

San Quentin News

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

Edward Winner

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

VOL. 2015 NO. 5 May 2015

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,986

'Angel's List' Would Review Parolee Services

Adequate reentry support is not only critical to men and women released from prison but also to their families and communities. Evaluating the quality of reentry facilities is the goal of former prisoner Brian Ferguson.

"People are self-motivated to find the things that are going to help them out and the things that are going to get them back on their feet," Ferguson told re-

porter Christopher Moraff, for the website *Next City* on Jan 20. "People come home and they really want to change and want to make a life for themselves but the situation is such that they often have a difficult time finding the resources they need to do it."

Ferguson's solution is to create a web-based clearinghouse

See *Angel's List* on Page 4



File photo

California alone spent over \$4 billion prosecuting death penalty cases between 1978 and 2011

Death Penalty 'Costly, Still Broken'

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

The death penalty is broken in the U.S., according to a federal judge.

Judge William A. Fletcher of the Ninth Circuit Court of Ap-

peals told a student audience at Cornell Law School it has been almost 40 years since the court struck down mandatory executions for certain types of murder.

See *Death Pen.* on Page 5

School Adopts Restorative Justice Over Punishment

By Antonio Alvarado
Journalism Guild Writer

The Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) found that punishing students for fighting or breaking rules was ineffective. As a result, schools in Oakland

are implementing new methods for dealing with misbehavior, reported the *Rockridge Patch*.

Now students involved in fights or other disciplinary infractions go into a Restorative Justice program where they work to resolve their problems.

The program emphasizes that violence is never a solution to conflict.

According to the OUSD website, Restorative Justice is a set of principles and practices employed to build community and respond to student misconduct,

with the goals of repairing harm and restoring relationships between those impacted. Restorative Justice promotes dialogue in order to solve indifference and to avoid violence.

The pilot program in Oakland schools uses a three-tiered

model of prevention, intervention and supported reentry in response to conflict or inflicted harm.

Edna Brewer Middle School is one school in the district us-

See *Restorative* on Page 14



Photo by Sam Hearn

New coders posing with instructors Shawn Drost and Jon Gripshover

Code.7370 Certifies 12 Men As Web App Developers

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In April a dozen San Quentin prisoners graduated from an innovative technology training program where they had learned 21st Century computer coding skills. The class setting was a large space once used to store the 1930s-style printing equipment that until 2010 printed the *San Quentin News*.

The program, Code.7370, was developed by venture capitalists Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti in collaboration with the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA), the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Hack Reactor, a coding acad-

emy in San Francisco.

"The biggest challenge to teaching this course is the lack of internet access to the students," said Shawn Drost of Hack Reactor. "It's like teaching wood shop. You need material in class to use as examples. Most of the coding training is project-oriented where internet access is needed. We had to overcome that obstacle."

Silicon Valley's technology business community helped develop the course syllabus along with administering the instruction to the students.

The coding programs HTML, CSS and JavaScript are taught visually through a video conference call that the prison administers or the administration

can monitor. Hack Reactor volunteers and CDCR supervising instructor Jon Gripshover are on site at the prison to guide the students through the course. An offline computer lab is available four days a week where students can work on coding projects.

"Some of the students did not even know how to use a computer," said Gripshover. "Hack Reactor had to create a curriculum that would teach the fundamentals of coding, and then move on to the higher levels needed to produce applications."

Chris Schuhmacher, one of the graduates who was selected to speak at the ceremony, goes before the parole board this

See *Code.7370* on Page 11



File photo

Students and teachers gather for a Restorative Justice circle to restore relationships and avoid violence

Inside Edition #68

Code. 7370 certifies	1	Residential areas	8
'Angel's List'	1	Day of Peace paintings	9
Death penalty	1	Jazz legend F. Morgan	9
School adopts Res. Just.	1	Cinco De Mayo!	10
Former inmate	2	Ask on the Line	10
Criminal Justice System	3	Code. 7370	11
Police kill more Blacks	3	Arts & Entertainment	12
Billionaire conservative	3	An 'OG's' Perspective	13
U.S. firearms involved	4	Financial advisors offer	13
Curbing youth gun viol.	4	Fed. court prods state	14
Oklahoma lethal inject.	5	Parolees contin. to pay	14
Youth substance abuse	5	Movie Review	15
Editorial	6	Book Review	15
USF students perform	6	New database created	15
Letters to the editor	6	Yard Talk	16
Kid CAT Speaks!	7	Anti-violence campaign	16
Families file lawsuits	8	News Briefs	17
OR enacts criminal just.	8	Sports	18-19
Non-violent 3 strikers	8	Mother's Day	20
Portland adopts video	8	Prisoner's spiritual	20

Former Inmate Becomes Recreation Therapist for CDCR



Photos by Eric Owens, CDCR staff photographer

'Sitting in the county jail, I knew this wasn't where I wanted my life to go,' said David Earl White in an interview

**By Don Chaddock
Inside CDCR Editor**

In the early 1970s, poverty-stricken Compton's murder rate was second only to Los Angeles. A young black man named David Earl White knew this all too well – it was his home.

"In Compton, people were dying and they didn't even get an obituary in the newspaper," he said recently from within the walls of San Quentin. "I was putting my life on the line on the streets of Compton.

White served in the Marines in Vietnam from 1973-1975. After his release, he went to college but found himself immersed in the drug culture. In the mid-1980s, he was twice convicted of felony narcotics charges. "Sitting in the county jail, I knew this wasn't where I wanted my life to go," he said. So he decided to do something about it.

White isn't an inmate at the state's oldest penitentiary – he's an employee. White is currently a Recreation Therapist with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, working with inmates at San Quentin. He's worked for the department for six years.

Last Christmas Eve, Gov. Jerry Brown issued White a full and unconditional pardon for those drug offenses committed decades before.

"Mr. White is an outstanding and inspirational model of redemption and what a person can do with dedication and the will to overcome humble beginnings," said San Quentin Associate Warden Steve Albritton.

"I was raised on welfare without a father," White said. His single mother did the best she could for him and his siblings, but there wasn't enough food, he said. He sold items door-to-door to help with money, but he was getting 30 cents on the dollar when he was introduced to drugs.

"I was intrigued by the fact if I sold weed, I didn't have to share the profits," he said. "When I joined the military, it was the first time I got three meals a day."

White returned home as a war-time veteran and played football at Compton Commu-

nity College, but kept his hand in the drug culture.

"I broke a record at Compton CC for interception returns," he recalled.

Film from the play made its way into the hands of the coach from San Francisco State University.

"When I almost lost my life in the violence in Compton, I thought the best thing was to get to San Francisco," he said.

"I learned to read and write in college," he said. "I had to take certain courses to graduate, and I failed them all. I was on [college] probation for three years, and it took me almost six years to graduate."

"Dealing drugs was still a part of my life, especially in the 1980s," he recalled.

Finally, his double life caught up with him. White said one of his first times getting busted was for possessing drug paraphernalia. Later, it was for dealing drugs.

"When I spent time in the county jail and the work furlough program, I knew that wasn't the place to be," he said.

White earned a living driving tractor-trailers and used the money to attend seminary school.

"To not sell drugs, I was willing to work driving trucks," he said. He ended up earning a master's degree in biblical studies. Later, he started coaching high school sports, which then led him to coaching some college teams.

He started working with others in drug and alcohol treatment programs, but as a convicted felon, he always had to strive to prove himself even more.

"The pivotal part was staying in school and struggling, and learning from it," he said.

He runs the Narcotics Anonymous meetings in the prison. He also connects inmates with opportunities for self-improvement.

"(Most) of the people are in here because of choices they made on mind-altering drugs," he said. "They think they are strong enough to deal with their addictions, and they're not."

For many inmates, landing at San Quentin is the first time they have had to face their addictions and the consequences of their actions, according to White. "Mind-altering, mood-changing drugs are devastating to personal growth," he said

Currently he helps them learn to read and write, as well as learn job skills, such as driving forklifts or trucks, or deal with issues such as anger management. He said many think of themselves as victims of their circumstances, but White's personal story of struggle and drugs allows him to connect with the inmates.

On a personal level, White is back in school as well. "To keep this job, I had to go back to take eight courses," he said.

"I made the honor roll for the first time in my life. It's great being sober. ... I'm in school now to get my certification as a counselor for alcohol and drugs."

He said the pardon from the governor helps validate the path his life has taken and what he's doing to help others. He said while he's now turning 60 years old, he knows there is much more in store for him.

"It's a miracle for me to be here," he said. "But, I would like to further my career and do more."

Associate Warden, Steve Albritton says: Mr. White you are an outstanding and inspirational model of redemption and what a person can do with dedication and the will to overcome humble beginnings. You have come to the right place – San Quentin – with its rehabilitative fertile grounds. The men here, in various stages of changing their lives, can really benefit from your example.

Journalism Guild of San Quentin

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY Graduate School of Journalism



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

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

Send Submissions to:

CSP - San Quentin
Education Dept. / SQ News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964
To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to:

San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94974

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

San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:
(www.sanquentinnews.com)
(www.flickr.com/photos/sanquentinnews)

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

Administrative Review

Warden's Office Lt.S. Robinson
..... Sgt. Chris Sino
CDCR Public Information Officer
..... Kristina Khokhobashvili
Adviser Joan Liseter
Adviser Linda Xiques
Adviser Jennifer Lyons
Adviser John C. Eagan
Adviser Steve McNamara
Adviser William Drummond
Adviser Jon Spurlock

S. Q. News Staff

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia
Managing Editor Juan Haines
Deputy Editor R. Malik Harris
Journalism Guild Chairman
..... Kevin D. Sawyer
Staff Writer Miguel Quezada
Staff Writer Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer Westley Eisiminger
Sports Editor Rahsaan Thomas
Photographer Sam Hearnese
Researcher Richard Lindsey
Graphic Designer Phoeun You
Design Editor Richard Richardson

CORRECTIONS:
In May 2015's "Last Mile" article Jason Jones' name was misspelled. His name was spelled as Jason James. The S. Q. News strives for professionalism and apologizes for the mistake.

Report: Criminal Justice System Plagued With Racism

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

America's criminal justice system is loaded with latent institutional racism, a new study concludes.

"Disparities in police stops, in prosecutorial charging, and in bail and sentencing decisions reveal that implicit racial bias has penetrated all corners of the criminal justice system," The Sentencing Project study reported.

"White Americans who associate crime with Blacks and Latinos are more likely to support punitive policies – including capital punishment and mandatory minimum sentencing – than Whites with weaker racial associations of crime," it was reported.

The September 2014 report points to many factors that contribute to what it calls "the severity and selectivity of punishment in the United States."

Some factors, according to the study, are racial prejudice, conservatism, and crimes that stand out such as high profile, public interest crimes.

"These factors reduce empathetic concern about the hardships of punishment," the study said.

The study was released in the wake of last year's coast-to-coast protests and civil disobedience condemning the killing of unarmed Black men by police.

"Whites are more punitive than Blacks and Hispanics even though they (Whites) experience less crime. White Americans overestimate the proportion of crime committed by people of color, and associate people of color with criminality," the report said.

"When individuals believe that those who commit crime are similar to them, they more readily reflect on the underlying circumstances of the crime and respond with empathy and mercy," the report said.

Imputing crime to a particular race, infused with other factors, is a leading cause for the disparate punishment of people of color in the U.S., the study said.

African-Americans and Latinos combined are 30 percent of the general population, it was reported. However, these groups account for 58 percent of the U.S. prison population.

"By increasing the scale of criminal sanctions and disproportionately directing penalties toward people of color, racial perceptions of crime have been counterproductive for public safety," the report said.

Some studies show that Whites are more likely to break the law when they see that enforcement of the law is racially biased, it was reported.

"Although Black Americans continue to be overrepresented among arrestees, the de-

gree of overrepresentation has been falling for a quarter century," the report said. "Yet the profile of prisoners has been slow to adjust."

"By increasing the scale of criminal sanctions toward people of color, racial perceptions of crime have been counterproductive for public safety"

This type of racial bias in the criminal justice system "may foster White Americans' sense of legal immunity," the report stated. This creates a system where White Americans are more likely to uphold the use of punitive criminal justice measures, as opposed to other social policy tools, to deal with crime.

The study said the killing of racial minorities by police officers and armed civilians is due to their distorted assessments of them as threats.

Unwarranted deaths can sometimes be attributed to unjustified perceptions of a threat, the study suggested.

It cited these examples of "all-too-common flashpoints of the racialization of crime": the deaths of Amadou Diallo, an unarmed Guinean immigrant killed by New York City police officers in 1999; Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African-American teenager killed by a neighborhood watch coordinator in 2012; and Michael Brown, an unarmed African-American teenager killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

According to the report, racial minorities have different perceptions of the level of unfairness in the criminal justice system. This dampens community involvement with police and impedes criminal trials.

"In 2013, over two-thirds of African-Americans saw the criminal justice system as biased against Blacks, in contrast to one-quarter of Whites," it was reported.

The Sentencing Project study said the mass media's use of the "if it bleeds, it leads" approach to reporting crime contributes to negative racial perceptions about who commits crime. "Media representations of crime draw on, and contribute to, racial stereotypes."

The report said the media reinforces public misconceptions about race and crime by portraying African-Americans and Latinos in a different

light than Whites. It points to newspapers and television programs over-representing racial minorities as crime suspects, whereas Whites are typically depicted as crime victims.

"This includes a tendency... to exaggerate rates of Black offending and White victimization and to depict Black suspects in a less favorable light than Whites. Given that the public widely relies on mass media as its source of knowledge about crime and crime policy, these disparities have important consequences," the report said.

"The media, policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners can implement several proven interventions to sever associations of crime with race, and temper their impact," The Sentencing Project reported. "Policymakers can curb excessive incarceration and develop policies to reduce disparities in sentencing and crime rates."

All stakeholders, including the mass media, researchers, policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners, can use proven methods to reduce negative racial perceptions of crime, the report concluded. Policymakers, it was recommended, should identify and modify race neutral policies that have been shown to have a disparate racial impact.

"Policymakers are increasingly aware that branding people...harms public safety and wastes public funds."

FBI: Police Kill More Blacks Than Other Races

'Nearly two times a week in the United States, a White police officer killed a black person during a seven-year period ending in 2012'

A majority of the youngest people killed by police between 2005 and 2012 were Black males, according to statistics reported to the FBI.

"Nearly two times a week in the United States, a White police officer killed a Black person during a seven-year period ending in 2012," *USA Today* reported.

The article said of the 17,000 U.S. law enforcement agencies, roughly 750 are contributors to the database that tracks police shootings that result in the death of civilians.

"The killings are self-reported by law enforcement, and not all police departments

participate, so the database undercounts the actual number of deaths," *USA Today* said.

The investigative report found that there is no audit of the numbers sent to the FBI, and "the statistics on 'justifiable' homicides have conflicted with independent measures of fatalities at the hands of police."

It was noted that the recent shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown, who was Black, "was not an isolated event in American policing."

According to Geoff Alpert, a criminologist at the University of South Carolina who studies police use of deadly force, the limited FBI database under-

scores a "gaping hole" in the nation's understanding of the frequency in which police take the lives of Americans.

"There is no national database for this type of information, and that is so crazy," said Alpert. "We've been trying for years, but nobody wanted to fund it and the (police) departments didn't want it. They were concerned with their image and liability."

Alpert said he has researched hundreds of police department records and seldom found that someone will admit, "Oh, gosh, we used excessive force." He said, "In 98.9 percent of the cases, they are stamped as justified

and sent along."

The *USA Today* report on the FBI's Supplemental Homicide Report (2005-2012) detailing police shooting victims by age reveals:

Black males make up 56 percent of those killed under 20, compared to 41 percent Whites.

Black males make up 42 percent of those killed aged 20 to 29, compared to 54 percent White.

Black males make up 32 percent of those killed aged 30 to 39, compared to 65 percent White.

Black males make up 25 percent of those killed aged 40 to 49, compared to 71 percent

White.

Black males make up 22 percent of those killed aged 50 to 59, compared to 76 percent Whites.

Black males make up 16 percent of those killed over age 60, compared to 81 percent White.

According to research, these "numbers are likely undercounted due to missing records."

Christal Kennerson, whose nephew was shot and killed by an Albuquerque police officer in 2012, told *USA Today*, "I'll be the first one to say that they put their life on the line every day, but they're killing innocent people and kids."

—By Kevin D. Sawyer

Billionaire Conservative Political Activist Puts His Sights on Reforming Criminal Justice System

By Wesley R. Eisinger
Staff Writer

Billionaire Charles Koch says he's planning to campaign for criminal justice reform, according to news reports.

"Over the next year, we are going to be pushing the issues key to this, which need a lot of work in this country," Koch was quoted as saying in a Dec. 26 *CNN* report. "And that would be freedom of speech, cronyism and how that relates to opportunities for the disad-

vantaged."

Koch has a history of financially supporting Republican causes.

His chief attorney, Mark Holden, told the *Wichita Eagle* that the old tough-on-crime effort by lawmakers over the recent decades has disproportionately affected minorities.

"It definitely appears to have a racial angle, intended or not," Holden said.

The newspaper said Koch's interest in criminal justice reform started from a lengthy

and expensive case defending his company, Koch Petroleum Group. The firm was charged with 97 felony violations of environmental laws in the 1990s. All but six of the charges were ultimately dropped, and the company paid a \$10 million settlement, the newspaper reported.

Holden said Koch wants to address voting rights for former offenders and make it easier for nonviolent offenders to find employment once they complete their sentences.

"Koch's comments might come as good news to Sen. Rand Paul (R-Okla.), who's made sentencing reform a major part of his agenda while he tries to appeal to nontraditional GOP voters ahead of a likely presidential bid," said the paper.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey supports bail reform. Former governors Rick Perry of Texas, Jeb Bush of Florida and Mike Huckabee of Arkansas have been supportive of sentencing reform for nonviolent drug offenders.



File photo

CEO of Koch Industries,
Charles Koch

In the U.S. Firearms Involved Many More Suicides Than Homicides

'Suicides accounted on average for 60.5 percent of firearm deaths over the decade'

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

Most firearm deaths are suicides, not homicides, according to the 2015 Annual Review of Public Health.

Suicides accounted on average for 60.5 percent of firearm deaths over the decade ending in 2012, a university report says.

In the United States, "The mortality rate from firearm violence has remained essentially unchanged since just before the turn of the 21st century," wrote Professor Garen J. Wintemute of the University of California at Davis' Violence Prevention Research Program.

Since 2006, firearm homicides have decreased, but firearm suicides have increased by a like amount, he said.

"Alcohol and controlled substance abuse are important predictors of future risk for violence, including firearm violence, whether directed at others or at oneself and whether or not mental illness is also present," Wintemute wrote.

The review, titled "The

Epidemiology of Firearm Violence in the 21st Century United States," presents the following data:

In 2012, there were 32,288 deaths from firearm violence: 11,622 homicides and 20,666 suicides.

"Firearm violence is among the leading causes of death for teenagers and young adults"

The societal costs of firearm suicides and homicides were about \$164.6 billion in 2010, roughly 1.1 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product that year.

During the decade ending in 2012, there were on average 82.3 deaths from firearm violence every day: 32.5 homicides and 49.8 suicides.

Mass public killings accounted for a very small percentage of deaths from firearm violence. The four

high-fatality events in this century resulted in 84 homicides.

Firearm ownership is probably the most widespread factor associated with risk of death from firearm violence.

Compared with other industrialized nations, the United States has uniquely high mortality rates from firearm homicide and suicide.

Contrary to popular belief, mental illness by itself is not a leading contributor to interpersonal firearm violence, though depression is a major factor for firearm suicide.

Firearm violence is among the leading causes of death for teenagers and young adults.

Firearm homicides are concentrated among Black males through much of the life span. Firearm suicides, on the other hand, are concentrated among White males, increasing sharply after age 70.

The mortality rates from firearm violence varied greatly among the states, with essentially no correlation between the rates of homicide and suicide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now treats firearm-related deaths and injuries as a public health

problem; it collects such data and publishes them via its Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System.

Curbing Youth Gun Violence

'The solution to youth gun violence requires curbing access to firearms and providing mental illness treatment'



File photo

'Each year, nearly 3,000 youth are killed and approximately 16,000 are injured by guns'

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

The solution to youth gun violence requires curbing access to firearms and providing mental illness treatment when needed, a recent scientific study reports.

"Viewing gun violence prevention primarily through the lens of mental health is inadequate"

"Gun violence in American schools and communities has and continues to be a serious public health concern. Each year, nearly 3,000 youth are killed and approximately 16,000 are injured by guns," according to the report published in November on the Public Library of Science web site.

The solution requires closing background check loopholes, reducing civilian access to high-capacity weapons and normalizing safe gun storage practices, the report adds.

"Additionally, current research confirms that stricter gun control efforts are effective in curbing gun violence and substantially reducing the

number of firearm-related injuries and deaths," the report states.

It is politically difficult and complex to regulate gun control legislation. On the other hand, the mental health "angle" seems to be the easier pathway for clinicians, researchers and educators who want to prevent gun violence, according to the report.

The study was authored by Kelly V. Ruggles of New York University and Sonali Rejan of Columbia University.

"Viewing gun violence prevention primarily through the lens of mental health is inadequate in providing us with a complete understanding of the factors that are associated with gun violence among youth," the study says.

The author's list of six behavioral clusters that contribute to youth gun violence are:

- Physical activity and nutrition
- Disordered eating, suicide and sexual violence
- Weapon carrying and physical safety
- Alcohol, marijuana and cigarette use
- Drug use on school property
- Overall drug use

This study found 40 patterns between gun violence and youth. Behavioral factors consistently linked include heroin use, having been injured in a fight (bullying) and or having been a sexual victim.

'Angel's List' Would Rate Services for Parolees

Continue from Page 1

of reentry resources, called *Angel's List*, which he says has the potential to "completely revolutionize the service referral industry" for returning citizens.

The concept behind Angel's List is to have user reviews of the reentry facilities, similar to *Yelp* or to *Angie's List*, a guide for home repair services. [See sidebar: *Yelp Helps Spread the Word*]

Ferguson can draw from several existing lists of reentry resources: one in Philadelphia, two in California, and one in Texas, *Next City* reports. Unlike Ferguson's *Angel's List*, these resource lists are not rated for quality or usefulness.

Ferguson's idea caught the attention of Halcyon Incubator, a Washington, D.C., incubator program for social entrepreneurs that chose Ferguson as one of 10 fellows in October. Since then, he has received professional, technical support and access to potential investors, according to *Next City*.

Before going national, *Angel's List* is scheduled to launch in the D.C. area and New York City in 2016.

"Hopefully this will create a new competitive space for these organizations," Ferguson said to *Next City*. "It's a win-win because it allows people to have an input into their own success but it also facilitates the whole industry getting better."

—By Juan Haines

Yelp Helps Spread the Word



Yelp is a multi-national corporation headquartered in San Francisco, according to the free encyclopedia, Wikipedia. It develops, hosts, and markets yelp.com and the Yelp mobile app, both of which publish reviews from the public about specific businesses.

The company also trains small businesses to respond to reviews responsibly, hosts social events for reviewers, and provides basic data about businesses, such as hours of operation.

According to *Inc. Magazine*, most reviewers, sometimes called "Yelpers," are "well-intentioned" and write reviews in order to express themselves, improve their writing or be creative. However, in some cases, they write reviews in order to lash out at corporate interests or businesses they dislike.

Reviewers can be motivated by badges and honors—such as being the first to review a new location, or by praise and attention from other users. If reviews are written in an entertaining or creative manner, users can give a review a "thumbs-up" if it is "useful, funny, or cool."

Each day a "Review of the Day" is determined based on a vote by users.

According to *The Discourse of Online Consumer Reviews*, many Yelp reviewers are internet-savvy adults aged 18–25 or "suburban baby boomers." Reviewers are encouraged to use their real names and photos.

Oklahoma Lethal Injection Faces Supreme Court Review

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

Three botched executions in 2014 prompted the U.S. Supreme Court to hear a challenge to Oklahoma's lethal injection procedures.

"I am deeply troubled by this evidence suggesting that Midazolam cannot constitutionally be used as the first drug in a three-drug lethal injection protocol..." said Supreme Court Justice Sonya Sotomayor.

This case comes after the execution of Charles Warner, one of four Oklahoma inmates who filed the petition. The three remaining defendants will likely be granted stays, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

Four justices voted to stay Warner's execution, but it takes a majority five votes to grant a stay.

At least four inmates have been put to death even when four of the nine justices would have granted a stay of execution. Hofstra University law professor Eric M. Freedman urged the justices to change this practice and "stop permitting execution when four justices object."

Freeman added, "The justices



File photo

Oklahoma's lethal injection chair

deserve time to think. A statement by four of them that want time should suffice to postpone a potentially fatal deadline."

The petitioners maintain there

is a well-established scientific consensus that the first drug has no pain-relieving properties and cannot reliably produce deep, coma-like unconsciousness.

The suit claims the procedure produces a substantial, constitutionally unacceptable risk of pain and suffering from the administration of the second and

third drugs while a prisoner is conscious.

The case is *Glossip v. Gross*, No. 147955, cert. granted Jan. 23 2015.

Grant Aims to Curb Youth Substance Abuse in Detention Centers

By Lee Jaspas
Journalism Guild Writer

Kids with substance abuse problems and early contact with law enforcement are being treated with a new public health approach.

Many kids with drug problems get no treatment in juvenile detention facilities, according to Reclaiming Futures (<http://reclaimingfutures.org>), a nonprofit that helps kids in trouble with drugs and crime.

With a \$2 million grant

from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Reclaiming Futures is setting up a three-year pilot program called SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment).

SBIRT will be folded into several diversion programs.

Evan Elkin, special projects director for Reclaiming Futures, will be the clinical director of the program, according to Stell Simonton with the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange.

The SBIRT process includes an assessment using a brief questionnaire and a trained interviewer.

When kids indicate risky behavior, the interviewer provides information and motivation for change.

When SBIRT is adapted for use in juvenile justice, police and probation officers may be the ones administering it, says Simonton.

Law enforcement will be trained to use a "lighter touch" than they usually do in talking to kids about drugs. They will learn to ask with curiosity, to express interest, and to elicit the context of a kid's use, said Elkin.

They will be trained to suggest options, rather than dictating the kid's next move, Elkin said.

Though the SBIRT has not been widely used in the United States, the Hilton Foundation sees it as a promising model.

Death Penalty 'Costly and Ineffective'

Continue from Page 1

Despite the fact that the death penalty is no longer mandatory, the U.S. is the "only industrialized western country" using capital punishment for these types of murders, Fletcher said.

"Even in the face of poll numbers...that favored the death penalty," the U.S., Japan, and China are the only industrialized nations using this method of punishment, Fletcher said. Many European nations abolished capital punishment years ago.

Cost is the issue that most affects Fletcher's attitude about the death penalty. According to Justin Pascoe, an intern writer for the Cornell Chronicle, "The death penalty is extremely expensive. It costs more to execute a person than to keep him in prison for life."

California spent more than \$4 billion prosecuting death penalty cases between 1978 and 2011, a study revealed.

California would not spend that kind of money on those cases fit had "merely imposed life in prison without the possibility of parole," Fletcher said. Fletcher took issue with the extremely slow application of the

death penalty.

"Many more death row prisoners die from natural causes or from suicide than from execution," Fletcher said. In Fletcher's opinion, a death sentence amounts to life in prison without parole.

"Many more death row prisoners die from natural causes or from suicide than from execution"

The judge also asserts, "we do not know whether the death penalty actually deters homicide."

Fletcher claims certain methods of execution are unconstitutional. He said the electric chair, "once thought more humane than hanging, has now been held unconstitutional," and "there is currently a moratorium in California because of concerns about lethal injection."

Fletcher recalls a number of capital punishment cases involving police mistreatment

and planting of evidence, malpractice on the part of attorneys, and corporate influence over judges' behavior, which cause clemency pleas to become useless exercises.

Up and down the judicial system, "From the police to the prosecutors to the courts to the governors, at every rung we have seen the problems that I have described. Such problems don't occur in every case, but they occur in enough cases that we have a serious problem," Fletcher told Pascoe.

One example occurred Dec. 11 when an Arizona appeals court dismissed murder charges against Debra Jean Milke. She had spent 22 years on Death Row in connection with the death of her son.

In South Carolina, a judge threw out the conviction of a 14-year-old Black boy who died in the electric chair in 1944 for the murder of two White girls.

Since California reinstated the death penalty in 1977, more than 1,000 people have been sentenced to die. Just 13 were actually executed, reports the *Sacramento Bee* in a Dec. 20 article by Gerald Uelmen, a law professor at Santa Clara University.

"The first arrest is a great prevention point. It's a great opportunity to catch a kid when a behavior issue has first emerged"

"The first arrest is a great prevention point. It's a great opportunity to catch a kid when a behavior issue has first emerged," said Elkin.

Want to Read Better?

Sign Up For Free To Succeed.

Meetings

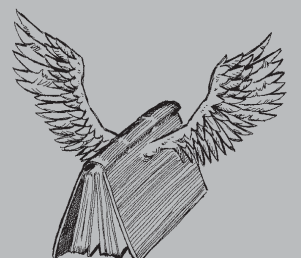
held at the

Education

building

Week nights at

6 p.m.



Parole Hearings: Where The Truth Won't Set You Free

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL

After reading the transcripts of prisoner Duane Edward Holt, it became apparent to me that he is living in an abyss, lost in an enormous black hole with no light. Holt is serving a life sentence for first-degree murder. He never knows when he will be released.

At his fourth parole board appearance on Jan. 8, he was denied parole for lack of insight and minimizing his role in the March 24, 1987, murder of Richard John Urban Jr.

Five years later after Holt's conviction, Robert Curl was found guilty of the same murder. Curl now sits on Death Row at San Quentin, appealing his conviction and sentence.

It is interesting that separate juries found that Holt and Curl pulled the trigger of the same gun that killed Urban.

More interesting is one of the questions posed to Holt by Commissioner Garner: "OK, did you get tried jointly with the shooter?" Holt responded: "No, he got tried five years later."

I find this exchange interesting because the way this question is framed, Holt was not the shooter.

To be clear, when I talked to Holt, he accepts full responsibility for Urban's murder. However, since he has not admitted that he was the shooter, the board does not believe his version of the events leading to Urban's murder. They think he is minimizing his role in the murder and therefore lacks insight.

"What do I say? They tell me to tell the truth," Holt said.

"All I want to do is be transparent with the parole board, and I often feel like I will spend the rest of my life in prison because I will not admit that I pulled the trigger. But if I did that, then I will be lying."

This is a perfect example of a needed change in parole hearing outcomes. If a prisoner insists that the crime did not happen the way the trial transcripts read, he should not be required to lie and say it did happen that way.

Today, looking back as he tries to explain how irresponsible he used to be, Holt says, "It now makes me feel different in a way that I know I couldn't go back. Some might think because I'm in prison that I lost my mind, but the fact is that in prison one can choose to live the same lifestyle, but I chose not to."

He makes no excuses for who he was before coming to prison.

Born Nov. 11, 1959, in Fresno, Holt is one of four children of hard-working parents. Holt said he began using drugs at age 14 to rebel against a very strict and sometimes violent father, who worked 40 years as a carpenter before dying of brain cancer in August 1982.

"As a young man I lived as an outlaw and developed a lifestyle which included being a drug dealer," Holt said. "I looked up to others in the underworld. These were my role models, and I was always ready to please them."

Holt said the negative environment he grew up in was

grounded in a motorcycle gang mentality. "The culture of drugs made me a slave to methamphetamine. It was all around me as a child; I knew no better."

In 1979, he married Jeannie Cooper and had two daughters. However, their marriage ended in 1983. Today, he has five grandchildren.

"It became too difficult to pull away from the drugs, the money, and all the criminal drama that goes with it"

In spite of the negative environment, Holt said in 1980, he earned a GED and completed a four-year apprenticeship carpenter program, eventually becoming a journeyman carpenter with a local union.

However, he still was in the drug life.

"Since I had no criminal history as a juvenile, and in an effort to save myself from drugs and self-destruction, I joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17 to serve my country," Holt said. "I achieved rank of lance corporal, but I couldn't leave

Appreciating Black History Month

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank you brothers and sisters for your newspaper. I really enjoyed February's edition celebrating Black History month. I think about the untold facts of African-Americans' scientific contributions to humanity. Communicating a culture's achievements is a good thing, but only recounting a small portion of the story perpetuates psychological hinderance when it comes to self-identity. There's a lot of negativity, we African-Americans had to overcome in the past, and the last thing we need is to reflect on a past that's bad luck. Not to mention it's long past time for us to stop begging for recognition.

—Demmings A.
Wasco State Prison

Response: We encourage you to submit your own articles about any 'story [that] perpetuates psychological hinderance when it comes to self-identity.' We want to bring further awareness to matters that affect you.

—S.Q. News Staff

that methamphetamine alone."

Holt said that he didn't understand the dynamics of the drug life until he was in too deep and over his head.

"It became too difficult to pull away from the drugs, the money, and all the criminal drama that goes with it," he said. "It turned out to be nothing but a big whirlwind of destruction for a young man with no real sense of direction."

He told me that all he wants to do now is help others not to become the product of a destructive culture.

"It has taken me years to unravel my life and to get a grip on my wrongs," Holt said. "I've done more since arriving at San Quentin than what I've done in 28 years of being incarcerated," referring to completing a vocational trade, and certification programs for building maintenance.

He said he regularly attends Narcotics Anonymous, SQUIRES, Kid CAT, the Richmond Project and Restorative

Justice meetings. He has also completed non-violent communications, Hope for Strikers, Anger Management, a domestic violence course, Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Teaching and House of Healing.

Holt's sobriety dates back to 1996. He says, "I struggled when I first came to prison because all I wanted to do was fit in. That's the way it has been throughout my life."

Today, Holt said that all of the programs have made him realize that he's carried a lot of resentment, shame, guilt and a poor opinion of himself. He said those feelings stem from a poor relationship with his father.

"I have a loving but distant relationship with my children," he said. "I have five beautiful grandchildren and used to get visits with them when my mother was alive to bring them to me." His mother labored for years in a planing mill. She died in February 2014.

USF Students Perform Restorative Messages

'Idle time does not contribute to successful reentry. Meaningful, engaging programming is key to assisting those in custody transition to the life on the outside'

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sport Editor

the show.

"Idle time does not contribute to successful reentry. Meaningful, engaging programming is key to assisting those in custody transition to the life on the outside," said Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi in his December 2014 newsletter.

Inmates did arranged movements to live flugelhorn music in the exercise area decorated with props.

"It takes one person to truly change, and then they can influence change in another person, and we've seen that here today," said sheriff Capt. Ideta. "Not just the inmates, but the students all expressed how this has changed them. I am always amazed by the talent we have here. These guys are breaking down stereotypes one at a time, and from here, who knows?"

A group of San Francisco college students and jail inmates presented a performance art show exploring mass incarceration and restorative justice issues.

Dance, music, spoken words, and an original score performed and composed by Jeffery Atkins, a local musician and composer, were the medium used to deliver their restorative message.

The University of San Francisco students, sheriff's employees, contractors, and inmates transformed pod 7B into a theater for the November 2014 show, called *Through These Walls*, according to the Sheriff's Newsletter.

A group of 25 USF students entered the county jail to watch

Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Expressing Frustrations About Unhealthy Conditions

Dear Editor,

Just read your newspaper dated July 2013. As an inmate at CCWF, any information that I am able to read and share with other inmates is truly appreciated.

I would love to receive your paper (*San Quentin News*) and will ask my family if they will send donations toward your cause.

A little about what is happening here at CCWF. Due to VSPW (Valley State Prison for Women) closing to women, all of the female inmates were transferred across the street to CCWF (Central California Women Facility). To say this prison is better, would be a lie. It's crowded (eight women per cell). The buildings are older, the air blowers do not work, the water wells are drying up, so the yards are dead grass and dirt!

There is an entire unit of medical elderly, with chairs and walkers everywhere. It's a sad, sorry place. Doing time here is the worst! Most try to transfer to CIW, the thought of two people per cell wins out!

This is not my first trip to prison, but will be my last! This prison and the staff here are not easy to be around. Some are caring staff, others are over-worked and tired of their jobs. Thank you for your time, and again, I would appreciate being placed on your mailing list.

Take care
—Wendy Labuda
Central California Women Facility

Editor's Note: According to the CDCR press office, all state prisons have cut back on water usage in light of the drought. In addition, both CCWF and CIW have dorm housing - Four bunk beds in a dorm - eight women per room.

Juvenile Lifers Honor Community Leaders Sandra Gutierrez and Nancy O'Malley

By John Lam
Kid CAT Writer

The James Irvine Foundation recently awarded \$200,000 to five individuals, representing four organizations, for being innovative leaders who provided break-through solutions to improve California's future.

Kid CAT will highlight two of the individuals who we believe represent the core mission of our values: inspiring humanity through education, mentorships and restorative practices.

One of the recipients is Sandra Gutierrez, founder and national director of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors. The other is Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

The first organization seeks to bridge a gap in the education of low-income Latino children. It creates a curriculum using the help of parents to teach goal-setting, positive discipline, and health and wellness.

The hope is to improve parents' ability to support their children's early development by being their first teacher and advocate, the leadership awards brochure explained.

Kid CAT Speaks!



Sandra Gutierrez: founder of Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley

The lessons begin with parents sharing stories and role-playing with the children and teachers.

The curriculum is highly accessible, and reportedly is one of the most-requested programs offered through Head Start.

The program has educated 37,000 parents in 95 cities, including Los Angeles.

A University of California at Berkeley study revealed that before the Abriendo Puertas program was offered, only 12 percent of the parents responded that they were able to prepare their children for school. After the program was offered, the number jumped to 77 percent.

"Parents make a huge difference in their child's early development through small things they can do every day like talking, singing and reading with them," Gutierrez said. "Students and society gain when parents can be strong partners in education," she added.

Gutierrez's work demonstrates the value of investing in early education by bridging the network of support required to foster a child's growth and development through education.

O'Malley was honored for the creation of Human Exploitation and Trafficking (H.E.A.T.), a watch program inspired by O'Malley's witnessing an increase of cases of exploited children in the city of Oakland.

Her program reaches out to professionals in the criminal justice system, social services, health care, and education to help them recognize the signs of child trafficking, report possible abuse and provide effective interventions.

O'Malley's program changed the approach law enforcement makes on this issue, treating exploited minors as victims instead of criminal offenders, the brochure said.

H.E.A.T. includes a team of

prosecutors, investigators and victim advocates that together address the needs of those who have been exploited while working to ensure their exploiters are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

As of 2012, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office has prosecuted 46 percent of all human trafficking cases in California.

"Her approach links exploited children to a network of social and safety services that help them escape from their traffickers, recover from physical and emotional wounds, and for some, start their lives over," according to the awards brochure.

O'Malley said people tend to look at and judge the person most visible to them — the child on the street engaging in commercial sex — and not see the adult trafficker or purchaser behind the scenes.

"By coming together, working collaboratively and providing a comprehensive response, we will save lives, and we will be more effective at preventing child sex trafficking from happening," O'Malley concluded.

Foster Care Children Fall Victim to Identity Theft

Thousands of children streaming out of the state foster care system discover they are victims of identity theft, the *California Office of Privacy Protection* reports.

"Children make attractive targets for identity thieves, because the crime is usually not discovered for many years, giving thieves years of unobserved use of the stolen identities," the report stated.

Foster children are especially vulnerable to identity theft because their information is passed through many hands as they move through the system.

As many as 30 percent of foster children may be the

victims of identity theft, according to Robert Fellmeth, University of San Diego law professor and director of Children's Advocacy Institute.

An *NBC News* report revealed, "Poor parents or other family members often use their young relatives' Social Security numbers" out of economic necessity to keep the lights on, put food on the table or feed an addiction.

The impact to these youths is far reaching. "They may find out that they cannot rent an apartment, get a student loan or even get a job as the result of a credit history ruined by identity theft committed while they were in foster care," the privacy office's 2011 report said.

Many times, the children may not know that they have been victims of identity theft until debtors put liens on their accounts, and their wages are garnished for debts they did not incur.

Fox News reported one case where a former foster care girl discovered someone racked up \$3,000 in bills in her name when she was 8 years old.

Other examples uncovered by the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs and Department of Children and Family:

- More than 100 victims of identity theft, with the average amount of debt of \$1,800.

- One child had been saddled with a \$217,000 home loan.

In 2006, California enacted a law intended to clear foster children's credit records before they leave the system. But because of procedural flaws and limited funding, implementation of the law was delayed, the privacy office reported.

Congress passed a law in 2011 requiring child welfare agencies to provide all 16-18 year old foster youth with free credit checks and help to interpret and resolve inconsistencies before they age-out of the

system, reported NBC News.

Advocates contend that state and federal laws have not been fully implemented, and even when checks are run, thousands of young people still age-out of the system with unresolved credit issues.

There are "no teeth behind the requirement, case workers are notoriously overburdened, and these requirements are not always followed," stated Sam Cobbs, director of First Place for Youth, a California organization for foster kids. The credit-reporting agencies have not always been easy to work with, Cobb concludes.

—By John Lam

Niños en el Systema de Foster Care Caen Victima al Robo de Identidad

Por John Lam
Escritor de Kid CAT

La Oficina de Protección de Privacidad de California reportó que miles de niños al salir del sistema de foster care (casa de cuidado temporal) descubren que han sido víctimas del robo de identidad.

El reporte dice que "los niños son un blanco perfecto para los ladrones de identidad, porque por lo general pasan muchos años para que el crimen sea descubierto, permitiendo que los ladrones hagan uso de las identidades robadas por años."

Los niños que se encuentran en foster care antes de cumplir sus 18 años y ser considerados adultos son especialmente vulnerables al robo de identidad porque su información pasa por muchas manos cuando se mueven dentro del sistema.

"Hasta un 30 por ciento de niños en foster care antes de cumplir los 18 años y ser con-

siderados adultos pueden llegar a ser víctimas de el robo de identidad," de acuerdo a Robert Fellmeth profesor en leyes de la Universidad de San Diego y director del Instituto Defensor de Niños.

Un reportaje de Noticias NBC reveló que, "Padres pobres económicamente y otros miembros de la familia a menudo usan el número de seguro social de sus familiares jóvenes por necesidad económica, para la electricidad, poner comida sobre la mesa o costear una adicción."

La Oficina de Privacidad en el 2011 reportó que, para los jóvenes que son víctimas del robo de identidad el impacto es enorme. "Ellos podrían descubrir que no pueden rentar un apartamento, obtener un préstamo o conseguir empleo como resultado de un historial de crédito arruinado por el robo de identidad, cometido durante su estancia en foster care."

Frecuentemente, los niños pueden no saber que han sido víctimas del robo de identidad hasta después que deudores ejecutan el derecho de retención sobre sus cuentas y sus salarios son embargados por deudas que ellos no han incurrido.

Fox News reportó un caso en donde una mujer joven que había estado en un foster care antes de cumplir los 18 años de edad, descubrió que había sido estafada en su nombre por \$3,000 cuando ella tenía solo 8 años de edad.

Otros ejemplos revelados por el Departamento de Asuntos del Consumidor del Condado de Los Ángeles y el Departamento de Niños y Familia incluyen:

- Mas de 100 víctimas del robo de identidad con un promedio de \$1,800 en deudas

- Un préstamo para la compra de una casa de \$217,000, fue impuesta a nombre de un niño

En 2006, California promulgó una ley destinada a limpiar el

historial de crédito de los niños antes de salir del foster care, pero fallas de procedimiento y fondos limitados retrasaron la implementación de la ley, reportó la Oficina de Privacidad.

NBC News reportó que en el 2011, el congreso aprobó una ley notificando que las agencias de protección infantil ofrezcan, a todos los jóvenes de 16-18 años quien están en el foster care, con revisiones gratuitas de sus créditos y asistencia para interpretar y resolver inconsistencias antes de cumplir la mayoría de edad en el sistema.

Los partidarios sostienen que las leyes estatales y federa-

les no han sido implementadas completamente y aunque se realicen revisiones, miles de jóvenes todavía salen del sistema con problemas de crédito sin resolver.

No existe "Nadie que presione los requisitos, los trabajadores sociales están notoriamente sobrecargados, y estos requisitos no siempre se cumplen," declaró Sam Cobbs, director de Primer Lugar para la Juventud, una organización de California para niños en el foster care. "Nunca ha sido fácil trabajar con las agencias informativas de crédito," concluyó Cobb.

Traducción Miguel Quezada

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship, and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the men and women juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.

Two Families File Federal Lawsuits Over Inmate Deaths

There were some prisoners who noticed that Parenti had a bluish hue on his face and summoned officers utilizing the phrase "Man down"

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

Two families have filed federal lawsuits claiming negligence in the death of a state prisoner and a jail inmate.

One suit involves Dimitris Kalatzakis, imprisoned at Salinas Valley State Prison. The other involves Jacob Parenti, a Monterey County Jail prisoner, according to the *Monterey County Weekly*.

Both were found dead in their sleeping quarters.

The Monterey County coroner's report concluded that Kalatzakis died from "blunt force trauma with strangula-

tion," allegedly murdered in October 2013 by his cellmate, Brandon Keen.

The Dec. 28 suit names the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, saying prison officials knew of Keen's skinhead gang affiliation and activity. Keen was serving 25 years for mayhem and was convicted of attacking another prisoner while he was housed in the Riverside County Jail, slashing the inmate with a razor in the face and ear.

The Kalatzakis family alleges that the department's policies and practices pertaining to the protection of pris-

oners were inadequate. The family also said CDCR policy states that inmates with prior violence toward cellmates should not be doubled celled.

Salinas Valley State Prison is known to be one of the most violent prisons in the state, the newspaper stated. The suit says the rate of inmate-on-inmate homicides there from August 2013 to December 2013 was the highest of any CDCR maximum-security prison.

Parenti's family is alleging that his death on Jan. 16, 2014, was due to inadequate medical treatment. The family's account of events, as reported by the newspaper, is as follows:

Parenti developed flu-like symptoms Jan. 10, and around the same time, began coughing up blood. He did not receive a medical appointment for a sick call request he put in that same day, nor did he receive one following another request Jan. 12.

On Jan. 15, Parenti was called along with other prisoners who were scheduled to see the nurse. Parenti was non-responsive when an officer was said to have gone over to Parenti's bunk and shook him. According to the article, Parenti was still breathing when the officer was present.

There were some prisoners

who noticed that Parenti had a bluish hue on his face and summoned officers utilizing the phrase "Man down."

Information was not furnished as to when Parenti was pronounced dead; however, the coroner's report concluded Parenti died of drug intoxication, induced by the use of multiple drugs.

The Parenti family sought an independent autopsy, which concluded that he died from the flu and that was complicated by pneumonia.

Parenti, 33, leaves behind a 7-year-old son.

Both lawsuits were filed in Monterey County.

Oregon Enacts Broad Criminal Justice Reforms To Thwart Costs and Size of its Prison System

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Staff Writer

Oregon has broadly changed its sentencing and corrections system, cut costs and stabilized its prison population since the enactment of legislation, according to a Pew Charitable Trust report.

The report quoted then-Gov. John Kitzhaber as saying in

2012, "With Oregon's biennial corrections budget now exceeding \$1.4 billion, we can no longer delay improvements to our corrections system here in Oregon. It's time for us to re-examine which policies are working and fix those that are not providing a clear benefit to our public safety."

The new legislation, House Bill 3194, aims to prioritize

prison beds for serious and violent criminals, initiate practices to reduce recidivism and establish objective measures of the criminal justice system and the use of corrections dollars.

According to the Nov. 1 report, from 2000 to 2012 Oregon's prison population had grown from fewer than 9,500 inmates to more than 14,000,

and from a cost of \$976 million to \$1.3 billion a year. "At the same time, funding was cut for critical public safety programs, including state police, county sheriffs, community corrections and victim services."

Under the new law, many nonviolent offenders now can serve shorter times of incarceration and be effectively supervised without jeopardizing public safety, Pew reported.

The resulting cost savings can be used for the most expensive correctional resources, including prison for serious and violent offenders.

The new law's projected savings will allow the state to postpone reopening shuttered facilities and shelve plans to

build an additional prison, Pew said. It is expected to save \$17 million during the 2013-2015 budget cycle and projections for the next budget cycle will save as much as \$67 million.

Some of the primary goals of the new law are:

"Ensure prison beds are focused on serious violent offenders."

"Promote sustainable use of corrections resources."

"Reinvest in Oregon's public safety system."

Though it will take several years for the full impact of HB 3194 to be known, the report said the signs are promising, and the number of inmates will grow less than 4 percent over the next 10 years.

Non-Violent Three Strikers Released But Lack Reentry Support

The transition from prison to freedom is being eased for hundreds of former inmates given beds in community rehabilitation centers.

An estimated 1,000 non-violent three strikers have been released in the wake of Proposition 36, which voters approved in 2012, reported the *San Jose Mercury News*. Initially they were not eligible for re-entry services.

Now they are being allowed to fill available beds in community facilities from Yolo to San Diego counties.

The arrangement was worked

out involving the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Stanford's Three Strikes Project, state Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

"Here's a great example — government can work," said Shelley Curran, a Judicial Council of California manager.

The lack of resources for this demographic became apparent with the realization that these non-violent three strikers would not be on parole, thus leaving them without access to

programs readily available to parolees.

Michael Romano, director of the Three Strikes Project, lauded the prison system for its work in helping foster this deal, citing that this was a huge step in the right direction. "They did the right thing here by opening parole support services to people who desperately need help," Romano said.

Proposition 36 did not set up any relief services to accommodate the large number of lifers that would be released.

—By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla

Portland Jails Adopt Video Visitations

'While adding this technology can seem appealing at first glance, replacing in-person visits with video visits is shortsighted and counterproductive'

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Investigative work done by the research group Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) was recently used by state and private organizations to pressure a county in Portland, Ore., to change a visiting policy in its jails.

"Thanks to pressure from the public and county legislators as well as persistent investigative reporting by Portland newspaper *Street Roots* that heavily cites our research, on Jan. 27 the Sheriff announced that he would overturn the ban (on contact visits), PPI reported."

The sheriff of Multnomah County (Oregon) had signed a contract with Securus Technologies, one of the vendors that lead the industry in the video visiting and prison pay phone markets. The contract was to provide video visitation

services in county jails which then banned in-person visits, according to PPI.

Families were then forced to choose between the time and expense to travel to jails to see loved ones through a computer screen visit, or pay \$1 per minute to visit from home using a personal computer.

"While adding this technology can seem appealing at first glance, replacing in-person visits with video visits is shortsighted and counterproductive," PPI reported.

According to PPI, the sheriff plans to amend the contract previously negotiated and signed with Securus. This will restore in-person visits.

"This is clear evidence that county jails, if they are committed to doing so, can successfully insist on changes to these harmful contracts," PPI reported.

Report: Residential Areas With High Incarceration Rates Likely Suffer From Stress

By Chung Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

Residents in neighborhoods with high incarceration rates are more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety, according to a recent article in *The New Republic*.

The story quotes researchers at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. They found elevated rates of major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder in neighborhoods with higher than average imprisonment rates.

The researchers reached the conclusion by cross-referencing address data from Michigan prison admissions files

and mental health information from the Detroit Neighborhood Health Study, with additional information from 4,180 individuals questioned by phone, the author said.

"There's absolutely no reason to believe that any of the damage done to mental health in Detroit is any different than it is in any other major city in this country," said Katherine Keyes, an epidemiologist and one of the researchers in the study.

"The researchers found that removing large numbers of people from a community disrupts what they call the 'social ecology.' It limits the availability of family and friends to provide the support, comfort,

and assistance that helps sustain human mental health," the author said. "In other words, when the threat of jail time is in the air, and your support network is diminished, the risk of major depression and debilitating anxiety grow."

"A study showing that elevated community incarceration rates create ripple effects that unnerve human beings may sound obvious. But the findings matter (in) a country where nearly 3 percent of the adult population is in prison, on probation or parole, and federal officials estimate that one in three Black men will be ensnared in the criminal justice system in their lifetime," the author cautioned.

Day of Peace Brings Art to the Lower Yard

By Tommy Winfrey
Arts Editor

For the last two years, the Day of Peace committee has brought art to the San Quentin yard.

On April 25 artists created acrylic paintings on canvas board to display their ideas of peace. Each painting was dedicated to a self-help group or program at San Quentin.

Some artists painted while out on the yard, which added an artsy vibe to the music from live bands. Others painted their works of art in the week leading up to the event.

Six of the paintings were actually finished on the yard by the open-air artists.

Although rain was predicted on the day of the event, the weather held off long enough for these six artists to do their magic.

All of the art supplies were provided by the Day of Peace committee, which is funded by outside donations.

Jun Hamamoto supervised the artists while they worked in the studio.

The easels for displaying the



Bruce Fowler produced a plane dropping a peace bomb on San Quentin



Hope for Lifers group presented an art piece of a girl with flowers with her gesturing a peace sign

artwork were built by Duane Holt and Tony Passer in the Vocational Building Maintenance program. "I made them out of reclaimed wood to be green and be in alignment with the Day of Peace message," said Holt.

This year's art was more dynamic, and the talent level has increased. "I thought the art wasn't so much like poster art as it was last year. I think the artistic talent was better displayed," said Danny Plunkett, treasurer

of the Day of Peace.

"I could tell the artists were putting their heart into their work. It was nice to see people contributing to the day," said Joseph Marquez, viewing the art.

Artist Antwan Williams allowed visitors and inmates to add to his painting by placing their thumbs covered in either White or red paint on his Ted X creation. The result was a canvas covered in inspirational thoughts surrounded by the prison community's thumbprints.

The day also featured a chalk art contest. Third place winner, Carlos Flores, won for his representation of a peace sign exploding out of the depths of nothingness. He said, "I can't believe I won anything. I feel honored."

Close to 20 people entered the chalk art competition, and Nicola Bucci won first place with his depiction of a bird on a peace sign. Bucci received a set of colored pencils and drawing paper for his winning piece.

All of the paintings were donated to the Day of Peace and will be auctioned off by Mind-

ful Peace Building, a nonprofit that sponsors the Day of Peace. Proceeds from the auction will help fund next year's Day of Peace, according to committee member Plunkett.

"It was my responsibility to organize the art this year, and I tried to find artists to represent the groups because I think art is a big component of the day," said Plunkett.

He went on to say that as a committee, they try to create a space for the event, but it is up to the population to establish the mood of the day.

"Art definitely helped to create the mood this year," confirmed Plunkett.

Bruce Fowler painted a plane dropping a peace bomb on San Quentin for the Veteran's Group. "I am happy if the painting brought a moment of joy to anybody who saw it," said Fowler.

"The art becomes part of the landscape, and it makes people feel like they're not in prison for the day," said Plunkett.

By the end of this Day of Peace, there were 21 paintings either finished or in process of being finished.



Artists showcasing their skills on the sidewalk. Nicola Bucci won first place with his depiction of a bird on a peace sign

Jazz Legend Frank Morgan Honored in Featured Documentary

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Legendary jazz saxophone player Frank Morgan was honored for a second time at San Quentin State Prison. *Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story*, a documentary film, was shown in the prison's Protestant Chapel in April.

In 2012, jazz icons paid tribute to Morgan in a live performance to a packed audience of inmates, staff, and outside guests. *Sound of Redemption* is the fruit of that evening when Mark Gross, saxophone, George Cables, piano, Marvin "Smitty" Smith, drums, Ron Carter, bass, Grace Kelly, saxophone, and Delfeayo Marsalis, trombone, made history here.

The film captures the performance and portrays Morgan's life, from his childhood struggles to being on his way to musical stardom when he became addicted to heroin.

Morgan spent the next 30 years in and out of prison, vainly searching for a repeat of that

first high.

"It was as if someone else had control of my life other than myself. And I was naïve enough to believe I was having a good time," Delfeayo Marsalis says in the film, quoting Morgan on his use of heroin.

The film's director, N.C. Heikin, and executive producers James Egan and Michael Connelly, came to San Quentin to show the film and to document the inmates' reactions.

Heikin videotaped inmates and asked them questions about *The Frank Morgan Story*. She wanted to know if they had attended the 2012 taping of the tribute concert.

"I found it very intense and enjoyable," said Paul Oliver. "I didn't know it was that powerful."

Oliver, who plays drums, attended the original filming of the 2012 concert. "When I play I'm actually not here. It's my tunnel out of here," said Oliver. "I could relate to him (Morgan) making mistakes."

Approximately 75 inmates

attended the film presentation. While its message may have been powerful for those who attended the screening, many others missed it, in spite of the event fliers posted in the prison cell blocks.

"A lot of men enjoyed the show," said Lt. Sam Robinson, the prison's Public Information Officer. "There wasn't that great of an interest (generally), which was striking."

Lt. Robinson said San Quentin hopes to be able show *Sound of Redemption* on the prison's closed circuit television station. Currently the film is released for viewing at film festivals.

"I met him (Morgan) in 1979 or 1980," said Ar-Raheem Malik, an inmate who recently was found suitable for parole after more than 35 years of incarceration. "I thought the movie was good. The main reason was he talked about the tragic life from using heroin. People can learn from the movie because heroin took him down a dark path."

"You can only try to kill

yourself on a daily basis for so long; eventually you're going to succeed," said an anonymous voice in the film.

Ed Reed, a former inmate and friend of Frank Morgan, attended the screening and said, "There was no yesterday and no tomorrow," when he used heroin. "We were all doing life on the installment plan." Reed is a recovering addict. He now does drug counseling.

"I know he (Morgan) went through a lot of adversity, but he overcame it through his music," said Lee James, an inmate who viewed the film. "I'm a jazz fanatic so I know all about him."

Arnulfo Garcia contributed to this article.



Lt. Robinson and film producer James Egan pose with *Sound of Redemption*: The Frank Morgan Story poster

¡Que Viva el Cinco De Mayo!

Jorge Heredia

¿Como se dice Cinco De Mayo en Francés?

Mucha gente disfrutara una cerveza fría este Cinco De Mayo ¿Pero cuantas personas saben porque lo están celebrando?

Algunas personas ahora saben que la celebración del Cinco De Mayo conmemora la victoria del Ejército Mexicano sobre los Franceses, pero pocos conocen la historia de los desagradables eventos que culminaron en la victoria y por lo cual los Estadounidenses desde entonces lo celebran tan efusivamente a la par de los Mexicanos.

Según la Crónica de la Cultura de las Americas, el conflicto data desde Abril de 1838, cuando una expedición Francesa tomó por asalto el fuerte del pueblo de San Juan de Ulúa. Los barcos bloquearon el puerto de Veracruz para demandar el pago por supuestas pérdidas sufridas por súbditos del Rey Francés Luís Felipe después de haber sido expulsados de México.

México rechazo la demanda Francesa, con lo cual barcos Franceses continuaron bloqueando el puerto de Veracruz y bombardearon la ciudad. La paz fue lograda con la ayuda mediática de Inglaterra. La crisis termino en Marzo 9, de 1839 con una victoria diplomática Mexicana.

La segunda invasión Francesa vino en 1862, cuando el nuevo gobierno del Presidente Mexicano Benito Juárez estaba envuelto en problemas domésticos y exteriores. En los años que siguieron, la caída del segundo imperio Mexicano y restauración de la Republica Mexicana estuvo caracterizada por faccionalismo político, caos y gran miseria por todo el país.

Donald W. Miles, autor, dice que en Abril 9, 1862, en Veracruz la alianza tripartita de Francia, Inglaterra y España fue disuelta, solo quedando tropas Francesas en México. Francia tomando ventaja del frágil poder económico y militar de México intento conquistar el país Azteca en 1861, usando la excusa de procurar el reembolso por la deuda, a pesar de la bancarrota



en la que se encontraba México al momento.

Los conservadores lideres Mexicanos, aún dolidos por su derrota en la guerra civil a manos del partido liberal de Juárez, solicitaron la ayuda de las monarquías Europeas, incluyendo Napoleon III de Francia, según Miles. A principios de 1862, tropas Francesas ocuparon la Ciudad de México y crearon una Asamblea Superior de Notables, los cuales estuvieron de acuerdo acerca de la forma de gobierno hereditaria constitucional monárquica, cual seria personificada por Ferdinand

Maximilian Joseph de Habsburgo, archiduke de Austria.

Los Franceses tomaron por asalto la ciudad de Orizaba, Veracruz, donde a mediados de Abril ellos escribieron un acta en la cual la autoridad de Juárez era desconocida y el General Juan Almonte era proclamado el Presidente de México.

Esto condujo a la gran batalla de Puebla en Abril 12, de 1862, finalizando con la victoria Mexicana sobre los Franceses el Cinco de Mayo de ese año. La sangrienta batalla tuvo lugar en el Cerro de Guadalupe. "Lorenz envió ola tras ola de tropas Fran-

cesas quienes en los fuertes eran rápidamente decapitados a punta de machetazos por Indios Zacapoaxtlecas," Miles escribe. El General de Brigada Porfirio Díaz, quien más tarde se convirtió presidente de México, tomo su caballería para salir al encuentro y abatió los atacantes Franceses que quedaban vivos, según Miles.

Sin embargo, los esfuerzos de Díaz no duraron mucho, porque diez meses más tarde los Franceses pusieron al archiduke Austriaco Ferdinand Maximilian en el poder—dándole el titulo de nuevo emperador de México en Junio de 1864, Miles dice.

El emperador Maximilian tampoco duro mucho, pues él fue capturado en Mayo 15, de 1867. Y con órdenes de Juárez, en Junio 19, de 1867, Maximilian fue fusilado junto a sus generales en el Cerro de las Campanas en Querétaro, México.

Simultáneamente, en Mayo de 1862. El Presidente Abraham Lincoln tenía mucho de que preocuparse. Según la Crónica de la Cultura de las Americas, los Estados Unidos estaba al borde de la autodestrucción por su propia mano (¿UNA GUERRA CIVIL estaba sucediendo!). Lincoln tenía los enormes recursos industriales de los estados del Norte a su disposición, pero las

fuerzas Confederales del Sur eran empedernidos luchadores en su busca por la secesión. Las tropas enemigas se descuartizaban entre ellos por decenas de miles con ningún claro ganador al momento. Si alguien del exterior se hubiera aliado con el Sur, eso pudiera haber sido suficiente para inclinar la balanza y dividir el país para siempre. Según la historia, tal aliado estaba haciendo su entrada a través de México. Éste era el ejército de primera clase-mundial de Napoleon III, sobrino de Napoleon Bonaparte.

¿Que habría sucedido si las tropas de Napoleon hubieran conquistado México, establecido su propio gobierno monárquico, el Emperador Maximilian, y después haber procedido hacia el norte y ayudar a los Confederales dividir los Estados Unidos en dos menos amenazantes naciones?

En las palabras de Miles, "Los Estados Unidos nunca se hubiera convertido en el importante poder mundial que es hoy día. Otra nación ocuparía el territorio donde los estados del sur de EE.UU. hoy se ubican, y la nación que conocemos como México probablemente aún estaría dominada por Francia. En vez de eso, los Mexicanos no solo retomaron su país, pero enforzaron la Doctrina Monroe e influenciaron el resultado de la Guerra Civil Estadounidense."

¿Como las compañías cervezeras convirtieron este gran momento histórico en un *Día de Borrachera Internacional*? Bien, pues cada buena victoria merece su debida celebración. Además, si pudimos mantener a los Franceses a raya y salvaguardar la soberanía de ambas naciones, para que preocuparse.

Yo digo, *laissez sánte et aimer la vie, alors que nous faire délicieux de la viande rôtir barbecue. Allons-y! Que la fête commence, et Que Vive Mai le cinq!* (ahique brindar y disfrutar la vida mientras cocinamos una sabrosa carne asada. ¡Vamos! Que comience la celebración, y ¡Que Viva el Cinco De Mayo!). Pero recuerde, su enfoque siempre tiene que estar en la educación, no en la cerveza.



En celebración del 5 de Mayo una pareja interpreta "Danza Folklórico"

File photo

What Do Prisoners Know About Cinco de Mayo?

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of May is one of seven months with 31 days. This year, May will have five Fridays, five Saturdays, and five Sundays. May holds some interesting and exciting events and observances.

The boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather was on May 2, Cinco de Mayo on May 5, Mother's Day on May 10, the Ascension of the Lord on May 14, the Day of Pentecost and St. Mary is May 24, and Memorial Day is on May 25.

According to the World Almanac, May is Clean Air Month, Get Caught Reading Month, National Barbecue Month, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, National

Asked on The Line

Inventors Month and National Mental Health Month.

There are two astrological signs in May: Taurus, the sign of the Bull (April 20 to May 20) and Gemini, the sign of the Twins (May 21 to June 21). The birthstone for the month of May is the Emerald.

One of the celebration days during the month of May is Cinco de Mayo. But do people know what May 5 commemorates? Asked On The Line asked men on the mainline to see if they knew the answer.

Lenny Rideout said, "I think Cinco de Mayo commemorates a war between Mexico and...I think it's the French. It commemorates the war that Mexico

won in the 1800s."

Eddie Herena said, "I think Arnulfo [Garcia] said it is a day when Mexicans get together and drink, without them understanding what they are drinking for."

Daniel Thongsy said, "It's not Independence Day—something to do with a war that was won in Mexico."

Carlos Flores said, "I think it was the expulsion of the French out of Mexico by village farmers. The farmers fought back the French with farm tools."

Sam Hearn said, "Cinco de Mayo is the celebration of the Latin culture."

Aaron Taylor said, "Cinco de Mayo deals with the one of

the significant battles that took place for Mexican Independence, although it's not Mexican Independence Day."

Mesro Coles-El said, "Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexican heritage and independence."

Raymond Bodine said, "One of the days that Mexico became independent from European powers. It's one of two key days."

Jesus Flores said, "Cinco de Mayo was to remember and celebrate the victory of the Battle of Puebla."

Quinton Walker said, "It's for the recognition of the Mexican Independence."

Jesus Flores came closest to answering the question. *The great battle of Puebla commenced on April 12, 1862, and a final victory was declared on May 5, 1862. With this victory,*

Mexico rid itself of a French-imposed emperor (Maximilian I) and assumed control of its own destiny.



A painting depicting the battle of Puebla

Code.7370 Teaches Prisoners Viable Job Training in Computer Coding



Photo by Sam Hearnes

'My biggest fear was what type of life I would have upon my release. Thanks to Code.7370, I have the answer'

Continue from Page 1

June. "When I first came to this class, I was at ground zero. But, I had a willingness to learn," said Schuhmacher. "My biggest fear was what type of life I would have upon my release. Thanks to Code.7370, I have the answer."

Schuhmacher said in six months of training he did 679 hours of coding.

"The 679 hours have changed the trajectory of my life," he said. "It has inspired me to want to pay this gift forward. Upon my release I'd like to donate 679 hours of my time to give others the opportunity to learn what I've learned."

Graduate Damon Cooke said learning coding was life-changing for him, his family and his community.

"A lot of people believe the mantra that men can't change their lives when they are in prison," Cooke said. "But, Coding.7370 taught me due diligence, perseverance, persistence and that the mantra isn't true. Before coding, I couldn't tell you the difference between a function and for loop. Now, I can deal with methods and operators."

Graduate Jorge Heredia said, "This certificate means that I add a notch to my life's value. It is a stepping stone that will be able to make my life and those around me better. It certifies that I am able to create something, and I'm on the right track."

PIA General Manager Charles Pattillo emphasized that this was the first time prisoners were taught coding. The annual cost to run the program is between \$60,000 and \$70,000, he noted.

"The next step is to get with private companies that would take contracts that would nor-

mally go overseas and give them to these graduates," said Pattillo.

Due to the vetting process the companies must undergo, the companies could not be named. However, Pattillo said there are five companies being vetted.

"I feel like a proud mom," said Parenti while looking at the graduates. Referring to program supervisor Gripshover, Parenti said, "Jon is the perfect fit for this program. He leaves his home at 4 a.m. each morning to get here. He's dedicated to this program."

Graduate Harry Hemphill, once employed by Volvo and Yamaha, said his addiction to drugs was his gateway to prison.

"I'll be getting out of prison going to a new world that I'm unfamiliar with. Code.7370 is my second chance in life. It gives me hope and confidence that when I return to society I can be a productive member. Jon (Gripshover) did an outstanding job getting us the resources needed for this program. He got down in the trenches and pulled us forward."

Co-founder Redlitz said, "We want this idea to be replicated and duplicated all over. We've been able to navigate through a lot of challenges. But, the administration PIA, and Hack Reactor worked with us to get this program going." Redlitz pointed to Pattillo and said, "Chuck is a can-do man."

One of the newest volunteers to the Coding.7370 program is 27-year-old Hans Schoenburg, a software engineer.

"I found that coming here and helping puts my professional life in the present. It allows me to give back, and have gratitude," Schoenburg said, "I have friends who teach in prison and they say that inmates are most engaged students."

Deputy Warden Kelly Mitch-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Coding team listens to guest speakers and waits to receive their certifications

ell thanked Redlitz and Parenti for bringing the program to San Quentin.

Mitchell looked at the graduates and said, "You're given the resources you need so that you don't come back. I truly believe that this class is preparing you for that. We hope that this will give you the skills to get a job at what you like doing."

"Everyone in the country is talking about this class," said Brante Choate, from the Office of Correctional Education in CDCR. "It is catching world-wide attention."

CALPIA trains approximately 8,000 offenders per year in service, manufacturing, and agricultural industries in California's penal institutions.

CALPIA is self-supporting and does not receive an appropriation from the state budget.

CALPIA has 11 other highly skilled training programs in



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jerome Boone explains to a reporter how to design a website

the Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, in addition to Coding.7370.

CTE carpentry, construction labor, modular building, computer training in Microsoft, and underwater welding programs are some of the most effective correctional rehabilitation pro-

grams in California, Pattillo told the audience. CTE graduates have a cumulative recidivism of 7.13 percent, according to CDCR.

Pattillo told the students that the best way they could repay society is getting out of prison and staying out.

Arts & Entertainment

Sudoku Corner

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

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

"Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened." -Sir Winston Churchill



Libby Raney with the paper on the streets of London at the Waterloo Bridge

Snippets

Victory was in favor of Fidel Castro's troops in the 'Bay of Pigs' during the U.S. attempt to overthrow Castro. The operation was poorly executed; as a result, the battle was an easy victory for Cuba.

In the 1968 Summer Olympics, Tommie Smith and John Carlos earned gold and bronze medals in the 200m (track and field). During the medal presentation they gave the Black Power salute.

Christian missionaries landed in Japan over 450 years ago. Hundreds of thousands were converted into Christianity.

The currency of East Timor is the U.S. dollar even though it is a tiny country in Southeast Asia.

Opium smokers in China can get punished with up to 100 blows from a bamboo stick and forced to wear a collar made of heavy wood for up to a month even longer.

Russia relinquished its imperial control over Finland after the Russian Revolution.

Yugoslavia had the fifth-strongest army in Europe while Tito was in power.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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



Wiñay Wayna (means forever yours) is an Inca Site, an elevated perch overlooking the Urubamba River. The Inca terraced the entire mountain side for growing food.

Featured photo courtesy of P. Jo

Soul Force: The Moral Struggle for Justice!

By Watani Stiner
Contributing Writer

"We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I reflect on my past, which was once my present, I find that it is this soul force for justice that proves to be the most effective and sustainable in the fight against racism.

I was an active participant in the Black Power movement of the 1960s. Similar to today, it was a period when America was confronted with the issue of police brutality and the devaluing of Black lives. It was a time when young people across this country were breaking through racist barriers, opening up closed doors of opportunity and raising critical questions about war and the unequal distribution of wealth and power. I was a time when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. raised the banner of non-violence. King is remembered for his nonviolence (sometimes scornfully by those who take the view that violence is necessary for social change) and for his "dream." But is he remembered enough for his uncompromising moral struggle for social justice?

For me and many of my peers at the time, the struggle against injustice was much more a

An 'OG's' Perspective



Photo courtesy of Oakland Tribune

Watani Stiner poses for a picture during an interview with the *Oakland Tribune*

physical struggle than it was a moral one. To us, *soul force* was elusive, intangible, and therefore no match for the violent impact of physical force. Our generational struggle against injustice was by "any means necessary!"

Over the past few months, there has been a national outcry over deadly instances of police misconduct in this country, and a social momentum seems to be building around this very real

and relevant issue of racism and police brutality. Our African-American president publicly acknowledged the deep-seated racism in this country, and the widespread police killings of young Black and Brown men across this country. Michael Brown, Eric Garner and so many others serve to illustrate his claim. (There are also daily episodes of senseless intercommunity violence of epidemic

proportions, young Black men senselessly killing other young Black men. We must not make comparative excuses for the loss of Black lives. Black lives matter, regardless of who pulls the trigger.)

In years past, there were essentially two tendencies in the protest movement against racial injustice and for social change: (1) Civil Rights; and (2) Black Power. The civil rights movement spoke to the conscience of this nation, compelling America to do a thorough self-examination over the mistreatment of its Black citizens. The Black Power tendency was to demand that America not only forsake its evil ways but do so immediately, or there would be consequences.

Examining my own life experience, I've come to realize that those consequences inevitably lead to more violence and only promote a perpetual cycle of *unintended* consequences. Being involved in the Black Power movement was crucial for me. It allowed me to reclaim and reconnect with my history, instilled in me a sense of racial pride, self-respect and a commitment to self-defense. It made me feel that I could and must make a worthy contribution to humanity because I was

more than the lies that had been taught to me by White society. I was Black, I was proud, and I was human!

But I have come to see that the fatal flaw of our vision was that the means were not as pure as the ends. This is where MLK had a wisdom I have now come to treasure, a wisdom drawn from his desire to imitate Jesus. "Means and ends must cohere because the end is preexistent in the means, and ultimately destructive means cannot bring about constructive ends." Throughout my journey — here and in exile — I've seen the consequences of violence perpetrated by men of good intentions, for good causes!

King's way provided an example of *soul force*. He gave inspiration for hope in a vision of human society in which peace, equality and human dignity prevail. His soul force comes from a deep conviction, the same passionate conviction that says all lives matter, and that a free, egalitarian and just society is possible. The hope of that vision reverberates today, and continues to have the capacity to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

—*Watani Stiner was recently released from prison after serving 26 years at San Quentin State Prison. He's completing his memoir and is enjoying his freedom immensely — particularly the freedom he has to communicate with, spend time with and enjoy his children.*

Financial Advisors Offer Recommendations on Smart Investment

'We investigated what the company physically looks like. You don't have to be big to do these things'

Freemen Capital, San Quentin's financial literacy class, received a visit in March from Arthur Chiakai Young and Paul Winston Blavin, financial managers from Tensile Capital Management LLC.

Young and Blavin offered advice about how to create savings from small investments and about the tax consequences of diversification and stock shorts. The dozen or so inmates who attended the class introduced themselves and asked Young and Blavin to describe their holdings in companies such as Apple, American Apparel, Tesla and Alibaba.

"We did lots of quantitative investigation before deciding to invest," Blavin said. "We met with company personnel, asked lots of questions. On the qualitative investigation, we investigated what the company physically looks like. You don't have to be big to do these things," he said. "You only need to be persistent and a hard worker. Think independently. Think correctly."

Blavin described how he had established Graceful Light Entertainment to utilize multimedia to enhance the impact of his philanthropic efforts.

Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, often referred to as "The Oracle of San Quentin," said teaching prisoners how to properly manage their money is directly tied to public safety.



Photo by Sam Hearn

The Financial Literacy team with advisors hanging out at the 'Day of Peace'

"We're not going to be able to make it on the \$200 gate money we're given when we're released from prison," Carroll said last month to a hedge fund manager and philanthropist who visited San Quentin's financial literacy class. "I am driven to see men take accountability in their lives."

Carroll advised inmates who have long sentences to start saving money while in prison because by the time they get out, many will be near retirement age.

In addition, Carroll said

teaching financial literacy to inmates and their families will reduce the percentage of children who grow up in poverty.

"I'm just the glue of this program," Carroll said. "These guys are going out and teaching their families what they've learned in here, and they are applying it right now."

Blavin said his business success is due to his instincts, honest and ethical behavior, hard work, patience and a long-term focus on always investing in high-quality people. As a way for giving back, Blavin said he

and his wife, Amy, established the Blavin Scholars Program at the University of Michigan and Northern Arizona University to support young people aging out of foster care to achieve their dreams of a post-secondary education and a better life.

These endowments support 30 young men and women annually. The Blavins say their goal is to eventually support 100 scholars on an annual basis.

Blavin is a Founder of The Teen Project's Freehab program. Freehab, as the name suggests, is a free, residential, 12-step

drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Blavin is also on the board of directors of HYPE LA-Helping Young People Excel, the South-Central Scholars and The Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

Young serves as the managing partner and co-portfolio manager of Tensile Capital Management LLC.

"Each generation should have it easier. So, teaching financial skills to children is very important. These days it is easy to get into credit problems and debt," Young told the inmates.

Several of the inmates in the class expressed excitement about what they've learned in the class.

"I'm taking this class so that I can help my daughter and grandson be independent and improve their lives," inmate Sam Johnson said.

Carroll said that earning money while incarcerated is not the only goal of the financial literacy class.

"We are a community of men that decided to give portions to charity," Carroll said. He added that inmates make a significant sacrifice in relation to their circumstances. "There's something to say for a person who is willing to put up \$200 as opposed to someone who can put up \$2 million."

The financial literacy program recently gave the Day of Peace committee a \$1,200 grant.

—*By Juan Haines*

Federal Court Prods State to Consider Parole for Non-Violent Second Strikers

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Under court orders, California's prison system has started processing non-violent second-strikers for parole consideration. A federal court ordered the process to begin Jan. 1, but it wasn't until March 13 that the classification committee reviewed non-violent second-striker Kacy Lloyd's case in San Quentin.

"I believe I'm the first second-striker to have his case referred to the parole board in San Quentin," said Lloyd.

A federal court issued a February 2014 order requiring the state "to create and implement a new parole process through which non-violent second-strikers (NVSS) will be eligible for parole consideration by the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) once they have served 50 percent of their sentence," according to the Prison Law Office.

The court order is part of the Plata decision requiring the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's prison population to be reduced to 137.5 percent of design capacity by Feb. 28, 2016, a goal the state has

met.

Lloyd has eagerly been awaiting a chance at parole since learning about the federal court's February 2014 order.

"I started going to the law library every week, checking to see when the state was going to begin referring non-violent second-strikers to the board," said Lloyd.

In September 2014, the Prison Law Office and other plaintiff lawyers filed a motion to the three-judge panel for a court order to make the state comply. In November 2014, the court ordered CDCR to begin considering NVSSs who met the criteria for parole by Jan. 1.

Lloyd, 41, said he meets the criteria for early release consideration.

He explained that he has served six years of a 10-year sentence, which is a year more than the required 50 percent of actual continuous time in custody needed. He was convicted for trafficking and distribution of narcotics, not any violent, serious or sex crime. He hasn't recently served a term in administrative segregation or been found guilty of any recent disciplinary infractions.

However, Lloyd was not immediately referred to the parole board.

"I started asking counselors questions about being referred to the board. They didn't know what I was talking about," said Lloyd.

On Jan. 11, Lloyd said he started writing everyone he could think of, including Case Records Analyst Dorothy Berry, her supervisor, Bolas, CCII K. Hilliard and Capt. P.J. Ericson. He didn't receive a response until after his counselor called Berry on March 2. Berry told his counselor that she forwarded his paperwork to Hilliard, according to Lloyd.

The next day Berry responded, "The screening process has started...your paperwork is entered into the system for potential referral. It is now up to your counselor to continue the process and refer it to BPH if you are eligible for release."

The next day, he showed Berry's response to his counselor, S. Malone.

After several delays, on March 13, the committee saw Lloyd and decided to refer him to the parole board.

"I felt nervous waiting to see committee. I couldn't be

referred to the board unless they said so," said Lloyd. "I sat there imagining what it must be like for a lifer."

Inmates have the first 30 days to submit any chronos, certificates or other paperwork.

"It is up to you, not your counselors, to send in all the paperwork you want the board to review, like certificates and chronos," said Lloyd.

Lloyd has prepared for release by earning his GED in June 2014. He also earned five welding certifications.

"My rehabilitation was setting myself up with a marketable skill so I would have an honest way to provide," said

Lloyd.

He has also taken self-help groups like Anger Management, the LA Project and the Staying Out Group.

Statewide, 664 NVSS were referred to the board from Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 for parole review. The board approved 10 inmates for release and denied nine.

However, "many cases are pending review because the 30-day period for written input from inmates, victims, and prosecutors has not yet elapsed," according to a March 16 update to the three-judge court submitted by the state.

Parolees Continue To Pay for Criminal Convictions

By **Juan Haines**
Managing Editor

General Winter meeting.

Holder said felon disenfranchisement laws are "unnecessary," "unjust" and "counterproductive," and "perpetuate the stigma and isolation imposed on formerly incarcerated individuals, [and] increase the likelihood they will commit future crimes."

U.S. criminal justice policies too often respond to people who are "sick, poor, homeless or unable to care for themselves or their families with the hammer of the criminal justice system," according to a study released late last year by the *Vera Institute of Justice*. "Then we continue to hammer them long after they have satisfied our need for retribution."

The study describes the post-sentence civil penalties, disqualifications or disabilities that occur from state or federal convictions as "collateral consequences" or "collateral consequences."

The report says that the legal and life-restricting consequences of having a criminal conviction are "varied, and often bewildering," in addition to impacting employment, housing, education and immigration consequences.

However, the study doesn't account for restrictions imposed by the private sector, i.e., landlords, employers or university admissions officers, "which stem not from the express operation of the law, but from the social stigma suffered by individuals with a criminal record," *Vera* reports.

Nationwide, *Vera* finds that there are approximately 45,000 laws and rules that restrict the opportunities and benefits available to individuals with criminal histories. However from 2009 through 2014, 41 states and the District of Columbia enacted 155 pieces of legislation to reduce the burden of collateral consequences for people with certain criminal convictions.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder called on states to ease or abolish "unwise collateral consequences" that stop offenders from fully reintegrating into their communities, in a February 2014 speech at the National Association of Attorneys

Vera says one of the collateral consequences of having a criminal conviction is its destabilizing effect on families. More than half of state inmates and nearly two-thirds of federal inmates are parents of children under age 18. As of 2007, 2.3 percent of individuals under age 18 had at least one incarcerated parent, an increase of 80 percent since 1991.

Fathers in particular lose contact with their children, *Vera* finds. Only 40 percent of fathers behind bars have weekly contact of any kind with their child, and contact decreases as the sentence continues. More than half of these fathers never have an in-person visit with their children.

Wall Street Journal cites a 2011 study by the FBI that found one in three adults has been arrested by age 23, and law enforcement has made more than one-quarter billion arrests in the past 20 years, according to a Federal Bureau of Investigation report. In 2012 about 70.3 million U.S. adults had criminal records.

The report found that follow-up support for mental illness, substance abuse or obtaining vocational skills or education was absent for the more than 637,000 men and women released from state and federal prisons, the nearly 2.6 million released from community supervision and the more than 11 million released from jail in 2012. "These issues, when left unaddressed, increase the risk of recidivism, and many of these people are returning to communities lacking the resources or services necessary to cope with these pressing needs," *Vera* reported.

School's Restorative Justice Program Aims to Deal With Indifference



File photo

Kids at Edna Brewer Middle School 'circle's up' to resolve conflicts

Continue from Page 1

ing the program, according to a *National Public Radio* post late last year.

"Instead of throwing a punch, they're asking for a circle, they're backing off and asking to mediate it peacefully with words," said Ta-Biti Gibson, the school's Restorative Justice co-director. "And that's a great thing."

District Superintendent Antwan Wilson and other officials at Lakeview Elementary School said the Restorative Justice programs have had a measurable impact on school behavior and educational outcomes, reported the *Rockridge Patch*.

According to Wilson, keeping the students in class instead of

sending them home as a disciplinary measure has increased graduation rates by 60 percent and has had a 128 percent increase in reading levels for students at schools that use Restorative Justice.

NPR said that the percentage of students suspended at OUSD schools that have fully adopted the Restorative Justice program "has dropped by half, from 34 percent in 2011-12 to just 14 percent the following two years."

"Children involved with the program have been willing to resolve their differences with words," *NPR* reported.

Schools throughout the U.S. are exercising the Restorative Justice program. The cities of Chicago, Minneapolis, Palm Beach County and Denver are

among several implementing their versions of such a successful program.

San Quentin's Restorative Justice Program:

San Quentin Restorative Justice Interfaith Roundtable Circle Program was founded in 2004 and is one of the most participated programs by inmates at the prison.

Several community volunteers show up on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, dedicating their time to promote the restorative justice principles.

"The waiting list for inmates to get in the program is long," said one of the community volunteers.

Monsters and Men

By SQ Reviews

MOVIE REVIEW

With the U.S. incarcerating more people than any other industrialized nation, it is not surprising that “the villain’s side of the story” has become a popular theme in entertainment media.

George Lucas’ last *Star Wars* trilogy tells the story of how love and loss transformed the Messiah-figure Anakin Skywalker from a galaxy’s hope into one of sci-fi’s most iconic villains, Darth Vader.

Vlad the Impaler (Dracula) impaled his way through Turkish troops in *Dracula Untold*, a film that delves beneath a macabre myth to produce a human story about a father protecting his son. On the CW’s new show *i-Zombie*, even zombies are airing their brain-eating side of the story.

Director Robert Stromberg’s *Maleficent* continues the trend of exploring monstrosity by telling the witch’s side of *Sleeping Beauty*.

Maleficent introduces the title character (played by Angelina Jolie) when she is a curious fairy child who falls in love with a human boy. The boy grows into the ambitious King Stefan (Sharlto Copley), who gains his kingship by trapping Maleficent and cutting off her wings. Driven by vengeance, Maleficent curses Stefan’s first-born child, Princess Aurora (Elle Fanning).

S.Q. Reviews gathers in the lot next to San Quentin’s Education Department. Rahsaan Thomas and Juan Meza are eager to talk about the monster’s side of *Sleeping Beauty*. They have spent their semester in Paten University’s prison program exploring monstrosity with volunteers Dr. Beatrice Kitzinger and Vera Shapirshyeyn.

Thomas says, “We all read

Sleeping Beauty and *Snow White*. We were regular kids, but something changed; we became criminals.”

DeWeaver nods. “It goes back to the theme that runs from *Dracula Untold* to Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Monsters aren’t born; they’re made.”

“Exactly,” Thomas says. “I’m not saying villainy is justified; it’s not, but it is understandable. And when we understand a thing, we can fix it.”

Meza objects to Maleficent’s characterization as a villain.

“For me, she’s nature,” says Meza. “The human king cut off her wings to possess her power like men try to possess and dominate nature. So I don’t think it was villainy. It’s more justifiable indignation against a perpetrator.”

“She cursed an innocent

baby,” Thomas says. “Can’t call that justifiable.”

Meza waves his hands in negation. “The curse came from her father’s crimes, just as we inherit pollution’s curse from our fathers’ government policies.”

“Maleficent took the father’s crimes out on someone who’d done nothing to her,” Thomas says. “That’s villainy. When my brother was shot, I ran and left him. I felt hella’ shame for running. “And I hated the dude who shot my brother. I couldn’t cope. And for a lot of years, a lot of people who didn’t know me or my brother paid for what happened to me. That’s wrong.”

“There’s a lesson in *Maleficent* that I had to learn,” DeWeaver says. “Growing up, I felt life had screwed me, so I screwed it back. I told myself these stories to justify crime. I felt justified, feeling I was in the right, but *right* doesn’t mean anything if I’m perpetuating destructive cycles. Beginning any cycle might not have been my fault, but I could’ve chosen to end it, to step out of it.”

DeWeaver adds, “*Maleficent*



is a fairy tale, so it ended happily. In real life, we have to be more diligent in breaking destructive cycles because true love’s kiss won’t wake us from the nightmares bad choices make.”

We rated *Maleficent* four dinner cookies for telling our stories.

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza and John Chiu.

Political Failures Behind Government Policies

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

BOOK REVIEW

Jose Saramago’s *Seeing* (2006) and Kafka’s *The Trial* (1923) have something in common: they both reveal the inherent disconnect between those who govern and those who are governed.

For me, the stories demonstrate the politics behind government policy and its failure to consider the everyday “man on the streets.”

In *The Trial*, Kafka refers to government officials with his line: *They’re constantly constricted by the law both night and day. They have no proper understanding of human relationships and in such cases they feel that keenly.*

In *The Trial*, Josef K is arbitrarily put on trial. He is told by a prison priest — in the midst of his trial and before his guilt or innocence has been determined — that he’s assumed guilty.

But, I’m not guilty, said K. It’s a mistake. How could any person, in general, be guilty? We’re all human, after all, each and every one of us.

That’s right, said the priest. But, that’s how guilty people al-

ways talk.

Are you prejudiced against me too, asked K.?

These criticisms of concentrated power emphasize obscure or incomprehensible situations, which find human rights are only for a select few.

I was drawn to both stories by their similar interpretation of government officials: the idea that once a select few are given the powers to govern, they lose the capacity to understand the implications of their decisions — they don’t comprehend the pain they inflict on the very people they’ve sworn to protect.

Saramago makes that point here:

The rash person who appeared to be ignorant of the basic tenet of social behavior, which teaches that in the house of the hanged man, one should never mention the word rope.

To understand Saramago, one has to be dedicated and have a willingness to concentrate on his peculiar writing style.

Seeing is a story told after

there has been a city-wide election and the voters have cast blank ballots. The government’s reaction is paranoia and martial law.

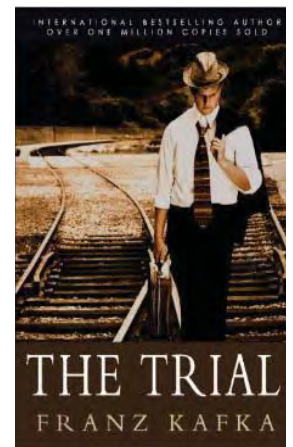
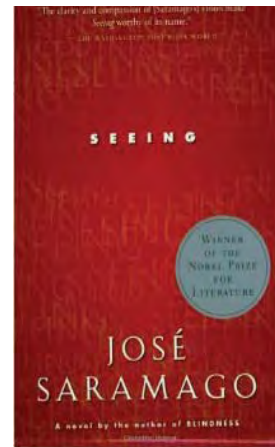
All top government officials, military and police evacuate the city and create a false narrative to re-establish normalcy, defined in their terms.

Saramago believes that: *Rights are not abstractions... people either deserve rights or they don’t...they continue to exist even when they’re not respected.*

Saramago shows his readers that making amends in spite of circumstance is a noble cause. However, he drives home the point that ingrained in the status quo is a constant element that sees anything contrary to the stability of government as severe and deadly.

Kafka’s Door Keeper character also shows the futility of resisting the status quo.

The Door Keeper explains how the Law works, while producing anguish in suspects told



the reality regarding their societal status. Oddly, Kafka has the Door Keeper give this information to suspects when it’s no longer relevant.

That being said, Josef K is told, *You don’t have to consider everything true; you just have to consider it necessary.*

K’s response shows the inherent gloom in “necessary” information:

A depressing opinion, said K. Lies are made in a universal system; K said that with a finality.

In the end I questioned the appearance of a dog in both stories.

Dogs represent various emotional states, from being a man’s comforter to being used as a derogatory moral statement about someone’s character.

I came away with a vague sense of missing something when reading about the significance of a howling dog at night or to die like a dog.

Still, for both Kafka and Saramago, death is merely a passing moment in their storytelling.

New Database Created to Keep Tabs on Police Department

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

The Legal Aid Society has created a database of wrongdoing of 3,000 New York Police Department officers. Eventually the database can be used by defense attorneys to question the credibility of officers in court.

The goal of the Legal Aid Society project is to provide a clearing-house for records of police misconduct to share with defense lawyers all over the city. NYPD does not make such information public.

Throughout the United

States, police departments are being criticized for their lack of transparency. The Legal Aid’s database is an attempt to track officers with a history of civil rights violations and other kinds of misconduct. This information will force judges, prosecutors and juries to take officers’ past actions into consideration when adjudicating cases. If a defense attorney can successfully call into question the credibility of an arresting officer, a defense attorney may be able to convince a judge to let a defendant out of jail without bail or even dismiss the case entirely. Police

misconduct can also serve as a bargaining chip during plea negotiations.

Detective Sekou Bourne is currently being prosecuted in NYPD’s administrative court for allegedly improperly frisking a woman and unlawfully entering her home in 2013 after concluding she had crack cocaine in her hand. Justine Luongo, the attorney-in-charge of the Legal Aid Society’s criminal practice, did a search in the database that brought up reports of seven civil rights lawsuits that had been filed against the detective. All the cases ended in settlements. This informa-

tion could be useful for defense attorneys when prosecutors try to build a case against someone based on Bourne’s testimony.

The impetus for the database came from Cynthia Conti-Cook, a former civil rights lawyer. She says when a criminal case begins, typically there is a “big red arrow that says ‘criminal’ pointing to the defendant” and not much a defense attorney can say other than “my client denies the charges.” With the database, a lawyer can quickly discover records of past misconduct by the accusing officer if they exist. With that information in

hand, defense attorneys can “start shifting that red arrow toward the police officer, by showing that they’ve also been engaged in activity that deteriorates their credibility.”

Conti-Cook added, “It takes the judge’s attention away from what your client did wrong to get here and puts more of a burden on the police officer to prove that your client actually did something.”

Legal Aid wants to encourage a comprehensive uploading of information to the system such as complaints being dismissed that could not be substantiated and making note of outcomes.

S.Q. Inmates Offer Their Ideas on Dealing With Community Tension Between Blacks and Police

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

When the Ferguson, Missouri, grand jury chose not to indict White police officer Darren Wilson for killing unarmed African-American Michael Brown, San Quentin prisoners watched television as protests erupted around the nation. Despite disappointment, the prisoners said they didn't want to give in to helplessness.

Inmates Demond Lewis, John "Yayah" Johnson and Eric Curtis met in San Quentin's gym to discuss how to stop the next Michael Brown or Oscar Grant from being killed by the police.

"If we can have a bad ripple effect, then we can have a good one too," said Lewis. "We have to let people know we care about them, and get them to carry our message out there. That's our contribution back to society."

Lewis, a 40-year-old from Perris, Calif., was sentenced to 109 years-to-life for shooting a man in the leg. Curtis, 46, from Compton, has served 20 years on a 50-to-life sentence for gun possession under the Three Strikes Law. Johnson, a 43-year-old from Oakland, is serving 30 years-to-life for bank robbery.

Yard Talk

"Knowing about W.E.B. DuBois and MLK means nothing if I don't deal with my psychosis," said Johnson.

The conversation focused on taking accountability and community-based policing.

Lewis: The biggest issue we have is that...police work in communities that they don't live in. People from the community would be familiar with the residents of that neighborhood. This is how you build relationships. You have to be able to talk to them.

Johnson: It's hard to be mistreated if you have a reputation for doing good. If Ms. Jackson isn't saying nothing about the crack being sold next door, then she's condoning it. She's confirming all the stereotypes that bring the police. We have to get out of the mindset that stopping crimes in our community is snitching.

Lewis: If they use money for police technology to fight crime, they can use money to stop crime. Put in more cameras.

Johnson: We can put cameras on us and arm ourselves with technology.

Lewis: We can talk about all the White police in the world, but we have to police ourselves. If we aren't getting more involved in what the police do in our communities, then we are no better than they are.

Johnson: If we hold our people accountable first, then we don't have to worry about police bypassing leadership and dealing with it. Parenting your children, and showing a better way, keeps police from doing it.

Curtis: Kids need to start wearing slacks and shoes. If you change the way a child dresses, you can change the perceptions. That should be a start.

Johnson: ...These (police) are professionals. If someone is not committing a crime, it shouldn't matter how they are dressed. If an individual is operating under a bias, then it doesn't matter what a Black man is wearing.

Curtis: We as a people of color need to disassociate our-

selves from everybody else, not forever, but long enough to get ourselves together.

Johnson: Why do we hate each other for being from different hoods? We have to deal with these problems now to deal with the future. By realizing mistakes, we can pass on answers. It's not right police come and kill us, but it's not right we kill each other. Other people feel they have to check us because we're perceived to be uncaring about ourselves.

Curtis: I agree. There is so much we have to deal with from ourselves and outside people.

Johnson: Do you think we're alone in this? Look at all the White people you see. We can go back and use the civil rights movement as a platform. You have to tap into your power base.

Demond: We rarely take accountability for our actions. You have kids that believe that it is OK to get tattoos on their face because Lil Wayne did it. We don't dispel the myths. You can't tote pistols or shoot people like they do in video games or rap about. That's how I got 109 years.

Johnson: There is no one-size-fits-all solution. We have to

look at the most egregious killing by the police and see why they happen. So how do we as Black men change that? We have to be more active in our community. We can't have an us-against-them mentality. There is no better opportunity to use the system than now...to our benefit to shame them

No one on the panel believes riots are the answer.

Johnson: I understand the anger involved, but rioting is unnecessary. It's not a medium that solves the problem - it makes it worse. City Council should be the vehicle to deal with these issues and us.

Lewis: Who is actually tearing stuff up? You have people jumping in with hidden motives and all this is going under one heading - this is how they act; they get violent! It's not true that it's all Black people out there doing that.

Johnson: People can't sit back and allow these things to happen because it justifies the excess force the police want to use. If we lack the knowledge and community support to fight these types of things, they get away with it. I think racism can be contained in the face of goodness.

Prisoner Advocates for Anti-Violence Against Women Campaign

By **Juan Haines**
Managing Editor

An "anti-violence against women" campaign is underway at San Quentin State Prison, and its main supporter brings the issue to the forefront through gifts to his fellow inmates.

"I provide a range of free services from hemming pants to haircuts to shaving mirrors. I also do mattress renovation. I fluff them up for people with bad backs and other ailments," said Barton "Sky" Buena Vista, who started the Violence Against Women Awareness group at San Quentin. "I do these services to break down the stranger barrier."

Buena Vista believes that the free services creates a window for dialogue and is evidence of sincerity.

The concept is simple: appearance is important for delivering a message. "If I can assist a person by giving him a haircut, then that makes a good impression on listeners of our anti-violence campaign," he said.

According to Buena Vista, he was only able to realize his own misconceptions regarding women by reflecting on the road that led him to incarceration. After Buena Vista experienced what he described as a painful falling out with his fiancée, he responded with a three-week drug binge during which he robbed several businesses in order to purchase more drugs.

"When I realized how wrong I was, I called the cops on myself," he said. "I don't say this to evoke pity, but to show how I had categorized my fiancée as



Photo by Kara Urion

Barton "Sky" Buena Vista spearheaded the Violence Against Women campaign

my property, how I could not accept her life choices."

"How lame is that?" Buena Vista lamented, laughing at himself. "This kind of thinking ruins lives. More everyday people than we realize think of each other as property."

Buena Vista formed the anti-violence group, which now has more than 70 inmates. Members meet in discussion groups to actively speak out against violence against women and counsel men about gender-related misconceptions, all without any sponsorship from outside of the prison.

"I'm interested in creating awareness in all staff and inmates in San Quentin so that we might come up to speed with what women have been going through for a long time," Buena Vista said.

Many of the inmates committed crimes against women and said they want to talk about

what they could do to "actively shift the paradigm of how women are viewed and understood," Buena Vista said.

"Violence against women is a global epidemic," said inmate Azrall Ford. "I'm passionate about stopping it. When I heard that Sky is doing this, I had to sign up. Our silence will never solve this important issue. Sky is giving us a voice within the walls of SQ. If we are serious about changing the way women are treated, we can heal the wounds we've caused against our sisters."

Several prisoners echoed this sentiment about false beliefs, forgiveness and reconciliation.

"My stepfather and biological father abused my mother, and my own case involved domestic violence," said Cleo Franks. "I believe a lot of women use their voice to defend themselves and a lot of men can't handle that, so they snap. I got involved

[with the Violence Against Women Awareness group] because I saw an opportunity to act on my concern for this human rights issue."

Inmate Alaren Frazier said that he grew up remembering how his mother's partner repeatedly abused her, and so he made a vow to never hit a woman. However, he said in his 20s, he got into a verbal conflict with his girlfriend, who became afraid during the argument and dialed 911.

"I was so mad at her. I had hate in my heart and snatched the cord out of the socket," Frazier said. "I was arrested and pleaded guilty to domestic violence. In my mind, I mentally murdered her."

Frazier said after reminiscing about his vow and recognizing how hatred was ruining his life, he realized how wrong he was and joined the anti-violence campaign.

"Any type of assault against women is cowardly, inappropriate and shameful," Frazier said.

"Violence against women awareness means I'm not OK with putting hands on women," inmate David Mageo said. "Women deserve more respect than they are getting. If all goes well I see them running this country and taking over our households."

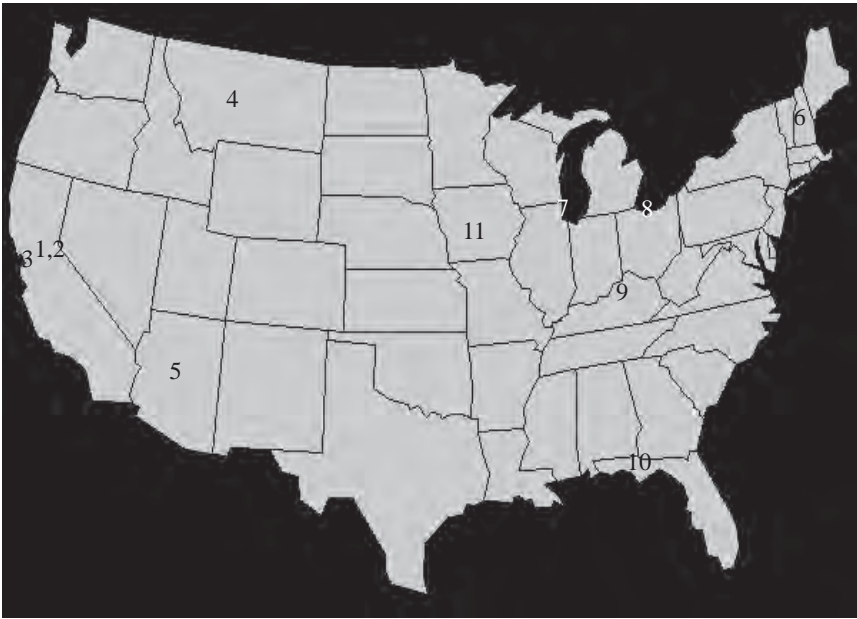
Buena Vista said he believes that by doing the little things in life, such as helping each other see themselves - through haircuts, shaving, providing mirrors and hemming trousers - it gets everyone to move beyond survival psychology in prison and abroad.

"We can attend to matters more mindful, creative and spiritual," Buena Vista said. "For the sake of the family and for the sake of stability, women of the Earth need to be given an equal say."



Anti-violence against women poster that was displayed on walls around prison grounds to bring further awareness

News Briefs



1. Sacramento, CA — David Long, 49, of Tehachapi, has been appointed warden at the California City Correctional Facility. Warden Long first served as a correctional officer at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison from 1989 to 1995. Later, he served in several positions at Ironwood State Prison from 1995 to 2014, including warden, chief deputy warden, correctional counselor and lieutenant. He was an associate warden at Mule Creek State Prison from 2006 to 2008 and a facility captain at the Adelanto Modified Community Correctional Complex from 2002 to 2006.

2. Sacramento, CA — San Quentin Death Row inmate Teofilo Medina Jr., 70, died of natural causes on Mar. 22, reports *The Associated Press*. Medina was sentenced to death in 1987 in Orange County and again in 1989 in Riverside County for killing three convenience store and gas station clerks.

3. Oakland, CA — A court case concerning solitary confinement gained attention when Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy told wire services, "Solitary confinement literally drives men mad." When referring to the penal system as a whole, he said, "In many respects, I think it's broken."

4. Barry County, MO. — Cecil Clayton, 74, was put to death by lethal injection after Gov. Jay Nixon denied a clemency request and the U.S. Supreme Court turned aside appeals claiming Clayton was mentally

incompetent, *The Associated Press* reports. Clayton was convicted of shooting a sheriff's deputy.

5. Phoenix, AZ — A judge formally dismissed murder charges against Debra Milke on Mar. 23. Milke spent more than two decades on Death Row charged with her 4-year-old son's killing. The case against Milke relied almost entirely on the work of a detective with a long history of misconduct, reports *The Associated Press*.

6. Concord, N.H. — Nearly three decades after being ordered to build a new women's prison to remedy disparities in the programs and facilities between male and female inmates, construction bids for the new prison came in \$20 million more than the \$38 million approved by the state legislature. Subsequently, almost \$13 million more has been allocated to the project, pushing the prison's opening to late 2017, according to *The Associated Press*.

7. Waukegan, Ill. — Juan Rivera, 42, who was cleared by DNA evidence of the 1992 rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl, was awarded \$20 million in a settlement, reports *Reuters*. Rivera, who now works at a medical research facility, told reporters that he plans to go to college and study business management and accounting.

8. Cleveland, Ohio — Ricky Jackson, 59, spent nearly four decades in prison after being convicted of aggravated murder

in the slaying of a businessman outside a corner store in Cleveland. The 1975 case relied on the testimony of a 12-year-old boy. A judge dismissed the charges after the boy said he lied and his recantation was corroborated in a hearing late last year. Jackson will receive more than \$1 million from the state for wrongful imprisonment, reports *The Associated Press*.

9. Frankfort, Ky. — The state legislature passed a bill designed to keep heroin dealers in prison longer and to give addicts clean needles in the wake of the state's increase of overdose deaths, reports *The Associated Press*. Gov. Steve Beshear is expected to sign the bill.

10. Tallahassee, Fla. — Some state legislators are pushing a proposal that would strip Gov. Rick Scott of complete control of the prison system by creating an independent commission that could investigate allegations of corruption or problems, reports *The Associated Press*. The state's prison system is one of the nation's largest and houses roughly 100,000 inmates.

11. Mitchellville, Iowa — The cost of expanding and renovating the state women's prison at Mitchellville has now reached a projected \$122 million, reports *The Associated Press*. Some lawmakers said they were surprised by the price tag, which was up from the initial estimate of \$68 million when the project was approved by former Gov. Chet Culver, *The Des Moines Register* reported.

We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductable. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. Do not use this address for general correspondence. Instead, write to the San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964. To contribute with a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on Support, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on Here. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael where our paper is printed.

FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott and RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Violet Adkins*, Lois Ahrens, Nassim Alisobhani, Alliance for Change, Betty Ford and Joellen Anderson, Corey Anderson, Faye Antolin, Jennifer Armstrong, Daniel Barton*Attorney at Law, Christopher B., Walter Baranger, Stella Batzel, Peter Bentley*, Luci Berkowitz*, Michael Bien, Iris Biblowitz*, Jeremy Blank, Ann Boone, Anne Bozack, Susan Breiding, Esta Brimage, Deborah Brown*, PL Brown, Christopher Buchen, Bruce and Maris Budner, Terry Butler, California Prison Industry Authority, Robert Canning, Julia Carney, Kasi Chakravartula*, Sua Shu-Kwan Chan, Celia Chazelle, Roze Albina Chez, Abby Chin, Yevgenya Chityan, Publisher Paul Cobb, Mac Coffey, Ann Colburn, Marshall Cook*, Kathleen Correll, Joseph Coyle, Kathryn Craft, John Creager, Simone Gabrielle Crowe*, Colorado CURE, Angela Laura Curtis, Kevin Danaher, Patricia Dark, Leigh Davenport, Marcus Davies, Christine Dell, Claire Elizabeth DeSophia*, Annie De Williams, Teresa Dillinger, Lisa Doering, Mark Drevno, Alison Dykstra, Braden Weeks Earp, Barry Eisenberg, Daniel Elber, D. Elser, Tamar Enoch, William and Carolyn Epling, George Estrada, Diana Esparza*, David Feld, Judy Fireman, Patricia Ann Foley, Jasper Frank, Sue Frantz, Adriane Fresh, Amy Friedman, James Friedman, Michael Furst, Sheilah Glover, God B. God II, Jordan Good, Dianna Goodwin, Judith Goldman*, Craig Gore, Sara Jones, Barbara Green, Joyce Griffin, Suzanne Gruber, Fred Gurtman, William Hagler, Ted Hamm, Danielle Harris, Barbara Hernandez, Mary Hiester, Tasha Hill, Carolina Holt, Douglas Horngard, Kathryn Howell, Harriet Iwamoto, Joann Jackson, Kathleen Jackson*, Anne Janks, Jeremy Johnson, Monica Johnson, Thea Johnson, Stephanie Jones, Seema Kacker, Kaitlin Kall, Norma Kanter, Susanne Karch*, Helen Kelly, Chad Kempel, Anthony Kenrick*, Derek Kerr, Richard Keyes, Courtney Khademi, Nancy King, Matt Klöpp, Dwane Kratchovil, Elise Kroeber, Will Kruisbrink, Toni Landis, Monica Lee-Griffith, Elsa Legesse*, Michael Leigh, Michele Lomelino, Jennifer Lyons, Andrew MacKay, Melvin and Cherly Macomber, Robin Madrid, Linda Mafrice*, Rosemary Malvey*, Carleen Mandolfo, Mary McAndrew, Bonnie McAlpin, Tracy McIntosh, David McConnell, Lindsay McCulley, June McKay*, Wistar McLaren, Ray Menaster, Stephan Metraux, Phyllis Mileo, Kristian Mjaland, Michael Morse, Kelly Mortensen*, Michele and Mrac Muller, Robin Myers-Li*, Marc Nadelman, Melanie Nasson-Kurgpold, John Nelson, Thomas Nolan*Attorney at Law, Virginia Norris, Hien Nguyen, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Jeffrey O'Donnell, Mark Olmsted, Michael Ogul, Irami Osei-Frimpong, David Pacini, Pat Palmer, Jay Parafina, Sarah Paris, J.S. Perrella*, Paul Peterzell, John Porter, Quilley Powers*, Prison Yoga Project, Martin Ratner*, Michel Ravnitsky, Stephen Reitz*, Galen Van Rensselaer, Maria Rivero, Cheryl Roberts, James Robertson*, Arthur and Elizabeth Rogers, Diane Rosenberger, Fred Rosenblum, Jennifer Rundall, Michael Munroe Saltzman, Teresa Samuelson, Law Office of David Scarson, J.B. Scherrer, Lucia Scott*, Jeff Seddon, Elizabeth Semel, Lillian Sharif, Jonathan Simon*, Ameeta Singh, Edward Skinner, Bob Slakey, Madeleine Sloane, Richard Spencer, David Spilker*, Megan Stubbendeck, Ed Swaitlo, Andrea Swanson, Rebecca Swinney, Nicholas Talarico, Jim Thompson, Bill Twist, Amanda Ufheil-Somers, Rebecca Valdivia, Stephanie Vardavas, Lori Vasick*, Forrest Moss Vreeland, Peter Wagner, Robert and Susan Weisberg, Carla White, Forrest Woolman, Elizabeth Zeitler, Sharran Zeleke, Robert and Elizabeth Zwicky.

*Have made more than one donation

Kings Leave Trailblazers Behind, 78-65, in Opener

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Kings opened the season on a sunny Saturday by beating a new visiting team called the Trailblazers, 78-65.

The Kings' pressing defense and guard play by Oris "Pep" Williams helped keep the game under control.

Williams scored 18 points using his height and court vision to find the open man – mostly new shooting guard Marvin Cosby. He also scored 18.

"I felt good coming off my surgery and rehab," said Williams. "Everybody on both teams played hard."

Williams just recovered from an elbow injury that had him wearing a sling for weeks.

The Trailblazers bought their own one-man show with power forward Will Wheatley. He put on a clinic, scoring 29 points to lead all scorers. Wheatley dropped shots from in and outside the paint. The rest of the Trailblazers found themselves living and dying by the jump shot.

"Coming here is nothing like I thought. It's very competitive; I enjoyed this better than playing outside," said Wheatley.



Photo by Raphaelae Casales

San Quentin Kings Tim Long and Oris "Pep" Williams leading Tare "Cancun" Beltran on fastbreak

The first quarter showed both teams were a little rusty. They took a lot of outside jump shots while continuing to find the right half-court spacing offensively.

The Kings closed the first quarter with a 17-15 lead.

"This is a new team (Trailblazers); this is the first time we are playing together. We just have to find that right combina-

tion of players," said Trailblazer player/coach Ted Saltviet.

Both teams finally settled down in the second quarter. The Trailblazers had to get most of their points off of long rebounds and fast breaks.

The Kings ended the half with a 39-31 lead, generated by steals and blocked shots from center J. "Mailman" Ratchford.

"We did well. We need to rebound better. Our half-court defense is good, but our transitional defense needs work," said Kings assistant coach Ishmael Freelon of the March 21 contest.

The Kings came out fast-breaking and running in the second half. Kings guard Tare "Cancun" Beltran's speed broke down the Trailblazers' defense.

He spun in the lane, dropping lay-up after lay-up.

The Kings racked up a 57-40 point lead, which promoted a Trailblazers time out call. Saltviet came off the bench and immediately drained a three-point shot that started an 8-1 Trailblazers run. They ended the third quarter down 10 points.

Ten points was the closest the Trailblazers would get. The Kings' Demond Lewis' shots started dropping and Thad Fleeton's mid-range game came to life. Both players struggled in the first half, but produced when it counted, stopping the Trailblazers' comeback.

The Kings bench only managed to score 20 points overall, but the team appeared well balanced and talented.

The Trailblazers will be back after shaking off the first game jitters.

"It takes a while to get used to playing here; everybody is watching you, but everybody is really nice," said Trailblazer guard Aiden, referring to a gallery of about 20 inmates.

Kings backup center, T. "Detroit" Long added, "I really enjoy playing the outside teams; it helps to demonstrate to the community that we are really people."

17 New Players Picked for S.Q. Giants and A's

Spring training brought out 50 inmates to try out for 17 spots on both the San Quentin Giants and A's teams.

The tryouts were held on the heels of Rugger Ardizoia Day, the former New York Yankee who visited and pitched in San Quentin back in 1952 and just turned 95 years old.

The tryouts lasted for two weeks and the best players entered into a draft.

The Giants received most of the draft picks to fill out their roster due to losing a lot of players recently.

"Spring training helps you get in shape for game day," said Anthony "Saadiq" Redwood. He was drafted by the A's for an infield position.

"I enjoy playing first base because of my age. The A's are a solid team and we have camara-

derie," added Redwood.

Volunteers overseeing spring training were Commissioner Elliot Smith, Giants manager Mike Deebl, and A's manager Steve Reichardt.

"I'd like to thank Lt. Sam Robinson (sponsor) for bringing us in," said Reichardt. "I think everybody is ready for opening day April 18."

Players fielded fly balls hit by A's head coach, John "Yahya" Parratt. He hit balls to right field, centerfield and left to check the players' fielding techniques.

Then the players were brought in for batting practice and base running. Any errors by a player resulted in running extra laps or pushups.

"We try the players' abilities to field the ball. Can they make the proper decisions on the throw? Can they run the

bases?" said Isaiah "Raheem" Thompson-Bonilla. "We check their baseball IQ and we want to see if they are coachable."

Baseball IQ drills consisted of the field captain calling out scenarios. For example, with men on first and third base, where should the ball be thrown to turn a double play?

Then the players are trained on how to play long and short balls. Long ball is how to make plays off outfield hits and short ball is how to make plays off bunts and infield hits.

"We were looking for guys who work hard and we found four new additions to our team," said Thompson-Bonilla.

"We have solid team chemistry," said Reichardt. "The core of the team is returning – team captain Cleo Cloman, third baseman Royce Rose, second

baseball Anthony "T-Tone" Denard and Thompson-Bonilla might be returning as pitcher; he is hurt but I'm optimistic. John Windham is also coming off of surgery, so we might just have him as the designated hitter and back catcher – he plays everything."

Reichardt said his pitching lineup is Chris Marshall, the longest player on the A's at five years, Gary Townes and Carlyle "Otter" Blake.

The whole team reminds me of the Philadelphia A's of the 1900s; they are that good, said Reichardt.

Denard, known as the East Bay Legend, was drafted by two pro teams – the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Minnesota Twins.

"Bad choices and being hard-headed cost me an opportunity,

but I've been playing this game since I was 2 years old," said Denard. "This is my getaway tool. I'm in prison, but when I'm playing, I'm free. This team reminds me of family – we are close-knit."

Marshall added, "These are my bros. I'm out here for them. We support each other on and off the field. This game teaches you ethics. The hardships, discipline and constant work ethic translates into your life. You have to follow rules, you have to follow instructions and you have to follow through."

"Baseball is a journey of life in itself. There are lessons of social ethics, morals and education to learn. 'It's a game,' as Hall of Famer Yogi Berra said, 'that is 90 percent mental and the rest is physical,'" said coach Parratt.

–By Marcus Henderson

Graced Out Tournament Draws Packed House

The third annual Graced Out Ministry Four-on-Four Basketball Tournament had the San Quentin Gym packed.

The team of Harry "ATL" Smith, Donte Smith, Montrell Vines, Marvin Cosby and Derrick Cartwright took first place, winning 25-24.

"I just do what I do, but really it's a team thing," said D. Smith, the game MVP.

Over 45 participated to form eight teams, which consisted of four players and one reserve.

The winner was the first team to score 15 points, going by ones from inside the arc and two from outside the three-point line. The championship final game was the first team to score 25 points.

D. Smith set the stage early by dominating the boards and grabbing defensive rebounds. He led his team in rebounding and scored 9 points. H. Smith

added 7, Vines, 4, Cosby, 2 and Cartwright, 3.

H. Smith gave a LeBron James performance by taking over scoring the final points, using his strength and speed to power his way to the basket.

"First I want to give praise to my Lord and savior Jesus Christ. I was happy just to be a part of this outing for the youth. I thank the Graced Out Youth leadership," said H. Smith. Then he shouted, "Hey mom, I love you!"

The championship did not come easy. The battle-tested team of Joshua Burton, Larry Jones, Edward Moss, Keith Lollis and Eric Curtis fought their way back into the game. After being down 14-5, they went on a 6-0 run off the sharp shooting of Jones.

They closed the gap 14-11, with a series of fouls and good

defense. They took the lead at 21-19.

Curtis put in a hook shot, and Jones dropped a midrange jumper for a 24-23 lead at game point.

Jones rushed his next shot and a disputed out-of-bounds call left the ball in Vines' wide-open hands. He sank the two-pointer jumper for the win on March 28.

"I enjoyed the tournament; I can't lie, 'ATL' abused me. I know I at least got him by 20 years," said Curtis.

The scariest play of the tournament came when Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll bumped heads with teammate Vernon Britten when both went for a rebound in the semi-finals.

The collision laid both teammates out. Carroll was taken away on a stretcher. He returned later after being diagnosed with

a concussion.

"I thank everybody for being concerned about me," said Carroll.

Jones took Carroll's place in the semi-final game, leading a stunning comeback win after being down 14-6.

The win sent them into the finals. Carroll and Britten still received their second prize with the rest of the team.

The third place winners were J. Brown, Derrick Holloway, Tim Thomas, W. Jackson and reserve Reginald Hola.

Earlier in the tournament, their team won a close game, 15-14, to reach the semi-finals.

"It wasn't just about the competition; we wanted to show our compassion, strength and humbleness as men," said Holloway.

Fanon Figgers of the youth ministry added, "We wanted to show unity and fellowship from

the church to everybody – to let them know this is not just a Sunday thing."

The tournament ended with a crowd raffle. James Metters presented the winner with a new Bible and toiletries.

All prizes were donated by the Graced Out Youth Ministry and the Garden Chapel.

Youth ministry coordinators were Ferrari Moody, Carl Saldano, Dwight Kennedy, Antoine Watie and Antwan Williams.

"This was beautiful – to get the youth involved, to introduce Christ into their lives," said Saldano. "We want to get the youth involve in positive things. San Quentin is a unique environment to utilize these programs. We help the youth with their educational needs as well. There is life after this, and we want them to be better."

–By Marcus Henderson

Stanford Students Capture Runners on Film

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

The positive impact of competitive running on prisoners was filmed by a Stanford University student trying to get his master's degree.

"You start running slow and something magical happens. Everything gets easier, stamina improves and speed picks up," Andrew Gazzeny, 47, told the visitors.

The documentary will be called *Laps*, said R.J. Lozada, 34, who is mastering in Fine Arts and Documentary Film Making.

"It feels good to get the exposure because it shows that we are doing something positive with our lives, despite our circumstances," said club member Bernard "Raheem" Ballard, 41.

"Thank you for helping me finish school," Lozada, 34, told the runners. "I believe in you guys."

Lozada was interested in doing a documentary on prisoners running a marathon because he was a runner himself.

"I had a passion for running. I ran a total of eight marathons, but don't do it much anymore," said Lozada.

The camera's eye caught top club runners like Lorinzo Hopson, Eddie Herena, Carlos Ramirez, Larry Ford, Steve Reitz, Glen Mason and Morceli Abdel Kader zipping around



Photo by Sam Heames

1000 Mile Club members running on San Quentin's Lower Yard

the track.

Ramirez took off with a huge lead, completing three miles in 21 minutes. Then Herena picked up his pace and showed him who the club record holder is. By the sixth mile, Herena took the lead for good. He completed 10.25 miles in 1:10:30. Ramirez completed 9.75. Ford and Reitz followed tied at 9.25 miles. Glen Mason completed 9 and Hopson 8.75.

The crew also filmed the last San Quentin race for Marlon

Beason and Abel Armengol.

After serving 10 years for robbery, Beason was released on parole. Armengol also paroled a few days later.

Beason, who is 289 pounds, found the will and determination to complete long distance runs. He completed 5.75 miles in the allotted time. Armengol completed 7.5 miles, tied with Jonathan Chiu.

Beason and Armengol said running helped them serve their prison time.

"It was a way of escape. I would get lost in the focus of breathing and the music coming through my headphones," said Beason.

"I'm glad I was running in the club because it was a stress release," said Armengol. "It helped me think about the right thing. It's a good benefit. The club helps you with running shoes and being part of a team."

Once all the runners completed the race, Lozada inter-

viewed them. He asked questions like, "What does time mean to you? What do you want the world to know about you? What do you think about when you're running? What's your favorite running memory?"

Answers included:

"Time allows me to reflect and to heal," said Ballard.

"I wasted a lot of time. I'm trying to make up for that by going to school," said Eddie Deweaver.

"Coming to prison is a waste of time unless you take advantage and do all the things you didn't do before—go to college, learn a trade," said Gazzeny. "The thought of wasted time is painful. Every day that goes by is something you can't get back."

"I concentrate on what I'm doing and coming in first place when I run," said Ramirez.

"My favorite running memory was my worst running experience. We ran a race in the rain, after waiting two hours for it to begin. My socks were wet," said Mike Keeeyes.

Lozada came in with fellow Stanford students Kristine Stolkakis, 26, Tyler Trumbo, 29, and Max Good, 36, as his film crew on Feb. 13. They had two video cameras and boom mikes.

His classmates are also majoring in Documentary Film Making. Stolkakis said she is working on one about Mormon women fighting to be priests.

Athlete Windham Dominates Football Clinic

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Punt, Pass, and Agility Competition found John "Dunnie" Windham dominating most of the events on that sunny day.

Windham took first place in the 60-yard dash and the distance throwing with a whopping 70-yard toss. He took second place in the speed and agility contest and the accuracy-passing event.

"I'm just glad to participate; my focus is a little off because I'm rehearsing my lines for an upcoming Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' play," said Windham.

With brains and brawn, Windham showed he has more than athletic prowess.

D. Martinez took first place in the speed and agility contest with a time of 17:61.

The speed and agility consisted of a 20-yard dash zigzagging around four standing orange cones. The competitor sprints to the section of cones, shuffles left and right, high stepping through them. Then one of the officials pitched a football to the runner for the final yards.

Windham posted a time of 17:91, but the one who seemed to have the most fun was Miguel Galvan. He came in last at 20:14.

"I like the competition. I just tried to set the pace. Since I was the first to run, everyone knew what time to beat," said Galvan.

"It feels great. I use to run track when I was younger," added Martinez.

George Gonzalez took first place in the punting competition with a 55-yard boot.

Gonzalez showed good form in all his kicks.

"This is a great experience. I've been playing soccer. That gave me the experience on how to kick the ball," said Gonzalez.

Nico Vargas came in second with a punt of 45 yards. "I'm only here because I have to be here," Vargas joked, quoting Marshawn Lynch of the Seattle Seahawks, who is one of Vargas' favorite players.

Charles "Pookie" Sylvester won the accuracy-passing contest with 185 points for both rounds.

The accuracy passing consisted of throwing six balls at four targets for points. Five points

were given for short targets, 15 points for the middle of the field targets, 25 points for each sideline and a 40-point bonus for the deep-ball target.

Sylvester racked up his points by hitting both sidelines passes, one center field pass and two bonus passes.

The rest of the competition focused on the deep ball for the bonus, but mainly they over threw the target.

Windham came in second with 180 points, and Shaheed put up 160 points for third place. They both did well in the first round but could not hit their targets in the second.

"It shows my focus is getting right," said Sylvester about his performance. "I thank everybody for letting me participate in this."

Windham took the distance throwing with a 55-yard bomb from his knees.

"Is he really going to throw from his knees?" asked Gonzalez.

That was his first throw. Windham launched a 70-yarder standing.

Shaheed came in second place with a 55-yard throw.

The competition closed with the 60-yard dash with all competitors taking part.

Windham cruised to first place, so all eyes were on who would come in second and third.

Frank Hicks took second place even after getting tangled with another runner halfway through the race.

"I got caught up with Martinez. I could have run a little



Photo by Sam Heames

John "Dunnie" Windham also competes in softball

easier, but I did regroup," said Hicks.

D. Zayd Nickolson, who came in third, added, "It was a blessing to see diverse participation. I hope to see more of that."

As the events proceeded, a small group of about 20 inmates gathered to watch the competition.

There was a low turnout for the competition because March 27 was also Last Mile's Demo Day.

"It was a fun day. Not many turned out, but we had new people show up, so it was a success," said Madden Flag Football League coordinator Chris Markham. "I saw a lot of speed out there, in case they want to show up and tryout for All-Madden."

Warriors Reloaded for 2015

The San Quentin Warriors were put through hell to get them ready for this season.

The first week of practices, called Hell Week by Warriors coach Daniel Wright, didn't involve the use of a basketball. While the basketball sat unused in the Lower Yard's rec-shack, Wright had his players run, and run and run.

"They ran two miles, 15 suicides, 20 sprints, another lap, 10 more sprints up the court and 10 times back pedaling, and two more suicides," said Wright.

"This is definitely a wind and endurance check," said new recruit Julio Saca. "I'm grateful to be part of the team and to grow

with them."

"It's tough; (Wright) ain't playing," said new recruit Miguel Sifuentes.

All the Warriors, new and old, tough out the drills in anticipation of the upcoming season.

"It will be an honor to play for the elite Warriors," said John Wang.

"We are trying to fulfill our hoop dreams," said Sifuentes. "I'm thankful the Christian Sports Ministry are giving us this opportunity."

This year's 2015 Warriors are: New recruits:

D. "Frog" DeWitt, Tommie Nellon, Saca, Sifuentes and

Wang.

And returning Warriors: Allan McIntosh, Anthony Ammons, Harry "ATL" Smith, Donte Smith, Brad Shells, Montrell Vines, DuPriest Brown and Rafael Cuevas.

Greg Eskridge is an alternate, along with a surprise player.

"If my players don't bring it this year, I'm telling the sports editor to suit up," said Wright.

This year, Joshua Burton is a guard coach and Paul Oliver is the big man coach.

"Making the Warriors feels good. It's something I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Nellon.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

Prisoners Expresses Gratitude on Mother's Day



File photo

Nguyen "Lisa" Ngo, Ke Lam's mom



File photo

Annie Benson, Antoine's mom



File photo

Martha Winfrey, Tommy's mom



File photo

Maria, Lucilla and Lucy Quezada, Miguel's mom and sisters (1980)



File photo

Raynna Bunuou and Mony Yai, Phoeun's sister and mom

In honor of Mother's Day, Asked on the Line went in search of how mainliners feel about mom. Men were asked what they liked most about their mothers or to express what their mothers mean to them.

Lenny Rideout: The one thing I like the most about my mom is the way she nourished her kids all by herself, her hustle and bustle to provide for her family without my dad being there.

Eddie Herena: The one thing I love most about my mom is her compassion.

Somdeng Danny Thongsy: The best thing I love about my mom, the only words that can describe her, is unconditional love.

Carlos Flores: The one thing I love most about my mother is her undying devotion to me.

Sam Hearnes: The one thing I love most about my mom is her resilience. I love you forever, mom.

Aaron Taylor: The one thing I like most about my mother would be how the dynamics of our relationship has evolved. She is still teaching me.

Mesro Coles-El: I love my mother's wisdom. Her wisdom has guided me through so much. If I would have listened to her, I wouldn't be here.

Raymond Bodine: She was able to reconcile people in a social setting better than anybody I know. Mom, pray for the church in the 21st century, which suffers from such disunity.

Quinton Walker: She is a people person; in other words, she loves people. Mom, I hope to see you soon. You're my favorite girl.

John Wang: My parents have sacrificed so much for me. Their persevering spirit still drives me today.

Chris Marshall Sr.: Adjua, I love you so much mom, it's not even funny. You bring joy to me, even in here. I love you, baby.

Alexei Ruiz: My mother is my drive, my motivation, my energy source. My mother exemplifies the best compassion and loving kindness. Above all, my mother is an angel.

Syyen Hong: Mom, I will always be thankful for everything that you did. I thank God you

are my mom.

Kim "Al-Amin" McAdoo: My mother is the lifeline of my existence. She is truly the epitome of what a woman represents: compassion, love and mercy. Her essence is irreplaceable.

Pedro Espinal: Madre significa la dadora de vida que Dios otorgo el don para reproducir. Mi madre significa que ella tiene la habilidad de amar incondicionalmente.

Juan Arballo: My mother is the foundation of my values. She modeled for me strength, integrity, resilience, truth and sacrifice, all enveloped in her never-ending unconditional love.

Orlando Harris: She is my strength. She is my heart. Her love is unconditional and never failing. She's beautiful. She's a queen. She's my mom.

Daniel Garcia: Mom, the best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.

Nghiep Ke Lam: My mom is my teacher of empathy, compassion, patience and perseverance.

I love her in all her imperfection because I see so much of myself.

Chris Scull: My mom used to walk me to school, made sure I had enough to eat, and called me home when the streetlights came on. Mom always knew what was best for me.

Tommy Winfrey: The word mom conjures up the thought of love for me. Mom is the force that gives me life and hope. Without Mom, I would be nowhere.

Antoine Brown: This is the woman that gave me life: kind, caring, loving and unique, strong, mindful, beautiful with a presence that displays peace, my first teacher and mentor. You have guided me towards humility and gratefulness and you will always be my Black queen.

Miguel Quezada: Feliz Dia de Las Madres a mi querida madre, Lucilla, y a mis hermanas Lucy y Maria. De parte de su hijo y hermano.

Mark A. Barger: My mom's name is Barbara. What I love most about her is her compassion for others. I am deeply hon-

ored to be her son.

Luis Figueras: What I love the most about my mom is that she is a wonderful mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. No matter what, I know that she is with me through thick and thin.

Mr. Nica: With lots of love, I remember my mother's greatest quality: She always had great love and respect for Jehovah God and she imbedded the same quality in her children.

Mr. Lyn: Mom, I love you more than life. You are in my heart forever. Thank you for always being there. I love you, heart and soul.

Angelo Falcone: No, no hay que llorar, porque la vida es un carnaval...Kimbara-kimbara kimakim bam-ba, Kimbara-kimbara kimakim bam-ba. ¡Azucar!

Phoeun You: Mom, I brought you a lifetime of heartaches. To show you how sorry I am, I'm dedicating my life to let you know that you are appreciated and valued. Raynna, my sister, although you are no longer here with us, I promise to live a fulfilling life in your honor.

Prisoner Describes Spiritual Journey to His Mother

By Simon

"Mr. Simon wrote a heartfelt story that everyone could relate to regarding his mother," said Kathleen Jackson, facilitator of the San Quentin Christian Creative Writing Class.

"He's had his ups and downs and has had to make some life-changing decisions for himself," she said.

"When he was first introduced to the Lord, he was not with it, but now you can't run him off from God. Simon still falls down at times, but today he knows how to get back up and back in line and in fellowship with his Christian brothers, sisters, and most importantly, the Lord."

Here's some of what Simon wrote about his mother:

I was at a very young age when my parents divorced. I believe I was around 4 or 5 years old; I don't know for sure. I am the youngest and only boy in my family, which consists of my

mom, two sisters, and me.

There was never a male figure in our household; my dad was in and out of my life. I learned a few things from him but nothing close to what I learned from my mom.

Mama always showed and taught us respect, respect for ourselves and toward others. She taught us to be truthful and willing to extend a helping hand, looking for nothing in return but to just do it because it's the right thing to do.

She also taught us to believe there is a God, but we were not taught how to believe in God. We did not read the Bible growing up nor did we understand or talk about God's word, will, and ways. We would use all these clichés: 'God don't like ugly;' 'God's going to punish for doing wrong;' 'God's going to strike you down for one reason or another.'...all those mean and evil things God would do. We just did not know any better, but I can assure you we do today.

Growing up, I did not know we were poverty-stricken, if we were, because of our mom's love and sacrifices. I did not even know what poverty was until I moved out and left home. That is also the time I began to understand my mom is a real model for what a mom is, not just a mother but a real and genuine mom.

She never turned her back on any of her kids, even when we were deep down in our drug addiction, which all three of us, at the same time, were for many years. As each of us evolved out of those trenches at separate times, my mom came to trust and believe in us once again.

As we were growing up, she taught us morals and values to carry us through life, and she knew even in our addictions that we did not forget them.

A mom who raises her child knows her child better than anyone else on God's green earth. I can admit that my mom is far from perfect, but she is the

perfect mom to me. I am truly grateful God has always shadowed over her.

That same house I was raised in is like a little piece of heaven

to me: always clean, warm, inviting, and full of love because of the one who resides in it and the Spirit watching over her and home.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Simon inside the Protestant Chapel where he spent most of his time