

San Quentin News

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San Quentin Celebrates Its 2014 Graduation



Photo by Curtis Carroll

Bobby Warne, Samantha, Andrew "Drew" and Andrea Sabatino with Bonnie Butterworth

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

The 2014 graduating class at San Quentin State Prison included

more than a dozen inmates receiving associate degrees in social and behavioral science, humanities, American studies, business and liberal arts. In ad-

dition, Robert Tyler earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration.

"It's so important, the support we receive from family

and prison administrators," said Tyler, who has been taking college classes for the past 20 years. Quoting Calvin Coolidge, Tyler stressed, "Nothing in the world

can take the place of persistence."

The two-day ceremony also

See 2014 Grad. on Page 10

Marin County District Attorney Given Insight to Life Behind Bars

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Marin County District Attorney Edward Berberian and two

staffers, Deputy District Attorney Leon Vousharian and Assistant District Attorney Yvette Martinez-Shaw, were guests at the fifth *San Quentin News* Fo-

rum held on Friday, May 29.

A principal object of the forums is to provide all parties in the criminal justice system a first-hand opportunity to examine the issues of crime, policing, prosecution, prison, re-entry and changing lives.

Arranged in a group format, the forums are held like roundtable discussions with participants sitting in a circle. Berberian, Martinez-Shaw and Vousharian sat among the 21 long-term prisoners and volunteer advisers.

Law enforcement personnel who have participated in the forums have said the forums are valuable as a resource for first-hand information regarding the entire criminal justice system.

See *Marin Dist.* on Page 4

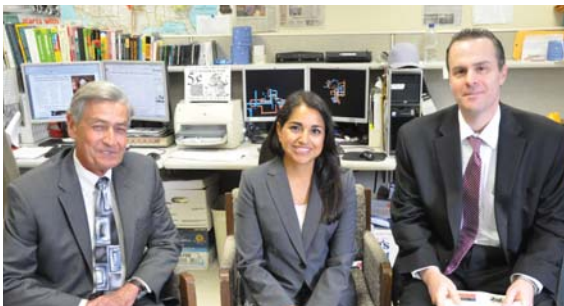


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Edward Beberian, Yvette Martinez-Shaw and Leon Vousharian inside the SQ. Newsroom

S.F. 49ers Football Players Tour San Quentin

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

"The day is about perspectives and choices," said San Francisco 49ers Chaplain Earl Smith to 19 rookie football players. "Choices that can lead one to prison or a National Football League career," he added, at the start of a tour of San Quentin on June 14.

"It was mandatory, coming on this tour," said rookie linebacker Aaron Lynch.

The San Quentin trip was part of an effort to encour-

See *S.F. 49ers* on Page 15



Photo By Sam Hearnes

In the back: Fouimalo Fonoti, C.J. Spillman and Carlos Hyde Inside a North Block prison cell



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Top: Raquel, Gerald, Gerald IV, Bottom: Tatiana and Aviana Rose Salas

S.Q. Get On The Bus Event

Children traveled from as far away as San Diego to get hugs and kisses from their dads in celebration of Father's Day June 6 in San Quentin's visiting room.

"It is very important to have children connect with their parents to show them that they are loved," said Amalin Molina, executive director for Center for Restorative Justice Works in Los Angeles.

Molina is a coordinator for Get On The Bus (GOTB), a non-profit organization that brings children to incarcerated parents on Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Molina said her connection to the program is personal. She said she overstayed her visa in 1998. Immigration Customs Enforcement arrested her with her husband and sent them to a detention camp in Long Beach. It took 16 months for them to be

granted asylum.

During their detention, their three children were in school. "It was a huge struggle without a mother and father in the house. It was difficult being separated from my children, knowing that there was no adult to watch them," she said. "The fact that the authorities did not find them was a good thing, because my kids were able to visit us while we were detained. They showed us that they are responsible. It was by the grace of God that they made it."

"Research shows that when children are connected with fathers, they do better in school," said Karen Vandelaat, a GOTB coordinator. "We believe children have a right to see their fathers."

"It's good to see the families

See *Get On The* on Page 20

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Instructor Help Inmates Rebuild Their Lives from the Ground Up

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A new vocational trade at San Quentin teaches inmates how to build homes from the ground up.

The building maintenance program has been in operation for about a year. Instruc-

the men can use to secure employment once they parole.

Darell Flowers, formerly a long-haul truck driver, said, "I tried for a long time to get into the class." He is looking forward to having a new trade when he gets out.

"It's a new, exciting experience because I am learning how to build a real house from scratch," said Tare Beltranchuc.

Robinson, who is serving a life sentence, is the architect and engineer of a structure that he had to learn to build to scale.

"It's tedious work, but it teaches you how to build a house. I didn't know anything about this before I started," Robinson said. "It shows me how to make an honest living. I have a skill now that I can take with me."

Robinson said he enjoys working and receiving instruction from Callegari. "Dante, he's a master at this. If he doesn't know something, he'll find out. I've yet to ask a question he doesn't know."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Building Maintenance Vocational Instructor Dante Callegari

tor Dante Callegari spent a few months getting the shop ready for students.

"This building was storage for clothing when I got here," said Callegari. "It used to be a greenhouse for landscaping. This program is brand-new at San Quentin. I had to get it ready."

Chris Deragon changed jobs from carpentry maintenance in the kitchen to working in the tool room for building maintenance. He said that as their first assignment, he and Charlie Spence were hired to clean up the shop.

"In my entire 16 years in prison, I've never met an instructor who has more passion to teach inmates to be better," Deragon said. "He's inspired me to do better. He has patience with each student and finds a way to guide them in a positive direction."

Spence, who became the shop clerk, said he and Deragon worked hard to rebuild the classroom and Callegari goes out of his way to make sure everyone understands what needs to be done. "When I parole, I will use this trade to get through law school," Spence said.

Starting from ground zero, Callegari teaches the students what it takes to build structures. He begins with proper safety procedures. The orientation includes completing an Injury Illness Prevention Plan.

"State law says you have the right to know anything that can harm you here," said Callegari.

Several members of the class have some previous construction experience. However, this class provides certification in construction technology, which

TEAMWORK

Teams of four are selected. Inmates are expected to work in cooperation. "They get one chance to opt out of the team for another, but no one has done it yet," said Callegari. "On the street you have to learn to work with different personalities."

Callegari said the course takes about a year and a half to complete 850 hours of bookwork and 850 hours of performance.

"I don't see how anyone could get it done quicker than that," said Callegari. "Somewhere else this program could take a longer time. I've worked at prisons at different levels. I like the inmate mentality here."

THE SAN QUENTIN ATMOSPHERE

Callegari said San Quentin is a different kind of prison because of limited lockdowns, so "everyone is on a constant flow of training. I couldn't teach this program at High Desert (State Prison)."

"I like coming down here teaching," said Callegari. "I like the lifers' mentality. They're dedicated and focused." He said lifers have done it all. They want to move to the next level. "The games are done. They're here to learn."

Callegari has been employed with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for 28 years. He started working construction in high school. He received formal construction training in junior college while in an apprentice program, as well as OSHA training. He has previously taught at California State Prison-Solano and the California Correctional Center, where he also worked in maintenance and plant operations. He has worked in facility management construction at Folsom State Prison. Callegari has two separate teaching credentials granted by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for auto body and the construction trade.

TESTING

The students' study material covers pouring concrete, introduction to masonry, installation techniques, floor systems and foundations.

By the end of the course Callegari says inmates will learn the construction of walls, roofing, ceilings, framing, roof framing, exterior finishing, stair layouts, electrical systems, introduction to HVAC, drain waste, pipe fitting and plumbing.

"We cover everything in a construction technology trade," said Callegari.

Every student is required to pass the Craft Core Curriculum test.

"The course is very challenging for them," said Callegari. "They have to demonstrate to me that they *understand* a chapter to move on."

Students are also required to pass tests based on the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Introductory to Craft Skills and Construction Technology.

INMATES LEARN TO READ BLUEPRINTS

Callegari said California building code books are used to teach the course.

The building maintenance shop displays scaled-down versions of homes designed by inmates.

"Everyone working here will have a firm basis for building a house," said Damien Coleman.

Anthony Passer is building a scale model of the house he and his family lived in for many years. Complete with a concrete foundation, his house will have scaled plumbing, electrical and water installations. "I lived in this house," he remarked.

Kevin



Photo by Sam Hearn

Miniature size wooden model house

Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN

Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Graduate School of Journalism

BEHIND THE SCENES
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Government Makes Progress Finding Jobs for Ex-Offenders Upon Release

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Steps are being taken by a number of government entities to assist ex-offenders find employment once they are released from prison.

“One of the first requirements for an offender who is released from prison is to obtain a job,” according to a 2011 report by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

“The ability of returned offenders to find meaningful em-

ployment is directly related to their normal functioning in the community,” a Connecticut law states.

The National Employment Law Project estimates one in four U.S. adults have a criminal record.

The NCSL report included information on support programs such as the Federal Second Chance Act of 2007 (SCA), which provides grants to states, local governments and community-based organizations to establish innovative and evidence-

based reentry programs. The programs include vocational training and employment assistance.

Reentry programs address education, family skills and healthy living, and offer substance abuse treatment, employment resources, mentorship and housing assistance.

California is one of several states that offer tax credits to private employers that hire ex-offenders. Additionally, the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit is available nationwide to private businesses that hire ex-offenders and other target groups of people who consistently face employment barriers.

States also regulate how a criminal record is used during the application process. In

1998, Hawaii adopted the first “Ban the Box” law in the country. Since then, similar laws in four other states and the District of Columbia limit the use of certain criminal records during the hiring process.

“One of the first requirements for an offender who is released from prison is to obtain a job”

To support ex-offender reintegration into society, some states have adopted policies

that encourage employment opportunities for eligible applicants.

A 2010 study by the Pew Center on the States reports those who have served time in prison can expect to earn about 40 percent less in annual wages, compared to people in similar circumstances who have not spent time in prison.

There is some light at the end of the tunnel however, as the NCLS concluded in its report, “To improve employment prospects for ex-offenders, states have adopted policies to encourage their employment, address employer liability, and hiring incentives, expanded eligibility for record-clearing policies, and supported employment training and reentry programs.”

California Department of Corrections Searches For 7,000 Future Officers

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is looking to hire 7,000 people in the next couple of years.

Lt. Chad Hester told *KCRA-TV* that qualified applicants are needed because of inmate overcrowding and 1,800 corrections officers retiring a year at the 34 prisons. Hester said the physical agility test disqualifies candidates as do the written test and background checks.

Only 2 to 5 percent of appli-

cants actually become officers, Hester said.

Recruits have to run about a half-mile while carrying 45 pounds of weight in both hands in less than five minutes and five seconds. They must be honest when filling out their application, as lying is a sure way to be disqualified.

In an interview Oct. 12, applicant Kamyla Faunteroy told *KCRA* she dreams of wearing a badge and having a good career in the prison system.

All applicants will have to wait nine months to see if they qualify to become a cadet.

Valley State Prison Offers New Merit-Based Incentive Program

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Valley State Prison offers the only merit-based incentive program fully implemented for inmates who want to be positive programmers in the California prison system.

As part of the new program, inmates will have a number of recreational and enhanced privileges available to them, based on behavior and willingness to meet its expectations, said Greg Bergersen, public information officer for Valley State Prison.

Early this year, the program was set up in the general population-level and sensitive needs facilities and certain yards at the Level II, low to medium security prison. The program has been partially implemented at other state prisons.

“We’re increasing positive programming for inmates who want to...and participate in an enhanced programming facility,” Bergersen said.

Incentives include access to technology-based privileges as they are approved, an expanded inmates’ canteen list and a yard photo program.

The department is reviewing a plan for inmates to purchase an MP3 player and eventually tablet.

“They can’t have any Internet capability,” Bergersen told the *Merced Sun-Star*.

Inmates have access to mi-

crowave ovens in each housing unit, food sales, sports, game tournaments, self-help sponsored events, concerts and guest speakers, Bergersen told the *Sun-Star*.

“Eventually our entire prison will be nothing but positive programming, school-oriented, work-oriented, rehabilitative-oriented inmates,” he added.

Inmates not taking advantage of these plans will be eventually transferred.

Those inmates in a security-housing unit and those who violate prison rules during the last 12 months are not eligible to participate in the program. Valley State Prison had 113 problem incidents in 2013, the least reported in the prison system.

“That number will go down. We know we have guys that aren’t going to participate ... and we know that other prisons have inmates who want to participate that don’t have (the program). So through attrition we’re going to end up having a whole prison full of guys who want a program,” he said.

Bergersen reminded the *Merced Sun-Star*, “We are not here to punish the inmate; that’s what their loss of freedom does. We punish when they break rules within the facility. If we can turn inmates who have been involved in negative behavior ... and put them in a positive environment to do that, they will be more successful upon parole.”

CDCR LANZA NUEVOS SERVICIOS DE REHABILITACIÓN PARA RECLUSOS DE LARGO PLAZO

By CDCR

El Departamento de Correcciones y Rehabilitación de California (CDCR) esta lanzando un programa piloto ofreciendo servicios rehabilitativos dirigidos a reclusos purgando largas sentencias.

El Long-Term Offender Pilot Program (LTOPP)—Programa Piloto para Reclusos de Largo Plazo— provee programación perceptible durante la encarcelación y servicios al obtener la libertad para permitirle a reclusos una transición más fácil de regreso a la sociedad.

“Debido a la duración del encarcelamiento, los reclusos de largo plazo a menudo no están preparados para los considerables cambios en la tecnología y el vivir del día-a-día que han ocurrido desde que ellos fueron encarcelados,” dijo Millicent Tidwell, Directora De la División de Programas Rehabilitativos del CDCR. “Darle a estos reclusos las herramientas que ellos necesitan para ser exitosos en su propia rehabilitación ambas dentro y fuera de prisión es imprescindible.”

El programa tiene la finalidad de servirle a reclusos quienes han sido identificados con tener moderado a alto riesgo de comportamiento criminal y están purgando sentencias indeterminadas con la posibilidad de libertad condicional. El LTOPP es un programa voluntario, el cual incluirá tratamiento perceptible para:

- *Abuso de sustancias
- *Pensamiento criminal
- *Impacto a víctimas
- *Problemas con el control del enojo
- *Mejora de las relaciones familiares

El LTOPP inicialmente será implementado en las siguientes instituciones: California State Prison, Solano en Vacaville; Central California Women’s Facility en Chowchilla; y California Men’s Colony en San Luis Obispo. Reclusos quienes estén purgando sentencias indeterminadas en instituciones que no ofrecen este programa piloto les puede ser permitido temporalmente transferirse a una locacion piloto para poder participar en el LTOPP.

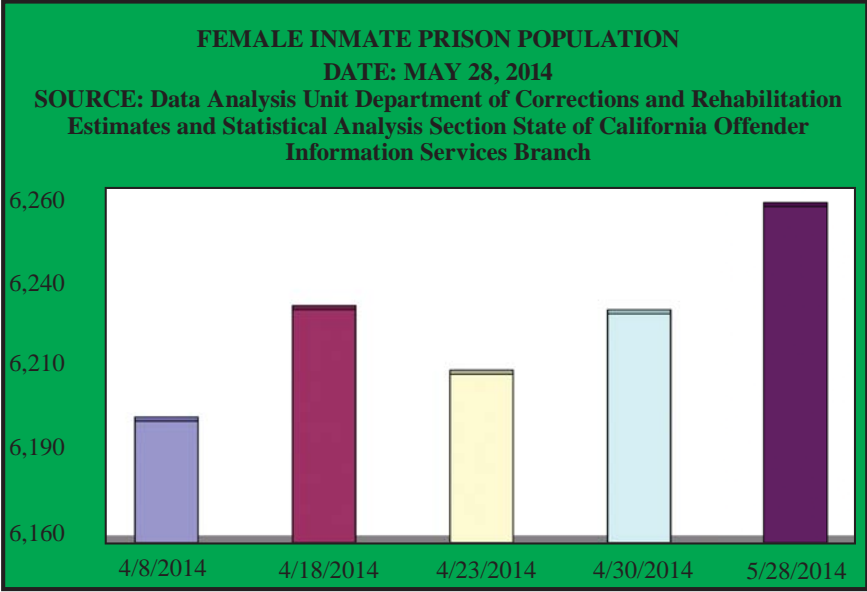
Además, el CDCR esta cre-

ando Instalaciones de Reentrada para Reclusos de Largo Plazo que les ayudara durante su transición de regreso a la sociedad, incluyendo vivienda, empleo y servicios basados en la comunidad. Locaciones para estas instalaciones de reentrada aun están siendo determinadas.

El programa piloto estará en efecto por 24 meses, durante lo cual la División de Programas Rehabilitativos del CDCR monitoreara la implementación al igual que la efectividad del programa. Si se comprueba ser una herramienta rehabilitativa exitosa, el programa entonces pasara al proceso del Acta de Procedimientos Administrativos para convertirse en póliza formal.

El LTOPP esta siendo implementado de acorde con el Plan del CDCR del 2012 en el cual al departamento le fue dada la tarea de incrementar el porcentaje de reclusos beneficiados en los programas rehabilitativos previo a su liberación al 70 por ciento del objetivo poblacional.

—Traduccion Jorge Heredia



Having The Right Attitude Can Get You Out Of Prison

'If you don't have your program tight here, it won't be tight out there'

By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

How do you get out of prison? Doug Butler, one-time police officer and former San Quentin inmate, returned to San Quentin as a free man to say that the right attitude is the way to get out.

AIR (Accountability, Integrity and Responsibility) embodies the right attitude, according to Butler. He described his own practice of accountability, for example, keeping the District Attorney of the office that sent him to prison informed of what he was doing while in prison. He

advised the men in blue to do the same. He talked about taking responsibility for the direction of one's life by getting an education. To build integrity, he said, "Be humble and respect all people."

"There's no place like San Quentin, which is a Mecca of programs," said Butler. "If you don't have your program tight here, it won't be tight out there."

"Out there," in free society, Butler is the director of Men of Valor Academy. Governor Jerry Brown recommends Butler's program, and former governors Gray Davis and Arnold

Schwarzenegger have made financial contributions to Men of Valor. His organization provides parolees with housing, transportation and classes that teach life skills.

Lee Jarvis asked about the first three things a parolee should do upon release.

"Stay away from bad conduct," Butler said. "Get your ID and Social Security card and be patient."

Butler said that with fortitude, perseverance and resilience, a prisoner can put their mistakes behind them and move on. "Focus on you," said Butler.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Arnulfo Garcia and Doug Butler at the central plaza

Marin District Attorney Attend San Quentin News Forum

Continued from Page 1

Berberian and his co-workers represent a new era of criminal justice professionals. Because of their interest in the process from initial custody to reentry, all three prosecutors wanted to know about the many programs available at San Quentin.

Berberian and his staff asked about the goals of each program and how it worked to achieve its purpose. It was clear that everyone thought San Quentin stands out for its progressive approach.

Arnulfo Garcia said, "Mass incarceration is not the solution as was previously thought." With reentry and realignment considerations, many challenges now complicate the criminal justice system.

Overcoming those challenges takes on new importance, said the DA. One part of the solution is the education and vocational training experiences available at San Quentin. Overcoming new challenges also involves learning from the inmates, he told the group.

The DA has been to San Quentin previously about prosecution business, not about learning. Berberian said it was "refreshing" to speak with prisoners who hold themselves accountable. The longtime prosecutor said this experience would give him a better perspective when men come before his office for release.

Berberian indicated it was a new experience for him. He said, "This is the first time I have been in a room with so many inmates."

Forum moderator, Julian-Glenn "Luke" Padgett directed attention from one man to another as the men told the prosecutors about their crimes and how they came to acknowledge responsibility for them. Vousharian said he was impressed with the accounts.

The DA's staff spoke freely about their role in the prosecution process, and the men talked about their crimes and experiences with the system. Every man had a unique story. One of the most important aspects of the path each prisoner takes is the initial custody experience. Moreover, that was an important piece of the puzzle Berberian and his staff wanted to examine.

"How did it feel when you were first taken into custody?" asked Berberian. Inmate

after inmate told his impression of first being in custody. As inmate Michael Nelson expressed, "I haven't thought a lot about incarceration, but I have thought a lot about my crime." According to Nelson's accounting of that time, "One of the hardest things I have ever had to do is call my aunt and tell her I committed a murder."

Talking about the initial custody experience, Nelson said when he was arrested, "It was all very raw." He was arrested four hours after committing murder, he said adding, "I didn't know how to deal with it." Taken to Juvenile Hall, Nelson stayed there for a while, was then transferred to the Youth Authority and then to state prison. Because he was only 15 when he committed his crime, he didn't know "about hating someone because of their race." He said those are all things he learned in prison.

According to Berberian, "In the past, the job of district attorney was separate and apart from prison and reentry." However, he said, he needed to know all aspects of prosecution, incarceration and reentry so that he could do his job bet-

ter. Berberian explained it was his job to represent the public, so being an advocate for inmates is not in his job description. On the other hand, he explained he needed to "know what tools are available" so he can do his job the best he can.

Berberian said he was not a supporter of relaxing the Three Strikes Laws. "I want to have all the tools I can have," he explained. Experiences of inmates from initial custody to final release were all important to the prosecutors.

Troy Williams said, "Being taken into custody is no joke." He said the initial custody experience affects your entire experience of being incarcerated. Williams had a "real bad attitude" when he was first taken into custody and convicted. In addition, Williams affirmed the prosecutor's belief that San Quentin is unique in the number of rehabilitation and self-help programs available.

Williams said when they asked him where he wanted to go, "I told them to get the (expletive) out of the way!" Berberian said, "I'm getting the sense that the jail experience is worse than the prison experience." On the other hand, Williams said that com-

ing from other prisons to San Quentin was like night and day. He said, "I woke up with a whole new attitude."

The many programs at San Quentin was one of the major topics of discussion. Berberian asked if the programs had an effect on Williams' attitude, to which Williams answered, "Before San Quentin, I didn't have the tools to change." According to Williams, that was his "aahh" moment.

Those programs are near the other end of the incarceration, or reentry. They were very much of interest to the prosecutors. As Williams said, "The day I came to San Quentin gave me a whole new life." Talking about the many programs here at The Q, Berberian said, "It's important for me to have information about the programs so I know what's available."

Berberian said he was keen to learn about the San Quentin experience with its 70 plus educational, vocational, self-help and health programs available to inmates.

Some men related to a vast contrast between the beginning and end of incarceration. The beginning is a "shock," said Kris Himmelberger.

"Jail, that's the worst," said

Himmelberger. Speaking of those first days, Himmelberger said, "I couldn't believe it." He indicated he wanted to stay at the county jail after conviction to fight his case, so he took the advice of another inmate. "I threatened the judge," he said. Probably not the best advice, but it became clear to the prosecutors that incarceration has many facets.

Asked about initial incarceration, one inmate said, "When I got to the county jail, the other inmates wanted to know what gang I was in."

Martinez-Shaw said it was unique to the forum that every participating inmate accepted responsibility for his crime. DA Berberian commented it was surprising and very refreshing to see men own up to their actions.

Berberian thanked the forum members for allowing him and his staff to examine the many issues regarding the criminal justice system. He said, "This forum has provided us an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge by directly interacting with prison inmates."

As Martinez-Shaw said, "Learning from you men provides us information we need to know so we can do our job better."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmates, district attorney and guest discuss possible solutions to criminal problems

After 25 Years of Dedication, Supreme Court Justice Joyce L. Kennard Retires

By C. Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

California Supreme Court Justice Joyce L. Kennard has announced her retirement after 25 years of service, effective April 5.

Kennard was the longest serving member of the court, having been elected and re-elected after her initial appointment by Gov. George Deukmajian in 1989. She was the second woman, and the first justice of Asian descent, to join

the state's highest court.

"Any success I achieved could have happened only in America, a land that encourages impossible dreams," Kennard wrote in her letter of resignation to Gov. Jerry Brown.

Kennard, 72, maintained a reputation as one of the closest questioners on the court and was known for going her own way, according to *The Recorder*, an online legal news service.

Kennard was essential in one of the court's most famous ma-



Official Photo

Justice Joyce L. Kennard

juries in its history, the "2008 Marriage Cases" decision that recognized the right to same-sex marriage in California and kicked off a wave of similar actions around the country.

A significant component California parole boards use in deciding whether to grant parole is the inmate's current dangerousness. Kennard voted with the majority in a 4 to 3 decision ruling that the circumstances of a commitment offense do not provide evidence that a defendant poses a current threat

to public safety.

Prior to Kennard's departure, the California Supreme Court boasted a majority of women and of Asian Americans, with a chief justice who shares both characteristics.

The vacancy gives Gov. Brown his second pick of a state Supreme Court justice during this term. Brown appointed Justice Goodwin Liu in 2011 and, in his three terms as governor, has appointed nine justices to the California Supreme Court.

Report: Record Breaking Increase in Exonerations

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

In a record-breaking year for exonerations in the United States, law enforcement officials say, "We are getting better at avoiding wrongful convictions."

"The recent increase in the number of exonerations initiated by law enforcement directly shows that police and prosecutors have become more attentive and concerned about the danger of false conviction," according to *The National Registry of Exonerations: Exonerations in 2013 (NRE)*. "Police and prosecutors appear to be taking increasingly active roles in reinvestigating possible false convictions, and to be more responsive to claims of innocence from convicted defendants."

"The pattern of exonerations in 2013 suggests that we are increasingly willing to consider and act on the types of innocence claims that are often ignored."

Those persons exonerated "were convicted, on average, more than 12 years earlier; some more than 30 years earlier," according to *NRE*. "...we are working harder to identify the mistakes we made years ago and ... we are catching more of them."

According to the Registry, there were 87 exonerations in 2013. From 1989 to Feb. 3, 2014, the report listed 1,304 exonerations.

From January 1989 through December, 92 percent of the 1,281 individual exonerations were men and eight percent women. "As a group, the defendants spent nearly 12,500 years in prison for crimes which they should not have been convicted – an average of 10 years each," the report said.

The 10 states with the most exonerations in 2013 were Texas, Illinois, New York, Washington, California, Michigan, Missouri, Connecticut, Georgia and Virginia.

In its report, the Registry expects these numbers will

increase as additional exonerations occur after 2013. Prior to this record-breaking year, the next highest total of exonerations was in 2009 with 83 known exonerations.

"Police and prosecutors appear to be taking increasingly active roles in reinvestigating possible false convictions"

The majority of exonerations reported over this 25-year period were homicide and sexual assault cases. According to the report, in 2013 there were "40 murder exonerations – including one exoneration of a prisoner who had

been sentenced to death – and 18 exonerations that involved rape or other sexual assault. Eight percent of known exonerations occurred in cases in which the defendants were sentenced to death.

"Death Row exonerations have averaged about three a year for the past decade, down from about six per year for the decade before that," the Registry reported. "The number of Death Row exonerations will continue to drop if the death penalty continues to lose favor in the United States and death sentences become increasingly rare."

"Most known exonerations still involve homicide or sexual assault or both, but that proportion is down from 81 percent of known exonerations on March 1, 2012, to 80 percent at the end of 2012 to 78 percent at the end of 2013," it was reported.

The proportion of exonerations that do not involve rape or murder has also grown from 18 percent in 1989 through 1998 to 24 percent

from 2009 through 2013. The report explained 29 exonerations (33 percent of the total) did not involve either of these extreme crimes of violence. This was a record number of exonerations in such cases and a comparatively high proportion of all exonerations. From 1989 through 2007, 66 percent of DNA exonerations were rape cases.

DNA cases have been the minority of exonerations in the United States. They accounted for a fifth of the total in 2013. The number of these cases "continued to decline slowly, as it has for most of the past decade, while the number of non-DNA exonerations rose sharply."

The report also shows 27 of the 87 exonerations occurred when no crime was committed.

The reports revealed 47 percent of the homicides cases exonerated occurred from 1989-2013. During that same period, sexual assaults amounted to 31 percent of those cases exonerated.

U.S. Supreme Court Regulates Federal Inmate Lawsuits

The U.S. Supreme Court has limited federal inmate lawsuits against privately operated prisons in federal courts, but the door is still open for suits in other courts.

The decision is "not a disaster for inmate rights," said Alexander Volokh, associate professor at Emory Law School.

In 1971, the high court recognized a remedy, called the Bivens Doctrine, for litigants to sue federal officials for money damages for violating their constitutional rights. Federal prisoners have used the doctrine to sue federal

prison officials for money damages for unconstitutional treatments and conditions of confinement.

Writing for the Akron Law Review, Volokh argues that the decision is "a lot less threatening to civil rights claimants than it may seem to be at first glance."

The court ruled in *Minnecci v. Pollard* that a federal prisoner can't sue employees at a privately run federal prison for money damages under Bivens for violation of the Eighth Amendment, if traditional tort damages for the employees' conduct are avail-

able under the state law.

The Bivens remedy continues to be available to federal prisoners confined in public prisons.

Volokh acknowledges that "Minnecci is somewhat harmful to federal inmate litigants in that it removes a potentially useful cause of action" and that "it may have been wrongly decided as a matter of Bivens doctrine." However, he believes it is "no doomsday" on prisoner rights.

There has consistently been a Supreme Court majority for limiting Bivens remedy when there have been alternative

remedial schemes, Volokh points out.

As Volokh has noted, the standard for proving an Eighth Amendment violation is harder to meet than to prove negligence in state court, where supervisory liability is available, and where neither the private prisons nor their employees are entitled to immunity. Bivens prohibits suing supervisors for subordinates' behavior.

Although Minnecci has created an obvious disparity in judicial remedies concerning private and public prisons, Volokh doubts that it will

"permit a Bivens cause of action to be contracted away by federal entities who outsource their responsibilities to private corporations."

"Bivens itself can be contracted away, as Minnecci shows," Volokh reasons, "but that's not the same as contracting away accountability." Privatization will only subject federal inmates to the "relative attractiveness of state-law remedies," he adds, and "Bivens might survive in other Eighth Amendment cases with no clear tort-law analogues."

—By C. Kao

Disqualified Juror Prompts Federal Judge to Overturn Double-Murder Conviction

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge has overturned the double-murder conviction of a condemned prisoner because the prosecution disqualified the only black person in the jury pool.

The case involves Steven E. Crittenden, an African-American now aged 46 who has

spent the last 24 years on San Quentin's Death Row.

His conviction and sentence was overturned in November by U.S. District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller. It was alleged that then student athlete Crittenden had robbed and murdered Dr. William Chaipella and his wife, Katherine.

The judge faulted the prosecutor's dismissal of the only

African-American in the jury pool. The question of race shadowed the case even before Crittenden's conviction by a Placer County jury. Prosecutor Gerald E. Flanagan used a preemptory challenge to remove the only African-American on the 50-person jury pool.

During Crittenden's appeal, Flanagan testified he had no

recollection of the circumstances which led to the challenge. Now retired trial Judge James D. Garbolino and U.S. Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows said they were satisfied Flanagan acted more out of concern for the woman's negative feelings about the death penalty than the color of her skin.

Willie Hyman, head of the

Butte Community Coalition, a group that tracks racism, calls the Chico area "the Mississippi of Northern California." He also insists that Crittenden is not guilty. "It's the way black people in the county were treated, because the Caucasian family that was murdered was very well known and loved people," Hyman also stated.

Inmates Struggle to Understand Changes To CDCR’s California Code of Regulations

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Inmates often complain about the rejection of their grievances, which are known as administrative appeals, when local appeals coordinators process them.

The problem increases when inmates do not fully understand the appeal system and the continuous changes made to the California Code of Regulations, Title 15 (Division 3).

NOTICE OF CHANGE

The last major overhaul to the appeal process took place in 2011, when the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s (CDCR) Regulation and Policy Management Branch (RMPB) filed an Emergency Notice of Change to Regulations (NCR) to adopt and amend sections of Title 15.

These new regulations introduced the CDCR Form 22,

Inmate/Parolee Request for Interview, Item or Service. This form replaces the informal level of review on the previous CDCR Form 602.

Appeals are filed on a CDCR Form 602, Inmate/Parolee Appeal. Title 15, sections 3084 and 3084.1 through 3084.9 govern the CDCR Form 602.

There is no reference to the CDCR Form 22 in any of these sections because they do not govern this new form. Form 22 is governed by Title 15, section 3086. This section outlines the procedure on how to write sound requests.

Title 15 is in a continual state of development because the CDCR is not a static entity. Title 15 changes according to the needs of the department, the inmate population and mandates set forth in the law.

Proposed changes to Title 15 are written by CDCR and printed in NCRs; inmates

sometimes refer to them as “those pink things” because of the color of the cover page.

“All CDCR regulations must be created and approved in accord with the requirements of the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA),” according to the *California State Prisoners Handbook*, by Heather MacKay and the Prison Law Office. “The APA is set forth (in) Government Code section 11340 *et seq.* The statutes requiring the CDCR to promulgate rules pursuant to the APA were passed in 1975, legislatively overruling a court decision that had held that the APA did not apply to CDCR rules.”

COMMENTS

The APA mandates that changes to regulations are made available to the public with a subsequent period for public comment. Comments may be made by attending a public hearings on specified

dates and times at CDCR headquarters at 1515 S St., North Building, Sacramento, CA 95811. Public hearing are held at other locations, too, according to CDCR Public Information Officer, Kristina Khokhobashvili. Comments may also be made in writing and mailed to CDCR RPMB, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001; by faxing to (916) 324-6075; or sending an e-mail to RPMB@cdcr.ca.gov.

When the public comment period ends, the state agency reviews the comments. When the rulemaking package is finalized, it is then sent to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for review in Sacramento. The OAL may or may not approve the rulemaking package for many reasons.

A Decision of Disapproval of Regulatory Action may be issued for some regulations. Approved regulations are forwarded to California’s Secre-

tary of State to be updated in Title 15.

REGULATIONS

Pending regulations (NCRs) not cited in a current publication of Title 15 may be read in prison law libraries or online. Notices “shall be posted immediately upon receipt at locations accessible to inmates, parolees and employees in each department facility and field office...” pursuant to the Department Operations Manual.

NCRs can also be mailed directly to anyone who wishes to receive a copy by writing to the CDCR RPMB and requesting to be placed on its mailing list.

Regulations direct the use of CDCR forms (i.e., CDCR 22, 602, etc.). Understanding how the regulation process works can make communication between inmates and staff less adversarial, supporters say.

Female Prisoners Who Underwent Operations Faced Sterilization

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Over an eight-year period, nearly 800 female prisoners underwent operations that could have resulted in sterilization, according to a California state audit.

In most of these cases, sterilization was an unintended consequence of hysterectomies intended to treat cancer and other health problems.

However, “144 female inmates were sterilized by a procedure known as bilateral tubal ligation, a surgery generally performed for the sole purpose of sterilization,” according to the report.

Under California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) rules, bilateral tubal ligation is a procedure that is not medically necessary. The last of these sterilizations oc-

curred in 2011.

State regulations require informed consent before a woman can be sterilized; “however, Corrections and the Receiver’s Office sometimes failed to ensure that inmates’ consent for sterilization was lawfully obtained,” the audit reports.

INCONSISTENCIES WITH INMATES’ INFORMED CONSENT

Thirty-nine inmates were sterilized following deficiencies in the informed consent process. The audit noted two types of deficiencies: physician signatures and waiting period violations.

A physician is supposed to sign the consent form immediately before performing the surgery. This is to ensure that the mandatory waiting period has elapsed, that the patient is men-

tally competent and that she understands the lasting effects of the operation.

However, in 27 cases of the 39 cases, the physician failed to sign the required consent form.

The waiting period — a minimum of 72 hours from the time the patient signs the consent form until the time of the operation — is intended to allow the patient time to think about the choice she is making. She can change her mind at any point.

But in 18 instances, the audit found possible violations of this waiting period.

Six inmate sterilizations involved the violation of both these requirements.

Compounding these problems with informed consent, the audit found that inmates who consented to sterilization likely did so without a witness of their choice. This witness

serves as another safeguard to ensure that the patient both understands and desires the procedure. The witness can also protect the state from accusations that an inmate was coerced into sterilization.

“The unwillingness or inability of the Receiver’s Office to provide inmates with the opportunity to have a witness of their choice — as required by Title 22 — serves to reinforce and highlight the problematic process that prison medical staff followed when obtaining inmates’ consent for sterilization,” the audit stated.

Although the sterilization procedures were performed by general acute care hospitals, not by prison doctors or the federal receiver’s employees, the auditor “concluded that they had a responsibility to ensure that the informed consent requirements were followed in those instances in which their employees obtained inmates’ consent, which was the case for at least 19 of the 39 inmates.”

Additionally, the true number of women sterilized without lawful consent may be higher.

“For example, one hospital destroyed seven inmate medical records in accordance with its records retention policy” the audit stated. “Five of these seven inmates consented to the sterilization procedure while in prison, and it is unclear — based on available records — whether physicians signed the

sterilization consent forms just prior to surgery.”

For all 144 cases in the audit, “prison medical staff failed to document what was discussed with the inmate, as required by prison medical procedures.”

The audit could not determine if inmates were properly informed about the “sensitive and life-changing” procedure whether through education materials or by medical staff.

The audit determined that the “failure to obtain the necessary approvals was systemic.”

Only one bilateral tubal ligation procedure received all the required levels of approval, according to the audit.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The auditor recommended that the Receiver’s Office report to the California Department of Public Health and the Medical Board of California the names of all hospitals and physicians associated with inmates’ bilateral tubal ligations so that both educational and disciplinary action might be taken.

The Receiver’s Office should draft and implement a plan to monitor how its medical staff and contractors adhere to the informed consent requirements by the end of this year, stated the audit.

Finally, the report recommended that medical staff should improve the quality of information they document in inmate medical records.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dude, Where’s My San Quentin Newspaper?

To whom it may Concern:

First and for most, I like to open by saying I pray the content of my writing here finds you and all your staff members under God’s never-ending care.

Received the paper, or rather, one of the papers, I paid for. Thank you for the time and effort. However, you’re right: I haven’t or didn’t receive the other.

Which is a very small issue in comparison to the two other questions I have. My first question would be, do you always respond to your subscribers in such a brief and unconcerned way? Forgive me if I’m wrong, however, once again you made me feel as if I didn’t deserve a proper response to my inquiry,

concerning not only the stamps I sent. But mainly what happened to the articles I sent? Do I not deserve an adequate response since I’m an inmate? Or would you respond in like manner to your outside subscribers? I hope not. Very unprofessional.

In regards to the three articles, all of which were matters of substance. Things in which we as matured individuals should consider. In what way did they not meet your standards? Please consider I took time to try to enhance the quality of your paper by taking time to write them. And due to my age, and not having a typewriter on hand, you were entitled to correct any mistakes I made, so I’m totally confused as to what happened.

I realize you can’t write everyone to say why your paper couldn’t print every article. That’s quite understandable. However, you can honor their request by sending their stamps or money to see to it they get them.

Thank you Carl P.
Editor’s response:

Thank you for your letter and concern. We would like to humbly apologize for the inconvenience that we caused you. We are currently in the process of moving to a new location within San Quentin. We hope to correct your postage problem as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Design Editor,
Richard ‘Bonaru’ Richardson

Editor’s Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Seven Sisters Mystery School Holds Fundraiser for San Quentin News

By Marguerite Rigoglioso
Contributing Writer

Local healers and community activists hosted the San Quentin Healing Ceremony & Fundraiser for the *San Quentin News* on May 3 on Ring Mountain in Tiburon.

Hosted by Seven Sisters Mystery School, the fundraiser brought together some Bay Area leaders in the evolutionary healing and human rights communities who participated in the ceremony of chanting and drumming.

“Many of us feel overwhelmed by the tragic fact that ‘hurt people hurt people,’ and are disturbed by the fact that most incarcerated men are people of color”

The event raised nearly \$800, with half going to *San Quentin News* to help the paper expand to reach all of the state’s inmates.

“The event represents a unique form of activism and healing intended to help a dis-



File photo

The Seven Sisters Mystery School and the Bay Area community hold a fundraiser for San Quentin Healing Ceremony and *San Quentin News*

tressed community in our midst, one that is largely ignored in the Bay Area,” a Seven Sisters Mystery School press release read. “There are many people in the Bay Area who want to help but don’t know how. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the tragic fact that ‘hurt people hurt people’ and are disturbed by the

fact that most incarcerated men are people of color. We want to foster connections with those in our local community who care and want to come together to do something in regard to the conditions within the penal system.”

Participants in the fundraiser started walking up Ring Moun-

tain around 1 p.m. from the entry gate on Paradise Drive in Tiburon. A second circle of those who preferred not to walk remained at the foot of the mountain.

The event was inspired by the work of Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, and other authors, the press release read.

Report Shows San Diego Inmate’s Struggle With Cancer Before and After Her Release

Reid’s daughter and sister cut the ankle monitor off after she fell into a coma on Oct. 14, 2013

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Robin Reid was dying of cancer when she was sentenced to four years in the San Diego County Jail – making her a perfect candidate for a compassionate release. But a new law wasn’t available, so she had to endure complex procedures to get the needed medical care, *San Diego City Beat* reports.

“SB 1462’s implementation has been delayed while the state sets up a process to ensure that indigent inmates released under the new law will have Medi-Cal coverage. Reid got caught up in that delay even though she had private insurance,” according to a *City Beat* editorial.

The county District Attorney’s Office granted a “special sentence” to Reid, who was convicted of operating an erotic massage business in San Diego.

“Reid was jailed Mondays through Wednesdays and allowed to leave Thursdays morning to receive chemotherapy,” according to *City Beat* Associate Editor Kelly Davis.

After spending nine months, checking in and out of the county jail, she was eventually released to home detention. With help from the ACLU and

cooperation of the county sheriff, Reid was confined to the house except for medical appointments and to run certain errands.

During her home detention, “she had to wear a GPS ankle monitor at all times and was forbidden from using medical marijuana, which had previously helped alleviate chemotherapy side effects,” according to the editorial.

Reid was grateful for the amended sentence, *City Beat* reported, but home confinement and the ankle monitor made the last few months difficult. Reid’s daughter and sister cut the ankle monitor off after she fell into a coma on Oct. 14, 2013. “Reid died the next day” after entering a hospice in late September, *City Beat* reported.

County jail inmates who are terminally ill and medically incapacitated could not be granted compassionate release until SB 1462, supported by Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, took effect in January 2013.

Currently, Los Angeles and Orange counties are running SB 1462 pilot programs and other counties will have the option to implement the law this year.

Gov. Jerry Brown’s plan for prison Realignment requires the statewide corrections system to

be smart with how limited resources are used. Under these new restrictions, jail and prison administrators should decide who should be released pending trial, who should be released to probation, and under what conditions.

Sheriff Baca estimated that while only 10 inmates would qualify annually for compassionate release from his jails, the savings on medical costs would be \$7.3 million.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis Wants New Division Stopping Recidivating Offenders

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis joined California Attorney General Kamala Harris in announcing plans to create a new unit to curb recidivism.

The new Division of Recidivism and Re-Entry will use innovative technology, such as the California SmartJustice program led by the state attorney general.

This will help prosecutors to have accurate data and help to determine prison realignment on public safety, using the latest art of technology, Dumanis said in a news release. The sys-



File Photo

Seven Sisters Mystery School members, local healers and community activists gather for the event

tem analyzes offenders’ recidivism risk factors. It also tracks repeat offenders and offense trends to provide counties more effective options of developing anti-recidivism initiatives.

“San Diego County has been a statewide leader in working to reduce recidivism through innovative prisoner re-entry programs,” Dumanis said. “We welcome the attorney general’s leadership and commitment of resources in this area as our county continues to protect public safety while dealing with the ongoing challenges brought on by prisoner realignment.”

Dumanis said the goal is to continue working with law enforcement to try and stop the re-

volving door to prison and protect public safety. Since 2007, the prisoner re-entry program has lowered the recidivism rate to 34 percent and resulted in \$10 million in savings.

The San Diego DA’s office participates in other programs such as four drug courts, behavioral health court, and veterans’ court. The county also expanded re-entry court and created a mandatory supervision court—the first of its kind in the state.

The county also has re-entry programming with the Probation Department to make a Community Transitional Center that provides transitional housing for returning state prisoners.

Free After Spending More Than 30 Years Behind Bars

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

David Basile walked outside the walls of San Quentin on June 3, a free man after more than 30 years of incarceration. Convicted of first-degree murder in Santa Clara County, Basile acknowledges that the road to freedom has been full of obstacles of his own making.

"I began to use illegal drugs at the age of 10," Basile said. "It escalated to me shooting heroin for the first time on Nov. 19, 1969."

Basile said he battled drug addiction for more than three decades and conquering those demons was a tough road. It was important for him to do this to change his life, he added.

His first conviction, which was for conspiracy to distribute 1,700 pounds of marijuana, landed him a three-year stint in the federal prison in Lompoc. He came to San Quentin in 1981 for a year for attempted burglary.

Since his current prison term began in 1983, Basile has been in and out of Administrative Segregation. He said that during his last time in Ad-Seg in 2009, a paradigm shift began to occur in his thinking. "I had to leave that anti-social lifestyle and the people who ascribed to it behind."

He described 2009 as the loneliest year of his life. When Basile was released from Ad-Seg in 2009, he enrolled in Paten University, an on-site college

program at San Quentin. "This one move allowed me to reintegrate and communicate with people who were into positive programming and were attempting to change their lives."

Even though he already had a college degree, he said the biggest lesson he learned was one he never expected. "It allowed

me to see humanity without the blinders I wore that restricted my past interactions with my own race."

He also credits other programs with helping him overcome some of his obstacles. He began attending Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) in 2006. In 2007, he took part in a medi-

ated visit with the family of the victims of his crime.

"After this, I began to make direct and indirect amends in my life for the crimes I committed," Basile said. "In 2009, while involved in the VOEG Next-Step program, several of us put together a curriculum for the Reception Center inmates who were then in the gym. This was the beginning of giving back to my community."

It was while he was doing this work that he said he began to understand how much he was changing and, more importantly, that it was possible to change.

"I remember running into a couple of homeboys who I knew from other prisons. They told me that they were astonished by the change they saw in me. It was all the validation I needed to know I was on the right path."

It was during his work with at-risk youth in the SQUIRES program that he began to piece together some important aspects of his life. "What I saw with these at-risk youths helped me to track my own personal history," he said. "By understanding myself, I soon began to see the connection, which affected my behavior, addiction and incarceration."

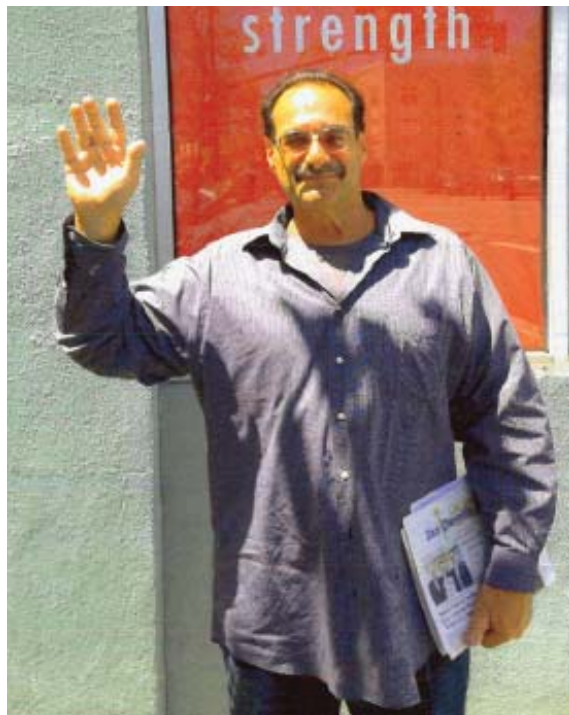
The clarity he got from working with these young men in the SQUIRES program allowed him to make a greater impact on his community by sharing his experiences and relating them to others.

In 2013, Basile became chairman of the SQUIRES program and he said he began to think about the young men who had gone through the program. "I want to establish an at-risk youth intervention group in conjunction with SQUIRES," said Basile. He envisions a SQUIRES after-care program that will continue to address the issues that the young men confronted during their visits to San Quentin.

Basile also began to tutor fellow prisoners in preparation for the GED test as a way of making direct amends. Basile was part of a conversation about education in prison when then-Director of Corrections Mathew Cate visited the Prison University Project in 2012. Because of that visit by Cate, a program was established that set up a nighttime tutoring program, in which Basile took part.

Basile said he has worked hard for the past five years to really change his life, not only for himself, but also for other people who might be in his shoes. "For the last five years my goal has been to model the work that individuals like me can do in order to have hope of a suitability finding. Now, I look forward to walking out of prison and being a successful model for those who have many challenges ahead of them when it comes to parole."

Basile admitted that waiting out the governor's review period for his suitability finding was the hardest time he ever had to do. "I never thought this day would come. But through hard work and programming, anyone can turn things around. I will miss many of the people at San Quentin and look forward to hearing of their success as well."



File Photo

David Basile free, holding a *San Quentin News*

Wrongful Identification Still Haunts Inmate Guy Miles

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

According to court papers, there is strong evidence that San Quentin inmate Guy Miles has been incarcerated for 16 years for crimes based upon a wrongful identification.

Years after his conviction, the Innocence Project lawyers report they uncovered the actual perpetrators of the robbery: Bernard Teamer, Jason Steward and Harold Bailey.

"Steward was never arrested for the robbery, but at my hearing he confessed before Orange County Superior Court Judge Fasal that he was the driver and that I wasn't there," Miles said. "But Steward can't be charged because the statute of limitations has run out."

Miles now awaits two major events, either of which could release him — a court decision or a review by Gov. Jerry Brown.

"I was sentenced to life for crimes I didn't commit, so I'm the one who really needs justice," said Miles.

On June 29, 1998, Miles was arrested for two counts of robbery, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and a gang enhancement. Despite all that, Miles said he is in good hands with his legal team.

In July 2013 Miles went back to court for the second time with a team of lawyers from the Cali-

fornia Innocence Project. One of them was Alissa Bjerkhoel, a lawyer who has been fighting for his freedom for more than a decade.

"His case came to our office in 2003; at his original trial, his alibi was really good. He had nine alibi witnesses," Bjerkhoel said. "The judge at that trial only allowed six to testify. He said it was cumulative. First of all, it was wrong. I don't care how long it is. I think everyone should be able to testify."

Bjerkhoel said the witnesses prevented from testifying were not his friends. They were people who had no interest in the case.

Miles asserts that the basics of his case came down to eyewitness testimony, and the eyewitnesses were all wrong.

"It literally wasn't me, because when the crimes happened, I wasn't in California. I was in Las Vegas, Nevada where I was living," says Miles.

Miles added that Assistant District Attorney John Anderson said in his closing arguments that he had received a fair trial and rejected his alibi that he was in Las Vegas when the crime happened.

However, Miles indicated that the prosecution saw its star witness, Trina Gomez, was in doubt about her identification.

"My attorney, Frank Williams, asked her to come down

from the stand to get a closer look. She walked toward me and asked me to turn around. She studied my face, body, hands and movements," Miles said. "Then she walked back to the witness stand, turned to the jury and stated, 'I don't think it's him.'"

Miles believes the prosecution case bled into racial profiling because, when the prosecution discovered he had nothing to do with the crime, it still pursued the case.

"I was sentenced to life for crimes I didn't commit, so I'm the one who really needs justice"

According to Miles, D.A. Anderson paid close attention to Steward's testimony and told Judge Fasal that Steward did not have all the facts. When these men confessed to the crime, the prosecution changed its legal theory of the case.

"At my first trial they argued I was recruited to help a fellow gang member. This time they argued that I recruited other gang members to come forward and confess to the crime."

That was absurd, Miles said, shaking his head. He said the prosecution did not produce a shred of new evidence that he was the perpetrator the eyewitnesses saw.

"The evidence demonstrated I didn't even know two of the men that confessed. It also showed that the eyewitness who had originally identified me was now identifying one of the men who confessed."

Miles said he was not surprised that the jury came back with a guilty verdict at his original trial.

"Being tried in Orange County, moreover, being that I had an all-white jury, it's no secret that racial profiling is a huge problem in Orange County, especially for African-Americans and Hispanics. It was more probable that I would be convicted than not," said Miles.

Miles said the negative images of African-American men on television might have assisted in bolstering the mistaken identity in his case. "We're depicted either as dope dealers, murderers or gang members, so an all-white jury can't really relate that not all African-American men are criminals," said Miles.

On Jan. 5, Miles said he found out from his lawyer, Bjerkhoel, that Brown did not review his clemency petition.

"He didn't deny it. He just didn't look at. But I'm still in the

arena where he can look at it in the future. Right now, we're still waiting for the decision from the Orange County Santa Ana Central Court," Miles said.

Miles, 48, is one of the California 12, a group of incarcerated individuals represented by the California Innocence Project. Last year they urged Brown to grant clemency to him and to 11 other California prisoners because they said the evidence of innocence in their individual cases was overwhelming.

Lawyers Bjerkhoel, director Justin Brooks and Michael Semanchik of the California Innocence Project walked from San Diego to Sacramento in April 2013 in an effort to increase awareness of the California 12.

They walked 712 miles and got there on June 20, 2013, with blisters on their feet. They walked for 51 days and gave the clemency petitions to Brown, Miles said.

In coping with these years of incarceration, Miles said, he is just trying to keep a positive attitude and thanks the California Innocence Project for fighting for his freedom and the freedom of others. He says that for people who do not have the financial resources or voice, Stiglitz and Semanchik are warriors.

"But as they say on the TV show 'Scandal,' Alyssa Bjerkhoel is a gladiator. She's my gladiator."

San Quentin Prisoners Share Their Talents at The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' Exhibit

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

Artists behind the walls of San Quentin have blurred the boundaries of community. Artwork from the men who take part in the art classes sponsored by the William James Association in San Quentin will make its way into a prominent San Francisco arts center beginning July 18.

The Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is holding its triennial art exhibit titled *Bay Area Now 7*. In 1997, YBCA began to hold art exhibits that showcase local artists' work, which are the most exciting artistic voices in the Bay Area, according to YBCA.

Bay Area Now is an art exhibit that "marks a moment in the life of the institution and regional art scenes through the work of the participating artists who are seen as representative of the spirit of that particular time," according to a *Bay Area Now 7* press release.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the art of prisoners to reach an art-oriented public," commented Carol Newborg, program director for the San Quentin Prison Arts Project.

Newborg and fellow San



Photo by Carol Newborg

Ink on Paper "The Musketeer" by James Norton

quental arts at YBCA.

The diversity of the artwork that will be featured in *Bay Area Now 7* reflects the overwhelming response by the art community in the Bay Area

our lead-man (Scotty McKinstry) are always there to assist and teach. This is a great exercise in cooperation and teamwork," says Christopher Christensen, a member of the

positive view a lot of the time. It's just amazing."

The exhibit will not only feature the artwork of current inmates, but also prints from former San Quentin residents Felix Lucero, Rolf Kissmann, Henry Frank, Ronnie Goodman and Brendan Murdoch.

On Sept. 18, from 4 to 8 p.m., former San Quentin prisoners will read the writings of the still-incarcerated creative writing group, Brothers in Pen. The group is another outlet of the art programs at San Quentin sponsored by the William James Association.

"This is a great opportunity for me and my art to be displayed in such a prominent atmosphere," said Isiah "MWasi" Daniels. "I give thanks to the William James Association and YBCA for allowing such an opportunity. I am an example of what the art program can accomplish. I gained confidence in my abilities as an artist, and it helped me unite with men and women I never would have, if it were not for the program."

The exhibit includes Daniels' piece *Generation*, which is an example of pointillism. It is done with ink on paper, and took Daniels 110 hours to complete.



Photo by Carol Newborg

Acrylic on board "Greeley Hill Sunset" by Fred Tinsley

Quentin art instructor Amy Ho had to submit a proposal of San Quentin artists' work to a selection committee that viewed 50 proposals, according to the YBCA press release. The competition was narrowed down to 15 partner organizations that will "create a dynamic art fair environment by curating site-specific projects throughout our galleries and campus," according to YBCA.

"The incredible range and scope of the proposals selected reflects the larger diversity and strength of the Bay Area arts community," said Ceci Moss, assistant curator of vi-

to be a part of this celebrated art exhibit. The San Quentin Prison Arts Project will display the artwork of 30 artists that includes paintings, block prints, silk screens and five panels of a 16-panel mural from San Quentin.

The mural is an imaginary cityscape that will eventually make its way into the North Dining Hall inside San Quentin. Six prisoners worked on the mural, which is painted on wooden panels.

"Working on a painting this size with more experienced artists is a great learning opportunity. I still make mistakes but others – especially

mural crew.

Also included in the exhibit will be music, dance and theater, films and spoken word performances, according to YBCA.

"YBCA gave us a really prominent space in the anteroom to display approximately 50 pieces of work," said Newborg. She has helped to curate art shows for the San Quentin Prison Arts Project in the past. People leave these art shows with a view that is opposite to the one they walked in with, she commented. "People walk in with one perception of what a prisoner is and leave with a totally op-

A sense of community is a feeling many of the artists talk about when commenting on the YBCA exhibit. "It's very helpful to be a part of a community project," says Noah Wright, whose acrylic on canvas painting *Gone Fishing with Grandpa* will be part of the exhibit.

Recognizing the artists inside the walls has been beneficial in community building. However, an even more important aspect of the art programs is what actually takes place in the San Quentin Prison Arts Project itself.

"This has been a godsend for me. There is a spirit of serenity in (the program) most of the time, and I appreciate being around kindred spirits," says artist David Johnson. His mixed medium acrylic and watercolor on canvas painting series titled *The Knowledge of Good and Evil* will be on display.

"Art is my self-help group, my meditation, my Zen, my escape from reality," says James Norton, who is part of the mural crew and has a pencil on paper drawing titled *The Musketeer* in the exhibit.

Frederick Tinsley, who has two acrylic on canvas paintings in the show, put it simply, "I have fun doing this stuff."

No matter how much fun the artist may have creating, their work is serious and they appreciate what the program is doing to help them. "Art has saved my life," says Dennis Crookes, an artist who is displaying his oil on canvas, *Solace*.

It is a salvation that the public will be able to witness firsthand in the YBCA exhibit *Bay Area Now 7*, running from July 18 through Oct. 12.

YBCA is located at 701 Mission St., San Francisco, Ca 94103, and may be contacted at www.ybca.org.

Acrylic on board by Gerald Morgan

2014 GRADUATION HELD AT SAN QUENTIN

Continued from Page 1

acknowledged 45 inmates who earned General Education Development (GED) diplomas, seven who received associate degrees from the privately funded Prison University Project (PUP) and an inmate who was awarded a vocational machine shop certificate.

"Dozens of inmates' families were allowed inside the prison to watch their loved ones receive recognition for completing the educational programs.

"What a wonderful day it is today. Your hard work has paid off," said Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, the first day's keynote speaker. "Thanks (go) to the teachers, prison administrators and family support. No one does it by himself. Everyone needs a support system. We can overcome our challenges. Keep doing the great work."

"Thank you so much for giving nourishment in a place that sometimes could feel like a desert," said the second day's keynote speaker, former San Quentin inmate, Pat Mims.

"Everyone says San Quentin is a flagship for rehabilitation. We need to put the sail to the wind, and get these programs in other prisons," continued Mims. "I want all of you to get out to better your community. Always remember, this is the start to what's to come. I've walked in those hard brown shoes, those tennis shoes, that CDCR shirt. That's not you. They do not define you. Freedom goes in steps. You've made a part of freedom. Keep taking those steps. As long as you keep taking the steps, you move toward upward mobility."

"I work in the most active rehabilitative place in the United States, in the world," said Associate Warden Steve Albritton. "It's not how we start our race; it's how we finish the race. For those continuing your education, I commend you. You have my full support. We can never over-educate ourselves. Education is the great equalizer."

PUP receives its accreditation from Patten College. Thomas Stewart, Ph.D., the prison university's president, told the graduates: "Take your degree



Mother Martha and Tommy Winfrey with David Monroe, Miguel Quesada and Kara Urion

and knowledge and use it for good."

Stewart then made the following offer: "Each graduate is extended a scholarship to get

incarceration at prisons where violence, despair, racial division and gangs were prevalent.

"When I heard about the college program at San Quentin, I

Coastline Community College. I started in Level IV and kept studying," he said.

"I'm very happy and proud of his accomplishment," said



David Zaffa, Raquel Espino, Agustin, Leticia and Rachel Munoz

a bachelor's degree. The only challenge is to use it for social justice."

Aly Tamboura, this year's Patten valedictorian, told the audience about his journey toward a higher education. He began his

wrote a letter to Jennifer Scaife to get in. I believe that education allows positive change. Education gives us the ability to look at life through a different lens," said Tamboura.

Tamboura acknowledged his family in the audience and thanked them for supporting him. "This achievement is for you, mom," he said.

"I'm so proud of my son," Tamboura's mother said. "I knew he could do it. I can't wait for him to come home."

Tamboura's daughter, Alyssa, said, "When a person thinks about how their life's going to turn out, you don't think your father is going to be in prison. But my father is taking the time to better himself."

"It's been hard, but I'm happy that my father has found something that is his calling," added Tamboura's other daughter, Samantha.

Inmate John Lam, who arrived at San Quentin in 2012, earned degrees in social and behavioral science, humanities, American studies and business from

prison. I hope that more teachers would volunteer to teach inmates who want to learn."

Tommy Winfrey earned degrees on both days. His mother, Martha, traveled from Texas to see her son's graduation. "He's a great son. He's in all sorts of programs and he's done marvelous things. Sometimes it's hard, but I come once a year. I expect him to do greater things."

Sandy Claire is a tutor in PUP's study hall. Claire began volunteering at San Quentin in early 2011 with the Restorative Justice program. "Volunteering at San Quentin has become an important part of my life," Claire said. "There's so much talent and intelligence and creativity here."

"I saw education as a chore," said GED valedictorian Andrew D. Sabatino. "It didn't really hit me until I saw all my friends graduating. When I saw the prison programs, I saw hope. We have control of what and how we think. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to reshape my life."

Phillip Brown began studying for his GED at California Men's Colony in 2009. "I left the streets at a young age," said Brown. "I'm the first to graduate of my brothers and sisters. I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me."

"It's a blessing that my husband's received his GED in spite of the obstacles of prison," said Brown's wife, Janaun. "I would love for him to go to college."

"He's a real good dude," inmate Greg Eskridge said of Brown. "I've known him about six or seven years. He's like a little brother to me. His educational journey was a struggle. He kept telling me that he didn't think he'd finish it. But he said he made a promise to his grandmother that he'd finish his education, and he kept his word. He has a lot of strength and he wants to better himself."

Marcus D. Chavarria said he started studying for his GED in 2011. "Finding a quiet place to study was hard to do in prison. But getting a GED allows me to get a raise at my job," he said. Chavarria's job assignment was with the Prison Industry Authority. "It's my source of income and it gives me a chance to learn a trade. Getting an

education has helped me understand how to do my job better, especially the math classes. My grandkids were happy that I got my GED."

Kenneth Cooksey, 53, received his GED and said, "It feels like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders, because everywhere I go people would throw it (the lack of a high school education) in my face." Cooksey has been at San Quentin for seven years and it has taken him about a year, off and on, to earn his GED.

Todd "Silk" Williams, 51, from Oakland, has been incarcerated for 16 years at High Desert State Prison, California State Prison-Solano, Correctional Training Facility in Soledad and now San Quentin. What's next? "Parole and home ... put this degree to work."

Williams' family came from Oakland. In attendance were his two daughters, Tamara and Tangelia, nephew Eric Gilbert and sister Tracy Patterson.

"I'm very proud of him. He's always been the smartest person I've known, so I'm not surprised" that he graduated, said Patterson. "No matter what has happened or transpired in his



Top: Eric Gilbert, Todd "Silk" Williams, Tracy Patterson
Bottom: Daughters Tangelia and Tamara Williams

tence reduced under Proposition 36. He has been incarcerated for 20 years and has done time in Soledad, Solano, Susanville and Tracy (Deuel Vocational Institution) before arriving at San Quentin. Baylis said he took advantage

interest, they will help you," said Baylis, who is now on the waiting list to attend Patten College. Music provided by: Reggie Austin, keyboard, Greg "Dee" Dixon, bass, Dwight Krizman, drums, Lee Jasper, guitar, Larry "Popeye" Fasion, trumpet, Jim-

has taken the GED Prep, Non-Violent Communication I, II and III, and VOEG.

Don Billington, 68, said, "I started in February this year and I'm graduating" with a GED. San Quentin Chaplain Mardi Jackson said she's supportive



Community advocate Nicole Valentino, Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Acting Principal T. Beebe, Steve Emrick, Ms. Searle, Dr. Mitchel, G. Shimel, G. Young and Z. Thomas getting ready to present the graduation certificates

life, I've always been proud of him."

Rodney Baylis, 54, said it took him four months to earn his GED. "I made it on my first try."

Baylis is a three-striker who is not eligible to have his sen-

of the voluntary education program (VEP) to earn his GED at San Quentin. He did this in spite of his 3 a.m. work assignment in the kitchen as a line server. "This is a good program, if you have to be the one to do it. If you show them (the instructors)

my Rojas, congas, and Roman Claudio, percussionist. Color Guard: Craig R. Johnson, David Tarvin, Norfleet Stewart and Ernie Soltaro. "I'm just glad it's

over with," said Glenn Hill, 58. Hill said it took him about two years to complete his GED studies. He started in the GED prep program and the Reach program. Hill has also participated in GRIP, IMPACT, Breaking Barriers, No More Tears, CRI and Peer Health Education.

"I feel great. I finally finished it and got it behind me. The experience has been priceless," said Osburn Walton, 65. Walton said he has been at San Quentin four years and it has taken him about three years to complete his GED. He

and proud of the men who graduated.

Aly Tamboura's family: "I'm very proud to see him complete what he started, said

peacemaker we learn that hurt people hurt people, heal people heal people and free people free people," he said before playing a friendship tune on a windpipe.



Donna and Jody Lewen with Jennifer Scaife



Allen Webb, Terrell Allen, Alfonza Merritt and Nathaniel Moore



Sung Lam, Denh Y., John Lam, My and Tom Lam



Top: Samantha, Aly, Alyssa and Sean Tamboura with Carolyn Johnson. Bottom: Marcia Tamboura holding graduation certificate

Banquet Celebrates the Strong Work of Kid CAT

'Youth are guided through nurturing and compassionate and educational opportunities'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

On July 2, a social event at the prison chapel brought together community members from the Bay Area with inmates, most who began their prison terms as juveniles.

The inmates, many of them now in their 30s and 40s, are involved in a self-help program called Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together). The inmates and their community supporters say they are on a mission "to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices."

"the human capacity of redemption, disarming the stigma in relation to youth, crime and incarceration."

The guests and inmates shared an afternoon meal, listened to speakers honor recent and past Kid CAT graduates and reflected on legislative accomplishments.

Gary "Malachi" Scott, a founding member of Kid CAT, was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the banquet. However, due to complications, he was not able to come into San Quentin. Nevertheless, Scott sent a prepared statement, read by Kid CAT Chairman Michael Nelson.

in California, these juveniles did not think the same way as adults when they committed their crimes. She said when the criminal justice system treats juveniles as adults, the punishing aspects of incarceration is a failed policy.

Calvin talked about the challenges it took to get the mandatory language removed from life without the possibility of parole sentences given to juveniles and to get juveniles with LWOP sentences a chance to have their sentences modified to life with the possibility of parole.

"At a public safety hearing, one of the witnesses who testified was Jeanne Woodford," Calvin said. "She talked about the transformation she saw inmates go through." Woodford is a former San Quentin warden. "What sustained me through this was the belief that it was the right thing to do. We have a duty to repair the world. We have a duty to repair ourselves. That duty exists even if we don't believe it will succeed," Calvin said.

She said passage of the legislation was the "most dramatic change in sentencing law in more than two decades," adding, "We hoped from the beginning that this was a first step to talking about the broader issue of how we change the perspective on how to treat juvenile offenders."

Kid CAT members say they "work toward restoring that which has been harmed by the men's poor choices, in the form of providing services to inside and outside communities and to pioneer a community effort of improving societal values in regards to youth and what is important to their well-being and development."

"It is important not to let other people define who you are," Calvin said. "Every day, it is a choice of defining who you are."

"The most important thing is the idea that in a single person there is the entire universe," Calvin said. "Each of you is a universe. Each one of you is a universe individually."

"Growing up, not



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jennifer Armstrong addressing the crowd

a person asked me about my goals," said Kid CAT member Tommy Winfrey. "However, we have big goals. We want to reach for the moon, and if we grab a few stars on the way, then we've accomplished something."

"We are seeking to establish a nonprofit foundation to help those coming out of prison," Winfrey said. "Within a year, *The First Step* course will be re-created in a handbook and published so that we can bring our curriculum to two other prisons and to a high school — so that youth don't have to come to prison. Within two years from now, we would like to be in 10 prisons and get into an additional two or three high schools. Our long-term goal is to get a set curriculum in high schools. We want to promote Youth Justice Awareness, which happens in the month of October. Youth Justice Awareness is already happening in 20 other states."

"I have no shame in my game when it comes to programs that I believe in like the Kid CAT program," supporter Dolan Beard said. "I feel so inspired by them. You inmates, the men in blue, inspire me."

Beard talked about how important the hygiene drive is to needy youngsters.

"What inspires you and what is your motivation? Everybody has a giving heart. They just don't know what and when to give. Want has no calendar. Needy people are needy all the time. Gary Scott said, 'Be a leader, take action.' If at all, what will be your call to action? How will you create awareness? Need knows no calendar."

Inmate Cleo Colman, who works in the Curriculum Department, said about 40 inmates meet Sunday nights. He said inmate facilitators team up with outside facilitators to teach each module. "The men are taught how to identify



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Guest and prisoners listen to sound advice

Inmates who participate in the Kid CAT program enroll in *The First Step*, which is a childhood development course exploring three phases of life — the past, present and future. It is a 28-week course with eight modules: Masculinity, Self-Identities, Identifying Emotions, Communicating, Environmental Influences, Consequence, Empathy/Compassion and Forgiveness. The course is taught using large group discussions, lectures, activities and the circle process.

"Youth are guided through nurturing and compassionate and educational opportunities to grow and flourish into caring and productive members of their community," said Elizabeth M. Calvin, senior advocate, Children's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch.

Kid CAT members say they are motivated to demonstrate

"The youth out here need you guys," Scott's statement read. "I realize how important the hygiene drive is. You guys have the power to change lives. I couldn't have done the things out here without what I learned in there."

"Gary Scott is doing great things," said Shalece Booker. It was Booker's first time coming inside San Quentin.

"I'm glad he's out there doing the work he's supposed to do," said *San Quentin News* Design Editor Richard "Bonaru" Richardson. "Young people are so easily influenced."

Scott and Richardson worked in the same office when Scott was *San Quentin News* sports editor.

Calvin told the audience about the difficulties of getting juvenile justice reform through California's legislators.

She pointed out that when juvenile offenders are sentenced to LWOP (life without parole)



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Everyone is elated as the food is served

Kid CAT also has a community outreach component that works with organizations to address youth issues. There is a holiday card-decorating event for Oakland's Children's Hospital.

The San Quentin group publishes a Kid CAT newsletter, *The Road: A Path to Youth Empowerment*.

Every six months, Kid CAT conducts a hygiene drive for Bay Area homeless children.

The Kid CAT Juvenile Lifer Support Group meets twice a month. JLSG provides a space for incarcerated men who entered the prison system at a young age to be able to process topics uniquely catered to address their specific needs.

emotions and to distinguish primary feelings from secondary feelings. By doing so, the men begin to understand where frustration comes from in order to take the appropriate action toward the feeling."

Two bands entertained the audience:

Contagious: David Jassy, singer; Paul Comaux, vocals; Kevin D. Sawyer, guitar; Lee Jaspar, keyboard; Darryl Farris, bass guitar; James Benson, drums; and John Holiday, congas.

Buzz Kill: Joey Mason, guitar and vocals; Richie Morris, lead vocals; Dwight Krizman, drums; Andrew Vance, rhythm guitar; and Darryl Farris, bass guitar.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

All smiles, good food and good company

Inner Peace Through Mind and Body

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Prisoners considering the relationship between mind, body and inner peace cannot take a review of James Fox and his concept of yoga lightly. Numerous studies show that the breathing techniques utilized by yoga help with relaxation and curb stress and negative impulses.

"I've given away about 10,000 of these," Fox said as he handed me his book *Yoga: A Path for Healing and Recovery*.

An Oxford University study cited by Douglas Quan of *Post-media News* found that inmates who went through a 10-week yoga program had moods that are more positive, "were less

stressed and performed better on a computer test of their impulse control."

"We're not saying that yoga will replace standard treatment of mental health conditions in prison. But what we do see are indications that this relatively cheap, simple option might have multiple benefits for prisoners' well-being and possibly aid in managing the burden of mental health problems in prisons," said Amy Bilderbeck, one of the Oxford study's lead researchers, in Quan's article.

"Yoga offers an alternative way of being with yourself and

the world. It represents a personal support system that if practiced regularly can provide you with an ongoing sense of balance, connectedness and inner peace. To heal the pain and suffering in the world requires us to heal our own pain and suffering, so we no longer unconsciously inflict pain and suffering on others," writes Fox in the introduction of *Yoga: A Path For Healing and Recovery*.

Fox teaches four yoga classes at San Quentin, one in H-Unit, one for veterans and two for the mainline. There is currently a waiting list for mainline par-

ticipation. "If I had more room, I'd open a new class tomorrow," Fox said.

All types of men come to Fox's weekly yoga classes at San Quentin. "Muslim, Christian, Native American, macho, mellow, buff, skinny, tattooed ... What they have in common are personal histories marked by trauma, substance abuse and violence, and — thanks to Fox — a commitment to yoga as a path of personal transformation," writes Valerie Reiss for *Yoga Journal*.

Fox's guide is easy to understand and all its terminology is

written clearly, using plain everyday language. Additionally, each pose is illustrated with instructions.

Many inspirational quotes from prisoners are included in the book.

One person said, "When I do yoga, I feel like I am surrounded by this field of positive energy and protected from the negative vibes of prison life." Another person wrote, "There are many ways that I have betrayed, harmed or abandoned myself through thought, word or deed, knowingly or unknowingly."

Readers of Fox's book get a practical course of action that will help him or her understand the nature of pain and the advantage of healing the mind and body through yoga.

BOOK REVIEW

A Celebration In My Imagination

An 'OG's' Perspective

The following guest column is by Larry Stiner Jr., the eldest son of Watani Stiner, the author of the O.G. column.

There's a celebration going on in my imagination. The house is filled with the sound of good soul music and the aroma of good soul food. Conversation among the many family members and friends evokes memories of fun times past. Laughter and more than a few tears of happiness highlight the joyfulness felt throughout the residence.

Taking it all in, I count four generations of our family tree as cellphone cameras capture the excitement. What is the special occasion? It's my father's homecoming. After five years in prison, an escape, two decades as a fugitive, a voluntary surrender and another 20 years of incarceration, my father is home. Yes, after a 45-year absence from true freedom, he is finally home. Well, at least that's what I am imagining just before his 10th hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings..

For the past five years, I have waited for the summer of 2014 to arrive. At last, it is here. Sixty months have crawled by since my father's last parole consideration hearing. And over that period of time, I have planned and prayed. I have strategized and wished. I have fought to hold on to the faith that now allows me to be cautiously optimistic that the results of this hearing will be different. On most days, I truly feel that my father's freedom is soon to come. But then there are those days when that dreaded voice of pessimism whispers words I struggle to ignore: "Don't be foolish. You know how this always turns out. He's not coming home."

Shaking my head in disagreement and blocking out memories of the prior nine hearings that all resulted in denials, I remind myself that

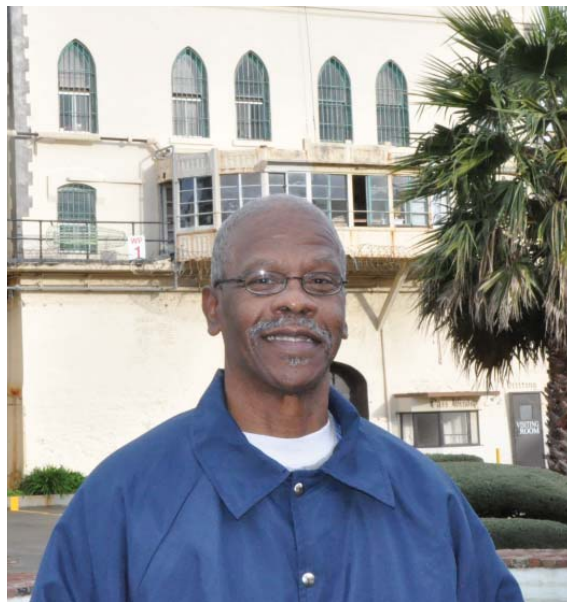


Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Watani Stiner

the climate is different this time around. There are new laws in place favoring more releases. The court has ordered a major reduction in the severely overcrowded prison population. "Lifers" in the state of California are leaving prison at a pace never before seen. Trusting the spirit of positivity, I ride the wave of supportive reasoning until I succeed in drowning out that negative voice. My thoughts race back to the celebration in my imagination...

Seated on the sofa, my father displays a heartwarming smile as he nods his head to an uplifting hit song from the 1960s. Dressed in a stylish tan-colored button-down shirt and a comfortable pair of brown slacks, he looks different in a good way. Wearing something other than the prison blues I'd become accustomed to seeing him in, he looks free. Next to him, my mother sits with her hand resting inside of his. I

see love. I also see joy on the faces of my much younger siblings who, since February 1994, have not spent a second

with our father outside of San Quentin's walls. They were all so young when he surrendered and returned to prison. But he's home now and all is right. Well, at least that's what I am imagining just before he sees the parole board for the 10th time.

All is in order as the hearing day approaches. My father has multiple housing options, employment offers and letters of support. His attorney has diligently prepared to show him worthy of parole. Guardedly, I am hopeful. On the eve of the big day, I receive numerous requests from family and friends wanting to be contacted as soon as I hear the results. I cannot fathom having to relay a negative message to anyone so I focus on the likelihood of a positive decision. Yes, this time will be different, I tell myself.

After one last sleepless night, the hearing day arrives with the brightness of a strong morning sun. The clock-watching begins as I try to go about my day as I normally would. It is not possible. I feel

more anxious with each passing minute. Time ticks and I wait. The clock moves and I anticipate. Finally, I hear the news: The hearing has been postponed. It has been pushed back for at least a few months due to a hearing panel member declaring a conflict of interest. The member says he was on the University of California, Los Angeles, campus as a student in 1969 when a shootout between rival Black Power organizations erupted, leaving two people dead and my father wounded and facing a conspiracy charge. Against my father's wishes, the hearing is delayed. The disappointment shortens my breath as I wonder why this conflict wasn't discovered until just before the hearing. Could not that person have excused himself before today? That whispering voice of pessimism tries to speak out but I quickly silence it. Though frustrated and saddened, I remind myself that a postponement is not a denial. Therefore, I reason, the celebration in my imagination hasn't been cancelled ... it's only been postponed. Unfortunately, a few months will seem like a lifetime to a family that's already been separated for what seems like a lifetime.

Executive Editor, Bill Keller Leaves New York Times For New Project

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

One of America's leading newspaper editors has left to join a new criminal justice reporting organization.

The former *New York Times* executive editor, Bill Keller, 65, leaves the newspaper to head up the *Marshall Project*.

"Bill has made so many contributions to the *Times* over his 30 years here, it's difficult to quantify them," said Arthur Sulzberger Jr., *Times* publisher and chief executive of its parent company.

Former *Wall Street Journal* reporter Neil Barsky cre-

ated the *Marshall Project*, the *Washington Post* reported. "The project is one of a number of digital-only news organizations that have formed in recent years outside of traditional media companies," the *Post* reported.

The *Post* said Keller had been working at the *Times* as a columnist since he stepped down as executive editor.

"The *Times* won 18 Pulitzer Prizes during Keller's eight-year tenure," the *Post* reported.

According to the *Post*, in the 1990s Keller reported on South Africa's "apartheid racial laws" as they began to crumble

and Nelson Mandela became president.

While Keller was an editor for the *Times*, it published "excerpts of sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic files." These documents were obtained from *WikiLeaks*, according to the *Post*.

In 2005 the *Times* reported on the George W. Bush administration's use of "warrantless wiretapping" of those suspected of being terrorists, the *Post* said.

Keller was the *Times* editor-in-chief from 2003 to 2011. He became executive editor following the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

National Science Foundation Honors Ashley Schappell

**By Jarvis Juvan Clark
Journalism Guild Writer**

The National Science Foundation has honored a renowned psychologist who once taught college classes at San Quentin by awarding her \$25,000 to research how violence affects inmates during incarceration.

Counseling and treatment for victims of prison violence should begin during their incarceration, and once released, community support services should give aftercare, according to Ashley Schappell, the award recipient. “I think that she seemed very smart and highly motivated,” said Dr. Jody Lewen, executive

of Prison University Project. “I find it very exciting to see her work getting this recognition, because I find her research question to be extremely important.” The affects of prison violence have received little attention by federal researchers, according to *Medical Press*, an online medical news source.

“We know that being exposed to violence and being victimized increases depression, anxiety and incidents of post-traumatic stress disorder,” Schappell told *Rutgers Today*. Inmates who are released after being incarcerated for long periods should get professional help from a psychologist or psychiatrist in order to successfully ease back into the community, according to Schappell. “Prisoners who tend to be victimized are people that I see over and over again. They get released and they come back.

Some have been there their whole lives. Even though it’s scary, it’s all they know and they feel more comfortable there,” said Schappell. “As I learned more about the prison system and the injustices, it struck me as something that needed to be addressed. Even though they’re inmates, they’re human, and this is a human rights issue.” “The cost of failing to treat them (inmates) can be high, and if you don’t think of their futures, we’re all going to be paying for it,” Schappell said.

Metta World Peace Visits San Quentin’s GRIP Class

GRIP is about taking offenders and graduating them into servants of humankind

**By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer**

National Basketball Association veteran Metta World Peace, formerly known as Ron Artest, came into San Quentin and shared part of his life story with the men of GRIP (Guiding Rage into Power). “My father was on psychiatric medication before I was born. After I was born, my father told my mother that he was on medication; however, she stuck with him even though he would hit her.” He spoke quietly, yet clearly, to those in the room. “I thought it was normal, for a man to hit a woman in the home, so at the time, I didn’t realize how I was being affected. Just about everyone in my family was either in jail or a mental institution when I was growing up.”

come out at your own pace, as you feel like it.” GRIP is the brainchild of Jacques Verduin, who directs the program and invited World Peace to come in and speak. Verduin describes GRIP as a 17-year journey in seeking the right people and perfecting the curriculum. GRIP aims to take offenders and graduate them into servants of humankind. “The Navajo believe that someone who has committed a crime is someone who is acting as if he or she has no family, no relatives,” Verduin states. “In that sense, a crime is an inarticulate plea for help. So part of the solution is to create a context where we relate to each other to heal the pain of feeling alien-

ated.” The program consists of four components that are central to the process:

- Stopping the violence and committing no harm
- Developing emotional intelligence
- Cultivating mindfulness
- Understanding victim impact

“In the process of healing, the person not only learns how to rehabilitate, but also becomes someone who’s able to give back to the community,” said Verduin. The stories told by World Peace confirmed Verduin’s theories. The famous athlete went on to speak about his time with the Indiana Pacers and the angry

encounter in the stands that led him to being suspended from the NBA. “The situation while I was with the Pacers, when I went into the stands, I ended up blaming everyone else for what happened to me. It was confusing at the time. However, years later, I called the person that I went after. It turned out that he had his own personal problems that he was dealing. Now? We’re friends,” said World Peace. He spoke about his time with the Los Angeles Lakers; how then head coach Phil Jackson helped him channel his anger by introducing him to Zen Buddhism. “When I got to the Los Angeles Lakers, Coach Phil Jackson

– the ‘Zen Master’ – had a team that had several huge egos and personalities. He had to meld all these personalities into a cohesive unit. He used Zen teachings and meditations to allow us to see things in a way that, I personally, hadn’t even thought about,” World Peace told the men of GRIP. “Coach Jackson influenced me in so many ways. He’s part of the reason I follow Buddhist teachings.” “When I arrived, there were different agendas inside the locker room. We were like different gangs playing in the same jersey. Coach Jackson taught us how to put everything aside that didn’t have a thing to do with achieving the goal and to focus on the same thing. Obviously it worked because, as a coach, he has 13 rings,” World Peace said with a smile. “I was always tense; however, Buddhism has helped me to identify those moments when I am tense and to transfer those negative feelings into positive energy.”



Photo by Sam Hearn

Metta World Peace shoots over the defense of Bernard Moss

Musician Mark Hummel Provides Advice and Entertainment to the Men in Blue

**By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman**

The blues harmonica is not heard often in modern society’s pop music. The prison subculture is no exception, but that did not hinder harmonica blues man Mark Hummel, 58, from performing and discussing music with about two dozen inmates on a recent visit to San Quentin State Prison. During the two-hour performance, Hummel talked about the blues and provided instruction on the various techniques used to play the harmonica, such as tongue blocking to play chords and octaves. Hummel is one of hundreds of musicians who work with the organization Bread and Roses, founded 40 years ago by the late Mimi Farina, sister of Joan

Baez. Lisa Starbird, who came in with Hummel and described herself as the organization’s “queen of logistics,” said Bread and Roses takes about 50 live musical performances each month to rehabilitation centers, convalescent homes, detention centers or shelters for the homeless or at-risk kids in the Bay Area who otherwise have little opportunity for entertainment. “I’ve been lucky. Music is my number one thing. I hope that comes through when I play,” Hummel told the men. “To me, music in general is all about rhythm. The main thing I do is the tongue block. Tonguing is a lot harder than lipping.” Inmates asked dozens of questions about the blues, harmonica playing and the music business. Hummel answered each of their

questions. He said music is “a real survivor’s game ... if you keep your eyes on that prize, you’ll get through it.” “A big part of what I do is, I’m constantly listening to music,” Hummel said. “I’m still really into blues harmonica.” Hummel said he learned to play by ear, listening to records and all kinds of music. “I started in high school listening to Cream, Jimi Hendrix, Paul Butterfield, John Mayfield,” and others, he told the class. Hummel said he enjoys playing slow so he can “dig into the notes better,” adding, “B.B. King takes his time with vibrato.” Among the many songs Hummel played for the inmates was “Señor Blues” in the key of C, by Horace Silver. Kurt Huget, who teaches a Thursday night guitar class, ac-

companied Hummel on several tunes, such as “When I Woke Up This Morning” by Jimmy Reed. Hummel also sang on this song. “That’s one of my favorites,” he told the men. Later he played “The Blues Is Here to Stay,” by Eddie Boyd. Aside from his musical talent, Hummel acknowledged he has some business knowledge and organization skills. With more than 20 albums under his belt, Hummel expects to have another new recording ready this year. “This is a great room for playing harmonica,” said Hummel, referring to the Arts and Corrections room, where the bands typically rehearse, as he showed the men the various types of microphones he used for playing. Hummel also brought up less public aspects of his past. He

spoke honestly with the men about his struggles with addiction. He said that he has been drug and alcohol free for 29 years. “You’re one of the best audiences I’ve played for,” said Hummel, after a round of applause from the men sitting at tables. According to his biography on Wikipedia, Hummel was born in New Haven, Conn. He is described as an American blues harmonica player, a vocalist, songwriter and long-time bandleader of “The Blues Survivors.” Hummel’s professional career began in the early 1970s when he moved to San Francisco. He is the founder of the Blues Harmonica Blowout tour that he has produced since the early 1990s. It features a lineup of veteran harmonica players.

S.F. Bay View: Organization Helps Former Inmates Regain Their Rights and Participation in Communities

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Efforts are under way to help former prisoners regain rights and participation in their communities.

Leading the effort is Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC). It has established a policy academy to increase civic participation by formerly incarcerated people, both locally and statewide, reports *San Francisco Bay View*.

"We must ensure our voices are heard in the hallways of

government as well as on the street," declared LSPC Executive Director Dorsey Nunn.

This was the theme shared in a training program by 50 people at the Watts Labor Center in Los Angeles in February.

Nunn said he and several community organizers "wanted to frame public policy work as an additional important way to fight for the ones we love. Unfortunately, it is also a method we don't use often enough."

"The day gave important background on mass incarceration and its disproportionate

impact on communities of color, as well as information about legislative advocacy, community organizing and the California legislative process," the newspaper reported.

In addition, "Two role-playing sessions – a legislative meeting and a committee hearing – gave attendees a chance to enact what they were learning."

"As a formerly incarcerated black man who has been struggling for over 40 years, I recognize that my status as a formerly incarcerated per-

son oppresses me as much as the status of black people oppressed them during slavery or the Jim Crow eras," Nunn said.

The incarceration rate per 100,000 is six to 10 times that of whites and three to four times that of Latinos, Nunn said. "I am more likely to be assaulted or murdered. The system comes for me more often than others and I am not only incarcerated but also disempowered, then and now," he added.

"I know that, as a result of our conviction histories, \$57

billion to \$65 billion in earning and spending will be lost to the community," Dunn said.

To advance a public policy agenda, Dunn and the organizers said, "We need to establish an apparatus to train formerly incarcerated people, their families and loved ones, so we can develop a more effective approach to lobbying and advocacy."

According to Dunn, there are "Over 40,000 policies nationally precluded our reentry and the full and equal restoration of our rights."

S.F. 49ers Tour San Quentin and Gain Insight From Prisoners

Continued from Page 1

age the young players, ranging from ages 20 to 23 years old, to make smart choices that keep them out of trouble and playing ball, according to Smith.

The players and coaches met with inmates who participate in various self-help programs.

The inmates reminded the rookies that a phone call could end a career, and a house party gone wrong can lead to a jail sentence. They urged the visitors to take advantage of the opportunity to develop, not just into professional football players, but

"Most of the people I played with back in high school are now retiring from the league," said inmate Royce Rose, starting quarterback for the San Quentin All-Madden flag football team. Rose said as a teen he was a top 50 athlete in California.

The visiting players and coaches then broke into small discussion groups with the inmates to talk about the self-help, rehabilitative and educational opportunities at San Quentin.

"There are over 70 programs geared toward 'restorative justice' and rehabilitation at San Quentin," said inmate Sam Hearnese. "But,

security over you."

Hearnese asked the players and coaches why they thought prisons are necessary in society.

"To modify behavior," said 49er veteran safety C.J. Spillman. "Prison seems like an adult version of 'time-out,'" added 49er rookie running back Carlos Hyde.

"I used to be you," said inmate Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla to Hyde.

"I played D-1 ball for seven years as a professional," Thompson-Bonilla is a graduate of Ohio State University and a former Canadian Football League Grey Cup Champion for the Toronto Argonauts in 1986.

Next, the visitors walked the Lower Yard, where they met and conversed with hundreds of inmates. The inmates gave the players and coaches a round of applause and shouts of encouragement.

Shortly thereafter, an institutional alarm was sounded, requiring all inmates to be seated in place. Head coach of the 49ers Jim Harbaugh took the time to sign autographs and shake hands with inmates seated on the ground.

"I want to thank all the men that spoke to me. I learned a lot today," said 49er offensive lineman Marcus Martin. "I met someone who grew up around the corner from where I grew up. That's deep."

"Awesome experience," said rookie Trey Millard as the tour ended. "I've never been to a prison before. I always wanted to see this one."

—*Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story*



Coach Harbaugh shakes hands while institutional alarm goes off



Coach Harbaugh autographs "Little Joe's" hat

also into role models.

"I played with Curtis Conway [former NFL wide receiver] at Hawthorne High School," said inmate Kevin Carr. "Now he's retired while I've been in prison."

when I first came to prison, people were separated by race. Walking into another group's area could mean life or death. Just taking a walk to the toilet or stopping to tie your shoe meant having someone place



Lt. Robinson standing in front of the old SQ dungeon explaining its history

Forty Niner Rookies:	
Jimmy Ward DB	Shane Skov LB
James McCray S	Ken Acker CB
Chris Borland LB	Asante Cleveland TE
Kaleb Ramsey DT	Bruce Ellington WR
Dillon Farrell OL	Marcus Martin OL
Brandon Thomas OL	Kory Faulkner QB
Fouimalo Fonoti OL	Kevin Greene TE
Keith Reaser CB	Carlos Hyde RB
Donte` Johnson CB	Aaron Lynch LB
Trey Millard FB	



49er players inside the old SQ dungeon

2011 Annual Homicide Rate Lowest Since 1963

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Homicides, nationwide, continue to decline and now occur at the lowest annual rate since 1963, reports the U.S. Department of Justice.

Using data from 2011, the most recent year available from the FBI's *Supplementary Homicide Reports*, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) examined homicide trends from 1992 to 2011, with selected findings from 1960.

"The rate of homicides in the United States declined by 49 percent, from 9.3 homicides per 100,000 residents in 1992 to 4.7 in 2011," reported BJS statisticians Erica L. Smith and Alexia Cooper.

RATE

The rate of homicides for males was 3.6 times higher than for females from 1992 to 2011. But according to the BJS report, both sexes experienced similar declines in their overall rates of homicides during the 20-year period. From 1992 to 2011, the murder rate declined by half for both males (50 percent) and females (49 percent).

The homicide rate among blacks declined by 19 percent from 21.2 per 100,000 in 2002 to 17.3 in 2011. "Persons of other races – persons identified as American Indian,

Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander – experienced the greatest decline (down 33 percent), from 2.7 homicides per 100,000 persons in 2002 to 1.8 in 2011," according to the report.

Even though the homicide rate for blacks declined during this period, it was 6.3 times higher than the rate for whites. During the same period, the report found that the murder rate among whites decreased by 17 percent, down from 3.3 per 100,000 in 2002 to 2.8 in 2011.

"The peak homicide victimization rate for black males was nearly nine times higher than the peak rate for white males," the report highlights. "The magnitude of the homicide rate for males varied by age and race, although the patterns by age among black and white males were similar."

In the report, "The homicide victimization rate for both white and black males increased after age 14 and into the early 20s, although with dramatically different trajectories."

White male murders peaked at age 20 (11.4 homicides per 100,000), while the homicide rate for black males peaked at age 23 (100.3 homicides per 100,000).

Another interesting statistics shown in the report: The

highest murder rate for black males was nearly nine times higher than the highest rate for white males. After peaking for victims in their early 20s, the murder rate for both white and black males declined with age. The murder rate for black males 60 years or older was four times more than for white males in the same age group.

VICTIMS

Thirty was the median age of murder victims in 2011. One section in the report shows, "Half of all murder victims were age 30 or younger and half were age 30 or older."

From 2002 to 2011, young adults ages 18 to 24 had the highest homicide rate of any age group. "Young adults also experienced the largest homicide rate decline (down 22 percent), from 15.2 per 100,000 in 2002 to 11.9 in 2011," according to the report.

One unique statistic reported by Smith and Cooper was "The homicide victimization rate for females was higher during the first year of life."

During a 10-year period from 2002 to 2011, "Females younger than age one had a higher murder rate than females of any other age group." In the report, the homicide rate for females younger than age one was four and a half homicides per 100,000 for

white females and 10.3 per 100,000 for black females.

The murder rates for black and white females followed similar trends as with male homicide victims across the same age group. According to the report, "The average homicide rate for black females was over three times higher than the rate for white females."

The report revealed that female homicides for both races increased substantially after the age of 11. The murder rate for white females age 11 or older was greatest for ages 20 to 31, with an average homicide rate of 2.8 per 100,000.

The murder rate for black females age 11 or older was highest for those aged 21 to 26 with an average homicide rate of 11.4 per 100,000. In the report of the two statisticians, the peak rate for black females age 11 or older was four times higher than the peak rate for white females age 11 or older.

The two statisticians reported, "Homicide rates among black and white females declined with age after age 30. Among victims age 60 or older, black females experienced a homicide rate that was approximately two times higher than the rate for white females."

The murder rates among the elderly provided some interesting statistics. In the report, the rate remained stable

among white females age 75 or older, while the homicide rate among black females age 75 or older increased from 2.2 homicides per 100,000 for persons age 75 to 3.6 per 100,000 for those age 83.

FIREARM VIOLENCE

Both the FBI and the Centers for Disease and Prevention collected statistics on the percentage of victims killed by a firearm.

The rate of murder involving a firearm declined by half from 1992 to 2011 for both males and females. Over the same period, the percentage of male and female murders committed with a firearm changed very slightly.

In both 1992 and 2011, firearms were reportedly used in 73 percent of all murders of males and in 49 percent of females, with minor fluctuations during the time.

"Handguns were more commonly involved in homicides than other types of firearms," according to the report. These weapons were used in an average of 57 percent of male homicides and 35 percent of female homicides.

Other types of firearms, such as rifles, shotguns and firearms of unknown types, were used to murder 16 percent of male homicide victims and 13 percent of females from 1992 to 2011.

Asked On The Line

Prisoners Describe the First Job They Ever Had

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The summer month of July has interesting celebrations. The World Almanac reports July is Cell Phone Courtesy Month, National Hot Dog Month and Women's Motorcycle Month.

For members of the Catholic faith, the Feast of Saint Ignatius is on Thursday, July 31. However, the most celebrated day in July for most people in the United States is the Fourth of July and this year, Independence Day landed on a Friday.

Moving from dependence or codependence to independence is a major step toward maturity. But mature and intelligent adults also know that life is easier and more enjoyable when people cooperate. They know that moving from independence to interdependence demonstrates the greatest maturity of all. Maya Angelou said, "Nobody but nobody can make it out here alone."

At some point in life, most adults make that first major step from being dependent or codependent to being independent and go out into the world to fend for themselves.

In honor of what it means to be independent, "Asked On the Line" conducted brief informal interviews with 18 men on the mainline and asked: "What was the first

job that you ever had and how old were you? At what age did you leave home and what type of job did you have when you left?"

Many of the men in blue left home at a very young age.

Pedro Espinal's first job was delivering groceries. "I was only 12 years old," said Espinal. "I did that until I was 18 and then I enlisted in the Navy. I left home to go serve in the U.S. Navy."

"I left home when I was 17 and enlisted with the United States Marine Corps"

Rudy Walker got his first job when he was 15. "I worked the fish counter at an Asian food market," said Walker. "I left my parent's home the following year when I was 16 while still working there."

Quinton Walker said, "I was 18 years old when I got my first job as a security guard. When I was 19, I left home and quit my job to enlist in the Navy."

Stan Baer and Kevin Valvardi were both just 9 years old when they started their first jobs. Both of them were paperboys. "I left home when I was 17 and enlisted with the

United States Marine Corps," said Baer. "I left home when I was 18 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy," said Valvardi.

Danny Ho's first job was in electronics assembly. "I was 19 years old when I started working and I left home the following year," said Ho.

Rafael Cuevas was 18 when he got his first job in construction. "I left home that same year while I was working in construction," said Cuevas.

Jose Luis Flores was 19 when he got his first job. "I was a busboy at Sizzler's," said Flores. "I did not live with my parents. I and all of my siblings were sharing a home until I was 20 years old before I left to live on my own."

Tim Goins was 15 when he got his first job laying television cable. He made enough money to leave home that same year.

Forrest Jones was 17 when he got his first job working in a city recreation department. "I left home when I was 27 while I was working in a pharmacy," said Jones.

Jesus Flores was 15 when he got his first job working at Kmart. "I got my first job working part-time as a stock boy," said Flores. "I left home when I was 18 and I was working at Domino's Pizza."

Terrell Allen was 12 years old when he got his first job mowing lawns in his neighborhood. "I left home when I

was 17. I was working for the Foot Locker at the mall."

Richard Latham got his first job as a nursing assistant when he was 18. He had left his parent's home the year before when he was 17 and unemployed.

Bo Segsavang was 13 when he got his first job delivering newspapers. When he decided to leave his parent's home, he was 16 and he was unemployed.

Paul Chen was 19 when he got his first paycheck in graduate school. In China, graduate students got paid to be in school. "They got rid of academic pay in China in 2013. When I was 21 and attending UCLA, I got paid to assist teaching assistants as a 'Reader,'" said Chen. Chen left his parent's home to come to the United States and attend college.

Miguel Saldana got his first job at a printing shop when he was 14. He would later leave his parent's home when he was 21 while working at a shoe store.

Antoine Brown never had a job before his incarceration. "I never had no job on the streets. I left home when I was 15 'cause I came to the prison," said Brown.

James Mays was only 12 when he started working in construction. He left his parents' home the following year while still working in construction.

San
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1. Boston — The Massachusetts high court has struck down mandatory life sentencing for two juvenile offenders, Joseph Donovan, 38, and Frederick Christian, 37. They are scheduled to have parole hearings, reports *The Associated Press*. Donovan and Christian are among 63 inmates serving juvenile life without parole sentences in the state. They were convicted of felony murder at age 17. Neither was convicted of the actual killing.

2. Cincinnati — Of the 103 homicides in the greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky regions in 2013, 86 were committed in Cincinnati (75) and Hamilton County outside the city (11), reports *Gannett*. The city’s 75 murders in 2013 “represent a significant increase over the 53 homicides recorded in the city in 2012.”

3. Denver — Colorado Corrections Department Executive Director Rick Raemisch said he suffered mental anguish after spending 20 hours in solitary confinement to see what it was like, reports *The Wichita Eagle*. He said the experience left him “feeling twitchy and paranoid.”

4. Sacramento — Elwood Lui has been named a compliance officer tasked to make decisions on which inmates to release if California fails to meet a court-ordered inmate population cap for the state prison system, reports *The Los Angeles Times*.

5. Denver—Police Chief Robert



White said that since recreational marijuana sales became legal last November, the police have cited about one person per day for public pot smoking, reports *The Denver Post*.

6. Helena — A nationwide survey shows Montana has one of the highest rates of rapes and sexual assaults in its prison system, reports the *Billings Gazette*. However, state corrections of-

ficials are disputing the report’s methodology.

7. Harrisburg, Pa. — Mental health services in the state’s 26 prisons is a serious issue, according to the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*. Twenty-one percent of state prison inmates —more than 10,000 people —receive mental health services, according to department statistics. State prison officials have issued a \$91 million

contract to a Virginia-based firm for services that have “incentives to reduce the number of misconducts for mentally ill offenders, reduce the number of inmates re-committed to mental health units and lower the number of commitments to prison residential treatment units,” according to a department statement.

8. New York — Pay for Success is a new program designed

to reduce recidivism or repeat offending by increasing training and employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals, reports *The Citizen*. The project began last December and “is providing services to 2,000 formerly incarcerated individuals who are considered high risks for reoffending.”

9. New York — The New York Civil Liberties Union says the state has become the largest prison system in the U.S. to ban the use of disciplinary confinement for minors, reports *The New York Times*.

10. Washington, D.C. — The nation’s high court has ruled “states can no longer rely on a fixed IQ score cutoff to decide intellectual competency” in death penalty cases, reports *The New York Times*. Nationwide, about 30 Death Row inmates are affected by the ruling.

11. Jackson, Miss. — East Mississippi Correctional Facility, a privately run state prison, has been plagued by problems, reports *The New York Times*. Erica Goode reports, “When a previous private operator, the GEO Group, left in 2012 after complaints to the state about squalor and lack of medical treatment, hopes rose that conditions would improve. But two years later, advocates for inmates assert that little has changed under the current operator, Management and Training Corporation, a Utah-based company.”

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 will 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
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964

To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to:

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San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

Sudoku Corner

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

Snippets

Port of Boston now closed for shipping goods. The Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, which closed down the port until the damaged tea was paid for by the colony.

One hot ash still burning left half a population homeless in The Great Fire of London.

On Oct. 31, 1923 to April 27, 1924 Marble Bar, Western Australia burned 160 straight days with the temperature at 100 degree or higher.

Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the World by area, according to Guinness World Records 2007.

Palpitating up to 40 beats per minute in the summer waters, the average turtle’s heart rate slows once every ten minutes in the cold winter waters.

Armed force free Iceland, declared itself a nuclear-free zone in 1985.

Reaching more than 3,500,000 square miles is the Sahara Desert. It’s the second largest desert in the world.

The Half Way to Hell Club were the 19 men whose lives were saved by the nets underneath the Golden Gate Bridge during its construction.

You probably did not know that the expression “speakeasy” was a code that was yelled through a door to buy and sell prohibited alcohol.

SPORTS

By Harun Taylor
Sports Writer

Three track records fell at the 1000 Mile Club's recent relay races.

The 4x200m fell first. Eric Nelson, Leroy Lucas, Tone "Barefoot Tone" Evans and John Willie Windham ran a 1:47.42, smashing the old record of 1:49, set in 2012. Two races later, the same team set a new record in the 4x100 at 47:04. The team of Abel Armengal, Oscar Aguilar, Jesus Sanchez and Jose Sandoval challenged the record breakers in both races on May 30.

"We want to give an extra shout out to our competitors today," said Windham. "We were trying to break records after we found out the first one fell. So, we pushed ourselves to get it done."

The Distance Medley tumbled next. Runners Miguel Quezada, Clifton Williams, Carlos Ramirez and Eddie Herena ran a brisk 13:19.99 to

break the record of 14:22, set in 2012.

A Distance Medley consists of the first runner going three-quarters of a mile, the second runner a quarter-mile, the third runner a half-mile and the final runner going for

a mile.

In the last race of the day, Evans, Windham and Nelson added Quezada to their team. They were going for a fourth record in the 4 x1¼ mile;

however, they missed the time by seven seconds. Chris Scull, Sergio Castillo, Marlon Beason and Alberto Mendez came in third.

"After knocking down

those other records, we tried for a third. We all were a little tired," Evans said, laughing while catching his breath.

The day started with the 4x1 mile relay. The winning team consisting of Quezada, Bernard "Abdu'l Rahiym" Ballard, Eric "Abdu'l Wahid" Moody and Chris Cole They ran a total time of 23:52. Second were Morceli Abdu'l Khadeer, Eric Nelson, Edward "Wakil" Scott and Marlon Beason in 26:50.

"We want to thank our coaches for showing up," said Lucas, smiling. "Aye Coach! Come over and take this picture with us! We got the record!" Lucas shouted to Frank Ruona and Kevin Rumon.

Nelson also scored 47 official points to propel his team, Net Zero, past The Franchise in overtime, 80-77. There was disagreement over whether he broke a record with his performance.



Photo by Sam Hearn

1000 Mile relay runners posing with sponsors

Net Zero Defeat the Franchise in Overtime, 80 - 77

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Erick Nelson and Floyd Ray Jr. combined for 15 points in overtime to lead Net Zero to an 80-77 win over The Franchise in a San Quentin Intramural Basketball League game. Nelson scored eight of his total 47 points and Ray Jr. hit for seven of 12 in the extra period.

"It was a team accomplishment," Nelson humbly said after the game.

"He really scored 49 and broke the league record of 41 that was held by Sweet Pea," said Net Zero coach Aaron "The Jeddii" Taylor. The scorekeepers only had Nelson for 47, but several observers claimed they failed to record a basket.

Orlando Harris remembers Paul "Sweet Pea" Davidson scored 41 points in 2013 with his team, The Battleship. Daniel Wright said he and Sweet Pea have had 50-point games.

In overtime, Nelson started

hot, hitting a three-pointer. The Franchise's Harry "ATL" Smith countered with an answering three. On the next play, Franchise Marcus "Lunch Pail" Cosby hit a basket for a temporary lead that Ray Jr. erased with a hook shot.

Then Nelson dribbled past defenders to make a shovel layup. After Cosby assisted Donte "Cornbread" Smith on an inside bucket, Nelson dribbled past H. Smith for another layup, leaving the score 75-73. The Franchise answered, but failed to stop Ray Jr. as he scored his team's next four

points, putting Net Zero up four at 79-75 with 19 seconds left.

Harry "ATL" Smith grabbed an offensive rebound and laid up the ball to bring The Franchise within two with 10 seconds left.

The Franchise fouled Nelson to stop the clock. He made one free throw, leaving the score 80-77. With five seconds left, Franchise sharpshooter Derrick "The Helicopter" Loud went up with a three-point attempt that missed. Smith got the rebound but missed as time expired with the Net Zero up three in the May 25 contest.

Net Zero achieved the win short-handed. Referee Ishmael Freelon ejected one of their best players, Michael "The Option" Franklin, after a second technical foul five minutes into the game. The score went back and forth with several ties and no major leads until Franklin's ejection.

"I wasn't worried," said Nelson.

Thereafter, The Franchise pulled ahead. However, Nelson brought his team back and hit a huge three-pointer to take the game into overtime at 65-65.

"He (Nelson) showed up big

time today. He told me pre-game we just have to (play our best) ball and he did. The whole team made some good decisions - Cancun, D2, the whole team," said Franklin.

H. Smith finished with 30 points, 24 rebounds, two assists, two steals and two blocks; D. Smith added 14 points and 12 rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block - both for The Franchise.

"We didn't go wrong; they just played a better game," said H. Smith about the loss. "I'm just honored to be a part of this league. It's a good league," he added.

Sports Roundup: Baseball, Basketball and Tennis

BASEBALL

The San Quentin A's won their first game against the Cubs; Anthony "T-Tone" Bernard shut out the Cubs, 6-0, on May 14.

The Giants blew out The Mission baseball team, 12-3, on May 17.

Isaiah RaHeem Thompson-Bonilla pitched the A's to victory over the Barons, 11-1. Chris Marshall hit a two-run homer.

The Giants defeated the visiting REBL Giants on June 5.

The A's redeemed themselves against the Barons, winning 10-7 on June 7.

SOFTBALL

The Hardtimers destroyed the North Bay Bombers, 29-1. Bomber Lori Carter was hit in the face when a grounder took a sudden bounce, but was OK despite a speed knot on her forehead.

BASKETBALL

The Green Team defeated the Warriors (75-64) and the Kings (68-65) in back-to-back games. Chris "The Executioner" Blees led the Green Team with 24 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists

and 1 steal.

Patrick "Low Post" Lacey led against the Kings with 27, 10, 2, 1 and 2 blocks on May 17.

The Warriors defeated Imago Dei, 84-65. Ammons led the Warriors with 17, 7, 2, 2 and a block; three-point specialist Steve Diekmann's of Imago Dei scored 35 points on May 24.

The Warriors defeated Imago Dei again on May 31, 100-65. Harry "ATL" Smith scored 24 points.

The Green Team swept the Warriors and Kings in back-to-back games. Led by Evan Fjeld, they defeated the Warriors, 79-66, and Kings, 67-39. Fjeld had 21 and 15 the first game; Chris Blees added 19 and 11 with 6 assists. Fjeld had 32 and 23, with 3 assists, 6 steals and 2 blocks in the second; Lacey added 17. Smith had 20 and 11 for the Warriors, followed by Ammons' 19-11, 2 assists, 6 steals and 1 block on June 7.

INTRAMURAL LEAGUE

The Franchise beat the 76ers, 69-54. Harry "ATL" Smith led the Franchise with 18, 10 on May 18.

The Transformers beat Straight Balling, 89-61. "Pep" Williams led the Transformers with 29, 9, 8, 1 steal, 1 block; Jason Robinson snatched 27 rebounds and 4 points.

Net Zero defeated the Bad News Ballers, 57-53. Michael "The Option" Franklin of Net Zero led all scorers with 25, 12, 5 and 2 steals on May 18.

On May 25, Go Get It destroyed The Bad News Ballers, 87-49. Allan "Dark Man X" McIntosh led Go Get It with 36, 10, 1, 3 steals and 2 blocks.

The Transformers smashed the 76ers, 92-71. "Pep" Williams led the Transformers with 26, 6, 2; Boo Robinson had 16, 20, 2. Walker led the 76ers with 32, 6, 1, 2 steals and 11 turnovers.

Net Zero defeated Straight Balling, 69-43. Franklin dropped 21, 16, 1 and 3 steals. Ruben "Game Tight" Harper led SB with 16, 3, 1 and 5 steals on May 26.

The Franchise squashed the 76ers, 67-41. Anthony "½ Man ½ Amazing" Ammons led The Franchise with 18, 5, 2, 6 steals and 3 blocks.

The Transformers remained

undefeated, beating Go Get It 58-49. In the loss, McIntosh led Go Get It with 25, 13 and 4 steals.

On June 8, Go Get It lost to Net Zero, 69-62, led by Franklin's 27 points, 9 boards, 3 assists, 4 steals and a block. The Franchise smashed the Bad News Ballers, 71-38, led by Kenneth Dozier's 17 and 6. Asey scored 20 for BNB. Straight Balling remained winless with a 32-25 loss to the 76ers.

CBL HALF COURT LEAGUE

Pacific Rim defeated San Fernando Valley/Riverside, 40-29. Satinder "7" Singh led Pacific Rim with 10, 8 and 2 assists.

INSIDE TENNIS TEAM NEWS

ITT's Alleyne/Hunt defeated visitors Charley/Todd 4-3; Thompson/Harris lost to Rose Prada (a 4.5 National Player) and Todd, 4-3; N. Young/T. Slaughter lost to Todd/Greg 2-4; Thompson/Calix beat Charlie/Brooks, 4-3 on May 17.

—By Harun Taylor and Rahsaan Thomas



Photo by Michael Nelson

Floyd Ray Jr.'s hookshot

Pacifics Return With Bill Lee in 19-4 Victory

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Former major league pitcher Bill Lee helped the visiting San Rafael Pacifics to a 19-4 victory over the San Quentin All-Stars.

“The game was closer than it looks. Throw out the ninth inning,” said Lee. He was pointing out that the Pacifics led only 6-4 at the bottom of the eighth inning.

It was a mound battle between Lee and a cast of other Pacifics pitchers against All-Stars pitcher Jeff “Dewey” Dumont. Despite six errors, the All-Star squad – composed of Giants and A’s team members – put up a good fight until things fell apart in the ninth inning, when the Pacifics blew open a bottom-of-the-eighth two-point lead.

Lee played for the Boston Red Sox for 10 years and four for the Expos. He had 112 career wins, the third all time for a Red Sox lefty. He started games two and seven in the 1975 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

“It’s always good when you can put your talent up against professionals and see how you measure up. After four innings, we’re measuring up well,” said Lt. Sam Robinson mid-game.

“For eight innings it was a close game; I’m proud of my team,” said All-Star Anthony “T-Tone” Denard.

The All-Stars planned to have Dumont pitch for all or most of the innings to improve on last year’s Pacifics match. The 2013 game was close until the fourth inning, when they switched Dumont out and things went badly for every pitcher after him. The Pacifics won that game, 17-3.

“The same team this year, but a better philosophy: That’s ride Dewey until the wheels fall off,” said teammate Chris Deragon.

“We’ll take the pitcher, if he pitches like he did last year,” said Pacifics Manager Danny DiPace about Dumont. The L.A. Dodgers signed DiPace, a New York native, out of high school. The Dodgers put him in the minors and then the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

San Rafael Pacifics poses with the San Quentin All-Stars

Minnesota Twins picked him up. Now he just coaches the Pacifics, an independent professional baseball team.

The event had all the fanfare of any normal major league extravaganza. The S.Q. Honor Guard presented the colors, while Larry “Popeye” Faizon blew the national anthem on his horn. Lt. Robinson bounced the opening pitch into the dirt in front of the plate.

The Pacifics had their podcasters doing the play-by-play for pacificbaseball.com, while San Quentin’s Aaron “The Jeddii” Taylor did the play-by-play for the crowd. Steve Allen, who calls himself the silent owner, watched his team proudly from the sidelines, as did self-proclaimed “San Quentinite” Lt. Robinson.

“It doesn’t matter where you’re playing when both teams are just as passionate about it. It means the world,” said Pacifics pitcher Dan Rogers.

The 67-year-old Lee shut the All-Stars out for the first two innings with fastballs, screwballs and circle changes that he throws out of the same motion as his fastball.

As for staying active, Lee said, “Never take any year off. A body at rest stays at rest; a body in motion stays in motion — second law of thermal dynamics.” Lee’s uniform and hat are in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

“Lee is a gamer. He’s eternal youth. Mentally, he’s like us; he loves this game as much as us,” said Rogers.

In the first inning, the Pacifics had two men on base with two outs. Eric Bainer cracked a shot deep into the outfield that was caught by Denard, stopping any runs.

Top of two, Lee hit a RBI single with a shot down the first base line.

“We have a 14-year big leaguer and he’s batting with a hat in the back of his pants; you see something new every day,” clowned Rogers.

Evan Boyd followed with a single that made the score 2-0 Pacifics.

At the bottom of the second, Dumont banged Lee for a ground-rule double that bounced over the Indian Grounds fence. However, Dumont was stranded on base.

In the third, the Pacifics loaded the bases with two outs starting when Bainer knocked a double along the right field line. Then Matt Kavanaugh walked and Charlie Stewart smashed a single down the left field line. Chris Rice worked Dumont to a full count and was awarded a walk that brought in a run, making the score 3-0 Pacifics. The inning ended with three runners stranded when Lee hit the ball back to Dumont for the throw out at first.

“We’re good. It’s early,” said All-Star Christopher “Cuddy Bo” Smith, maintaining confidence in his team.

In the bottom of the third, the Pacific replaced Lee at the mound with Rogers, who the All-Stars were able to get on top of. Chris Marshall led off a double in the gap. John Windham followed with another double to left field that brought in Marshall. Then Windham stole third.

“The pitching change is good for us. He’s pitching at our level,” commented All-Star Michael Panella.

Ruben Harper walked. Then Giants All-Star Jose Sandoval smashed a fastball over the Education Building for a three-run homer, putting the All-Stars ahead, 4-3.

“My luck, I hit a homerun. I did what I can to help my team. Dewey is pitching a hell of a game. We just got to help him out,” Sandoval said modestly.

Denard hit a double, but was stranded as the inning ended on a popup.

“I left a couple of balls up that they put a bat on and won the battle. Part of pitching is bouncing back. I have one more inning — I’ll try to miss some bats,” said

Rogers. He didn’t give up any more runs.

The Pacifics retook the lead in the fifth when Kavanaugh got a two-run homer, making the score 5-4.

“When it’s 3-0, you just swing as hard as you can. I got lucky,” commented Kavanaugh. “This is definitely a good ball club. They have athletes all around the field. You have to swing the bat to beat these guys.”

In the bottom of the fifth, the Pacifics put Harry Shapiro on the mound.

In the sixth, Dumont struck out Michael Orefice and Lee. “It was a little cold. It takes time to warm up and get into a groove,” said Dumont after the game.

Bainer hit another double in the seventh, which allowed teammate Kavanaugh to bring him in with a single, making the score 6-4. A foul ball hit Lee in the on-deck circle. “As old as I am, you don’t feel it. I played without a cup for 14 years and now you almost kill me,” joked Lee.

With men on first and third, Lee’s shallow hit got him thrown out at first, ending the top of the seventh.

The Pacifics switched pitchers again in the seventh, putting Michael Kershner on the mound to close out the game. He pitched with heat and didn’t give up any runs.

“That guy’s got too much heat for these guys. Maybe if they had a few innings to look at him, a few might hit,” said S.Q. resident Danny Plunkett.

“They keep switching up (pitchers) so we can’t get accustomed to them,” noticed Harper about the Pacifics. “We need to get our pitching staff up.”

The Pacifics got two more runs off Dumont in the eighth. With the score 8-4, the All-Stars took Dumont off the mound in exchange for Mario Ellis. Dumont threw 154 pitches, struck out three batters, gave up 14 hits, 8 runs, and 3 walks.

Dumont never played pro. He

started playing baseball as a “wee tyke” and in the American Legion from ages 16-19.

“The guy who started was a good pitcher — he battled,” said Ryan Dejesus of the Pacifics.

“A flock of geese just came in; even they know the game is over,” comically commented Taylor after the pitcher switch.

Ellis didn’t fare better than even a tired Dumont. Ellis gave up nine runs, including a homer to Boyd. The errors the All-Stars made in the final inning didn’t help matters.

“They are studs at bat. They had me dialed in plus I have kids older than they are,” said Ellis.

Ellis, 43, played for professionally for the independent Pulaski Braves in Pulaski, Va., after playing for USCB Bakersfield and the Ashland traveling team out of San Andro.

For the All-Stars’ last chances at bat, the Pacifics put Rice on the mound. The All-Stars went three up and three down, with two batters striking out.

“There is no big secret to baseball — throw some strikes, catch the ball and don’t give anybody an extra out. It’s the extra outs that kill ya,” said DiPace.

“I think we needed to make sure the game isn’t too fast for us and calm our nerves. We played a good game for nine innings. Still fun regardless of the outcome,” said inmate coach Frank Smith

“You guys are like a lot of guys. You just made the wrong choices. Baseball is a game of failure, but you always have another shot if you never give up. So baseball teaches you to keep going through tough times, don’t give up and you can succeed,” said DiPace. “I think we should do more of this stuff. It’s something to look forward to and keep them going.”

DiPace’s father played basketball for Syracuse University against Sing Sing prisoners back in the days.

“Great experience — getting all the stories and chatting. We hope to do this every year. We also have a new team we may bring in called the Sonoma Stompers,” said part-owner Allen.

“Bring them and we’ll whip them,” Dumont said, challenging the Stompers.

“Words can’t describe this. I grew up playing this sport and watching it on TV. I’m gonna tell my kids about this. It makes us feel like human beings. Makes you want to do the right thing — get a job, coach some kids,” commented Smith.

“The sportsmanship out here is better. Everybody bonding over a love of baseball. Good old-fashioned backyard game,” said Bainer.

Sponsor Dipsea Champ

By **Aaron Taylor**
Sports Writer

San Quentin volunteer Diana Fitzpatrick became a repeat winner in the Dipsea Race in nearby Mill Valley.

Fitzpatrick volunteers with the prison’s 1000 Mile Track Club. She finished the 7.5-mile Dipsea on June 8 in actual time of 1:03:21. Her clock time with a 16-minute handicap was 47:21.

“Winning the Dipsea is the

highlight for my career and life,” said Fitzpatrick. “Running is so much about community, and we’re all in the same family when it comes to running.”

Also finishing the race were paroled former San Quentin and 1000 Mile members Ronnie Goodman, Alton McSween, Bill Pillars and Angel Gutierrez. Their actual times were 1:15:31, 2:26:08, 1:56:01 and 1:18:07, respectively.



File Photo

Kevin Rumon, Angel Gutierrez, Ronnie Goodman, Diana Fitzpatrick, Bill Pillars, Alton McSween and Frank Ruona



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Pacifics Manager Danny DiPace talking with Bill Lee

Get On The Bus Celebrates Annual Event

Continued from Page 1

come out for the guys who don't get a lot of visits," said Correctional Officer M. Lajoie, who has been with CDCR since April.

"I'm giddy," said inmate Mark Jordan while hugging his daughter, Aleeya. "It's bitter and sweet. The sweetness is that I get to see my daughter who has grown into a smart and beautiful young lady," Jordan said. "But, it's bitter, because being in prison is hard. You begin to understand that the mistakes you made have made it hard on your wife and kid. However, seeing my family gives me a chance to talk freely about why I'm here and not at home."

"It's been a while. It's been five years," said Patrice Berry, Aleeya's mother. "When my baby found out about Get On The Bus she packed immediately. The Get On The Bus people provided everything. They truly treated us like guests. It was es-



Benito and daughter Vanessa Muro, Susana Aguirre and sons Oswaldo, Marco Antonio and Maximiliano Muro

before the GOTB event.

"This was a perfect Father's Day," said Gray III's mother, Sylvia Maldonado. "I was praying on it. I had nothing to lose. When Steve Emrick called me and said it was OK, I was so happy."

training program called Boot Camp and goes to church regularly. "Wherever I'm needed, I lend a hand," he added.

"Programs like this help them [incarcerated men] prepare for life when they come home," said GOTB volunteer Dominique De Clerck. "They have an early start on building a family bond."

De Clerck helped chaperone children who rode in buses that began their journey in San Bernardino, making stops in Los Angeles and Antelope Valley before getting to San Quentin.

"We think it is important to continue to build a relationship even though one is incarcerated," said GOTB volunteer Delores Leal.

"The Get On The Bus program is important to connect fathers with their children," said inmate Troy Phillips' ex, Zunknie Newell. "He [Troy] is the only dad that my kids know."

"This weekend was about love for one another, but it was also about the pain in the eyes of the children from so many missing/absent fathers," Phillips said.

Thirteen-year-old Gerald Salas Jr. popped out from hiding behind a vending machine in the visiting room and surprised his father, inmate Gerald Salas.

"The last time I saw him was three years ago," said Salas Sr., 29. "A Father's Day visit makes you feel good. It's a great feeling. It's the greatest feeling to be with all your children."

Salas Jr. said he traveled from Illinois to see his father. "When I surprised him, I started crying. Then he started crying. Then everyone was crying."

"He's a loving brother, a helping brother, who's always been there for me," said inmate Salas' sister, Tatianna Keagan, 14. Keagan's advice for families who have incarcerated members: "I would tell other kids to write them. They could always give good advice. My brother is a great dad to his kids and his family. He is a good son to his mom."

Inmate Salas said he has about three years left on his sentence. "I'm going to reunite my family after this is done," he said. Salas



Benny Gray III, father Benny and daughter Bianca Gray and Sylvia Maldonado

gets tested every day in prison. You have to learn how to deal with it properly."

"When I see children leave from the visit, they leave with joy and happiness. It is so beautiful to see children bond with their father," Molina said. "We're restoring the lives of the children to get them to connect so when daddy comes home they are not strangers. Reuniting children with their fathers is healing. Children have the right to be loved. They have the right to be kissed. We need to care about our children."

"It really meant so much to me to spend time with my granddaughter and her to call me grandpa," said Inmate Darnell "Moe" Washington. "She will always have memories of spending time with her grandpa Moe."

Inmate John Vernacchio is the visiting room cameraman. "This was my second Get On The Bus event," he said. "It's heartwarming because you see families connecting. I almost broke into tears after seeing five family members in a group hug."

Vernacchio, a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, has no children and gets no visits. He said, "I feel blessed because I've been in the visiting room for a year and a half and kids come up and hug me. Some of the people who visit here make me feel like I have a family here, at least for the moment."

It costs between \$4,000 to \$6,000 to pay for a bus from San Diego to San Quentin, according to Molina. An extra expense stems from the many stops to pick up children along the way to San Quentin, she said. "We don't want to leave any children behind."

—By Juan Haines and Phoeun You



Cathy and John E. Kalin with Amalia Molina,

pecially special for people who do not normally get waited on."

GOTB volunteer/chaperone Karen Vandelaat said, "We're all just one mistake from being someone in prison. Our message is that inmates are people who made a different choice. It's a part of humanity to reach out and help. It's like helping the underdogs."

Vandelaat chaperoned children who rode in buses that began their journey in Long Beach, making stops in Santa Clarita, Bakersfield and Visalia before arriving at San Quentin.

Inmate Benny Gray's surprise could not be contained as he watched his son Benny Gray III walk into the visiting room wearing a cap and gown. Gray's son graduated from Lincoln High School in Stockton the day

Emrick is the Community Partnership Manager for San Quentin and the person who had to OK Gray III to come inside the prison with his cap and gown.

Gray III, a wrestler and football player, said his senior year was a struggle. "I made it through by keeping to my books. I just did everything I had to do."

"I was being mom and dad while Benny was locked up," Maldonado said. "I had to take him to church. It worked. He started calming down. I left everything in God's hands."

Gray III said he plans to go to tech school to learn electrical engineering and then go into the Air Force.

"He's a good brother," said his sister Bianca. "He helps me with my homework when I get stuck on it. That's why I love him very much."

Gray has about three more years on a six-year sentence. He said, "Since I'm from Stockton, I feel fortunate to have done all my time at San Quentin." Gray said he is a co-facilitator for Victim Offenders Education Group. He said that he has completed three phases of the religious



Darnell and granddaughter Khalieah Allen-Washington and Mother Bobbie Young

said he has completed a parenting class since being incarcerated. He said he is working on getting his GED; he attends Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. "You have to stop and think about what you're doing," Salas said. "Your anger



Grandson Aston King, Darell Flowers, Nicole Smith and Doreil Flowers

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.



Troy Phillips and daughter, Heaven