

# 3 Years Later - The Vanishing R in CDCR

Just over three years ago the state's prison system woke up to a promising change. On July 1, 2006 the California Department of Corrections added the word Rehabilitation to the end of its official name — CDC became CDCR. All the system's official ID, from the huge yellow stencils on inmate clothing to the patches on the uniforms of Correctional Officers, were in line to be changed. It takes time to do all this and even now

By COLE BIENEK  
Journalism Guild Writer

the revisions continue. But maybe they should hold up on that effort. Rehabilitation could be in danger of vanishing. The state's financial crisis has led to dramatic budget cuts within the prison system and among the programs most at risk are those geared to rehabilitation. Whether slashing rehabilitation programs will save

taxpayers' money is questionable. Several studies have shown those programs to be strongly cost effective, reducing discipline problems and recidivism and thus reducing costs.

However, CDCR is cutting \$250 million and laying off 600 to 900 employees from educational and rehabilitative programs. On September 23, Artist Facilitators (IAF)

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## San Quentin News

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Stanford's nationally-ranked tennis team sent players to San Quentin for a friendly match. They probably expected a blowout, but the result surprised them. See 'S.Q. Net Team' story, Page 5.

## 4 Men of Richmond Speak of the Violence

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS  
Editor-in-Chief

The city of Richmond has America talking. How do working class communities become virtual war zones for their citizens, places where violent assault and murders are commonplace? Data shows that more people have lost their lives in urban communities then in most wars fought abroad by American soldiers.

Recently a teenage girl was brutally attacked and repeatedly raped for two hours by a group of teenage boys. Onlookers stood and watched, some in fear and some in amazement. Arrests were made and a variety of charges could cause the accused to face life sentences in California prisons. The people of Richmond, young and old, have come out in large numbers to speak out against the state of their community, holding candlelight vigils, town hall meetings and other community gatherings.

The San Quentin News wanted to know how some of the men from Richmond were affected by the recent events. Here are the words of four men who are part of the Richmond Project at San Quentin, Kevin T. Y. Deming, James Houston, Vaught Miles and Nate Collins. They were asked what came up for them when they found out about the incident. Did any of them have sons, daughters, nieces and neph-

ews and, if so, had they spoken to them about this incident?

"My first thought," said Deming, "was how it made me feel. I started thinking about my daughter, sisters and mom. The question is tough, because it took me back to that very school and it connected me back to that community. I used to go to Richmond High."

Deming said it made him really think of how he used to be. "I don't mean the same crime that happened to her, but I was no saint either."

Said Houston: "The Richmond Project was created to show the community how men from Richmond could come together from

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## A Roaring Message Of Hope

By ARNULFO GARCIA  
and JUAN HAINES  
Journalism Guild Writers

The weekend before Halloween Bill Glass Champions For Life surprised San Quentin prisoners with an exhibition of 20 roaring Harley-Davidson motorcycles. The Harleys escorted an emissary of volunteers who delivered a message of hope and peace for an excited crowd of prisoners and staff.

There was no advance notice that Champions For Life was coming to San Quentin for a really big show and so the sudden carnival-like atmosphere was en-

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## Substance Abuse Program Withers

By TROY WILLIAMS  
Journalism Guild Writer

Among the prison programs on the chopping block because of the \$1.2 billion cut in the budget of the California prison system are those dealing with substance abuse. The \$250 million slash in rehabilitation programs will translate to an estimated 30 to 60 percent reduction in substance abuse-related staff positions. The cut in this area is especially ominous given the commonly held belief that substance abuse is a huge contributing factor to criminal activity. Prisoners themselves fear that any reduction in the already inadequate substance abuse treatment will result in unsafe prisons and unsafe communities.

According to California's Little Hoover Commission, an estimated 80 percent of parolees are substance abusers. Therefore California's prison population of some 160,000 would require at least 128,000 treatment slots. The plan, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) Fact Sheet, is to reduce the current number of treatment slots from 12,000 to 2,000 and to streamline in-prison substance abuse treatment services.

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Wanda Ramey

## Remarkable Woman Who Began SQTV

By TROY WILLIAMS  
Journalism Guild Writer

Most San Quentin inmates have never heard of Wanda Ramey. Nonetheless, she is a presence in their lives every time they turn on their TV. Ramey and her husband, Richard Quierolo, first came to San Quentin Prison in 1960 to film a story on prison life. This led to a continuous relationship with the prison that led to the birth of SQTV, the prison-run closed-circuit TV station.

Ramey died of cancer in August at age 85 but her legacy lives on. She was one of the nation's first female anchors in the western United States. She was co-host of the first local television noon newscast in America and she broke the line that kept women from doing hard-news gathering. She was recognized in both radio and television as a genuine pioneer, paving the way for women who today have an easier entree into an industry that was dominated by men, women such as Barbara Walters, Diane Sawyer and Jane Pauley. Ramey was also the first woman volunteer allowed inside San Quentin.

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## State Answers the Judges

By DAVID MARSH  
News Editor

With an absence of fanfare, the Schwarzenegger administration complied with a federal court order to submit a plan intended to reduce the state's prison population by more than 40,000 in two years.

The plan, filed with the court Thursday, Nov. 13, does not include any early releases and relies heavily upon several propos-

als recently rejected by the state Legislature, such as allowing sick or elderly inmates to finish their sentences in local confinement or house arrest, and sending criminals to county jails instead of state prison for crimes such as drug possession, bad checks and receiving stolen property. The plan proposes to send some high-security inmates to private prisons out of state.

The state plan includes adding

beds at several existing facilities despite the federal panel's prior warning not to submit any plan that includes additional construction because the building process takes too long.

Corrections Secretary Matt Cate asked the court to waive steps in the construction permitting process in order to streamline his building plans, as well as to intervene in over-ruling the

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# Outside View of Death Row

## Marin Magazine Takes a Stand

By **JIM WOOD**  
Executive Editor  
Marin Magazine

Nearly 700 convicted murderers await an execution at San Quentin State Prison, in the heart of Marin County. If just one of these men was executed by lethal injection a month, it would take nearly 60 years to eliminate this backlog. Now realize this: There hasn't been a San Quentin execution in three and a half years. In fact, since California voters reinstated capital punishment 31 years ago, more convicted murderers have died of old age or suicide (41) than have been executed (13).

Making matters even more ludicrous, the state of California is determined to build a \$400 million, two-story, freestanding death row facility at San Quentin. "We have tried every thing to stop

it, but Governor Schwarzenegger is jamming it through," says Assemblyman Jared Huffman of Marin. "This 'Cadillac' of a death row precludes any noncorrectional uses for those 45 acres, land that would be ideal for a SMART rail-to-ferry connection, or workforce housing, or anything but that \$400 million monstrosity."

Huffman and other opponents of the new death row say the project is being driven by California's anarchic and barbaric belief that capital punishment will somehow stop people from killing people. Not only has that concept been repeatedly disproved—history shows the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime—but numerous studies have demonstrated that it affects minorities and the poor disproportionately.

There are other considerations as well. Having a death penalty enrolls California in an unsavory club—only Iran, China and a few Eastern European and African nations still enforce capital punishment...

A recent New York Times editorial reported that the 13 executions conducted at San Quentin since 1978 have cost California taxpayers \$250 million per execution. In addition, states the Times, "California's death row costs taxpayers \$114 million a year more than the cost of imprisoning convicts for life without possibility of parole."

Add to that the \$400 million for San Quentin's new death row, millions that could be used to restore recent cuts in education, safety and other state services, and you've got a situation that

absolutely makes no sense. This is not about being hard or soft on crime; it's about being smart or dumb on economics and finance...

What am I driving at? Simply put, it now appears the only way to stop a \$400 million death row "monstrosity" from being built in Marin is for Marin to be more aggressive in abolishing California's death penalty. How? By writing Governor Schwarzenegger (State Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, CA, 95814), calling him (916.445.2841) or e-mailing him (governor@governor.ca.gov). Also, ask a Death Penalty Focus representative to speak to your service club or community group. Attorney Frank Leidman (415.982.0321) is president of the Marin chapter and the one to call.

Finally, we can initiate a petition to place an initiative abolishing California's death penalty on the November 2010 ballot. For the first time, says professor Craig Haney of UC Santa Cruz, who conducted a survey on the subject, "most Californians support a sentence of life without possibility of parole rather than the death penalty." Assemblyman Huffman says that when people learn about the downsides of the death penalty and alternative of a life sentence with out possibility of parole "they immediately prefer the latter. It's a matter of education."

This is an excellent time to begin working on abolishing California's death penalty. That's my point of view. What's yours?

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Marin Magazine.*



Men of the Richmond Project, (From Left): Kevin 'T.Y.' Deming, Nate Collins, James Houston

# 4 RICHMOND MEN SPEAK THEIR MIND

*Continued from Page 1*

all sides. That we could change the way we think. We came together to make our communities safer. The more we came together the more we started growing in a positive way. We began thinking more about who we are as men."

Deming said the group's purpose is "To help men educate others before they get to this point in their lives. I believe the youth will respect men that already went through it. Most of the youngsters today deal with the past, they look up to the older homeboys and when they're gone, they step into their shoes only to wind up like the older homeboys, because everything they learned was from men now serving life sentences. We want to change that and that's why we come together."

### 'MY LITTLE SISTER'

What does it feel like to see your city on the national stage for such a disturbing crime? Collins replied, "I got a little sister 11 years old and she's handicapped and can't talk. I thought what if that was my little sister? These kids don't know what they're in for. It's so unfortunate for both sides. This is a terrible situation."

Miles said he felt anger and sympathy for the little girl. "I have a 15-year-old daughter and this really made me think." Had he spoken to his daughter yet about the situation? He said no, but he will when she comes to see him again.

"I wrote a letter to my son," said Houston, "I wanted to listen to him and what he had to say. We have to listen to our kids and hear their conscience. I know a lot of those kids looked up to some of those guys. I think about a lot of mistakes I did to fit in with the crowd when I was young."

What type of support from the

community, if any, had these men received?

Houston: "We have had people come in to talk to us and dialogue with us about doing things, but the resources have not equaled the conversations. We have real men in here trying to make changes. It's one thing to come in and have a good talk with us, and make us feel encouraged, but when they leave, so does the support."

### 'YOU HAVE TO LISTEN'

When these men speak to their kids, what do they say about the violence in their community?

Deming: "You got to get back and listen to the kids more, not just hear their voices, but really listen to them. We have to stop what's been going on, because it doesn't seem like anybody else wants to help."

During their weekly meetings does it come up why violence and crime are attractive to the Richmond youth?

Miles: "A lot of people complain about having to go back to that lifestyle. Some will say, 'I can't go back to work because these people are looking for me. There are no resources out there for us, so what do we do? We go back to the only thing we know: live in the streets.'"

Houston: "To me it's amazing that one of the biggest thing I see is fear in these young men. They would rather go out and work the streets because they don't know anything else. We need to set goals for these kids who suffer the most from low self-esteem. To really start investing in these kids. It's difficult to go back out because a lot of people go back to the streets and don't know how to be a responsible man.. And lot of it is social conditioning."

# Roaring Cycles Bring Inspiration

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thusiastically welcomed.

Master of ceremony Robert Jimenez, board member of Bill Glass Champions, introduced former defensive lineman Devin Wyman of the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, along with Mike McCoy, former All-Pro defensive tackle and number one draft choice of the Green Bay Packers.

Wyman, who was raised in East Palo Alto, reached back to his community by giving a down-to-earth, honest rendition of the obstacles he had to overcome in reaching his life-long goals. Wyman testified, as he mingled with San Quentin prisoners, that faith in God guided him through the numerous obstacles to his goal, the National Football League.

McCoy stressed the importance of the "Three D's" in life: "Decisions Determine our Destiny." McCoy said decisions rooted in faith lead to better choices.

Tino Wallenda of the Flying Wallendas performed one of his famous high-wire acts for the prisoners. While performing, Tino told the dramatic story about his family's famous "seven-person pyramid" that tragically ended in the death of some of his

loved ones. But Tino was determined to succeed for the sake of his family's honor and successfully performed the act in 1977.

The crowd of nearly 400 prisoners watched as Tino began his act by carrying a chair to the middle of a tightrope suspended about 35 feet off the ground. After balancing the chair on the tightrope, Tino sat on the chair, continuing his lecture on having trust, faith and focus in your life. Sweat poured from Tino's face as he acknowledged that this particular act was extremely dangerous, and could easily end with his death.

This reality did not seem to faze Tino as he confidently declared, "If I were to die doing this act, I know where I would end up." Tino stunned the audience when, one foot at a time, he stood on the arms of the chair, and continued his lecture! Before the audience realized it, Tino was standing on the arms of the chair that was still balanced on the tightrope 35 feet off the ground.

Champions for Life entertainer Tonya Crevier's basketball handling skills were most impressive with her ability to cross-over dribble two basketballs simultaneously, juggle four basketballs through bounce passes from a

audience member and spin a basketball on her finger while feeding a man with that same hand, just a few of her amazing tricks.

Tonya capped her performance with an unbelievable spinning of 10 basketballs at once, leaving audience mouths agape.

Georgia native and model airplane builder Jim Harris captivated the audience with his circa World War II P-51 Mustang's acrobatic maneuvers high over San Quentin's skies. The plane reached amazing heights and even chased birds.

The Mission Statement of Champions For Life: Assist the Church by equipping and igniting Christians to share their faith in Jesus Christ with the "least of these." CFL is comprised of three ministries: Prison Ministry, Youth Ministry and At-Risk Youth Ministry.

The event was organized by Community Partners Manager Laura Bowman, who said she believes faith-based, non-governmental organizations such as Champions For Life are a vital part of rehabilitation and promote positive influences for prisoners and ex-prisoners. Associate Warden J. Curzon said he looks forward to Champions For Life's return next year.



# Who Gets Bailed Out and Who Doesn't

## INSTRUCTORS SPEAK OF SPENDING PRIORITIES

By **MICHAEL HARRIS**  
Editor in Chief  
And  
**JULIANGLENN PADGETT**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The drastic cuts in educational and vocational programs within California's prison system have prompted outspoken reactions from the teachers affected.

One of several San Quentin teachers to receive layoff notices is C. Wittek, a GED teacher. "My understanding is due to budgetary constraints state policy makers opted to reduce prison education programs by 50 percent," Wittek said. "I have always believed that education should be an on-going process for every inmate in California prisons. Reducing the number of educational

opportunities only worsens the situation."

Asked about her layoff, L. Marez, who teaches a GED and a high school program, said, "I was in the first batch that got a layoff notice last February. This is my second time going through this. I felt the state was in trouble and our legislative process is broken. My first concern was for the men and their families because when they do well and turn their lives around it's better for their families."

Bridging teacher C. Brady, who earned two Masters degrees from UC Berkeley said, "If the federal government could bail out the banks, and they can go to foreign countries and spend billions of dollars on building projects, then they should also be able

to bail out the educational system here... Seventy-five percent of the teachers are going to be eliminated by January 17, 2010. And the state is now fighting to get inmates to teach these men. But we [teachers] have gone to schools and colleges to be teachers able to work with everyone... Society already doesn't trust inmates. Now they want to trust them to teach? How will the parole board look at this?"

M. Ficarra, a GED teacher said, "I have a background in psychology and classrooms are a rehearsal for life. Classrooms help people change their personal belief systems of who they are. It's a huge step backwards. I think it's a bad direction. By cutting teachers, the "R" for rehabilitation has been dismantled."

Ms. A. Sufi, another teacher said, "Many people believe that rehabilitation is only about academics. Actually we're socializing people back into society. If you are illiterate how can you teach yourself to be literate?... The 'R' means giving people a different vision of your life. You have to interact with other human beings for that change to happen. Change comes from people, not the social machine."

Another teacher had this to say: "The impact of the layoff of teachers is not only felt by the teachers but it also impacts the inmates. Education is the key to rehabilitation and experienced teachers are the keepers of that key."

# FOOD SERVICE REPORT

By **W. (DITTO) WILLIAMS**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The food service at San Quentin has its up and downs, which is not too surprising considering that it is geared to serve three institutional meals a day, every day, to more than 5,000 people. However, help may be on the way. The new food service manager, R. Mearse, reports that he is in the process of making several changes relating to the cleanliness of the kitchen. Items:

- The roach situation is being addressed. Vector Control has been contacted, spraying for roaches began October 23rd and will continue over the next several months.
- In the near future traps should be in place for mice and birds.
- Three floor scrubbing machines were recently purchased and are being used in all areas of the kitchen.
- The dishwashing machine water temperature was discussed and Mearse assured the Men's Advisory Committee that the water temperature will be within code.
- A request has been submitted for a larger and more efficient hand washing station for staff and prisoner cooks.
- It has been agreed that an inmate inspection team will examine the kitchen on designated days to assure that sanitation requirements are met.

There is also a prospective personnel change that could be helpful. Mearse said he hopes to eliminate volunteer "orange" prisoners from kitchen work crews, replacing them with paid positions for North Block inmates.

As for the food itself, there is good news and bad news. The bad news, which isn't actually new, is that salt and pepper will continue to be absent from sack lunches. The good news is that Mearse says that TVP soy product as a meat substitute will be eliminated. He is examining alternative products, including real meat.

The food manager said that he expects to have most if not all of the recommended changes in place early next year.

## IMAGINE HIS SURPRISE

**VISALIA, CA, 10-20-09** – A carjacking suspect got a surprise when the 2009 Chevy Tahoe he was driving suddenly shut down during the heat of a police chase. It was the first use of the On Star stolen vehicle shut down feature that became available on some models in the year 2009. The 21-year-old thief was arrested after a short foot chase.

# Big Squeeze On Teachers Hits Home

By **JEFF BROOKS**  
Journalism Guild Writer

California's current financial crisis has brought major cuts to rehabilitative efforts within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

In October, hundreds of vocational and academic instructors throughout California's penal institutions were issued pink slips, informing them that their services would no longer be needed within the CDCR.

These reductions will impact academic, vocational, and substance abuse programs for inmates and parolees. Financial cuts toward rehabilitative efforts are estimated to be so deep that academic and vocational programs within institutions may never recover, leaving inmates to return to their communities with no job skills and state employees looking for new jobs.

The cuts come despite the assertion by California State Auditor, Elaine M. Howle, that the CDCR has a responsibility for implementing rehabilitative strategies for inmates to successfully



File photo of San Quentin teachers and administrators in the Education Department

reintegrate into communities.

Institutions that currently use vocational printing, plumbing, welding, sheet metal, electrical, and machine shops will have to outsource many of these services, causing California to spend more money on outside contractors.

**STARK CONTRAST**

These moves are in stark contrast to CDCR's June 2009 Rehabilitative News report that said, "AB900 moves California away from an outdated model of prisoner incarceration to institutions that create opportunities for change – to reduce the rate at which inmates released from prison commit more crimes. The Act is a major effort to reform California's prison system by reducing prison overcrowding and increasing rehabilitative

programming. The reforms use evidence-based rehabilitation – academic, vocational, substance abuse and other programs – to help offenders succeed when they rejoin their communities so they do not return to a life of crime."

Addressing these events, CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate said, "The new budget reality has forced us to make tough choices as we weigh population reductions, staff layoffs and a significant cut to our budget. We must increase our efficiency and target our limited resources for programs most likely to reduce recidivism and keep our communities and our prisons safe."

According to San Quentin's Robert E. Burton Adult School October Newsletter, "In January 2010 the education program is to be cut back drastically to the

pre-expansion numbers of 2004. Seventy-five percent of the faculty are to be dismissed."

The Newsletter reports, "Every dollar spent on education saves \$2 for taxpayers through reduced recidivism (Correctional Educational Journal). And, inmates who attend high school and college classes while in prison are substantially less likely to re-enter prison once released (Federal Bureau of Prisons)."

Vocational Janitorial instructor Anthony Stevenson, who has worked for CDCR for the past 15 years said, "I was hired to serve these men, to give them job and life skills so they could reintegrate back into society, unfortunately due to budget issues they are taking another resource away from these inmates."

# Substance Abuse Programs Feeling the Axe

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Robert P. Morales is a certified California Association of Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CAADAC I) who has taken the 255 hours of training for the practicum, passed the written exam and spent well over 4000 hours as an intern in a substance abuse treatment program called ACT.

Although ACT is not directly affected by the budget cut, Morales is deeply concerned about the effect of the cuts in state-funded programs. He believes that California's citizens, incarcerated and free, will feel the impact both among prisoners

remaining in prison and those being released from prison without adequate treatment.

"People become a part of their environment," Morales said, "Prisoners come in damaged. They get involved in programs and make progress. Taking away treatment creates idle time that can revert the individual to criminal and addictive thinking."

The streamlined version of in-prison substance abuse treatment will cut the current 6-36 months of substance abuse treatment to three months. According to James Houston, another prisoner who is also a certified CAADAC

I counselor, "Drugs and alcohol are life-long issues for the long term user. It takes about a year after the person has stopped using for his brain to start back functioning normally."

Information provided by the National Institute on Drug Abuse notes, "There is no predetermined length of treatment. However, research has shown unequivocally that good outcomes are contingent on adequate lengths of treatment... participation for less than 90 days is of limited or no effectiveness."

Public safety depends on expanding programs that work.

The CDCR fact sheet noted, "The return-to-prison rate after two years for offenders who complete both in-prison and community-based substance program is 35 percent compared to the 54 percent for all offenders." Drug counselor Houston believes strongly that substance abuse treatment slots should not be reduced, the streamlined substance abuse treatment approach should not be pursued, and those who need treatment should get it. Houston said providing prisoners the help they need before they are released is the key to safer prisons and safer communities.



# Ramey's Long List Of Good Works

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Ramey's husband, Richard Quierolo, developed an interest in the mechanics of his wife's career, becoming a TV cameraman and often working with and for his wife. Ramey covered President Kennedy's assassination, and interviewed more than 1,200 well-known personalities, including Ronald Reagan, Carl Sandburg, John Kennedy, Caryl Chessman, Hubert Humphrey, Richard Nixon, Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King, Jr. Of all these interviews, Ramey remembered one of her first as the most memorable: Eleanor Roosevelt, the woman who was Wanda's own inspiration and role model growing up.

## A ROUGHER PLACE

Ramey and her husband taught television journalism as well as film and television production skills to many prison inmates. He helped prisoners learn the particulars of cameras while she filled them in on the details of narration and coordination. And this was back when San Quentin was a much rougher place than it is now.

In 1965 Ramey's S.Q. students thanked and honored her by naming her an "Honorary Inmate." That same year, as part of a film

workshop taught by Ramey and her husband, a group of inmates produced a sports documentary. During the summer of 1966 a documentary on emergency farm labor was shot on location in the San Joaquin Valley by a small and select group of their students.

In 1967, a group of about 50 of their trainees produced a telefilm, *The Cage* that was broadcast on KQED. According to San Francisco Examiner columnist Dwight Newton, "It is ... a grim, sometimes gripping, semi-real, semi-fanciful half-hour drama of four convicts captive in a barren, bunkless, chairless, concrete cell..." The prison allowed the telefilm to be produced because of the potential therapeutic value to the participants and of the possibility of obtaining funds to acquire equipment for the prison's film workshop.

Larry Schneider, a state-employed TV specialist who has worked at SQTV for over 23 years, gives full credit to Ramey and her husband for what they did here. "Wanda, out of love for her husband, always said it's all about Richard. They were a team."

Lonnie Morris, a long-time resident of San Quentin who worked at SQTV in the early 90s remembers, "The thing that stood out to me about Wanda is that



Larry "Blue" Wilder, Troy Williams and Stephen Owens of San Quentin Television

she cared about us as human beings and she loved her husband. Wanda was like a mother to us." Morris' eyes began to tear up as he recalled Dick Quierolo using a walker to come to visit. "He was up in age, around 77 at the time, but always had a smile. One time Dick came to see us in a wheelchair. We asked what he was doing and Dick said, 'I had to come see my boys.'"

E. Phillips is a musician and artist who works as an editor at SQTV. Phillips said, "I found skills I never thought I had before. If SQTV weren't here I would not have the creative outlet that I have now because creative arts is what really drives me. Working at SQTV has given me a specialized and marketable skill

that expands my opportunities on the outside."

Marvin Andrews, Buckshot Maples and a new generation of film students are all reaping the benefits of a community service commitment that began nearly 50 years ago with Wanda Ramey and her husband.

## AN INSPIRATION

Author's Note: I work at SQTV as a video production technician. After researching and reading about Wanda Ramey, I am inspired and in awe. With tears in my eyes, I state that if I only grow to be a fraction of the person she was, I will have lived to be a great journalist and human being of substance.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**HONOLULU, 10-20-09** — With the signing of a new union contract that will close schools on most Fridays for the remainder of the academic calendar, Hawaii now has the shortest school year in the nation. The state will now have 163 instructional days, as compared to a national average of 180.

**REYKJAVIK, Iceland, 10-27-09** — The only three McDonald's franchises in this tiny island nation have been forced to close their doors. The collapse of the economy and the resulting fall in the krona, the nation's currency, are blamed for the closures.

# California's Money Crunch vs. the 'R' in CDCR

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throughout CDCR received lay-off notices, effectively destroying Arts In Corrections (AIC), one of the system's longest running and most effective rehabilitative programs.

Founded in 1977 by the William James Foundation, AIC Facilitators oversaw the management of Contract Artists and Artists-in-Residence. AIC provided classroom workshops in drawing, painting, printmaking, creative writing, poetry and performance-based events in music and theater arts.

In 1982, San Jose State Professor Larry Brewster conducted an evaluation of AIC at four Northern California institutions: CMF-Vacaville, San Quentin, Deuel Vocational Institute, and CTF-Soledad. According to the data, AIC participants presented a 75 percent reduction in disciplinary infractions. This led to reduced hours spent on disciplinary actions and consequently, reduced costs to CDCR. Brewster's findings showed that as AIC's volunteer hours and programs expanded, costs to CDCR dropped nearly 33 percent.

"No economic, safety, or security concern is served by deleting the IAF position," argues Steve Emrick, IAF at San Quentin. "Studies [like the Brewster Report] show that Arts programming provides a safer institutional environment." The IAF,

as a full-time state employee, oversees the stable of Contract Artists and Artists-in-Residence — ensuring that visiting artists need only focus on classes and workshops. "Outside artists have little or no knowledge of the paramilitary inner workings of a prison," Emrick says. "As the IAF, I review all the supplies and materials the outside artists will be using." Emrick, a sculpture and furniture artist with a MFA degree and a stretch as a professor at San Diego State University, reflects on his 21 years of experience: "I have found working with prisoners to be a rewarding experience, both professionally and artistically. I enjoy seeing individuals gain a sense of self and learn to identify themselves as something other than prisoners. "The Arts," he says, "become a lifeline they can grab onto and pull themselves up out of the abyss."

## AIC IS NOT FUNDED

Elizabeth Siggins is Chief Deputy Secretary-Adult Programs. "We are all trying," she says, "to do everything we can to change the way we do business, to continue providing programs to as many inmates as possible." However, Arts in Corrections is part of the now-defunct Bridging Program, and, Siggins says, "is technically not funded."

She says CDCR is seeking other ways to provide programs to inmates: "We will rely more

and more on volunteer support from the community, and training long-term inmates to be substance abuse counselors and literacy tutors." She says, "I understand how important these programs are to inmates, so it is vital to use this fiscal crisis as an opportunity to improve the way we provide these programs. This is a difficult time for staff and inmates alike; to get through this, we must work together."

## Teaching inmates how to focus

However, depending on volunteers and outside help is exactly the current model of the Arts in Corrections program about to be ended, says Katya McCulloch, a contract artist who teaches block printing to a dedicated group of prisoners on Friday mornings. In 2008-2009, San Quentin AIC received no CDCR funding, while the William James Foundation provided nearly \$74,000. "The Arts," McCulloch says, "open a door to the rehabilitative process, teaching inmates how to follow-through and sustain their focus for extended periods." Finished works by Katya's students have been accepted into the permanent

collection of the Library of Congress — a rare honor.

"Arts programming teaches skills which are difficult to quantify," explains Lucinda Thomas, IAF at Lancaster State Prison. "It [the Arts] addresses the emotional component of learning, which is linked to the internal social change, which in turn, is linked to genuine rehabilitation." After nearly 20 years working with prisoners, she notes that successful rehabilitation involves more than training alone. "You can teach a man to be a plumber, but if you can't find a way to get him to deal with the emotional instabilities which contributed to his incarceration, you just released an angry plumber back into society."

## BIG IMPROVEMENT

AIC classes are always integrated, always open," Thomas observes, "and that is an extraordinary thing." California's prisons are notoriously hyper-racist; every facet of daily life is dictated by racial politics. "Men who come to AIC classes have a chance to form bonds, find common ground in a shared experience, and create friendships with men they would most likely not talk to outside the AIC studio doors." Thomas finds this bonding experience to be unique among the traditional programs offered in prison. "In one painting class you will find men with six different education levels from five different so-

cial backgrounds, diverse ethnic backgrounds, and even members of rival gangs."

A CDC/ Arts in Corrections research study covering 1980-87 provided evidence for AIC's contribution to reducing recidivism. A total of 177 randomly selected inmates were monitored after release. All had participated in at least one AIC class per week for a minimum of six months. After one year, 74 percent of the study group had achieved a "favorable" parole result, while the remaining parolees had a 49 percent rate, a 25 percent difference. After two years the gap expanded to 27 percent.

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy produced a pair of independent studies in 2001 on Evidence-Based Adult Corrections Programs. The programs aimed at rehabilitation reduced recidivism 13 percent. Among the most effective programs was vocational education with a benefit of \$7.13 for each dollar spent. Despite this benefit, CDCR is cutting two-thirds of the vocational programs at San Quentin along with AIC.

When questioned recently about the loss of the AIC program, Acting Warden Wong said, "While we are losing the position [of IAF], we will try to maintain all the programs through the continued use of volunteers."



# Religion

## New S.Q. Imam Outlines His Goals

By **MICHAEL R. HARRIS**  
Editor in Chief  
and  
**JULIANGLENN PADGETT**  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's new Imam, Kawsar Hossain, came here in October after volunteering at Old Folsom State Prison and Deul Vocational Institute (DV I). "What attracted me to S.Q. was the location of the Bay Area" says the Imam, "which happens to be my roots." He started volunteering and consulted with some of his teachers. "The chaplain at Folsom recommended I pursue the position of chaplain at Folsom when he was leaving."

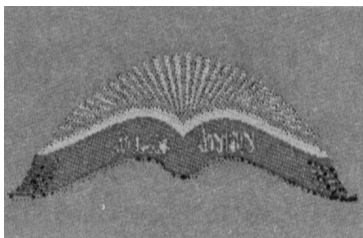
Asked what is needed in San Quentin's Islamic community, the Imam said, "I think it needs focus. Focus on the foundation of Islam. This is a loosely translated quote from a past Islamic scholar. 'Before you try to become a scholar, become a Muslim and before you become a Muslim become a human.' Sometimes when we have our eyes focused on the big things we have tendency to look past the future."

"In the Muslim community at large we've lost focus on Tazki-

ya. It's called the purification of the heart and purification of the soul.

So on the Islamic study of Tazkiya I have studied a good deal with my teachers. I have tried to at least incorporate that in everything I speak on. There's also a saying of the Prophet: 'I have not been sent but to perfect good character.' We focus on a lot of different things. Even for the Prophet that was a big thing. But it is something that we look past."

Asked what it means to be a Muslim, the Imam said, "To be a Muslim is to submit to Allah (S.W.T.) in the ways shown by the Prophet (S). To submit to Allah (S.W.T.) in every facet of one's life, be it your character or your wishes or the way you think. Everything must be in alignment with Allah (S.W.T.)."



Back row: Julian Glenn Padgett and John Sklut  
Front row: Chaplain Carole Hyman and Edward Horowitz

## Inmates Celebrate Their Bar Mitzvah

Three Jewish men at San Quentin finally celebrated their Bar Mitzvah last September during the Jewish month of Elul. Bar Mitzvah is a significant moment for Jews, somewhat resembling Confirmation in Christian churches, when a person accepts adult responsibility within the faith. It usually takes place when a Jewish male is 13 but for these three men it had not been possible.

The three were Edward Horowitz, John Sklut, and Julian Glenn Padgett. The ceremony was led by Chaplain Carole Hyman and drew a gathering of friends and free staff. In Hebrew the word Bar Mitzvah means "son of the commandment." Chaplain Hyman said, "Eddie was my first Bar Mitzvah here at San Quentin. Prior to that I did a naming ceremony here, too. All the Bar Mitzvahs were such wonderful

events."

The ceremonies began with Horowitz who said, "This was a day that I had long waited. I was denied my Bar Mitzvah when I was 13 due to the fact my family moved to the jungles of India." Asked how he prepared for his special moment, Horowitz said, "The first thing I had to do was to re-learn Hebrew. I had studied for my original Bar Mitzvah back in 1965. That was 44 years ago."

Asked about his feelings regarding the Beth Shalom congregation at San Quentin, Horowitz said, "I feel very lucky and blessed to have transferred here from Ironwood. Chaplain Hyman encourages all of us to get involved."

"My family, they were extremely happy to hear of my Bar Mitzvah, and how the entire congregation supported me during the event."

### FOR OVER A YEAR

John Sklut said, "I worked together with a friend from Beth Shalom here at San Quentin for over a year. First and foremost was learning my Cantillation... It's one thing to be able to read and understand Hebrew. But then I started learning how to read the tropes, the Cantillation signs. With the sounds of each trope, Hebrew took on a whole different level... I sang before G-d from the depths of my soul. It touched something in me that was primordial that I didn't know existed."

### THOUSANDS OF YEARS

As for the significance of his Bar Mitzvah in the greater sense of Jewish community, Sklut said, "My Bar Mitzvah was an affirmation both to the community and to G-d to fulfill the Mitzvah and be responsible to our community and to the world."

Padgett said, "It was challenging and spiritually invigorating at the same time. It took me over a year to learn to chant the tropes that are thousands of years old. Chanting Noach was my personal conversation with Hashem. For me that was incredible in every way, because my Bar Mitzvah makes me a son of the commandment now – a true part of our living Torah."

# SPORTS

## 'He Hate Me' Gridders Open the New Season

By **JEFF BROOKS**  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin's football team "He Hate Me" opened its 2009 season the last weekend in September with a loss against its toughest opponent from last season, No Soup for You.

He Hate Me (the name is fashioned after the bold and audacious football player Rod Smart from the now defunct XFL) is led by inside Head Coach William "Big Will" Packer, who was instrumental in reviving the S.Q. football program in 2005, and by new Defensive Coordinator Abraham Glasper.

Last year S.Q. suffered its first loss in four seasons to No Soup For You, a flag football team from the Sacramento area. S.Q. scheduled this year's Opening Day Game in an attempt to even the score. Unfortunately, S.Q. lost to No Soup For You again but will face them a couple more times this season.

Currently, He Hate Me has played three games this season. After losing their season opener they rebounded with two wins against Muscle Milk, a local team

from Benicia.

The squad of 16 players has been practicing since May for the preparation of the new season. The game means much more to the players than just wins and losses, Parker noted.

"There is something to be said about team camaraderie within a prison setting," Packer said. "The guys learn a lot about discipline, accountability and responsibility toward their fellow players, coaches, and opponents. You can see the changes taking place within the guys; they become better men. Besides that, it is nice to hear about the guys who take what they have learned from the program and use it to reach their dreams and aspirations once they parole."

It's easy to see that the inmates enjoy watching the football games; some root for the home team; some root for the visiting teams, and some root for both, Packer said.

"Our real test will come when we see No Soup For You again, I have faith in our guys, we will get them next time."



Stanford tennis team tours the North Block

## S.Q. Net Team Surprises Stanford

By **DAVID MARSH**  
News Editor

Stanford University is one of the nation's great collegiate tennis powers, so when a group of their players came to San Quentin for a match, they can't have expected much of a challenge. The Stanford team even included sophomore Ryan Thacher, recent nationwide doubles champion at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's National Indoor Competition in New Haven, Connecticut.

So imagine their surprise when S.Q.'s top doubles team of Rafael Calix and James "Mac" McCartney more than held their own on a typical balmy, Bay Area morning on Saturday, Nov. 14. "I was surprised at the very good quality of players," said Thacher, as his gaze swept the activity on the courts and lower yard. "It

seems as though there is a lot more going on here than I would have thought, more vibrant and interactive."

Thacher and his teammates were taken on a tour of the prison following the match by the same two men they had previously bested on the courts, Calix and McCartney.

The idea for this entertaining morning of tennis took shape through a series of phone calls over the past several years made by S.Q.'s Coach DeNevi to several Bay Area universities. DeNevi proposed to each of the schools he called the chance for both a competitive and cultural exchange, offering school officials a chance for their players "to have a chance to explode a lot of the myths about a penitentiary." He made the point that some of the school's athletes are foreign-

born scholarship players with no practical concept of the inner workings of an American penal institution.

Stanford Coach John Whitlinger accepted the challenge and a match was made, though it would take almost two years for the two to find the right scheduling opportunity.

"I wouldn't mind trying this again," Whitlinger said, expressing his appreciation of the unique opportunity. "There are certainly some pretty good tennis players here. We have enjoyed ourselves today."

As for the score of the matches? That depended on which side you talked to. Some said the final score was 3-2, others had it at 3-1. It's not clear how much the score really mattered — both sides were smiling as they left the court.



# OPINION

By **WATANI STINER**  
Contributing Writer

After serving 29 years on a second-degree murder charge, 67-year-old Fred Hempstead was finally granted parole and released from San Quentin on October 8. The governor declined to review the parole board’s unanimous decision to release him — unlike a previous occasion when the governor overruled the board.

On one hand, I’m extremely happy for my old friend Fred. To see him walk out of this prison on his own two feet rather than being carried out in a pine box was a joy beyond all measurement. But on the other hand, I’m mad as hell that it took so long.

It is often said, “If you do the crime you must do the time.” But

the follow up question is equally as important: “How much time equals justice?”

Like so many other “lifers” (with the possibility of parole), Fred Hempstead had appeared before the parole board many times. He had served well over his time and done all the things the parole board had required. The law says that you should be paroled when you are “rehabilitated.” Given the time he had served, his advanced age and his medical concerns, what purpose was served in holding him any longer?

But, now that Fred’s gone I’m also happy and grateful for my memories of him. His jokes and sense of humor are unmatched by anyone I’ve ever known. His funny account of why he was los-

## Happy on the one hand, but...

ing his hairs still brings a smile to my face: “Man, my hair refused to do all this time with me. So one night while I was asleep, it decided to escape without me.”

### He would wear a different suit and tie each day

Fred was born in Minnesota and came to California in the late 70s, working as a salesman for Phillip Morris Tobacco Company. He would brag of wearing a different suit and tie each day as he traveled across the state, ensuring quality customer service and increasing his sales. He

was well on his way to becoming one of the leading salesman of his district when he was persuaded to add another product to his inventory: marijuana. He said he never used the stuff himself, but pretty soon Fred found himself making more and faster money selling marijuana rather than cigarettes.

Disrespect over a drug deal gone bad, which had nothing directly to do with Fred but with his younger brother, sparked a verbal confrontation at a house party, ending with Fred shooting two men, one fatally.

Looking back, Fred said, “I take full responsibility for my action. If only I had these same tools back then to defuse the situation, and had I not been carrying a gun, it never would have happened and I never would have gone to prison.”

One of the groups Fred has been

most passionate about here at San Quentin was S.Q.U.I.R.E.S., a group geared toward turning around troubled youth. He often shared his story with them, saying, “If you carry a gun, sooner or later you’re gonna use it.”

Because Fred rarely attended church services, few people knew that he was a deeply religious and spiritual person. “A true Christian is recognized and defined by his actions, not by his weekly rituals and words,” he said. He was also accepting of all religions: “That’s not for me or anyone to judge. Everyone has to be true to their own faith and answer to the God they pray to.”

I wish Fred good things without number and many blessings without end. I’m happy as heaven on the one hand and mad as hell on the other. Fred Hempstead should have been paroled years ago.

## Amid all the chaos, there is one thing that remains

By **DAVID MARSH**  
News Editor

HOPE...so essential to the preservation and nourishment of the human spirit...to our spirits, yours and mine! Hope is the ultimate motivator, directly or indirectly, for all of our actions, conscious and subconscious, whether we are in or out of prison. But for those of us behind these walls, hope becomes even more critical. Often it is all that we have. Or at least to us, so it seems. And in our darkest of moments during the most dreary of days behind these walls, it can quite often seem that, indeed, we have no hope at all! But, in truth, this seldom if ever turns out to be the case. For even in the darkest of moments, somehow there is still a glimmer of hope for those of us who would look hard enough.

For many of us here at San Quentin, both staff and inmates alike, these have been the darkest of days as round after round of state budget cuts have cut painfully into those things that so many of us deem necessary for our continued well-being. Staffing cutbacks and program eliminations, seemingly never ending, have reduced morale in the prison to the lowest of levels that few among us have ever seen.

Take away the staff and you in turn must take away the programming. With a scarcity of programming comes a lessening of the opportunities for me to rehabilitate myself while I am here. And as we all know all too well, less rehabilitation translates most assuredly into more recidivism. Those are the facts.

HOPE...among my peers we cling desperately to the seemingly certain promise of some sort of change brought about by those three judges of the federal court panel. C’mon Henderson, Karlton and Reinhardt! For they are our hope. A looming presence soon to be felt by all, so much more acutely than most might imagine.

In a state which is reeling from the nightmare reality of empty coffers, shrinking services, political discord and indecision and the worst job prospects that anybody can remember, we as inmates find a cause for hope in three gentlemen on the bench in Sacramento. Whether you are a Lifer, an 85 percenter, sick, aged or otherwise infirm, or simply a short-term parole violator, radical changes within the system are coming, and soon!

Meanwhile, for the short-term, it becomes a case of waiting for the dust to settle after the nightmare of cutbacks and layoffs. In-

## As I See It

deed, the dust will settle. And for San Quentin, a prison that touted a plethora of programs coming into 2009, there will most certainly be a wide variety of programming that survives the cuts.

Less of a selection? No doubt! Much less, I’m guessing. But on a personal level, I am always reminded to ask myself “Compared to what?” And compared to California’s other 32 prisons, there will remain at San Quentin a smorgasbord of self-help programs that offer the chance for individual improvement and growth. Certainly not near what we have grown accustomed to,

for in many respects we have been truly blessed. But if there is one program left where once there may have been three, or perhaps even a choice still left to us among two remaining programs where once there have may have been many, are we not still much better off than our peers in one of the many barren lock-down prisons within the state?

For me, the answer is a resounding “Yes.” And therein lies Hope for me. Sometimes a glimmer, but more often a Gleam. Generally the only real difference in the two is in the way that I perceive them. That choice of perspective



is on me.

For the holidays coming ahead, when I say my thanks, it takes much more than a moment, though I am indeed still in prison. The part about “still in prison” won’t always be that way, for me or for you.

There is always HOPE.

## The Wisdom of Talking to Your Enemies

By **MICHAEL HARRIS**  
Editor-in-Chief  
and  
**STEPHEN LIEBB**  
Contributing Writer

*“If you want to make peace you don’t talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.”*  
— Moshe Dayan, Israeli Military Leader

To settle differences, reach understanding and resolve conflict, talking to your enemies would seem to be a sensible approach. Talking to those with whom we have differences is a concept taught in anger management and conflict resolution classes at San Quentin Prison. Communication is a skill that is useful in improving personal relationships.

**INTENSE CRITICISM**

Yet, this approach to peace-making, eloquently and powerfully projected by President Barack Obama, has brought him intense criticism and derision. His critics ignore a powerful example from history when bitter enemies who killed each other’s sons on the battlefield were brought together to speak face-to-face and pro-

duce peace.

Use of force and threats is not the only way to gain compliance. President Obama declared in his inaugural address that, “power grows through its prudent use [and] the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.” In emphasizing our “common humanity” Obama envisioned a time when “the old hatreds shall someday pass [and] the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve.”

**BASIC COMPONENT**

Those who deride his willingness to “extend a hand” to America’s enemies as misguided, weak and a form of appeasement ignore a basic component in human relationships. Silence and estrangement born of fear and mistrust only increase tension and dehumanize those with whom we need to achieve understanding. When we fail to see the shared humanity of our “enemy” it becomes easier to take their rights, their possessions and their lives.

In seeking a New Beginning with the Muslim world, Obama spoke in Cairo, Egypt. He said, “So long as our relationship is defined by our differences we

will empower those who sow hatred rather than peace, those who promote conflict rather than cooperation that can help all of our people achieve justice and prosperity. And this cycle of suspicion and discord must end.”

Speaking the truth openly to one’s enemy is not a sign of weakness or surrender, but a demonstration of profound courage and commitment to peace. Obama acknowledged that his speech could not “eradicate years of mistrust... But I am convinced that in order to move forward we must say openly to each other the things we hold in our hearts and that too often are said only behind closed doors.”

Obama’s New Beginning in Cairo focused on the major source of tension produced by the conflict between Israelis, Palestinians and the Arab world. The value of speaking openly to the enemy was demonstrated in the Israeli-Egyptian peace forged in 1977-1979.

**SAW THE COST**

Anwar Sadat, Egypt’s President and the chief planner of Egypt’s war against Israel in 1973, saw the cost of continued

conflict to his country in blood and prosperity.

Against a background of intense opposition at home and in the Arab world, Sadat said, “I am ready to go to Jerusalem and to give a speech in the Israeli Knesset if this will save the blood of my sons.” Speaking in Arabic before the Knesset in 1979, Sadat touched upon the common humanity of his people and his enemy the Israelis. “We all still bear the consequences of four fierce wars waged within 30 years... A wife who becomes a widow is a human being entitled to a happy family life, whether she be an Arab or an Israeli...”

**LETTING GO**

Talking to the enemy may involve letting go of past wrongs so that we don’t become prisoners of the past. Programs at San Quentin like TRUST and IMPACT help us identify who we were in the past so that the past can be purged. Often we are our own worst enemy, and the dialogue we have with ourselves helps us to create a new beginning.



# Poetry

**BETTER TO LIGHT CANDLES**  
By Merle Shain

*It is better to light a candle  
Than to curse the darkness.  
It is better to plant seeds  
Than to accuse the earth  
The world needs all of our  
power  
And love and energy,  
And each of us has something  
that we can give  
The trick is to find it and use  
it.  
To find it give it away  
So there will always be more.  
We can be lights for each  
other.  
And through each other's  
illumination  
We will see the way.*

**SO, DADDY WON'T BEG THEM ANYMORE**  
By Watani Stiner

*There is no compassion  
In parole board rooms  
Where justice should prevail.  
I have pleaded long enough.  
So, Daddy won't beg them  
anymore.  
One-and-a-half decade  
separated from you,  
Time has surely taken its toll.  
They stole the years,  
kidnapped the dreams  
I negotiated for you.  
So, Daddy won't beg them  
anymore  
I wanted to curse them when I  
heard,  
Parole Denied!  
But only a whisper found its  
way:  
What about my children?  
So, Daddy won't beg them  
anymore.  
I will not seek their sympathy  
ever again - -  
Sons and Daughters cast  
aside.  
They have taken everything  
meaningful  
Far away from me.  
But I shall not surrender my  
dignity.  
So, Daddy won't beg them  
anymore!*

**THE UNSUBDUED**  
By S.E. Kiser

*I have hoped, I have planned, I  
have striven,  
To the wall I have added the  
deed;  
The best that was in me I've  
given,  
I have prayed, but the gods  
would not heed.  
I have dared and reached only  
disaster,  
I have battled and broken my  
lance,  
I am bruised by a pitiless master  
That the weak and the timid call  
chance  
I am old, I am bent, I am cheated  
Of all that Youth urged me to win;  
But name me not with the  
defeated,  
For tomorrow – again begin.*

## Sports Trivia

By **DARRELL C. HARTLEY**  
Staff Writer

(1). What were the former names of Candlestick Park?

Answer: 3COM and Monster Park.

(2). What NFL town is called the Emerald City?

Answer: Seattle.

(3). Where did Los Angeles Lakers star Ron Artest begin his career?

Answer: The Indiana Pacers.

(4). The Miami Hurricanes have fourth and one, how much do they need for a first down?

Answer: Three feet.

(5). What was the former name of World Wrestling Entertainment?

Answer: World Wrestling Federation.

## State Offers Its Response To 3-Judge Panel Demands

**Continued from Page 1**

Legislature's earlier rejection of important reform elements in his reduction plan.

Although it met the federal panel's deadline for a response, the state maintains that the court has exceeded its authority in ordering the reduction plan, and has filed a notice of intention to appeal the court's order with the U.S. Supreme Court.

A longtime critic and skeptic of the state's intentions, inmate's attorney Donald Specter of the nonprofit Prison Law Office, applauded the state's plan. At first glance, it appears the plan is "a reasonable and thoughtful way of approaching the legal issue," said Specter.

Reactions from California lawmakers were predictably mixed,

with state Sen. Mark Leno, Chairman of the Senate Public Safety Committee criticizing the state's desire to add more beds. "I think that doesn't deal with the problem," Leno said. "The overcrowding is a symptom. Building new beds doesn't address the problem that caused the symptom." Leno proposed a major overhaul of the state's sentencing guidelines, something that is not a part of the state's plan but has been suggested by the three-judge panel.

In contrast, Assemblyman Jim Nielsen, R-Gerber, said that the state needs to build more prisons.

There is no timetable for an expected response to the state's plan from the three judges.

## Snippets

Very little substance to a jellyfish. They are composed of 95% water.

And introducing In the summer of 1967, Jimi Hendrix played seven dates as the warm-up band for the Monkees.

Now that's a lotta fish! A Giant Mekong Catfish caught on May 1, 2005, it weighed in at a whopping 646 pounds!!!!

Ice is a mineral.

Super Glue was invented strictly by accident in 1942 by Dr. Harry Coover who was trying to make optical coating materials.

Here's a thought worth pondering for a moment! Men who kiss their wives goodbye in the morning tend to earn higher salaries than those who do not.

Inventor Thomas Edison held over 1,500 patents, including those for the phonograph, light-bulb, radio and a tattoo gun.

No owls in Antarctica. No sir! It's the only continent on our planet that has none.

Greenland is the world's largest island. At 840,000 square miles, it is three times the size of Texas.

Receding hairline is the reason Sean Connery wore a toupee during the filming of the James Bond movies

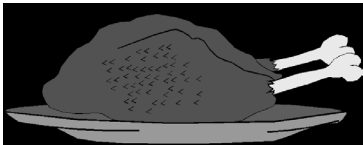
## CORRECTION

The San Quentin News would like to correct mistakes in the article "Going Green" in the August/September/October issue.

The quotation attributed to Green Life Peer Educator Kevin Tindall was incorrectly reported. The correct quotation: "I destroyed my community and after one destroys you want to rebuild your community. I want to give back to the youth. I didn't have anyone to support me like that in that manner when I was young. So now I want to give of myself, to let people know that I am more than what I was in the past, by helping others."

Also, Kevin Tindall and Troy Williams were not correctly recognized as Green Life Peer Educators and Erin O'Conner, a newcomer to the facilitation team, did not appear in the group photo.

The San Quentin News regrets the errors.



### Last Month's Sudoku Solution

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

## S.Q. Variety Book Club Book Review

By **RANDY MALUENDA**



**HARRY POTTER & THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE** (By J. K. Rowling) -- sixth installment in the continuing saga of the boy wizard.



**THE LAST LECTURE** (By Randy Pausch) -- Life lessons from cancer patient Pausch in the face of impending death.



**GANGS OF NEW YORK** (by Herbert Asbury) -- Operations of immigrant gangs during pre-Civil War New York.



**ELDEST & ERAGON** (by Christopher Paolini) -- Sword & sorcery tales.



**CENSORED 2008 & 2009** -- Newsworthy items not widely covered by major media.

### RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbons progressing downward to one:

Responses which are two ribbons or less are not recommended reading:



## Sudoku

By **ANTHONY LYONS**

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



By Jonathon Harrington  
Contributing Writer  
(Part 3 in a three-part series)

Concern for the environment and the current state of our economy are two major issues of the day. And a commitment to a good job can also include a commitment to the planet.

Right now, there's a great opportunity to strengthen America's economy with "green" jobs and simultaneously help Americans living in poverty become part of a revived middle class. According to Van Jones, President Obama's former Green Jobs Czar (who recently visited San Quentin), we have to provide training that

will turn 20<sup>th</sup> century blue-collar jobs into 21<sup>st</sup> century "green collar" jobs. "Green" jobs tend to be local, which in turn will help strengthen urban and rural communities and provide "pathways out of poverty."

You may wonder how "going green" is incorporated into the Insight Garden Program's (IGP) curriculum. By working in an organic flower garden, the men of IGP have become ecologically

# Insight Garden Program: Going Green!

literate. They develop an awareness of their connection to, and impact upon, the world around them. They also learn about the interconnections of human and ecological systems and how the principles of the natural world, such as diversity and cooperation, transfer to all levels of human systems. Because experience working in the natural world cultivates consciousness, people can learn to respond rather than

to react.

This knowledge translates into real life skills. Not only do IGP's participants gain hands-on training in the H-Unit organic flower garden, IGP has also begun re-entry training and collaborations with a variety of organizations both inside and outside the prison walls, including the *Green Life Program* at San Quentin (formerly Keepin' It Real), as well as

the *California Reentry Program*. In addition, we are working with outside service providers, such as the *Contra Costa Reentry Initiative* to help establish effective post-release systems that include green collar jobs.

IGP is committed to setting up a post-release program and continuum of care to help men find gardening, landscaping and green jobs when they leave prison. With the help of IGP's dedicated staff and volunteers, we work together to learn the skills we need to become productive members of society *AND* responsible stewards of the environment.



- 1) **SACRAMENTO** – The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has ended contracts with three private prisons in the state. The CDCR cited a drop in the number of minimum security inmates as a reason for the move, which is expected to save the state about \$15 million a year.
- 1) **SACRAMENTO** – Gov. Schwarzenegger announced plans to immediately ship an additional 2,300 inmates to private prisons out-of-state as a means of reducing overcrowding in California's prisons. No word on what this plan will cost the state.
- 2) **OKLAHOMA CITY** – Prosecutors are investigating claims that

- both the former chief groundskeeper and the head chef at the governor's mansion raped three female inmates assigned to work on the mansion's grounds. No charges have yet been filed against either man, though both were fired Sept. 29 for violating policies.
- 3) **CORCORAN** – An attorney for the assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has protested the transfer of Sirhan Sirhan from the high security prison where he has been housed to a lower security prison at Pleasant Valley in Coalinga (Fresno County). Attorney William Pepper says the move could endanger the life of his client.

## Letters

### It Was An Epic Day

To the Editor:

I want to express my appreciation in thanks to the Men in Blue responsible for the Avon Walk in San Quentin. The perseverance necessary to make it happen was epic. I have only a small understanding of the hurdles thrown at you and cannot truly imagine how difficult it was at times.

Thank you for your resilience and determination, for keeping on track and for reaching your ultimate goal. You are all a fine testimony to the fact that much can be accomplished in life despite significant obstacles.

I am proud to have walked with men with bad hips, new hips, bad knees and men with canes. Men who never exercise and men with whom I could barely keep up with! I saw what a group effort can do where an individual can only dream.

The experience was profound and deeply moving and one that will stay with me always.

I urge you to keep this indomitable spirit alive and to stay on this path of strength, hope and faith. I am honored to have been a part of it and I thank you.

With deep respect,

Helen

hours b reeds anger and violence. Segregating us by race and gang affiliation is just increasing the tension. Things seem hopeless up here.

I spent 10 months in San Quentin in Reception. Walking around that prison from time to time while I was there I could see how

much a prison like that has to offer. When I left I knew I would never see a place like that again. I wish all prisons could offer rehabilitation like San Quentin. Also, being from San Francisco it was nice to be close to home.

I hope change comes soon. Things are not looking bright on these Level IV yards.

Philip L. Sands  
#F 11335  
Pelican Bay State Prison

## San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/San\\_Quentin\\_News/SQ-San\\_Quentin\\_News.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/San_Quentin_News/SQ-San_Quentin_News.html)

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## We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News welcomes and encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and people and entities outside of the institution to submit articles for this publication.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Please limit your submitted articles to no more than 350 words.
- Articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances, use the prison appeals process. However, we do encourage submitting stories and/or articles which are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Art work is welcomed (i.e. Poems, songs, cartoons, drawings).
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:  
Education Dept. / SQ News  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
(No Street address required)

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Back  
Issues of the San Quentin News

- May 23, 1980** – **Three cons were assaulted** and stabbed in what prison authorities are calling a racially motivated attack. One suspect was nabbed, and three prison-made knives were confiscated at the scene of the incident. The prison was placed on lockdown.
- July 4, 1980** – A prisoner who escaped from a minimum security area of San Quentin Prison was recaptured in Lovelock, Nevada. Donald Frank Bonita, 44, walked away from his job in the prison hobby shop June 21. The hobby shop is located just outside the main gate.
- Sept. 5, 1980** – Ten shots were fired to break up a fight between seven cons on the C Section yard. Seven prisoners were treated at the prison hospital for birdshot wounds. The incident was considered nonracial.
- November 14, 1980** – The San

- Quentin Pirates took an undefeated record into their football game with the also undefeated team from Alameda Naval Air Station, only to lose 28-4.
- August 14, 1981** – A San Quentin Correctional Officer was arrested on suspicion of bringing drugs into the prison when a vial of what appeared to be cocaine was found in his car. John Taylor, 32, of Vallejo, had been employed at the prison for 11 months.
- November 13, 1981** – Joan Baez, Norton Buffalo, Nightfood and High Noon appeared at the annual Bike Show held Nov. 8 on the lower yard. Approximately 30 bikes were on view for the show. Another 25 bikes and a parts truck were turned away at the main gate for various reasons. (Update Oct. 2009: Norton Buffalo, long-time harmonica player for the Steve Miller Band, passed away after a battle with cancer.)

### What Programs Mean

To the Editor:

I am serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole in Pelican Bay. This means I will spend my whole term on a Level IV yard. I have been here since 2006. Since then we have lost almost all our programs on B Yard, and we have been on a segregated, modified lockdown since February of this year.

Violence has plagued this yard since 2008. We have no education classes, no chapel, no Arts in Corrections anymore, and they are firing teachers. Northerners and Blacks come out on odd days. Southerners, Whites and Others come out on even days. No one can get contact visiting on B Yard.

I only have an F number, but I really hope we will have some changes that come soon. If we had more programs and activities maybe the violence would decrease. Sitting idle in a cell for

Also contributions by the



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