

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN—DESIGNED AND WRITTEN BY PRISONERS FOR PRISONERS, NON-CUSTODY STAFF AND CUSTODY STAFF

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After 24 Years, Lifer Goes Home



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

Ernest Morgan (with tie) just outside the walls of S.Q.

Editor's Note: Two days before his release from San Quentin, where he was a leader in the formation and operation of many self-help groups, Ernest Morgan discussed how 24 years in prison changed him. This is the first of a two-part story.

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS
Editor-in-Chief

Looking forward to your release on the day before your birthday, what is that like for you?

The word that continues to come to mind is "incredible." For 24 years I have waited for this day to come. I was waiting for the wrong reasons: greed and selfishness. It's funny some-

where in the 24 years, a change occurred, a lot of pain, a lot of unhappy times. I was trying to find myself somewhere in the middle of all that. Going home wasn't important to me. My parents told me that I couldn't be the same person I was when I came in. I wanted to know who I was.

When did you go through your transition to the person that you've become today?

It was a long process. Did you see the movie "Ghost Busters II?" It showed all of the anger that was lying beneath the surface in the city. It's like blood flowing beneath the body. On the outside I was showing I was making the change to move from

See *Free* on Page 4

Criminalizing Cell Phones for Prisoners

By MICHEAL COOKE
Journalism Guild Writer

State Senator Alex Padilla is hoping the third time is the charm in his effort to criminalize contraband cell phones in California prisons.

"Clearly the problem is growing," he says. "It's growing exponentially and [the] bottom line is every cell phone at the hands of a dangerous inmate is a crime waiting to happen."

Padilla's proposed legislation, Senate Bill 26, was amended in the Senate Public Safety Committee to make cell phone smuggling and use a misdemeanor, not a felony.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported it confiscated close to 11,000 smuggled cell phones last year. State analysts say the primary source of unauthorized cell phones is the prison employees.

Correctional officers are the only people allowed to enter the prison without being searched.

Padilla proposed prison guards and staff go through metal detectors, but that provision was rejected because of the cost.

Carrie Kahn of National Public Radio quoted prison spokesman Richard Subia as saying, "It's very frustrating to me that we have people who work for our organization that are willing to risk the lives of their fellow employees."

One visitor to San Quentin said, "We go through two metal detectors and have everything including our shoes thoroughly searched. So how is it possible for any of us to bring in a cell phone?"

—Aly Tamboura contributed to this story.

S.Q. News Website

The San Quentin News is available at its own website:
www.sanquentinnews.com
We welcome and encourage your feedback.

Preparing For Success Once Paroled

Members of Modern American Society: Preparing For Life and Financial Success on The Outside

Are you worried about finding a job after you leave prison? Do you want to learn more about financial planning and investing in your future? Would you like to find out if you have what it takes to start your own business? If so, consider enrolling in San Quentin's financial literacy and job skills program, Members Of Modern American Society (MOMAS). Making it on the outside can be challenging. It is important to develop a strategic economic plan now, before being released. Statistics clearly show that ex-offenders who are able to earn a sufficient income after their release are far less likely to return to prison than those who cannot find meaningful employment.

See *MOMAS* on Page 4

Court Orders End to Prison Overcrowding

By ALY TAMBOURA
Staff Writer

California officials are gearing up to reduce the prison population by tens of thousands in the wake of an order by the United States Supreme Court.

In a controversial and highly anticipated ruling on May 23, the United States Supreme Court affirmed a federal three-judge panel's prior ruling that overcrowding in California's 33 prisons violates the U.S. Constitution's 8th Amendment, prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment."

The Supreme Court's contentious 5 to 4 ruling orders California to remedy overcrowding within two years, which may require the state to release tens of thousands of prisoners. Though the federal ruling affirms that the overcrowding is unconstitutional, it leaves fixing the problem entirely to the state, which was also the position of the three-judge panel.

California prisons chief Matthew Cate commented the same day, "Ninety-five percent of California inmates will eventually be released and become our

neighbors. More than 10,000 offenders a month are released from overcrowded state prisons and return back to our local communities.

"Our goal is to form local coalitions to help returning offenders make a successful transition back to the community by providing training, mentoring and other services."

Today the court affirms what is perhaps the most radical injunction issued by a court in our nation's history: an order requiring California to release the staggering number of 46,000 convicted criminals.

—JUSTICE SCALIA

The federal District Court's three-judge panel is a result of the Prison Litigation Act of 1996. It consolidates two federal lawsuits, Coleman v. Brown 1990 and Plata v. Brown 2001,

See *Prisoners* on Page 4

New Principal For S.Q. School

A new principal will be taking over the helm of The Robert E. Burton Adult School at San Quentin. Dr. Sheik Yusef Mohammad, who formerly headed the Education Department at Mule Creek State Prison, will start as San Quentin's education chief on July 1.

Moments later the Giants took the field with ace pitcher Kevin Driscoll on the mound and A's ace Marvin Andrews warmed up in the bull pen -- the prelude to a 9-5 Giants victory.

See *Baseball* on Page 5



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

Chief Deputy Warden Opens Baseball Season

By DREW PIAZZA
Sports Editor

San Quentin's Opening Day for baseball featured top administrators, Catholic Chaplain George Williams, a color guard and photographers -- just about everything except a fly over by the Thunderbirds.

The capacity crowd was treated to the spectacle of the San Quentin A's and San Quen-

tin Giants lining the first and third base foul lines, caps over their hearts as trumpeter Larry "Popeye" Faison played the Star Spangled Banner.

Chief Deputy Warden W.A. Rodriguez threw out the opening balls (one for each team), in what appeared to be sliders across the plate for a strike.

"Play ball!" the umpire shouted!

See Page 5 for more sports coverage during Opening Day

Voting Rights for the Incarcerated

By **JUAN MORENO HAINES**
Journalism Guild Writer

Editor's Note: This story was published in The Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. It is being reprinted with the permission of Juan Haines.

The axiom "one man, one vote" is a fundamental concept reinforced through the edicts alluded to in the American style of democracy. However, voter disenfranchisement has been tolerated since the birth of our nation. The U.S. judiciary and its legislators have continually tried to reconcile this inconsistent impediment by constantly changing laws and/or passing bills – each impotent.

"Without a vote, a voice, I am a ghost inhabiting a citizen's space . . . I want to walk calmly into a polling place with other citizens, to carry my placid ballot into the booth, check off my choices, then drop my conscience in the common box."

—**JOE LOYA, DISENFRANCHISED EX-FELON**

The explication for voter disenfranchisement asserts: If one "duly convicted" of a crime is subject to enslavement, it is reasonable to believe that denying slaves the right to vote is legitimate, considering that the Thirteenth Amendment reads: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted,

shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

The correlation between voter disenfranchisement and persons subjugated to the deprivation associated with enslavement occurs through the act of punishing criminals. And, since enslavement due to a felony conviction is constitutionally permissible, the slippery slope effortlessly slides into a red herring conclusion that, "Incarcerated felons cannot vote because they are being punished as slaves!" This paradigm is intelligently perpetuated with the intent of restricting the political rights of malcontents. However, reality dictates that any form of voter disenfranchisement literally obstructs the perpetual inclusiveness of democratic principles espoused by the founding fathers of the United States of America.

7.3 MILLION

In the United States, more than 7.3 million people are under correctional control, meaning one in thirty-one American adults are in jail, prison, or on probation or parole.¹ [¹. *The Pew Center On The States, One In 31: The Long Reach Of American Corrections* 5 (March 2009).]

Michelle Alexander's Twenty-First Century account of voter disenfranchisement is salient: "Jarvious Cotton cannot vote. Like his father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather, he has been denied the right to participate in our electoral democracy. Cotton's family tree tells the story of several generations of black men who were born in the United States but who were denied the most basic freedom that democracy promises – the freedom to vote for those who will make the rules and laws that govern one's

life."² [². *Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration In The Age Of Colorblindness* 1 (2010).]

Voter disenfranchisement's dictum was hermetically sealed into local, state and federal election law with an obvious consequence: The voting irregularities of the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections drew enormous public attention to the plight of the estimated five million Americans who are barred from voting by a maze of state laws that deny former felons the right to vote, sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently. Florida's felon disenfranchisement law bans an estimated 600,000 former prisoners from voting for life. Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia prohibit people incarcerated for a felony offense from voting – only two states, Maine and Vermont, permit incarcerated Americans the right to vote.

"Our democracy is weakened when one sector of the population is blocked out of the voting process."

—**REP. JOHN CONYERS JR., U.S. CONGRESS**

Remember the year 1920? Susan B. Anthony refused to be marginalized, and along came the Nineteenth Amendment. The Voting Rights Act of 1964 ushered in electoral democratic principles for a great many poor southern folk as poll taxes and literacy tests were abolished. After nearly a decade of litigation, Washington state prisoners made the causal connection between felony disenfranchisement and racial bias, a necessity

in order to prevail under the Voting Rights Act, but their victory was short lived when the decision was overturned by a federal appellate court. The bane of disenfranchisement will likely see its last days as Americans become enlightened to the fact that the most constructive aspect of the American experiment in democracy is that democratic fundamentalism must be available to all citizens, regardless of social status.

I remember the empty feeling I had while working on a presidential election campaign, because being a parolee subjected me to felon disenfranchisement laws. I was a taxpaying American, contributing to a political party that represented ideas I believed in, but I was denied the right to have my expectations registered publicly through the vote. Now, I am further pushed away from society by being locked in a cage called my home by prison guards who address me as inmate, as I scrutinize how today's politicians decide critically important social policy by marginalizing the poorest amongst us. It has turned into a Darwinian spectacle.

DISENFRANCHISEMENT

After reading these last two passages to several prisoners, most who attend the Prison University Project, a privately funded college program unique to San Quentin State Prison, I asked their opinion about voter disenfranchisement. The consensus was awareness that this phenomenon creates a peculiar blight for "certain" American citizens. One man told me, "It's strange to feel like a foreigner in your own country. Even as convicted criminals, we long to be participants in a democracy that affects us so much."

Unprecedented Release of Another Lifer After 20 Years

By **STEPHEN YAIR LIEBB**
Journalism Guild Writer

In an extraordinary case, Gov. Jerry Brown has ordered the immediate release of an inmate who had been granted a parole date for August 12, 2023.

Brown found, "Mr. Nguyen's conduct and rehabilitation [had] been exceptional." He cited Mr. Nguyen's role in assisting civilians to safety during a riot on the prison yard in 2006.

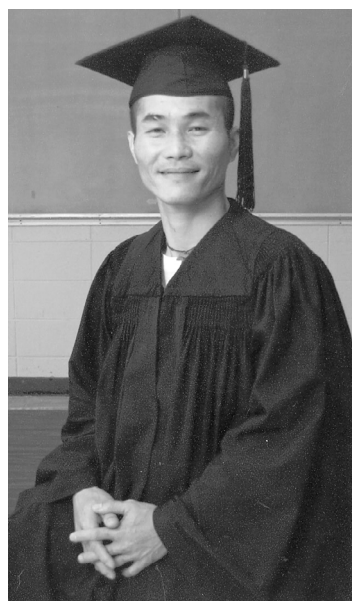
"While I do not downplay the seriousness of Mr. Nguyen's crime, I note that it was Mr. Nguyen's crime partners who initiated the confrontation that resulted in the murder. Mr. Nguyen did not participate in the assault and was not aware that it would take place. At the time, Mr. Nguyen was just 16 years old and was influenced to participate in the crime by his adult crime partners," Brown wrote.

The Governor concluded, "In this unique case, I believe Mr. Nguyen's exceptional rehabilitation dictates that he should receive an immediate release on parole."

On April 1, 2011, Brown approved the Parole Board decision granting parole to Tung Nguyen, convicted as an aider and abettor in a first-degree murder when he was 16 years old.

The governor upheld the Nov. 3, 2010 decision of the Board of Parole Hearings, which "found Mr. Nguyen suitable for parole based on his remorse, insight, educational advancement, vocational training, lack of disciplinary infractions, participation in self-help programming, adequate parole plans, and stable social history."

Discussing what it means to be going home after 20 years, Nguyen said, "It means finally getting the chance to fulfill my



Tung Nguyen

obligation as a son, a brother, and an uncle. It means that I will be able to begin to create a future. It means that every good thing I have learned in prison from education, self-help programs, and spiritual programs, will finally be put to use to benefit me, my family, and others."

Medical Quarantine In North Block Lifted

By **ALY TAMBOURA**
Staff Writer

To the cheers of prison staff and prisoners, the San Quentin Prison health care administrator lifted a six-week-long quarantine of the North-Block housing unit.

Four prisoners fell ill March 6 with chicken pox, which prompted administrators to implement a building-wide quarantine, North Block inmates were locked in their cells for 24 hours a day for three days. After the initial 72 hours, inmates were released for a five-minute shower and permitted to receive their evening meals in the North-dining hall.

Initially the quarantine was scheduled to last 21 days. However, two new cases were discovered in North Block and with the possibility of the virus spreading to other areas of the prison,

Another said, "America will eventually get it right, because there's a lot of patriotic folk in here who just made some wrong choices." Julian Glenn Padgett, Managing Editor of the San Quentin News, said, "Voter disenfranchisement is the child of hyper-incarceration, and it is an outbreak of thinking that laughs at rehabilitation. As an American citizen, the right to vote is as inseparable as petitioning for habeas corpus. The ability to vote is the basis of rehabilitation for all incarcerated people." San Quentin State Prison held a mock election in 2008. The idea was assisted through the egging on of Amy E. Smith, J.D., Ph.D., and an Assistant Professor at San Francisco State University who specializes in legal psychology. Prisoners were excited to express their choice for president of the United States and several California ballot initiatives, including same-sex marriage. The San Quentin Media Center chronicled the election. The project's success is greatly attributed to San Quentin Public Information Officer Samuel Robinson, who facilitated the time for prisoners and documentarians Troy Williams and Marvin Andrews, along with writer R. Malik Harris, to record this historic event in American penology. This experiment was intended to show that even though convicted criminals may hold a parody of an election regarding issues relevant to the future of America, their scrutiny should not be mocked; it is real.

The American experiment in democracy idealizes that every citizen has a seat at the table of public policy. To tolerate marginalization in our society will create stratification that in turn diminishes the evolution of this principle.

the quarantine was extended an additional three weeks.

After a number of prisoners complained that they had contracted the disease previously and had at least limited immunity, the medical administrator ordered the testing of prisoner's blood for the chicken pox antibody. The antibodies are created when a person has had a prior case of the chicken pox or has had a vaccination.

Inmates with positive antibodies were allowed to return to their work assignments and school classes. Prisoners who were not immune or not tested remained on quarantine for another week.

Chicken pox is an acute, contagious viral disease, usually contracted by young children, and characterized by fever and small eruptions on the skin. In adults, the disease can be fatal.

The True History Of Cinco de Mayo



File Photo

Depictions of the battle showing Mexican cavalry taking over the French troops

By **ARNULFO GARCIA**
Staff Writer

Cinco de Mayo gained prominence as a holiday in the United States around the 1960s.

This holiday gained its notoriety when rights for Chicanos were advancing, and allowed Mexican-Americans to develop it into an American style festivity. However, most Americans have incorrectly mixed up Cinco de Mayo with Mexican Independence Day.

The true history of Cinco de Mayo began when Mexican President Benito Juarez announced in July 1861 that he had suspended payment on English, French and Spanish debts for at least two years in order to direct more resources toward domestic problems. A confrontation resulted. Mexico had begun its goal of independence from Spain on Sept. 16, 1810. Inspired by the priest Dolores Hidalgo Miguel Hidalgo, it finally achieved independence in 1821. Mexico struggled for decades and faced another obstacle by its involvement in the Mexican-American War, concluded in 1848.

Confronted by various internal problems, the Mexican government obtained financial assistance from England, France and Spain - all members of a European alliance. Mexico was unable to repay its foreign debts, resulting in Juarez's proclamation.

The three European allies reacted by sending shiploads of soldiers to Veracruz, Mexico, in a showdown. Despite the Monroe Doctrine, the Europeans were aware of American's in-

volvement in the civil war and figured Mexico's neighbor would not intervene. After negotiations with the Mexicans, England and Spain withdrew their forces. France, which had the smallest debt claim, refused to withdraw its troops, undoubtedly because Napoleon III planned to overthrow the Mexican republic and establish a monarchy. Despite English and Spanish protests, the French proceeded to implement Napoleon's plan.

French troops were dispatched from Veracruz in 1862 to conquer Mexico City. While enroute, the French encountered Mexican resistance at Puebla, known today as the location of one of the largest Volkswagen factories in the world. Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza's estimated 2,000 poorly equipped and trained troops, with the aid of local and Zacapoaxtla Indians, thwarted the superior French forces of 6,000 cavalry and infantry men on three attempts to take the city, the last on May 5, (Cinco de Mayo) ["America's Growing Observance of Cinco de Mayo," by Alvar W. Carlson]

Mexican-Americans remember the Battle of Puebla and the courage of the outnumbered and outgunned Mexican soldiers. This has inspired Mexican-American pride by celebrating Cinco de Mayo as a holiday throughout the United States. Municipal governments began to sponsor these festivals in response to growing Mexican-American populations.

Residents of Puebla have long observed the Battle of Puebla, creating Mexico's largest Cinco

de Mayo festival. In contrast, Mexico's Independence Day, Diez y Seis de Septiembre (Sept. 16) is a national holiday more widely celebrated in Mexico.

The gradual Americanization of Cinco de Mayo began to gain attention through ad campaigns - most notable in the promotion of beer. In 2004, Hispanic 12- to 20-year-olds in the United States saw 20 percent more alcohol advertising per capita than did young people of this age group in general. In 2003 and 2004, 10 alcohol brands spent close to \$160 million to advertise on Spanish language television. In 1980, corporations spent close to \$25 million on Cinco de Mayo promotions in Southern California alone; by 2007 that number had jumped to \$57 million. [Austin American-Statesman (Texas) May 5, 2007 by, Leah Nedderman, University of Texas Austin]

In 1985 when Coors gave \$350 million to the National Council of La Raza, the American GI Forum and the League of United Latin American Citizens, in exchange for withdrawing their support of a national boycott over its labor practices.

"America has changed the meaning of Cinco de Mayo from a symbol of anti-imperialist struggle and community self-determination to a drinking holiday." [Chicano Studies Research Center, University of California, Los Angeles, Jose M. Alamillo]

Today 120 Cinco de Mayo festivals can be found in at least 21 states in the United States.

—*Juan Haines contributed to this story*

A Symposium on Three Strikes Held in L.A.

LOS ANGELES — A two-day symposium called "The Future of California's Three Strikes Law: Reform, Repeal, or the Status Quo?" was held by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Topics included the history of the law, its impact on

prison overcrowding, what the data shows about its effect on public safety, and even why the law should be retained. Speakers included, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, the attorney who

argued the unconstitutionality of the law before the U.S. Supreme Court, Erwin Chemerinsky, former San Quentin Warden Jeannie Woodford and Matthew Cate, secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Asked on The Line

By **ANGEL ALVAREZ**
Contributing Writer

What is significant about the fifth day of May? In Spanish, May 5th means Cinco de Mayo.

On May 4, 2011, four men were stopped at random in North Block and asked, "What is Cinco de Mayo celebrated for?" The first wasn't sure, "It's their independence, right?" The second man was more certain: "It's the Mexican Independence Day." The third person replied, "It's the day the Mexicans kicked the French out of Mexico." Finally, the fourth man said, "It's to celebrate independence from a brief occupation."

These four men were non-Hispanic and born in the United States. Therefore, what is "El Cinco de Mayo?" For starters, it is not Mexican Independence Day - that is Sept. 16, 1821. May 5 is the anniversary of the victory of Mexico over French forces at Puebla in 1862.

Cinco de Mayo occurred after soldiers from the United Kingdom, France and Spain invaded and occupied Veracruz in 1862 to collect debts from Mexico.

The British and Spaniards soon left Mexico after they saw that the French were more interested in political power than in collecting debts.

Cinco de Mayo thus commemorates the victory of a Mexican army over a French army at the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. The Mexican army, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza, won the battle even though the French forces were better armed and three times as large. Do all Mexican Nationals celebrate El Cinco de Mayo? Four "Paisa" were asked. All confirmed that El Cinco de Mayo is not a national holiday in Mexico. It is more of a regional or state holiday in southern Mexico and heavily celebrated in tourist towns for the sake of Americans. Laurence Romero, a paisa, thought Cinco de Mayo was to celebrate Cesar Chavez or Mexican independence. And a paisa named Mendoza, who arrived in the U.S. as a boy, only knew that Cinco de Mayo was a day to go cruising! Ay, caramba!

View From The Valley

By **DANIEL TREVINO**
Journalism Guild Writer

It was a great reason to celebrate - the French defeat in Mexico.

Being raised in California's Central Valley in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood, Cinco de Mayo was celebrated every year.

It was basically a time to enjoy Mexican food cooked at a street fair booth, while watching Mariachis ply their trade. I doubt if many of the people present were aware of the reason for the celebration, other than it was a day to party.

Most California schools gave students an excused absence if they didn't show up, so you can imagine how empty the schools were on that day. Everyone joined in the celebration -- African Americans, Anglo American's as well as Hispanics and Natives took the day off to take part by attending a parade, watching a low rider show or just enjoying a delicious meal of crispy tacos along with rice and beans.

One of the most memorable parts of the celebration was the lack of violence.

As for food, about the best prison residents can hope for is a mess hall tamale pie.

California May Extend Moratorium on Executions

SACRAMENTO — The state will not be ready to defend its new lethal injection procedures in court until early next year, prolonging a moratorium on executions in California that has been in effect since January 2006. State lawyers told a federal judge that San Quentin's new warden, Michael Martel, needs more time to select a new team of guards to carry out executions. Deficiencies in staff training and supervision were among the factors cited by U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel when he ruled in 2006 that the state's lethal injection methods posed an undue risk of a botched execution that would leave the prisoner conscious and in agony while dying.

Nearly two-thirds of the 16 states with active death chambers are switching to an alternative sedative for executions even as the drug's manufacturer argues against its use in capital punishment and some European countries push export bans for such drugs. Ten states have now switched to pentobarbital or are considering a switch as part of their three-drug methods, according to a survey of all death penalty states by The Associated Press. Anti-death penalty groups want pentobarbital's Danish manufacturer, Lundbeck Inc., to write clauses into contracts with pharmaceutical distributors to ban its use in executions.

Volunteer Teacher Making a Difference

By MICHEAL COOKE
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin is unique among California's 33 adult penal institutions. Other prisons do not offer anywhere near the number of programs that San Quentin does. Many programs primarily function due to the steadfast efforts of hundreds of volunteers. Volunteers are a valuable contribution whose experience comes at no cost to the state beyond custodial supervision.

There are individuals who, for reasons of the heart, are inspired to seek out ways to make a difference in the lives of others. At San Quentin, there are many such volunteers, each with a story to tell. One such individual is Jack Lieberman, 66. Jack has been teaching inmates at San Quentin for more than a year. He volunteers as a shop math teacher for both the Vocational Machine Shop and Vocational Sheet Metal programs. He also teaches pre-calculus to inmates through the Patten University Project, the prison's on-site college program.

HOW DO I DO THIS?

"I decided to do this because I find teaching incredibly rewarding. I called an old friend who had been volunteering at S.Q. and asked him, 'How do I do this?'" Lieberman said. "After one month of being a volunteer I realized inmates are just like me. One wrong move and it could be me behind the wall. So my goal is to help out those few I can by trying to make a difference in their lives through education."

Lieberman is energetic, animated and sometimes funny. He has a teaching style that makes understanding even the most complex equations comprehensible to the most-challenged students. His background gives him a deep well of experience to draw from. He built custom home additions as a contractor, he owned a stained glass restoration business on the East Coast for 12 years, and spent close to 20 years as a computer software engineer.

He also taught middle school students Industrial Arts and English as a Second Language at Tamaulipas Adult School for six years. The latter he says was rewarding because of the improvements he was helping to bring about in students' lives by teaching them a useful skill and helping to build a sense of community among them.

Lieberman says of teaching at San Quentin, "Math is so important in just about everything you do, especially working in the fields of sheet metal and ma-

chine tooling. I teach geometry and trigonometry from a life skills point of view, focusing on practical applications. I also teach good old arithmetic because that is the foundation!"

SOCIAL ADVOCATE

He also discussed his observations of the California prison system as a volunteer teacher, taxpayer and social advocate. "People on the outside are curious about inmates," he stated. "They ask why I volunteer to teach. After they find out these men have the ability to grasp higher math, this tends to break the stereotype they have of whom incarcerated men really are."

Lieberman further stated, "I expected a certain amount of dysfunction in the prison system, considering the state's 70 percent recidivism rate. I was astounded and flabbergasted at the wastefulness of the prison system. The colossal amount of punishment meted out by the state is unparalleled. Most reasonable people from the outside who spent a few months volunteering would soon realize that the unconscionably long sentences being served by some inmates do not protect society. They only feed a system that uses taxpayer dollars to perpetuate itself."

\$11 BILLION BUDGET

Lieberman did agree, however, that some individuals absolutely needed to be separated from society. Yet he found it difficult to identify where the state's \$11 billion annual corrections budget was being spent on rehabilitation and the prevention of recidivism.

He said the state's administration continually puts pressure on to restrict access to, or actually close down, inmate programs in the vocational education department for such trades as plumbing, landscaping, electrical and carpentry as "not viable." He said this is contrary to evidence of their success rates on recidivism.

"The truth is it costs me, as a taxpayer, a great deal more to keep sending men back to prison over and over rather than investing in programs that keep inmates from returning to prison. The cost is now \$59,000 per year per inmate, I think," said Lieberman. "The state is broke, which angers me in the first place. And politicians continue with the 'tough on crime' rhetoric and continue to shovel money into a system that does not work. It only makes sense to educate."

— Dwight Krizman contributed to this story

Reading Material Curb Challenged

SOUTH CAROLINA — A federal judge says the U.S. Justice Department can join a lawsuit challenging a South Carolina

jail's policy barring prisoners from any reading material other than the Bible



Photo: Opinion of the Court file

Mule Creek State Prison
August 1, 2008



Photo: Opinion of the Court file

California Institution for Men
August 7, 2006



Photo: Opinion of the Court file

Salinas Valley State Prison
July 29, 2008
Correctional Treatment Center (dry cages/holding cells for people waiting for mental health crisis bed)

MOMAS Formula For Success

Continued from Page 1

Developed by inmates for inmates, MOMAS is taught by outside volunteers with expertise in the fields of finance and job placement.

The MOMAS course consists of three modules. The first focuses on the steps necessary to find and maintain employment. Skills covered include résumé writing, interviewing strategies performance reviews and personal goal setting. The second teaches inmates about personal finance and achieving financial security. Topics covered include personal banking, obtaining and using credit wisely, developing a budget, and filing taxes. The last module expands the breadth of the class into the world of finance. This module teaches inmates about investments, stocks and bonds, and business planning and ends by giving students practical steps for starting their own business.

The start of the next module will be June 23, 2011. Interested individuals can sign-up on the sign-up sheet next to the posters that will be available in North Block and H-Unit. The applications are due the week of June 13, 2011. Contact information will be available on the posters.

Prisoners Await Release

Continued from Page 1

in which the state conceded that inadequate medical care violated prisoners' 8th Amendment rights.

The District Court put the California prison health care system under a federal receivership in 2005. The receiver agreed that the system-wide problems in delivering constitutional levels of health care could not be remedied due to severe overcrowding.

In a 2010 ruling—more than 12 years since the original civil rights cases were filed by prisoners—a frustrated court ordered the release of prisoners to remedy the constitutional infringements. The order came after the state failed to heed numerous recommendations to mend the ongoing problems.

The state appealed to the Supreme Court, challenging the authority of the District Court and the weight of its prisoner release order, noting the impact on public safety. However, the state lost its petition on every level.

Justice Kennedy in the majority decision wrote, "The overcrowding is the primary cause... specifically the severe and unlawful mistreatment of prisoners through grossly inadequate provision of medical and mental health care."

In essence, the ruling gives the three Judges: Senior Judge Thelton Henderson, of San Francisco, Judge Stephen R. Reinhardt of Los Angeles and Judge Lawrence Karlton of Sacramento, who are broadly seen as the liberal end of the U.S. District Court, supreme authority requiring the states to provide constitutionally mandated levels of health care to prisoners.

The ruling affirms the District court's order that the only sufficient cure is to cap the prison population at 137.5 percent of facility design capacities.

The order gives the state latitude on how to lower the pris-

on population to comply with the order. However, the Court "found that no realistic possibility that California could build itself out of this crisis, particularly given the State's ongoing fiscal problems." The court also rejected the state's assertion that they could reduce the population by sending prisoners to out-of-state facilities.

The U.S. District Court recommends that: "The State may employ measures, including good-time credits and diversion of low-risk offenders and technical parole violators to community-based programs..."

In anticipation of the Supreme Court ruling, California Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed Assembly Bill 109 into law, which will shift thousands of inmates from state prisons to county jails. Brown said the state will pay for the costs.

"The prison system has been a failure. Cycling (lower-level) offenders through state prisons wastes money, aggravates crowded conditions, thwarts rehabilitation and impedes local law enforcement supervision," said Brown.

The Supreme Court's ruling does not necessarily mean that prisoners will be set free. The state can take many avenues to meet the population cap without releasing tens of thousands of inmates over the next two years.

How the state remedies the overcrowding problem will be closely watched by other states such as Texas and Alaska, who supported California in lowering their prison population without court intervention, and have prison-overcrowding problems themselves.

The Supreme Court ruling, in which Justice Kennedy wrote the decision and Justices Ginsberg, Bryer, Sotomayor, and Kagan voted for, came from a new and liberal leaning court. Two of the five Justices, Sotomayor and Kagan are newly appointed by Democratic President Obama.

Free to Continue His Work After 24 Years

Continued from Page 1

the old Ernest. I was moving away. And on the inside I knew where the anger was. A lot of my anger was toward my mother. That came to a head when my mother decided she didn't want to have anything to do with me. She said, "I have to treat you like a hand in poker and fold because you're not doing me any good right now. Maybe I'll pick up this hand again." That hurt hearing my mother say this, after decades of her calling me her baby, but afterward that helped me. It gave me the opportunity to focus on myself. During this process I was listening to people talking in other self-help groups. I was listening to my own words as I facilitated these types of groups. What is triggering my

anger toward my mother? Everybody has a story. I started to tell myself that my father and mother didn't love me. I think the most important thing to me at that time was to be free—not to be in prison, not looking at the enormous impact my crime had on my family and society. When dealing with the Board of Parole Hearings, I was a machine. But when mom stepped away, I had to cry and accept my feelings. Now it's like a badge of honor—the anger that I had—because I can transition from the angry little man to who I am today. Hopefully, in 24 hours I will be a free man, and I am happy it's here, but the biggest thing about that is—now the work begins.

Part 2 of this story will be published in the next edition of the San Quentin News.

Opening Day for Hard Timers Softball Team

By **DREW PIAZZA**
Sports Editor

The weather was very favorable for San Quentin's Opening Day softball, as Golden Gate Ministries came to challenge the Hard Times team. A hard time is what the prison team got in a 23-7 drubbing.

Dwight "Sleepy" Kennedy, opened with a double. The next batter, Ke Lam, slapped a double, scoring Sleepy from second. Third baseman Alton "Coach"

McSween ripped a single up the middle, scoring Ke Lam. Next Brian Walker hit a single, scoring another run. After inning one it was 5-0.

Golden Gate posted runners at first and second, but third baseman McSween ended the threat with some smooth glove work.

S.Q. launched another attack as Kennedy, using his speed, beat out a hit. Ke Lam rocketed one up the middle, scrambling to second on an error. McSween

advanced both runners with a single, Dalton "Big Cat" Martin scorched one up the middle, sending "Coach" to second, and Jeff Brooks hit a base hit, going to third on an error and scoring Dalton.

Golden Gate Ministries showed a little life with two runners on. Joe Evans blasted a shot over left-center fielder Kennedy's head for a three-run homer. S.Q. loaner player Paul Oliver smashed one up the middle for

one of his two doubles on the day.

The hit of the day belonged to S.Q.'s Eric "E-Man" Post, who blasted a mammoth shot over the left field fence, landing on the roof of the Education Building, causing Officer Frazier to run out of the building to see what happened.

The onslaught continued. With "Junkyard" Broadway on second base, Kennedy poked a double up the middle, scoring

Junkyard. Ke Lam cleared the fence in left, for one of his two homeruns on the day. Right-hander McSween batted left-handed for a double to the right field fence. Dalton continued the onslaught, hitting the right field fence, scoring McSween. With Dalton on second, Sean belted one through the second base side of the field, scoring Dalton. Jeff Brooks sent another one through the hole, scoring Sean.

Baseball Opening Day Starts Once Again at San Quentin

Continued from Page 1

Both teams sat down in order in the first inning. It would not take long for Andrews to find out he would not have his best stuff on this day. After he walked two batters, Giants catcher Johnny Taylor smoke a double to right center, scoring two runs, and more importantly breaking the competitive tension.

The A's did most of their damage in the fourth inning, with left-fielder Chris Deragon kissing the fence for a double. First baseman Dalton "Big Cat" Martin hit safely and moved the runner over, and Dalton took second on a wild pitch.

With two outs, third-base-man Paul Jordan crushed one off the fence for a long single, scoring two runs. Jordan moved unwise-

ly to steal second base and was thrown out by plenty.

A's Pitcher Andrews had a short days work, allowing six runs on three hits with six walks. Teammate shortstop/pitcher Nghiep "Ke" Lam finished the game with six hits, three runs and four strikeouts.

The A's would out-hit the Giants 11-8, but the Giants took

advantage of their hits, with better execution. Pitcher Kevin Driscoll kept the A's off balance, and when a threat arose, he minimized the damage.

Giants hurler Pete Steele pitched the last two innings. The Giants recorded 13 strikeouts, while their offense out-scored the A's by four runs.



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson
Coaches ready to play ball



The S.Q. Giants

Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

SPORTS



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

Larry 'Popeye' Faison



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson
Members of veterans group color guard



The S.Q. A's

Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

No.	Name	Position(s)
1	Crumb, Marcus	C, OF
8	Casey, Redd	1B
15	Ellis, Mario	SS, P
19	Smith, Stafont	INF
21	Chatman, Bilal	OF
22	White, Matt	P, INF
29	Taylor, Johnny	C, OF
32	Driscoll, Kevin	P, INF
34	Steele, Pete	P, INF
35	Harris, Duck	OF
37	Lyons, Charles	OF
38	Braby, Frankie	P, OF
39	Sala, Eli	DH, OF
48	Tyler, Mike	OF
50	Bautista, James	INF
52	Light, Louis	INF
57	Marshall, Chris	OF

No.	Name	Position(s)
25	Lam, 'Ke' Nghiep	P, INF
28	Brooks, Jeff	C, INF
30	Broadway, Joseph	P, OF
36	Piazza, Drew	INF
37	Croghan, Donnie	P, INF
38	Thompson, Isaiah	INF
45	Portillo, Emerson	OF
52	Torres, Bradley	C
55	Burton, Terry	P, OF, INF
57	Barcenas, Johnny	INF
59	Hudson, Ben	OF
61	Lemus, Fernando	INF
62	Manning, Antonio	INF, OF
64	Deragon, Chris	OF
65	Jordan, Paul	INF
83	Andrews, Marvin	P
84	Parker, Gavin	OF
99	Martin, Dalton	INF



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson
MC with tennis player from USF



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

(top) USF player showing his talent (below from left) Coach Pablo from USF, Leslie Lava, and Capt. Mohamed, S.Q. team



Photo: Lt. S. Robinson

The S.Q. tennis team and tennis team from USF

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

UC Berkeley Professor Shares His Love Of Writing With S.Q. Prisoners

By LAQUAN HAYES
Journalism Guild Writer

Poetry professor Geoffrey O'Brien shares his love of writing with San Quentin inmates as a volunteer English teacher for the Prison University Project.

O'Brien is the professor of creative writing at the University of California at Berkeley. His poetry has been published in UC's 2002 anthology, "The Guns and Flags Project." He is also a member of the Poetry Society of America.

He considers the '70's and '80's old school hip-hop to be the original form of "rap poetry." O'Brien has introduced his U.C. Berkeley students to this idea and has invited them to analyze the lyrics of conscious rappers such as Africa Bombatta, Rakim, and Public Enemy.

In an interview, he made these comments:

How does one become a poet?

I think that becoming a serious writer requires reading just about everything that has come before you. Otherwise, you might just reproduce what's already been done rather than contribute something new.

Poetry apparently has a large and diverse readership with a wide range of preferences for different styles of poetry. How can a poet stand out and appeal to readers? What are people looking for?

People are looking for poetry that's partially familiar and partially surprising.

How can a prisoner who is not a part of society get his poetry voice heard by people on the other side of the wall?

Obviously, publication is important because it allows you

to be in many places at once. Literature is a form of remote communication. Publication is a great tool for making inmates voice audible in a culture that mostly tries not to hear them.

Why do you think people are attracted to poetry?

I think people go to poetry to find relief from social speech instead of commands and small talk you encounter rhythm and shocking metaphor.

What do you suggest San Quentin poets do to stay abreast of the latest trends in poetry?

Learn what the state of the art is from poetry journals and then submit your pieces.

O'Brien, said a writer must write every day He continues to write poetry and enjoys analyzing the writings of his San Quentin and UC Berkeley students.

Unique S.Q. Group Raises Awareness About Life Sentences Through Rap Music

By LAQUAN HAYES
Journalism Guild Writer

A group of San Quentin inmates, who were sentenced to life as youth, use rap to raise awareness of youth life sentences. As the arrest rate of juvenile offenders continues to rise due to violent crimes, law enforcement agencies respond by proposing gang injunctions and stiffer sentences. While on the other hand, the San Quentin juvenile lifer's group (Kid Creating Awareness Together) C.A.T., uses conscious lyrics to send a message to law enforcement and to the youth in the streets.

Open up, open up your eyes/ become aware of how juveniles are dehumanized/ no ones concerned, no one cares, no one hears their cries / one mistake, one poor decision then we take their lives/

Gary "Malachi" Scott, a member of the juvenile lifers' group, said, "I think the main message

of this rap is that our youth who committed a serious felony can be rehabilitated and reintegrated back into society successfully. One horrible decision by a youth offender does not define who he is. It just shows that he needs help and proper guidance."

In an interview with two group members, they made these comments:

Do you think that youngsters on the streets will listen to this rap when gangsta rap produced by the latest big time producer is what attracts their attention?

Antoine "Aziz" Brown responded: "If given the opportunity, not only will they listen, but they will be inspired to hear these profound lyrics coming from youth actually affected by the law that condemns juveniles to life in prison. This rap was produced from passion and a need to be felt and heard. So it's

not about competition, its about being treated justly and fairly."

So what do you plan to accomplish with your socially conscious message?

Vinny Nguyen, a member of the group, stated, "Our message is that we want the public and law makers to place the juvenile justice system under the microscope. Trying juveniles as adults, if they would look closer, is not the answer."

"The juvenile lifers group is comprised of young men who as teens were sentenced as adults. As juvenile sentencing continues to get stiffer, this group saw the need to speak out on this issue. They draw from their experiences as they use their talents of poetic prose to speak to the urban youth culture. They believe that socially conscious rap can influence the minds of youth and deter them from committing crimes."

LETTERS

A Lesson Well Taken in Journalism

Feedback on the S.Q. News website, www.sanquentinnews.com:

I write to a gentleman on death row in your prison and he occasionally sends me copies of your paper. In the issue for September/October 2010 you carried an article which stated that the recidivism rate in Switzerland is 5%. I live in the UK and our government has prepared

a Green Paper on Breaking the Cycle which is currently open for public consultation on how to reduce recidivism which in our country is very high rather like in yours. I read the article yesterday and thought that I would have a wonderful contribution to make to the meeting I was to attend today. This was of an organization to which I belong which planned to discuss the Green

paper so that we could put forward submissions to the public consultation. However, the 5% figure seemed so extraordinary that I felt I should check it out first and so I did on the internet. Your evangelical minister might be excellent at training future evangelical priests but unfortunately, he did not have the correct information for

Health and Wellness Corner

The San Quentin News "Health and Wellness Corner" column runs when articles are submitted for publication. A Centerforce health professional will answer questions that you submit about health issues. Feel free to ask questions about any medical concern that you have and it may be answered so that everyone can benefit. Put your questions in a U-Save-Em envelope addressed to: Health and Wellness Corner, Centerforce (Education Dept). Your name and number will be kept confidential.

In this edition we will address Hepatitis Vaccine Myths:

By DR. JULIE LIFSHAY
and

The Peer Health Educators of San Quentin

Hepatitis A, B and C are separate viruses that cause inflammation of the liver. Each is transmitted from person to person through body fluids and behaviors: feces (doo-doo) in your mouth (Hepatitis A); unprotected sex (Hepatitis B); blood to blood contact (Hepatitis B and C).

True or False? "Vaccinations are the same as treatment." False. Treatment is taking medication or other substances to help your body fight an illness once you become ill. Vaccinations are given to people who have never had the illness to help them from ever getting it.

True or False? "You can get infected with the virus from a vaccine." False. A vaccine helps to protect our bodies from getting infected with the virus. A vaccine usually has a small amount of dead or inactive virus in it. Dead or inactive virus is not capable of infecting you. Rather, the dead virus stimulates your immune system to build up antibodies that are prepared to fight anything that looks like the dead virus. This tricks your body to be prepared for the live virus. Should you ever come in contact with the live virus in the future, your body will already have the antibodies to be able to fight off the virus before you actually become infected with it.

True or False? "There is no vaccine available for Hepatitis C." True. Currently, the only way to protect yourself from getting Hepatitis C is to not expose yourself to the blood of someone infected with Hepatitis C. However, there are vaccines available to protect you from getting infected with Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. These vaccines are given in two shots for Hepatitis A and three shots for Hepatitis B over a six-month period.

True or False? "The vaccines for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B only last about 10 years; after that you need to get vaccinated again." False. Studies have shown that the vaccines for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B may be effective for up to 20 years or more.

True or False? "The CDCR will not give you the vaccine for Hepatitis A or Hepatitis B." False. The vaccinations for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B are available at San Quentin. You need to put in a sick call slip and request to be vaccinated.

If you have questions pertaining to this or any previous Health and Wellness Corner article, forward them to S.Q. News c/o Centerforce. Be on the lookout for more of our Hepatitis Myth Buster Series.

The organization's web site is www.Centerforce.org

recidivism rates in Switzerland. Whilst I found that for some crimes the recidivism rate was very low and the rates are lower than in our countries, on average they are nowhere like what he said and you have printed. It always pays to check your facts before publication. You can find what I did here

<http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/themen/19/04/03/01.html>

Apart from this, I would like to say that I have always found your paper to be a good and an interesting read and I am pleased that it is now available on the web.

Sandi Beecher
Great Britain

Response: Thanks very much for the supportive words, and most of all for the correction on recidivism in Switzerland. That five percent number did seem

miraculously low. Your research is something that we should have done ourselves. A good lesson both for the newspaper staff and the advisers.

Steve McNamara
Adviser

One Issue Appeal

Editor:

So, it's now one "one issue" appeal per two week period. Cool.

Now where's the corresponding order to CDCR's staff not to screw up anyone's programs, rights or lives, more than twice a month?

Hasn't anyone in Sacramental read the U.S. Constitution, First Amendment, Right to Seek Redress from Government? I betcha they will, pretty soon.

— D. Clark

By JOHN WARREN
Contributing Writer



Movie rating definitions: PG = Parental Guidance is suggested for young adult viewing, PG13= Parental guidance for children viewing the movie that are under 13 and Ed-R = the "R" rated content of the movie has been edited out of the movie to be shown. Alts= indicates potential alternate movies. The projected schedules of these movies are subject to change.

Following is a list of movies scheduled for airing on the San Quentin closed circuit TV system.

5/24	Unstoppable	PG-13	☆☆☆	Denzel Washington is a railroad worker trying to stop a runaway train full of toxic cargo.	Action	1h 38m	2010
	The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader	PG	☆☆ 1/2	The gang goes back to Narnia to investigate a mysterious mist that causes people to disappear.	Action Fantasy	1h 55m	2010
	Never Let Me Go	Ed-R	☆☆☆	Carey Mulligan and Keira Knightley are adults who must confront the consequences of their choices.	Thriller	1h 42m	2010
5/31	Cool It	PG	☆☆ 1/2	Controversial environmental author looks at alternative ways of coping with the climate change.	Documentary	?	2010
	The Way Back	PG-13	☆☆☆	After enduring the horrors at a Siberian prison, a group breaks free and treks 4,000 miles to freedom.	Real-Life Drama	2h 5m	2011
6/7	Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son	PG-13	☆☆	On the run from the Russian mob, Martin Lawrence and his stepson hide out at an all-girl school.	Action Comedy	1h 45m	2011
	Gulliver's Travels	PG	☆☆	Jack Black visits remote parts of the world and ends up in Liliput, where he is a giant among its people.	Comedy Fantasy	1h 32m	2010
6/14	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Pt. 1	PG-13	☆☆☆	This is the first half of a two-part film adaptation of the final book about Harry Potter and friends.	Action Fantasy	2h 26m	2010
	Somewhere	Ed-R	☆☆ 1/2	Stephen Dorff is a second-rate star trying to get his life in order but failing miserably.	Drama	1h 38m	2010
6/21	Fair Game	PG-13	☆☆☆	Sean Penn is a columnist married to Naomi Watts, who is a CIA agent trying to juggle her job & home.	Real-Life Drama	1h 46m	2010
	The Tempest	PG-13	☆☆	Helen Mirren is a sorceress that reigns over a mystical island and rages against its enemies.	Fantasy	1h 50m	2010
6/28	Tron: Legacy	PG	☆☆	Sequel to 1982 film has Jeff Bridges playing double roles: one evil, other good. Evil wants to rule world.	Sci-Fi Action	1h 41m	2010
	Little Fockers	PG-13	☆☆	Ben Stiller is still trying to earn father-in-law Robert DeNiro's respect. Multiple mishaps ensue.	Comedy	1h 38m	2010
Alts	Due Date	Ed-R	☆☆ 1/2	Robert Downey Jr. is making his way to LA in time for the birth of his 1st child. With Zach Galifianakis.	Comedy	1h 35m	2010
	Case 39	Ed-R	☆☆	Renee Zellweger is a social worker who attempts to rescue a 10-year-old girl from abusive parents.	Horror	1h 40m	2010
	Life As We Know It	PG-13	☆☆	Katherine Heigl & Josh Duhamel hate each other but have to get together & raise their dead friends' kids.	Romance Drama	1h 53m	2010
	Secretariat	PG	☆☆ 1/2	Diane Lane has a horse farm, hires John Malkovich to train her horse to win the 1973 Triple Crown.	Real-Life Drama	1h 56m	2010

POETRY

GONE

By Michael Jackson

It seems that I'm always struggling and fighting deep within myself, all the loud talking and visions just can't be helped. It's been so long of dealing with self inflicted pain, trying to calm the turmoil, so that I can maintain. Searching for peace by always getting high, the only real peace comes when you truly die! To truly die from a lifestyle that's killing a generation, looking for something different with hope and preparation. Taking medication helps me to stay in control, because the things I've seen and done really haunts my soul. For a long time now madness was my only reality, while violence and crime I believed was my sanity. I'm hurting myself each time I come to prison, this isn't life and it sure isn't livin'. I must change myself and that's without a doubt, so that I can help the next man, by reaching out! I've been there, don't that and helped create this lifestyle, the one that has this younger generation living foul and wild! If people like me don't step up and help change what's wrong, then our society of young people will be completely gone!!

Correction
In the previous issue of the San Quentin News, "to Rakaah" should read "two Rakahs" in the poem "Every Morning" by Kevin Yarber. The S.Q. News regrets the error.



Book Review

By RANDY MALUENDA



THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNETS' NEST (By Stieg Larsson) – *The big reveal what makes super-hacker Salander so odd when she fights friends and enemies to prove her innocence in this most gripping Millennium Trilogy closer.*



NEVER BEEN WITCHED (By Annette Blair) – *Sparks fly amid the laughs when witch and ex-priest adversaries find themselves stuck together in a haunted island lighthouse.*



LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN (By Hubert Selby, Jr) – *Alienated characters amid distracting prose litter this bleak depiction of a violent Brooklyn neighborhood.*



THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE (By Stieg Larsson) – *Part II and most intense of the Millennium Trilogy finds a framed Salander on the run for murder when her partner Blomkvist is about to expose a continental trafficking ring.*



MY SISTER'S KEEPER (By Jodi Picoult) – *Frustrated teen resents her life-long role as tissue donor to chronically sick sister so she sues.*

RATINGS:



Top responses are four ribbons progressing downward to one:

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

Civic Pride

- Who is the Vice President of the United States?
- What happened at the Constitution Convention?
- What is the "supreme law" of the United States called?
- What are the first ten Amendments to the Constitution called?
- Who is in charge of the "executive branch"?
- Name two of the three countries the U.S. fought during World War II?
- What cause did Susan B. Anthony fight for?
- What cause did Martin Luther King fight for?
- When is Independence Day?
- Was Abraham Lincoln one of the original "founding fathers" of America?

ANSWERS BELOW:

- Joe Biden
- The Constitution was signed
- The Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- The President
- Germany, Italy, and Japan
- Women's rights
- Civil rights
- July 4th
- No

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

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

News Briefs

TEXAS – On Tuesday, April 19, Alabama turned over its supplies of sodium thiopental to the Drug Enforcement Administration, becoming the latest state to face setbacks due to a nationwide shortage of the drug. Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky have also relinquished their supplies amid claims from attorneys for death-row inmates that states acquired the drug in violation of federal import laws.

TEXAS – A Texas man became the state's first inmate put to death using a new three-drug cocktail. Cary Kerr, 46, expressed love and thanks to friends and relatives, then insisted he wasn't responsible for the crime outside Fort Worth. "I am an innocent man," Kerr said. "Never trust a court-appointed attorney." The three-drug cocktail in his lethal injection used the sedative pentobarbital instead of sodium thiopental. Texas recently switched because sodium thiopental is no longer available. Pentobarbital had already been used for recent executions in Oklahoma and Ohio and survived legal challenges there. He was pronounced dead at 6:19 p.m. CDT, nine minutes after the drugs began flowing into his arms.

SACRAMENTO – California state senators are proposing to do away with the prison system's watchdog, the inspector

general's office. It has exposed poor practices in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, investigated wrongdoing by employees, and serves as one of the few checks on a federal court-appointed receiver who controls inmate medical care. Critics in the Senate say it has also been slow to react and has grown too cozy with the department it oversees. "You had some pretty bad things going on in CDCR and the inspector general just missed them," said Sen. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance. Lieu's proposed legislation would transfer prison audits to the Bureau of State Audits.

SACRAMENTO – Governor Brown has reviewed 130 decisions by the Board of Parole Hearings granting release to murderers sentenced to life with possible parole and has approved 106, or 81 percent, according to the governor's office. He has vetoed 22 paroles and sent two back to the board for new hearings. "I'm obviously going to interfere less with the parole board than my predecessors, because I'm bound to follow the law," Brown said. And the statistics from his first four months in office bear him out. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger approved about 30 percent of lifers' paroles. Schwarzenegger's predecessor, Gray Davis - who declared early in his term that

"if you take someone else's life, forget it", - vetoed 98 percent of murderers' parole cases he considered.

SACRAMENTO – Terry Lane, a former California correctional officer, was sentenced to 45 days in jail Friday for smuggling cell phones to state prison inmates. He was fined \$5,700, which the Sacramento County district attorney's office said is the amount of bribes he accepted from inmates for bringing in the phones. He also was placed on three years' probation. Prosecutors charged that he had brought in multiple phones over a three-month period. Lane, 25, of San Jose, pleaded guilty Friday to felony conspiracy to aid a state inmate's unauthorized communication. The conspiracy charge carried a maximum sentence of three years in state prison. Possessing a cell phone behind bars violates prison rules but is not illegal. Inmates can lose early release credits, and employees caught smuggling phones can lose their jobs.

SACRAMENTO – Medical care remains below acceptable levels in more than two-thirds of California state prisons despite the billions of dollars spent by taxpayers, the prison system's independent inspector said in a report Wednesday.

Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

APRIL 1981 – Correctional Officer Gerald Riley, 26, was seriously injured after being stabbed in the chest with a 36-inch, spear-like weapon while working in the adjustment center. The weapon was made of rolled up newspapers with a five-inch knife attached to the tip. The assailant, Warren Jordan, was charged last November with stabbing the chairman of the Board of Prison Terms and a deputy district attorney at a parole hearing held at San Quentin.

APRIL 1981 – A federal judge issued a final order in the nine-year-old Texas prison reform case, ordering sweeping changes in the nation's largest prison system. The order requires the state to double its ratio of guards to inmates and give many prisoners separate cells, among the many changes ordered by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice.

APRIL 1981 – The head of the state's prison programs, Howard Way, has warned that carrying out California's new, tough sentencing laws is going to cost taxpayers whopping sums of money. He told Californians to prepare for a drastic increase in prison and jail populations.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – the state prison population in 1981 was 24,500 inmates. There was \$27 million in the

state's 1981-82 budget for prison construction. Each new bed added to the prison system costs \$70,000 to \$80,000.

APRIL 1981 – A new fluoroscope machine for examining the contents of sealed packages has been installed at R&R. Anything with substance shows up on the new machine – including potato chips. R&R has been without a fluoroscope for a year and-a-half since the old one was transferred to the adjustment center.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE – Charles Sickles, a wood products foreman in the furniture factory at S.Q., was assaulted and killed by an intoxicated inmate worker on Mar. 30, 1981. It was the first employee death in several years.

APRIL 1981 – Following the death last month of furniture factory supervisor Charles Sickles, stronger security measures have been instituted at the factory. More cops and no fruit on the lunch menu that can be used to ferment "pruno" are among the new changes. No lockers will be provided for workers as pruno can be stored in them.

APRIL 1981 – Robert Alton Harris, 28, was told to prepare to die July 7 in the state's gas chamber for shooting to death two 16-year-old boys after stealing their car for a bank holdup. The California Supreme Court

upheld Harris's conviction Feb. 11.

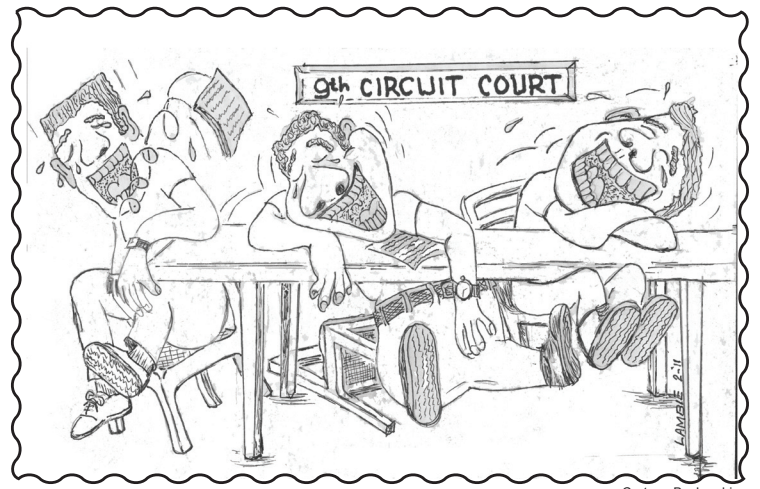
APRIL 1981 – A contemporary gospel group, Shekeniah, will be appearing at the Garden Chapel Saturday evening. The group, composed of eight students from the Golden Gate Baptist Seminary in Marin County, sings at churches and school affairs.

The San Quentin News requests that all institutions send us reports of their athletic events so that they may be published in our newspaper. Information should contain the following:

Institution, type of event, date of event, names of players, scores, and all stats relating to the event.

Please send information to:

CSP - San Quentin
Education Dept. / SQ
News
San Quentin, CA 94964
Attn: San Quentin
News Sports Editor.



Cartoon By: Lambie

*We Have Heard Your Appeal
and Are Giving it Serious
Consideration*

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
CSP - San Quentin
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