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Photo by Sam Hearn

Heiwa Taiko Drummers performing a song to represent peace for the audience

## Day of Peace Event 'Like a Day in the Park'

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

San Quentin State Prison held its annual Day of Peace celebra-

tion on April 25. "This is like a day in the park!" folk singer Audrey Auld said to the prisoners, community volunteers and custody staff mingling on the

prison's Lower Yard.

Things were different in 2006 when the Lower Yard was the

See *Day of on Page 12*

## Bryan Stevenson Challenges a Broken System

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

On a quiet April evening inmates gathered in San Quentin's Protestant Chapel to hear attorney Bryan Stevenson speak.

About 120 inmates from Paten College's student list accepted an invitation to listen to Stevenson, a champion for the voiceless — those condemned to death, afflicted by poverty, inadequate education and incarceration, and as a result, according to Stevenson, under-represented in the United States and exploited by the criminal justice system.

"I recognized that I had been struggling my whole life with the question of how and why people are judged unfairly," Stevenson says in his new book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. However, in



File Photo

Bryan Stevenson

no way did he promote his book at this event.

Instead, Stevenson discussed issues cited in his book, such as

See *Stevenson on Page 4*

## Pelican Bay Instructors Work Around Hurdles To Educate Inmates

By Dana Simas  
CDCR PIO

Pelican Bay State Prison (PBSP) is a level four facility reserved for the most serious of California's offenders. Half of the prison houses maximum-security inmates in a general population setting. The other half of the prison holds inmates in segregation units such as the Security Housing Unit (SHU)

or Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) designed for violent inmates and prison gang members and leaders. None of this, however, means the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) isn't working to improve the lives of the inmates in one of California's most notorious prisons.

The Tsunami Adult School

See *Pelican Bay on Page 9*

## Learning How to Forgive Must Precede Healing

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Learning to forgive the murderer of a loved one is hard but necessary in order to heal and

move forward, the visitors and prisoners who spoke at *The Courage to Reconcile* Restorative Justice Symposium in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel agreed.

"After losing three family members, I want the hurt to stop," said guest speaker Mattie Scott. "I'm standing on the strength of other survivors, and I know that this is a calling on my life — to let the world know that people behind bars are victims too. We want them to become survivors so we can stop the cycle of violence."

Scott and her sister, Elizabeth Torres, have lost sons to gun violence. Scott's son was killed acting as a peacemaker.

On July 17, 1996, he took four bullets meant for a friend who stole the killer's jewelry. His murderer walked because no



File Photo

Mattie Scott

See *Forgiveness on Page 10*



Photo by Dana Simas

Outside road and perimeter of Pelican Bay State Prison

## Sentencing a 13-Year-Old to Life in Prison

Nationwide, more than 2,200 juveniles under the age of 18 are serving life sentences—dozens were 13-14 at the time of their offense, according to a report by Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a non-profit legal-assistance organization founded by Bryan Stevenson.

Michael "Little B" Lewis, at age 13, was labeled a super predator by a sociologist and called a cold-blooded thug by prosecutors, *WSB-TV Atlanta*



File Photo

Michael "Little B" Lewis

reported.

According to *WSB-TV*, Lewis walked up to a parked car at an Atlanta convenience store in 1997 and shot Darrell Woods, a stranger, in front of his two sons.

Lewis has spent more continuous time incarcerated (he's now in a supermax facility designed for death row inmates) "than any person starting his sentence as a

See *13-year old on Page 5*

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# Members of SQUIRES Share Their Knowledge and Life Choices With Students and Coaches

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Student athletes and coaches from the University of California, Berkeley, and McClymonds High School discussed and experienced the consequences of bad decisions during a visit to San Quentin State Prison as part of the SQUIRES program.

"This is a tremendous learning experience for the kids and the staff as well. A split second can have you in (prison) blues," said Cuonzo Martin, Cal Bears head basketball coach.

Colin Fry, Bears secondary coach, said, "The biggest thing was the visual experience of seeing the result of a bad decision. You always hear, 'Make the right decision.' It's big to hear everybody's stories and see the consequences of the wrong decision."

Bears football player Matt Cochran commented, "Seeing Condemned Row was powerful. Everybody knows they are going to die, but when you put a date on it and see that door..."

SQUIRES is a program in which inmates share their stories with at-risk youth that visit. It stands for San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources, Experiences and Studies. The prisoners engage the youth in confidential circle talks and one-on-one discussions throughout the day.

"We don't scare straight; we communicate," said inmate Arnulfo Garcia.

"I've been part of circles at Cal but they aren't as deep as this," said Daniel "Noah" West-erfield, a Cal Berkeley football player. He said he related more to the SQUIRES participants.

Marco Harris Cal assistant coach said, "They use their stories to keep youth out of trouble."

"This is valuable," said Bears guard Stephen Domingo. "Ya'll kept it 100. That's something I can't re-create and it definitely helped."

The inmates' candor about the mistakes they made has a powerful impact. A 14-year-old football player started the day qui-

etly sitting with his head down and arms folded. By days end, he was talkative, held his head up and had uncrossed his arms.

"Psychologists who come in here say it takes forever [outside] to get the kids to open up - but it's amazing how something about our stories gives kids permission to open up about themselves," said SQUIRES member Chris Schuhmacher.



Photo By Sam Hearn

Kevin "KP" Parker

"I like being a SQUIRES sponsor because I believe the men in blue are having a positive impact on the youth," said Mana Jaundoo.

The youth get to see for themselves prison living conditions. They were allowed to walk inside of the tiny cells where two men live. They stood in the shower area and imagined what the lack of privacy is like. They even ate prison food at lunch in the chow hall.

"I think it's crazy seeing the lifestyle. I don't want any part of this life," said Kameron Rooks, the 7-foot-2 center for Cal Berkeley. "Image people who have been falsely convicted having to go through this."

Most of the Cal Bears and high school athletes are young men on the right track like Bears basketball player Tyrone Watkins. However, their coaches, Martin and Michael Peters, thought it was still important that they experience SQUIRES.

"I want my guys to understand the opportunities that they

have and to appreciate them and not to fold during hard times," said Martin.

The staff learned too. Bear assistant basketball coach Wyking Jones said, "I learned that I need to stop being so hard on my son. He never tells me anything; he only talks to his mother. If I want him to open up to me, I have to open up to him."

Kevin "KP" Parker has been bringing Cal students in for about nine years. He's the school's player personnel director.

"Chuck Hammon invited me in and it changed my life. The way you men in blue are able to pull things out of young men. Bringing in young men lets me give students the tools to deal with tough situations," said Parker.

"I think it makes a huge difference in the lives of players. It makes them conscious when they are out there drinking," he added. "I'm trying to bring every human being outside these walls in here because it is powerful."

"I came last year and really enjoyed it," said Tony Mekari, a Bears tackle. "It brought me down to earth."

It was "eye-opening," said Roger Moute, a Bears small forward. "It makes me count my blessings and lets me know I have to live my life right - I don't want to be here. Also, I have to try and help people."

SQUIRES isn't easy. "It's challenging getting to the core issues. Sometimes it's emotionally draining," said SQUIRES member Eddie Pryor.

The day ended with a quote from an anonymous source by SQUIRES member David Monroe, "The only people to get even with are those who have helped you."

Hours after the May 9 visit, Martin was on the *After the Game* show dissecting the Warriors vs. Grizzlies NBA playoff game. He mentioned his visit inside San Quentin was an eye-opening experience and how one bad decision can change your whole life in seconds.



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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:

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- 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.

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Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Cal Berkeley Students and young men inside of S.Q.'s Dining Hall

# How Minority Police Officers Deal With Racism

*'I think about how I would be treated if I wasn't wearing the uniform'*

By Lee Jaspur  
Journalism Guild Writer

Minority police officers say they are as upset about racism as anyone, and they struggle to change the culture in their communities.

"Racism is alive and well in this country," Sgt. Yulanda Williams, a 25-year Black police veteran in San Francisco, told the San Francisco Chronicle.

"I certainly understand that there are injustices within the criminal justice system, but we're all being condemned," said Capt. Bisa French, a Black and Latina woman of the Richmond Police Department. "Some of our officers feel like they are out there doing the right thing on a daily basis, but they are getting judged for the actions of the few who do wrong."

Williams, who leads Officers for Justice, an organization representing San Francisco police of color, says she has seen racism on and off the job. She was quoted in the Chronicle.

Her grandson, who is bi-racial, was the target of an alleged hate crime when some of his high school classmates spread cotton balls on his lawn.

"I was outraged," said Williams, "but I was also glad that

I was a police officer. If I was calling as a regular citizen, I don't know if it would have made the difference."

"We, as police officers, took this job because we wanted to make a difference. We wanted to take control of the policing in our communities," she said.

"We don't sleep in our uniforms at night. We're all human."

"It's a conflicting situation," said French. "They (Black) officers are part of these segments of the community, too. I think about how I would be treated if I wasn't wearing the uniform."

In December, protesters

chained themselves to the entrances of Oakland's police headquarters. Oakland Police Lt. LeRonne Armstrong said he was behind a line of officers when demonstrators began to call him names and suggest he take off his uniform and join them.

"Inclusiveness is the greatest thing we need right now," said Armstrong of those who suggest that it is not a good thing to have African-Americans as part of law enforcement

Kenton Rainey, a Black man, took the job of BART police chief in 2010, a year after a White transit officer fatally shot Black Oscar Grant on a station platform in Oakland.

Rainey talked to Kale Williams of the Chronicle about the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Tamir Rice, a Black 12-year-old boy who was shot by a White Cleveland officer, who reported mistaking a toy gun for the real thing.

Flawed tactics and a lack of proper training were at least partly to blame, said Rainey. "Whether I'm stopping someone for a bank robbery or jaywalking, you never do it from the seat of your car," he said. "These were bad tactics, and for us as leaders not to say that? Shame on us."

"I've worked in six departments in three states and everyone, from chiefs to beat officers, says they want community policing. But few of them want to actually teach officers how to be culturally competent in all segments of the community." Rainey concluded.



Capt. Bisa French holding an award from the Richmond Police Department

## Study Shows That Discipline Based on Race, Gender and Orientation Place Students at Risk

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

School discipline by race, gender and sexual orientation have placed large numbers of students at risk for short- and long-term negative outcomes.

The dividing lines of racial inequalities can be seen in the news media on a regular basis with the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Tamir Rice. These events remind the public that differing views about racial inequality can have deadly consequences.

The negative consequences of unequal punishment can be extreme. In a study conducted by the Discipline Disparities Research-to-Practice Collaborative, researchers found that students being transferred more often to different schools

through suspensions and expulsions correlates with the number of students "vanish[ing] from graduation stages and fill[ing] the pipeline to prison."

Racial disparities in punishment are not new. They are the result of entrenched inequalities in the history of America.

"The ravages of slavery and Jim Crow, forced migration, and policies that enforced unequal treatment placed African Americans and most people of color at an economic and social disadvantage," the report found.

R.M. Blank from *American Economic Review* said, "For nearly a century after the Civil War, laws and practices enforcing inferior schools for Blacks, Native Americans, Asians, and Mexican Americans and significantly better educational access, housing and jobs for

Whites led to economic and social cumulative advantage for Whites and growing disadvantage for people of color."

Despite the pathway created by the landmark decision of *Brown vs. Board of Education* on desegregating schools, governmental policies and actions subsequently have led to reinforced segregation of schools through housing policies.

The Children's Defense Fund noted that "African American and Hispanic students are three times as likely as White students to be born into poverty, have less adequate access to health care, and tend to attend schools with adequate physical facilities, and less highly qualified and trained teachers."

Governmental policies that create racial disparities in education are compounded by the presence of police officers

at predominantly minority schools who punish these students more harshly.

"Research also shows that the increased presence of 'school resource officers' in such stressed, low-resource settings often increases the likelihood that young Black people are not just suspended, but ejected into the justice system through school arrest, particularly for subjective offenses such as disorderly conduct," the *Journal of Criminal Justice* states.

The report also found that racial issues will be compounded when school officials ignore the issue of race.

"A colorblind perspective suggests that maybe we shouldn't talk about it – that discussions about race are extraneous, or that those seeking to discuss race in, e.g., school discipline are 'playing the race card,'" the report states.

Professor of law Neil Gotanda suggests that the "color blind stance is self-contradictory." "The assertion that one does not 'see color' actually requires considering race in society before rejecting its relevance."

In sum, as Bryan Stevenson, director of Equal Justice Initiative said, "In order to fix a problem, we must get proximate with the issue, we have to acknowledge the problem exists."

The study concludes with seven recommendations for educators to reduce racial discipline disparities by using alternatives other than suspension and expulsion as primary forms of punishment. Those recommendations follow:

- Encourage educators to

Form supportive relationships to improve interactions between teachers and students.

- Engage in academic rigor by giving engaging instructions, combined with support for meeting goals and expectations with students.

- Informing educators of culturally relevant and responsive instructions for creating safe and respectful classrooms.

- Maintaining bias-free classrooms and respectful school environments by adhering to a uniform standard of treatment of all students.

- Use new approaches to discipline by offering restorative practice training to all staff in problem solving and in identifying contributors to conflict as a way of reducing the discipline gap.

- Recognizing student and family voices, research shows that discipline benefits greatly by reaching out to parents and students to understand their concerns.

- Lastly, reintegrating students after conflict or after long-term absences due to suspension, expulsion or detention by involving collaboration of all stakeholders in the community, reducing the likelihood of repeated offenses.

The report was conducted by Prudence L. Carter, Ph.D. professor of Sociology at Stanford; Russell J. Skiba, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology at Indiana University; Mariella I. Arrendondo, Ph.D. Associate director of the Equity Project; Mica Pollock, Ph.D. Professor of Educational Studies at University of California, San Diego.

## FBI Admits Experts Gave False Testimony Against Defendants Who Were Executed

The U.S. Justice Department and the FBI have acknowledged that almost all of the experts in the FBI forensic unit dedicated to microscopic hair comparison gave false testimony against defendants prior to 2000, according to *The Washington Post*.

### EVIDENCE

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Innocence Project found that "26 of the 28 examiners in the FBI's microscopic hair comparison unit overstated evi-

dence in more than 95 percent of 268 trials" that have been examined. The cases include those of 32 defendants sentenced to death. Of those, 14 have been executed or died in prison, *The Washington Post* reported.

"Federal authorities launched the investigation in 2012 after *The Post* reported that flawed forensic hair matches might have led to the convictions of hundreds of potentially innocent people since at least the 1970s, typically for murder, rape and other violent crimes nationwide," stated an article by *The*

*Associated Press*.

The study conducted by the NACDL found that when FBI experts testified about a "near-certainty of 'matches'" their testimony instead was based on incomplete or misleading statistics drawn from their casework.

### INVESTIGATION

The FBI and the Justice Department issued a joint statement vowing to continue the investigation, notify affected defendants and ensure accuracy in future cases.

– By John Lam

# Stereotype of African-American Males Said to Stem From Days of Slavery

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sport Editor

Racial stereotypes Americans face today – including the notion of the dangerous Black male — grew directly out of slavery and its aftermath, a study reports.

“These corrosive stereotypes fueled unequal treatment, and continue to do so even today,” said the December 2014 report. The U.S. is not a “post-racial” colorblind society, “where any racial disparities are due simply to characteristics or behaviors of the affected group themselves.”

The report is called *You Can't Fix What You Don't Look At: Acknowledging Race in Addressing Racial Discipline Disparities*. Its authors are Drs. Prudence Carter, Russell Skiba, Mariella Arredondo and Mica Pollock, Center For Evaluation & Education Policy, Indiana University.

They note early European settlers judged people of color as inferiority to Whites. Famous authors and scientists of that time circulated propaganda claiming to demonstrate the inferiority of non-Europeans to reinforce the stereotypes.

Slavery was justified in the eyes of Whites by the belief that Blacks were inferior. In order for slavery to work, Blacks had to be disciplined and “con-

trolled.”

One way of maintaining a higher order over Blacks were codes enacted beginning in the 17th century. Normal human activity was considered a crime for Blacks of that era. They “made it illegal for slaves to congregate, marry, travel without their masters’ permission or even learn to read.”

False rumors portraying Black men as aggressive and rapists were spread by slaveholders in fear of revolts. Although incidents of Black men raping White women were “rare or unheard of,” a law passed in 1700 in Pennsylvania by William Penn mandated death or castration for such an attempt.

The fear of Black men led to more than 2,500 of them being hanged between 1889 and 1918, mainly for minor offenses “like disputing with a White man, attempting to register to vote, asking a White woman’s hand in marriage or peeping in a window.”

Meanwhile, White men were raping Black women, forcing them to procreate or breed with other slaves and selling their children into slavery. Somehow, this was translated into Black women being “depicted as hypersexual, promiscuous and less virtuous than White women.”

Jim Crow laws continued segregation and a race hierarchy, with Blacks and other people of color on the bottom, long after slavery’s end.

To escape the oppressive laws, bombings and lynchings, Blacks fled the South for the North, where they still faced “attitudes and policies that reinforced segregation and stereotypes, and limited economic opportunity,” said the report.

“For nearly a century after the Civil War, laws and practices enforcing inferior schools for Blacks, Native-Americans, Asians and Mexican-Americans and significantly better educational access, housing and jobs for Whites led to economic and social cumulative advantage for Whites and growing disadvantage for people of color.”

After World War II, the U.S. Supreme court passed *Brown vs. Board of Education*, rejecting the separate but equal doctrine, requiring steps to overcome the hardships created by legalized segregation. Social scientists theorized increasing contact among different races and classes would break the grip of stereotypes, bias and discrimination. However, social segregation rigidity set stereotypical beliefs in many minds.

Physical and psychological separation across schools, housing areas and social boundaries by race and class fostered segregation and lessened opportunities for interracial interaction that could challenge the stereotypes, the authors said.

In the 1970s, the courts began to roll back or limit post-Brown civil rights reform. The courts refused to act unless it was shown that explicit laws were put into place supporting segregation.

“Segregationist mindsets spawned separatist government and private sector policies that continue to define many of our communities today,” according to the report.

“Controlling images and narratives about different groups of individuals can affect us all across racial lines,” said the report.

Middle class Blacks are no less likely to evaluate students subjectively than White middle class people, the report said. They often act with deep-seated implicit biases outside their conscious awareness.

These actions are often difficult to spot.

Microaggressions can look like a waiter serving a White patron before someone Black, acts conveying underlying (even if unconscious) messages that

people of color are less intelligent, otherwise inferior or more dangerous, or sudden overreactions to young people of color as threatening.

Recent studies on implicit bias show negative Black stereotypes are still widespread in U.S. culture. TV shows and other media reinforce negative Black stereotypes by portraying Blacks in the role of criminals. Study participants implicitly or, even unconsciously, associate Blacks with apes and words like “poison” or “cancer.”

A survey showed “58.9 percent of Black and White subjects endorsed at least one stereotypical view of difference in inborn ability.”

The controlling images of the deviant Black person sometimes have deadly consequences and create disruptions in the life chances of many people of color.

Not all is lost. “Police trainings are tackling implicit bias,” said the report. For example, Professor Patricia Devine developed a “multi-faceted prejudice habit-breaking” intervention that trained participants in debiasing strategies.

“Significant reductions in implicit bias among those trained provide tangible evidence that a controlled intervention can produce persistent reductions in implicit bias.”

## Report Suggest Blacks Are More Likely to Be Murdered

*Young Adults Ages 18-24 Years Old Have the Highest Homicide Rate of Any Age Group*

U.S. homicide rates have declined by nearly half, but young males still are the highest-risk group and Blacks are more likely to be murdered than are Whites, according to a federal Bureau of Justice Statistics report.

Homicide in the U.S. is at its lowest level since 1963, according to BJS findings based on the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data. It has dropped by 49 percent, from

9.3 homicides per 100,000 U.S. residents in 1992 to 4.7 in 2011.

Young Black males remain the highest-risk group. The average murder numbers for males was 3.6 times higher than for females and 6.3 times higher for Blacks than Whites. Young adults ages 18-24 years old have the highest homicide rate of any age group, despite a 22 percent decline in murders from 2002 to 2011, according to the report.

The peak homicide rate for Black males was nine times that of White males, the BJS reported.

SHR reported 6,830 Whites and 7,380 Blacks were murdered in 2011 at a rate of 2.8 for Whites and 17.3 for Blacks per 100,000 U.S. residents.

In 2011, the per-100,000 residents rate was 2.7 for ages 12-17; 11.9 for ages 18-24; 9.2 for ages 25-34; 5.2 for ages 35-49; 2.8 for ages 50-64 and 1.7 for

those 65 or older. The median age for being murdered was 30. The homicide rate for Blacks age 60 or older is four times higher than Whites age 60 or older.

In 2011, firearms killed victims in 66 percent of the cases involving single victims and 79 percent of those with multiple victims.

The study dated December 2013 was conducted by Erica L. Smith and Alexia Cooper,

Ph.D. and was titled *Homicide in the U.S. Known to Law Enforcement, 2011*.

SHR compiles homicide reports from local law enforcement that includes details such as victim and suspected offender demographic characteristics, the type of murder weapon and the number of victims.

The report did not separate Hispanics from non-Hispanic Whites.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Stevenson Challenges a System Based on Fear and Anger

*Continued from Page 1*

the collateral consequences of incarceration, disenfranchisement, the need to get closer to places where change is needed and changing the narrative on race, history, crime and the criminal justice system.

Stevenson told the men how in the 1980s politicians put forth a narrative of fear, which produced the anger that brought about mass incarceration.

“For the last 40 years politicians have been able to push a narrative based on fear and anger,” Stevenson said. “Our success in changing the world relies on us changing the narrative.”

Stevenson said politicians created a system in the U.S. where one in three young boys, Black and Brown, are projected to go to jail in their lifetimes.

Determined to make a difference, Stevenson co-founded the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI)

in 1989; a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance to inmates. It is a complement to his legal practice and his tireless effort to bring justice for all.

“To change the world somebody’s going to have to stand when everyone else is sitting. Someone’s going to have to speak when everyone is quiet,” said Stevenson. “I believe that we have to change the narrative about race.”

Stevenson told the audience that the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution did not do anything to change the narrative about slavery. He said, “Slavery didn’t end, it evolved.” He added, “The worst evil of slavery in America was not about the forced labor, but the narrative created around the idea of racial differences.”

The discourse delivered by Stevenson toggled between a lecture, admonishing those in attendance to duty, and instruc-

tion. He said humans are programmed to seek what is comfortable but urged the audience to “choose to do uncomfortable things to achieve justice.”

**“The worst evil of slavery in America was not about the forced labor, but the narrative created around the idea of racial differences”**

It is Stevenson’s opinion that many courts see the finality of prosecution and sentencing as being more important than justice. He said, “Wealth, not culpability, shapes our courts.” In *Just Mercy* Stevenson

wrote that as a young law student he was told by a Southern Prisoners Defense Committee lawyer that “capital punishment means, ‘them without the capital get the punishment.’” To his audience of inmates he said, “Poverty is the opposite of justice.”

“I work in a broken system of justice,” said Stevenson. “I do what I do because I’m broken, too. You don’t get to justice thinking that you are right and just. You get to justice thinking that you are broken.”

In the April/May issue of *Time* magazine Stevenson is listed as number 55 of the 100 most influential people. “For decades, he has dedicated himself to fighting poverty and challenging racial discrimination in the criminal justice system with the perfect combination of unwavering passion and idealism,” wrote Serena Williams, a renowned tennis player.

There was no one single message when Stevenson spoke. His delivery was emphatic as he advised the men at San Quentin that they must change the narrative that’s written about them in the U.S., take the opportunity to engage in restorative justice, and get in proximity to the things they care about in order to change them.

“I believe that everybody is more than the worst thing you’ve ever done,” said Stevenson.

Stevenson is the executive director of EJI ([www.eji.com](http://www.eji.com)) and a professor of law at New York University Law School. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court five times and has won relief for many prisoners on death row. He is the recipient of many awards, including the MacArthur Foundation “Genius” Grant.

R. Malik Harris and Ali Muhammad contributed to this article

# Advocates Urge Lighter White-Collar Sentences

## Advocates for Changes in Sentencing Guidelines Think the Time is Right

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

After a federal panel eased penalties for non-violent drug offenders, defense attorneys and prisoner advocates began calling for lighter sentences for white-collar crimes, according to an Associated Press report

by Eric Tucker.

Some of these crimes focus on fraud, insider trading and embezzlement.

Attorneys and advocates believe that under current sentencing structures people who have the smallest roles still receive harsh sentences.

In 2013, the American Bar

Association forwarded a proposal to the sentencing commission asking that federal judges:

Give more weight to a defendant's culpability and less to financial loss.

Give thought to a defendant's sophistication, motive and the duration of the scheme.

According to the AP report,

the Justice Department welcomed the review. But progress on the issue will be hampered by an American public still outraged by the corporate bigwigs who they say destroyed the economy.

Still the advocates for changes in sentencing guidelines think the time is right. Some

federal judges have begun to show leniency in some of these cases. Plus, the Justice Department must lower the cost of an overcrowded federal prison system.

Advocates see this as a window of opportunity to advance their agenda for new sentencing reform.

## Hijos de Padres Encarcelados Muestran Problemas de Comportamiento

Por Michael Cooke  
Escritor del gremio  
Periodístico

Un estudio universitario concluye que los hijos de padres encarcelados muestran problemas de comportamiento y salud mental.

"Estos niños están cargados de desventajas," dijo Kristin Turney, autor del estudio y profesora asistente de sociología en la Universidad Irving de California. "Estos niños no solo están lidiando con el encarcelamiento de sus padres, pero también con problemas de salud mental. Todo esto podría causar que el encontrar empleo sea un reto más difícil o sean esforzados a madurar más rápido que sus compañeros."

El estudio fue presentado en la reunión anual 109 de la Asociación Americana de Sociología.

Este estudio fue publicado en la edición de Septiembre de la Revista de Salud y Comportamiento Social.

Tener un padre en la prisión está "relacionado con los problemas de comportamiento de niños y condiciones tales como trastornos de insuficiencia hipercativa, problemas de aprendizaje, problemas de habla o lenguaje y retrasos en el desarrollo.

Publicado por la Revisión Sociológica Americana y reportado el 25 de Agosto en el periódico USA Today, la revisión describe como el trauma físico y emocional de estar

en la prisión no solo daña al encarcelado, pero también a aquellos que están relacionados con ellos."

El estudio refleja una foto complicada que indica como las consecuencias del encarcelamiento puede socializar a los hombres a responder rápidamente y con extrema violencia a un conflicto. También aumenta dramáticamente el riesgo de separación y el divorcio en matrimonios o relaciones íntimas causando depresión severa y problemas de salud mental para las mujeres separadas de sus parejas románticas.

Hijos de padres encarcelados experimentan probabilidades menos favorables de educación paternal. Procesos de selección

social, tales como raza y clase social, son pronósticos del encarcelamiento en vez de ser un efecto causal, con minorías y hombres con insuficiente educación tienen más probabilidades de ser encarcelados según el estudio.

Sin embargo, Glen Elliott, un director médico y presidente de psiquiatría en la Children's Health Council, estuvo en desacuerdo con las conclusiones. Él declaró que enfermedades tales como ADHD son generalmente condiciones hereditarias de comportamiento. "No puedes suponer que estas son relaciones casuales," Elliot comentó.

Susan Brown, una profesora de sociología de la Universidad Estatal de Bowling

Green, hizo notar que el estudio ofrece, "evidencia indiscutible." Brown dijo, "pienso que este estudio crea un gran número de temas importantes." El estudio concluyó que el encarcelamiento representa una barrera significativa para la participación de los padres en la educación de sus hijos después de ser puestos en libertad, y que el contacto con algún miembro de la familia es vital para detener la reincidencia. El estudio dice que un aumento en las oportunidades de visita, y el reducir barreras, tales como tener acceso a una transportación de precio económico a la prisión, puede beneficiar a padres y sus familiares.

traducción Miguel Quezada

## Study Shows Incarceration and Death Add to 1.5 Million 'Missing' Black Men

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Mass incarceration and early deaths contribute to 1.5 million missing Black men in the United States, according to a study done by *The New York Times*.

*The Times* reported, "For every 100 Black women not in jail, there are only 83 Black men. The remaining men — 1.5 million of them — are, in a sense, missing...This gap — driven mostly by incarceration and early deaths — barely exists among whites."

The study compared the ratio of 17 missing Black men for every 100 Black women to Whites where there is "one missing White man for every 100 White women."

Of the U.S. cities with large populations of Blacks, the one with the biggest gender gap is Ferguson, Mo., with 40 Black men missing for every 100 Black women, reported *The Times*.

### BLACK MEN

According to the study, Black men face a greater chance of dying young and are more likely to be incarcerated.

"It is a measure of the deep disparities that continue to afflict Black men — disparities being debated after a recent spate of killings by the police," *The Times* reported. "Perhaps the starkest description of the situation is this: More than one out of every six Black men who today should

be between 25 and 54 years old have disappeared from daily life."

### GENDER GAP

The report found the largest group of missing men can generally be found in the South. The gender gap in the West, however, tended to be smaller.

"Of the 1.5 million missing Black men from 25 to 54 — which demographers call the prime-age years — higher imprisonment rates account for almost 600,000," *The Times* reported. "Almost 1 in 12 black men in this age group are behind bars, compared with 1 in 60 non-Black men in the age group."

Homicide, according to the study, is the leading cause of

death for young Black men. It is a large factor in the gender discrepancy. Blacks also die more often from heart disease, respiratory disease and accidents than other demographic groups. This includes Black women.

### MURDER AND HIV

Although murder and HIV rates for Black men have been falling, according to the study, the rate of incarceration for them has been on the rise since the 1980s.

"In many communities, rising numbers of Black men spared an early death have been offset by rising numbers behind bars" *The Times* reported.

The 17 missing men for ev-

ery 100 women gap in gender between Black males and females is non-existent in childhood, the report said. However, "An imbalance begins to appear among teenagers, continues to widen through the 20s and peaks in the 30s."

This, according to the report, leaves many Black women hard-pressed to find a potential partner of the same race, while the remaining (83) Black men, who face an abundant supply of potential mates, have no incentive to compete to find one.

"In those states hit hardest by the high incarceration rates, African American women have become more likely to work and more likely to pursue their education further than they are elsewhere," the report concluded.

## 13-Year-Old Lifer Michael 'Little B' Lewis Still Fighting for Freedom

### 19 States Incarcerated 73 Children Who Are 13 and 14 Years of Age

Continued from Page 1

13-year-old in prison in our entire country," reports *Daily Kos* blogger Shaun King.

Other examples:

When an argument over a toy ended in the death of his stepbrother, 14-year-old Missouri native Quantel Lotts was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison in 2000.

Fourteen-year-old Antonio Nuñez was picked up at a party and got into a car with two men nearly twice his age. One of the men later claimed to be a kidnap victim. When their car was chased by the police and shots were fired, Antonio was arrested and convicted of aggravated kidnapping, along with the 27-year-old driver, and sentenced to life in prison in 2003.

In 2008, Stevenson's *EJI* issued a report that found 19 states incarcerated 73 children who are 13 and 14 years of age and have a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. *EJI* noted that the U.S. is the only country in the world where a 13-year-old could receive a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

According to *EJI*, many young children in America are imperiled by abuse, neglect, domestic and community violence, and poverty. Without effective intervention and help, these children suffer, struggle and fall into despair and hopelessness. Some young teens cannot manage the emotional, social and psychological challenges of adolescence and eventually engage in destructive and

violent behavior.

Kuntrell Jackson was sentenced to life in prison in 2003 after being convicted of a video store robbery and murder committed when he was 14 years old. The state of Arkansas sentenced Jackson despite the prosecutor's concession that he was not the one who killed the video store clerk, *EJI* reported.

On June 25, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an historic ruling that mandatory life-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger convicted of homicide are unconstitutional.

In light of that ruling the Arkansas Supreme Court ordered a resentencing hearing for Jackson. In 2014, Jackson, by then 28, was resentenced to 20 years and is currently serving his time in a maxi-

mum-security unit in Arkansas.

**"Many young children in America are imperiled by abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and poverty"**

The Nevada Supreme Court has struck down sentences of life without the possibility of parole for juveniles. Such punishments, the court ruled, are a "denial of hope," and

"it means that good behavior and character improvement are immaterial; it means that whatever the future might hold in store for the mind and spirit of [the defendant], he will remain in prison for the rest of his days."

*EJI* agrees and has stated that condemning young children to die in prison is cruel and incompatible with fundamental standards of decency that require protection for children.

*EJI* litigates on behalf of condemned prisoners, juvenile offenders; people wrongly convicted or charged with violent crimes, poor people denied effective representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct, according to its website ([www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)).

# The Impressive Growth of *San Quentin News*

By Steve McNamara  
S.Q. News Adviser

If you are ever lucky enough to land in San Quentin Prison, walk down the hill to the Lower Yard. Check out the tennis and basketball courts, the baseball field and the drop-dead view of Mt. Tam. Then make your way through the crowd of inmates to the office of the *San Quentin News*, one of the few print newspapers in America that is actually flourishing.

Of course it helps that the paper's main target audience – prison inmates – has no access to the Internet, which is where a lot of newspaper readers outside of prison have taken their business. But even taking that into account, the growth of the paper to its current level of excellence is amazing. The man who planted the seed, former warden Bob Ayers, is himself amazed. "I hoped it would be good, but I never thought it would be this good," he said on a recent visit to the prison.

San Quentin journalism has quite a history. In the 1920s and 30s there was a paper named *Wall City News* that claimed to be "The Only Newspaper in the World Published Within The Walls of a Prison." That paper ceased publication, replaced in December 1940 by the *San Quentin News*. The father of the *News* was Clinton Duffy, the famously progressive warden of San Quentin. He wanted the paper to supplant the inmate grapevine and be a more reliable source of prison information.

The *S.Q. News* had its ups and downs thereafter. A high point came during the 1980s when there were scores of prison newspapers in the U.S. and in one competition the *News* was judged the best prison newspaper in the country. That was the Golden Age of prison journal-

## EDITORIAL



Photo by Sam Hearn

Standing: Lt. S. Robinson, Kristina Khokhobashvili, Terry Thornton, Jeffrey Callison, Steve McNamara, Sitting: Linda Xiques, Joan Lisetor and John Eagan

ism when a succession of court decisions held that prisoner First Amendment rights could be abridged only in pursuit of "legitimate penological interests." Wardens couldn't edit stories just to eliminate offensive opinions. But they could deal with publications that bugged them by claiming that prison security was at risk. And so one after another prison newspaper vanished, including the *S.Q. News*.

Bob Ayers saw things differently. To revive the *News* in the spring of 2008 he tapped three former newspaper reporters and editors: John Eagan, Joan Lisetor and myself, to be joined later by Linda Xiques. The startup paper had a staff of about four inmates, none of whom had a clue as to how to put a newspaper together, so the paper was

largely created by the advisers. But inmate staff members were impressively quick learners and by now have taken ownership of the paper's production. These days suggestions by advisers are sometimes followed and sometimes politely ignored.

The staff has grown to about 15 inmates plus a farm team of some 20 inmates who meet weekly at the Journalism Guild to learn writing skills, contribute articles and who often move up to slots on the staff.

What started more than 75 years ago as an inside report on prison doings has grown substantially in size and scope of coverage. Articles still focus on San Quentin but there is also coverage of events and issues throughout the country. The monthly issues have gone

from 8 pages to 20 (sometimes 24) and the number of copies printed from 5,000 to 13,000. Seven years ago the paper was mainly seen within San Quentin; today it goes to another 20 of California's 34 adult prisons and to a large number of donors, officials and interested parties involved in the criminal justice system. Plus there is a website that features current and past issues, [www.sanquentinnews.com](http://www.sanquentinnews.com).

The presence of donors is significant. All prison newspapers were once supported by their prison systems. That was the case at San Quentin until early 2010 when the state closed the prison print shop. The paper teetered on the edge of oblivion until its then Editor-in-Chief, Michael (Harry O.) Harris, offered

to pay for the paper's printing at Marin Sun Printing, a newspaper plant I used to own. That kept the paper going until Harris was paroled in October 2011. Then I started a non-profit, the Prison Media Project, got a startup grant from the Marin Community Foundation and ever since we have been privately financed, mostly from foundations. The prison system provides office space, computers and office supplies.

The *S.Q. News* is one of the very few inmate-produced papers in existence, certainly in the U.S. There are prison newspapers in Texas and Minnesota, but they are produced by prison system headquarters with inmate participation. That's a big difference from the inmate-directed *S.Q. News*. The *Angolite* in Louisiana, a justly famous magazine published six times a year, is probably the only other strong inmate voice in the country.

San Quentin inmates are smart enough to avoid coverage that would infuriate the prison administration and get the paper shut down again. In turn the authorities, notably Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson, oversee the paper with a very light hand. Coverage of criminal justice news is sometimes supportive and positive, sometimes quite critical.

The *S.Q. News* has received increasing notice and praise from outside. The Society of Professional Journalists conferred a James Madison Award in 2014 and there have been laudatory articles in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee* and *The Nation* magazine. Most recently a team of 11 from CNN spent a week at San Quentin filming for a segment of a new documentary series, "United Shades of America," due to show early in 2016. Don't miss it.

## Obamacare Makes Pell Grants Accessible for Youth Offenders

*'Trying to get quality education and instruction is an arduous undertaking'*

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Access to higher education for juvenile offenders during incarceration is more possible because the Obama administration has ruled that these youth are now eligible to apply for Pell Grants.

"(With access) to Pell Grants no longer an impediment, it puts pressure on youth correctional agencies and the school districts that run (teaching programs) inside of correctional facilities to rethink what they do," said David Domenici, a corporate lawyer turned educator. He co-founded Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools in 1997. The schools target at-risk teens in the Washington, D.C., area.

Domenici was quoted in a Dec. 29 article written by Katti Gray, contributing editor of *The Crime Report*.

Pell Grants were once readily available to incarcerated

men and women, but 20 years ago legislation was passed blocking inmates from access to the grants. The grants were named after former Rhode Island Sen. Claiborne Pell, with the intent to serve underprivileged people who sought higher education.

One of the possibilities afforded to these at-risk youths is their access to online college courses. Domenici pointed out that youth, who are at-risk for crime and have lower skill sets, do better with online courses, when access to a tutor is unavailable.

Other options include having local college professors come inside institutions to teach and tutor qualified students.

Of the 2,500 juvenile-only jails and prisons there are approximately 60,000 juveniles, with about 4,000 eligible for Pell Grants.

Very few juvenile offenders ever go on to get a college degree, said Domenici.

For those who qualify, having access to financial aid that they do not have to pay back matters a great deal. The U.S. government is acknowledging the need for these youths to have an opportunity for higher education, thus exponentially changing the course of their lives.

***"You should not have a large attendance problem. You often have small classes"***

Juvenile justice facilities across the country are largely tough on the children as well as the adults who work in that environment. Therefore, trying to get quality education and instruction is an arduous undertaking, Domenici said.

In many states, juvenile institutions are an extension of the adult correctional system, and education takes a back seat to other institutional concerns, such as custody and security issues, he added.

However The Division of Juvenile Justice in California has accredited schools in each of its youth facilities, with a major emphasis placed on education, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation press office.

"The good news is if you get it going right, it is amazing for kids and for adults who are involved with this. You have these kids captive. You should not have a large attendance problem. You often have small classes," Domenici said.

Though classes are smaller, having quality instruction as well as a host of administrators on board pushing higher education gives these young people a good chance to

turn their lives around. They need to know that the adults charged with authority over them really believe that their lives are relevant, he commented.

For most of these children, having positive role models and peers to encourage the need for higher education was absent. Living in communities where criminal activity is lauded far more often than academic success does not leave kids with much incentive to excel in school, Domenici commented.

These kids need access to really good instruction as well as being surrounded by adults who really care. This will allow the platform for a more profound engagement of academic success, he noted. The kids will need much more triage, as they are ushered toward academic transformation, leading them to more opportunities and choices other than those associated with criminal activity.

# Kid CAT's 'State of Youth' Measures Progress

By Miguel Quezada  
Staff Writer

Six months into the year, Kid CAT has made significant progress in accomplishing its goals and activities.

The changes stem from exceptional work by San Quentin prisoners and volunteers.

Early in 2015 children's rights is making progress with two new bills, Senate Bills 261 and 382.

SB 261 would expand SB 260 to affect thousands of California inmates who were under the age of 23 when they committed their crimes. It would allow them expanded access to parole hearings.

SB 382 would make it more difficult for children to be prosecuted, sentenced in adult courts and be sent to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

If passed, the bills will bring unprecedented reform to juvenile sentencing laws affecting thousands currently serving life sentences and will help juveniles that commit crimes to be committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice rather than adult prisons.

## This Year's Progress:

April: Photojournalist Richard Ross, author of *Girls In Justice* and *Juvenile In Justice*, interviewed Kid CAT members to highlight the men that are

## Kid CAT Speaks!

affected by laws that today are challenged. By revealing our stories of crime and transformation, we seek to place a face on the long-term impact of juvenile justice policy.

May: At the annual Kid CAT banquet, keynote speaker Alison Parker shared her commitment for the same goals that Kid CAT has in reforming children's rights in the criminal justice system. Her commitment to the human rights reinforced the groups' urgency to do the work we do on the inside and keeps us motivated to be the example of the people that they support. She is director of Human Rights Watch U.S. Program

The Beat Within and Kid CAT collaboration is growing and making a difference with each workshop.

Inspired by Kid CAT's writings, a group of juvenile lifers at Chuckawalla State Prison formed their own writing group to share their stories to The Beat Within.

In Alameda Juvenile Hall, a staff member placed The Beat Within and Kid CAT stories on the wall of a maximum-security unit because of the difference the pieces made in the lives of the incarcerated children.

The group continues working

toward making October Youth Justice Awareness Month in California. If celebrated throughout schools, communities and by public officials, the event is aimed at raising awareness and affect change by making youth justice a shared responsibility in society.

The Kid CAT "Bay Area Hygiene Drive for Homeless Youth" is scheduled for the fall. In April, a Soledad State Prison inmate wrote to Kid CAT, saying he was inspired to begin organizing a hygiene drive at his institution. Kid CAT's goal for this year is to increase inmate donations and, through our example, inspire universities and the community to form their own drives.

Kid CAT Speaks understands that when it comes to juvenile lifers primarily the focus is on male offenders, not young women. This does not accurately reflect the issue; therefore, Kid CAT Speaks will strive to report on issues that affect women juvenile lifers, seek ways to publish their stories and include them in the dialogue and effort for change.

## Changing Times:

Citizens and lawmakers put in a lot of effort into laws addressing children's rights.

Sometimes, it takes several years and even decades for these reforms to take place.

In the past year, a shift has taken place in the public dialogue concerning children's rights beyond the usual pass or fail of legislation.

Initially the dialogue about children's rights concerned studies revealing that the adolescent brain is not fully developed until the age of 25. Now the movement to reform child rights beyond the usual pass or fail of legislation.

What the shift means in the moral compass of this state remains to be seen.

California is in the unique position to be the nation's most progressive state in how it treats the future generations of youth and establishes precedents for

other states.

Legislation that has been passed recognizes that young offenders have no place in the adult criminal justice or correctional systems.

SB 9 limited the practice of sentencing minors to serve Life Without Parole in adult prisons. The law providing inmates serving LWOP the recourse to have their prison terms reviewed after serving 25 years.

AB 1276 established a classification system in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation that prevents offenders under the age of 22 from being housed with adult inmates on level four maximum-security yards. The law acknowledges that the prison yards were too dangerous for the young inmates and facilities lacked the appropriate programs necessary for their rehabilitation.

Kid CAT continues to expand in its mission and vision and to create awareness.

## Legislature Looks Toward Juvenile Evaluations Again

By John Lam  
Kid CAT Writer

that differences between youth and adults render suspect any conclusion that a youth falls among the worst offenders.

## SB 261 Would Change Lives Of Thousands of Youth Offenders

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

Senator Loni Hancock's Senate Bill 261 will change the lives of thousands of men like me who committed crimes as confused youth but who have grown and matured into responsible men and potential role models.

When I decided to write a plea for strong support of Hancock's bill, I planned to say that by paroling  $x$  number of former youth offenders, California would save 60,000 times  $x$  tax dollars. I thought by pointing out what it meant for your pocketbook, you'd be more likely to write your local representative in support of SB 261. Then, I realized the absurdity of asking you to have faith in youth offenders' tremendous potential to change while writing a piece that shows no faith in you.

## INCARCERATION COST

So I'm asking you to write the governor, your assemblyperson and your senator not about fiscal budgetary costs, but about incarceration's cost to our society. I want you to stand because the U.S. comprises 5 percent of the world's population, but holds 25

percent of the world's incarcerated population. Stand because something is wrong with criminal justice in America, and SB 261 moves us in a better direction. It acknowledges that rehabilitation can work, that when a trained parole board determines rehabilitation has taken place, there ought to be laws that integrate the rehabilitated back into society where they can contribute solutions to social problems, such as urban violence, that affect everyone.

## SOLUTIONS

And we *do* want to contribute solutions to social problems. I wish you could sit in a room with Kid CAT members. You would find incarcerated men who are deeply aware of the ways their crimes hurt their communities. One common bond among us is the weight of knowing that when we were children, we perpetuated destructive cycles that still destroy lives today. Another bond, our strongest, is our need to help stop these cycles. We watch news on TV; we see the children our nation loses to urban violence, and our hearts are screaming for a chance to return to the community and save them.

And we *can* save them. In a talk given at San Quentin State Prison, author Bryan Stevenson spoke about *proximity*, how engaging social problems personally, i.e. involving oneself with the issues, holds tremendous power to transform this world. There is no demographic more proximate to the ills destroying the youth in our communities than youth offenders who have rehabilitated themselves.

## SB 261

SB 261 requires young adults to be accountable for criminal actions, while recognizing their special capacity to learn and grow from their mistakes. SB 261 mandates that a young person who was under the age of 23 at the time of his or her crime and who was sentenced to extreme terms, like 67 years to life, instead serve a minimum of 15, 20, or 25 years in prison (depending on the seriousness of the crime) — whereupon they become eligible to plead their case to the parole board. The bill will not release criminals. It will release men who have become the change their communities hope to see. Rehabilitated youth offenders can show troubled youth the kind of men they must learn to be if destructive, urban cycles are to end. We are uniquely qualified to teach at-risk youth what nobody taught us when we were confused and at-risk ourselves. I hope you write your local representatives in support of SB 261, so we will have the chance to serve the communities that we helped ruin.

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 male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.

**"10,000 California youth under the age of 18 have been tried as adults in criminal courts"**

The fact that teens are still developing neurologically and emotionally means that they are especially capable of personal growth. These are important factors that should be weighed in the context of deciding whether a youth should be tried as an adult," the *Human Rights Watch* stated.

The criteria set forth to determine whether a juvenile is fit to be adjudicated in adult court will include:

1) The degree of criminal sophistication exhibited by the minor

2) The individual's age, maturity, intellectual capacity, and physical, mental and emotional health at the time of the alleged offense, the minor's susceptibility of being influenced by peer pressure, as well as the minor's family and community environment, and the effect of childhood trauma on the minor's criminal sophistication

3) Whether the minor can be rehabilitated prior to the expiration of the juvenile court's jurisdiction when the minor reaches the age of 25.

4) Previous criminal history

5) Success of previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the minor

6) The circumstances and gravity of the offense alleged in the petition to have been committed by the minor.

California legislators are seeking to instate a process that would require courts to evaluate a juvenile offender before finding him or her eligible to be charged as an adult.

"The court shall cause the probation officer to investigate and submit a report on the behavioral patterns and social history of the minor being considered for a determination of unfitness," states Fitness Hearings for Juvenile Offenders (SB 382).

Currently, minors as young as 14 may be charged as an adult in California.

"Since 2003, nearly 10,000 California youth under the age of 18 have been tried as adults in criminal courts and denied the services and treatment provided in the juvenile system," noted the *Human Rights Watch*, which added, "While juvenile court is focused on what works for young people and is intent on rehabilitation, the primary purpose of the adult criminal justice system is to punish."

"Juvenile court both holds young people accountable for their actions and requires participation in education, treatment, and other age-appropriate services," states *Human Rights Watch* in a letter it urges supporters to send to their legislators.

According to the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, substantially higher recidivism rates exist among youths who had been transferred to adult criminal courts, compared with those who were retained in the juvenile system.

"In a string of recent US Supreme Court cases, *Roper v. Simmons*, *Graham v. Florida*, and *Miller v. Alabama*, the nation's highest court recognized

# Kid CAT Expresses Healing for Victims, Protection of Children at Annual Banquet

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

An audience including inmates, prison staff and community members listened to more than a dozen incarcerated young men share their stories about what it takes to bring healing to crime victims, while protecting chil-

dren's rights. The youngsters, Kid CAT members, told the crowd of more than 300 that accountability is paramount to moving forward in juvenile justice. Their stories included ones about living with traumatized parents who fled Vietnam and Cambodia in the early '80s and how seeing dead bodies in

a gang-infested neighborhood desensitized them to violence. Each story concluded with the prisoners telling the audience about the murders they committed as a young man. Kid CAT members are taught a curriculum through The First Step that includes lessons on masculinity, self-identity, feelings and emotions, communications, environmental influences, consequences, empathy and compassion, and forgiveness.

Twice a month Kid CAT holds the Juvenile Lifer Support Group. It is a space where men can have a safe place to share their experiences of maturing in prison.

The group holds an annual hygiene drive for Bay Area homeless children.

"The group started because of a need to have a community that can relate to each other on a truly personal level," the Kid CAT brochure reads.

Kid CAT supports the annual Global Youth Peace Summit created for youth around the world (aged 14-18) for a week-long experience devoted to person growth, healing, cultural exchange, leadership development and community building.

A local publication, *The Beat Within*, holds monthly writing workshops with members of Kid CAT so that incarcerated children have the opportunity to exchange thoughts with older offenders who more than likely had similar life experiences.

"What drove me in the beginning was that as a society we were throwing kids away," said keynote speaker, Alison Parker. "I understand how the law works," Parker said, "But, kids are being tried as adults."

"Human beings who are able to see each other are not able to distance each other," Parker said. "I wish we could make these connections before our communities get separated."

One of the original founders of Kid CAT in 2010, Garry "Malachi" Scott, was invited to address the crowd.

Scott has since paroled and



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Garry "Malachi" Scott

is now a member of a council that addresses public safety in Oakland.

Opening with a joke, Scott said, "Yes, I've gained weight. Food is really good!"

"Kid CAT helped me," he continued. "Before, I lacked leadership and charisma. Now I know how we impact policy and changes. Things are happening in California, and I'm excited. You have reasons to

after me. Someone was murdered right in front of my house."

Scott said that the incident affected him more than he thought. He no longer saw the streets as a safe place. However, he said that after doing a libation in honor of the murdered person's life, he was able to process the incident and move on with this life.

"It all came from the tools



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Cleo Cloman opens up about his unique life story



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Tommy Winfrey talking about healing and change



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Alison Parker addressing the crowd about her determination to change policy

be hopeful."

Scott talked about how Restorative Justice impacted his life.

"There will be a time that you'll have to use those tools that you've learned," Scott said. "I woke up at 3 a.m. to multiple gunshots. I thought someone from my past was

that I've learned in here," Scott said. "It was done because of all the people I've met. There's so much value in your life. To Kid CAT members, the youth out there need us. Kid CAT needs to start receiving youth in here to help them. They need people who care about them."



Photo courtesy of SQPR

Gina Maya, Mike Tyler, Amy Rao, Edna M. Togba and the amazing Elizabeth Calvin enjoying each other's good company



# Treatment Plan for Troubled Youth Found to Be Better Inside Homes

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

Treatment plans for troubled youth were found to be better when social workers and clinicians engaged clients at their homes instead of treating them in the traditional office setting.

The article "Evidence-Based 'Gold Standard': Coveted, Yet Controversial," written by Gary Gately, mentions the advantages of being able to sit in the living rooms of the clients. Scott W. Henggeler, Ph.D., said, "When you understand better, and there's really nothing better than sitting in someone's living room for this, when you understand the real-life context of folks – who's living at the house, what people are like, what their life is like – it helps you develop better and more accurate treatment plans." Henggeler was an intern at the University of Virginia's medical school in the mid-1970s, and learned of this style of treatment from his supervisor, who

was a social worker on staff. Understanding the causative factors ultimately assists the health workers in developing a viable treatment tailored to the individual client. Visiting the



client allows the clinicians and social workers to see first-hand what is happening in the home, in real time, rather than have the client come to an office and report what is going on.

Evidence-based practices (EBP) have garnered praise and acceptance as well as controversy. Gately reports that there are purists who support the notion that only the pro-

funding, upstarts and home-grown programs find it difficult to compete with larger brand name programs.

In the juvenile justice system, EBPs have been used to some degree since the mid-1990s. These evidence-based practices were modeled after the Food and Drug Administration's format for reviewing applications for new drugs. As organizations seek funding, states, counties, federal and private foundations specify that a reform effort must be qualified as an EBP to receive funding.

Requiring programs to be EBPs can lead to such disparities, according to James Bell, executive director of the Oakland-based W. Haywood Burns Institute, a movement geared toward eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice.

Bell also expressed his

moral objection to the use of control groups of children who only receive a placebo treatment. There is no benefit to the children exposed to the placebo treatment, which calls into question the ethics of its use. But there has to be some paradigm for compromise. Bell believes in order to move forward evidence-based programs and generic programs must somehow find common ground. Secondly, developers of evidence-based programs and community members have to stop being pitted against one another.

In such situations where communities and EBP organizations are at odds, a collaboration between the two should be formed to discover what are the best practices and treatments for young people, believes Bell.

It appears that EBPs are here to stay. However, it is evident that there is still room for relationship building between the organizations and the conscious communities affected.

## Pelican Bay Prison Educators Aim Students Toward Graduation

*Continued from Page 1*

operates inside PBSP under Principal Janice Nelson, who has more than 16 years of correctional education experience. She leads a team of educators dedicated to helping these inmates get an education.

Initially, every inmate in CDCR is given an Adult Basic Education assessment to determine his or her reading level. The inmate may fall into one of four categories, the first being Adult Basic Education (ABE) I for those who read between a zero and 3.9 grade reading level, ABE II for those reading at a fourth to 6.9 grade level, and ABE III for those who read between a seventh and 8.9 grade level. All others who read above a ninth-grade level can work to obtain either their high school diploma or general education degree (GED).

For the academically low-functioning, PBSP's Tsunami Adult School offers the Alternative Program (AP) classes. Due to the intensive nature, the class sizes are only around 54 students and most of the teachers meet their students in two groups per day. Teachers group their students by ability or subject area depending on the needs of the student.

The Voluntary Education Program (VEP) largely provides instruction via distance learning and video programs. This is how PBSP is able to reach segregated populations such as those in the SHU and ASU. This same program also works well for inmate students who have jobs, such as kitchen workers or landscapers, who want to complete their high school diploma or GED. There currently are six VEP teachers at PBSP with one solely dedicated to college students.

PBSP's newest education program is within the Enhanced Outpatient Program (EOP). The EOP is reserved for mentally ill inmates, particularly those suffering from psychotic disorders. Due to the extreme

needs of these inmate-students, the class sizes are typically less than half of the AP courses.

Obtaining a high school diploma requires more work than getting a GED. High school diploma students need at least 130 hours of course credit, which isn't necessary for a GED. However, some inmate-students are determined to get their high school diploma despite the extra hurdles.

Recent changes to rules for GED testing made it mandatory to take the test via computer. This presents a unique challenge, especially for a maximum-security institution like PBSP. Currently, inmate students at PBSP must take a computer literacy course before they can take the GED test. Certain inmates, like those in the SHU or ASU, cannot access computers due to security issues.

***"We realize that with this being Pelican Bay and the level of inmate we house it may not be as possible as other prisons, but we'll try"***

While access to computers does pose a hindrance for GED testing, requiring inmates to take the computer literacy course is proving to be a positive experience, according to those involved.

"In the computer class, inmates will sit next to each other and help each other," one PBSP correctional officer said. "They may not necessarily do that on the yard, given prison politics."

If the inmate-student has already obtained a high school diploma or GED, then teachers at PBSP can help them enroll in college courses to earn cer-

tificates or Associates or Bachelors degrees.

In order to enroll in college courses, the inmate student must first decide which college he wishes to enroll in and figure out how he is going to pay for the education. College education for inmates is not funded by CDCR. Inmate students must request fee waivers or coordinate with friends/family members to pay for their tuition and the cost of the textbooks.

If the inmate student decides on a college and can pay the costs, then PBSP's College Coordinator works to enroll the student in the school, typically on a first-come, first-served basis.

Currently at PBSP, there are two students enrolled in Ohio State, 37 in Coastline Community College, 35 at Feather River Community College, and next semester there will be 32 attending Lassen Community College.

On March 19, there were five inmate-students housed in the SHU who were taking their college mid-terms via Feather River Community College.

Again, all courses are taught via distance learning models but that may soon change thanks to Senate Bill (SB) 1391.

The passage of SB 1391, authored by State Senator Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley) last year, provided CDCR the ability to contract with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to create and support at least four pilot sites, still to be determined, to allow inmate students to earn college credits and have access to college counseling, placement, and disability support services. College professors may now teach college courses inside state prisons and receive compensation as if they were teaching the class to the public.

PBSP doesn't currently have an agreement with the local community college, College of the Redwoods, but PBSP VEP College Coordinator Kari Telaro is hoping this will change

in the near future.

"I hope inmates will be able to have the traditional learning experience and be together instead of teaching at this individual level," Telaro said. "We realize that with this being Pelican Bay and the level of inmate we house it may not be as possible as other prisons, but we'll try."

There are currently more than 200 people on a waiting list to enroll in Feather River, which completely compensates inmates' tuition and textbooks. Lassen Community College compensates inmates' tuition, but the inmate must pay for his textbooks. Coastline Community College requires inmates to pay for both tuition and textbooks.

PBSP's Education staff is in discussions to begin a college textbook lending program where inmates who have previously bought the textbook for a course may donate it to the

lending program to allow other inmates to avoid paying the cost.

Due to the unique qualities of PBSP, such as level of violence, heavy fog, frequent modified programs, etc., the education staff has to rely on creative ways to reach and educate students. Despite the hurdles the staff must overcome to motivate the inmate-students to complete their requirements, it's working. Last year, 120 inmates graduated with their GEDs and so far this year 50 have graduated.

When asked about their secret to success, PBSP Testing Coordinator Corrine Thogmartin said, "(It's due to) dedicated teachers who love to teach, thinking outside the box to ensure education is continuously delivered despite all outside factors and working with custody. We sure appreciate those who assist in getting our students to us and keeping us all safe."



Photo by Dana Simas

VEP College Coordinator Kari Telaro proctors tests and exams for inmates at PBSP who are enrolled in college courses

# Is Rap My Daddy?

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

In this issue the *San Quentin News* introduces a six-part series exploring the role rap music played in the turbulent early lives of many inmates within San Quentin's walls. For the men who came of age in the late 1980s and '90s, gangster rap music filled the void left by their absent fathers and by the socioeconomic conditions in America's various urban slums. The intro, *Is Rap My Daddy?*, launches a discussion of just how influential music can be. The "Yard Talk" group will

share their insights as prisoners who grew up heavily affected by the genre to analyze:

Part I: *Is Rap Music My Daddy?* — Was Rap music like a father.

Part II: *My Dad's Influence* — Was the influence of rap music positive or negative?

Part III: *The Danger of Keeping it Real* — How rapper's self-imposed need to be authentic makes the genre more than just music.

Part IV: *All About the Money* — How and why money changed rap music from a positive social force to gangster themes

Part V: *Can The Trend Be Re-*

*versed?* — Can rap music become a positive influence again?

Part VI: *How We Can Reverse the Trend* — Ways rap music can have a positive renewal

The panel members are:

Demond Lewis, 40, is in prison for an attempted murder, assault with a firearm, and ex-felon discharging a gun in a case where he shot the victim in the leg. Under the first Three Strikes law, he was sentenced to 109-to-life.

Antoine Watie, 36, is from Sacramento. He is serving 31-to-life for voluntary manslaughter and related charges.

John "Yahya" Johnson, 43,

is from Oakland. He is serving 30 years under the Three Strike law for two robberies. (One robbery counted as more than one strike.)

Richard "Bonaru" Richardson, 42, is from Modesto and used to rap. He is serving 47 years for robbery.

Eric Curtis, 46, is from Comp-ton. He has served 20 years in prison on a 25-to-life sentence for gun possession and a high-speed chase under the Three Strikes law.

David Jassy, 40, is a multi-talented rapper and producer from Stockholm, Sweden, serving life for second degree murder that

stemmed from a fistfight.

Antwan Williams, 27, is rapper who is Christian and has the uncanny ability to deliver his truths in a sincere and aggressive way that gives praise to God and is accepted by everyone. He is serving 15 years for kidnap/robbery. (He moved somebody a few feet during a holdup).

J. "Killa Clown" Medvin, 30, is a Caucasian rapper from Santa Rosa.

Marcus Henderson, 42, was sentenced to 100-to-life for murder and remains "unbroken."

*-Trenise Ferreira contributed to this article.*

## Yard Talk

## In 1972 Warden Clinton T. Duffy Pushed for Prison Reform

By **A. Kevin Valvardi**  
Journalism Guild Writer

Jan. 28, 1972—Former San Quentin Warden Clinton T. Duffy continues his push for prison reforms.

Jan. 28, 1972—Educational program enables prisoners in maximum-security control units to receive high school diplomas.

Jan. 28, 1972—Prisoner Clyde Hall and three other inmates wound up in isolation after Hall was discovered at the bottom of a large hole in the South Block basement during an apparent escape attempt.

Jan. 28, 1972—Canine "Rebel" Adams becomes the official mascot of the *San Quentin News*.

Jan. 28, 1972—Group psychotherapy offered to San Quentin prisoners as a means to improve mental health.

Jan. 28, 1972—Skyline Gym introduces a new boxing contract.

Feb. 4, 1972—The new West Block canteen project known as Canteen West proves successful.

## Back in the Day

Feb. 4, 1972—New SATE program provides educational opportunities and support for San Quentin's African-American men.

Feb. 4, 1972—The San Quentin Pirates hand U.C. Medical Center their third straight varsity basketball loss.

March 3, 1972—The California Supreme Court rules the death penalty unconstitutional, allowing 107 men and women to be released from Death Row at two institutions.

March 3, 1972—San Quentin's population drops to 1,975, its lowest in over 50 years.

March 3, 1972—"Psycho," one of East Block's resident cats, survives a free fall from fifth tier while stalking winged prey.

March 3, 1972—The director of California's Adult Authority temporarily suspends all community release passes.

March 3, 1972—Bob Roberts takes over duties as *San Quentin News*' new sports editor.

March 9, 1972—One-hundred and sixty-two outside guests attend the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration of San Quentin's Alcoholics Anonymous chapter.

March 9, 1972—Former state and federal prisoner Dr. Thomas H. Cox becomes assistant professor of law and justice studies at Glassboro State College and pioneers a new college program at Leesburg State Prison in New Jersey.

March 9, 1972—Arab terrorist organization The Black September Group demands release of Sirhan Sirhan in exchange for diplomatic hostages in Sudan.

March 9, 1972—Seventy county prisoners are shipped to San Quentin for temporary housing following a disturbance and fire at local county jail.



San Quentin Ex-Warden C. Duffy shakes the hand of a parolee who is being released

## Forgiveness Is Essential for Victims and Families to Heal and Move Forward

*Continued from Page 1*

one would testify in court, said Scott.

Torres lost two sons on two separate occasions to what she calls domestic terrorism. Gang members murdered her sons for no logical reason, she said. Their father drank himself to death over the tragedies.

Scott said she felt betrayed when the killer of her son was released because no one would testify.

### SAN QUENTIN

Scott first came into San Quentin as part of the group *No More Tears*.

"I wanted to meet somebody who would take a life," said Scott. "I wanted to know what that was like, what made that person do what they did. I wanted to find the root cause of violence because I know mothers did not raise murderers."

She is executive director and founder of *Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation*, co-founder for *Mothers in Charge* and sponsor for *No More Tears*.

Scott started victim support groups because there

were none when her son was murdered. She climbed out of depression, realizing she couldn't drink herself to death because there was "work to do."

### SURVIVOR

"If I stayed in my victimization, I would continue to blame, judge, be bitter and be filled with a lot of negative things that would not let me grow," said Scott. "I wanted to be a survivor because I couldn't help anyone as a victim."

Scott retold the stories of other mothers from the 3,000 in her groups. One woman lost three sons on different occasions in the same neighborhood.

"Things happened when they were children. Some were molested, raped, racially profiled, bullied by gangs, called stupid, and had bad family dynamics. The children in us are screaming out, and if you don't get that out — this is why we have prisons filled with children in adults' bodies.

"We are all here for a purpose," said Scott. "We need you to come back to our communities. There is work to be done; we can't do it alone; we need

our men."

Survivor Torres retold the pain of viewing the body of her son, Francisco Garcia Torres, and realizing it was evidence.

Another son, Alvaro Pena-Torres, was murdered in Richmond while having lunch with a friend. The murders turned Torres bitter and into a hunter bent on revenge.

"I offered anything to get information on who did it," said Torres.

She eventually received justice by going to Homeland Security. They implemented sweeps, arrested and convicted the killers of both her sons, said Torres.

### SENTENCING

At their sentencing hearings, she asked the killers if she could visit them in prison one day. They all said yes, she said. Torres plans to visit the killers of her sons, when she is ready.

"Elizabeth's story broke my heart," said inmate Lino "Asmar" Ramos, who recently joined the RJ program. "It made me think of what the mother of my victim went through."

RJ master of ceremonies Mike Webb said, "I apolo-

gize for the crimes committed against you."

### REACTIONS

After sitting in circles and hearing the stories of men convicted of crimes like murder, the visitors gave their reactions:

"We have to tear down the barriers of injustice against inmates and the bias," said Scott. "People don't think you can be healed; they want to lock you up forever, and that ain't the answer. We need our husbands back, our fathers back, and incarceration is not the answer."

Masha Lisitsa, a therapist who works with first-time felons, said, "It is a cathartic experience coming out and hearing shared stories. It breaks down the judgment for what it means to be in prison."

Lindsay Crawford, a high school teacher, attended the symposium to learn more about the process and find out how students could benefit from intervention aimed at healing all parties.

Her former co-worker Anjali Rodrigues said, "Restorative Justice should be part of every expulsion hearing."

Rodrigues, who is now a student at Harvard University, recalls a time restorative justice was noticeably absent for two freshman students whose pictures posted online revealed they had brought a gun to school. They were excellent students who had prior gang affiliation but were moving forward, and the gun wasn't loaded, she said.

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

"It was a pivotal point in their lives, where they could go down two different paths," said Rodrigues. "I get the no-weapons policy, but whether they got expelled or not, a restorative justice circle should be a part of it so they could understand how their actions affected others, and to know that I was disappointed in their actions, but not them. There was not a space for that. It was punitive quickly. We need to look at the kid's individual background and see what we can do to guide them the right way."

Fateem Jackson performed a spoken word piece that emphasized, "All lives really do matter; that includes mine, and that includes yours."

# Beloved Artist Rene Garcia Jr. Passes Away

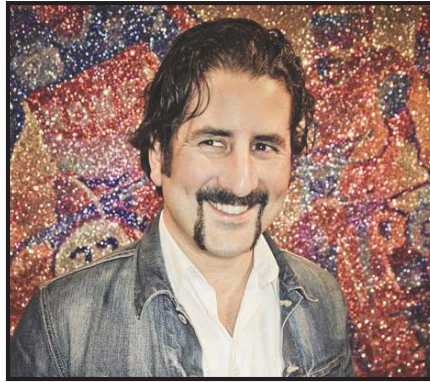
By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

San Quentin lost a valued member of the community on May 8. Teacher, multimedia artist and friend to many behind the walls of San Quentin, Rene Garcia Jr. passed away.

Garcia was born on July 9, 1973, and leaves behind his wife, Holly, two young children and a mother and sister who live in Arizona.

Best known outside the walls of San Quentin for his glitter paintings that capture pop culture at its best, Garcia was seen as just one of the guys in the art studio.

Garcia broke down the walls of prisoners he worked with by digging in and getting his hands dirty. It was a common site to see him with his hands covered in clay or glue and a smile on his face. He had a unique ability to make the same art material that they use in kindergarten cool and fun for grown men with egos that



Rene Garcia Jr.

File Photo

to invite him to apply," said Carol Newborg, program manager of the San Quentin Prison Arts Program.

Garcia taught the men to work with everything from paint and canvas to glue and cardboard.

"I called Rene the Sparkle Artist because his

studio about a year and half ago as a volunteer. Seeing that he was a natural fit with the artists in the studio, the William James Association eventually hired him as an artist in residence for the Prison Arts Project, and he taught an afternoon class every Monday.

"When I met Rene several years ago, I knew he and his

stuff always sparkled when I looked at it. He pushed me to make clay sculpture and suggested that I use a lot of different objects to sculpt, like paper clips and toothpicks. He was an all-around Bonaru dude," said Fred Tinsley.

Recently Garcia began working on a new project in the studio. He had a vision of creating a graphic novel with the men so that they could tell their stories.

Typical of Garcia's laid-back style, he was willing to let the men be in control of the project as far as deciding which stories would be told, and only offering his advice in the way of keeping the project on track.

"Rene was a nice guy that never would criticize you. He just watched what you were doing and would be supportive. It bothers me that we never got the graphic novel project off the ground before he passed away. We were just starting, and then his life got taken. It is sad, and it reminds me that life is fragile," said Gerald Morgan.

The last time Garcia taught a class in San Quentin he passed around a project schedule for the graphic novel.

"He wasn't like the normal artist that came in because of the mediums he used, which inspired me. The graphic novel project was awesome to me because it is something that I have been interested in my whole time in prison. He wanted us to stay away from the cliché



File Photo

Rene giving the thumbs-up standing next to his bike

of prison, and that pushed me to get out of the institutional thinking that you can get stuck in while you're here," said Justus Evans.

It is evident to the men who knew him that Garcia supported the artist in his class and the whole population at San Quentin. "On the Day of Peace, an event that is held in honor of peace once a year in San Quentin, Rene and I walked down to the yard from the art center. We walked around the yard and looked at the art some of the guys created. He was just really interested in the whole lay of the land and where some of us spent our days," said Nicola Bucci. "We approached the chalk art area, and I told him I thought I would do something with a chicken on it, and he told me about his friend that always put chickens in his art, and they always sold." Bucci won first place that day.

Garcia left early that day because he had to get home to celebrate his son's birthday. That was the kind of guy he was. He recognized the importance of the day for the men inside San Quentin and wanted to be there with them even though it was an important day for his family outside.

"Rene was passionate about

his family because he spoke about them a lot. We shared a passion for *Star Wars*, and he confided in me that he did some work on one of the movies. Before he died, we were discussing his desire about writing an article about living the Jedi code in prison. I just want to remind his family there is no death; there is the force," said Christopher Christensen.

Garcia's death has had a huge impact on the artists who worked with him. Sentiments of disbelief and grief were expressed among men who considered themselves as his peers even though they are locked behind the walls of a prison. Talk in the art studio has centered around continuing the graphic novel project he started to honor his memory.

Program manager Newborg expressed sentiments that every one that knew him shared. "He told me that getting out of his studio and working collaboratively at the San Quentin studio had really enriched his life and art, and he was always very excited about the work the inmate artists were doing. He will be sorely missed, and the inmate artists will honor his memory with art yet to be developed."



Artwork by Rene Garcia Jr.

Trooper

can sometimes be larger than life.

"As an instructor for the Monday arts class, Rene was an inspiration. As a person, he was even more than an inspiration. None of us are perfect, but Rene inspired us to perfect our craft," said one of his students, Mark Stanley-Bey.

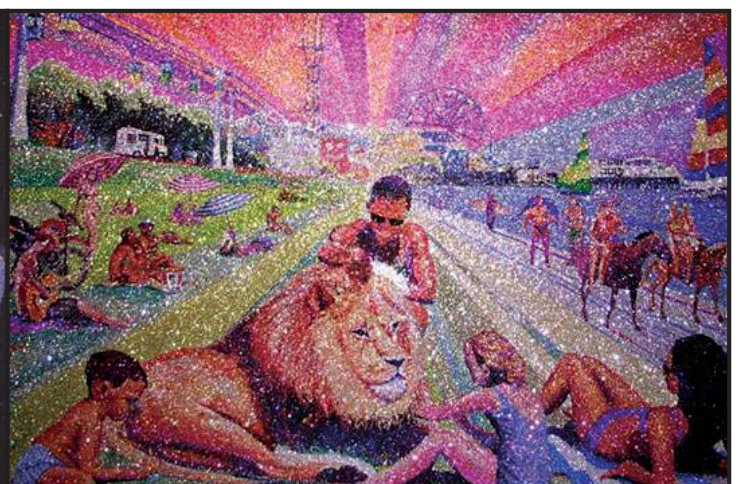
Garcia started coming to visit the San Quentin art stu-

dio, Holly, had always been avid collectors of inmate art – even her wedding ring was bought at a prison hobby craft shop in Arizona – and that he might be interested in teaching at San Quentin. But in his typical way, he didn't push or even bring it up. He was very happy when the Prison Arts Project was able to hire some new instructors, and we were thrilled



Artwork by Rene Garcia Jr.

Michael



Artwork by Rene Garcia Jr.

Beach Picnic

# Day of Peace in San Quentin Promotes Non-Violence

Continued from Page 1

site of a violent race riot.

That spring day an inmate self-help group, Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST), scheduled a yard event for Black History Month.

"We had music, speakers and dancers ready to perform," said event coordinator Kim Richman, PhD. "There were about 50 outside community members coming for the celebration."

Richman said that in 2006 San Quentin prison was constantly on lockdowns, mainly because of interracial strife.

Just before the celebration was about to begin, Richman got information "something" was about to happen on the yard and rushed the community members to a safe place. Immediately after that, the riot broke out.

"All of the volunteers were protected and surrounded by 50 outside community members coming for the celebration," Richman said. "Because of our

**THE SELF-HELP PROGRAMS:**  
*No More Tears; The Work; Protestant Church; Project LA; TRUST; ELITE; Brother's Keeper; SQ CARES; Native Hawaiians; Diabetes Project; Free to Succeed; REACH; Veterans Healing Veterans From the Inside Out; Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin; Catholic Church; Centering Prayer; Restorative Justice; Kairas; SQUIRES; TEDx, San Quentin Prison Report; Hope For Lifers; Guiding Rage Into Power.*



Vaughn Miles and Jack Jacqua soaking in some peace



Al Jefferson holding a gift bag from Walkenhorst



Darren Walkenhorst and Natalie Tovar receiving Certificates of Appreciation from Chris Schuhmacher



Gail "Mojo" Muldrow and Tony Saunders

inmate facilitators all the volunteers got out safely."

"It was never because of the men in the programs," Richman said. "I never thought twice about coming back. I wasn't really scared because the inmates in our group protected us."

After the riot, a group of inmate leaders approached the administration with the idea for a Day of Peace.

"That's amazing for a prison," said Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell, referring to the inmate-led idea.

Mitchell added that when auditors from the American Correctional Association interviewed inmates about San Quentin programs, they were impressed at how the inmates explained the value of self-help programs in fostering a peaceful environment.

Reading a dictionary definition of Peace, Mitchell said the one that got her attention was: Peace is freedom from oppression and of disquiet from oppressive thoughts.

Mitchell advised the inmates to "Make that personal pledge from disquiet of oppressive thoughts."

This year's event began with an Islamic prayer by Roosevelt "Askari" Johnson, Jr. He also told a story premised on individually bettering ourselves as the best way to the betterment of the world.

Prisoner Alex Bracamonte has been at San Quentin less than a year. In the past eight years, he's been housed at Calipatria and Centinela prisons.

"I was surprised by all the outside people just walking around and talking with inmates, and even Kelly Mitchell without COs around her," said Bracamonte. "At the other prisons we were lucky to have one event a year, and they were roped off.

You couldn't get close to them." John Rodgers, 58, has been incarcerated 29 years. He arrived at San Quentin two and a half months ago.

"I could see a Day of Peace at Soledad. It's mellow there," he said. "Ironwood would be different. It was just a harder institution."

Rodgers looked around at the dozens of tables promoting self-help programs.

"This is neat," he said. "You can talk at the tables and choose a program that fits you. I like Hope for Lifers because I think lifers need a little more hope than those who have [parole hearing] dates."

"After a number of years most guys are not the same as they were when they came in," Rodgers said. "Men do change if they have the right incentives. My five grandkids are my incentive to change. I'd like to get out and be a grandpa. I came in a kid, and now I can go out a grandpa. It makes a world of difference."

The Native Hawaiian Religious Group of San Quentin performed a traditional "Haka" with a Conflict Resolution twist. The group was led by elders (Makuas) Derrick Kualapai, Upumoni Ama and Damon L. Cooke.

When the performers slowly made their way to the stage, Cooke exclaimed, "Aloooooo-ha!"

He then gave the audience an interpretation of what the dance performance meant based on his knowledge and understanding of the Polynesian culture.

Cooke said the performance tied into the theme of Peace Day by showing how "human beings have dealt with conflict throughout the ages."

Fateem Jackson performed a "Spoken Word" piece he prepared especially for the Day of



Guest and prisoners holding up the peace sign in solidarity in support of non-violence



Albert, Reggie and Vance enjoying the Day of Peace event

**Self-Help Groups Define Peace:**  
*Financial Literacy Program, Freeman Capital:* "It is reconciliation and resources." *California Reentry Institute:* "It is leaving prison in a peaceful state of mind because you have all of the resources you need for a successful reentry." *Peace*  
*Criminal and Gang Members Anonymous:* "It is fully understanding the 12 steps to recovery and effectively applying the steps in our lives. Step 2 tells us that we came to believe change is possible and truly believe one less criminal, one less crime, one less victim establishes peace."  
*Shakespeare at San Quentin:* "It is being authentic and leaving room for diversity, being true to your thoughts and feelings and remembering unity." *The Richmond Project:* "It is being the change we want to see in the world, mending broken relationships and creating healthy homes and safe havens for children." *Alliance for Change:* "We believe that peace will be achieved when every member of society works for and values fairness, justice, and equality for every other member of society." *The Last Mile:* "It is being able to create something from nothing that can enrich someone's life beyond measure." *ROOTS:* "It is embracing the diversity of culture. Know history; know self. No history. No self." *Kid CAT:* "It's to know you are safe because of the choices you make. It is to know who you are and accepting yourself. Peace is about making a stronger you and stronger community."



Nathan Lee sing his heart out



Alliance for CHANGE gathers in support of peace



Audrey Auld sing with two wonderful musicians

Peace.

"I'll be the first to admit, I have my flaws," Jackson said in *All Lives Really Do Matter*, which addresses Jackson's encounter with police officers, while he was under the influence of drugs and armed with a pistol. The piece ponders why the police officers didn't kill him. Jackson said the incident gave him survivor's guilt.

Jackson, incarcerated 17 years, has been at San Quentin for three years and is involved with several self-help groups, including, Guiding Rage Into Power, House of Healing, Restorative Justice and the Day of Peace committee. He goes before the parole board in 2029.

**Side Walk Art:** Volunteer and artist Patrick Mahoney carefully observed the 100 squares of sidewalk chalk art, each drawn with peace as its theme. After deliberation, he chose number 12 as this year's winner. In second place was drawing number 96, and number 7 was third. He gave an honorable mention to number 15.

**The Band Plays On:** Lisa Starbird of Bread and Roses brought several musicians to entertain the crowd, including folksinger Auld. Starbird has been coming inside San Quentin for 40 years.

Auld performed songs written by San Quentin inmates at a song-writing workshop. "I Am Not What I Have Done," along with "Hey Warden" are available on CD in Walkenhorst's catalog.

Walkenhorst's customer service representative Natalie Tovar and executive Darren Walkenhorst walked around the yard talking to inmates about products in their catalog, mainly the various tennis shoe styles available in the catalog and the challenges of getting CDCR ap-



Kao putting his chalk skills to work



Nicola Bucci pulling off the 1st place drawing



Ozair showing off his talent

proval for new styles. Walkenhorst donated refreshments for the event, and this year has donated more than \$20,000 toward services geared toward family support throughout the California prison system.

"It's always my pleasure to help the musicians. I'm happy to do it," said Raphael Casale, an Office Technician in the Warden's office. Casale sponsors the prison's music bands as well as an at-risk youth program called SQUIRES.

Photographer Peter Merts took still photos of the band and of inmates mingling on the yard with free staff and custody throughout the day. "We come away with it a very good feeling," one of the Taiko drummers said. "I talk about this event months after I leave."

"This is my place of peace," said Day of Peace committee volunteer, Herman Yee. Miguel Quezada, Wesley R. Eisninger, and Damon Cooke contributed to this article.

# Arts & Entertainment



Photo courtesy of P. Jo

## TIMES SQUARE

### Sudoku Corner

#### Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

Imagine being in a room blind folded with a bowl containing 50, 20, 10 and 5 dollar bills. You can only take one note out of the bowl at a time until you have four notes of the same value. What is the largest amount of cash you can end up with?

Explain your answer as clear as possible.  
Rules

The prize will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

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

#### Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

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

#### Snippets

Helium is usually mixed with oxygen to help reduce the impact of what is called narcosis to deep sea divers. They called the mixture of the two compounds cold heliox.

Every year the proud citizens of the United States dispose enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the whole state of Texas.

Again mankind falls short to his own creation. A personal computer was picked as "Man of the Year" for Time magazine at the end of 1982.

The King of Hearts in a deck of playing cards represents Charlemagne. Charlemagne was the king of Franks and the emperor of the west during 742-814.

Would it surprise you if I told you that Zebras are actually black? Well it's true, Zebras are black with white strips.

Andrew Jackson was labeled by his opponents a "jackass" during his presidential run in 1828. He placed a donkey on his campaign poster.

Volcano is a term that originated out of the name Vulcan, the Roman god of fire.

Emperor Heliogabalus (218-222 C.E.) collected spider webs by the ton as a hobby.

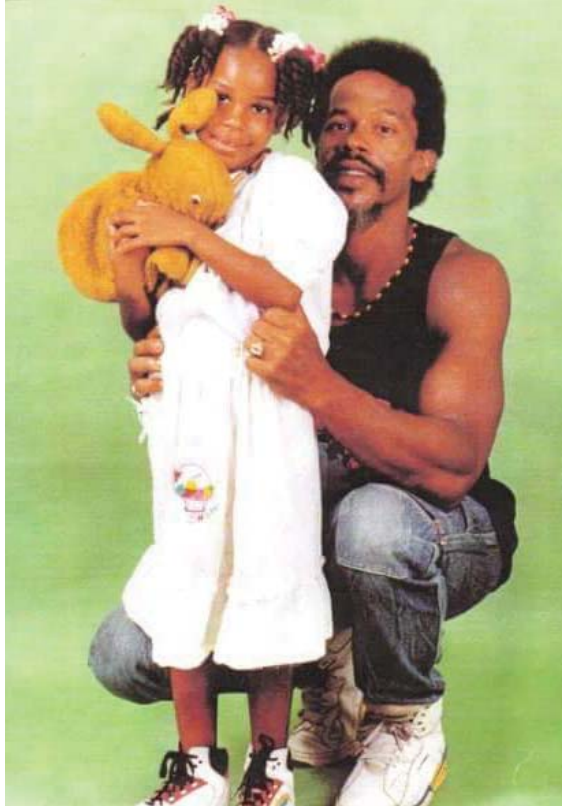
# A Daughter Looks Back...and Forward

By Latanya Stiner  
Contributing Writer

As the month of June approached, Father's Day sat at the forefront of my mind as I thought of how different it would be this time around. You see, I had gone twenty years without being able to celebrate this day or any other day with my father, Watani Stiner, the way other daughters did. Because of his incarceration, there had been no dinner outings, movie nights or picnics in the park. There were no home-cooked meals, jazz concerts or any of the traditional gift giving that usually took place. There was, however, an abundance of improvisation, communication and love. In other words, I refused to let the many small defeats define the relationship I had with my father.

Yes, as Father's Day drew near, I thought of the rocky road I had traveled over the past two decades. I remembered flying into this country desperate to be reunited with my dad who had already been imprisoned for eleven years before the airplane carrying my siblings and I had finally touched the ground. I recalled the powerful feeling of anticipation during the long ride in a crowded passenger van on the way from Los Angeles to visit my father in San Quentin State Prison for the first time. And I remembered the sadness of leaving him behind when visiting time was over. Undoubtedly, life while my father was behind the walls had been more difficult than one could ever imagine. Still, I never lost hope and I never stopped believing that one day we would be able to do all of the things that fathers and daughters do together on the outside. My focus remained on not letting the small defeats I

## An 'OG's' Perspective



File Photo

Young Latanya and her dad, Watani Stiner

suffered get the best of me. I was determined to maintain a solid relationship with my dad.

Of course, this had to be a two-way street. It was just as important for my father to improvise, communicate and show the love necessary to help preserve our bond. Despite the obstacles that prison presented, he

was as involved in my life as he could possibly be considering the circumstances. He continually wrote, called and showed the type of concern a daughter would expect from her father. And whenever I stumbled upon hardship, I could always read one the many letters he had written to me over the years

*"We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated." - Maya Angelou*

*"There are no defeats, only delayed victories." - My Dad*

and use it as a source of inspiration and strength to move on and pursue all of my dreams. It would be impossible to minimize the struggle my father and I faced in attempting to keep that loving connection alive, but I will tell anyone willing to listen that it was very much worth it. And now that he is home, we both are extremely excited about the opportunity to more freely cultivate our relationship as father and daughter. Having encountered what I thought were defeats along the way, I can nevertheless still proudly proclaim that we were definitely not defeated. In fact, as my father would say, "There are no defeats, only delayed victories!" Happy Father's Day, Dad. And to the men still on the inside who continue fighting to overcome the odds, happy Father's Day to you, too.



File Photo

Watani Stiner and his daughter Latanya after his release

## Experts Question Effectiveness of Reentry Programs in Jails

### Short stays and low post-release supervision are cited

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

The effectiveness of jail reentry programs at addressing rehabilitation and recidivism are questionable, according to a 2008 academic paper written by a team of experts.

#### TEAM

The team, composed of three criminologists and a statistician, based their finding on their own analyses along with studies and related academic reports by a variety of other sources, the paper documents.

"Unfortunately, the results produce more questions than answers about program impact," the authors write.

The paper is titled "Exploring Inmate Reentry in a Local Jail Setting: Implications for Outreach, Service Use, and Recidivism." Written as an article, it stresses distinction between state prison systems and jail settings.

"Several unique features

of the jail setting have served as formidable barriers to the implementation of reentry programs," say the authors.

According to their introductory summary, the authors conclude that reentry program participants at the local jail level perform no better than those who do not participate.

Since 1985, the United States has experienced an approximate 200 percent increase in the number of incarcerated persons – up from 744,208 to nearly 3 million, the study documents.

#### STUDY

According to the study, statistics show that within three years of release, more than 50 percent of those formerly incarcerated will be back in lockup. As a result, "The issue of prisoner reentry has taken center stage in the correctional research and policy discussions."

Representing Arizona State University, the RAND Corpo-

ration and John Jay College of Criminal Justice respectively, Michael D. White, Jessica Saunders, Christopher Fisher and Jeff Mellow constructed their article based upon examination of a New York City jail-based reentry program, the paper explains.

#### DATA

Statistical data provided in the paper indicates that on any given day there are far fewer inmates incarcerated at the local jail level as compared to the state prisons – 50 percent at most.

However, other data also provided in the paper shows that of those released annually from the local jails, as compared to those released annually from the state prisons, local jails release inmates back into the community at a rate at least 20 times greater than prisons.

In light of this, considering the vast numbers of inmates regularly released from local jail settings, the connection

between reintegration and improvements in public safety, public health and budgetary (fiscal) savings is increasingly apparent, the authors note.

"Developing and implementing programs to transition jail inmates to the community is complicated by the unique features of the jail setting, most notably inmates' short length of stay in jail, the mixing of pretrial and sentenced populations, and the typically low rates of post-release supervision. State prison inmates, for example, have an average length of stay of 25 months compared to jail inmates who are incarcerated on average between 10 and 20 days," the authors write.

#### CHALLENGES

Further describing the challenges faced in making analysis, the authors say, "Many participants failed to take advantage of the full complement of services."

And, the vexing inability to

characterize the type and nature ("quality") of services received by each participant is problematic, the authors explain.

Despite the data and survey limitations, the authors have been able to arrive at a conclusion. Accordingly, the study team says that: (1) "When examined as whole, released inmates who participated in reentry programs fared no better than comparable released inmates who did not participate. Individuals returned at approximately the same rate, at approximately the same time." And, (2) "Individuals who received 90 days of post-release services fared far better than both those who received less than 90 days of post-release services and those who did not participate in programs at all. This suggests that program dosage is important, but the finding is tempered by methodological concerns."

The academic research team emphasizes that their study is one of the first empirical examinations of reentry at the local jail setting.

## Anthony Burgess' Ethical Twist With Rehabilitation in 'A Clockwork Orange'

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

Anthony Burgess wrote *A Clockwork Orange* in 1962. Stanley Kubrick's Hollywood version in 1971 kept to the novel's theme: changing criminal minds through rehabilitation is the goal for prison.

However, an important question is raised in *A Clockwork Orange*: when rehabilitative tools cross ethical lines, what then?

*A Clockwork Orange* looks at a society where crime is running amok, and the penal system is out of date and ineffective.

Society becomes so desperate for modernization to its prison system that it is willing to do away with free will and experiment with a mind-altering drug that stops criminal thinking.

The subject of the experiment

is such a vile character that it seems plausible to try the new tactic.

You can't get any worse than Alex, whose reckless and scandalous escapades continue until someone is killed. Magnifying his deprecation of humanity, after he's caught and imprisoned, his ethics, mentality and behavior do not improve; they deteriorate.

The government's fix is Reclamation Treatment, a behavioral modification program that controls thoughts and behavior through a drug that causes severe unpleasant reactions when the person sees something "deemed" criminal or immoral.

Inmates who successfully complete Reclamation Treatment are released from prison.

Thinking he's gotten a get-out-of-jail-free card, Alex volunteers.

The following passages by the prison warden, then its chaplain, are examples where Burgess suggests that tampering with free will has dire consequences.

Well, these new ridiculous ideas have come at last and orders are orders, though I may say to you in confidence that I do not approve. I most emphatically do not approve. An eye for an eye, I say. If someone hits you, you hit back, do you not? Why then should not the State, very severely hit by you brutal hoodlums, not hit back also? But the new view is to say no. The new view is that we turn the bad into the good. All of which seems to me grossly unjust.

You are to be made into a good boy, 6655321. Never again will you have the desire to commit acts of violence or to offend in any way whatsoever against the State's Peace...It may not be

## BOOK REVIEW



nice to be good, little 6655321. It may be horrible to be good... Does God want goodness or the choice of goodness...in choosing to be deprived of the ability to make an ethical choice, you have in a sense really chosen the good. So I shall like to think.

These passages illustrate that using a rehabilitative process that destroys free will is diametric to individualism in human nature, while at the same time, it

asserts that vengeance that only punishes an individual forgets that someday the person has to return to the community.

Ultimately, the dilemma posed in *A Clockwork Orange*, as manifested through the novel's characters, are that public officials who are charged with implementing reform, rehabilitation or punishment are facsimiles of the warden or chaplain. Wardens have their own ideas of justice—prodded along by the exploitive nature of victim-rights organizations, heavily focused on punishment. Chaplains, the moral compass of society, are made into alcoholics, which metaphorically says that these officials have a diminished capacity to think clearly about the individual nature of mankind.

*A Clockwork Orange* successfully depicts the negative and mechanical results of negating free will in human beings.

## The Hidden Monster Inside of Dracula

By S.Q. Reviews

S.Q. Reviews continues the theme we explored in May: What is the so-called monster's side of the story?

In *Dracula Untold*, Dracula (Luke Evans) grows up in the Turkish court as a slave-soldier. Stripped from his father's court, he is trained to be a fanatic killer for the sultan. After the Sultan's death releases Dracula from service to inherit Transylvania's rule, he finds himself faced with his bloody reputation as Vlad the Impaler and a decision.

Will he send his son (Art Parkinson), along with a thousand other children, to endure the same life that turned Dracula into a killer? *Dracula Untold* is the story of how a father be-

## MOVIE REVIEW

comes a vampire to protect his son and nation from the Turkish empire.

S.Q. Reviews sits down to discuss the movie.

Rahsaan Thomas says, "One thing I like is Dracula understood that once he became a monster, he couldn't turn back. So he set up an ending that would protect everyone from him."

"But wasn't he a monster before he became a vampire?" John Chiu asks. "Vlad the Impaler killed thousands."

"Vlad was raised to be a monster," Thomas says. "Situational forces made him act like a monster. Once he was free to do his

own thing, he was a good man: loving husband, father, ruler."

"Let's back up a little," says Emile DeWeaver. "You said *Once he became a monster, he couldn't turn back*. What would you say if someone said to you, *Rahsaan, you killed people. You're a monster, and you can never come back from that?*"

Thomas looks around the seated circle. "I think there's a difference between acting like a monster and being a monster. I grew up in an environment where I felt like I had to act like a monster to survive."

DeWeaver says, "But when a person sees you act like a monster, they think you're a monster because how can they tell the difference? Isn't that what you just did with Dracula? You saw

his actions, and you called him a monster who can never turn back."

Thomas shakes his head. "When Dracula became a vampire, he couldn't survive without killing other people. The need to kill came from within him; when he was the sultan's slave, it came from outside, and that's how you tell the difference."

"My childhood environment twisted my values," says DeWeaver, "but my rage came from me. Under your premise, I'm a monster that can't change."

"No, we talked about this in IMPACT," Thomas says.

(IMPACT is an acronym for the self-help group *Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things*. In this group, men work to dispel the misguided male role belief systems that led them to incarceration.)

Thomas continues, "You're confusing responsibility with blame. Your choices were limited by things you didn't get to choose. Like being Black and the social rules of your neigh-



borhood."

"OK, but what's the difference between me taking responsibility and me blaming myself?" asks DeWeaver.

Thomas steeps his hands. "Bad role models and limited choices are the problems that face us," he says. "Responsibility is the solution."

We rate *Dracula Untold* two and a half of five dinner cookies.

Contributors: *Emile DeWeaver, Rahsaan Thomas, Juan Meza, John Chiu*

## Veteran's Group Collaborate

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

In 1998, the Veteran's Group of San Quentin (VGSQ) formed the Veteran's Interest Group (VIG) in collaboration with the Veterans Administration and numerous county, state and federal agencies.

The rationale behind this joint program is the hypothesis that pre-release discharge planning reduces recidivism.

With the approval of successive wardens at San Quentin, this program is facilitated through the volunteer efforts of professionals in the field of Veterans Affairs and continues to be an integral component of the work for veterans done by VGSQ.

The year the VIG was formed, the Department of Justice reported that 84,427 veterans were incarcerated across the United States. In 1995, Congress enacted a bill that provides funding under the "Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program," which specifically addresses the term "eligible veteran" as a resident of a penal institution.

By 2000, the U.S. Department of Justice reported the number of incarcerated veterans had risen to 225,700, and this number has continued to climb.

VIG members participate in activities such as Real Choices, Operation MOM, Stamps for Soldiers, Tabs for Tots, a Christmas Toy Program, as well as scholarships and fund drives.

The group holds a variety of programs ranging from Anger Management to Victim Awareness. The VIG program provides support to its members while achieving an unprecedented level of community outreach. When a veteran becomes aware of the tools for change, and is able to address past experiences with closure, the participation in community outreach increases dramatically.

The "Blueprint for Success," a special report on the VIG program, highlights an unparalleled effort to utilize county state, and federal programs to fulfill the ultimate goal of returning veterans to freedom with zero recidivism.

## VGSQ Honors April

The Veteran's Group of San Quentin designated the month of April in honor and recognition of Jesse Hernandez, who passed away in March.

His VGSQ family sent its love and condolences to Jesse's free family.

"As the vice-chairman of the VGSQ, Jesse was an integral part of the VGSQ operations and always presented himself in an uplifting and encouraging way to those with whom he came in contact," VGSQ said in a statement.

"He worked above and beyond the call of duty to add to the well-being of us all and we came to love our brother Jesse for his tireless work as well as who he was as a man.

"His positive contributions and strength to overcome great obstacles to see his commitments through were often the difference between success and failure for our group and will not be forgotten."

## S.F. Begins New Court Program for Veterans Only

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff Writer

San Francisco has launched a new court for veterans only that emphasizes rehabilitation over punishment for low-level crimes.

"San Francisco's community court, like others in the country, uses judges, not juries, to send defendants to drug treatment, shelter and social services, instead of handing down fines and time in overcrowded jails," *The Associated Press* reported Dec. 25.

Superior Court Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee helped create the veterans court.

She had realized that veterans were different from other defendants. "They stood up straight, said, 'Yes ma'am, no ma'am,' and there was no street talk. This was a different animal," she said.

Since the Community Justice Center was started about a year ago, 60 veterans have gone

through the court program, the *Associated Press* reported.

The center has received a \$350,000 federal grant that the program will use to expand to handle crimes such as drugs and domestic violence that often affect people who served on active military duty.

The *AP* reported on a veteran, Russell Phay. "Phay came out of the Army as a trained infantry combat soldier, but his tour ended just as his unit was headed out. He then had trouble readjusting to civilian life. He threatened his wife when she took their son to Colorado and ended up in prison."

After serving his time, Phay said he got treatment. "I feel like people here understand the brotherhood," he said.

The new program has mentors who are veterans themselves.

Lee said, "I like to say if you want to see the best of the legal system, spend Wednesday afternoon in veterans court."

# Study Show Millions Suffer from Mental Disorder in America's Justice System

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Approximately a million people in America's criminal justice system suffer from a major mental disorder, an academic study reports. However, the study suggests most crimes are not attributable to mental illnesses.

"These findings suggest that programs will be most effective in reducing recidivism if they expand beyond psychiatric symptoms" to address variable risk factors such as antisocial traits, according to the report by the American Psychological Association.

Of the 7.3 million people under correctional supervision in the United States (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009), about 15 percent suffer from serious disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or major depression, the April 2014 report stated.

Approximately 1 million



Jennifer Skeem

people with a major mental disorder are involved in the criminal justice system, the report added.

The study authors are Jillian K. Peterson and Jennifer Skeem of the University of California, Irvine; Patrick Kennealy of the University of South Florida, Beth Bray of the University of North Dakota and Andrea Zvonkovic of Columbia University.

The study of 132 psychiatric patients at high risk for community violence found that anger robustly predicted violence. Impulsivity was another symptom included in the article's definition of mental illness. Bipolar symptoms of impulsivity include "distractibility" and "excessive involvement in pleasurable activities that have a high potential for painful consequences." Another symptom of mental illness, depression (hopelessness, suicide) was directly related to criminal

behavior in about 3 percent of cases.

Defendants acquitted by reason of insanity for one crime theoretically would not commit any other crimes apply even to offenders acquitted by reason of insanity. For example, researchers followed 585 offenders acquitted by reason of insanity for five years to identify factors that predicted revocation of conditional release from the hospital.

Clinical factors did not predict revocation, but general risk factors for crime did. (e.g. criminal history, substance abuse, being non-white, unmarried and unemployed). Persons acquitted of a crime by reason of insanity sometimes commit crimes based on similar risk factors as non-mentally ill offenders. This is consistent with the premise that these individuals commit "sane" and "insane" crimes over time.

Of crimes committed by

participants with schizophrenia spectrum disorders, 23 percent were completely or mostly related directly to symptoms. Forty-two percent were crimes against another person, 42 percent were property crimes and 16 percent were minor crimes, such as trespassing.

**"These findings suggest that programs will be most effective in reducing recidivism"**

Of the crimes committed by individuals in this study with bipolar disorder, 62 percent were completely or mostly related directly to symptoms. Thirty-nine percent were crimes against another person, 42 percent were property crimes and 19 percent were minor crimes.

Fifteen percent of crimes committed by participants with depression were completely or mostly related directly to symptoms. Thirty-nine percent of these crimes were against another person, 15 percent were property crimes and 46 percent were minor crimes.

The study concluded an offender who commits a crime that is directly connected to symptoms often commits other crimes unrelated to symp-



Beth Bray

toms. The majority of mostly or completely direct crimes (62 percent) were linked to symptoms of bipolar disorder.

Another finding of the study: System solutions like diversion programs that focus predominantly on symptom control tend to have little effect on recidivism.

This study also indicated that effective mental health treatment may prevent a minority of crimes from occurring, but would likely not improve criminal justice outcomes for the vast majority of offenders with mental illness.



Jillian K. Peterson



Patrick Kennealy



Andrea Zvonkovic

## Family Violence Triggers the Need for Intervention

By Tommy Bryant  
Journalism Guild Writer

The increase in family violence sparks a need for intervention.

Family violence is increasingly prevalent, affecting high numbers of children, as well as relatives in most cases. It was their most frightening experience ever, half of those exposed to an assault by another family member told the American Psychological Association, according to a 2014 report. More than

a quarter of them feared for their own safety.

Police are typically the first responders, and this in turn opens the gate to other interventions. All 50 states have made domestic violence arrests easier, when probable cause is indicated, without the victim having to press charges.

### RESEARCHERS

Multiple researchers concluded, "It is well-established that exposed children experience

adverse psychological consequences and elevated risk of all forms of child maltreatment."

Surprisingly, little research has been done on criminal justice responses to family violence across the country. The intervention services are sadly under-funded with respect to the size and impact of the problem.

The national snapshot of interventions for family violence incidents shows best practices — such as serving restraining orders with victim-perpetrator

separations and/or jail — were not used consistently, suggesting that more police training is needed. Safety planning and several other interventions are overlooked or left to a court's discretion

### PHYSICAL INJURY

A reported 53 percent of cases involving physical injury and police reports did not lead to an arrest even when a child was hurt. Of the original 517 polled by researchers, only 10 served

jail time.

Domestic violence victims' services is basically placed into a "black box," suggested one 2009 report, with little feedback about the type of interventions used and or what really works.

Researchers conclude there is no one answer to the incidence of violence in the home.

In most cases family violence happens long before the police are called. Research data revealed no blanket cure that can be used to stop this widespread and destructive behavior.

## Parents of Mentally Ill Prisoner File Wrongful Death Suit

Joseph Duran was found dead in his cell Sept. 7, 2013

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

A wrongful death claim has been filed against the California prison system by the parents of a mentally ill prisoner who died after he was pepper sprayed in his cell, a newspaper reports.

The *Sacramento Bee* reported inmate Joseph Duran was found dead in his cell Sept. 7, 2013, seven hours after being hit with pepper spray for refusing to let go of the food port in his cell door.

The newspaper reported Duran's death was one of sev-

eral similar cases that led to a judge's order to curb pepper spray on mentally ill prisoners.

Duran had undergone a tracheotomy, which restricted his breathing, the newspaper said.

"Duran yanked out his breathing tube after being doused with pepper spray inside his cell," according to the *Bee*.

"Guards refused to remove Duran and decontaminate him despite orders from prison medical staff," details the article, which relied on staff interviews contained in an internal report for the California Department

of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Guards have used "excessive and cruel" force against inmates with mental health problems, the story said, quoting Michael Bien, an attorney representing mentally ill prisoners.

Last April U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton restricted the use of pepper spray on mentally ill inmates in cells and psychiatric facilities, with few exceptions, *The California Report* stated.

Judge Karlton then signed off in August on a state reform plan drawn up in compliance with

his earlier court order.

For their part, the California Correctional Peace Officer's Association (CCPOA) recognizes a problem with the current use of force, *The California Report* article said. CCPOA lobbyist Craig Brown, speaking of the reform plan, said, "The critical element is to appropriately train our members to recognize what they are dealing with."

As described by the *Bee*, the death of Duran at Mule Creek State Prison highlights an existing problem.

The CDCR has since changed

its pepper spray policy, which now disallows its use based solely on an open food port and also prohibits custody staff from overriding a medical decision that a prisoner is at risk or needs medical care, the newspaper said.

"You can't use force, harsh confinement and disciplinary measures without dealing with the fact our clients are seriously mentally ill," Bien told the *Bee* reporters.

According to the *Bee*, Duran's parents did not even know that he had died until the newspaper staff contacted them.



# U.S. Private Prisons Still Pile Up Huge Profits Despite Charges of Unethical Conduct

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

Private prison corporations continue to make huge profits from the United States' high incarceration rates despite serious questions of unethical conduct, reports James Kilgore on Internet news sites *Truthout* and *Mint Press News*.

The Corrections Corporation of America and The GEO Group are two of the most well-known prison companies in the U.S. Between them, they brought in about \$3.3 billion last year by operating numerous lock-up facilities and immigration detention centers.

Critics of the private prison industry firms accuse these and other leading companies of

improprieties such as the delivery of spoiled food, charging exorbitantly high price rates for services, smuggling contraband and other illicit items into the institution and engaging in unlawful sexual relations with inmates.

According to Kilgore, critics say that this unethical behavior takes place as a by-product of the more troubling and larger context, which is encouraging and promoting "mass incarceration."

In his article for *Truthout*, Kilgore identifies several sub-sectors within the larger prison industry sector: construction, electronic monitors, immigration and customs enforcement (ICE), supervision, food service, telecommunication and

personal supply goods for prisoners and prison staff.

"Like many of the firms that reap profits from the prison-industrial complex, they keep quiet about it," said Kilgore.

***"We have the highest ethical standards in the industry. We do the right thing"***

While it is clear that many of the private prison companies generate massive profits, supporters emphasize their belief that these firms benefit society

as a whole by providing excellent services for the common good of all.

"We have the highest ethical standards in the industry. We do the right thing," says New York-based Turner Construction, the largest in the field of prison contractors, reports Kilgore.

"Transforming criminal justice while honoring God in all we do" is the vision and slogan of prison goods supplier Bob Barker Industries (no connection to the former television game show host).

Critics, however, claim that the sub-sectors' profiting off of the prison industry's interest in larger and larger numbers of incarcerated men and women, represents a fundamental ethical conflict.

Prison industry subgroups sometimes have conflicting interests among themselves, Kilgore reported.

Colorado-based BI Incorporated specializes in GPS-driven ankle bracelet monitoring, said

Kilgore. Their "cutting edge" services monitor about 60,000 persons at any given time nationwide.

However, for the GEO Group, whose core service is prison operation, more people out of prison on ankle bracelets could mean plummeting profits.

Not surprisingly, added Kilgore, the GEO Group bought out BI in 2011 for \$415 million.

According to Kilgore, those whose focus is on moral and ethical problems would "do the right thing," and be wise by "pulling out of prison and jail building altogether." He noted if Turner Construction, for example, were to do so, that would reduce its annual revenue by only 3 percent.

Kilgore himself spent six and a half years incarcerated and is currently a research scholar at the University of Illinois' Center for African Studies. His most recent book is titled *Understanding and Ending Mass Incarceration: A Primer*.

## Early Release Senate Bill 224 For Elderly Prisoner Amended

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Legislation aimed at giving more elderly prisoners a chance of early parole has failed to meet its original objective.

The measure is Senate Bill 224 by Sen. Carol Liu, D-Glendale.

### AMENDED

The bill instead was amended to make the current Elderly Parole Program law, which gives prisoners 60 years or older who have served 25 years or more of their current sentence an earlier chance to parole.

Before the amendment, SB 224 would have allowed prisoners 50 years and older who have served 15 years or longer on their current sentence an early chance to parole.

The major costs for SB 224, prior to its amendment, would have taken more than \$5 mil-

lion from the General Fund for parole suitability hearings, according to the Appropriations Committee.

### FISCAL IMPACT

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) identified provisions in SB 224 that would have a sizeable fiscal impact on the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH).

According to the committee, more than 4,700 parole hearings were scheduled in 2014 at a budgeted cost of "approximately \$4 million for costs associated with transcripts and inmate counsel for those hearings."

### ADDITIONAL COST

The committee based the average cost of a hearing at \$850. Additional costs, according to the committee, would go in part to hiring BPH staff, commissioners,

clinical forensic psychologists and custody staff.

"For every 50 inmates released to parole, first-year net cost savings could range from a minimum of \$300,000 to over \$1.5 million," according to committee research.

### OVERCROWDING

The current Elderly Parole Program came in response to prison overcrowding. In *Coleman v. Brown*, a federal court issued an order requiring the state to "implement an Elderly Parole Program so that prisoners who are 60 years of age or older and who have been incarcerated at least 25 years on their current sentence will be referred to the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) to determine suitability for parole."

Those interested in this bill may contact their state Assembly and Senate members at [assembly.ca.gov/assembly-members](http://assembly.ca.gov/assembly-members) and [senate.ca.gov/senators](http://senate.ca.gov/senators).

## Prison Finds New Revenue Stream in JPay

By Lee Jaspar  
Journalism Guild Writer

The American prison industry has found a huge new revenue stream in JPay as prison bankers cash in on captive customers.

For 12 years, JPay Inc. has taken over much of the market for sending money to prisoners. It is now the only option for 450,000 inmates according to a report done by Daniel Wagner for the Center for Public Integrity.

"JPay is one of the largest prison bankers/companies that provide financial services to inmates and their families, handling nearly 7 million transactions in 2013 and expects to transfer more than \$1 billion in 2014," Wagner wrote.

The report also found that JPay shares its profits with

prison systems, boosting the costs paid by families and forcing them to choose between sending money or paying their bills.

JPay and other prison bankers have become central players in a multi-billion dollar economy that shifts the costs of incarceration onto families of prison inmates, Wagner noted.

Some people arrive in jails with negative account balances thanks to fees assessed by the prison system. This forces families to pay large sums before their locked-up relative receives any money to spend, said the report.

Before JPay and its competitors introduced electronic payments in prisons, inmates' families typically mailed money orders directly to the facility where their relative was locked up. Many say the

process was faster and more convenient than going through JPay, said Wagner.

JPay grew rapidly in the past 12 years, offering to save states time and money by handling all deposits into inmate accounts. In exchange, the company is allowed to charge families fees as high as 45 percent for electronic transfers, according to Wagner.

"In no way is JPay cheaper when it comes to our families putting money in our accounts," said one inmate in a letter sent to Wagner. "The old way of using money orders was much cheaper, easier, and in many instances, faster!"

In a Facebook post from Spain, Angel Sanchez wrote, "The weaker someone is the easiest target for the greedy. This is happening all over the world and we need to stop it."

## 37 Former Inmates Graduate From New State Drug Program

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Thirty-seven former inmates celebrated a new phase in their lives with their recent graduation from a new state program for high-risk drug offenders.

"You've all made mistakes; that doesn't mean you're a mistake," Chris Hansen, Solano County probation chief, told the graduates at a January ceremony, according to Jessica Rogness of the *Vacaville Reporter*.

Representatives for California State Sen. Lois Wolk and Assemblyman Jim Frazier presented the recipients with certificates from the state Legislature for completing the Solano County Center for Positive Change (CPC) program.

CPC was implemented in response to Assembly Bill 109 to serve high-risk offenders under the Solano County Probation Department.

Hansen said some of the graduates might have come into the program "kicking and screaming, but you reached out, and that took a lot."

Robert Muller, a CPC graduate attending the ceremony, presented his own success story.

Michael's Transportation in Vallejo paid \$5,000 to send Muller to bus-driving school. He was eventually hired as one of four full-time bus drivers for a company in San Francisco.

"The encouragement I got from there was incredible. They didn't ask me about my past; they asked me about my future," said Muller.

Amy Ingles was the first woman to attend the CPC program.

A former drug addict and victim of domestic abuse, Ingles went to prison five times. As a mother of three children, she is now married and attends Narcotics Anonymous.

"They didn't think I was going to do it," said Ingles concerning her attendance and completion of the CPC program.

In fact, both Ingles and Muller were among recipients who exceeded expectations. As such, they were awarded an additional certificate to commemorate their special effort in completing the program and changing their lives.

The CPC has two centers, in Fairfield and Vallejo, which have been described as a "one-stop shop" due to the variety of professional programs they house under one roof.

Services include health and social services, employment counselors and counseling for both mental health and substance abuse.

The CPC has around 300 offenders referred to their services. Each client's programs differ according to their individual needs. The process normally takes between eight to nine months to complete.

The program is very effective compared to how probation officers used to send clients to several different offices for different needs, said Ruben Vang, CPC supervising deputy probation officer.

CPC's goal is to produce two graduating classes each year.

# Shaka Senegal Muhammad Is a 'One-Man Banquet'

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

One Muslim stands alone at San Quentin as a staunch adherent to the religious teachings of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam (NOI), commonly known also as Black Muslims. His distinction earned him the moniker "one-man banquet" by some of the crew in the prison bakery.

Shaka Senegal Muhammad, age 48, is the only Muslim the bakery has to make preparations to provide a bean pie. He said this is because the prison administration will not allow him to order a bean pie from an outside bakery.

Muhammad was the only San Quentin inmate to participate in a month-long fast that takes place each year during the month of the December. As an NOI Muslim in a California state prison he is unique; so much so every year he has to fast alone.

"Inmate Muhammad is the only known inmate member

of the Lost-Found Nation of Islam in the California Prison System," California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) records state. "Inmate Muhammad is being afforded a reasonable accommodation to attend and practice his faith. He has his own time slot available in the Muslim Chapel..."

According to Muhammad, the fast was established by NOI Messenger Elijah Muhammad in response to the Christmas holiday season celebrated by Christians. When the fast breaks it is followed by a feast.

"Believers come together to have a feast consisting of bean pies, ice cream, and fellowship with other believers," said Muhammad. "I fellowship by myself."

Muhammad said a 1968 court case, *Horn v. People of California*, filed in the United States District Court, affords NOI Muslims their religious freedom.

"After the plaintiff (*Horn*)

filed his suit, the California Director of Corrections changed the prison regulations on Black Muslims' religious rights," court records state.

In 1973 more than 200 Black Muslim inmates and guests celebrated Saviour's Day in what was then the Brotherhood of Muhammad's Temple of Islam, San Quentin.

**"No other inmates have expressed an interest in the Lost-Found Nation of Islam"**

According to a 1973 archive of *San Quentin News* from the Harvard Law School Library, "Those in attendance were then invited to come down to the Lower Yard and join the Brotherhood of Islam in a

feast ('spread')."

"The highlight feature of any Saviour's Day event is the presentation of the awards given to respective Brothers for outstanding performance and contribution to the unity and spiritual, social, economic and moral upliftment of their Black people," the *News* reported.

Muhammad said he also celebrates Saviour's Day, Master Fard Muhammad's birthday, Feb. 26, 1877, the predecessor of the Messenger Elijah Muhammad.

"I've been referred to as a 'dinosaur' which is hilarious because I'm not even 50 yet," said Muhammad. He said he only follows the teachings of the Messenger Elijah Muhammad.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Muhammad said he was born into the NOI religion because his parents were NOI Muslims in the days when the Honorable Elijah Muhammad reigned over the organization. For this reason he holds to his early religious teachings.

"Due to my religious beliefs I'm more or less different in how correctional officers view me. I'm clean cut, groomed; I walk with pride and dignity. I don't use profanity, I don't sag my pants, and I'm respectful," said Muhammad.

"No other inmates have expressed an interest in the Lost-Found Nation of Islam," CDCR documents state.

Muhammad said the NOI's message is for the total uplifting of Black people. Because of this he says people tend to be curious about him.

"We (NOI) believe that the Black man and woman of North America are the chosen people of Allah, and that is who His message is for exclusively," said Muhammad.

Muhammad has been at San Quentin since June 2012 where he works as an IDAP (Inmate Disability Assistant Program) medical aid worker, a job that involves assisting other general population inmates who are mobility impaired.

"I'm one of the original four" (IDAP workers), said Muhammad. He began doing the job immediately after it was created; it requires him to be on call any time in the morning, afternoon and evening. "I'm strictly committed to the job."

Muhammad was convicted in Los Angeles County for second degree murder "after five jury trials," he said. He was a member of Muhammad Temple No. 27. While serving his sentence he said he has participated in rehabilitative programs when they were available.

## Report: Brooklyn's Jury Pool Revamped

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Gentrification has changed Brooklyn's jury pool into well-off and educated white people who are pro-prosecution in criminal cases and pro-defendant in civil lawsuits, a newspaper reports.

That was the conclusion reached in a *New York Post* article written by Josh Saul titled *When Brooklyn Juries Gentrify, Defendants Lose*.

**"These jurors aren't pro-plaintiff anymore"**

Brooklyn rent rates have jumped 77 percent from 2000-2012, according to a recent city comptroller's office report, the article says. The percentage of white people living in the borough has risen with the rent, from 41 percent to 50, according to U.S. Census data, the article says.

Due to the gentrification of Brooklyn, people familiar with police brutality can't afford to live there anymore, the article states.

"People who can afford to live in Brooklyn now don't have the experience of police officers throwing them against cars and search-

ing them. A person who just moves here from Wisconsin or Wyoming, they can't relate to (that). It doesn't sound credible to them," said high-profile lawyer Arthur Aidala, according to the article.

"The grand jury used to have an anti-police sentiment. When I was a prosecutor 22 years ago, a jury would be 80 percent people of color," he added.

Additionally, "The Williamsburg Effect" – gentrification's effect on the neighborhood's population makeup – has produced more pro-defendant civil juries.

"These jurors aren't pro-plaintiff anymore," said plaintiff lawyer Charen Kim, according to the article.

"There were very few minorities on the jury. It was a real white-bread jury. It's a whole different ball game," said plaintiffs' lawyer Edmond Chakmakian about a case he settled just before the verdict for damages was announced. He feared the Williamsburg Effect would taint the jury, and settled his case. He settled for \$6 million and later found out the white jury was only going to give his client \$2 million, according to the article.

"The juror pool is getting more cosmopolitan here in Brooklyn. There's more of a blend across all socioeconomic strata," said Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Vincent Del Giudice.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Shaka Senegal Muhammad standing in front of San Quentin's Central Health Service Building

### Website Offers Help to Families of Those Incarcerated

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

## Firearm Buyers Database Improves

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government is working to improve reporting of persons banned from buying firearms, the Department of Justice reports.

The program was authorized in 2008 in the wake of the April 2007 shooting tragedy at Virginia Tech. The funds are being continued for the 2014 fiscal year.

The Virginia Tech shooter purchased guns from a federally licensed gun dealer because information about his prohibiting mental health history was not available on the database.

The database is intended to readily identify persons banned from firearm purchases by federal or state law. It will also reduce delays in firearm purchases by law-abiding persons, the government announcement states.

## Study Shows Heroin Overdose Is Main Cause of Death Among Users

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

A Swedish study has examined heroin overdoses, described as the main cause of death among users of the drug.

The experience of a powerful high close to the edge of an overdose is the type of high some users intentionally seek, reports the International Journal of Drug Policy.

The effect of heroin is mainly determined by the potency and the amount of the dose, in connection to the user's tolerance, mood and relationship to the drug.

In a study approved by the Regional Ethical Review Board at Lund University, research was conducted on 35 heroin users from Sweden. Participants were studied to ascertain how they interpret and respond to overdoses of others as well as themselves.

Participants described how they were unable to notice an overdose of someone else due to their own state of intoxication.

"If you're really high yourself and everyone else is sitting around nodding off, then it can take a while before anyone realizes..." said one participant.

"Many are themselves so wasted that they can't handle checking whether it's an overdose... Heroin and benzo (benzodiazepines) filters out all emotional impressions, so that you don't care as much about others when you're high yourself," said another participant.

To experience another person overdosing is described by many as a dramatic event in which fear, shock and panic are common reactions.

In some instances, while witnessing an overdose, users



New Corps of Cadets residence hall at Virginia Tech. It is named Pearson Hall in honor of J. and Renae Pearson

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is authorized to provide for improvements in the accuracy, quality, timeliness, immediate accessibility and integration of state criminal history and related records. It is also authorized to support the development and enhancement of national systems of criminal history and related records, including the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and the records of the National Crime Information Center.

States will be required to meet goals for completeness of the records submitted to the attorney general identifying individuals prohibited by state or federal

law from possessing firearms.

The records covered include automated information needed by the NICS to identify felony convictions, felony indictments, fugitives from justice, drug arrests and convictions, domestic violence protection orders, and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.

Records also sought by this program permit persons who have been adjudicated as mentally defective or have been committed to a mental institution to be added to the database.

## How Prisoners View the Men in Their Lives

### Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of June is the second of four months with 30 days. This year, June has five Mondays and five Tuesdays. Moreover, June holds some interesting observances and celebrations.

Flag Day is on Sunday, June 14, and both Father's Day and the first day of summer occur on Sunday, June 21. The first day of summer is also recognized as the June or Summer Solstice.

According to the World Almanac, June is National Candy Month, Potty Training Awareness Month, National Safety Month and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Pride Month.

There are two astrological signs in June: Gemini, the sign of the Twins (May 21 to June 21) and Cancer, the sign of the Crab (June 22 to July 22). The Birthstone for the month of June is the Pearl, Moonstone or Alexandrite.

One of the most celebrated days during the month of June is Father's Day. How do the men on the mainline feel about their fathers or father figures? That's the question we asked of the men in blue.

Philip Senegal: "My father is my adviser. He guides me with all of my decisions. He gives me encouragement to pursue all of my career opportunities. My father is the man I pattern myself to be; he is my role model, my dad."

Roger Chavez: "A father, when you are young, means everything to a son. To Earnest Chavez: this Father's Day, I want to honor you for all of the love and joy that you have brought to our family. We all love you, Dad."

David Taylor: "The old man was a giant among men though he only stood five-six or five-

five. Indirectly, he inspired me to be a writer and an attorney from the books that he wrote and studied."

Joel Moore: "It is not easy to write what my father means to me because we are supposed to honor our mother and father and it has not been easy for me. I have never told him how I feel because my mother told me not to. I am talking about a cat that took a boy's childhood away and when I tried to speak up, it went all bad."

Valeray Richardson: "My father was my hero. He taught me by example of what a man is. He loved his children and wife. Although he is gone, he is watching over me. My father meant the world to me. RIP, Papa. Happy Father's Day."

Forrest Jones: "My father, William C. Jones Sr., who is now dead, means everything to me. He left me with the life of giving love to people, helping those in need, strengthening those who are weak, respecting all mankind, and loving God with all my heart, soul, and mind. These qualities were in my father and he instilled them in me. This is what makes him so special to me."

**"Thank you,  
Dad, for all  
your sacrifices  
to our family.  
Happy Father's  
Day Dad!"**

Chung C. Kao: "Dad loved me so much that I wish I could go back in time to make up for the decade he stood heartbroken for me."

Joseph Demerson: "My father was someone who we could always count on for sound advice.

## Judge Rules Vermont's Out-of-State Male Only Transfers Unconstitutional

Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

A judge has ruled Vermont's practice of sending only male inmates to out-of-state prisons is unconstitutional.

The case involved Vermont inmate Michael Carpenter, incarcerated for three years, who was sent to a Kentucky prison despite having twin 5-year-old sons and a fiancée, reported the *Brattleboro Reformer*.

### SANCTION

"The court cannot sanction (the Department of Correction's) policy of sending male inmates far from home, regardless of whether they have close bonds with their young children, while keeping all women nearby," Judge Helen Toor wrote.

While in Vermont, Carpenter played weekly with his children, court documents show. His family could not afford to travel to Kentucky, and Vermont provided no funds for families to visit prisoners in other states.

### POLICY

DOC reported it has no policy to send men only inmates to out-of-state prisons, and it does not question prisoners about whether they have minor children before transferring inmates.

Vermont sends about 500 of its 2,000 prisoners to private prisons in Kentucky and Arizona, court documents show.

Suzi Wizowaty, executive director of the group Vermonters for Criminal Justice Reform, said the only remedy is to reduce inmate population.

He was honest, loving, a provider and always could be depended on. Our father was the epitome of what a man should be. He raised four girls and three boys with my mother — a task that would be daunting for most men today. Our dad, Edward Eugene Demerson, embodied the essence of what a father is: the spirit of honor, sacrifice, dignity, and godliness."

Nghep Ke Lam: "My father spoke little but taught me much. I am grateful for the freedom he has given me to explore the world and the gift of curiosity."

Tim Thompson: "My father has never given up on me, even when I had given up on myself. A father's greatest attribute is always being there for his kids."

Arturo Avalos: "Being a father is the biggest blessing that God gave to men."

Rich Morris: "I didn't know anything about being a father when my son was born in '83. I was selfish and self-centered. After 30 years in prison, I understand my responsibility. I can't replace what I've missed, only make living amends to my son in living a clean life now."

John Wang: "Thank you, Dad, for all your sacrifices to our family. Happy Father's Day Dad!"

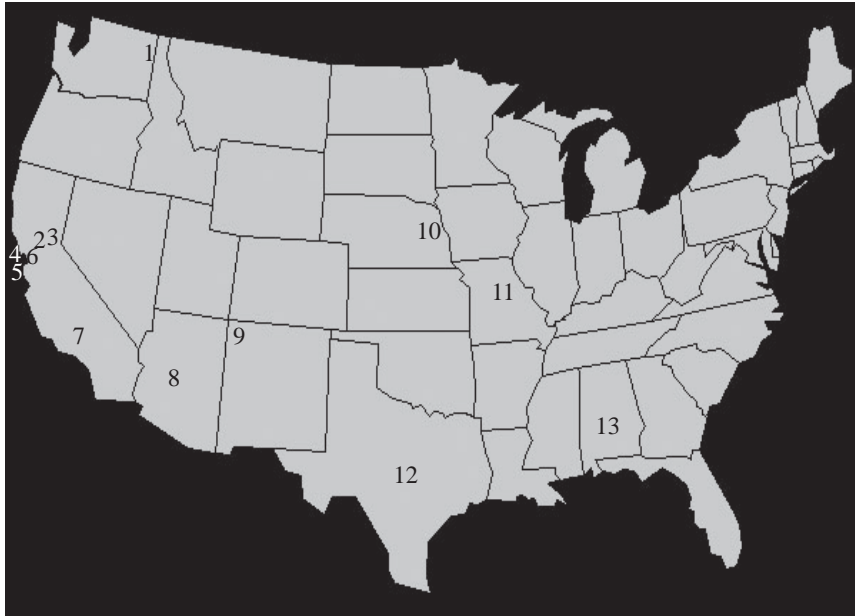
Guadalupe Aranda: "My father means very much to me. He is the man who taught me to respect others, about values and responsibility. He taught me to have empathy and love for my family and other people."

Matthew Nguyen: "He fought in a war, came to a foreign country, and was still able to provide for the family. My father is the best example for me."

Pedro Espinal: "To me, my father means a helping hand and an anchor in times of trouble."

Walter Johnson: "My father is my best friend. He was the first one to put a fishing pole in my hand, a sport that I still love today. Thanks, Dad."

# News Briefs



**1. Spokane, Wash.** — A jury has awarded \$8 million to the family of inmate Dale Stahl, who died in 2012, *The Associated Press* reports. The lawsuit claims guards ignored Stahl's medical condition and kept him restrained after he had a diabetic seizure.

**2. Sacramento** — Three years after California began sending lower-level offenders to local lockups instead of state prisons, the number of inmates being released by county jails has increased by 37 percent, according to state auditors, *The Associated Press* reports.

**3. Sacramento** — Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. has appointed Brian Duffy as warden of California Health Care Facility, Stockton. Warden Duffy, 55, has served as acting warden since 2014.

**4. San Quentin** — On April 22 Raymond Edward Steele, 67, was found unresponsive in his cell in San Quentin Prison and pronounced dead, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation said.

**5. San Quentin** — Richard James Poynton, 64, was found unresponsive in his cell in San Quentin Prison and pronounced dead on April 23. Two other Death Row inmates died this year of natural causes, officials said. Last year, a federal judge declared the state's use of capital punishment unconstitutional because inmates lingered on Death Row for years or even decades. Currently there are 752 people on Death Row.

**6. San Francisco** — The California Supreme Court has

overturned the death sentence of Paul Gordon Smith Jr., *The Associated Press* reports. The unanimous court agreed that an expert was improperly barred from testifying that Smith would be less of an escape risk on San Quentin's Death Row than he was while awaiting trial in the Shasta County Jail. The jury was told of Smith's several attempts to escape from jail and violent attitude toward guards. A prison expert was barred from telling the jury that security is tighter at San Quentin.

**7. Los Angeles** — Susan Mel-

len, 59, a mother of three who spent 17 years in prison for murder before she was exonerated, is suing Los Angeles, *The Associated Press* reports. Mellen was convicted in 1998 of killing a homeless man in Lawndale. She was freed last fall by a judge who said she was innocent and had been convicted on the word of a habitual liar.

**8. Phoenix, Ariz.** — Prisoners at the Maricopa County Jail were served a vegetarian lunch by actress Pamela Anderson, *The Associated Press* reports. The new diet supports Sheriff

Joe Arpaio's effort to cut costs. The diet allows peanut butter sandwiches with oranges and some crackers for brunch and a hot meal of various vegetables and soy dishes for dinner. It has saved an estimated \$200,000 per year.

**9. Farmington, N.M.** — Several San Juan County prisoners are suing the jail, claiming they were left injured or in pain after being denied basic medical care, *The Daily Times* in Farmington reports. In the April 17 complaint, they allege the jail's health care providers displayed

a "severe and deliberate indifference" to their medical needs.

**10. Lincoln, Neb.** — As a way to reduce prison crowding, the state legislators scaled back the use of mandatory minimum prison sentences for Class 1C and 1D felonies, including robbery, assault on a police officer and certain drug crimes, *The Associated Press* reports. The bill would also limit "habitual criminal" sentence enhancements to violent crimes.

**11. Missouri** — Andre Cole, 52, was executed on April 14 for killing a man 16 years ago. Cole was the third person put to death this year in Missouri, *The Associated Press* reports.

**12. San Antonio, Tex.** — Three immigrant mothers held at a Texas detention facility filed a lawsuit alleging that they were held in isolation in retaliation for their hunger strike to protest their detention and conditions at the center. The three women, who are from Latin America and are seeking asylum, are part of a class-action complaint filed against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials and the private operator of the facility in Karnes City, southeast of San Antonio.

**13. Montgomery, Ala.** — The Legislature has approved changes to sentencing and probation standards in an effort to relieve severe overcrowding in state prisons, *The Associated Press* reports. The state's prisons currently house twice the number of inmates they were designed to hold.

## 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-deductible. 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](http://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.

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\*Have made more than one donation

# Buzzer-Beater Boosts Kings Over Green Team

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

Marvin Cosby's three-pointer at the buzzer lifted the San Quentin Kings over the Christian Sports Ministry Basketball Green Team, 73-72, in a game that featured the return of Golden State Warriors Assistant General Manager Kirk Lacob.

"That's the best way to end a game – with no time on the clock," said Kings player Antonio Manning.

"They played together as a team, played through adversity, and we kept our composure," said Kings Head Coach Orlando Harris.

Green Team led 71-64 with 3:32 left in regulation after Kevin Kelly nailed his second three-pointer of the game. Afterward, they focused on run-

ning out the clock.

The Kings came back. Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely dropped his fifth trey, making the score 71-69.

Then Lacob missed at the rack and fouled the Kings' Oris "Pep" Williams. He made one free throw, but missed the other and a chance to tie.

Green Team's Chris Blees was fouled, stopping the clock at 35 seconds. He made one free throw for a 72-70 lead.

The Kings rotated the ball to Larry "TY" Jones, who shot an air ball. Cosby cut down the baseline, grabbed the rebound and called timeout, with three seconds left.

Williams called a double-screen play that was executed perfectly. Williams set the pick, and Demond Lewis dished Cosby the ball. Cosby went

for the jump shot. The basketball released over Kelly's outstretched hand and swished all net before the referee signaled time expired.

"Stellar shot," said Green Team's Pat Lacey.

"I knew it was good when it left my hands," said Cosby.

He dropped 15 points. Thad Fleeton led the Kings with 17.

The Golden State Warriors NBA playoff win over Memphis allowed Lacob to play basketball in San Quentin. He arrived back in the Bay Area at 4

a.m. that May 16 morning, after flying in from Memphis.

Golden State's clinch of a Western Conference finals appearance eliminated the need of a game seven and Lacob's presence at Oracle Arena. This was Lacob and Golden State accountant Ben Draa's first time back inside the prison this season.

"I feel like I have family here. I've been coming inside San Quentin for nine years. It's a constant reminder (of my blessings); I get value out of this," said Draa.

Lacob and Draa missed the Green Team's first game of their double-header against the San Quentin Warriors. The S.Q. Warriors won, 92-53.

McNeely and King's Captain Brian Asey greeted the Green team before tip-off.

"It is a privilege to welcome these guys back. I look forward to them coming in," Asey said.

"I've never seen brotherhood like this," said McNeely. "Y'all are my friends. Y'all are part of the community that we ter-

rorized and now we are trying to change our lives, and y'all are helping us do that."

The game was all gas. With 7:35 left in the second, Pat Lacey jammed off a King turnover. Lacey's basket put the Green Team up, 24-19.

"That was my first dunk since knee surgery," said Lacey.

The Kings took the lead with McNeely's hot shooting. He traded treys with the Green Team, making three in a row followed by a fourth made by Williams, which put the Kings up 38-35.

McNeely shot 5-7 from behind the arc.

"We are letting him get too many open threes – we have to run him off the line and make him drive," Lacey said about McNeely.

Lacob answered with a trey, tying the half-time score at 38. Lacob and Lacey contributed 15 points each. Lacey also had 10 boards. Chris Blees led the Green Team with 23 points and 18 rebounds.

The game went back and forth until the Kings overcame in the final second.

"Like Bishop said earlier, there is competition and there is driven – we are all driven to have fun, win or lose," said the Green Team's Mark Little.

## USF Tennis Team Schools S.Q. Players

The University of San Francisco tennis team returned to San Quentin to see old Inside Tennis Team friends and teach them some lessons.

"It's such a great experience, not only for the guys, but for all around," said USF Tennis coach Pablo Pires. "It's a relationship now."

The USF team started coming into San Quentin six years ago, after being asked by community volunteer Leslie Lava and ITT coach Don DeNevi. Pablo said he agreed because, "One of the missions of our school is to be in the community."

In addition, Pires grew up in Marin County hearing about San Quentin. He actually visited the prison on a tour while in high school.

"Every year we have to do this," said Pires.

Former USF assistant coach Charlie Cutler agreed.

"I started coming in two years ago and I really like it," said Cutler. "It is great to play with men who are tennis enthusiasts."

"It's really nice to meet you guys and hear your stories," said USF player Thomas Takemoto. "We like that you guys get excited to play us."

USF's tennis team is ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation. They shared their skills by doing drills and playing doubles matches. In some, they mixed with ITT players.

ITT player Clay Long paired with USF's Nil Skajaa against his normal partner, Chris Schuhmacher, and USF's Vasco Valverde. Long and Skajaa won, 4-2.

"I felt sorry for my partner on the other side," said Long.

"I aced him the first serve, but that must have been a fluke because I didn't do it again," said Schuhmacher.

In another mixed doubles match, Tim Thompson and Pires played against Orlando Harris and Cutler, winning 4-3.

"I learn more about cultures and socialization than tennis from the USF team," said Thompson.

"The way those youngsters kick our butts lets us know we have a lot to learn – it's a humbling experience getting whipped by an 18-year-old."

"It's been close," said Nic Valko.

Other USF participants were Alex Santiago and Marco Barretto.

–By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Last Year's Top Teams Upset In Intramural League Season Opener

Two new basketball teams upset last year's favorites in the Intramural League opener on San Quentin's Lower Yard.

The Franchise, the defending champions, were upset by Squad Up, a new team, 70-55, and Pookie and the Boys beat Net Zero, 45-41.

The same team members returned for the Franchise squad, which swept everyone to win the championship last season.

Squad Up consists of Allan McIntosh, Oris "Pep" Williams, Rafael Cuevas, Greg Eskridge, Julio Saca, Carlyle "Otter" Blake, Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely, Edward Moss and Jeffery "Mailman" Ratchford. Their coach is Orlando Harris, who also coaches the Kings.

McIntosh led all scores with

24 points, 16 rebounds and an assist. Eskridge contributed 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Saca added 10 points.

Montrell Vines led the Franchise with 15 points.

In the first half, both teams played as if they had jet lag. Several back-to-back turnovers and air-balled layup littered the stat sheets. A 10-0 run and a Saca layup at the buzzer put Squad Up ahead 27-20. In the second half, Squad Up improved their play with help off the bench and put The Franchise away.

The second game of the doubleheader was between Pookie and the Boys and Net Zero.

Charles "Pookie" Sylvester led the Boys with 16 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 block and

an assist. Zaid Nicksolson added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

In the final three minutes of the game, Net Zero was down six points. Their coach, Harun Taylor, had his team trap the Boys' guards and caused a few turnovers. D. "Frog" DeWitt of Net Zero came alive, aggressively pouring on offense, but a travel call hampered his comeback efforts. He led Net Zero with 10 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals.

Boys' coach Marcus Henderson advised his team to hold the ball and run the clock out. Anyone who continued to shoot was pulled out of the game, except Sylvester, who took an ill-advised three-point shot and made it, sealing the win for the Boys.

–By **Rahsaan Thomas**



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Kirk Lacob looking to pass the ball

## Three Relay Records Broken

Two relay race records were smashed and a third was just missed by the drop of a baton at this year's 1000 Mile Club track event on San Quentin's Lower Yard.

In the Distance Medley Relay, Carlos Ramirez, Clifton Williams, Markelle Taylor and Eddie Herena set the tone for the day by topping last year's record time of 13:20, coming in at 12:33.

"It was a team thing – (the team) broke the record," said Herena, who ran anchor.

The team also broke records individually. Williams ran his quarter-mile in 1:07, setting a new S.Q. 50-plus record. Taylor's time of 2:17 set a new S.Q. half-mile record and Herena's 5:14 tied his own one-mile record.

"It feels good to break a record, considering I've only been running for three months," said Taylor. "I joined the club a month ago, mainly for therapeutic reasons – to stay in shape and to keep my mind focused on using prison for self-help instead of being a hindrance."

The sprint 4 x 200 meter relay was won by Jonathan Cannon, John Windham, Tone "Barefoot" Evans and Donald Ray Walker Jr. in the record time of 1:46.

Last year, Windham and Evans teamed up with Eric Nelson and Leroy Lucas, setting the old record at 1:47. The 2014 team also set the record for the 4 x 100 meter relay at 47 seconds. Lucas ended up on another team this year.

"They didn't know I was going to run; I came out late," said Lucas.

"We had different partners this year. Walker and Cannon made the difference," said Windham.

"They saw my speed on the football field and Tone and Windham invited me to run," said Walker.

Cannon, Windham, Evans and Walker came in first in the 4 x 100 meter relay with a time of 49:93, even though Cannon dropped the baton on the hand-off. They missed last year's record by a little over two seconds.

"It's on me," said Cannon.

"We had that." "The new guy Walker is extremely fast," said Lucas. "They ran a good race with the exception of the fumble. I'm happy for the winning team, but I'm also happy they didn't break my record."

Windham declined to participate in the final race because he had just run in two sprint relays back-to-back.

Herena, Taylor and Vincente Gomez took the 4 x 400 meter relay in a time of 4:22.

The final event was the 4 x one-mile relay. Chris Scull, Oscar Aguilar, Reynaldo Campos and Gomez came in first with a time of 24:42.

Right behind them were four runners who are over 50. Larry Ford, Bruce Wells, Michael Keeeyes and Tone Evans finished the four miles with a time of 25:37.

Keeeyes, who is 67 years old, ran a mile in 6:19.

"I hope I'm an inspiration to young guys – if you take care of yourself, you can be in great shape at 67," said Keeeyes.

"I had my best individual mile pace to date at 6:38," said Haneef Wells.

Darren Settlemyer ran in the first four races. His teams finished fourth, third, second and second in the April 17 races.

"I was wearing them down," joked the 49-year-old Settlemyer. "The coaches motivate me to run. I want to make their time worthwhile."

"The guys who ran in all the races are the real MVPs," said Evans.

"There were great teams and great individual performances," said sponsor Diana Fitzpatrick. "Chris Scull ran a really fast 400 meters."

Skull completed the lap in 68 seconds.

"We all train together, gauge off each other, compete with each other, then come out and put our training to use," said Wells.

–By **Rahsaan Thomas**

# Comedian Kamau Bell Checks Out Baseball in Prison

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Comedian W. Kamau Bell experienced a baseball game on San Quentin's Field of Dreams between the A's and the visiting Cubs.

"I never seen a baseball game in prison; I've never seen a bird

in prison, I've never been to prison," said Bell.

He credits a willingness to give up his sneakers to not becoming one of the three Black men who, statistically, are, or were, incarcerated.

A medical code ended the game after the third inning, keeping the exciting scrimmage

from being counted in the record books but not off Bell's bucket list.

Seeing a baseball game was on Bell's to-do list as part of understanding what it's like to be in prison and the rehabilitative things going on at San Quentin. It's for an upcoming new CNN-TV series called United Shades of America. It's due to air in early 2016.

The April 22 baseball game was shaping up to be good. Gary "Cool Aid" Townes started as pitcher for the A's.

The Cubs had professional pitcher Dan Rogers, who plays for the San Rafael Pacifics baseball team. Rogers says he has played professional baseball in Canada, Australia and Switzerland.

"I just love playing; I don't care where," said Rogers. "Everyone here has a passion, and there is never a dull moment. Whether the score is up or down, everybody's into the game."

In the first inning, Bell watched Cub Brendan Holsberry single and steal second. However, the A's made it out of the inning without giving up any runs.

A's Cleo Cloman got an infield hit, beating the throw to first. When Rogers didn't get the ball he barehanded off in time. However, Cloman was tagged out at second when Anthony Denard hit the ball, but it forced Cloman right into the defense. The inning ended on a popup hit by Rose Royce.

At a practice before the game, Bell met Cloman and discussed baseball. Cloman told Bell, "I

should have never cheated on baseball with the streets." Had he stayed loyal to baseball, it could have taken him someplace much further than prison. He is now one of the top baseball play-

"I never thought I would be sad to leave prison," said Bell. "I'm sure we missed a lot of good stories."

At about 8 p.m., all inmates were sent back to their cells,



Photo by Sam Hearnes

A's Cleo Cloman up to bat



Photo by Jenna Lynn Sasso

Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll talking to Kamau Bell on the San Quentin Lower Yard

ers in San Quentin and ponders "What if?"

The game remained scoreless until the third inning.

The Cub batter singled. Then Patrick singled in Jim Cullen, making the score 2-0.

Isaiah "Raheem" Thompson-Bonilla cut short a conversation with Bell to warm up. He replaced Townes on the mound.

An alarm blared, accompanied by orders for "all inmates" to "get down." All prisoners complied. After 25 minutes, the alarm still wasn't clear. Bell spent that time hanging out in the A's dugout, cracking jokes with the equipment manager, Kevin Lee.

"I met many people who I would be fine with if this person lived next door to me," said Bell.

Ten minutes later Bell and his film crew were escorted out of the prison, while all inmates remained on the ground.

ending the game. At 7:37 p.m., Death Row inmate Raymond Edward Steele, 67, was found unresponsive in his cell, according to a CDCR press release.

"The cause of death is unknown pending the results of an autopsy," the press release said.

The game didn't count because, "The visiting team has to have their bats after five innings," said the A's manager and sponsor, Steve Reichardt.

Accompanying Bell were the producers and crew of United Shades of America. They included: Executive Producer Star Price, Producer Angela Borg, Co-producer Alex Walton, Line Producer Bryan Ayvey, Audio Supervisor Hunter Sanders, Digital Imaging Technician Jared Washburn, Production Coordinator Jenna Lynn Sasso, Director of Photography Patrick Higgins and Assistant Camera-man Thomas Francis Patrick O'Meara IV.

## Warriors Zone Out Green Team

Three San Quentin Warriors had double-doubles in their opening day 80-70 victory over the visiting Christian Sport Ministry's Green Team.

Allan McIntosh led all scorers with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Anthony Ammons dropped 16 points and 10 boards. Harry "ATL" Smith contributed 12 points and 11 rebounds. The Warriors out-rebounded the Green Team, 63-33. Power forward Brad Shells added 10 points.

"They played tough. They whipped us; they manhandled us, they grabbed every rebound," said Green Team center Ted Hahs.

The game was close in the first half. The score was tied at 17 after the first quarter. At 4:20 in the second quarter, the Green Team was down 36-25, but made a run. Shooting guard Ben Ilegbodun hit a jumper, then stole the ball back and passed it to Brees for a layup at the buzzer, ending the half, 36-31, Warriors.

Then the Warriors blew the game open with their zone defense and good offense. With 4:21 seconds left in the fourth, McIntosh dished the ball to Smith in the paint. Smith spun past a defender and slam-dunked with authority, making the score 74-58.

"Greg Eskridge provided energy and toughness with his presence in the middle of our zone defense," said Warriors



Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Warrior's Harry "ATL" Smith sneaking up on Chris Brees

coach Daniel Wright.

"The zone caused us problems today. We couldn't hit the outside shots," said Green Team coach Bill Epling.

The Green Team made a push with five players scoring in double digits but fell 10 points short.

Hahs led his team with 15 points. Brees added 12 with 10 rebounds, two assists and three steals. Kyle Fowler dropped 11, Ant Maddox 14 and Ilegbodun, 10.

"Alias Jones came in and played well. I didn't plan to use him, but Julio Saca was injured, and Alias stepped up," said Wright.

Jones came off the bench and hit two three-pointers, snatched four rebounds, two steals and

an assist.

"Subscribe to the theology of more. There are more needs out there, and there is more of God to go around," Hahs said in an inspirational message to members of both teams at halftime.

Despite the loss, the Green Team left San Quentin in good spirits.

"This is the best ball we get to play," said Green Team power forward Chris Brees.

"The feeling of playing in here is unmatched - it feels great," said Green Team guard Juston Willis. "There's a bigger picture here. Although we are on different teams, we have bonded, playing the same sport we all love so much."

-By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Giants Beat Mission, 10-01

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The S.Q. Giants baseball team routed the visiting Mission 10-1 with solid defense and strong hitting.

In the bottom of the third inning with two outs, Giants catcher Ruben Harper hit a deep ball to left field for an easy double. That sent Richard Zorns, who had walked, to third base.

Next pitcher John Appley belted a deep ball to the center field gate for a triple, driving in two runs as the small crowd of onlookers went crazy.

The hitting fest continued with the next three batters. Nico Vargas, Earnest "Earn" Holloway and Christopher "Cuddy Bo" Smith all hit doubles, ending the third inning 5-0 Giants.

"All of sudden everything started clicking for them. It's really hard to see that ball out there," said Mission third baseman Abe Zuckerman.

Mission managed a run in the top of the fourth off two walks and an RBI single.

That did not stop the Giants, who put up three more runs in the fourth, closing the inning

8-1. Appley had a strong showing on the mound, striking out eight batters, 20 for the season. The rest of the team fielded all the ground balls and turned double plays with finesse.

"We were error-free today; when we are error-free, we are hard to beat," said Giant Calvin "CJ" Johnson.

Don Spence of the Giants added, "We are getting better as a team, now that we got a lot of time playing with each other."

The Giants tacked on two more runs in the seventh.

Mission left runners stranded with the bases loaded on their last at-bat, to close the game 10-1.

"Those guys had really good defense. They played great fundamentally and executed everything," said the Mission's Theis Finley.

Johnson finish with, "We are thankful for the outside teams; without them, we wouldn't have this. This gives us hope and lets us know it's not over with. It's truly a blessing."

The May 16 game moved the Giants' record to 3-2-1. Their tie came from a strong Baron's team.

# Francisco Vargas Finds That Getting Back Into Prison Can Be as Hard as Getting Out

By Tommy Winfrey  
Arts Editor

Artist and ex-convict Francisco Vargas returned to San Quentin to talk to a group of men about his successes and failures in life. But his return to the historic prison did not go as planned.

Getting out of prison can be rather difficult; just ask any lif-

stores for rare birds and fancy pigeons," said Vargas.

His life of crime eventually led him to abusing drugs and alcohol, he said. "By 12 years old I was in juvenile hall."

Vargas' introduction to the justice system at the age of 12 would mark the beginning of years of incarceration for him. As he put it, "I ended up in the revolving doors of the California

periods of time, Vargas said, "I knew I had to make a change. I was tired of being locked up."

He also had a wife and kid to take care of, so he started looking for work. His road to redemption was not glamorous or full of excitement. Vargas admits he spent a lot of time cleaning houses and washing windows. But the experience he got doing those jobs put him in



Artwork provided by Francisco Vargas

Vargas standing in front of his artwork called "2Blue-Marilyn"

er. For Vargas, getting back in proved just as difficult. Stopped at the gate for wearing the wrong clothes, he was denied access to the men with whom he came to share his path to redemption.

Vargas started out in life with hardship. According to him, his life of crime started at age 11. Like many men who end up incarcerated, he grew up without a father in the house.

Without a stable male role model, Vargas looked up to his older male cousins with whom he lived. "My older cousins would say, 'Hey want to make more money?' So at night we would help them break into pet

Youth Authority."

According to Vargas, his drug addiction spiraled out of control in the late 1960s, and as a result he was sent to adult prison at the age of 19 for first-degree armed robbery.

The sentence of five years to life didn't sit well with him, so he decided to make a break out of the courtroom, he said. "I picked up an additional five to six years for the escape."

The next 13 years of his life were spent in the cycle of incarceration. In 1974, he was sent to San Quentin for a parole violation hearing. After seeing friends of his locked up for long

contact with art and art lovers. "One lady I cleaned for told me how much money she spent on art and I looked at the abstract art she had and said, 'Geesh, I could've painted that.'"

Sometime later Vargas needed some business cards for his window washing business, and he ended up meeting an artist named Frosty the Creative Artist, who placed him on the road to realizing his dream of becoming an artist.

Vargas became friends with Frosty, who not only designed business cards but also was a sign painter. It was Frosty and his wife who gave Vargas his first set of brushes.

After trying to make it as a sign painter on his own, Vargas realized he needed more skill than just raw talent. At the time there were only two schools on the West Coast that taught sign painting, one in Portland and one in Los Angeles.

"I called my uncle who lived in Pico Rivera, by LA, and told him my situation. He let me stay at his home while I went to sign painting school in downtown LA, plus I got a part-time job at a sign shop (where they knew I was a student.)"

During his stay with his uncle, who was a member of the Hispanic Minority Businessman Association, Vargas was invited to the Warner Brothers Studio for a luncheon.

Vargas used this luncheon to make connections and ask questions. He soon found himself on the back lot of the studio in the sign department.

That is also where he met actress Heather Locklear. He painted a picture of Locklear



Photo by Marc Blake

Francisco Vargas standing in front of a stamp he painted

and met other actresses during his time in Los Angeles.

But as life would have it, before Vargas could complete school, he was called back home to San Jose to take care of one of his children, who was sick. Vargas never made it back to school, but he's been a sign painter ever since.

After working many jobs in San Jose, Vargas finally got the chance to paint his first mural in a roller skating rink. He also landed a job with artist designer Paul Price, who was the art director of Great America when it opened.

Vargas moved back to Fresno, a city where he spent some of his childhood. His marriage broke up after a while, but he kept his business afloat.

Eventually, he says, "I think about the old sign painters back in the day who would travel painting signs from town to

follow him.

This led Vargas to write for a magazine called *Sign Builders Illustrated*.

Writing stories allowed him to meet people from the Walldogs. "The Walldogs are a group of sign artists and painters who take a small town and knock out 14-16 murals in a four-day span."

Working with the Walldogs has taken him all over the country painting murals, something he has been doing more and more.

In 2014 Vargas started his latest project, designing and painting a mural in downtown Fresno. The mural is located on the Fresno Business Journal building and measures 125 feet long by 33 feet high. Vargas said, "It became known as the Largest Painted Mural Stamp in the United States." He added, "It was a huge challenge but one of



Artwork provided by Francisco Vargas

Vargas presents "Harley"

town. So in '98 I find an RV and set it up to go across country; my goal was to go to Key West, Florida."

Vargas ended up making it to Key West with a little help from friends he met on the Internet. He wrote about the things he was doing, and people began to

the most rewarding."

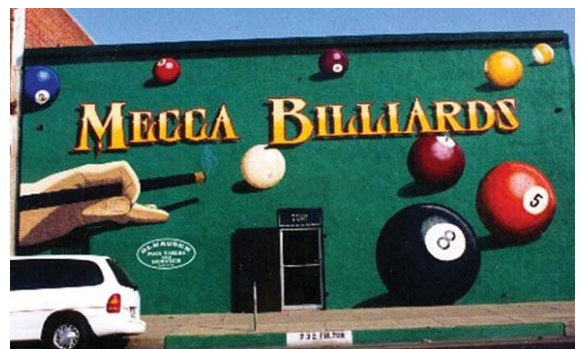
The mural took Vargas five and a half months to complete with help in a few sections, but the majority of the work was done alone.

Vargas' next project in June is a mural in Delvan, Wisconsin with his Walldog partners.



Artwork provided by Francisco Vargas

Vargas standing on a ladder painting a piece called "Butterfly Lovers7"



Artwork provided by Francisco Vargas

This artwork Vargas named "Mecca"