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## CDCR Combats Drug Trafficking With New Protocols

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

In an attempt to reduce drug trafficking, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) began implementing in October what the *Associated Press* (AP) called "one of the nation's toughest protocols for access to state prisons."

The CDCR's Notice of Change to Regulations (NCR 14-09) says Electronic Drug Detection Equipment, among other technology, will be used "to search persons entering prison institutions."

A newly proposed regulation (15 CCR 3410.1) will apply to "All persons who are employed by the department, employees of other government agencies, contract employees, contractors and their employees, and volunteers."

According to the AP, machines are used "similar to those used at some airport checkpoints to select passengers at random for more inten-

sive searches."

AP reported that the state plans to spend about \$30,000 for each of the scanners, which can detect traces of explosive materials. The CDCR, however, will program these devices to scan for traces of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

"Employees who trigger alerts will be subject to pat-down searches to make sure they are not smuggling contraband but would be able to remain dressed," AP reported. "Visitors and employees caught with drugs would be referred for prosecution."

An amended regulation (15 CCR 3173.2(c)) will require visitors "to submit to contraband...and/or electronic drug detectors including, but not limited to, ION scanners..."

The AP reported prison advocacy organizations have denounced the use of these machines because of false-positive test results they some-

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Photo by Sam Hearnes

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Philip Pennypacker sat down with inmates who described in vivid detail their experiences when newly incarcerated

## Judge Philip Pennypacker Discusses Criminal Justice Policy at S.Q. News Forum

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry were the topics of discussion in a forum with a lo-

cal judge, defense attorney and about a dozen inmates, many who are serving life sentences for murder in the first degree.

San Quentin News Forums began in 2012 as a means for public safety officials to come inside a prison to meet and discuss criminal justice policy with inmates with the goal of finding solutions to mass incarceration, according to forum founder Arnulfo T. Garcia, editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News*.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Philip Pennypacker and attorney Emma Bradford from Nolan, Armstrong & Barton, LLP, listened to inmates

talking about their experiences of incarceration, beginning with arrest, then being detained in county jail and being shipped to a maximum-security prison.

"As soon as I got to county jail, I realized I cannot be myself," said Tare Beltranchuc, 41.

Beltranchuc, convicted of second-degree murder in 2000, added that the racial boundaries were the first thing he noticed when he got to a maximum-security prison.

Miguel Quezada, 33, said that in 1998, at 17 he was booked into a Modesto County jail for mur-

See Judge on Page 9

## Proposition 47 Law Passed to Reclassifying Felony Charges



Photos by Sam Hearnes

District Attorneys George Gascon and Jeff Rosen support Proposition 47

As Election Day brought a Democratic sweep in all major leadership positions in Sacramento, 58 percent of California voters said that a number of crimes previously charged as felonies are now misdemeanors.

Proposition 47 passed Nov. 4 causing the penalty of certain crimes to be reduced, including some drug-possession offenses, petty theft, receiv-

ing stolen property and forging/writing bad checks when amount involved is \$950 or less.

Known as *The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act*, persons with previous convictions for crimes such as rape, murder or child molestation are excluded, as are registered sex offenders. For them, the offense is still a felony.

Offenders currently serving

felony sentences for the listed crimes have the opportunity to appear before a judge to have their sentences reduced to the misdemeanor term. In order for a defendant to benefit from Proposition 47, a thorough review of the defendant's criminal history and risk assessment has to be made to ensure that they "do not pose a risk to the

See Proposition on Page 15

## Senator Rand Paul Advocates Voting Rights For Ex-Felons

Jerry Smith  
Journalism Guild Writer

Senator Rand Paul (R-Kentucky), who is considering a 2016 presidential run, is seeking to restore voting rights to nonviolent felons in federal elections. Paul also is pursuing reform in drug sentencing, including redefining to misdemeanors some drug offenses currently classified as felonies, and is supporting efforts aimed at getting nonviolent criminals back into the job market.

Paul does not deny his actions are motivated by politics. In an interview with Burgess Everett at *Politico.com*, Paul stated, "I believe in these issues. But I'm a politician, and we want more votes."

As of 2011, more than a



File photo

Paul espouses issues that will help nonviolent criminals resume their lives

third of the 637,000 non-violent state or federal prisoners were serving time for drug

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\*Have made more than one donation

# Officer Hauwert's Thoughts Concerning Gender Identification

By Jarvis JuVan Clark  
Journalism Guild Writer

Seven years ago, M. Hauwert was hired as a male correctional officer at San Quentin State Prison. Now Officer Hauwert is transitioning to a female identity.

"I'm hoping that someday it'll get to the point where we don't need to make gender identification an issue," Hauwert said in an interview.

Hauwert, who is 34, began her transition by first growing her hair out and using bobby pins. She later started using makeup. A year before she came out, she got her ears pierced. However, male officers cannot wear earrings, so Hauwert wore Band-Aids over her ears. Since then, Hauwert has legally changed her name and her birth certificate now declares that she is a female.

"At first, I was a transgender woman who was cross-dressing," Hauwert said. "Then I began experimenting with makeup and clothes for my body type. Some of the outfits were horrendous!"

She first decided to identify as transsexual at age 23, while still in the Navy. Military records show that Hauwert served for eight years and received an honorable discharge from the Navy.

Her next step would take another six years. She didn't come out to her family and closest friends until age 29.

"My gender dissonance was all-inclusive. It overwhelmed me every thought. I started by wearing makeup and dressing as a woman," Hauwert said. "When people asked about it, I explained that I'm a transsexual woman. I'm not just dressing as female; I'm living as a woman. It took my family a long time to get used to me being transgender."

Hauwert said that after leaving the Navy she turned to her uncle, who worked for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He suggested that she apply for employment with CDCR. After being accepted, Hauwert started her career at San Quentin State Prison.

Hauwert said there have been



File photo

Officer M. Hauwert began her transition by growing her hair long and starting to use make-up

times where people just do not know how to approach her. When people make derogatory remarks, she said, "It's dehumanizing. Any remarks like that are hurtful and meant to bring you down. You get either angry or depressed. I get depressed and usually keep my head down."

**"Most people don't mis-gender me out of hate. They just don't know how to identify me"**

"Most people don't mis-gender me out of hate. They just don't know how to identify me."

Hauwert said mis-gendering for a person transitioning from male to female is when someone uses a male pronoun toward them. "So to mis-gender a woman means to refer to her by using a male pronoun — any word that means 'man,'" she said.

Hauwert said mis-gendering is "like water torture."

"Eventually, it drives the person insane, because the person is trapped and has to endure it every time," she said. "Each time that you mis-gender someone, it hurts the per-

son slowly, like water droplets. Each 'him' or 'he' becomes a terrifying experience. It's not that we cannot handle people calling us 'sir.' They simply don't know that it's been happening to you for years, even decades. People sometimes don't realize that they're tearing away who that person is, that they're taking away your right to self-identify."

"I've given you a lot of information with one word. In the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Community, labeling is a way to identify one's self. My viewpoint is that it's been extremely helpful," Hauwert said. "There's a label that tells a little about who I am. If I say I'm not a cross-dresser but transsexual, then you know what I am and vice versa. By giving myself a label, I'm telling you who I am. But, it's still only a part of me."

Webster's New College Dictionary says transgender sexuality is not readily characterized as exclusively male or female. Transsexuals are predisposed to identify with the opposite sex, sometimes so strongly they undergo surgery and hormone injections to effect a change of sex.

The June issue of *TIME* magazine reported that 65 percent of Americans know or have a family member who is homosexual. Of the 65 percent, 9 percent said they have one who is transgender.

Hauwert added that being transsexual is not a choice. People are born with their sexual orientation and gender identity, she said.

Hauwert said if she had the opportunity to talk to herself at a young age, she would say, "I wish the younger me hadn't stolen my life. I would tell him to step aside."



File photo

Officer M. Hauwert in her CDCR uniform

# San Francisco Jail Population Declined Both Before and After Realignment Policy

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco's jail population is shrinking after the Realignment program passed by the California Legislature in 2011, the sheriff's office reports.

The reduction is attributed to programs that help prisoners return to their communities. That includes housing, education, social services and drug rehabilitation, jail officials report. Policies are aimed at treating jail or prison as a last resort.

The result: San Francisco's daily jail population declined from 1,954 in 2009 to 1,281 in February 2014, Chief Adult Probation Officer Wendy Still told Ryan Holeywell in an article on the governing.com website.

"San Francisco was ahead of the game before Realignment ever began (in 2011)," says Linda Penner, chair of the state's Board of State and Community Corrections, which oversees county jails. This long-standing

approach predated the state's crisis.

"They had a community that embraced treatment. They had the capacity. And they had the political will. With Realignment, they've just accelerated and stepped on the gas," says Penner.

Realignment was a result of court orders to reduce prison overcrowding. Its main feature is keeping low-level offenders in county jails, rather than sending them to a state prison.

If long prison sentences were a criminal deterrent, crime would have been nearly eliminated in California long ago, and repeat offenders would be almost nonexistent. That, of course, isn't the case at all, and it's why federal judges have ordered California to drastically reduce the number of inmates in state custody, said Paul Henderson, deputy chief of staff and public safety director for San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee.

"People do bad things, and

they absolutely should be arrested, and there absolutely should be justice," Henderson added. "But what that justice can look like has to be a broader discussion than 'more jail end of discussion.'"

So, how well is that working? Henderson says, "I get a lot of flak from my community, from prosecutors and from law enforcement." But he believes that rehabilitation costs less than imprisonment, and that his critics' approach has done little other than create a state prison system so overcrowded that federal courts have ruled it unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment.

"Where do you think these people go when they're released?" he asked. "Do you think they end up in Australia? Do they enroll in MIT and become professors on the East Coast? No. The average prison term is two to three years.

"They have been separated from all their friends and fam-



File photo

The halls of San Francisco's jails are less crowded due to programs that return prisoners to their communities

ily, they don't have a job, they were presumably uneducated and are still under-educated. And they're coming back to the same community — your community — without a foundation and without the support because they've been gone. What do you think they're going to do? It's a disservice to act like we don't know this process is going on and not intervene."

Criminal justice victory should be more than just obtaining convictions, he believes. It should be helping to turn an offender into a productive member of society.

California was ordered to reduce its prison population in 2009 because of poor health care that one judge said caused one inmate death a week. In 2006 the population was 170,000. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld that decision requiring reduction to around 110,000.

California criminologist Joan Petersilia said more than 100,000 prisoners have come under county control since Realignment became law.

The speed at which the change happened is "...historically the biggest shift in criminal justice done anywhere in the country in a very short period of time," Penner said.

Counties are receiving around \$1 billion annually to deal with their new responsibilities under realignment. Building new jails or focusing on more services to prevent recidivism are choices they can make.

"Everything we know from the most rigorous research suggests if you want to reduce recidivism rates, you have to address housing security, availability of jobs and social connections," says Barry Krisberg, senior fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. "The state was never able to do that."

San Francisco had a head start in dealing with Realignment. They had an overcrowding situation in the 1980s that resulted in litigation, forcing the city to adjust.

"Other counties have taken Realignment money and invested it in more jails. We haven't done that," said Jeff Adachi, San Francisco's elected public defender. Alternative sentencing and re-entry programs that hook up prisoners with drug treatment, education and employment services are the city's focus.

"San Francisco is...a road map for how to get organized and do it well," says Krisberg.

But not all counties follow the city's lead. "Some counties are making the same mistakes the state made, which was to try to build their way out of the problem," says Don Specter, an attorney for inmates who sued the state over prison conditions.

Jails in about 37 of the 58 counties have reached population caps imposed locally or by courts or other oversight bodies. The result? In some cases, early releases of prisoners locally.

Stephen Manley, a Superior Court judge in Santa Clara County, is supportive of Realignment. He added counties don't all have the resources to adopt re-entry programs, even with state aid, which have been proven to reduce recidivism.

"We have over 150 people sitting in jail, right now, who have been released by judges to treatment, and they can't get out of jail because there's not treatment for them," Manley says. "We don't have enough alternatives."

## 5150 Law Allow Holds for People in Psychiatric Crisis

*'There is demonstrable evidence that there's something going on in California that's helping to stop gun violence'*

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

California's "5150" law allowing holds for people in psychiatric crisis improves the odds of stopping gun violence, gun-control advocates say. Supporters say the law can be one way to help curb mass shootings.

"There is demonstrable evidence that there's something going on in California that's helping to stop gun violence in a way that isn't mirrored in most other states," the *Hearst Newspapers* reported, quoting attorney Lindsay Nichols of the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco.

Under the state's Welfare and

Institutions Code, section 5150, mental health professionals can commit those deemed to pose a threat to themselves or others to a care facility for 72 hours. If necessary, the stay can be extended for two weeks after a hearing, allowing patients to argue for their release.

California posted the ninth-lowest gun-death rate in 2010, compared to 16<sup>th</sup> highest in the country in 1990, according to Nichols, citing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention age-and population-adjusted numbers.

To safeguard patients' rights, drug and alcohol use or plain odd antisocial behavior is not by itself grounds for 72-hour hold. A patient is only barred from

possessing a gun if he or she is admitted to a mental health facility, said Dr. Amy Barnhorst, an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Davis, according to the *Hearst* article.

Gun-rights advocates say the 5150 gun probation comes at a price because there is no due process right to a hearing for those held less than 72 hours, according to the report.

"If any other fundamental right were taken away — free speech or voting rights — no one would stand for it," said Jason Davis, an attorney in Mission Viejo (Orange County), who specializes in gun law and represents individuals subjected to 5150 holds, *Hearst* reported.

## San Mateo County Refuses to Detain Jailed Individuals for Immigration Officials

By Nelson T. Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

San Mateo County has joined a growing movement to no longer detain jailed individuals for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, except in unusual circumstances.

In a statement made in June, Sheriff's Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt said San Mateo County would stop detaining persons for ICE once they have been cleared for release.

"We have decided we will modify our policy to state that (ICE) holds will not be honored or placed on individuals in custody (by the San Mateo Sheriff's Department) unless a rare exception arises in cases of individuals who pose significant

public safety concerns," said Rosenblatt.

San Mateo County joins Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco counties in declining to hold individuals who pose no significant public safety concerns, said Rosenblatt.

In January, the California Trust Act went into effect that allows local law enforcement to decline to comply with federal hold requests if the person has not been charged with a serious offense.

Also in June, San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi stated that his jail would not hold people for ICE after they are cleared for release from county custody.

"My long-held belief is that local law enforcement should

not be in the civil immigration detainer business," Mirkarimi was quoted as saying in a story in the *San Francisco Examiner*. "Public safety is not advanced and could be hindered when immigrant communities fear the repercussions of cooperating with law enforcement."

Federal immigration hold requests rose after the Obama administration created the Secure Communities program, unifying similar programs within the FBI and Department of Homeland Security.

Through the Secure Communities program, local law enforcement would send arrest information, such as birthplaces and fingerprints, to immigration officials. That information would then be crosschecked to

determine residency status. If a person's status came back as "undocumented," ICE could place a request with local law enforcement to hold that person, usually for 48 hours, while ICE officials conducted their own investigation.

Those individuals would be held at local taxpayers' expense and in violation of their constitutional rights, according to recent court rulings. Those cases in favor of the immigrants, and the Trust Act, have allowed a shift in local policy in regard to immigration holds.

"We're leaving the door open for the off chance that something comes up that doesn't fall within this policy. There can be exceptions for public-safety reasons," said Rosenblatt.

# Mother of Murdered Daughter Explores the 'Mystery of Forgiveness'

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Linda White's daughter was murdered in Texas. She came to San Quentin State Prison last month to talk about forgiveness with inmates who have committed similarly serious crimes.

"Forgiveness is sometimes a mystery to me," she said. "It's letting go of all that negative power. I did not set out to find a way to forgive those boys who took my daughter. I just set out to live my life."

White was one of the featured speakers at a symposium on alternative ways of approaching criminal justice, hosted at the Catholic Chapel on Sept. 13. She is part of Bridges to Life, a Texas faith-based program that arranges encounters with victims and offenders.

White shared her own story of meeting one of her daughter's killers, where she learned that her daughter's last words were, "I forgive you and God will too."

The perpetrator has now been on parole for five years, and White believes his success since leaving prison is a memorial to her daughter.

"He had someone to finally listen to him," said inmate Darnell "Moe" Washington of White's encounter with her daughter's killer. "That resonated because once someone heard my story, I was able to accept and be held accountable for my actions."

A group of 150, including some 25 guests, gathered for the symposium, Forgiving to Heal, which was sponsored by the San Quentin Restorative Justice Interfaith Round Table. The visitors, many

who regularly volunteer at the prison, mingled with inmates at the six-hour event to learn from White and others about principles of Restorative Justice, such as healing and forgiveness.

"Receiving looks of empathy, not looks of judgment, helped me share my story," inmate Tommy Ross said.

Ross talked about the long-lasting effects of his traumatic childhood, and his journey to forgiveness. Prior to practicing Restorative Justice principles, he said he could not let go of the anger that led him to gang violence and, eventually, second-degree murder.

Julio Escobar, who works with survivors of violent crime with the Catholic Diocese of San Francisco, also spoke at the symposium. He began his presentation with

a moment of silence in honor of victims of crime and offered advice to perpetrators about coming to terms with their pasts.

"It's an encounter with yourself," Escobar said to the audience. "There are three areas: What you think you are, what others think you are, and then the real you. Take off the mask. Compassionate listening is the practice that I use."

Some family members believe that forgiving perpetrators is a form of betrayal, according to Escobar. He says part of his role is to change this way of thinking.

"It is through forgiveness that we are forgiven," said inmate Dwight Krizman in a prayer.

The symposium deeply affected many inmates, who spent time discussing the

core values of Restorative Justice, including caring, humility and trust.

"Respect is a feeling or attitude of admiration and deference toward somebody or something," said inmate Mike Webb. "I don't mind being vulnerable and sharing my story."

Volunteer Noel Amherd, who teaches a Ifa religious group at San Quentin, said he was similarly moved by the event. The group, called Ajobo Isese, meets on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Catholic Chapel library.

"I found brothers that I thought I never had," Amherd said. "San Quentin is a community of people that society dismisses, yet San Quentin carries people who have value."

—Rahsaan Thomas  
contributed to this story

## NASCAR Officials and Crewmembers Cruise into San Quentin and Discuss Reform

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Earlier this year, NASCAR officials and crewmembers learned about the rehabilitation needs and efforts of inmates during a tour of San Quentin State Prison.

"I was curious as to what was happening. It opened my eyes. I'm happy to see reform is taking place so you guys can have an opportunity at a normal life," said NASCAR nurse Lori Shepard. She added that if we just "keep putting people in prison" and there is no rehabilitation, "society doesn't benefit."

The group met and had a candid discussion with inmates Troy Williams (recently paroled), Sam Hearn, Sam Johnson, Harun Taylor, Clinton Martin and Tommy Winfrey.

Williams opened with this question: "What do you think the purpose of prisons is?"

"Reform," said John Sacco, a NASCAR official. "Keep real bad people off the street," said someone else.

"Public safety is more than just locking people up, because 80 percent are returning to society," said Williams.

Williams talked to the NASCAR group about the realities of prison. "Imagine being in an environment where you are attacked because of your color. You have to keep your boots tied tight whenever your cell door's open because, if a member of your race gets into a fight with a member of another race, you will be attacked. You can't say you ain't with it. Imagine living like that for years, then being released, here's \$200, good luck."

"There is a technical divide between the public and prisoners. In an age when job applications are being filed online and most communications are being done by way of email or

text, how can we expect people who have never used computers or cell phones to keep up in the modern society?" added Sam Hearn. "If you tell an inmate to click a mouse, you might have to coax him off the table because he might be thinking you meant Mickey."

"Overcrowding poses an additional challenge to rehabilitation because it increases the demand on rehabilitative programs," Hearn continued. "There used to be just 30 people in Restorative Justice; now there are 150 with about another 100 on the waiting list."

"San Quentin is unique in that it has over 78 self-help groups," said Williams. After explaining about some of the programs that really make a difference, the floor was open to questions from the guests.

"What did you do to come to prison?" asked Kristi King, who is a NASCAR director of communications. "You said any question," she added after seeing the surprised look on Williams' face.

Her question received candid answers. Hearn: second-degree murder; Taylor: robbery; Johnson: murder; Martin: murder; Roberts: snatching two \$20 bills under the Three Strikes Law; Winfrey: murder.

"For ya'll who took a life, have ya'll made restitution to the victim?" asked Jason Brownlow, a Pit Road official.

"That's difficult to do. CDCR doesn't want us to have direct contact with the victim because you might re-traumatize them," said Williams.

"I have. I've apologized," said Winfrey.

"You are required to write the victim before you go to the parole board. It may not reach the victim, but you will have the attempt in your file," said Johnson.



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

This NASCAR team had a good talk with inmates about rehabilitation programs

"Are parole panels biased?" asked NASCAR inspector Wally Hinnant.

"Yes," said the group of inmates.

"Who decides what prison you go to?" asked Kristi King.

"Counselors," answered a corrections officer. "Using a point system," added Taylor.

"When did your rehabilitation start? Did you wait till you got to San Quentin?" asked Sheppard.

"I blamed white people for ev-

erything that was wrong in my life until I figured out I'm the one who put myself in this position," said Taylor. "Once I realized I needed to change, the help wasn't available until I arrived at San Quentin." Taylor is now in several groups.

"I realized I was part of my community and I have to be an example. I want to be a good guy," said Winfrey.

"It's a lot different than I thought it would be. I'm sur-

prised it's so laid-back and you guys can play baseball," said Todd Chafee, NASCAR driver Kevin Harvick's tire specialist.

"Talking to you guys was a bonus," said Rob Berry, an inspector who has toured a few times before meeting the inmate panel. "It was eye opening."

"I was exposed to stories I wouldn't normally hear, people I wouldn't normally meet, and it was wonderful," said nurse Pam Talbert.

## Senator Rand Paul Announced His Support for Voting Rights for Ex-Felons

Continued from Page 1

offenses; 44 percent were black, 20 percent were Latinos, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That year, African-Americans made up only 13 percent of the population while Latinos made up 16 percent.

Paul states the criminal justice system disproportionately punishes minorities, making it harder for ex-cons to vote and gain meaningful employ-

ment. In July, Paul submitted his legislation as SB 2550.

Paul also sent out a "Dear Colleague" letter targeting 75 percent of Democrats and 30 percent of Republicans he estimates can support his bill. "There's a racial outcome to the war on drugs," Paul said. "Three out of four people in prison for nonviolent drug offenses are black and brown."

Since then, Senator Cory Booker, a black Democrat from New Jersey, agreed to

co-sponsor the bill, which the two senators are calling the REDEEM Act.

According to Ari Melber of MSNBC, the bill would "seal criminal records for teenage offenders, while adults could apply to have their records expunged. Judges would review those applications, under the proposal, by balancing an offender's interest in 'employment' against the public's interest in 'knowledge and safety.'"

# Supreme Court Decision Erodes Occupants' Right to Deny Police Search of Residence

By Nelson T. Butler  
Journalism Guild Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in February that law enforcement officers can legally search a residence after one person living there initially denies them consent to conduct the search if another legal occupant afterward does give them consent to search.

In a 6-3 ruling, the court decided against a 28-year-old California inmate and gang member who had challenged the October 2009 search of his Los Angeles apartment, which was conducted when his girlfriend gave officers permission after he was in custody.

Walter Alberto Fernandez had claimed he was trying to leave his L.A. gang and criminal life behind him when his apartment was searched. Initially, police were investigating a robbery. After hearing screams coming from the

apartment Fernandez shared with his girlfriend, Roxanne Rojas, and after seeing that Rojas appeared to have been beaten, they took Fernandez into custody. At the time, Fernandez told police, "You don't have any right to come in here." However, police returned to the apartment after Fernandez was arrested.

According to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Rojas consented to allow police to search the apartment after about 20 minutes of being questioned and threatened by police. They said they would take her son away from her if she did not consent to the search, she claimed. During the search, police found gang paraphernalia, a butterfly knife, ammunition and a sawed-off shotgun. Fernandez is currently serving a 14-year sentence after pleading no contest on firearms charges after being convicted of robbery and inflicting corporal

injury.

The court's split ruling said that the girlfriend's eventual consent was sufficient, even though Fernandez had previously denied permission.

Alito is a former federal prosecutor with a history of supporting law enforcement in cases that appear before him. "Any other rule would trample on the rights of the occupant who is willing to consent. Such an occupant may want the police to search in order to dispel suspicion raised by sharing quarters with a criminal."

Alito also warned of "practical complications" if the refusal to consent by Fernandez was upheld. The justice suggested a possibility where a refusal to give consent to search a dwelling could last through a long prison term. It would require police to have a search warrant, which could possibly hinder detectives who were trying to solve crimes.



File photo

The U.S. Supreme Court issued a 6-3 decision that will support law enforcement policies on home searches

## Community Program Funding Losses Could Threaten Youth Incarceration Reduction Efforts

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Legislative changes are responsible for the mass reductions in youth incarceration nationwide, but a reduction of funding for community organizational programs could threaten the continued success, says the National Council on Crime

& Delinquency (NCCD).

The authors of the report, Antoinette Davis, Angela Irvine, and Jason Ziedenberg, wrote about five components that have made legislative changes successful: revised supervision responsibility, reallocating finances, redefining crime status from felony to misdemeanors/non-violent felonies, using ev-

idence-based practices, and inspiring stakeholders to support nonrestrictive facilities.

The legislative changes did not use a cookie cutter model. Legislation varied from state to state depending on their needs. In the past the juvenile justice systems across the country operated from a tri-lateral structure utilizing three entities: state,

county, and local government agencies. However, as governments begin to implement less punitive means of punishment, new ideas are surfacing about how rehabilitation methods should be addressed.

Funding is always an issue and the reallocating of resources is one way governments are addressing this.

Mike Griffiths, executive director of Texas' Department of Juvenile Justice, said, "We validated the proposal we put forward to the policymakers in 2009 that said, 'Give local communities the resources and we will refer the youth away from the deep end of the system.'"

The NCCD reported on the fiscal incentives offered to some state systems. Nine states were mentioned in the report, Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, New York, Texas, Illinois, Ohio, and Nebraska, as having established a fiscal incentive to serve more youth outside of the state juvenile justice system.

While there are always challenges incorporating the juvenile programs into the community, advocates for the project remain optimistic about its success. The biggest issue with implementation of community programs is finding the funding needed to support the youth in the community. Connecting with concerned citizens and business people to operate and foster the programs is equally important.

Federal funding for juvenile justice, as well as the Delinquency Prevention Act, has been reduced 83% from 1999 to 2010, according to a National Academy of Sciences report. An alliance of stakeholders for federal reforms is calling for government agencies to reallocate

funds for juvenile justice.

The NCCD report went on to say that community-based organizations' ability to expand rests in the hands of legislators and budget reform. Currently, no legislative plans for reform are being discussed openly. However, the hope is that legislators and advocates of budget reform will convene and discuss the reinvestment of federal funding.

The NCCD report stressed that funding reinvestment is imperative in order for juvenile justice programs to succeed.

Scott Taylor, director of the Department of Community Justice in Multnomah County, Oregon, said "As (states) go through this reinvestment, what they fail to do is maintain the infrastructure to allow the local (jurisdiction) to deal with these folks locally." Presently, programs are being closed as incarcerated juvenile numbers decline. The irony is that due to the decline in juvenile incarceration, more money will be necessary to provide community-based organizations with the means to sustain these positive numbers.

Finally, Katy Weinsten Miller, Chief of Alternative Programs and Initiatives for the San Francisco district attorney's office, said, "Even if you succeed in getting the money into the community, into community-based organizations, there's still that question of how you design funding processes to make sure that it includes homegrown organizations, with people who lived that experience providing the service. We have this struggle in San Francisco where it often winds up being the best grant writers—not necessarily the most qualified organizations—that receive the biggest grants."

## CDCR to Combat Drugs With Random Hand-Swab Testing

Continued from Page 1

times provide.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons ended its use of ION-detector hand-swabbing devices six years ago due to complaints of them being unreliable, the AP reported.

The AP report said visitors identified as likely in possession of contraband would be "subject to strip searches, although they could walk away rather than undergo the procedure."

The California Code of Regulations, Title 15 (updated through January 1, 2014), Section 3173.2(d)(7) covering unclothed body searches, states that, "This procedure may be conducted with the visitor's consent when there is reasonable suspicion that a visitor is carrying contraband and when no less intrusive means are available to conduct the search."

"The whole point is to deter and detect trafficking into our prisons," Dana Simas, CDCR spokesperson, told the AP. "It's a serious issue."

"Persons entering and exit-

ing CDCR institutions sometimes employ extraordinary means to try and smuggle drugs and contraband into and out of prisons," the NCR reads in its Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR).

The ISOR said drug trafficking and drug use cause many problems in prison. They increase the number of assaults, create power struggles among inmates and forge the "establishment of an underground economy, and staff corruption."

In June 2013, the CDCR conducted voluntary and random drug testing of 25 percent of the inmate population, according to the ISOR. Twenty-three percent of those who volunteered tested positive, and 30 percent of those randomly selected to voluntarily test declined to do so, even though there were no disciplinary actions taken against inmates testing positive.

CDCR used drug-sniffing dogs that discovered 404 pounds of illicit drugs in 2013, KCRA.com reported. In the first half of 2014, prison officials said, another 29 pounds

of drugs were discovered. Since July 1 another 26 pounds have been discovered, most of which was marijuana.

The CDCR (according to the ISOR) recorded more than 4,000 drug-related incidents in 2013. They resulted in 382 arrests of non-inmate attempts to bring drugs into a prison. Ten were CDCR staff, 52 were non-visitors and 320 were visitors.

"Subjecting all employees, including CDCR administrative staff, to random testing creates a safer working environment for our members," said JeVaughn Baker, spokesperson for the California Correctional Peace Officers Association.

"Based on the 2013 drug-related incidents and test results, the department must do more to reduce the availability of and use of drugs in the prison system," the ISOR said.

The public comment period on proposed regulations closes on Dec. 9, 2014, at 5p.m., according to the CDCR's Regulation and Policy Management Branch. (See *San Quentin News* July 2014, p. 6, for more information on proposed regulations.)

# Giving Thanks

## EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

Thanks from *San Quentin News*.

November is my third year as Editor-in-Chief of *San Quentin News*. I am blessed to be involved with so many people of good will. This Thanksgiving season, I give thanks for and to all our friends, supporters, advisers and staff. Through the efforts of our supporters' time, energy, services and money, many people are educated about the prison system.

The steady progress toward the goal of getting this newspaper into the hands of all California inmates cannot be done without donations. We need money to print and distribute our paper, as the state does not pay for printing or distributing the *San Quentin News*.

I realize that making a commitment in time or money is difficult when there is no specific personal gain in sight. Most of our donors are not inmates. I also recognize that doing something to benefit prisoners may be condemned or ridiculed by some people. However, I point to my own experience as an example of why you are right to help *San Quentin News*.

Life in prison is always a struggle – and especially when you haven't begun to unwind from your past life and move in the right direction. It took me many years to get beyond the heroin I was pushing into my body.

It wasn't easy to overcome my addiction. Even when I was using, I wanted to quit. However, with no support or guidance, I couldn't see the other side. I used to blame everyone for my mistakes. I blamed my father, the police, the probation officer, the DA, the judges. I blamed everyone but myself.

*“Even when I was using, I wanted to quit. However, with no support or guidance, I couldn't see the other side. I used to blame everyone for my mistakes. I blamed everyone but myself”*

When I finally wound up in the prison system, I blamed CDCR. They had too many rules and they used them against us. Now, I look to the criminal justice professionals to help me fix things. Not just for me, but for all inmates.

Back then, the reality was that I could not see beyond my self-centered world. Because it was driving me crazy, I began to write about my life. I wrote down everything I could think of, whether it was good or bad.

Somehow, the act of putting my life down on paper made me realize that I had to take a serious look at myself. Over time, I came full circle to the realization that the person responsible for my situation was me.

While I am not happy about my circumstance (serving 65 years to life), I have arrived at a place where I can actually thank the various people who put me here. It sounds funny I suppose, but my association with *San Quentin News* has allowed me to demonstrate to others that change is possible. Change for individual inmates and change for a criminal justice system that has proved to have many flaws.

At *San Quentin News* we focus attention on the experiences of inmates who participate in the nearly 70 different self-help, educational and vocational programs offered here. It has been shown that in terms of rehabilitation, vocational training and correctional education work better than long-term incarceration, *San Quentin News* is able to examine these programs and report on them for the benefit of inmates throughout the state.

With the help of San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez we embarked on a new direction in our examination of criminality, recidivism, reentry and better understanding of prisoners. Beginning with Rodriguez, we had the opportunity to share our experiences, and gain input, from district attorneys George Gascon of San Francisco, Stephen M. Wagstaffe of San Mateo County, Edward S. Berberian of Marin County and Jeff Rosen of Santa Clara County; along with Santa Clara Judge Philip Penypacker, San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi and attorneys Thomas Nolan, Daniel Barton and Emma Bradford.

We owe thanks to Nancy Mullane and the Society of Professional Journalists for their commitment to inmate journalism. Due to the efforts of Pam Benjamin of Mutiny Radio, *San Quentin News* is developing an additional outlet to get prison news out to the public. Thanks to Stephanie Foo from “This American Life” on public radio and *Variety Magazine*, *San Quentin News* is getting additional mainstream media coverage. Independent reporter Jessica Pishko also comes to San Quentin to cover what is happening behind bars. Thank you, Paul Cobb of the Post News Group for taking us under your wing. Thank you, Jon Spurlock and the Berkeley-Haas Project team, for giving us a direction and a plan for the future. In addition, thanks to The Colum-

bia Foundation for helping us to reach more inmates. There are so many people who have helped our cause, and we thank you all.

I'm now at a stage in my development that I am very much aware of my dependence on others for help. The same is true for all inmates. We are all dependent on others. But ultimately, the public also benefits greatly. More educational opportunities and vocational training geared toward inmates will make streets safer and communities more comfortable by reducing recidivism rates. For me, it is very significant that the people I used to blame for my troubles are now among our biggest supporters. As one of Berberian's staff said, “You men give us the tools we need so we can do our job better.”

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### ‘Confirmation Is Vital’

From Reginald E.  
Valley State Prison:

I sent you two books of 20 forever stamps, plus one single stamp (forever) to cover 12 issues. The \$1.61 in stamps is an odd number. Stamps are 0.49 each; one would have to send you four stamps totaling \$1.96 due to three stamps at 49 cents each equal \$1.47. I'm an old timer to the system, since 1978, and

I would hope you address the problem of payment by inmates with stamps. Confirmation is vital.

**Response:** You are a valued reader, and we apologize that we have not made that clear to you. We received your 41 stamps and you will receive 12 newspapers. We are grateful for your support.

—Emile DeWeaver  
Circulation Manager



San Quentin News being read in front of Notre Dame, in Paris, France

## Video Meetings to Replace In-Person Visits for Inmates?

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

A prison research organization is working to forestall a growing national trend that it believes may exploit inmate families for profit by reducing or eliminating in-person visits and replacing them with costly video visits.

Prison Policy Initiative (PPI), together with the Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC), recently sent a letter to the Federal Communications Commission urging it to “address non-voice forms of communication...”

“Left unregulated, the video communication market is very likely to end up like the mostly unregulated prison and jail telephone industry...expensive and counterproductive,” said Peter Wagner, executive director of PPI, in an opinion piece in the *New York Times*. According to Wagner, video visiting in jails and prisons are already a reality in some facilities across the country. He said the profit motive involved is driving families apart instead of keeping them in touch.

Wagner argued on PPI's website that “Charging unconscionable sums and banning free in-

person visits is a step in entirely the wrong direction.”

In September, a Dallas County (Texas) Commissioner Court rejected part of a contract proposal by Securus, one of the largest providers of jail telephone service in the country, to provide video visiting using computers.

According to a PPI update, the contract called for jails to stop regular in-person visiting and require family and friends of inmates to pay for what it calls “expensive video visits.”

“The court soundly rejected the two most critical parts of the proposed contract: the ban on in-person visitation and the collection of commissions for video visiting,” PPI reported.

It was reported by Metro Pulse that in Knox County (Tennessee), the sheriff's office stopped face-to-face visiting, deciding instead to replace it with video visitation. The system is free for visitors who come to the facility but cost 40 cents per minute to use from a personal computer.

Mark Stephens, Knox County's public defender, said families drive out to jail facilities for free visits. He questioned why they cannot see inmates in person. “I think it is a cruel thing to

do.” According to research done by Wagner, some customers pay up to \$1 a minute for video visits. “This is such a uniformly bad idea,” said Wagner. “I'm kind of speechless.”

In a letter to the FCC last year, PPI expressed how “the video visitation market is rife with usability failures and poor service.” It said, “Usability barriers are particularly troubling in facilities where in-person visits are no longer permitted.”

PPI's letter to the FCC concluded by saying a failure to regulate jail video visiting prices will open the door for this industry to “instantly subvert the FCC's price caps on long-distance calls.”

Two years ago, the *Washington Post* reported the District of Columbia was replacing person-to-person visiting in its jails with video visiting.

“As our submission demonstrates, video visitation is here to stay. Increasing the number of ways that families can stay in touch is a good thing. But allowing companies to exploit families and undercut the FCC's efforts to bring fairness to this industry is not,” said Leah Sakala, research analyst with PPI.

### Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper. 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.

## Kid C.A.T. Corner

# Public Needs to Know Problems Juveniles Face

By Miguel Quezada  
Contributing Writer

Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together) launches Kid C.A.T. Speaks!, a monthly column dedicated to highlighting the inmate group's service and the issues that impact youth.

Kid C.A.T.'s mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. The members are men who committed their crimes when they were juveniles but were sentenced to adult prison terms.

Understanding what it means to be an at-risk youth, the men combine current knowledge and stories of transformation to illuminate the problems they faced and illustrate needed solutions.

Kid C.A.T. Speaks! will discuss issues small and large that affect youth, including law and policy, movements and programs that positively influence young people's lives. It will also feature first-person narratives that share experiences and information about Kid C.A.T.'s efforts to help youth.

The past decade has seen dramatic changes in the treatment of juveniles under the age of 18 when they commit crimes. Senate Bill 9 (Yee), which prohibits the sentencing of young offenders to serve life without the possibility of parole, acknowledges that juveniles have the capacity to rehabilitate and have a greater possibility of earning parole.

SB260 (Hancock), signed into law in 2013, recognizes the

age, maturity and neurological development at the time of the offense and corresponding culpability. SB260 holds young offenders accountable, yet provides an opportunity for earned release through a Youth Offender Review Board when they have served a minimum of 25, 15 or 10 years of their determinate or indeterminate sentences.

Currently, Kid C.A.T. believes the most important issue is Assembly Bill 1276 (Bloom). It acknowledges that inmates under the age of 22 will benefit from housing in low-level security facilities where self-help, education and vocational programs are more available.

In Level 4 facilities, younger inmates can be exposed to pres-



Photo by Christine Remillard

Kid C.A.T. members and volunteers helping homeless children through their hygiene drive

sure from prison gangs and can become victims of violence or manipulation. Under these conditions, they must focus on survival, not rehabilitation.

Kid C.A.T. recognizes that society has a responsibility to create safe environments that provide opportunities for young people. In our communities,

there are volunteers and programs that offer youth access to education, employment and life-changing opportunities.

The column will focus on the persons and organizations that work to fulfill that vision.

Kid C.A.T.'s goal is to inspire youth to make positive personal transformation in their lives.

## The Beat Within Collaborates With Kid C.A.T. in a Writing Workshop

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Giving at-risk youngsters the opportunity to write about themselves on their own terms opens the way for more personal support aimed toward their recovery, according to a couple of organizations that united for a writing workshop geared toward juvenile offenders.

The two organizations were Kid C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together) a San Quentin self-help group, and *The Beat Within*, a San Francisco-based bi-monthly magazine.

*The Beat Within* began as an idea in a San Francisco courthouse, according to an article in the *Vallejo Times-Herald* by Lanz Christian Bates. It is a publication started in 1996 that has expanded to more than 200 volunteers who operate in juvenile halls across the country. David Inocencio, a San Francisco social worker, told the *Times-Herald* that *The Beat Within* is way for young people to have a voice. He said that he wanted youngsters to be their own storytellers.

Youngsters submit poetry to

sections of the magazine called *Pieces of the Week* and *Co-Pieces of the Week*. *The Standouts* section gives young readers the opportunity to give personal accounts about themselves.

A section called *The Beat Without* has a connotation of the "blues," but its honesty illustrates that young minds are able to clearly identify what troubles them, which is one of the first steps toward change, according to the 12-Step model. Magazine staffers respond to the youngsters' writing by means of a section called *From the Beat*.

As an example: Bones, a young writer, submitted: *What Would Make Me Happier*; "I would be happier if I had my freedom. If I had my freedom and never came back no matter what I did, good or bad. When I come to jail, I stress a lot because I can't see my family. I've been in jail five times and am tired." *From The Beat* responded: "As you well know, there are consequences when you make bad decisions. The flip side of this is that when you make good decisions, you can be rewarded, especially with hard work and



Photo by Christine Remillard

Kid C.A.T. members share their personal stories in hopes of inspiring the troubled youth to change their lives

consistency.

"I think the young people truly benefit from reading the stories and relating to them," Inocencio said in an e-mail interview. "I shared with the young people in San Mateo that we were doing this workshop with men in San Quentin and they were so surprised and looking forward to hearing what Kid C.A.T. members had to say."

Kid C.A.T. members are offenders who were of a young

age when they committed their crimes. However, through their pro-social curriculum they are able to show that they have made progress in becoming responsible and rehabilitated men.

*My father — Who is your dad? My anger — What makes you angry? Words from the wise, quote of the week and I am proud — What and/or who are you proud of?*

These were prompts that San Quentin's Kid C.A.T. members wrote about at the workshop. Their writings will appear in *The Beat Without* section.

Kid C.A.T. members wrote about what it means to be a good dad and described if they were fathers, the choices they'd make in child rearing. Their responses also addressed understanding anger, how to express it and what drives anger from a personal perspective.

Antoine Brown, 36, said that the workshop was something that he could relate to because he wanted to give the young readers insight into how to make stronger decisions about their lives. "I want to just go from what I feel in my heart," he said about how he decided to answer the prompt.

Brown, who as a juvenile was sentenced as an adult and sent to prison, added, "I found out that

life is full of constant struggles. But I never gave up on myself, realizing that change could only come when I decided to change the condition of impure feelings and thoughts that existed within my heart and mind."

The name Kid C.A.T. conveys the growth of its members from childhood to adulthood while evoking a sense of youthfulness. Its message is that of a mature nature behind the implication of the acronym C.A.T. (Creating Awareness Together).

The Kid C.A.T. members say their goal is to "demonstrate the human capacity of redemption, disarming the stigma in relation to youth, crime and incarceration; to work towards 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 social values in regards to youth and what is important to their well-being and development."

"Going forward, with the permission of San Quentin, hopefully we can continue to work together to bring *The Beat Within* writing workshop to Kid C.A.T. on an ongoing basis," said Inocencio. "They're so hungry to engage. We all like to share stories and these men have so much to share."

## Juvenile Imprisonment Now Declining Since Tough-On-Crime Laws

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

After two decades of "tough-on-crime" laws and huge surges in juvenile imprisonment, there are now sharp reductions in youth confinement, a national advocacy group reports.

U.S. Justice Department data show youth confinements dropped 41 percent between 2001 and 2011. Several states have cut confinement rates by half or more. Juvenile facilities have closed in a dozen states, with more than 50 closed in the past five years.

The California Division of

Juvenile Justice now houses 800 youth, compared with 10,000 a decade ago.

The report by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency sought opinions from a number of important stakeholders regarding the changes, including advocates who had successfully pressured their local justice systems to adopt reforms.

Judges, probation chiefs and district attorneys expressed their beliefs that declining youth crime and rising costs were key drivers of the current trend. The successes were driven by legislation, incentives

built into state budgets, decisions to confine youth close to home and supervision strategies that relied on positive relationships between youth and families.

Even though there has been a drop in incarceration rates overall, many states have seen a higher proportion of youth of color in out-of-home placements and secure facilities. The March report suggests that even the most successful states need to identify and employ new strategies to strengthen links between families and youth in order to reduce out-of-home placements for youth.

# Photos Retrieved From the San Quentin Archives Enhanced and Displayed at the Haines Gallery

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

A group of San Quentin inmates has pushed the limits of how art may be defined. Participants of the San Quentin Prison Report Archive Project took archived photos of San Quentin's past and added commentary. Their unique results were on display at the Haines Gallery in San Francisco from Sept. 4 through Nov. 1.

Artist Nigel Poor, along with Shadeed Wallace-Stepner, Managing Editor of the SQPR Archive Project, headed up the endeavor, which began on Oct. 15, 2012. The project had its origins in an assignment Poor developed, with her co-instructor Doug Dertinger, for a class on art appreciation of photography. "We tried to develop a project where the men could create without actually taking photographs," commented Poor.

Poor and Dertinger normally teach a class at the University of California, Sacramento, but teaching in prison did not allow them to assign students to take their own photographs. So they turned the hindrance into the catalyst for a new art form.

The show at the Haines Gallery comprised three parts. One part of the exhibit was reproductions from the photographic archives of San Quentin. The second part was photos from a class assignment in which the San Quentin students wrote commentaries on reproductions of photographs from famous artists. The third part was the final result of the SQPR Archive Project that included the work of Wallace-Stepner, George "Mesro" Coles, Kevin Tindall, Harold Meeks, Ruben Ramirez and Tommy "Shakur" Ross.

The prison archive photographs were mostly violent



Image from the San Quentin Archive mapped by George "Mesro" Coles-EI

scenes taken by correctional officers on clunky old cameras.

These photos became more interesting over time, said Poor. "The men in prison make these photographs art by placing their experiences on the dry images of the archives," she added.

Poor, an artist who works in the medium of photography, has had success showing her work in museums and galleries throughout the country.

"I see myself as a facilitator, archivist and a collaborator," she said. "It is our project, not mine. We couldn't do it without each other."

Poor noted that there has been a long history of photographers working with archives and re-appropriating them, but the SQPR Archive Project is unique.

The photographs in the archive document all aspects of life in San Quentin, not just the violence. "For someone doing time we forget we are living in here. I look at the photos as part of life. My perception comes from what I lived through," says Wallace-Stepner.

Poor commented that she likes to think that the project allowed the men to have some control of their individual experiences in prison by adding their thoughts and commen-

tary to the photos.

"People are fascinated by the writing of the men," said Poor.

"When I see violent images it gives me the opportunity to explore my thoughts and feelings surrounding the incidents," said Wallace-Stepner, adding, "I usually don't have these opportunities."

Poor said, "These thoughts and feelings are what adds complexity and nuance to the image."

"To give a true representation to the image, I have to be honest," explained Wallace-Stepner.

Poor said she is amazed by the way the men are able to look at some horrible imagery and describe it in a respectful manner.

She has a theory on why the men in the project are so good at adding interesting commentary to the photographs. "In prison in order to survive, it helps an individual to be able to pick up on details or non-verbal cues. In photographs to really see what is there, you have to do the same. The guys in here are really good at that."

Wallace-Stepner validated this statement by saying, "Being in tune with my feelings and intuition has helped me survive in here."

The SQPR Archive Project has combined history and personal commentary to create a new art form unique to San Quentin.

### CORRECTIONS:

In the October edition, the 3-D cell diorama featured in the 'Darkness in the Golden State' article was attributed to an artist in Pelican Bay. Instead it was made by San Quentin inmates: Roy Gilstrap and Gary Harrell. In the S.Q.U.I.R.E.S. article Vaughn Miles was also misspelled.



Image from the San Quentin Archive mapped by Shadeed Wallace-Stepner

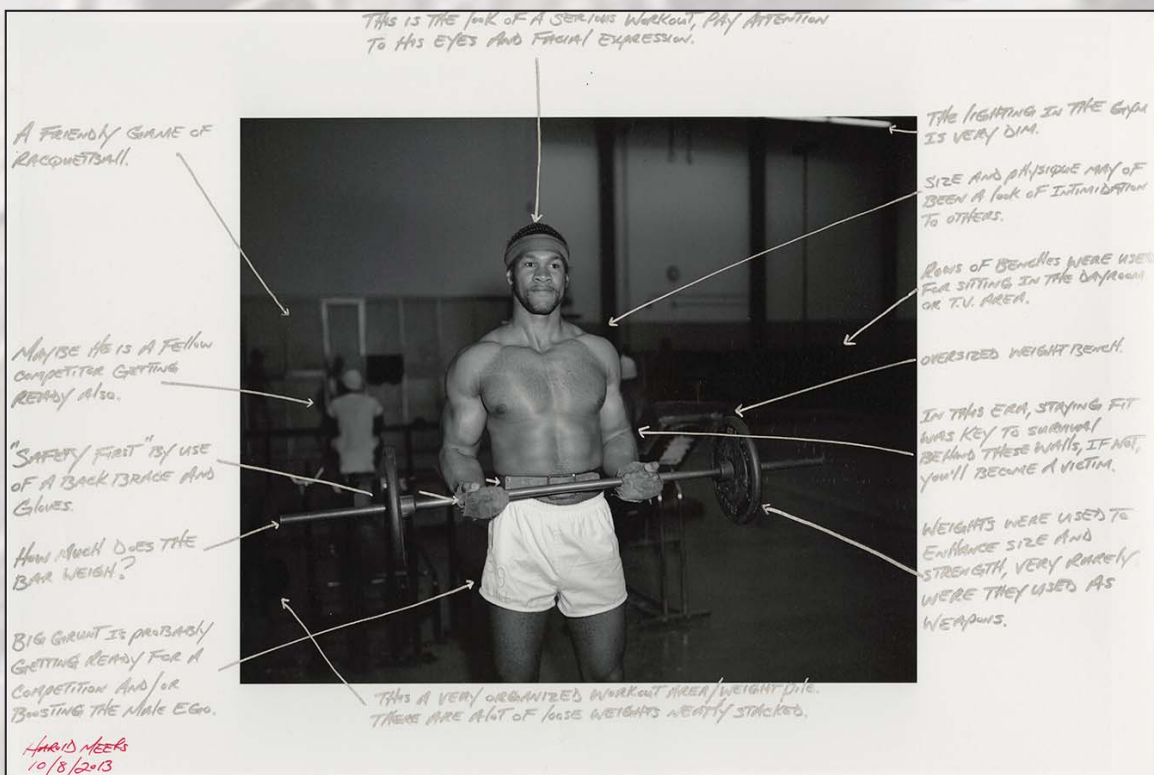


Image from the San Quentin Archive mapped by Harold Meeks



# Musicians Premal and Miten Perform For a Packed House at San Quentin

By Gino Sevacos  
Journalism Guild Writer

Several hundred inmates packed the San Quentin Catholic Chapel, chanting sacred mantras with Deva Premal and her band.

"Spirituality is our theme. Mantras are powerful and they reach out," Premal and partner Miten said later. "We offer tools for meditation and inner peace so that the energy of the mind can be channeled in a good way. Music with mantra stays with you."

The couple has been writing, singing and playing beautiful music together for more than 23 years. They performed on Sept. 12 at San Quentin.

They came as a five-piece band – most of them flying in from Germany – to begin yet another leg of their current U.S. tour.

Having gained global popularity, the group also tours in countries as diverse as England, Spain, Russia, Israel and Australia. To date, they have recorded 17 CDs.

Their musical compositions blend mystical Vedic chants, ethnic melodies and mesmerizing vocal harmonies to create an atmosphere of healing, spacious joy and shared connection.

Highlights included Premal's exquisite voice, Miten's acoustic guitar arpeggios and the exotic sounds from flutist Manose.

Catholic Chaplain George Williams introduced the band. He explained that their perfor-



Photo by Sam Hearn

Deva Premal and her band entertain the audience inside the Catholic chapel

mance was part of the chapel's monthly devotional concert series called "Music from the Heart." The series also includes cultural presentations meant to celebrate different religious and cultural traditions.

As the band began playing,

singing and chanting, a sense of wonder and appreciation filled the audience. The men clapped enthusiastically after each song. Deva gently encouraged them several times not to clap, but settle into the silence.

Later into the set, a rich cloak

of silence enveloped and an incredible sense of deep peace permeated the space.

A tender moment surfaced when Miten told a poignant story about a song he wrote called "Native Son." It captured the essence of longing to connect with his son who was thousands of miles away.

Styles of music included reggae, easy listening and blues. At one point an energetic rendition of Mississippi Fred McDowell's "You Gotta Move" thrilled the crowd and a litany of cheers and clapping erupted.

The band's technician, Caroline, called the experience at San Quentin her "favorite show of the year."

In an interview after the 90-minute concert, Premal and Miten expressed their reactions.

"We've performed in other prisons and enjoy the opportunity. We're grateful," Premal said. "We feel a connection with inmates. We see them as beautiful and shining. We look for the dimension of silence where there's no distinction between

us. There's nowhere to go but in. We always feel like we're home – people are all the same everywhere we play."

The band's unified vision is: "Love is the only prayer."

"We began just playing for friends. We played in the moment and it just mushroomed. We never looked at it as a career. We just love what we do."

Reaction from the audience included:

"Last night I had more fun in a church than I did on the streets abusing alcohol and drugs," said Frank Mabry III.

"There were moments during the performance where I was able to let go – felt overwhelmed by the moment – and bawled my eyes out. I felt the love they brought to the moment," said Rudy Camozzi.

"I had body aches, soreness and a headache when I arrived at the event. I was hoping there wasn't going to be a lot of shrieking. When I left, I felt refreshed and my headache was gone. It was a healing experience," said Dan Myers.



## Judge Pennypacker Joins the S.Q. News Forums

Continued from Page 1

der. Since he was underage, the authorities did not know what to do with him so he ended up in solitary confinement.

"The first thing I was told [by other inmates] when I went to a level four prison was to learn how to make a knife," Quezada said. "I wanted to change. But it wasn't on my to-do list, because you can't change if you're dead."

All of the inmate experiences at the level four prisons had an element of violence and racial tension.

Clinton Martin, 41, was convicted of murder at the age of 17.

"It was very, very difficult because I was a gang member and thought I was a tough guy," Martin said. "But my mindset was quickly changed after seeing someone killed over a domino game."

Martin said that he wanted to get into programs that would help him change his thinking but none were available at the level four prisons.

He said the parole board denied his release in 2011. His next appearance was scheduled five years later. He said a friend told him that he received the five-year denial for a reason, his unresolved anger issues were clear



Photo by Sam Hearn

Attorney Emma Bradford and Judge Philip Pennypacker exchange ideas about new policies with the staff

to the board members.

"My friend told me to figure it out," Martin said. "The board wanted me to take programs. When realignment happened, I got to San Quentin and all the rehabilitation programs. The programs gave me my humanity."

Shadeed Wallace-Stepter, 32, told Pennypacker and Bradford that the value of human life at a maximum-security prison is "very very small. You never saw a fist fight. People were being stabbed. To defend yourself, you had to have a knife."

Wallace-Stepter said that even though the correctional officers were constantly searching in-

mates for weapons; living in fear made inmates think that they had to have a weapon at all times. "It was a vicious cycle of having to carry a weapon, and getting caught with it," he said.

Inmate Mike Wilson, 60, in his fifth year of incarceration, said that the system is completely broken and needs an overhaul.

"It's been quite a shock. The biggest is the racial divide and all the implications that come with that, coupled with the violence that exists in prison. They're all negative connotations. I feel blessed to be at San Quentin because there's little violence here, and there are a lot of programs." After hearing several accounts

about prison conditions, violence and racial tension, Judge Pennypacker commented that it might be beneficial for the public to see what is happening inside prisons in real time.

"I think this [the forum] is so valuable," Pennypacker said. "The violence aspect of prison is not on the radar of judges. Every time I sent someone to prison, it was like we kind of gave up."

Pennypacker said whether to send someone to prison or use probation is a difficult decision for judges. He said experienced judges consider factors such as the person's education, family background and need for treatment instead of incarceration. "What can judges do?" he said. "There is a great reluctance to use evidence-based practices."

When the topic changed to rehabilitation and reentry, the inmates talked about the value of the availability of programs to inmates.

"There has to be the willingness to change," said inmate Joe Mason, 53. "However, we need to be connected in a way that we can find a solution for the problems we have. We have to believe in the programs that we're taking for them to work."

Wallace-Stepter said that when he got to prison he realized the value of an education.

"One of the main things about

being at San Quentin is the free higher education. I cannot emphasize how important free education is in prison," Wallace-Stepter said. "I am confident, if you give the people in Pelican Bay free education, the violence will go down, and they'll do the things needed to get out of the hole."

Inmate Robin Guillen, 61, added, "When a man educates himself, what do the numbers say? Once someone taps into who they really are, then the changes happen."

Referring to the inmates attending the forum, inmate Aly Tamboura, 48, said, "There are human assets in here. Getting judges in here and talking to the wealth of knowledge that facilitates programs to guys like me, and helps them, is something that could help bring down the recidivism rates."

Tamboura said that in the unit where he is housed, the inmates have set release dates, not life sentences. Referring to the other inmates at the forum, mostly lifers, he said, "The guys in this room have a recidivism rate of less than 1 percent. Where I'm housed people have a recidivism rate of 60 percent. We need the guys who 'get it' teaching the ones who don't."

—By Kevin D. Sawyer  
contributed to this story

# Expressing Gratitude From Inside San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
William Drummond, Britney Johnson, Steve Kerr and Trenese Ferreira smile for the camera



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Robert E. Burton education teachers: Tom Bolema, David Bray and Ms. Williams

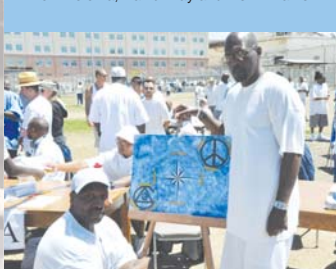


Photo by Raphaela Casala  
Chris Markham and Claudius Johnson at the Day of Peace event



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Thaddeus receiving an autograph from 49er's Coach Jim Harbaugh

The San Quentin community is thankful for many things, here just a few:

**Brittany:**  
I am most thankful for love and the power that it has to heal. It is so easy to take for granted the comfort of knowing you are loved by someone. In the midst of all the craziness life brings, I've learned to take a moment and drown out all my worry and anxiety with gratefulness. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Trenese Ferreira:**  
This time of year, I am reminded of all the blessings I have had in life. Beyond the obvious things I am thankful for (my parents, family, friends, etc.), I am thankful for the educational endeavors I have had in life. Spending four years at USC was the best thing to happen to me out of high school, and my time there prepared me to excel in graduate school at UC Berkeley.

My graduate program has afforded me the unique opportunity to visit San Quentin every week and to work with the unique men that comprise the San Quentin News staff. My experience at San Quentin has really changed my perspective of California's penal system and has made me acutely aware of the privileges I was granted from birth that have guided me down the path I have taken in life. I have spent nearly a year volunteering at San Quentin, and it truly is one of the best, most humbling life experiences I have ever had.

I am very thankful for the perspective that volunteering at San Quentin has given me.

**William Drummond:**  
In 2011 I taught a PUP class that began my involvement with San Quentin News. Since that time, I have grown as a journalist, as a teacher and as a human being. Could not ask for more.

**Ms. Williams:**  
I love that we have a day on which we can say "Thanks." Truthfully, I have much to be thankful for.

**Sevio Gonzales:**  
Feliz dia de accion de gracias a todo mi familia o cinco dias. Amor de mi corazon. Happy Thanksgiving!

**Mr. Shimel:**  
Winning isn't everything, family is, which includes my students in my class room.

**Kevin Valvardi:**  
Despite being in here and so far away from my family and friends, I can still find plenty of reasons to be thankful each day.

**Jose G. Camacho:**  
Thank God for the lovely day of Thanksgiving; that my family and other families may share quality time and eat turkey in abundance.

**Abdul Salaam:**  
I thank Allah, to all praises due for letting me seek peaceful solutions for everything. I give thanks for positive encouragement.

**John Vernacchio:**  
Having to come to prison at 55, I am so thankful for all my great experiences in life. Past loves, travel, toys, friends and most of all, family.

**Luis Cardenas Orosco:**  
Saludos para mis hijos, mis hermanos, mi mama, primos y primas, para mis amigos y mi compadre Nau.

**Vicente Gómez Galvan:**  
Envio saludos para mama y papa, para todos mis hermanos, primos, primas, hermanas y sobrinos, para mis cuñadas, para Goyo Magana y toda su familia.

**Jose Vieyra:**  
Saludos a todos los seres amados, queridos y respetados. Con todo carino para la familia y amigos.

**Jose Dias:**  
Les mando saludos a toda la familia y amistades.

**Martin Gómez Galvan:**  
Saludos para toda la familia y amigos.

**Guadalupe Aranda:**  
Saludos para toda la familia alla en Long Beach, CA. aqui estamos dispuestos a cualquier evento para deleitarlos con nuestra música.

**Jose Velásquez:**  
Estimada hermana Maria te manda saludos tu hermano que te quiere mucho.

**Upu S. Ama:**  
I am truly grateful for life's many blessings: family, friends, health, etc. What I am most thankful for today are the many people whom have been instrumental in my rehabilitation process. From the outside community members who reaches back with a helping hand to the inside community members who has been just as helpful. Being here at S.Q. I am reminded thru my peers on Death Row as well as my peers that I have lost along the way, that I have been blessed with a special opportunity, an opportunity to better myself; to help better those around me, and together help better our community. For that, I am truly thankful for such an opportunity!

**Somsak Uppasay:**  
I have been blessed to have an extraordinary support team of friends and family

who have stood by me during my time of great need. And so I would like to express my deepest respect, love and appreciation for their unconditional love, especially my parents and sisters who have never given up hope on me even when I did not believe in myself. Their positively, humble spirit and attitude have provided me with a new set of eyes, mind, and heart. I owe so much to them as my family. I am so humbly appreciative to each and every one of you for the sweat, the struggles and the sacrifices you have made on my behalf.

Although I am haunted by the grief, shame and guilt within my heart for the harm that I have caused to an innocent life, I am rather thankful to be able to have the opportunity, an opportunity to which I do not serve, to learn and grow into a decent human being.

Through this tragic experience created by my actions, I have learned to have faith in myself and overcome my fears of disappointing my friends. I have utilized the course of this experience as a life lesson to help me become a better person, a better brother, a better son, and a better human being.

**Thaddeus:**  
I'm thankful to be here at San Quentin so I can take advantage of all the self-help programs and basketball games with positive folks from society.

**Frankie Smith:**  
I'm thankful for surviving cancer twice and living another day. I'm thankful for God allowing me to see this day for what it really is, a true blessing.



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Somsak Uppasay Manuel Sanchez Murillo



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Osburn Walton Danny Chavarria



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Frankie Smith Kara Urion

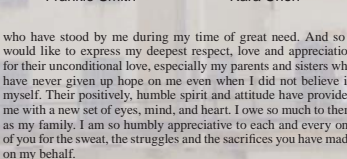


Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Guadalupe Aranda, Jose Dias, Jose Vieyra, Martin Gomez Galvan, Luis Cardenas Orosco, Vicente Gomez Galvan

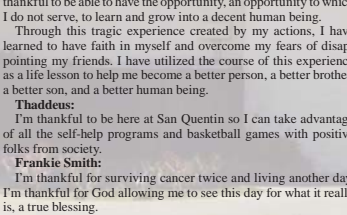


Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Bottom: Jose Velasquez

**Kara Urion:**  
I am grateful for the endeavors of the San Quentin News and I am incredibly grateful for the community here at San Quentin. In particular, this year I would like to give thanks for the life and teachings of Bishop M. Thomas Shaw.

**Chris Markham:**  
I'm thankful for God allowing me to see this day for what it really is - a true blessing.

**Johnny Gomez:**  
The thing I am most thankful for is that after being away from home for 18 years is that I still have the love and respect from my son Johnny Jr.

**Andrew Vance:**  
Thanksgiving is a day for thanking everyone who has given.

**Richie Morris:**  
Thanksgiving is a time to remember the great blessings we enjoy, being thankful for family.

**Mike Endres:**  
I am thankful for my mom Pearl, my sister Vonda, my nephew Eddie, my niece Amy, and my friends Rich and Brenda, for all their love and support.

**Claudius Johnson:**  
I am truly thankful to be alive and to be reborn in my way of thinking. All praises to the lord father.

**Eric Wilson:**  
I give thanks that I was able to survive my prison experience mentally. I was able to be found suitable and re-enter society again.

**Roger Chavez:**  
I would like to give thanks to my God, my parents and all my family members. Thank you for supporting me through out the years of my incarceration.

**Adnan Khan:**  
I am thankful for the education and opportunities San Quentin offers, which fulfilled my lifelong quest for purpose in life.

**Dwight Krizman:**  
Being thankful has become a way of living for me. Even in prison I can choose to live in gratitude. Life for me is as it should be...simply because it is.

**Bob Kaser:**  
I am thankful for my family and friends, and especially for my recovery in the unity of Alcoholics Anonymous. And for the serenity prayers.

**Vichau:**  
I want to give thanks to the Chau family for being there and supporting me, Much Love.

**Louie Light:**  
I'd like to give thanks to my loving family who's always supported me, no matter the circumstances. And most of all my caring girlfriend Jo who's given me nothing but love, respect and devotion in our relationship.

**Sony Nguyen:**  
Thanksgiving reminds me of all the blessings I have in my life. Thankful for the family and friends who support me in my life.

**Ricky Gaines:**  
Thanksgiving always reminds me to count my blessings and not my problems. To be thankful for life, family and opportunity.

**Osburn Walton:**  
I am truly thankful for Mr. Shimel and the inmate student assistance and the outside tutors. I also give thanks for the Tuesday and Thursday night classes because both inmates and outside tutors truly makes a difference in my education.

**Salvador Solorio:**  
There is much to be thankful for. Even though I am imprisoned, I know that things could be a lot worse for me. Prison food at times sucks, but I am thankful for every meal I get, even a Thanksgiving meal at San Quentin.

**Nate Collins:**  
I am thankful for good health and being at an institution I can address my core issues. I am thankful to be around positive like-minded people.

**Rob Ritchie:**  
I am really thankful for my great health. I am thankful for my family that supports me through all my time of incarceration. And I am thankful I am in a prison where I don't have to carry a knife.

**Wade E. Mormon:**  
I am thankful for the outside tutors That educate us, and also the professional athletes that come in, and lastly I am thankful my good buddy Sal that helps me with my guitar.

**Damon Cooke:**  
I'm grateful and thankful for everyone who has helped me re-establish my direction, focus and drive. Today with your help, I am a new man.

**Darrell "Waylo" Williams:**  
I'm thankful for having my family with me through this trial and tribulations in my life.



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Golden State Warrior's Luke Walton and Upu S. Ama on S.Q.'s Lower Yard basketball court



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Bob Kaser and Johnny Gomez: members of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Derrick Kualapai, Reginald Hola and Damon Cooke at the Native American banquet



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Kevin Demings, Darrell "Waylo" Williams, Eddie and Juan Arballo



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Guadalupe Aranda, Jose Dias, Jose Vieyra, Martin Gomez Galvan, Luis Cardenas Orosco, Vicente Gomez Galvan Bottom: Jose Velasquez



Photo by Sam Hearnes  
Dwight Krizman inside the Protestant Chapel

# Women Build Their Future Careers With Technical Education Programs

By Krissi Khokhobashvili  
CDCR Public Information  
Officer

Fifty-five incarcerated women are well on their way to a rehabilitation “home run.”

Dozens of women received vocational certificates from the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), which provides productive work assignments for approximately 8,000 offenders in California. These particular women, all offenders at Folsom Women’s Facility (FWF), earned certificates in Pre-Apprentice Carpentry, Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor, Computer-Aided Design, Facilities Maintenance, Customer Service Representative Training and Warehouse and Logistics Training.

FWF Associate Warden Robin Harrington likened the women’s efforts to playing baseball.

“The home run has been hit, but you’ve got to run the bases,” she told the graduates. “The run doesn’t count until you run the bases and make that score. You all are running the bases, and you are making big things happen, big changes in your life.”

Through a partnership with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), CALPIA provides thousands of inmates the opportunity to participate in life-changing rehabilitative programs, all of which are aimed at reducing recidivism while keeping prisons and communities safe. Rosetta Turturici, who graduated with certificates in Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Construction Labor, said she has no plans to come back to prison after she goes home in 2016.

“Now with this training, I know that I can automatically go into the union and be offered a construction job,” she said, proudly holding her signature pink CALPIA construction hard hat. “I know that I won’t be judged for what I was, but for who I am today.”

FWF’s A Yard was filled with not only graduates, but also family members, instructors, union representatives, officials from CDCR and CALPIA, and other female inmates cheering them



Photos courtesy of Alan Barrett

Ronnica Reynolds proudly displays her certificate in Computer-Aided Design. She is flanked by Chief Deputy Warden Lydia Romero, Warden Ron Rackley, CDCR Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs Director Millicent Tidwell, Associate Warden Robin Harrington, State Senator Holly Mitchell and Female Offenders Programs and Services Associate Director Jay Virbel. CALPIA General Manager Chuck Patillo in the background

on. State Senator Holly Mitchell, who represents the 26th Senate District and serves as chair of the Legislative Black Caucus and Select Committee on Women and Inequality, shared words of encouragement with the crowd as keynote speaker. She pointed out that women continue to struggle with job security and equality, and that women of color in particular have not seen improvement in their unemployment rate.

“You have taken your first step to defy that statistic and defy that odd,” Mitchell told the graduates. “Being released from here, from the programs here, with specific training for careers and jobs that are available on the outside with your certificates, suggests that you are in a position to get in front of the line for many of the women on the outside looking for jobs – because of the time you spent and the commitment you made to yourself and this program.”

Mitchell said she attended

an international convention of women who work in the building trades, and had her “mind blown” by the professional opportunities and salaries the women had. Many of those women, she said, started in programs very similar to what CALPIA and CDCR offer.

“You need to recognize that you are an amazing force of nature,” she said. “Which means that you are in control of who? You. And so you have the power to make the decision about what your future looks like.”

CALPIA General Manager Chuck Pattillo said FWF represents one of the highest percentages of inmates participating in CALPIA programs in a prison, and that the women graduating are role models for their peers considering joining a program. He praised the women for their hard work and wished them success when they go home.

“We want you to be good mothers, good sisters, good workers, especially because we know that

you’ve got a leg up on everybody else as you get out of prison.”

It’s been proven time and again that rehabilitative programs result in fewer returns to prison. Pattillo pointed out that CALPIA Career Technical Education (CTE) programs have a cumulative recidivism rate of about 7 percent, significantly lower than the statewide average. That results in millions of dollars of taxpayer savings.

“We love seeing you, but I will be very honest, we really never want to see you again,” Pattillo said, drawing laughter from the crowd.

CALPIA contracted with CDCR’s Division of Rehabilitative Programs this year for \$2 million to provide 12 CTE programs statewide. The partnership provides programs that positively influence not only the offenders’ lives, but also the lives of their families, and reduces the number of people victimized by crime.

“I recognize that it is no small

task for you to turn your life around, but the women graduating here today have made that decision and have taken concrete steps to reach those goals,” said Millicent Tidwell, Director of DRP. “The certificates that you’re going to receive today will allow you to continue to take those positive steps in your future.”

Inmate Caitlin Churchill, who was joined by her mother, grandmother and aunt for the graduation, proudly pointed out that her name was listed twice on the program. Churchill earned certificates in Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor.

“I’m overwhelmingly proud,” said her mom, Michele Hofer. “She has been working on this for a very long time, and I love hearing the officers praise her work.”

“This program has been invaluable,” Churchill shared. “They have taught us not only trade skills, but life skills. Our instructors have shown us how to work through instances where we thought we weren’t capable of handling the situation. They helped us push through, they’ve given us courage, they’ve given us confidence to be successful.”

Roy Bergerson, a CALPIA construction labor instructor from the Laborers Local 185 labor union, said that not only are women able to thrive in the industry, they are also in high demand.

“These women will leave as an apprentice and in time they’ll become journeymen,” he said. “We’ve had women who were released before who are currently working right now.”

“It’s a miracle program,” he added. “This program here gives an opportunity for a person who needs a second or third chance the ability to live the dream.”



Photos by Alan Barrett

Pre-Apprentice Carpentry and Pre-Apprentice Construction Labor graduates proudly wear their signature pink CALPIA hard hats

# Raising Compassionate Young Boys to Adulthood

## An 'OG's' Perspective

By Watani Stiner  
Staff Writer

*"The language of marriage is often the language of ownership, rather than the language of partnership. We use the word 'respect' to mean something a woman shows a man, but not often something a man shows a woman." – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Nigerian author and feminist.*

There exists inside every young boy a compassion that must be cultivated and nurtured into adulthood. How is that compassion translated? What societal responsibilities do we have to the younger generations? Moreover, what personal responsibility do we bear as fa-

thers and OGs?

While it certainly does take a village to raise a child, when it comes to raising a male child fathers should be at the forefront of teaching young boys the universal value of having respect for themselves and the opposite sex. Fathers should engage their sons in active conversations about gender equality. These lessons are best learned by example.

In today's society, our young men are constantly bombarded with words and images of women that construct their idea of what it means to be a man. Therefore it's crucial that we begin any discussion of manhood by first understanding the social context in which these notions of gender and masculinity are

formed.

In early September, Baltimore Raven football player Ray Rice was caught on tape knocking his fiancée unconscious and dragging her body from an elevator. Though Rice publicly apologized for his actions, the question of how and to what degree he should be punished by the NFL is being challenged in court. As of this writing, he is suspended indefinitely.

Here at San Quentin, during discussions about this incident, some prisoners recognized that Rice's abuse was indisputably wrong. However, some went on to ask what she might have done to provoke or anger her fiancé.

These damaging responses result from the fact that young

males grow accustomed to the idea that women are inherently guilty. We often send messages to young men that being brutal without self-control is acceptable while we teach girls shame. Often women are taught that they are naturally inferior to men simply by being born female. Girls grow to be women whose opinions are not as valued, who cannot say what they truly think or feel, and believe they must cater to the needs of men.

Not only are women silenced or their opinions ignored, but women are objectified, their bodies used to sell anything from cars to cottage cheese. Objectification devalues the female contribution to society. Exposed to this, women often unwillingly become complicit with their own oppression. Despite the fact that women make up 51 percent of the planet, men often perceive the role of the female as marginal. Governments and organizational heads are predominantly male. Women still make 77 cents on the dollar compared to men for the exact same position. What is that about? And how does it persist?

Reflecting on my complicity in female gender vilification, I came to several conclusions: I would usually laugh, remain silent and/or repeat sexist remarks acceptable within my circle of friends. Although racial epithets offended me, sexist remarks were not as degrading; they were less demeaning. It was not until I reflected upon my experiences that I made this distinction.

Fathers, OGs and men should actively engage in conversation about gender inequality, particularly the wrongful way in which women are often portrayed by society.

Young boys should be taught from the onset that reducing women to mere body parts (legs, vaginas, butts, breasts, etc.) is sexist, inaccurate and wrong, and damaging to the very intimacy and depth of relationship that human beings need.

A good way to begin is with men becoming aware of and taking full responsibility for how we demean girls and women. We must find the moral courage to speak up and out against gender discrimination in its various forms.

## A Testimonial Account of Prisoners' Journey with Christianity

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

### BOOK REVIEW

Kathleen Jackson never imagined she'd be vouching for a room full of men doing time for crimes ranging from kidnap to murder.

Still, she takes on this mission in *Bind the Testimony*, a new collection of 19 testimonies from San Quentin State Prison that presents the stories of criminals in a new light, and their own words.

"In my wildest imagination, I could not have pictured myself as part of that scene," Jackson writes in the book's introduction. "And yet I have been sitting in such a circle at San

Quentin State Prison, facilitating the Christian Creative Writing Class, for over two years, loving every moment and marveling at the men's intensity."

The public has a certain conception of prison. Your average civilian would tell you prisons are not for "nice people" and "bad things" happen there. But that's just part of the picture. In this collection, Jackson asks the public to reevaluate these generalizations. She leaves it to readers to decide whether

listening to a bunch of convicts calling themselves Christians is worth the time and effort.

Jackson's course on creative writing allowed her students to address questions of spirituality on their own terms and through their own life experiences. Writing about their troubled pasts, it turns out, helped them finally come to terms with past mistakes.

Cole Young is doing a life term for second-degree murder. He has been locked up since 1995. His story, *An Up-*

*hill Battle*, is jam-packed with self-inflicted pain and suffering, coupled with the deaths of loved ones during his incarceration. Young's incredible saga takes readers on a frightful journey that ends when he finds his salvation. Finding God, he says, allowed him to come to terms with his identity and gave meaning to his day-to-day life.

Minor crime to minor crime turned into a Three Strike sentence for drifter James Earl Vick. Vick comes from the poorest state in the United States, Mississippi. He writes about how poverty and a traumatic upbringing led him to a series of bad decisions in his essay *Counted Among the Saints*. Vick's story indicates that he is not just a criminal, but also a victim of circumstance.

All the essays grapple with spirituality and its role in inmates' lives.

"Prison has brought out the worst in me," writes Syyen Hong in *Not an Easy Walk*. "I never really considered the consequences behind my actions because, in reality, I didn't care. I was miserable; I hated my life, and sometimes even wished for death."

Hong had spent years miserable at San Quentin when another Christian encouraged him to attend church and explore religion more deeply. After this, he had a total turnaround. His story of spiritual redemption, even while in prison, shows that finding meaning is possible anywhere and at anytime.

Religion also offered relief to Raymond Gaddis, who is serving a life sentence for murder. Prison life took its toll on Gaddis. He said that at one point, he collected more than 200 sleeping pills and took them all in an attempt to kill himself.

"I was a self-centered, selfish coward," Gaddis said. "God, on the other hand, had a different plan."

After his suicide attempt failed, Gaddis received reasons to live a spiritually based life from friends and family. Understanding the reward of having patience with himself, not giving up and putting one foot in front of the other each day is Gaddis' story.

The effect that spirituality has on rehabilitation is profound. Writing about it when it's happening is even more powerful.

Other writers: Elliott Beverly: *Rescued by His Grace*, Mark "Lucky" Edwards: *A Dad's Only Son*, James Metters: *Amazing Grace*, Simon: *Never Turning His Back*, Curtis Roberts: *What's Next, Papa?*, Bryant Harrison: *Destiny*, Kenneth "Musa" Bailey: *The Prescription*, A. Kevin Valvardi: *Born Again Catholic*, Joel Dillard: *Full Circle*, Jeffery Williams: *Freedom From the Inside*, Henry Poe: *The Lord was with me all Along*, Douglas "Jimmy" Manns: *Come as you are and Zitsue Lee: Please God, Abandon Me*.

## Identifying With Two Different Lives



### MOVIE REVIEW



By SQ Reviews

Critics reviled Director McG's *3 Days to Kill*, but the movie struck a place of resonance with SQ Reviews.

In *3 Days to Kill*, Kevin Costner plays a CIA assassin named Ethan Renner. He has spent his life choosing career over family, but when Ethan discovers he has cancer, he retires and dedicates the remainder of his time to reconnecting with his ex-wife (played by Connie Nielson) and daughter (played by Hailee Steinfeld). He promises his ex-wife that he is finished with his work, but when femme fatale Vivi Delay (Amber Heard) offers a miraculous cancer treatment in exchange for another assassination, Ethan finds himself juggling work and family once

again.

The movie's attempts at sexiness with leather-clad characters like Vivi Delay come off as cheap, and caricatures of foreigners reflect either the director's lack of imagination or his lack of respect for his viewer's imagination.

When SQ Reviews sits down in the back lot behind the Education Department to talk, we are aware of the director's artistic failings. It quickly becomes clear, however, that Ethan Renner's struggle to make the right decisions is our struggle. His victory when he wakes up and chooses his family, when his family chooses him, is our victory.

"I think it was a good idea poorly executed," Emile DeWeaver says. He wears glasses with brown rims and seems to

smile for no reason. "The story strived for something worthwhile though."

"I think whoever made this movie would like you to *think* there's some redeeming value," said Erin O'Connor who is also 6'4" with a narrow mouth and jaw that makes him look furious even when his face is at parade rest. "But what's redeeming about a guy killing everybody?"

Rashaan Thomas sits a little straighter. He is from New York, and he would look like Spike Lee if Spike Lee was Puerto Rican and tall. "I've done some wicked stuff, man, doesn't mean I don't love my kids. I feel the dude. He's killing people for his country, thinking he's making the world a better place for his family."

"He's doing the wrong thing for the right reasons," Miguel

Quezada says.

"I used to tell myself stuff like that all the time," Thomas continues. "I felt like I had to take care of my kids. I didn't want them to suffer like I'd suffered. So, I got them trust funds and all kind of crazy stuff. I thought I had to get them out the hood. But, it's crazy; everything I tried to get for them, they didn't need. I went to prison, lost everything, and they made it without any of that trust fund stuff. My son hit me with that once, and it messes me up. He didn't need that stuff. He just needed me there." Thomas emphasizes his words by repeatedly raising his hand and throwing it toward the ground. The atmosphere swims with Thomas' regret. If the rest of us add ours, we will all drown in our collective disappointments.

We averaged out our ratings, and on a scale of one to five dinner cookies, *3 Days to Kill* rates two and a half cookies.

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Aaron Taylor, Erin O'Connor, Juan Meza, Miguel Quezada, Rashaan Thomas and Tommy Winfrey

# Public Defender Throws Last Resort Lifeline to Nevada Death Row Inmates

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

In a state with a per capita death penalty rate that ranks fourth in the country, inmates on Nevada's Death Row can always call on their friend Michael Pescetta.

"Pescetta, an assistant federal public defender in Las Vegas who specializes in capital punishment cases, is often a final resort for inmates who have exhausted their options at the state level to appeal a death penalty conviction," the *Las Vegas Sun* reported.

He has provided legal representation for dozens of defendants facing Nevada's often-imposed yet seldom-used death penalty. "Today, his office represents more than half of the 83 men sitting on Death Row," according to the *Sun*.

In a recent interview, Pescetta spoke with the *Sun* about Richard Moran, who was executed in 1996. He was a client who committed multiple murders while under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Pescetta seemed surprised how this case went very quickly through the system.

Jesse Bishop was the first volunteer executed in Nevada in 1979. Pescetta told the *Sun*, "He committed offenses in 1977, and was executed less than two years from the date of his offense.

According to Pescetta, 11 defendants "volunteered" to die. These people "gave up any further appeals and asked to be executed."

When pressed to explain why a defendant volunteers to be executed, Pescetta told the *Sun*, "People often start out suicidal. They ask the police to shoot them. It's like a slow version of

suicide by cop." Furthermore, he believes "most people on Death Row have mental health issues."

After botched executions in three other states, Nevada's officials are now scrambling to complete a mandatory legislative audit of the death penalty by Jan. 31, 2015.

No one has been executed in Nevada since 2006. When asked to explain why, he told the *Sun* "Botched executions in Ohio, Oklahoma and Arizona in recent months could lead to more scrutiny about the process locally."

The *Sun* reported three drugs, "sodium thiopental, which is an anesthetic, pancuronium bromide, which is paralytic, and potassium chloride, which is what stops the heart," have raised concern about their use.

Pescetta told the *Sun*, "All of

those drugs, if the state has them at the time, have a shelf life that we would be past now. And, as I understand, the execution protocol in effect at the time was that the state got the drugs for the execution when the execution was pending. They did not keep those drugs on hand."

***"The ratio of Death Row inmates to lawyers is significantly high. We have such a small bar compared to bigger states. There's less legal talent available to do criminal work"***

In the recent executions in Arizona, Ohio and Oklahoma, sodium thiopental was not available. According to Pescetta, "they have been using different drugs, sometimes one drug, sometimes two drugs." He believes, "They're essentially experimenting."

"The willingness of manufacturers and suppliers to supply them is very different now than it used to be," Pescetta said. There are not many drugs available today.

"How prepared is the state to execute someone again?" the *Sun* reporter asked. "Pescetta said it is unknown what kind of execution protocol the Nevada Department of Corrections would use if an execution were scheduled."

However, he said, "The old protocol specified these three drugs had traditionally been used."

When asked, "Where do most death penalty cases originate in Nevada? Is it significant that the state's per capita ratio is relatively high compared with other places?" Pescetta said, "No other county in the state has as many death penalty cases as Clark County. There probably aren't more than three or four in the entire rest of the state."

He told the *Sun*, "The ratio of Death Row inmates to lawyers is significantly high. We have such a small bar compared to bigger states. There's less legal talent available to do criminal work."

Nevada's Death Row is located at Ely State Prison, a maximum-security facility where inmates waiting to be executed live in single cells. "Contact with other inmates is limited. Most people in there spend 23 hours a day in a cell," Pescetta said. "This is not like being out in the yard with other inmates."

# Ex-Gang Member Dedicates His Life to Helping Youth

By Lee Jaspas  
Journalism Guild Writer

Willie Stokes, an ex-gangster from East Salinas, has re-dedicated his life to saving kids.

Stokes spent much of his childhood in and out of juvenile hall, according to an article by Joel Hersch in the *Santa Cruz Good Times Weekly*.

After 17 years in and out of the prison system, including 10 years at Pelican Bay, Stokes, now 43, asked himself, "Look at what you're doing. Is it worth it?"

Stokes chose to become the executive director of the Salinas-based gang intervention nonprofit "Black Sheep Redemption Program," (BSRP).

He said his decision to drop out of the gang life means there will always be a target on his back.

"I'm not afraid, but I'm not stupid either," Stokes told Hersch. "I was willing to die for that stupidity, so why shouldn't I be willing to die for something that can save kids?"

Stokes explained that having personally used powerful indoctrination tactics to rope



Willie Stokes interacts with the youth at a Black Sheep Redemption Program

kids into the gang mentality, he is now able to use the same methods to influence youth in positive ways.

Inspector Mario Sulay of the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's anti-crime team, which includes the gang and narcotics task forces, has

worked with Stokes numerous times and is impressed with his work.

Sulay told *GT Weekly*, "I hold Willie Stokes in very high regard. I think he is somebody who can relate to some of these at-risk youth because he's come from there."

# Supreme Court Slightly Tightens Standards for Executing Mentally Disabled Prisoners

The U.S. Supreme Court has voted 5-4 to set new standards for executing mentally disabled prisoners.

The May 27 ruling requires a new capital punishment trial for a Florida inmate who scored 71 on an IQ test, *Reuters* reported. Florida's law had said 70 or less indicates mental disability.

The ruling noted the IQ test contains a five-point margin of error, meaning the 71 score could have meant a real level of

66 to 76.

"Florida's law contravenes our nation's commitment to dignity and its duty to teach human decency as the mark of a civilized world," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote on behalf of the majority.

"The strict IQ rule struck down by the Supreme Court today is just one example of the many ways in which our state's death penalty system falls short of constitutional and human rights standards,"

said Howard Simon, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Florida had initially determined in 1992 that Freddie Lee Hall, 68, was mentally disabled when he shot and killed a sheriff's deputy and a woman seven months pregnant.

"The Supreme Court concluded that states should defer to the clinical consensus for determining whether people are mentally disabled," *Reuters* reported.

The American Psychiatric Association found that IQ tests should include a "standard error of measurement of five percentage points, meaning results could vary that much either higher or lower," Hall's attorneys said. Florida's test did not take into account this standard of review.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing on behalf of the four dissenters, wrote that the court had embraced a "uniform national rule that is both conceptually

unsound and likely to result in confusion."

Florida's Republican attorney general, Pan Bondi, declined to comment, saying, "Officials were reviewing the decision."

John H. Blume, Cornell Law School professor, found that only approximately 10 Death Row inmates with borderline IQ scores stand to benefit immediately from the Supreme Court decision.

—By Charles David Henry

# States Choose Ways To Compensate the Wrongfully Convicted

By Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

States have a variety of ways to compensate persons determined to be innocent of crimes for which they were wrongfully convicted, NPR.com reports.

Twenty-one states provide no money, but the former prisoner can sue for compensation. Some former prisoners have been awarded \$1 million for each year they served in prison, NPR said.

Twelve states and the District of Columbia pay on an individual case basis.

Seventeen states pay a fixed amount for each year of imprisonment, ranging from \$80,000

per year in Texas and \$70,000 in Colorado to \$5,000 in Wisconsin. California pays \$36,500 per year.

Several states and the federal government pay \$50,000 for each year of wrongful incarceration. The states are Alabama, Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina and Washington.

The fixed amounts usually require a former prisoner to agree not to take the case to court.

States that pay the wrongfully convicted might actually be trying to save money, according to Brandon Garrett, University of Virginia law professor and author of *Convicting the Innocent*.

# Ley Proposición 47 Aprobada para la Re-clasificación de cargos por Felonías

*En los primeros diez condados afectados por la Proposición 47, el promedio de ahorro mas bajo de cada condado es de un \$28.5 millones y el mas alto en \$49.9 millones*

**Por Juan Haines**  
**Director de Redacción**

En el día de las elecciones el partido Demócrata arrasó en todas las posiciones de liderazgo en Sacramento. 58% de los electores de California dijeron que un número de crímenes previamente tratados coma felonías ahora son delitos menores.

La proposición 47 aprobada en Noviembre 4, causando que el castigo de ciertos crímenes sean reducidos, incluyendo algunas ofensas por posesión de droga, robo menor, recibir propiedad robada y falsificación/ escribir cheques sin fondo siempre y cuando la cantidad sea de \$950 o menor.

Conocida como la acción Escuelas y Vecindades Seguras, personas con condenas previas por crímenes como asalto sexual, asesinato o abuso sexual a menores son excluidos, al igual que los delincuentes sexuales registrados. Para estas personas la ofensa seguirá siendo una felonía.

Ofensores que actualmente están cumpliendo condenas por los crímenes previamente mencionados tendrán la oportunidad de aparecer ante un juez para que sus sentencias

sean reducidas aun término equivalente a un delito menor. Para que un recluso sea beneficiado por la Proposición 47, una revisión completa del historial criminal del recluso y un asesoramiento del riesgo de peligrosidad deberá llevarse a cabo. Esto es necesario para garantizar que ellos "no posean un riesgo para la sociedad," de acuerdo a un reporte por Californianos Unidos para un Presupuesto Responsable (CURB).

EL Departamento de Rehabilitación Correccional de California (CDCR), estima que aproximadamente 4,770 reclusos de las prisiones estatales (a la fecha Nov. 4) serán elegibles para pedir a la corte que los resentencien, de acuerdo con la oficina de prensa del CDCR.

La Oficina Analista Legislativa (LAO) estima que 40,000 personas son anualmente encontradas culpables de los crímenes especificados y serán afectados por esta disposición, pero se reconoce que esta estimación puede ser incorrecta por varios miles.

"Si estas ofensas llegan a ser delitos menores, la mayoría del las personas culpables de estas ofensas ya no serán elegibles para la prisión es-

tatal, dando como resultado una continua caída de varios miles en la población de la prisión," el Centro de Justicia Juvenil y Criminal reveló un estudio efectuados en el mes de Septiembre. Los ahorros de la reducción poblacional de las prisiones aunado a la reducción de la carga en las cortes estatales estaría "apenas pasando los cientos de millones de dólares anualmente," concluyó el LAO. En un estudio subsiguiente en el mes de Octubre, CJCJ menciono que la Proposición 47 daría como resultado que de un 10,000 a 30,000 camas podrían estar desocupadas en las cárceles a lo largo del estado, lo cual se traduce en un ahorro anual en el condado de \$400 millones a 700 millones.

El dinero ahorrado al implementar esta medida será distribuida de la siguiente manera: 25% al Departamento de Educación para reducir la vagancia escolar, apoyar estudiantes que están en riesgo o victimas de crímenes. 10% ira a la Compensación de Víctimas y para el Consejo de Demandas de Gobierno para los centros de recuperación del trauma. 65% ira al Consejo Estatal y Correcciones de las Comunidad

para concesiones a agencias publicas que proveen terapia de salud mental y tratamiento para el abuso de sustancias con el fin de reducir la reincidencia en el sistema judicial.

Centro de Justicia Juvenil y Criminal – Tres Condados:

El Centro de Justicia Juvenil y Criminal (CJCJ) examino los condados de Los Angeles, San Diego y San Joaquín para determinar la cantidad de dinero que cada uno ahorraría como consecuencia de la aprobación de la Proposición 47.

"El condado de los Angeles ahorraría entre \$99.9 millones y \$174.8 millones, el condado de San Diego entre \$28.4 millones y 49.7 millones, y el condado de San Joaquín entre \$6.8 millones y \$12.0 millones," anualmente de acuerdo a CJCJ.

El análisis de ahorros del CJCJ contabilizo por las camas vacías que serán creadas en los tres condados por la reducción de convicciones por felonías. Todas estas camas necesariamente no quedaran vacías debido a que muchos condados batallan con la sobrepoblación en sus cárceles. Ellos probablemente usen una porción de las camas para reducir la liberación temprana de presos. A través de California, más de

10,000 personas son liberadas temprano de la cárcel cada mes para aliviar la sobrepoblación. Esto incluye aproximadamente 1,500 personas en el Condado de los Angeles, 900 en el Condado de San Diego, y 500 en el Condado de San Joaquín, de acuerdo a la Comisión del Estado y Desarrollo de la Comunidad.

En los primeros diez condados afectados por la Proposición 47, el promedio de ahorro mas bajo de cada condado es de un \$28.5 millones y el mas alto en \$49.9 millones. Ver, La Tabla de los Primeros Diez Condados de California.

De acuerdo al CURB "California tiene un historial de definir la póliza de la justicia criminal a través de la iniciativa del voto." La CURB reporto que la medida incluye "disposiciones para apelar el racismo y ha fortalecido aspectos políticos que 'son estrictos en crimen.' Algunas disposiciones refuerzan el uso de pólizas que dañan a las comunidades de color al desviar los fondos del estado en programas cuestionables para la 'prevención del crimen.'"

*-Traducción por Marco Villa y Tare Beltranchuc/ Samantha Santa Maria*

## Proposition 47 Passed to Modify Strict Laws

*Continued from Page 1*

public," according to a report by Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB).

### CDCR PRESS

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) estimates that approximately 4,770 state prison inmates (as of Nov. 4) would be eligible to petition a court for resentencing, according to the CDCR press office.

### LAO

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates that about 40,000 people are convicted yearly of the specified crimes and would be affected by the measure but acknowledges this estimate may be off by several thousand.

### CJCJ

"Should these offenses become misdemeanors, most people convicted of the offenses would no longer be eligible for state prison, resulting in an ongoing drop of several thousand in the prison population," the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJCJ) reported in a September study. The savings from reduced prison populations and reduced burdens on state courts would be in "the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually," the LAO con-

cluded. In a subsequent study in October, CJCJ said that Proposition 47 would result in 10,000 to 30,000 jail beds potentially freed across the state, which translates to annual county savings of \$400 million to \$700 million.

The money saved from implementing the measure would be distributed as follows: 25 percent to the Department of Education to reduce truancy and support at-risk students or victims of crime, 10 percent to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board for trauma recovery centers, and 65 percent to the Board of State and Community Correction for grants to public agencies providing mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment to reduce recidivism of people in the justice system.

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice — Three Counties:

CJCJ examined Los Angeles, San Diego and San Joaquin counties to determine the dollar amount each could save because of the passage of Proposition 47.

"Los Angeles County should save between \$99.9 million and \$174.8 million, San Diego County between \$28.4 million and \$49.7 million, and San Joaquin County between \$6.8 million and \$12.0 million," annually according to CJCJ.

The CJCJ savings analysis accounted for the empty beds

that the three counties would be created because of the fewer felony convictions. All of these beds would not necessarily be empty; many counties struggle with jail overcrowding. They would likely use a portion of the beds to reduce early releases. Across California, more than 10,000 people are released early from jail each month to relieve crowding. This includes approximately 1,500 people in

Los Angeles County, 900 in San Diego County and 500 in San Joaquin County, according to the Board of State and Community Corrections.

In the top ten counties affected by Proposition 47, the average savings for each county is a low of \$28.5 million and a high of \$49.9 million. See, Top Ten California Counties Table.

According to CURB, "California has a history of defin-

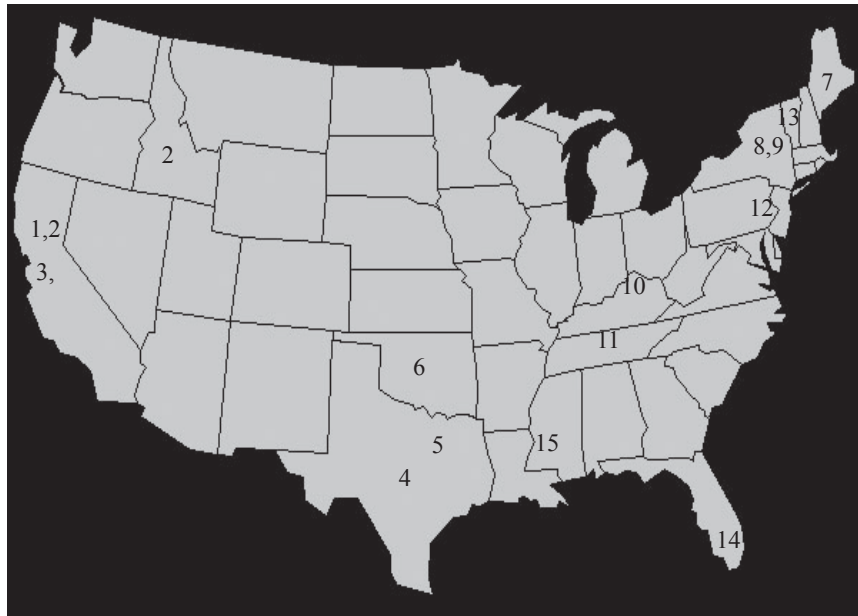
ing criminal justice policy through ballot initiatives." CURB reported that the measure includes "provisions that appeal to racism, and have strengthened aspects of 'tough on crime' politics. Some provisions reinforce 'business as usual' policy practices that harm communities of color by funneling state funds into destructive questionable 'crime prevention' programs."

*-By Juan Haines*

TOP TEN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES							
POTENTIAL ANNUAL LOCAL SAVINGS AND JAIL BEDS FREED FROM PROPOSITION 47							
COMPILED BY CENTER ON JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE							
(BUCHEN/MALES 2014)							
COUNTY	Savings (millions)		Jail Beds Freed		Jail Beds Freed as % of ADP		PROP 47 AFFECTED
	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	PEOPLE
Los Angeles	\$99.9	\$174.8	2,497	7,490	14%	41%	9,986
San Bernardino	\$32.7	\$57.2	818	2,453	15%	44%	3,270
Orange	\$29.7	\$51.9	741	2,224	11%	33%	2,966
San Diego	\$28.4	\$49.7	710	2,131	13%	40%	2,841
Riverside	\$24.1	\$42.2	603	1,808	15%	46%	2,411
Fresno	\$16.1	\$28.1	402	1,205	14%	43%	1,607
Sacramento	\$15.6	\$27.3	390	1,171	10%	31%	1,561
Kern	\$15.3	\$26.7	382	1,146	15%	44%	1,528
Alameda	\$11.8	\$20.6	294	883	9%	27%	1,178
Contra Costa	\$11.0	\$19.3	276	827	19%	57%	1,103
<b>Average Totals:</b>	<b>\$28.5</b>	<b>\$49.9</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>40.6%</b>	<b>28,451 Total Affected</b>

*Sources: Legislative Analyst's Office (2014); Criminal Justice Statistics Center (2013); Dept. Of Justice (2014) ADP: Average Daily Population*

## News Briefs



**1. Sacramento**—Death penalty support is at its lowest point in nearly 50 years in California, *The Sacramento Bee* reported. However, 56 percent of the state's registered voters still believe the death penalty should be kept as a possible punishment for serious crimes, with 34 percent opposed and 10 percent undecided, a new Field Poll shows.

**2. Sacramento**—Chuck Supple, 56, of Sacramento, has been appointed to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Board of Parole Hearings, Juvenile Division. Supple has a master of public administration degree from Harvard University. This position requires Senate confirmation and the annual compensation is \$117,504. Supple is a Democrat.

**3. Stanford**— Professor Jennifer Eberhardt recently received portion of a \$625,000 MacArthur fellowship. The fellowship is "to encourage creative development into fresh new fields," reports *San Jose Mercury News*. Eberhardt's research conducted at Stanford University discovered that the perceptions of jurors, police officers and ordinary students make them more likely to mistrust and severely punish black people than those with lighter skin color. Eberhardt currently studies footage from Oakland police officers' "body camera" videos for continued research.

**4. San Antonio, Texas**—Federal immigration officials are planning to open a 2,400-bed detention center to hold illegal immigrant families. If plans go through, the facility will be located 70 miles outside of San Antonio. Immigration and Customs Enforcement plans to hire Corrections Corporation of America to operate the facility, reports *AllGov.com*.

**5. Dallas** — County officials in Texas presented a measure to city officials that would have

eliminate face-to-face meetings between inmates and their visitors. The measure would have also charged their visitors for the video access, reports the *Dallas Observer*. In addition, the contract would have given management of the jail telephone to the company. The county's commissioners voted down the measure 4-1. The commission reopened the bidding process to all original bidders. Any new bids are required to eliminate commissions for any paid video visits and to continue to allow in-person face-to-face visits.

**6. Oklahoma City** — Richard Glossip, 51, will be the second person executed under new procedures for lethal injections and in a newly renovated chamber at Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Glossip, whose execution has been set for later this year, is concerned that the facility is so new that prison officials

are not yet prepared to use it, *CNHI News Service* reports. In a July letter to a reporter, he wrote, "They have moved the execution table ... so that they could put a window in the door where the person administering the drugs, so that if an inmate starts flopping they can give them a little more muscle (relaxant) to stop it."

**7. Portland, Maine**— A program that helps keep drug addicts out of jail will remain open, after Gov. Paul LePage intervened to solve a dispute between the Department of Corrections and court officials, *The Associated Press* reports. The disagreement centered on how to enforce violations in Cumberland County Drug Court, which led to a freeze on new cases.

**8. New York** — A 21-member panel pushed for the decriminalization of drugs such as marijuana, the end of incar-

ceration for drug use and possession, and heightened focus on protecting public health in a report published this fall, *ABC News* reports.

**9. New York** — The nation's second-largest jail system, Rikers Island, will stop sending teenage inmates to solitary confinement by the end of the year, reports *The Associated Press*.

**10. Frankfort, Ky.** — Felons lobbying for the right to vote are turning to the Kentucky General Assembly for support. The assembly, which convenes in January, will vote on constitutional amendments that would automatically restore the voting rights for felons not convicted of sex offenses, homicide, treason, or bribery. The amendments require the support of 60 percent of legislators and ratification by voters.

**11. Nashville, Tenn.**— Tennessee must turn over the names

of pharmacists and others involved in the execution procedures of death row inmates, following a state appeals court ruling, reports *The Associated Press*. Death Row inmates are suing over the state's lethal injection and electrocution procedures, claiming they are unconstitutional. Attorneys think that having the names will help them check the qualifications of the executioners.

**12. Philadelphia** — In order to prevent another in a series of recently botched executions nationwide, the American Civil Liberties Union and four Pennsylvania newspapers have filed a lawsuit asking a federal judge to find out where corrections officials are purchasing execution drugs. The lawsuit aims to shed light on the process by which these drugs are obtained, reports *Nation Now*.

**13. Montpelier, Vt.** — The Vermont Corrections Department says it has received a \$1 million federal grant to help reduce recidivism. Vermont is one of five states to receive the grant under The Second Chance Act, which is designed to help offenders re-enter society after leaving prison.

**14. Florida** — Thirty-two guards with the Florida Department of Corrections were fired for criminal wrongdoing or misconduct in connection with the deaths of inmates, reports the *Miami Herald*. The deaths, some of which happened due to what the DOC is calling "inappropriate use of force" by the guards, occurred at four state prisons over a 14-year period. The U.S. Department of Justice is now investigating one of the deaths.

**15. Jackson, Miss.** — The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a lawsuit alleging that one Mississippi county illegally held inmates in jail for as long as a year without appointing counsel or presenting cases to a grand jury, *The Associated Press* reports.

## What Are You Thankful For?

### Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The last 61 days of the year begin in the 11<sup>th</sup> month of our calendar year. According to the World Almanac, All Saints Day is on Saturday, Nov. 1. On Sunday, Nov. 2, it is All Souls Day and Daylight Saving Time ends. Veterans Day is on Tuesday, Nov. 11, Thanksgiving Day is on Thursday, Nov. 27, and Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 30.

November is also National AIDS Awareness Month, National American Indian Heritage Month, National Adoption Month, American Diabetes Month and National Peanut Butter Lovers' Month. Finally, there are two astrological signs in November: Scorpio, the scorpion, (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) and

Sagittarius, the archer (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21).

Looking ahead to Thanksgiving, people do have much to be thankful for, aside from the personal, legal and social difficulties of life. Sometimes hardships can cloud our memory of the many blessings we enjoy. The United States may not have a perfect judicial system, but history has shown that it has often rendered justice, from issues of equality and discrimination to upholding our constitutional rights. The average American diet may not be ideal, but this country enjoys an abundance of food compared to many other countries.

Sometimes when people go through difficulties they forget how fortunate and blessed we are to live in the United States.

*Asked On The Line* conducted

informal interviews with men in blue and asked, "What is the one thing, tangible or not, that you are most grateful for having? Who is the one person or group of people you are most thankful for knowing or meeting?"

Chris Scull said, "I am thankful for having my Bible and I am very grateful for having my family, especially my mom."

Aaron Brock is grateful for being alive and is thankful for having his wife in his life.

Eduardo Delapena, 55, is grateful for having good health. "I can still play ball with the youngsters, even at my age." He is also thankful for having his son, daughter, sister and brother in his life.

Paul Oliver said that he is grateful for having his health and is thankful for his wife.

Borey "P.J." Ai said, "I am grateful for my computer. Very grateful for being able to use my computer." He was also thankful for having his family and

friends. (Editor's Note: Inmate Ai is employed by the Prison Industry Authority and his duties require computer use for clerical reasons. Computers authorized for inmate access have no Internet access.)

*"I am very grateful for having my guitar. But my family, I am definitely grateful for having my family"*

Martin Gomez-Galvan said, "Yo estoy agradecido por estar bien de salud." [I am grateful for being in good health.] "También estoy agradecido por tener a mi mamá y a mis hijos," said Gomez-Galvan. [I am also thankful for having my mom and my children.]

"I am not very materialistic when it comes to things," said

Richard Morris, while thinking about his answer. "I am very grateful for having my guitar. But my family, I am definitely grateful for having my family."

Adriel Ortiz-Ramirez said that he is grateful for his breath. "I am thankful that I can breathe," said Ortiz-Ramirez. "I am also thankful for my older sister and my niece and nephew."

Jesus Flores, 44, said that he is thankful for his health. "Yo fume y tome mucho cuando era joven. Ya no fumo ni tomo, y me siento sano," said Flores. I smoked and drank a lot when I was young. I don't smoke or drink anymore and I feel healthy."

Bobby Evans said that he is thankful for having peace of mind. As far as people he is thankful for, he said, "Immediately I would say family, but I think I would be doing an injustice to myself if I didn't mention the volunteers that come into San Quentin. I am thankful for meeting them."

Stephen Pascascio said, "I am thankful for having my health and strength and I am grateful for having my son."

# Arts & Entertainment

## Sudoku Corner

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

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

## Snippets

Great Wall of China was built by many different dynasties. In fact, it took more than 2,000 years to create the Great Wall of China.

In India yoga has been in practice for more than 5,000 years.

Victory speech for the Giants could be almost impossible if you were speaking the language of the Zulus of South Africa. Their language includes fifteen different clicking sounds just for the consonants along.

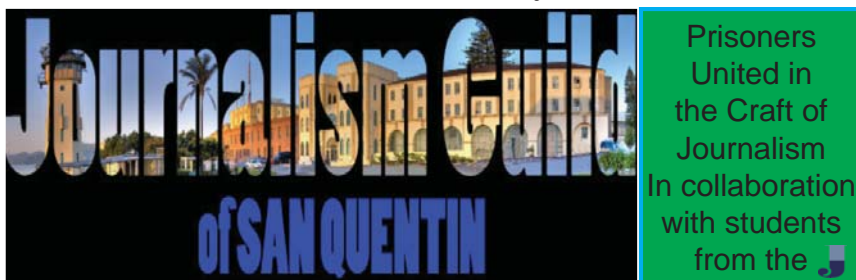
Edison, Thomas has a record of 1,093 United States patents on inventions, including the famous phonograph.

## POETRY CORNER

*Self-realization is not a matter of withdrawal from a corrupt world or narcissistic contemplation of oneself. An individual becomes a person by enjoying the world and contributing to it.*

*-By Francine Klagsbrun*

Contributions by:



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
Graduate School of Journalism



### BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is printed by the Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael with donations from supporters.

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, [www.PrisonPath.com](http://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.

## Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

## 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  
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San Quentin, CA 94964  
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San Quentin, CA 94974

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

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# San Quentin Kings Defeat Rival Bittermen, 74-60

## SPORTS

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Fast breaks and a talented bench lifted the San Quentin Kings over the visiting Bittermen basketball team, 74-60.

"Even though we lost, we love playing these guys," said Bittermen center Todd Simms. "This has been a friendly rivalry for years and we will be back."

The high-flying Kings opened up with a beautiful fast break. Kings 6-foot-2 point guard Oris "Pep" Williams ran the court with two forwards on his wings. Williams drove through the middle of the defense and faked a shot, which drew Simms off

his feet. Then Williams threw a no-look pass over his shoulder to P. "Strange" Walker for the layup.

"I was Magic," said Williams.

"That was a nice dish," said one of the spectators among the crowd excited about the play.

Another outstanding moment happened in the third quarter. Walker rebounded a missed Bittermen three-point attempt and threw a long outlet pass to Brian Asey, who made the extra pass to Tare "Cancun" Beltran, who alley-oop passed it to small forward Antonio Manning for the layup.

"Run and gun; it was show time," commented one of the Kings' players.

The spectacular plays didn't slow the Bittermen down. They used team chemistry to keep

the game close, knocking down open threes. They also showed a strong presence inside with center Simms getting the offensive rebounds and put-backs for several baskets. Simms finished with 11 points.

Following a timeout, the Kings returned to the game playing a tight two-three zone defense. It kept the Bittermen off the boards and challenged the three-point shooting.

"That defense helped us manage the game better," said Thad Fleeton.

The true game changers came from the Kings' bench. The sharp shooting of Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely and Charles "Pookie" Sylvester from behind the arc put the game out of reach for the Bittermen.

McNeely hit 3-5 for nine points. Sylvester went 3-7 for 10 points, making most of his



Photo by Raphaela Casale

P. "Strange" Walker elevates with the fade-away jump shot over Todd Simms

shots in the second quarter. The Kings' bench contributed 38 points, outdoing the starters by six points.

The starters were the work-horses, grinding it out against a strong, patient, organized team. Walker had 23 rebounds

and eight points, Fleeton added 12 points and Demon Lewis chipped in 11.

At the end of the game, all the players from both teams formed a circle with their hands in the center raised high and cheered, "Celebrate community!"

# San Quentin Hardtimers End Season With Victory Over North Bay Saints, 20-5

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team ended its season on a high note with a 20-5 victory over the visiting North Bay Saints.

"We did well. We won more than we lost," said the Hardtimers coach.

"Our record is 9-8 and one tie," said Nghiep Ke Lam, the Hardtimers' shortstop and assistant coach.

The North Bay Saints team includes members of Santa Rosa area churches. The Sept. 28 game was their first time playing on San Quentin's Lower Yard. Skip Bergeron and Mike Schramm of Cell to Cell Ministry brought the team in.

The game was closer than the score reflects and had many highlights.

In the first inning, Chris Bogart hit an in-the-park homer that allowed Dean Cimino and Ben Gardezy to score for the Saints.

*"With these guys, it really is about the team. They are committed to each other. It's never one person responsible for a win"*

The Hardtimers responded with a seven-run bottom of the first inning.

The Hardtimers added to their lead almost every inning, while the Saints' at-

tempts to come back were stopped cold by the Hardtimers' defense.

Top of the fourth, Bogart smashed the ball down the third base line. Hardtimer Mark Jordan dove to grab the grounder and made the throw to first while lying in the dirt on his belly for the out.

Hardtimers John Windham, Ke Lam, Jordan and Blake caught everything that came their way.

The Saints loaded the bases in the third, fourth, eighth and ninth innings but only got two runs out of that, leaving 10 men stranded on base.

"We just happen to be hitting the balls where they are, and they're hitting to where we are not," said Steve Cabezud of the Saints.

Gardezy took one for the Saints. He was accidentally hit in the nose tagging out



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Mark Jordan takes a big swing to contribute to the victory

Alias Jones at third in the bottom of the fifth. His nose started bleeding and he was asked if he wanted to con-

tinue. "I didn't go through all that clearance and security checks to sit on the bench," Gardezy responded.

The Hardtimers overwhelmed the Saints from the batters box. Rick Post led the Hardtimers, batting 1.000 with two doubles, three singles and six RBIs. He was followed by teammate Carlyle "Otter" Blake, who also batted 1.000 with one double, three singles and two RBIs.

"With these guys, it really is about the team. They are committed to each other. It's never one person responsible for a win," said Coach Dan.

"This is many guys' program, their therapy," said John "Yayah" Parratt, the Hardtimers third base coach.

Everyone is looking forward to resting and coming back next year.

"The off season gives everybody a chance to heal up," Parratt said.

"We love this game just as much as they do. We hope to come back once a month," said Saints coach and first baseman Jim Bennett.

# 32 Runners Compete in a 3 Hour Run

By Frank Ruona  
Contributing Writer

Sergio Carrillo took first among the 32 runners who participated in the 1000 Mile Club three-hour run by completing 21 miles.

Larry Ford, 58, completed 20 7/8 miles, Glen Mason, 51, completed 20 17/32 miles and Lorenzo Hopson, 60, with 20 miles, came in closely behind Carrillo, who is 41.

The race began with Hopson, Carrillo, Chris Schuhmacher and Chris Scull leading the pack for the first hour of the run with an eight-miles-per-minute pace. By the 15-mile mark, Hopson

slowed to an eight-minute and 55 seconds per mile pace; Scull fell back 11 minutes, and Schuhmacher went into walk-run mode.

By the 19-mile mark, Carrillo passed Hopson for the lead. Carrillo slowed to a 10-minute pace for the last two miles, barely beating Ford's eight minute and 37 second per mile pace. Carrillo also won last year's three-hour run by completing 20 3/8 miles.

The 25 other club members who completed the grueling run in preparation for the annual 26.1-mile marathon on Nov. 14 are:

See chart (right) for results.

RESULTS:		
Name	Age	Distance
Steve Reitz	38	19 7/8
Michael Keeyes	67	18 3/4
Louis Hunter	54	18 5/8
Miguel Quezada	33	18 1/2
Schuhmacher	41	18 1/4
Jesus Sanchez	36	18 1/4
Pedro Benitez	53	18 1/4
Lee Goins	57	18 1/4
Tone Evans	50	18 1/4
Bill Sullivan	60	18
Clifton Williams	53	17 3/4
Jose Sandoval	31	17 1/8
Juan Espinosa	43	17
Jerry Gearin	48	16 1/2
Darren Settlemeyer	48	16 1/2
Abel Armengol	33	16 1/4
Vincente Gomez	37	15 3/4
Nicola Bucci	41	15
Marlon Beason	35	10
James Robbins	44	10

# Warriors School Pacific Union Students, 100-92

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

A bunch of young college kids looked a bit apprehensive when they braved a visit inside San Quentin for a basketball game. But they found an easy rapport with the S.Q. Warriors.

Many of the youngsters looked nervous as they took the outdoor blue-green court in the prison's Lower Yard.

"People said it was going to be dangerous, but it's cool here," Pacific Union College's Jordan Greenwell at halftime said, "I'm comfortable playing — it doesn't matter against who."

He dunked in the game three times, including one on Anthony Ammons. Greenwell went up with the ball in his left hand, but Ammons skied up and was blocking it when Greenwell re-established control with his right hand and finished the slam.

"It was a shock. I thought he was going to go with one hand, but I loved it," Ammons said.

Greenwell led Pacific with 16 points, 10 rebounds, two assists, four steals and two blocks.

The Pacific team visited on Oct. 19 to experience the prison atmosphere. They learned about more than zone defense in the 100-92 loss to the Warriors.

"I brought my guys in as a learning experience," said Pacific head coach Greg Rahn. "I

want to teach them about life choices and toughen them up."

Rahn played semi-pro in the ABA for the Orange County Nobel Saints.

The visitors also included assistant coaches Jason Silsdorf and Anthony Gonzalez, and 17 players. Both Silsdorf and Rahn played in the game, but Silsdorf took an accidental elbow to the forehead and had to sit out the second half.

Silsdorf played pro in the Philippines and for Texas Southern

while in college.

In the game, the Warriors took a 16-point lead at halftime.

Before the second half, everyone met at center court for inspirational messages.

Ammons started talking about the resilience of his mother. She beat drug addiction right after his arrest and has written him every week since.

Next Harry "ATL" Smith told the youngsters, "I was in ya'll shoes. I was playing for San Jose State but one bad move ended me

up here. You really don't know what you have until you come up in here. Do the right thing."

"We are all sinners. We all make mistakes," Gonzalez added. "Do your best and then some." His son, Gonzalez Jr., played in the game.

For visitor Jarron Crump, the day was a reminder that he made the right choice.

"My dad played in the NBA until he tore his knee. He didn't have a plan B and ended up in prison. I was following his path, until I realized I didn't want to be where he was," Crump said to inmates and teammates gathered around. "There is more to life than basketball — have a backup plan."

In the second half, the Warriors continued going to the rack

and getting lots of calls, while Pacific went through its roster trying to find an answer.

The Warriors big three — Smith, Allan McIntosh and Ammons — were almost unstoppable. Smith led all scorers with 29 points, 12 rebounds, three steals, two blocks and an assist. Ammons had 23 points and a whopping 23 rebounds plus three blocks. McIntosh added 23 more points and eight boards, with three steals.

"The Warriors made us play more physical and not worry about calls," said Andrew "Drew" Rice of Pacific. He ended up with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Pacific's Robert Hicks came off the bench late in the fourth and turned up the pressure defense, causing several turnovers. Pacific cut a 20-point deficit to eight before time ran out.

"They didn't turn the pressure up 'til late in the game. Had they pressed earlier, it might have been rougher for us," said Daniel Wright, the Warriors' head coach.

Other highlights included:

Alias Jones threw Ammons a lob for a dunk at the end of the fourth. Shortly after, Maurice Hanks threw Smith an alley oop that he slammed down with authority.

After the game, Hicks led the crowd in prayer. Then the guys from both teams held an impromptu slam-dunk exhibition.

"They made a better choice than I did. They are the future — I want them to continue to be better than me. I'm living out my dream through them," Ammons said.



Photo courtesy of Ben Drea

After a competitive game, students from Pacific Union College pose for a picture outside the prison

## The Franchise Sweeps Its Way to a Title

The Franchise won the 2014 San Quentin Intramural Basketball League Championship with a sweep of all competitors, closing with an 81-79 win over Go Get It.

"All honor, praise and glory to Jesus Christ," said Harry "ATL" Smith about his Franchise-leading 23 points and 18 rebounds in the Sept. 21 championship game.

"We showed our seriousness and dedication by being the only team that practiced every Monday night and being the only team that created an assistant coach position. We earned the right to be here," said Franchise head coach Rafael "Nephew" Bankston after the winning the third straight game of the best-of-five series.

"I brought calmness, rationality, understanding and straight business to the team," said Franchise assistant coach Brad Shells.

The Franchise consisted of Kenneth Dozier, Anthony Ammons, Demond Lewis, Montrell "MD" Vines, Donte "Sandman" Smith, Marcus "B-Nut" Cosby, Joshua "JB" Burton, Harry "ATL" Smith, Ernest "Ern" Holloway and Derek Loud (who paroled before the finals.) They lived up to their motto: "It's all business."

The Franchise stayed in foul trouble most of the games, with Vines and D. Smith fouling out of finals game three.

"We won't give them nothing. I use all my fouls. It's just business," said Dozier.

Lewis motivated himself on court by talking trash.

"Ron Artest made a lot of crazy statements, but at the end of the day he won championships," said Lewis. "Since I got off the bus, I've won two championships." Lewis was also a member of the CBL half-court basketball championship team Fully Loaded.

"We are a brotherhood. We are a family. We took care of family business," said D. Smith after the game, while shaking up a water bottle and throwing H<sub>2</sub>O into the air.

Ammons, named MVP by his coach, had his personal best performance since high school with a 40-point, 17-rebound opening in game one of the finals on Sept. 7.

"That's the most points I've

scored in an official prison basketball game. I scored 53 in 1999 playing small forward for Centennial High School," said Ammons. "My focus that day was not to argue, but to play team ball and have fun. When you have fun, everything comes to you."

Vines also shined in that Sept. 7 game by hitting five three-pointers.

Motivated by his teammates to step up, "ATL" Smith led the way in the last two finals games. He had 25 points, 26 rebounds, five assists, five steals and eight blocks in finals game two. Ammons added another 20 points and 22 rebounds with four assists and two steals.

"I love my teammates, bro. If it wasn't for them supporting me thru all the hate on and off the

court, my mental wouldn't have been right," said "ATL" Smith.

"The Franchise is way too talented," said Shells. "When 'ATL' plays aggressive, his presence changes the whole game. Ant (Ammons) is the clean-up man and Montrell (Vines) plays mad defensive. It's like an all-star team playing regular ones."

Burton and Vines added nine points each and Cosby added 10 to beat Go Get It in the Sept. 14 80-62 win.

Burton credits his improvement to "coming out playing with my team and developing that family business love."

Vines also credits his teammates' support for his performance.

Game three of the finals was the closest of The Franchise's playoff run. Go Get It had its back against the wall and came out swinging. The lead switched back and forth with buzzer-beating shots ending the first and second quarters.

Greg Eskridge hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to cut The Franchise's lead to 24-21.

During the second quarter, Richard Zorns hit two three-pointers to give Go Get It a 39-35 lead.

At the close of the second, it was Sandman Smith who rebounded a missed shot and laid it up to cut Go Get It's lead, 43-40, at the buzzer.

In the second half, "ATL" Smith tried to dunk on Go Get It, but Allan McIntosh blocked it at the rim, drawing a foul.

"It was a block. There was a

foul, but it was ticky-tacky," said "ATL" Smith. "I have a whole new-found respect for (McIntosh). He is one of the toughest players I've played against while incarcerated."

McIntosh was the Go Get It scoring leader all season except the last game. There he finished with 22 points and 21 rebounds while Eskridge led with 28 points and 28 rebounds.

With the score 79-79 and two seconds left, "ATL" Smith was fouled going to the paint. He made both free throws, giving The Franchise the lead.

From four feet behind the arc, Go Get It threw up a Hail Mary that hit the backboard as the clock expired.

"Awesome," said Franchise fan Ben Ford.

"I told them to go handle business!" yelled fan and self-declared 12<sup>th</sup> man Ken Taylor.

In the final game, Dozier was the second-leading scorer for Franchise with 14 points. Ammons contributed 13 with 16 rebounds and Vines added 12 points.

"Congratulation on winning, although the Transformers weren't healthy," said Oris "Pep" Williams, guard from last year's Transformers championship team. He played this year with an injured elbow, severely hampering his sharp-shooting skills.

"Despite a few bumps and bruises, the season went well," said Ishmael Freelon, Intramural League commissioner.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**



Coach of the franchise Rafael "Nephew" Bankston holding up their team jersey

# Three Prison Bands Perform Their Unique Musical Talents on the Lower Yard

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Three inmate bands filled the air with their unique music on a Saturday morning in San Quentin's Lower Yard.

In the midst of tennis matches, basketball games and inmates observing the weekend, hundreds throughout the yard on Sept. 13 were listening to the hip-hop and rock sounds of *Contagious*, *Morris & Mason* and *Human Condition*.

"This was the first time that I actually stopped to watch a yard show," said Quinton Walker, who has been at San Quentin for eight years. "I think the group *Contagious* is fantastic. David Jassy, the lead singer, is a true professional."

Adding their own touch to the classic song "Oh Girl" by the Chi-Lites, *Contagious* brought a new level to live entertainment.

"The remix sounds good. They made it like an up-to-date version. It's a 10," said Charles "Pookie" Sylvester.

Raphael Casale, an office technician in the warden's office, is a San Quentin self-help sponsor. Casale sponsors the prison's music bands as well as an at-risk youth program called SQUIRES.

"We live in a tense envi-



Photo by Raphael Casale

Contagious performing their songs 'All of a Sudden' and 'Freedom' during the Yard Show

ronment," said Wilber "Rico" Rogers leader of *New Syndicate of Funk*, an inmate band that has previously played on the yard. "Our sponsor, Raphael, has brought continuity to the whole program. She restructured the program so that we could bring live

entertainment to the population."

Casale said that the administration supports positive programs such as Arts-in-Corrections.

"Music is powerful inside the walls. It's relaxing, brings community and it also helps

the artists to get along," Casale said. "How can you not support that?"

"Music soothes the savage beast," Rogers said. "This is an opportunity for us to release it through music."

While Richard "Richie" Morris of *Morris & Mason*

was tuning his guitar, he talked about what music meant to him.

"It's a connection that crosses all boundaries and barriers," Morris said. Pointing to his skin, he said, "This doesn't matter. I get to reach people where they're at. We've all been told by society that we don't have anything to offer. It's not true; we all have gifts. If we have gifts, we have to give them away. That's what my music is — a gift, and that's demonstrated to me by the way people react to my music."

In the song "Freedom" by *Contagious*, the hook resonated with the listeners as Jassy rapped, "I had a dream I could buy my way to freedom." Another inmate commented that the other lyrics of the song were meaningful, specifically: "Music is really our rehabilitation; just feel good for a little bit. Spread love."

When *Contagious* finished its final act, the men called out for an inmate favorite, "All of a Sudden." Jassy said they'd perform the song with one condition: the audience sing along. The rousing interaction between performers and audience heightened the yard's happy atmosphere.

*Human Condition* closed the show with a performance of original rock music.

# Brothers in Pen Project Gives Voice Through Writings at the Yerba Buena Arts Center

By Leslie Lakes  
Contributing Writer

Every Wednesday San Quentin inmates assemble to write and share prose and poetry, forming a group known as the Brothers In Pen.

These creative writers are part of an ongoing project that publishes anthologies of prisoners' writing. This September at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Zoe Mullery, who facilitates Brothers In Pen, shared the group's work for a crowd of 60 listeners. Carol Newborg of the William James Association hosted the event.

Former San Quentin inmates Henry Montgomery, Charles Talib Brooks, Carl Irons and Jerry Elster each read their own work.

The four readers sat with one another on a couch situated on a makeshift stage facing the audience.

Elster started the readings with "Hip Hop Ain't Easy in the Ghetto." Elster is currently serving as Healing Justice Program Coordinator with American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco.

Henry Montgomery followed with his "If Only I..." an interactive theatrical piece wherein he engaged three people from the audience to

participate in his enacted soliloquy. "If Only I..." comprised an imagined conversation that Montgomery would have if he were able to go back in time and have a chance to talk to his younger self before he committed the crime of taking someone's life, which resulted in a 16-years-to-life sentence. Montgomery joined Mullery's first writing class in 2007.

Charles Talib Brooks read "Summer of Love." By his own testimony, writing in prison became Brooks' educational system. It also helped him to articulate the pain he experienced because he was an introvert. Like many other men in the program, Brooks said, writing became a way for him to learn, grow, share and contribute to others through his short stories. Brooks later told the audience that he had wanted to read Noble Butler's "I Am" piece but wasn't able to do so due to time constraints.

Finally, Carl Irons read a story by Kris Himmelberger titled "22.8 Miles: A Memoir."

The readings were followed by a Q&A period. The formerly incarcerated men answered questions about transformation with authority.



Photo courtesy of Leslie Lakes

Jerry Elster, Zoe Mullery and Charles Talib Brooks read writings on behalf of prisoners inside San Quentin

A number of people asked for advice about their lives. A high school senior told how utterly anxious he was to leave the familiar and comforting life he knew as a teenager. The student knelt down on one knee near the foot of the stage and confessed he felt like he was running out of time. He asked the readers, "What advice do you have for me about

moving on?"

Jerry Elster said that the question was "profound." "There is so much more to the world than what you have already experienced," Elster told the young man.

Montgomery added, "I'm going to answer your question from a relationship perspective. I got married in April, and I'm already getting

a divorce. I cried for 37 days straight. I pray and meditate to face the fear of not wanting to be alone. Your very question is a form of moving on; today you have moved on."

Brooks told the student, "Just remember that the word 'fear' can be an acronym for False Evidence Appearing Real or Face Everything And Recover."