

# San Quentin News

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Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

Protestors near San Quentin's main entrance

## Occupy Protestors Rally for Reform

By Clarence R. Bailey  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Occupy movement has expanded to include San Quentin Prison.

On the President's Day holiday, several hundred protestors arrived for an "Occupy4Prisoners" just outside the San Quentin

East Gate. They demonstrated peacefully for prison reform, calling for:

- Abolishing the death penalty, life without the possibility of parole, three strikes, juvenile life without parole, and trying children as adults.

See *Occupy* on Page 6

## 'Last Mile' Course Touts Business Technology

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin's newest program, The Last Mile, teaches incarcerated men advanced business ideas and technology. Prisoners learn to use social media to tweet, blog, answer questions and connect with professional investors.

Kathleen Jackson, a highly respected mentor to incarcerated men, set up the program. Jackson collaborated with Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti, venture capitalists from Silicon Valley to create the program's curriculum.

"The mission of The Last Mile program is to bridge the gap between the penal system and the technology business sector," said Redlitz. "The goal of the program is to provide practical training so that participants have marketable business skills upon release. The program trains selected prisoners for potential employment in a paid internship program within the San Francisco Bay Area and Silicon Valley technology sector, and also helps them develop business ideas that they can pursue in the future. Training includes verbal and written communica-

See *Teaching Business* on Page 4

To read what S.Q. prisoners have to say about the Occupy movement, see *Asked On The Line*. Turn to page 8.

## Three Strikes Group Holds First Graduation

By Joan Lisetor  
San Quentin News Adviser

"Enduring Hope for Enduring Change" was the theme for the Hope for Strikers Group's first graduation held March 9 in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel.

Master of ceremonies Marco Davidson welcomed the audience of approximately 80 prisoners, staff and advisers. Davidson and Joe Mason opened the ceremony with a guitar duet. Speakers that followed emphasized the group's mission and shared personal experiences. A keynote address was given by radio personality and author Nancy Mullane.

The mission of the group, according to Davidson, is to pro-

## T.R.U.S.T. Annual Graduation Honors 22 New Members

By Richard Richardson  
Graphics Editor

Prisoners and community volunteers gathered in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel in early March to attend the eighth annual graduation of 22 new members of San Quentin's T.R.U.S.T. program. T.R.U.S.T. (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) seeks to motivate, educate, prepare, and assist men in prison for release to their communities.

Kathleen Jackson said the anxiety associated with being newly released from prison would be lessened if the process of transitioning back to the community began while incarcerated. She joined T.R.U.S.T. in 2006 and supports the men by connecting them with community volunteers.



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

T.R.U.S.T. graduation members and staff

Family counselor Ameeta Singh teaches the importance of healthy family relationships by showing effective self-expression. She says that her work with the men promotes the health and wellness of the family unit, which in turn improves the community. Graduates of the six-

month program were: Binh Vo, Nelson T. Butler, Henry Montgomery, Gary Calhoun, Robert Watts, Wayne R. Villafranco, Orlando L. Harris, Gilbert Joseph Briones, Rodger Tillman, Touly S. Vang, Dennis Pratt,

See *T.R.U.S.T.* on Page 4

## Homeboy Industries Comes to San Quentin

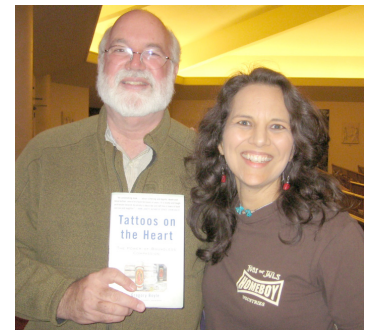
By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-chief

Father Greg Boyle buried a youngster killed by gang violence in 1988. Two weeks before Christmas 2011, he did it for the 180th time.

Father Boyle said there was a time when the people in his neighborhood didn't feel safe walking the streets because of the ongoing gang warfare. They leaned mattresses against their front windows to stop stray bullets. Father Boyle felt compelled to start a movement – without guns – to get gang bangers off the streets and into jobs. He created Homeboy Industries.

Homeboy Industries was formed when Father Boyle was a pastor at Delores Mission, the poorest parish in Los Angeles. The parish is located between two public housing projects, Pico Garden and Aliso Village. According to Los Angeles Police Department, it has the highest concentration of gang activity in the entire city. Father Boyle didn't know this when he took the position.

Homeboy Industries supports at-risk, recently released, and formerly gang involved youth in becoming contributing members of their communities through a variety of services -- including counsel-



File Photo

Father Greg Boyle And Rose Elizondo

ing, education, tattoo removal, ending substance abuse and addiction assistance, job training and job placement.

"I was intrigued by his talk on restorative justice and gang violence. I wanted him to speak to the men of San Quentin," said Rose Elizondo, facilitator to San Quentin's Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable.

Father Boyle addressed more than 100 San Quentin prisoners in its Catholic Chapel. He said, "For the last 25 years, it's been a privilege to work with ex-gang members. It's very important to listen to what these young kids are saying in order to understand their needs."

He told the men, "I'm honored to be here. We are in a place where we are trying to make something positive hap-

See *Fathers Boyle's* on Page 6



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

Danny Chavarria receiving his certificate

vide the academic and self-help tools necessary for transition and healthy adaption to the challenges of prison life in general and special challenges presented by the Three Strikes Law.

Eddie Griffin reminisced about how the group was started two years ago by a "bunch of guys who hung out in the barber shop on Saturdays" and how they overcame the challenges to become a recognized group.

A native of Pakistan, Sajad Shakoor told the compelling story of his family's migration in 1981 to "the land of opportunity, where you will succeed if you work hard."

See *Hope for Strikers* on Page 4

# Radio Personality Speaks With S.Q. Jailhouse Lawyers

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

When prisoners want to have their legal claims heard by the courts, access to qualified legal assistance is scant. This shortfall has given birth to the "Jailhouse Lawyer."

In 1996, the U.S. Congress placed limits on prisoners' ability to file actions in federal courts by enacting the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA). Subsequently, prison reform advocates have criticized the PLRA as too restrictive, because of the stringent requirements to which prisoners must adhere for a court hearing.

Independent reporter and producer Nancy Mullane of National Public Radio (NPR) ventured inside of San Quentin's library recently to talk with prison-

ers. She wanted to find out how they navigate their way through our legal system to present their claims in court.

The library was full of about 25 prisoners reading legal books, hunched over computers, or conversing about legal topics. The prisoners were eager to show Mullane their claims and to tell her why they were researching the law.

"The system provides several avenues for prisoners to address anything from a faulty conviction to inadequate medical care, or an arbitrary action by the prison administration. Few prisoners are sufficiently educated in matters of law to effectively redress those complaints in a meaningful way," said one Jailhouse Lawyer, who didn't want his name used. "The reason I



Photo Sgt. Gabe Walters.

NPR's Nancy Mullane

assist others is because they don't have access to *any* help in righting a wrong done to them. Assistance may be something as simple as helping them to determine what form is needed to file a grievance or as complex as formulating a habeas petition that effectively states a cognizable claim and that will allow them a fair opportunity to be heard in court."

Mullane is the executive producer of "The Life of the Law," a new NPR radio show that will air her visit to San Quentin's library in April.

# United States Has World's Highest Rate of Incarceration

By Paul Stauffer  
Journalism Guild Writer

The United States has the world's highest rate of incarceration or "correctional control," and one of the causes is changes in sentencing laws.

According to various reports, during the 1980s, the United States locked up around 200 people per 100,000 of the population. By 2010, that number more than tripled to 731 per 100,000.

Today, roughly six million Americans are under some kind of "correctional supervision" - that's more than at the peak of the Stalin era gulags, reports the New Yorker in a recent article. The story spotlights America's extensive prison system where "huge numbers of whom are serving sentences much longer than

those given for similar crimes anywhere else in the civilized world."

From 1980 to 2003, California prisons have quadrupled their population even though violent crime has remained relatively constant or even declined, according to the American Society of Criminology.

The increases were most pronounced in the use of life prison sentences - upped by 83 percent between 1992 and 2003, Wikipedia notes.

The percentage of prisoners in state and federal prisons aged 55 and older increased by 33 percent from 2000 to 2005 while the prison population grew by only eight percent.

California's fastest growing age category are those prisoners over the age 55, according to the Human Rights Watch. Ronald Aday, a professor of aging, predicts 16 percent of those serving

life sentences will be elderly by 2020.

Prison administrators around the country report spending more than 10 percent of their state's annual budget on elderly prisoner care, Wikipedia finds.

California currently has 8,780 Three Strikers; 25,135 lifers with the possibility of parole; 4,303 serving life without the possibility of parole; and 715 condemned.

**Editor's Note: This article utilized data from: The Sentencing Project: The State of Sentencing, 2011; Prison Census Data as of June 2011; PEW One in 31, The Long Reach of American Corrections; American Society of Criminology; The New Yorker magazine, Wikipedia, and Human Rights Watch.**

-Juan Haines contributed to this story.

# Private Corporation Submits Bid to Purchase State Prisons

By Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer

Nashville-based Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) is offering to purchase state prisons in exchange for various considerations, including a controversial guarantee that the governments maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate for at least 20 years, according to articles in USA Today and The Associated Press.

The \$250 million proposal, circulated to prison officials in 48 states, has been criticized by some state officials who suggest such a program could pres-

sure criminal justice officials to seek harsher prison sentences to maintain the contractually required occupancy rates.

"You don't want a prison system operating with the goal of maximizing profits," said Texas state Sen. John Whitmire (D). "The only thing worse is that this seeks to take advantage of some states' troubled financial position."

Corrections Corporation spokesman Steve Owen defended the firm's "investment initiative" as "an additional option" for cash-strapped states to consider.

The proposal seeks to build upon a deal reached last fall in which CCA purchased a 1,798-bed prison from the state of Ohio for \$72.7 million.

Roger Werholtz, former Kansas secretary of corrections, said states may be tempted by the "quick infusion of cash" but he would recommend against such a deal.

"My concern would be that our state would be obligated to maintain occupancy rates and subtle pressure would be applied to make sentencing laws more severe with a clear intent to drive up the population."

# Conservative Politicians Call for Prison Reform

Conservative prison reformers acknowledge that locking up and throwing away the key as a solution for career criminals has borne an unintended consequence. It exposes non-violent, low-risk offenders to bad influences - making them a greater risk to the public once they are released.

"The criminal justice arena is starved for conservative solutions for reducing crime, restoring victims, reforming offenders, and lowering costs," the group said on its web site.

The group, named Right on Crime, includes presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich, former U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, and tax reformer Grover Norquist.

The organization calls for transparency in governmental operations of prisons, and demand that public safety, personal responsibility, work, restitution, community service, and treatment should be a priority. In addition, victims should be treated with "dignity and respect - with an opportunity to participate, receive restitution, and even be reconciled with offenders." They would like to see more involvement from the offenders' family, charities, and faith-based groups.

The group wants the juvenile justice system to employ policies that send a clear message to youngsters at the time of the illegal behavior rather than waiting for violations to pile up and then locking them up. Proven approaches to reduce juvenile crime include teen courts, community service, student behavior contracts, student behavior accounts, peer mediation and keeping juve-

niles closer to home. Right on Crime advocates for policies that review sentences of juveniles years after imprisonment to see if they are fit to return to society.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry commented, "I believe we can take an approach to crime that is both tough and smart. ... [T] here are thousands of non-violent offenders in the system whose future we cannot ignore. Let's focus more resources on rehabilitating those offenders so we can ultimately spend less money locking them up again."

***"The criminal justice arena is starved for conservative solutions for reducing crime, restoring victims, reforming offenders and lowering costs."***

Right on Crime advocates say that if crime reduction rates do not correspond with the amount of money spent in corrections, then a change in policy is needed. Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas were looked at as examples that followed this idea.

Former President George W. Bush is quoted as saying, "We know from long experience that if [former prisoners] can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison. ... America is the land of the second chance, and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life."

# New Report Highlights Hidden Prison Expenses

A new report shows that most states under-report the cost of prisons. "Prison costs outside the corrections budget fall under three categories: (1) costs that are centralized for administrative purposes, such as employee benefits and capital costs; (2) inmate services funded through other agencies, such as education and training programs; and (3) the cost of underfunded pension and retiree health care plans," reports The Vera Institute of Justice, in conjunction with the Pew Center on the States' Public Safety Performance Project.

Vera examined corrections budgets for 40 states and found that cost was about 14 percent

higher than reported. The states reported spending a combined \$33.6 billion. However, after factoring in the costs "outside the corrections budget," an additional \$5.4 billion showed that the real cost for corrections was \$39 billion.

The report found that the growth in states' corrections budgets has been because of policy choices, not "social or economic trends beyond policy makers' influence." Vera suggest that states can develop practices that protect public

safety and control correctional costs by reviewing sentencing and release policies, focusing on recidivism reduction strategies, and by operating prisons more efficiently.

***Vera examined corrections budgets for 40 states and found that cost was about 14 percent higher than reported.***

# New Tools Trying to Curb Use of Prison Cell Phones

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last year a pilot program detected over 2,500 unique wireless signals and blocked another 24,000 "unauthorized communication" attempts in two of its 33 prisons, California prison officials report.

The Managed Access System was designed to test a new technology in order to stop the widespread unauthorized inmates use of cell phones.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed the emergency legislation, SB26, authored by Sen. Alex Padilla.

The legislation now makes it a misdemeanor for anyone who has a cell phone or wireless

communication device with the intent to give it to an inmate. The crime is punishable by six months in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000 per device.

Visitors who bring these wireless devices or any related components into the prison without the intent to place them in an inmate's possession would have the devices or components temporarily confiscated.

Brown issued an executive order directing the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to conduct more thorough searches for contraband communication devices and to increase the penalty for inmates who are found guilty of possession of contraband devices.

Prison officials have re-defined cell phones as dangerous contraband. Inmates found guilty of possession of a cell phone or wireless communication device will be subject to loss of "good time" credit of up to 90 days.

The new legislation and its corresponding change to prison regulations comes at a time when the number of cell phones confiscated each year by prison officials has increased by the thousands.

CDCR reports prison officials seized 261 cell phones from inmates in 2006, nearly 1,400 in 2007, approximately 2,800 in 2008, about 6,995 in 2009, another 10,761 in 2010, and 9,935 from January to August of 2011.



San Quentin Nurse Jamie Molina

## There's a Secret To Creating Quality Prison Health Care

By Arnulfo Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

The secret to quality medical care for prisoners is hiring people who really want to work behind the walls, says Jamie Molina, a Licensed Vocational Nurse at San Quentin's medical facility.

"I'm very fortunate to be an LVN within the department. I love working with my health care team. I know at this point, I wouldn't want to work anywhere else. That's what I would say to the receiver. 'Get people who really want to be here.'"

"When I graduated from nursing school, I swore to render care and asked no questions about those under my care," said Molina. "I'm not here to decide who does or does not get care. I take my oath about caring for everyone very seriously, especially for those in blue."

Molina's career began in 2007, with a three-year stint at Pelican Bay.

He grew up in the rough and gang-infested neighborhoods of Los Angeles. Molina says he feels lucky to get out of that en-

vironment, adding that working in the prison's medical department is his way of giving back to the community.

He credits his success for overcoming the odds of getting away from that negative environment to his parents.

"It was stable in that I had two parents," he said. "My father was pretty intelligent. He had a scholarship to go to Jalisco, Mexico for medical school, but he never pursued it."

He now realizes that his father's decision not to go to Mexico created his stable upbringing. "Most people in prison don't have that kind of support," Molina commented.

Molina compared the high stress atmosphere of Pelican Bay to San Quentin's high level of programs available to prisoners, and commented, "If the rest of California prisons mimicked the programs available at San Quentin, some of the problems with our high recidivism will be solved."

—Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.

# Initiative to End Death Penalty Heads to Voters on 2012 Ballot

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

For the first time since 1978, California voters may be able to decide whether to keep the death penalty as the harshest way to punish murders. The initiative needs slightly more than 504,000 registered voter signatures to qualify for the November ballot. Organizers collected more than 800,000 signatures and turned them into the secretary of state's office for verification.

If approved, the Savings, Accountability, Full Enforcement Act would amend the death sentences of the state's 725 Death Row prisoners to life in prison

without parole and abolish the death penalty as an option in murder cases.

"(This) will put an end to its intolerable risk and exorbitant cost," said Jeanne Woodford. "California voters are ready to replace the death penalty with life in prison with no chance of parole."

Woodford once headed California's prison system. She was also a San Quentin warden and oversaw four executions. She now heads the anti-capital-punishment group Death Penalty Focus.

California has had 13 executions since restoring capital

punishment in 1978 - prompting even some leading death penalty supporters to question its feasibility. "I don't think it is working. It's not effective. We know that," said state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

A 2011 study found that the state spends \$184 million a year on death penalty cases and incarceration. That same study, by U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Arthur L. Alarcon and Loyola Law School Professor Paula M. Mitchell, reported that taxpayers have spent more than \$4 billion on capital punishment since it was reinstated in 1978.

## Ex-Prisoner Visits the Vocational Shop That Gave Him a Foothold on Parole

By Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer

Ed Ramirez says he's grateful for the sheet metal vocational skills he mastered in San Quentin State Prison. He says they opened the door to an opportunity of a lifetime when he was paroled seven years ago.

Union representative Frank Cuneo accompanied Ramirez on a recent visit to his former prison shop. He commented, "Ed's achievements have been nothing short of remarkable. He has accomplished so much, but it all began right here at San Quentin, in this shop."

Cuneo told the current shop students, "You can do the same thing, if you want it. It's possible to earn an \$80 an hour employment package if you're willing to do the work."

Ramirez served 23 years at San Quentin before he was paroled in May 2005. He excelled in the vocational class, perfecting his skills under the tutelage of instructor Keith Baughn.

Upon parole, Ramirez applied for a sheet metal apprenticeship. Although he had developed advanced abilities in the trade, he had to begin at the bottom rung, starting with the application process, and advancing through a successful five-year apprenticeship program to obtain journeyman status.

**"Ed's achievements have been nothing short of remarkable. It all started here at San Quentin."**

Ramirez returned to San Quentin to share his personal success story. He described what he had been able to accomplish since leaving prison with a little determination and hard work. He encouraged students to apply themselves seriously, and told them about the realities of what they could expect once they paroled.

"It wasn't easy, starting at the bottom, once I got out. But this program gave me a huge advantage over the other applicants. I could identify the tools and recognize the work processes that put me miles ahead of everyone else. I had to be patient and work my way up. I showed up on time prepared for work. I developed a reputation for producing quality work, because that is your signature to employers," Ramirez said.

Ramirez stated he got his priorities straightened out. "When I was in prison, I used to hate those painted yellow lines telling me where the boundaries are. Now, I paint those boundary lines around myself to keep me safe."

Cuneo emphasized the need to be dependable. He detailed the minimum qualifications necessary to begin the application process, such as, age, a clean DMV record, and reliable transportation, as well as an aptitude for basic math.

## Realignment Plan Creates County Jail Bed Shortages

- Madera County will spend \$34 million on a jail expansion project to add 144 beds.
- Calaveras County is going ahead with a \$36 million project to build 95 additional beds to its jail.
- Santa Barbara County will receive \$56 million for construction of 304 new beds.
- Amador County will receive a \$22 million grant through AB 900 to expand its jail by 89 beds.
- San Benito County will receive \$15 million for a 60-bed expansion from AB 900.
- San Joaquin County will expand its jail by 1,280 beds, costing \$80 million.
- San Luis Obispo County will get a \$25 million grant from AB 900 to build 155 new jail beds.

## T.R.U.S.T. Praises Graduates

*Continued from Page 1*

Moses Jesus Duran, Trenton W. Capell, Nguyenly D. Nguyen, Eric Boles, Michael Endres, Lorenzo Romero, Eric Phillips, Eric Womack, James Asoau, and Kevork Parsakrian. After the ceremony, several graduates explained how T.R.U.S.T. influenced their lives.

ROMERO: "I learned how to have respect for myself and others. I also learned better communication skills. I will put all the tools I've learned into practice, as well as share these tools with others."

WATTS: "T.R.U.S.T. opened the door for me to step up and join other groups. I joined the Alliance Group."

ENDRES: "I learned a lot about myself, which gave me so much insight. T.R.U.S.T. provided us with so much information. Anyone serious about change has to go through the T.R.U.S.T. process. I will continue to work on change and apply it to my life."

WOMACK: "I learned that I'm a better person than I was before and I'll be a better asset to my community and the past does not define me any more. I'm in college and the California Reentry Institute program. I am glad I came to San Quentin. It allowed me to see things from a different perspective, which made me proud of who I am today."

BRIONES: "I'm able to be more sociable. I took advantage of all of the information they provided. What really got me



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

### T.R.U.S.T. volunteers, facilitators and Captain Robinson

was the mock board hearing. It scared me, because it showed me that I must face reality, and to see how serious things are. I'm so glad to have this opportunity and graduate."

VO: "I learned new tools on how to manage my anger. And, I learned to take care of myself so that I can take care of others."

VANG: "T.R.U.S.T. made me think about my life outside the institution and what to expect when I get out. They taught me how to network and how to be respectful, not only to the family, but to the community. Now I think about taking things more seriously when it comes to life choices and now I want to serve the community. The members of T.R.U.S.T. were very supportive, and they help me in every curriculum that T.R.U.S.T. provided."

VILLAFRANCO: "It was a beautiful and interesting challenge because I learned new ideas and methods of how to deal with everyday issues. The experience taught me how to deal with family problems and how to attend to their

needs more so than my own. T.R.U.S.T. provided me with the tools to go out and seek help from those who are working to help me. The members were very generous and were attentive to what I had to say."

HARRIS: "The volunteers offer a lot of insight to the things we talk about. The psychologist gives us techniques that help us stay centered and focused on our tasks. Her suggestions are always helpful, because her perspective is respected. Other volunteers encourage us to get involved with our community. They keep us well-connected to our community and that's important for us."

DURAN: "The life skills I learned will benefit me here, and will be a benefit to the community that I will parole to. I learned people skills. I gained insight about myself, and what it will take for me to stay out in the free world."

Warden Kevin Chappelle attended the event. Neu Dae provided gospel music with a band that included talented guitarist Marco Davidson.



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

### Eric Phillips, Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti

The men commented on the impact that The Last Mile has had on their lives.

Phillips said, "My project is a music production idea that I expect to be a part of the next generation of the social media."

"The Last Mile is the bridge that connects incarcerated men with the technology sector," said Cavitt. "I see this as a huge blessing, not only to show that I have what it takes, but to also show those in the business sector that guys incarcerated have what it takes to succeed in the business world."

"This program gives me the tools and confidence, after doing so much time in prison, to believe that I will be successful

in society, once I am released," Houston said.

Monroe said, "I think that The Last Mile represents hope. I came to prison when I was 15, so I had no knowledge or skills about the working world. This program gives me the confidence that I can be returned to my community with the skills that I need to succeed."

"The Last Mile is a unique opportunity for me to learn some fundamental skills revolving around business and technology. It is my hope to take what I've learned from this program and use it upon my release. My project is a special combination of sports and cutting edge technology," said Leal.

## U.S. Supreme Court To Hear Race Case

By Stephen Yair Lieb  
Legal Editor

The subject of race and admissions policy for state universities is once again before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abigail Fisher, a Texas resident, is challenging the admission policy of the University of Texas after she was denied undergraduate admission.

The University of Texas molded its admissions system after a 2003 Supreme Court case, ruling that universities may "narrowly tailor [the] use of race in admissions decisions to further a compelling interest in obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body." The case, *Grutter v. Bollinger*,

also determined that any race-conscious measures must be limited in time.

In previous decisions, the Supreme Court recognized that a diverse student body serves educational objectives by providing increased perspectives in the classroom and prepares students in their professions.

Fisher is asking the Supreme Court to reconsider or overrule *Grutter*. However, she has not argued that the state university does not have a compelling interest in assembling a racially diverse student body. Proponents of affirmative action say that they are apprehensive that the Supreme Court will use this case to ban affirmative action.

## 'Hope for Strikers' Group Graduation

*Continued from Page 1*

"Where my family saw hope and hard work equaling success, I saw a bunch of racism, poverty and dope," he said. "Not knowing your full potential or self-worth, you jeopardize your life. Know thyself first."

Forrest Jones assisted in the presentation of certificates to 32 graduates of the program.

"Be proud of your accomplishments and the changes in yourselves," he told the graduates.

Mullane recalled her first visit to San Quentin when she was a reporter assigned to write a story about prisons.

"It was one of the most interesting days of my life. It changed my life. I thought I knew what people are like who commit crimes," said Mullane, who has written a book, "Life after Murders," which follows the lives of five men paroled despite serving life sentences for murder. The book is due in June.

The group lists five beliefs:

- That the Three Strikes Law is fundamentally unjust, politically motivated, grossly disproportionate and needs to be amended.

- That without the aid of Hope for Strikers, we are powerless to appropriately address the detrimental impact it has had on our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

- That any reform in the law has to be preceded by reform in our own spiritual and intellectual selves, as well as our behaviors.

- That Hope for Strikers curriculum provides the requisite academic and self-help tools needed to accomplish our goals and transition back into society as productive citizens.

- That we must always hold on to hope for reform and continue to convey our message in meaningful ways to give hope to those Three Strikers whose resolve may have deteriorated.

## S.Q. Library Sees Its Hours Reduced

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Due to California's budget woes, San Quentin's library hours have been reduced for the mainline population. The change resulted from cutting the library staff from three to two.

Staff Librarian Tom Brobst said he will keep the facility open under reduced hours, with Saturday hours eliminated.

More than 3,000 San Quentin prisoners use the library for legal, recreational and educational reading and research. Brobst said prisoner staff will continue to respond to written requests from Condemned Row.

Former hours for mainline prisoners were Monday through Saturday from 12:30–2:30 p.m. and 6:30–8 p.m.

The new hours are: Tuesday: mainline, 12:30–3 p.m. and 5:30–8 p.m.

Wednesday: reception center, 8:30–12:30 a.m.; mainline, noon–2:30 p.m.

Thursday: mainline, 12:30–3 p.m. and 5:30–8 p.m.

Friday: reception center, 8:30–12:30 a.m.; mainline, noon–2:30 p.m.

The former evening and Saturday sessions were particularly important for prisoners who work during the day.

## Teaching Business Technology

*Continued from Page 1*

tion and presentation skills, business formation and operation processes, and computer proficiency."

Parenti said, "Prior to coming inside of San Quentin, my perception was formed by the media – never a first-hand experience until meeting the men of The Last Mile."

The current program has five men, who were invited and accepted through a specific selection process.

The men were considered for participation after demonstrating adequate communication skills, completing advanced prosocial programs, participating in the Prison University Project, and being recommended by San Quentin's administration.

The current members include James Houston, Eric "Phil" Phillips, Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal, James "JC" Cavitt and David Monroe.

# SPORTS

## A Giant Interview

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

Michael Anthony Tyler of the San Quentin Giants baseball team discusses his sports and life experiences.

**What organized sports team did you play for growing up?**

I played outside linebacker for the Los Banos Tigers. My coach said he needed a linebacker and so I tapped him on his back and I said I'd play.

**Who introduced you to sports?**

I was introduced to sports by my stepdad. When I was younger, my stepdad and I played catch with the baseball and football.

**Who was your mentor?**

I was pretty much on my own. I didn't have too many people who tried to mentor me. But, because of the issues I was going through, I didn't really see if any one was trying to mentor me.

**Did your family come and watch your football games?**

I never had any of my family show up at the games. I'd ask my mother, but she never came. She always had an excuse. So, I started playing for myself.

**Who are your mentors now?**

Jim Buckley, my best friend's dad. He acknowledges me as his son. I acknowledge him as Pops. I have mentors in here too that I look up to. To me a mentor is not based on one's age but one's character, and the values that he holds.

**What teams are you currently playing on?**

I play for the S.Q. flag football team and I play second base and catcher for the S.Q. Giants baseball team.

**How has playing organized sports help you deal with your incarceration?**

For me it doesn't matter whether I was playing in prison or on the streets. I was free. Playing sports helped me with my discipline. Sports helped me to remember that I have to work as a team. Playing within the rules, I do what

I have to do to get out of prison that's within the rules.

**Do you consider yourself a student athlete?**

I believe I will always be a student. I think once I say that I'm a master at something, it shuts down all possibilities of

learning.

**What programs are you a part of in San Quentin?**

I'm the education committee chairman for T.R.U.S.T., a member of San Quentin's S.Q.U.I.R.E.S. (San Quentin's Utilization of Inmate Resources Experiences and Studies), V.O.E.G. (Victim Offender Education Group) and others."

**What would you tell kids that are going through what you've been through as a teenager?**

I would tell them to speak up and that there is a difference from acting out as opposed to speaking up. It's alright to ask for help because it's your life that is at stake. I didn't know I had the empowerment to speak up.

-Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to the story-



Official Photo

Giant Michael A. Tyler

## Four Athletes Offer Insights On Playing San Quentin Sports

Here are comments from incarcerated men who are players of San Quentin sports teams. They discussed whether playing organized sports in San Quentin helps them to relive past dreams.

**Sean Simms**, All Madden linebacker: I never had any dreams or aspirations to play sports. However, playing organized sports here in San Quentin has giving me a chance to experience what attending school and playing sports must be like. I now have a high respect for student-athletes who not only achieve in sports but also excel in their academics.

**Chris Marshall Sr.**, San Quentin Giants outfielder: Playing sports in San Quentin has nothing to do, for me that is, to be able to relive past dreams. At my age, I don't have the same physical abilities I had in my teens and early 20s. But what I do have is more self-discipline and knowledge of the game I'm playing, and my body's new abilities or lack there of, which causes me to try to make better decisions, decisions that won't hurt my team's effort towards the goal we have together.

**Nghiep "Ke" Lam**, San Quentin A's, shortstop and



Photo by Cpt. Sam Robinson

Nghiep Ke Lam in front of the score board

pitcher: Playing for the San Quentin A's fulfilled my childhood dream to play for the Oakland Athletics. Growing up I was a huge fan of the A's, even though I grew up in San Francisco. My favorite player all-time is Ricky Henderson. I never thought I would ever play for the A's after being incarcerated at the age of 17.

**Richard "Mujahid" Munns**, San Quentin Warriors shooting forward: Coming from a background filled with athletes competing on all levels, playing for the San Quentin Warriors basketball team has offered me the opportunity to

relive a time from my past that I remembered as being a very happy and positive time in my life. When I'm out there on the court, I don't have a worry in the world. In essence, I escape to a place where there is still hope. And even though the reality of my hoop-dreams are a thing in the past, playing here in S.Q., and still being able to compete with the younger guys, helps me to forget, for a few hours, my reality...and puts me back in front of thousands of screaming fans, both for and against the Warriors.

-Gary Scott

## Coach Harris Looking for Kings

Head Coach Orlando Harris says tryouts gave him a good look at the over-40 men who will make up the San Quentin Kings basketball team, and he's planning to focus on conditioning and defense.

"I was looking for personality, for individual players to come out to be competitive, some one who is going to be a positive influence, someone who has integrity and will make a contribution. I was definitely looking for good athletes over 40. I was trying to weave together a team that can work towards a common goal," said Coach Harris.

He mentions the strategies that he will implement for his team to be successful. He expressed, "Being that we are 40 and over, I don't see us getting into a track meet. I'm focused on defense. We have to play towards our strengths. We will run when we can,



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

Coach Orlando Harris

throw the ball down low, and work the ball inside out. We will do the fundamentals it takes to win and that is rebound, box out and whatever it takes to win. Conditioning and defense is the key to being successful."

Coach Harris explains what it means to play on the 40 and over basketball team. He says, "It gives men an opportunity to come out and still continue

to play ball in a structured league. It paints a picture of them working together and gives an opportunity to be an example to younger incarcerated men, to show them the importance of working as a team... It gives them a chance to get away from prison, to play against men on the streets and be human."

"Training camp is going to be difficult task to get the players in shape in order to put us in position to win. It's going to be difficult getting guys to believe in my philosophy and trust that I know what I am doing and my ability to coach. If they buy in to my philosophy, then we will win," said Harris.

Training camp for Kings will be on Wednesdays and Fridays nights. It will start soon after they receive scheduling from cardholders.

-Gary Scott

## 'Too Many' Good Warrior Candidates at Tryouts

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team's tryouts were bittersweet for head coach Daniel Wright.

Wright realizes the difficult decisions that he has to make in the near future. "Some very good, talented players are not going to make the team because only so many players can make the team," he explains.

About 30 players tried out for the Warriors. The difficulty lies

**"30 Players tried out for the Warriors. The difficulty lies in the fact that only 16 to 20 players will be able to make it on the training camp roster."**

in the fact that only 16 to 20 players will be able to make it on the training camp roster. He noted a couple of players caught his eye and are for sure Warriors.

Asked what he was expecting to see during tryouts, he said, "Attitude and talent.

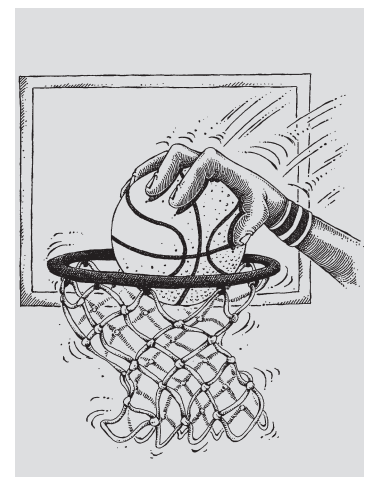
And also, who I thought would fit good in the Warrior program and the Christian program we have here. A good attitude is the number one quality a player will have in this program. I will accept good attitude over talent, if I have to."

He explained that there will be no profanity or derogatory language.

He said the type of system that he is going to run is a fast break, up-tempo, man-to-man system because it dictates the pace of the game.

Training camp will be on Tuesday and Thursday nights in March.

-Gary Scott



# S.Q. News Missed the Boat On Black History Month

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

Last month was Black History Month. It passed by like any other month, but I should have given it more of my attention. This newspaper should have given it more attention. I read my usual daily newspaper, my national news magazines and even watched some television. None of this media seemed to make a big hoopla about our special month. Sure, there were television shows, PBS specials and the like, but no huge national celebration like, say, Saint Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo.

Consequently, I have to ask what it says about our nation, more importantly the Black community, and me. Should Black Americans take to the streets and holler, "I'm Black and I'm proud"? Would we? Or maybe a better question is whether America is ready to have its Black citizens drinking beer and dancing in the streets with racial pride like other citizens do. Or would the police show up in riot gear? I won't pretend to know the answers to these questions.

I do know that many of the African American men who

## Opinion



Photo Sgt. Gabe Walters

Aly Tamboura

should be celebrating the rich history of American blackness are in prison. All I have to do is look to the gleaming brown faces on the yard here at San Quentin and I can see what the legacy of slavery, continued bigotry, and the American judicial system thinks about Black History Month...and us.

Over 40 percent of the men at this prison are Black: Despairingly, we are being sent to prison. Most of us know the statistics but how many of us ask ourselves why? Why do we

sell drugs to our own people? Why do we defame and disrespect our women? Why do we hate another Black man because he is from a different neighborhood? And why do we insult our Black brothers with the N word? I won't pretend to know the answer to these questions.

What I do know is that we should look to ourselves to understand why our month is not the glorified celebration it should be. Our leaders also have to look at the plight of the Black community and together we should work to remedy the social despair that stands in the way of the full success of Black Americans. More specifically, we need to provide hope and opportunity to our young men.

I know that we Black men are proud; but I don't know why I didn't write about this pride last month. Maybe it is too soon for me and other Black men in America to stand up with elation, hold our fist to the sky, and say we are proud. This type of celebration will only happen when all Americans are free and equal.



Photo by Sgt. Gabe Walters

Corrections Officers guarding the East Gate

## Occupy Movement Protests at S.Q.

Continued from Page 1

- Support for the Georgia prison strike and the Pelican Bay/California prisoners hunger strike.

- Support for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, Lynne Stewart, Bradley Manning and Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald, a Black Panther Party member incarcerated since 1969.

- End targeting African-Americans who exercise their First Amendment rights, such as Khali in Occupy Oakland.

- End Secured Housing Units (SHU) and solitary confinement.

- Transfer tax dollars from the Prison Industrial Complex to education, housing, health care, mental health care and other human services.

"It's been an amazing day. We've had hundreds of people out here reading messages from prisoners, and speaking out about issues that are important to us all," said Crystal Bybee of Occupy4Prisoners.

Author, film producer and 2006 California gubernatorial candidate Barbara Becnel helped facilitate the event. "We should really be proud of ourselves today, because today, we are history-makers," she said. "We have merged the prison rights movement with the Occupy movement."

Shane Bauer, one of the hikers accused of being a spy and imprisoned in Iran in 2009, addressed the protesters. "The issue of prison conditions is important to all of us," he said. Ron Greene, a former clinical psychologist who worked at San Quentin and Soledad prisons, said, "I support the general principles of Occupy and I care about the conditions at San Quentin. That's not to say I want to release all the prisoners, but there are many who could do very well on the street."

Tahtauerriak Sessoms is an organizer with All of Us or

None of Us, a national organization working for the rights of prisoners and felons, which teaches youth about their rights when approached by the police or while in prison. She spoke about her experience in solitary confinement: "I came out, I felt like an animal. I was told I was nothing and I believed it."

Veronica Hernandez is currently detained in juvenile hall, waiting to be tried as an adult. She was 16 at the time of her arrest. Her statement was read at the rally: "There are no law libraries or legal services at juvenile hall, so a juvenile, for better or for worse, is entirely dependent on his or her court-appointed attorney, and must trust that he or she will lead them in the right direction. Unfortunately, for me, that direction was to adult court. I now face a life sentence should I be convicted."

**"America has a deep-seeded philosophy in which it only allows for the execution of its poorest people."**

Death Row prisoner Kevin Cooper's statement read: "America has a deep-seeded philosophy in which it only allows for the execution of

its poorest people. These seeds have taken root and have grown in such a way that no person who this system sees as a 'havenot' is safe from the death machine - whether they are within San Quentin or on a BART platform."

Demonstrators held a moment of silence for Christian Alexander Gomez, 27, who died on Feb. 2 while on a hunger strike in Corcoran State Prison.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation spokesperson Terry Thornton commented: "Inmates held in segregated housing units are not isolated. Some inmates are single-celled, but they converse with other inmates. They can get visits and they interact with staff."

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Twitter: @occupy4prisoner

## 'What Does it Mean to be Grateful'

By Renée Soule  
Contributing Writer

One of the most commonly expressed "feelings" in San Quentin Nonviolent Communication (NVC) classes is, "Today, I feel grateful...I feel blessed." Straight-up expressions of gratitude are unusual outside prison walls, so I was curious about these consistent "I feel grateful..." statements.

What are the needs met by expressing gratitude when times might be tough?

NVC requires understanding the NEEDS that motivate our actions, no matter how crazy our actions might be. In my first months of teaching NVC, I felt suspicious of these constant expressions of gratitude. Maybe it

was a way of scooting around less comfortable and more "gritty" feelings and needs. After some reflection, I finally came to see and respect the authentic needs behind expressions of gratitude.

Unlike other feelings, feeling grateful is a disciplined choice, even a declaration of freedom. "No matter what is taken from me or hardship I undergo, I choose to focus on what is GOOD and not on what drains my spirit. Each day, I feel grateful for what serves my life. Thus I survive prison life with my humanity and faith in life intact." Is there a more important need in prison?

There is another less obvious need met by expressing gratitude. Consider making a move to

improve one's life or situation. If you consistently dwell upon what is "missing" or wrong, this can lead to bitterness and despair. Gradually what is missing in one's life becomes who you are. Bitter desperation and a constant sense of lack are not inspiring or influential. We are not likely to get what we want. A commitment to gratitude inspires confidence in self and others. It is both a launching pad and beacon of hope.

Expressing gratitude in prison is a soul-survival strategy. It is a source of creative actions and positive problem solving.

—Renée Soule is an eco-psychologist and has been teaching in San Quentin for nearly seven years.

## Father Boyle's Homeboy Industries

Continued from Page 1

pen... This is powerful to see. It's real. It's true. You've created a community of kinship such that God will recognize."

Father Boyle's message: "How do we inch our way out toward the young people who don't feel included? When we stand with the poor, the powerless and the voiceless, we choose to be of service and to transform lives. We stand with the easily despised and the readily left out, the demonized so that the demonizing will stop the disposable of human beings - so, the day will come when we stop throwing people away."

Father Boyle spoke of the time he spent with Cesar Chavez. "I told him that the people love him. He just shrugged his shoulders and told me that the feeling was mutual." Chavez maintained that "It's not about service; it's about bridging the differences between us."

Father Boyle said one of his most exciting moments was when First Lady Laura Bush visited Los Angeles to talk to members of Homeboy Industries. He added that Vice President Al Gore's visit had a tremendous impact on Homeboy Industries also.

Father Boyle's best-selling book, *Tattoos on the Heart*, is

a colorful work of art that gets under the skin of those who read it. It shows the deep relationships he has nurtured and cultivated in his 25 years at Homeboy Industries. Through the ink on the pages, images are drawn of homeboys and homegirls finding their true identity and self worth, said Elizondo in a review of the book.

Elizondo asked Father Boyle, "If you could have a word tattooed on your heart, what would it be?" He replied, "Hope."

—Rose Elizondo contributed to this article.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Appliance Tech Tips

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

You've seen the commercials with the clothing storage bags you vacuum the air out of to get more stuff in your closet? Digital TV is like that. The signal is compressed and harder to deal with. The computer processor in the tuner gets hot unfolding all this stuff, so don't block your lower and upper vents.

When you shut your TV off, did you know a third of it is still oscillating at ten thousand times a second? Waiting night and day for your command to wake up the other sections? This causes three problems. 1. It wears out certain (cheap) components prematurely. Many flat screens just quit working. The filter capacitors swollen from overheating and fatigue. 2. The TV power supply noise while off blocks AM and FM radio reception. 3. More of a concern outside, the TV in standby mode runs the electric meter up. When you're done watching at night, turn it off and unplug it to help it last longer, and enjoy the late night talk shows on the radio.

The RCA tube sets were built without installing the left audio channel parts – a cost saving measure. I noticed concerts with missing left stage instruments, or shows like Family Guy where the closed captioning showed dialog in a room to the left, but nothing was heard in the headphones. Thank you very much. The KTV's have stereo, but the HP plug is very weakly attached. Don't bump the headphone plug or use adaptors that act like a crowbar on the delicate jack inside.

The flat screen TV's use a tiny fluorescent lamp to light the screen. These have limited lifetimes. It costs about \$75 to replace the bulb. The meter's running...

Some KTV tuner boards can come loose in the socket if your TV is transported upside down and the TV won't turn on. For RCA / KTV tube sets, don't clean your screen while wearing ear buds! You'll get a 17,000 volt static spark in your ears. Maybe you can have your celly do it while you watch.

## Snippets

Coca-Cola on May 15, 1950 became the first product ever to grace the cover of Time magazine.

Lasting between 1846 and 1850, Ireland's population declined hit 2 million. Because of the diseases associated with the potato famine, or potato crop failure, one million people died of starvation and one million emigrated to North America or parts of Britain.

Ostrich leather has a unique feather quill pattern that provides strength and durability seven times stronger than cowhide.

Venice's sewer system, which consists of all household waste that is deposited, flows into canals and flushes out into the ocean twice a day with the tides.

Each day the heart can beat 100,000 times, or 35 million times in a year. For an average lifespan the heart will beat more than 2.5 billion times.

Requiring 25 percent of all oxygen used by the body, the brain actually only makes up 2 percent of it.



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**HOLD TIGHT** (By Harlan Coben) A suicide and two murders connected by social media terrify a New Jersey bedroom community.



**THE CANON** (By Natalie Angier) Author breaks down a variety of scientific fields down into basic, relevant, and entertaining chapters.



**GONE WITH THE WITCH** (By Annette Blair) Rebel witch kidnaps a cranky biker to help find a lost baby.



**THE ALCHEMIST** (By Paulo Coelho) Spanish shepherd boy's adventures in the Sahara searching for lost treasure.

RATINGS:



Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one: Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

With the following clues, identify the number:

- I am a two-digit number
- I am not a prime number
- My two digits are not the same
- I am not a multiple of 2, 3, or 5



Last month's Answer: The first sequence is a series of square numbers. So 8 should be replaced by 9. The second sequence adds one sixth each time, so 4/5 should be replaced by 5/6. The third sequence is a sequence of prime numbers, so 10 should be replaced by 11.

Congratulations to: Ron Tran, Chris Schuhmacher and Edwin Carlevato for correctly answering last months puzzle.

### Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Journalism Guild Writer

Many Native tribes consider the Spring Equinox as their New Year celebration.

Spring Equinox begins on March 21 with the waking of the bears, followed by the powwow, the healing of the tribes, and the planting seasons.

These observances usually consist of four days of sweat lodge ceremonies, dances, drum ceremonies and traditional food of salmon, deer and buffalo meats, served with fry bread, beans and rice.

Those who observe these rituals participate in an ancient indigenous ceremony.

## ARTS IN CORRECTIONS EXHIBITION

Artwork from San Quentin Prison Arts Project and Arts-in-Corrections will be shown in San Francisco at Bell Memorial Union, 2nd Floor Lounge Gallery on Feb. 28 to Apr. 20.

There will be a reception on March 27 at Ayers Hall, Room 201 from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a panel of artists who teach in prison.

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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



Featured artwork of James Norton

## Sudoku By ANTHONY LYONS

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

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

"Asked on the Line" conducted random informal interviews with 18 mainliners and asked how they felt about the protestors coming to San Quentin and about the administration's decision to cancel the mainline



Stephen Pascascio

"I would have been more effective if they had been inside San Quentin as well as outside. It would have shined a bigger light on the entire Occupy San Quentin movement. I think it's a good thing for them to reach out and speak for those who can't speak for themselves right now."

programming. All but one was happy the protestors came, and a couple of men were bothered by the warden's "modified program." The one person who didn't like the protest asked to remain anonymous.

"I thought it was an excellent idea," said Mike. "I wish they would have talked about how the State of California has been taken hostage by the special in-



R. Martin

"While I deeply appreciate the message that the system is being watched, I feel the end result is like tossing a life-ring towards the Titanic."

terest groups like the Victims Groups." Mike didn't think the safety and security of San Quentin was ever at risk, "so we should have been left on normal program."

Tim said, "It's about time!" He added, "The administration locking us in didn't bother me at all. It was for my benefit and I'm willing to pay that price."



Jimmy Clark

"I felt the empathy from the three guests - the American prisoners held in Iran, Josh Fattal, Sarah Shroud, and Shane Bauer. I felt they were on point."

Sane said he liked that the Occupy Movement came and that prisoners were locked in for the

day was OK. "It was for a good cause," he said.

Gary thought it was great that there were people who were willing to stand together for prisoners, but didn't like being locked in on a holiday.

Alamin said, "The protestors are a voice for the prisoners, but



Carlos Ramirez

"I came from Soledad and I was placed in West Block when I got here and it's a building that's not ready for inmates to live in. Also, prisons are still overcrowded, we need a lot of stuff for the prisons-better programs would be a good start."

I think it was unnecessary for us to be locked in."

Marcus was one of the critical workers that had to report for duty. "I saw all the snipers and could see the Coast Guard out in the water. I felt good that people stood up for our rights."

Ed thought the protest had a positive message. "They brought these issues out and created public awareness. I wasn't happy about the lockdown. The prison officials overreacted."

## News Briefs

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY** – Law enforcement officials in are seeing far more prisoners than projected, since taking on the responsibility for lower level offenders. Since realignment took effect Oct. 1, the jail has taken in 420 additional offenders -- 500 percent above state officials' early projections, according to Under sheriff Mike Casten.

**HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH** – reports the number of prisoners in the United

States over age 65 increased by 63 percent from 2007 to 2010, while the total number of prisoners increased by less than one percent.

**NORTH CAROLINA** – Marcus Reymond Robinson has made the first challenge to a death sentence under North Carolina's Racial Justice Act. The act allows Death Row prisoners to cite statistical patterns to argue their jury selections or sentences were racially biased.

**TEXAS** – On Feb. 29, George Rivas became the state's 479<sup>th</sup> person executed. Rivas was convicted of killing police officer Aubrey Hawkins following a 2000 prison break.

**SACRAMENTO** – The League of Women's Voter has challenged Secretary of State Debra Bowen's memorandum stating that the nearly 85,000 offenders serving time in county jails because of realignment are not eligible to vote in the June primary.

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**SEPT. 19, 1980** – Coyote Park, the mini-park of trees and foliage located on the lower yard, has been laid bare by order of Warden George Sumner due to last week's stabbing incident. There have been three stabbings in the past two years in this area.

**NOV. 14, 1980** – James Dance, 32, from Santa Clara County, was stabbed and killed Saturday morning on the lower yard. It was believed that the killing was over a debt, says prison information officer Mike Madding. A 12-inch steel prison-made knife believed used in the incident has been found. A suspect has been arrested. It is the first

killing in San Quentin since Feb. 22, 1979.

**NOV. 14, 1980** – A special preholiday show featuring James Brown and his Revue will take place Wednesday in the north dining hall. Also featured will be a country/rock group, Tour De Force.

**NOV. 14, 1980** – A 25-year-old San Quentin inmate who walked out of the prison last year dressed as a woman was convicted of escape. Guthrie L. Danowski was captured in Grapevine, Tex. three days after the escape. He told the jury it was not an escape but "a nonviolent walkaway."

**NOV. 21, 1980** – A convict was found dead in his cell in a

maximum security cellblock with the cord to his radio wrapped around his neck. The death of Steven Copenharve, 24, is being investigated to determine if it might be accidental or a suicide.

**NOV. 21, 1980** – A warning shot was fired on the lower yard when a gunner thought a yard officer was being surrounded by a group of convicts. The yard officer had just broken up what he thought was an illegal card game.

**NOV. 21, 1980** – Singer James Brown and his entourage of entertainers played a special holiday show to a packed crowd in the north dining hall.

## Corrections

Last month the three strikes article said that AB 327 contained exceptions to what would constitute a third strike. There are no exceptions as to what the bill defines as a serious or violent third strike.

## We Want To Hear From You!

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

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

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

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

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

## San Quentin News

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## BEHIND THE SCENES

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