where he grew up.

“We want people with arrests and convictions to engage in the democratic process”



Photo courtesy of JustLeadershipUSA
Lewis Conway

Taylor, a spokesperson for the office, told reporter Smith.

A governor’s pardon could restore all of Conway’s rights and clear up the issue, but things like that hardly happen in Texas, according to the article.

Fighting for the rights of incarcerated people is not new for Conway. After struggling to get a steady job because of his felony conviction, he ended up floating through varying jobs, from working at Walmart to being a DJ and a self-help book author.

He ended up joining the Re-entry Advocacy Project and Second Chance Democrats of Austin in the fight against mass incarceration and prison privatization, according to *theintercept.com*.

In 2016, Conway’s grassroots efforts helped get the Fair Chance Hiring ordinance passed. The regulation bars private employers from asking about an applicant’s criminal history until late in the hiring process.

“We feel like the burden that our campaign is carrying is, of course, unfair [and] it’s definitely one that other candidates are not going to have to deal with,” said Conway. “Should we bear the burden of our past when our present has been involved in fixing the future?”

Conway said his purpose in running, “is to give people who have been historically marginalized, historically penalized and criminalized an opportunity to become active participants in a participatory democracy,” according to the article.

A vague 33-year-old Texas Election Code section may or may not stand in Conway’s path. While Texas restores voting rights once a prison sentence is completed, to be eligible to run for office, a person must not have been “finally convicted” of a felony from which they have not been “pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities.”

The Texas law does not define “resulting disabilities.” According to Ricco Gar-

cia’s research on disabilities, Conway may need his voting and jury duty rights restored to run. Conway’s voting rights were reinstated once he completed parole in 2013. However, it is unclear how jury duty rights are returned.

“So are those disabilities? And how do you get them back?” asks Ricco Garcia, Conway’s attorney, who took the case pro bono. “I don’t know.”

The Texas Secretary of State’s office cannot define these disabilities either.

“There’s nowhere either in existing case law or any statutes in the Texas Election Code that says exactly what ‘released from the resulting disabilities’ means, or how that is supposed to happen,” Sam

US Senate focusing on alleviating mass incarceration

By **Jesse Vasquez**
Managing Editor

In early February, national government officials grappled with trying to implement cost-effective strategies to alleviate mass incarceration.

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee is focusing on reducing sentences for non-violent drug offenders and facilitating reentry for the formerly incarcerated.

Columbia University’s Justice Lab discovered that since the 1980s, an increase in county supervision programs, like probation and parole, without an increase in funding, has contributed to an increase in incarceration.

According to a 2009 Pew Charitable Trusts survey cited by Columbia University, in eight states 90 percent of the budget allocated for corrections, which includes probation, parole and prison, went to incarceration.

According to a *Vox* article, the National Alliance on Mental Illness documented that about 2 million people with mental illness are jailed every year.

A 2015 American Psychological Association editorial explains the connection between substance abuse, mental illness and the growth of prison populations.

When he was president, Ronald Reagan cut federal funding for community men-

tal health centers. Many critics believe that exposed the mentally ill to criminalization, homelessness and incarceration.

According to the Justice Lab report, from 1980 to 2007 there was a four-fold increase in the number of people on probation and parole, and the number of people in U.S. prisons increased, five-fold, from 474,368 to 2.3 million.

Although there is bipartisan support for criminal justice reform, the White House only supports one aspect of the approach.

“I’m worried that if we just revisit the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act, which failed during the Obama administration, given this change in the new administration and its views on the sentencing reform component of it, that we’re going to end up with nothing to show for our efforts,” said Sen. John Cornyn, the Republican Majority Whip.

However, the Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Charles E. Grassley believes that their efforts, along with bipartisan compromise, will pay off.

“It’s a matter of process and around here—nothing gets done unless it’s bipartisan,” said Grassley.

There are various opinions as to how a comprehensive reform bill could be passed five years after the Sentencing

Reform and Corrections Act was introduced and stagnated. However, some on Capitol Hill are ready to move on it now.

“Waiting here for there to be the ultimate global concord to sort this out has yielded five years of nothing, and I’m ready to go forward,” said Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse.

The sentence-reducing aspect of the legislation would reduce federal prison sentences for drug offenders, who, according to experts, usually suffer from concurrent disorders such as mental illness and drug abuse.

Congressional leaders believe they are close to a bipartisan bill that will alleviate some of the aggravated mandatory minimum sentences.

However, “There are some people around here [who] are just a little bit afraid of what you call an Assistant U.S. Attorneys Association and they’re stopping everything from being done that is so successful in other states,” Grassley said. “When people are willing to stand up to those leaders of the Senate, we’ll get something done in both areas.”

*Since this article was written, the sentencing reform bill has been reintroduced, over the objections of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his Department of Justice.

Maryland governor moves to grant juvenile offenders parole

By **Salvador Solorio**
Journalism Guild Writer

Maryland has not paroled any juvenile offenders serving life sentences in more than 20 years. But this February, Gov. Larry Hogan (R) announced a process to grant parole to these juvenile offenders, reported the *Washington Post*.

The move was in response to pressure from advocates, lawmakers and the court system, some of whom still say the order doesn’t go far enough.

Hogan said that since taking office, his administration “has sought to bring balance to Maryland’s criminal justice system, which includes offering individuals who have paid their debt to society a second chance to live productive lives.”

According to the governor’s statement, though the order simply codifies the current parole practices into formal policy, it is a step toward parole reform. But advocates said the governor’s order falls short of true parole reform,

especially for those inmates given life sentences as teenagers.

ACLU attorney Sonia Kumar said the governor’s order “changes nothing.”

“The order—which the governor could revoke at any time—is primarily hollow, self-serving language that doesn’t fix the long-standing constitutional deficiencies of Maryland’s parole scheme and simply reinforces the lack of any actual standard to ensure individuals who have demonstrated their rehabilitation are actually released,” she continued.

Hogan’s order is not the only effort addressing this issue in Maryland.

Maryland’s Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee is weighing a measure to remove the governor from the parole process. Hogan’s counsel, Robert F. Scholz, wrote a letter to state Sen. Robert A. Zirkin, the committee’s chair, which said that the governor has approved two requests for parole and commuted seven life sentences and that there was no “reasonable justifica-

tion to removing gubernatorial oversight.”

The state’s Supreme Court is also considering a challenge to the legality of the parole system.

According to judges on the Maryland Court of Appeals, no governor has signed off on a parole board’s recommendation to release a lifer who committed a crime before turning 18. Currently, about a dozen states do not grant such paroles. Only three—Maryland, California and Oklahoma — require the governor to sign off on the parole of prisoners sentenced to life.

Brian Saccenti, an assistant public defender who argued the case before the Court of Appeals, was among those who feel Hogan’s executive order does not go far enough.

“The fact that zero juvenile offenders have been paroled under this approach (or for the last 20 years) proves that it does not afford them a meaningful opportunity for release if they become rehabilitated,” he said in a prepared statement.

Alabama fails to fix housing of mentally ill inmates in solitary

By **William Earl Tolbert**
Journalism Guild Writer

Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) has failed to fix its practice of housing prisoners with “serious mental illness” in solitary confinement, a practice deemed unconstitutional and in violation of a 2017 court order.

Twenty-one patients with “serious mental illness” have yet to be released from solitary, and United States District Judge Myron Thompson, as part of a trial to address solitary confinement, demanded ADOC move them out of confinement or provide an explanation as to why they have not been moved, reported the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

“There is overwhelming

evidence that long-term solitary confinement has a profound impact on prisoners’ mental health due to the harmful effects of isolation, and that it is worse for those who already suffer from a ‘serious mental illness,’” according to the SPLC report.

ADOC failed to consider the impact of solitary confinement on the prisoners’ mental health, and does not pay adequate attention to and appropriately treat those in its care, said Maria Morris, senior supervising attorney for the SPLC.

“We know segregation can be deadly, especially to those already struggling,” Morris said. “The revelation that there are more than 100 prisoners in segregation who have been diagnosed with serious mental illnesses shows that the state has not

changed its practices.”

The court has scheduled eight evidentiary hearings to determine the correct course of action the state will take to address unconstitutional prison conditions found by the court.

In June 2017, Alabama’s prison system was found in violation of the U.S. Constitution Eighth Amendment by the U.S. District Court. In a 302-page ruling, the court declared the state corrections system failed to provide mental health care to its prison population, amounting to “cruel and unusual punishment.”

That lawsuit was the latest phase in litigation filed in 2014 by Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program and SPLC against ADOC to spur changes in prison conditions.

In-person visits could come back to Denver jails

By **Michelangelo Ramsey**
Journalism Guild Writer

In-person visits could be returning to Denver jails after more than a decade of inmates relying on videos to stay connected with family and friends.

Community members and jail officials have started discussing how and when to allow inmates to have “contact visits” with their family and friends from the outside world, according to an article in the *Denverite*. Division Chief Elias Diggins said there is no definite schedule for crafting a recommendation, but the team will “work expeditiously.”

“We understand this is very important to the community,” Diggins said,

according to the article. “We want to make sure we do this right.”

In-person visitation initially ended after problems with contraband and domestic violence, according to Diggins. Even once a proposal is made, Diggins said in-person visitations will take time to be reinstated due to logistical issues of cost and construction.

Studies have found lower recidivism rates among inmates who have contact with family members while incarcerated. The American Correctional Association recommends that “technology should supplement, not replace, in-person visitation.”

Independent Monitor Nicholas Mitchell recom-

mended to the Denver City Council that the Denver Sheriff’s Department restore in-person visitation before approving a \$1.4 million contract for new video visitation system. According to the article, council members are interested in seeing a return to in-person visitation.

“I was shocked when I heard about it, and it does not sit right with me at all to have that level of deprivation,” said Councilman Paul Kashmann.

According to *Denverite*, the city council is still likely to approve the new video visitation contract with Securix Technologies Inc. The company’s contracts sometimes prohibit the use of in-person visitations, but that is not the case in Denver.

Prisoners file lawsuit to receive hepatitis C treatment

Doctors refused patients treatment, citing that they were not sick enough

By William Earl Tolbert
Journalism Guild Writer

California prisoners filed a federal court class action lawsuit in Sacramento to receive a curative treatment

for hepatitis C, after doctors refused patients treatment citing that they were not sick enough, the disease is too far advanced, or that the drugs cost too much, reported the *Sacramento Bee*.

California's prison health care staff refused to provide 18 incarcerated hepatitis C patients with a new and expensive curable drug. Attorneys Mark E. Merin and Fred J. Hiestand filed the lawsuit

in Sacramento on behalf of the infected inmates.

and other health problem. The new drug treatment cost up to \$40,000 per inmate, said the article. Merin believes California Department of Rehabilitation (CDCR) could negotiate a lower fee just based on the volume of inmates with hepatitis C.

Patients with a life expectancy of less than 12 months whose condition would not be improved by the treatment and patients who would be released from prison before completing their treatment are not eligible candidates for treatment, reported the article. Pregnant women and patients in reception centers are also entitled to the treatment.

As of Jan. 12, there have been 18,389 inmates diagnosed with chronic hepatitis

C, said Terry Thornton, a spokeswoman for the CDCR, reported the article.

Among those named as defendants in the lawsuit is receiver J. Clark Kelso. In 2006 the federal court appointed a receiver to manage the delivery of medical care in California's prisons, after it ruled CDCR failed to provide proper medical care to its inmates, reported the *Bee*.

There were 19,000 fatalities in the United States last year from hepatitis C, said the attorneys of the inmates. According to a spokeswoman for the California Correctional Health Care Services, the hepatitis C treatment for inmates is based on guidelines provided by the American Association for the Study of Liver Disease.

Canada loosening policy on prison assisted suicide

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

The Canadian prison system has loosened its policy for terminally ill inmates to receive medically assisted death. Prison watchdogs call for a more humanitarian and compassionate parole option.

Canadian prisons are filling with more sick, mentally ill and elderly inmates, according to a report cited by *CBC News*.

Correctional Investigator Ivan Zinger said the 2017 guidelines for medically assisted death breach the system's legal and ethical obligations, reported *CBC News*.

"Practically and perceptually, I simply cannot imagine a scenario where it would be considered acceptable to allow an external provider to carry out a MAID (medical assistance in death) procedure in a federal penitentiary," Zinger wrote to Canadian prison officials.

"I do not see how such a decision could be publicly defended by the service or minister, on any ground."

According to the report, medically assisted deaths are to be carried out in a "community hospital or other facility — but the procedure can take place in a penitentiary regional hospital or treatment center in exceptional circumstances and at the request of the inmate."

There are procedures for terminally ill inmates to be released from Canadian prisons via "parole by exception." However of the offenders who died in prison, 88 had applied for parole by exception and were denied, according to a report *CBC News* cites.

Offenders who were successful in obtaining a "parole

by exception" for palliative care reasons and died in the community were not included in the report.

According to the report cited by *CBC News*, there were 132 non-natural deaths in prisons over the seven-year period. The report noted that while the number of deaths by suicide in prison has been declining, the number of overdose deaths — increasingly caused by the opioid Fentanyl — is on the rise.

Because care for chronic and terminal illness is "extremely inadequate," Adelina Iftene, a prison law expert at Dalhousie University, said she worries a growing number of inmates will choose assisted death as a "way out" to escape pain.

"I don't really think we can talk about meaningful, voluntary consent when somebody is giving it from behind prison walls without the option of choosing palliative care," she said.

"When prisoners with Hep C are released, their viral infections can easily be spread to others"

"Hep C spreads through the society by contact with infected blood. When prisoners with Hep C are released, their viral infections can easily be spread to others," said attorneys in a news release.

The disease causes inflammation of the liver, which can lead to cirrhosis of the liver

CCHCS billing inmates for medical services

\$600 for the service that came from an out-of-state medical provider

By Charles David Henry
and Juan Haines

Men who received treatment from hospitals outside the prison were surprised to receive medical bills along with a notice that they had to pay for those services.

A 2006 federal court order put California prisoners' medical care in the hands of the California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS). CCHCS's budget includes more than \$350 million for services inmates cannot get in prison hospitals.

By mistake, the bills went via the U.S. Postal service directly to the inmates.

Stephan Wilson received an ECG Recording and Review bill for \$127.98. He said that he is concerned that the parole board might use an unpaid bill against him.

Vahan Nazarian's bill was \$295 for a bladder stone

treatment. Two weeks later, he received a second bill for \$500. He additionally got a bill for \$600 for the service that came from an out-of-state medical provider.

"I spoke with medical staff right after I got the first statement months ago," Nazarian said. "I was told to send it to them in a U-Sav-Envelope."

After Nazarian sent medical staff the bill, the following month he received another billing statement. Last December, he received notification that the bill was sent to a collection agency in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ossie Giles received anesthesia services last February and a got bill for \$1,440.

"I know there is no way for me to pay this bill," Giles said. "I'm in custody and under the control of the CDCR. I shouldn't have to deal with this."

Stanley Baer requires

heart valve replacement. He was charged \$141.25 for a severe aortic stenosis diagnosis. He told his daughter to notify his lawyer because if "I don't get this heart valve replaced in the next two years, there is a 50-50 chance I could die in prison."

Liz Gransee, Public Information Officer II for CCHCS, said it isn't normal for inmates to get bills from medical service providers, but it has happened on occasion.

"On these occasions, if we are notified we contact the billing group immediately and have them follow our claim submission process," Gransee said.

Gransee said if inmates receive a bill for medical services while incarcerated in a California state prison, they should mail it to:

Healthcare Invoicing Section
PO Box 588500, D-2
Elk Grove, CA 95758



Photo by Ike Dodson

N.A. Chaderjian youth graduates

YOUTH

Continued from Page 1

Huerta told the *Stockton Record* that he saw life as getting out of prison, selling drugs and possibly ending up back in prison or dead. He requested that he be sent to the penitentiary, but instead the program staff encouraged him to give the pre-apprenticeship a try.

"Now that I think about it, I have something positive to look forward to," Huerta said. "If I stay positive, positive things will come my way so why go negative? I'm going to try my best to be successful."

Charles Pattillo, general manager of California Prison Industry Authority, partnered with the facility and California trade unions to bring the

program to the Stockton facility.

"The public needs to understand that everyone, whether juvenile or adult, just about everybody is going to get out of prison eventually, and it's incumbent upon us to make sure these folks don't come back to prison in any way shape or form," Pattillo said. "Investing in programs like this is probably the surest way to guarantee they don't return."

The program costs about \$160,000 a year to operate and DJJ makes an additional \$1,500 investment once an offender is released, Pattillo said. In comparison, it costs between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per juvenile offender to keep them incarcerated, reported the *Stockton Record*.

The program is rigorous. Roy Borgersen, an ex-

offender who now instructs inmates, has the men toil in the rain. "I tried to kill them," he said.

The young students would get upset and talk back to him but they never quit. The unions don't want lazy employees, Borgersen told the *Stockton Record*, so it is especially important for him to teach them to work hard.

Graduate Jonathan Hernandez-Sanchez, 20, who sees a future in the concrete demolition business, said he made his mother proud as he received his certificate.

"He only has me, and I only have him," said his mother, Yvette Sanchez, who moved to Sacramento from Los Angeles to be closer to her son. "I need to make sure to be there for him for all his important moments. I'm very proud to be able to be here with him."

Prison psychiatrist double dips working for CDCR

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Prison psychiatrist Anthony Coppola earned more than \$540,000 in 2016 while "double dipping" at two government agencies, a state prison in Tracy and an Alameda County jail, the *Sacramento Bee* reports.

Coppola's attorney, Brian Crone, said the psychiatrist was doing nothing wrong because the chief of mental health and the prison warden at Tracy knew what he was doing. Coppola split his workdays and vacation days between the two government agencies.

California public employees, for the most part, are allowed to moonlight, and they can work a second job on their vacation days. However, the total of Coppola's dual incomes was unprecedented.

CDCR officials caught notice of the conspicuous sum two years ago during a staffing shakeup at Tracy.

Coppola says he pulled in the second income while trying to whittle down a huge bank of personal leave he had accumulated over years of working for the state.

Coppola split his workdays and vacation days between the two government agencies.

After a state investigation into his second job, 1,100 hours of personal leave were wiped off his records — enough leave for a six-month vacation.

Coppola claims in a lawsuit that prison executives harassed him when he refused to help them discipline a colleague, thus causing the investigation and the subsequent rescinding

of his leave time. State lawyers counter that Coppola was incorrectly awarded too many vacation days.

Attorney Crone points out there is a shortage of doctors willing to work in high-stress jobs. "There are just not that many people who want to work at a prison or want to work in a jail. ... So if you're one who can do it or wants to do it, you might as well take advantage of what you can do."

According to the *Sacramento Bee*, mental health professionals are in high demand across every level of government. Last year the state gave special raises of up to 24 percent to doctors in certain prisons as recruiting and retention incentives.

Coppola is currently on unpaid leave of absence from his prison job in Tracy and is working more often for Alameda County. When he retires, he will receive pension benefits from both state and county entities.

Female parolees' hard road to successful re-entry

Women leaving prison struggle to have their employment choices accepted

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Following her parole, Davina, 50, got a temporary job on a website contract, but her parole officer insisted that she find full-time work because, he said, contract work is "too non-traditional," reported Alejandra Molina in the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*.

Another woman was called "lazy" by her parole officer for attending a trade school and not finding full-time work three months after her

release.

"I'm trying to figure out my education so I can have a good job," said the woman, identified only as Shonda. "I want to get my education right so I can have a career, not just get any old thing like cleaning toilets at a Jack-in-the-Box."

Meanwhile, several other women who braided hair from home to supplement income said they were pressured to find "real" employment, because their parole or probation officers claimed braiding hair was not

dependable work.

Sociologist Susila Gurusami listened to these women's complaints and says their plight is part of a disturbing trend: Women leaving prison struggle to convince their parole officers that their employment choices are legitimate. Gurusami gave the details in a new report from the University of California at Riverside.

In particular, Black women leaving prison are facing stricter parole employment requirements in addition to a harsher labor market, the

2017 report said.

"There is a consistent underlying logic that seeks to devalue Black women, particularly through the labor market," Gurusami wrote.

What constitutes real gainful employment is a subjective matter that state agents can interpret differently. A fast food job may resonate more strongly with a parole officer as "rehabilitation labor" than the pursuit of an education that could lead to reliable employment down the road, the sociologist wrote.

"For whatever reasons, it's



Photo by Salvation Army

Woman in re-entry housing facility

a lot more difficult for African-American women even accessing re-entry services," Vonya Quarles, co-founder of Starting Over, a transitional housing program, told the *Press Enterprise*.

"It's a lot more difficult for African-American women even accessing re-entry services"

There are not enough Black people in hiring positions working in service industries to extend opportunities to Black women, said Quarles.

Another woman in her 30s shared how her criminal record was a barrier to finding reliable work. After months of not working and bills stacking up, she started working at a strip club. Once her probation officer learned about her job, she was told she was not supposed to frequent places that encourage "immoral" behavior, or she would "find herself thrown back into a cell," said the report.

The constant threat of reincarceration by parole officers for not securing full-time work and the lack of employment opportunities cause some of the women to suffer from anxiety.

Approximately 9,000 people nationwide are reincarcerated every day for violating parole and probation employment orders, according to the report. Black people represented 40 percent of the over-all post-release violations, but accounted for 70 percent for unemployment

violations.

Gurusami's report also highlighted a woman who was vaguely threatened with "consequences" from her parole officer if she was not home for daily check-ins with him. This order would prevent her from going to a temporary job. So the woman chose to go to work, citing her family needed the money.

Many of the women have turned to advocating for other incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people while they searched for full-time employment with little success, said Gurusami.

"It was close to being very difficult for me to find employment," said Ingrid Archie, formerly incarcerated, now working as an advocate for A New Way of Life. "I didn't find employment outside of the organization," she told the *Press-Enterprise*.

A New Way of Life is a nonprofit organization helping formerly incarcerated women.

"Most women reported that parole or probation agents either had a neutral impact on them or presented an additional barrier in adjusting to life after incarceration," the report noted.

Gurusami, 29, who is of South Asian heritage, spent close to 18 months with 35 formerly incarcerated women, 24 of them Black, at a South L.A. re-entry program. Most of the women were convicted for drug-related offenses or prostitution. Two of the women were convicted of homicide, but said they acted in self-defense.

As part of her research, Gurusami attended court hearings with the women, helped them with job applications, and drove the women to medical appointments then back home.

2011 Realignment had modest impact on recidivism

Inmates have a slightly higher rate of recidivism than those released before AB 109

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

California's 2011 Realignment plan reduced the state's prison population, increased county jail population and had a modest impact on recidivism, according to a study seven years later.

"One goal of Realignment was to reduce California's persistently high recidivism rates," the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) report states. "Overall, we find Realignment had modest effects on recidivism, with considerable variation across offender groups and counties."

The report titled "Realignment and Recidivism" in California was published in December 2017. It found 71.9 percent of inmates released to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) after the passing of Assembly Bill 109, Public Safety Realignment, have a slightly higher rate of recidivism than those released before AB 109.

According to the report, PRCS offenders were rearrested 2.6 percentage points higher than those released before Realignment, and 56.4 percent were reconvicted. The new convictions were 2.4 points higher than pre-Realignment releases.

Among other facts, the PPIC found Realignment cre-

ated two types of offenders under California Penal Code § 1170(h): "Those who receive both jail time and probation supervision," called a "split" sentence, and "those who receive jail time with no supervision," a "straight" sentence.

"Public safety Realignment marked a new era for corrections and rehabilitation"

That Penal Code section refers to those sentenced for non-serious, non-violent, nonsexual felony offenses and served their sentences in county lockup. Before Realignment, those convicted of specific offenses defined in that section would have been sent to state prison if their sentences exceeded one year.

"The group serving 'straight' sentences had the best outcomes: the same two-year re-arrest rates and lower two-year reconviction rates (by 3.0 percentage points)," the report said. "Those who received 'split' sentences had higher rates of rearrest (by 7.8 points) but lower rates of

reconviction (by 3.4 points) compared with similar individuals before Realignment."

The report said Realignment didn't have a steady effect on recidivism for those sentenced under Penal Code § 1170(h). "We find that 74.5 percent of these individuals were rearrested (2.3 percentage points higher than their pre-Realignment counterparts) and 54.9 percent were re-convicted (2.0 points lower)."

PPIC found overall reconviction rates were higher for those on PRCS after Realignment. However, nine counties saw lower rates of reconviction. This was an indication that the overall finding is driven by a small number of counties, it was reported.

"Notably, offenders who received a jail term and no supervision stand out as having better outcomes on all measures of recidivism, when compared with similar individuals released before Realignment," the report said.

Realignment is said to be "one of the most far-reaching criminal justice reforms in recent U.S. history," PPIC reported. It has been referred to as "revolutionary and sudden," "the most significant correctional reform in decades," and "the biggest penal experiment in modern history."

AB 109 was created after

the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation prison system couldn't effectively meet the demands of inmates' healthcare because of severe overcrowding.

The court gave the state two options: increase the capacity of its prisons or reduce the prisoner population. California, however, was in the midst of a budget crisis and could not build its way out of the problem.

Instead, the state decided to "realign" low-level felony offenders from the state prison and parole system to county jail and probation systems.

"Realignment effectively reduced the state's prison population by more than 27,000 in the first year of implementation," the PPIC report said. "As expected, jail populations increased and, in many counties, jails reached or exceeded capacity." The overall jail population increased by less than 9,000 inmates. "As a result, Realignment led to a reduction in both the prison population and overall incarceration levels."

The report concluded that "Public safety Realignment marked a new era for corrections and rehabilitation—and raised questions about the reform's effects on crime and recidivism."

ROSEN

Continued from Page 1

"I can explain what it's like to come in here to meet prisoners who have gone through rehabilitation programs, but it's not the same as experiencing it themselves," Rosen said. "I think it's very valuable for me to come to San Quentin, and then go to other prisons to see what they are like — to see the bleakness. Most of the prisons I've been to are disgusting. There is little rehabilitation."

Rosen's opinion about prisons, rehabilitation, and reentry is based on his years of experience prosecuting criminals, sending them to prison and seeing them return to the community.

Rosen acknowledged that most people he sends to prison would get out, one day,

Therefore, he wants to know more about self-help programs that work.

"I want them to come out better people than when they came in," Rosen said.

The late Arnulfo T. Garcia, who died in an automobile accident last September, and Aly Tamboura, who went from San Quentin to working with the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, are examples of people Rosen met who came out of prison better than they went in.

"There's a group of inmates who will come back to Santa Clara County and want to help in doing something positive in the community," Rosen said. "I want to meet with them and listen to what they're doing. I want to amplify their success. I want to highlight people who were once in prison, now paying back to society."

Terry Alexander, who talked to Rosen on the yard,

was sentenced to serve seven-years-to-life. That was 40 years ago.

"Why does the district attorney always oppose parole during board hearings?" Alexander asked.

"I want to highlight people who were once in prison, now paying back to society"

Rosen noted Alexander's lengthy prison stay is a result of policies of Gov. Jerry Brown's first term. Now, the governor is supporting new laws, legislation and clemency recommendations to address some of the overcrowding problems that he helped

create.

The results have been several thousand prisoners released back to the community and the new release policies have faced criticism.

But Rosen said that most of the people released from prison were successful citizens. Mainstream media, however, are failing to report the success stories. He added, "The newspaper story will be someone who's done some terrible crime. It's hard for me to talk to the public about the success stories. The concern is someone reoffending."

Rosen also acknowledged that most of the time, district attorneys oppose releases in cases like Alexander's — "but the board makes the ultimate decision," Rosen said. "The DA looks at all factors of the individual and they talk to the victim's family to determine their position."

Rosen talked about a trip

he took to see German prisons.

"I'm Jewish, and a lot of my family has survived the Holocaust," Rosen said. "When my parents learned that I was going to a German prison, they didn't take it very well."

Rosen was part of a group that consisted of prison directors from four states, teachers, and a crew from CBS' *60 Minutes*. His expectation was that the German prisons were going to be much like the American ones.

"When I got there, I found out German prisons were a lot like the ones in Norway and Sweden," Rosen said. "Their prisons are a lot different than the ones in the U.S. Inmates cook their own food using butcher knives, forks, pots, and pans. There's a regular kitchen. Each person has his or her own room, which is very important regarding space. Their system

doesn't have maximum- or minimum-security prisons. The amount of time you're serving determines what prison you're at — like a prison for five years or less. The staffing is much different — for every inmate there's a staffer. They have lenient visiting rules. Prisoners can earn passes to go see their families. Very few violate the rules and don't come back after getting a pass."

Rosen said he'll keep his door open to people doing something positive after leaving prison. He believes that offenders should perform service to the community.

"Then it's on society to meet the offender halfway," Rosen said. His frustrations come from seeing repeat offenders. "There are risks on both sides — if the person screws up, then I have to send them back to prison — but if you do well, then we can share in the success."

Overview of inmate deaths in 2017 in CDCR

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The thought of dying in prison is every inmate's worst fear, be it the death from violence, old age or disease. It's a nightmare.

Nevertheless, inmates should keep their emergency information updated said Dr. Tootell, San Quentin's chief medical officer (CMO).

Unlike Charles Manson,

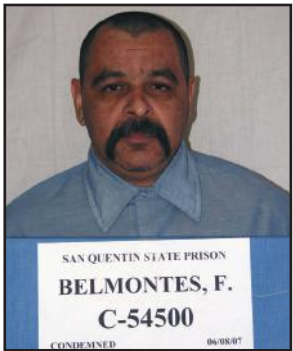


Photo by CDCR

Fernando Belmontes, 56 died on Sept. 29 of natural causes.

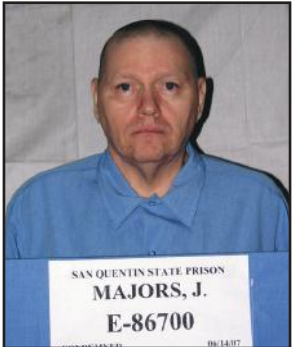


Photo by CDCR

James Majors, 69, died in Feb. 2017 of natural causes.

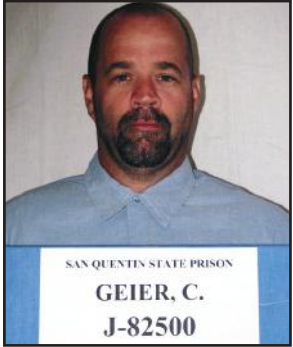


Photo by CDCR

Christopher Geier, 49, died Aug. 30, 17 from natural causes.



Photo by CDCR

Emilio Avalos, 49, on died on Nov. 1 from of pending causes.

the cult leader who died in November, the majority of prisoners won't have people fighting it out in court over who gets their remains.

In 2017, 11 men died serving time in San Quentin.

"The men should consider using a younger family member to receive that information," Tootell said. "It's hard breaking that kind of news to someone's 90-year-old mother or grandmother. That could send someone of that age into shock."

In 2016, 334 inmates died in California prisons; 325 were men and nine women. The top causes of death were from cancer and heart disease. The third cause was liver disease, including liver cancer, according to an October 2017 California Correctional Health Care Services report, titled *Analysis of 2016 Inmate Death Reviews in the California Correctional Healthcare System*.

The average age of the men who died was 57 years old, 19

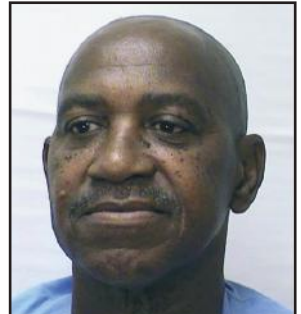


Photo by CDCR

Mose Bowman died in 2017 from cancer

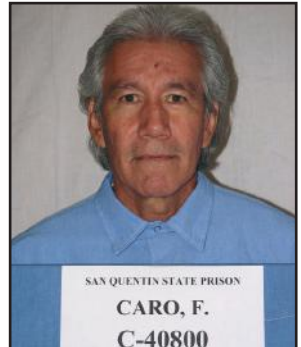


Photo by CDCR

Fernando Caro 67, died on Jan 28, 2017 from a heart attack.

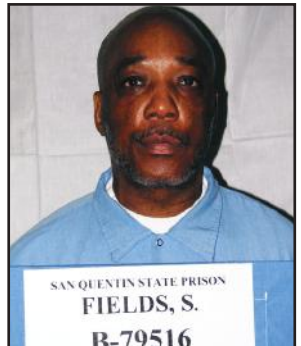


Photo by CDCR

Stevie Fields, 60, died on Feb. 28, 17 from of natural causes.

years shorter than the life expectancy of American males in the free world, who have an average life expectancy of 76.3 years, according to the report.

The nine women prisoners had an average age of 54, compared to the life expectancy of all American women at 81.2 years.

"I don't want to die in prison, but I'm a realist," said P. Bennett, 63. "It's a thing I can't do nothing about."

Bennett entered the prison system 25 years ago and has since lost both his parents. If he were to die in prison, he said he would have to rely on the state to take care of his remains.

"I do have a 'don't resuscitate' and organ donation in my file," Bennett said.

If families or friends do not claim a body for burial, CDCR must exhaust all reasonable efforts to locate a claimant. If 10 days have passed after all efforts have been exhausted, the prisoner's remains will be cremated or buried by a licensed mortuary in accordance with a previously approved contract. If a cause of death is unknown, an investigation and autopsy will be performed by the Marin County coroner's office for San Quentin. Once that process is completed, the remains are handed over to the family or disposed of by the state, according to the *Associated Press*. Manson, whose likeness appeared on

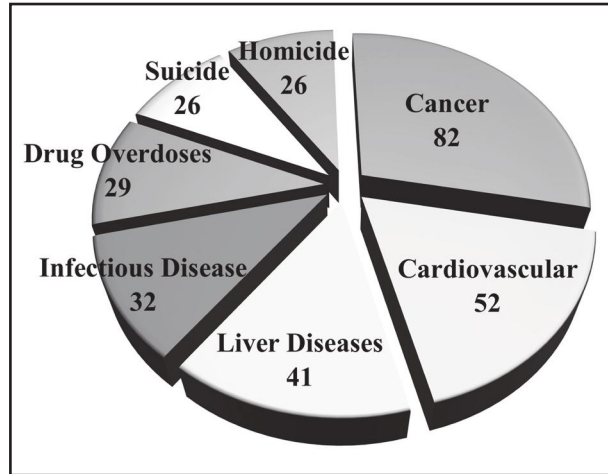


Chart of the top seven causes of death in 2016, where 334 inmate died in CA. 325 men and nine women

T-shirts, left behind a music catalogue of more than a 100 songs that have generated money, according to a *Daily Mail* article.

The average prisoner will leave behind at best a TV, radio and CD player, all made of transparent plastic (to prevent the hiding of contraband), a fan and possibly miscellaneous legal papers.

"It's hard to watch someone shrink away before they die," said Michael Woods, an inmate whose cancer is in remission. "I mentor at least four people who have been diagnosed with cancer. One is at stage four. I just try my best to keep their spirits up."

When an inmate death occurs, the facility where the death happens has five calendar days to report its

initial death summary review to California's statewide Death Review Unit. This report includes a timeline of events, the emergency medical response and any lapses in health care delivery.

"In every case, the cause of death is determined. Care lapses are noted, especially any that may have contributed to the patient death," the report said. "The physician reviewer then makes a judgment as to whether the death was preventable or not preventable."

A separate case review is held for all suicides or possible suicides by a member of the Suicide Prevention and Response Focused Improvement Team (SPRFIT). This includes a Mental Health Pro-

gram review.

The report noted cases such as:

- A man, 44, who died of a methamphetamine overdose, was classified as a type 1 lapse—failure to recognize combative agitation as a symptom of intoxication—and a type 14 lapse—delay in transfer and delay in emergency response—that might have contributed to his death.
- The failure to evaluate recurrent chest pain of a man, 31, who died of sudden cardiac arrest, was classified a type 1 lapse. The significant delay in activating the emergency medical response to a "man down" situation could have contributed to this death and was labeled a type 14.

Drug overdoses were the fifth most common prison death cases in 2016, while homicide and suicide were tied for the sixth leading cause of death.

"A major disappointing finding in 2016 was the continued rise in the rate of deaths by drug overdose," the report concluded. "A second disappointing finding is the continued high rate of death by homicide. Both of these rates are significantly higher in CCHCS than in state prisons nationally."



Back in the Day San Quentin Cemetery

File Photo

Suicides disturbingly common among correctional officers

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Suicides are "distressingly common" among California's correctional and parole officers, a university study concludes. The rate of correctional or parole officers who have attempted or considered suicide is three times the United States' general population rate.

"Historically, it's been hard to get attention to mental health issues among law enforcement," said Amy Lerman, an associate professor of public policy and political science at UC Berkeley who helped conduct the study. "There's been just so little information out there about what people are

experiencing and how to successfully intervene."

Inmate suicides in California's correctional institutions have been studied, the *Berkeley News* reported. But correctional officers' suicides and other serious health and wellness concerns for corrections staff haven't received the same amount of attention.

According to Don Thompson of the *Associated Press* (AP), the annual suicide rate for California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) union members was 10.3 per 100,000 people, exceeding the suicide rate in California in 13 of 17 years between 1999 and 2015.

"Suicide is distressingly

common among current and former California prison employees," according to Thompson. In a reported 17-year period, the CCPOA counted "96 confirmed or suspected suicides among current and retired members."

According to the *Berkeley News*, among 8,300 survey respondents, 10 percent said they've "seriously considered or attempted suicide."

The study found that suicide "is even higher among retired guards — about 14 percent, similar to the suicide risk among military veterans," the AP reported.

"Everyone I've spoken to as part of the survey has known someone working in corrections who has

struggled with mental health issues or threatened suicide," Lerman said.

"Like police officers, prison guards go to work each day knowing they could face violence," the AP reported. "It's a reality softened by the financial rewards — California guards can earn more than \$100,000 with salary and overtime and have top-notch health care and retirement plans."

According to Thompson, researchers pointed to correctional officers' repeated "exposure to violence and injury, their perception of constant danger, and their reluctance to share traumatic experiences with family members or counselors."

The goal of the study was to "assess mental and physical health problems among prison and parole officers, who face intense work-related stresses from a constant threat of physical violence and an often-volatile disciplinary system," it was reported. "The information from the study will help guide the roll-out and evaluation of new pilot assistance programs across the state."

In response, the CCPOA is asking Gov. Jerry Brown to hire a social worker to work at each of the state's 35 prisons in 2019. It also wants to strengthen confidentiality protections for its members who seek help.

It was reported by *The*

Daily Courier that CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan said assistance programs are not used enough and that he vowed to turn to experts to see what the department can do better.

The study was done by Lerman with the support of postdoctoral researcher Meredith Sadin, cooperation of the correctional officers union, the CCPOA Benefit Trust, and UC Berkeley graduate students.

"Everyone seems really committed to working on the problem," said Lerman. She also noted the level of concern regarding this issue has seemingly increased in the past 10 years, "along with the desire to learn more about it," the *News* reported.

Boys 2 Men self-help group mentoring youth offenders

Kid CAT Speaks!

By Kentric McCoy
California Medical Facility
Writer

Two older inmates at California Medical Facility created a self-help group to mentor youth offenders.

“I joined Boys 2 Men because I had a desire to grow and mature from the reckless young man I once was”

Formed in 2016 by inmates Maurice Bridges and Kentric McCoy, the group is called Boys 2 Men Support Group.

Bridges and McCoy wanted to bring together a group of older incarcerated men to connect and mentor young inmates to reduce recidivism.

They also wanted to give youth offenders hope and



Facilitators and youth offenders in Boys 2 Men

Courtesy of CDCR

tools for how to change their lives by improving their family ties and make their communities a better place to

live. “Our generation has failed our youth. They are hurting as a result of our failure. The

only way to help our youth is for our generation to listen to them and learn to talk to them, not at them,” said McCoy.

“We named the group Boys 2 Men Support Group because we wanted each young man to learn how to support other men in their transformation of growth into real world manhood.”

Boys 2 Men’s mission statement is: As iron sharpens iron, so does man sharpen man.

“I am a Boys 2 Men mentor because after entering prison with a life sentence at 26 years old I saw myself in a lot of these young men today,” said Terrance McCants, 48, Boys 2 Men mentor.

“I try to lead by example, teaching them the impor-

tance of having integrity and how to conduct themselves as men with good principles and character.”

Another mentor Michael Gathright, 52, said, “Being a mentor...has created a perfect opportunity for me to listen and learn, as well as give back by reconnecting with our younger generation.”

The mentors of Boys 2 Men see the group as a place that serves a dual purpose, one to reduce recidivism and another to provide a safe space where young inmates can express their concerns and struggles.

“I joined Boys 2 Men because I had a desire to grow and mature from the reckless young man I once was. The group has allowed me to work through and overcome a lot of

my childhood trials and tribulations,” said Kao Saephan, Boys 2 Men member.

Another member, R. Rivers said, “Boys 2 Men has given me a real family – a father, uncle and a brother I never had to look up to as a positive role model. They never gave up on me, even during my worst days.”

Boys 2 Men Support Group aims to expand into other prisons throughout the state.

For further information, contact:

Josefina Fernandez, Sponsor Boys 2 Men Support Group California Medical Facility 1600 California Drive Vacaville, CA 95687 Josefina.Fernandez@cdcr.ca.gov (707) 448-6841, ext. 2418

New CA youth offender bills

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

California legislators are introducing two new bills that will affect accomplices of felony murder and youth offenders under SB 260, 261, and AB 1308.

The first bill, SB 1437, introduced by Senator Nancy Skinner, will set forth new guidelines for sentencing (certain) accomplices of murder.

“This bill would prohibit malice from being imputed to a person based solely on his or her participation in a crime,” California Legislative Information (CLI) published.

“The bill would prohibit a participant or conspirator in the commission or attempted commission of a felony inherently dangerous to human life to be imputed to have acted with implied malice, unless he or she personally committed the homicidal act.”

The bill, however, would

exclude participants or conspirators in the perpetration or attempted perpetration if the person acted with:

- Premeditated intent to aid and abet an act wherein a death would occur, or
- The person was a major participant in the underlying felony and acted with reckless indifference to human life.

“This bill would provide a means of resentencing a defendant when a complaint, information or indictment was filed against the defendant that allowed the prosecution to proceed under a theory of first degree felony murder, 2nd degree felony murder or murder under the natural and probable consequences doctrine,” CLI reported.

The second bill, SB 1242, introduced by Senator Josh Newman, will exclude individuals from the youth offender parole hearing process

if they had been convicted of murdering a peace officer or former police officer.

The new bill also sets forth standards an inmate must meet before the board grants parole.

The standards include:
A. The inmate demonstrates remorse and insight into the nature of the crime, unless the inmate asserts his or her factual innocence.

B. The inmate has not minimized his or her role in the crime, and is found to be credible about his or her role in the crime.

C. The inmate demonstrates the changes he or she has made to illustrate his or her departure from prior criminality.

D. The inmate demonstrates that he or she has been free from disciplinary actions for a reasonable period of time prior to the hearing.

E. The inmate demonstrates positive activities while in custody.

Dear Kid CAT

I’m currently housed at Pleasant Valley State Prison. I’m a voracious reader of the San Quentin News and I always keep up with the Kid CAT section. Furthermore, I was incarcerated at the age of 17, which makes me a youth offender. I’m writing because I’m tremendously interested in participation and hopefully joining your program. I understand that San Quentin is in transition to becoming a programming facility (PF), which allows sensitive needs (SNY) inmates the opportunity to be there. Do you know how I can go about making it over there, since I’m SNY, and the perceptions and attitudes toward SNY inmates at San Quentin? This is utterly important to me because I really want to better myself and take advantage of all the programs available. Please get back to me.

Sincerely,
C. Diep, PVSP.

Dear Mr. Diep,

We know that many people throughout the state are hearing about the changes taking place during San Quentin’s transition to a programming facility. Life is about choices, it is those decisions that will determine whether or not we will be successful when we return to society. With that said, the men here in San Quentin have been informed about the changes. We cannot speak on how others may perceive SNY inmates, however, Kid CAT as an organization will not turn away any members. We are focused on creating awareness, and we will do our part to reduce recidivism and improve our society through community service and education. We welcome and accept all people with open arms.

We know that it is a tough decision to make, but do what is in your best interest.

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 Speaks c/o San Quentin News 1 Main Street San Quentin, CA 94964 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.



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!

With the current national debate on gun control, President Donald Trump suggested an idea of arming teachers in the classroom; do you think this is a good idea? If not, what do you think should be done instead?

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

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

50 years after Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of peace

King's Dream was to end class divisions and racism

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

The message of peace and racial justice from Martin Luther King Jr. 50 years ago is still being echoed in 2018 America. Nonviolent protests around the country are seen in recent Occupy Movements, Black Lives Matter, #METOO, Time's Up, and March for our lives movements.

King was assassinated April 4, 1968. And every year Americans remember him on his birthday, now a national holiday. We're reminded that King was a civil rights pioneer in places such as Alabama and at the historic March on Washington in 1963. His "I Have A Dream" speech has been played and replayed.

One enduring message has been that King was "passive" and "nonviolent." He is also credited with energizing the civil rights movement.

According to *A Companion to African Ameri-*

can History, edited by Alton Hornsby, Jr., "The push to acknowledge African-American agency started a gradual shift in the discourse on (civil rights) movement origins. Rather than Brown v. Board of Education, scholars began to point to...the emergence of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1955 as having jump-started civil rights struggles."

"We have known humiliation, we have known abusive language, we have been plunged into the abyss of oppression," King said. "And we decided to raise up only with the weapon of protest."

King's activism made him "a chief target of the FBI" through its counter-intelligence program (COINTELPRO), according to author Howard Zinn. The FBI tapped his private phone conversations, sent him fake letters, threatened him, and blackmailed him, Zinn wrote.

This came as King became outspoken politically. He warned that Americans couldn't hope to dream, or to



Martin Luther King, Jr walking with marchers

be free, as long as the people in Indochina remained under siege by the American military and its machines of war.

Against the advice of other civil rights leaders, who were afraid of King losing support

in Washington, he connected war to poverty.

"The bombs in Vietnam explode at home; they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America," King said, cautioning the United States about its involvement in Southeast Asia in the 1960s.

King was jailed for his crusading. In his famous "Letter From Birmingham Jail," he described how members of the local clergy asked why he was there. His response was "because injustice is here." But he was also "concerned about problems untouched by

civil rights laws," Zinn wrote.

"Since before the Civil War, the alliance of Southern racism and Northern reaction has been the major roadblock to all social advancement," King wrote in *Where Do We Go From Here?* "This explains why the United States is still far behind European nations in all forms of social legislation."

King's dream was to end class divisions and racism.

"A productive and happy life is not something that you find," King wrote. "It is something that you make."

King questioned America's "tragic mix-up in priorities," according to Zinn. He said the United States spends money on "death and destruction, and not nearly enough money for life and constructive development."

Fifty years ago, King's political messages were spoken. Today, they stand as a testament to why he said peace is necessary. He said we need peace to be free and that "Freedom is not won by a passive acceptance of suffering. Freedom is won by a struggle against suffering."

National study shows rural jails part of mass incarceration

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

A national study shows that between 1970 and 2013 the number of people held in jail before their case was resolved increased at a rate of 436 percent. The 2017 Vera Institute of Justice study "Out of Sight: The Growth of Jails in Rural America" also shows that a growing number of rural counties are renting out jail space for federal and state prisoners and prisoners from neighboring counties.

The South and West regions have the highest pretrial detention rates (at 281 and 198 per 100,000, respectively) compared to the Northeast and Midwest (at 177 and 170 per 100,000, respectively).

Two constant and related outcomes explain the expansion of rural jails.

Generally, rural counties have fewer dollars to spend on services that can keep people out of jail, such as substance abuse or mental health treatment. That leaves jail as the only choice. In addition, the nationwide problem of prison overcrowding creates a financial incentive for rural counties to build more jails and rent out the extra space.

Rural counties build jails as an income stream generated by per-diem payments for each person they board in from other systems. Such payments run anywhere from

\$25 to \$169 per person.

In 2014, more than 30 percent of people incarcerated in jails located in Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and West Virginia were held for other authorities.

The Vera study cites a complex decision-making process, involving four factors, that leads to rural jail growth:

- Law enforcement who choose to arrest, release or book people into jail;
- Prosecutors who determine whether to charge people or whether to divert them from prosecution;
- Judges, magistrates or bail commissioners who decide to detain or release people pretrial and under what conditions; and
- Jail administrators or county politicians who decide to enter into contracts with other authorities to board in people from outside their jurisdiction (or board out people to other jurisdictions).

Nationwide, crime rates are historically low in all offense categories.

The Vera study shows that crime rates in rural counties

are substantially lower than urban counties. Rural counties have property crime rates that are 25 percent lower than urban counties—violent crime rates a third lower.

Between 2004 and 2014, the number of White people in jail increased 19 percent in rural counties and 15 percent in small and medium metropolitan counties, while it declined 15 percent in urban counties. Meanwhile, although the number of Black people in rural jails also increased, it did so at a slower rate than the number of White people—7 percent—and only increased by 1 percent in small and medium metros. Significantly, the Black jail population declined 26 percent in urban counties, driving an overall decline in the jail incarceration rate of Black people, from 1,138 to 899 per 100,000.

Between 2004 and 2014, the number of women in jail increased 43 percent in rural counties and 29 percent in small and medium metros, while it declined 6 percent in urban counties.

The study notes that most rural jails are very small. However, when adding up the inmate populations of the nearly 2,000 rural county jails across the nation, understanding rural jail growth is an important part in understanding mass incarceration.

Trump credited with expansion of hate groups

By Jesse Vasquez
Managing Editor

A recent report credits President Donald J. Trump's administration with boosting the recruitment and expansion of hate groups in America.

The Southern Poverty Law Center's (SPLC) Year in Hate and Extremism report identified 954 hate groups in America, more than 600 of which are devoted to some type of White supremacy.

"President Trump in 2017 reflected what White supremacist groups want to see: a country where racism is sanctioned by the highest office, immigrants are given the boot and Muslims banned," said Heidi Beirich, director of the SPLC's Intelligence Project.

The report chronicles 300 incidents of racist flyer distributions on 200 college campuses nationwide.

Neo-Nazi groups had the highest increase, from 99 groups to 121, and Anti-Muslim groups increased for the third straight year, from 101 groups to 114.

Black Nationalist hate groups increased from 193 in

2016 to 233 in 2017.

However, in the wake of the resurgence of a Black liberation resistance, an increase in police shootings, the report clarified the difference between militant Black Nationalist groups and activist groups like the Black Lives Matter that advocate for civil rights and an end to systemic racism.

The report also identified two new male supremacy groups in the hate group list: *A Voice for Men* from Houston, Texas, and *Return of Kings* in Washington, D.C., both of which demean and vilify women.

Another SPLC investigation reported that within the past four years, young men associated with the alt-right agenda have killed 43 people and wounded 67 others.

The Hate and Extremism report also lists 689 active antigovernment groups, of which 273 are armed militias that fear gun-control measures and federal law enforcement.

The report comes on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the assassination on April

4, 1968, of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the prominent Civil Rights leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Council.

Dr. King's nonviolent resistance against systemic racism and marginalization was directed toward addressing the social issues still prevalent today.

In "Where Do We Go From Here," Dr. King wrote that "racism is a doctrine of the congenital inferiority and worthlessness of a people," which is why he encouraged Blacks to "be those creative dissenters who will call our beloved nation to a higher destiny, to a new plateau of compassion, to a more noble expression of humanness."

The increase in hate groups, whether intentional or reactionary, as the report shows, is due in part to the underlining race issues that have historically led to conflict.

"When you consider that only days into 2018, Trump called African countries 's***holes,' it's clear he's not changing his tune. And that's music to the ears of White supremacists," Beirich said.

Architect dedicating career to improve prison living conditions

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Architect Ken Ricci has dedicated his career to improving the environment for the incarcerated. He has been designing safer and more humane jails (not prisons) for the past 40 years.

Ricci wrote in *The Crime Report* that "modern jails are being asked to do too much," such as addressing the failure of the courts, the mental health regime, the education regime and civil society, as

well. This in turn creates a stream of young, disturbed, addicted and disabled citizens flowing into jails that fall short of recognized standards and needs.

Ricci advocates smaller, greener and kinder "three-door" jails. Under this system, the troubling behavior for which citizens are apprehended is processed through one of three approaches or "doors": Detention, Diversion or Deflection.

According to the December 2017 article, Detention

is the secure jail setting. Diversion allows for release on recognizance or third-party release, and Deflection would move the individual to a "stabilization" center or a "sobering" center.

Police using the Deflection option can avoid making arrests altogether by sending individuals exhibiting mental health distress to a hospital or clinic for treatment.

When Detention is needed, a magistrate, probation and mental health professionals are under one roof in

the "three-door" jail. Arriving detainees are processed and evaluated, then channeled into one of the "three doors." This process results in smaller jails because detainees don't linger for days or months waiting for courts.

The new Denver Detention Center uses the strategy of providing services under one roof. It has two pretrial courtrooms on the same floor as the intake housing area. New arrivals simply walk across the corridor to pretrial hearings. About 40 percent of new

arrivals are released within four days and most never use the elevator to courts.

In the next 10 years New York's infamously discredited Rikers Island may be replaced with smaller jails in the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn, emphasizing security over deflection and diversion. The size of the proposed smaller jails still threatens to replicate the discredited warehouse model.

Los Angeles is thinking about building a 20-story high-rise to house mentally

ill detainees.

These approaches collide with the "three door jail" that housing should be more humane, low rise and therapeutic.

Ricci's jail designs, which are connected to the courthouse, eliminate lengthy bus trips to court, reduce air pollution and speed the adjudication process. Kinder jail designs provide more sunlight, smaller housing units, direct supervision and environments with connections to outdoors.

A path of criminal justice takes an educational turn

PROFILES

By Jesse Vasquez
Managing Editor

Corporate executives and administration officials have a high turnover rate, but secretaries tend to stick around, and some have interesting stories.

Ms. Garcia, the office technician for Robert E. Burton Adult School at San Quentin, almost became a parole officer.

She studied criminal justice in college because something in society caught her attention.

"I wanted to work with parolees because most of them have more motivation in bettering themselves after being incarcerated for so long," Garcia said.

However, while in college, Garcia worked part-time as an after school program manager, coordinating tutoring

sessions for at-risk middle school and high school students.

Garcia also organized interactive activities to help students learn practical lessons and life skills.

"Kids are curious about the world, but you have to find something that they can connect with in order to keep them engaged," Garcia said. "I wanted to use innovative ways to help them make sense of the academic material in a real way."

She graduated from college in 2013 with a B.S. degree in criminal justice, but her career path shifted from a criminal justice perspective to a social justice approach after she applied for employment.

"I started applying for different types of jobs after col-



Ms. Garcia at work in her office

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

lege since I didn't have experience in the field I majored in," Garcia said. "San Quentin's education department was the first to respond, so I

jumped on the opportunity while I had the chance."

Therefore, instead of working with parolees, Garcia found herself headed to prison.

"When I first told my family I was going to work at a prison, they were concerned because all they knew of prisons came from what they saw in the movies," Garcia said. "Now, they don't have that stigma as their only source of information."

Garcia started working for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

three years ago.

"I remember when she first started. She was shy and timid," said inmate Alvin Timbol, a community partnership clerk. "We just wanted to make her feel safe and welcome."

"She's an amazing person and a large part of why our education department runs so smoothly"

Today, Garcia manages work orders, supply orders and deliveries for 25 teachers, vocational instructors, and the principal in five different locations within the facility.

Garcia also orchestrates the education department's annual graduation ceremonies.

"She's an amazing person and a large part of why our education department runs so smoothly," said Sufi, an Adult Basic Education II teacher.

Mr. Wheelless, the principal, played a role in Garcia's decision to enroll in a teachers' accreditation program later this year, so that she can gain more career opportunities.

"I'm looking forward to incorporating class exercises that utilize the technology available in the classroom to keep students engaged," Garcia said. "There are a lot of educational videos and interactive games that present academic material in innovative ways so that students can retain it better."

Apart from her career preparations, Garcia is also the caregiver to two Chihuahuas and two pit bulls with a plan of one day having an acre of land for an animal sanctuary for unwanted animals.

Garcia wants to have at least one cow, a pig, and a horse at her rescue farm.

"Some people in society stigmatize pit bulls as violent, unpredictable animals, but mine are friendly," Garcia said. "I've learned that it is all a matter of training and conditioning regardless of whom or what you are working with."

Garcia works full time, studies part time, and takes care of her four dogs all the time.

"Sometimes it's a little irritating because I'm tired and have to take care of them at the end of the day. But, I feel good knowing that I'm giving them a home," Garcia said. "I hope that one day I can look back on life and see the impact of giving everyone a second chance at life."

SQ volunteer creates lasting values

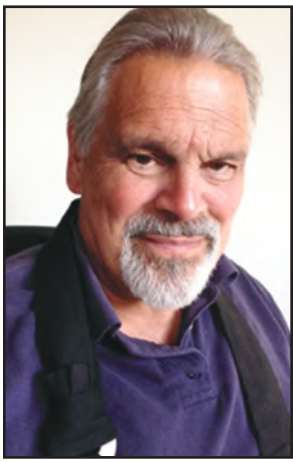


Photo courtesy of Chris Wilson

Chris Wilson

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin volunteer Chris Wilson says violence is no way to solve racial issues in America.

"I believe that no movement that is based on anger alone can create anything of lasting value. Even if I weren't a Buddhist, I would argue that persistent nonviolent protests and civil disobedience are the ways to change our troubled and badly divided country," Wilson said in an interview.

"When an inmate surprises me with his wisdom about life, I ask him, how in the world did you come to have such wonderful insight?" said Wilson. "The answer I usually get is, 'Well, I have had a lot of time to think about who I am, what I have done, and what I want to be.'"

Having participated in the "Freedom Summer" of 1964, "insight" is an attainment that Wilson is well-qualified to talk about. "I had just completed my freshman year at Stanford when I decided to go to Mississippi and join the effort to register Blacks to vote," he said.

The plan was organized by SNCC (the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee), an organization of southern Black students who were active in the sit-in movement to integrate lunch counters in the Carolinas. A key part of the strategy was to enlist White students from universities including Yale and Stanford who could assist with registering Black voters in Mississippi. At the time, Mississippi was the state with the worst track record of Black voter intimidation.

"Though I was plenty scared, I went," said Wilson, recounting that there had been reports of violence.

"Incidentally, during that summer, some members of our group were beaten bloody with pipes, and some of our cars were shot up," he added.

Reflecting more generally on the stresses, pressures, and challenges that life is certain to bring, Wilson then said, "Practicing zazen (formal sitting meditation) with inmates who are in the process of remaking their lives has been one of the greatest satisfactions of my long lifetime."

On Sunday evenings behind the high walls of San Quentin, Wilson takes his place among a group of prisoners and volunteers assembled in a small room — this is their zendo (meditation den). All persons present have come to rigorously examine the processes going on within their own minds.

"I believe that no movement that is based on anger alone can create anything of lasting value"

With the characteristic scent of earth-toned incense subtly infusing the air, a calm vibrancy sets in over the space, which, with its close dimensions, offers a distinctive intimacy. Here, contemplation, concentration, and most important, introspection, are taken up in earnest. This is a Zen Buddhist group, and disciplining the mind — taming its impulsive tendency to "react" nonstop — is the principal effort.

On the subject of "tendency to react," Wilson is quick to use his experience as a way to elaborate. "The first real step I took toward active engagement in the Freedom Summer movement was a training course in 'nonviolence,' which took place the week before the activities got going," he said.

Wilson recalled how that same week, three SNCC organizers who had gone to Mississippi earlier had disappeared. "Robert Moses, the

charismatic Black leader of SNCC, warned us that they had undoubtedly been killed. He said that any of us who wanted to go home were welcome to go." Wilson's decision, however, was to stay.

Having been raised in California, Wilson said he knew that Jim Crow existed, but it was something that he had only "heard" about.

But at age 15 his naiveté came to an end. "On a trip through the Southern states I saw segregation for the first time. At a rodeo in Beaumont, Texas, I noticed the rope dividing White and Black people in the stands," said Wilson. "And as we headed eastward through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, it got worse."

Combined experiences such as this one and others would eventually prompt Wilson to make a personal vow to oppose racism nonviolently for the rest of his life.

Making a sort of comparison between then and now ("past" and "present"), Wilson voiced his belief that there is a connection between the earlier civil rights work in the South that he was a part of and the struggle to regain voting rights for prisoners today.

"The rash of killings of African-Americans by police in many northern and southern cities has forced us to confront the fact that race still plays a huge role in how African-Americans are treated in our country," he said.

Wilson added that he believes movements such as Black Lives Matter are important elements of the continuing struggle against racism in our society. "I do understand why younger African-Americans may feel that the recent spate of police killings of Black citizens is literally intolerable and must be met with anger rather than a more patient long-term approach."

Wilson used the word "devotion" to describe the attitude that one should possess in pursuit of the things that are most important in life. The one-time lawyer turned computer software marketing executive, who is long retired, said for him, that means "family, Zen practice, and helping people in general."

It is a formula that he has been sharing with the men of San Quentin for four years.

Birdman nurses the wildlife on the Lower Yard

By Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

Every day, the yard at San Quentin State Prison is bustling with wildlife activity. While inmates run the track and play tennis and basketball, a grass field attracts birds, geese, seagulls, pigeons, and blackbirds. Sometimes hawks fly over the yard looking for prey.

In the corner of the yard by a fence, an inmate sits on the ground, surrounded by birds. That inmate is Dean Thomas, who answers to the nickname "Birdman."

"They call me Birdman, because I'm always interacting with the birds. I have a relationship with them," he said. "They are my friends; they like to flock to me."

Thomas has been caring for the birds over the past seven years on the Lower Yard since he arrived at the prison. He said he has taken care of European starlings, redwing blackbirds, Brewer's blackbirds, and sparrows. When they are injured, he gets them help.

"Sometimes the birds get entangled in strings around their body or around their foot. I'll then untangle them and free them. For some reason, the sick and hurt birds, especially the pigeons and

the little birds, find their way to me," Thomas said, adding that if the injury is serious, he asks the yard officer to call the fire department or animal control officer.

Thomas, who was convicted in 2001 for first-degree burglary, said he liked birds even as a young boy. He said it was a way for him to connect with nature and learn more about them.

"I've learned their habits, ways of breeding and how they migrate," said Thomas, who has been incarcerated for 16 years. "Sitting with the birds has been educational and therapeutic in so many ways." He added that he has also discovered that birds have memories, thoughts and personalities. He said each bird is different in its own way be it looks, mannerisms or markings.

Thomas said that he uses his Mindful Meditation class on Fridays to meditate with the songbirds.

"This has helped me to listen to everything around me," he said. "This connection to nature is what is missing in much of society. ...For me, nature and animals are necessary for my healing."

He added that the people are not very different from songbirds.

Thomas said he grew up in



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Dean Thomas

a family with divorced parents, and caring for the birds helps him emotionally and psychologically as he deals with life challenges.

"It's therapeutic for me. It makes me feel loved and accepted [which was] something I was deprived of growing up," he said. "These animals make me feel like I have a purpose and connection."

As long as he is here at San Quentin, the birds will always have a friend to take care of them, Thomas said.

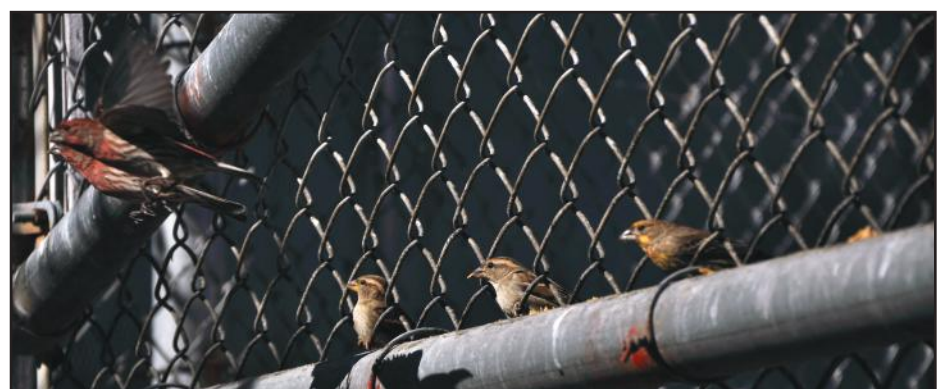


Photo by Eddie Herena

Birds perched on the Lower Yard education fence

22 Tennessee students graduates with Associate Degrees

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

After decades without a college prison program, 22 men at a Tennessee prison became the first class to graduate from a state penitentiary since the 1980s, according to a press release.

In January, the class of 2017 was awarded associate degrees from the Tennessee Higher Education Initiative (THEI) prison college program, while serving time at the Turney Center Industrial Complex.

"To succeed in college in the free world, one must possess smarts and stamina that exceeds your average bear," said Molly Lasagna, THEI executive director. "Imagine how those qualities have to be magnified in students who

are also working to navigate prison."

The degrees and college program are in partnership with the Nashville State Community College. Dr. Terry Brown, the community college vice president, was in attendance to witness this historic event.

During the graduation, THEI gave out its first-ever Academic Excellence Award to one of its top students. Seven other graduates were honored for earning an overall perfect 4.0 GPA.

Dr. Sammy Arroyo from Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, another college prison program in New York, gave the keynote address.

"The great Nelson Mandela (the late President of South Africa) once said 'After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many hills to climb.'" Arroyo said.

"So to all of the graduates, I want to encourage you to continue to be resilient, continue to work hard, continue to be leaders, and demonstrate to the world through your selfless actions that you are all worthy of second chances."

Family and friends gathered to celebrate the success of both the college graduates and four other prisoners, who earned their GEDs.

"It was an honor both to watch the men receive their diplomas and to see them celebrate the achievement with their families," Arroyo said. "Hudson Link thanks the



Tennessee class of 2017 celebrating receiving their Associates Degrees

Photo courtesy of Tennessee Higher Education Initiative (THEI)



Photo courtesy of THEI
Graduate Shane Oakley

Tennessee Higher Education Initiative for inviting us to witness this incredible event. Best of luck to the Class of 2017!"

For the past six years, the THEI college program has been educating more than 200 people serving time inside Tennessee prisons. It currently serves roughly 90 students at Turney prison and 50 students at the Northwest Correctional Complex.

"The (students) are dedicated to their own learning," Lasagna said. "They are not forced into college; they choose it for themselves.

College behind bars is an enormous undertaking, but the effects go far beyond the classroom."

Lasagna added that the students said the program made them better husbands, better friends, better fathers and better sons. They learned to tackle challenging projects and developed confidence in problem-solving skills to make smarter decisions.

In support of the program, some members from the Tennessee Legislature attended the graduation. The legislature has allotted some financial backing to help the pro-

gram expand its services.

"We have seen our program formalize, becoming... accredited and thereby able to offer degree-bearing coursework to our students," Lasagna said. "Now that we are off and running, it's time to reflect: are we correctly identifying and addressing the needs of the people we serve? How invested are we in the health and success of all communities in Tennessee?"

With those questions in mind, Lasagna said the organization will prioritize quality over quantity from the moment a potential student-

prisoner expresses interest in college to the moment they receive their college degree.

"Since I've begun this work, I have learned of the many challenges that our students are up against," Lasagna said. "It was a remarkable graduation and we're excited to do it again next year!"

Lasagna and the staff at THEI thanked the Tennessee Department of Correction for its work to bring college degree programs to its facilities. Lasagna added that these programs help prepare the men for successful reentry to the community.

Arizona breaks ground with first Prison Education Program graduation



First graduating class spring 2017

Photo courtesy of Marcia Klotz

Educational ground was broken at an Arizona penitentiary when a group of inmates became the first graduates of the Arizona Prison Education Project literary college course.

The graduates went through the college preparatory writing and literary course at the Whetstone Unit in the Arizona State Prison Complex located near Tucson. The certificates of completion were presented by University of Arizona's English department, which established the Prison Education Project.

"I feel what we are doing here is like what they are doing at San Quentin," said Marcia Klotz, the project director and assistant professor from the English department. "I feel like we have learned so much from you guys."

The men went through intensive writing lessons, literature narratives and debates that improved their critical

thinking and comprehension skills, said Klotz.

"They didn't mind disagreeing with me and they didn't mind speaking their mind," Klotz said. "They also didn't mind disagreeing with each other. We sometimes had pretty raucous conversations."

"I have much more honest conversations with them than I do with my students in the classroom outside at the university," Klotz added. "I really enjoy the interactions with them."

The program was created to make college classes available to the prisoners who wish to pursue higher education while in prison. The program is only a year old and a non-credited course, but it has set the groundwork for the program's expansion.

"We hope to eventually be able to give university credit for the classes," Klotz said. "We are starting a creative writing workshop with the

minors' unit, with boys between 15 and 18 years old."

Klotz also hopes to start an English as a Second Language class. That would benefit the large Mexican citizen population housed in prison for border issues, she added.

"They tell us that it makes a huge difference people just treat them as people—and not as inmates"

The program could also gain entrance to the maximum-security side of the prison complex, which hasn't had any programming for years.

"I think the guys [around the prison] are still kind of

checking us out," Klotz said. "We have only been going in for a year now. I'm hoping to make a solid presence that gains their trust and go from there."

The program will add a lecture series to the Whetstone Unit class in the coming semester. The program has invited different people from across the University of Arizona to teach classes on a variety of topics.

"We have somebody who is teaching a class on astronomy and our place in the universe. We have someone who is teaching a class on Edgar Allan Poe, a class on Easter Island, a class on music as a means of communication between people who don't share a common language," Klotz said. "I'm really looking forward to hearing all the lectures myself."

The program even has someone to talk about elephants and trauma and what that tells us about how hu-

mans process trauma, added Klotz.

At the graduation, some of the men read aloud from their best writing while the facility's deputy warden and other institutional staff listened attentively.

"The students tell us at the end of the class that they feel much more confident in their writing," Klotz said. "They tell us that it makes a huge difference having people just treat them as people—and not as inmates."

The program started with more than 20 students but dwindled down to 13 to 14 students due to inmates' work duties and transfers to other units.

With their new writing skills, some of the students have started a prison newspaper.

"There's a level of integrity in the interaction that I really find hard to replicate in the outside world," Klotz said. "It's hard to explain



Photo courtesy of Marcia Klotz
Marcia Klotz

that to people who think you are on some sort of liberal do-gooder rescue mission, but 'No'—I really enjoy my interactions with the men."

—Marcus Henderson
Anna Marsibil Clausen,
UC Berkeley student,
contributed to this story

Hudson Link celebrates women's college first graduation



Photo by Babita Patel

Back row: Representatives from Hudson Link, DOCCS, and Nyack College. Front row: Taconic graduates

HUDSON LINK

Continued from Page 1

Shelly was greeted with hugs and smiles from classmates and Taconic staff, said Todd Young, Hudson Link's alumni coordinator, adding that this was the first time a graduate returned to Taconic after release.

Shelly said that she was proud of herself for having the

courage to go back in. "Hudson Link gives me motivation to keep on striving. This is not the end for me, and I will not stop here. My daughter was so proud of me!"

In her keynote speech, Grammy-winning singer and songwriter Starshell wished the graduates a "happy birthday," comparing their achievement to a rebirth, according to Hudson Link.

Starshell, who has worked with recording stars Kanye

West and Jennifer Lopez, encouraged the women to look forward to their future achievements as if it was their first day on Earth.

Families and friends beamed with pride as Nyack College President Dr. Michael Scales passed out the degrees to the graduates.

"We know that this is only the first of many graduation ceremonies to come for our Taconic students," said Pica. "And we are looking forward

to every single one. Congratulations again to the class."

After reaching this milestone Hudson Link is set to celebrate its 20th anniversary this spring.

Hudson Link has come a long way since Pica and John Valverde founded it inside the notorious Sing Sing prison in Ossining, NY. Throughout their years of freedom, the two formerly incarcerated men have built organizations and businesses that employ former inmates, both men and women.

Pica took over Hudson Link and grew the program to where it is now, adding prisons and creating an Alumni Services Program, re-entry services, mentoring and in-

ternship opportunities for the formerly incarcerated.

Valverde will receive the 2018 Brian S. Fischer Achievement Award, presented each year to a formerly incarcerated leader. He is the first formerly incarcerated Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YouthBuildUSA, an organization with a wide network of programs aimed at helping young low-income dropouts. Countless young people have benefited from the career and education opportunities he has created, according to Hudson Link staff.

The staff has been traveling around the country advocating for prison college programs. Last year staff members attended the Seventh Annual National Conference on Higher Education in Prison along with San Quentin's Prison University Project.

The organizations discussed topics from admissions to funding challenges. Lila McDowell, Hudson Link development manager, attended the San

Quentin News 100th Edition Ceremony in January.

Pica spoke at the 2018 International Forum of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities in Dallas, TX alongside Cynthia Dorsey, Nyack College adjunct professor.

The session was dedicated to the role of Christian colleges in prison education. The workshop covered various topics such as program development and effective partnership with corrections departments. They also touched on the role of technology in the prison classroom.



Courtesy of Hudson Link

Nyack College's Dr. David Turk, Dr. Michael Scales, and Cynthia Dorsey with Sean Pica in Dallas



Photo by Babita Patel

Grammy-winning singer Starshell

"Hudson Link gives me motivation to keep on striving. This is not the end for me, and I will not stop here. My daughter was so proud of me"

"As we head into our organization's 20th year, it feels amazing to sit with others who are as passionate as we are about doing this work," said Pica. "I am always grateful for the opportunity to learn more about the success of our partners around the country."

Hudson Link has continued the tradition of hiring the formerly incarcerated. Lee Cruceta, a Sullivan Correctional Facility graduate, having been paroled, has taken over as the academic coordinator at Greene Correctional Facility in New York.

Cruceta said that he identifies with the situation their students are in: "I think being a graduate myself will allow me to demonstrate the opportunities available through education. Hudson Link changed my life both in and outside the correctional facility and I'm living proof of what this program can do."

Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci, Taconic Superintendent Tanya Mitchell-Voyd, and Director of Education Emily Besette offered congratulations, as they spoke about the students' achievements. Representatives from the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision were also in attendance.



Photo by Babita Patel

Graduates and fellow students celebrate after receiving their Associate Degrees from Hudson Link

Around the World

Alex Massart at the Matterhorn on the Swiss-Italian border



Photo courtesy of Alex Massart



THE GREEN LIFE'S ANGELA SEVIN IN THE AMAZON RAINFOREST IN ECUADOR WITH THE PACHAMAMA ALLIANCE. THE TWO ACHUAR MEN WITH HER ARE TI'INKIAS VILLAGE LEADERS AND GUIDES, "DAVID" ON THE LEFT AND "ROBERTO" ON THE RIGHT.

Photo courtesy of Angela Sevin

Snippets

Ginseng is an aromatic root that has been used for medicinal purposes in Asia for thousands of years. It has been reputed to cure cancer, diabetes, aging, high blood pressure and many other disorders.

Lincoln had a notoriously cluttered law office. On his desk, Lincoln kept one envelope marked "When you can't find it anywhere else, look into this."

Easter season lasted for the forty days from East Day until Ascension Day but now lasts for fifty days until Pentecost.

English continuously integrates foreign words, especially Latin and Greek, into the language.

Kenya was formerly known as British East Africa until it gained independence in 1963 and became a republic in 1964.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

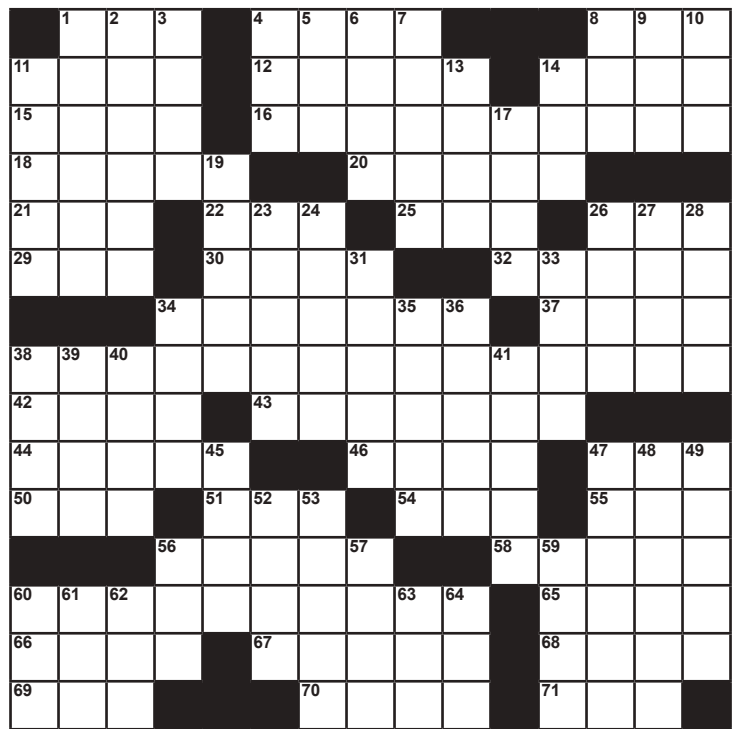
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

1. Survivor network
4. Snafu
8. Seniors support org.
11. Evil hacker i.e.
12. Apple iPod, e.g.
14. Largest human organ
15. Small and brown American rail
16. CW superhero show
18. Spice Girls' song "____be"
20. Broad flat container
21. Snacked
22. Spielberg's org. (Abbr.)
25. Commercially sourced lumber in India
26. Indian crown
29. Sandra Bullock's movie *The ____*
30. Drinking period
32. Surgeon who shares a name with a president (1864-1943)
34. Feared medical person
35. That's ____ of crap you carry
38. Prison show that you can't see in prison, ironically
42. Ogle
43. Contemptuously remarked
44. Shine
46. MTV's ____ *Mom*
47. Tarnish by burning
50. Author of "Atlas Shrugged"
51. Precedes capita or diem
54. ____ Schwab
55. Body that investigates Congress (Abbr.)
56. Sound
58. _____, *Mine, and Ours*
60. Power tool brand
65. Walking accessory
66. Northern constellation containing the Vega star
67. Salt used in gunpowder and fertilizer
68. Very (Fr.)
69. Definitely
70. Teardrop bread
71. Peculiar

Down

1. 1800 lawyer Rufus
2. Person's hair
3. Enimem song
4. *Reservoir Dogs* character
5. Slender fish
6. Women's undergarment
7. Expresses sadness
8. Winter travel
9. Serious offense
10. Director Lee of *Brokeback Mountain*
11. Oscar winning Natalie Portman movie
13. Type of pet
14. *Weekend Update* show (Abbr.)
17. Locker room powder
19. Jail within a prison (Abbr.)
23. Parental gift
24. Sean of *LOTR*
26. Back splash covering
27. Below
28. Polished lignite
31. Educational test
33. See 50 Across
34. Medical instructional forms (Abbr.)
35. Structural material
36. ____ Mile Island
38. Kurylenko of *Quantum of Solace*
39. Trust
40. Graphic novel char. ____ Flux
41. ____-weensy
45. Tater
47. Person who behaves in a dishonorable way
48. Gained
49. Count ____: typically in order to determine the numbers in a vote.
52. Sara Bareilles song
53. Toxic protein from the castor-oil plant
56. Aircraft navigation language
57. Unit equal to one eighth of the sky
59. Eight (Gr.)
60. In a sinister manner
61. Anagram of 69 Across
62. 2nd Amendment org.
63. Baseball batting stat
64. Stippy's mate



	S	S	T		M	I	C	R	O		A	B	C	D					
L	N	A	I	R		E	L	L	A	S		P	E	A	R				
A	O	L	D	E		R	I	A	N	T		N	I	R	O				
S	W	A	L	L	A	C	E	S			T	E	N	O	N				
M	WHITE	T	A	I	L	E	D	S	E	A	E	A	G	L	E				
O					A	E	D			N	R	A							
N																			
T	M	S	N	B	C		B	L	A	C	K	A	N	D	WHITE				
H	R	O	I	L			C	R	O	C	S		L	U	E	S			
S	WHITE	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T		M	A	N	A	T				
						S	A	I			I	A	N						
A	E	D	W	A	R	D	D	O	U	G	L	A	S	S	WHITE				
N	B	A	R	N	S					T	R	U	E	L	O	V	E		
S	E	R	I	N						S	H	E	B	A		D	R	E	Y
	R	I	S	E						H	O	R	A	N		A	B	L	E
	T	A	T	S						E	D	I	N	A		S	T	S	

Sudoku Corner

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

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

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

San Quentin News 1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

Answers from last issue's Brain Teasers

Sum Total

$$9 \times 2 \times 3 / 9 = 6$$

X and O

1	2	4	4	3	2
6	X	O	X	X	4
3	X	O	O	X	4
2	O	X	O	O	3
2	O	O	X	O	1
2	3	2	2	5	1

This month's Brain Teasers:

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

9			7		10
16		6			
3			6	7	6
					22
12			11		4
					1

Find a rhyme for each word below to form the titles of eight films of the 1990s

1. GULP DICTION
2. CHAINS HURLED
3. BOY GLORY
4. THE SHOE WOULD THEN
5. LIGHT SCRUB
6. PICK LACY
7. WISE RIDE CUT
8. GRAPE BEER

For each word below, add one letter and rearrange to form a dog breed. For example, given the word LOPED, add an O and rearrange to form POODLE. The letters you add, in order, will spell a seven-letter word. What is this final word?

1. ALIENS
2. RETIRE
3. GABLE
4. BROADEN
5. CELLO
6. HYDROGEN
7. ELATES

Prisioneros culpables de posesión de celulares perderán visitas familiares

ESPAÑOL

AVISO DE PROPUESTA REGULATORIA al Título 15 (Title 15) de Regulaciones de Códigos de California, Departamento Correccional en Prevención de Crimen de Readaptación Social

Artículo 7. Visitas

3177. Visitas Familiares

Sección 3177, desde el párrafo inicial hasta la (b) permanece sin cambio, pero se muestra por referencia.

Nueva Subsección 3177(b) (1)(B) menciona:

(B) Presos culpables de un crimen violento siendo menores de edad donde la víctima era menor de edad o un miembro de la familia, excluyendo cualquier ofensa sexual, serán elegibles para una visita familiar si así lo determina el comité de clasificación, siempre y cuando el preso haya demostrado y mantenido un comportamiento positivo, que incluye: no tener una acción disciplinaria seria en los últimos cinco años y pueda comprobar su participación en grupos de auto-ayuda, por ejemplo, control de la ira, Narcóticos Anónimos, Alcohólicos Anónimos. El comité de clasificación deberá considerar las circunstancias del crimen que involucra al menor de edad o al familiar, al determinar si el preso posee una amenaza para los visitantes durante la visita familiar. Para llegar a una determinación, el comité de clasificación deberá considerar, mas no está limitada a reportes de arrestos, reportes de oficiales de probación, transcritos de la corte y transcritos de revocación de la libertad condicional.

Nueva Subsección 3177(b) (1)(C) menciona:

(C) Presos culpables de una ofensa violenta donde la víctima era menor de edad o un miembro de la familia, excluyendo cualquier ofensa sexual, podrían ser elegibles para una visita familiar al ser determinada por un comité de clasificación. El preso deberá demostrar ante el comité un continuo comportamiento positivo, que incluye: no tener una acción disciplinaria seria en los últimos diez años y pueda comprobar su participación en grupos de auto-ayuda, por ejemplo, control de la ira, Narcóticos Anónimos, Alcohólicos Anónimos. El comité de clasificación deberá considerar las circunstancias de la ofensa al determinar si el preso posee una amenaza para los visitantes durante una visita familiar. Para llegar a una determinación, el comité de clasificación deberá considerar, mas no

está limitado a, reportes de arrestos, reportes de oficiales de probación, transcritos de la corte, transcritos de revocación de libertad condicional.

Subsección 3177(b) (2) está modificada y reorganizada e indica:

(2) Las visitas familiares no serán permitidas a los presos que se encuentran en las siguientes categorías: estar sentenciados a una condena de vida sin posibilidad de salir bajo libertad condicional; con una sentencia de vida, sin una fecha de libertad condicional establecida por la Comisión de Audiencias de Libertad Condicional (Board of Parole Hearings).

(A) dClasificado como Custodia Directa (Close Custody);

(B) dClasificado como un preso con una condena a pena de muerte;

(C) aAsignado a un centro de recepción;

(D) aAsignado a una uUnidad de sSegregacion aAdministrativa;

(E) aAsignado a una uUnidad de aAlojamiento de sSeguridad;

(F) dClasificado con un estatus "C" ("C" status);

(G) Culpable de una o más ofensa(s) de la(s) División A o División B en los últimos 12 meses;

(H) Culpable de distribución de narcóticos de una sustancia controlada en una prisión del estado, bajo la subsección 3016 (c). Perdida de las visitas familiares (por la noche) de acuerdo con la Subsección 3315(f)(5)(H).

Subcapítulo 4 Regulaciones Generales de la Institución

Artículo 5. 3315 Violaciones Serias de las Reglas

Subsecciones 3315(a) hasta 3315(f)(5)(G) se mantiene sin ningún cambio.

(f) Disposición. Una vez completada la investigación de la audiencia disciplinaria, el preso puede ser encontrado:

(5) La disposición puede ser o cuando sea mandatoria incluir una evaluación por parte de uno o más de los siguientes:

Subsección 3315 (f)(5)(H) está modificada y menciona:

(H) Por una violación de la subsección 3016 (C), se suspenderá las visitas por un año, seguido por dos años de visitas sin contacto. Además, al término de las visitas sin contacto, se aplicaran las siguientes restricciones con respecto al privilegio de la visita familiar:

1. Perdida del programa de visitas familiares por tres años por la primera ofensa.

2. Perdida del programa de visitas familiares por siete años por la segunda

ofensa.

3. Perdida permanente del programa de visitas familiares por la tercera ofensa.

Subsecciones 3315(f)(5) (1)1. hasta 3315(f)(5)(I)3. están modificados e indican:

1. Perdida de visitas por 90 días, seguido por 90 días de visitas sin contacto y la pérdida del programa de visitas familiares por un año al concluir la restricción de visitas sin contacto por la primera ofensa.

2. Perdida de visitas por 90 días, seguido por 180 días de visitas sin contacto y la pérdida del programa de visitas familiares por tres años al concluir la restricción de visitas sin contacto por la segunda ofensa.

3) Perdida de visitas por 180 días, seguido por 180 días de visitas sin contacto y la pérdida del programa de visitas familiares por cinco años al concluir la restricción de visitas sin contacto por la tercera ofensa.

Subsecciones 3315(f)(5) (J) hasta 3315(f)(5)(P)3. Se mantiene sin ningún cambio.

Nueva Subdivisión 3315(f)(5)(Q) se adaptó para indicar:

(Q) Violación de la Subsección 3006(a) o 3006(c)(20) resultara en:

1. Perdida del programa de visitas familiares por un año por la primera ofensa.

2. Perdida del programa de visitas familiares por tres años por la segunda ofensa.

3. Perdida del programa de visitas familiares por cinco años por la tercera ofensa.

Estos cambios propuestos incluyen:

Suspender las categorías de exclusión por haber sido sentenciado a una condena de vida sin la posibilidad de libertad condicional y por ser sentenciados a una condena de vida en prisión, sin una fecha de libertad condicional establecida por el Board of Parole Hearings.

La inclusión de presos sentenciados a una condena de vida al programa de visitas familiares, es un privilegio adicional para estimular una programación positiva, animar a un mejoramiento personal, y permite al preso construir vínculos más fuertes con la familia para que al salir de la prisión estén preparados, y/o rehabilitados para tener éxito en la vida, como lo estipula la sección PC 6400.

El comité de clasificación revisará caso por caso si son elegibles para una visita familiar los presos culpables de un crimen violento siendo menores de edad donde la víctima era menor de edad

o un miembro de la familia, excluyendo cualquier ofensa sexual, siempre y cuando el preso haya demostrado y mantenido un comportamiento positivo.

CDCR reconoce que, a diferencia de los adultos, los menores que han cometido una ofensa violenta donde la víctima era un menor o un miembro de la familia pudieron haberlo hecho porque su nivel de madurez era baja y no podían comprender las posibles consecuencias de su crimen, eran propensos a la presión ejercida por sus compañeros o por una presión de la pandilla, o carecían de un sentido de identidad personal en esos momentos.

CDCR también reconoce que con el paso de los años la mente de un menor se desarrolla con la probabilidad de madurez al llegar a la vida adulta, y en ese momento, el joven adulto podrá llegar a darse cuenta de lo equivocado que fueron sus acciones que resultaron en una condena en una prisión y las consecuencias de sus acciones en el futuro. Este entendimiento por sí solo merece la oportunidad de visitas familiares. La reunificación y apoyo familiar es un componente importante para la reintegración exitosa de cualquier preso a la sociedad. Ya que un preso que cometió un crimen cuando era menor de edad es muy probable que regrese con su familia al obtener su libertad, es importante promover la reunificación familiar a través de varios métodos, incluyendo visitas familiares. El apoyo por parte de la familia es una parte esencial en la rehabilitación del preso. Al permitir el contacto e incrementar el tiempo compartido con la familia sirve como una medida para prevenir un comportamiento negativo, promueve la programación positiva, la rehabilitación y un mejoramiento a nivel personal. El período de cinco años sin ninguna acción disciplinaria es considerado como un margen razonable para mostrar el progreso hacia la rehabilitación y el mejoramiento a nivel personal. El reconocimiento de la inmadurez del preso y la etapa de desarrollo temprana fue tomada en consideración al establecer los cinco años sin ninguna acción disciplinaria como requisito para la visita familiar, a diferencia de los diez años impuestos a un preso que cometió su crimen de adulto en donde la víctima era un menor o un miembro de la familia.

El comité de clasificación revisará caso por caso si son elegibles para una visita familiar los presos culpables de un crimen violento donde

la víctima era menor de edad o un miembro de la familia, excluyendo cualquier ofensa sexual, siempre y cuando el preso haya demostrado y mantenido un comportamiento positivo.

Esto incluye un consistente periodo sin tener una acción disciplinaria por haber cometido un delito grave y una participación documentada en grupos de auto-ayuda. Un avance razonable en cuanto a la rehabilitación durante el encarcelamiento es necesario durante la evaluación ya que es más probable que un preso adulto entienda las posibles consecuencias de sus acciones. Un preso adulto ha alcanzado un nivel de madurez mucho más alto y ha refinado su forma de pensar que dictan su comportamiento, y tiene un mejor entendimiento de sí mismo, que un adolescente. Los diez años que se requieren sin tener una acción disciplinaria se considera un tiempo razonable para mostrar el progreso hacia la rehabilitación y el mejoramiento a nivel personal. Además, al darles la oportunidad de ganarse la visita familiar al demostrar una participación positiva, sirve como un elemento para prevenir un comportamiento negativo, promueve una programación positiva y un mejoramiento a nivel personal, lo cual puede incrementar las probabilidades de una exitosa reintegración a la sociedad y reducir la reincidencia.

Elimina la distribución de narcóticos, y la reemplaza con distribución de una sustancia controlada para mantener la consistencia con la definición actualmente existente en la sección 3000; y añade oportunidades adicionales para que los presos sean considerados elegibles para una visita familiar cuando previamente fueron hallados culpables en la distribución de sustancias controladas dentro de la prisión.

Las regulaciones actuales excluyen permanentemente a un preso de las visitas familiares por una primera ofensa si es hallado culpable de distribuir sustancias controladas. Estas revisiones propuestas proveen oportunidades para que el preso pueda aplicar una vez más para tener visitas familiares. Además de la pérdida de los privilegios de las visitas, la pérdida de visitas familiares ahora conlleva una suspensión de 3 años por la primera ofensa, 7 años por la segunda ofensa, y una exclusión permanente por la tercera ofensa. El departamento entiende que las personas pueden cambiar para bien cuando se les da

la oportunidad y recursos para llevarlo a cabo. Esta restricción progresiva ofrece a los presos más incentivos para demostrar un comportamiento positivo y tomar parte en su rehabilitación.

De ser encontrado culpable de quebrantar las subsecciones 3006(a) [posesión de propiedad peligrosa] o 3006 (c)(20) [posesión, control de un teléfono celular, etc. Seq], se añadirá tiempo de suspensión adicional a los privilegios de las visitas familiares, además de las existentes disposiciones de las visitas regulares.

Nueva Subsección 3315(f)(5)(Q) se adaptó para indicar la pérdida de la visita familiar como consecuencia de quebrantar el Title 15, Subsección 3006(a), posesión o tener conocimiento de algún producto peligroso o

Subsección 3006(c)(20) posesión de un teléfono celular, tarjeta SIM (subscriber identity module), u otro componente.

Los presos hallados culpables de quebrantar una regla (RVR) del Title 15 Subsección 3006(a) o 3006(c)(20), estarán sujetos a perder la visita familiar por un año por la primera ofensa, tres años por la segunda ofensa, y cinco años por la tercera ofensa y cualquier ofensa posterior.

Se conoce que los presos en posesión de teléfonos celulares los han utilizado para varias actividades criminales. Estas actividades incluyen pero no están limitadas a: conspiración para introducir sustancias controladas, crimen organizado, participando y ayudando por voluntad propia en actividades de pandillas en las calles, intentos de escape y actividades criminales dentro de la institución. En el pasado los presos han tomado fotografías y videos de la institución y los han enviado a través de mensajes y correos electrónicos a otras personas, o bajadas a websites como Facebook. Las fotografías y los videos muestran el diseño de la institución lo cual puede ayudar a un preso a intentar escaparse con la ayuda de la familia, amistades, o miembros de una pandilla.

De julio 2014 a marzo 2017, 22,306 teléfonos celulares fueron descubiertos en las instituciones penitenciarias en general. El Departamento de Rehabilitación y Corrección en California (CDCR) considera que la pérdida de visitas familiares como consecuencia de quebrantar cualquiera de las secciones anteriores servirá como una medida para disuadir a los presos a no poseer un teléfono celular.

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Existen situaciones cuando deberías confiar en tu instinto

Hay situaciones en las que deberías confiar en tus instintos y otras ocasiones en la que no deberías hacerlo, de acuerdo a sociólogos.

El Dr. John Bargh, autor de *Before You Know it: The Unconscious Reasons We Do What We Do*, mencionó "tenemos una tendencia a confiar más en nuestros instintos que en nuestra razón y debido a que nuestros instintos se activan rápidamente pensamos que estamos en lo correcto." Elizabeth Bernstein reportó

al Wall Street Journal que existe un problema con esta creencia. Nuestro estado emocional cambia lo que nuestro instinto nos dice. Bargh comentó, "imaginemos que estás enojado e insultas a una persona y piensas que estás en lo correcto. Al siguiente día, tu estado emocional cambia y tu verdad es diferente." Nuestro instinto es de gran ayuda en situaciones tales como el determinar si estamos en peligro o para ayudarnos a identificar nuestras

preferencias de una forma rápida. También nos ayuda a tomar decisiones complejas cuando estamos abrumados con tanta información o cuando tenemos múltiples opciones, según Bargh.

Sin embargo, depender en nuestros instintos puede traer consecuencias negativas. Bargh enfatizó que nuestro instinto puede llevarnos a ser impulsivos, a beber o fumar cuando no deberíamos. "Si el resultado de nuestra decisión afectará a alguien más, sería

mejor no depender únicamente de nuestro instinto."

De acuerdo a Bargh, las conexiones entre nuestro instinto y el cerebro son muy complejas y utilizan varios conductos de comunicación: el sistema nervioso, el sistema inmune y el sistema hormonal, los cuales permiten la transmisión de mensajes del microbiome (los trillones de micro-organismos que viven en nuestros intestinos), a los neurotransmisores que se encuentran en el cerebro.

Según Bargh, "¿Cuándo debemos confiar en nuestros instintos?"

Consulta tus instintos al tomar decisiones complejas, por ejemplo, al decidir dónde vivir, o que clase de trabajo aceptar. Intenta pensar racionalmente cuando los riesgos son mayores. Presta atención a tu estado mental. "Recuerda que las emociones fuertes pueden cambiar tu intuición. Si estás enojado, tus instintos te darán una respuesta distinta de la que

normalmente te ofrecerían", escribió Bernstein. Deja de pedir consejos ya que "no puedes escuchar tu propia intuición cuando eres influenciado por la opinión de otras personas." Aliméntate bien, ya que "los alimentos procesados pueden dañar los microbiome y esto a su vez daña la conexión al cerebro. Por otro lado los alimentos naturales ayudan a tener una claridad mental."

—Traducción por Tare Beltranchuc y Marco Villa

Redeveloping broken relationships with Restorative Justice

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

You can restore broken relationships no matter how shattered they are, several speakers said at a Restorative Justice forum at San Quentin prison.

The first speaker, Robin Petersen, with faith that the Divine would guide her on what to say, stood before a podium with a statue representing Jesus hanging from a plain cross between two 42-inch flat-screens in the background, and addressed the crowd of guests and incarcerated people.

Petersen, inside a men's prison for the first time, talked on the theme of the March 3 event—restoring relationships. She candidly revealed her past of drug addiction and prostitution in the Tenderloin section of San Francisco and then the eventual restoration of herself.

"The first relationship I had to restore was with myself,"

the 61-year-old said. "I got clean at 51. Now my youngest son is a trans-man, 31, getting his masters in social work. My oldest, 37, is in college, too. I am really proud that I have instilled the need to work for social change with my youngest."

She said she became a prostitute so she could use drugs. She hit her lowest point at 40, when her father died, she was diagnosed with Hepatitis C 10 years before there was a cure, and she lost her body-piercing business in San Rafael, all within three days.

She believed that getting high was the best she would get from life. Then she heard a voice.

"I believe my higher power talked to me, saying 'Robin your life is worth more than this,'" Petersen said.

Thereafter, she cleaned up but still had to repair the collateral damage. Petersen, with the pain still present, shared how her choices affected her sons.

Her youngest son said, "I'm really mad at you," Petersen said. "I gave him space to be angry, the space to tell me about the trauma and pain that I put him through. I was able to tell him that 'There isn't a day that goes by that I don't feel bad about that stuff.'"

"There are people here doing work I don't see on the outside. They're not scary. What I see is real people"

Petersen repaired her relationship. She thanks the Affordable Care Act for beating Hepatitis C. And she turned addiction around to become an alcohol and drug case manager at a methadone clinic.

Inside Restorative Justice (RJ) member Miguel Sifuentes spoke about the difficulties of restoring a relationship with a father who abused him and his mother.

"I wasn't thinking about restorative justice, I wanted him to apologize or else," Sifuentes said. "More recently, being in restorative justice, I have been trying to figure out how to have a conversation with him. After meeting with pops in the visiting room, I said, 'Oh my God, I see why you need a facilitator.'"

Sifuentes said his father doesn't take full accountability, but he's trying.

"I thought we were going to have this beautiful moment, walking off arm-in-arm into the sunset," Sifuentes said. "It's work. To his credit, he comes to do it."

When RJ volunteer Gwen Gunheim first recruited Petersen as a guest speaker, she told her the theme would be on how men have mistreated women. Petersen took a moment to speak on that topic as well and so did RJ sponsor Danica Rodarmel.

"I've struggled with a lot of issues with men, being objectified and taken advantage of," Petersen said. "I've worked a lot on understanding that and what my part in it is. I understand that we are all just traumatized human

beings just trying to do the best with what we got."

Rodarmel, taking the podium for the first time since facilitating restorative justice for three and a half years, spoke on the negative impact, even if unintended, of "catcalling."

"Walking down the street in New York is exhausting," Rodarmel said. "You might be catcalled 10 times. For a lot of people who identify as female, that's a lot of people commenting on how they look. People ask you to marry them. They expect you to be thankful for the proposal. They get mad at you if you don't like the compliment. They're making these comments because they don't know better, they don't know they are hurting somebody. Some may just be jerks, but we still need to hold space for them."

Rodarmel said she didn't know what the solution was except educating men.

Inside RJ facilitator Darnell "Mo" Washington asked every man who ever catcalled a woman to stand up. About 70 stood.

Then Washington asked each man to apologize. Every man standing turned to any of the 40 women, including Berkeley law students, closest to him and said, "I'm sorry."

The attendance at San Quentin seemed to suggest RJ was helping repair relations between society and incarcerated men. Two female volunteers brought their families to the symposium.

Susan Yarian, volunteer Francesca's mother, said she came because, "I was interested in what she was doing. I didn't know what RJ was. I started hearing more about it."

Emily Freidman brought her father, Bob, and mother, Debbie.

"From the first time I came (two years ago), this program had a really big impact on me," Freidman said. "There's not a lot of space in the outside world where people are working on things in a connected way. To see that and getting to be a part of it and seeing how much work everyone is doing on themselves, it inspires me to do the work in my life."

"It never occurred to me that I could bring my family until I saw others. What an amazing thing to be able to share this program that had a really big impact on me."

Her mother said, "It was really interesting to me because I told my friends it would be scary. However, there are people here doing work I don't see on the outside. They're not scary. What I see is real people."

When her father first heard that his daughter went to San Quentin, he thought she screwed up again.

During his visit, the insurance salesman said, "I heard more people today in circle who have more insight and more self-awareness in a positive direction than anybody I know anywhere. I didn't expect that."

To sign up for RJ symposiums, go to sqrestorativejustice.com.



Photo courtesy of Danica Rodarmel

Robin Petersen, Danica Rodarmel and Gwen Gunheim in front of SQ after the symposium

25 percent of millennial-age American men think asking a woman who is not a romantic partner to go for a drink is harassment

according to a recent survey by The Economist/YouGov reports *The New York Times* 1-17-18

Innovadora alternativa para sancionar la violencia doméstica

En la prisión de San Quentin se llevó a cabo un simposio de la Justicia Restaurativa, en la cual los voceros expresaron que el perdón es un elemento esencial para sanar del abuso y llegar a tener éxito en la vida. Igualmente se abordó el tema de las demandas legales como una alternativa para no imponer sentencias que lleven a una persona a la prisión.

La invitada Tracy Sovereign habló de como perdonó a su padre abusivo quien nunca se disculpó. Después participó Esquire Tia Katrina Tarue Canlas quien está a favor de demandar a hombres que cometieron actos de violencia doméstica como una alternativa para no enviarlos a prisión.

En la Iglesia Católica de la prisión, Sovereign comentó frente a una audiencia de casi 35 miembros de la comunidad y más de 150 hombres encarcelados "Siento... que hay muchas formas en las que los hombres pueden llegar a sanar. Hace poco tiempo me di cuenta que mi padre había sido abusado. Así que, si quebramos ese... ciclo, todos podremos sanar."

Sovereign inicio su participación con una canción evangélica. Posteriormente, describió a un padre que uso el castigo corporal al extremo. Las golpizas comenzaron cuando ella tenía 5 años. Dijo que la golpeaban sin piedad, dejándole moretones y los labios partidos. El abuso aumento al grado que su padre le apunto con una pistola por

haber llegado a casa con malas calificaciones. Luego disparó hacia un colchón para que se diera cuenta de que no estaba bromeando, después le pego en la cabeza con una tabla de 2X4.

Cuando su hermano, quien es 10 años más joven que ella cumplió 7 años las golpizas se dirigieron también hacia él. Al ser golpeados al mismo tiempo, los dos se ponían a llorar en un rincón.

Sovereign comentó, "Se dice que odio engendra odio y dolor engendra dolor. Recuerdo haber gritado que nunca le íbamos hacer esto a nuestros hijos. Sé que abunda el amor en mi corazón."

A los 16 años, Sovereign se salió de su casa. A la edad de 17 años quedo embarazada y a los 18 tuvo a su bebe. Al cumplir 25 años, su padre tocó la puerta y cuando su madre abrió él, la golpeo enfrente de sus dos hijos. Después de golpear a su madre también la golpeo a ella en el ojo con una pistola, y dijo, "debería dispararte enfrente de tus hijos, me traicionaste", comentó Sovereign.

Con el cañón de la pistola presionando su frente, Sovereign oró en voz alta y se dio cuenta que la cara de su padre cambio.

Sovereign mencionó, "Ese no era el hombre que se supone debería amarne." Ella nunca dejo de amar a su padre. Muy dentro de ella sabia que existía una razón por la cual su padre actuaba de esa forma más no sabía cuál era.

Sovereign dijo, "mi padre nunca se disculpó y yo no necesitaba su disculpa. Algo en mí no podía odiarlo. Ya había aceptado que todo estaría bien. Mi sanación llegó por parte de Dios."

Después de sanar, Sovereign continuó con su vida y llegó a ser instructora de baile y canto. También es dueña de una panadería. Su esposo es pastor de una Iglesia, juntos tienen tres hijos quienes han tenido éxito en la vida. Los hijos de su hermano también han triunfado en la vida.

Hace dos años, Sovereign con 51 años de edad, se enteró a través de su abuelita que su padre también había sido abusado cuando era niño.

Sovereign comentó, "el escuchar su historia me ayuda a conocer mi propia historia. Referente a mi padre, me di cuenta que él viene de una generación de abusadores... era un ciclo y nosotros lo quebramos. Ahora estoy trabajando con mi padre para ayudarlo a sacar todo el dolor que lleva dentro."

Actualmente Sovereign tiene una excelente relación con su padre, quien es un predicador de la Iglesia y ayuda a niños a obtener becas escolares.

Tarue Canlas comenzó su historia explicando el por qué un abogado quien demanda a personas tomó el pódium en el simposio de la justicia restaurativa.

Tarue Canlas, director ejecutivo y co-fundador de Alipato Project, una



Photo courtesy of Tracy Sovereign

Tia Katrina Tarue Canlas with Tracy Sovereign in front of SQ

organización dedicada en demandas a personas responsables de cometer violencia doméstica, mencionó, "Soy un partidario de una reforma en la justicia criminal."

Tarue Canlas comentó, "La razón por la cual hago esto es porque hay mejores formas de abordar el daño causado y evitar enviar a la persona a la prisión. La realidad es que no ayuda de nada a la víctima cuando la persona que aman es enviada a la prisión. Como alternativa, nosotros preferimos demandarlos en vez de encarcelarlos."

En un evento del 14 de octubre, Canlas mencionó que la violencia doméstica es acerca del control. Los hombres "prenden la mecha" (convencen a la víctima que está loca y que nada ocurrió) y usan el control financiero

como dinámica de poder. Las dinámicas de control mantienen a las mujeres en relaciones toxicas por mucho tiempo.

Tarue Canlas observó por si misma que la dinámica del poder financiero mantuvo a su madre en una relación abusiva. Su madre, quien apenas habla inglés, se mudó de las Philipinas para casarse con una persona de este estado. Su visa requería que se mantuviera casada. Alipato, abuelo de Tarue Canlas ayudo a su madre a salir de la relación abusiva en que vivía. Se la llevó a otro estado.

Tarue Canlas cree que mientras exista una dinámica de control a través del poder, la justicia restaurativa no funciona. El proveer a las personas abusadas un lugar donde estén seguras con los gastos pagados, establece

las bases para la justicia restaurativa. De esa forma la mujer puede demandar por los gastos médicos, costo de mudanza, dinero perdido por el trabajo, y dinero necesario para seguir adelante.

El programa piloto de Canlas tuvo éxito en cuatro de cinco casos. En dos de los casos se llegó a un arreglo, los otros dos se ganaron debido a que el acusado no se opuso a la demanda, y el otro se perdió en un juicio con jurados.

Rose Elizondo, co-fundador del North Oakland Restorative Justice Council, se tomó unos cuantos minutos para elogiar a uno de los primeros miembros del Grupo de la Justicia Restaurativa en San Quentin - Robin Guillen. Después de pasar casi 40 años en prisión, una audiencia de libertad condicional lo declaro elegible para reintegrarse a la sociedad.

Guillen comentó, "mi nombre es Robin y soy un pacificador. Ha sido un camino duro y cansado, especialmente en estas cosas de acero, pero no te des por vencido. Algo que no te pueden quitar es tu actitud, tu perspectiva y tu mentalidad."

Guillen enfatizó, "me inspira escuchar a Tracy compartir su caminar. Tia... son las mujeres que vienen a esta prisión y comparten sus historias las que nos han ayudado a lograr éstos cambios."

—Rahsaan Thomas
—Traducción por Tare Beltranchuc y Marco Villa

US Supreme Court to hear Death Row case

Hidalgo v. Arizona challenges the new Arizona death penalty law

By Forrest Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

In the coming months, the U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether to take up a challenge to the death penalty in Arizona. If the justices agree to hear the case, the court's decision could also affect the California death penalty law.

And that could spare the lives of 746 prisoners on California's death row, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The pending case, *Hidalgo v. Arizona*, challenges the new Arizona death penalty law, which makes virtually every first-degree murder subject to potential capital charges.

Lawyers for Abel Hidalgo argue that the Arizona law violates Supreme Court precedent dating back to the 1970s that limits capital punishment to specific categories of crime, including especially heinous killers often described as the "worst of the worst."

Much like Arizona, California has also expanded its definition of capital crimes, which, according to retired Arizona prosecutor and judge Rudolph Gerber, "made the vast majority of murders eligible for the death penalty."

Even though the California law is not before the Supreme Court, the pending *Hidalgo* case might reshape California law—a situation that mirrors another legal decision in 1972.

That year, the Supreme Court overturned Georgia's

death penalty law because the state failed to set meaningful standards separating especially heinous crimes from other serious felonies and limiting the discretion of prosecutors and jurors.

That 1972 ruling extended to California and other states, resulting in California resentencing their condemned inmates to life in prison from the previous death sentence.

The Arizona case is comparable to the 1972 Georgia case, "a substantive decision that was applied

retroactively to everyone on Death Row across the country," said Robert Dunham, the Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

But if the Supreme Court does not take up the case, many prisoners will remain eligible for the death penalty.

Hidalgo's lawyers said research indicates that over an 11-year period in Arizona's most populous county, Maricopa, 99 percent of all first-degree murderers could have been prosecuted as a capital crime.

"Arizona's death penalty statute, once narrowly drawn, now provides prosecutors and jurors with unfettered discretion," Hidalgo's lawyers argued in their appeal to the Arizona Supreme Court. California, Colorado and

Missouri, the lawyers said, have similar laws.

Research conducted at the University of Iowa on California crimes from 1978 to 2002 found that 95 percent of first-degree convictions could have been charged under the current law as capital crimes, punishable by the death penalty or life without parole.

The Supreme Court must now decide if it will take up the case. As of February 28, 2018, the Court had not made a decision to accept or reject the appeal. Until then, the Arizona State Supreme Court decision upholding the law will remain intact.

If the Supreme Court takes up the case, oral arguments and a ruling will take place during the 2018-19 term, which is scheduled to begin in October.

Arizona inmates allowed more privileges

By Michelangelo Ramsey
Journalism Guild Writer

Many of Arizona's death-row inmates are no longer spending their days in solitary confinement, reported *The Associated Press (AP)*. The Arizona Department of Corrections moved 93 of its 120 death-row inmates to a Florence, Arizona, prison, where they can be outside and socialize with other death-row inmates in a common area, instead of being isolated in their 9½-by-10-foot cells.

In addition, their cells open and are not sealed by a steel door. They can also shoot hoops, play volleyball, and go on the prison recreational fields for several hours each day.

Experience in other state

prison systems has shown that the inmates can benefit psychologically from being able to socialize more. According to Carson McWilliams, the division director for the Arizona Department of Corrections, they have "some way to express themselves rather than being in a cell and angry all the time."

Death-row inmates can now have face-to-face visits with attorneys or family members. They are also able to walk unshackled to the mess hall instead of waiting for food to be thrust to them through the door. Death-Row inmate Richard Greenway who has been in prison for the murder of a woman and her daughter during a burglary in Tucson, said after two decades he finds the little bit

of freedom surreal. "It's hard to explain the deprivation," Greenway told the *AP*. "It weighs on your mind."

There is debate as to what brought about these new changes. Attorneys with the Arizona Capital Representation Project sued the state agency in 2015, on behalf of inmate Scott Nordstrom, who is on Death-Row for six murders committed during two Tucson robberies in 1996. Their lawsuit alleged the correction department's treatment of inmates was unconstitutional, violating inmates' right to due process and an amendment banning cruel and unusual punishment. At that point Death-Row inmates were permitted two hours of exercise three times a week and three showers a

week. Physical contact was with guards only and at times they would talk with other inmates by tapping on the wall in code.

Correction officials counter in court documents that Arizona was already experimenting with allowing more socializing for death-row inmates after seeing positive results in other state prison systems. State officials also disputed the application of the term "solitary confinement."

According to United Nations guidelines passed in 2015, solitary confinement is defined as "the confinement of prisoners for 22 hours or more a day without meaningful human contact."

The lawsuit was eventually settled in March 2017, according to the *AP*.

"64% of California's jail population is awaiting trial or sentencing as of December 2016." Most remain in pretrial custody because they cannot afford bail.

Jail Profile Survey, <http://www.bscc.ca.gov/>

New research disputes the accuracy of "Risk Assessment"

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Writer

New research disputes the accuracy, fairness and limits of so-called "risk assessment" tests used by corrections departments to predict an offender's likelihood to recommit crime.

In a January article for *Science Advances* magazine, analysts revealed the results of two critical studies that debunk the predictive algorithms behind the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS) in use nationwide since 2000.

"Proponents of these systems argue that big data and advanced machine learning make these analyses more accurate and less biased than humans," wrote Julia Dressel and Hany Farid of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. "We show, however, that the widely used commercial risk assessment software COMPAS is no more accurate or fair than predictions made by people with little or no criminal justice expertise."

One study compared the COMPAS results of about 7,000 persons in Florida between 2013 and 2014, with their actual recidivism during the first two years following their release.

"This analysis indicated that the predictions were unreliable and racially biased," Dressel and Farid wrote. "COMPAS scores appeared to favor White defendants over Black defendants by under predicting recidivism for White and over predicting recidivism for Black defendants."

Dressel and Farid themselves conducted a study

where random online participants were asked to predict a person's recidivism given minimal information—the offender's sex, age and criminal history, but not race.

"With considerably less information than COMPAS (only seven features compared to COMPAS' 137), a small crowd of non-experts is as accurate as COMPAS at predicting recidivism," Dressel and Farid asserted.

Northpointe, the private software company that created COMPAS, refuses to disclose the specifics of its prediction process, out of concern for sharing the method with rival firms. But whatever algorithmic functions are involved, Dressel and Farid determined that COMPAS may only be 65 percent accurate, at best.

"Given that our participants, our classifiers, and COMPAS all seemed to reach a performance ceiling of around 65 percent accuracy, it is important to consider whether any improvement is possible," they said of their results. "...it remains to be seen whether a larger pool of participants will yield even higher accuracy, or whether participants with criminal justice expertise would outperform those without."

Separate from COMPAS, Dressel and Farid tested eight other algorithmic programs used across the country to predict recidivism—only one of which made accurate predictions.

"It is valuable to ask whether we would put these decisions in the hands of random people who respond to an online survey because, in the end, the results from these two approaches appear to be indistinguishable," Dressel and Farid concluded.

Prisoners being arraigned via video court Court video arraignments inside prisons gaining endorsements

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

The use of court video arraignments inside California prisons is gaining endorsements and could become a permanent part of the prison system, according to *Inside CDCR*.

Kern County Prison Court (KCPC) is one such video program that serves several prisons within its county.

"Now that we have implemented it, I am even further convinced of the value of this program," said Sara Danville, Kern County supervising Deputy District Attorney. "Every time we can handle a hearing through video, we not only save incredible monetary resources, but we avoid a potential safety risk."

The video court session is used for arraignment purposes only, where it takes 10 to 15 minutes to assign a prisoner an attorney, read the charges and set bail. The prisoners do not enter a plea, said the article.

"A warden told me that when it comes to video arraignment, the cost-savings is like icing on a cake, but safety and security of doing that in a prison is the cake itself," said CDCR Correctional Officer Rafael Torres, assigned to KCPC. "Every time we don't have to transport an inmate, we are contributing to public safety. It also saves the officers a long trip for a short arraignment."

Since July 2017, almost 70 percent of KCPC arraignments have occurred on live video, according to the article. The program has gained



Photo by Ike Dodson

Court proceedings with an inmate on television screen (top left)

the approval of some public defenders.

"Overall, the video arraignments make it a more humane way to treat our clients without the feeling that they're a number," said Christina Matias, supervisor of the Kern County Public Defender's office. "Instead of driving six to 10 hours or more in a day, the client is able to do the arraignment in the prison where he or she is housed, which means they are able to program in their facility."

The Delano courtroom has become the model for this program. It has a "fishbowl" viewing room for inmates to interact with the proceedings, also a public viewing area behind bullet-proof glass, private interview rooms and 21 holding cells, according to

the article.

The plan was put into effect after a proposal from Danville, according to the article.

"I am really grateful that the presiding judge trusted me with this arraignment and is supporting us so that we can do this," said Kern County Superior Court Judge David Wolf. "I think it's wonderful when you see everyone from county, city, state, all these agencies working together to save our taxpayers money and promote public safety."

When you consider the costs of fuel and regular/overtime hours, the local benefits of video arraignments are the economical answer. Especially for inmates coming from Pelican Bay State Pris-

on in Crescent City, which is 600 miles away from the courthouse, according to the article.

"Without teamwork from all the different agencies, it would all fall apart," said Wolf. "It takes the sheriff, CDCR, the wardens, the DA's office, the court staff—everybody working together to make this happen."

The Kern County Prison Court hosts hearings for the following prisons: California City Correctional Facility; Kern Valley State Prison in Delano; California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi; Wasco State Prison; North Kern State Prison in Delano. That court also hosts for community correctional facilities in Shafter, Taft, Delano, and McFarland.

Singer/songwriter Neda Boin brings inspiration to SQ

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

There is a way to change anger and fear to love, singer-songwriter Neda Boin told an audience of San Quentin prisoners and outside guests. For her, it came after completing *A Course in Miracles*.

Boin came from the Netherlands to release songs from her new album, *The Light Has*



Courtesy of Neda Boin
Neda Boin performing in concert

Come, at San Quentin State Prison. About 100 guests attended the February concert held in the Catholic chapel.

Boin told the audience that *A Course in Miracles: Mastering the Journey from Fear to Love* changed her life and inspired her music.

"It's been about feeding your soul," Boin said. She said supporting people on her same path is what she's inspired to do, and once she put herself in the back seat and not in the driver's seat, from there "everything started to flow."

Several years ago, Boin wrote 16 songs inspired by *A Course in Miracles*. Eleven of those songs were performed for the San Quentin audience.

The first song, *Take Me Home*, "describes the whole journey of making this album," Boin said before she performed. She expressed her past feelings of anger, hate, fear and doubt. "I really had to look at my own darkness." She said it's a sign that you forget who you are when

you're stressed, angry or depressed.

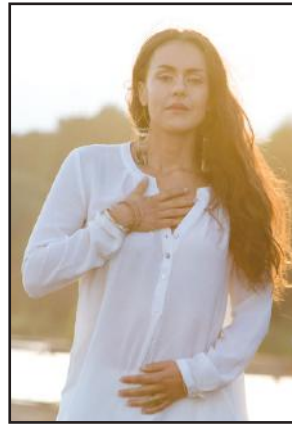
Speaking between the first and second songs, Boin asked, "Are we extending love or asking for love?"

Boin stated she was there to remind everyone that they're innocent. "If I see you as innocent, I see myself as innocent," she said. "You're not what you did or where you come from. You are perfect love because God is perfect love."

"If I see you as guilty, then I see myself as guilty," Boin said as she introduced the next song, *Helpful*. "I'm only here to be truly helpful. That's my function."

James Fox, who teaches yoga at San Quentin, brought Boin in through the Prison Yoga Project. He said the PYP has a chapter in Amsterdam, where he met her last year.

According to Fox, the PYP goes inside governmental prisons. "We have 10 (chapters) in the United States that enable us to serve over 250



Courtesy of Neda Boin
Neda Boin

jails," he said. There are also chapters outside of the U.S. in the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Mexico and Canada.

There were multiple ethnic groups in attendance at the concert. The music's universal message didn't lend itself to any particular genre, race, religion or culture. "It's about the peace," Boin said of the album and title track, *The Light Has Come*. It was played with a long melodic introduction and chords broken up into arpeggios. "Forgiveness can also be very difficult," she said.

The atmosphere during the Presidents Day three-day

weekend, Sunday-evening performance, was relaxed. The inmates and outside guests appeared to be contemplative as Boin sang: "The light has come/The light has come/I have forgiven the world."

"It's about the peace," Boin reminded the audience again. She said if you hate the world and consider we're all one, you're basically hating yourself.

Boin discussed the ego, saying it will think of other things to want because it never has enough. She then introduced the song *When Lambs Become Lions*, describing how "We became slaves to the system...we forgot who we are."

After teaching in a juvenile prison, Boin formed the idea of a train leaving kids behind. "When the train leaves without me, what I wouldn't give to be on board," she said about the song titled *Don't Leave Without Me*. The song led with arpeggios, and slowly moved through a series of chord progressions.

Boin asked the men for suggestions on what to tell juveniles. The men responded with comments such as, "Stay out of trouble," "Be humble," and "Stay in school." She pushed through other songs

and discussed how one was "inspired by my hero, Martin Luther King," she said. "I think we were friends in a past life."

On the song *Do You Have Courage?* Boin asked if you have courage to choose for love. Quotes from King are woven into the lyrics of the song. Boin said "It takes courage to choose for love," and "The Holy Spirit is the answer," warning that "The ego always speaks first."

"It's always hard to say goodbye," Boin said. Because of that, she said she wrote the song *How Do I Say Goodbye?* about her late aunt.

At the end of the performance there was a brief question-and-answer period.

"How do you feel about these (school) shootings?" one inmate asked.

"There's no order in difficulties," Boin said. "Everything is for our healing and awakening. People are either giving love or asking for love. I hope maybe that guy (the shooter) will get there one day."

To get a free scholarship copy of *A Course in Miracles*, write to:

Foundation for Inner Peace
P.O. Box 598
Mill Valley, CA 94942

NEWSBRIEFS

1. Florida — The state's felon voting policies have been ruled overly "arbitrary" by a federal court. Currently, felons have their voting rights permanently revoked; their rights can only be reinstated by waiting at least five years after completing their sentence and having their case decided by a four-person clemency board led by the state's governor. Florida represents the most widespread case of felon voter suppression. In Maine and Vermont, individuals convicted of felonies never lose their voting rights.

2. Tallahassee, Florida —The Florida Supreme Court rejected 40 death-penalty appeals on similar legal grounds, The News Service of Florida reports. A 2016 U.S. Supreme Court ruling found Florida's death-penalty sentencing system was unconstitutional because it gave too much authority to judges, instead of juries.

3. Florida —More inmates died in Florida prisons last year than in any other year on record, leaving the state scrambling to identify causes and find solutions, reports the Miami Herald. The tally, 428 inmate deaths in 2017, showed a 20 percent increase over previous years. Those who died in 2017 averaged 56.3 years of age. Since 2012, the average age of death in the prison system has swung between 57.1 and 58.2 years old. The Florida prison population is getting older and inmates are serving longer sentences, thanks in part to the elimination of parole.

4. Knoxville, Tennessee —Since April 2014, the Knox County Sheriff's Office has banned in-person visits at all county jail facilities, according to Face To Face Knox. In the place of in-person visits, the sheriff promoted a new "video visitation" system, requiring jail visitors to interact with residents through a video kiosk located inside the facility. Friends and family could also contact residents through a remote video call, but at the cost of \$5.95 [now \$5.99] per visit, assuming they had the necessary technology. Fifty cents of every dollar paid by a friend or family member on a video call



goes directly into the county's general revenue fund.

5. Alabama — Anthony Ray Hinton spent 30 years confined on Alabama's death row for murders he did not commit, reports Death Penalty Information Center. He was arrested in 1985 and charged in connection with the murder of two fast-food restaurant managers, even though he had been working in a locked warehouse 15 miles away when that crime was committed. The prosecutor, who had a documented history of racial bias, said he could tell Hinton was guilty and "evil" just by looking at him. Hinton's incompetent trial lawyer did not know and did not research the law, and erroneously believed the court would not provide funds to hire a qualified ballistics expert to rebut the state expert's unsupported claim that the bullets that killed the victims had been fired from Hinton's gun. Instead, his lawyer hired a visually impaired "expert" who did not know how to properly use a microscope, whose testimony was destroyed in front of the jury. Hinton was convicted and sentenced to death.

6. Minnesota —The state's crime rate dropped 24 percent, but the incarceration rate increased 1 percent, reports the Star Tribune. A major factor has been a 55 percent increase in felony charges across the state, according to study by the University of Minnesota Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice. Minnesota is among the worst in the country for incarcerating people of color at disproportionate rates, according to a 2016 study from the Washington, D.C.-based Sentencing Project. The study found Hispanics go to prison in Minnesota at a rate 2 1/2 times higher than Whites. Blacks

go to prison at a rate 11 times higher than Whites. Minnesota taxpayers spend \$41,000 per inmate every year, according to a study by the Vera Institute of Justice.

7. Missouri —In 2016, about 5,000 inmates in the state's prisons had hepatitis C, reports Kansas City National Public Radio KCUR 89.3 FM. That's about 15 percent of the 32,000 people incarcerated in Missouri's prisons. However, no more than 14 of them received the drugs, according to internal state data obtained by the Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center in St. Louis. A full course of treatment carried an \$84,000 price tag. In December 2016, the American Civil Liberties Union and MacArthur Justice Center sued to get the Missouri Department of Corrections to provide direct-acting antiviral drugs to inmates with hepatitis C who qualify for treatment.

8. USA — After peaking in 2008, the nation's imprisonment rate fell 11 percent over eight years, reaching its lowest level since 1997, according to an analysis of new federal statistics by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

9. Texas —William Earl Rayford was executed on Jan. 30 for killing his ex-girlfriend in 1999, reports the Associated Press. The 64-year-old asked his victim's family for forgiveness and promised to keep them in his prayers, according to a Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman.

10. Virginia —There are now more than 30,000 people in Virginia prisons, costing taxpayers more than a billion dollars a year Radio IQ WVTF reports. A growing number are senior citizens with average healthcare costs of \$68,000 a year. There were 540 of them, and the board released just 39.

60's science fiction ahead of its time dealing with sexuality and imperialism

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

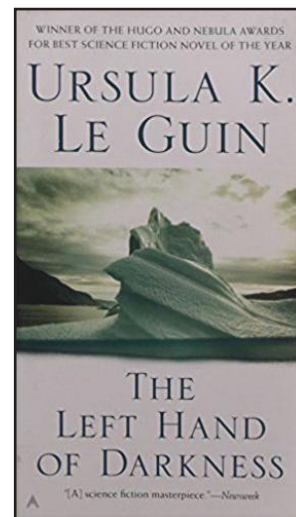
When Ursula K. Le Guin died earlier this year, she left her fans a rich history of literature. In much of that literature she tackled humankind's quest for dignity. Her stories make us think deeply about how we treat each other — most famously in her groundbreaking 1969 science fiction masterpiece, *The Left Hand of Darkness*. Le Guin was a courageous writer -- she wrote about sexuality, truth to power, and imperialism at a time when these topics were considered revolutionary.

The plot of *The Left Hand of Darkness* centers on intergalactic cooperation that earthlings are pushing to new worlds. Genly Ai is the earthling envoy to Winter. It is a primarily sub-zero planet of a highly militarized and divided people who live in a state of mutual distrust. Power and control are vital to survivability. The dominant sects maintain control by creating their own realities.

...Truth is a matter of the imagination...and if at moments, the facts seem to alter with an altered voice, why then you can choose the fact you like best; yet none of them is false...

Ai, a government worker, tells the aliens that Earth's strategy is to send one envoy at a time to distant planets. Sending more than one envoy, gets in the way of the message, "We are coming, no matter what."

Ai learns about what it's like to live on Winter but it isn't only the seasons that change: the inhabitants change genders. They go into cycles called kimmering, which is a period in which



they are sexually attracted to someone who has the ability to change genders.

In 2018 some Americans believe that gender distinctions are getting too blurry: In Le Guin's fictional world gender distinctions aren't blurred they're transferable. Ai describes an encounter with an alien:

He was so feminine in look and manner that I once asked him how many children he had. He looked glum. He had never borne any. He had, however, sired four. It was one of the little jolts I was always getting.

Consider: There is no division of humanity into strong and weak halves, protective/protected, dominant/submissive, owner/chattel, active/passive. In fact, the whole tendency to dualism that pervades human thinking may be found to be lessened or changed, on Winter.

Terrans tend to feel they've got to get ahead, make progress. The people of Winter, who always live in Year One, feel that

progress is less important than presence.

In time, Ai realized that his best ally for success is the once powerful, but now disgraced, Winter native, Estraven.

But, the currently powerful are wise to Ai's strategy. Ai and Estraven wind up in prison, otherwise known at The Farm. In order to survive, they unify.

While on The Farm, all the prisoners must work. They are drugged and asked questions about their crimes. The natives are prevented from cycling into kimmering. Ai can see the results as:

...not merely suppression, it produced not frustration, but something more, perhaps, in the long run: passivity.

They do not kill people on their Farms; they let hunger and winter and despair do their murders for them.

What drew me into the story was that it is told from two completely different perspectives.

Estraven's journal gives readers information that's useful in understanding an alien perspective. Ai's calm and determined attitude perfectly depicts ideas rooted in Manifest Destiny and imperialism, key to western expansion

This novel was written in 1969 but I would recommend reading it today. The state of our nation is deeply divided; we distance ourselves from each other, based on our own truths. If we are to come together again as people with a common destiny, we should heed the experience of Ai and Estraven and their push to survive through cooperation

The possibility of peace hangs in the background of this story, while the dominant theme seems to lead inexorably towards war.

Two NBA players assist Kaepernick in donating

By Joe Garcia
Journalism Guild Writer

Colin Kaepernick's political activism continues to generate momentum and controversy.

This January, Steph Curry teamed up with the embattled NFL star to help complete his year-long pledge to contribute \$1 million to various charities, including violence prevention organization United Playaz, reported *KTVU* news. Kaepernick faced fierce

criticism in December for visiting prisoners at New York's Rikers Island facility, according to articles in *The Washington Times* and *New York Daily News*.

"At a time when jail violence is soaring and assaults on corrections officers are rising, Commissioner (Cynthia) Brann invites Colin Kaepernick, (whose) anti-law enforcement sentiment is on full display with the message 'Pigs' written on his socks, to speak to a group of inmates

who are provided suits and ties to listen to him," said Elias Husamudeen, president of the Corrections Officers' Benevolent Association.

At the 49ers' training camp last year, Kaepernick drew attention for wearing socks decorated with pigs in police hats.

During his December visit at Rikers, Kaepernick spoke with inmates and staff in conjunction with the reformatory justice group 100 Suits for 100 Men.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

NBA All-star Kevin Durant on the Lower Yard of San Quentin

"Colin Kaepernick visited Rikers today to share a message of hope and inspiration," said Peter Thorne, Department of Correction spokesperson.

Kaepernick and Curry later joined forces to give \$10,000 each to United Playaz, a San Francisco-based organization focused on youth development and violence prevention.

"I think it's amazingly important and powerful what Colin is doing—putting his

money where his mouth is and actually reaching out to the community with the resources he has," Curry said on Twitter, reported the *KTVU* news article.

"At first I didn't believe it," said Rudy Corpuz Jr., United Playaz founder and a former convicted felon who helps parolees find housing and jobs. Corpuz intends to use the athletes' money to "help out brothers who [are] coming home from prison — their re-entry" and to "give them

the opportunity to navigate and get involved more with society."

After being released from San Quentin in 2016, David Monroe went to work for United Playaz, mentoring youths. He cautions students about his own path into gang activity and prison life.

"In 1997 I was incarcerated for second-degree murder," Monroe said. "I was 15 years old at the time, and they tried me as an adult.

"When we're here with these kids now and share our stories, then the 'why' comes out...it was meant for somebody to experience that so that they don't have to, you know?"

"Kids are like magic—they're healing the hearts of these gentlemen who are coming home," added Corpuz. "It makes it 100 times more worth it to stay out."

Kevin Durant also pitched in with Kaepernick in January to donate to Silicon Valley De-Bug, a San Jose organization dedicated to community-based social justice work.

Basketball as a saving grace

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

An exceptional idea in 2013 inspired San Quentin inmates to find a way to reach out to younger incarcerated men; the result, Graced Out Ministries.

"Mother Mardi Ralph Jackson had the vision for something geared to the youth," said incarcerated mentor, Ferrari Moody, 35. He adds, "I see young men who are yearning for unity, love and positive role models."



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Allan McIntosh going up for a dunk on the SQ Lower Yard

GRACED OUT MINISTRIES BENEFITS THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER PROGRAM

Last Presidents Day, 21-year old Xavier Wiggins was a beneficiary of Graced Out Ministries.

That day he didn't have to work in the prison's kitchen and the education department, where Wiggins is studying for his GED, was closed for the holiday. With the day off, he and some friends headed to the prison's gym to play in a four-on-four basketball tournament, sponsored by Graced Out.

"Something as simple as holding a basketball tournament and passing out sodas gives me the motivation to keep reaching out to the youth," Moody said. "I see myself in them. Graced Out is an opportunity to give back to the community."

Wiggins put together a team called the X's: Marcel Williams and Arron Gilmer, both 22 years old, and 44-year-old Marvin "B-Nutt" Cosby.

Wiggins, Williams and Gilmer were supposed to begin their sentences in a high-security prison. But, California prison officials had other plans — the Youthful Offender Program (YOP).

Because of their young ages, Wiggins and his friends qualify for YOP. The idea is to keep younger inmates away from the violence and chaos associated with higher-level prisons. They begin their sentences in an environment with more rehabilitative opportunities, like San Quentin.

"I think it's a good opportunity to be at San Quentin, to better myself," Wiggins said. "If I went someplace else, it's easy to get caught up in the melee. I'm glad I got the opportunity to stay here."

GAME TIME!

Six teams competed in the two-game elimination tournament. The referees were two Graced Out mentors.

"We create sporting events to involve the youth and take them away from the anxiety that the prison holds," Dwight Kennedy, 44 said. "After the events, we invite the youth to a service that takes place in the Garden Chapel."

The championship series pitted the X's against the Gym Rats.

The Gym Rats were veteran San Quentin Warriors

basketball players, Cornell "Corn" Shields and Allan McIntosh. Shields and McIntosh teamed up with three guys who play pickup ball on the yard regularly — Isaiah "Cap" Caldwell, Jeff Brown and Carlos Meza.

In the first game between the X's and the Gym Rats, the youth proved to be too much. The X's sped and hopped around the court getting more shots and rebounds, which earned them a 14-13 win.

In the second game, the Gym Rats looked far better and won, 14-8.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

The Gym Rats, not wanting to give the X's room to breathe, jumped out to a 7-0 lead and increased their lead to 13-2.

The X's woke up and went on a tear. Williams hit back-to-back deuces, followed by Wiggins doing the same. Gilmer drove hard to the basket and closed the gap, 13-11.

Williams dribbled the ball hard in the paint, headed for an easy layup, but lost his handle right into the hands of Caldwell. Caldwell passed the ball to Shields, who got it to the sure-fire McIntosh for an in-the-paint jumper — game over.

"The first game, we thought we could just blow them out," said Brown. "But the X's were more talented than we thought."

Brown added, "McIntosh and Shields play together on the SQ Warriors, so they already have good chemistry. The added bonus was Carlos getting all those rebounds. It was a privilege to play with McIntosh and Shields — probably the two best on the yard."

First place team: 25 sodas; second place team: 20 sodas; third place team: 10 sodas

Opinion: Inmate consumers say some tennis shoes worthless

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Inmate consumers have reported that two sneakers sold through prison package vendors were poorly made and not worth their hard-earned money — Phat Farm Prism from Access SecurePak and Air Jordan 12 Retros from Just Right Packages.

Phat Farm Prism has a design flaw that causes mere walking to crack open the bottom of the "court shoes," according to five different inmates who bought the shoes. The sneakers have a hollow area between the rubber bottom and its interior cushion making stepping on a pebble likely to poke a hole in the sole.

The defective sneakers remain in the 2018 Access SecurePak catalog.

Incarcerated men Carl Price, Daryl Ferris, Timothy Young, Steve Owens and several others reported holes and cracks after barely owning the sneakers a month. I had a similar experience with the same model sneakers purchased in 2014.

Access was contacted by *San Quentin News* in July 2017 about the design flaw.

Access responded, "I received your letter. I will alert our management to your



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Anthony Smith showing where his "Jordan" sneakers ripped from walking in them

concerns. However, I cannot refund or credit your account for shoes received over three years previously," Monica Access Securepak wrote.

We replied, forget about a refund, just stop selling the defective sneakers. Yet the 2018 Access Securepak catalog once again has the sneakers for sale, now at a lower price.

Just Right Packages sells "Air Jordan Retros 12," a pair of sneakers many men on the yard have found are worthless. The sneakers reportedly rip along the side during normal usage and probably wouldn't survive a game of basketball.

"A month after I got them, they started falling apart," Anthony Smith said. "I just walked around in them, and

they ripped. I don't believe they're real 'Jordans.' Real Jordans have the 23 a little lower."

Al Jefferson added, "They (Just Right) worked me. The sneakers ripped after I had them just two days."

Maybe you get what you pay for. The Retro 12s from Just Right cost \$75 — plus you have to spend at least another \$75 with the company. Jordan Retro 12 in society cost about \$180 according to Smith.

"Don't wash the Jordan Retro 12 replicas because the gray leather area will turn a different color," Ledell Jackson said.

"Don't buy these; they're a waste of money," Smith added.

Black History Month hosts Basketball Skills Challenge on Lower Yard

By Aaron Taylor
Contributing Writer

For Black History Month San Quentin hosted a Basketball Skills Challenge, where prisoners showcased their agility and coordination on the Lower Yard.

Montrel Vines and Brad "Reign Man" Shells pushed each other to the limit as they drew to a tie, completing the makeshift obstacle course with the time of 00:27.

"I knew I had this," Shells said after the challenge. "We've been doing drills like this since high school days."

Shells set the bar high by weaving flawlessly through the course on his final round, trash talking as he moved through each station. The

obstacle course consisted of five stations, three rounds and a point system for a final shot. One shot: a three-pointer worth 25 points, a free throw worth 15, or a lay-up for 10.

Each player had to dribble down the court baseline between six large orange cones to the half-court line. The players then made a right turn, dribbling down the half-court line through 10 smaller cones to the other side of the court.

The men then performed a two-handed chest pass to the opposite baseline, followed by a straight run to the free-throw line. The player had to make the shot to advance. After the shot they performed a bounce pass between two cones. The guys ran back to

the opposite side of the court for the final shot.

Vines, unlike Shells, maneuvered through the course a bit slower, making sure he didn't get penalized for missing cones. As he went to the free-throw line, everyone was watching on the edge of their seats to see if he'd sink it.

"If I didn't make that first one, no way I catch my boy, you feel me?" Vines said.

Vines sank that first free throw and made the bounce pass; he sensed he was behind on the clock. He sprinted to the last station, grabbed the ball, and instead of going for a for sure lay-up, Vines—whose on-court nickname is "Pull Up, Splash" —jacked up a deep three-pointer that went in, shaving off the extra

time on the bonus, ending the challenge with a tie.

In the first round, Shells had an opening time of 1:06. Vines bested that with a first-round time of 1:01. The competition began to heat up when Juan "The Gnat" Moreno took the lead with a time of 00:56 seconds.

Joshua "Quick" Burton took his turn but was hampered at the free-throw line, costing him valuable seconds, and finished with a first-round time of 1:38.

San Quentin News staff writer Marcus "Wali" Henderson went next, and the dreaded free-throw line became his enemy as well. He finished with 2:37.

The following rounds brought much faster times as

the players were now familiar with the course, and each knew that making that first free-throw shot was crucial to getting a faster time.

And that's how the small crowd found themselves involved as Shells and Vines battled the following two rounds, with Burton and Haines in a close third.

In the second round, Shells sank the first free-throw, hit the sprint and then made the lay-up, which erased 10 seconds from his time as a bonus, and was looking to win.

Vines' second-round numbers forced the third-round play-off with Shells.

Both players received a six pack of Pepsi for their victory. The challenge was sponsored by members of the Islamic

Community at San Quentin, who have also sponsored basketball, softball, volleyball and football games.

"We're just giving back to the community," Henderson said. "We, along with Graced Out Ministries (a Christian group) like to bring the message of peace, unity and fellowship out of the houses of worship and down to the yard, where the people are at, and meet them where they are."

"It's always good to be among our brothers here at The Q, brothers meaning everyone on the yard, regardless of whatever categories we might place on ourselves," Henderson added.

The challenge ended with handshakes and laughs to close the Feb. 17 event.

Formerly incarcerated man helping others on parole

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

While serving a life sentence, Nighiep Ke Lam promised to help restore the community. Now on parole, despite several struggles, he is keeping that promise.

Lam overcame incarceration, deportation, the daily struggle, and other barriers the formerly incarcerated face, to become an Asian Prisoners Support Committee (APSC) reentry coordinator. He helps people acclimate back into society after years of incarceration.

"The ability to look back and help those who are going through that struggle helps me find some healing in my own life," Lam said.

While serving life for an aggravated felony he committed at 17 years old, Lam met the APSC group at an annual health fair at San Quentin State Prison.

"Together with APSC community, we actually founded the SQ Roots group (Restoring Our Original True Selves)," Lam said. "It's the

first prisoner ethnic studies class in the state of California that focuses on Asian/Pacific Islander issues. Part of that program is a cross-cultural/cross-healing model. People think, 'Well, you're all Asian,' and they clump you into one category, but that's so not true; there are over 30 different countries in Asia, and everyone has different languages and different cultures."

ROOTS teaches cross-cultural historical trauma, imperialism and colonization. ROOTS also addresses the migration from school to prison to deportation pipeline, gender identity and gender roles, hyper-masculinity and violence.

Formerly incarcerated person Eddy Zheng, who also started APSC, initiated the ROOTS program by requesting Asian ethnic studies be taught at San Quentin. His demand landed him in the hole, but the program came about with the help of other founders like Tung Nguyen and APSC. It has now graduated four cycles of students.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Nighiep Ke Lam in 2014 as a member of the San Quentin A's.



Photo courtesy of Nighiep Ke Lam

Nighiep Ke Lam proudly holding up an APSC award

ROOTS taught Lam do something he didn't learn from his culture while in society – talk about his feelings and seek healing.

"We don't talk about ourselves, because that would bring pain to the family," Lam said about how he was raised to deal with emotional issues. "That limits our community from really healing a lot of those traumas and perpetuates the harm."

Lam learned how to heal. He also learned more about his heritage from ROOTS than by living in Vietnam because he had migrated to the United States in 1980 as a 4-year-old refugee.

"I thought I was born here," Lam said. "I only found out I had an immigration hold when I was incarcerated two years. I was desensitized; I didn't know what that meant."

After serving 23 years of a 27-to-life sentence, he paroled in December of 2015 right into the custody of ICE.

"It was scary because I didn't know what was going to happen; what was the process?" Lam said. "I thought they were going to send me to a country that I don't even remember, where they murdered my grandparents."

A U.S.-Vietnam repatriation agreement that limits the removal of individuals who came to the U.S. prior to 1995, according to Asian American Press (AAP), saved Lam from deportation.

Afterward, he faced a new challenge: society.

"Oh my God, things are so stressful out here. It's so fast-paced in society; in prison, things are really slow," Lam said. "We know we have food coming in there. Out here,

you have to work to eat; you have to work to live; you have to work to survive.

"I had to learn so many things: to budget, what it means to be an adult, the political landscape. There are so many barriers to being formerly incarcerated, at least 40,000 barriers to someone who has a felony. I'm formerly incarcerated, with a felony, and not a citizen. When I went to get my Medi-Cal, the scope of services was cut in half."

"Don't ever give up on hope, stay focused, and know you have a ton of support here to help you"

His high school sweetheart and what he learned from programs in prison helped Lam make it in society.

"She's been super supportive of my reentry," Lam said. "She's patient with me when I don't get something. She helped me open up the bank account and learn how to drive."

Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) and Kids Creating Awareness Together (Kid CAT) taught him how to do social justice work.

As captain of both the SQ A's baseball team and the Hardtimers softball team, Lam learned how to unify people for one common goal. Baseball also taught him about diversity and relation-

ships. "Even off the field, I developed a lot of relationships," Lam said. "I have the support of my fellow brothers on the team. I still play on an over-40 team in San Rafael."

Now Lam helps people on parole get through reentry challenges, including getting a work permit, driver's license, California ID without a birth certificate, Medi-Cal and other county services.

He also does advocacy work, like a recent trip to Washington, D.C., to strategize about immigration and deportation reform.

"Another thing we try to do is community engagement and immersion work," Lam said. "It's getting to know the community, getting to know the social landscape, and also providing a platform for them to share their life experience."

Despite barely making enough money to keep the lights on, Lam said he is driven to do the work.

"For so many, the model-minority myth has been perpetuated for so long," Lam said. "It affected me personally."

Lam enjoys freedom. "I love the ability to just walk around and not feel like I have to get down on the ground when there's an alarm," Lam said. "Plus I get to go to the bathroom and close the door."

To his brothers still incarcerated, Lam said, "Don't ever give up on hope, stay focused, and know you have a ton of support here to help you."

UC Berkeley Student *Kate Wolfe* contributed to this story

San Quentin Kings recruit new talent



Photo by Brian Asey

San Quentin Kings logo

The talent and hustle displayed during full-court scrimmage basketball games helped coaches of the San Quentin Kings decide who will replace players leaving the prison.

"We need to improve in all areas," Orlando Harris, the King's head coach, said. "I think one recruit can help."

The Kings lost several post-up players, who left on parole or transfers, including J. "Mailman" Ratchford (transferred) and Julio Saca (paroled). They also lost shooting guard Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeel, who paroled.

Trevor Woods showed he could fill their shoes with his post-up moves in the paint.

The 50-year-old played varsity basketball and football in high school. He also played safety for the Valley Junior College Monarchs football team. While incarcerated he played both football and basketball, however, after a ruptured Achilles, his last dunk was when he was 44.

"They offered me a contract of two cases of soups and a Snicker," joked Woods before he seriously stated, "I played against the youngsters, and see I still got it, so I came to tryout."

Kings' leading scorer and veteran guard Orin "Pep" Williams, 56, said, "I'm looking forward to playing with Trevor."

New King Greg Jones tried out because, "I want to be

helpful, and I want to be involved with this family."

Coach Harris told the tryouts, old and new, "I don't care if we lose every game as long as we have fun, bring camaraderie, and build each other up."

Jones plans to help accomplish that with "190 percent hustle," and always putting the team first.

Trevor Bird normally just plays baseball each season, but this year he plans to be both a King and a San Quentin Giant.

His hard work, tenacity and positive attitude earned him a spot. He brings a post-up presence, hustle, outside shooting and team ball.

Edward Brooks, 54, has been at San Quentin for years, but he never tried out.

"It would mean a lot to make the Kings, something I've been wanting to do since I been here, but I didn't feel I was good enough," Brooks said. "Today I gave it my all."

Brooks put up a great effort but didn't make the roster.

"Don't be discouraged," Harris said. "Stay in shape because you never know when somebody might transfer, and we might need you."

The 2018 Kings are: Thad Fleeton, Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc, Oris Williams, Marvin Cosby, Joshua "JB" Burton, D. Nicholson, Woods, Bird, Jones, Paul Oliver, Charles "Pookie" Sylvester, and Eugene "Shaylee" Williams.

—**Rahsaan Thomas**

Record holder reminisces during three mile race

By **Lloyd Payne**
Contributing Writer

As a chilling wind blew across the prison yard on Feb. 23, members of a running club prepared for a 12-lap race around San Quentin's lower yard.

Some runners stretched and ran laps to warm up, then signed in one by one. At 8:58 a.m., as everyone lined up to start the 9 a.m. race, they seemed to forget about the Bay Area winter weather, everyone except timekeeper, Melody Anne Schultz.

"Running makes me feel great. I feel high, and it keeps me healthy"

The sleek 76-year-old Schultz stood freezing in her black tracksuit but said she was happy to be at San Quentin.

Schultz has a long history with long-distance running. About a year ago, she ran the Dipsea race over Mount Tamalpais in Marin County, which included hiking up 678 steps and traversing 200 meters along a narrow trail made of dirt and gravel rock. But Schultz was trampled during the Dipsea race – she ended up coming in last. She said that's what caused her to stop doing trail runs for a while, even though she loves them.

"I never thought I would ever be in last, but I do eight-



Photos by Jianca Lazarus

John Levin running with Markelle Taylor

minute miles, and that's good for my age group," said Schultz with a smile.

The South African native set a world record in London at 62 years old for running a marathon in three hours and 15 seconds. Her record still stands.

Currently she is a member of two running clubs, "The Tamalpa Runners Club based in Marin and a Switzerland-based club called, La Foulle Glandwoise, which is French for "big swift strides."

After setting the world marathon record in London, eight years later, she took first place in 2014 in a Nyon, Switzerland, half-marathon, with a time of one hour and 50 minutes — winning again in 2015, in Lausanne, Switzerland.

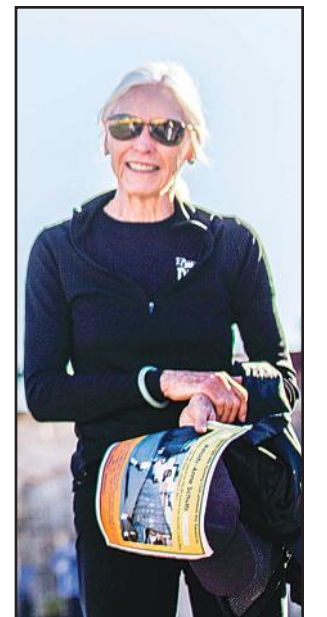
"Running makes me feel great. I feel high, and it keeps me healthy," Schultz said.

Schultz isn't the only coach with a colorful running history: Dylan Bowman recently won a 100-mile race in Zurich, and also helped fill out time sheets to keep track of the runners' lap times during the race.

Schultz encouraged and meticulously recorded lap times for Bruce Wells, Malcolm Jones and Edward Scott. They all did well with respective times of 22:59, 26:49 and 26:33 minutes.

Markelle Taylor finished the race in 17:14 followed by Eddie Herena at 18:08 and Chris Scull at 18:44.

"I run for rehabilitation and therapy because when you think about it, you work



Photos by Jianca Lazarus

Melody Anne Schultz

out to release stress," Taylor said. "So this is therapy for me and helps me focus on rehabilitation."

Jonathan Chiu ran the three miles in 20:14, five minutes and 38 seconds faster than his best time, taking fourth place, while John Levin finished at 21:01, improving his best time by six minutes and 21 seconds.

The lap times Schultz and other coaches write down are records of these runners' improvement. And the certificates Coach Ruona handed out to those who completed the three-mile race echo this commitment to perpetual improvement: "Running is not about being better than someone else, it's about being better than you used to be."

CBS Sunday Morning tours San Quentin

KOPPEL

Continued from Page 1

Woods and Poor, now in their second season of podcasting, talk about commonplace topics in incarceration, such as the consequences of gang life, dying in prison and selecting a cellmate.

"I suggested doing the story and Ted liked it," Stephens said. "What makes this news is that it's a podcast coming from a prison, coupled with it (becoming) a success in the podcasting world."

"I don't think most Americans are aware that there is a newsroom, podcasting, radio, and TV coming from a prison. It is our job to take America to places that they can't go, while their money is going into them."

Koppel is no stranger to going inside prisons. In 1998, spent the night in solitary confinement in a high security prison near, Huntsville, Tex. "There was a lot of screaming and yelling that night, and I saw a lot of 'fishing,'" Koppel said.

The newsman was referring to the practice of tossing a weighted string from under a cell door to land, many yards away, under another inmate's cell door. If missed, the string is drawn back and shot out again. Once the connection is made, supplies such as food, coffee,

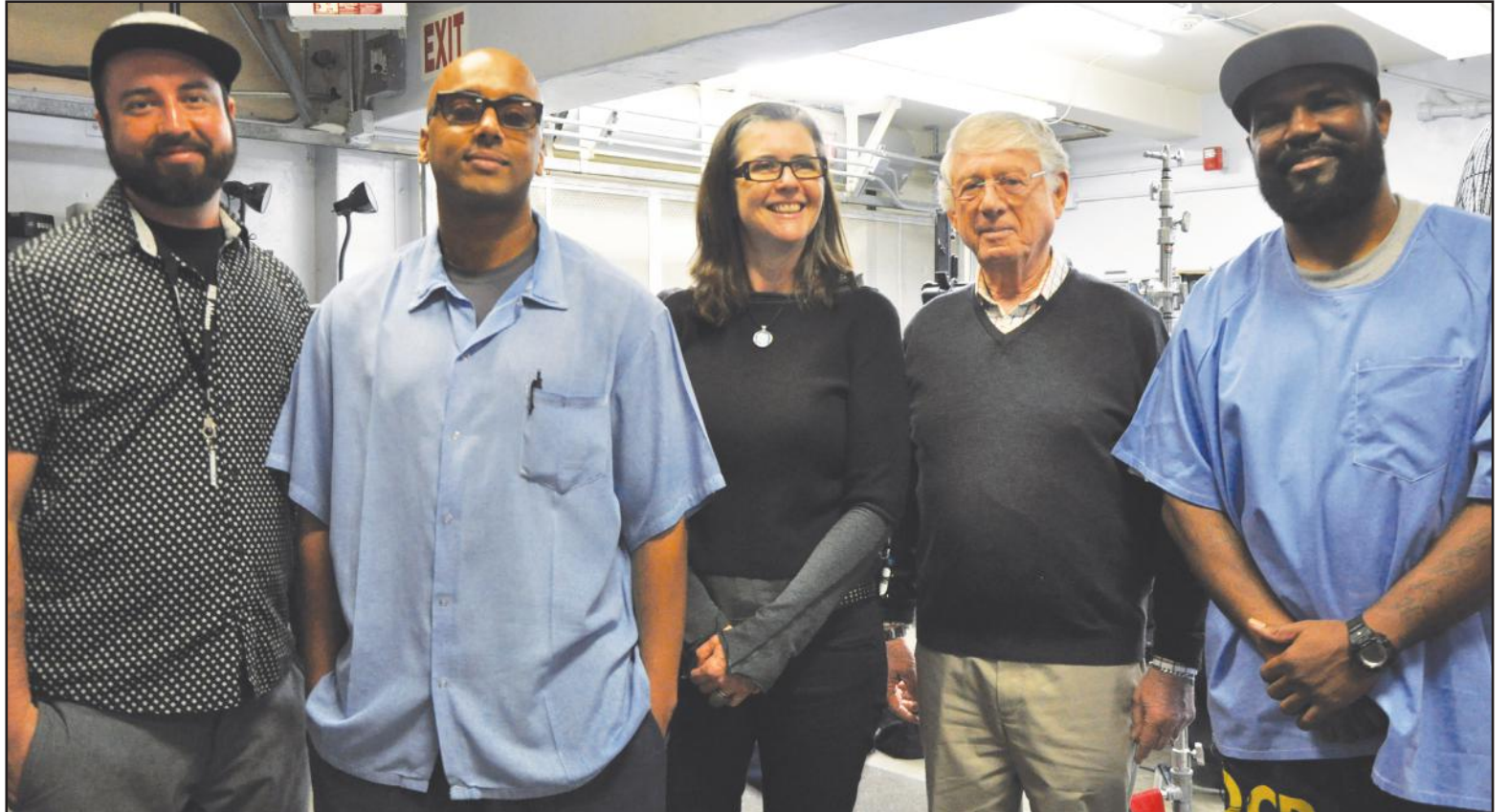


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Pat Miller, David Jassy, Nigel Poor, Ted Koppel and Earlonne Woods in the San Quentin Media Center

fee, or reading material can be shared between inmates. Correctional officers sometimes ignore fishing.

"As reporters we never become as knowledgeable as the people we cover," he said. "But sometimes spending a few hours in the same circumstances, we can de-

velop some insights we might not have had before," Koppel told the *New York Daily News* about that night.

On the day of his visit to San Quentin, the veteran reporter, 78, who anchored more than 1,000 *Nightline* shows, walked around the prison yard and the cell-blocks interviewing inmates about their experiences. He heard accounts of what it's like to spend nearly two decades in the Security Housing Unit (SHU), what it's like to be incarcerated more than 40 years or to face a 209-year sentence. Inmates told him about race relations, respect, and the unwritten code of the yard.

"There are not are a lot of prison stories in mainstream media. But, when they are covered, they're usually negative. It's more complicated than that," Stephens

said. "Ted has a long history of covering criminal justice policies."

Koppel dropped in on prisoners rehearsing Shakespeare's *King Lear*.

"I don't think most of America is aware that there is a newspaper, podcasting, radio, and filming coming from a prison"

The actors asked Koppel if he'd like to read a line. Smiling, he accepted.

In the scene, one of the inmates ordered Koppel to de-

liver a message. Koppel took the order and read, "I'll do it, my Lord."

Afterward, Koppel took a bow that was met with applause. He sat among the inmates and watched a demonstration of the principles found in drama therapy, as director Leslie Currier asked the men questions about the play, themselves, and the characters they portrayed.

Producer Louis A. Scott, a prisoner, interviewed Koppel for *San Quentin Radio*.

Koppel's career began at 23 when he was asked to cover the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

As to why he chose to become a journalist, he cites the memory of himself as a three-year-old listening to World War II broadcasts of Edward R. Morrow, the legendary *CBS* correspondent who covered the war from

London.

Koppel's career includes marching with Martin Luther King, Jr., spending a year as a war correspondent in Vietnam, and covering the Watts riots in 1965.

Koppel said he recalls standing next to the "mule driven carriage," that carried the coffin of Dr. King, murdered in Memphis in 1968. Later Koppel saw a photo with about 300 people surrounding the carriage. His was the only white face in the crowd.

San Quentin Radio producer Scott said, "What impressed me the most about Ted is the fact that he marched from Selma to Montgomery with MLK. He marched because he believes in equality and still shares those same views of equality today."

—Juan Haines



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Koppel signing the 'Ear Hustle Wall'



Photo by Richard Richardson, SQN

SQ PIO Lt. S Robinson speaking to Koppel in North Block



Photo by Richard Richardson, SQN

CBS film crew recording in Wood's cell escorted by CDCR PIO II Krissi Khokhobashvili



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Woods and Poor being interviewed by Koppel for CBS



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Left Behind's Curtis Roberts being interviewed by Koppel in the SQ Newsroom