

San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



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POPULATION 4,218



Climate change has sparked a worldwide discussion — even in prison.

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Judge Craig Mitchell visited a state prison with about 20 other runners for a race with 1000 Mile Running Club.

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Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

PUP student Angel Falcone presenting his paper in front of the PUP students and volunteers at one of the conference rooms

21st century solutions to 20th century problems

By SQN Staff Writers

They came from all over the prison and the nation. Scholars dressed in standard blue prison uniforms walked down a staircase that leads from the cellblocks,

while a group of civilians hiked down a ramp that leads from a courtyard just inside the entrance to the prison to meet on the San Quentin Lower Yard for the Prison University Project's first ever academic conference.

The conference, called Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reform: 21st Century Solutions to 20th Century Problems, was organized by Amy Jamgochian and consisted of nine panels, where teachers, lawyers,

advocates, formerly incarcerated women and incarcerated scholars presented their ideas on higher education access and criminal justice reform.

See PUP on page 11

SB 1437 eliminates felony-murder rule

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Due to a change in the felony-murder rule, starting Jan. 1, co-defendants will no longer automatically be considered guilty of murder for participating in crimes such as armed robbery. The law is retroactive.

On Sept. 30, with a stroke of his pen, Gov. Jerry Brown made Senate Bill 1437 the law. The bill presented by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) states that prosecutors can no longer hold accomplices, who had no intent to kill anyone during the commission of certain specified crimes, accountable for a murder committed by a co-defendant.

See *Felony Murder* on page 19

For information on how to file for a petition for resentencing, write to any of the following addresses or call the phone number.

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Los Angeles, CA 90021
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Queens of the Stone Age, Deadsy & Queeny King rock out at SQ

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

San Quentin is still on many great musicians' "must" list of places to perform. Queens of the Stone Age, Queeny King and Deadsy are now among the legends such as Johnny Cash, Carlos Santana and Metallica that have rocked the prison.

The Nov. 16 rock concert was the final leg of the "Villains World Tour 2018" for the Queens of the Stone Age. Villains is the name of the band's latest album. The band just returned from Australia.

Prisoners filed into the Protestant Chapel by the hundreds, anticipating the powerful guitar riffs and a spectacular lighting show.

Many prisoners had to be turned away due to overcrowding.

Prison staff and administrators, including Warden Ron Davis, were in attendance.

"The prison system isn't something that's talked about very much, especially after the sentencing," said Josh Homme, the band's founder and lead singer. "I grew up listening to Johnny Cash. I can't imagine how much light was shined on San Quentin by Cash doing that album."

"It was good for all sides. The inmates, the guards, everybody. So it feels, quite honestly, an honor to come here and play for you guys," Homme added.

See *Music* on page 13



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Josh Homme, lead man of Queens of the Stone Age, performing on stage



Courtesy of Alex Malick

Mariah Watson and Senator Nancy Skinner receiving the certificate of recognition

Senator and author share challenge of passing a bill

It's hard to get laws changed, even harder to make any revisions applicable to people already serving their time, nevertheless Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) retroactively transformed California's felony-murder law with the help of the Re:store Justice organization and others.

"Retroactivity was the hardest part, yet it was essential because how can we fix the law, how can we tell people convicted under the unfair rule, sorry stay in prison," Senator Skinner said. "It's not right."

Re:store Justice Policy Director Professor Kate Chatfield, who was the main drafter of the original bill, talked about the help it took to get the law changed. "We had the sup-

port of many grassroots organizations, and families of incarcerated people wrote letters, came to the capitol and made their loved ones human through their stories."

Since 1978, California's felony murder rule allowed prosecutors to seek the death penalty, life without the possibility of parole or a life sentence for anyone involved in a crime that resulted in a murder, even if they didn't have anything to do with the actual killing and didn't intend for someone to die. Participation in specified felonies like robbery or carjacking was enough for an accomplice to receive a first-degree murder conviction.

See *SB 1437* on page 12

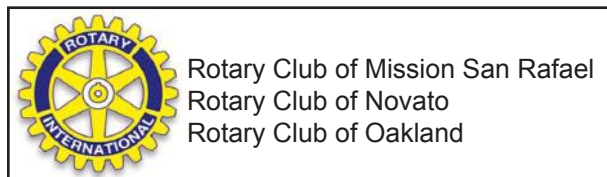
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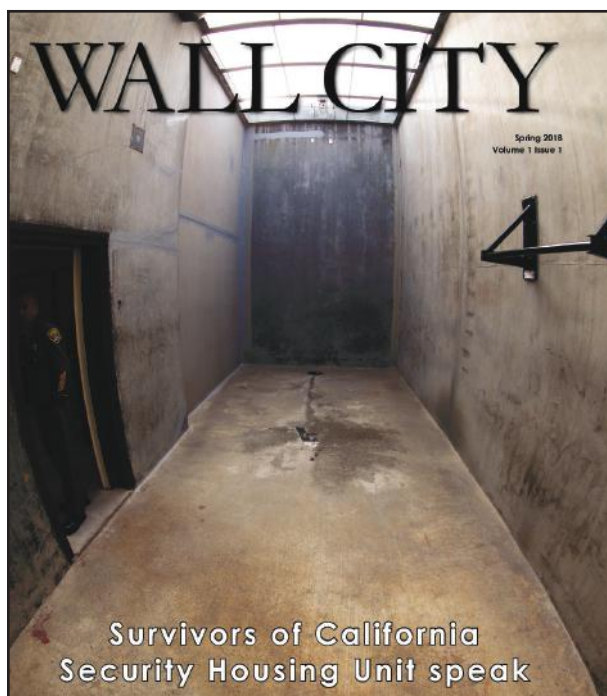
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Wall City Magazine is more than just stories-- it's a look into transformation, humanity and re-building community.



The Creative Writing group at San Quentin

Photo by Peter Merts

The restorative power of creative writing: Incarcerated people find healing through the written word

By Joe Garcia
 Staff Writer

Inmates captivated a San Quentin audience of more than 100 on Oct. 20 in the Catholic chapel. They told stories inspired by their childhood, life in prison, dreams and nightmares.

"Writing—that's what saved me in prison," said Joe Camacho, a former prisoner and alumnus of the writing program called Brothers in Pen. "It became a survival skill to take the stress away and to not think about where I was at."

More than 20 inmates read the stories they had written with the encouragement of instructor Zoe Mullery.

"Writing—that's what saved me in prison"

"Four years ago, Zoe promised to make me famous," said inmate author James R. Metters Jr. before reading *Pops*, a story about his absentee father. "Today, I feel famous."

"I don't feel like their instructor," said Mullery. "I consider myself a real member of the group."

"I've learned so much from everybody's stories about what it means to be human."

For the first time in the event's 12-year history, formerly incarcerated alumni returned to San Quentin to listen to their fellow writers

at the event. Included were Camacho, Carl Irons, Watani Stiner and J.B. Wells.

"When I first started writing, I was angry at the government, angry at myself—just angry," Stiner recalled. "I wanted to tell my story and set the historical record straight."

"I'll never forget Zoe's annoying little comments on my work. Who is this White girl telling me how to write my story? But what she was doing was helping me to pull back the layers of my story."

"This is my third year at this event, and each year my heart is healed even deeper," said Tammy Appling-Cabading, marketing and communications director for St. Mary's College. "I continue to learn, continue to grow."

"What an amazing adventure today has been," said retired teacher Mary Prophet, who worked with Education Not Incarceration. She directed her questions about criminal justice reform toward Charles Daron and his harrowing account of violent retaliation from Corcoran corrections officers in the '90s.

"Restorative justice has to take place in an individual," Daron reflected, "and only when that individual is ready."

"I try and focus on the solutions," added inmate author Charles "Talib" Brooks, who first learned to read and write in prison and has since achieved a GED.

"It's really fabulous—getting to interact with you guys and listen to your stories," observed Alice Morison. She explained that her great-

grandfather, Josiah Parker Ames, had been a warden at SQ in the 1880s. "Especially to see this prison evolve from a penal colony model to a rehabby model."

The outside guests were particularly interested in understanding what drives these men to write.

"When I write, I fly; I'm out of here," Richie Morris explained. "I'm in a place where I know I'm finding healing."

"I remember a letter my grandson wrote to me," shared Alex Briggs, who held the child as an infant 24 years ago before starting his incarceration. "He said he only knows me through my stories."

"Coming in here has always been difficult for me in many ways," Stiner said. "I spent 26 years total in prison, and I see men I've walked the yard with."

"For me to be out and knowing that these men are in here is hard. I know that

they would serve society better out there."

"I've been inspired by a lot of the men I've met in prison," said prisoner Kevin D. Sawyer. "When I write, I try and have an underlying political message, because I want people to think."

"People in here are every bit as smart as any random cross-section of the outside population," said Carol Newburg, project manager for SQ's Prison Arts Projects. "The experience of coming in and talking to people here—there's nothing else quite like it."

"How many times do you have the opportunity to visit with inmates at a prison like this, known worldwide?" asked Mike Mullery, Zoe's father, who came with her whole family. "When she asked us to come, we were all totally ready."

Complete anthologies of current and past events are available at brothersinpen.wordpress.com.



Creative Writing Instructor Zoe Mullery

Photo by Peter Merts

Monica Campbell takes over *San Quentin News*' Journalism Guild

By Eddie DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

A change came in late September for the *San Quentin News* Journalism Guild. The guild's volunteer instructor, Yukari Kane, is bound for Chicago to begin the next chapter of her life. She is passing the reins to former Harvard University Nieman Fellow Monica Campbell.

"[Kane] put us in way capable hands," said Marcus Henderson, the Journalism Guild chairman who has spent more than two years with Kane.

Though Henderson is sad to see Kane go, he has confidence in Campbell's abilities.

Campbell attended San Jose State University and has written for *Newsweek*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. She

is a senior editor/reporter for Public Radio International (PRI)'s "The World."

Her experience includes six years in Mexico and Latin America, even in prison, and her work has taken her as far as Afghanistan.

Campbell knows the risks associated with reporting in diverse places around the world. She is motivated to examine what is going on in parts of the world that are underrepresented. Her purpose is to help people who do not have a direct line into journalism become reporters.

Kane and Campbell met through San Francisco's Writer's Grotto.

"She's a great journalist," Kane said. "She sees journalism in a similar way as I do."

Campbell first heard of the *San Quentin News* Guild



Photo courtesy of Monica Campbell

Journalism Guild instructor Monica Campbell

when Kane shared an essay written by Jesse Vasquez around June of 2018.

Prisoners are a marginalized group that need not be hidden from the eyes of society. Empowering them to become reporters can help to remove more blind spots in our society said Campbell. Yes, reporters can come into San Quentin and report on what is going on in prison, and they may even scratch below the surface to uncover some great truths to enlighten the world.

However, Campbell believes that there is value in a prisoner's unique lens. When it comes to reporting about prison issues, prisoners richly benefit from the intimate knowledge, insight and understanding derived through the direct experience afforded them by their unique back-

ground.

"I think journalism is an increasingly privileged profession," Campbell said. "A diversity of voices in journalism is important."

Past semesters of the Journalism Guild have honed Henderson's ability as a writer under Kane's instruction and guidance. Others like him can attest to how Kane took him to the next level. He said that Kane's passion allowed him to use his "paintbrush" to add the right color to a story while at the same time knowing where to put it.

Campbell looks forward to building on what Kane has done in the class.

"I'm not interested in awards," Campbell said. "I'm interested in places and in people who are not generally in the spotlight."

Professor Shaheen Pasha rethinks her views about life behind bars

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

When Professor Shaheen Pasha's childhood friend, Tarik, was sentenced to life in prison, she was forced to rethink her views about life behind bars.

Now the multimedia reporter and University of Massachusetts-Amherst journalism professor focuses her career on illuminating mass incarceration's hidden universe.

Her friend's sentencing also made her aware of the lack of rehabilitative prison programs.

"In the back of my mind, I knew I needed to do something," she said. "I had to confront my own innate biases and fears."

Before her work in prisons, she admitted to not seeing people behind bars.

"They were invisible to me," she said.

Pasha received a Harvard University Nieman Fellowship this year for her efforts bringing civilian college students together with inmates in an immersive explanatory journalism course.

She recently visited San Quentin to meet with *San Quentin News* staff and advisers.

"The guys behind bars are

not scary," Pasha said. "Most guys are not serial killers, but there's this fear culture that guys behind bars are evil, that they're guilty."

"That's all stupid."

Her belief that not all inmates are dangerous is based on her experience with Tarik.

Four years ago, Pasha and her UMass-Amherst co-professor Razvan Sibii convinced Hampshire County Jail officials to let them enter the facility and engage inmates in a classroom setting.

"Prison officials tend to see journalists as adversaries," she said. "They don't want to let us in. Once I explain what I'm doing, once they see it can be done respectfully and with good purpose, then they can get past their distrust."

Pasha and Sibii's volunteer work evolved into an accredited course worth four college credits—both for inmates and Amherst students alike. She sees the curriculum as an invaluable pathway for prisoners to find their voices, stay involved with the community at large, and reclaim their humanity.

"There's already so much insight into the victims' perspective," Pasha said. "People need to hear about the experience of the guys inside. It's not

about excusing their crimes, but we need to understand what actually goes on behind those prison walls."

Pasha talked about how politicians and voters are quick to make decisions for inmates without their input.

"Too often, you guys will downplay the everyday things that go on in prison, because those things are mundane to you," she discerned. "But your voices matter."

The Nieman Fellowship provided Pasha a national platform to present her unique insights regarding America's mass incarceration problem.

"I'm even more convinced how important establishing a journalism curriculum in prison can be," she said. "Before, I felt like I was just shouting in the wind."

Pasha described how the fellowship gave her efforts credibility.

"I got so many tweets and emails from people I don't know, asking, 'How can I help?'" she said.

Her work has now also taken her to other prisons. San Quentin is the sixth institution Pasha has visited and the first in California.

"It doesn't matter what prison I enter—there's a sadness you can feel," she noted. "I

always pick that up."

When Amherst students enroll in Pasha's Social Justice Journalism and Mass Incarceration course, she tries to disabuse them of their preconceptions before she takes them into the Hampshire County Jail.

"Whatever you think you know is not the truth," she warns her students. "You're going to come in with your own ideas, but you're going to be wrong."

She describes her college students as "very liberal, very 'fight the man,'" and she gets highly animated when discussing her incarcerated students, whom she refers to as "my guys."

"Ideally, I want my curriculum to be less about me," Pasha said. "I want my guys to take the lead."

She remembers a particularly special moment when inmates discussed the effect the course has had on them.

"They said it was the first time they didn't feel like inmates," she said. "They really felt like people, like students."

Pasha keyed in on this same vibe at San Quentin.

"This place offers so much," she noted. "Everyone is so responsive."



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Professor Shaheen Pasha in the SQ media center

Insight Prison Project announces appointment of new Executive Director

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

After 23 years in prison, Leonard Rubio got out and began recapturing his life.

Today, he's the Executive Director of Insight Prison Project (IPP). The executive



Photo courtesy of Leonard Rubio

Leonard Rubio at work

position opened after Billie Mizell stepped down in November 2017 to pursue other restorative justice work.

"There could be no better person to pass that baton to than our own beloved Leonard Rubio," Mizell said in her resignation letter.

Mizell said that she believes those most impacted, "should lead the movements of their own transformation and liberation." She added, "As a woman and a member of the LGBTQ community, my own activism has been shaped and lifted by this leadership principle."

IPP sponsors a variety of programs for inmates, including an accountability group that Rubio was instrumental in bringing to San Quentin — Victim/Offender Education Group (VOEG).

Rubio's path to the IPP leadership position was strenuous.

When he first got out of prison, he worked for the Prison University Project. From there he went to East Bay Municipal Utility Department (East Bay MUD). He enjoyed the job and quickly moved up the ranks, gaining new skills while making more money at a trade that he's very skilled in. He said, however, "It wasn't a good fit." When certain people at East Bay MUD found out that he'd been in prison, they took

exception. The conflicting atmosphere drove him away from East Bay MUD and to a job as a maintenance mechanic with another formerly incarcerated person, Dave Basile.

Within a few months, the Elevator Union gave him a job offer. It came with "a huge raise." However, he only had 10 minutes to decide. That same day, a concerned East Bay MUD staffer found out about Rubio's treatment as an ex-offender and made him an offer to come back to work as a plumber. He telephoned his wife to discuss their options before taking the Elevator Union job.

After attending the first meeting, he discovered that the job security was "shaky," and came with a lot of travel.

"What came up for me is after 23 and a half years in prison, I wanted to spend time with my family," Rubio said. "It came down to quality of life. So, even though East Bay MUD paid less, it gave me more toward the quality of life."

When IPP sought his guid-

ance, his tenure with East Bay MUD was interrupted again.

IPP Program Director/Clinical Supervisor Karena H. Montag, MFT, agreed with Mizell's philosophy regarding looking for leadership from those directly impacted.

"As a restorative justice organization whose mission is to 'transform the lives of those impacted by crime and incarceration', we must always strive towards, and be accountable for, walking our talk," Montag said.

Rubio visited San Quentin last May. It was his sixth time inside since paroling in 2010.

"I wanted to go where my heart was," Rubio said as he reminisced about being in the second graduating class of VOEG and being part of the Inner-Faith Roundtable in 2005 — the precursor to the Restorative Justice program in San Quentin.

"I was able to see the changes in people," Rubio said, adding, "I wanted to make sure these programs continued."

Rubio said the hardest part of coming back inside San Quentin is the number of people "that I knew when I was here and me knowing that they could be out doing what I'm doing."

He added, "I see the type of work we can do on the outside. People like Maliki (Gary Scott) with RJOY (Restore Justice of Oakland Youth) — seeing the work that many of the guys are doing is inspiring."

IPP supports San Quentin programs based on the restorative justice model, such as TRUST, Coalition for Justice and No More Tears.

"Having the network of communities is important on the inside and outside," Rubio said. "Even with the busy lives we have on the outside, making opportunities for those on the inside grows the community on the outside."

IPP programs currently are in 16 California prisons. However, it is seeking resources to expand into more prisons and to find ways to bring IPP programs inside jails.

Inert gas asphyxiation the new method of execution

By William Earl Tolbert
Journalism Guild Writer

Alabama lawmakers in March voted to authorize a method of execution that has never been used before—inert gas asphyxiation.

Lawmakers say this alternative method is a more humane way to carry out capital punishment. It works by directing the inmate to breathe inert gas as opposed to oxygen. Examples of such gases include helium, methane and nitrogen.

The *Associated Press* reported that inhaling nitrogen gas is “like dying on a plane that depressurizes in flight, swiftly killing all aboard.”

Perhaps that’s why 51 of Alabama’s 180 death row inmates have signed state-

ments indicating their preference for that gas as opposed to a lethal injection or the electric chair.

Some may say this represents a leap into the unknown, but according to John Palombi, an attorney with the Federal Defenders Program, “the uncertainties of nitrogen gas” trump what he thinks is the “known torture” of other execution methods.

An example of such torture took place in 2016, when Ronald Smith Jr.’s attorney witnessed him coughing and heaving for more than 10 minutes in the gas chamber. Smith’s movement showed he was not anesthetized at any point during the agonizingly long procedure.

Others, however, believe

the uncertainty behind such a new procedure may cause more harm.

“This is entirely experimental,” said Randall Marshall, the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama. “It is the epitome of cruel (and unusual punishment) because it is experimenting on human beings.”

State Senator Cam Ward said he believes some inmates agreed to nitrogen gas because of the foreseeable, lengthy legal challenges. He added that it could possibly be a way for prisoners to avoid the death penalty.

Ward also attributes the fact that inmates are opting for this alternative method of execution to fear. According to the Dorland’s Illustrated

Medical Dictionary, lethal injections involve drugs that, if given incorrectly, can result in suffering

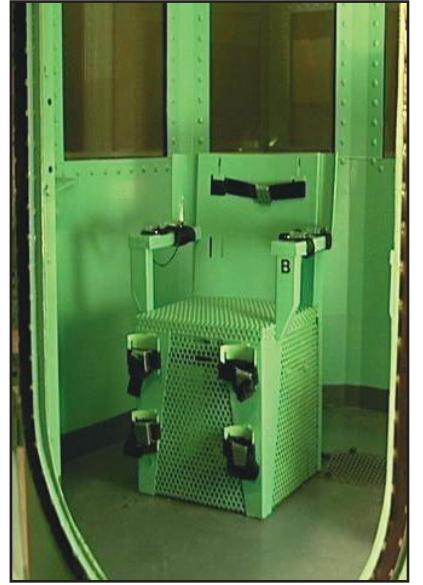
“I think they’ve seen stories of where the three-drug cocktail lethal injection has failed and there’s that fear of it being a botched process as opposed to nitrogen,” Ward said.

The executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, Robert Dunham, said that he expects there will be considerable litigation regarding nitrogen asphyxiation. In Oklahoma, which announced in March that nitrogen gas would be the primary method of execution, officials have begun constructing a set of protocols to use the gas because there has been an issue of

obtaining legal injection drugs.

In Mississippi the method has been approved, but only in the event that lethal injections have been ruled unconstitutional or are unavailable.

In Alabama, the most recent state to consider this alternative method, litigation over the state’s lethal injection method ended because inmates chose the nitrogen gas process. The lawsuit that challenged lethal injections was dismissed.



Execution gas chamber

Courtesy of CDCR

Amnesty International urges death penalty repeal

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

“Two wrongs don’t make a right. The death penalty is no way to impart justice,” says Erika Guevara Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International.

In 2016, the US Supreme Court in *Hurst v. Florida* ruled that Florida’s capital

sentencing law was unconstitutional. Yet, despite the ruling, Florida still has the second-largest death row in the nation and is fourth in the number of executions since 1976.

Amnesty International wants Florida to abolish their death penalty but it’s an uphill battle.

A new report released

by Amnesty International, which focuses on three groups of death row inmates, shows that youth offenders and those with serious mental and intellectual disabilities are being taken advantage of by Florida’s capital sentencing laws.

The report calls into question the validity of executing those with serious mental illness, who are unfairly being labeled the “worst of the worst.” The report shows that prisoners with an intellectual disability, young adults with a mental maturity lower than that of an 18 year old, and those with a background

of extreme deprivation and abuse, are at risk.

Amnesty’s goal is to convince Florida’s governor and his cabinet to commute the death sentences of all prisoners on death row.

Another problem the report reveals is how race influences who gets executed. Since 1976, not a single White person has been executed for killing a Black person. Whereas almost one fifth of the executions in this same time period involved Black defendants convicted of killing White victims.

Amnesty’s opposition to Florida’s death penalty is

unconditional and absolute. Amnesty also wants Florida’s judges and juries to be made aware of a defendant’s mental health status and age before imposing the sentence of death.

Despite Amnesty’s urging, Florida remains a staunch believer in the death penalty. In response to the U.S. Supreme court ruling, Florida’s legislation has revised its death penalty statute so executions could resume. In fact, Florida’s Supreme Court has even made the retroactive effect of *Hurst* only available to a limited group of cases,

cutting off almost half of the 400 people on Florida’s death row from a new sentencing hearing.

Mathew Marshall is one such person. He was 24 when he was convicted of murder in 1988. Although the jury unanimously voted to sentence him to life in prison, the judge overruled the decision and sentenced him to death. “The USA must stop resorting to the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, and join the 142 countries that are abolitionist in law or practice today,” says Erika Guevara Rosas for Amnesty International.

Upcoming Events at San Quentin

- Dec. 28th PUP Open Mic 5:00 p.m.

San Quentin News

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Behind the Scenes



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Illinois prison authorities shut down prison debate team after successful public event

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

After a successful public debate on reforming, the Illinois parole system, prison officials shut down the Stateville Debate Team in April.

The goal of the team was to use debate as a tool to “connect prisoners to the broader debate community” and provide an opportunity to learn and practice the principles of debate, said Katrina Burlet, director of the Justice Debate League (JDL) and coach of the Stateville Debate Team.

JDL hosted a public debate on reforming the Illinois parole system with an audience of about 75 people “including state government and department officials, state legislators, university professors, and activists,” said Burlet in *The Crime Report*.

JDL found the debate response phenomenal.

“Legislators started se-

riously working on parole legislation. Many of them wanted to return to learn more from the debate team members,” Burlet said.

Within a month of the debate, prison authorities shut down the team. “I have not been allowed since then into any facilities operated by the Illinois Department of Corrections,” Burlet said.

Illinois prison authorities cancelled the Debate Team because of concerns about “security” at the prison. Speaking on *National Public Radio* in June, Illinois Department of Corrections Head John Baldwin acknowledged the debate program “was really well received, but this was about somebody who chose not to follow basic corrections safety and security practices.”

“Prison discipline was used to break spirits so that the men of the debate team would never try something

like that again,” Burlet said.

On Aug. 28, the Uptown People’s Law Center (UPLC) of Chicago filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Stateville Debate Team over the retaliatory actions taken by the Illinois Department of Corrections against the debate sponsors and prisoner participants. UPLC is part of JDL, which provides an opportunity to learn and practice the principles of debate.

Kyle Robertson, a UC Santa Cruz professor and volunteer coach at San Quentin’s Prison University Project Debate Group sat down with *San Quentin News* to discuss Stateville’s Debate Team.

SQN – Why do you think debate groups are important?

“I think that one of the main reasons to have a debate program inside prisons is to help inmates participate in public conversation about things that matter to them, such as the parole system.”

SQN – After reading about the prison administration disbanding the Stateville Debate Team, what would you do different?

“I find this story depressing, and I feel horrible for the author and her team of students at Stateville in Illinois. They were doing exactly what they should have been doing. Assuming that article is accurate, the reactions of the Stateville administration shows, I think, that they don’t respect the knowledge and ability of their own inmates to generate compelling arguments about an analysis of the parole system.”

SQN – Why do you think that?

“They underestimated the team’s skills, and they overreacted to the possibility that people in power might find the inmates’ ideas compelling. I hope the administration reconsiders their actions.”

CDCR issues new regulations for non-violent three-strikes offenders

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

California set a nationwide trend in sentencing reform when, in 2012, voters passed an initiative that reduced the sentences for non-violent three strikers. The result: thousands of prisoners serving life sentences got out of prison.

Other initiatives in 2014 and 2016 chipped away at the Three Strikes Laws. Thousands more prisoners earned release.

The latest development comes from an appeals court case, re *Edwards*.

Edwards holds that California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) regulations preventing nonviolent three-strikes prisoners from the benefits of the 2016 initiative, Proposition 57—particularly the opportunity for early parole—violates the text and intent of the proposition.

Edwards orders CDCR to issue new regulations offering

early parole to three-strikes prisoners who were convicted of nonviolent crimes. The deadline is January 5, 2019.

“Some things still have to be figured out,” said Michael Romano, the director of the Stanford Law School Three Strikes Project.

According to Romano, about 4,000 inmates qualify for early parole consideration under the *Edwards* ruling.

“This is a big deal because the governor is not appealing the decision,” Romano said.

“It doesn’t help everyone, but it’s moving in the right direction. We will win this thing eventually.”

Romano tells the incarcerated population to continue programming and keep themselves ready for release.

“I really do want to emphasize how important programming is,” Romano said, “For anyone going before the board, the most important thing you can do is program relentlessly and stay out of trouble.”

Prisoner alleges constitutional violations in Mississippi private prison

By Charles Stanley Longley
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge ordered a re-examination of a private prison in Mississippi after a trial in which inmates alleged unconstitutionally harsh conditions, according to the *U.S. News*.

U.S. District Judge William Barbour is responding to a trial from four months ago concerning conditions at East Mississippi Correctional Facility near Meridian. The American Civil Liberties Union and Southern Poverty

Law Center represented the group of inmates who alleged the conditions violated the eighth amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

More than 80 percent of the 1,200 inmates at East Mississippi have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. One of the lead attorneys for the state, William Siller, said during the trial that the two groups suing the state... "want private prisons out of business."

While the Mississippi Department of Corrections said

that they have made key improvements, Barbour maintains that his visit to the prison implied otherwise.

He wrote, "The decrepit cell and common-area conditions that were documented as having existed when the lawsuit was filed in 2013, were not present when the facility was toured by the undersigned during trial."

Barbour ordered reports on East Mississippi's medical care, including mental health, and staffing numbers due by December with the potential for a hearing in January.

Jody Owens, a lawyer for the Southern Poverty Law Center said, "Either way it is a win, win for us. Either the facility will be better for our clients or they will have to acknowledge they haven't been forthcoming about the changes that have been occurring."

**"want private
prisons out of
business"**

Shaw said that conditions are no worse than other prisons and claimed violence is "the nature of prisons."

Lawyers for the state also defended solitary confinement, claiming that it is a needed disciplinary tool.

The inmates testified that they found rodent droppings in the prison's kitchen and often times toilets and showers were backed up with sewage. The inmates also allegedly found cockroaches.

A group of inmates testified that an inmate died because of a medical emergency. He was lying in his cell unconscious in his feces and urine, while the other inmates banged on their doors to get the guards attention.

Lawyers defending the state argued conditions were not that bad in many cases,

alleging that inmates were to blame. They claimed that plumbing problems often resulted from inmates flushing things down the toilet and that lights were broken because prisoners used wires to make weapons.

There are always two sides to every story, especially when dealing with incarceration. The inmates who live in East Mississippi and the lawyers defending the prison system at East Mississippi Correctional Facility near Meridian each have their own stories to tell.

The re-examination of the prison will better allow U.S. District Judge William Barbour to come to a conclusion in this matter.

Unfulfilled promises of prison improvement anger inmates in Canada

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Renovations at Burnside jail (Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility) in Canada have sparked widespread anger among inmates.

Inmates were promised programs and new amenities—promises that they said were unfulfilled. Instead, they spent most of their day in lockdown with poor living conditions, including toilets that didn't flush, according to the *Halifax Examiner*.

Part of the renovation was the installation of body scanners, which prison officials hope will reduce contraband by 90 percent. The body scanners provide X-ray images, which not all correctional officers know how to interpret, according to the article.

"You have X-ray technicians and doctors that are going through this stuff in hospitals. Not just anybody can read an X-ray," said Jason MacLean, correctional officer and president of the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union. "Not everybody knows the body's anatomy,

and not everybody knows something that is contraband."

Prisoners do have the right to refuse the scanners, but those who exercise that right are subjected to segregation and humiliation, according to the article.

Inmates who refused were put in a dry cell, which contained no water and no toilet, inmates told the *Halifax Examiner*. They were then strip searched, and correctional officers watched as they defecated two or three times. A camera stays trained on the room at all times.

Even after ensuring that inmates had no contraband, they were still not allowed to immediately return to the range but placed in segregation for six days. They were told they would be returned to the range once they agreed to take the body scan. The inmates were concerned about the safety of the scans, and the correctional officers—who are not required to use the scanners—failed to provide more information about potential risks, according to the article.

"Putting inmates in segregation for refusing body scans runs contrary to the law in my opinion," said

Asaf Rashid, a Canadian lawyer who specializes in prison law. "We need to keep in mind how extremely depriving and dehumanizing the practice of administrative segregation is."

Meanwhile, inmates are subjected to lockdown-type conditions due to alleged staff shortages, according to the article.

When inmates were moved to this facility, their clothes were taken and not returned. Some inmates had to wear the same clothes for days. They weren't allowed to shower, and most cells didn't have running water.

Inmates are also angry about visitation policies, which differ from all other Canadian correctional facility policies. Inmates are only allowed immediate family members and two friends on their visiting list.

The prisoners at Burnside told reporters they worry that if these conditions continue, it will lead to more serious problems.

"We have 40 guys living together in the same room, without any physical equipment, no physical outlets. It's very hard, and it's gonna lead to violence," one inmate explained.

Accidental overdoses prosecuted as felony-murder under new laws

By Lloyd Payne
Journalism Guild Writer

Two months after her fiancé's funeral, Kimberly Elkins pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Elkins, now 49, used fentanyl to deal with chronic pain. One day, she shared a fentanyl patch with her fiancé, Aaron Rost, and they overdosed. She woke up that night, but he didn't. She was sentenced to four years in prison in Minnesota for his death, according to the *New York Times*.

"I struggle really hard with this...trying to find my responsibility in it," says Elkins as she sits in prison for sharing the fentanyl with him.

The cases are more common among drug abusers, but are not limited to them. Friends and family members who provided or sent the drugs to someone who overdoses and dies as a result can be arrested and charged for felony murder.

Mark S. Rubin, the Washington County attorney who pursued the case against

Elkins, compared overdose prosecutions to a fatal collision—even if they did not intend for the other to die, they are still responsible.

"We feel that constitutes a crime of possibly murder in the third degree, but at least manslaughter in the second degree," Rubin said.

On Rost's Facebook page there was a debate by family and friends about whether Elkins is responsible for the death of her fiancé, the *New York Times* said. Rost's sister backed the prosecution of Elkins death.

**"I struggle really
hard with this..."**

"How the hell can you sit and blame her for it all, considering whether she gave it to him or not, he still had the choice," one friend wrote, calling Rost's sister "heartless."

Rost's sister responded, "I'm heartless? I had to plan a funeral for a 36-year-old

man."

According to the *New York Times*, the whole notion of overdose homicide prosecution is based on the 1986 cocaine-related death of Len Bias, a one-time college basketball player on the road to going pro, who collapsed two days after he was drafted into the NBA by the Boston Celtics.

Bias' friend was charged in the overdose-homicide, but was later acquitted of any wrongdoing. States started passing laws, nicknamed "Len Bias laws," which were designed to prosecute drug dealers when the sale of drugs resulted in death.

Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, New York, and Pennsylvania have passed "Len Bias" laws to go after drug dealers. From 2015 to 2017, in the 15 states where the *New York Times* gathered most of its data, there were more than 1,000 cases like Elkin's that involved accidental deaths. The charges against friends, family, and drug users in these cases ranged from manslaughter to murder.

Colorado Department of Corrections to spend \$41 million for hep-C treatment

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

Colorado has agreed to provide medical treatment to cure hepatitis C among 2,200 prisoners.

The action came in the settlement of a lawsuit against the Colorado Department of Corrections. The prison system said it would spend \$41 million over the next two years to finance the treatments, according to a Sept. 12 *Westword* story.

The lawsuit was brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Fox Rothschild law firm.

"The funding and policy changes in the settlement will help solve an immense public health crisis in Colorado's prisons," ACLU Legal Director Mark Silverstein said.

The suit accused the Colorado Department of Corrections of denying treatment to prisoners battling hepatitis C because of the cost of the medication. Officials also required patients to undergo months of substance abuse classes before they could begin treatment, according to *Westword*.

Another *Westword* news story from 2016, "The Dead-

liest Killer in Colorado's Prisons, a Curable Virus" reported that prison officials devised harsh requirements for treatment. Attorneys for the prisoners accused the state of delaying the cure because of the high cost of the medication.

According to *Westword*, 823 prisoners have died in 15 years, and a study shows 161 (or one in five) were hep C-related, and liver disease. Twice the number of suicides happened during that same period, three times the number of deaths due to substance abuse, and four times the number of homicides, according to the article.

**"...will help solve
an immense
public health
crisis.."**

The data did not specify how many liver-related deaths were caused by hep C-related illness *Westword* reported that 17 percent of the nation's prison population have hep C.

The severe rationing of treatment was cost-related. Projected cost over a 12-week period was \$95,000 per prisoner, according to the article.

For its 2018 and 2019 budget, Colorado allocated \$20.5 million to address the backlog of prisoners waiting for treatment. The new treatment eliminates the virus in over 90 percent of those infected, according to the article.

The DOC had planned to treat 400 prisoners over a 10-year span. Their aim is to treat all infected prisoners by 2035. But, according to the article, the lawsuit fast-tracked the procedure.

The state will no longer subject prisoners to substance abuse classes or use liver enzyme numbers to deny them treatment. With cost dropping below \$20,000 per patient, the backlog will be eliminated, and proper treatment will cut down on liver transplants and other complications, *Westword* reported.

Curing hep C in the prison population "will go a long way towards reducing public health risks for hep C transmission across the nation," said Christopher Beall, an attorney for Fox Rothschild.

Drug	Threshold dose (mg)	Potency relative to morphine
Morphine	12.5	1
Oxycodone	9.4	1.3
Heroin	6.25	2
Fentanyl	0.187	67

*Fentanyl potency compared to other drugs according to Srihari R. Tella
PH.D. Drug and Chemical Control Unit. The Drug Administration

Pennsylvania prisons ban printed books

Pennsylvania prisons have banned printed books, turning to electronic books instead, according to an op-ed in *The Washington Post*.

Prisoners must buy a tablet for \$147 from a private company to read a limited number of titles, according to the opinion piece by Jodi Lincoln, co-chair of Book 'Em, a Pittsburgh nonprofit organization that sends books free to incarcerated people and prison libraries.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PDOC) eliminated donations from Book 'Em. The PDOC explained that the change is designed to stop contraband and drugs from entering prisons.

"This argument doesn't hold," said Lincoln in her

opinion article.

"This policy, part of a larger trend of censorship in state prisons around the country, should alarm everyone," Lincoln said, "It dehumanizes people in prison."

"The PDOC published examples of contraband drugs they have intercepted, none of which came from free book organizations."

Book 'Em offers Pennsylvania prisoners a connection with the outside world as prisoners request books regularly.

"These connections cannot be replicated by e-books or ordering a specific book through the PDOC," Lincoln said.

She explains that there is an economic barrier as well because "incarcerated peo-

ple are paid less than \$1 per hour, and the criminal justice system disproportionately locks up low-income individuals."

"In addition to the financial barriers, this policy also severely damages an incarcerated person's ability to fully reenter society."

Book 'Em provides books like GED and SAT study books, textbooks, nonfiction books and business and trade books.

"The list of available e-books is missing some of the most requested books, including dictionaries, textbooks, graphic novels, and books focused on incarceration issues such as *The New Jim Crow* and *Illegal to Legal*," said Lincoln.

—Lloyd Payne

Former female prisoners fighting for the ones they left behind

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The voices of formerly incarcerated women are rising as they mobilize around the nation to change prison conditions for the women prisoners they left behind.

"Twenty States by 2020" is a campaign to help pass the "Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act" across the nation. The campaign is being led by the #Cut50 organization and its campaign director, Topeka

Sam, who was formerly incarcerated. Sam served time in federal facilities on the East Coast.

The campaign has been successful in passing the legislation in seven states, including California, Sam said.

"God placed it on my heart to go in to spaces that necessitate the changes that we seek for the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women," Sam told the *San Quentin News*. "We have to work with other organizations and bipartisan

state legislatures to get these bills passed."

The bills challenge a state's practice of shackling pregnant women during childbirth. They request the provision of rehabilitative programs and adequate access to sanitary items.

"Women have to prove they had used the sanitary pads that they were issued before they can receive new ones," Sam said. "This is so degrading — you have women taking bags of used sanitary napkins to a

guard for verification."

These are the types of experiences Sam and other women advocates recently recounted to the Trump administration at the White House Prison Reform Summit. Sam believes it's important to put the faces and voices of women in prison before the public.

"The choice of buying toothpaste or tampons shouldn't have to be a choice," Sam said. "And the women lack supportive rehabilitative programs. I see men's visiting rooms packed and that's not the case for the women."

The campaign asks states to mandate that correctional officers receive trauma identification training. The majority of women in prison are sexual assault survivors, but in many states male guards can strip search women and supervise them in showers and bathrooms, according to the campaign pamphlet.

"We want male officers to announce themselves in areas where women are unclothed," said Sam. "We prefer them not to be there, period."

Sam partnered with the California coalition that included Amika Mota from the Young Women's Freedom Center and Miana McKnight, Cirese LaBerge, Norma and Shonique from the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) to get the legislation passed in the state.

"We support the organizations around the country that are already doing the work," Sam said. "We provide them with resources like grant funds, media support and training."

"We have an ambassador in every state to draft bills,

because each state has different needs," she added.

Sam has become a globe trekker. She has visited prisons in Ghana, Africa, and Trinidad, where she helped place a prison reform bill.

She entered San Quentin's newsroom jet-lagged after just arriving from New York, but her spirits ran high for the work she is doing.

"In Trinidad some women sit in prison 10 to 15 years without being convicted," Sam said. "There are three women to a cell and there is no bathroom, just a bucket in the corner. There are also no phones."

Sam also tackles women's reentry needs. She founded HOPE HOUSE NYC and The Ladies of Hope Ministries to provide safe housing for women and girls recently released from prison. She has expanded HOPE HOUSE to Trinidad.

"After our (Trinidad) visit, a family offered to build us a reentry home with a resource center. We now have three homes there," Sam said. "Our goal is to have a safe place for transformation in every state in America."

"We ask the women what they want to do with their life and we help them with that."

It's very rewarding to know you are impacting someone's life."

She hosts a radio program called "Last Mile Second Chances" on Sirius XM's Urban View Channel 126 every Sunday.

Sam noted there are still 13 states to go to reach the "20 States by 2020" to bring a sense of dignity to the mothers, sisters and daughters that languish behind bars.

"We have to not only address systemic issues to incarceration, such as poverty, but the mental state where the women dare to dream again," Sam said. "I'm proud to be a part of #Cut50 and work with Van Jones and Jessica Jackson-Sloan. We share the same 'by any means necessary' approach."



Photo courtesy of Topeka Sam
Formerly incarcerated activist Topeka Sam

Incarcerated women bringing #MeToo movement to prisons

By Lisa Strawn
Journalism Guild Writer

Women on the outside are doing their work to bring incarcerated women into the #MeToo movement. According to a piece from *The Fire Inside*, the newsletter for the California Coalition of Women Prisoners (CCWP), more than 80 percent of incarcerated women are survivors of sexual abuse or violence.

The piece asserts that the threat of sexual abuse increases when women are behind bars and usually these women don't have anyone to whom to report their trauma. Now, a national movement around sexual violence is reaching them.

"Fear and shame kept me

quiet when I was abused," Rita Marie Lewis said in the newsletter article titled, "Incarcerated Women Say #MeToo."

The #MeToo movement represents a moment of exploding social awareness around sexual harassment and violence by people in positions of power. According to the article, women who fight against this violence can wind up incarcerated.

"I understand why people keep quiet about the abuse they suffer," Lewis said.

She explained that there is a fear of becoming labeled a whistleblower or a liar by what she refers to as the 'good old boys' network. "Most women do not lie about abuse."

In a poem written for the

newsletter, Alisha Coleman, Program Assistant for the CCWP, opens up about her experiences being abused as a free, and later incarcerated, woman.

"I was just a kid when he did what he did," Coleman writes. "I was a baby who had a baby and ended up in prison to be abused again by my alleged protectors. 'Protect and serve' is such a joke!"

CCWP is a grassroots campaign, led by loved ones and advocates who seek to educate and mobilize the public to demand an end to abusive and discriminatory behavior behind prison walls. Their legal team is continuing to collect stories from other prisoners about incidents of sexual abuse.

Damaging effects on female prisoners' care and critical services

By Achilles Williams
Journalism Guild Writer

Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is plagued by staff shortages that are having damaging effects on female prisoners' care and critical services, reported Jeff Mordock of *The Washington Times*.

The BOP is experiencing a shortfall of trained staff nationwide. This shortage has prompted the Justice Department's Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz to call for an increase in trained prison employees because it has been restricting the access of female prisoners to necessary care and services.

"The lack of sufficient staff is most noticeable at larger female institutions," according to a report written by Horowitz.

For example, it is BOP's policy that female prisoners may only be searched by female correctional officers,

but the shortage does not allow this policy to be enforced because female correctional officers cannot be at each post where searches are conducted.

"Staff shortages are more complicated with women prisoners because it's compounded when you have male correctional officers in positions where women are required to do the strip searches," said Kara Gotsch, director of Strategic Initiatives at the Sentencing Project.

Horowitz's report stated that 90 percent of the female population would benefit from trauma treatment, but the insufficiency of staff makes such treatment virtually impossible.

Staff shortages combined with overcrowding has resulted in the use of cooks, teachers and civilian employees to perform guard duties.

There are an estimated 7,100 open positions at federal

prisons across the country. The Federal Bureau of Prisons has 37,237 civil positions and 19, 073 correctional officers. However, these numbers could be reduced by the Trump administration's 2019 proposal.

"The BOP will determine the appropriate level of staffing that should be allocated to the women and Special Populations Branch, based on an analysis of its broad mission and responsibility," said Hugh Hurwitz, acting director for the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

According to Gotsch, however, the best solution to this problem is sentencing reform for women with low-level offenses.

"There is never enough money in the federal budget to adequately care for prisoners if we have significant overcrowding and maintain this high-level of incarceration," Gotsch said.

NC introduces bill prohibiting shackling during childbirth

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

North Carolina's Democratic legislators have introduced a bill that would prohibit the shackling of incarcerated women while they give birth.

After a story came out about two women who gave birth at a Triangle region hospital with their hands and feet shackled, advocates complained to prison officials about the practice, according to a *North Carolina Health News* article.

"When someone is handcuffed to a bed, they can't roll over, can't get up and walk freely," Sarah Gillooly, with North Carolina's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) told the *North*

Carolina Health News. "And medical staff doesn't have quick convenient access to patient."

Prison staff changed the policy and resolved to stop shackling women while they're giving birth. This shift was not enough for Sen. Erica Smith (D-Jackson), however. She now wants to make this practice a state-wide law. Her new bill would prohibit shackling inmates during pregnancy, labor, delivery and the postpartum period.

"We have ordinances in North Carolina cities that will not even allow you to tie up a dog," Smith told the *North Carolina Health News*. "At the end of the day, simply put, people don't follow policies. People follow laws."

Twenty states across the United States have already passed laws that deal with shackling pregnant and postpartum women.

According to *North Carolina Health News*, the bill is supported by Democratic women in the House and Senate but has yet to receive bipartisan support. However, these issues seem to be on the radar of state Republicans.

"Given that restraining pregnant women presents huge health and safety risks to both mother and child, it is certainly valuable to contemplate changes to these policies," Tarrah Callahan, executive director of Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform, told the *North Carolina Health News*

Houses of Healing a self-study program for Death Row and the SHU

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Some of California's most segregated prisoners are finding self-forgiveness and introspection through The Houses of Healing Self-study Program.

Death Row prisoners and those housed in segregated housing units (SHU) facilities are offered a 14-week correspondence course. San Quentin, Pelican Bay and Corcoran state prisons are among the facilities where the program is available.

"Through group sessions and independent work, prisoners learned how to deal constructively with conflict and hostility," said Robin Casarjian, executive director

of Lionheart Foundation and founder of the program.

"They learned ways to break lifelong patterns of dysfunction in order to find greater emotional balance, a sense of self-esteem, and the power to choose positive behavior," he added.

More than 450 men have voluntarily registered for the course since 2017, she noted. As a part of the course, the segregated participants read the *Houses of Healing: A prisoner's Guide to Inner Power and Freedom* by Casarjian herself.

The participants have to dedicate at least 30 minutes a day to do "self-work." The work includes reading, writing and stress reduction exercises

like meditation and relaxation.

"Some women and men aren't actively looking for emotional and spiritual healing, but when the guidance to do the work actually becomes available to them, they choose it," wrote Casarjian in her book.

"We can't choose what we don't yet know exists," she added.

The book has "Pause and Reflect" lessons, where the participants are asked to think about their childhood, a time they felt guilt about a situation and what motivated that behavior.

There are exercises such as "A Letter of Forgiving to Yourself" and "A Look into Your

Future."

They receive new assignments once a week for the 14 weeks.

"The idea of prisoners forgiving themselves is as unacceptable to many as the actual commission of a crime," Casarjian said. "Many people believe guilt and the threat of additional punishment are the driving forces that will stop future violence and criminal behavior."

"But history has shown us, this threat doesn't work." She noted that no matter how much shame and guilt a prisoner feels, recidivism rates are still high. It can also create low self-esteem in the prisoners and that can fuel violence.

She sees self-forgiveness as a deterrent to crime.

"Self-forgiving, like all healing, is a process—not a one-time event. It is not a superficial act of saying, 'Yeah, I did such and such, now I'll forgive myself.' In many cases, true self-forgiving takes time, courage, and a depth of honest looking that not everyone is ready or willing to do," Casarjian said.

The course requires the participant to have a fifth-grade reading level and a commitment to doing the internal work. At the end of the course, selected assignments are submitted and reviewed by Lionheart staff or volunteers. Then, a certificate

of participation is issued and signed by Casarjian.

This Houses of Healing program is strictly for prisoners in segregated housing units. It's in accordance with a new directive by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, meant to create and deliver rehabilitative programming to all prisoners.

The program is also available in Spanish and at other prisons across the nation.

To register for the program if you are in a segregated housing unit contact:

The Lionheart Foundation
HOH SS
P.O. Box 4145
Dedham, MA 02027

Former youth offenders start Kid CAT program at Lancaster

Kid CAT Speaks!

By Joe Garcia
Staff Writer

The successful San Quentin Kid CAT program for youth offenders is expanding to Lancaster Prison, thanks to help from three former inmates.

"It was really the guys inside's hunger to get the program," explained Tommy Winfrey, who left San Quentin in 2016. "There was a hunger there to change their lives. I saw the same concern and willingness to change that I witnessed during my time at San Quentin."

Kid CAT alumni Winfrey, Philip Melendez and Anouthinh Pangthong recently visited Lancaster to help them start their own Kid CAT chapter. After paroling from San Quentin, the three men continue to advocate for awareness of youth offender programs. They reported on their work via e-mails to the *San Quentin News*.

Lancaster Community Resource Manager Erika Lane reviewed Kid CAT's First Step curriculum and looked for successful members who could become part of the orientation process. The inaugural group at Lancaster consisted of 30 youth offenders, with a growing wait list.

"We've set up nine members who are going to facilitate the

curriculum and develop the group in as close of a model as we can get it to the San Quentin group," said Melendez, released from San Quentin in 2017. "I'm still continuing the restorative work that I learned in Kid CAT."

"I couldn't come home and forget about the experiences of survivors or the experiences of folks who are in prison. The healing needed on all sides is what motivates me."

"I've often heard that programs like Kid CAT can't operate and affect change on a

level IV yard, but I believe that sentiment is wrong," Winfrey remarked. "People want to be a part of a community. They want to change for the better; they want to go home and be productive members of society."

"On the Level IV, there are some programs, but not enough to meet the needs of the long waiting lists of guys who want to participate in programs," added Melendez, who flew to Los Angeles from San Francisco.

"I didn't get paid to do this;

in fact, it cost me money," said Winfrey, who lives in San Diego. "I did it because I was once one of those guys on a Level IV yard with nothing to help me change—no hope and the feeling of being forgotten."

"I wanted those guys to know there is hope, that they are not forgotten, and have a program that can help them see that reality."

"Since returning to society, I have been working in the field of juvenile justice reform, and this is an extension of the work I am committed to."

"At the end of our two-day visit, we went around and checked out," Melendez noted. "They all were super grateful and inspired by our stories."

"We told them about the charitable and restorative work we did at SQ, and I even talked to their community resource manager about the Hygiene Drive, Amala Walks, food sales and Project Avary. The guys at Lancaster will definitely be able to create these events and are anxious to start giving back."

"I hope those guys will take

charge of their destiny, join the conversation about justice in this state and country, and realize how they ended up in the place that they did," Winfrey said. "I hope that the group grows and changes the culture of a yard so much so that critics look at them as a model of what is possible and don't say they don't deserve anything."

"These guys are not their actions, and they can be better tomorrow—just like the guys on Level II yards. They just need hope in their lives, and I believe that is what we left them with."



Courtesy of Tommy Winfrey

Center left: Tommy Winfrey, Philip Melendez, Anouthinh Pangthong and sponsor Erika Lane with the Lancaster Kid CAT members

Homeless center helps to reduce overdoses of addicted teens

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

A homeless center for youths in San Francisco has found success reducing overdoses and helping addicted teens find sobriety through harm reduction.

"(We) now have a suboxone clinic at our syringe access site! This is a huge lifesaver, removing bureaucratic roadblocks from the paths of people who want to get off opiates," said Mary Howe, executive director of Homeless Youth Alliance (HYA) in San Francisco.

"Now young people, who are in withdrawal, can come to HYA's site—a place where they already feel safe—and have a consultation with our physician, who, after evaluating them, can immediately call in a prescription to be picked up at a nearby pharmacy."

"And because of the close trusting relationships we build with youth, we're able to help them build on the momentum of getting treatment, by helping them navigate the challenges of recovery, find safe housing, get

mental health counseling, and so much more."

Suboxone is commonly prescribed by qualified physicians to help opioid addicts reduce or eliminate withdrawal symptoms, according to the California Association for Alcohol and Drug Education.

One of the program's success stories is a former addict Audry.

"HYA was practically the only place I could go and not feel like a piece of meat or a piece of s***," she said. (They) cared for me until I cared for myself and fought for me to fight for myself. Letters to jail, accepting phone calls, going to court dates...free snacks, 'cause you know no dollars went to food and if it wasn't free, I didn't eat."

"Mary and company showed me what it feels like to show up for others and myself. HYA made getting clean and giving back look desirably punk rock."

"HYA kept me alive long enough to actually build a life I don't want to escape from."

Audry is now sober, married and a devoted mother and mu-

sic photographer working in San Francisco.

"I love Audry's statement because it underscores what HYA's really about. As someone with a similar history, I was able to change the direction of my life in large part because harm reduction taught me that there's something truly subversive and rebellious about proving hate and dismissiveness wrong, and showing kids like me should be invested in, not written off," Howe said.

HYA Outreach Counselors and therapists work on the streets in the Haight Ashbury and Castro neighborhoods, where transient youths are often found in San Francisco.

"Our counselors...help young people process and troubleshoot the daily traumas they're dealing with: overdose, HIV and violence, to serious health conditions from having no dry socks or access to showers," Howe said.

"These young people are dealing with the day-to-day traumas of homelessness against a backdrop that's getting darker and scarier."

"All we can do is to continue to let them know they have a safe haven (with) us. We provide that haven, even though, almost four years after the lease termination that put us on the street, we still don't have a drop-in-center where youth can take a shower, eat a hot meal and get a moment of respite. The loss of our space continues to deeply affect the neighborhood as a whole."

Despite having many challenges, HYA counselors in 2017 managed to make 9,368

contacts on outreach and held 954 individual one-to-one sessions. In addition, 596 youths attended 44 creative and educational groups, according to data given by HYA.

"To continue to meet the growing need...due to lack of indoor services in this neighborhood and lack of affordable housing in San Francisco—we need your help," Howe said.

"When you donate, you enable us to hire and retain the very best and most effective staff...your support means dry

socks, healthy snacks, Narcan training (opiate overdose reversal drug), which saves hundreds of lives. In short, your support means opportunities given, lives changed, and lives saved," Howe added.

To donate or for more information contact:

Tides Center/Homeless Youth Alliance
P.O. Box 170427
San Francisco, CA 94117
www.homelessyouthalliance.org
Any amount is encouraged.

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 facilitator's 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.

Dear Kid CAT

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$617.50 from the San Quentin Kid CAT program in support of Social Advocates for Youth's programming. On behalf of the homeless and disconnected youth of Sonoma County, we express our deep gratitude for your outstanding level of support!

Our youth have taught us that programs and services make the most impact when they are accessible, appropriate and flexible. Your gift of unrestricted funding will allow us to continue this critical work and serve our vulnerable youth when they need us the most.

It is a great honor to stand beside you in our quest to stabilize and prepare homeless youth to transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Thank you again for joining us in ensuring that youth struggling in our community have the support they need.

For the kids,

Ashley Fehrmann
Chief Development Officer, Social Advocates for Youth

Dear Social Advocates for youth,

Thank you so much for your great work in the community to assist some of our most vulnerable citizens – the homeless youth. It gives us great pleasure to be able to give assistance to a program that will in some way help to break the cycle of neglect. From all of us in Kid CAT and the San Quentin community, thank you again for giving us this opportunity to help. Keep up the good work!

The Beat Within

A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside

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

"Somehow we can't live outside the politics of race. There's something very deep in all of us that is taught when we are very, very little. Which is the disrespect and fear of the other." – Anna Deavere Smith, Actress and professor

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.

Growth in electronic monitoring doubled in the past decade

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

The use of electronic monitoring (EM) devices in the United States has more than doubled in the past decade, with more than 125,000 wearing such tracking devices in 2016, according to a Pew Charitable Trusts report.

Local governments use EM in a variety of contexts,

including as a condition of pretrial release or probation and for youth offenders.

At least 51 of 58 California counties have EM programs, according to a recent study by the Samuelson Law Clinic at the University of California at Berkeley and East Bay Community Law Center (Berkeley Study).

For-profit companies are the main providers of EM devices

and monitoring technology. Securus is one of the largest. Through its subsidiary, Satellite Tracking of People (STOP), Securus electronically monitors more than 6,000 people for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), according to *In These Times*.

For many local governments, EM offers a lower-cost alternative to incarceration. A 2013

study of California high-risk offenders found that parolees fitted with a GPS device had a 38 percent lower recidivism rate than those without the devices, according to the U.S. Justice Department's National Institute of Justice.

Criminal justice advocates and the courts, on the other hand, have serious concerns about the shifting of costs, expansive use and privacy related to use of EM technology.

"Rather than advancing a more equitable and effective criminal justice system, electronic monitoring's enormous and unchecked capacities transform entire communities into open-air jails, intentionally depriving a whole class of people of liberty and privacy even as its efficacy, necessity and appropriateness go entirely unchallenged," said activist Rebecca Brown, the director of Reentry Solutions Group, reported *In These Times*.

The most common form of EM deployed by local government is house arrest. However, the rapid evolution of tracking technology allows for varying levels of control. A person may be confined to a neighborhood,

a block or a house, depending on the "risk assessment" of that individual.

This is already happening with exclusion zones programmed into the ankle monitors of some individuals with sex offense or gang histories. In New York City, some alleged gang members have a GPS monitor without house arrest, according to *Prison Legal News*. The device is programmed to keep them out of certain parts of the city at certain times of the day.

In California, Santa Barbara County uses GPS to create inclusion/exclusion zones. At least 12 other counties reference the use of inclusion or exclusion zones in their terms and conditions or policy documents, according to the Berkeley Study.

There are significant concerns about the impact of these EM programs on low-income families. Many counties require families to pay to participate in an EM program, often requiring they pay a daily, weekly or monthly fee. Many counties also require that youth pay for any lost or damaged equipment, potentially burdening the

family with thousands of dollars in costs, according to the Berkeley Study.

"Know your rights," say advocates as many of these EM programs have a mechanism to opt out of charges where the participant can demonstrate their inability to pay for their participation in an electronic monitoring program.

Privacy risks from deploying this technology are a concern by many interested parties. "All too often, new police surveillance tools... slowly – but surely – (are) expanded... We've seen it with DNA collection. And now we're starting to see it with GPS tracking," warned the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a leading advocate of electronic privacy.

The Supreme Court has emphasized in recent years the extent to which electronic tracking devices raise new and unique privacy concerns. "GPS monitoring... may alter the relationship between citizen and government in a way that is inimical to democratic society," the court concluded in *United States v. Jones*, 565 U.S. 400, 416 (2012) (Sotomayor, J., concurring).

Thiết Bị Giám Sát Đang Bành Trướng

Trên toàn quốc, có đến gấp hai lần số vòng đeo chân dùng để giám sát tội phạm đang được sử dụng hiện nay so với 10 năm về trước. Hầu như tất cả các quận hạt trong California đều sử dụng thiết bị theo dõi này, trong khi đó thì các công ty tư nhân hưởng lợi.

Pew Charitable Trusts báo cáo rằng trên nước Mỹ đã có hơn 125,000 trường hợp đang mang vòng giám sát điện tử (viết tắt là EM). Chích quyền địa phương sử dụng EM cho rất nhiều trường hợp như, điều kiện đặt ra cho những người có án quản thúc và thành phần tội phạm thanh thiếu niên.

It nhất 51 trong số 58 quận hạt của California có chương trình EM.

Securus là một trong những công ty lớn nhất trong lãnh vực cung cấp thiết bị EM và công nghệ giám sát. Theo *In These Times*, hệ thống satellite sử dụng trong việc giám sát đang hỗ trợ Securus theo dõi hơn 6,000 tội phạm cho Bộ Học Tập và Cải Huấn của California (CDCR).

Sử dụng thiết bị EM là một phương thức giúp giảm giá giam giữ tội phạm cho nhiều chính quyền địa phương. The U.S. Justice Department's National Institute of Justice nghiên cứu về thành phần tội phạm có mức độ nguy hiểm cao ở California nhận định rằng những tù nhân mới được thả có điều kiện thích hợp với việc sử dụng thiết bị giám sát này có đến 38% thấp hơn so với những người không đeo thiết bị giám sát sẽ tái phạm tội.

Trong khi đó, các nhà bênh vực cho hệ thống hình sự và nhiều tòa án thì lại tỏ ý ngại về mặt giá cả leo thang, chi phí đất đai, và các vấn đề riêng tư liên quan đến cách sử dụng công nghệ EM.

Nhà hoạt động Rebecca Brown, là người điều hành của tổ chức Reentry Solutions Group phát biểu với *In These*

Times rằng, "Thay vì bổ sung cho hệ thống hình sự thêm tính công bình và hữu hiệu, sức vĩ đại của thiết bị theo dõi điện tử và sự kém kiểm soát của chúng biến nhiều cộng đồng thành những nhà tù không vách ngăn, điều này có tình đoạt đi sự tự do và riêng tư của một tầng lớp xã hội cho đến nó có hiệu quả đến mức nào đi chăng nữa thì cũng có tình cường bách và thiếu thích hợp."

Phương thức thông thường nhất của EM được sử dụng bởi chính quyền địa phương là án quản thúc tại gia. Tuy nhiên vì công nghệ giám sát cải tiến quá nhanh chóng nên nó mang lại nhiều sự kiểm soát khác nhau, một người có thể bị giam giữ ở một khu xóm, một góc phố hay một căn hộ đều hoàn toàn phụ thuộc vào sự định đoạt về mức độ nguy hiểm của từng cá nhân, nghiên cứu mới đây của Trường Đại Học California ở Berkeley thuộc tổ chức Samuelson Law Clinic và East Bay Community Law Center cho biết như vậy.

Với những cá nhân phạm tội dâm dục hoặc có tiền án băng đảng, vòng đeo chân giám sát của họ đã được tải vào những khu vực cấm đến. Dựa theo *Prison Legal News*, ở New York City, có một số người bị tình nghi dính líu tới băng đảng phải đeo vòng giám sát trong khi họ chưa hề bị án lệnh quản thúc tại gia bao giờ. Những khu vực cấm đến đã được đăng tải vào vòng đeo chân bị này để cấm họ đi lại trong thành phố ở một khoảng thời gian có định nào đó trong ngày.

Nghiên cứu của Trường Đại Học Berkeley cho biết, ở California, quận hạt San Barbara sử dụng thiết bị định vị để cho phép hoặc ngăn cấm khu vực đi lại. Nhưng có ít nhất 12 quận hạt khác tham khảo lại lối sử dụng này trong văn bản, điều kiện, và tài liệu về quy sách của họ.

Có nhiều quan ngại đáng chú ý về sức ảnh hưởng của

chương trình EM trên những hộ gia đình có lợi tức thấp, nhiều quận hạt bắt người dân phải chi trả để được tham gia trong chương trình EM bằng cách yêu cầu họ trả tiền hằng ngày, hằng tuần hoặc hằng tháng. Nhiều quận hạt cũng yêu cầu thanh thiếu niên chi trả cho những thiết bị đã bị mất hoặc bị hư hỏng, điều này có thể mang lại gánh nặng cho nhiều gia đình vì phí tổn lên đến cả hàng ngàn đồng, nghiên cứu của Đại Học Berkeley cho biết như vậy.

Nhiều nhà bênh vực khuyên rằng, "Hãy biết quyền lợi của bạn."

Nếu những người có lợi tức thấp tham gia chương trình EM chứng minh được họ không có đủ khả năng để trả, họ sẽ được miễn phí ở hầu hết tất cả các chương trình EM.

Nhiều người lo ngại rằng áp dụng công nghệ này sẽ xúc phạm đến quyền riêng tư. Electronic Frontier Foundation, một cơ sở dẫn đầu về việc chống lại sự xâm lấn của điện tử, cảnh giác trên trang mạng của họ rằng, "Rất nhiều lần, quy cách mới về việc sử dụng thiết bị theo dõi... từ từ – nhưng chắc chắn – được nới rộng... Chúng tôi đã thấy điều này xảy ra với việc thu thập chứng cứ DNA. Và bây giờ chúng tôi lại bắt đầu thấy ý định sử dụng thiết bị định vị để làm giám sát."

Tòa Tối Cao Pháp Viện Mỹ nhấn mạnh rằng trong nhiều năm gần đây sự nới rộng về thiết bị giám sát gây nên nhiều quan ngại mối liên quan đến sự riêng tư, trích dẫn từ vụ tranh tụng *United States v. Jones*, 565 U.S. 400, 416 (2012) [Quan tòa Sotomayor, J., đồng thuận] rằng "thiết bị định vị dùng trong việc theo dõi... có thể thay đổi quang hệ giữa người dân và chính quyền theo một đường lối tương phản với xã hội dân chủ."

—Tác giả Wayne Boatwright
—Dịch Giả Danny Nha Hồ

Thay đổi mới trong luật cổ sát

Tác giả Raheem Thomas
Staff Writer

Vì sự thay đổi trong luật cổ sát, bắt đầu vào ngày 1 tháng 1 năm 2019, các đồng phạm liên quan với hung thủ thật sự sẽ không còn bị kết tội giết người vì tham gia vào những trọng tội chẳng hạn như đánh cướp bằng vũ khí. Luật này sẽ bao gồm tất cả các vụ án cũ.

Vào ngày 30 tháng 9 năm 2018, Thống Đốc Jerry Brown đã ký và biến SB 1437 thành luật. Đạo luật này được viết bởi Thượng Nghị Sĩ Nancy Skinner (đảng Dân Chủ ở Berkeley) nói rằng công tố viên không có quyền buộc tội giết người cho các đồng phạm không có ý định giết ai trong khi phạm những trọng tội khác.

Luật giết người cũ của tiểu bang California định rằng khi một chánh phạm hoặc là đồng phạm vì phạm những tội trọng hình và xảy ra án mạng, cả hai đều sẽ bị kết tội cổ sát.

"Luật giết người của tiểu bang California vô lý xử những người không giết người cũng như là kẻ giết người," bà Skinner đã nói như thế sau khi Thống Đốc Brown ký đạo luật này, căn cứ theo bài báo của *Rolling Stone*, <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/california-felony-murder-reduce-hundreds-sentences-731491/> "Đạo luật SB 1437 tạo ra sự phân biệt rõ ràng là hình phạt nặng nhất sẽ

giành cho những ai trực tiếp gây ra án mạng."

Trong đạo luật mới, đồng phạm mà không thật sự chính tay giết người vẫn bị tội nếu họ tham gia gây án với ý định giết người và "tiếp tay, bày mưu, chỉ huy, xúi giục, yêu cầu, hoặc là giúp đỡ" hung thủ thật sự để giết người. Và nếu đồng phạm giữ vai trò quan trọng trong lúc phạm tội và "hành động bất kể an toàn cho sinh mạng người khác" hoặc là nạn nhân "là cảnh sát đang thi hành chức vụ mà các can phạm đều biết," thì họ vẫn bị buộc tội giết người.

Richard Zorns, hiện đang ở San Quentin, bị kết án giết người 29 năm về trước vì anh ta làm tài xế lái xe tải thoát trong một vụ đánh cướp bằng vũ khí.

Zorns nói rằng anh tham gia vào vụ cướp để giải quyết vài chuyện khó khăn của gia đình.

"Chuyện khó khăn trong gia đình đã làm cho tôi mất kiên nhẫn, và tôi nghĩ rằng mình có thể giải quyết chuyện đó bằng tiền," Zorns cho biết như vậy.

Tham gia vào vụ cướp đã làm tình hình xấu hơn cho Zorns. Căn cứ theo hồ sơ của anh ta, có hai đồng phạm cướp chợ trời trong khi Zorns ngồi trong chiếc xe Thunderbird trắng đợi ở bên ngoài. Trong lúc tải thoát, nhân viên bảo vệ bắt được một người và người còn lại nổ ba phát súng và giết chết nhân viên bảo vệ. Sau đó hai người đồng phạm này trốn

khỏi hiện trường trong chiếc xe mà Zorns lái. Để buộc tội giết người cho Zorns, quan chủ không chỉ cần chứng minh rằng anh ta có tham gia vào vụ cướp.

Theo đạo luật giết người mới này, quan chủ không phải chứng minh rằng Zorns lái xe đưa các đồng phạm của anh ta trốn khỏi hiện trường trong khi anh biết rằng họ đã giết một nhân viên bảo vệ.

"Dù sao đi nữa thì hành động của tôi đã làm chết một mạng người, và tôi lúc nào cũng ăn năn về chuyện đó," Zorns nói như vậy. "Mẹ tôi vẫn biết rằng tôi không hề có ý định đá thương ai cả."

Vào khoảng 400 đến 800 người bị cầm tù ở tiểu bang California cho tội giết người sẽ có cơ hội khiêu nại với tòa án, căn cứ theo *Rolling Stone*.

Tòa án phải loại bỏ và tuyên án lại cho những ai bị bỏ tù vì tội giết người hoặc là "tội giết người vì kết quả của những yếu tố khác" cũng đủ tiêu chuẩn để được giảm án dưới đạo luật mới.

"Không ai đáng chết cả, vì thế tôi rất đau buồn khi một người bị giết, nhưng tôi cảm thấy nhẹ nhàng hơn vì mình được thêm một cơ hội thứ hai," Zorns nói như vậy.

Để được hưởng quyền lợi vì sự thay đổi trong luật pháp, can phạm phải nộp đơn vào tòa mà tuyên án người đó để xin được xét lại.

—Dịch Giả Hiếu Thái

New CA laws may erase pot convictions

If other counties follow San Francisco's lead, district attorneys' offices across the state can erase pot convictions under California's new legal marijuana laws.

"Our vision is to help government clear all eligible criminal records starting with convictions under Prop. 64," said Jennifer Pahlka, executive director of Code for America, a non-profit with the goal of making government more efficient, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The November 2016 passage of Proposition 64 prompted San Francisco's District Attorney (DA) to announce in January that his office would dismiss and seal more than 3,000 misdemeanor marijuana convictions dating back to 1975. As of May, the DA has only been able to prepare 962 motions to dismiss, with the

courts granting 428 of these according to the *Chronicle*.

Dealing with the city's 4,940 felony marijuana convictions, however, is more difficult. District Attorney George Gascón announced a partnership with Code for America to use a computer algorithm to identify which felonies the courts can reclassify.

"A lot of what we do is antiquated... We're very excited to partner with Code for America," said Gascón at the press conference. By using this new algorithm, the DA's office will not have to use attorneys to pull the file and review each case.

In contrast, it costs Contra Costa Public Defender's Office over \$400,000 per year to clear about 1,100 convictions in 2016, according to *Safe and Sound* a report by Californians for Safety and Justice.

"We heard from prosecutors around the state... (they) don't have the resources" to review, reduce or seal decades of marijuana convictions, said Gascón. With this algorithm, that argument goes away.

Gascón said he hopes their work will serve as a template that other jurisdictions can use to review past cases in states where marijuana is now legal, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Criminal justice reform advocates have long complained that marijuana convictions disproportionately affect the poor and people of color. In San Francisco, even with similar use patterns, Blacks were more than four times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession as Whites according to a 2013 American Civil Liberties Union study.

—Wayne Boatwright

Arizona crisis for low-level drug offenders

By Richard Bonnie Evans
Journalism Guild Writer

Arizona Republic.

Arizona is wasting millions of dollars by imprisoning low-level drug offenders and failing to treat drug addicts, a recent report concludes.

"Arizona imprisonment crisis removes thousands of people from the economy and costs taxpayers more than \$1 billion each year (for the state Department of Corrections budget)-preventing the state from investing in other critical priorities like education, social services for families, and child safety," said the report by FWD.us.

FWD.us is a bipartisan political group founded by Silicon Valley leaders, according to the

which allow that state to incarcerate for first-time drug possession is giving Arizona the "fourth-highest imprisonment rate in the nation," the story said.

Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery opposed the reforms.

"If we were to lessen punishment for drug trafficking, what's the message that we would be sending? We would just see more of that particular type of crime," Montgomery said.

Arizona keeps people in prison 25 to 100 percent longer than national average, FWD.us said. It cited prison rates and crime have been reduced in 32 other states with programs, not prison.

Incarceration rates influence special-interest money in politics

By Jesse Vasquez
Editor in Chief

A report by Common Cause, *Democracy Behind Bars*, alleges that political elections and monetary incentives increase incarceration rates and undermine democracy in America.

Common Cause is an organization dedicated to reducing the influence of special-interest money in politics.

According to Karen Hobert Flynn, president of the organization, the report is "an effort to build on Common Cause's longstanding commitment to serve as a watchdog on government, defend and strengthen voting and civil rights and the ability for everyone to par-

ticipate in our democracy."

The report claims that political forces that rely on special-interest campaign funds shape the modern criminal justice system.

For instance, "Since 1989, the two biggest for-profit prison companies in the U.S.—Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and the GEO Group—have spent more than \$35 million on lobbying and campaign contributions," according to the report.

During the 2016 presidential election, "the GEO Group donated \$225,000 to a super PAC supporting then-candidate Donald Trump."

According to its website, GEO Group manages "approximately 75,000

beds in 71 correctional and detention facilities.... [and] provides services on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Marshal Services, and [the] U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

The Common Cause report says that "65 percent of private prison contracts have 'occupancy guarantee' clauses, [which function as] promises by the state that a specific number of people will be housed there."

Therefore, the report alleges, politicians promote tough-on-crime policies to generate profits for campaign contributors.

Currently, 5.2 million people nationwide are supported by prison facility jobs,

at a \$182 billion annual cost to taxpayers, the report said.

Underfunded police departments that rely on federal grants are obligated to increase the number of arrests in order to qualify for grant money.

For instance, according to the report, "federal support frequently is determined by arrest statistics and the value of confiscated contraband, which pressures police to arrest more low-level offenders."

In an opinion article published in *The Washington Post*, Radley Balko cites an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) survey conducted in 2014 that claims,

"SWAT teams and paramilitary tactics are disproportionately used against Black and Latino people...suspected of low-level drug dealing."

Balko also cites an ACLU 2015 study that examined four cities in New Jersey, which showed that "Black people were 2.6 to 9.6 times more likely to be arrested than White people for low-level offenses."

According to Common Cause, felony convictions further undermine democracy because felony disenfranchisement laws disproportionately affect poor, Black and other minority communities.

Common Cause argues that former felons are expected to

be good productive citizens while not allowed to participate in the democratic process.

Most states have procedures to regain voting rights after completing probation or parole periods, but 12 states bar former felons from ever voting, the report said.

According to Common Cause, for these reasons, "A society that unjustly criminalizes and imprisons so many people, devastating our families and communities, and disproportionately targeting people of color and those impacted by poverty for policing and punishment, is not a society living up to its claim that everyone's voice matters."

Returning citizens tend to be more politically involved

Political science professors Hannah L. Walker and Michael Leo Owens allege that formerly incarcerated individuals tend to be more politically involved in regions with abundant nonprofit organizations that support their re-entry efforts.

In an opinion article posted in *The Washington Post*, Walker and Owens chronicle their study and explain their conclusion.

They used data that had been gathered through an online survey done by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois during August and September of 2014. According to the article, the study focused on a sampling of 1,275 eligible voters from Chicago "because, as Harvard sociologist Robert Sampson once observed, the city's patterns 'are broadly consistent with trends in crime and incarceration throughout the United States.'"

The survey asked participants about their contact with law enforcement and involvement in the criminal justice system: 11 percent acknowledged having been either stopped or questioned, and 5 percent had been on probation or parole, in jail or in prison.

Those surveyed claimed to

have taken part in some sort of political activity or civil action.

For instance, 49 percent of those questioned by police signed a petition, and 14 percent attended a protest, according to the article.

The professors found that former prisoners with ties to nonprofit organizations were more politically involved than those with no ties.

The professors reviewed records from the Chicago Police Department's 270 police beats, subareas within the 25 districts. They measured the number of nonprofit felon-friendly groups, felony conviction rates, and the extent to which the community participated and collaborated with the police.

They also discovered that areas with more nonprofits and high rates of felony convictions had more collaboration between the community and law enforcement.

They believe that their findings show that "involuntary contact with the criminal justice system reduces voting, for individuals and communities. [However], results suggest that civic groups may help citizens re-engage with politics after having been incarcerated."

On Sept. 21, members from different nonprofit groups, officers from the

Alameda County Sheriff's Department, and numerous other Bay Area police departments ventured into San Quentin State Prison to build community ties that promote public safety and civil engagement with people still incarcerated.

San Quentin News collaborated with KTVU's Paul Chambers, who hosts these community-law enforcement events called "Barbershop Dialogues." The objective is to build relationships between citizens and the police that serve their communities.

"I've never seen anything like this, where cops want to help you," said Louie----, an inmate participant. "I didn't know that there were so many resources that law enforcement has to offer."

The Bay Area has an abundance of nonprofits dedicated to human rights, civil rights and equal opportunity, which also help promote public safety by addressing community concerns.

"These people actually heard us out and had some answers to my questions," said David Navarez, another inmate participant. "I definitely want to get involved in whatever group activities they got to help prevent gang and gun violence in the neighborhoods."

—Jesse Vasquez

Paroled prisoner involved in Transitions Clinic Network

By Achilles Williams
Journalism Guild Writer

Recently paroled prisoners face enormous medical and mental problems upon release, but one program is working to fix that, reported Patricia Leigh Brown of the *New York Times*.

In the article, Brown detailed the story of 54-year-old Ronald Sanders, a former prisoner who was incarcerated during his early adulthood for drug dealing. Upon release, Sanders turned his life around and got involved as a community health worker for the Transitions Clinic Network.

"People coming home have many health needs," said Dr. Shira Shavit, the network's executive director. "They need food, a place to stay, a job, and many face discrimination in housing and employment. They may have lost connections with family, so it is important to address the big picture."

The network operates in conjunction with more than 20 health centers in nearly a dozen states to ensure newly released prisoners can access care to treat common medical,

psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

While prisons and jails are "constitutionally mandated" to provide inmates with health care, it often ends suddenly upon their release, making the first few weeks "particularly perilous," Brown reported.

A 2007 study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* revealed that former prisoners are 12 times more liable to die than other state residents in the two weeks following their release, particularly from fatal overdoses.

In addition, if the former inmate has a chronic illness that remains untreated, prisoners often find themselves back in prison.

"These streets can tear you up worse than prison," Sanders said.

Sanders works to prevent this by providing former inmates with much-needed counsel. Many of them share similar background stories to his. He has helped his patients connect with therapists, receive treatment for drug addiction, and find housing. He also frequently checks up on them.

"If it weren't for Ron, I'd be dead or in prison," a former inmate once said about Sanders. "He may not be a religious guy, but he does all the things the Scripture says do."

And Sanders is not alone in his efforts: By the end of this year, Los Angeles County is slated to hire 220 such counselors to help facilitate the reintegration process, Brown reports.

But while there is no concrete evidence that supports the notion that the program helps prevent former inmates from re-offending, there is evidence that suggests it helps keep them away from hospitals.

Brown cited a study from the *American Journal of Public Health*: Of 200 chronically ill former prisoners, half were enrolled in a primary care program and the other half in a transitions clinic. The study revealed that the patients in the transitions clinic used emergency rooms 50 percent less than the others.

Given its success in this arena, the network has doubled in size over the past five years and has treated close to 5,000 patients since 2006, Brown reported.

Lawyers fight to improve mental health care inside state prisons

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

The chief psychiatrist of California's prison system is accusing state officials of misleading both a federal court and lawyers for prison inmates fighting to improve mental health care inside state prisons, according to court documents.

Dr. Michael Golding sent the 160-page report to the court-appointed federal receiver overseeing reforms inside California prisons. Golding filed the report without his superior's knowledge.

Dr. Golding's "lengthy, detailed report" contains "serious allegations" that data reported to the federal court overseeing the medical and mental health care of California prisons "is inaccurate and has been presented in a materially misleading way," reports *The Sacramento Bee*.

For example, the Golding report refutes the state's claim that its psychiatrists have seen patients at an on-time-rate of 96 percent in some cases, where the actual frequency is

allegedly only 20 to 30 percent, according to Michael Bien, the lead attorney for the inmates.

The Golding report prevented the signing of a stipulation in which inmates' attorneys were to agree to reduce the state's 405 psychiatrist positions by 79 to a total of 326.

"We almost signed it," Bien told *The Bee* reporter. Now, that stipulation is "off the table and a hearing is expected in coming weeks on the allegations."

Corrections officials of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) declined to address Golding's accusations.

INMATE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

About one-third of CDCR inmates participate in an in-prison mental health program, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report on the 2018-19 California Budget.

California expects to spend around \$690 million on various inmate mental health programs in 2018-19 as required under

court-approved guidelines, according to the LAO Report.

The care given to one-third of the CDCR inmates (more than 40,000) in prison mental health programs is subject to the oversight of a Special Master appointed as part of the *Coleman v. Brown* case (In 1995, a federal court ruled in the *Coleman* case that CDCR was not providing constitutionally adequate mental health care.)

For example, Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP) inmates are about 6 percent of the inmate population (approximately 7,500 inmates at current occupancy levels). EOP inmates are those diagnosed with serious mental disorders but do not require inpatient treatment.

Most EOP inmates are housed by CDCR in Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF), where interaction with other inmates is substantially restricted according to the LAO report.

While San Quentin has an EOP dorm of approximately 100 inmates in its H-Unit dormitory yard, the LAO Report did not reference this facility.

The purpose behind prison strikes

By Amir Shabazz
Journalism Guild Writer

The push for better food and higher pay in prisons coupled with ongoing parole denials sparked a nationwide prison protest in August.

Prison reform advocacy groups confirmed that demonstrations were taking place in prisons across the country and beyond—from California and Washington to Nova Scotia in Canada, according to *The Guardian*.

There were also unconfirmed reports of prison strikes in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

The strike, which was the first nationwide prison demonstration in two years, was triggered by a riot in a South Carolina prison last spring that occurred when seven prisoners were killed, the article reported.

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, a group of incarcerated activists, put out a set of 10 demands to "overhaul" the jail

systems throughout America.

Top priority on the list: To end forced, or underpaid, labor.

"Slave labor...still exists in the United States in 2018," wrote inmate Kevin Rashid Johnson to *The Guardian*. "In fact, slavery never ended in this country."

Johnson is serving a life sentence in Sussex state prison in Waverly, Va.

Other demands called for a greater investment in rehabilitation and better medical and mental health treatment.

In North Carolina, a manifesto calling for the end of solitary confinement was released in July. It states, "No human shall be sentenced to death by incarceration."

Organizers were trying to get the public's attention about the spike of in-custody deaths. In Mississippi alone, *The Guardian* reported that 10 prisoners died in their cells within a three-week period in August.

No cause of death was re-

ported, the article said.

Also in North Carolina, inmates at another prison held banners that read "Parole," "Better Food" and "In Solidarity."

There were reports of inmates who didn't work, avoided purchasing at prison commissaries, and went on hunger strikes.

But accounts of the events happening on the inside remain contested.

In Florida, unconfirmed reports surfaced alleging that 11 of the state's 143 prisons were impacted by the protests. That report stood in contrast to what a spokesperson for the Florida Department of Corrections said: "We've had no stoppages, protests or lockdowns related to the strike."

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee, an advocacy group, said that because of "the nature of high-security prisons," a lot of the activity going on inside has not reached the public yet—and may not ever.

Inmates concerned over environmental issues decide to taking action

By Timothy Hicks
Staff Writer

According to the inmates graduating from an environmental program at San Quentin on Oct. 19, climate change has sparked a worldwide discussion — even in prison.

"I'm inspired by all of my students," said Angela Sevin, director of The Green Life program. "I'm so proud of how my students made a connection with the environment and the community."

Incarcerated facilitator Angel Alvarez said, "She's an amazing instructor and human being, who's dedicated and committed to teaching truth about climate change."

Sevin said The Green Life evolved from a program she helped to begin in 2003, called Keeping It Real.

While attending a 2009 session of Keeping It Real, former White House Green Jobs Czar, Van Jones told the men, "If we can give a soda can a second chance, why can't we do the same thing for people?" From that statement, Sevin seized the opportunity and The Green Life was born.

Sam Hearn is an original founder of The Green Life. He paroled from prison in 2017



Tom Colt giving a speech about the beef industry

after spending more than 20 years incarcerated.

Hearn was granted a 30-minute visit to San Quentin to give the graduates a congratulatory speech about what it means to be environmentally aware.

"It would have been better if we would learn this before coming to prison," observed Hearn. "Why do we have to learn it here?"

While leaving the graduation, Hearn looked back and said, "It's bittersweet, like leaving family."

Eight graduates presented seven projects to share with community members who attended the ceremony.

Kahlil Dallas is a vegan. He gave a presentation on superfoods, which are fruits and vegetables that are vitamin rich. His intent was to get youngsters interested in superfoods by creating a children's

eating game that is eco-friendly.

When asked about the class Dallas said, "It's not just a class; it's a part of my life since I was 7 years old. I [transferred] to San Quentin because of this class."

Tom Colt called himself a "struggling vegetarian."

Colt made a presentation on "The Impact of Dietary Choices on the Planet."

His presentation argued for meatless Mondays. He also gave reasons for people to change to a plant-based diet. He said that worldwide meat production destroys the rain forests at a rate of seven football fields per day.

A 72-year-old graduate, Donald "Wink" Billington, said, "I realized in my lifetime that we ruined this planet and recycling is the most important thing we can do to save it."

Billington and Andrew "Andy" Halperin talked about how plastic is polluting the waterways and methods to reduce its use.

"It's a course worth taking," Halperin said about The Green Life. "It teaches personal growth and helps with the choices you make."

Bruce Bowman spoke on air pollution and the need for food diversity in West Oakland.

"I learned a better understanding how Mother Earth is threatened, assaulted and made unsustainable as a place to live," Bowman said.

As an intermission, Anthony Thomas performed a spoken-word piece that strung together dozens of environmentally-related words and phrases.

Jeff Williams and facilitator Lenny Beyett collaborated on a colorful Aquaponics presentation.

Aquaponics combines agriculture and hydroponics.

"It is a self-contained eco-

system," said Williams, who wants to reduce carbon in the air. Both men carry the same motto, "To make my footprint in the world a little smaller."

Earth Island Institute, a nonprofit organization, has a vision of a clean world, said Terry Kelly, a representative. Earth Island sponsors about 80 environmental projects worldwide. Many of its projects are within the San Francisco Bay Area, including The Green Life.

Co-founder Arnulfo T. Garcia's sister, Carmelita Vargas, attended the graduation, which was held in the *San Quentin News* newsroom.

It was her first time sitting in the newsroom, where her brother changed his life, ultimately becoming the Executive Editor of the *San Quentin News*.

"I'm inspired by how my brother inspired other guys," said Vargas. "This is great."

Graduate Thomas talked about the passing of his longtime friend, "I felt really inspired by Arnulfo and how he loved everyone. I truly miss him."

As the group gathered in a healing circle, Vargas' silent tears fell, mourning her brother. When the event re-

sumed, they shared stories about Arnulfo.

Wanda Stewart, an elementary school teacher in Berkeley, left the graduates with a message, "Know that we love you. We know you all are here." She added, "And we all got to save the world wherever we are."

In closing, Sevin said, "My hope is that people who hear about The Green Life are inspired to take some wisdom from what these men have shared with me and each other. And if we can learn to be better people, we will have a better planet to live with."

The Green Life co-founders: Arnulfo T. Garcia, Samuel Hearn, Troy Williams, Michael Harris, Cornelius "Dickey" Wigfall, Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett, Kevin Tindell and Erin O'Connor.
Graduates: Donald "Wink" Billington, Bruce "Brother J" Bowman, Thomas Colt, Kahlil Dallas, Wes Eisiminger, Andrew "Andy" Halperin, Anthony Thomas, Jesse Vasquez and Jeff Williams.
Facilitators: Juan Haines, Jorge Heredia, Lynn Beyett, and Angel Alvarez

10th annual San Quentin CARES Walk for a Cure fights breast cancer

By David Ditto
Staff Writer

Community members, volunteers and San Quentin inmates joined forces the first weekend in October to fight breast cancer at the 10th Annual "Walk for a Cure." The two-day event featured live music, personal messages, poetry and prayer to entertain and inspire about 100 participants.

The inmate-run program San Quentin CARES (Compassionate Accountability Responsibly Expressed through community Service) organized the "Walk for a Cure."

SQ CARES is a committee of a dozen inmates and four community volunteers.

Prisoner Rafael "Nephew" Bankston walked for his mother Michelle. She was approved to visit him and see him get his GED, but passed away from cancer the day before his graduation. Bankston expressed the loss he felt in poetry he read to the gathered participants, "If home is where the heart is, then I'm homeless."

Another inmate, Hieu "Rocky" Nguyen has participated in the walk since 2012. He has served on the SQ CARES committee for two years. His sister passed away from cancer 12 years—to the day—before this walk. He walks to support the community, create awareness and remember and honor

his sister. He remembers how she held his hand and taught him to read and write in a concentration camp in Vietnam, where there was no school.

Charlie Thao began working with SQ CARES this year. In 2016, he found out that the victim of his crime suffered from cancer. "It felt like a stab in my heart," Thao said. He stipulated (postponed) his parole board hearing for five years so that she would not have to endure the additional hardship it would cause her. "I want to give back to my community," Thao said.

Stephen Pascascio is the only one of the 10 founding committee member inmates that hasn't gone home yet. He cut his 17½-inch-long hair—six years' worth—on stage during the event Saturday to symbolically support a program that provides wigs for cancer patients.

Women and men—incarcerated and free, wearing pink wristbands and pink ribbons—walked and talked together on San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard. Pink T-shirts mingled with blue state prisoner shirts in a unified community event to improve the quality of life for women with cancer.

Volunteer Tammy Crane walked for her sister, whose cancer has been in remission for six years. "This will not be the end of me," Tammy shared with the crowd, reading her poem relating her sister's difficult decisions dealing with her breast cancer. "I'm here six years later... with flowing sister locks, flawless skin and fully reconstructed," she read to the crowd.

Each day of the Walk for a Cure, the participants began with "a lap of silence to remember those that we have lost to breast cancer, to stand in



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Volunteers and organizers of SQ Cares who walked on the Lower Yard

solidarity with those who are currently fighting, and to pay homage to the survivors," as announced by the emcee Edmond Richardson. Richardson walked in the event for the first time this year. He walked to give back to a community that he took so much from and to "do something bigger than myself."

Community volunteer Kim Bailey co-founded SQ CARES 10 years ago. She highlighted the importance of establishing connections between prisoners and the outside community. Bailey sees the volunteers that walk with the inmates leave with a different, more positive perception: "It gets them to see that people in here are just like them." Bailey also walks in remembrance of her sister who died at age 45 after undergoing treatments for breast cancer.

Regarding the money raised by SQ's "Walk for a Cure," the other co-founder, Chris Bailey, husband of Kim Bailey, said that there are bigger donors, but the way this money is raised—community building—really makes a difference: "The little dollars can make a bigger difference." Most inmate participants donate \$5 for the cause—some making as little as eight cents an hour.

Bailey asks, "What if everybody gave a week's pay to the cause?"

Community volunteer Shannon Gordhamer was working in San Quentin at Center Force when she was invited to join the SQ CARES committee four years ago. Gordhamer enjoys volunteering with SQ CARES because it keeps her connected with the people inside even though she doesn't work in the prison anymore. "Community building is extremely important," she said. She also volunteers to support improving the quality of life for women with cancer, a cause that is very important to her personally.

Gordhamer also worked for Avon, a previous beneficiary of funds raised by the Walk. She recruited and trained men and women preparing for their 39-mile walks. Gordhamer has also done that walk on the outside, but she says that the walk at San Quentin is "at the top of my list."

"This is my very favorite event that I have done," she said. Why? "Amazing work is being done here," Gordhamer said.

When people come in to the prison to walk, they are inspired by the heart and commitment of the incarcerated

participants. She says the soul overflows to bursting and, "you get more than you give."

The newest community volunteer committee member is Samantha Feld. She worked for the San Francisco AVON walk to end breast cancer for years and recalls hearing of the prison program from Gordhamer. Very intrigued, Feld decided to visit San Quentin a few years ago, for the ceremonial presentation of the SQ CARES check to the AVON walk. "I was so struck by the stories that I was hearing," she said.

Impressed by the work of the men on the SQ CARES committee, Feld was inspired to join the prison walk team herself. This is her second year walking with the San Quentin inmates and is now an official committee member. "Miss Sami," as she is now called by them, recognizes that cancer affects everyone — across walls, borders, and communities. She said, "I'm very proud and honored to be working with

the committee. It's a very inspiring group."

Over its 10 years, the event has raised more than \$45,000. That is "amazing!" said Penny, the chair of the board of directors of the Women's Cancer Resource Center (WCRC) in the East Bay. The event raised about \$4,000 this year to support the center's mission of improving the quality of life for women with cancer. The WCRC provides 100 percent free services.

"There are thousands of people in the Bay Area who support the center. Every event is special, but there is something about this one," Penny said. "We can only do this work because of you."

Bailey has seen Walk for a Cure raise a lot of money over the last 10 years.

"Our primary mission is to create a community-building social event," Bailey said. By walking together with a common cause, he explains, "We connect with each other and our humanity."

—Marcus Henderson
contributed to this story

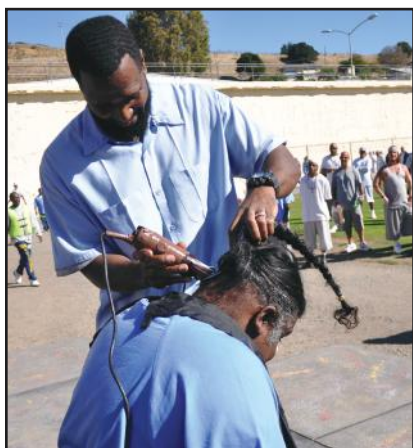


Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Stephen Pascascio getting his haircut for donation

Editor's Note

The author also walked to honor his sister, who suddenly became very sick with cancer this year. "My sister Doreen has always been there for me, and always will be," he said. She has decided to discontinue her cancer treatment. "I walk thinking of her beauty and love, and praying for her comfort and health."

Prison University Project holds academic conference

PUP

Continued from Page 1

“Each panel had a lot of quality,” said Judy Appel, a Berkeley Unified School District board member who attended the conference. “The PUP students who spoke had the most deep and helpful analysis into the problems and solutions. Their nuances, as a policy maker, made me think about how we should be working more with folks inside on policy solutions.”

The panels took place in separate Prison University Project (PUP) classrooms, the study hall and even the *San Quentin News* room. Broken into two sessions, five panels took place in the

first 90-minute period, four panels in the second.

Each panel member, guided by a moderator, presented separate ideas on focused topics. They covered “Histories and Narratives of Incarceration,” “Precursors to Prison,” “The Fine Line Between Help and Harm,” “Bodies and Control, Developing Agency in the Community,” “Alternative Methods and Materials,” “Alternatives to Incarceration,” “Incarceration and Intersectionality: the Experiences and Analyses of Formerly Incarcerated Women” and “Hurdles to Re-entry.”

In the room where Precursors to Prison was discussed, Jesse Vasquez, a PUP student sat on a panel with Xenia Cox, founder of Paroled to Col-

lege and graduate student at Rutgers University School of Education who co-authored *Using Resilience Theory and Trauma-Informed Practice to Disrupt the School to Prison Pipeline*. She flew in from New Jersey just for the conference. Also on the panel were Brita Bookser and Gabby Falzone, both from the University of California at Berkeley.

“Jesse killed it,” Adnan Khan, founder of First Watch, said. “That’s one of the best speeches I’ve ever heard.”

Vasquez delivered a passionate, researched talk sprinkled with his own personal experiences in a presentation called *Public Education: A Head Start or a Setup*.

“The school-to-prison sewage system starts with state-mandated core curriculums and standardized testing and ends with penal statutes that criminalize ignorance and trauma,” Vasquez said. “Since children cannot identify with the academic presentation of reality, they seek an alternative. Gangs usually meet a youth’s need for identity and community.”

On panel three: The Fine Line Between Help and Harm, PUP student James King and coordinator Heather Hart gave a joint presentation about how the savior complex in prison rehabili-

tative programs upholds the status quo. The powerful speech made other panelist rethink their positions.

“Academics can and should be strong partners with us in facilitating criminal justice reform—we need partners who will enter prisons, work with incarcerated people to develop alternatives to incarceration and develop pathways for us to engage with outside communities,” King closed his speech saying.

“Hold on, I need a minute because I feel like you were talking about me,” one panelist said.

Nayeon Kim, an attorney and PUP instructor, considered King’s and Hart’s speeches the best she heard that day.

“It was great discussion about internal decolonization work that people should do to stay ahead of the system,” Kim said. “It called people to hold themselves accountable to true needs, spoken by people who don’t need anyone to feel bad, they need partnerships.”

The panels took a short break for lunch, where the guests were served the same thing the incarcerated men get about three times a week—boxed peanut butter and jelly lunches.

“Being here was hard for me,” said Lily Gonzalez, who spent two years in solitary confinement while incarcerated. “When I saw the peanut

butter and jelly, I gagged. I knew it would be triggering, but I came because the reality I believe for myself isn’t the one I’m experiencing right now. I’m here for people in here, not because I validate institutions but because I’m willing to go through hoops to have the interactions.”

One woman visiting a prison for the first time opened up the boxed lunch, took out the bread and started eating the plain bread. When asked why she didn’t put the peanut butter and jelly on the bread first, she answered, “I thought the sandwiches were pre-made.”

In the second session of panels, one dealt with Incarceration and Intersectionality: the Experiences and Analyses of Formerly Incarcerated Women. The members were Venus Rountree, a currently incarcerated transgender person, Karen Shain, the moderator and three formerly incarcerated women: Kathleen Culhane, Lily Gonzalez of Revolutionary Scholars at Cal State Northridge and Romarilyn Ralston.

Ralston shared her experiences from serving 23 years at the California Institute for Women State Prison. There she enrolled in college. Upon release, she obtained two graduate degrees and works as a coordinator for Project Rebound, through which formerly incarcerated people get college degrees. She has been home for more than seven years and off parole for two.

Montrell McDuffie, a 20-year-old PUP student, teamed up with PUP coordinator Alison Lopez to present a paper on Sounding Educated: Education at a Correctional Institution about the wisdom of letting students submit papers in their own English dialects.

“As an African-American I already have negative perceptions and less of a chance at succeeding than going to prison,” McDuffie said. “Part of the reason I struggled in English was because I felt that having to write ‘grammatically correct’ was not me.”

After the final round of panels ended, the only complaint was that everyone couldn’t hear all the panels. PUP has posted a short video from the conference on their website (prisonuniversity-project.org).

The conference ended with a speech called “Reimagining Justice Everywhere from the Prison to the Classroom” by Associate Professor Patrick Elliot Alexander, a teacher at Mississippi State Prison (Parchman) who wrote *From Slaveships to Supermax*.

Alexander, originally from Dayton, Ohio, took the job at Parchman because he wanted to get proximate to the problem. He described Parchman as a place where the men serving time wore the same striped uniforms they did during slavery and worked in the fields picking vegetables for pennies an hour. Yet the men he interacts with are scholars.

“Every day my students repeat ‘I’m a student, I’m a teacher, I’m a scholar, I am capable.’ Now imagine doing that at Parchman at the top of your lungs,” Alexander said.

After his speech, a Native American reminded the audience that Indians also suffered greatly in this country.

“You forgot one minority—the Indian. He does six times more time than the White man and more time than the Blacks,” said Hector Heredia, Native American chaplain. “When you talk about slavery, you have to remember Indians were the first slaves.”

James King closed out the conference by thanking everyone who helped make it possible and expressing hope for more to come.

“This conference was a great experience, and I’m hoping that it leads to more academics coming into prison to work with incarcerated scholars to work on solutions to incarceration,” King said.

—*Rahsaan Thomas, Joe Garcia, Timothy Hicks, David Ditto, Marcus “Wali” Henderson, David Le, Juan Haines and Kevin D. Sawyer contributed to this story.*



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

PUP student Kelton O'Connor with teacher Dr. Anum Glasgow



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Gabby Falzone and Xenia Cox from UC Berkeley



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Lily Gonzalez, IWP after the panel discussion



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Dr. Patrick Elliot Alexander of the University of Mississippi giving the keynote speech



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Dr. Sol Neely, University of Alaska Southeast and James King, PUP student giving their presentation at the PUP conference



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

PUP student talking to Anahi Beltran of SJSU Record Clearance Project Services



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Tammy Appling-Cabading of Saint Mary's College and PUP students applauding at one of the conferences



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Laura Wright, SJSU member of the Record Clearance Project Services



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Kimberley Connor of Stanford University and Dr. Farah Godrij, of UC Riverside

Karen Drucker and friends share an evening of music at San Quentin

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Karen Drucker and Friends shared an evening of music with the men at San Quentin.

For two hours, the singer-songwriter entertained more than 80 people who attended the performance on a Sunday evening in late September. Men of all races sprinkled the pews in the prison's Catholic chapel, wearing state-issued blues stenciled with CDCR Prisoner on pant legs and shirt backs. They were young, old, Christian, Muslim and everything in between. But none of that mattered.

"When I write songs, I want to convey a message," Drucker said to the audience after singing a song about gratitude. "All songs that I write are messages to myself."

The men sang along with Drucker on some songs: "Gratitude above me, gratitude below me..." It was a spiritual hymn. Someone in the audience shouted it was a "happy song."

"Now we have the main attraction," Drucker said as she introduced Lisa Starbird.

"We are Bread & Roses and



Vocalist Lisa Starbird



Singer Karen Drucker



Singer Ross Gualco

we enjoy bringing music to you," said Starbird, who has worked with the organization for five years.

Starbird usually brings the entertainment into San Quentin and watches the performances, but on this evening, she sang. She said her singing debut came last year on Nov. 11, but this was the first time she sang so much.

"I need your help," Starbird said to the men. Then she asked them to sing, "Let your big bright, brilliant beam of

radiant light shine." The men joined in on the chorus enjoying clapping to the rhythm. "You men inspire me."

The men were given a choice between the two songs: "Lean On Me," by Bill Withers, and "Get Together," by the Youngbloods. They chose the latter and sang along on the chorus. Drucker sang the first verse. Starbird sang the second verse, and then they both sang as a duet on the third verse. The song ended with everyone singing, "All we are

saying is give peace a chance."

Guitarist John Hoy and pianist Ross Gualco used their skills to move the crowd. Hoy's solo technique offered a jazz feel to the ensemble before falling back into the rhythm.

Hoy said the evening had "good vibes." It was his first time inside San Quentin.

"I didn't know what to expect," he said. "It's a wonderful group of people. I'm really impressed."

The songs' suggested theme for the evening was about the

unity of people.

"It's all about love," Drucker said. "You are my brothers."

Norman White, 38, has been at San Quentin since January.

"This is the second (performance) I've seen and it really lifts people up," he said. "God definitely blesses the chapel. I enjoyed it. I think people need this."

"I really loved the jazz," said Mark Kenny, 56. He's been at San Quentin for three months. He said the music was "beautiful, motivational and

inspirational."

"Music is international," said Carlos Drouaillet, 64, who transferred to San Quentin four months ago. "I really enjoyed the presentation." Like many of the men who attended the show, he thanked Drucker after the performance.

Dwight Krizman, 63, usually operates the mixing console for performances in the Catholic chapel.

"It's such a privilege for me to do these events for Bread & Roses," he said.

"There is only love..." the men sang along with the performers. Even when the music stopped, the men continued to sing. "There is only love."

The song "See Me" underscored Drucker's message. It was a song about acknowledging each other and being kind to one another.

"If there's one thing I'm passionate about is that we're all seen and heard," she said.



Mariah Watson and Senator Nancy Skinner hugging and celebrating the passing of SB 1437

SB 1437

Continued from Page 1

The California Supreme Court spoke against the felony murder rule back in 1983, calling it an outdated 'barbaric' concept," according to a *Rolling Stone* article. A survey found that 72 percent of the women convicted of murder in California did not personally kill anyone. The survey was done by the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) and Re:store Justice. It also found that the average age of someone convicted as an accomplice to murder is 20 years old, according to an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Past attempts to change the felony murder rule did not make it out of committee, according to Mariah Watson, a legislative aide to Senator Skinner, who also worked on the felony-murder rule bill SB 1437.

The success of the felony-murder rule revision happened when a team of passionate people joined with Senator Skinner.

"She put her heart and soul into this bill," Watson said.

It all started with Alex Mallick of Re:store Justice.

Mallick previously worked at Human Rights Watch and volunteers at San Quentin. She started Re:store Justice in Oct. 2017.

Mallick asked Chatfield, "What could be done?"

Since law school, Chatfield has felt the felony-murder rule was unjust.

"It's unfair one could be guilty of murder in California with no intention to kill," Chatfield said. "The basis of the criminal justice system is fair punishment. I'm not for accomplice punishment with a life sentence for the actions of another."

Chatfield, a University of San Francisco School of Law professor, had her students research felony murder in California and other states. Then she drafted a bill.

Mallick proposed the bill to Senator Skinner.

"In California, we pride ourselves on being progressive, on being leaders on so many issues, intellectuals on the environment...but when we look at our criminal justice system, we are the poster child of mass incarceration," Senator Skinner said. "When we look at who is in prison, it's poor people and people of color. There's something wrong here, something unfair. That's why I'm passionate

about criminal justice."

Senator Skinner approved of the bill and decided to seek to change the felony-murder rule so that people without the intent to kill and who didn't do anything to aid the killing are no longer held liable for a murder committed by their co-defendant during the commission of another crime.

There is one exception to the revised felony-murder rule. In cases involving the murder of a peace officer acting in the line of duty, where the defendant knew or should have reasonably known the person was a peace officer, relief is not available.

Watson, Senator Skinner's former aid, took on many of the duties associated with getting the bill passed.

"Re:store Justice brought us a version of the bill," Watson said. "We owe our success to Alex Mallick and Re:store. They held us accountable."

Watson said she's motivated to see positive changes in the criminal justice system. The woman, from Inglewood, California, has a brother who has been in and out of prison since she was six. Watson worked to get Senate Bill 1437

passed for three years.

At first, a senate resolution was presented to state legislators, asking that the felony murder rule be addressed. In 2017, the lawmakers voted to do something about the felony-murder rule and Senator Skinner came back with SB 1437.

About 55 organizations sponsored SB 1437. Chatfield named ARC, Youth Justice Coalition and Felony Murder Elimination Project among them.

Watson spoke of the many mothers who fought to get their offspring out of prison, like Tina Marie. Even before Re:store Justice presented the bill, Marie came to Senator Skinner's office seeking help for her child in prison under the old felony-murder rule, and she never stopped checking in until the law changed.

"Seeing mothers fighting so hard to have any hope—I felt it personally," Watson said.

The bill also had bipartisan support from Republican Senator Joel Anderson.

District Attorneys argued against making the bill retroactive.

"District attorneys felt that

the law would increase their workload," Chatfield said. "It would be confusing to see who's eligible, so some district attorneys lobbied hard against us."

Senator Skinner argued they can better use the \$80,000 a year they save by letting people out on this law, according to the *Rolling Stones* article.

The bill passed through the numerous stages of the state legislature.

Senator Skinner and Watson hugged on the assembly floor when, after an hour and a half, the bill got enough votes to move on to the governor's desk.

"It was personal to me," Watson said. "If it didn't pass, we would have to see the faces of all the mothers. Re:store would have to see people who, if it didn't pass, wouldn't be coming home."

On Sept. 30, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill into law.



Photo courtesy of restorecal.org
Professor Kate Chatfield, Policy Director Re:Store Justice

"Senator Skinner is a warrior for incarcerated people," Mallick said. "She is bringing so much hope to families around the state."

A resentencing guide and petition are available free at www.restorecal.org. Additionally, Re:store Justice is touring all California prisons to teach people how to file for relief under the new felony-murder law.

—Rahsaan Thomas



Joanne Scheer and friends celebrating passing of SB 1437

Photo courtesy of restorecal.org

Queens of the Stone Age, Queeny King, and Deadsy rocked SQ

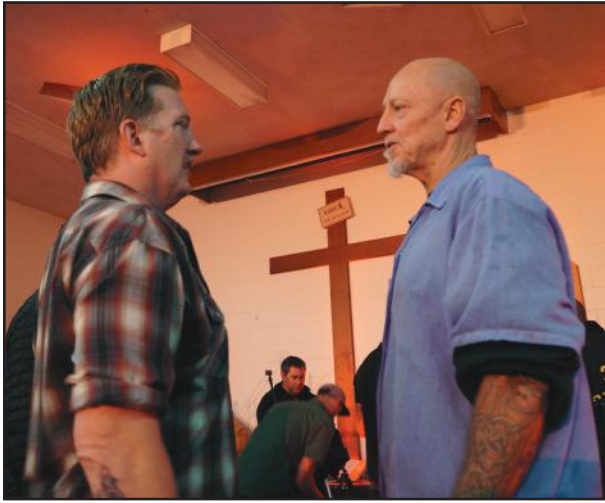


Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Josh Homme and Bruce Fowler chatting after the show



Photo Javier Jimenez, SQN

Elijah Blue of the Deadsy singing "Last Story Ever"



Photo Javier Jimenez, SQN

Queeny King performing "Freak Show"



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

David Lucius and DJ Kaos on stage



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Queens of the Stone Age belting "Go with the Flow" off their 2003 gold album, Songs for the Deaf

MUSIC

Continued from Page 1

The band's music was a dark pleasure. It sounded like your favorite vampire movie soundtrack. It was a mixture of soft rock, hip hop and trance music, with a hint of metal.

The band performed in a ray of red fluorescent lights that added to the vampire twilight feel for the concert.

Their song "Winter Time" had a soft thumping baseline with the mood of a vintage '80s classic. Homme crooned "You live till you die," sending the large crowd to its feet, drawing energetic whistles and devil horns from the hands of the incarcerated fans.

They performed "Go with the Flow" off their 2003 gold album, Songs for the Deaf. The song is also featured on the video game Guitar Hero.

One of the personal moments for Homme at San Quentin was seeing a childhood friend, Bruce Fowler, a

known prison artist. Both men grew up in the Palm Desert area.

"Seeing Bruce was absolutely incredible," Homme said. "I mean, the surprise of that was wonderful for me. Because that's a piece of home here for me."

"I've had my own troubles in my life and I understand the thin blurry line between being out on the streets and finding yourself in a situation—it really doesn't take that much," Homme added. "I've been there and I understand that, but I would say this: wisdom comes from experience and experience comes from bad decisions."

The band consists of Troy Van Leeuwen, Michael Shuman, Dean Fertia, all guitarists and backup vocalists. Jon Theodore is the drummer. The band rocked the crowd with "The Way You Used to Do" and "The Evil Has Landed" from the Villains album.

Homme's polished vocals blended superbly with the frantic drumming of Theodore and the guitarists' high and low riffs. Their stellar

playing inspired continuous standing ovations. One inmate even yelled "You got me going 'White girl crazy' out here."

To end the band's 45-minute set, they sang "San Quentin" to pay tribute to Johnny Cash's iconic 1968 concert at the prison. The crowd exploded, showing appreciation for both these legends of rock.

"We have a relatively dark style of music, but it's very personal, very emotional. That being said, I just hope I brought a little light. Just a little bit of light," Homme said. "In all honesty, I'll probably take more away than I'll be able to give."

Comedian Anthony Jeselink opened for the band and drew tremendous laughter.

"I'm famous," Jeselink joked. "I've been doing this for 16 years. If you don't know me, you must be in here for doing something really f*#ked up."

Jeselink recently wrapped up his own tour. He also hosts the "Jeselink Offensive" on Comedy Central.

"Performing here gives us that renegade feeling," Jeselink said. "We all have felt some

kind of oppression. It's like playing to your own."

"Everybody was so welcoming. You might be locked up but you are still in the mix and, just like everyone else, you guys deserve to be entertained," Jeselink added.

The electronic rock group Deadsy was next to take the stage. The group hasn't performed together in 11 years. But lead singer Elijah Blue Allman descends from pop and rock royalty; his mother is the legendary Cher and his father was Gregg Allman, of the Allman Brothers. So after a few tunings of his guitar, his 30-minute set flowed.

"Why not 'come back' at San Quentin?" he said. "My wife Queeny [King] played here back in March. We've been friends with some of the guys in Queens of the Stone Age for a long time. We wanted to do a special gig and this happened."

"Sometimes in life things just come about and that's the best way. It happened here," Blue added.

If the Queens of the Stone Age represented the vampires

in a Twilight movie, Deadsy was like the werewolves. The group slowed down the musical pace. The stage lighting turned from red to green to purple.

Blue's love-tortured vocals mixed with the group's acoustic guitars on "Trouble." He sang passionately, "The devil's got my number, but I keep telling myself everything is going to be OK." Their song "Last Story Ever" received major applause and wild encouragement from Queeny King, who watched her husband perform for the first time.

Deadsy also consisted of Renn Hawkey, keyboardist; Alec Puro, drummer; and Carlton Bost, guitarist.

The ever-infectious Queeny King returned to play for her "boys" as she calls them. She added her brother David Lucius and friend DJ Kaos [Catherine O'Leary] to her alternative pop crew. The duo worked the turntables, while Queeny, singing rap-style, blessed each track.

"I wanted to debut my first show here because that was just on my heart to do,"

Queeny said. "Friends of mine usually perform at the Viper room or the Peppermint Club, those sort of low-key trendy places, and I thought, I want to sing at San Quentin."

Queeny has since performed at those venues but San Quentin still has her heart.

"My boys, the men, that's my favorite thing about performing here," Queeny said. "It's really rewarding for me to do this. I just loved everybody I met."

"I made so many friends and everybody was so cool and I thought f*#k, I need to come back, absolutely," she added.

Queeny performed "Loaded," "Freak Show" and "Run for the Hills," a song about going through rehab. But it was the crowd favorite, "Perfect Day," that set hands waving and the men singing along.

"See I've come this far / made my own wish on a star / It's a supercalisticxpealidocious day / perfect day," she sang.

To end this perfect day the entertainers mingled with the men in blue—capping off a magical night.



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Queens of the Stone Age in front of San Quentin's entrance tower



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Deadsy, Queeny King, Kaos [Catherine O'Leary] and Lucius in the Protestant chapel

Magical tones from Bach played by cellist Zuill Bailey



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Cello player Zuill Bailey taking time to talk

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

The magical tones of Bach compositions filled the San Quentin Protestant Chapel under the masterful hand of Grammy Award-winning cellist Zuill Bailey.

It was Bailey's second performance this year at San Quentin. Each time

he's played at the historic prison, he's moved some inmates to tears when they listened to his melodic solos.

"I wanted to make them feel something, even though it was uncomfortable," Bailey said in an interview. To do that, he used a 325-year-old cello on loan to him for life.

"These kind of performances help with rehabilitation, said audience member Bill Sessa, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesperson.

"Ultimately, most inmates are going to go back to the communities they came from, so anything that keeps them in touch with their own

humanity and can lift them up a little bit is good for them as people," Sessa said. "It also helps the morale of the prison, which makes it a safer environment."

Bach composed all but one of the selections for the Oct. 15 concert. "There's something very human about Bach's music," he told the audience as he educated them on the history of the cello and construction of the first one in 1693.

The show was not promoted, so attendance was thin. It didn't matter though, because Bailey still played with passion, opening with Bach's Prelude No. 1 in G major. The pitch of the cello, in the range of the human voice, moved up and down with soft and loud dynamic sound as he played the two-minute piece.

When the song ended, applause filled the room, suggesting there were more in attendance than the actual head count. "I like the smiles because it makes me smile," Bailey said.

He was dressed in black

with the sleeves of his shirt rolled up.

His second selection was Prelude No. 2 in D minor. "There's a little bit of anger in that one," he said. "I'm not amplified. I'm acoustic. I can make silence part of the music."

Continuing with a brief history of music, he said before cellos, violas and violins there were guitars and lutes.

Bailey then launched into a repetitive succession of notes, moving precisely between scale intervals as he performed Prelude No. 3 in C major. His cello growled as he appeared to be improvising because he didn't have sheet music in front of him.

"Now you can see where Eddie Van Halen got his inspiration," Bailey said at the end of the song.

Every selection featured a common theme or phrasing.

During certain measures in one song, it sounded as if it would end. Then it continued to the next section, as if the composition would resolve in the next piece. As the music

progressed, Bailey played notes with more vibrato.

Bailey stood up and took a bow before the audience after one of many standing ovations and applause. "I haven't done that in public in a long time," he said with a warm smile.

During a Q&A session Bailey said "I'm definitely not improvising." He said 95 percent of everything he plays is memorized. With sheet music, however, he said it's "a collaborative effort."

Jenny Douglass, principal violist with the Marin Symphony, joined Bailey to perform a duet on Beethoven's Eyeglass Duo for viola and cello. It was her third time visiting San Quentin, once when the San Francisco Opera performed.

Bailey and Douglass used sheet music to perform Eyeglass. "My hands have to be ready to play that piece for you," said Bailey.

Using only a glance to communicate like only musicians can do with each other, Bailey said "she (Douglass)

told me in the hard spots, don't speed up."

Douglass is also the director of education for the Marin Symphony. "I'm tasked with bringing music to schools" and other places, she said. "My role is to get music out of the concert hall. This (San Quentin) is our community."

Since Bailey last performed at San Quentin, he has performed in Spain, Alaska, Morocco and Turkey. "It's not what you do, but how it makes you feel," he said.

Bailey had a unique way of closing the performance. "When I'm done (with Bach's Kel Nidrei), don't clap," he said. "Let's end that way." He also asked the audience members to close their eyes. "We listen a lot with our eyes."

Silence filled the chapel for 30 seconds after Bailey completed his set. "That's a cold way to end, man," one inmate said. For many, however, it is the beginning of rehabilitation through fine arts, one note at a time.

Gabriel Cannon creating his own fame at SQ prison chapel

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Walking in the shadow of fame and being showered with gifts and admiration was subject of an Oct. 21 sermon to a jam-packed prison chapel by Gabriel Cannon, the brother of superstar Nick Cannon, who said that worldly goods and special treatment did not bring him happiness.

Gabe Cannon told an audience of more than 300 inmates, some sitting in folding chairs along the aisles, about his interview with *Rapzilla* <http://rapzilla.com>. He said as Nick's fame grew, he was "thrilled to just be identified" as his little brother.

Celebrity status, however,

caused him to lose focus on his real self and "put on these outward things."

As he tried keeping up an image of notoriety, he told himself, "Now I have to turn it up. I have to give you this expectation of who you think I am. I did this to the point where I lost myself."

Today, Gabe Cannon says, he's on a "new journey, one ordained by God."

San Quentin residents, Kenneth "HQ" Hawkins and Calvin Johnson, invited Gabe to speak to Graced Out, the prison's Youth Ministry.

"I've never been to a church like this in my life," said Hawkins. "When I got here, I was holding back my tears because I felt the Holy



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Gabriel Cannon talking about "HQ"

Spirit."

Hawkins said when Graced Out Ministries took

him in, "it was a perfect fit."

"I never fit in anywhere. My neighborhood was not full of White people, but I adapted," Hawkins said. "The story of my life is never fitting in, but here at church and Graced Out, I fit in. We are all there on the same page."

Scheduled to get out of prison two days after giving this

interview, the 26-year-old Calvin Johnson said, "The whole youth ministry is

preparing me to be a father to my five-year-old daughter. I will follow Christ and be the best father that I can be."

Hawkins said that he wanted Gabe Cannon to experience Graced Out, too.

"I asked him if he's willing to drive eight hours and give his testimony to a bunch of inmates and he said, 'cool.'"

Incarcerated minister, Ferrari Moody gave a 10-minute sermon. Afterward, he asked for those who have not accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, to come forward.

"There were about 20 people inviting Christ into their lives," said Hawkins.

Standing before the crowd, Gabe Cannon talked about Hawkins ("HQ").

"When I talk to HQ, I was wondering: how is he calling from jail, to encourage me?" Gabe said. "He's full of passion and love." He added, in a joking manner, "and when you hear that you only have 30 seconds left on a call — I asked HQ, Don't it piss you off? 'No,' he said—with love."

Hawkins is scheduled to be released from San Quentin on Nov. 19. He has plans to return with Gabe Cannon for what he calls the "Graced Out Christian Rap Tour."

"We would like to give concerts and testimonies at all the prisons," Hawkins said. "The fact that it was at San Quentin is a perfect push. I know that it was God in all aspects."

"I wanted to teach in here because it's such a unique place"

For 11 years, Kurt Huget has been teaching a guitar workshop at San Quentin State Prison.

On a Thursday afternoon in August, he was explaining to a new student what bars and beats are. He handed out chord charts to the student, showing him how to place his fingers on the guitar's fret board.

"I wanted to teach in here (San Quentin) because it's such a unique place," Huget said. "I knew the guys would appreciate it."

According to Huget, Steve Emrick, San Quentin's community partnership manager, noticed him coming in to play concerts for the organization Bread & Roses. Emrick asked Huget if he'd like to teach in the prison's Arts in Corrections program.

"I showed up the first night, and about 25 guys showed up," Huget recalled.

"First and foremost, I wanted everyone to have some fun and be creative," Huget told San Quentin News in 2009. "I'm trying to pass along, in a quick and easy way, the things that I've learned over many years of playing."

A decade later, the class is still having fun.

Over the years, dozens of inmates have come and gone. There were 10 students attending the class in August, which has a roster with 11 names on

it. Another three names were on a waiting list.

As the class tuned their guitars and warmed up, Huget worked with some of the less experienced students. He handed out sheets of music with instructions on how particular songs were supposed to be played.

A beginning student accidentally broke a string on his guitar.

"Don't worry, guitar strings break all the time," Huget said.

Then he took the guitar, re-strung it, tuned it for the student and gave it back to him.

"Kurt (Huget) enjoys what he's doing," said inmate Gary Harrell, who plays the harmonica and has attended the class on and off for the better part of a decade.

"I've taught students as young as five and as old as 95," Huget said. "I have more adult students than kids these days I teach a few private lessons, and I've also taught at a music school for low-income Latino youth in the area."

"My teaching philosophy is to keep the frustration level down and the enjoyment level up. I'm self-taught on the guitar, so it took me a long time to figure some things out. I wouldn't want any of my students to have to go through that, so I tell them, I'm going to teach you something in

five minutes that took me five years to figure out."

Huget said he first heard of Bread & Roses back in the 1980s.

"They used to put on big two-day music festivals at the Greek Theatre in Berkeley," he said. "The lineup of performers was always amazing. I learned about what the organization does, and it felt good to support them and have a good time, too."

Huget said around that time, he felt he was good enough as a musician to volunteer his services for them.

"I called them up and introduced myself, and they signed me up right away to start doing shows," he said.

That was in 1988. Since then, Huget said he's performed at dozens of different venues around the Bay Area such as hospitals, homeless shelters, senior centers, schools, drug/alcohol rehab clinics, AIDS hospice centers, psychiatric centers, prisons, centers for developmentally disabled people and more.

Huget is also a recording artist, who has produced many songs over the years. One of his CDs is *Rio Lindo*, produced about 10 years ago.

"I wrote the songs on that (album) with a guy named Robert Hunter," he said. "He was the lyricist for The Grateful Dead.

"I've released about a dozen CDs of mostly original music. Some titles are Mississippi Sunset, Blue Shadows, Mystery to Me, and Live It Up. "They're all on my own label, Santa Venetia Records."

Instead of a website, Huget said he promotes his gigs on a Facebook page called Kurt Huget Music.

Huget started playing classical piano at age seven. When he was older, he saw the Beatles perform on the Ed Sullivan Show and decided he wanted to play the guitar.

"It was fun music," Huget said. "It was exciting, and the girls were screaming."

He said Elvis Presley influenced his decision to play the guitar, too. Besides that, he said the guitar is a portable instrument, unlike the piano.

According to Huget's short biography, he's a performer, songwriter and guitar teacher. His original Americana music contains elements of folk, country, bluegrass, jazz and blues. He's performed, recorded and/or written songs with members of Bay Area bands such as The Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane/Starship, Quicksilver Messenger Service, Big Brother and The Holding Company, Elvin Bishop Band, Steve Miller Band, Huey Lewis & The News, and many others.

"Knockin' On Heaven's

Door" (by Bob Dylan), Huget said to his San Quentin guitar class. Then he called out the chord progression: "G, D, A minor; G, D, C." He counted them in: "One, two, three, four," and everyone started playing as he sang. When the song ended, he explained chord structure to a student.

Later, the class played a standard blues progression in the key of E minor, followed by Can't You See, by Marshall Tucker.

"We got a request to do Redemption Song" (by Bob Mar-



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Kurt Huget teaching one of his guitar students Thomas Washington

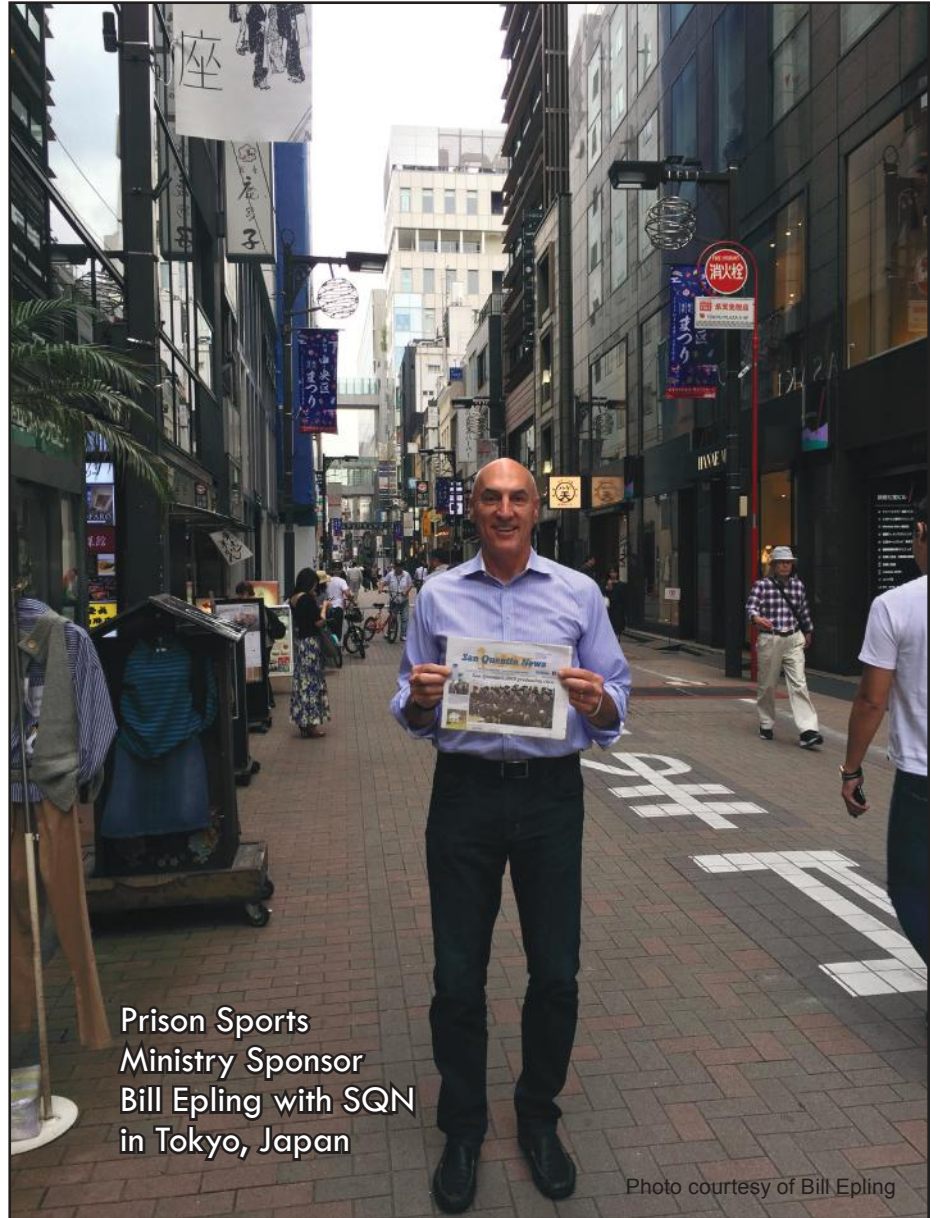
—Kevin D. Sawyer

AROUND THE WORLD



SQN Volunteer Anna Clausen with SQN by the Seljalandsfoss waterfall in the south of Iceland

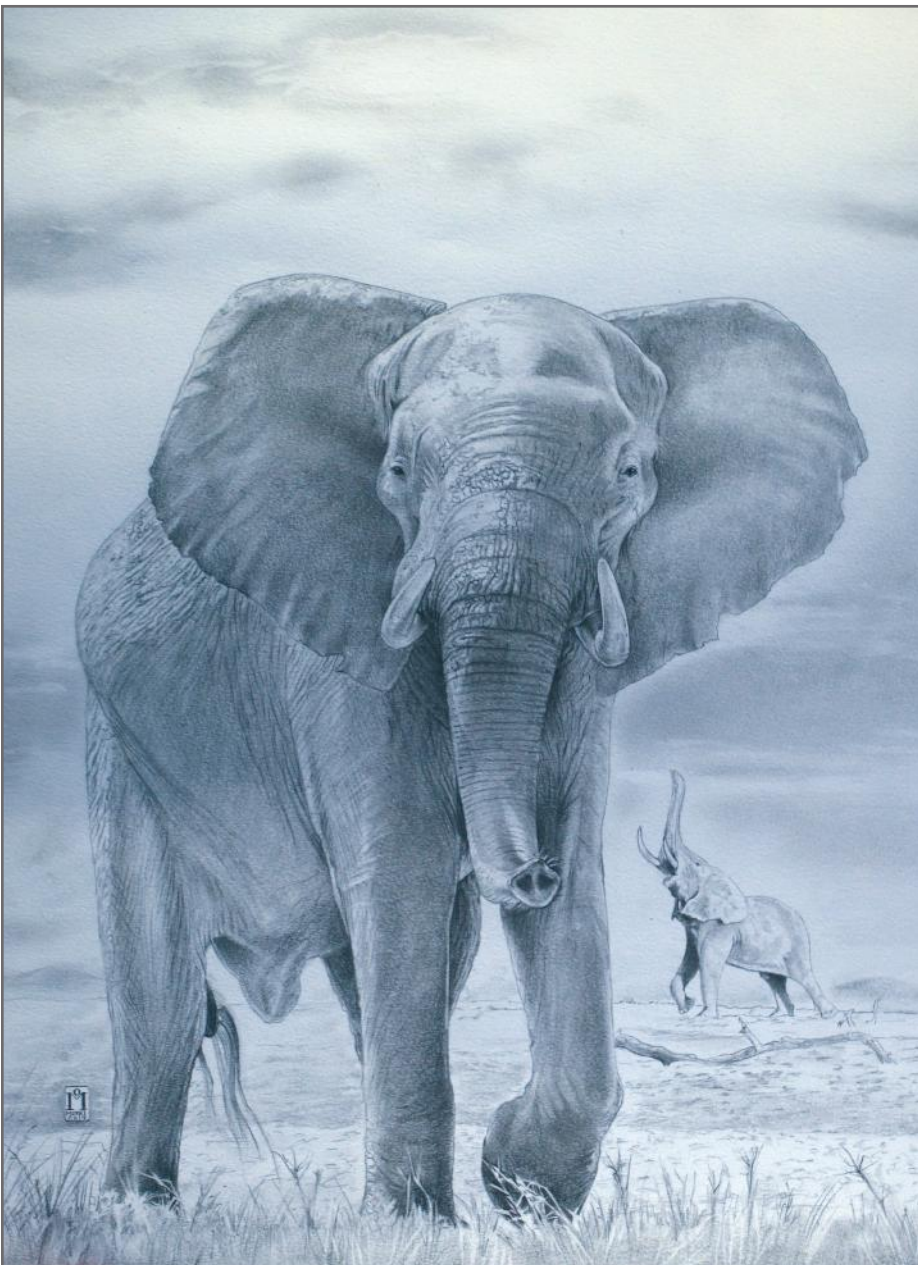
Photo courtesy of Anna Clausen



Prison Sports Ministry Sponsor Bill Epling with SQN in Tokyo, Japan

Photo courtesy of Bill Epling

Arts & Entertainment

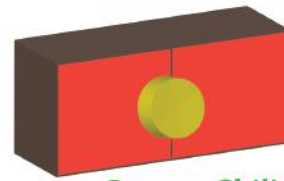


"One Bite at a time" pencil on paper 2018 by Omid Mokri

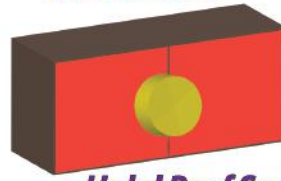
Cartoon

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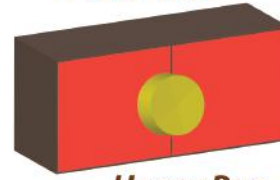
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Snippets

Unlike people whose lower jaw is a single bone, a reptile's lower jaw is comprised of several bones, affording it far greater bite mobility.

Reptiles are amniotes, meaning their eggs are protected from dessication thanks to an extra membrane, called the amnion.

A very robust bacterium, *Coxiella burnetii* can survive for long periods of time in the environment and can even spread by wind and dust.

Blood makes up around 7% of the weight of the human body.

Narwhals are whales with one tusk that look like unicorns.

Eye pupil dilatation is an involuntary, unconscious nervous system response to lying, which may expose a lie.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

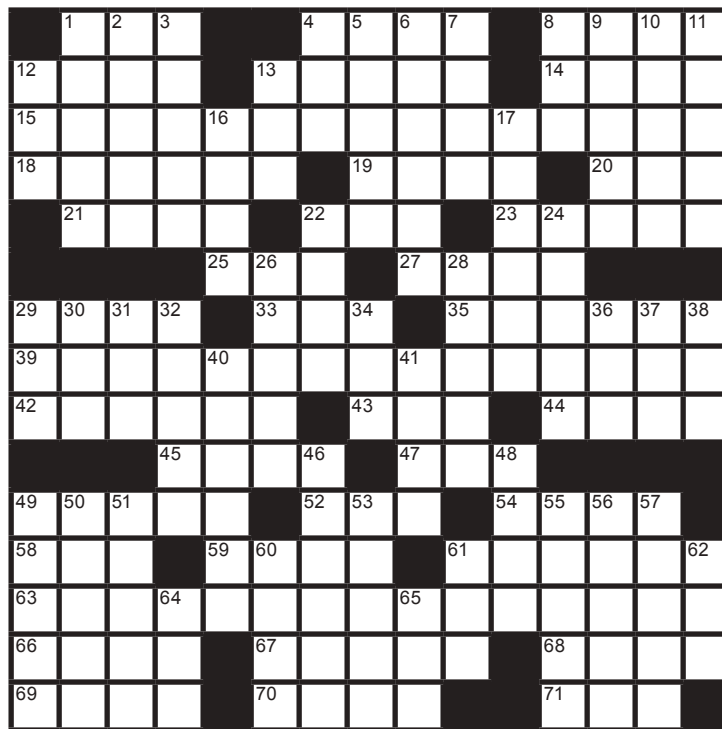
1. City utilities org. (Abbrev.)
4. Prefix relating to air
10. "My Funny Valentine" lyricist Lorenz
12. Not fake
13. Animation comp.
14. Sonny & _____
15. A state of confusion
18. _____ Justice
19. Actress Sofer
20. Apple syst.
21. Snake sound
22. Actor Daniel ____ Kim
23. Fibers
25. Highest card in poker
27. "This taste delicious!"
29. Chow
33. Rodent
35. A king of Athens
39. Really relax
42. Accuser
43. Offspring
44. _____ bucco
45. Sign of a bad season
47. Type of prison envelopes
49. Electric ride
52. Prison education class
54. Frozen char.
58. Mineral that gets mined
59. Fishing bait
61. Musical term: Return to previous speed
63. Return to a simpler time
66. Type of chocolate-covered berry
67. Singer Lewis
68. Plants in the iris family
69. "Leave as is"
70. 18th Cent. English composer
71. Concussion org.

Down

1. Birthplace of Apollo and Artemis

2. A division of the U.K.

3. Schemes
4. Type of Jordans
5. Brand of gum
6. Rapper DeVaughn
7. TV producer Pelly
8. Burning acid (Abbr.)
9. Win by _____
10. Military survey
11. Air
12. Dr. Dre's genre
13. Chest muscle
16. Travel document
17. Actor David
22. Much loved
24. Brazilian writer Jorge
26. _____ Intentions
28. Primaries
29. Type of writing format (Abbrev.)
30. Long fish
31. Georgia city in short
32. Brit. Geologist Charles
34. Marijuana component (Abbrev.)
36. Prison staff
37. Financiers
38. _____ Caps
40. Member of the Lakota division of the Dakota Indians
41. First class
46. Pranker
48. Type of cheese
49. Loose robe
50. Put up
51. Bristle-like organ
53. "You can _____ me!"
55. Admit
56. Blue cartoon char.
57. Pieces of _____
60. Bruin's org.
61. Santa _____
62. Reference book (Abbrev.)
64. Small part
65. U2 song



Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

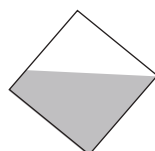
9	6	5	8	2	1	7	3	4
2	1	4	3	7	9	6	5	8
7	8	3	5	6	4	1	2	9
1	9	2	7	3	6	8	4	5
4	5	6	2	9	8	3	1	7
8	3	7	1	4	5	2	9	6
3	4	9	6	1	7	5	8	2
5	7	1	4	8	2	9	6	3
6	2	8	9	5	3	4	7	1

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

LAST ISSUE BRAIN TEASER SOLUTIONS

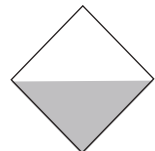
Thirteen triangles

"T" is the missing letter, and the word is ANATHEMA.

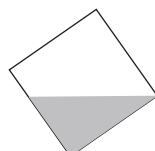


By lifting the water tank onto its near-side edge.

If you cannot see the far edge then the tank is more than half full.



If you can just see the far edge the tank is exactly half full.

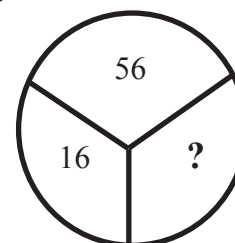
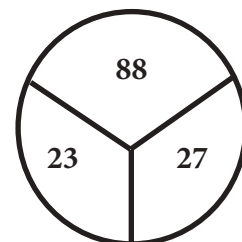
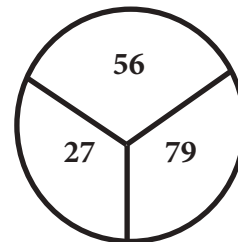


If you can see below the far edge then the tank is less than half full.



Replace the question mark with the missing number.

What number should replace the question mark in the last circle?



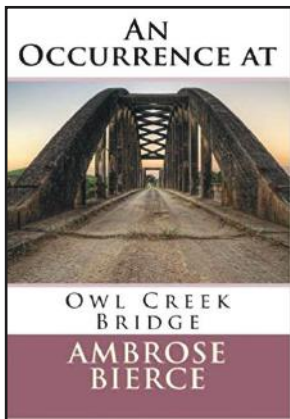
If you would like to submit a photograph to be placed in SQN just because, please send it with name(s) and a brief message to go with your photo. Please understand, we may not be able to return your photo so send a copy and address the letter to:

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

Short story illuminates themes from two classic novels

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor



I love short stories. The challenge of the short story writer is to be concise without being shallow. As such, the form requires that settings be suggested, characters be sketched and complexities be implied. A story I stumbled upon this month -- *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge* by Ambrose Pierce -- does all of that but also, in a succinct way, illuminates and ties together the themes of two classic novels: *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895) and *Johnny Got His Gun* (1939).

All three have war themes. Each exposes the inner thoughts of the main characters as they grapple with their fates. The authors provide the reader with realistic portrayals of the horrors of war. I'm not suggesting that it's necessary to read the two classic novels first but my familiarity with those books both deepened and expanded my understanding of that era as well as what war does to people.

In *The Red Badge of Courage*, author Stephen Crane, takes the reader on a transformational journey through the mindset of the protagonist as he's immersed in battle. We watch Henry Fleming, the main character go through three stages: an innocent young man; a soldier surviving a battle by running away; and ultimately, a hero charging his foes. Henry is moved from cowardly to heroic after he witnesses the injuries war inflicts on human bodies. "He wished that he too, had a wound, a red badge of courage." Crane's rendering of

Henry's self-reflection is what enables us to understand his change of heart.

In Dalton Trumbo's *Johnny Got His Gun*, the reader is drawn into the inner life of a critically wounded and comatose World War I veteran, Joe Bonham. Joe, who is bedridden, blind, deaf and dumb, shows us that when suspended at the edge of death, men do not dwell on abstract ideals, such as democracy and freedom. Dying men think of their families, their friends, and, their wish to be alive. It's Trumbo's vivid realism that persuades us that the pain, injury, and deaths caused by war are not made nobler by abstract causes. They are still horrific and to be avoided at all cost. In the end, Joe Bonham merely wants happiness.

"A man stood upon a railroad bridge in northern Alabama, looking down into the swift water twenty feet below."

This is the opening sentence of *An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge*. Peyton Farquhar, the man standing at the bridge, is about to be executed but we don't know why. As with the other two stories, we see the protagonist's inner struggle as he confronts his

fate. Peyton considers trying to free his hands and "throw off the noose and spring into the stream" so that he can swim to shore and try to make his way home.

It's clear from the narrative that Peyton does not want to die and his thoughts turn to his wife and children who are, at that point, safe, because their home is outside enemy lines. As we learn about Peyton's life, we start to care about him; when he evades his captors we're invested in his survival. With the backdrop of imminent death, the author's focus on Peyton's last thoughts in real time creates an emotional roller coaster. Peyton thinks his way out of the inevitable by shifting his thoughts to his wife and children. Clearly the process was all-consuming: "By nightfall he was fatigued, footsore, famishing."

Guns and cannons surround Peyton. His hands are tied behind his back and a noose is around his neck. Instead of succumbing to fear, he draws on hope. Hope lifts the human spirit in the most unusual and severe circumstances — something incarcerated readers can relate to. People can change their destinies with thoughts about themselves and those around them.

I won't divulge the ending, but the stunning, final revelation would be far less dramatic without the realistic details that precede it. In fact, all three stories derive their power, in part, through the authors' skilled rendering of realism.

I will say, however, that along with the realistic portrayal of the tragedy of war, the ending is a testament to the human spirit and to what's positive in our nature.

NEWS BRIEFS

1. San Quentin—Christopher Wadsworth, former chief psychiatrist at San Quentin, was awarded more than \$800,000 in a lawsuit that claimed he was retaliated against after he warned that conditions at the prison would endanger inmates, reports *The Sacramento Bee*. Wadsworth's complaint alleged that a change in mental health protocol contributed to an inmate's suicide in 2014. The lawsuit, filed in 2015, concluded this year when Wadsworth accepted a transfer to Folsom State Prison.

2. Oakland—Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) celebrated its 40th anniversary last October. LSPC provides legal advocacy and works to create policies that will assist incarcerated people or returning citizens. "The way that people look at prison right now in this moment is different than how people looked at prison 40 years ago. Having a sold-out event, a room full of people to discuss prison reform, is new," said Dorsey Nunn, the group's executive director in an *Oakland North* interview.

3. Washington—The state's highest court ruled 5-4 that 16- and 17-year-olds convicted of aggravated first-degree murder cannot be sentenced to a minimum term of life without the possibility of release, *The Seattle Times* reported. "The direction of change in this country is unmistakably and steadily moving toward abandoning the practice of putting child offenders in prison for their entire lives," wrote Justice Susan Owens in the majority opinion.

4. Texas—A new law requires high school students to watch a 16-minute instructional video that opens with flashing lights and dramatic



music. It explains how to act when stopped by police officers, *USA Today* reports.

5. USA—An estimated 64,000 persons nationwide died from drug overdose in 2016, mostly from opioids. A new study shows that "increasing naloxone availability, promoting needle exchange, expanding medication-assisted addiction treatment, and increasing psychosocial treatment increased life years and quality-adjusted life years and reduced deaths." The study concluded that, "No single policy is likely to substantially reduce deaths over 5 to 10 years. Policies that reduce the prescription opioid supply may increase heroin use and reduce quality of life in the short term, but in the long term could generate positive health benefits."

6. USA—Last May, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the First Step Act, by a vote of 360 to 59. The bill is working its way through the Senate, with amendments expected by Judiciary Committee Chairman, Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa). President Donald Trump reportedly approves "modest sentencing reforms as an addition to the First Step Act, *The Hill* reports. If made into law, the bill implements

risk assessments and recidivism reduction programs in federal prisons. It also incentivize some "nonviolent prisoners to reduce their risk of re-offending through earned time credits that can be 'cashed in' for placement in pre-release custody," according to *The Hill*.

7. USA—A *Gallup News Service* survey shows that the last 10 years, support for the death penalty has been waning. Favoring the death penalty for murder garnered 64 percent, while 30 percent opposed it. In 2018, those figures dropped to 56 and 41 percent respectively. Ten years ago, those who thought the death penalty was imposed too often hovered in the low 20 percent range, while almost half thought it was not imposed enough. Today, those numbers reflect that people think the death penalty is imposed too often as well as the right amount is about 30 percent each, while 37 percent thinks, it's not imposed enough. 10 years ago, slightly more than half thought the death penalty was imposed fairly, while just under 40 percent said that it was unfairly imposed. Those numbers changed to, 49 percent fairly and 45 percent unfairly today.

Young inmates are creating positive rap music at San Quentin State Prison

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Young inmates are creating positive rap music at San Quentin State Prison, under the guidance of hip-hop artist and music producer David Jassy. Because of that, he's captured the attention of corrections officials and the prison reform organization CUT50.

They all came together at the prison in August to learn more about the young men in the Youth Offender Program (YOP) who are using music to tell honest stories with constructive messages as a form of rehabilitation.

In the Arts in Corrections studio loft, Jassy played a video for the group that explained what the SQ Music Program is

and how his youth music project came about. Greg Wells appeared in the video. He's a music producer for Katy Perry, Adele and Pink, among others. Film and music producer Quincy Jones III also appeared in the video.

As the group watched the video, some tapped their feet to the music. Jassy explained how explicit rap content influences the behavior of the youth. He said when he told the young men not to use profanity in their rap lyrics, it gave them a different insight.

"I really believe they want to change," he said.

Not writing negative rap with profanity and lies glorifying street life is what spawned what some well-known names in the music industry have come to

know as The YOP Mix Tape.

Jassy said he had the idea to spearhead the program as a way to redirect the younger inmates' energy in a positive direction.

"In the beginning it was more of an informational meeting," he said. "I wanted to tell our stories."

"Thanks to CUT50," Jassy said, the YOPs received some celebrity shout outs about their music.

Alex Gudich, deputy director of CUT50, said he's been working with Jassy for two years to "build support to do great stuff." He said the YOPs will have transferable skills upon paroling from prison.

"It's not just a program for kids," said Jessica Sloan, CUT50 national director and co-founder. "It's a cool program

and culture is such a driver."

She said she has another view on rehabilitation: "Humanization and legislation."

Jassy said when some of the young inmates saw Jones III on the video praising the mix tape it gave them encouragement.

"Quincy Jones III told me I can be somebody," he said one young man told him.

The video contained music that Jassy produced at San Quentin. One song had a track featuring YOP inmate Daniel "Dinero G" Gutierrez. His lyrics revealed a common reality for many young men in prison: I never listened to advice I got from my mother... Now I'm in the same prison as my grandfather.

The song ended with Gutierrez saying if he could go back he would change everything, and he would listen.

"He's good," said Warden Janel Espinoza from Central California's Women Facility. "That's really, really good. I like that."

"They have to be honest with themselves," Jassy said as he discussed how a YOP inmate cried when he was allowed to get in touch with himself.

He said another cried when he thought about how he let his mother down.

"If you're alone with a producer there's a whole different truth that's revealed," he added.

Jassy said some YOPs want to appear tough to their friends but also want to say, "I'm sorry" to their mothers. "Music gives them that outlet." He said many of them learn that it's okay to be apologetic.

Jassy and Steve Emrick, San

Quentin's community partnership manager, discussed copyright issues and how any money generated from music sales could be donated to nonprofits such as victims' rights organizations.

Jassy also offered to provide music to Warden Espinoza's music curriculum at CCWF.

"I want to change the whole concept of rap," Jassy said. "If it comes from people who've been inside (prison) it has more credibility."

After leaving the music room, the group went to San Quentin's media center to visit *San Quentin News*, Ear Hustle, First Watch, SQTV, and San Quentin Radio.

"It's more than what I expected," Espinoza said about the podcast Ear Hustle. "You guys are very lucky. It's an outside-of-the-box program. I know CCWF can benefit. I'm a strong believer in transformation. Anyone can change."

They later spoke to Eric "Maserati E" Abercrombie, 25; Greg Sayers, 27; and Thanh Tran, 24. They are Black, White and Vietnamese & Black, respectively.

Sayers played an old guitar, badly in need of new strings. He sang and Abercrombie rapped. Tran joined in on the chorus and rapped. It was obvious the song was something they had all worked on together, written and arranged on the prison yard. The song, "Reality Check," was about their experiences and the lessons they've learned.

"It gives me a purpose," Sayers said. "This opportunity has definitely instilled in me a sense of responsibility. This is a major

form of escape,

"It's extremely therapeutic."

He also said he doesn't want to only hang out with his own race, and he also has something to lose if he messes up.

"I was a foster child since I was two years old," Tran said of his painful past. "I lived a whole life of hurt."

He said he couldn't share his life with others until he discovered music. He said he left gang life behind.

"A huge part of it is healing," he added.

These young men didn't know each other before arriving at San Quentin. In many prisons, they may not have had the opportunity to collaborate on a song due to gang and racial politics. Music is their common bond.

Espinoza encouraged them to "hang in there" and thanked the young men for sharing their stories and talent.

"I think he's (Jassy) on the right track, influencing people, thinking outside the box," She said.

She said to see him actually be engaged has a positive influence on the population.

"I believe that music is a very powerful tool for rehabilitation," Jassy said in September 2014 when *San Quentin News*, published the story "Artist Spends Prison Time Sharing His Many Talents and Experiences."

Four years later, he hasn't stopped believing. Now he's helping to build the prison's music program while helping younger inmates rehabilitate themselves through music.

Vermont refuses to transfer inmates back

By John Krueger
Journalism Guild Writer

Out-of-state inmates housed in a Pennsylvania state prison will be moved to yet another state. These inmates are not going back to their home state of Vermont; they will instead be moved to a private prison in Mississippi. The move comes in response to complaints about treatment, medical care and several inmate deaths, reported Lisa Rathke for *The Associated Press*.

To alleviate overcrowding and address the complaints, Vermont decided to move more than 225 inmates to a private facility in Tutwiler, Miss. This facility currently

has 350 beds available for Vermont inmates, according to the *AP* story.

"If we can't have all the inmates in Vermont, which is our preferred place to have them, then we're looking for a system that can provide conditions of confinement that would be more similar to what you would have in Vermont," Corrections Commissioner Lisa Menard told the *AP*.

The Vermont Department of Corrections announced the two-year contract in September when it also addressed problems associated with disciplinary segregation, access to lawyers, and medical and mental health fees.

Once moved, the inmates

will have access to unmonitored phones to contact their attorneys, something previously not available to them in Pennsylvania.

Despite this, the local ACLU and other Vermont advocates told the *AP* they object to putting more distance between inmates, their families and other support groups.

"It is time for Vermont to stop moving human beings across the country from one warehouse to another and come up with a plan to bring them home where we can monitor and rehabilitate them properly," said Tom Dalton, Executive Director of Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform.

Centro de detención de ICE en Adelanto California enfrenta problemas de suicidios

Por Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Una prisión privada contratada por el gobierno federal para procedimientos civiles y la detención de personas trata a estos como criminales, está plagada de intentos de suicidio y faltas en los cuidados dentales adecuados para los detenidos.

Investigadores federales recomendaron una revisión total después de que en mayo un reporte del inspector federal encontró "riesgos significativos de salud y seguridad" para los detenidos en la prisión federal de Inmigración y Aduanas, (Immigration Customs Enforcement, ICE), en Adelanto, California.

Geo Group, por sus siglas en inglés, es una compañía de prisiones privada. Geo, quién

está bajo un contrato federal, es dueña y opera la facilidad de Adelanto. Al tiempo de la inspección, había 307 guardias par los 1.559 detenidos albergados en esa prisión.

Los investigadores encontraron sogas en las celdas, impropio y excesivo uso de aislamiento y esporádico e inadecuado cuidado médico para los detenidos.

Los guardias de GEO al escoltar a los investigadores removieron la primera soga que encontraron en la celda de un detenido, "pero pararon después de darse cuenta que muchas celdas" tenían sogas colgando de las rejas del conducto del aire acondicionado.

Uno de los detenidos le dijo a los investigadores, "yo he visto varios intentos de suicidio usando sabanas

trenzadas [y amarradas] en las rejillas del aire acondicionado y después los guardias se rieron de ellos y los llamaron 'suicidios frustrados' una vez que estos regresaron de la clínica médica.

Otros detenidos dijeron a los investigadores "las sabanas trezadas pueden ser fácilmente desenredadas para crear privacidad temporal en la celda, especialmente en el área del retrete o el área de la cama individual. Dos detenidos reportaron haber amarrado sabanas trezadas de un poste de una cama hacia el otro para usarlas como tenderos."

Por lo menos siete intentos de suicidio fueron reportados en este centro de diciembre 2016 a octubre del 2017.

"La falta de respuesta de ICE para enfrentar este problema del Centro de Adelanto

muestra la falta de interés por la salud y seguridad de los detenidos" dice el reporte.

Los investigadores encontraron 14 detenidos en insolación y siete de ellos fueron detenidos anteriormente para ser después encontrados culpables de actos prohibidos o una simple violación de reglas.

Después de ver a seis detenidos escoltados en esposas y grilletes en los pies, los supervisores de insolación dijeron a los investigadores que los son medios usados con todos los detenidos cuando salen de sus celdas- este tratamiento "este modo de custodia no concuerda con los estándares de ICE y da una apariencia criminal, en lugar de civil."

Dijeron los investigadores. Los investigadores encontraron que casi un tercio

de todas las quejas puestas de noviembre del 2017 a abril del 2018 son quejas por causas de cuidado medico urgente.

Una investigación previa de mejoramiento asentó, "de 60 a 80 citas en la clínica fueron canceladas a cause de que los guardias contratados no estaban accesibles para llevar a los detenidos de sus celdas a sus citas."

En lo que respecta al cuidado dental, es requerido que los detenidos reciban consultas, limpiezas dentales u otros procedimientos odontológicos después que el individuo haya estado en detención por seis meses.

La facilidad tiene dos dentistas para casi 2.000 detenidos-ningún detenido recibió una limpieza o a recibido un relleno dental por casi cuatro años. Después de

entrevistar a los detenidos, el investigador encontró, "que una persona había estado esperando por ocho meses para que le extrajeran un diente, mientras que otra le habían extraído el diente equivocado."

"un dentista central expreso que el solo provee "cuidado básico" y no tiene tiempo para terminar limpiezas o rellenos [dentales]. El dentista desecha la necesidad de rellenos si los pacientes se comprometen a cepillarse y usar hilo dental. El hilo dental solo puede ser obtenido por los detenidos por medio de las cuentas de comisaría, pero el dentista les sugiere a los detenidos que usen hilos de sus calcetines como hilo dental si verdaderamente se dedicación para la higiene dental."

—Traducido por
Juan Espinosa

Huelga de hambre en Adelanto habre investigacion por abusos

Por Juan Espinosa
Diseñador grafico y
escritor

La prisión federal de Adelanto en California parece enfrentar más de un problema

Las más recientes políticas del presidente Trump en contra de la migración especialmente de países latinoamericanos han intensificado las detenciones de miles de migrantes que han abandonado sus lugares de origen por causa de la violencia, ya sea del crimen organizado o de pandillas que amenazan a todos los habitantes de esos países.

El aumento de detenciones de migrantes por las agencias de inmigración federales se

ha vuelto un verdadero negocio para empresas privadas, como GEO Group, que se encargan de mantener a los prisioneros detenidos por las agencias de inmigración.

Dos de estas empresas encabezan la lista de las más provenientes en ese aspecto GEO and Corecivic estas empresas privadas carecen de la experiencia en cómo lidiar con los detenidos. Muchas veces excediéndose en los medios empleados para mantener bajo control a muchos de sus detenidos que atraviesan por muchos momentos difíciles como es la separación de las familias.

Todos los días las noticias están plagadas de este tipo de historias donde enfatizan el

sufrimiento o abuso del cual están objetos muchos de los detenidos.

Una de las prisiones que más han salido a la luz debido a los problemas de abuso que enfrentan es la prisión privada de Adelanto, en California.

Recientemente Christina Fialho, una abogada, directora ejecutiva y co-fundadora de Freedom Immigrants documento lo que vio en una visita a esta institución.

Fialho cita un reporte escrito por the *Buzzfeed News* en su página de internet en donde apuntan que, "Adelanto es una prisión de dos edificios los cuales albergan a 1.960 inmigrantes prisioneros. Seis inmigrantes

han muerto allí. Y en donde el año pasado un grupo de centroamericanos llevaron a cabo una huelga de hambre debido a las condiciones en las que se encontraban. Oficiales de GEO los rosearon con gas pimienta y después los bañaron con agua caliente para que los poros de la piel se abrieran y así asegurarse de que el dolor se intensificara debido al gas pimienta."

Fialho también señaló que estos edificios que aunque las paredes de los edificios parecen estar recién pintadas. "El moho negro esta visible entre las grietas de los ladrillos. El cual puede haber sido el causante de un brote de hongo en los pies de las prisioneras meses atrás."

Al parecer la prisión de adelanto enfrenta más problemas de los enumerados ya que recientemente ocho refugiados de Centroamérica levantaron una demanda en La Corte de Distrito Federal en contra del grupo GEO.

De acuerdo a un reporte de Robert Kahn, del servicio de los juzgados en el artículo, "Refugees say private prison guards savage them" la demanda alega que Grupo GEO opera, "el centro de inmigración más mortífero del país." En donde los prisioneros son sujetos a un sin número de abusos inhumanos como asaltos y golpizas, ataques con gas pimienta, quemaduras con agua intencionadas, la negación de

servicios médicos, y acceso a visitas con abogados."

Los abusos de inmigrantes en los centros de detención parecen no tener fin, ya que todos los días los diarios noticieros hacen énfasis de todos los abusos a los que los inmigrantes están siendo sometidos, tales como la separación de las familias, madres separadas de sus hijos pequeños, y las más devastadoras imágenes de menores de edad mantenidos en centros de detención como si se tratara de criminales. Aún más impactantes son las imágenes que recientemente han salido a la luz de niños pequeños siendo sus propios abogados y enfrentando su propio destino frente a un juez de migración.

Los Outsiders siguen invictos contra el equipo B de SQ

Por Beltranchuc Taré
Escritor Contribuyente

Con una genialidad del goleador Jared Berastein, los Outsiders confirmaron su supremacía sobre el equipo "B" de San Quentin al derrotarlos 3-2.

Eran las 9:30 de la mañana cuando el escuadrón de los Outsiders hizo acto de presencia en la Prisión de San Quentin. El equipo visitante lucía intimidante con su nuevo uniforme oscuro con el logotipo de un ganso.

El partido dio inicio con el equipo "B" de San Quentin

ejerciendo una presión de todo el campo. Huerta, el nuevo entrenador del equipo local se reforzó con nuevos talentos tratando de lograr su primer triunfo ante los Outsiders esta temporada. Por su parte el equipo visitante deseaba confirmar su supremacía y presentaron una formación 4-4-2.

Al minuto 25, Rohit Ramchandani de los Outsiders abrió el marcador con un potente disparo desde el área grande que dejó al portero local sin ninguna oportunidad de detener el esférico. La jugada dio inicio con un mal despeje de la defensa.

Marisol Novoa, jugadora de fútbol e invitada especial para este encuentro, animaba al equipo local gritándoles "cuiden el balón, háblense". Novoa tenía el deseo de jugar pero por políticas de la institución no fue posible.

El partido se convirtió en un ir y venir. Al minuto 35, el equipo "B" empató el marcador a 1-1, con un tiro penal que fue ejecutado a la perfección por Ramón Ruelas, después que Jared Berastein cometiera una mano en el área chica.

Al minuto 37, Berastein se redimió de la mano cometida y condujo el balón desde la me-

dia cancha, evadiendo a tres jugadores y colocando el balón fuera del alcance del portero, para darle la ventaja a los Outsiders 2-1. Pero la emoción les duro poco, ya que al minuto 40, Carlos López, aprovecho un centro al segundo poste para empatar el marcador a 2-2.

Al término de la primera mitad y con el marcador empatado, ambos entrenadores daban instrucciones a sus jugadores y los motivaban a continuar jugando con intensidad pero de una manera organizada.

El segundo tiempo fue muy reñido. Los dos equipos continuaban atacando, pero sin



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Outsider Dario Abramskiehn enfilandose con el balon hacia la porteria

conseguir el desempate. La defensa de los Outsiders se mantenían muy sólidas y en varias ocasiones dejó en fuera de lugar a los delanteros del equipo "B".

Al minuto 85, cuando todo parecía indicar que el partido terminaría en un empate, Berastein, delantero de los Outsiders, se quitó a dos jugadores y le pegó al balón de tres dedos y el esférico agarro una comba impresionante para vencer al portero y colocar el marcador final 3-2 a favor del equipo visitante.

Al término del encuentro los dos equipos formaron un círculo para su usual intercambio de experiencias. Berastein comentó, "en partidos anteriores fallé muchas oportunidades de

gol, pero hoy fue diferente, y los goles seguirán viniendo".

Carlos Meza contestó, "no te acostumbres, porque cuando juegues con nosotros (San Quentin Earthquakes) las cosas serán diferentes".

Por su parte, Novoa mencionó, "verlos jugar fue impresionante. El fútbol me apasiona, al grado que no pude evitar gritarle a algunos jugadores que no estaban jugando su posición. Mucha gente tiene una idea distorsionada de los reclusos por lo que escuchan en los medios de comunicación. Me voy alegre porque hoy observe a seres humanos interactuando. Voy a regresar, pero me gustaría ser la entrenadora del equipo "B" de San Quentin.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Marisol Novoa y el equipo visitante en la Lower Yard de San Quentin

ICE detention center at Adelanto, CA faces serious suicide problems

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

A private prison hired by the federal government to detain people for civil proceedings treats them like criminals, is plagued by suicides attempts and fails to provide detainees with adequate dental care, a new report shows.

Federal investigators recommended a full review after a May report by the Inspector General found "significant health and safety risks" to detainees at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility in Adelanto, California.

GEO Group, a private prison company, owns and

operates the facility is under a federal contract. At the time of the inspection, there were 307 guards for the 1,659 detainees housed at the private prison.

The investigators found nooses in cells, improper and overly restrictive use of segregation and untimely and inadequate medical care to detainees.

The GEO guard escorting the investigators removed the first noose found in a detainee cell, "but stopped after realizing many cells" had nooses hanging from the vents.

One detainee told the investigators, "I've seen a few attempted suicides using the braided sheets by the vents

and then the guards laugh at them and call them 'suicide failures' once they are back from medical."

Other detainees told the investigators "the braided sheets can be easily unfurled to temporarily create privacy within the cell, specifically the bathroom area or individual bunk area. Two detainees reported tying the braided sheets from one bedpost to another to serve as a clothesline."

At least seven suicide attempts at the center from December 2016 to October 2017 were reported.

"ICE's lack of response to address this matter at the Adelanto Center shows a

disregard for detainee health and safety," the report stated.

The investigators found 14 detainees in segregation and seven of them were held there prior to being found guilty of a prohibited act or rule violation.

After seeing six detainees escorted in handcuffs and shackles, the segregation supervisors told the investigators that all detainees are in restraints when outside their cells — such treatment "does not comport with ICE standards and gives the appearance of criminal, rather than civil, custody," the investigator said.

The investigators found that slightly more than a third

of all grievances filed from November 2017 to April 2018 complained of a lack of urgent medical care.

A previous quality improvement investigation noted, "60 to 80 clinic appointments were canceled because contract guards were not available to take detainees from their cells to their appointments."

Regarding dental care, detainees are required to receive checkups, cleaning and other dental procedures after an individual has been in detention for six months.

The facility had two dentists for almost 2,000 detainees—no detainee received a cleaning or had a cavity filled

in nearly four years. After interviewing the detainees, the investigator found "one person waited eight months to have a tooth pulled, while another had the wrong tooth pulled."

A center dentist stated that he only provides "palliative care" and does not have time to complete cleaning or fillings. The dentist dismissed the necessity of fillings if patients commit to brushing and flossing. Floss is only available through detainee commissary accounts, but the dentist suggested detainees could use string from their socks to floss if they were "dedicated to dental hygiene."

Immigrants face challenges after they are released by the US government

By Aron Kumar Roy
Journalism Guild Writer

Immigrants face challenges long after they are released by the U.S. government. Tens of thousands of migrant adults, including most asylum-seekers, are required to wear electronic tracking bracelets around their ankles at all times.

One asylum-seeker, whose lawyer asked to have his name withheld, has been required to wear an ankle monitor for more than a year. The monitor needed to be charged three times a day to prevent a loud "low battery" warning. He was fired from his job at a construction site after his boss heard his monitor go off during work. His boss feared that it put undocumented employees at risk for deportation, according to the *Texas*

Tribune.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has dramatically expanded its use of ankle monitors to ensure that pretrial migrants appear for their scheduled court hearings, according to research by Pew Charitable Trusts.

The ankle monitors are an integral part of the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP), which has a 99 percent success rate for ensuring that migrants show up to court, according to ICE.

The device costs about \$5 a day per immigrant and is cost-effective, according to ICE spokesperson, Matthew Bourke. However, immigrants wearing ankle monitors and advocates alike have expressed concerns.

Jose Santos Garcia, a 27-year-old asylum-seeker

from El-Salvador who is enrolled in the ISAP program is one of them. "At least for me, it's humiliating...it's like some prisoners on house arrest," he said. "Just for entering another country, looking for opportunity, I have to carry this."

The ISAP program is administered by BI Incorporated, a subsidiary of the for-profit GEO Group, through a five year contract worth tens of millions of dollars. Bourke said that immigrants can follow up with their case officer after the initial fitting if they experience any subsequent discomfort or physical injuries.

Hector Hernandez, a 38-year-old migrant, confirmed that an ISAP worker asked him if he wanted his monitor loosened around his ankle.

Bourke also clarified that ankle monitors are not assigned to children, pregnant women, or people with certain medical conditions.

Back in 2016, a coalition of advocacy groups filed a civil rights complaint reporting that the ankle monitors caused problems such as bleeding, electrical shocks and discomfort.

While people on both sides agree ankle monitors are a better solution than immigration detention, civil rights advocates would like to see the return of a previous successful case-management program. According to Bourke, the ICE spokesman, the family case-management program costs \$36 a day per immigrant.

In 2017, the Trump administration discontinued that program which paired im-

migrant families with a social worker to assist them with the asylum-seeking process.

Both the ankle monitors and the case-management program are less expensive than immigration detention

centers. Yet the Trump administration is actively expanding the detention centers, as part of a larger crackdown on illegal immigration, according to the *Texas Tribune*.



Photo courtesy of Govtslaves

Immigrants detained or released from ICE officials

Felony Murder

Continued from Page 1

California's old felony-murder rule held that when a defendant or a co-defendant commits certain felonies and someone is killed, both defendants are guilty of first-degree murder.

"California's murder statute irrationally treated people who did not commit murder the same as those who did," Skinner said after Governor Brown signed the bill into law, according to a *Rolling Stone* article. "SB 1437 makes clear there is a distinction, reserving the harshest pun-

ishment to those who directly participate in the death."

Under the new law, an accomplice who didn't actually do the killing can still be held liable if they participated in the underlying crime with an intent to kill and "aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, solicited, requested or assisted" the actual killer in carrying out the murder.

Also, if the accomplice was a major participant in the underlying felony and "acted with reckless indifference to human life" or the victim was someone the culprits "should have reasonably known was a peace officer acting in the line of duty," they would still be guilty of felony-murder.

San Quentin resident Rich-

ard Zorns was convicted of first-degree felony murder 29 years ago for acting as the getaway driver in an armed robbery.

Zorns said he participated in the robbery in a misguided attempt to solve several family problems.

"The family crisis in my life had me overwhelmed and impatient, and I thought I could fix it with money," Zorns said.

Joining in a robbery made things worse for Zorns. According to his Lifer Prisoner Evaluation Report, two codefendants robbed a swap meet while Zorns waited outside in a white Thunderbird. While trying to flee, security guards apprehended one of them and

the other co-defendant shot at a guard three times, killing him. The two co-defendants escaped the scene in the car driven by Zorns. For the conviction of murder, all the prosecution had to prove was that Zorns participated in the robbery.

Under the new felony-murder rule, the prosecution would have to prove that Zorns drove his co-defendants away from the scene knowing they just killed a security guard outside of his vision.

"No matter what, my action contributed to somebody being murdered, and I'll always have remorse about that," Zorns said. "My mom knows that my intentions were never to hurt anybody."

An estimated 400 to 800 people incarcerated in California for felony murder will have a chance to petition the court for resentencing, even if they took plea deals, according to *Rolling Stone*.

The court must vacate the conviction and resentence those imprisoned for felony murder or for "murder under a natural and probable consequences theory" who also qualify for relief under the new law.

"No one deserves to die, so I'm sad someone was murdered, but I'm relieved to have a second chance," Zorns said.

To benefit from the change in law, a petition has to be filed in the court that sentenced the person.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Richard Zorns

Cómplices ya no serán considerados automáticamente culpables de asesinato

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

A partir del 1 de Enero del 2019, debido a un cambio en la regla de asesinato agravado, los cómplices ya no serán considerados automáticamente culpables de asesinato por participar en crímenes como el robo a mano armada. La ley es retroactiva.

El 30 de Septiembre, el Gobernador Jerry Brown convirtió la Proposición 1437 del Senado en ley. La proposición presentada por la Senadora Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley), impedirá que los cómplices, quienes no tuvieron la intención de cometer homicidio durante la ejecución de ciertas felonías, sean encontrados culpables de asesinato por el fiscal de distrito, por un de asesinato cometido por sus compañe-

ros.

La regla antigua de asesinato agravado en California estipula que cuando un acusado o su cómplice cometen ciertas felonías y alguien es asesinado, ambos son culpables de asesinato en primer grado.

"El estatuto de asesinato en California trata irracionalmente a las personas que no cometieron el asesinato, de igual manera que aquellos si cometieron el asesinato", comentó Skinner en una declaración después que Brown firmará la proposición en ley, de acuerdo a un artículo en el *Rolling Stone*.

"La Proposición del Senado 1437 aclara que hay una distinción que reserva el castigo más severo para aquellos que participaron directamente en la muerte".

Bajo la nueva ley, un

cómplice que en realidad no cometió el asesinato, todavía puede ser encontrado responsable si participó en el crimen subyacente con la intención de asesinar, ayudar, instigar, aconsejar, ordenar, inducir, solicitar, pedir o ayudar al verdadero asesino a cometer el crimen.

También, si el cómplice fue un participante principal en la felonía subyacente y haya actuado con imprudencia e indiferencia por la vida humana o cuando la víctima fuera alguien a quien el culpable debió haber conocido como oficial de la policía actuando en la línea del deber, bajo estas circunstancias el cómplice todavía sería culpable asesinato agravado.

Richard Zorns, un residente de San Quentin, fue encontrado culpable de asesinato agravado en primer grado

hace 29 años por conducir el vehículo para huir de un asalto a mano armada.

Zorns señaló que participó en el asalto en un intento equivocado de resolver sus problemas familiares.

"La crisis familiar me tenía abrumado e impaciente y pensé que podría solucionarlo con dinero", expresó Zorns.

Participar en el asalto empeoró las cosas para Zorns. De acuerdo a su Lifer Prisoner Evaluation Report, dos cómplices asaltaron un mercado ambulante mientras Zorns esperaba afuera en un vehículo Thunderbird blanco. Al intentar escapar, un agente de seguridad atrapó a uno de ellos y el otro cómplice le disparó tres veces al guardia, quitándole la vida. Los dos cómplices huyeron de la escena del crimen en

un automóvil conducido por Zorns. Para encontrar a Zorns culpable de asesinato, la fiscalía solo tenía que comprobar que participó en el asalto.

Bajo la nueva ley de asesinato agravado, la fiscalía tendría que comprobar que Zorns ayudó a sus cómplices a retirarse de la escena del crimen sabiendo que sus compañeros de crimen acababan de asesinar a un guardia de seguridad aunque él no lo haya observado.

"Digan lo que digan, mi acción contribuyó a que alguien fuera asesinado y siempre estaré arrepentido," Zorns comentó, "Mi madre sabe que no tenía intenciones de lastimar a nadie".

Se estima que de 400 a 800 personas encarceladas en California por muerte agravada tendrán la oportunidad

de solicitar una nueva sentencia a la corte, aun cuando hayan aceptado una oferta, según el *Rolling Stone*.

La corte debe anular la sentencia e imponer una nueva sentencia a las personas que se encuentran en la prisión por asesinato agravado o asesinato bajo la teoría de consecuencias probables y naturales a quienes califican para una liberación bajo la nueva ley.

"Nadie merece ser asesinado, así que me entristece que alguien fuera asesinado, pero siento alivio por tener una segunda oportunidad", expresó Zorns.

Para poder beneficiarse de este cambio en la ley, la persona tiene que realizar una petición a la corte donde fue sentenciado.

—Traducción Por
Tare Beltranchuc

Old fashion baseball revived on the Lower Yard

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The San Quentin baseball program was transported back to 1886 to close out its season. The Bay Area's Vintage Baseball League transformed San Quentin's Field of Dreams with old-time uniforms and baseball mitts resembling gardening gloves.

San Quentin A's players were rotated in with the various Vintage League team members for two exhibition games. All the rules of the game and team mascots from that earlier time were implemented.

"We feel obligated to share the Vintage League with others," said Brian "Specs" W., of the San Francisco Pelicans. "We're here to recruit for our league."

The first game was between the Pelicans and the San Francisco Eagles. The second game was an All-Star type game where players from the San Jose Dukes, the Dublin Aces and the Berkeley Clarions got in on the fun. The Hayward Journals, the Pacific's and the Barbary Coasters were also represented.

Besides the difference in the gloves, the game is played with heavier bats, and the hardballs are softer because



Carl Gibbs, dressed as an old school umpire, calling the action.

they are hand woven and not machine wound. There is no pitcher's mound. The pitcher, who is called the hurler, stands in a chalked box.

The catcher is known as the "behind" and the umpires are called "sirs". The sirs wore black suits and black top hats, making each umpire resemble a Monopoly game banker.

There were seven balls instead of the modern four for a walk. Three strikes are the same for a strikeout, but a foul ball is not considered a strike. If a player is hit by a pitch, it is just a ball, and the batter doesn't advance to

a base—also, no helmets for the batters.

"All the years I played baseball, I never thought about the history and how the game evolved," said A's Anthony Denard. "It was a different experience all the way around. I'm thinking about looking to playing in the league when I get out."

The only modern equipment used are the cleats, which are painted black to stay in the character of the times. All the other items have to be specially made.

"Playing in the old shoes is too dangerous," said Will

Lyons, Eagle's coach. "Coming here has been very informative — with everything going on in society, we are trying to find things to bring people together."

"We definitely are coming back if the guys are interested," added Lyons.

In the recreation of the 1886 league on the Lower Yard, the men in blue learned terms like "outs" are called "hands" and fans are known as "cranks". The game is only seven innings. Most games are high scoring due to catching hardballs with mitts the size of race car driving gloves. The batters also have to wield a 40-45 ounce heavy bat. The Major Leagues now use bats between 32-38 ounces, explained Lyons.

"Our league is a lot like the guys here — it's a gentlemen's game," said Pelican's "Fish" Benz. "It's very supportive. It's not about arguments or being macho. If someone shows too much

aggression, they are asked to leave the league."

"Pop" Altieri of the Pelicans added, "It's important to learn about the school-to-prison pipeline. A person who did something 30 years ago is not the same person."

"That's why we wanted to support this program. Baseball teaches life; it teaches you to play within the rules and be a part of something bigger than yourself," continued Altieri.

As the Oct. 27 game ended, the prisoners were

treated to the final 1886 tradition. All the players went to the chalked box and removed their hats to the crowd and yelled "Hazzah" (hooray) to the right and "Hazzah" to the left. Then a "Hazzah" is given to the sirs.

"This experience I won't forget for the rest of my life," said Carl Gibbs, the games head sir. "The guys were great. I drove by this place a thousand times, and I never thought about the men. Now I had the chance to see into their lives."



Players wearing vintage 1886 baseball gloves and uniforms

San Quentin alumni returned for baseball season finale

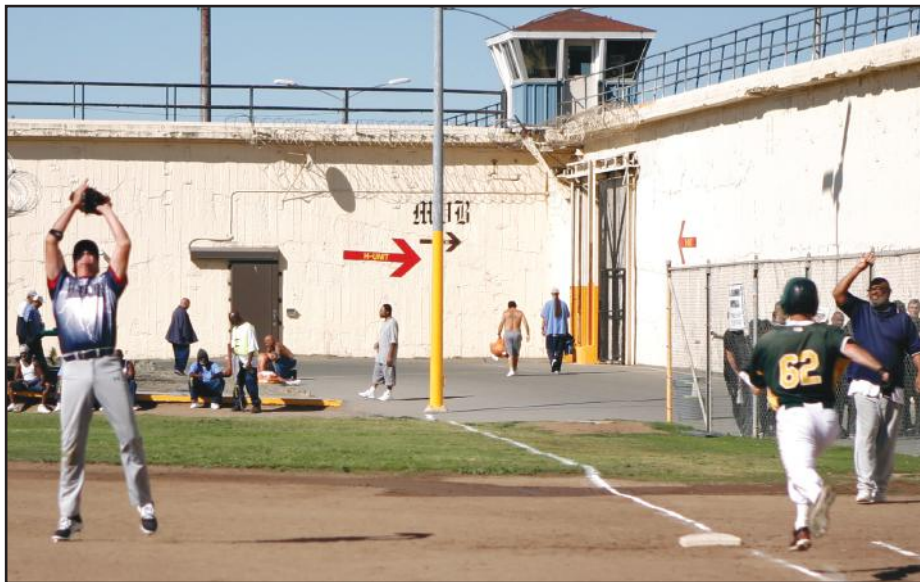
The red-hot San Quentin A's baseball team wrapped up their season with a fierce battle against an alumni in late October. After 20 years, Brain McGrath walked back into San Quentin with his Fresno HardCor team. The game ended with a stunning finish, where McGrath and company fell 16-15 to his old alma mater.

"It feels better coming back this time because I get to go home," said McGrath, in deep reflection. "When I was in -- I knew I had to do something good for my daughter. At least 80 percent of people come back to prison and I made up my mind to be among that 20 percent."

McGrath served time in the prison in the late 90s and played for the then San Quentin Giants.

The HardCor took a 15-14 going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The A's Zach Moore came up to bat. He worked his way into a 2-2 count with a runner on second base.

Moore found his pitch and smacked a line drive up the



Team HardCor first baseman making the catch as SQ A's player hustles to base

left-field gap to score the winning run. The A's team erupted and celebrated like they just won the World Series. The team then drenched Moore with a Gatorade shower, which actually was a cooler of ice cold water.

"It was surreal," said

Moore. "The last time I've batted on the street I was in the same position, but I struck out. So this is a fitting end for me. I will take this with me forever."

Moore was found suitable for parole and expects to be released in a few months. He

credits the baseball program for teaching him how to deal with life's ups-and-downs and anxieties.

The HardCor rallied in the ninth, down 14-11. Greg Donato and Tony Criado both singled. Ron Rivas smashed a deep double to

the center-field gate scoring both runners. He scored off a Ron Henslee single for 15-14 lead.

HardCor threatened to blow the game wide open with the bases loaded, but the A's pitcher worked his way out of the inning.

The A's Montrell McDuffie doubled to kicked off the comeback. Juan Navarro doubled to score McDuffie for the 15-15 tie. Moore knocked in Navarro for the win. The A's finished the season with a 22-12-3 record.

"San Quentin is known around the world and now I can say I've been here," said Criado, who works at Avental State Prison, as a Dental Health Specialist. "This baseball program gives them a sense of normalcy. Some of these guys will get a second chance at life, the question for them is what they are going to do with it."

Donato, who said he played in the minor leagues with the Atlanta Braves, added, "I have connected with so many people through baseball, even these walls

didn't stop us from connecting."

As the game closed, the surreal look on McGrath's face was still visible as he processed his return.

"I had a good situation on the streets not like most people inside," said McGrath. "I want people to know the men inside are human beings and going to pay their debt to society. Hopefully when they get out they can get jobs."

The A's ended their season with a winning record. They added more games and teams to their schedule. The program is set to have a bigger 2019.

"If you are in the prison system and you like baseball, make your way to San Quentin," said Mike Kremer, the program's outside sponsor. "It's a baseball thing. It's a life thing. It's a brotherhood of special guys."

"This is year was full of memorable experiences for both the inmate players and those who came in from the outside. We are looking forward for 2019,"

—Marcus Henderson

SQ Earthquakes keep clean sheet in 2-0 win over the Outsiders

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Acting as goal keeper for the San Quentin Earthquakes, Don Spence kept a clean sheet in a 2-0 victory over the visiting Outsider soccer team.

"This is the first game all year we haven't scored," soccer program sponsor Andrew Crawford said after the game. "We played well, you guys played better."

Both teams were short key players and had to borrow soccer players from the San Quentin B-Team.

"We have no strikers today, only a bunch of defenders," Outsider midfielder Jordi Ortiz said.

For the San Quentin Earthquakes, the guys they borrowed made a difference.

After a scoreless first half, Jamie "Tre" Luis III, made his first goal of the season in the 53rd minute.

Luis normally plays for the B-Team.

"I finally scored against this Outsider team," Luis said with a smile on his face.

In the 86 minute, Oscar "Flaco" Aguilar used his head to knocked the ball between the goalkeeper's legs for the second SQ Earthquakes goal.

Jerry Sancher-Muratalla G., a 60-year old San Quentin resident, acted as the goalkeeper for the Outsiders. He apologized after the game for allowing the goals.

"We played hard, your guys are definitely in better shape," Outsider coach Terry Muller said. "We can't win them all, says me after



Oscar Aguilar kicking the ball down field

I lose."

Overall, the Outsiders have an 8-3 record on the lower yard.

Some think uniting the best of both the SQ Earthquakes and the B-Team could lead to more wins.

"I think we could become a better team with more substitutions from the B-Team so everybody can go hard," Aguilar said.

With the game in the record books, everyone formed a circle on the field to reflect on the game, but the moment turned into much more.

Both Garvin JoJo Robinson and Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc expressed their gratitude to the Outsiders for providing the rehabilitative sports program that has progress beyond expectations. Last year's guests included the former San Francisco Deltas, and this year the San Jose Earthquakes joined the program.

Plus both the San Quentin squads and the Outsiders now have uniforms and cleats.

Sponsor Crawford plans to hold a meeting with the San Quentin coaches to discuss how to make 2019 even better.

Beyond saying thank you, Beltranchuc conveyed his appreciation with a personal message about forgiveness.

"My mother was abusive to me growing up, so I was mad at her," Beltranchuc said. "She died before I ever got the chance to tell her I forgive her and I love her. If you don't forgive, it will tear you up inside."

Fernando Dominguez of the Outsiders echoed Beltranchuc's sentiments. He too fought with his father after he divorced his mother. His father died without the issues between them being resolved.

"I share the same pain."

Los Angeles Running Club races at San Quentin

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Known for running marathons around the world with homeless people, Judge Craig Mitchell visited a state prison with about 20 other runners for a race with the San Quentin 1000 Mile Running Club.

"This was an experience none of us will ever forget," Justice Mitchell said.

On Oct. 13, about 21 people from all walks of life – college students, formerly incarcerated men, film & fashion industry people, a college professor, community volunteers, recovering addicts – traveled from Los Angeles to take part in the event. They represented either the Skid Row Running Club, Back on My Feet organization, or the Long Beach Running Club.

Cass Snyder, who works in the fashion industry, noted that by joining the Skid Row Running Club she met "a cross section of people I would have never met before. It's really cool."

At 8:30 in the morning, Snyder and the other visitors gathered with about 39 incarcerated men from the 1000 Mile Running Club on the Lower Yard in front of a baseball scoreboard that reads, "San Quentin Field of Dreams."

While waiting for the race to begin, the groups mingled.

"The conversations all of us have enjoyed – I'm just overwhelmed by the wisdom and inspired by the commitment to do good with your lives," Mitchell said. "We will take this outside and let people know the stereotypical images need to be obliterated."

The day marked the first time ever outside running clubs participated in a race with the 1000 Mile Club members at San Quentin.

The 1000 Mile Running Club, which began in 2005, consists of incarcerated men and community volunteers, mostly from the Mount Tamalpa Running Club, who coach them. Every year the group starts training in January to run a marathon in November.

The Skid Row Running Club came about after Judge Mitchell responded



Frank Ruona, Rafael Cabrera, Bernard Ballard, Judge Craig Mitchell, Eric Moody and Jordan Mitchell

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

to an invitation to visit the Midnight Mission, a shelter, food kitchen and rehab center. Roderick Brown, a man Mitchell once sentenced as a young man, gave Mitchell the invitation.

Mitchell decided running could help the people at the Midnight Mission. Thereafter, the Skid Row Running Club was born.

Rafael Cabrera, who served 27 years in prison, including 1984-86 at San Quentin, helped the Skid Row club arrange the race with 1000 Mile Club Coach Frank Ruona. Cabrera returned as a free man wearing a t-shirt that read "Finding dignity one step at a time."

Cabrera first met Judge Mitchell, who was a deputy district attorney at the time, at his lifer parole board hearing.

"I read his c-file and thought I was going to meet one type of person then he came out and I had to put my material down," Mitchell said. "He was a completely different human being."

The parole board denied Cabrera a date, even though Mitchell decided not to oppose his release. Afterward, Cabrera wrote Mitchell a thank you note. Mitchell wrote back and they maintained a correspondence for seven years.

"It was a happy day when he came into my courtroom a free man," Mitchell said.

Cabrera was happy to be able to enter San Quentin

through the front door, especially knowing he could leave after the race.

Ten minutes before the race began, 1000 Mile Coach Frank Ruona made announcements.

First Ruona announced that the day would be Eddie Herena's last race inside a prison. Herena paroled two days later.

Herena, who is about 5 foot 2, won two marathons during his time at San Quentin. He held the 1000 Mile Club's top runner spot until Markelle "The Gazelle" Taylor joined the club and broke all his records.

"I've been part of the 1000 Mile Club since I've been here," Herena said. "I wanted to make a final impact. I would have loved to have beat Markelle. He's just too fast but the races don't stop here."

The next announcement signaled that Herena may get a chance to race Taylor at a marathons outside the prison in 2019. The 1000 Mile Club celebrated the news that Taylor just received the day before – the parole board found him suitable for release.

Also, the 1000 Mile Club took the time to sing happy birthday to their founding sponsor, Ruona, who turned 73 years old the next day.

Christina Yoo, who is currently making a film about the 1000 Mile Club called *26.2 Miles to Life*, also ran for the entire hour, and was thanked by 1000 Mile member Lee

"Timbuktu" Goines. Goines, who is 61 years old, also took the time to thank his coaches.

As the countdown began for the 9:00 AM race, dozens of runners crowded the starting line. Normally, races around the San Quentin Lower Yard involve about 25 runners dodging geese to run in circles for hours seeing the same people and the same sights. This race felt like the San Francisco marathon with some 63 people involved, several of them women.

For Goines, who has been incarcerated over 32 years, running with outside community members brought back memories of his days running the New York, Boston and Los Angeles marathons. For this race, he ran with Elizabeth Sanchez of the Alternative to Violence Program in LA and full-time student Brenda Nguyen.

Nguyen heard about the Skid Row Running Club on NPR on her way to school. After seeing the documentary she joined the organization as an act of service

"People give me high fives and seem motivated just by my showing up," Nguyen said.

Goines agreed. "It's wonderful to run with people from the outside, they motivate me."

Nguyen added, "It was a sound run. We talked the entire time about his life. I'm looking forward to seeing him achieve his goals."

With so many runners, each person had to count their own laps, but Taylor started in front and ended in front, with Herena just behind guest Kevin Chalk, who took second place.

Taylor completed 9-1/8 miles in the one hour time limit while Chalk completed 8-3/4 miles.

1000 Mile Club member Chris Scull, who trained with Herena, tied him with 8-5/8 miles.

Ben Reynolds, a 44-year-old from New Zealand who moved to Los Angeles a year ago, completed 8-1/4 miles to take fourth place.

"I tried to catch the Gazelle and Eddie but they were too fast," Reynolds said.



Brenda Nguyen, Lee Goines and Elizabeth Sanchez running

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Husband and wife coaches motivates runners to finish three-hour race

By **Lloyd Payne**
Journalism Guild Writer

Running on a track with six 90 degree turns is hard on a runner's body, but the 1000 Mile track Club runners made it look easy as they did the three hour race on October 5th.

"Alright Michael," Coach Diana Fitzpatrick said as Michael Ybarra ran at his own speed.

"Pace yourself Chris," Coach Tim Fitzpatrick said to Chris Scull, who he thought was running too fast.

"Good pace Markelle," Tim then said to Markelle Taylor, who was alongside of Scull.

"Jonathan you're looking good," Coach said to Jonathan Chiu. Shortly thereafter he was seen coming around the last corner on his eighth lap.

That's how the husband and wife coach assistants encouraged the runners as they kept track of their times on log sheets.

Taylor won the race by completing 23-5/8 miles within the three hour time



Diana and Tim Fitzpatrick assisting 1000 Mile Club runner

Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

limit. Mark Jarosik, who joined the 1000 Mile Running Club five months before, took second place with a distance of 22-3/8 miles.

A long alarm that meant all incarcerated people had to sit on the ground, pausing the race until correctional officers signaled the disturbance elsewhere in the prison was over, may have helped Jarosik excel past most of the

club vets. "Mark had the good fortune of being at the start/finish line when we had to endure a 47-1/2 minute alarm," Coach Frank Ruona said. "During that long alarm I had Mark drink three bottles of electrolyte replacement liquid and when we came off the alarm he took off like a shot."

The alarm, which halted the race for 47 minutes was

due to an incident on East Block's Condemned Row, a part of the prison separated from the mainline where the race took place.

"It was frustrating to be down so long, but the guys hung in there and didn't let it bother them," Ruona said.

"Being in prison, you're used to it," member Chris Scull said, "An alarm is a normal thing for us runners inside."

Scull came in fourth by covering 22-1/16 miles just behind Jonathan Chiu who took third place with 22 1/4 miles.

The Fitzpatricks who have been coaching the 1000 Mile Running Club for some time, enjoy coming inside to see the guys progress in life despite being in prison. This progress includes changing perspectives on life, obtaining GEDs, computer literacy courses, and achieving a higher education at San Quentin.

Tim started running to quit smoking. He met a coach, and has been involved with running clubs ever since.

"In terms of the club here

at San Quentin, it's a community, the guys come to run and end up friends, because it's friendly and genuine competition," he said. "So the similarities I see between running clubs whether they are inside prison or outside is community support."

"These are friendships that help each other," "I met my wife through a track club."

Originally from New York, he's an alumnus of Hobart College where he once played hockey, but moved to Marin County in the 90s after the Loma Prietta earthquake. A four time runner in the Western States 100 Mile Run along a trail through the Sierra mountains he won in 2011, he says procrastination is still something he does as a runner.

"I like to think procrastination is the act of putting off things to feel good about yourself," he said. "I know running is good for the mind, and body, but I don't always do it."

"But when you do it," Tim added as he counted another lap for Scull, "It feels

good, and improves your confidence."

Jim Maloney of San Francisco, an assistant coach for three years, said, "The three hour run was a real impressive test of where these guys are at, fitness wise. They showed us today they're ready for the marathon."

"For me I was out of prison for the three hour run," said Scull.

Fidelio S. Marin, a 48 years old man from Mexico serving 16 years to life for 2nd degree murder said he was running for the first time. "I liked the run and want to make it routine to do it more."

Marin completed 20-9/16 miles for seventh place.

He transferred to San Quentin from Cal State Prison Soledad, because Marin said he wanted better for himself. Besides running in the 1000 Mile Running Club he also attends AA/NA programs and AA Big Book classes here at San Quentin where he is currently strengthening his spirituality in groups, and building his endurance on the track one step at a time.

Artmas "Tee" Ware of the Skid Row club also enjoyed the day.

"It's a blessing, man, to be able to share this experience," Ware said. "This is big. God willing, I will tell my grandkids."

After the experience, Cabrera said, "We were thrilled with the opportunity to run with people that were part of a running group and really enjoyed it. Running is freedom for them as much as it is for us."

Judge Mitchell added, "This whole running program makes my life worth living."

Rival teams join forces for All-Star basketball game

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Wives, fathers, girlfriends, sons, fiancés, brothers, and old friends surrounded an outdoor basketball court bordered by barbwire to experience the community atmosphere at San Quentin State Prison during its first annual All-Star game. The team picked by Quentin resident Allan McIntosh won 94-87.

"When you guys bring your family in here, that means a lot," Brian Asey, general manager of the SQ basketball program, said. "You brought in people that you care about to see the people that you care about. It's a testament to what we're doing in here."

Robert "Bishop" Butler, who paroled seven months earlier and visited to attend the game, added, "I spent 13 years on this yard. It's like a family reunion."

Butler was one of the four formerly incarcerated men that returned to attend the game.

Community member Griffin Reilly, a former overseas pro, brought his fiancé, Olivia Mountz.

"He (Reilly) told me he could bring family in and I wanted to come and see what he was doing in here," she said. "I was a little scared at first because of my expectations but it was fun. Everyone was really nice."

After her outing at the prison, Mountz added that from now on she will have a lot less prejudgment.

Normally when Reilly visits to play basketball at San Quentin, he plays against the Warriors and/or the Kings 40 and over team.

On Oct. 6, members of every community team in the basketball program – Prison Sports Ministry, Imago Dei, Lincoln Hill, Trailblazers, Shoe Palace, Bittermen, SQ Kings and SQ Warriors – were invited to take part in an all-star game, complete with play-by-play announcing and a rap half-time show. The outside community members were allowed to bring family members and girlfriends inside with them to watch friendly rivals suit up to play on the same teams with incarcerated men. Former pros and college hoopers played side-



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Imago's Teohn Conner and Erv Anderson suited up as Warriors



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Allan McIntosh cheering on his San Quentin Lakers squad



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

Tevin Fournette trying to dribble past Geoffrey "Free" Gary

by-side with street ballers.

"It was a dream come true; the best part was that I didn't know who was free and who was incarcerated," Geoffrey "Free" Gary (Trailblazers) said. "That's the dream and beauty of basketball."

Green Team sponsor Patrick Lacey, a Claremont-McKenna alumni, who brought his mother, father and girlfriend, suited up for McIntosh's team, the SQ Lakers, although they were coached by Ceasar "C-Money" McDowell, who normally heckles him every time he plays against the Warriors.

"I'm pumped about this," Lacey said. "I've been playing against these guys for six years. I'm going to set so many screens for (McIntosh)."

Even Golden State Assistant General Manager Kirk Lacob, who McDowell once told, "Your team is gonna lose for firing coach Mark Jackson," played for the

Lakers.

"All his (McDowell's) tough love was just toughing me up for this moment," Lacob said with a smile on his face then added, "(McIntosh) as a GM would give Bob Myers a run with that team that he put together."

The other members of the Lakers were David Liss, Jon Williams, Dan Wohl, Nick Newman, Ben Bergsma, Anthony Ammons, Mark Stapp, Steve Lamb, Tom Tunny and Tyrrell Price, Sr.

"We had the school yard picks," McIntosh said. "The guys I picked were the guys I enjoy playing with. The decision wasn't talent only."

SQ King Oris "Pep" Williams, the oldest player on the court at 57, acted as the team captain for the Warriors. As teammates he picked Reilly, Teohn Conner, Erv Anderson, Dejon Joy, Ryan Steer, Jamal Harrison, Damien Crosby, Dominique Thompson, Rafael Cuevas, Ian Ashcraft-Williams, Tevin Fournette and Danny Brown.

For the day, Jeff "Hoov" Heitman (Trailblazers) coached the Warriors.

"It was his first career loss as a coach, but today wasn't about winning or losing; it was a celebration of the program," Steer (Trailblazers) said.

However, nobody told the players the game was just a celebration. Both teams played with NBA finals intensity, showing out in front

of family and friends starting with a basketball skills challenge.

Gary won the skills challenge by dribbling through cones, making a free-throw and throwing passes in the fastest time of 19 seconds.

"That's because I'm here," Gemma Mondala, Gary's lady friend, said.

Gary added, "She's my inspiration. I'll be darn if I bring a cutie like that and don't show out. I have to show what I'm working with."

In the first quarter, with Reilly, Conner (a former ABA semi pro player) and SQ Warrior Fournette starting, the Warriors appeared to be too much for the Lakers. The Warriors jumped out to a 23-10 lead.

In the second quarter, the Lakers took the lead by raining three-pointers. Liss (Prison Sports Ministry), and Gary nailed two each. By half-time, the Lakers led 43-42.

"We came out soft," Patrick Lacey said. "Coach Ceasar yelled at us a bit and we got it going. It was a big comeback – we had to get the win for coach Ceasar."

At half-time, the formerly incarcerated men who returned as productive citizens spoke.

Danny Cox played for both the Warriors and Kings before paroling five years ago. On the outside he struggled his first two years but read the bible every day and received support from the people he once

played basketball against in prison. Now he works at Tesla as a shift leader.

"This program has blessed us immensely," Cox said. "All these cats don't just articulate, they demonstrate if we need them. Who does everything they can to come into a prison? They love you, give them love back."

Timothy "Detroit" Long returned wearing a Detroit Lions jersey. The former SQ King now teaches at Five Keys Charter school.

"It feels great to be back; it gives cats an opportunity to see success from a man who did 26 years," Long said. "You can get a job. Ain't nobody out here going to look at you funny."

As an alarm sounded, Aundra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely, a former SQ King, who returned dressed in brand new Jordan basketball sneakers, an Echo hooded shirt and black shorts, emphasized the difference between now and a few years ago.

"I ain't got to get down no more; that's over with," he said, referring to the rule that every incarcerated person has to sit on the ground when an active alarm, signaling that a disturbance is happening somewhere at the prison, sounds.

McNeely advised the guys that they should seek to parole to the San Francisco area because the city offers formerly incarcerated people lots of support. McNeely has two jobs including working for a homeless shelter.

Prison Sports Ministry sponsor Bill Epling commented that his goal is to see everyone who plays for the program parole and never come back. Then he gave Don Smith all the credit for recruiting him to be part of the program.

Smith responded by reminding Epling of the time he blocked his shot.

Larry Blum, of Blum Inc, who donated \$7,000 worth of San Quentin Kings and San Quentin Warriors t-shirt to be sold to raise money for the San Quentin Honor Guard

and athletic programs attended the game. He proudly wore a San Quentin Kings t-shirt.

As the second half started, Trailblazer Aidan Coffino, sat on the bench wishing an injury didn't prevent him from playing. Next to him sat his father Michael, who played for City College of New York back in his days.

"I figure I've been talking about it for so long," Coffino said. "It's one of those experiences you can't describe. He's given me basketball and so I'm giving him this day from one basketball lover to the next."

Michael commented, "This is amazing, inspiring. There's so much hope in here."

The hope M. Coffino referred to was evident on the faces of the men serving life sentences yet still included in the community. However, the Warriors' comeback attempt as hopeless as Wohl, who played pro in Israel, went off in the second half.

The Warriors, who were ahead as much as 15 in the first half, found themselves behind 13 points with under two minutes left in regulation.

Steer nailed a three to close the gap to ten. Then the Warriors fouled to stop the clock as Reilly tried to put them on his back. He scored seven points in the final minutes but the Lakers kept making enough free-throws to keep the lead and win the game.

Reilly led all scorers with 24 points and 10 rebounds. Conner added 16 points and 10 rebounds followed by Fournette with 11 points.

Five Lakers scored in double digits. Wohl scored 20 points with 10 rebounds and 2 assists. McIntosh added 19 points, Liss 16, Lacey 13 points with 13 rebounds and Gary 11 with 8 boards.

"It was a great experience," Williams, whose team lost, said. "The atmosphere with them bringing their people in was real nice. I'm hoping this is the beginning of a great tradition."

-Vincent Turner and Gemma Mondala contributed to this story.



Photo by Eddie Herena, SQN

David Liss guarded by Ian Ashcraft-Williams

Canceled All-Madden game turned into flag football scrimmage

By **Troy Smith**
Contributing Writer

The All-Madden flag football 2018 season kick off with a scheduling conflict. When the outside team didn't come in, the game turned into an All-Madden offense verses defense scrimmage. The offense scored six touchdowns — the defense had two interceptions and three sacks.

Once the many geese that claim San Quentin's field were temporarily evicted and their droppings swept

up, the ailing field was ready for testing. In anticipation, a wide variety of San Quentin residents, both young and old, crowded the sidelines.

Head referee James Benson was assisted by Aaron "Showtime" Taylor, T. Slaughter, and Wayne Mobley. The event involved the offensive testing its playbook against defensive alignments. The only way the defense could score would be to run back an interception.

Head Coach Royce Rose controlled the defense

while Assistant Head Coach Dwight Kennedy directed the offense. Assistant Coach Ray Walker aided both coaches.

Multi-sports athlete Brandon Riddle-Terrell manned the quarterback position. On the sixth play, he turned what appeared to be a busted play into a 37-yard touchdown run.

All-Madden's defense stepped up five plays later when free safety Johnny Lee intercepted a Riddle-Terrell pass, returning it 18 yards.

With the offensive line of Jack Benford, Gary McDonald and Timothy Parker providing adequate protection, Riddle-Terrell went nuts, taking the offense on four consecutive scoring drives:

39 yard pass to D. Nickolson — touchdown
23 yard pass to Dontay Turner — touchdown
9 yard pass to D. Nickolson — touchdown
31 yard pass to Joseph Banuelso — touchdown

Either the defense was tired of getting scored on

or perhaps the QB's arm was sore. Shortly after the scoring barrage, linebacker Jaime Luis intercepted a Riddle-Terrell pass in the end zone.

The defense also consisted of Tyrrell Price Sr., Hassan Halfin, Johnny Lee, Tadashi Sayers, Victor Veliz, Maurice Shillings, and Vincent Wilson.

Riddle-Terrell redeemed himself with a final touchdown pass for 11 yards that connected with Demetric Taylor in the back of the end

zone.

The All-Madden running attack had limited success. Tailback Walter Cook had two nice runs, but all scores came via the pass except the one Riddle-Terrell took to the house. The last play of the scrimmage came when free-safety Johnny Lee, broke-up a likely touchdown pass in the end zone.

The scrimmage ended with smiles and high fives as both offense and defense felt ready for the upcoming competition.

Native Hawaiian Religious Group holds annual feast

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

San Quentin was treated to a Hawaiian celebration of food, laughs and music.

About 75 prisoners and two dozen Bay Area community members enjoyed the annual feast of the Native Hawaiian Religious Group (NHRG).

"This is the second best thing to having a spread on the yard," said inmate Romeo Pacos. The gathering reunites Asian and Pacific Islanders and created a spirit of companionship beyond any normal prison experience, said Pacos.

The broad smiles of the Pacific Islanders were evident as they dined, danced, chanted and sang at the Sept. 27 event.

The feast honors the tradition that three months out of the year, war was forbidden, and it was a time for renewal and celebration, explained the group's sponsor, Patrick Makuakane.

Each of these three promot-

ers leads a group that contributed to the feast:

ORIGAMI GROUP - JUN HUTOMATO

The tables were decorated with white cloth covers and assorted color origami flowers made by the San Quentin Origami Group.

"This group gives me guidance"

"Without her support, we wouldn't have any programs," said a number of members.

SPIRITUAL CHANT & DANCE GROUP - PATRICK MAKUAKANE

Makuakane teaches chants, which further complement the



Photo by Brian Asey

Native Hawaiian Religious Group members and Hula dancers

singing and dancing to the upu heke – a double-headed gourd played like a drum.

Men entered the chapel floor with a Hawaiian call and stood on either side of Makuakane as he welcomed the guests. Next, the men performed a dance with swinging hips and dexterous arm movements like shooting arrows in various directions.

Ukulele Group - Adel Serafino

Serafino, known by Auntie Adel, runs the music group that engages the men in singing and playing the four-stringed ukulele and the eight-stringed ukarere.

"What you need to know is how dedicated these guys are. I'm so proud of them. Our hope is that their performance will inspire others to join with our community," said Auntie Adel.

"I found out about the group from my godbrother, and he invited me to a concert of the program and I got hooked to learn how to play," said Jerome Hermosura, imprisoned since 1995.

He is the newest member of the group, but was still invited to play a three-song set. "Auntie Adel gives us of her time and culture, and we are so grateful. She brings a sense of peace in a tough environment," Hermosura said.

Auntie Adel invited all of San Quentin to join the group on Saturday afternoons in the chapel area. "We now have plenty of donated ukuleles; come join us," she said.

THE FEAST

After the mandatory prison count, the feast was served, consisting of Tara root, sweet

potatoes, barbecued chicken, peas, lettuces, chow mein, coconut and Tara tapioca deserts, topped off with assorted cookies.

The Native Hawaiian Religious Group reports it guides multicultural prisoners on a path toward self-discovery and is open to all inmates.

The group's members presented different elements of the Pacific Islander traditional and with a confirmation that "This group gives me guidance to understand all races, not just my own."

THE FINALE

The highlight of the feast was Makuakane's outside dancers. Some of them have danced for his troupe for 25 to 30 years. The dancers moved gracefully and mesmerized the audience

as their upper bodies swayed like seaweed underwater, their lower bodies like waves crashing onto the shore. A ukulele played and guided their movement as if their bodies were strings of the instrument.

Each dancer wore a floor-length colorful dress with multiple seashell necklaces and a blossom in her hair. They all shared an open smile. It was the dancers first time performing in a prison.

As an encore, the incarcerated men and dancers lined up together, dancing in tune and out of tune, mimicking a hot iron dipped into cold water. Perfection was not an expectation and fun was shared as the audience shouted encouragement to all the dancers as they moved to the music.

—David Lê
contributed to this story.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Hula dancers performing in the Protestant Chapel B

Kid CAT banquet honors the forgotten voices of youth

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Kid CAT celebrated the "forgotten voices" of youth at its 2018 annual banquet.

"Tonight's Banquet was about bringing awareness to the youths, who think that their voices are not being heard and are afraid to express how they feel to their parents or caretakers," said Si Dang, Kid CAT chairman.

Kid CAT is a group of men who committed their crimes as juveniles and are serving adult sentences.

Capturing the night's theme of "forgotten voices" was a series of speakers, actors and musicians who dug into the topics of foster care, homelessness and restorative justice.

Speaking about homelessness was Kid CAT member Chase Benoit, 23.

"I became homeless at 9 years old and although it only lasted a few weeks, the impact will last forever. My dad tried his hardest to make it fun like

an adventure, but even then I knew something wasn't right," Benoit said.

The last time Benoit was homeless was at the age of 19, six months before he committed his life crime. He slept in cars, on couches and in a tent.

"We had nowhere to go. I had no one but my brother. If it weren't for him, I probably would've starved to death," Benoit said.

"Being homeless taught me that I can get through anything. Now I want to help other homeless youth find their voice because they are not alone."

Addressing community efforts to help homeless youths was Stacy Sciortino, program director of the Community Assessment and Resource Center from Huckleberry House in San Francisco, which assists more than 1,000 runaway youths each year.

"A lot of these kids are misunderstood. Their traumas are often masked by acting out," Sciortino said. "Instead of judging them, let us embrace their challenges and help them so that they won't feel unheard."

Youth offender Thanh Tran, 24, spoke about his journey from foster care to prison.

"I was placed into foster care at 2 years old because my mother was addicted to crack cocaine," Tran said.

Along with growing up without a family, Tran spoke about being bullied in school and neglected by his foster parents, which led him to make a decision to join a gang.

"It is now my goal to continue

to work with at-risk youths and give voice to the voiceless, so that they won't end up here like me," Tran adds.

Speaking on the topic of school violence was Tommy "Shakur" Ross, 52, Kid CAT member.

"School violence was at the root of my self-destructive ways," Ross said. "At six years old, I was sexually molested on the way to school by a stranger."

After the assault, Ross stated that his life spiraled out of control.

After a series of other traumatic assaults growing up, Ross made a decision to join a gang and committed a gang-related murder at 19 years old; this resulted in the retaliation murder of his mother and younger brother.

"Nothing and no one made me commit my crimes... But I can't help but to wonder, how could my school-to-prison pipeline experience be prevented?" Ross added.

Giving the keynote address was paroled Kid CAT co-founder Neighp "Ke" Lam.

"Three years ago, I was sitting in the audience wearing blue just like you. My inmate number was J-52482. I know what it's like to be hopeless and not knowing when I will get the chance to go home. So if I can make it out, you can too."

"I'm still doing the work, helping to pass legislation for youth offenders. Know that you are not forgotten, and we're waiting for you out here," Lam added.

Capping the night of for-

gotten voices was Kid CAT member Jason Samuel, who spoke about having a restorative justice dialogue with his victims.

"I was nervous and in disbelief when Tom Morgan, the police officer who I tried to kill on April 13, 1997, wanted to meet me in a victim-offender dialogue," Samuel said.

Speaking at the banquet on behalf of Christy Morgan, Tom's wife, was dialogue facilitator Martina Lutz Schneider, who read a letter from Ms. Morgan.

"I had viewed Jason as a monster for trying to kill my husband, and I was afraid of him. In May of 2018, I was able to witness a dialogue between him and my husband. Jason was humble and apologetic. He hugged Tom and cried! This was when I knew that he was not a monster but a changed man," Ms. Morgan wrote.

"The path of Jason's journey gives me happiness and hope, for that I am eternally thankful."

Upon reflection, community guest and Project Avary volunteer Jon Deleon, said. "It was really moving and humbling to hear everyone's story, the men were authentic and vulnerable.



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Neighp "Ke" Lam walking off the stage after giving the keynote speech

Closing out the event was Kid CAT co-founder Phang Thao, 42.

"As Kid CAT's banquet draws to a close, we all heard powerful themes which touch on children's 'forgotten voices' and how these voices caused street and school violence in our communities," Thao said.

"As Kid CAT passes along these grains of insight, it's you, the men in blue, outside volunteers, and guests' responsibility to nurture the growth of children. We can all do it through intervention, prevention, and mentoring our children into responsible adults."

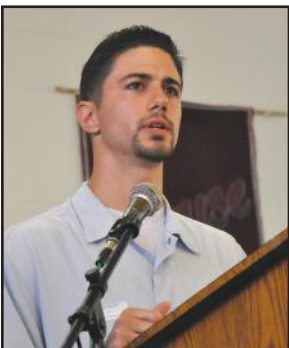


Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Chase Benoit

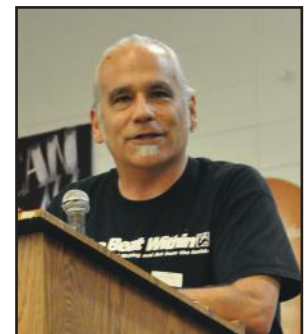


Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

David Inocencio



Photo by Jonathan Chiu, SQN

Stacy Sciortino



San Quentin News

Photo by P. Jo

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

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

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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