

# The Men of Death Row Speak Out

First in a series of interviews with San Quentin's Condemned Row prisoners. The interview was conducted by Editor-in-Chief Michael R. Harris, Managing Editor Julian Glenn Padgett, Staff Writer Arnulfo Garcia and former News Editor David Marsh.

For the first time in nearly two decades San Quentin News reporters were allowed to interview prisoners on Condemned Row, better known as Death Row. The eight prisoners interviewed are members of the East Block Ad-

visory Counsel (EBAC). The interview was conducted in the East Block Chapel, a small area with benches. A fence separated members of EBAC and San Quentin News reporters.

EBAC was created to represent the Death Row community. It is a group similar to the Men's Advisory Council (MAC) of the general population that addresses inmate concerns. EBAC was formed in 2008 with the approval of now-retired Warden Robert Ayers Jr.

San Quentin News reporters interviewed EBAC Chairman Lemar Barnwell, Vice Chairman Dwayne Carry, Secretary James Robinson, Dexter Williams, Bob Williams, Ryan Marshall and Paul Henderson. Also participating was L. Samuel Capers, contributing writer for the S.Q. News column "Voices from the Row."

San Quentin Lt. Rudy Luna, Administrative Assistant to the Warden, arranged the interview and explained, "Each prisoner is elected from their assigned yard by their

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## San Quentin News

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Photo: Mary Celio

Judge Henderson surrounded by S.Q. News editors and other S.Q. program facilitators

### Slain Activist Mourned by S.Q. Inmates

By JULIAN GLENN PADGETT  
Managing Editor

David Lewis was shot in the back and killed in the parking garage of a San Mateo shopping center in June. His death shocked and saddened a vast number of people, but nowhere more so than in San Quentin.

His example changed the way many inmates do their time. Lewis was a drug addict and dealer at age 15 and by age 19 was serving a 10-years-to-life sentence. He paroled in 1991 and afterwards was one of the few ex-prisoners to return to San Quentin often to give advice and encouragement.

Lewis was recognized throughout the United States and parts of Africa as a lightning rod for positive change, yet San Quentin was where his inner journey towards his own self transformation truly began.

Lewis, 54, a father of four, co-founded Free at Last in East Palo Alto. It is a model substance abuse intervention program that included AIDs prevention and prisoner rehabilitation. He was a Certified Master Facilitator for

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### Graduation Message Of Hope, Confidence

BY ARNULFO GARCIA  
Staff Writer  
JUAN HAINES  
Journalism Guild Writer  
and  
JULIAN GLENN PADGETT  
Managing Editor

"Achieving the Vision" was more than the theme of the 2010 graduation ceremony at San Quentin State Prison. It was a message of hope and confidence that improvement was possible for these incarcerated students of academia.

This triumph signified optimism in the future of men who graduated from various vocational trade programs still available in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in addition to the Robert E. Burton GED (General Education Development high school equivalency) program, and the Patten University Associate of Arts degree program.

Acting Warden Vincent Cullen opened the ceremony by acknowledging the loss of valuable personnel within the Educational Department due to budget cuts. Cullen emphasized the importance of the volunteers who entered the prison committed to continue San Quentin's unique

educational programs for prisoners.

Cullen ended his inspirational speech to the graduates and their families by declaring, "The last thing I want to say about this event...As the men's names are announced...watch the reaction of the family members as they receive them...It's worth the price of admission, because to me, it's the brightest moment in the 365

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### Judges Back Kelso's Rule

By DAVID MARSH  
Contributing Writer

A federal panel has refused to eliminate the receiver overseeing California prison health care.

The ruling clears the way for federal Receiver J. Clark Kelso to proceed with his \$1.9 billion construction plan to add medical beds to the state's 32 prisons.

The decision was announced by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on April 30.

Kelso was appointed by U.S. District Judge Thelton E. Henderson of San Francisco under

### Judge Henderson: Catalyst of Change

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS  
Editor-in-Chief

It was a bright, sunny day at San Quentin for the June 3 ceremony formally celebrating the new \$136 million Central Health Services Building – a milestone in California's court-mandated effort to improve unconstitutionally poor healthcare in its prisons. Perhaps the true jewel in the crown of this special day was the unexpected, unheralded appearance of the man whose tenacity and commitment to this cause made the building possible: U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson.

Well noted at the ceremony was the role played by Federal Receiver J. Clark Kelso, who was also on hand to christen the first step in the Herculean construction efforts to bring California's inmate healthcare up to acceptable standards. It was Judge Henderson who hired Kelso to lead this unprecedented, multi-million dollar effort. However, prior to the ceremony Judge Henderson insisted that his role be down played. And thus, while one involved person after another – from Kelso to the building's locksmith – stepped forward to receive accolades, Judge Henderson sat quietly in the front row, observing with a serene smile.

#### Commentary

How two lives diverged after starting from the same place. Page 11.

Kelso acknowledged Judge Henderson's role in making this project possible. But Judge Henderson's aide had asked that no picture be taken of him receiving a plaque or a certificate. Such is the quiet nature of a man in the twilight days of an enduring and remarkable career. Judge Henderson's life, from his collegiate years at Berkeley's Boalt Hall to his meteoric rise as a young civil rights attorney in the South during the turbulent Sixties repeatedly calls forth a description as "the first."

In his early years growing up in South Central Los Angeles near Watts, Henderson's mother convinced him that he was going to be somebody in the world, ideally a doctor or a lawyer. He went to UC Berkeley on a football scholarship but a knee injury benched his football career and focused his energies on academics. One of only two African-American students in the Boalt Hall class of 1962, Henderson started his legal career when John Doar recruited

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authority of the federal Prison Litigation Reform Act. The move came as a result of a decades-long class action lawsuit filed by inmates challenging poor health care in the state's adult prisons.

Kelso's job was to bring prison health care up to acceptable constitutional standards. Initially the state did not object to the appointment of a receiver in 2006, and admitted that it was unable to remedy the problem within its prisons. Only when the state's economy collapsed did legal efforts begin to rid California of the receiver.

California faces a projected budget shortfall of \$19 billion through June of 2011.

Prisons chief Matthew Cate claimed Henderson had no authority to appoint Kelso, and that Kelso then had no authority to order the construction of 10,000 additional beds, at a cost of approximately \$6 billion.

With the onset of the state's financial crisis, Kelso responded with his current, more modest proposal for two new hospitals

See Panel on Page 2

# The Impact of Doing Time

By **ARNULFO GARCIA** and  
**JUAN HAINES**  
San Quentin Journalism Guild

Incarceration renders some people so dependent on others that they gradually lose the capacity to rely on themselves to guide their actions and restrain their conduct, according to Craig Haney of the University of California-Santa Cruz.

The emphasis on the punitive and stigmatizing aspects of incarceration has furthered the psychological isolation of prison from society, compromised prison visitation programs and curtailed scarce resources used to maintain ties between prisoners, their families and the rest of society, according to a report written by for a conference funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in January of 2002.

The report examines the unique set of psychological alterations

that many prisoners are forced to undergo in order to survive the penitentiary experience and the psychological impact of incarceration and its implications for post-prison adjustment back into society.

The rapid influx of new prisoners, serious shortages in staffing and other resources, and embracing of an openly punitive approach to corrections led to the "de-skilling" of many correctional staff members who often resorted to extreme forms of prison discipline (such as punitive isolation or "supermax" confinement) that had especially destructive effects on prisoners, repressing conflict rather than resolving it. Increased tensions and higher levels of fear and danger resulted, according to the report.

Since the 1970s, a combination of forces has transformed the nation's criminal justice system and modified the nature of imprisonment. The combination of over-

crowding and rapid expansion of prison systems nationally adversely affects living conditions in many prisons, jeopardizes prisoner safety, compromises prison management and limits prisoner access to programming.

In the mid-1970s incarceration shifted from putting people

## *Aiming for re-entry into society as productive citizens.*

in prison, believing it would rehabilitate them for re-entry into society as productive citizens, to one that used imprisonment to inflict pain on wrongdoers ("just deserts"), disable criminal offenders ("incapacitation"), or to isolate deviants from society ("containment").

### CORRECTION

In the last issue of the San Quentin news we misspelled the name of Republican Arizona Governor Jan Brewer in the News Briefs Section, Page 11. We apologize for the error.  
~The editors

and information gathering to meet the never-ending needs of their CRP clients.

"This program would not exist without the volunteers," said West, whose paid staff includes one part-time employee. "Without the hard work and dedication of all of them, none of this would have been possible for these past seven years".

For North Block, the program operates out of building B in the old laundry building, and West assists about 20 inmates each week with preparation for Parole Board hearings as well as long-term parole planning.

### CONTINUING PROBLEM

The CRP was founded by West in 2003 and is entirely funded through grants from charitable foundations and private donations of just five or ten dollars each. Funding is a continuing problem, says West, and additional sources must be found if the non-profit program is to continue operating beyond the end of the year.

The economic downturn has dramatically cut into the money available from charitable foundations that normally provide the bulk of funding for programs for the homeless, legal advocacy groups and a program such as the CRP.

The loss of the CRP would be a tremendous blow to the countless inmates who are critically dependent upon West and her unique program.

Allyson West has been involved at San Quentin for the past decade, initially as an algebra instructor for Patten University.

Thus, in the first decade of the 21st century, more people have been subjected to the ill effects of imprisonment, for longer periods, under conditions that threaten greater psychological distress and potential long-term dysfunction. Many will return to communities that have already been disadvantaged by a lack of social services and resources.

Penal institutions require inmates to relinquish their individuality and freedom to make their own choices and decisions. This process requires what is a painful adjustment for most people.

The adaptation to imprisonment, at times, creates habits of thinking and acting that can be dysfunctional in periods of post-prison adjustment.

Subtle psychological alterations occur in the routine course of adapting to prison life. The term "institutionalization" is used to describe the process by which inmates are shaped and transformed by the institutional environments in which they live.

Institutionalization has taught most people to cover their feelings and not to openly or easily reveal intimate feelings or reactions. Prisoners struggle to control and suppress their own internal emotional reactions to events around them.

Prison culture preys on both mental and physical weakness and vulnerability and discourages the expression of candid emotions or intimacy.

It is important to emphasize that these are the natural and normal adaptations made by prisoners in response to the unnatural and abnormal conditions of penitentiary life, according to Haney's study.

Because many institutions are dangerous places, prisoners learn quickly to become hyper vigilant and ever-alert for signs of threat or personal risk.

*To be continued...*

## *Prison Smokers Are Facing A Bleak Future All Over*

When Virginia instituted its long-planned smoking ban in prisons in February, it brought half the number of the 50 states which have outlawed the use of tobacco products by staff and inmates on prison grounds.

A number of the other 25 states that still permit tobacco products on prison grounds have some sort of partial ban in place, with some sort of exception such as staff smoking areas. Georgia will become the next state with smokeless prisons when its ban takes effect in December.

Most states have relied on a phased-in approach in order to achieve a total ban, rather than a much harsher "cold-turkey" approach.

By banning the use of tobacco products in prisons, states hope to realize huge savings in health care-related costs for inmates, as well as an eventual reduction in

## *Fast Work On Lower Yard Fence*

Within a week of the May 17 break-in and vandalizing of one of the education modules located on the Main Recreation Yard, a barrier fence that had sat unfinished for months was quickly completed. This barrier was a continuation of one already in place surrounding the main education module, located on the south quadrant of the yard where SQTV and the educational offices are located. It effectively isolated two additional modular buildings.

But, in addition to securing these areas and controlling entrance by the general population, on weekends when there is no custody coverage for education it eliminates any accessibility to flushable toilets or running water for hand-washing for anyone utilizing the lower yard.

During the summer months it is not unusual to have hundreds of people on the yard enjoying the activities offered there. And for all of these people there are now just eight portable toilets and no running water to wash their hands. And with several recent outbreaks of both H1N1 and Norovirus within the prison, physical interaction, such as shaking hands or sharing sports equipment, is a health concern in this regard.

When contacted by San Quentin News staff regarding concerns about the lack of sanitary facilities, Lieutenant Nick Taylor said, "This is a safety and security issue."

At press time a temporary sink had been located near the portable toilets adjacent to the baseball diamond.

insurance premiums for healthier staff.

Attempts by Arizona lawmakers to outlaw smoking in prisons were defeated last year. But state Representative Bill Konopnicki, the bill's sponsor, said plans were underway to re-introduce the legislation this year.

The American Civil Liberties Union supports some bans through its National Prison Project, citing an inmate's right to breathe non-contaminated air.

For some reason, states along the country's southern border from New Mexico to Florida still allow some form of tobacco in prisons.

— David Marsh



## Re-Entry Program — What It Means

By **DAVID MARSH**  
Contributing Writer

The clients are inmates, and many are soon to be paroled. In large numbers, two evenings each week, they file steadily through the door of the California Re-entry Program in a seemingly unending stream.

For those who come through the door, their quest is for information vital to their success or failure on parole. Information which, for most, can be found in no other place behind the walls of this budget-challenged prison.

### THROUGH THE DOOR

Twice each week many will come through the door seeking information in areas as diverse as post-parole employment, housing, college and financial aid assistance or child support information. For others, it's information from the DMV, Social Security, drug and alcohol treatment facilities, dress-out clothing or bus and train schedules.

## *Panel Backs Kelso's Rule Over Prisons*

*Continued from Page 1*

and 3,400 beds intended for acute and long-term care.

"The problem has not been with a lack of plans, but with the state's ability to execute them," the appellate panel said in its ruling. The court ruled that the appointment of the receiver was the least intrusive way to ensure inmates' rights.

"The state to this day has not pointed to any evidence that it could remedy its constitutional violations in the absence of the receivership," the judges declared.

Whatever their needs, the small army of well-trained, friendly and enthusiastic volunteers of Director Allyson West's unique program are well-equipped to make the connections between those who are soon to be paroled and the array of service providers in any of California's 58 counties.

"The need was obviously there," said West. "The inmates have so few places they can go for information."

In addition, West regularly brings a representative from the Marin Employment Connection, occasional speakers and related service professionals into the institution to conduct seminars and instruct inmates in the development of resume building skills, sharpening interviewing techniques, how to expunge one's record and related health issues.

About 25 volunteers of the CRP serve the needs of approximately 150 to 200 clients who come through the door each month, Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 for H-Unit, and Tuesday evenings for residents of North Block. The CRP began servicing H-Unit in 2006.

For many of the volunteers, some of whom are exploring possible careers in social work or law enforcement, the experience is both preparation and training for eventual employment.

The volunteers come from a range of backgrounds as varied as the differences in their ages, from Tom, in his 70s, to Aliza at 22. Each is asked to commit to the program for a minimum of six months, says West, and some have been with the CRP for much longer.

Volunteers undergo four hours of training and must submit to a background check. Some elect to work both nights, some only one, but each will put in about 3 to 10 hours per-week of home research



Photo: Laura Bowman

2010 Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin scholarship recipients with their family members accompanied by members of the Scholarship Selection Committee.

## S.Q. Veterans Group Gives To 4 Students In a Big Way

jb wells  
Contributing Writer

San Quentin's Vietnam veterans group presented \$6,000 in scholarships to four young students at its annual banquet.

Emma Irving, Julia Cratty, Steven Sigley Jr. and Elise Kerner were honored June 12 at the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin (V.V.G.S.Q.) 24th Annual Scholarship Banquet.

Presiding were executive body members John Blair and David Leavitt.

Presentation boxes were provided to sponsors and supporters of the group. Money for the scholarships came from fund-raising activities by the V.V.G.S.Q. This year, additionally, there were two \$1,000 scholarships made available for presentation from the Salvation Army and the local Episcopal Diocese.

Theme of the essays was "What effect has my parent's military service had on my life?"

Emma Irving, a 2010 graduate of Tomales High School, plans to use her \$2,500 award toward expenses at California State University, Sonoma. In her essay, she noted that her dad served in Korea. "My dad has always been the one person in my life who has kept me motivated towards my goals," she wrote.

The Mary Manley Inspirational \$1,500 award was presented to Julia Cratty of Casa Grande High School in Petaluma, who highlights her learning disability, became a true scholar/athlete through strong and rigorous academic achievement.

While being a standout varsity basketball player and coach to junior hopefuls. She also became a Gold Award Girl Scout, a level earned by less than one percent of all young women in scouting. Further, Julia created a basketball clinic for elementary school girls to aid them in preparing for Junior High tryouts.

She plans to attend California Lutheran University in the fall with a goal of becoming a sports psychologist.

In her essay, Julia wrote, "My dad has taught me that a person has to face their struggles with a positive attitude in order to come out with a positive outcome."

Steven Sigley Jr. of Vanden High in Fairfield won a \$1,000 award. He completed a U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Last year he designed and built robots that play soccer. He plans to study engineering at the University of California at Davis.

Steven's essay noted being in a military family meant moving frequently. "I have a better ap-

preciation for my family since they're not always there ... That loss of a family member, while temporary, leads you to appreciate them more when they are around."

Another \$1,000 winner, Elise Kerner, was unable to attend because her graduation was scheduled simultaneously with the banquet. She graduated from Vacaville High school, where she was a standout in academics, band, and gymnastics, as well as certificates of high accomplishment in the study of French.

Elise plans to use her scholarship to attend Cornell University in Tompkins, N.Y. Her goal is to achieve her doctorate and serve as a surgeon or physical therapist.

Elise wrote in her essay, "As a military child I was brought up on many traditions; some simple like the monthly commissary trip, others more complicated. These traditions strengthened our family, because whether my dad was deployed or at home with us, these traditions remained the same."

## The Ups, Downs Of Hobby Shop Regulations

By COLE M. BIENEK  
Journalism Guild Writer

Part 2 of 2 parts

With the exception of suggestions for revising the cumbersome procedure for ordering materials and supplies, longtime hobby participant and artisan Renny Norelli feels that there is no reason to change the way the hobby program is managed. The in-cell program is a "proving ground for the hobby managers to observe and see what the new participants are capable of, and how much desire the inmate has for his chosen hobby." The in-cell program has always gone hand-in-hand with the shop program. Inmates must progressively work towards the privilege of having a station in the main shop. Norelli suggests that without the in-cell program, the hobby manager will have to rely on guesswork when determining who is permitted a permanent station in the main shop.

Hobby regulations state that the program is available to all eligible inmates. In San Quentin, inmates of the General Population and Condemned Row are the only prisoners eligible.

Condemned row is restricted to in-cell hobby participation; they are not currently permitted access to the Hobby Shop.

On March 16, 2009, former Warden Wong issued a revised Handicraft Operational Procedure. Setting aside 70 years of history, the new procedure reduced the in-cell hobby program to a degree equivalent to that found in level IV (the most restrictive) institutions. Currently, efforts are underway to submit changes to the warden's office. "I am looking at other institutions and their hobby programs for comparison," says North Block Captain H. Foss. "This current Operational Procedure does seem a bit restrictive." [Per regulations, Institutional Operational Procedures permit annual revisions.]

Foss, a departmental veteran with experience in institutions such as Level IV Pelican Bay, understands the benefits of inmates utilizing free time in a productive manner. "The hobby program," he says, "keeps men busy." According to departmental veterans, inmate idle time tends to lead to negative behavior.

The San Quentin of today is both a relic of the past and a stanchion of the future of rehabilitative activity in California. With its roots dating back to 1852 and the dank, musty hold of a ship moored in the harbor, the place is much more than just a prison—it

is an icon, a symbol of what has come before, and a lighthouse illuminating the future. Just as when Duffy took the first bold steps towards a modern, more effective approach to corrections, San Quentin maintains the tradition of being at the vanguard of California's rehabilitation movement.

Duffy knew that in order to have both a safer environment, and an institution that provided actual rehabilitation, he needed to have a system of positive incentives to go along with the plethora of punishments. However, Duffy was a wise man, and knew not to confuse fairness with softness. He remained warden for a little over 11 years, but his legacy persists to this day.

As it turns out, the hobby program grew into the model replicated throughout the rest of

California's prisons. Unfortunately, San Quentin now is one of only two operational hobby shops in the state. With the exception of women's prisons, Deuel Vocational Institute (DVI) operates the only other shop. Several other institutions

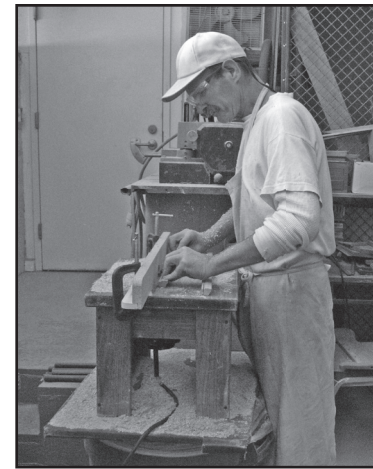


Photo: Lt. Robinson

John Harper at work

have limited in-cell programs allowing men to paint, assemble pre-cut models, do beadwork and other, non-tool oriented handicrafts.

If nothing else, one can walk through the doors of the Hobby Shop and perhaps see the shade of Warden Duffy maintaining a watchful eye over his creation.

Sources:

California State Prison-San Quentin Operational Procedure SQP-101050-2, March 2009.

Time Magazine, inc., CALIFORNIA: Mister San Quentin, Monday, January, 1952.

### H-UNIT VIRUS

Because of an outbreak of flu-like symptoms, inmates in San Quentin's H-Unit were placed on quarantine on June 25. The chief medical officer identified five inmates as affected. Because of a state-wide budgetary crisis, visiting had already been suspended for June 26 and 27. Because of the outbreak, visiting for the July 4th weekend was also canceled. All work and educational programs outside H-Unit were off-limits for that population.

All inmate movement was canceled, including all medical appointments. By July 2 medical personnel identified the culprit as Norovirus. The quarantine ended July 9.

### TELEVISION EVANGELIST

## Melissa Scott Ends Program

Due to escalating costs, television evangelist Melissa Scott reports she is dropping her TV programs. To those who've watched her on KRON and the ION Network, Pastor Scott said she will use other means of reaching out with her ministry.

On a visit to San Quentin's Garden Chapel in June, she explained the financial dilemma that's being replayed in almost every other sector of life. "We're the only television ministry that doesn't tell people to give to us. The station raised (its) fees six times! When we stopped, they

offered us a discount for six months, but that wasn't going to be enough."

Much of her nationwide audience has turned to the streaming video. She said she doesn't intend to return to broadcasting at this time.

Pastor Scott is known for her skills in 27 languages. "I grew up speaking French, Italian and English," she said, and later found she could quickly grasp many other dialects and languages.

She visits 15 prisons regularly to share of her faith. She commented that she has found signifi-

cant degrees of sincerity among inmates. "This is real," she said of the incarcerated. She reported there is more of a focus on worshiping and coming to know God.

Asked what verse she would share with those who don't read the Bible, she cited Matthew 4:17: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

To build Christian faith, Pastor Scott's suggested, "Study the Bible every day; it has unsearchable riches one could never mine completely."

# Legacy of David Lewis Will Carry On

*Continued from Page 1*

breaking barriers and Program Planner for Gordon Graham and Company.

He was widely known for his chameleon-like ability to work with everyone from substance abusers to ex-president Bill Clinton and ex-Mayor Willie Brown. Lewis assisted police in implementing ceasefires to stop gun violence. He counseled drug addicted men and women in the mean streets of East Palo Alto.

Sentenced to 10 years to life, Nathaniel Rouse has been at San Quentin for 16 years. He has the Muslim name of Shahid, which means, "Bear witness to truth". He remembers Lewis as a man who believed in his quest and lived his life by helping others live up to their own potential.

"I met David Lewis in 1996," said Shahid. "He came in with the Imam during the month of Ramadan." Yet the most miraculous part for Shahid was when Lewis had told the men how he was tired of using drugs and the way he changed his life through Al Islam.

"Living Al Islam and his returning to the institutions gave weight to his change," Shahid said. "Your record has to reflect true change."

At San Quentin Lewis started a program named Katargeo, a Greek word that means putting behind that which binds you. In Katargeo meetings incarcerated men talked about how to cope with the rigors of prison.

Lewis was keenly focused on the pulse of substance abuse. He recognized the connection between drug use and the AIDs epidemic in the African American community.

"He was relentlessly driven," said Michael R. Harris, Editor in Chief of the San Quentin News. "I met David at San Quentin shortly after I arrived in 2005, 2006."

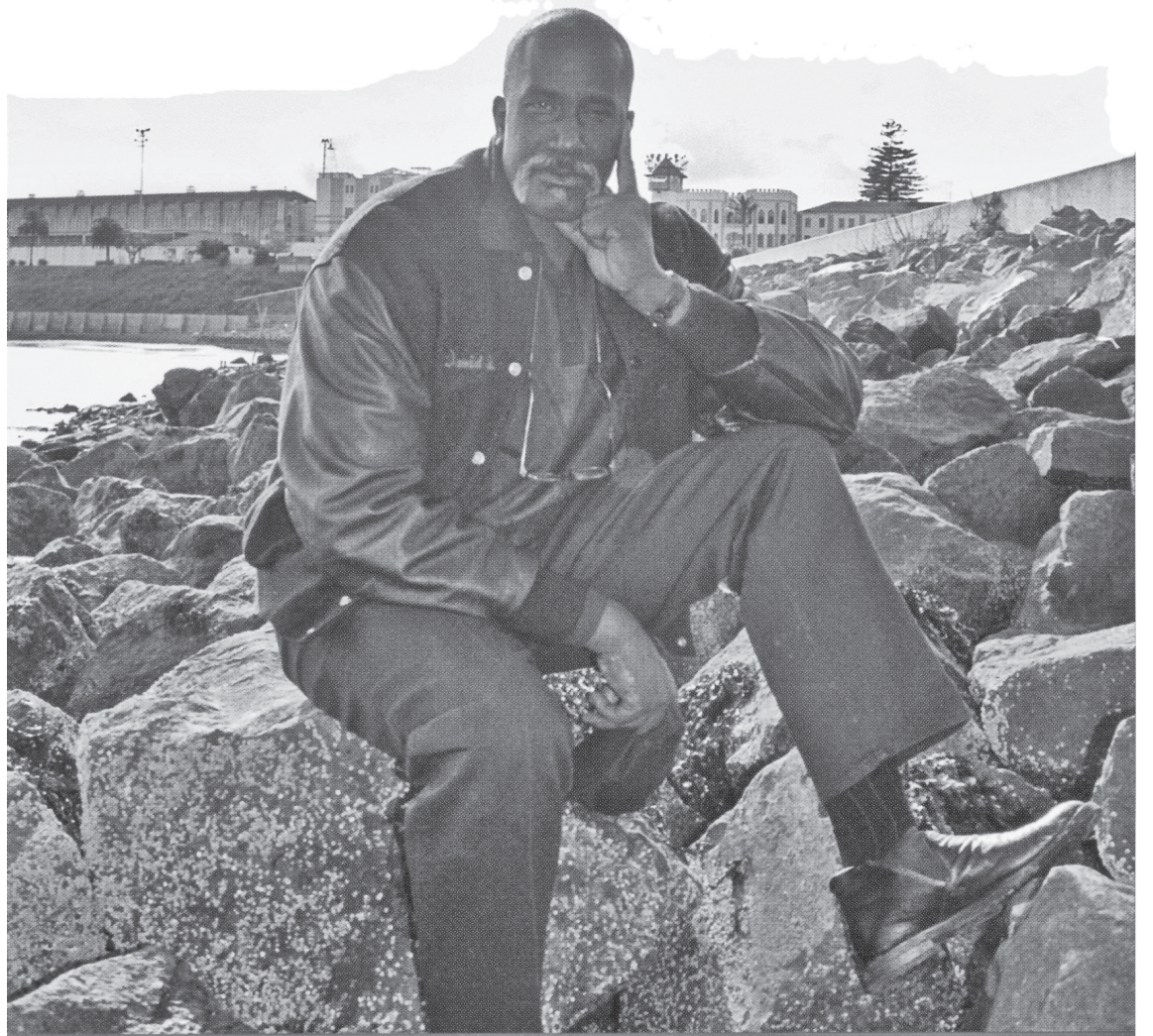
What affected Harris most was a conversation he had with Lewis after Harris had been denied by the Parole Board. "David asked me a question which ultimately made me go deep into my situation. He said, 'Instead of focusing on what they didn't do, did you focus on what you didn't do?' With that I went into myself and it created clarity for me," Harris said. "And I believe talking to David ultimately assisted me in getting my parole date the following year."

Over time, Lewis and Harris's friendship took on a more profound meaning. "David Lewis was my late brother's name," Harris said. "And that alone created a deep bond between David and myself."

Harris fell quiet, remembering his friend.

"All of the work he had done on himself and the energy he put into helping others had me thinking," Harris said. "I thought about the people who witnessed him being slain. They had no idea of what type of man, what type of example was slipping away in front of their eyes.

"They had no clue."



## David Edward Bilal Lewis

Photo: Memorial Service Flyer

# Thelton Henderson: Quiet, Powerful Catalyst of Change

*Continued from Page 1*

him as the first black attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

He was assigned to the South to investigate voting rights abuses by local law enforcement. He soon confronted the challenge of being a black man in authority within the largely white world of the American legal system. His role included investigating in 1963 the Sixteenth Street Baptist church bombing that killed four girls. He grew to know Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders of the civil rights movement, after first winning over their initial skepticism of a government attorney.

Henderson became a bridge between the Kennedy Justice Department and the leaders of the civil rights movement that he came to know when they were all forced to lodge in the same segregated motels throughout the South. One decision Henderson made seemed reasonable at the time but blew up in his face, costing him his job. He loaned his car to Dr. King.

"When they asked I quickly agreed because King told me that one of their cars had a bad tire. And it would not be good for their car to break down in that neighborhood," he said in the documentary film *Soul of Justice*. Foes of civil rights seized on the act as evidence of the government's

bias. "When the controversy hit the fan I didn't understand what was going on," said Henderson. "I didn't understand what the big deal was... I was momentarily confused and conflicted behind the whole ordeal..."

After his resignation Henderson did a stint in a private practice. Then he served as director of the East Palo Alto office of the San Mateo County Legal Aid Society, the first legal aid attorney in that city. In 1969, he became assistant dean at neighboring Stanford Law School where he established the minority-recruiting program, helped diversify the student body and assisted in creating Stanford's clinical program.

Henderson had been distressed to learn that Stanford had graduated its first black lawyer only in 1968. When he left Stanford in 1976 to practice law, 20 percent of the entering class consisted of students of color. Henderson's program became a nationwide model and of his recruits, Charles Ogletree, became a noted professor of law at Harvard.

During this time Henderson also served as consultant to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Office of Economic Opportunities, Carnegie Corporation and Ford Foundation. In 1977 he left Stanford to form a law firm that specialized in civil rights, civil liberties and other issues of constitutional law, and was a law pro-

fessor at Golden Gate University. While at Golden Gate and in private practice with Sandy Rosen and Joe Remcho, Henderson was appointed to the

**Judge Henderson's name is synonymous with the highest principles of the law – civility, compassion and recognition of human dignity."**

**MARY LOU FRAMPTON,  
DIRECTOR, HENDERSON CENTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE**

federal bench. He was selected by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 to sit in the Northern District of California, becoming the only African-American judge on that court for 10 years. He was selected as its first black chief justice in 1990 and served in that post until 1997.

Throughout his distinguished career on the federal bench Judge Henderson has ruled on many of the critical issues of our time. In the late 1980s, Judge Henderson presided over a long-running case concerning the fishing industries' practice of snaring dolphins in its tuna nets. Judge Henderson ruled in favor of environmental groups' charges that millions of dolphins were drowned because

of the industries' refusal to follow existing safety regulations. He also rejected attempts by the Clinton and Bush administrations to relax legal standards on fishing practices and loosen dolphin-safety labeling on tuna. And Judge Henderson's decision placing California's prison health care system under federal receivership followed a lengthy battle.

Judge Henderson says he acts from a conviction that the U.S. Constitution belongs to everyone... "I'm determined to see better health in prisons... Even those at the bottom of the social heap nonetheless have human dignity," said Henderson in *Soul of Justice*. In a landmark 1995 civil case, *Madrid v. Gomez*, Henderson ruled that the use of force and level of medical care at the notorious Pelican Bay State Prison was unconstitutional. During a subsequent oversight federal process, Henderson visited the prison personally. "Prisoners are human beings, too, and the guards decided not to honor that anymore..." he said in *Soul of Justice*.

On one visit Henderson believed that a prison riot had been staged for his benefit to further the guards' point that prisoners are animals. In 1999 the UC Berkeley Law School established in his honor the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice

with its prestigious Henderson Social Justice Prize.

In 2005, Judge Henderson found that substandard medical care in the California prison system had violated prisoners' rights under the Eighth Amendment prohibiting cruel and unusual punishment and had led to unnecessary deaths. In 2006, Henderson appointed Robert Sillen as receiver to take over the health care systems of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations and replaced Sillen with Kelso in 2008.

One of Judge Henderson's decisions had its ups and downs. In 1997 he ruled as unconstitutional Proposition 209, the state's anti-affirmative action initiative. The ruling drew howls from Republican leaders ranging from Tom DeLay to Pete Wilson. The next year a court of appeal reversed Judge Henderson's ruling.

Then, in 2003, his reasoning was vindicated when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that affirmative action was indeed constitutional. However, in the year following the appeals court ruling the enrollment of people of color in the UC system plummeted by 60 percent. Said Judge Henderson: "There was only one African-American to graduate from Boalt Law School that year."

*David Marsh was a Contributing Writer to this story.*

# Visit to Death Row

Continued from Page 1

peers to assist in conflict resolutions between prisoners. These meetings are held every Tuesday with a sergeant or lieutenant, and also once a quarter with the warden."

EBAC's council members represent two sections of Death row, North Seg and East Block. N-Seg is the main line for Death Row and to be considered for N-Seg an individual must be disciplinary free for five years.

At first the Death Row inmates were reluctant to talk but they opened up after the sensitive subject of executions was introduced, especially the execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams in December, 2005. Death Row inmates

## Speaking Out About Conditions

believe that Williams, co-founder of the Crips and convicted of four murders, had rehabilitated himself with his anti-gang books for adults and children. The inmates feel that if despite this change Williams was executed anyway, then there is scant hope for them.

As to how they live on Death Row, many prisoners have their own distinct philosophy. One of them equated Death Row to a "dysfunctional retirement home."

These prisoners asserted that the public is given inaccurate information about life for the condemned inmates. For instance, Robinson protested that the media reported that Tookie Williams was still "hanging out" with gang members up until his execution, which Robinson said was not true. He said, "In this place we wonder if compassion, kindness and love exist."

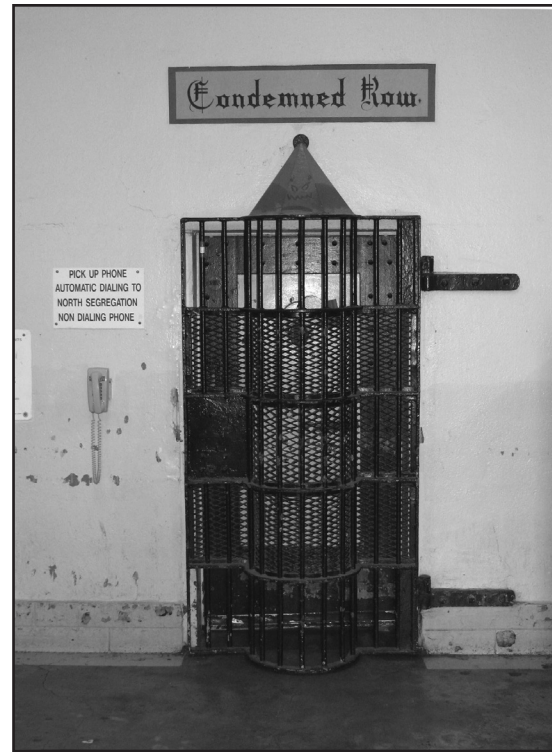
"It's a big circus while it [an execution] is happening. And you're sitting there talking to someone who's about to be executed. [Tookie] was so calm and positive," said Robinson. "He was trying to make it better for me. This man who was scheduled to die was doing what he could to calm me down."

According to the men, what affected them most was how Williams was de-humanized during the execution process. Kevin Fagan of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "The first catheter slid in messily at the crook of Williams' right elbow, taking just two minutes to seat but spurting so much blood at the needle point that a cotton swab was soaked, shining deep red before it was taped off."

### PRONOUNCED DEAD

"In pain and annoyed by the medical technician's inability to locate his vein, Williams locked eyes with the nurse and asked, 'You guys doing that right?' The first stick happened at 12:04 and 36 minutes later Tookie Williams was pronounced dead."

The prisoners for this interview sensed that the public's interest in Death Row is more morbid than humanistic. They said that Death Row prisoners generally submit to their fate, accepting the real-



This entrance to Condemned Row off North Block is an ominous sight and not often traveled.

Photo: Lt. Robinson

ity that the State of California is committed to carry out their death sentence.

Other concerns the inmates expressed were about food, dental, medical and programming. They wanted to know if Death Row inmates receive the same food and religious meals as mainline inmates do.

Later, the San Quentin News contacted East Block Culinary Correctional Officer Brown, who said, "Death Row has their own steam line next to the steam line that serves general population individuals and is the same food served throughout the institution." He also said, "In addition, procedures are being established for delivery of Halal food to the row."

Another major concern of Death Row inmates was their dental care, which they said has not improved even after the federal ruling in the Plata-Coleman v. Schwarzenegger case.

"No, that has not improved," said Marshall. "We go to our dental screening appointments

and after that we won't see anyone for another year. It took me 14 months to get my dentures." The inmates said that one man on Marshall's yard has been in serious pain with a cavity, waiting to see a dentist, for five months. "The dentist service is inadequate," Carry said.

### OTHER CONCERNS

Other medial concerns involved over-the-counter drugs that have been discontinued by the federal receiver, Clark Kelso. "Over-the-counter medicines have been eliminated," said Marshall. "We don't have the route to get the medicines we need."

Some inmate observations were not what you might expect. Said Bob Williams, "I have somehow managed to become a better person than I was when I got arrested at 18. Sadly or greatly, coming to Death Row is the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life."

To be continued...

## Death Row Chaplain Recalls S.Q. Executions

By JOHN C. EAGAN  
San Quentin News Advisor

It was a time when the San Quentin gas chamber was busy executing convicted felons — sometimes two at a time.

The Rev. Byron E. Eshelman was the spiritual adviser to many of those who breathed their last in the famous prison's gas chamber beside San Francisco Bay.

After witnessing numerous executions, Eshelman was an outspoken critic of capital punishment. He explains his reasons in a book he wrote, "Death Row Chaplain," published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. in 1962. (A friend found an autographed copy in a used bookstore and gave it to the writer of this article for Christmas.)

"I have come to believe that the death penalty is fundamentally a symptom of bewilderment and confusion in society," wrote Eshelman, the San Quentin Protestant chaplain from 1951-71. He had formerly been chaplain at Alcatraz federal prison.

"A culture that resorts to the death penalty as a method of coping with its troubled is evidencing the same desperation, panic and outrage as the emotionally twisted individual who, in his instability, kills a fellow human being," he added.

"In the 12 years that Lewis E. Lawes was warden at Sing Sing, from 1920 through 1931, he escorted 150 men and one woman to the death chamber," Eshelman wrote. "His conclusions were essentially the same as I have reached during more than a decade at San Quentin."

"He (Lawes) put it this way: 'Not only does capital punishment fail in its justification, but no punishment could be invented with so many inherent defects. It is unequal punishment in the way it is applied to the rich and to the poor.'"

One of Eshelman's key points is that executions wipe out the chance for "rehabilitation" of the condemned prisoner. He cites a number of condemned

men he came to know who, he felt, had been rehabilitated while waiting to die.

He also maintained some executed men were clearly insane, but not within the legal definition of insanity.

One case was Leanderess Riley. When Riley's time to die arrived on Feb. 20, 1953, Eshelman writes, "A guard unlocked his cell. He began a long, shrieking cry. It was a bone chilling wordless cry... The guards needed all their strength to hold him while the doctor taped the end of the stethoscope in place... Leanderess had to be carried to the gas chamber, fighting, writhing all the way."

After he was strapped into the death chair in the gas chamber, Leanderess managed to free his hands, and had to be strapped in again, tighter this time. Again struggling to free himself, the gas finally did its job and Leanderess breathed his last.

Reporting his view of the death penalty, Eshelman wrote: "We do not execute truly mature, responsible people who have developed genuine capacities for making decisions and exercising self-control. We execute fixated juveniles who in many areas of their personalities cannot be held responsible for their actions... Only when we develop the sensitivity to appreciate the compulsive nature of immaturity will we have sufficient insight to abandon the primitive rite of capital punishment."

After he retired from San Quentin, Eshelman became a marriage counselor and public speaker. He died in 1989.

Eshelman's son, Carlton, and daughter, Bonnie, who lived many years at Alcatraz and San Quentin with their dad, still live in Northern California. He is a carpenter who worked on the new San Quentin medical building.

## Doctors Vs. the Death Process

By JULIANGLENN PADGETT  
Managing Editor

The American Board of Anesthesiologists has issued a blow to physicians who assist in executing condemned prisoners through lethal injection.

The board has ordered its members to refuse to aid in capital punishment or lose their certification.

For years the American Medical Association (AMA) has vehemently disagreed with physicians who use their profession to aid executioners. "The line that's been drawn in the sand is clear," said Bryan Liang, a law professor at California Western School of Law and a professor of anesthesiology at University of California, San Diego. "They're definitely letting doctors know, if you cross it, we're coming for you."

### THE THREE-DRUG COCKTAIL

From 2007 to 2008 executions were stopped in the United States, then, the United States Supreme Court decided a Kentucky case about the widely used three-drug cocktail. The court ruled its usage did not violate the 8th Amendment's constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Death penalty critics argue people being injected may go through horrible pain because one of the three doses used in many states paralyzes you while creating a powerful burning sensation. This makes it impossible to scream out for help.

"Thus far no doctors have been disciplined," AMA Board Secretary Mark Rockoff said. Although numerous anesthesiologists who have assisted as execution consultants or testified in capital punish-

ment cases, he stated the AMA's actions have had a chilling effect.

The anesthesiologists board's decision raises several questions by death penalty opponents who welcome their action concerning lethal injections. Supporters of capital punishment believe doctors are not needed during the process; they contend the dosages can be done by prison employees.

### DOCTOR MUST BE PRESENT

"If I were lying on the gurney and someone was pumping me with a paralyzing drug. I would want somebody there who knew what they were doing," stated Ty Alper, associate director of the Death Penalty Clinic at UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. 3,200 prisoners are housed on death rows in America. Several of the 50 executions done each year from 2008 all have used lethal injection.

Almost half of the 35 states doing executions, such as Virginia and North Carolina, have mandated a doctor be present during all executions. In others, doctors insert catheters and install the three drug-cocktail. Many states recruit both doctors and anesthesiologists, permitting them to take part of the lethal injection process, but the identities of executioners are hidden.

"Many think it's a sound argument, saying you need a doctor to do this," stated Michael Rutherford, president of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, supporters of the death penalty. "Actually you really don't need a doctor to do this."

Rockoff concluded, "Always remember we are healers not executioners."

# SPORTS

## Hello and Goodbye For 'Stretch' Rich

After a long search for sports coverage to match San Quentin's powerful interest in the subject, the *S.Q. News* thought it has scored big with the appointment of Chris "Stretch" Rich to the post of Sports Editor. But no sooner had he generated several great stories than he was transferred to *Duel Vocational Institute* at Tracy. The stories on these pages were written before he was put on the bus.

By CHRIS "STRETCH" RICH  
Former Sports Editor

Greetings to all my brothers in blue. My name is Chris "Stretch" Rich and I recently

assumed the duties and responsibilities of Sports Editor for the San Quentin News, starting with this issue.

The task should be fun, but needs to be juggled along with all the responsibilities that come with a full-time clerical job in the Education Department, producing paperwork for several groups in San Quentin, facilitating self-help groups to benefit others and participating in groups that benefit



Chris "Stretch" Rich

me (Aren't they the same thing?), and involvement with the Giants baseball team as a coach and the softball team as a scorekeeper.

I promise that none of this will get in the way of my duties as sports editor and will try to help produce the best product possible. I welcome all those reading this paper to submit any articles, essays or any other sports-news-worthy materials that you believe deserve mention in this paper.

Send any materials to: Education Department: San Quentin News, Sports Editor; or see me in North Block.

I welcome comments or criticism, and try to field questions. I want to include interviews with San Quentin athletes, keep you updated on sports and recreational programs and tour-

## SPORTS SEARCH

Readers interested in covering sports for the News should check the flyers posted in North Block and H-Unit

naments, have commentary from athletes and coaches from the outside who come to participate in the sports played within these walls, and keep you apprised of all things sports.

I also like the idea of health and exercise tips. I love sports, and believe in their healing potential. I hope you enjoy it and I look forward to hearing from you.

## What's the Point of Prison Sports?

By CHRIS "STRETCH" RICH  
Former Sports Editor

## OPINION

Thanks to numerous volunteers and donations, San Quentin's sports programs are thriving, despite severe budget cuts.

Recreation and physical education programs in California prisons are founded on six broad goals providing inmates opportunities for achievement through participation in a range of programs that promote the following:

- ❖ Physical activity
- ❖ Physical fitness and wellness
- ❖ Movement skills and movement knowledge
- ❖ Social development and interaction
- ❖ Self-image and self-realization
- ❖ Individual excellence

That's the description included in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Operations Manual.

Prison sports and recreational programs are administered by the education departments within each institution – similar to the way interscholastic sports are provided and delivered by public schools. A recreation coordinator is on staff to oversee recreational scheduling, ensuring that departmental and institutional goals and requirements are met.

Budget reductions within the past fiscal year have resulted in major cuts in prison education statewide, including San Quentin's Robert E. Burton Adult School. The cuts resulted in the layoffs of many teachers and extensive realignment of staff and educational programming.

### STILL THRIVING

Yet our sports programs seem to thrive. San Quentin has teams that play against outside competition in the following sports:

- ❖ Baseball (two teams)
- ❖ Basketball (two teams – unrestricted, and over 40)
- ❖ Flag football
- ❖ Softball
- ❖ Tennis

Many people ask, "Why should prisoners be allowed to play sports when schools in the community are cutting sports programs?" The answer is there is no good reason why sports in the community should be cut at the expense of prison sports, but that's not why they are being cut.

Furthermore, I know it's true that most prison sports participants would give up playing and competing in the sports they enjoy if it meant that a deprived youth could participate in his stead.

### SPORTS ARE NEEDED

Here is why I believe sports are necessary in prison.

Sports foster self-esteem. Low self-esteem is a big reason why people perpetrate the acts that cause them to end up in prison. People who don't feel good about themselves generally don't care much about others. Even moderate success in a sport can help increase self-esteem.

Sports help promote and maintain physical well-being. Physical activity reduces stress and strengthens muscles and bones, thereby leading to better mental and physical health. Healthy long-term inmates cost taxpayers less money due to reduced healthcare issues.

Sports also provide a necessary outlet and distraction for the spectators. Sports help the observer feel they are part of something bigger than themselves and a team's success becomes their success. And heckling, as annoying and unsportsmanlike as it can be, provides the heckler with a sense of purpose as well as an outlet for built-up anger and stress.

Sports help people learn to interact with others. We are social creatures and sports provide many opportunities for positive interaction and socialization with others, very critical in a prison environment with so many ways of negatively channeling energy.

Team sports are integrated with people of different races, colors and creeds working as a team towards a common goal. People

who do not get along in any other arena put their differences aside to participate in sports together. If it can be done in athletics it can be done in the workplace and in societal situations in general.

Additionally, interaction with players from the free outside teams can show inmates that when they are doing the right thing they can gain acceptance in the community. Furthermore, some contacts have led to employment upon parole, thereby potentially reducing recidivism.

Sports also include more than just players. Referees and umpires, equipment personnel, scorekeepers and scoreboard operators, and others are vital parts of the teams and are given a sense of belonging.

Sports are a privilege, not a right. Persons who are disciplinary problems and/or safety or security concerns in the prisons are not permitted to participate in team sports. These activities must serve a higher purpose or they are irrelevant and should be cut. When players grumble and complain about their coaches, teammates, and playing time they are removed from the teams. Sports teach conformity to rules and discipline.

### FUNDED BY DONATIONS

Before anyone thinks this must be costing the State of California millions of dollars and causing the budget deficit, read on.

Team sports in San Quentin are funded by donations from various agencies around the Bay Area and are staffed and coached by volunteers from the surrounding communities, and inmates. Equipment and uniforms have been donated by local professional sports teams, church groups and other sources.

No additional paid staff is required to supervise any sporting or recreational activity occurring within the prison. The only monetary outlay by the State for sports and recreation, aside from the salary for the recreation coordinator, is for the purchase of various small items to provide for those who are unable or not in-

clined to participate in the team sports.

For the 2010-11 fiscal year the expected outlay for this equipment is \$7,042.91. During the past fiscal year nearly 16,000 inmates passed through or are currently housed at San Quentin. This works out to a sports and recreation expenditure of less than 50 cents per inmate, which includes the General Population, Condemned Row, the Reception Center, and specialized housing units.

### RISE ABOVE IT

Sports are fun. In my opinion, nobody, anywhere, should have to be miserable. Life is too short. Prison sentences are long, and in most cases, including mine, deservedly so. Removal from society and separation from loved ones is hard and is more punishment than most people realize. Prison can be mind-numbingly dull, noisy, dirty, and generally unpleasant. I'm certainly not complaining, just observing. There is plenty of extra punishment for those not willing to conform. I know many people believe that is all prison should be, and they are certainly entitled to that opinion.

Many men in prison manage to rise above the adversity and get college degrees, complete self-help programs, earn GED certificates and high school diplomas, obtain vocational certification, learn to play musical instruments, paint, draw, write, and learn to play a variety of sports. Then they go out and become productive members of society. Sports, as well as other extra-curricular activities, help make a person well-rounded.

Approximately 85 percent of California prison inmates will one day be released back to society.

Ultimately, the question is: "If a parolee were to move in next to me, would I want him to have been dehumanized and locked away in a cage for years, or would I want someone who is a better man than when he went into prison?" Sports help contribute to that "better man."

## Warriors Open Up The Season

By RUDY MORALES  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team came down to the hoops court, but could not prevent the visiting team, called the Prison Sports Ministry, from making many of its shots.

Visiting player Mike, in green jersey number 14, made several three-point shots, but Bear of the Warriors came back with several free-throws to even the score.

Warriors' coach George Lamb held his anxieties and kept his composure throughout the game. It was a very exciting game to watch from the sidelines. Bear made an exciting layup move, then was fouled while attempting to land a three-pointer. He made the free throws, tying the score in the third quarter.

However, the Warriors could not prevail, losing by the final score of 101-90.

The second game that week was against Imago Dei, sporting black and yellow jerseys. The Warriors had played Imago Dei once before this season, losing 80-78. Warriors' player Bear made most of the home team's points and although the game was tied at halftime, the visitors won the rematch by a score of 104-63.

On Memorial Day the Warriors played against the Over-40 San Quentin Kings, which was a friendly game. Coach Lamb seemed excited about his team's performance, which scored many of its points on slam dunks.



# 16 Seasons of S.Q. Baseball

By CHRIS "STRETCH" RICH  
Former Sports Editor

## COACH SMITH LOOKS AT ALL THE BENEFITS

Elliot Smith has been coming into San Quentin with his team, the Oaks/Cubs, to participate in baseball games for approximately 16 seasons. In 2009, he took it to the next level and became a coach for the San Quentin Giants.

Smith, 67, is an unassuming man and pitchers consistently misjudge his moderate stature and his ability and always seem surprised when he laces yet another line drive to right-center. He has an extensive knowledge of the history of baseball, its rules, and how to play it. But there is a lot more to him than baseball as you will soon find out.

The following interview took place during a baseball game (the perfect venue) on a beautiful Saturday morning at San Quentin's Field of Dreams.

**When did you first come to San Quentin?**

"1994 or 1995. I started coming in early in the inception of the program. (Former SQ recre-

ation coordinator, the late) Jim Chiminiello was involved. They left all the coaching to (inmate) Leonard Neal. There was also a guy coaching named Dan Jones that I had coached against in Little League and played with in Senior League. When I saw him I thought he was in prison! He told that story to all the players and it made it easier to get along and it paved the way to get to know everyone else. Kent (Philpott, the S.Q. Giants current coach) was involved too.

**What made you come in to begin with?**

"Beside the fact it was baseball, there was curiosity, and some recognition of the social aspects. Society benefits from the interaction. I realized the value to the inmates and that my participation had a benefit. It benefits everyone, even the spectators. If someone cares from the outside they feel they have some hope. I'm a lawyer and people knew that.

People looked at me as a lawyer, and people generally respect lawyers. I think that had a positive result because they thought that a lawyer cares enough about us to come in."

**What was your impression and experience coming into the prison at that time?**

"I didn't know what to expect. I wasn't afraid. I had no conception of what the yard was like. I just came in to see what it is. I turned the corner on the ramp coming down to the yard and saw the field and Mt. Tam and it's beautiful. And it occurred to me that people are in one of the most scenic areas and can't enjoy it. I remember my first game we had a bunch of players from different places and I didn't even know some of them. I went back to work and my secretary asked me how was the game and I told her the biggest asshole was on my team!"

**In 2004, you participated in**

**the making of the documentary 'Bad Boys of Summer'. What was that like for you?**

"It was interesting to be part of the production of it and be miked. I liked being able to give some advice and leads. It was frustrating that it never got released or distributed. It's a shame because I think the movie broke two stereotypes about prison. One was, it showed inmates are human beings and have the same emotions as everyone else, and humor, and grace. The second was that everyone in prison says they're innocent, and in the movie everyone they showed said what they did and acknowledged that they were stupid and are remorseful. They may say they were overcharged or over-sentenced but they are not saying they are innocent."

**Does baseball in prison differ from baseball on the "streets"?**

"No. I like playing in here. I like the games. It's actually my favorite baseball. I never played a team that is more appreciative of playing the game. Year in and year out, and it doesn't matter who is on the team, the team hustles and pushes you. And there is always good sportsmanship, which you don't always find on the outside."

**What made you want to come in and coach?**

"I felt I had something to add as far as baseball knowledge and also on a personal level. I thought there would be people on the team, for that matter the spectators, who would gain something as far as socialization from me. So to me it was a perfect merging of two issues close to me: One is baseball and the other is social justice."

**What do you get out of it?**

"My job is as a corporate lawyer. I basically help rich people get richer. It's more beneficial to society what I do in here and gives me a sense of self-worth."

**What is the biggest challenge or obstacle to coming in?**



Photo: Lt. Robinson

Coach Elliot Smith

"Dealing with the prison bureaucracy on all levels, gate clearances, bringing traditional baseball equipment through and the arbitrariness of it, and the fear that the program will be canceled on a whim. I'm not really challenged by coaching or a relationship with players."

**You recently were able to go on a tour of the prison, along with members of the St. Louis Cardinals. What was that experience like for you?**

"It was interesting to rub elbows with people on the Cardinals even though I'm a Cubs fan! I got to see a part of the prison that I wouldn't normally be able to see. The murals were interesting, and I got to see South Block and talk to people on Death Row. It made me realize that there are different strata in prison, not just based on race and ethnicity."

**Do you think sports should be taken away from prisoners?**

"No. People who are playing or watching are going to get out. They need to be treated like human beings. They make mistakes and not everyone who makes mistakes are in prison. I don't think it's a valid argument to say, 'Why should prisoners have baseball, or college, or medical care, or anything else, when I don't?'" The answer is to demand that you have access to those things on the outside."

# Was He the Best Ever?

By CHRIS "STRETCH" RICH  
Former Sports Editor

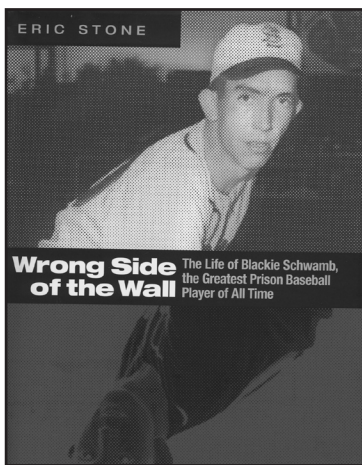
Sixty years ago, a former major league pitcher played baseball for San Quentin. He has been called the greatest prison baseball player that ever lived.

Ralph Richard "Blackie" Schwamb was born in Los Angeles in 1926. In his late teens and early 20s he was considered one of the best pitching prospects of his time. The word was that he threw a baseball as fast as major league strikeout-artist and Hall-of-Famer Bob Feller, who was regarded by most as the hardest thrower of his generation.

After a nearly two-year stint in the Navy during World War II, which he spent mostly in the brig, Schwamb returned to L.A. Unfortunately, he loved alcohol, women, and the nightlife and was also involved in the gangster scene in Los Angeles, collecting debts for the mob in a heavy-handed manner.

A New York Giants scout said Ralph Schwamb was the best pitching prospect he ever saw, but knew he couldn't sign a hoodlum like him for fear of getting fired.

In 1946, the six-foot, five-inch, 168-pound Schwamb signed



2004 book about Schwamb

with the American League's St. Louis Browns (which moved to Baltimore and became the Orioles in 1954).

Still 21 years old, he was brought up to the majors in July 1948, despite a bad reputation for alcohol abuse and insubordination, and compiled a 1-1 record and 8.53 ERA in 32 innings. In 1949 he made the Browns squad out of spring training, but an argument over \$1,000 put him in disfavor with the club's general manager, relegating him to pitching in the minor leagues.

Later that year he began to go off the deep end, committing a string of robberies. In October, he and a partner killed a doctor in a robbery-gone-bad,

for which he was convicted and sentenced to life for murder, and five-to-life for another robbery, thereby arriving at San Quentin in March 1950 (Number A-13670).

The prison had a baseball team, called the San Quentin All-Stars, which was a member of the San Francisco Recreation Summer Baseball League. He quickly became the star of the team.

During that era semipro teams usually had several major-league prospects, and major-leaguers, staying in shape during the off-season, on their squads, and Bay Area baseball was at its apex.

Schwamb, now known as "Slick," was so dominant and so effective, major league scouts brought prospects into San Quentin to face him to see how they measured up. Three- to four-thousand inmates and staff routinely gathered on the lower yard to watch him pitch. He was also one of the team's best hitters.

In 1950, S.Q. won its first league championship, based mostly on his 19-3 record. "Slick" Schwamb pitched for San Quentin through the 1954 season when the team was renamed the Pirates. He got sick of the place because of gangs and pressure from gamblers to throw baseball games, so he requested a transfer to Folsom, pitching there through 1958, and closed out his prison baseball "career" at Tehachapi, paroling in January 1960.

It is believed he compiled a prison record of 131 wins and 35 losses, while amassing 1,565 strikeouts in approximately 1,494 innings with a 1.80 ERA. He also played one-third of his prison games at shortstop and led the league in batting three times.

In July 1960, just six months after paroling, Schwamb attempted suicide. He managed a brief return to professional baseball in 1961 with the Pacific Coast League AAA team in Honolulu, but the game had passed him by.

Blackie went in and out of various low-paying jobs and never shook the desire for alcohol, and continued to land in jail on occasion.

Schwamb died of lung cancer in December 1989 at the age of 63. A few years before he died, Blackie stated, "I was a lousy gangster, but I was a great pitcher."

Author Eric Stone wrote a marvelous biography of Schwamb, titled, "Wrong Side of the Wall," from which this story was derived. The book was published by The Lyons Press in 2004.

## Praise for Softball

Richard Neuburger and Bob Mayer have been coming into San Quentin for the past six years as volunteer coaches for the softball team. Both were asked why they started coming into San Quentin and what they get out of it.

Neuburger replied, "Two other guys who are brown card holders asked me to start a softball program and roped me into coming in. The same two guys dropped out and left me holding the bag so I stepped up to the plate and hooked up with Bob Mayer. I've tried to build camaraderie and eventually got the team nice uniforms."

Mayer stated, "Anything that can be done to reduce the percentage of recidivism in California is important. Guys learn how to do things together and hopefully can take some of the things they learn to the outside. Plus there are some really good athletes that we get to see play!"

Neuburger added, "And there are no racial barriers on the team... It's about helping others. Each time I go home I feel fortunate for the opportunity to help others... I tell people all the time there is more honor in a lot of you guys (prisoners) than a lot of people I've met on the outside."

Neuburger noted that the biggest obstacle is the East Gate getting in, and stated, "It's tough to get teams cleared to come into San Quentin."

# RELIGION



Photo: G.G. Seminary

Grads, from left: R. Butler, D. Hartley, M. Baldwin, D. Cowan

## Four Proud S.Q. Graduates Of G.G. Seminary Program

By **KENNETH R. BRYDON**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin's Garden Chapel was filled with shouts and applause for graduates: Mark A. Baldwin, Robert L. Butler, David Cowan and Darrell C. Hartley. On the evening of June 10, the four were being honored for over two years of study and hard work to become the first incarcerated individuals to receive Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's Contextualized Leadership Development (CLD) Diploma.

In addition to the San Quentin graduates, paroled San Quentin students Billy Green and Jesse Reed also finished their studies outside and had received their diplomas with many other students. To students enrolling at San Quentin, the seminary has agreed to allow them to finish the diploma studies without charge. On a more somber note, Vernis Brown's family was given his diploma posthumously. He died earlier this year.

"It's about being in the things of God," said Baldwin of his diploma. Golden Gate has issued CLD diplomas for more than 25 years; more than 800 students are currently enrolled in studies to receive this widely recognized certificate of Christian leadership.

"There were two purposes of bringing this program here to San Quentin," said Pastor Morris A. Curry, Ph.D. "One was to provide sound doctrine, and the second was to prepare these men for parole." After volunteering for over 20 years, Pastor Curry became a San Quentin chaplain in 2006.

With the support of retired Golden Gate professor Jerry Stubblefield Ph.D., Curry proposed making San Quentin an off-campus study program. "I've known Jerry Stubblefield for 30 years, and he introduced me to Dr. Michael Martin," Curry said in the interview. With all of the major difficulties worked out by 2007, the program began to run.

Butler said one of the reasons he entered the program was "to see if I had the discipline and skill to go to the next program. I eventually want to go on to receive a bachelor's degree, and even a Master of Divinity."

Hartley said he will use his training "to build a Jehovah Rapha Temple for the global incarcerated and war-torn individuals who truly seek to remain in God's presence."

Cowan said the class which impacted him the most was "the Ethics Class with Chris Foreman. Mostly I'm interested in looking at things from a broader perspective, and this class challenged me to do that."

The ceremony included the traditional possession of faculty in academic regalia to the music of Pomp and Circumstance.

Golden Gate President Dr. Jeff P. Iorg commented, "I think this is one of the most significant moments of Golden Gate Seminary. These four graduates were held to an identical standard as all other of the individuals enrolled in our five other campuses."

Addressing the gathering, Baldwin said, "I thought about giving up. God lifted me up, helped me." For over a year he has taught the third and final stage of the Garden Chapel's Christian "Boot camp" program.

Butler said, "Someone once said that the journey is always better than the destination..." This diploma will help a person to be a pastor, a leader of Bible studies, a preacher, and be a part of Pastoral Care."

## 16 Años como S.Q. Capellán Católico

By **WILLIAM CÓRDOBA**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Después de catorce años de servicio, el Padre Barber renunció a su trabajo como capellán de San Quintín y su último día con nosotros será el 13 de Junio. Él inició su servicio en esta prisión como voluntario en 1996. Antes de eso también sirvió como voluntario en una prisión de mujeres en Dublin, California, en cárceles del condado de Los Angeles, y en un centro de detención juvenil de la misma ciudad.

### CORAZON ABIERTO

El Padre Barber fue asignado como capellán de San Quintín por el arzobispo William C. Levada de San Francisco y luego fue empleado por la directora de la prisión, la señora Jeanne Woodford, en el 2002. Y desde entonces las puertas de la capilla católica, y las puertas del corazón del capellán Barber permanecieron abiertas para reclusos y para empleados del penal de toda creencia religiosa.

A pesar de tener un horario bastante ocupado el capellán se sentó a conversar conmigo en el centro de la capilla de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, a las doce del día de un frío martes, mientras se tomaba una cálida taza de café con crema. Él me habló de la misa de los lunes para los condenados a muerte en East Block, donde la congregación es igual en número a la congregación de los domingos en la mañana en la capilla de Nuestra Señora del Rosario. También me habló de las actividades de las 6:20 P.M. que ocurren durante la semana en la capilla, tales como grupos de oración, estudios bíblicos, reuniones del grupo Justicia Restaurativa (Restorative Justice), y más.

El aporte del Padre Barber a esta comunidad va más allá de los linderos de esta prisión. Por ejemplo, a petición de algunos

**MORE RELIGION  
ON PAGE 14**

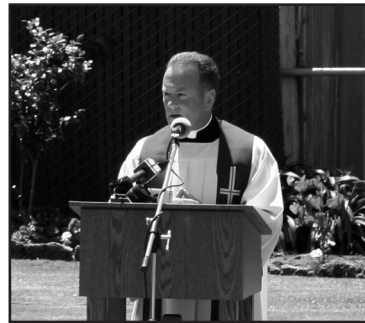


Photo: Mary Cello

Father Barber

empleados, él ha oficiado funerales, bautismos, y matrimonios. Y en una ocasión, estuvo dispuesto a darle sus días de vacaciones a una oficial en caso de que ella necesitara tomarse unos días libres para recuperarse de una enfermedad.

Al preguntarle que cuál ha sido el momento mayor de sus años de oficio en San Quintín, él me dijo que fue el inicio del programa de Justicia Restaurativa en el año 2005, el cuál fue fruto de una conferencia de Obispos de California. De repente su rostro se entristeció y bajó el tono de su voz al recordar a Ricky Earle.

### PACIENTE DE CÁNCER

Ricky Earle fue un recluso a quien los médicos diagnosticaron con cáncer en el 2005, cuando estaba en North Block y el Padre Barber vio a Ricky cerrar sus ojos para siempre.

En un lugar donde parece no existir el perdón, al ser un guía, un amigo, y un confidente, el Padre Barber ha encontrado formas de mostrarnos el camino hacia la redención. Y ahora que Dios lo está mandando a servirle a otros en Jerusalén y en Roma, le agradecemos por haber compartido su corazón con nosotros por más de una década, y le deseamos lo mejor del Cielo.

## 16 Years as S.Q. Catholic Chaplain

After 14 years of service, Father Barber's tenure in San Quentin ended June 13. He came to S.Q. as a volunteer in 1996, after serving in the same capacity at Dublin's women's prison, Los Angeles County Jail, and Los Angeles County Juvenile Facilities.

Father Barber was appointed as San Quentin's Catholic chaplain by Archbishop William C. Levada of San Francisco, and hired by Warden Jean Woodford in 2002. Since then his door and his heart have been opened to inmates and staff, regardless of their religious beliefs.

### DEMANDING SCHEDULE

In spite of his demanding schedule, Father Barber sat to chat with me in the center of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Chapel at noon on a cold Tuesday while he drank a hot cup of coffee with cream.

We talked about Mondays Mass on Death Row, where attendance is similar in number to that for the San Quentin's general population on Sunday mornings. Also, we talked about the Catholic Chapel's evening activities which include prayer groups, Bible studies and the bimonthly meetings of the Restorative Justice Workshop.

Father Barber's gift to this community goes beyond San Quentin's grounds. For instance, at the request of staff, he makes himself available to officiate at funerals, baptisms and weddings. On occasion he donated his vacation time to an employee in case she needed to take a few days off from work to recover from an illness.

### JUSTICE PROGRAM

Asked the highlight of his San Quentin service, he said, "It was the creation of the Restorative Justice Program in 2005 that came about as a result of a California Conference of Bishops." Then he looked sad and the tone of his voice dropped as he remembered Ricky Earle.

Earle was diagnosed with cancer when he was in North Block in 2005. He was transferred to the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, where he died three years ago.

In a place where seems to be no room for forgiveness, by being a teacher, a confidant and a comforter, Father Barber has found ways to show us that anyone can find the path to redemption. As God leads him to serve others in Jerusalem and Rome, we thank him for sharing 14 years of his life with prisoners.

— William Cordoba

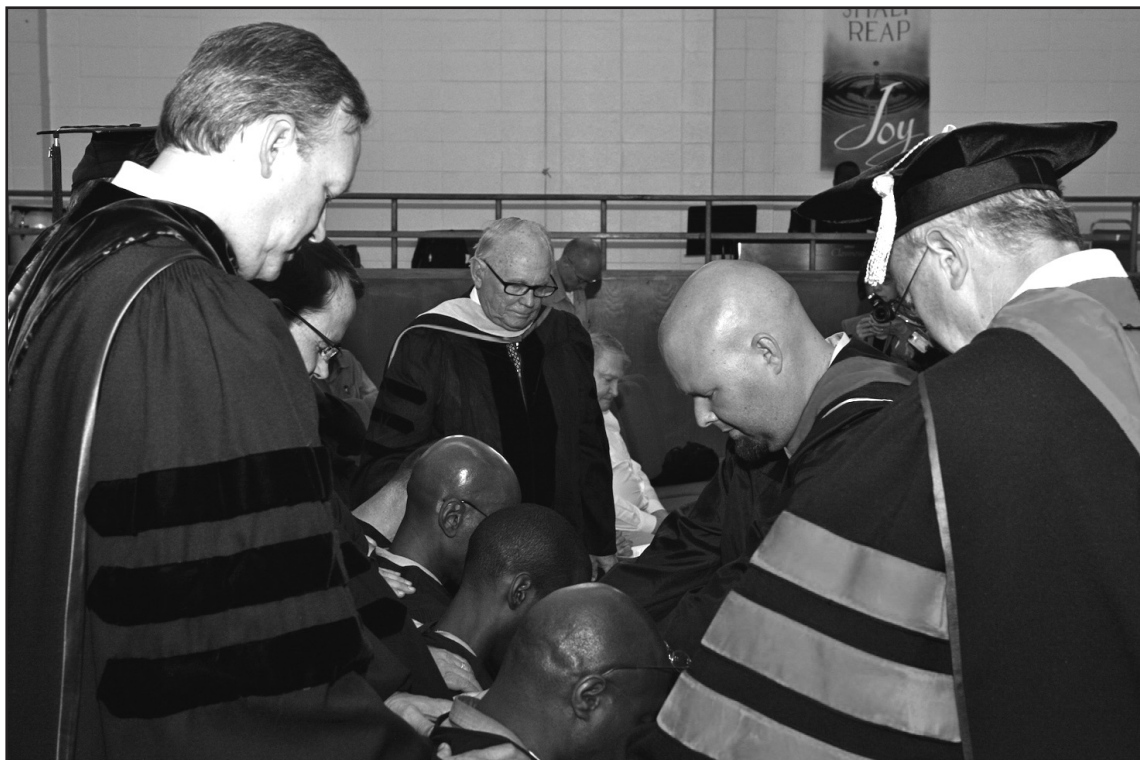


Photo: G.G. Seminary

Golden Gate Seminary officials pray over the new San Quentin graduates



# Words to My Daughter

By JULIANGLENN  
PADGETT  
Managing Editor

Richard Poma promised his brother that he would do every thing in his power to break the chain of crime that has fouled their family for years.

He became a truly changed man after his young daughter visited him in prison in 1988.

"Angelique was just a baby then and she kept trying to touch me through the glass," Poma recalled. "She told her mother, 'Let me talk to my daddy.'"

Little Angelique got on the phone and said, "Daddy, why can't I touch you? Can you come out here so you can hold me and kiss me?" Visibly shaken, Poma stated, "Not right now Angelique, not right now."

He watched through glass as Angelique screamed and cried, "Why can't you hold me right now?"

Poma told her, "Baby your daddy's been a bad person." She then asked through tears, "Can you be good so we can always hold each other? Will you promise me that daddy?" Poma said, "Baby I'll do my best, I'll do my best."

That moment had him reeling with a guilt he had never experienced before. "I felt the weight of



Poma's daughter Angelique

the world smashing me," stated Poma. "How could I have gotten so messed up?"

As his daughter grew up, some of her friends wanted to steal some treats from a refreshment stand. "Before we go steal," she told them, "I want you all to read something that I was told to share before I thought about committing a crime."

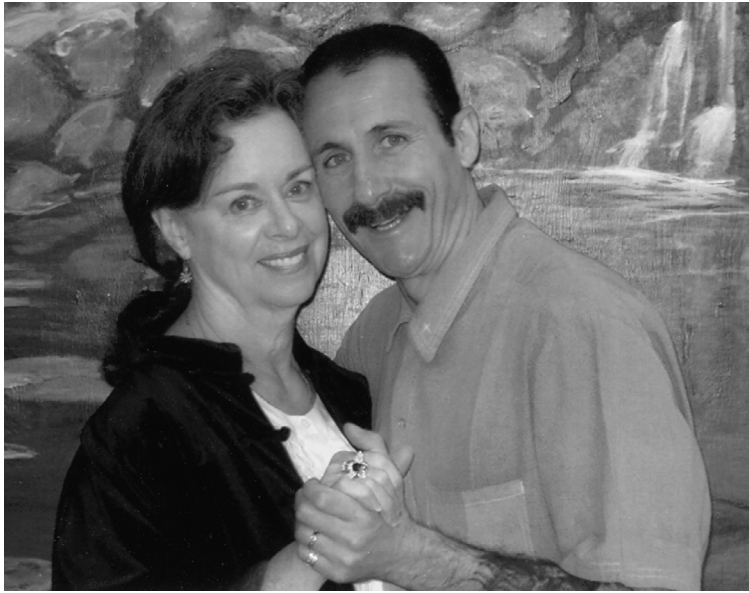
The documents were legal transcripts and police reports about her father's crimes.

To this day, the kids that read his transcripts have never broken the law, he said. "I love Angelique," Poma said. "She is one of my heroes and I'm proud and honored to have her as my daughter."

Angelique Poma graduated from college and obtained her law degree and works at the U.S. District Court of Appeals in Reno, Nevada.

Poma is a five-year resident at San Quentin who entered the California Department of Corrections 30 years ago. His brother has since died of cancer.

The 50-year-old Poma is known around San Quentin for his famous train whistle sounds and his long bushy handlebar moustache.



Richard Poma and his fiancée Susan

## Homer Goes Home

Homer McWilliams bumped around the California Department of Corrections for close to three decades. He received nine serious write-ups and survived cancer. Then, last month, he paroled on the day of his clean and sober anniversary.

"When I first came to prison I was telling myself a lie about my crime. I was a real butthead for a large part of my time," McWilliams said in a conversation prior to his release. "Back then I wasn't focused on the big picture, transforming myself in a positive light and getting out of prison."

San Quentin was a different place when McWilliams first arrived here in the early 80s. "it was a real Level IV. Respect wasn't just given in those days. It was earned," said McWilliams. "For instance, nowadays you've got men cutting in front of you in line in the chow hall. Twenty years ago that was a big no-no," said McWilliams.

### A DIFFERENT PLACE

During his early years in prison, he found himself hearing the same story: older lifers telling him they did not do their crimes. McWilliams knew that if he stuck to his own lie, in the long run he would end up like those old guys. "They were all imprisoned in their own minds. And I thought what a horrible way to live," said McWilliams.

The first part of McWilliams' change happened around the death of his baby sister. "She and I were very close," McWilliams said. "She knew as her older brother I loved her and I vowed to stop using drugs before her death. And I haven't used since."

The second part of his change began when he started taking San Quentin's Alcohol Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous self-help classes. He looked inward at the man he wanted to be. "I like my N/A 12-step program because I had some one-on-one therapy that was real helpful to me.

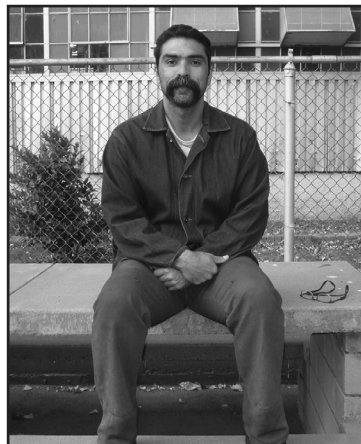


Photo: SQ News Archives

Homer McWilliams

"I simply didn't want to live a lie. So I said this [crime] is what I did. I just refused to live a lie."

McWilliams, 52, was sentenced to 14 years and six months for second-degree murder. "I did 29 hard years in California Corrections, a place that's not equipped to rehabilitate anyone," said McWilliams. "They just warehouse people. I had to better myself."

McWilliams said that if he had been released prior to 1988 he would have been just like the guys in West Block: "In and out, in and out." McWilliams said, "It's the lifers who should get out because we've done the work and we have [a low] recidivist rate. They won't come back."

Now, for him, it is all about starting over right.

"This is my fourth parole date and I'll be leaving on this one," McWilliams said. "I'll be working in a cabinet shop perfecting my craft. Because right now I want just want peace of mind."

—JulianGlenn Padgett

### Inmate Found Dead

According to prison authorities, on July 12, 2010, custody staff found inmate Lay G-37678 unresponsive in his bed and not breathing and without pulse. Staff immediately sounded their alarm and started CPR. Medical staff was called and responded to the scene. A Code 3 ambulance was called. Paramedics arrived to the scene and through attending physicians via an outside hospital, inmate Lay was declared dead at 2022 hours. Inmate Lay was 63 years old and came to San Quentin on October 23, 2008.

## Losno Says Goodbye

Rafael "Al" Losno Jr. came to prison during the era when phrases like "battle gyms and gladiator schools" were the norm. After spending almost three decades inside California's toughest penitentiaries, Losno paroled from San Quentin this June as a changed man.

"Here I was just a kid, slammed with 15 years-to-life with the possibility of parole, and I wasn't even 90 days into my 19th birthday," he said. At sentencing the judge recommended Losno be sent to the California Youth Authority (CYA), because he had never been in trouble before. But the judge warned that if (CYA) did not accept him, he would go to adult prison. It was adult prison.

### SUITABLE TWICE

"That was 29 years ago. I was arrested June 5, 1981 and this was my first time being incarcerated on any level. I was nervous and curious but the honest truth is, I was scared," Losno admitted.

Over the years Losno appeared before the parole board 11 times and was found suitable twice.

The first time, in 2009, his date was taken due to what he called a non-existent 128-counseling chrono. "They said I had refused to participate in an interview and later included information that I had only been disciplinary-free for eight years," Losno said.

He reported an in-depth investigation proved afterwards that he had attended the interview and he had been disciplinary-free for 22 years. "When I went before board commissioner Anthony Kane, he respected the Lawrence decision and my right not to discuss my

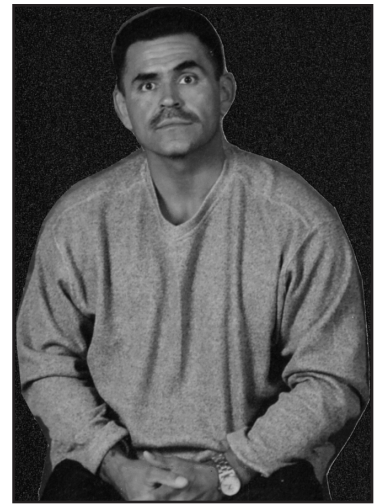


Photo: SQ News Archives

Rafael A Losno Jr

crime." When his date was reversed; he felt shame and learned a new level of pain. "I suffered for my entire family. Even the young kids from Havens Court, who I've mentored; they cried for me too." He mentored them in a program called R.E.A.L Choices, an acronym for Reaching Expanding Adolescent Lives.

"My prison years have given me the ability to listen and really hear a kid when they're at that beginning stage of going down the wrong path. I thank God for that, because I've learned from them and they've taught me a lot too."

At 5-foot-8, with Hollywood leading-man features, Losno is a mixture of quiet strength and anecdotal wisdom. He reports much of what he learned was while doing time in prison.

### TIME AT SOLEDAD

"My first prison was Soledad Central," which he described as "Gladiator School."

"Back then it was a very political, racist and violent world," he stated.

The 51-year-old Losno grew up in the San Francisco Mission District, where his childhood friends Benjamin and Peter Bratt filmed their movie, "La Mission." Benjamin acted in the film and his brother, Peter, directed and produced it.

—JulianGlenn Padgett

## Mourning Destruction

By CAROLE HYMAN  
Jewish Chaplain

"The destruction of Jerusalem came through a Kamza and a Bar Kamza." (Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 55b)

Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, falls this year on July 20. On this day Jews mourn the destruction of the first and second temples. Why does the Talmud blame it on Kamza and Bar Kamza?

The Talmud explains it this way: A man was giving a party. He had a friend, Kamza, and an enemy, Bar Kamza. He told his servant to go find Kamza and invite him to the party. His servant invited Bar Kamza by mistake! Bar Kamza arrived, and the man said, "What are you doing here? Get out!" Bar Kamza said, "As long as I'm here, let me stay. I'll pay for what I eat and drink." The man said "No." Bar Kamza offered to pay for half the party — he even offered to pay for the whole party! The man said "No" and "No." Bar Kamza was very unhappy at the behavior of the man. But what upset him even more was the behavior of the others at the party. Why didn't they intervene? They must agree with what the man did! This made Bar Kamza angry, and his revenge was to set in motion the chain of events which resulted in the Romans invading Jerusalem and destroying the temple.

How do we observe Tisha B'Av? This varies from community to community. The two most common rituals are fasting, and reading the Book of Lamentations while seated on the ground.

Rituals are physical actions designed to facilitate an inner spiritual state. Whether we are fasting or studying, we should contemplate what this tragedy teaches us about ourselves, and how our pride, anger and lack of compassion destroy whole worlds.

But we should not do this without hope! Our tradition teaches that the messiah will be born on the Ninth of Av.

## Push for Private Prisons

By JULIANGLENN PADGETT  
Managing Editor

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is upbeat on the prospect of the business of private prisons. And executives representing the Corrections Corporation of America are definitely happy about the governor's attitude.

The relationship benefits both parties. It diverts public attention from one of the governor's core frustrations, the state's prison guard union.

In his last State of the State speech, Schwarzenegger revealed plans to amend the California Constitution to require the state to spend more on universities than on prisons.

One avenue for slicing billions from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation budget would be to privatize prisons, the governor said.

### A TIGHT BOND

However, this arrangement would also benefit Corrections Corp. of America. Based in Tennessee, the firm has built a tight bond with the governor's administration and is profiting sweetly from California's prison debacle.

In 2006 Schwarzenegger started busing inmates to private prisons after prison overcrowding lawsuits and federal judges ordered the state to improve its inmate health and mental health care.

With laws like three strikes and Marsy's Law, coupled with the Board of Prison Term's dismal record of granting parole, inmate populations have soared.

On Oct. 19, 2006 Corrections Corp. penned its first deal: 900 inmates at four human lockups, \$63 per body per day, at more than \$20 million per year.

Since then the Corrections Corp. contract has been changed several times. California now holds the power to house just about 9,000 to 10,000 inmates in Corrections Corp's facilities. The price will be around \$72 per prisoner per day.

### \$13 Million Wasted

The state Corrections Inspector General, David Shaw, reported that California wasted \$13 million in the way it provides medication to inmates. The Associated Press reported that the waste stemmed from costly prescriptions being discarded through sloppy record-keeping, inmate transfers or release from prison.

# Going Home to See Becky

David Marsh wrote this column shortly before being paroled

By DAVID MARSH  
Former News Editor

FORGIVENESS: I will be leaving this place soon, in a matter of days, God willing. Yup, parole date coming up for me, again! Hope to make this one, on June 11th.

And as a single father with three children, two of them minors, who is at the tail end of a sentence of nine with half-time,

## AS I SEE IT

I would like to believe that I am ready. Time to get home to my kids, Becky, David and Nolan.

But I know in my heart that I am not yet truly ready, because I still have no idea what I will say to them, even now after all this time I've had to think about it.

I will be seeing my little girl soon. Becky. Her name is Becky, my only daughter. A wonderful

child who has never caused her dad a bit of trouble. Hard to believe in today's times, but I swear it's the truth.

Always and still her Daddy's girl, but no longer Daddy's little girl now because while I've been gone, my Becky has grown up. She's a truly beautiful young woman now. While her Daddy was in prison my little girl has grown up, turned eighteen and became a young adult. A very pretty young woman my Becky has become.

### WHAT I MISSED

There have been many eventful moments that were pretty darn important to this exceptional woman/child that her Daddy has missed. Such as her high school prom, her graduation, and her very first date, just to name a few.

And all the times that she was down, sick, hurting or scared. Or she simply needed advice, the kind that only a father should give.

But her father wasn't there. For he has been here, for a very long time, while she has hurt alone. This daughter that I love with all that I am. My Becky.

### THE PAIN ENDURES

I've been thinking very hard about what I will say. And it hurts because no matter what I say, it can't be enough to erase the pain. Both hers and mine.

She's still waiting for her father for all of this time, and somehow she's still smiling. For my Becky's



Photo: SQ News Archives

David Marsh

beautiful eyes are looking to the future, and to those many special moments that she and I will yet still share together. Not focused on the past and the treasures that we have missed, and that are forever lost to us. Somehow she has learned to forgive me when I cannot even forgive myself!

As for me, I am still feeling the pain as I struggle with the awareness of all that she and I have lost these past years. It's called guilt

### MUCH TO LEARN.

But still, I am aware that I can learn much from my Becky. About letting go. And about forgiving. And I think that maybe she will teach me something about forgiving myself, which has to be the first step. Then maybe together we can really begin the healing process, she and I.

For as I have already noted, she is so very special. That's my Becky! She is waiting, as are my beloved sons, David and Nolan, so very special in their own right. And, God willing, it's time for me to go!

Please, God, help me to be ready!

## OPINION

### Thinking About the H-Unit Search Episode

By R.F. GILLIAM  
Journalism Guild Writer

On Monday morning, May 13, approximately 700 inmates housed in San Quentin's H-Unit were taken out of their dorms and escorted onto the main recreation yard while custody staff performed a security search. This was not an unusual occurrence; searches are a routine and necessary part of prison life. What made this one noteworthy was the way it was handled.

### REMOVE CLOTHING

After exiting the unit, the inmates were ordered to stand along a blacktop roadway, made to remove all their clothing while guards checked for contraband. Besides correctional staff, potential onlookers included other inmates, maintenance workers, teachers, and various prison employees—both male and female—who live or work within the walls.

After dressing, the inmates were forced to stand, sit, or walk the yard as intermittent rain showers fell. This went on most of the day while staff conducted the search of the dorms. The inmates were not allowed back into their dorms until 1 p.m.

Sometime during the day some of these inmates broke into one of the education classrooms. Unfortunately, some of the more larcenously inclined among them

### Death Row Yard Shots Fired

According to prison authorities, on June 25, 2010, staff observed Grade B condemned inmates fighting with one another on the Condemned Re-Integrated Mix

burglarized an interior office and appropriated some card and board games the coach kept there. In so doing, they caused enough damage to force the closure of two classrooms. This decreased the already inadequate educational space.

I believe this incident might have been avoided by sequestering the inmates in one of the large dining halls, out of the rain.

Many in the general public might say; "This just proves they need to be locked up. They deserve to be treated rudely, they're convicted felons. They're just getting a taste of their own medicine."

Sure, these men committed crimes, that's why they're in prison. But should their punishment extend to being mistreated or even dehumanized? Or should we try to instill a measure of self-respect in these men?

All of the men housed in H-Unit will be released sometime in the near future. Wouldn't it be more logical to educate and edify them, rather than abusing them to the point of insult, before releasing them into your communities?

I for one would rather have an ex-offender with a healthy sense of self-worth and a positive attitude living near me; not one filled with contempt and distrust of the people around him or her.

Yard. Both inmates failed to comply with orders to get down. Staff utilized 40 MM launchers and OC Pepper Spray to quell the fight. An inmate-manufactured weapon was used during the fight and recovered. According to the Public Information Office, one of the inmates had active bleeding to the top of his head due to a laceration to his head and right forehead area. The other inmate received lacerations to the back of his head, both shoulders, upper and lower back and redness to his entire chest and stomach area. One of the inmates was treated for a possible punctured lung.

### Charge Inmates \$5 per Day? Bill Dies in the State Senate

A bill that would have required jail and prison inmates to pay \$5.00 dollars a day to help defray the costs of their incarceration was defeated in a state senate committee, Fox News Radio reported.

Senator Tom Harmon (R), Huntington Beach, sponsored the bill which was modeled after a similar law already in effect in Massachusetts. This bill was one of a number introduced by the senator, a candidate for the state's Attorney General office to be filled in November. Another bill by senator Harmon, to change the state's lethal injection administration procedure from a three-drug-cocktail to a single drug solution is still alive.

Opinion—In this fiscally depressed economy it seems some lawmakers, especially those running for office with limited funds or little or no name-recognition, will try almost anything to garner attention—no matter the long-term consequences.

By placing the burden of paying for their incarceration on prisoners and their families, without providing them with the resources, skills, or education

to meet that obligation, Senator Harmon is simply attempting to exploit an already subjugated class of people who possess little or no political rights or advocacy.

Without guaranteeing prisoners and ex-prisoners job-training and employment, both during their incarceration and after their release, measures such as this would simply be another artificial obstacle to the restoration of civil equality for former inmates and their loved ones. A more sensible approach would be to mandate and fund education, rehabilitation, and vocational training during incarceration, then guarantee job and housing placement upon an inmate's release. This would go much farther in ensuring public safety than the current policy of locking prisoners up for long periods of time, at exorbitant costs, then releasing them into the community no better or in many cases worse off than when they went in. — R. F. Gilliam

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# OPINION

## One Neighborhood...

### Two Paths, Two Lives

#### ...Why the Difference

By **MICHAEL R. HARRIS**  
Editor-in-Chief

My position with San Quentin News as Editor-in-Chief affords me the opportunity to meet and interview people from all walks of life, from the imprisoned to the free and notable alike. As a reporter my role is that of observer – an uninvolved representative of the readers.

But one recent interview was different. I became a part of the story from the start. While doing research for the Judge Henderson story I came across information that was both disturbing and inspiring. What I found pertains to his life, to our community and to many revealing reflections about myself. I learned that this powerful judge, this human rights fighter that I would be meeting for the first time, was my homeboy in every sense of the word.

#### SAME CITY BLOCKS

Even though we were separated by three decades, we were raised on the same city blocks in South Central Los Angeles near the city of Watts and attended the same high school, Thomas Jefferson.

As I approached Judge Henderson after the June 3 ceremony at the new Central Health Services Building I softly hummed our old school fight song, "So Hard to Be a Demo." Judge Henderson looked at me with a big smile and

together we finished the tune and shook hands. We launched into memories that connected us both to our old neighborhood or, in Judge Henderson's words, "our old stomping grounds." It turned out that not only did we both come from the same neighborhood, but also both our families had migrated from Louisiana to California. I said that this was crazy, this was unbelievable. Judge Henderson responded in kind and added, "This is a small world."

#### A DIFFERENT ROUTE

Henderson's visit to San Quentin sparked continuous thought and pressing questions for me. What if more people from my community had taken the same route that the Judge Henderson took, instead of the route myself and so many others chose? What would justice look like in our nation's urban communities?

As a sidelight, even though his name was not listed on the commemorative program for the event, it was Judge Henderson who gave birth to the process that created the building. I would think at the appropriate time, when it comes to naming the building, that Thelton Henderson, now age 76, should be the only candidate. It is only right. Go Demos... "from the bottom up."

After the ceremony closed there was a heartfelt scene as men from diverse backgrounds congregated around Judge Henderson. Each of them in turn expressed their regret, apologizing for acts they had committed against humanity and their respective communities. They spoke as they would to a father figure. I was among them. So the question returns, why were Judge Henderson and myself, so much alike in our backgrounds, on opposite sides in this exchange? Why was he the renowned lawyer and judge and I the convict who had to hire lawyers?

Judge Henderson's mother was a domestic worker, his father a janitor. He didn't have many material things, but he did have an intact family. And he had a mother who pushed him relentlessly, who said he was destined to be a doctor or a lawyer and who would not let him slack off. Plus he had athletics.

At Jefferson High, despite his modest size, he was a star in basketball and football. His two coaches, both UC Berkeley graduates, pushed him toward their alma mater. Henderson said later that he knew Berkeley was good in sports but he didn't have a clue that it was a great academic university. He found that out after he was hurt in a football game, had to quit sports and turned his attention to the classroom.

As for me, it was my mother alone keeping our family going. She worked hard, sometimes at two jobs, leaving not much time for her children. At one point I wanted to go into the military. She was against it; she felt it would represent her as a failure as a mother. Right or wrong, that was her belief. She cried and I didn't go.

#### NO INSPIRATION

As for my father, he left my mother and totally rejected me. He would not even hire me as an apprentice at his major lumber company. He gave me no inspiring words. The lack of acceptance caused frustration and confusion in my young growing mind. The absence of one parent or both, if nobody like a coach steps up to fill the void, can set a young mind off track for a lifetime.

Later the pattern was repeated. I thought I wanted to be a clergyman. My mother instructed me to seek counsel from our minister. He said, "You have to be called." I thought I was being called; that was why I was there. Nothing more was said; there was no further instruction given while I was yearning to find my place in life.

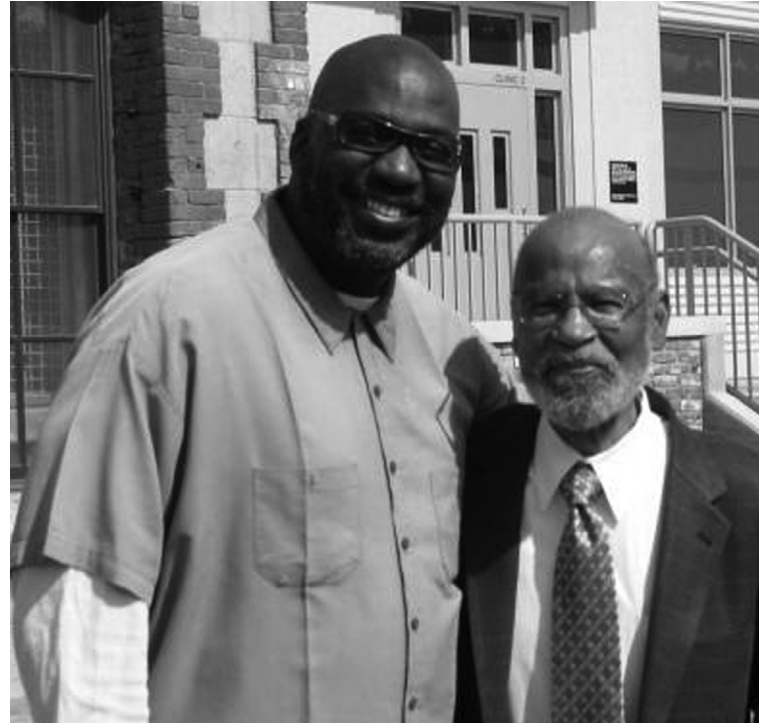


Photo: Mary Cello

Michael R. Harris and Judge Thelton Henderson

And still later, after I had worked my way up at a large electrical supply company, the owner fired me because he said I was so good that I was a "threat" to the other workers. After that I vowed that I would never depend on others and I drifted, wrongly, into the drug business.

Judge Henderson and I grew up in the neighborhood called South Central that later, trying to paper over its reputation, the city officially "renamed" South Los Angeles. When Judge Henderson grew up, and until a court decision in 1948, it was the only area in L.A. where African-Americans could legally own homes.

#### RISING TIDE OF DRUGS

Thirty years later, when I grew up, the area had turned much more violent. Gangs were formed, at first to protect local residents from marauding white groups coming in from nearby areas. Then, with the rising tide of crack and other drugs, the gangs became a harsh presence of their own.

The area produced many great and talented people, from Tyra Banks and Kevin Costner to Barry White and the Williams sisters of tennis fame. Jefferson High's roster of former students includes choreographer Alvin Ailey, diplomat and Noble Peace Prize winner Ralph Bunche, actress Dorothy Dandridge and jazz saxophonist Dexter Gordon.

But by the 80s and 90s the area had grown violent. It was a difficult place for an unconnected African-American, such as myself, to pick a life's path.

Which way to go? I went both directions. On the legal side I was a successful owner of a dozen businesses, landowner and music and theatrical producer. While producing "Checkmate" I worked with Vanessa Williams and Denzel Washington, giving him his first exposure on Broadway. I co-created the gangster rap label Death Row Records with artists such as 2Pac and Snoop Dogg.

But I was also on the dark side, becoming a major drug dealer and winding up in prison. In fact, Death Row Records was created while I was actually in San Quentin on Death Row's East Block section, which was being used as overflow for The Hole. The six months I spent in the close

proximity of the condemned men on Death Row allowed me to see what the end could look like for so many other like-minded people that grew up as I did.

The lessons for me are many. It is still painful to accept the fact that I broke the promise that I made to myself as a young man, which was that I would never abandon my children if I was ever blessed to have any. There is no act that will ever justify me depriving my two daughters of a responsible, caring and protective dad. Like Judge Henderson I had a mother who gave unconditional love, but there the parallel ends. In many ways I paid her back by going against everything she taught me.

So the question I ask myself is, what happened to me that allowed me to lie to myself, telling myself that it was okay to become a major urban drug dealer? Yeah, I know "the movies made me do it." That was one I used to use but this kind of excuse doesn't work for me anymore. I know better now.

#### OLD FASHIONED WAY

The fact is I did not have the courage and the insight to do things the old fashioned way. Which consisted of hard, smart and legitimate work. And so I was struck with the law of gravity: "What goes up must come down."

There is a lie that myself and like-minded people tell ourselves when we say, "We must eat by any means necessary... If I don't do this and I don't do that, then my family will starve." We must learn to think outside of the boxes that we have limited ourselves and our families and friends to, the boxes that allow our actions to continue to feed the cycle of abandonment.

When the men gathered around Judge Henderson after the ceremony, apologizing for what had brought them to San Quentin, he said, "It's never too late to change." I certainly agree. I have accepted the facts that followed the choices that I made. Now I also know it's never too late to make a difference. I have found that if you look at things differently then they begin to transform into different things.

## It's Time to Choose: Classrooms or Cells?

It is often said that one can tell what a person or a society cares most about by looking at what they spend their money on. If that is true then it is absolutely clear that Californians are more concerned with locking up and punishing their citizens than educating their children. California spends billions of dollars on its prison system even as education is increasingly shortchanged.

The principal candidates running for governor of California have chosen to run campaigns based on fear and ignorance as opposed to knowledge and courage. They want to continue spending money to incarcerate the non-violent criminals that make up 60 percent of the prison population while closing schools and withholding funds from kindergarten through college at an alarming rate. Anybody with a working knowledge of mathematics understands this simple principle: never can you spend the same dollar twice.

And if candidates for governing our state take the position

that the prisons and criminal justice system should remain as status quo, then it stands to reason that California's children are being taken out of the game.

The San Quentin News wants to flush out these pressing questions in the next several issues leading up to the election by asking pertinent questions of the candidates.

Tax-paying parents of course have an interest in this outcome. But corporate America also has a powerful interest. Without a pool of educated young people to draw from businesses will increasingly seek their workforce from the better educated other nations that prioritize education over excessive and mindless punishment.

Concerned Californians with comments on this issue or questions they would like us to ask the candidates should direct them to San Quentin News, Education Department, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin, CA 94964.

— Michael R. Harris

# I'm Out On Parole: So What Do I Do Now?

DAVID MARSH  
Contributing Writer

I've left behind the walls of the prison, having paroled on June 11. But I'm still fighting to reach freedom, one slow step at a time.

I'm homeless for now, for the first time in my life, and I'm 54 years old. I'd never have imagined that there is such complexity to being successful at being homeless. But there is, and it's a struggle to learn it.

Until June 11 the folks at San Quentin cooked my meals, gave me a bed to sleep in, even did my laundry if I'd let 'em, and gave me a job on the newspaper to keep me busy and out of trouble. The trouble part didn't always work out as most of you will remember from my Ad Seg. "AS I SEE IT" column in the May issue of the S.Q. News. But San Quentin tried and, for the most part, I did, too.

On June 11 I gave up my job as the News Editor on your paper. But a reporter's blood runs thick through my veins and I still have some writing left to do. If God, and the editors of the S.Q. News are willing, I intend to carry on as a contributing writer reporting on a couple of issues

that will affect a great many of you in the coming weeks, months and years and, for some even, days! The issues are parole and homelessness.

For the past couple of nights I've slept, showered and even eaten at a homeless shelter for men. A very eye-opening experience, let me tell you. In so many ways, the types of people that one meets in prison can be found at the homeless shelter. Including a few folks just like me, recent parolees.

I'd never really given it much thought, but it's so very true that when the doors of prison finally open up for you, it's just like all those experts and their studies said it would be. The euphoria of freedom at last is quickly and thoroughly overwhelmed by an avalanche of anxiety, awe and yes, even fear! A sense of "Oh, Hell! What do I do now?"

Ten days into my parole and I'm still asking myself that very same question. But I'm quite self-motivated, and my feeling is that I won't be homeless for long.

As the days and weeks pass I'll share with you some insights and avenues for parolees as I find them. I'll ask

plenty of questions from the people at the parole office, as a good reporter does. And I'll share the answers with you, just as honestly as I can, that you might be better able to prepare yourself for freedom when the time comes.

No non-revocable parole for me? No sir! In fact, I had some pretty tough special conditions throw at me, including a crazy restriction against driving a car, although I've never had an alcohol related driving offense. How am I to work?

But I will, and God willing, I'll give them back this number in a short 13 months, watch and see. And as it unfolds I'll share some insights on how to do that, also. Because we can beat this parole thing, both you and I. And in the process, the recidivism rate, as well.

No one said it would be easy, and certainly I never expected that it would be. There are moments when it seems like it's gonna' be too much for me. But it ain't.

I dug myself a real deep hole this time, I did! And now I'm climbing back out, slowly but surely, one step at a time. And filling the hole back in as I go. I WON'T fall back in this one!

## Warden Duffy Tells How He Started the San Quentin News

*Clinton Duffy, the son of a San Quentin guard, grew up to be warden from 1940 to 1952. Among the humane changes he instituted were the end of corporal punishment, improvement of food, start of vocational training, founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and desegregation of the dining hall. Another of his enduring "firsts" was the founding of the San Quentin News. Here is how it happened, as described by Duffy in one of the several books he wrote. The account is passed along by Lt. Rudy Luna.*

By WARDEN CLINTON DUFFY

One afternoon many years ago, when I was a boy growing up behind the walls of San Quentin, I sneaked up the hill behind the warden's house to watch a big brush fire. I had been forbidden to go there because there were prisoners fighting the blaze under the nervous gaze of armed guards and also for the more practical reason that my mother was afraid I might burn my new school suit.

Toward dusk that day, when I sauntered nonchalantly through the back-yard gate, my mother met me with folded arms and an accusing eye.

### INTO THE FIRE

"Clinton," she said coldly, "you disobeyed me and went to that fire."

"No, I didn't, Mom," I said. "That's just a rumor you heard on the grapevine."

"Oh, it's just a rumor, is it?" she mocked. "It must be a pretty hot one, because it's smoking. Take a look at yourself, young man."

I took a look, and I knew I was sunk. My pants were on fire.

The moral of this quick knock out probably escaped me at the time, but it was brought back nostalgically after I was named warden. Shortly after I took office I started walking through the big yard alone two or three times a week, because I wanted to see

for myself what was going on and I wanted the men to have confidence in me and to know that I didn't intend to move around the prison trailed by three or four bodyguards.

### JOTTING IT DOWN

I also got into the habit of carrying pencil and paper in my pocket—I still do it today—and if some of the men had urgent personal problems, I jotted down the information and handled the matter myself. I kept all officers, guards, and inmates advised of every change in the prison rules—and there were plenty—and tried to anticipate their questions.

Nevertheless, the grapevine throbbed with weird gossip about my plans, and if some of the rumors weren't actually smoking, they were hot enough to cause unrest and interfere with the normal prison routine. I decided that the obvious answer, if we could swing it, would be a regular prison newspaper.

Prior to the time I became warden, San Quentin had been without such a paper. There was, in earlier years, a literary magazine called the San Quentin Bulletin, and many a prison writer first broke into print on its pages.

In some ways the Bulletin was the personal plaything of the prison intellectuals, and it gave a number of men an outlet for esoteric fiction which probably could not have been sold commercially. The publication consequently had a limited appeal, was expensive, and was finally dropped.

### THE MISSING NEWS

Two other wardens, both baseball fans, had permitted the occasional printing of a small sports sheet, but it didn't have the little items of inside news that were almost as important to the men as letters from home.

What was the new parole policy? When would the prison camps open? What could be sent from home? What about visits

from their loved ones? How much tobacco was allowed?

These and a hundred similar questions were being answered by cellblock oracles who claimed to have a private line right into my office. Further, many old-timers clung stubbornly to the idea that in prison you had to whisper everything, even the time of day, and were frankly skeptical when I said that as long as I was warden there would be no more secrets in San Quentin.

### WENT RIGHT AHEAD

There were also some doubters among the older employees, and when they heard about the proposed newspaper they said derisively that half the prisoners couldn't read and the other half would fill the news column with coded messages for their pals on the outside. This was sheer twaddle, of course, and I went right ahead with the plan.

Toward the end of November, with the help of several former newspapermen who were doing time, an artist, a make-up man, and the inmate workers in the prison print shop, we were ready to publish.

### GREEN PAPER

The first edition of the San Quentin News, hand-set and printed on gaudy green paper, was published December 10, 1940. The paper was not exactly a sensation, but it was a revelation to the permanent tenants who thought they had seen everything in prison. Those first issues were tough in spots, full of slang and even a little bawdy at times. We printed poetry, quizzes, cartoons, short stories, gags, and news.

The letters-to-the-editor column, among other things, was a safety valve for all sorts of wacky stories and jokes, and we printed a lot of curious trivia simply because it raised the spirit of the men. One of these stories, which I like to read to an outside audience occasionally, was called "The First Offender," — and I think is a light

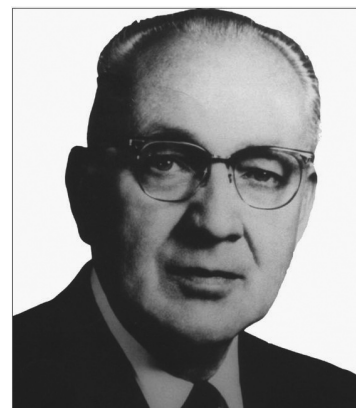


Photo: S.Q. News Archives

Warden Clinton Duffy

*Sometimes good things can happen after your pants catch on fire*

but effective one-minute sermon for any free man who tends to be smug because he has never been in trouble with the police. The story reads as follows:

After diligent research we have discovered that there is no such thing as a First Offender—anywhere. The explanation is quite simple:

*When you were an infant in the crib you yelled and disturbed the entire household. That's disorderly conduct.*

*At the age of five you stealthily made your way into the kitchen and stole some jam while your mother was occupied elsewhere. That's petty larceny.*

*As a boy of ten you played hooky from school to go fishing and wrote an excuse to the teacher; signing your father's name. That's forgery.*

*Reaching manhood, you married, and at the church you promised to love and cherish. That's perjury.*

*You kept quarreling with your wife until you burned her up. That's arson.*

*After your divorce, you kept out of trouble until you were forty and then you married a girl of nineteen. Shame on you, cradle snatching that way. That's kidnapping.*

*But the pay-off comes when you sit out in the yard and have the gall to tell your bored audience that you are here on a bum rap. That's murder!*

## Assembly Bill To Boost Ex-Felon Jobs

By MICHAEL COOKE  
Journalism Guild Writer

Serving time in prison is supposed to cancel the debt owed for social indiscretion. Unfortunately, ex-felons do not have fair access to jobs or gainful employment after being released from incarceration. They are frequently barred from work primarily due to a felony conviction.

California's recidivism rate is the highest in the nation (71.3%). A major contribution to this problem is a lack of job opportunities.

Each month the Department of Corrections releases approximately 9,500 inmates from California's prisons. Nearly two-thirds of those freed served time for non-violent crimes.

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity commission (EEOC) has a policy statement on conviction records. The commission recognizes that "an employer's policy or practice of excluding individuals from employment on the basis of their conviction records has an adverse impact on ex-felons."

Assembly bill 2727 (Re-entry Employment Opportunity Act), authorized by Assemblyman Steven Bradford (D-51), would codify the EEOC policy statement into state law by preventing employers from denying employment to an applicant solely based on a prior conviction unless

- There is a direct relationship between a criminal offense and the employment sought

- The relationship between the conviction and the employment being sought is such that granting of employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety and welfare of the general public.

The bill aims to empower employers to determine whether a prior record would have a significant effect on future job performance, while also maintaining public safety by perform a criminal background check.

## Jennifer Scaife Leaves S.Q. After Four Years

By DAVID COWAN and FELIX LUCERO  
Contributing Writers

For the past four years, Jennifer Scaife has become a fixture in San Quentin inmate education, enhancing the lives of some 1,500 students and generating some \$100,000 worth of donated textbooks.

"I certainly have the sensation that the work I've done barely scratches the surface – there are just too many people in prison with too many needs for me to feel truly effective," she said in an interview.

"People here tell me every day that I make a difference, so I believe them. But really, I think that one can only make a difference if others are open to doing things differently. Any differences I've made I attribute to the individuals impacted by my efforts, because that shows that they were doing some very important work themselves."

On June 25 Scaife bid farewell as the program coordinator for San Quentin's Prison University Project, run by the privately funded Oakland-based Patten University.

Scaife began volunteering as an English instructor in 2005. The following year she replaced Nicole Lindahl, the previous coordinator left to work in New York.

At the June 24 graduation, Jody Lewen noted that Jennifer facilitated the donation of about \$100,000 worth of text books, answered about 90,000 e-mails, walked through the entrance gates about 4,000 times, spent about 960 evenings inside the institution, carried in all school supplies including about 15,000 notebooks, taught about 240 people and edited hundreds of papers.

"I think what drew me toward working inside a prison in the first place was a kind of transgressive curiosity: I wanted to go where most ordinary people didn't want to go," she said. "And because I'd been in a prison once before (in Virginia) and had such a positive experience there, I was completely unafraid of entering San Quentin."

**What made you decide it was time to move on?**

For the last year and a half, I've been considering all the possible ways – in addition to working with the college program – that I could make an impact on the state of corrections in California. I've learned such a huge amount about this field in the last four years that I feel I can now go somewhere else and leverage that knowledge to gain more insight and continue making change happen. So I guess what I'm saying is, I'm leaving now so I can do more, but this time from the other side of the gate.

**What do you plan to do with yourself after you leave?**

I've accepted a position with the Reentry Council of San Francisco. The purpose of the Reentry Council is to coordinate local

efforts to support adults exiting San Francisco County Jail, San Francisco juvenile justice out-of-home placements, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facilities, and the Federal Bureau of Prison facilities.

**What did you find most surprising about San Quentin?**

The old and crumbling infrastructure. The vast number of people serving life sentences. The unpredictable and yet mundane nature of prison life. The nonsensical (at least from an outsider's point of view) rituals surrounding racism and racial segregation inside prison. The indomitable optimism of some of the men who live here.

**What personal stereotypes about the men in San Quentin were shattered once you got to know the place?**

Jonathan Simon, a professor at UC Berkeley who gave a lecture here last summer about mass incarceration, has written about the commonly held stereotype that all prisoners are young, bodybuilding, volatile men. Looking back, I think I must have bought into the first part of that stereotype: I was astonished to realize how many elderly prisoners there are in the system.

**What will you miss most about your work in SQ?**

I will miss sharing in the camaraderie that springs up among people surviving this experience. There's an intensity and quality of human interaction here that I haven't witnessed anywhere else.

**What are your hopes for the future of education in CDCR?**

I hope that funding for quality educational and vocational programming inside CDCR institutions can be made a priority. And if that does not come to pass, I hope more community-based organizations step up to take on that responsibility.

**How does offering prisoners the opportunity to earn college degrees benefit society?**

### REVIEW

## Dancing Into San Quentin's Hearts

By RAPHAEL CALIX  
Contributing Writer

A group of teen-agers called "Shining Light" sang and danced their way into the hearts of hundreds of San Quentin inmates in June.

The group from Lebanon, Pennsylvania, at first appeared somewhat apprehensive about performing in front of a large group of convicts. But once the show began, with the music thumping and the youngsters gracefully dancing in twos, threes until the whole stage was covered with their rhythmic motions.

They performed to the lyrics of "Push-Push-Pull, Keep on Moving" and the expressions of "Free from the hordes of emotions affecting mankind, freedom through Christ," it became obvi-



Photo: Ms. Scaife Files

Jennifer Scaife

(It) reminds us all that people everywhere deserve the chance to grow and change. But in a more practical sense, people in prison remain connected with family members and loved ones on the outside, and transfer knowledge and motivation to others to become better educated. Most people currently in prison will leave one day; the more skills they have at the time of their release, the more options they have for getting meaningful work and supporting themselves.

**Since spending time here, has your interpretation of justice changed?**

I know scores of men here at San Quentin who want desperately to give back to the communities in which they caused harm years ago. I think that my ideal version of justice would include providing the opportunity for people in prison to give back meaningfully and visibly to the individuals or communities they've damaged.

**What do you think people should know about San Quentin that they generally do not?**

Outsiders should know that there are 32 other prisons in California besides San Quentin, and all of them need the help and influence of volunteer programs. I think people tend to flock to San Quentin because it's famous and because it's accessible, but the consequence is a concentration of resources here that are just as badly needed elsewhere.

ous that this show was something special.

After the singing and dancing, the stage was set up for acting with an educational delivery. Signs displayed key words: ADDICTION, DEPRESSION, ABUSIVE and PARALYSED. With stern expressions, the young actors defined the powerful meaning of these words, all the while causing the viewers to think critically over the impact it had over their lives.

The second act brought in a kid named "John Paul," a "Wonderfully, Especially Made creature, more precious to God, more than the moon and the sun." He was showing us how a young boy tries to fit in with the crowd, and that regardless of their rejection, or his imperfect flaws, he was no mere mortal. He could just be

## Patten Graduation Is a Proud Moment

*Continued from Page 1*

days that we are in this institution."

GED valedictorian, Johnny B. Tarver, at 40 years old and incarcerated for 20 years, appeared uncomfortable as he truly energized the audience with his educational experience. Tarver thanked his mother and daughter for support and gave special thanks to Jennifer Scaife "because without her I literally, really, would not be standing here today."

"There's something about being in a cap and gown that separates you all and says, 'I am better than the worse thing that I have ever done,'" said Sujatha Baliga of Restorative Justice and Victims Offender Education Group (V.O.E.G.). "Because your story is now about transcendence, and you men have done that here."

### PROUD OF HIM

Lakisha Canada offered her comments to the San Quentin News about her husband Chris Canada's graduation.

"I'm very proud of him and to see him go to school, that's great. He could have just sat in here and done nothing," Lakisha said. "But he used his time in prison wisely; this is just the start for him."

Ernest Hill, a lifer, stated, "I've been incarcerated since 1989 and I began my time at Pelican Bay. I was in school there but because of all the lockdowns I never could go. But it's different here," Hill said. "Getting my GED showed me that we can do anything when we put our minds to it."

Efraim Suarez realized he had to improve his English to receive his GED. English being his second language inspired Suarez to show other Mexicanos that they can make a difference, even if they are sent back to Mexico. "Education is so powerful," Suarez said. "At first it was really difficult but my cell mate really pushed me and he is a really good example. Suarez's cell mate went through the same process and is

currently attending Patten University.

"My mom always told me that education was a way to success in life," said Chris Scull, who held his GED proudly in his hands. "My plan's now are to enroll in Patten University and obtain my AA degree." Scull came to prison at the age of 16, he now wants to use his degree to continue his efforts in educating the youth against gangs, and substance abuse.

Sophie Maxwell, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, brought humor, tears, and applause from the audience when she gave an account of her personal story. She inspired the prisoners, their families and the prison staff about the importance of following your dream, having faith in yourself, being patient with yourself, and listening to your inner voice. Patten University co-valedictorian Au "Paul" Chen delivered a very humble and subdued speech. Patten University co-valedictorian Jeff Brooks enlivened the audience with his personal accounts of learning and family support that assisted his achievements. Brooks said, "I can't tell you how many times I gathered with my fellow college students to discuss a reading or essay that we're writing. The desire for education seemed to peel back any prejudices or stereotypes some men may have lead in their past. And, soon you could find inmates of various races discussing their classroom studies with one another, whether in a cell or on the tier. This was pretty much unheard of in any of the other prisons that I've been to, and I learn as much from my fellow inmates, as I did from my teachers."

Scaife was presented with several awards and plaques for her dedication to public service. Scaife had an important role in the success of the Patten University program over the past four years.

himself, just as he was created by the creator.

We witnessed testimonials of abusive families, of the hopelessness a child must face alone in the world. Yet we were able to discern that there was a way to make it stop, to find that small portion of self-worth in our heart, and the freedom to live life on life's terms was available through Christ Jesus.

The "Shining Light" ministry showed us through their songs, that "You can make it in this thing called life." With a powerful and soulful rendition they sang, "Get up now, get up now." The entire audience stood to clap, swing and sing along with the "Shining Light" teens.

We knew the show would end and that we would have to go back to our hot steel cells. But

one thing that would make our return much easier than before was that into our minds and hearts a small seed of hope was planted by a group of young Lebanon teens. We knew with some certainty that change is hard work. But, as you keep working, focusing, and leave all the baggage behind, work for the future, then the hope for living in this world shall be restored.

Because the "Shining Light" were minors at an adult prison, the policy of non-contact was in effect. The teens and the prisoners were not able to hug or shake hands. We were only able to wave.

Associate Warden Curzon thanked them for a wonderful show, and on behalf of Warden Cullen he extended a standing invitation for a return performance.

# Romeo and Juliet Enthrall San Quentin

By **ARNULFO T. GARCIA**  
Staff Writer

and **FERNANDO LEMUS**  
Design Editor

Inside the walls of San Quentin State Prison, there was an unusual announcement over the intercom, "The Protestant chapel will be open for Shakespeare after dinner, and all are welcomed to attend!"

For the seventh year in a row, the Marin Shakespeare Company and the William James Association have sponsored the production. Suraya Keating directs Shakespearean plays at San Quentin.

This year 11 men, who must maintain their prison jobs or are enrolled in the prison's educational program, carved out time for rehearsal on Friday evenings, and Sunday morning on the yard. The result of their dedication and study was a production of Romeo and Juliet.

The prison's Protestant Chapel is the perfect stage for theater, with a seating capacity of 150-

200. All seats were filled with excited prisoners and dedicated staff members including Laura Bowman, Steve Emerick, Pastor Curry, Lt. Samuel Robinson, Acting Warden Cullen, who thoroughly enjoyed this classic love story and tragedy unfold flawlessly before them.

The play positively impacted North Block where the prisoner/actors are housed, as the men who participated in the play received pats on the back, and complements from their fellow prisoners. One prisoner said, "I was happy to see all the races come together and do something positive." Prisoners who missed the performance were clearly disappointed, wanting an encore performance.

Erin L. O'Connor played Romeo. He commented, "What strikes me about this play is how deep lies the extent to which one will go to not only proved their love but also to make sure that love stays strong."



Photo: More Marin

Juliet and Romeo lie dead as Shakespeare's great work comes to a tragic conclusion

Lesley Currier, who played Juliet, gave an inspirational anecdote, "The men who participate in this program are courageous, intelligent and talented. Shakespeare at San Quentin gives them an unusual opportunity to learn many life skills, while exploring the great literary art of Williams Shakespeare."

Director Suraya Keating composed the following statement for the audience: "As you watch our performance today, I invite you to reflect on your own thoughts about love and violence, and how we may create together a more peaceful world."

The performance received coverage from KPIX, a local televi-

sion station affiliated with CBS, and Nancy Mullane's radio show, Cross Currents, which airs at 5 p.m. weekdays on 91.7 KALW, a National Public Radio affiliate. For additional coverage go on line to: [MoreMarin.com](http://MoreMarin.com) or [bill@MoreMarin.com](mailto:bill@MoreMarin.com), (415) 877-4270. line to: [MoreMarin.com](http://MoreMarin.com) or [bill@MoreMarin.com](mailto:bill@MoreMarin.com), (415) 877-4270.

## RELIGION

### Ramadan Feasting Is Nearly Upon Us

By **MICHAEL COOKE**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of Ramadan is fast approaching, which is the period of obligatory fasting for Muslims around the world.

Ramadan is an Islamic holy month when Muslims may not eat or drink from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls at different times of the year. This year, it is anticipated that Ramadan will begin on August 11.

Muslims celebrate Ramadan as the month during which the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) received the first of the revelations of the Quran, the holy book of Islam.

Fasting during Ramadan is the fourth of the five pillars of Islamic faith, the primary religious duties of a Muslim. All Muslims must fast if they have reached puberty and are sound of mind. Exceptions are made for some, such as the sick, the elderly, pregnant or nursing women, and travelers on a journey of more than 50 miles. Those who are able, however, must make up the missed fast days at a later time. A Muslim who deliberately breaks the fast must atone by fasting two continuous months or feeding the poor.

Fasting begins at dawn and lasts until sunset. During this time, Muslims cannot ingest food or drink, smoke, or engage in sexual activity. The daily fast is broken by eating *iftar* (three dates and drinking water) followed by the evening prayer. At night, Muslims may eat, drink and resume other normal activities.

Ramadan is also a time for other religious activities. The nights are often devoted to special prayers and to recitation from the Quran. Muslims are encouraged to read one-thirtieth of the Quran each day.

Muslims fast to practice spiritual reflection, self-restraint, concern for others and obedience to God.

The end of Ramadan is celebrated by a great festival called *id al-fitr*. *Id al-fitr* means Feast of Fast-Breaking.



Islam's sacred Kaaba

### Inmates Win a Throwdown

By **R.F. GILLIAM**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Six San Quentin inmates defeated a group of professional writers in a "Literary Throwdown" competition recently.

The event, hosted by authors Keith and Kent Zimmerman, in association with Litquake. The Zimmerman brothers, authors of more than 15 books, including best-selling memoirs with the Sex Pistols and the Hell's Angels, have taught a weekly creative writing class at San Quentin's H-Unit since 2003.



San Quentin's winning writers gather with their Litquake competitors.

Six authors competed with inmate writers in a write-off, which was judged by three Hollywood authors/screenwriters. The Litquake event is the largest nonprofit literary festival on the West Coast.

It enlisted the likes of Alan Black, Jack Boulware, David Corbett, Joe Loya, Anne N. Marino and Bucky Sinister.

Judges included novelist/screenwriter/director Michael Tolkin and Noah and Logan Miller.

Regular attendees of "Finding Your Voice on the Page," the

Zimmerman's writing workshop, consisting of 25-30 inmate authors, competed with the guests in a timed writing competition. The entries were then judged and the best six from each group were read aloud, with the winning entrants announced on June 18.

The six finalists and winners, inmates representing San Quentin, were Earl Banks, Tim Dufore, Tim Gordon, Mark LeMelle, Delbert Lennox and Buckshot Maples.

### Imam Returns From Mecca

Imam Kawsar Hossain has returned to San Quentin after a nearly two-month leave of absence to the Middle East.

The purpose of the Imam's trip was to fulfill the Islamic religious obligation of *hajj*, (visiting the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia), as well as other religious study. In actuality, the Imam performed the Islamic ritual of *umrah*, which is performed the same as *hajj* at any time other than the first several days of the 12th month of the Islamic calendar.

*Hajj* is a religious obligation on every Muslim who is financially and physically able to attend at least once during their lifetime.

Muslims were eager to hear about his trip and to benefit from the lessons he learned during his sabbatical.

Imam Hossein appeared fit and well rested and he blessed everyone with his usual radiant smile and humble demeanor. He seemed enthusiastic to be reunited with the San Quentin Muslim community and has stated he would relate his experiences over the next several weeks to the congregation.

The San Quentin general population is invited to attend *Jumah* prayer services on Friday to hear the Imam speak.

— Michael Cooke

# Snippets

Politicians in California are the highest paid legislators in the world.

Reports from the national vital Statistics state that accidents are the leading cause of death for persons 20-34 years old. Homicide is the next leading cause.

Internet Users in the United States top 180,000,000 in 2009.

St. John's wort is used as an antidepressant, antispasmodic, astringent, sensitive, anti-viral, and relieves pain.

Obesity is determined by Body Mass Index (BMI). A BMI of 30.0 or more are considered obese.

Nails were first used in construction by the Sumerians in c.3300 BC.

Yellow Jackets are quite aggressive and can both bite and sting.

Autism is a neurobiological disorder that affects physical, social, and language skills.

Riboflavin releases the energies from carbohydrates, fats and proteins, maintaining integrity of red blood cells.

Diet and exercise can extend your life by several years.

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

# Indian Country

By DANIEL TREVINO  
Journalism Guild Writer

Tobacco has been used by American Indians for millennia. It is used as an offering to Mother Earth. Burned as a prayer to the Great Spirit and used for healing, tobacco is sprinkled upon the ground as an offering of thanks. It is burned as a prayer, either rolled in cigarettes or smoked in the Sacred Pipe, Peoples Pipe or Personal Pipe.

It is spread as an offering upon the Sacred Fireplace as an offering to the Spirit World.

In essence tobacco is and will always be an integral part of American Indian worship and ceremony. Tobacco ties have been used a sacred prayer for centuries (one inch squares of cloth in which tobacco is placed as a prayer), which are then used as an offering in the Sweat Lodge, Sacred Fireplace or hung on trees, or other sacred objects. Tobacco has been protected for use by American Indians, by the passage of State and Federal laws and is a respected part of American Indian ceremony. And though laws have been passed prohibiting the use of tobacco in certain areas, its use in American Indian Ceremony has been protected.

Not only in the Sweat Lodge, but also for use in the making of tobacco ties and as a burnt offering either in a Sacred Pipe or rolled in cigarettes. American Indians enjoy a Nation to Nation status with the American government allowing American Indian rights and ceremonies to be protected. American Indian sovereignty has been respected for centuries, first by the British, then the American Government to this day.

# POETRY

## MEMORIES OF FREEDOM

By DAVID MARSH

*Will these walls that now surround me  
Be my future, then my end  
These cold steel bars before me  
Are my truth, I can't pretend  
Are my memories of freedom  
Just a taste, forbidden fruit  
Are my visions for the future  
Out of reach, perhaps quite moot  
Will this gate that does not open  
Keep my spirits trapped within  
Do you keep me here in prison  
As my punishment for sin  
Just perhaps I'm not the person  
You locked up so long ago  
If you took the time to know me  
It is possible you'd know*

## SHINING LIGHT

By RAPHAEL CALIX

*Awsome and Wonderfull  
Voices lifting us up  
Inspiring in your delivery  
Of the Spirit of God  
Innocence of the soul  
On your faces shining  
With a joyful exuberance  
Singing/Acting/Dancing  
Here present with us all  
Inside the San Quentin  
Is the mighty presence  
Of the Lord*

## THE CORDOBA RIGHTS

By WILLIAM CORDOBA

*You are being placed above the rest  
You have the right to smile, to wink at me, to blow me kisses, and to remain silent; any words you whisper, can and will be used against you in a court of love.  
You have the right to be represented in said court by a man who loves you.  
If there is no such man in your life right now, however, I will appoint myself to represent you, accuse you, judge you, and sentence you to perpetual happiness, for your kindness, for your loving heart, and for your uncommon beauty.*

*You will be given a fair chance to testify on your own behalf, and when you do, you must expose your heart, your whole heart and pour out nothing but your heart.*

*My judgment is final. If convicted, which is almost a certainty, you will remain, forever, standing on a pedestal, built like a pyramid of hearts, for all the world to see.*

*You will be anointed with sweet smelling oils, extracted from the most beautiful red Colombian roses; you will be covered with kisses from my lips, while you hold a picture of me close to your heart so that everyone will see us as a symbol of romance.*

# Look Who Made It:

By JOY C. RICHARDSON  
Contributing Writer

I had the pleasure of getting to know a little about Flozelle Woodmore. She served 20 years of a life sentence for killing her abusive partner. After 10 parole hearings, at six of which she was found suitable, she was finally released in August 2007.

Flozelle now works with A New Way of Life Reentry Project in Watts and spends her spare time with her daughter and granddaughters. Flozelle was there when her youngest grandchild was born.

Here are her comments in a recent interview:

### What have you been doing since you got out?

I have been working to improve the education of the loved ones of the incarcerated in hopes they can and will assist their loved ones serving life sentences to receive parole grants and release as they should have years ago.

### Was finding work difficult?

Not for me, due to the support of Susan Burton, Founder and Executive Director of A New Way of Life Reentry Project.

### How is the world different for you now that you are back on the streets?

Many people I knew and loved have passed away, including my mother and oldest brother.

### What was the most difficult thing to adjust to when you were first released?

Facing my son's situation (he got a life sentence as I was being released). Then I learned his case lacked the evidence to uphold the conviction.

### What goals have you achieved since you got out?

I have achieved some of my goals - obtain work, get my own place, get a car (I have two), and help my family with things that would make life a little easier for them.

### What goal do you most look forward to accomplishing?



Photo: Joy Richardson

Flozelle Woodmore

Getting my son a fair trial and/or getting him out. Also getting approval to go see him. He has not seen me since he was nine years old; he is now 26.

### I'm sure your goals and your dreams have changed a lot since you got out, what goals do you have in mind now?

I have quite a few, one being to see the faces of families and friends as they see their loved ones be released, all due to the work they did to make it happen.

### What sort of things do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

My spare time is scarce; however, I try to spend time with my grandchildren and my daughter.

Flozelle recently received a Soros Justice Fellowship award for her work with A New Way of Life in Watts.

### Would you elaborate on what the Soros Fellowship is about?

The Soros Fellowship is sharing with families of others my experiences of incarceration, and the steps that I took to free myself, in hopes it can be utilized to free their loved ones who are well over due for receiving a release date.

### Mike Foss Appointed A.W, General Population

Warden Vincent Cullen (A) has announced that Mike Voss will assume the position of Associate Warden, General Population Division, until the return of K. J. Williams.

Cullen said, "I want to express my sincerest appreciation for all the hard work and dedication Mr. Foss demonstrated during his time as Facility Captain of North Block. In his new role he will continue to be an asset to San Quentin State Prison and CDCR.

"Please join me in welcoming him to his new assignment,, thanking him for his continued dedication to the Department and wishing him well."

# Sudoku

By TROY A. ASHMUS

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

# Those Mighty Mallards Can Bust the Speed Limit

By DAVID MARSH  
Contributing Writer

Mallard ducks are the usually affable, sometimes feisty little fowl who waddle around the prison competing for food (and PIA bread) among the much more aggressive seagulls and quite larger Canada geese. Just how much do we know about these feathered fellows, whose plumage changes from drab, or at least ordinary, to splendid with the changing of the seasons, seemingly right before our very eyes?

Mallards are the ancestors of most domestic ducks and were among the first to be domesticated for food some 4,500 years ago. They are thought to be the 56 most abundant and wide-ranging of ducks on our planet, and

are found throughout Europe, most of Asia and all of North America, and on occasion even into South America. The home virtually anywhere shallow freshwater occurs.

The Mallard is by nature a migratory bird but changing global weather patterns and increased warming seem to be affecting the birds' willingness to stay in one place throughout the year. They are primarily omnivores and eat plant food, insects, mollusks, crustaceans and, of course, PIA bread.

Prior to the annual molting season when they shed their feathers, both male and female mallards are brownish in color and at



times can be quite difficult to tell apart. The males, though, have a yellowish beak and reddish breast while the females have a dark brown beak. The wing tip-feathers of both sexes have a distinctive purple-blue color visible on the ducks' sides, much more so while in flight.

For the breeding season, males take on vibrant coloring with a bright green head, white neck-band, chestnut colored chest and gray body. Female mallards are brownish all over with streaks of darker brown, white and black in their feathers.

While the male is the slightly larger of the two, mallards tend to grow to about two to three pounds in weight, and are 20" to 26" long. In the wild, their lifespan is generally five to ten years.

Mallards can cross breed with 63 other species, opening up their own species to the possibility of decline due to hybridization.

They are also monogamous by nature, though the males leave the females once the incubation period is well underway, once again joining up with a flock of other males. Nature ensures that the prone-to-wandering males stay at the nest for at least part of the incubation period as the males lose their flight features for a short time. But once their feathers are replaced, the males are off to join others of their sex while the female is left to nurture the eggs.

These ducks nest on dry ground, although not always near water. The eggs usually number five to ten or more, are laid over a two-

week period and hatch in about a month. The chicks within the shells manage to communicate by using a series of clicks, thus allowing them to synchronize their hatchings within about a two-hour period. The babies, called hatchlings, are able to leave the nest, swim and begin eating insects almost immediately.

The mallards are highly social, and save for the breeding season when they pair up, they form large flocks called 'sords.' Once paired for breeding, it is generally the female who leads as the two walk about.

Contrary to popular belief, only the female makes the quacking sound associated with ducks. The male makes a hissing or whistling noise to communicate.

Mallards in flight can exceed 68 mph and have been observed as high as 28,000 feet up, or, the equivalent of the summit of Mt. Everest.

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Back Issues  
Of The San Quentin News

**HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** – As of Jan. 31, 1980, 98.2 percent of **prison escapees** for the years 1945 through 1978 have been apprehended. The rate for women escapees for those same years was 96.6 percent.

**JUNE 13, 1980** – Ranch inmate Fred Bunker, 33, from San Bernardino County, received a deep cut on his forearm during an altercation last Sunday. Bunker claimed he injured his arm during a fall, but an investigation revealed that **he had an altercation** with two other inmates.

**JUNE 20, 1980** – A Marin County superior court judge has ordered San Quentin officials to reinstate a **reporter for the San Quentin News**. Reporter Robert Scott had been fired for writing an article on unsanitary condi-

tions in the prison mess hall that had upset Warden George Sumner. Scott was represented by the Prison Law Office.

**JUNE 20, 1980** – A prisoner only **21 days from his parole** was stabbed four times on the lower yard. Russell Salinas, 34, is in good condition at the prison hospital after the attack by several Mexican-American convicts. All 392 Mexican-American inmates on San Quentin's mainline were locked down pending investigation.

**JUNE 20, 1980** – A **warning shot** was fired on the lower yard when a con resisted attempts to search him and was wrestled to the ground by several officers.

**JULY 4, 1980** – A prisoner who escaped from his job June 21

at the S.Q. Hobby Shop, which is just outside the front gate, was **recaptured in Lovelock, Nevada** Thursday night. Donald Frank Bonita, 44, came to S.Q. in Aug 1978 from Santa Cruz County.

**JULY 4, 1980** – A warning shot fired Friday on the upper yard stopped an inmate who **ran from an officer** to avoid a search. The search turned up nothing.

**JULY 4, 1980** – A **disturbance involving eight cons** broke out on death row Saturday night. The cons – protesting conditions on the row – wrecked TVs, burned mattresses and sheets and destroyed a typewriter.



**LEE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA** – Former Lee County sheriff E.J. Melvin faces possible federal and state drug charges which allege that he **sold drugs from his police vehicle**. Melvin is accused of extorting money from drug dealers and tipping them off.

**MEXICO** – Mexican authorities are **extraditing drug suspects** to the United States for prosecution on a pace in 2010 that will exceed last year's record of 117.

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Highway Patrol has arrested one of its own on a variety of **drug and weapons charges**. Ruben Salgado, 37, a 12-year veteran of the dept., was charged with six felony counts, including possession and transportation of a controlled substance and possession of a weapon during the commission of a felony.

## 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)

## 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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## Journalism Guild Is Seeking Writers

The Journalism Guild of San Quentin is always searching for a few good writers, who would like to improve their writing skills with a goal of seeing their articles published in the San Quentin News.

The Guild, now in its second year at S.Q. offers skilled instruction in news and feature writing styles. Three former journalists with a combined 101 years of experience are on hand each week to mentor aspiring writers and work with the newspaper staff.

Arnulfo Garcia is assisted by Secretary Luke Padgett and Treasurer Michael Harris. They are constantly seeking ways to add to the skills and experience of Guild members.

Current plans are for a slate of guest speakers drawn from the field of Bay Area journalists and professionals. Readers of the San Quentin News are also encouraged to send stories and opinions. All stories submitted to the Guild will be forwarded to the San Quentin News for consideration.

The Guild meets in the education module Friday mornings from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Interested writers-to-be are encouraged to attend by contacting Garcia or Padgett via the education clerk so that your name can be placed on the Friday movement sheet.

The goal of the guild is to educate the community as well as the public about the current events that are of interest to the prison population and could potentially impact their lives.

The guild is also embarking upon a project to create an anthology of inmates' stories. Submissions of 30 pages or less are now being accepted. Send Submissions to:

Education Dept. / Journalism Guild / S.Q. News

Also contributions by the



## BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by inmates within San Quentin. It is printed by Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael, with a grant from Neighborhood House of North Richmond, a non-profit, and Community One World Enterprises, a social entrepreneurial company devoted to bridging gaps and building community.