

# San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN—DESIGNED AND PRODUCED BY PRISONERS



VOL.2012 NO. 4

April 2012

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,763



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Cell corridor at Pelican Bay State Prison

## California's Prisoner Segregation Scrutinized

By John Eagan  
San Quentin News Adviser

Big changes are on the horizon for California's solitary confinement policies.

In the wake of hunger strikes, public protests and a complaint to the United Nations, California prison officials are gearing up for policy changes expected to

dramatically reduce the number of prisoners in solitary lockups.

State prisons chief Matthew Cate announced April 24 that "the department is already projecting a decreased need for segregated housing for gang members and has cancelled the

See *Security Housing* on Page 4

## Senator Looks to Redirect Inmate Funds to Counties

By Aly Tamboura  
Design Editor

The state Legislature is considering filling funding gaps in county services for former state prisoners with mental illnesses by redirecting millions of dollars raised by taxing prisoners and their families.

The pending legislation, SB 542, would require an unspecified percentage of the Inmate Welfare Fund to be transferred to county probation departments and utilized for the coordination of mental health services after an inmate's release from state custody.

### FUNDS

The funds, now totaling \$68 million, are deposited in a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) bank account and according to law must be allo-



Official Photo

Sen. Curren Price, Jr.

cated for "the benefit, education, and welfare of inmates of prisons and institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections."

SB 542 would amend the code to include "former inmates of institutions" as ad-

ditional recipients of the benefits.

State Sen. Curren D. Price Jr., D-Los Angeles, who sponsored the legislation, visited San Quentin on April 11 to meet with prison mental health care officials and with a group of students from the Prison University Project, who voiced opinions on how best to use the funds.

Price acknowledged to the group that his office and other interests, which he declined to name, have inquired about the funds. He and State Science and Technology Fellow Dr. Le Ondra Clark listened attentively as seven prisoners voiced their concerns. There were many suggestions, including securing assistance for prisoners with mental

See *New Legislation* on Page 4

## Recent State Study Criticizes Offender Classification Practice



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

San Quentin's old receiving and release building where initial inmate screening took place

By Richard Lindsey  
Staff Writer

The current practice by California prison officials of categorizing and housing some prisoners in higher level institutions than necessary has been blasted by a new report funded by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. (CDCR)

The report found that current administrative practice—called classification—creates a criminogenic effect that make offenders more dangerous than they were before entering one of the state's 33 prisons. In addition, the report points out that CDCR's classification methodology

allows favorable factors that would dissuade placement in higher-level institutions to be ignored—resulting in many well-behaved prisoners being miscategorized. Nearly 68 percent of California's prisoners are housed in higher security facilities. Once these miscategorized offenders are released from prison, their likelihood for return is greatly increased, according to the report.

### SECURITY LEVELS

California prisons have four security levels and prisoners are assigned to a specific institution based upon their classification score. Prisoners assigned to institutions that are Level I or Level II gener-

ally live in dormitories and need little supervision, while prisoners assigned to Level III or Level IV live in cells and require constant supervision. Notably, celled housing is far more costly to construct and operate than dormitories.

### CLASSIFICATION PROCESS

During the classification process, prisoners are given a preliminary score based on their social history and criminal record. Annual re-classification adjusts that score relative to their in-prison behavior, with points added for misconduct or subtracted for good behavior. However, instead of relying on demonstrated behavior, prisoners are often over-classified by the application of Close Custody designations and Mandatory Minimums, two components that override preliminary scores to determine prisoner placement.

### CLOSE CUSTODY

Close Custody is a designation reserved for prisoners considered an escape risk and make up nearly 40 percent of the state's 144,000 prisoners.

See *Recent Classification* on Page 4

To read what prisoners have to say to their mothers, see Pages 6 and 7 for their Mother's Day quotes.

## Book Views Plight Of Former Lifers

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Why would five convicted murderers offer a news reporter unfettered access into their life after spending decades behind bars?

Radio reporter Nancy Mullane uses her journalistic skill as a guiding force to give a unique perspective on how California's criminal justice system works.

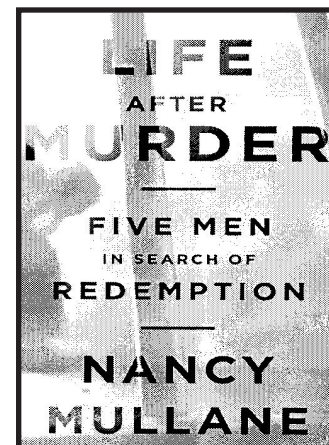
"Life after Murder: Five Men in Search of Redemption" is an eye opening and honest explanation of how a paroled murderer can live in the state of happiness and bliss while suffering from fear and anxiety.

She sifts through the emotional journey that these men and their families endure, writing; "No

one really goes to prison alone. An invisible rope stretches from the heart and mind of a prisoner out through the bars of his cell, up into the sky, over the hills and water, dropping back down to earth far away, inside the lives of the people left behind. As the years pass – five, 10, 20, 30 – the fibers of that rope become frayed, and sometimes they snap."

Mullane goes into extensive detail unclocking the events that

See *Mullane's Book* on Page 4



## Over 17 Years Since Singer's Tragic Death

By Adam Barboza  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last month marked the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic death of singer and songwriter Selena Quintanella, known as "La Reina de la musica Tejana" – The Queen of Tejano music.

Selena was born and raised in Texas. She started singing at age three and had her own band by the time she was nine, called Selena y Los Dinos. Selena signed her first recording contract, with EMI/Capitol, in 1989, and her popularity quickly grew. She was named "Top Latin Artist of the 90's" and "Best selling Latin artist of the decade" by *Billboard* magazine.

In addition to her musical success, she was also an actress, dancer, model and designer. She enjoyed going to schools to encourage education, and was involved with civic organizations such as D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

Selena's rise to the top was cut short at the age of 23. On March 31, 1995, she was murdered at a Days Inn hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas by Yolanda Saldívar, who had been president of the Selena Fan Club. The Quintanella family had recently fired Saldívar when they discovered she was embezzling money from the club.

Saldívar received a life sentence; she will be eligible for parole in 2025. She is in protec-



Official Photo

Singer Selena Quintanella

tive custody due to death threats from other prisoners.

On April 12, 1995, then governor George W. Bush declared Selena's birthday of April 16 as "Selena Day".

## Environmentalists Visit 'Green Life'

PRISONER GROUP RALLIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Last month, two world-renowned environmentalists paid visits to the Green Life program at San Quentin. One might think the environment would be the last thing that a person doing time would have on his mind, but the Green Life teaches prisoners about issues like sustainable growth, environmental justice, and waste management.



Manuel Maqueda and Julia Butterfly Hill are both interested in how prisoners are dedicating themselves to caring for the planet.

Maqueda originally studied law and economics in Spain. But when he moved to the United States, the worldwide misuse of plastics caught his attention and he redirected his career. Maqueda got involved in a documentary studying the environmental havoc wreaked by plastics on islands in the Pacific.

"It is not a good idea to make a product that is only needed for a short period of time with a material that will last forever," he said.

Maqueda said his visit to San Quentin was an opportunity to converse with like-minded environmentalists. He also talked about artist Chris Jordan, who created a photograph depicting 2.3 million prisoner jumpsuits – one for every incarcerated American – as a visual representation of mass incarceration in the United States.

Conservationist Julia Butterfly Hill's visit was her second to San Quentin. "What touched me about the men I met inside of San Quentin is the courage I experience in this space," she said. "It takes

courage to care about this world, the way that you do, under the circumstances you are in. That really touched me."

Butterfly Hill sat in a circle of convicted felons as she spoke about her transformation into an activist fighting against the deforestation of America's rainforests that began with occupying a 1000-year old redwood — an experience that ended up lasting 738 days. She attributes the success of her occupation to her

***"It is not a good idea to make a product that is only needed for a short period of time with a material that will last forever"***

stubbornness, which grew out of overcoming a rough childhood.

"The greatest obstacle to success is in the mind," she said. Butterfly Hill compared her transformation into the person she is today to that of a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly. The body and mind must literally undergo *real* change, she said. "That's what happened to me."

## Native American Sues for Ceremonial Tobacco Right

A San Quentin prisoner is suing the California prison system for denying Native Americans the right to use tobacco during religious ceremonies.

Daniel Trevino, a member of the Comanche Nation, filed the suit in the Northern District Federal Court in San Francisco. The defendant is the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The prison rules manual provides an exemption for the use of tobacco products for inmate religious ceremonies. However, many institutions, including San Quentin, routinely issue rules violations for possession of tobacco, even to be used for religious purposes. Trevino stated that recently arrived Native American prisoners report that tobacco is used in other

institutions without men being issued rules violation reports.

In South Dakota two inmates, Blaine Brings Plenty and Clayton Creek, have also sued the warden of the corrections department because of the tobacco ban in that state.

Richard Moves Camp, a traditional Lakota healer said during a federal trial "denying the use of tobacco by Native Americans would be equal to taking bibles away from Christians."

The South Dakota lawsuit was filed in 2009 the California lawsuit was filed in 2011.

South Dakota, as well as California, has an exemption in their respective prison rule books providing for the use of tobacco during religious ceremonies.

## SF Seeks to Build New County Jail

By N.T. "Noble" Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco officials have taken the first steps to modernize its jail system. The plan was prompted by the aging condition of the Bryant Street jail. Officials believe that it is unstable and could not survive an earthquake.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) wants to purchase

the entire block where the Hall of Justice is located at an estimated cost of between \$7.7 and \$9.4 million. The total cost of planning and building the new jail, including a new Superior Court building, is estimated at \$425 million.

The County Jail system is designed to house 2,360 detainees. San Bruno houses about 1,100 prisoners and Seventh Street holds 464. The jail at the Hall of

Justice on Bryant Street accommodates about 900 detainees.

If the land were purchased by 2015, officials would begin construction in 2018 and will open the jail for intake by 2019.

City officials have not contacted the owners of the land about offers.

The San Francisco Examiner contacted one of the owners, who commented, "Why build a jail on such precious land?"



## Medical Care



### What Is Tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis is a disease of the lungs that is commonly called TB. TB is caused by a germ that floats in the air. You can be exposed to TB if a person with infectious TB disease talks, coughs, shouts or sneezes. This sprays TB germs into the air around you. Anyone nearby can breathe the TB germs into their lungs. Some of these people could become infected with TB.

### Why Is It Important To Have A TB Skin Test?

You can be infected with TB and not know it. TB germs can live in your body without making you sick right away. The TB Skin Test can tell you early that you need treatment.

Residents of prisons are at risk for developing TB. Since TB is spread through the air, all people who share the same air space can get TB. Inmates should be tested regularly to make sure TB does not spread.

The TB Skin Test can catch TB early. The earlier you find TB infection, the easier it can be to treat.

### ¿ Que es la tuberculosis?

La tuberculosis, o "TB" (ti bi) como se le llama comunmente en Ingles, es una enfermedad de los pulmones, que es causada por un germen que se encuentra en el aire. Los germenos de la tuberculosis pasan al aire cuando alguien que esta infectado con la enfermedad estornuda, toce o habla, por esta razón, usted puede estar expuesto a la tuberculosis con simplemente respirar el aire contagiado.

### ¿ Porque es importante tener un analisis de la piel para determinar si se tiene o no tuberculosis?

**Usted puede estar infectado y no saberlo.** Al principio de la enfermedad es posible tener los germenos tuberculosos en el cuerpo sin sentirse enfermo. Este examen puede demostrarle a tiempo si es que se necesita tratamiento medico.

**Las personas en las prisiones estan en riezgo de contraer la tuberculosis,** Puesto que la tuberculosis se expande en el aire libre, por lo tanto al respirar el aire contagiado, cualquier persona puede contagiarse con esta enfermedad. Todos los reclusos tienen que ser examinados regularmente para asegurarse que la tuberculosis no se dicemine por toda la dependencia penitenciaria.

**El análisis de la piel ayuda a comprobar si existen germenos tuberculosos en el cuerpo.** Con este examen la tuberculosis se puede detectar desde su comuienso y recuerde que entre más temprano se detecte la enfermedad, más fácil será su tratamiento.

# States Rethink Prison Solitary Confinement

THERE ARE GROWING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LONG TERM AFFECTS OF ISOLATION

By San Quentin News Staff

In 1831, French historian Alexis de Tocqueville visited the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, where prison officials were pioneering a novel rehabilitation,



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Exercise yard for segregated inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison

based on Quaker principles of reflection and penitence. They called it solitary confinement,

and it's where we get the name penitentiary.

Now, 180 years later, "at least 25,000 prisoners" — and possibly many more, various sources say — are in solitary confinement in the United States, with little consistency in the amount of time they will spend there. The United Nations reported that more prisoners are held in solitary confinement in the United States than any other democratic nation, according to a recent article in the New York Times.

"By 2005, 44 states had supermax prisons or their equivalents. In most, prisoners get out of their cells for only a few hours a week. They are fed through slots in their cell doors and are denied access to work programs or other rehabilitation efforts. If visitors are allowed, the interactions are conducted with no physical contact," the Times concluded.

Some prisoners seem to adjust to isolation, according to a report by Craig W. Haney,

a psychology professor at the University of California.

But Haney added that "the rigid control, absence of normal human interaction and lack of stimulation imposed by prolonged isolation can cause a wide range of psychological symptoms, including insomnia, withdrawal, rage and aggression, depression, hallucinations and thoughts of suicide... Worse still is the fact that for many of these men, the real damage only becomes apparent when they get out of this environment."

A New York Times story on Pelican Bay, a supermax prison in California, reported most prisoners claim they suffer from nervousness, anxiety, lethargy or other psychological complaints. Seventy percent said they felt themselves to be at risk of "impending nervous breakdown."

Because of what has been learned about the adverse psychological affects of isolation, humanitarian groups have argued that, its use should have been ended long ago. However, because of



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Housing unit at Pelican State Prison

their extensive staffing requirements, the economic factor has brought attention to the use of these facilities.

California, Mississippi, Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Ohio and Washington State

are reevaluating the use of long-term isolation and reevaluating how many prisoners really require it, how long they should be kept there, and how best to move them out.

## Model Prisoner Vang Paroles After 17 Years

By Julian Glenn Padgett  
Journalism Guild Chairman

After half his life in prison, Touly Vang is scheduled to parole from San Quentin. He is determined to be a positive role model and a voice that speaks out against gang violence in the Hmong community.

"When I was found suitable for parole I was basically in disbelief," Vang said. "I had to hear it a couple of times to make sure it was what I heard." When it registered, Vang said, he thought about his family and friends who helped him prepare for his parole board hearing.

"I thought of the family of the victim, Khao Heu. I thought about his mother and sister," said Vang. "I thought was I worthy, if 18 years was enough after I took a human life." When asked

if that answer had been given, Vang said yes it had. Now his goal is to give a lot more back to the Hmong community.

"I was self-destructive and angry. I tried to find my way and couldn't," said Vang. "Prison taught me to be independent but also to be humble and seek others' advice."

Vang credits San Quentin's programs, Addiction Rehabilitation Center (ARC), Non-violent Communication (NVC), Guiding Rage into Power (GRIP), Impact, Kairos, and Prison University Project (PUP), for instilling the direction he now has. "Impact's violence prevention module is what clicked for me today. When I'm angry I know violence isn't going to straighten out the situation," Vang said. "I know not to meet the same energy with anger."



Official Photo

Touly Vang at a self help group graduation ceremony

He thanked Jacques Verduin, a volunteer who teaches GRIP, and Katargeo for helping him.

"Jacques is an inspiration. His help is genuine," said Vang. "With PUP I stepped out of my comfort zone going to college. They challenged me and taught me self worth plus the value of education."

Born in a refugee camp in Thailand, his family fled to the Philippines after a civil war broke out there. Later they would move again. "We came to America," said Vang. Suddenly he found himself lured into a new battle zone, one of gangs and violence.

"What drew me to gangs was the camaraderie," Vang said. "It was hard being first generation Hmong. I could hardly speak English. The gangs offered me a sense of belonging. It was like family."

Yet when his parents and siblings found out they did not approve. "It was a culture clash

between the old and new," said Vang. "They weren't happy with me. They were very disappointed."

Today his family is very proud of him, Vang said, especially his plans to speak out against gangs in the Hmong community. His message to Governor Brown regarding juvenile justice is clear. "San Quentin's education and self-esteem programs should be the model."

"Locking up kids and throwing away the key is not the answer," Vang said. "There's a disconnection. People are not connecting to their kid's cry for help."

"At 17, I came to prison. Now I'm 34, I have 11 sisters and three brothers," said Vang. "I have a long way to go still, but for now I just want to be with my family and have some sticky rice and fish."

## ACLU Releases Report on State's Prison Realignment Plan

Last month, the ACLU of California released a report with specific suggestions geared toward state lawmakers telling them what they should do in order to comply with the terms of a Supreme Court prison population reduction order without overcrowding county jails with low-level offenders.

The state's prison population reduction plan is called realignment. It is premised on the counties' willingness to implement evidence-based practices that will reduce re-

cidivism, limit incarceration costs and investing criminal justice resources more efficiently. However, the report finds that since the new legislation does not establish systematic data collection or evaluation, the state has missed the opportunity to successfully measure the effectiveness of its realignment plan.

Of the 53 counties that the report examined, it found that too few explicitly allocated funds to make even the most "well-intentioned plans to in-

stitute evidence-based alternatives" to incarceration.

"Among the counties that allocated funds specifically for evidence-based programming, such as job counseling, family reunification, behavioral therapy, and mental health and substance abuse treatment, the allocations were all too often insufficient to carry out the stated plans or fail to provide access to the estimated number of individuals in need," according to the report.

The following recommendations were made:

- Mandate standardized data collection and analysis
- Revise the realignment allocation formula
- Enact statewide sentencing reforms
- Amend statewide pretrial detention laws
- Require counties to submit new or revised realignment plans each year
- Halt or significantly reduce jail expansion and construction plans

- Create and fund concrete plans for community-based alternatives to detention
- Implement and fund new local pretrial release policies
- Review the impact of immigration status and immigration detainers
- Ensure that community corrections practices are based on evidence
- Encourage local courts to utilize realignment's new sentencing options

—Juan Haines

# Security Housing Units

*Continued from Page 1*

proposed construction of 50 segregated exercise yards for gang members at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi."

Cate said that cancellation saves about \$2.9 million.

He said changes "are expected to begin in fiscal year 2012-13." They include:

- Offer graduated housing and privileges as incentives for positive behavior, and impose consequences for gang-related behaviors;

- Offer a step-down program for inmates to work their way from a restricted program back to a general population setting;

- Provide support and education for inmates seeking to disengage from gangs;

- Employ a weighted point system to enhance the integrity of the gang validation process;

- Use segregated housing only for those gang associates and suspects who engage in additional serious disciplinary behavior; and

- Offer programs designed to promote social values and behaviors in preparation for an inmate's return to the community.

"The department manages arguably the most violent and sophisticated criminal gangs in the nation," Cate said. "The department's prior

prison gang strategy was developed more than 25 years ago and relied primarily on suppression. Tested national models available today utilize a combination of prevention, interdiction, and rehabilitation measures."

On March 20 the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law

petitioned the United Nation to investigate and urge an end to solitary confinement. The petition came in the wake of 6,000 persons in 13 California prisoners conducting hunger strikes last summer, claiming the practice are "inhumane and torturous," The Associated Press reported.

The petitioners say California's solitary confinement policies violate "international rules governing the treatment of prisoners."

On Feb. 20 the Occupy movement demonstrated outside San Quentin objecting to solitary confinement, among other things.

"Certainly there are a small number of people who for a variety of reasons have to be maintained in a way that they don't have access to other inmates," Chase Rioveland, a former head of corrections in Colorado and Washington state, told the New York Times. "But those in most systems are pretty small numbers of people."

Mississippi corrections commissioner Christopher B. Epps told the New York Times he used to believe difficult inmates should be locked down as tightly as possible, for as long as possible.

But Epps said while he was fighting a lawsuit over prison conditions he changed his views and ordered changes. "If you treat people like animals, that's exactly the way they'll behave," he said.



Photo by Sgt. Baxter

Sen. Price, Dr. Jody Lewen, and Dr. Le Ondra Clark pose with prisoners after a meeting in the education department

## New Legislation Eyes Inmate Welfare Fund

*Continued from Page 1*

health issues, reentry into society, and funding rehabilitation programs inside.

Price told them he wanted "to make sure that inmates are getting the services they deserve."

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The group agreed there is need to provide services for former state prisoners. But they told Price that the IWF should not be used to pay for

***"These funds should not be used for programs the state should be providing from the general fund. These funds should be used for things like arts in prison, college textbooks, theater groups and gardening programs."***

services that are the responsibility of the state or county.

One prisoner suggested increasing the \$200 given to prisoners when they parole "Two-hundred dollars is not enough money to parole with; it isn't even enough to rent a room nowadays," he told the senator.

### USED FOR PRISONERS

Currently, the IWF is used pay for institutional canteens and staffing and maintenance of hobby craft programs. However, it has been years since inmate committees have had access or been able to have input into the use of the IWF, according to prisoners.

The IWF is collected from prisoners and their families who are taxed 10 percent on all goods prisoners are allowed to purchase while serving sentences in state institutions. This tax also collected from the sale of arts and crafts prisoners produce.

The bill was referred to committee. It would allow the

IWF to go toward the cost of mental health services for former prisoners, many of whom are under county supervision due to the prison realignment plan implemented by SB109. The services would include providing mental health appointments, transportation, and medications for former state prisoners.

Price gave no indication of what percentage of the IWF the legislation seeks. Some prisoners are concerned that they will be left out of the process and that state officials will raid the funds.

"We want to make sure that the money is being used for what it was intended for," Price assured prisoners.

Prison University Project Executive Director Jody Lewen, who invited the senator to San Quentin, said, "Just because there are funds and people have a need for them does not mean that they have a right to them. That is the logic of theft."

### STAKE HOLDERS

After meeting with prisoners, Price attended an April 17 stakeholders' meeting in the state capital where he recounted his visit to San Quentin, according to those present.

Ninety-one percent of the meeting attendees said in a survey they believed that the funds should not be sent to county probation departments to cover the cost of inmates with mental illness who are in county custody.

One stakeholder wrote: "These funds should not be used for programs the state should be providing with general funds. These funds should be used for things like arts in prison, college textbooks, theater groups, (and) gardening programs."

In an interview, another person close to the issue commented that the bill is well intended in helping former inmates, but also that the legislation is looking in the wrong place for funding.



Photo By Nancy Mullane

Cell in Pelican Bay State Prison

## Mullane's Book On Ex-Lifers

*Continued from Page 1*

catapulted these men into murder, how imprisonment drove them to transform their thinking, what it feels like – that first day out, the challenges that parole imposes on an ex-offender, and what it means for a man to become self-sufficient.

Mullane took five years to study and decode the mysteries behind prison culture – simultaneously navigating through the intricacies of state government in order to tell a story about the mechanical life that these men left in their wake. "...if anyone knows how to pace himself, how to take one step at a time and be patient, it is a man who

has served an indeterminate sentence," Mullane explains.

She becomes more than just a storyteller as she tags along with Don Cronk, Phillip Sieler, Eric Rameriz, Jesse Reed, and Richard Real to show that their deeds in service to the community and survival are rooted in redemption. The book is scheduled to be released this June.

## Recent Classification Study

*Continued from Page 1*

However, the report found no evidence to support the continued use of the Close Custody designation as 27 of California's 33 prisons have electric fences and no prisoner has ever escaped from an institution with a lethal electrified fence.

### MANDATORY MINIMUMS

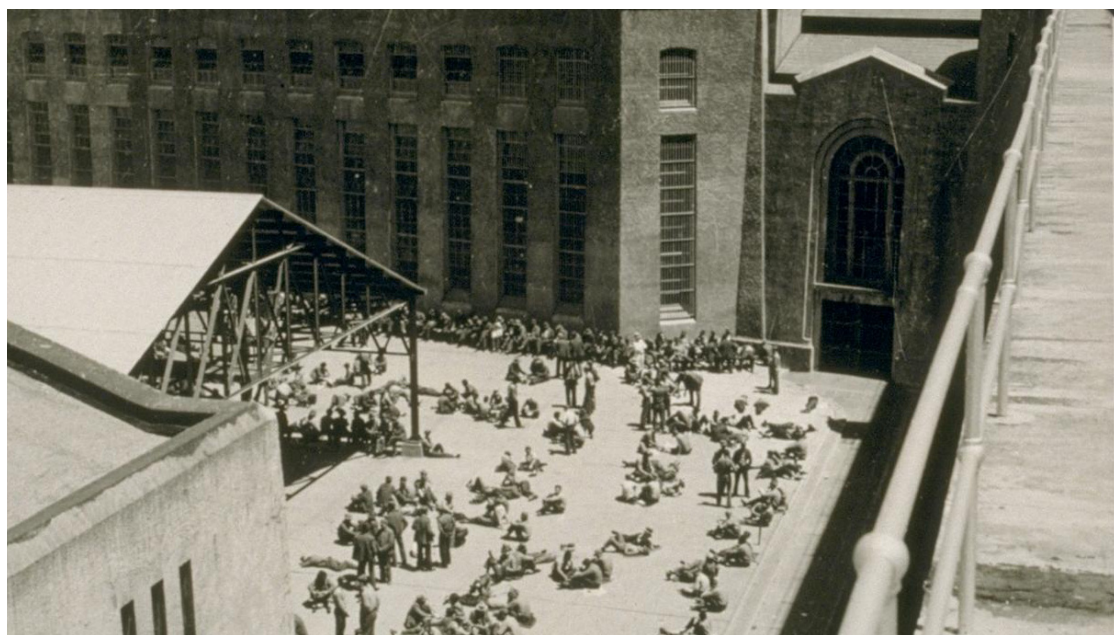
Mandatory Minimums further restrict the placement of identified prisoners based solely on their commitment offense. Although commonly perceived as more dangerous, prisoners "convicted of vio-

lent crimes tend to be better behaved in prison" than others. The report found Mandatory Minimums over-classifies many well-behaved prisoners, placing them in higher security levels than necessary. Notably, prisoners serving life without parole were found to be 21 percent less likely to commit future acts of violence when compared to prisoners serving shorter sentences.

The report noted recent studies of the federal prison system found that moving a prisoner up just one level from minimum security "doubles the prisoner's chances of being rearrested within three years." In California, another study

found that Level III prisoners housed in Level I settings are 31 percent less likely to return to prison.

The report concluded a prisoner's in-prison behavior is the best predictor of future conduct and recommended prison administrators rely on that factor instead of Close Custody designations and Mandatory Minimums to determine their prison placement—noting that prisoners with classification scores at or near the threshold of each security level could safely be moved down one level. The report also found many older prisoners may be safely moved to lower security level prisons.



Archive Photo

The upper yard with a view of East Block's entrance (date unknown)

## Looking Back into S.Q.'s Legacy

### The Rich History of California's Oldest Prison

*This is the second in a series of articles on San Quentin history.*

**By Keshun Tate**  
Journalism Guild Writer

After California became a state, executions were carried out in individual counties, usually by hanging.

On February 14, 1872, Capital Punishment was entered into the California Penal Code.

San Quentin was chosen to be the exclusive site for execution in 1893. The first execution within the walls of San Quentin was on March 3, 1893. Hanging from the end of the rope was 60-year-old California native Jose Gabriel.

#### SWIFT PUNISHMENT

There's no doubt San Quentin has a rich history. Most prisoners who are locked within the walls of San Quentin have no idea what has gone on here before they were born. San Quentin is not as infamous as it was in the 1800s, yet it is still a prison that is designated for executions. Sitting on Death Row are some of the state's most dangerous criminals.

Punishment in the early years was swift. It only took three months and four days after Jose received the sentence for murder before it was carried out. The first triple execution was conducted on Oct. 3, 1893.

The chief physician would step up on a foot stool and put a stethoscope over the condemned person's heart to let the hangmen know when the heart stopped beating. The person would not be cut down until the doctor pronounced the condemned dead. Chief Physician Dr. Leo Stanly wrote that witnessing a hanging was a hellish experience.

If the body was not claimed within 24 hours, a medical school claimed it for student study.

The first woman to hang in San Quentin was on Nov. 21, 1941. There was no more hanging in San Quentin after 1942.

The gas chamber, equipped with two chairs, was activated in 1938. A prisoner who helped build the gas chamber ended up years later being executed in it.

All those who were on the list for execution went to the gas chamber. Four women have been executed in San Quentin. The last woman to die in the gas chamber was on Aug. 8, 1962. During Warden Clinton Duffy's term 1940-52, he witnessed executions by rope and by gas.

#### LETHAL INJECTION

In recent years, executions were conducted with lethal injections. Court challenges have repeatedly delayed California executions, but they continue in a few other states.

Of the 409 people executed in San Quentin, over half were white. Not everyone executed in San Quentin committed a murder.

In this era the average prison sentence was two years; not many had over five years.

The general population wore clothing with vertical stripes; horizontal were assigned to the more dangerous convicts. Stripes were abolished in 1913 because they were considered demeaning to the prisoners.

#### PRISON GROWTH

The prison has transformed from 40 prisoners in a boat anchored on the shore San Quentin grew to be a prison holding over 6,000 inmates. The educational program has excelled to the point where those who wish to do so can get a college degree. Because of the many programs and opportunities San Quentin has to offer, the men in blue from all over California who want to become better people work hard to get here. If a prisoner feels he has been mistreated, he can file a grievance. If the grievance is found to be true, the staff will face disciplinary action.

Today prisoners are not given lashes for rules infractions but instead can lose their good

time credits, moving their release date back.

Today, because of the federal courts, medical care for inmates is much better than it was in the 1890s. In the infant days of San Quentin, nothing was done about overcrowding but in 2011 the federal government ordered California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reduce its population.

#### INSPECTIONS

On Jan. 19, 1858, inspection teams found that 120 of 500 inmates were barefoot, food was not up to standard and cells were unsanitary and overcrowded. California Gov. Weller took the keys to San Quentin from Warden McCauley, but on May 13, 1859 they were given back to him mainly because of the support he had from the residents of Marin County, who approved the harsh treatment of inmates.

The brick industry picked back up, road gangs were put back to work and strict discipline continued as it was before the governor took over. People complained because prison laborers worked for a third of what hard working, law-abiding citizens were paid. The prisoners rebelled by trying to escape, a feat close to impossible due to the wall that was built.

#### STATE GETS CONTROL

In April 1860, the state gained back control of San Quentin and has kept it up to present time.

The state continued to upgrade the prison conditions. Warden Josiah Ames abolished the whipping post that had been used to whip prisoners for over 25 years.

In 1864 prisoners were given time off for good behavior. In 1868, the first school was started. It met once a week after service in the chapel.

Factories were moved inside the walls and inmates were contracted out for labor.

## EDUCATION CORNER

### Prisoner Champions Educating His Peers in Prison Industries

**By Tom Bolema**  
Literacy Coordinator

Sajad Shakoor occupies a unique job assignment among California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) residents. He is an employee of the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) at San Quentin (SQ) where inmate crews make mattresses and furniture for CDCR institutions statewide, hospitals, schools, and other state agencies.

Production has slowed dramatically since the advent of re-alignment, resulting in inmate worker layoffs. However, Shakoor's position is secure. In collaboration with the Voluntary Education Program (VEP), his job is to prepare the production workers for the GED test.

Shakoor exceeds the standard qualifiers for his position. He is a UC Berkeley Certified Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Specialist, and Laubach certified tutor. He has Associate Arts degrees from Coastline Community College and Patten University.

Shakoor has been working in PIA for two years as Health and Safety Coordinator and GED Instructor. His job requires a mixture of vocational and academic skill sets. He is responsible for critical OSHA analyses, and equally critical group test preparation. These responsibilities require a strong education background to validate and set the employee's ability and liability.

Shakoor initiated the PIA link to SQ's Burton Adult School, which has four full time VEP

teaching positions. Only two are filled at this time. Students meet face-to-face with a VEP teacher roughly twice per week. The teacher oversees the program and proctors TABE and pre-GED tests to qualify the candidates. PIA workers are especially motivated to have a GED because the DOM requires it of them, and PIA will not grant a pay raise to a worker who doesn't have one. Workers are allotted two hours per day of work time to prepare for the GED test as per DOM.

The results are tangible. The VEP/PIA collaboration has produced eight GED graduates. About 10 students are currently enrolled, which is about half of the enrollment before the re-alignment layoffs. The VEP also extends distance learning services to the Ad-seg and Condemned units, and includes plans to employ teams of inmate tutors.

Some of the unemployed PIA students have committed to continue their GED studies on an independent study basis, with as-needed classroom contact. Shakoor plans to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Literature July 2012 from Ohio University, then to enroll in a Masters Degree Program at CSU Dominguez Hills. He also conducts Arabic language lessons each evening in his housing unit.

*Tom Bolema is a free-staff Literacy Coordinator at Burton Adult School, San Quentin.*

## Radio Programming for Prisoners Without TVs

**By Bob Martin**  
Journalism Guild Writer

For recent arrivals, especially those without TVs to watch (West Block), there are a few specialty evening programs on the radio you may find worth a visit over the weekends.

Starting on Friday from 10 p.m. to midnight on FM 94.1, KPFA, is The History Of Funk, with Ricky Vincent. Ricky studied music history at UC Berkeley in 1987 and found a gaping hole called Funk. His professor, Roy Thomas, encouraged his research, which led to a campus radio program, and then into KPFA for the last 10 years. Recent guests have been Larry Graham, bassist for Sly and the Family Stone.

George Clinton of Parliament took an evening to play various versions by other artists of one of his biggest hits, Atomic Dog. Clinton's book, "Funk," is in the San Quentin library with photos and history of the groups that made it happen. The locator number is 781.64 VIN.

Saturday at midnight on the strong AM 910 station are two-hour original episodes of The Twilight Zone, dramatized for radio broadcast where you just close your eyes and see it all unfold.

For those who enjoy 60 Minutes, the audio version is aired Sundays at 7 p.m. on FM106.9 CBS Radio.

If there are other specialty shows that stand out, please write up a short story and bring it to the S.Q. Journalism Guild meeting at 9 A.M. in the red roofed building behind Education. No ducat is required.

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

## Words to My Mother

Chris Scull - Happy Mother's Day momma. Thank you for telling me to get a good education. Thank you for giving me birth and loving me unconditionally.

Stephen Pascascio - Even though physically you're no longer here mom, I thank God for the way you raised me. The things you taught me as a child I am implementing in my life today, like treat others as you want to be treated and always be a help to your neighbors.

Alex P. Ruiz - Thank you for showing me the true meaning of a mother's love. I am blessed to be your son. You are beautiful and strong. I am forever grateful to have you in my life.

Juan Riojas - To my mother, Maria: You are there in times of pain and grief, and you are someone to talk to. Happy Mother's Day, straight from my heart. I will always love my momma. Tu eres vien Trucha, mamma.

Fabian Vazquez - I wish I could be there with you to tell you how much I love you, and to thank you for giving me my life.

Steve Cuevas - To my mom, Rose, the only person that has loved me through all of the toughest of times, and has shown me that a heartfelt love should never be doubted. You provide a warm respectable home for my daughter, Makayla, and hold that great position of being her mom. She is your diamond and I love you for this and I will forever respect your unconditional love. Gracias, your hijo.

Miguel Quezada - Feliz día de las madres a mi jefita y mis queridas hermanas. Las amo y extrano mucho. Agradesco todo lo que han hecho por mi y por ser un buen ejemplo en mi vida. Me despido con un fuerte abrazo. Su hijo Migue.

Jose Mora - Feliz día de las madres a mi madresita querida and to my wife, Happy Mother's Day. I love and miss you. And also to the mother of my children, Happy Mother's Day, and my princess, Bri. To my sons, love and miss you. Les mando un abrazo rompe costillas. And to my baby sis, Susie, Happy Mother's Day.

Marco - I love you so much, and I thank you for giving me life, for sacrificing your freedoms and future to ensure that I was always warm and safe. You gave so much.

Sam W. Johnson Sr. - My mom meant the world to me throughout my father's alcoholism. She continued to hold the family together. Through all the fights and abuse, she loved us unconditionally. She is the matriarch of all mothers and an example of God's love in a world that can be so cold and heartless. My mother-in-law has been there for me since my imprisonment. When I think about unconditional love, it brings tears to my eyes and joy to my soul. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms in the world.

Michael A. Tyler - Mom, this is a day that we all should focus on you. I focus on you all the time. God truly blessed me when he allowed me to be put in your path and allowed your heart to be big enough to have me in it. You're truly the one that has loved me, for that I'm grateful. Words, gestures, or gifts can't fully contain the love and appreciation I have for you.

Clinton Martin - To my mother, Donna, my strength, my rock and to all women in the world, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for never turning your back to a man in need. I thank you for your caring, understanding, and deep appreciation. Bless you and all the women in the world.

Ricky Malik Harris - I apologize that it took me this long to start listening to your advice, Happy Mother's Day.

Derek Loud - For a special mother on a special day: You mean more to me than words can say. I love you always.

Kevin Fuqua - I love you and I miss you momma, I wish I were home to give you a hug and a kiss. I thank you for being the wonderful mother, great provider, and inspiration in my life. I know you miss me and I know you're going through tough times and I believe in my heart that I'll be home soon, so stay strong and keep the family together because we get our family values from you.

Chevell M. Payne - I wish Katrina L. Ponce a Happy Mother's Day and may God bless her and her beautiful daughters.

Troy Williams - But for the unconditional love of my mother, I would not be the changed man that I am today. She stuck by me when nobody else would. As a result of her love, I was able to get a sense of my worth, a sense of value and now I know that I'm capable of loving others just the same. I thank you, mom, for the gift of life.

Kimini Randall - Your personal substance as a woman, but most important as my mother, is priceless to my heart. I pray that it is in God's will that I be blessed with a woman who can mirror your essence to be my companion. Thank you for all of your unconditional love, and Happy Mother's Day.

Jonathan (J.W.) Wilson - Happy Mother's Day to the best momma in the world. Too few of us are blessed with a person such as you. If I could, I would give you the world, so you could shape it into your likeness.

Carl Saldano - To the best mother any man could ever hope for as my best friend. Happy Mother's Day and may God always keep his hands on you. Love, your son, Carl.

Stafont Smith - Linda, you have been the inspiration in my life. You shaped my character, my love and compassion. You raised me when I lost my mother at such a young age. You're a blessing and the love of my life; baseball is second only to you.

The San Quentin News invited various prisoners to express their thoughts about their mothers as Mother's Day approaches. Here are some of the responses:

## From a Mother With a Son in Prison

*Editor's note: This article was written by a retired college professor who asked that her name not be used.*

**Around two million men and women are in prison in the United States, more than any other country in the world. That means a corresponding number of moms have children in prison. Many others are affected by incarceration such as friends and family members: fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, wives, husbands and children.**

**Do you know any of those two million? Are any in your family? Most likely not. It is not the first thing one mentions, nor maybe the last, when discussing family members. "Well, how are the kids doing?" You will hear about the one with the Bachelor of Science degree from Harvard who runs her own business, or the son who has his Master of Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin, or the son who is a scholar/athlete, but not always about the one in prison. And how about the Christmas News Letter? Did you ever receive one that says that their daughter or son is in prison? Or an "inmate." So, where are all the people who are incarcerated? They all have family.**

**Well, why do you think people are reluctant to share that their child is in prison? When your child makes a wrong turn, bad choice, breaks the law, parents usually get the blame, or they blame themselves. It is quite natural, for example, when there is a serial killer that the news media will search out the person's background. What kind of mom did he/she have? Ask most parents who have children in prison, and they probably would have advised against the behavior that resulted in their children being incarcerated. However, now they are dealing with the consequences.**

**Interestingly, whenever I mention to others that my son is in prison, people will confide that their son or daughter is or was in prison or they themselves, or a friend's son was in prison. But, it takes someone first to mention it, and obviously one picks and chooses who to tell, especially keeping in mind that your child will face a lot of discrimination and hurdles upon release.**

**So, two reasons may be offered up as to why you may not know anybody whose child is in prison: the parents feel they are to blame or others blame them; and secondly, their children will have more difficulty reintegrating into society upon release if many know.**

**My son has been in prison for a year and a half now, and I empathize with other moms, especially at Mothers' Day. To begin with, it is with great anguish for a mom to see her child shackled and handcuffed in court. In addition, the first visit to the prison is a lesson in frustration: don't wear metal, don't wear blue or green, walk this path, sign here, leave your driver's license there, etc. As a parent, one almost becomes a prisoner oneself. Added are the other hurdles to undergo, such as paying outrageous phone bills for a few calls, paying huge amounts for food that can be bought for much less outside the prison, not being able to phone, being worried about your child being beat up or tasered, but most of all, being concerned about how your child will cope with a prison environment and how they will adjust to the outside world upon release.**

**Speaking for myself, and for many other moms, I'm sure his family loves my son, and there is great hope for a normal life upon leaving that environment. In my mind, he is not an "inmate" or number, he is my wonderful son. When I visit him at the prison, I see other family members of prisoners who obviously love and care for their children, too. Older grandparents visits as well as husbands, wives and children.**

**So, my congratulations to all the moms who are so loving and faithful to your children.**

**Here's wishing you a wonderful Mothers' Day, even if you can't visit, talk or email your daughters or sons. Receiving a Mothers' Day card from your child in prison will make your day. And for those mothers who don't have children who are incarcerated, I hope you now better understand moms who do. Happy Mother's Day to you, too.**

## To Other Mothers Of the Incarcerated

Chris Marshall - I cherish my mom for her wisdom, her nurturing caresses, but especially for her beautiful laughter. Happy Mother's Day, mom. I look forward to our next walk on the beach.

Vernon Britten - Happy Mother's Day. I know that you just buried your brother, so I'm sending this to you with all the love in the world.

Michael Best - Maternal instinct between mother and child is inseparable. I wish you a beautiful Mother's Day. Love always, Calvin, Michael and Doris.

Jerome L. Boone - Mom, I put you through so much, but my motivation for the positive things that I do today are because of you. In the past, you might think I wasn't receptive to the lessons and help you gave me, but they are the tools I apply to my life today. Happy Mother's Day.

Adam Verdoux - Dear mother, I'm waiting to go to English 204 at Patten College. I'm doing this so I can become the man I always should've been and the son you have always deserved. I love you always.

Thomas Winfrey - In my world, every day is Mother's Day. You are everything good, right, and everything I'm proud of in my life is centered around you. You symbolize unconditional love to me, purity of heart, acceptance, and an angel on earth. How to put into words the kindness, caring and devotion my mother has shown me, my entire life in a way defies my ability.

Frankie Smith - Mom, I hope this day brings you all the happiness you deserve. Without your encouragement and love, I would never have accomplished what I've accomplished. Thank you. With love and respect on your special day. God bless you.

James Clark - While serving a 25-to-life sentence, I woke up one morning with an epiphany. This epiphany was a true understanding of my mother's unconditional love for a son who had a drug addiction and was involved in criminal behavior for over 22 years. During my 50 years, my mother has always been there for me and she has never given up on me. I love you, mom. You're my rock. Happy Mother's Day.

Dennis Pratt - Mom, when you left this world, I blamed myself, because my actions were not of a loving son. I did not get the chance to tell you how much I love you. I'm sorry for everything. I miss you so much.

David Baker - Thanks for the many years in time that you spent with me through the good and the bad. You were always the best mother that I could ever ask for. Your memories will never fade away and you will never be forgotten, though you're deceased, I still treat you as if you were still here. I love you, mom.

Tristan Jones - Dear mom, how do I make this so perfect? I'm spoiled far beyond what anyone deserves. I believe love is far beyond a feeling; it's an action, and your actions have proved beyond any doubt that I am loved. I hope one day to return that feeling to you. Happy Mother's Day. Love, your son, Tristan.

Chris Schuhmacher - Mom, Happy Mother's Day. I want to tell you how much I love you and how much I appreciate you being there for me every step of the way throughout my life. For me, I would say a mother's love is about the closest thing you can get to the unconditional love of God. I consider myself truly blessed to have received that love, in more ways than one.

Michael Endres - Mom, I haven't always been the greatest son, but I've known you've always loved me and missed me when I've been away. Thank you for being you. Happy Mother's Day, and happy birthday. I love you, miss you and think of you every day.

David Vest - Dear mom, you did a good job raising me. You were always there. I could always trust you and you loved me to the best of your ability. I should've listened to you. I love you mom. Happy Mother's Day. I love you too, Susy.

Jason McGinnis - Mother, my love for you knows no bounds; your unconditional love, caring and support through all these years have truly made you a "real mom." Here's wishing you the happiest Mother's Day, with love from your Jason.

Randy Carey - Mom, thank you for raising me like you did and for showing me right from wrong. I love you with all my heart and I always will. Happy Mother's Day. Your loving number one son, Randy.

Stev'o Phillips - It's been many years since we've been together on this date and it may seem like a lifetime. You're always in my thoughts on this day and through this lifetime. Stay healthy, stay happy and smile for me. Love, your son, Stev'o.

Vinh Hong Nguyen - A Vietnamese writer said it best: "Long me bao la nhu bien thai binh," which means "the mother's love for her child is like the Pacific Ocean, it's endless." The virtue that I possess, the man that I am, and my walk in life today is thanks to the love and compassion my mother has taught me through the years. Happy Mother's Day. I love you.

Nghiep "Ke" Lam - When I think of a mother, thoughts of you come to my mind and heart. Since I was a child, you have been there to shower me with your precious love, time and words. There are no words to describe how much I love you. I hope you have a wonderful Mother's Day, "Ah" Pol" (grandma).

Angelo Falcone - La unica persona en el mundo que me ama sin condicion, es mi querida madre. Mama, usted me enseño el verdadero significado de del amor de una madre. Su amor me mantiene vivo con esperanza. Gracias por quererme tanto. Sin usted, yo no estaria aqui.

Sean Malis - For my mom, Amy Juliet: Life, Existence, Being, Spirit; Family, Community, Faith, Compassion; Liberation, Joy, Peace, Love. This gift is my Mom: Love awakening me to Life.

# SPORTS



Official Photo

Alex Smith gripping the football

## Alex Smith to Lead 49ers Next Season

By Gary Scott  
Sports Editor

Forty-Niner fans seem less enthusiastic since quarterback Alex Smith re-signed. Fans are complaining that he is simply a "game manager," who can't take the team on his shoulders and win games.

He may not be one of the great quarterbacks in the NFL such as Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, but he has the tools to get the job done.

It is clear that Head Coach Jim Harbaugh and the 49ers believe he can succeed and Smith's new three-year contract is evidence of Harbaugh's confidence in him.

Smith's heart was on display when he threw for 299 yards against a Greg Williams defense that was found guilty by the NFL for running a "Bounty Program."

Forty-Niner fans were disappointed in his performance against the New York Giants in the NFC championship game, in which he threw for only 196 yards and two touchdowns.

There are extraordinary circumstances that may account for his lackluster performance. Consider the talented Giants' defense and the lack of impact receivers Smith had to throw to.

## Anticipating the Coming 2012 San Quentin Baseball Season

By Ron Martin  
Contributing Writer

The San Quentin baseball teams are working toward an exciting opening day of baseball.

As the 2012 San Quentin baseball season quickly approaches, the excitement begins to build on the lower yard.

With the recent increase of men in the general population, there is a lot of new talent to scout. Some of the veterans and new arrivals took advantage

Wide receiver Joshua Morgan broke his leg early in the year. Braylon Edwards had never truly recovered from his knee injury, and Ted Ginn Jr. sprained his knee against the Saints.

In 2006, his first year as a starter, Smith threw for 2,890 yards under former offensive coordinator Norv Turner. But, a revolving door of coaches, a lack of talented receivers and previous shoulder injuries may have stunted his development.

Now Smith has a chance to show that he can be considered one of the premier quarterbacks in the NFL. The addition of a hopefully motivated Randy Moss, and a good receiver in Mario Manningham, should improve Smith's stats in the upcoming 2012 season. Manningham made a great sideline catch in the Superbowl against the New England Patriots.

Last year, Smith brought his team to within one game from the Superbowl, the furthest the 49ers have gone since they won the Superbowl. He threw for 3,144 yards with only five interceptions. He ranked ninth in the NFL in ESPN's quarterback rating (90.7). That doesn't sound like a Number 1 overall bust to me.

of the good weather and began conditioning and running drills.

Baseball tryouts are scheduled to begin the second week of May, according to inmate coach, J. Parratt

This coveted program allows men to build pro-social skills and rebuild values that exist in human beings, which of course goes along with the fun of the game. This great program attracts local young and seasoned talent from surrounding colleges along with recreational baseball teams.

## Warlocks' Head Coach Talks of Life and Sports

Aaron "Imam Jeddi" Taylor, Head Coach of the San Quentin Warlocks' flag football team, discusses his sports background and how he developed a positive environment for incarcerated men to excel through the creation of different sports leagues.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, he was introduced to sports by his uncle, Stephen Wade Sr. Wade worked at the "All People's Community Center" on 22nd and Central.

"My brother, my cousins, and I all played on his baseball team called the Astros, at Gilbert Lindsay Park, which is across the street from the old Dodger Club. I played football for the Crenshaw High Cougars, and I was backup receiver and backup defensive back," he said.

**What stopped you from pursuing a sports career after high school?**

The clash came in because I had the pull of the homies on one side and Coach Garrett on the other. He was trying to give me positive stuff. Everything he did was on a positive tip. But, the streets won.

**What coaches influenced you the most?**

Joe Weekly and even the basketball coach Willie West. We have numerous championships at Crenshaw High School in basketball and baseball.

**Did you coach any teams?**

I was a football coach at Baldwin Hills Cougars for the Pee-Wee teams. For two years, I coached there. We were .500



Official Photo

Coach Aaron Taylor

one season and .450 the next. I was the quarterback and receivers coach. At Centinela State Prison I was the head coach of the softball team called the African Stars. We won the title in 2008. At that same time I created two leagues, the Convicts All-Star Softball League (CSL) and about a month later Convicts All-Star Basketball League. At Centinela at that time, they had emergency bunk sleepers in the building. That was 20 double bunks for 40 inmates, in four buildings. Then the gym had 120 inmates in it. At that same time Centinela closed all of their vocational classes in 2007. So, what you had is approximately 1,300 inmates walking around

with nothing to do. The Sports Leagues gave them an outlet for all of that idle time.

**What was your primary goal for starting different leagues?**

The primary goal for starting the leagues was so that my Christian brothers could go to church on Monday and my Muslim brothers could go to Jum'ah on Fridays. The leagues gave B Facility 36 months of little to no incidents through the sports leagues, and it earned me a Captain's Chrono.

**What kind of life skills can someone develop through playing sports?**

Sports are the ultimate conflict resolution. You are at war with yourself and in a sense you're at war with your opponent. Sports give you a guideline on how to conduct yourself while seeking to achieve the highest goal of winning. A true sportsman loses with honor and wins with humility.

**Who do you credit for putting you on the right path?**

It's hard to pick one. The most profound statement that would be the culmination of all the advice I was given from Mao Tse Tung: "In shallow minds the fish of small thought causes a great commotion. But in oceanic magnanimous minds the whales of inspiration cause hardly a ripple."

—Gary Scott

Journalism Guild Chairman  
Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story.

## New Intramural Basketball League Bounces Into SQ's Lower Yard

*Drew Piazza, founder and league official of the first intramural league at San Quentin, explains the significance of creating a competitive league where men can come together and be a part of a team.*

*Piazza, a former sports editor of the San Quentin News, expresses what was the idea behind starting the intramural league:*

"With the influx of new people here, I noticed there was a need for something for them to do. The San Quentin Kings and Warriors Basketball program could only facilitate about 40 or so guys. But, there were a 1,000 or so new arrivals. This is what I've done at other facilities. I just thought it was the right thing to do."

After the first games began he said, "The fact that San Quentin has never had an intramural basketball league because programs here were basically set up to play outside teams, I was a little optimistic. But, I knew

the energy was there; the need was there; and I had the mindset of making it work. So I was pleased.

"We're starting from scratch of course. There's no set patterns or programs so we're using a league format where each team plays each team twice. At mid season we will have an 'All Star Game' with the coaches

**"San Quentin never has had an intramural basketball league because programs here were basically set up to play outside teams."**

that have the two best records. They will coach the All Star teams and after the 16th week, we'll have an 'All League Team' that will challenge the Kings and the Warriors" said Piazza.

He said that the league will be split into two divisions. There will be four teams in the east

and four teams in the west. The top three teams in each division will make the play-offs.

Piazza emphasized that the league helps the incarcerated men at San Quentin. He said, "I think the league helps facilitates everything the population needs. I don't think the facility is ready to take in so many people. It helps with the adaptation, the energy. The participation for the staff has been great. I would like to thank Mr. Di Nevi for allowing us to put this league together."

As the league official, he also discussed the importance of calling a good game. "I always noticed that when sports were being played there was a lot of cheating and favoritism involved, so I kind of felt compelled to step in and do the best I could to make it good and clean," he said.

—Gary Scott

Julian Glenn Padgett contributed to this story

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Snippets

Monopoly's mascot was Originally called Rich Uncle Pennybags. He was renamed to Mr. Monopoly in 1998.

One phrase spoken by a human being requires about 100 muscles of the chest, neck, jaw, tongue and lips.

To get astronauts and a spacecraft to the moon, it cost the United States approximately \$40 billion.

Halloween is the most important candy-eating occasions of the year for Americans. In 2001, seven billion pounds of candy was consumed, according to the National Confectioners Association.

Ebony is one wood that termites will bypass.

Rolls Royce once used Spermaceti oil, made from the sperm whale, as transmission oil.

Space dust, totalling roughly 1,000 tons enters the atmosphere and makes it to the earth's surface every year.

Did you know that bamboo releases 35% more oxygen than trees because they are made up of more water than normal trees.

As the Titanic was sinking, the band was playing the song "Nearer My God To Thee." The seawater was close to 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-2 degree Celsius).

Yugoslavia was a geographic, political entity in the Balkan region of Europe. The term Yugoslavia was coined under King Alexander I, who inherited the Serbian throne from his father in 1921.

## Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

What Letter comes next in the sequence Below?

IIIIIIVVVVIVIIIIII

Last month's Answer: is 49 or 91

Congratulations to: John Warren, and Jeff Dumont for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Frank Vadivia, David Westerfield, Anthony Gallo, Charlie Thao, Peter Chhem, Chris Schuhmacher, T. Long, Kevin Alexander and Bori Ai for correctly answering the puzzle. Last months winners were drawn from a hat.

### 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.



## For Laughs

An old man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig up his tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son.

"Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomatoes this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me. Love, Dad."

A few days later he received a letter from his son....

"Dear Dad, don't dig up that garden. That is where I buried the bodies. Love, Vinnie."

At 4:00 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. The next day the old man received another letter from his son.

"Dear Dad, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you, Vinnie."



Featured artwork of Chad Tobias

*Ships are only hulls, high walls are nothing  
when no life moves in the empty passageways.*  
Sophocles

## In Indian Country

By Daniel Trevino  
Contributing Writer

Wakan is a Lakota word that means "power." It can also mean "mysterious," "wonderful," "incomprehensible," and "holy."

Because Wakan cannot be understood, it is impossible to completely control it. Anything Wakan is hard to understand. The Wakan of a warrior is his skill in battle and his absence from injury during warfare. But, the Wakan of a shaman is the source of his spiritual power.

Wakan can easily be acquired by anyone, and it can be used for either good or evil. Wakan is the expression of many things, all that can be felt, but not understood.

## Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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



## Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



**THE NYMPHO AND OTHER MANIACS** (By Irving Wallace) Timeless true tales of historically influential women.



**THE SHORT FOREVER** (By Stuart Woods) Low-lives complicate Stone Barrington's job extracting a client from Britaini



**THE QUICKIE** (By James Patterson) It's not so simple when a cop has an affair to retaliate against a husband in this twister page turner.



**FLIRTING WITH DANGER** (By Suzanne Enoch) Cat burglar and her intended billionaire victim hunt down their would be killers.

### RATINGS:

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



**1. ARIZONA** – In February, a single drug was used for the first time in an American prison execution, replacing the three-drug protocol. Robert Henry Moormann was convicted of killing and dismembering his adoptive mother while he was out of prison on furlough for another crime. Before he was put to death, he apologized to his family and to the family of an 8-year-old girl he kidnapped and molested in 1972. “I hope this brings closure and they can start healing now,” he said. “I just hope that they will forgive me in time.”

**2. SAN FRANCISCO** - In the first Jerry Brown administration, California had 44,000 people in prison. There are 44,000 prison guards today. “It costs seven times as much to put someone in prison as to educate them to keep them out of prison,” said Robert Corrigan, San Francisco State University president. Among African-Americans age 18 to 30, Corrigan said more are in prison, on parole or under the control of the criminal justice system than are in college. Calculating the percentage of third-graders who can read gives an accurate prediction of the amount of prison beds needed in the future, he said.

**3. SAN FRANCISCO** - Richard Schoenfeld, the youngest of the three Chowchilla kidnapers, is entitled to release, a state appeals court has ruled. Schoenfeld has been incarcerated nearly 36 years and has been denied parole 19 times. However, in 2008, the board said that he no longer is a danger to society, based on his good prison behavior, acceptance of responsibility, and educational and job training. This finding entitles him for release, the state Court of Appeals ruled in February. If the board appeals to the state Supreme Court, Schoenfeld would stay in prison while the court considers the appeal and for a longer period if it agrees to review the case. Schoenfeld, then 22, and his older brother James, both of Atherton, and Fred Woods



of Portola Valley hijacked a bus at gunpoint in Chowchilla, July 1976. They put the driver and the children in vans, drove them to Livermore, buried them in a quarry and demanded a \$5 million ransom. The victims dug their way out after 16 hours.

**4. FLORIDA** - The United States Supreme Court ruled Terrence Graham's sentence as a teenager unconstitutional. In the resentencing, the appeals judge noted that the Florida Legislature did not provide a method to apply the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling or to give judges resentencing guidelines. Graham was 16 when he pleaded guilty to taking part in an armed robbery. A year later, he was arrested for a home-invasion robbery. Under a Florida law that allowed juveniles to be treated as adults, Graham was sentenced to life without parole. He is scheduled to be released in 2029.

**5. NORTH CAROLINA** - Marcus Reymond Robinson is the first person to challenge his death sentence under the state's Racial Justice Act. It permits a

Death Row prisoner to cite statistical patterns to argue their jury selections or sentences were unfair based on race.

**6. TEXAS** – A man proclaiming his innocence to the end became the third person executed in Texas this year. Keith Thurmond was executed in March for killing his wife and her boyfriend. About an hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected arguments to halt his execution, he was injected with lethal drugs. It took him 11 minutes to die. “All I want to say is I’m innocent,” Thurmond said from the death chamber gurney. “I didn’t kill my wife.” He blamed the shooting deaths on another man. “I swear to God I didn’t kill her,” he said. With that, he told prison officials, “Go ahead and finish it off.” As the drugs began flowing, he said, “You can taste it.” He wheezed and snored before losing consciousness.

**7. SACRAMENTO** - California prison officials made public possible modifications to rules that kept some gang members in segregated units

for years. That led to prisoners conducting statewide hunger strikes last year. Previously, gang associates were automatically sent to the security housing units. Of the 2,300 offenders who are in the isolation units because of their gang involvement, nearly 1,800 are considered gang associates. The units also house non-gang prisoners convicted of killing other prisoners, who attacked staff members or where involved in prison riots. Under the proposed policy, many gang associates could continue living in the general prison population. That shift alone could significantly reduce the population in the security units, a state official said.

**8. MISSISSIPPI** - The last three prisoners pardoned by former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour were released in March, after the state's highest court cleared the way for their freedom. Barbour pardoned more than 200 prisoners as he left office. He said he showed mercy out of a spirit of forgive-

ness – wanting to give them a second chance.

**9. WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Corrections Corporation of America plan to privatize prisons was criticized by the Council of Prison Locals of the American Federation of Government Employees for weakening prison security, putting community safety at risk and pushing states to take on added debt.

**10. MISSISSIPPI** - William Mitchell was executed in March for the 1995 murder of Patty Milliken.

**11. IOWA** - A federal judge reversed Angela Johnson's death sentence, saying her defense lawyers were “alarmingly dysfunctional” during her 2005 trial. Johnson was the first woman sentenced to death in the federal system since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. The judge said her defense attorneys failed to present evidence about her troubled mental state that could have spared her from execution.

**12. WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Twenty-one Death Row prisoners won an order stopping the use of sodium thiopental, an imported drug given as anesthesia prior to administration of lethal injections. A federal judge ruled that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration violated its own rules by allowing entry of the drug into the country without making sure that it worked effectively. “Prisoners on Death Row have an unnecessary risk that they will not be anesthetized properly prior to execution,” U.S. District Judge Richard Leon wrote in a 22-page ruling in March. He added that the agency had created a “slippery slope” for entry of other unapproved drugs. In an accompanying two-page order, the judge banned the import of sodium thiopental, calling it a misbranded and unapproved drug, and directed Arizona, California, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and any others with stocks of the barbiturate to send them to the FDA.

## California Appeals Court Rulings Assist Lifers

By Stephen Yair Liebb  
Legal Writer

In two separate decisions, a California appeals court determined that the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) improperly denied parole to two inmates serving life terms for murder. The decisions clarified the language used by the California Supreme Court stating that a parole board's decision must be “upheld unless it is arbitrary or procedurally flawed.”

The court reviewed the parole board's decisions under the “ultra-lenient” “some-evidence” standard, noting that the Supreme Court has not defined what is meant by “procedurally flawed.” However, the Supreme Court ruled in a 2011 case [*Shaputis II* 53 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup>, 192] that the board's

interpretation of the evidence “must be upheld if it is reasonable, in the sense that it is not arbitrary, and reflects due consideration of the relevant factors.”

The court reviewed the board's decisions in the cases to ensure that due process requirements were met. According to the court, due process requires that the board's decision “reflects due consideration of all relevant statutory factors, and, if it does, whether its analysis is supported by a modicum of evidence in the record, not mere guesswork, that is rationally indicative of current dangerousness.”

The court determined that there was no evidence that Christopher Morganti was currently dangerous when he

was denied parole at a 2010 parole hearing. The board had denied Morganti parole citing a need for more understanding into his substance abuse and his motivation for using drugs. The court cited Justice Liu's statement in *Shaputis II* that “lack of insight, like any other parole unsuitability factor, supports a denial of parole only if it is rationally indicative of the inmate's current dangerousness.” (*Shaputis II*, 53 Cal. 4<sup>th</sup> at p. 226) The court stated that an inmate's insufficient understanding of the causes of his crime might provide evidence that he is unsuitable for parole. However, the mere existence of an unsuitability factor is not “some evidence” of current dangerousness.

The court believed that the board's decision was based on the sufficiency of Morganti's insight into his substance abuse not on an absence of insight and questioned “whether anyone can ever adequately articulate the complexity and consequences of past misconduct.” The court stated that the key question is not whether there was “some evidence” Morganti lacked insight into his past criminal conduct but whether he constitutes a current threat to public safety. The court held in *In re Christopher Morganti, on Habeas Corpus* (First District, Division Two) No. A132610, filed March 28, 2012, that the record contained no evidence connecting any deficit in insight to the conclusion that Morganti would pose a risk to public safety.

The same Court of Appeal (*In re Andrew Young on Habeas Corpus*, No. A131729, filed on March 14, 2012) vacated a board decision denying parole to Andrew Young because he lacked insight into what the board considered to be a particularly egregious crime.

The court concluded that the board failed to consider all of the statutory factors in making its decision to deny parole to Young. The court also found that the board had made incorrect factual contentions.

The court specifically rejected the view asserted by the dissent in the case that limited the court's role to searching the record for some evidence to support the board's decision.

## EDITORIAL

# The Truth About Cinco de Mayo

May 5, 1862

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Cinco de Mayo is upon us once again.

As a Mexican-American, I'm astounded by the way this holiday became so important in the United States. How and why it is so important is partly found in to whom it is so important.

I discovered that making money on this holiday is a big thing – good old fashion capitalism is found in this holiday, just as with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's all about the all-mighty dollar, not Mexico or Mexican-American cultural identity, or history.

**Let's put things in perspective.**

In 1862, Abraham Lincoln had a lot to worry about. The country was on the verge of self-destruction by its own hand. During that same time, France, Spain and England rushed troops into Mexico, wanting to collect on mounting debts.

Eventually, the representatives of Spain and England came to an agreement with Mexican President Benito Juarez and went home. However, Napoleon Bonaparte III took the French on a different path and marched 4,500 of his soldiers toward Mexico City.

**What really happened on Cinco de Mayo.**

On May 5, 1862, the 4,500 French troops got about 100 miles east of Mexico City. The Mexican government had tabs on the progress of the French troops, and knew that they would have to take a pause in a little known town, called Puebla. President Juarez scraped up about 2,000 soldiers and townsmen to run interference against the French army. Like many resistance forces defending their homeland against invading armies, they fought off the French with a little help from the weather, and a lot of help from the local Indians.

After the La Batalla de Puebla victory against the French, Mexicans nationwide became inspired, and from that day for-



ward, it was celebrated as Cinco de Mayo.

**The Americanization of a Mexican Holiday.**

Americans began to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in 1863. Today many Americans think that Cinco de Mayo is celebrated as Mexican Independence Day. That's wrong. Mexico declared its independence from Spain on September 16, 1810.

So the question remains; how did La Batalla de Puebla become a holiday in the United States?

During the 1950s and 1960s "The Good Neighbor Policy" was supposed to build a better relationship between Mexico and the United States. This policy translated into a bonanza for U.S. corporations through a massive advertising campaign to commercialize the holiday as a celebration of cultural pride for the Mexican-Americans and all other U.S. citizens associated with Mexico.

In the early 1980s, Cinco de Mayo took a drastic change when commercialization shifted its meaning from community and self-determination to a drinking holiday. According to Jose Alamillo, professor of ethic studies at Washington State University in Pullman, American corporations, particularly those selling alcohol, grabbed the holiday. It is the biggest sales day for Corona beer, emulated on TV and radio by Mexican rivals such as Tecate. They were eager to tap into the expanding Hispanic population in the United States. Anheuser-Bush picked Cinco de Mayo to launch its new Bud Light line. At the Cinco de Mayo celebration in Atlanta sponsors

include State Farm Insurance and Hyatt Hotels.

Advertising has become the force behind most American celebrations, including Cinco de Mayo. In 1980, corporations spent close to \$25 million on Cinco de Mayo promotions in Southern California alone; that jumped to \$57 million in 1982.

In 1985, Coors gave \$350 million to the national Council of La Raza, the American GI Forum and the League of United Latin American Citizen in exchange for withdrawing their support of a national boycott over its labor practices. In 2003 and 2004, 10 alcohol brands spent close to \$160 million to advertise on Spanish-language television, exposing Hispanics in the United States between the ages of 12 and 20 to 20 percent more alcohol advertising per capita than any other group.

There's a touch of genius in all this advertisement for a minor historical celebration in Mexico. Realistically, the emphasis should be on the Mexican Batalla de Puebla and the coming together of a community in defense of their nation, not on a corporate-sponsored drinking day, and making money off a relatively minor battle.

An estimated 45-50 million Mexicans live in the United States today and pump a trillion dollars into the economy every year, according to a recent KCBS radio program.

Today Cinco de Mayo festival can be found in at least 21 states in the United States. Clearly, they celebrate Cinco de Mayo for capitalistic reasons, not for the Mexican victory against the French.

## Hot Pot Causes Fire Sprinkler To Flood Cell in West Block

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

Last month water began gushing out of a third tier cell in West Block to the surprise of those living and walking below.

The cause of the flooding was a steaming hot pot that set off

the fire sprinkler in the cell of Jimmy Prator and Kevin Valvardi.

When the sprinkler went off, Prator was sitting on the top bed. The sprinkler's retainer ring popped off and hit him in the chest. However, he was not seri-

ously injured. The only damage was drenched property.

The Fire Marshall determined this incident was accidental.

Prator and Valvardi asked that some type of notice be given to new occupants about these heat sensitive devices.

## Appliance Tech Tips

By Bob Martin  
Journalism Guild Writer

**Rechargeable batteries.** The new Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni MH) formula does not need to be fully discharged before recharging like the older NiCads did. The number on the label is like MPG on a car. The higher the number, the farther you go. Let's say your AA battery is 2400 MA/h. That also means 1200 milliamps for 2 hours. If your radio takes 100 milliamps per hour to make music, doing the math, your batteries will supply 24 hours of music when fully charged. The charger pushes all the electrons

to one side of a wall. This flow of pressure is what makes things happen in your appliance. This chemical process does wear out with time.

One application that will destroy the chemicals in a rechargeable battery is a hot wire. The rapid discharge boils the chemicals inside and they won't charge anymore. The chargers are made to back off when the battery is full, so leaving it in for an extra day or two won't hurt it. The smaller chargers have a circuit inside that creates noise on AM and FM radios that can travel through the extension cord.

### San Quentin CARES 2012 Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

On July 7th and 8th, the San Quentin CARES community will be walking 39 miles inside the prison walls in support of the S.F. Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. SQ CARES includes incarcerated men, community volunteers, and medical and institutional staff at San Quentin. Together, we are committed to raising \$10,000 for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Please help us reach this goal and move us all closer to and end to breast cancer.

To donate to S.Q. Cares online, please go to <http://info.avonfoundation.org/goto/SQCARES>.

## LETTERS

Editor:

As a former reporter and editor (now retired) on a New York City metropolitan area daily newspaper, I commend the staff for producing an outstanding newspaper. It is clear that the staff is well trained in the proper structure of a news story.

The stories are well written and interesting; the layout is crisp and well thought out. The headlines are bold and well written, drawing the reader into the story. It's everything a professional newspaper should be. I salute you all.

—Tom Condon

Dear Editor:

We wanted to express our appreciation for the San Quentin News! We live close by and had no idea of the workings of San Quentin. We especially liked the articles on the men of Death Row and their opinions. The opportunities of education on campus was good to hear. Parole's ups and downs was

informative. Your newspaper tells the facts that are hard to find in the media.

—Jean and Bill Hagler

To  
Women Prisoners:

We understand that you want your voices heard. Many of your stories are not told, so we want to give the women a voice too - especially with Mother's Day coming up.

We would like your story about the GET ON THE BUS effort this year. Tell us about the type of programs you have. If you have a graduation in one of the programs, send us some information about it, so that we can put it in the San Quentin News. You can have your sponsor contact our adviser at the e-mail address below.

We would like to inspire all incarcerated men and women. You are not forgotten. You can change your life for the better.

Email: [sanquentinnews@gmail.com](mailto:sanquentinnews@gmail.com)

## Artists Transform North Block Clinic

In April, prison artists transformed the dreary walls of imprisonment into a message of beauty and a commitment to change.

Patrick Maloney, who instructs the San Quentin Prison Arts Project, directed prisoners Ben Ballard, Steve Smith, Roy Gilstrap, Chadrick Tobias, and Thomas Winfrey in creating 19 paintings to cover the walls of the North Block clinic. Nurse Jamie Molina requested the project.

"Each painting sends a message of hope and that beauty can be found even in prison," Winfrey said. "This artwork is a unique creation, born to communicate a message from the artist, and it allows the viewer to see the world from our perspective."

# Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The men in blue at San Quentin are trying to hold on to their "pay numbers." Pay numbers are the wages some prisoners earn for full-time job assignments. They are paid up to 95 cents an hour. The types of jobs vary from porters, clerks and painters to manufacturing jobs at the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) plant. In PIA alone, dozens of men have been "laid off" from their jobs this year, so pay numbers are becoming scarce.

"Asked On The Line" conducted random informal interviews with 31 mainliners that have pay numbers and asked, "Do you depend on your pay number? Do you have restitution? If you lost your pay number, where would you get money?"

Over 73 percent of those who were interviewed depend on their pay numbers. The money is used to buy food, hygiene products, vitamins, detergent, electronic appliances or accessories from canteen and packages and to send money home.

About 65 percent of mainline workers interviewed have restitution or child support payments automatically deducted from their pay. The prison administration deducts 50 percent of inmate pay for these obligations, along with a 5 percent "administrative fee."

"I absolutely depend on my pay number," said Joey. "I make 35 cents an hour at PIA. If I were to lose my pay number, I would have no other source of money—absolutely none."

Dwight said he depends on his pay number, too. "I depend on the pay number to not ask any-

one for money. But if I lost my pay number, I would be at the mercy of people on the outside."

Stephen has a janitorial job and uses his money to sustain himself and send money to his son. "I depend on my pay number. I don't have any other source of money, but sometimes people on the outside might help me, sometimes."

J.N. is a clerk that depends on his pay number. "Without my pay number, I would have to beg my family for money. I would literally have to beg."

Of the 27 percent of men that do not depend on their pay numbers, most would ask their family, friends, spouse, or other loved ones for financial support, but not Ke. "I appreciate it, but I don't depend on my pay number. If I lost it, I could still earn money through the hobby shop", said Ke.

## Sending Sermons to Prisoners

By Girard Rooks  
Contributing Writer

Why me? Why this? Who hasn't asked this at times? Two men serving time in San Quentin asked me to talk about how and why I send sermons to California prisoners.

I can answer in two ways. One, my experience of how it happened, and the other is through God's view, as I read it in the Bible.

My experience comes from the fact that I have a brother who teaches a Bible class in a jail in California. He connected with some men who went on to prison. For them, he made copies of sermons preached by the minister at his church. Over time, he was mailing these to 60

or 70 men, and family members of some.

For years, I've preached about ten times a year, at Mel Trotter Mission, in Grand Rapids, Mich. However, once I retired, I had time to type my sermons. My brother read one, and thought they'd make a good mailer, so I began sending them to him.

A few years ago, something changed and he stopped mailing sermons. When I learned of this, I asked for his mailing list, and I started mailing my messages, myself. Then, I contacted some prison chaplains, and a few of them agreed to accept, copy, and make my messages available to men in their facilities. Over time, we have reached more and more men (and now women too) in prison, and members of their

families. For several years, I have also mailed Spanish translations of the messages.

Now, God's view on this:

Psalm 139, verse 16: All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Ephesians 2: 10: We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Why me? Why this? Because God planned it and then worked things in my life to make, it happen.

If you would like to receive these mailings, write me at: J.F. Girard Rooks, c/o Hanley Christian Reformed Church, O - 372 Jackson St., Grandville, MI 49418.

## Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

**NOV. 28, 1980** – The Catholic Chapel played host Saturday to two local Christian bands. Appearing were the Emmanuel Group from the San Jose area and Infinity from Oakland.

**NOV. 28, 1980** – A shot was fired in the East Block to break up a scuffle between an intoxicated inmate and a correctional officer. No major injuries were reported, says prison information officer Mike Madding.

**NOV. 28, 1980** – A San Quentin inmate escaped with the help of an armed accomplice from a Marin County clinic where he had been taken for a hearing test. Richard Thompson, 42, had been living in the prison's honor unit, according to Mike Madding, S.Q. prison information officer.

**NOV. 21, 1980** – Two San Quentin prison guards and an-

other man were arrested on suspicion of burglary and robbery following an attempted drug rip-off Thursday night. Warden George Sumner acknowledged that an investigation by the CDC has been on-going for "some time." "My reaction is that we are just cleaning our dirty laundry," Sumner said.

**SEPT. 24, 1982** – The state's oldest inmate, 93-year-old Isa Mae Lang, would prefer to remain in prison rather than be released on parole. Convicted of murder in 1935, the nearly blind and deaf woman is no longer considered a threat to society.

**SEPT. 24, 1982** – The ba0nd room at San Quentin is now quiet since the music program has been declared nonfunctional. An incident on June 19 has stopped all inmate evening movement, leaving no one to participate

in the program. No word from prison authorities on if or when night movement for activity programs will return.

**SEPT. 24, 1982** – The state Court of Appeal in San Francisco has ordered Soledad prison officials to allow leaf-letting in the public parking lot outside the prison. The ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by the Prisoners Union.

**OCT. 22, 1982** – Both San Quentin fire fighting teams responded to a fire in the sawdust silos of the furniture factory in the industries area. Damage was estimated at approximately \$15,000, and no cause was reported.

**OCT. 29, 1982** – It took a total of 17 shots of 7.5 grain birdshot to break up a fight between two determined cons fist fighting on the C-Section yard Oct. 23.

## Corrections

Roger Tillman's name was misspelled in last month's T.R.U.S.T Annual Graduation article.

## 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

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

[www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com)  
Like us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/sanquentinnews)  
[www.facebook.com/sanquentinnews](https://www.facebook.com/sanquentinnews)

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Administration, or the inmate population, and should be considered solely the opinion of the individual author unless specified.

Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the San Quentin News provided credit is given the author and this publication, except for articles reprinted herein from other publications.

### Administrative Review

Warden's Office.....Lt. S. Robinson  
Sgt. W. Baxter  
Senior Adviser.....John Eagan  
Adviser.....Joan Liseter  
Adviser.....Steve McNamara  
Adviser.....Lizzie Buchen

### S.Q. News Staff

Editor-in-Chief.....Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Managing Editor.....Juan Haines  
Journalism Guild Chairman.....  
.....Julian Glenn Padgett  
Design Editor.....Aly Tamboura  
Sports Editor.....Gary Scott  
Graphics Editor.....R. Richardson  
Legal Writer .....Stephen Yair Liebb  
Staff Writer .....Micheal Cooke  
Staff Writer.....Richard Lindsey



### BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

#### Marin Community Foundation

Pastor Melissa Scott

#### The Annenberg Foundation

Alliance for Change

RESIST Foundation

Anonymous

Bill Anderson

Kasi Chakravartula

Daniel Barton, Attorney at Law

Jesykah Forkash

William Hagler

Suzanne Herel

Eugenia Milito

Leslie Neale

Thomas Nolan, Attorney at Law

J.S. Perrella

Frank Zimring