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DeSean Jackson in a round table interview at S.Q. Jackson's Celebrity Used to Change Lives

As a 19-year-old boy with a troubled background, DeSean Jackson came on a San Quentin tour and was shaken to his roots. Now he's a famous 24-year-old pro football player aiming to help kids turn their lives around the way he did.

Five years ago he was a teen in the S.Q.U.I.R.E.S. group who met with San Quentin inmates and saw what wasted lives look like, and he wanted a different future.

At Jackson's latest San Quentin visit, he was the focus of an interview arranged by Leila Steinberg, founder of AIMS, which works with prison inmates, LA juveniles/ gangs and a long-standing supporter of the San Quentin's No More Tears and Real Choices programs. Moderator was Lonnie Morris of the San Quentin Television/ Media Center, headed by Larry Schneider. The visitors also

met with San Quentin's acting warden, Mike Martel, who is an avid sports fan and supports their work.

Now a running back for the Philadelphia Eagles, Jackson said he reached out to Steinberg because she works with youth and juvenile halls. He said he wants to use his celebrity status to touch lives.

Steinberg met DeSean, then his older brother, former Kansas City Chief Byron Jackson, who helped train his younger brother. "We started making plans and the next thing I knew DeSean calls and says, 'My boy Donovan Warren from the Pittsburgh Steelers wanted to come along and help," Steinberg said.

The day before Steinberg took Warren and the Jackson brothers to McClymonds High School in Oakland.

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After 20 Years, 'Jailhouse Lawyer' Re-Joins Family

Major Changes Ahead

Related story A.G. Harris, Pg. 7 **By MICHAEL R. HARRIS Editor-in-Chief**

The No. 2 man in California's prison system says massive changes are ahead for the overcrowded system, and the future is uncertain.

- Uncertainties include:
- whether to fund the plan to send low-level offenders to county jails instead of prisons.
- the status of a deficit-ridden state budget, whether to request an extension in reducing prison overcrowding,
- · staff reductions
- community organizations helping to reduce recidivism.

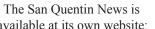
Such issues were discussed in two recent interviews with Scott Kernan, undersecretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Kernan is a second-generation correctional officer who started in 1983 at San Quentin State Prison. His mother, Peggy Kernan, was a S.Q. captain in the 1980s and was the first warden at Solano State Prison.

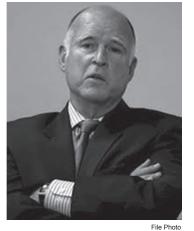
Kernan and San Quentin's acting warden, Michael Martel, both served under her leadership. She passed away some years back. (Martel joked that Kernan's mother was much tougher than her son.)

Asked what keeps him up at night, Kernan said, "I'm very

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Gov. Jerry Brown

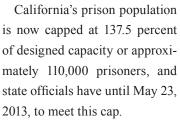


CDCR Ops. Scott Kernan

110,000 Prisoner Cap

By JUAN HAINES Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme court ruled that crowding is the primary cause of the unconstitutional living conditions inside California prisons after 20 years of litigation



CDCR Chief Matthew Cate

See Supreme Court on Page 4









Hector Oropeza with his wife, Marie

By ARNULFO GARCIA Staff Writer

A 20-year tour through California's Prison Industrial Complex finally ended for one of the honorable freedom fighters in San Quentin.

The modest and humble "jailhouse lawyer," Hector Oropeza, paroled to join his wife and kids in San Jose in early June.

In 1991, Oropeza recognized that many prisoners were with-

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Members of Kid C.A.T. group at S.Q. Young Men Working Toward Change

By MICHAEL A. NELSON **Contributing Writer**

"Kid C.A.T."; does the name sound familiar? It's not the candy bar you are thinking of, rather the newest addition to the San **Ouentin's Inmate Leisure Time** Activity Group (ILTAG) family. Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together) is comprised of a group of men who committed their crimes while under the age

of 18 and who are currently serv- tions. Currently, Kid C.A.T. is ing life sentences. Last month, the number of this specific population decreased by one.

The idea of the group was born by the founders' desire to be active participants of change, not only in their own lives but also in the lives of at-risk youth. A relatively small group, a number that reflects the entire population of young lifers, their mission is one of huge proporworking on a self-help curriculum that will help men gain an understanding of themselves from a childhood development perspective. A pamphlet for new arrivals, a collection of personal stories, and a documentary are also under way, just to name a few of their endeavors. Filming begins in July. The members are

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Lifting the Invisible Veil of Discrimination

By RON 'YANA' SELF Journalism Guild Writer

Editor's Note: Ron 'Yana' Self is a highly decorated Marine and a resident of San Quentin State Prison. During a battle, Self was saved by an openly gay Marine.

On April 28, 1963 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared, "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

King adamantly contended that all Americans should have equal access to the American dream. However, in spite of the great strides the Civil Rights Movement brought about during the 1950s and 1960s, many Americans still experience discrimination. While King was referring to people of color, his argument for inclusivity applies equally to other groups of people like gay men and women who are denied the same opportunities as heterosexuals. In many states, homosexuals are still fighting for the same civil rights given to heterosexuals.

At the Federal level, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has been the

policy and culture of the military for decades. In this ethos, gays are discouraged from disclosing their sexual orientation for fear of being dishonorably discharged. Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" enables the military to have a broader selection of eligible applicants from which to choose and will eventually eliminate this complicated and prejudicial policy. More importantly, it will aid in uniting all service men and women within the United States of America's Armed Forces by lifting the invisible veil of discrimination.

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

Those who support maintaining "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy often argue that allowing homosexuals to serve openly will undermine the unity of the military, and that asking heterosexual troops to work alongside those who are openly gay will prevent troops from trusting one another to the degree they must in order to be effective. This argument is baseless and unpersuasive. It has been my experience that some gays already do serve openly despite the official policy. While deployed overseas conducting combat operations, I was shot

OPINION

and knocked to the ground; only semi-conscious and immobilized, I was still under fire and unable to defend myself. Had rescue not come I would have undoubtedly been killed within moments. The marine that was to my immediate left just before I stepped into the clearing was openly gay. But that has no relevance in a firefight. He had the courage to come out in the open in a hail of gunfire and drag me

As time goes on military leaders are beginning to understand that excluding gays from the military is not viable.

to safety. He was shot 11 times doing so and died by my side shortly after reaching cover. Chuck was one of the bravest men I knew during my time in the Marine Corps. His ultimate sacrifice demonstrates that serving openly does not degrade the cohesiveness of military units.

During times of war, it would be wise for Americans to rally together and bring forth our best and brightest to assist the war effort. Allowing homosexuals to serve in the armed forces increases the number of talented men and women available. Additionally, those potential recruits would not be subjected to the demoralizing invisibility imposed by the veil of discrimination. As the United States approaches its eleventh year of war in both Afghanistan and Iraq, our troops are stretched beyond their limits. Most military personnel are going on their fifth and sixth tours of duty and there is no end in sight. It is common sense to permit gays and lesbians to serve openly with the honor and pride they deserve.

PRESIDENT OBAMA

Of late, the movement to end "Don't Ask Don't Tell" has gained a tremendous amount of momentum. During a recent press conference President Obama related what one of his generals had told him: "One of our Special Forces people is a gay man. He is big, mean, and kills lots of bad guys; we have no problem with his sexual orientation." Military commanders, as well as political leaders, have stated publicly that the policy is antiquated and needs to end. On May 30, 2010 the House of Representatives passed a bill to repeal the policy.

MILITARY LEADERS

As time goes on, military leaders are beginning to understand that excluding openly homosexual men and women from the military is not viable. We need as many good people as we can get to fight the two wars in which we are engaged. Most importantly, we need to encourage both our armed forces personnel and our citizens to live up to the values that this country is supposed to represent. For those doing the fighting on the front lines, the sexual orientation of the people on your left and right makes no difference as long as they do the job they volunteered for in a competent and proficient manner. Bullets flying through the air do not differentiate between gay and straight men or women; they kill indiscriminately.

One of America's Elite Military Forces

By JULIANGLENN PADGETT Managing Editor

Ellwyn Ashley's history as a Marine was shaped by his ancestor who served in World War II as one of America's top-secret elite fighting forces, the Navajo Code Talkers.

As a young boy, Ashley knew his grandfather, who did not parade or brag about his past life when he served in World War II. Yet, as the years passed he learned he was related to one of the greatest fighting forces in the Marines, a Navajo Code Talker.

"I am a Marine and a third generation descendant," Ashley said. "And my grandfather Joe Price was a Navajo Code Talker."

His grandfather, who died in 2006, received the Medal of Honor from President George W. Bush. Ashley joined the Marines in the early 1980s.

He also never studied the history of the Navajo Code Talkers, but "I lived among them."

Navajo is a language of extreme complexity. Its varied tonal qualities and syntax make it unintelligible to a non-speaker. The language has no alphabet or symbols and is spoken only in the Navajo lands of the American Southwest.

GREAT ADMIRATION

"Out of reverence for the elders who served in WWII, the families rarely asked the veterans about their experiences in that war," said Ashley. If they talked about it, the families had to be fortunate to be present and listen. "We had a lot of admiration for them," Ashley said. The idea to use the Navajo dialect for secure communications was the brainchild of Philip Johnston, a World War I veteran. Johnston a non-Navajo was the son of a missionary and was raised on the reservation where he learned to speak fluent Navajo. As a boy Philip had translated for the Navajo. At a Native American conference in Washington, D.C., he translated for President Theodore Roosevelt. In 1942, Johnston met with Maj. Gen. Clayton B. Vogel, commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and his staff to persuade the Marines to use the Navajo language as a code.

On Feb. 28, 1942, Johnson and four Navajo staged a test under simulated combat conditions, demonstrating that Navajos could encode, transmit and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds. Machines of the time required 30 minutes to perform the same job.

Despite some concerns by others, Vogel recommended to General Thomas Holcomb, the Marine Corps Commandant, that they recruit 200 Navajos. The recommendation was approved.

Encouraged by Chee Dodge, chairman of the Navajo Nation, the men were recruited, some of them only 15 years old.

"Most of the code talkers were very educated," Ashley said. "They spoke fluent English. My they were Navajo, some had to have bodyguards and escorts to stop this early form of racial profiling.

FALLING SHORT

At a time when America's best cryptographers were falling short, these modest sheepherders, and farmers had fashioned the most ingenious and successful code in military history.

When a Navajo code talker received messages, he heard chains of ostensibly unrelated Navajo words. First, they translated each Navajo word to its English equivalent. The first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word was used. Therefore, the Navajo words "Ah-jah" (ear), "Dzeh" (elk), "Ah-nah" (eye), all stood for the letter "e". In Navajo we can express one thing in three to five different ways. It's a very versatile language," Ashley said. "So if you think you know Navajo you really don't. It's just like that, but I speak it fluently." Eventually the military discovered the code needed expanding due to the frequency at which words were spelled. To confuse the Japanese they increased the alphabet from 211 words and phases to 611 terms by adding more words to be associated with each letter. According to Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima. During one battle, six Navajo Code Talkers transmitted and deciphered around the clock in the first two days of the battle. The speed of the Navajo code saved three companies (units of about 100 Marines) on Iwo Jima at Hill 362A.

Those six sent and received over 800 messages in a twoday interval and all of those 800 messages in those two days were without error.

Ashley pointed to the reason the Navajo agreed to join the fight in the battle of the Pacific was they had already been invaded by the Europeans

"It was about sustaining the way of life and the country from another possible invasion," said Ashley. "They spoke not just for the Navajos because by that time it wasn't about the Navajo, it was about this country." In the Pacific, from 1942 to 1945, the Navajo Code talkers were deployed to the dense jungles of the Solomon Islands, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Peleliu and to the sands of Iwo Jima. They were in every assault in which the U.S. Marines engaged. They served in all six Marine divisions, Marine Raider battalions and Marine parachute units.

"My grandfather was a humble and polite man," Ashley said.

Born on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona, Ashley tells people he had good clean air and the biggest playground in the world.

Ashley's Navajo name is Oshkíí Döń, which means "Restless one" or "Restless boy." He has been a resident of San Quentin since September 2010.

Ashley's father was a combat Marine like his father. "My dad served in Khe San during the Vietnam War and he saw battle like my grandfather did."

Following in his father's and grandfather's military path,

grandfather was very educated he spoke Navajo and English.

After training, in August 1942, the first all Navajo fighting force emerged to represent the United States Marine Corps as Platoon 382.

"When they hit the Pacific Theater they were discriminated against," said Ashley. "Many were called Chief, and they did not like it."

NAVAJOS RESPOND

His grandfather told him that many of the Navajos responded that if they had been the Chiefs, the country would not have been in this mess in the first place. Several Navajo Indians were also mistaken for Japanese and taken as prisoners. Afterwards they would have to prove that

"On behalf of not only the Navajos but also Native Americans in this country, who serve in the military to sustain freedom," Ashley said. "We owe them a lot for their sacrifices."

Breaking the Cycle Of Crime, Punishment

By DWIGHT KRIZMAN Contributing Writer

For the last half-dozen years, a new approach is being promoted in San Quentin Prison to help break the cycle of crime and punishment that has controlled America's courts and prisons.

Called Restorative Justice, it has been used in many countries, including South Africa, New Zealand and Canada. South Africa used it to help cure the divisiveness that separated and abused the black population for decades. It's currently used in Minnesota and Pennsylvania prisons.

TRADITIONAL MODEL

In the traditional model, punishment and retribution are meted out to offenders for the crimes they commit. The victims of those offenders often remain victims. If offenders are caught, they are prosecuted and sent to prison – a place that offers them little chance to repair the damage they caused. By removing the offender from society and tipping its hat to the victim, California believes justice has been served. But, something is missing in this simplified but all-too-true scenario.

The results include: a vast number of victims' rights groups and extreme prison recidivism. Currently, approximately 70 percent of "low risk" offenders return to prison.

CIRCLE KEEPERS

On May 7, 2011, members of San Quentin's Restorative Justice Round Table attended a full day of intense instruction in conflict resolution training to become "Circle Keepers." Circles are an alternate process of communication, based on traditional discussion through storytelling and healing practices of aboriginal peoples throughout the world. Circles are ancient and have been used as a way of healing harms, resolving conflict, communicating, grieving, even celebrating.

The training allowed each person to experience deeper insight and personal healing, thereby they were better prepared to assist others in their journey. By accepting responsibility for their actions, the inmates continued restoration in their lives. Through their restoration, the goal of helping others to restore themselves becomes possible. Through empathy and compassion, hearts were opened wide.

INTER-FAITH GROUP

Each person shared openly in the inter-faith group made up of inmates and outside guests. The event included San Quentin's Buddhist, Christian, Jewish,

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Muslim and Native American communities. Thirty-five attendees became Circle Keepers under the guidance of three volunteer trainers.

Restorative Justice has grown globally from a movement begun in the 1970s. It seeks to change traditional retributive, "punishment only" justice systems such as that in the United States, to one where both the victim's and offender's needs are actually addressed in an effort to break the cycle of crime and violence.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Supporters say Restorative Justice programs have reduced the number of adult and youth prisoners, and trimmed recidivism. Local cities including Oakland use the concept with youth to help foster empathy responsibility.

San Quentin's Restorative Justice Round Table meets in the Catholic Chapel on Thursday at 6:20 p.m. The group also schedules semi-annual symposiums for all general population inmates and community members. Many of San Quentin's programs including Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) and Anger Management use Restorative Justice principles in their formats.

For more information, contact Krizman at 2N25.

Co-Founder of S.Q. Veteran Group Dies

By RONALD 'YANA' SELF Journalism Guild Writer

Elmer G. "Geronimo" Pratt, an early leader of San Quentin's Vietnam veterans group and a decorated paratrooper, died at his home in Tanzania, according to his sister. He was 63 years old.

Pratt was a co-founder of the Vietnam Veterans Group San Quentin (V.V.G.S.Q.), established in 1986. He volunteered to join the Army and served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Vietnam, where he was awarded a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars for bravery in combat, and two Purple Hearts for combat wounds.

VIETNAM VETERANS

V.V.G.S.Q. started as a forum for incarcerated veterans to discuss issues related to being in prison and their experiences as Vietnam veterans.

It evolved to include many programs that enrich the lives of veterans at San Quentin and in California's 31 other prisons.

Programs include Operation MOM, which makes packages for troops currently deployed, Toys for Tots, providing toys for the children in the community who are undergoing cancer treatment, and assists with the "Ronald McDonald House" while the children undergo treatment. There is also a scholarship program that assists students with tuition, and Stamps for Soldiers. The used stamps that are sent to Walter Reid Hospital where physical therapist use them in eye-hand coordination exercises for wounded vets.

VETERANS GROUP

Another program to help veterans directly is Veterans Issues Group (V.I.G.), geared directly at the veterans themselves. The Veterans Administration supports V.I.G. The Veterans Information Project (V.I.P.) assists incarcerated veterans with housing, job training, upgrading benefits -- pretty much anything a veteran has coming that can help him re-establish himself or herself back into the community in a productive manner.

Pratt spent 27 years in prison. An Orange County Superior Court judge overturned his case in 1997. He ruled that prosecutors at Pratt's murder trial concealed evidence that could have lead to his acquittal. A federal judge later approved a \$4.5 million settlement in Pratt's falseimprisonment and civil rights lawsuit.

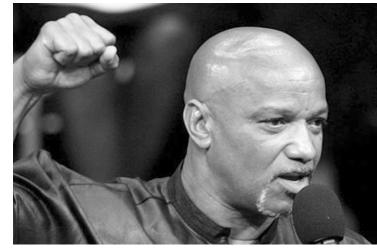
Pratt was also an early member of the Black Panther movement, where he was given the nickname "Geronimo" by Alprentice "Bunch" Carter, another member of the movement.

Iconic Figure of the Black Power Movement Dies

By N. T. "NOBLE" BUTLER Journalism Guild Writer

Iconic figure of the Black Power movement of the late 1960s, Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt, died suddenly in early June at the age of 63.

Pratt was also an early leader of the Black Panther Party in Los Angeles in the 1970. His 1972 conviction for murder was overturned after 27 years in prison. The cause of Geronimo Pratt's death in unconfirmed, but it is believed he passed due to a heart attack.



Elmer 'Geronimo' Pratt speaks out after his release

For the next 27 years, Geronimo Pratt fought to prove his innocence. In 1997, Orange County Superior County Judge Everett W. Dickey overturned Pratt's conviction, after a plethora of evidence was introduced proving Pratt's innocence and substantial prosecutorial misconduct during his trial. The evidence included FBI, LA police and District Attorney's office had withheld evidence exonerating Pratt and that Butler was indeed a FBI and LAPD informant. Pratt's release was appealed by then LA District Attorney Gil Garcetti, but was rejected by the court. The City of Los Angeles and the U.S. Department of Justice eventually settled a civil rights and false imprisonment lawsuit with Pratt for \$4.5 million.

suppressed evidence in favor of Pratt and knowingly paraded a line of witnesses that lied in open court, most notably Butler. It was revealed that exculpatory evidence was removed from police custody, and in at least the case of LAPD criminalist DeWayne Wolfer, evidence was fabricated and false evidence presented at trial.

After his release in 1997, Mr. Pratt returned to his hometown of Morgan City, La., where he spent part of his settlement money to support youth programs, and he also worked on the behalf

CONVICTED

Pratt is best known for being convicted for the brutal murder of a white Los Angeles area high school teacher and the attempted murder of her husband at a park tennis court in Santa Monica. On Dec. 18, 1969, Caroline Olsen, 27, and her husband, Kenneth, 31, were robbed of \$18 by two African American men and shot multiple times. Mr. Olsen, also a high school teacher, survived his wounds, including a .45-caliber bullet to the forehead, but his wife died of her injuries.

Pratt was indicted for the crime a year later, based solely on the information provided by an FBI and LAPD informant. Julius "Julio" Butler (no relation to this reporter) had been a member of the LA Black Panthers and a rival of Pratt's for the leadership of the organization. Butler had been an LA County sheriff deputy prior to joining the Panthers.

During Pratt's 1972 murder trial, Butler testified that Pratt had confided in him that he had gone on a "mission" earlier in the evening and that he had shot the Olsens.

Pratt had consistently maintained his innocence, stating that he had been in Oakland, 350 miles away, at the time of the shooting, attending Black Panther meetings that week. Pratt stated that the FBI knew this because they had him under surveillance at the time. M. Wesley Swearingen, an FBI agent at the time, acknowledged that the FBI knew Pratt was in the Bay Area at the time because the Panthers were under surveillance and had their phones tapped. Pratt was eventually indicted and went on trial in June 1972.

During the trial, Pratt's defense, headed by the late Johnnie Cochran, attacked the credibility of the prosecution's case, chiefly their star witness, Butler. Pratt claimed that Butler was an FBI informant and lying for the prosecution that he confessed to Butler about his involvement in the shootings. Butler, for his part, maintained that he was never a police informant. The jury deliberated for 10 days before finding Pratt guilty of Mrs. Olsen's murder.

POLICE MISCONDUCT

Geronimo Pratt's case has become a symbol of police and prosecution misconduct and abuse of power against Black power activists of the 1960s and 70s. Records show the Black Panther Party had been targeted by the FBI's COINTELPRO counterintelligence program and the LAPD's Criminal Conspiracy Section in an attempt to discredit the organization and neutralize Pratt's effectiveness. Judge Dickey blasted the prosecution in Pratt's trial, ruling they

of men and women believed to be wrongly convicted.

Pratt was a decorated war hero, having served two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he earned two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the Silver Star, this nation's third highest military honor.

Pratt reportedly passed away in Tanzania, Africa, where he had emigrated. While in prison, Pratt changed his name to Geronimo Ji Jaga Pratt, married Asahki Ji Jaga, and fathered two children. Pratt was previously married to Sandra Pratt, who was murdered in 1971. The couple had no children together, although Sandra was 8 months pregnant at the time of her death.

NFL Star DeSean Jackson Describes Overcoming Adversity

Continued from Page 1

Warren said: "I wanted to come and connect and 'get on you guys level,' and see what it's about and I'm just happy to be here."

Jackson commented: "I was born and raised in south-central L.A. and I overcame a lot of adversity in my life. Actually I saw two choices I could go over the hurdle or take the easy way and go under it. I did things like stealing and fighting as a kid; I've been shot at, and was a gang-banger. But from all of that I was able to see all the negative things and say I don't want to do that, I want to do something positive. I wanted to be a person who did things for his family."

DIED OF CANCER

Byron is a former NFL player and currently is a film documentarian. "I grew up in D.C.; my dad lived in L.A. He wanted to support me, because he didn't have that support growing up. My dad grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, blue-collar family; he worked in steel mills and drove streetcars. He didn't have the support to pursue sports, which he really loved. Our father died two years ago from pancreatic cancer," he said.

"I went to Kansas City as a developmental player. After playing with Kansas City I got into TV and started working with DeSean and filming him. I was documenting everything he did, "my dad had big visions; he had a lot of dreams of his kids making it to the highest level. And actually being able to see that and capture it was amazing. We are putting together a documentary about this journey. It's quite an amazing journey, it's a journey filled with desire, it's a journey filled with vision, it's a journey filled with dreams ... and then seeing DeSean as a little kid and training him when he was little. He had me, he had a team of people around him... they also added that needed support to DeSean," Byron said.

He told his brother, "You're going to affect way more people off the football field and inspire people, you're going to have a voice to talk to people. My father actually got to see his dreams happen." Steinberg stated "One of the things with DeSean and why we started this journey together, why I wanted him to meet and connect with No More Tears and Real Choices is sometimes we wonder if we really make a difference or if it matters? So when we were in Oakland yesterday we were talking to the kids at McClymonds High School which has a 70 percent dropout rate which sadly, corresponds with the 70 percent recidivism rates in California prisons.

Visiting McClymonds High School, she asked the kids: "Did it make a difference that DeSean actually funded this trip for all of us to come and did it have an effect? The kids were like it truly makes a difference for them to know he was just like them. And that he was as small as he is; they couldn't believe it and that DeSean is as fast as he is."

Warren told the San Quentin group about a boy he knew in high school, a great football player being offered college scholarships. He was a gang member who was involved in a drive-by shooting and wound up in prison for 50 years to life for murder. His brother just got drafted by the Tennessee Titans.

"We're dealing with a generation of babies that were born not wanted, many born addicted. So we're in an unparalleled crisis," Steinberg said.

THEY DON'T WORK

Steinberg said, "I believe that programs such as Scared Straight don't work because kids don't listen to Scared Straight, but when you have Real Choices or when you have a process where someone decides to make the choice, it's really, really different than thinking you're scaring someone into submission."

Discussing his San Quentin visit as a teen, DeSean said, "I have come across a lot of intelligent people and... just because you're in blue I don't put you guys in a box, I'm not looking at vou as criminals. You might be in prison, but I know there's something unique about every one of vou men in here. And that's what I realize I didn't come here five years ago and leave thinking, 'Man, they were a bad group of guys.' I was really impressed with the intelligence and how smart you guys were."

He also said, "I think you really have to weigh your options. Do you want to be in jail or dead or do you want to be successful and be able to take care of your family? That's something the kids have to ask themselves and when you talk to these kids, you have to weigh out their options to them. You have to let them know this is what you're doing; this is where you're going to end up."

Regarding his main point to kids, DeSean said: "I just want kids to look at me and be able to see that I made it. The biggest thing that I do when I go to high schools and talk to kids (is) I want them to feel I was them; I was sitting in the same seats that they were sitting in, and I was able to make it...I want them to feel like it's possible to make it."

DeSean concluded: 'I don't feel I have anything to teach inmates, but I would love it if I could learn something and the one thing I could say is as long as you're breathing, you still matter...your life is still valuable."

-Michaels R. Harris

Supreme Court Ruling Limits California to 110,000 Prisoners

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The ruling confirms, "overcrowding, combined with staffing shortages, has created a culture of cynicism, fear, and despair which makes hiring and retaining competent clinicians extremely difficult...even if vacant positions could be filled, there would be insufficient space for the additional staff," noting that there were "backlogs of up to 700 prisoners waiting to see a doctor for physical care."

The court recognized, "crowding creates unsafe and unsanitary conditions that hamper effective delivery of medical and mental health care. It also promotes unrest and violence and can cause prisoners with latent mental illness to worsen and develop overt symptoms. Increased violence requires increased reliance on lockdowns to keep order, and lockdowns further impede the effective delivery of care."

Referring to out-of-state transfers, the ruling held, "The State's claim that out-of-state transfers provide a less restrictive alternative to a population limit must fail because requiring transfers is a population limit under the Prison Litigation and Reform Act (PLRA). Even if they could be regarded as a less restrictive alternative, the three-judge court found no evidence of plans for transfers in numbers sufficient to relieve overcrowding.

The opinion concludes, there is no realistic chance that California could build itself out of this crisis, noting the "common thread connecting the State's proposed remedial efforts is that they would require the State to expend large amounts of money absent a reduction in overcrowding."

When assessing the political and fiscal reality behind this case, the court notes, "California's Legislature has not been willing or able to allocate the resources necessary to meet this crisis absent a reduction in overcrowding. There is no reason to believe it will begin to do so now, when the State of California is facing an unprecedented budgetary shortfall."

A prisoner release plan and its affect on public safety was weighed, and the court was

satisfied by statistical evidence showing prison populations that had been lowered without adversely affecting public safety in some California counties, several States and Canada. The court found that various available methods of reducing overcrowding - good time credits and diverting low-risk offenders to community programs - would have little or not impact on public safety, and the order took account of such concern by giving the State substantial flexibility to select among the means of reducing overcrowding.

Kernan Says Major Changes Ahead For California's Prisons

Continued from Page 1

worried about the system: hiring freezes, budget cuts, riots. Unless we do something to relieve the pressure, we're going to lose one of these prisons. We haven't Discussing realignment, Kernan said, "There is an average of 10,000 parole violators coming to prison each month, and from this plan parole violators will no longer come to state prison. care social services will be affected too.

He noted the governor is standing by the parole board's decisions at a much greater rate. Prior governors denied about 90 percent of paroles, but Brown is approving about 80 percent. these will be some of the biggest changes in CDCR's history, and in this state's history."

"Out4Life California presents an opportunity to form collaborative relationships and strengthen existing coalitions across the state that will continue to work together to serve former prisoners more effectively and to make our communities safer," said Clef Irby, Prison Fellowships Southern California executive director. California is the 12th state to launch Out4Life. The program tackles prisoner reentry issues such as unemployment, addiction treatment, public safety, family issues, special needs of children of prisoners and the importance of establishing reentry networks. Prison Fellowship is the world's largest outreach to prisoners, ex-offenders and their families-in partnership with CDCR. It will work with businesses, social services and faith leaders across California.

"With the governor's realignment and the elimination of 10, 000 parole violators, this will reduce the reception centers and enable more programs to be instituted," he said. "The department is taking steps throughout the state to reduce one percent in staff (by July 1) to stop the redirections {of correctional officers from program supervision)...but it must be approved by the labor unions...There will be systemic changes throughout CDCR or we're going to go bankrupt."

hired in six months, which creates rolling lockdowns and less programming. We lost a facility in Chino because of frustration and idleness. And we don't want to see this happen in other prisons."

Regarding the recent U.S. Supreme Court's decision ordering curbs on prison overcrowding, Kernan said: "We have to reduce the population in 24 months. We have to get rid of 33,000. By the first six months, 10,000, the second six months, another 10, 000. Then over the last year, 15,000. It was a moving target set by the Supreme Court because the ruling is to reduce to 135.7 percent in two years." Kernan indicated the state is unlikely to ask for an extension in meeting the order.

It makes no sense for them to come back and sit on a (prison) bunk for four months...and we can't afford it."

Kernan said Gov. Jerry Brown won't implement the county jail realignment unless funding is provided.

"In reality, the hope is to get the tax initiative on the November ballot or special election and there will be an impact across the prison system. If we don't get the tax initiative passed then, the problems becomes exponential, and it becomes an all-cut budget," he said.

If the result is "draconian" cuts, the parole division and juvenile intuitions might be completely eliminated outside of CDCR. Education and health "If I were rating Gov. Brown, I would give him an A."

On medical paroles, Kernan said, "I think you're going to see more of our sicker inmates transitioned out of prison to their homes."

He noted the many changes are opposed by victims' groups and some law enforcement elements.

Kernan reported the prisons administration is creating a partnership with Prison Fellowship called Out4Life. "That's an initiative by a religious-based organization and it's a critical component because anything that we can do to support offenders getting out and successfully staying out...I believe that Regarding the three strikes law, he said, "Any modifications will have to go through the Legislature, but ...nothing is off the table."

Kernan's boss, CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate, said with the realignment plan, "we'll actually have a more effective criminal justice system." June 2011

SAN QUENTIN NEWS

SPORTS

2011-12 NBA Season In Danger of Lockout

By DREW PIAZZA Sports Editor

An ongoing disagreement between NBA owners and the players union is threatening the 2011-12 basketball season.

The NBA owners' demands are consistent with the overall attitude of corporate America. The NBA is a for-profit business and the owners claim they're losing money. The players association claims the owners are making plenty of money, and they want more of it.

NBA Commissioner David Sterns and players' union attorney William Hunter are lockup in what some have called rancorous negotiations to avoid a lockout for the 2011-12 season. The owners are claiming they're hemorrhaging cash and threaten to shut the league down unless the players are willing to play for less. Last year the NBA had the league to take out a loan for \$175 million to aid failing teams. Yet the Golden State Warriors, one of the teams that claims it's losing money, was sold for \$450 million last off-season

Another team demanding league-wide player pay cuts and a cash infusion is the Memphis Grizzlies. That team signed its own free agent, Rudy Gay, who has never been an All-Star, to an \$80 million contract. Hunter says "something stinks in Sternville." He claims, "It all makes no sense. Why would someone buy these franchises if they're losing this type of money?"

The owners secretly agreed amongst themselves last summer to shorter contracts for less money. The Miami Heat's rebellious owner, Mickey Arison, couldn't resist and jumped ship with the financial prospect of what can be in South Beach, still apoplectic over what happen next. Do the namesWade, Bosh and Lebron ring a bell?

Sports writer Howard Bryant says this act was the most "revolutionary" move in the history of the NBA. The Heat turned the table on the ownership and in one summer week completely changed the balance of power in the NBA

or not this works in Miami will determine a great deal about the future of the NBA.

Owners are simultaneously furious about the LeBron/DWade/ Bosh troika while fighting for a collective bargaining agreement that will absolutely ensure similar scenarios down the road.

The pattern we have grown accustomed to over the years is a rookie deal, 5-7 years max contracts, followed by free agency in the twilight of a career, more players will be free and clear to go where they want right in the middle of their basketball prime.

The NBA can't have it both ways. Less guaranteed years will mean more freedom. And we saw this summer what players will do if you give them enough freedom.

Owners must decide if they want a league built on foundations of stability and star players dispersed throughout the league, or do they want star players playing fantasy sports with themselves and creating their own mini All-Star teams to compete against the Heat?

There are 30 NBA teams split into two Conferences, Eastern and Western. Twenty-four of the teams operated within their projected budgets.

One team is league-subsidized under an agreement of three years ago: the Washington Wizards. They're due to reach operating solvency in 2012.

All 24 teams that operated within their budgets also made a modest gain in revenues averaging six percent for the 2009-10 season.

New Jersey was in NBA receivership until last year when Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov bought the franchise for what some experts says was millions over its estimated value

Tough and Fit Warriors Tap Jackson To Run - S.Q.1K Mile Club **By COACH FRANK RUONA Contributing Writer**

It was a great day for running and 14 members of the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club ran 15 laps around the Baseball Field for a fast three miles. They showed that despite losing valuable training time while on quarantine, they were still tough and fit.

Newcomer Chris Scull took off like a gazelle and led the initial lap while running at a very fast 5:00 per mile pace. Soon Chris realized that for a threemile race he needed to conserve some energy and he backed off that pace. At that time, Eddie Herena moved into first place. Herena maintained the lead throughout the race, but Mike Villanueva made a valiant effort to catch him on the final lap.

EXTRA KICK

Herena held on to finish 18:55, with Villanueva just four seconds back. Larry Ford had been running neck and neck with Villanueva for the first 14 laps, but could not handle Villanueva's kick on the final lap and finished 25 seconds back in 19:24, a 53second improvement over his 2010 time.

Stephen Yair Liebb ran a steady race and finished in a strong 19:50. Chris Scull slowed his pace after his speedy first lap and finished in just under a seven-minute per mile pace at 20:59. Louis Hunter was the next finisher in 21:20. His performance was 1:22 faster than he had ran in 2010, the biggest improvement of any of the Thousand-Mile Club runners who had run in last years race.

Bill Pillars, Dee Whitaker, Joey Mason and Andrew Gazzeny were the next finishers. They all ran under an 8:00 per mile pace, which was the goal that Gazzeny had set for himself at the start of the race. Another new comer, John Vaden, ran a steady race and finish in 24:26. John Neblett showed that he has been putting in consistent training miles as he held a steady

As Their New Coach By GARY "MALACHI"

SCOTT Journalism Guild Writer

Warriors General Manager Larry Riley signed Mark Jackson to a three-year \$6 million contract with a team option for a forth year.

Mark Jackson does not have any coaching experience but has experience in running the point guard position for 17 years in the NBA; ranking third in all-time assists (10,334).

When talking about his new role as coach of the Golden State Warriors, Jackson says, "I am really elated about this opportunity and I'm looking forward to the challenge of building the Warriors into a perennial contender."

He also says that he likes the scoring combination of Ellis and Curry but says he is going to start at the defensive side of the ball. Fans hope Coach Jackson will get the Warriors consistently in the win column.

NASCAR SPRINT CUP **STANDINGS**

1. C. Edwards	573
2. K. Harvick	548
3. J. Johnson	540
4. Ku. Busch	539
5. Ky. Busch	536
6. M. Kenseth	521
7. D. Earnhardt, Jr.	508
8. C. Bowyer	496
9. J. Gordon	480

	10. R. Newman	475
	11. D. Hamlin	463
	12. T. Stewart	460
	13. G. Biffle	446
	14. M. Martin	443
	15. A.J. Allmendinger	433





Wayne Ferreira's back-hand is impressive to see Tennis Pro and Olympian Plays With S.Q. Tennis Team

Wayne Ferreira, retired tennis professional and Olympic Silvermedalist, treated the men of San Quentin in a weekend tennis bonanza.

On June 11, 2011, on a bright and sunny Saturday morning, Wayne Ferreira made his presence felt on the tennis court.

When asked about how the men of San Quentin played, Ferreira said, "I am well impressed in how good the guys here played." He also gave coaching tips to the men, teaching them the fundamentals of the groundstroke, serve, and the volley.

The owners say they don't want players to time their contracts expiration to end at the same time, to concurrently join and create super teams. Whether

Of the six teams that received a cash stimulus from the NBA or/and owners association, all but one signed multi-million dollar free-agents this last offseason.

pace and finished in 24:35.

Coach Alton McSween gutted out the three miles with an ugly looking swollen big toe and ran 24:41, while Jonathon Wilson battled plantar fasciitis and sore feet and ran 25:50.

Laura Bowman, Coach Frank Ruona, Community Volunteers Jill Friedman and Diana Fitzpatrick supported the race.

NBA Title Slips Away From Miami Heat

The big three (LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh) was not big enough to force a game seven as Dallas defeated the Miami Heat 105 to 95, winning the series in six games and achieving their first NBA title.

Although Dirk Nowitzki struggled from the field, going 9 for 27, he finished with 21 points, taking home the Finals MVP trophy. Jason Terry carried the load scoring 27 points

and J.J Barea chipped in with 15 points of his own.

The city of Cleveland now can celebrate, enjoying the departed LeBron's agony of defeat.

- Gary "Malachi" Scott

Two of the best tennis players of San Quentin gave it their best shot as they competed against Ferreira and Tony Marshall, a top tennis amateur. Unfortunately, the men of San Quentin lost 4-0.

Afterwards, Ferreira teamed up with Chris Schuhmacher, one of the men of San Quentin and Paul Ferro, a tennis coach for kids, teamed up with "Mac," another San Quentin player. Chris and Wayne won 4-1.

Chris said, "It did not matter about who won or lost; it was guys taking part in a once-in-alifetime experience and having fun."

At the end of the day, everybody gathered and thanked him for coming and he said that he would come back again.

Ferreira played professional tennis for 24 years and currently holds the record of 64 consecutive Grand Slams played. He played in three Olympics and won the silver medal in 1992 in Barcelona

In 1995, he ranked sixth in the world, which is his highest ranking ever. He played against players such as Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Andre Aggassi. He is currently playing in the Legends Tour with them in the U.S. and Europe.

— Gary "Malachi" Scott

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Kid C.A.T. Group

Continued from Page 1

not yet ready to expose all of their ideas, realizing the importance of organization and prioritizing.

Kid C.A.T.'s Executive Secretary, Borey Ai, said, "Kid C.A.T. gives me a chance to make amends and correct the wrongs in my life. It is my hope that my story will serve as an example to the youth of how one moment of poor judgment can affect so many lives. Most importantly, I want the youth to know that they can do great things in life, if only they choose to do so." Ai, who is currently working on his Associates of Arts degree through Prison University Project, committed his crime at the age of 14.

Recently, one of Kid C.A.T.'s founders received a parole date from Governor Jerry Brown. Tung Nguyen, who served 18 years for a sentence of 15 to life, returned to his family in Orange County. While incarcerated at San Quentin, Tung took advantage of the many opportunities to better himself.

'Next Step' Graduates Seven

By ARNULFO GARCIA Staff Writer

Seven men working to change their lives graduated from The Next Step program, aimed at teaching offenders to view their crimes through the eyes of the victims.

Rochelle Edwards, who is founder and director of the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG), came to San Quentin in 2001 to particfipate in an Insight Prison Project parenting program.

"Prisons are a shadow of our society," Edwards said, adding that most people are ignorant of what goes on behind prison walls. "We are all connected, and we just can't throw people away," he added.

Next Step fosters offenders accepting responsibility for their crimes and examines the most intimate aspects of a prisoner's criminal behavior, allowing him to realize and grasp violence from the perspective of a victim.

The year-long process of selfdiscovery utilizes the principles of Restorative Justice.

Edwards told the graduates in May: "One of the unseen outcomes, aside from learning better ways to communicate, learning to respond versus react and learning how to identify your feelings, is you become fully responsible to and for yourself and capable of being entrusted to your own care. What this means is you are no longer beholden to your past patterns, your lineage, or your limiting false belief system, which is the real prison." ing up and facing the world in truth."

VOEG is one of the most sought-after programs in San Quentin. The men who complete the program are interested in continuing the work. To fill that need, VOEG provides The Next Step for those who complete the initial curriculum. Beyond that, those who have a passion for service may become a co-facilitator and assist in conducting the primary VOEG groups.

Here are a few of the graduates' comments:

Markee Carter says, "My self worth had never been destroyed, except in my own mind. So I do accept responsibility for the betrayal and break up that only made worse the pool of shame I carried around, not only from my childhood trauma, but also from the misguided life I lived thereafter. Thank God today I do know how to deal with my bad feelings without hurting my self, others or my community. Instead of pushing my bad feelings away, I speak about them with friends. Instead of blaming others, I look to see where I went wrong.'

Troy "Kogen" Williams said the VOEG program helps bring change. He takes full responsibility in putting 14 people's lives in danger in a takeover robbery. He says, "The only thing I saw was dollars at the end of the day, but I didn't realize the trauma I would put victims through, nor the trauma I would put my own family through." He adds he's appreciative for the changes in his life, which is a reflection of others in San Quentin, where men are ready for change. He said he walks down the tier and talks to just about anyone about making a change and finds that the conversations come easy, because these are men that want to make a different in their communities.

Imprisoned for 33 Years, Buddhist Monk Visits S.Q.

By ALY TAMBOURA Staff Writer

A man who spent more than three decades behind bars as a political prisoner in China gave San Quentin's prisoners an eyeopening account of how fortunate they are to be prisoners in a free country.

LamaPalden Gyatso, an 80year-old Buddhist monk, who spent 33 years in various Chinese prisons, addressed а crowd of prisoners through his assistant and interpreter, Tenzin Sherab. The

gathering of prisoners, volunteers and staff solemnly listened to him recount horrifying brutality and torture at the hands of his captors.

"During my imprisonment, I have seen countless people die from starvation and torture. They gave us so little to eat; we didn't worry about dying or suffering, we were worried about eating," said Lama Gyatso.

After the Chinese government invaded Tibet in 1959, Lama Gyatso and other Tibetans began a peaceful protest around the home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama for fear the Chinese planned to arrest him. The protesters insisted that the Chinese government had no right to be in Tibet.

"I was imprisoned because on March 10, 1959, we made a rebellion against the Chinese government to go home. Many thousands were affected," said Lama Gyatso

TYPES OF TORTURE

During his incarceration, Lama Gyatso was subject to many types of torture. In 1990, for example, he was tortured by having an electric cattle prod put in his mouth, resulting in the loss of all of his teeth. He recounted beatings, being forced to kneel on trays of broken glass for hours as he was interrogated, and being hanged by his arms and naked for seven days while being shocked repeatedly with electric cattle prods. However, hunger was his worst enemy. Over 70 percent of the prisoners starved to death, according to Lama Gyatso.

nizations working in his behalf — Lama Gyatso was released. Amazingly, he forgave his captors and from exile in India has been championing autonomy for the Tibetan people from Chinese rule.

"But all the time I was in prison and I was being tortured, I



Lama Palden Gyatso

tried to have peace of mind and develop inner peace," said Lama

Gyatso at a human rights forum in Oslo, Norway, in 2009.

"I have no hatred toward or anger either toward the Chinese government or those individuals who have tortured me; this is because, as a Buddhist monk, I believe that anger is one of the biggest negative emotions, and that it's no use being angry."

Before his departure, the Lama Gyatso told the prisoners that though they have lost their liberty not all is lost.

"In every nation there is law and it is possible that we can make a mistake and break the law. But you can always become a better person and lead a better life."

He also told the crowd that it was a blessing just to have enough food to eat while in prison and that American prisons are clean and seem more like schools.

Lama Gyatso's visit to San Quentin was sponsored by the Insight Prison Project. The entire account of his incarceration can be read in his book, "Fire Under the Snow," which is available in the prison library.

Oropeza Helped Many Gain Their Freedom

Continued from Page 1

out competent legal services. His compassionate nature compelled him to offer his time and energy into helping these people the best way he could. He gave support to prisoners with problems ranging from divorce, property claims, medical appeals, even three-strike cases. Oropeza eventually became famous for his ability to refute erroneous parole board unsuitability findings. He has been credited for obtaining the freedom of at least "a dozen people."

Oropeza's imprisonment began when a night out drinking and bowling with friends turned into an unfortunate and tragic death. Although there was a designated driver, the driver had a few drinks. During the ride home, he took a wrong turn, and cut off another driver. The death of that driver caused the district attorney to seek firstdegree murder with special circumstances, determining that the death was the result of road rage. However, Oropeza was sentenced to 15 years to life for second-degree murder. The prison sentence was devastating for his marriage; however, the relationship between his children remained intact accredited to the unselfishness of their mother. Oropeza found happiness later when his childhood friend and pen pal turned out to be his new wife. "I had the opportunity to know Mr. Oropeza on a number of levels. However, the biggest thing for me was to experience his spirit in action, said Michael R. Harris, editor-in-chief, San Quentin News."I first met him in a group that we both attended, and became member of The San

Quentin Trust Fellows. After learning about how he came to prison and witnessing his tireless efforts in helping others, I came to the belief that he was truly one of those people you couldn't help to believe that he really didn't belong in prison. And, once released, he would never return to prison. But if he did return it would be to give testimony about his work in the community to help prevent crime and uplift the disenfranchised and misguided."

"Your crime does not define who you are," Oropeza said. "The reality is that you've committed a crime, and society sees you as a failure, then you're sent to a place that is only making people worse. [Former head of CDCR] Jeanne Woodford said that. I'm only quoting her."

Oropeza believes, "People who don't go to school are missing out. They're tying their own hands behind their backs. An education allows people to visu-

Edwards spoke of the work one of San Quentin's most popular peer counselors, the late Bobby Brown, and suggested the creation of a peer counselor award in his name.

The graduation's guest speaker was Dan Millman, author of Way of the Peaceful Warrior, a personal growth book about the spiritual odyssey he underwent as a college student and worldchampion athlete. The book became a major motion picture by Loinsgate

Millman said, "It takes courage to live and love in this world. It's not about fighting, but standMike Villanueva says, "Thank God today I do know how to deal with my bad feelings without hurting myself, others or my community. Instead of pushing my bad feelings away, I speak about them with friends, Instead of blaming others; I look to see where I went wrong." "In the prisons, just for minor mistakes, you will be beaten and chained. Sometimes the chains would remain for years," he told the horror-struck crowd.

In 1992 — after years of work by NGOs and human rights orga-



alize how to live their life."

Asked what would he tell Gov. Brown regarding recidivism, Oropeza said that he would ask that the governor look at that 70 percent recidivism rate, and ask the 30 percent who made it, "What they did to stay out of prison, and utilize their knowledge for future planning."

In keeping his promise, Oropeza's last unselfish act was running up and down the tiers at San Quentin State Prison, looking for an indigent prisoner who had been imprisoned for over 30 years. The prisoner's writ needed that final touch in order to be filed in the courts for his overdue release.

— JulianGlenn Padgett and Juan Haines contributed to this story

SAN QUENTIN NEWS

A.G. Harris Urges 'Smart on Crime'

Law Column **Appellate Courts** Define 'Insight'

BY STEPHEN YAIR LIEBB Journalism Guild Writer

The question of what is a lack of insight sufficient to deny parole to a prisoner serving a life term was addressed in three cases decided by California Courts of Appeal in March and April 2011. The decisions instruct that a lack of some insight is not grounds to deny parole if an inmate accepts responsibility for the crime and understands its material aspects.

In re Javier Rodriguez on Habeas Corpus [No H035317, 6th Appellate District, 3/1/11]

The Board of Parole Hearings found Rodriguez, convicted in 1985 of a first-degree murder, suitable for parole in 2008. Former Gov. Schwarzenegger reversed the board's decision citing "inconsistent statements" made by Rodriguez regarding the crime and a mental health evaluation that found he lacked insight into the crime.

The Court of Appeal cited the risk assessment that said Rodriguez, "appears to lack valuable insight into his involvement and level of responsibility in the life crime." The evaluator concluded that Rodriguez "lacks a clear understating as to the causative factors behind his criminal actions, such as revenge or cultural or family loyalty issues, for example."

LACK OF INSIGHT

The Court of Appeal noted that. "Neither Penal Code Section 3041, not the governing regulations list 'lack of insight' as an unsuitability factor." The court acknowledged that an "inmate's lack of insight has become a standard reason" for denying parole. The court found that Rodriguez' lack of insight into why he allowed his brother to bring a gun into the car before returning to a convenience store where the victim was shot, was not "rationally indicative of current dangerousness."

The court indicated that the governor "took an isolated piece of evidence from the record and attempted to evaluate it in a vacuum."

In re Kevin Jackson on Habeas Corpus [No. B228409, 2nd Appellate District, 3/30/11]

The Court of Appeal granted Jackson's petition challenging a board's decision in 2008 denying him parole for a 1981 second-degree murder.

SHOW REMORSE

The court held that the board could not use Jackson's refusal to admit his guilt as evidence of a lack of insight. Jackson's refusal to admit his guilt could also not be used as evidence of a failure to take responsibility or show remorse.

In this case, the court said Jackson's version of the crime was not physically impossible nor did it strain credulity. Jackson accepted responsibility for the death of the victim and his insistence that he did not shoot the victim did not support a finding that he remained a danger to public safety.

In re Vincent Russo on Habeas Corpus [No. D057405, 4th Appellate District, 4/8/11]

The court upheld the 2009 decision by the board denying parole for a 1978 kidnapping for robbery. The board denied parole based on a lack of "insight into the causative factors of the crime."

The court acknowledged that the "specific term 'insight' is not used in the statutes or regulations that form a basis for granting or denying parole" [but] the concept of self-knowledge is clearly routed in consideration of an inmate's attitude about the commission of the crime."

The court found that the prisoner's version seemed to attribute "blame to the victim for his anger and subsequent actions." The court found that petitioner's attitude toward the crime was that it was "unintentional and even accidental." The court denied the petition.

Editor's Note: Tough on Crime slogans are being replaced with slogans such as "Right On Crime" and "Smart on Crime." The book "Smart on Crime" was written by Kamala Harris while she was San Francisco's first female district attorney and the first African-American woman in California to hold the district attorney's office. She is used to being a trailblazer. By opposing the death penalty as DA and taking a more lenient stance on illegal immigration, she is also no stranger to controversy. Her book argues to reverse many traditional crime-fighting tools that have failed to keep more people out of jail, and to curb record-high recidivism rate. As the newly elected California attorney general, will Harris carry the "Smart on Crime" philosophy to Sacramento?

California's top law enforcement officer says the keys to crime control are education, early intervention, gang control and preparing prison inmates for release to society.

"We are making sure that offenders who are going to be released in the city anyway have the preparation and skills that give them the highest possible chance for success," she writes.

"Being Smart demand that we focus more on understanding and redirecting the familiar and well-worn routes these offenders are taking after their release," Attorney General Kamala D. Harris writes in her book Smart On Crime, published in 2009 when she was San Francisco district attorney. She was elected state AG last year.

"To wait until the crimes are committed and simply react, after it's too late to protect the most recent individual or neighborhood victimized by yet another turn of the revolving door, is not a tough response.

"Researchers studying the ingredients of a long and healthy life say the single most important factor in determining how long the individual will live and how healthy and secure those years are likely to be - is the person's educational path.

"We support and refer families to community organizations that can provide after-school safe areas where kids can do homework and develop a peer group of children with a positive attitude about learning and access to adult help. We also encouraged our faith-based community and local businesses to partner with schools to provide mentors for students with attendance problems and offer incentives and awards to recognize student and faculty efforts to improve individual or group attendance.

"What we know from other nonprofit rehabilitative efforts like San Francisco's famous Delancey Street program, which is a minimum two-year, residential program where most participants actually stay at least four or five years, is that deep changes takes time, a comprehensive scope, and shared commitment.

'Traditionally, we have focused on trying to bring down the leaders of gangs

"Patience is another ingredient of Smart on Crime."

in hopes that the rest of the gang will scatter and dissolve. However, that is not achieving the success and safety we must demand. Keeping children in school is absolutely crucial. That is why I frequently say the paying attention to truancy is a critical step we can take to create a better and more hopeful future for children, improving the odds that they will choose a lawful and productive course in life rather than fall into the clutches of gangs. The sad truth is that prisons have come under the internal social control and dominance of gangs; it's even true that gang members on the street often report to gang members inside the prisons.

"We need to begin our interventions while gang members are still serving their sentences and demand that gang members confront the horrible consequences of violence. At the same time, we must teach them skills that will equip them to rise above these bad choices when they are released.

"Patience is another ingredient of Smart on Crime. And by that I mean an appreciation that an incremental reduction in harm should not be forsaken just because we can't solve an entire problem in one fell swoop."

Kamala D. Harris recognizes that crime will be with us forever, so she concludes "Smart on Crime" by embracing specific principles:

1. There are crimes that will demand permanent exclusion from society.

2. During long periods of incarceration, prisoners must have access to rehabilitation programs that consider organizations such as Victim Offender Education Group and Restorative Justice.

3. Incarceration must not further deteriorate an otherwise non-serious, non-violent offender.

4. The more educated the public is about how to protect themselves against crime, and the more children are directed against criminal behavior, the better chance crime will decrease. Thus, police should not just react to crime, but be deployed in a manner that will prevent it. Job training, substanceabuse treatment, and educational programs in prisons and jails are far more cost-effective in the reduction of recidivism. Invest in crime prevention education and better services for victims of crime. Approach gang culture earlier in the lives of youngsters through multilevel approaches. Work towards better partnerships between law enforcement and the community.

Marsy's Law Violates Ex-Post Facto Clause

The California Court of Appeal ruled that the increased

denied parole had to wait three years before applying for anparole deferral periods under other hearing. The court found Marsy's Law do not apply to in- this posed a significant risk that an inmate would serve an unjustified increased period of incarceration. This would occur in cases where the board could have denied parole for only one or two years, but now the minimum denial was three years. The court disagreed with another Court of Appeal which held Mary's Law was not an expost facto violation. The Court of Appeal in Russo rejected a challenge to Marsy's Law. The court also disagreed with a decision by the federal Court of Appeals in Gilman v. Schwarzenegger (9th Cir. Jan. 24th, 2011, No 10-15471), which found that the possibility of applying to the board for an advanced hearing removes any possibility of increased in-

carceration for inmates who are suitable for parole.

Because of differing conclusions between two state appeals courts, the California Supreme Court is expected to ultimately decide whether Marsy's Law applies to lifers whose crimes took place before its enactment.

The court distinguished Rodriguez from the Shaputis decision [In re Shaputis (2008) 44 Cal. 4th 1241] where a lack of insight into past criminal conduct showed an inability to recognize the circumstances that led to the commitment crime. In Shaputis that inability suggested that the inmate remained "vulnerable to those circumstances and if confronted by them again, would likely react in a similar way."

Rodriguez accepted responsibility for his role in the commitment offense. The court stated that a lack of insight into the crime "is indicative of current dangerousness only if it shows a material deficiency in [an inmate's] understanding and acceptance of responsibility for the crime."

BOARD FINDINGS

A concurring opinion by Justice Huffman stated that he disagreed with the board's finding of unsuitability. However, he was "bound to view this record from the board's perspective." Justice Huffman expressed concern "about the amorphous nature" of the factor of "lack of insight" and expressed the "hope [that] the Supreme Court will have the opportunity to take up the question of the proper role of this non-statutory factor for assessing suitability for parole."

mates whose crimes were committed before the effective date of the law.

The decision held that the provisions of Marsy's Law that allowed for parole denial for a minimum of three years and a maximum of 15 years violate the ex-post facto clause of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits laws that retroactively increase the punishment for crimes. [In re Michael Vicks on Habeas Corpus, No. D056998,4th Appellate District, May 11, 2011] Prior to the enactment of Mary's Law, the Board of Parole Hearings had the option of denying parole for one to five years. The court determined that a provision of Mary's Law required that an inmate who had been

The Board of Parole Hearings provides a form to request an advance hearing [BPH 1045 (A)]. The form allows an inmate to request an advance hearing date following a denial of parole for any length of time. However, Marsy's Law requires that an inmate wait three years until after a parole denial to apply for an earlier hearing.

The court ordered that the board reschedule a hearing for Vicks, who had been denied parole for five years.

- Stephen Yair Liebb

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June 2011

The Long Road Back to S.Q

By ALY TAMBOURA Staff Writer

On a gloomy day 17 months ago, I reluctantly boarded a bus to leave San Quentin, a prison where inmates find hope in an incredible array of rehabilitation and educational programs. A few months ago, delighted and filled with gratitude, another bus brought me back.

Strolling through North Block on my way to a college course, I overheard another prisoner complaining about this prison. It made me smile to think some men have no appreciation for the amazing opportunities San Quentin offers. Inmates at other prisons literally beg for a transfer here.

For those of you who don't know, let me tell you about my odyssey these past months.

CA MEN'S COLONY

My first stop was CMC-West on the California central coast. The prison is an old U.S. Army barracks converted to a prison in the late 1940s. Each yard has 10 old and decrepit wooden dorms jam-packed with 90 men. Many of those A-frame buildings are termite infested and are mice breeding grounds. CMC-West is devoid of the multitude of programs you find at San Quentin.

The yards stay swollen with men who have almost nothing to do except exercise. Unlike San Quentin, that prison is full of what the CDCR has labeled as disruptive groups. In contrast to S.Q., there are only a few rehabilitation programs.

To quell California's overcrowded prisons, I, along with other men, was transferred from

CMC-West to an out-of-state prison. We wound up in Wasco State Prison, housed in a building that is a staging center for out-of-state transfers. Phones are unavailable, and no laundry exchange for clean clothes or bedding. Only two showers were allowed in 13 days.

The facility is the mirror image of administrative segregation (the hole). Yard and privileges afforded to Main Line prisoners did not happen. After two weeks, I departed Wasco with 39 other unwashed, stinking men for the long bus journey to Arizona.

OUT-OF-STATE FACILITY

Red Rock Correctional Center is a private prison run by Corrections Corporation of America, which is under contract to house California inmates. The facility was clean; the cells are large and offer amenities that are not available in California prisons. For example, each unit is has an ice machine, two 40-inch flat-screen televisions and 47 channels of cable tuning, and a yard equipped with professional weight machines.

Also, prisoners are allowed to purchase a wide variety of personal property: boom boxes, X-boxes, Playstations, personal pillow and blankets, to name a few.

SECURITY CONCERNS

I arrived in Eloy, Ariz. 16 hours after leaving California. Two days after my arrival, the prison had a full-blown race riot; staff and prisoners were injured.

After a month of lockdown, the prison was on modified program, allowing prisoners out of their cells for three hours a day. After a week of modified program, the Southern Hispanics assaulted two correctional staff members, resulting in a Hispanic lockdown.

Two days after the Hispanics were locked down, the white and African-American prisoners had another race riot. Then the entire prison population was locked down.

The riots were troubling, but what concerned me further was that the staff did not appear to have riot-control/prevention training.

There are no guns, the guards carry no batons and had difficulty regaining control of the prison. Amenities are not a replacement for safety and Red Rock Correctional Center is not safe

RETURN TO CALIFORNIA

I returned to San Quentin Feb. 17 to finish the Prison University Project (PUP), which I was enrolled in before being transferred.

I am grateful to be back and to be able to participate in the rehabilitation programs, especially PUP, which was instrumental in getting me transferred back.

San Quentin is unique in its low violence, multitude of programs, and the overall environment. Make no mistake: it is a privilege to be here. I never thought I would be happy to go to a prison, but S.Q. is superior to any other I know about.

LETTERS

Organic Gardening Making a Difference

Editor:

I'm a long-time member of the Insight garden program, an awesome program brought to us by a true humanitarian. The program is designed to help rehabilitate inmates through the process of

Men in the program get a chance to learn vocational and life skills that may help them become productive members of society.

Beth is also responsible for bringing us an array of guests CEO's to urban farmers, teachers and spiritual advisors.

The program has been offered to the men of H-unit for the past nine years. Beth is also helping men after they parole.

Health and Wellness Corner

The San Quentin News "Health and Wellness Corner" column runs when articles are submitted for publication. Centerforce Peer Health Education facilitators (A. Carranza, K. Leal, L. Morris, and Dr. Lifshay) contribute to this column. Feel free to ask questions about health concerns 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: What can you do to reduce risk of getting Hepatitis C?

As discussed in the Health Center article in the April issue of the San Quentin News, Hepatitis C is transmitted from person to person through blood to blood contact.

Here are some questions we have received related to preventing transmission of Hepatitis C:

Is bleaching an outfit a guaranteed way to kill the Hepatitis C virus?

If I burn a tattoo needle that is infected with Hepatitis C blood, will that kill the virus?

I heard that alcohol is an effective way to kill the Hepatitis C virus. Is this true?

No. There is no guarantee that bleaching an outfit, burning a tattoo needle, or using alcohol will kill the Hepatitis C virus. Hepatitis C virus is a very "hearty" or strong virus. It can live outside the body, under the right conditions, for several days.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Bleaching, boiling, burning, or using common cleaning fluids, alcohol, or peroxide will not clean needles, tools and other instruments. These methods are not strong enough to kill the Hepatitis C virus. The virus can still spread easily from one person to another."

I read the bottle of Cellblock 128 (disinfectant) and it says it kills Hepatitis C, so I can use that to clean my outfit, right?

No. Cellblock 128 is designed and has been tested to be used to clean specific items. These specific items do not include cleaning outfits. Furthermore, if you read the directions on the back of the bottle, it is only under certain conditions that the solution is effective. Therefore, if you do not use Cell Block 128 to clean items for which it was designed, and you do not use it according to the directions on the back of the bottle, it is not guaranteed to be effective at killing Hepatitis C.

The bottom line is that to be most careful, if you are going to use any injecting paraphernalia, needles, or any tattoo equipment (needle, gun, barrel, ink, etc), use your own. Do not buy or borrow anything else, whether it has been "cleaned" or not.

Is it true that you can get Hepatitis C from sex?

Yes, but it is rare. There have been some long-term studies of hundreds of heterosexual couples, where one person has Hepatitis C and the other person does not at the beginning of the study. After many years of following these couples, researchers found that there was essentially no transmission of Hepatitis C from partner to partner in these studies. There have been some cases of sexual transmission of Hepatitis C, but these have mostly been among HIV-positive people, and more often among men who have sex with men.

Researchers are still looking into why and under what con-

organic gardening.

and volunteers ranging from

— Raymond Sotelo

Cutting Wasteful Spending

Editor:

If the Governor is serious about cutting wasteful spending by CDCR, a brilliant plan (which 30 years of wasteful 'directors' have rejected) is the Inmates' Award Program which would pay inmates for successful cost/ labor saving suggestions.

The Merit Award Program only pays staff, who are usually

the source of the waste in the first place.

You know it's never going to be evaluated or implemented when you propose health, safety, hygiene or efficiency suggestions. "Denied, denied, denied, denied, go to court." That's the four levels of the (now obsolete) 602 system.

There are suggestions to save millions of dollars, without any effect on "security", but 'brass' won't listen - it would be career suicide to pay any inmate for fixing a problem the 'brass' have tolerated, for decades. It's an admission of incompetence to do so

-D. Clark.

ditions this transmission occurs. As CDC says, "(It is possible to transmit Hep C during sex), but the risk of transmission from sexual contact is believed to be low. The risk increases for those who have multiple sex partners, have a sexually transmitted disease, engage in rough sex, or are infected with HIV. More research is needed to better understand how and when Hepatitis C can be spread through sexual contact."

The bottom line is that in most situations, it is very rare for transmission of Hepatitis C to occur during sex, but it can happen. To be most careful, if either you or your partner has Hepatitis C, you should use condoms during sexual intercourse.

Remember, Always get the facts! The organization's web site is www.Centerforce.org

Federal Drug Administration Being Sued by Death Row Prisoners

Lawyers representing six Death Row inmates are suing the Federal Drug Administration over the importing of sodium thiopental, an anesthetic used as part of the lethal threedrug cocktail in state executions, CNN reported.

"The imported thiopental in question has not been listed with the FDA, was manufactured by foreign companies that have not

registered with the FDA, and was exported by a wholesaler in the United Kingdom," the lawsuit says.

The attorneys allege that the FDA violated federal law by allowing states to import unapproved supplies of thiopental

Family Camp Ready to Open for the 2011 Season

By DAVID MARSH Former Staff Writer

Editor's Note: David Marsh, now paroled, was a Staff Writer for S.Q. News and periodically submits articles for publication with his permission.

The shy ten-year-old boy takes several halting, tentative steps up the sidewalk leading to the closed door, his small hands tightly clutching two bags in one hand, a larger jar in the other. P.Nuttles! Delicious butter toffee peanuts! The currency of choice for successive generations of many YMCA summer-campbound youngsters.

The door opens, somehow the confused young lad stumbles through the sales pitch, and a sale is made! His eyes brimming with happiness, the boy bounds back down the sidewalk to his waiting Dad, his hand tightly clutching the money he has earned.

After excitedly counting the accumulating proceeds of his earnest efforts, he proudly heads off to the next door, his steps noticeably lighter, confidence in his abilities growing! Watching the boy, the father smiles, clearly savoring the moment.

This proud youngster is one of the lucky ones, said YMCA Camp Sequoia Lake Director Evan Gelsi. "The camp experience is intended to start long before the actual six days at the camp."

The peanut sales, Gelsi explained, are part of the process that builds confidence and pride in the kids, happy in the knowledge that they have paid their own way on what, for so many children and teenagers throughout the Tulare, Kings and Fresno County area, has become a cherished annual rite of passage.

For over 700 kids throughout the three-county area, that tradition will continue on June 19 when the Golden State YMCA, operator of the five villages scattered around the shores of Lake Sequoia, opens for the first of its eight 2011 summer sessions. The sessions continue through July 29.

Sequoia Lake, a pine-forested 628 acre tract of land at the 5,500 ft. elevation, is located in the Sierras east of Fresno adjacent to the entrance to Kings Canyon National Park. The man-made lake was formed in 1890 with the damming of Mill Flat Creek and served for a number of years as a logging reservoir.

Valley YMCA's, which have offered camping at the lake since 1912, purchased the tract from George and Anne Louise Hume, of Fresno, in 1922 for the sum of \$30,000.

This year, according to Gelsi, 29, in his 10th year with the YMCA and 4th as the camp director, the camp will host an expected 2,200 campers from 13 countries around the world, including the 224 families who have signed up for family camp.

"Family camp," according to Gelsi "is the fastest growing segment of our summer program." Accommodations for family camp range from tent sites to apartments with multiple rooms and indoor bathrooms. Prices, based on a family of four, range from \$888.00 to \$2,200.00.

Y Camp offers an exciting slate of activities for campers of all ages, including fishing, swimming, kayaking, arts and crafts, hiking and an overnight campout, archery, boating, disc golf and theater, just to name a few.

"But perhaps most important," says Gelsi, "are the friendships formed and the relationships renewed, and the memories that last a lifetime."

Many of the children begin in the half-week-long PeeWee Camp program (2nd and 3rd grades) and return year after year through Youth Camp (3rd to 8th grades), then on into Teen Camp (9th to 12th grades). For the adventurous-on-wheels, the Y offers Skate Camp! Prices for the PeeWee, Youth and Teen Camps range from \$350.00 -\$500.00.

But core to the YMCA's program is its annual camp scholarship program which this year raised over \$120,000 through private and corporate donors. The scholarships are provided on an income-based, sliding scale that pays all but a small portion of the camp fee for families unable to afford the full price. Over 60 percent of the 700 kids from Tulare, Kings and Fresno Counties who will attend Camp Lake Sequoia this year will receive some sort of scholarship through the program.

In spite of the recession, according to Gelsi, the number of kids who attend the camp has remained steady, as have donations to the program.

Camp Lake Sequoia also offers a week-long session for diabetics, as well as Heroes Camp, which kids of military families attend free. The Heroes Camp program is sponsored by the Sierra Club and the Armed Services YMCA.

Gelsi laments the steady decline in the number of families who participate in the peanut sales.

"The biggest factor," he said, "is it creates an ownership factor in the camp experience. The kids earn self-confidence and come to camp with a sense of self-accomplishment."

Peanut sales, so essential to the camping experience and the fond memories of past generations, once reached a participation level of over 60 percent of camp-bound youngsters, are now down to around 10 percent, said Gelsi.

State's Money Crisis Endangers S.Q. Self-Help Programs

By JEFFREY LITTLE Journalism Guild Writer

Most inmates arriving at San Quentin are amazed by the programs, recreation and work opportunities offered.

There is Prison University Project and Prison Industry Authority (P.I.A.) for close-B inmates, plus library access and self-help groups. However, lately programs of recreation and jobs are diminishing. Historically when California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation eliminates a program, it is gone forever.

P.I.A. has officially cut the work week down to three days. Wednesday night library is gone due to unavailable staff. In addition, to Thursday's implementation of 'no yard second or third Watch, inmates housed in North Block and H-Unit are losing their morning yard on weekends, and on several days per week. Due to the state's budget deficit, state correctional staff has been forced to accept another 5 percent pay cut. Yet, inmates are still expected to program and to perform their duties regardless of loss of program.

According to CDCR's Title 15 §3044(8)(c) Privileges; "Privileges for each working/training incentive group shall be those privileges that are earned by the inmate. Inmate privileges are administratively authorized activities and benefits required by statute, case law, governmental regulations, or executive order."

Rescinding an inmate's earned privilege is an adverse action more applicable to be served on a troublesome inmate. Fact is, when an inmate violates rules and regulations, correctional staff are quick to mete out some form of punishment. Yet, many believe a form of punishment is being unfairly sanctioned on inmates who have earned their privilege to all activities authorized by CDCR.

This is not a safety issue because CDCR has chosen specific days to withdraw privileges and therefore are in the process of implementing a new policy within the prison. Inmates have earned the right and the privilege to enjoy their time off from work assignment or school assignment.

Tackling The Largest Contributing Factors of Recidivism

By ARNULFO GARCIA Staff Writer

Harbor House Director Marcy Orosco tackles three of the largest contributors to recidivism: lack of housing, unemployment and chemical dependency.

"When you walk in the doors of our program, we'll test you for alcohol and drugs," said Orosco. and chemical dependency to the prisoners.

These services are also utilized by single parents and veterans, virtually, anyone in need. The Salvation Army Harbor House Transitional programs motto is, "Doing the most good."

Harbor House is a non-governmental agency that provides a safe environment for families with up to three children. Its transitional residency program typically lasts between six to eight months and ends when permanent housing. State-licensed childcare is provided on-site, where city psychologists come to work with the kids. A family stays as long as the children's needs are being met. incarcerated people that deserve a second chance."

She explained that potential employers are afraid to hire ex-cons, but once she lets them know what her residents at Harbor House went through, they want to hire them.

As a non-profit, they are always open for donations and for landlords to give apartments. The staff has worked with the San Francisco Rotary Club and with internet giant Craigslist. com.. Orosco attends the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin once a month to provide its members with the latest information regarding services available to veterans.

She said she is concerned over the spike in younger veterans with post-traumatic stress disorders, chemical dependency, and

New Law May Benefit Prisoners

WASHINGTON - U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said some prisoners already serving time should benefit from a new law that lowers sentences for crack cocaine offenses, but only if their crimes did not involve weapons and they do not have lengthy arrest records. Holder was testifying before the U.S. Sentencing Commission when he made the statements. Last year, Congress passed and President Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act, which reduces penalties for crack cocaine offenses to reduce the disparity with powder cocaine penalties. The act addressed new cases but not old ones. The commission is considering whether to apply lower sentencing guidelines resulting from the new law retroactively. Crack cocaine offenders receive longer sentences than those convicted of offenses involving powder cocaine.

"If you're willing to work, we're here to help people, but they must be willing to do the work. I'll put my hand out, but they have to grab it," she said in a telephone interview.

SALVATION ARMY

Harbor House, is a large housing and chemical dependency program, located in San Francisco. It is a branch of the Salvation Army.

"I've been working at Harbor House for 25 years and the director for two years," Orosco said. "We're a large housing and chemical dependency program."

Orosco regularly visits local jails and prisons around California to provide information regarding housing, unemployment Orosco travels around the community providing information to potential employers about the formerly incarcerated. "They made a mistake and need our support." Orosco said.

A SECOND CHANCE

"I go to speak to corporations so employers will get over their fears and understand the importance of working with formerly

RECOVERY

"Everybody that's in recovery here has had an addiction at one time," she stated. "Our program provides a sober environment, but if you're still using drugs, you won't be coming here."

However if someone does relapse in their recovery, they can reapply after five to six months sobriety and they have to go to detox.

"Help is not over, but they have to leave Harbor House because we have a zero tolerance policy." homelessness in the last couple of months.

"I love my job, because I'm giving hope to all kinds of people everyday," said Orosco. "When I meet judges and district attorneys, and I get a person from being sent to state prison and back with their children, it's beneficial for everyone."

Orosco suggests that potential clients contact her around three months prior to release.

San Quentin prisoners may contact the California Reentry Program's Allyson West to contact Harbor House.

Harbor House is located at 407 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103, (415) 503-3022.

— Michael R. Harris and JulianGlenn Padgett contributed to this story.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



S.Q. prisoners enjoying the performance of The Grave Robber production A Message of Love by a Unique Production

By LAQUAN HAYES Journalism Guild Writer

Hitland brought its annual production of "The Grave Robber" back to San Quentin with a message of love and the question of what will you do with your life after death.

As men filed into the foyer of the Protestant Chapel they were met by a large portrait of a young man and on the portrait read 1988-2011.

EERIE SOUND

The eerie sound of an organ played as men in blue shirts accented with white carnations escorted inmates into the candlelit sanctuary. As the ceremony began, a family sat in the front row weeping and mourning.

Derrick Holloway said, "I sensed a feeling of finality each step I took, I wondered if this is for real."

A priest stood and prayed and gave a eulogy while a somber feeling hovered over the audience. Garvis Brown, who played the priest, became a member of the Hitland team after visiting his brother behind the glass at San Quentin for 14 years.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS

"God has shown me that people need to come in and present themselves as brothers and sisters," said Brown. "People need to heal themselves from bitterness and anger toward inmates."

Team said they feel their production serves the inmate population.

Ryan Rhoads played the best friend of Tommy, a young man facing life after death. "Jesus said, He came to give us life in John 10:10; it doesn't say He came to tell us how horrible we are."

The production raised issues of life after death, adding a message of love. As graphic images progress through Tommy's childhood and adulthood, the audience looked at the big screen

attentively as he faces the consequences of his poor choices.

Brad Walker, founder of Hitland Productions, is known at San Quentin as the "hot dog man" because he passes out free hot dogs to inmates.

THREE THINGS

"Hitland is about three things: preaching the Gospel, raising people up in the ministry, and breaking down the walls. This is a psychological thriller that invites the audience into its production. The point is to blur the reality of realness and production," Walker said. "We're assaulting your mind to crack open your heart. The choices you make in life will affect your after life."

Hitland Productions is preparing for another day of hot dogs and live entertainment for the month of July.

The team includes Brad Walker, Marti Walker, Ken Brown, Lorraine, Ryan Rhoades and Garvis Brown.

Asian Theater Classes Promote Racial Unity

During the fall semester, Patten University offered a course in Asian- and African-American Theater. The African lessons were later dropped due to the professors scheduling therefore Asian theater became the main focus.

Terry Park taught the classes. He is pursuing a master's degree at the University of California at Davis. Park has been involved in theater throughout his high school and college years. He started his own off-Broadway production group, Vassar, that featured a show called "38th Parallel."

The production group focused on ethic diversity and presented acting opportunities for people of color. The show was picked up by Pan Asian Repertoire Theater. Park introduced his students to Kilusan Bautista, who is a hip-hop theater actor. Bautista also uses theater to advocate for racial unity.

Bautista was raised in San Francisco and moved to New York to promote his one-man theater act. He is currently promoting his act throughout California college campuses.

With a live D.J. on turntables, Bautista dances and singlehandedly portrays multiple characters. He re-enacts the episodes he experienced growing up in an Filipino-American family with an alcoholic father.

Bautista's father pressured him to learn to speak Tagalog, even though his father did not speak the language himself. He struggled with the trauma of living in a dysfunctional home. Bautista found solace through the hip-hop he heard in his African-American community of Sunnydale in San Francisco.

He had finally found a creative outlet that allowed him to represent his Filipino heritage. While performing before a classroom of Patten theater students, Bautista grabbed the attention of his small audience. Accompanied by a CD playing on a boom box, he ran in circles, bowed as if to the sun, and did stomp tribal-type movements as flutes echoed throughout the classroom. His performance wowed the audience.

VISIBLE PASSION

Theater student Phoeun You stated, "You can really see his passion. I like the way he just stepped out of the box... he made something out of nothing."

During Bautista's performance he was forced to improvise as the CD often skipped.

Bautista took his life experiences of being raised in a dysfunctional home to the stage. However, he said his family sharply opposed the idea due to Asian family codes of secrecy. He said he feels that by sharing his life experience, it inspires others to do the same.

J.C. Cavitt was a theater student and audience member who watched in awe as Bautista performed. Cavitt is also a theater performer for the Protestant Chapel drama team. Cavitt stated, "By watching his performance, I was really inspired. It inspired me enough to start thinking about doing a one-man performance myself. I've even jotted down some ideas. By watching him do it, I know I can do it too."

Bautista said he is fully aware of the power of influence that theater has on others. "It starts with the heart. When you have a message, you have to be real about it. There is no one else to blame. The responsibility is intense," he said.

— Laquan Hayes

S.Q. Talent Show Brings Down the House at the Chapel

By: JUAN HAINES Journalism Guild Writer

Ben Prince's comedy roast of defending champion Huggie's standup comedy act took first brothers (the back-up singers) my dream of entertaining an audience came true."

Third place honors went to Keshun "Daleadamown" Tate's spoken word performance of a chapter from his autobiography, self-criticizing his trials and tribulations with crack addiction. Mother Earline, a supporter of Christian values, has been involved with the Garden Chapel for more than 25 years. She told the performers, "I'll be playing the stage. Another prisoner who lamented over the two years he spent composing a song was initially booed until the song took hold to the finicky audience. He Running Out Of Time

SACRAMENTO — California Gov. Jerry Brown said he may ask federal judges for more

place at the annual San Quentin talent show in the Garden Chapel.

Although this was Prince's first appearance in the SQ talent show, he has had some experience with stand up comedy. Prince was an amateur performer at the comedy club in Long Beach, "I've been a class clown all my life."

Second place went to Angel Alvarez for his lip-sync of Night Time is the Right Time, by Ray Charles and James Brown's classic, Please, Please, Please, which included back-up singers, John Vaden, Julian Glenn Padgett, and Terrell Merritt.

Alvarez said, "I've always wished for the ability to make people laugh and thanks to my Mother Earline and San Quentin drama team members, Kevin Carr and James Cabot organized the show for an audience of about 100 prisoners. Carr said, "The talent show is for everyone to have fun, regardless of faith." Robert "Bishop" Butler and James Cabot announced the 13 scheduled performances that included music, dance, poetry, rap, and spoken word.

Judges: Mother Earline, Danny Cox, and "Pete" selected the top five acts for the audience, by applause to choose first, second, and third place. Pete said, "The best act definitely won. the role of Simon. If you don't get picked, take it like a man and move on...this is for laughter and fun."

Curt, a prisoner was asked if he would boo an act. He said, "Talent is relative - I wouldn't easily boo an act because it takes a lot of courage to get up there." But, Black, another prisoner said, "Oh yeah, I'd boo. People come in here thinking that they have talent, but everybody in San Quentin knows they don't." The audience was vicious. Most acts didn't last the one minute allotted before booing was allowed - sort of like the gong show with an Apollo twist. Sandman, played by Mike Beard, had plenty of work as he swept booed acts stage left. Shakespeare was brutally booed off

made it to the final five.

Afterwards, Prince said, "It was all in fun. I didn't mean any harm to my friend, Huggie." Prisoners housed in "H" Unit were not included in the talent show because of administrative reasons, but the organizers said they look forward to including them next time.

— Samuel Hearnes contributed to this story. time to reduce the state's prison population by more than 30,000 inmates. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that California's overcrowded prisons violate the constitutional rights of prisoners, and gave officials two years to cut the number of inmates. However, Gov. Brown said the timelines offered by the high court weren't realistic

Correction

In the Mar/Apr issue of the San Quentin News, the story regarding the rescue of a couple from San Francisco Bay incorrectly attributed the following quote to Fire Capt. S. Long. The quote was by firefighter Derrick Edgerly. "Any one of us was ready to jump into the water to save a life. We are human beings. We made a mistake, but it doesn't mean that we are not capable of change." The S.Q. News regrets the error. June 2011

POETRY

ABSENCE OF THE ARCHBISHOP By GEOFFREY G. O'BRIEN You meet at most four archbishops in a lifetime. You have at most one lifetime. You sing when in pain and expect to be heard. You see the outline of holy figures, their windows and blinds. You want to kiss the gold of the coat and you want it to come off on your lips. You think of singing gold songs and are not for a moment in pain. You see the sun not as it is but as it will be without you, cold gold with all the windows closed. You expect to be heard singing in your house. I CAN'T WRITE A POEM By KYLE M. COLE I can't write a poem in this place I can strafe the windows with hard looks I can hear drive-bys and

far-flung Rooks toppling across the back bar I can clearly see my son's face I can pick at a thousand sores forming Into memories I can hear tock-tock use buys chanting In their maladies But I can't write a poem in this place.

SAN QUENTIN HAIKU=HAIQU By KYLE M. COLE With new orange clothes I see, the cart roll away into fluorescents Peninsula breeze clutching me on the yard glances want blood and money Lovelv female women are the true soft source I'm so glad you're here Rushing for a tray a J-cat reminded them of long lost children **Puffs float from Oakland** where did your teeth run off to I smell taco trucks Fog and sun mixing during yard side chow call as gulls caw loosely **MOTHERS DAY** By KEITH ALLEN LEWIS SR. "Mothers Day Is Everyday" At age 3 it's, "Mom, I love you." At age 8 it's, "Mom, you're the best." At age 13 it's, "Mom, whatever!" At age 16 it's, "Ugh, you get on my nerves." At age 18 it's, "I can't wait

At age 25 it's, "Mom, you were right." At age 30 it's, "I want to move back with mom." At age 50 it's, "I don't want to lose mom." At age 70 it's, "I would do anything to have mom back by my side." You only get one mom; the one that gave you life. So love; cherish; respect and honor her while you can;

to move out."

because when you don't In Indian Country

> **By RONALD 'YANA' SELF** Journalism Guild Writer

Though all plants are purposeful and important, four plants

SAN QUENTIN NEWS

have her by your side, you're going to wish that you did... This; our reminder to everyone that; we're to cherish; and to be thankful to God for your mother's presence; for her good health; and for all of her nurturing ways Everyday; and "NOT" just on the one day in which "THEY" call Mothers Day; But Everyday; BE IT GOD'S WILL... Our message; is UNIVER-SAL; to all mothers; whom are to be [TRULY] LOVED by all of us; BE IT GOD'S WILL...

We hereby declare that: "Mothers Day; is EVERY-DAY;" and that: "EVERY-DAY; is Mothers Day"

WAVEMAKER By KYLE M. COLE When the world ends I will be in a plane and have a few more minutes than you when the world ends I will be a bolt of lighting splitting an oak at midnight When the world ends I will be pure conscious awareness under the Bhodi tree when the world ends I will be a cassette tape all pulled out and fluttering on the freeway when the world ends I'll kiss all the girls That said kiss me tomorrow I'll make Hindu Brim legs Serve oatmeal to the Ganges I'll break down walls and Expose the dark side of "civilized" When the world ends.

RUFF BOY By MATTHEW BREEN Ruff boy tuff boy the kind you couldn't love boy drinks smokes even does dope. Knife in his pocket a gleam in his eye a gun to his head not afraid to die. First hear a bang, then a low sigh from a helpless boy who just died.







NAKED TRUTH (By Amy J. Fetzer) – CIA Operative Alexa Gavilan is in a fix when she is left in a South American jungle, with the last 30 days gone.



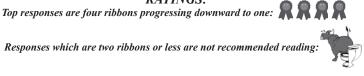
PLAY DEAD (By Harlan Coben) – Life gets more complicated when ex-model investigates the death of her basketball star husband.

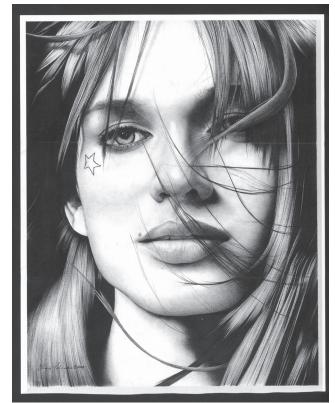


WICKED (By Gregory Macguire) -Imaginative account of the origins of Oz's "Wicked Witch of the West."

RATINGS:

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





Featured artwork of Chad Tobias © 2008

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Book

Review

By RANDY MALUENDA

PUPPET (By Joy Fielding) – Tab girl/

attorney Amanda Travis' comfortable

resurface when her estranged mother

world is rocked and ugly memories

SILENT WITNESS (By Richard

friend of murder charges.

North Patterson) – Criminal lawyer

Tony Lord reluctantly returns to his

estranged home town to defend an old

murders a stranger.

1. Tobacco is used in the offering of prayer to the Great Spirit. The smoke contains the prayers that are then lifted skyward.

2. Cedar purifies; good fortune will come your way if you carry cedar in your shoes.

3. Sage cleans the body and repels negative energy.

4. Sweetgrass also purifies and is carried for positive.

"So I know that it is a good thing I am going to do; and because no good thing can be done by any man alone. I will first make an offering and send a voice to the spirit world, that it may help me to be true. See I fill this sacred pipe with the bark of the red willow; but before we smoke it you must see how it is made and what it means. These four ribbons hanging here on the stem are the four quarters of the universe. The black one is for the west where the thunder beings live to send us rain; the white one is for the north, whence the comes the great white cleansing wind; the red one for the east, whence the morning star lives to give men wisdom. The yellow for the south, whence comes the summer and the power to grow." Black Elk

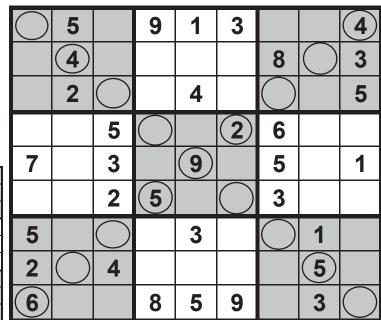
Oglala Sioux, 1863-1950

Ruff boy tuff boy the kind you couldn't love boy just a poor little mixed up boy.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku by troy A. Ashmus



D.A. Eyes Death Penalty

By: JUAN HAINES Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón expresses the right to seek the death penalty in "very heinous" cases. "I'm not going to compromise," reported the San Francisco Examiner.

In spite of this position, Gascón does not believe the death penalty is "the right tool," saying it has a disproportionate affect on minorities, does not bring closure to victims' families and has a great cost financially.

Gascón is a former Republican who registered as a Democrat after being appointed district attorney earlier this year.

Golden Gate University law professor Peter Keane told the SF Examiner, "He automatically lost a chunk of San Francisco voters. According to Keane, in San Francisco there is a "hardcore" group of between 30 and 35 percent of voters who would vote against someone supporting the death penalty in any form, "no matter who's running against them."

News Briefs

SACRAMENTO The California Senate has approved SB26, which creates a misdemeanor for any prison employee or visitor smuggling a cell phone into prison. An inmate caught in possession of a cell phone would lose early release credits of up to 180 days. Currently, possessing a cell phone in a California prison violates prison rules but is not illegal.

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown announced the layoff of more than 130 employees at the state prison system's headquarters. Brown's office said the layoffs would reduce general fund spending by \$30 million and eliminate about 266 vacant positions at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation headquarters. The cuts were first suggested when Brown released a revised budget plan that included eliminating 5,500 positions statewide. The measure will eliminate 32 executive-level corrections jobs and more than 100 management and supervisory positions, Brown's office said. More than 1,000 headquarters positions, or about 25 percent, have been eliminated during the past 18 months, reducing staffing levels to about 2005 levels, Brown's office said.

HUNTSVILLE, TX — A 42-year-old convicted killer, Gayland Bradford, was executed for the robbery-murder of a Dallas grocery store security guard almost 23 years ago. Four days after Christmas in 1988, he took \$7 from 29-year-old Brian Williams, then gunned him down. Bradford was on parole for a robbery conviction when he was arrested for the murder. Bradford became the fourth Texas prisoner executed this year.

MEXICO CITY — Calling the global war on drugs a costly failure, a group of high-profile world leaders is urging the Obama administration and other governments to end the war. A report by the Global Commission on Drug Policy has recommended that governments try new ways of legalizing and regulating drugs, especially marijuana, as a way to deny profits to drug cartels. The recommendation was swiftly dismissed by the Obama administration and the government of Mexico. The two administrations are allied in a violent 4 1/2-year-old crackdown on cartels that has led to the deaths of more than 38,000 people in Mexico.

Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

MAY 1981 - Approximately 200 law students from area colleges attended the Warden's Tour and Banquet Apr. 11. The tours, conducted once a month in March through October, were started during the tenure of Warden Clinton Duffy (1940-51) as an effort to increase the public's awareness of San Quentin. Each group is assigned an inmate tour guide.

MAY 1981 - The gunrail officer in the Protective Housing Unit fired three rounds of birdshot to break up a scuffle between several guards and two convicts under the influence of pruno. The ricocheting pellets sent one guard and two cons to

MAY 1981 - A release date scheduled for next month wasn't quite good enough for ranch resident Charles Sorg, 33. Sorg jumped the gun and escaped on May 3, when he was discovered missing during the 10:30 count.

MAY 1981 - Forty-two moms from throughout California traveled to San Quentin to share breakfast behind the bars with their lucky convict sons for the Annual Family Day treat. One Mom came all the way from Illinois and two came from Nevada. A good day was had by all.

MAY 1981 – A story in the S.Q. News reported that the library featured 15 daily California newspapers, including some in Chinese, Japanese and Spanish. Among the 82 different magazines that can be found there are Playboy, Sports Illustrated, Business World and Low Rider. JUNE 1981 - In the sixth stabbing in six days at Folsom prison, a convicted murderer was stabbed in the back with a 10-inch knife. He underwent surgery and was in stable condition. There were no suspects in custody and the incidents do not appear related at this time. There are 1,855 inmates at Folsom, about 100 more than the prison was designed to hold. JUNE 1981 – Chief Justice Warren E. Burger called for mandatory educational and vocational programs for prison inmates. He also called for a national academy for the training of prison and jail guards.

JUNE 1981 - Fearing that guards might be smuggling weapons in to inmates in maximum security cells, Warden George Sumner has called for a rule requiring guards to pass through a metal detector upon entering the prison. On May 20, guntower guard Atha Frazier, 28, was arrested for carrying a loaded pistol and ammunition into the prison. Frazier, a guard for eight months, has been charged with possessing drugs on prison grounds and smuggling a firearm into a prison. In the past, searches of the Adjustment Center have turned up street-made knives and hacksaw blades. JUNE 1981 - An officer working the adjustment Center was attacked and stabbed with a spear-type weapon by an inmate being removed from the shower area. The weapon was a spear approximately 18 inches long with a two-and-a-half-inch steel tip. The guard was treated at Marin General Hospital and released. JUNE 1981 - A C-Section inmate was in serious condition following four hours of surgery to remove a knife that was stabbed through his neck. Permanent damage may include paralysis to the victim's left extremities. There were no witnesses to the assault.

Officer Attacked In Segregated Unit

San Quentin officials are investigating an attack by an inmate on a correctional officer on June 8.

Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson said the attack occurred at approximately 3:15 p.m. in the Security Housing Unit Law Library.

The inmate "attempted to murder a correctional officer," Robinson said. "The inmate requested to use the restroom facility. When the officer opened the library booth door, the inmate slipped his handcuffs and repeatedly struck the officer in the face and head area with the handcuffs. Responding staff had

to use physical force to stop the attack."

"The officer's injuries consisted of lacerations and abrasions to the facial area," Robinson added. "The injuries he sustained were not life-threatening and he did not require hospitalization. An investigation is underway to determine the causative factors surrounding this brutal attack."

Robinson said the Southern Hispanic-affiliated, Administrative-Segregation inmate was housed in the Adjustment Center.

The identities of the inmate and officer were not disclosed.

-Lt. Sam Robinson

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We Want	San
To Hear	Quentin
From You! The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.	News Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:
All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.	www.sanquentinnews.com or
Please use the following criteria when submitting:	http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/ Visitors/San_Quentin_News/ SQ-San_Quentin_News.
• Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.	html The opinions expressed herein do
• Know that articles may be edited for content and length.	not necessarily reflect those of the Administration, or the inmate popu- lation, and should be considered solely the opinion of the individual
• 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.	author unless specified. Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the San Quentin News provided credit is given the author and this publica- tion, except for articles reprinted herein from other publications.
• Please do not use offensive lan- guage in your submissions.	Administrative Review Warden's Office Lt. S. Robinson Christine Remillard Senior AdvisorJohn Eagan
Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.	AdvisorJoan Lisetor AdvisorSteve McNamara
• Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.	S.Q. News Staff Editor-in-ChiefMichael R. Harris Managing Editor JulianGlenn Padgett
Send Submissions to: CSP - San Quentin Education Dept. / SQ News	Design EditorFernando Lemus Copy EditorKevin O'Donnell Staff WriterArnulfo Garcia Staff WriterAlv Tamboura

the hospital.

MAY 1981 - The Supreme Court left intact rulings that the five-month lockdown was not cruel and unusual punishment. The case stemmed from 1974 when there had been 82 assaults with weapons, 12 murders of inmates and eight assaults with weapons on staff. As a result, inmates were locked in their cells 24 hours a day for five months.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The prison population of San Quentin reached 1,000 on Oct. 8, 1874; it was almost 2,000 in 1907; and it reached it's maximum of 6,397 on July 7, 1934. The current population can be found on the masthead of page one of this paper.

San Quentin, CA 94964 (No street address required)

Stall writer Aly fallooura
Sports EditorVacant
Traffic ManagerR. Richardson

Also contributions by the



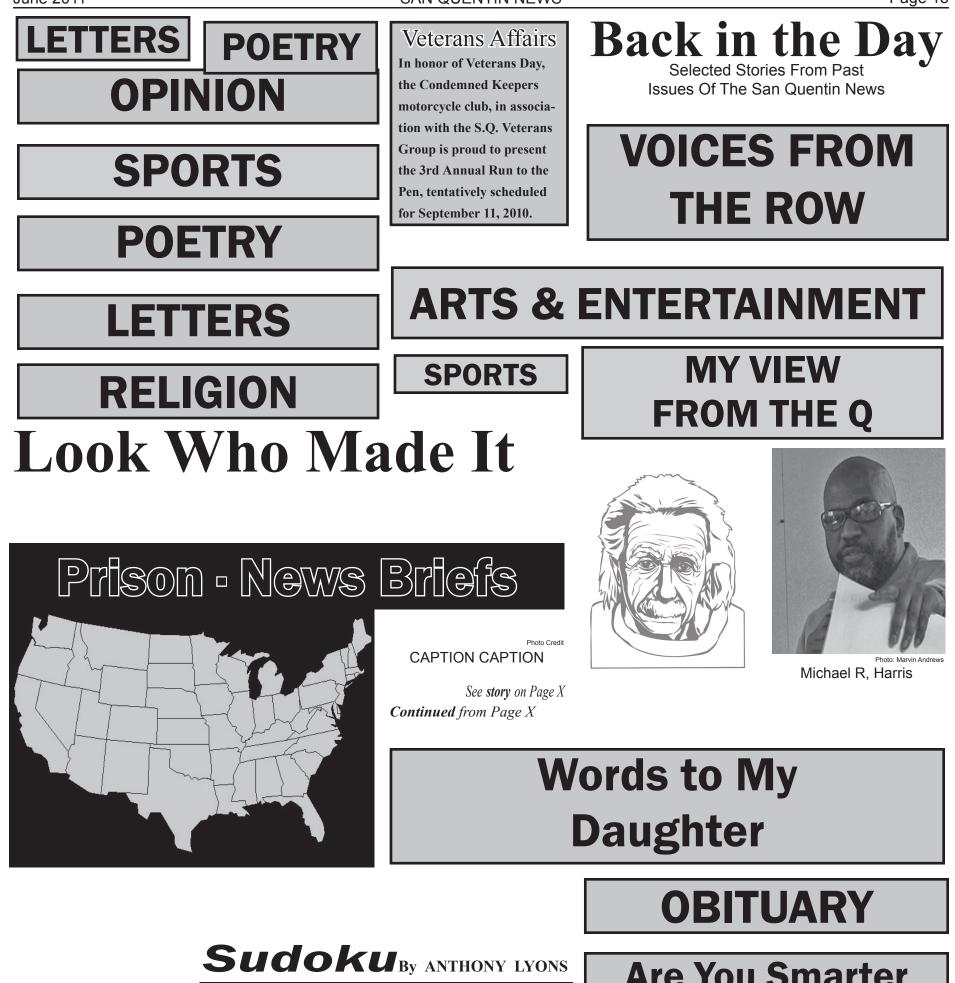
BEHIND THE SCENES

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/C-One World Media Group is devoted to bridging gaps and building community.

June 2011

SAN QUENTIN NEWS

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Suuunu By ANTHONY LYONS								
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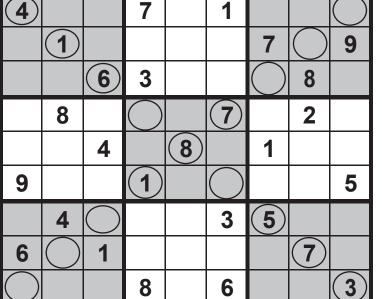
Are You Smarter Than an Inmate?

- - -

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

Sudoku by troy A. Ashmus



News Briefs

EDUCATION

Correction In the previous issue of the San Quentin News, Abraham "Cuba" Yera's name was misspelled in a Sports article. The News regrets the error.