

# San Quentin News

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## Barrios Unidos Visits Newsroom



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## Kamau Bell Brings Laughter to The Q

Comedian W. Kamau Bell used laughter to shine the light on rehabilitation during a visit inside San Quentin State Prison.

Bell recently performed before sold-out crowds at the Marsh Berkeley Arts Center. This is according to Beth Spotswood in a *San Francisco Chronicle* article called, *Kamau Bell Survived TV and is Back in Town*.

In April, Bell came into The Q for four days in a row as host

of a new show called *United Shades of America*, which should air next year on *CNN*. The series will display Bell exploring how various groups and subcultures live, like whalers in Alaska, cops walking the beat in Camden, N.J., and life in San Quentin.

He talked with inmates on the yard and heard their stories, including Terry Alexander, who

See Kamau on Page 4



Photo by Raphael Casale

Tai Nguyen and An Dao walk to support breast cancer research

## Avon Raises Money For Breast Cancer

San Quentin State Prison was a place for fundraising and community building during the July 11-12 weekend—all in pursuit of finding a cure for a dreaded disease.

"This isn't about us getting money," said inmate Rodney Capell, emcee for the seventh Avon 39 Walk Against Breast

Cancer, sponsored by San Quentin CARES. "It's about taking an interest in what's happening in our community."

"Being a part of The Walk, The Amala Foundation, Shakespeare, Artistic Ensemble and The Drama Team helps make me

See AVON on Page 11

## Burton Adult School Graduates Are Honored

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

After being a drug addict, doing time in prison, then giving a valedictory speech, Rodney Goldson declared that getting a GED diploma made him feel like he was "standing on top of the world."

"I found myself having self-worth as I achieved each educational goal," Goldson told an audience of about 300 guests. "It helped me overcome low self-esteem. I hope that my achievement today would inspire others to work toward their education."

The graduates' family members were able to witness San Quentin State Prison Robert E. Burton Adult School's annual graduation ceremony on July 24. Also in attendance were prison administrators, volunteer literacy educators, academic and vocational teachers and fellow inmates. The event was held in the prison's Protestant Chapel.

"I am standing in one of the most forward-thinking prisons in the country," said the keynote speaker, San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi.

Mirkarimi stressed to the audience the importance of "educating those who are in our custody without losing sight of the power of redemption."

"I'm a big believer that the criminal justice system must



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Valedictorian: Rodney Goldson shows his diploma

be a more positive influence on those in custody," Mirkarimi said, "but particularly on the children of those incarcerated so that there is a greater connection between families. If we're concerned about the children of the incarcerated, we have to do more to mitigate the negative impact of the separation."

There were 38 General Education Development (GED) graduates and 13 Career Technical Education certificates earned in Construction Technology. Four graduates from Coastline Community College earned Associate in Arts degrees. Two gradu-

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## Alliance Encourages Prisoners To 'Change the Narrative'

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Alliance for Change held a banquet honoring community volunteers and reaffirming its goal to change the narrative. The event featured guest speakers Niaz Kasravi, PhD, and co-founder Nathaniel "Shahid" Rouse.

Alliance for Change is a Social Justice group.

"We are bridging worlds and learning from each other," said Kim Richman, PhD, Alliance president. "It's time to change the narratives; it can't wait any longer."

"We need your voices and determination. I want to thank you and honor you. Keep up the work," said Kasravi.

She is deputy director of the Anti Recidivism Coalition and the lead researcher and associate for Domestic Human Rights Program of Amnesty International USA. Like Richman, her Ph.D. is in criminology. Kasravi is a former NAACP criminal



Photo by Harold Meeks

Human Rights Activist Niaz Kasravi, Ph.D.

justice director.

"Every department has a co-leader who is inside and outside (community volunteers). We don't just talk it; we live it. We help guys not to recidivate and be community leaders," said

Karen Lovaas, a board member on the education team.

"We teach people the different theories of justice and how to achieve it in a pro-social man-

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SQNews strives to report on forward thinking approaches to criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner's behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY Graduate School of Journalism



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

### Journalism Guild of SAN QUENTIN

#### We Want To Hear From You!

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

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.

- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point. Send Submissions to:

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# Officer McGhee Envisions Taking Trips After Retirement

By Tommy Winfrey  
Art Editor

Officer Eugene McGhee Jr., 55, retired after almost 14 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on Friday, July 31, 2015. Prior to retiring from CDCR, McGhee retired from the United States Army, where he had served on active and reserve duty for 34 years.

McGhee admitted retirement was a tough decision but he has a good reason. "I have an 8-year-old son that I adopted at birth, and I want to spend time with him. I want to be a good father," he said.

He added that he had planned to work until 2017, but decided that his son was old enough to travel with him and that was a priority for him.

During his time in the Army McGhee traveled around the world, sometimes in some harsh places. He served in both the Iraq War and the Gulf War.

McGhee joined the Army at the age of 19 and eventually held the rank of E9, Quartermaster. During his time in the Army he was a drill instructor and during the Iraq War he served as a sergeant major in the infantry.

"There is a big difference between the military and CDCR," McGhee explained. "The structure in the military is black and white; you know if you are doing something wrong or right. In CDCR, there exists a lot of gray areas, and even when you navigate the right way you have to be careful of perceptions."

McGhee said what he will miss most is, "Talking to the inmates."

He admitted that he has been inspired by a lot of the inmates' faith. Being a religious man, McGhee always was appreciative when he had the chance to spread the word of his faith and let the men know there is always hope.



Photo provided by E. McGhee

Officer Eugene McGhee Jr., retired Iraq and Gulf war veteran

McGhee had a lot of opportunity to do just that in his assignment as a transportation officer. He routinely transported sick and dying men to the hospital and would talk to them during these trips. After getting to know some of the prisoners, they would tell him their stories.

"If the doctor tells them something that they should be doing, to take care of themselves and I see them on the yard ignoring that advice, I'm going to say something to them," McGhee said.

When asked why he chose to be so proactive in the men's lives, he said, "I didn't have any perception of inmates before I started working for CDCR, and from day one I treated people like people." He continued, "Everybody has done something wrong in their lives. I don't wish prison on anyone, but I'm a true believer in that God places people where he/she can mold them so that when they learn they can then turn around and help other people."

He said his time on the San Quentin transportation team was very rewarding. "I have known my partner, Villa Gomez, 'The Perfect Hair,' for a while. He is a vet like me, and we are so much alike that we worked well together. He always knew what I was doing, and I always knew what he was doing."

McGhee said he had fun on the job, but for sure won't be coming back as part time worker annuitant. "I know that God has something else for me to do, and when God says 'move,' I must comply, even if I don't want to."

He said he is going to take a break for a while to see where he's going from here. During that break he will travel. "I'm planning on taking trips to the Philippines, Hawaii, Spain, Germany and many other places."

Officer McGhee says he is going to enjoy life with his son from here on out.

—Richard Richardson  
contributed to this article

## JPay Offers New Computerized Tablet

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

The prison money-transferring service JPay is offering a new computerized tablet to some inmates, potentially giving them access to such things as email.

Lorenzo Ligato, reporting for *The Huffington Post* in a story titled "Our Connected Future," highlighted the Florida-based telecommunications company's launch of the JP5 mini tablet that will connect prison inmates to the outside world.

The tablet is a 4.3-inch device that has the capability of sending emails, taking photos and, for facilities that are transitioning to wireless networks, there is WiFi connection capacity. In addition to the launch of the tablet, JPay has tentatively announced that in August it in-



tends to introduce an app store. If successful, inmates would then be able to download games and educational apps.

The tablets are made of clear plastic to eliminate smuggling and housing weapons. Also, there are special manufacturing modification mechanisms that ensure that no other systems can be installed. The program will not allow prisoners to use their devices without tight scrutiny. The content of their messages will be tightly vetted before being given the green light to send out beyond prison walls.

The cost of JP5 mini will fall squarely on the shoulders of the inmates and their families. JPay will be offering the tablet for \$70.

The company contends that a key component to rehabilitation is that the incarcerated establish and maintain family ties. The JP5 mini will assist in that effort, says Ryan Shapiro, CEO of JPay. "This tablet, combined with our current reach, has the capacity to truly rehabilitate offenders on a massive scale."

A study by the nonprofit Vera Institute showed that incarcerated men and women who maintained strong family ties and build supportive relationships fare better once released than those who do not.

*The Huffington Post* reported that Shapiro told Yahoo Tech that he believes that the tablets will replace the prison phone system completely.

# Class Action Lawsuit Filed to End Isolation

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

"On a regular basis, prisoners can be heard screaming and yelling in fits," while "security gates and cell doors constantly slam open and close," according to court papers filed in a federal District Court in Northern California by six men on Death Row.

The class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of all prisoners housed inside the Adjustment Center at San Quentin State Prison, who spend 21 to 24 hours per day behind the solid steel doors of cells that measure approximately six feet wide and nine feet long.

No inmates are held in cells for hours a day, because they're entitled to 10 hours a week in the prison exercise yard, the CDCR press office reports.

"Some days ... all you can hear all day long is screaming, hollering, and banging from prisoners who can no longer endure the isolation," according to the June 17 lawsuit. "High ceilings and the enclosed steel cells in the unit amplify this noise. The cacophony continues throughout the day and night."

The lawsuit claims prisoners remain in the Adjustment Center with no exposure to natural light, no access to religious services, and devoid of recreational, vocational and educa-

tional programming. They are denied contact visits and regular telephone calls.

Prisoners subjected to extreme isolation suffer from a host of psychological disorders, including anxiety and nervousness, headaches, lethargy and chronic tiredness, trouble sleeping, obsessive ruminations and oversensitivity to stimuli as a result of isolation, the lawsuit claims.

The lawsuit further alleges that prison officials persistently and intentionally deny these men the normal human contact and socialization necessary for a person's mental and physical well-being.

All men sentenced to death in California must begin their incarceration in the Adjustment Center. A few remain there indefinitely; some return for lengthy and indefinite stays.

The plaintiffs are:

Bobby Lopez is a 50-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for 17 years. Lopez has been on Death Row since November 1997.

Marco Topete is a 42-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for three years. Topete has been on Death Row since February 2012.

John Myles is a 43-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for

11 years. Myles has been on Death Row since May 2001.

Ricardo Roldan is a 44-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for eight years. Roldan has been on Death Row since January 1993.

John Gonzales is a 38-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for four years. Gonzales has been on Death Row since December 1998.

Ronaldo Medrano Ayala is a 65-year-old prisoner. He has been housed in the Adjustment Center for 26 years. Ayala has been on Death Row since February 1989.

A new security check system, Guard One, adds to the noise in the Adjustment Center. It is designed to account for correctional officers' suicide checks. The system uses a hand-held wand and a sensor affixed to cell doors that must connect to register that a suicide check was conducted.

Every 30 minutes, correctional officers must visually check each prisoner in the Adjustment Center and then touch the end of the wand to the sensor as confirmation of a suicide check. In practice, the lawsuit claims, guards slam the wand against the sensor creating a loud bang against the cell door.

Some plaintiffs say they wake up whenever the Guard One check is conducted, resulting in sleep for 30-minute increments

at best.

Topete says he is awakened every time the Guard One check is performed and experiences exhaustion daily as a result of constant sleep interruption.

Ayala says the sleep deprivation makes him agitated and immediately angry at any little thing.

Lopez says he feels drained of energy all the time.

With the exception of men in special health care or mental health care management programs, the men of Death Row are housed in one of three units at San Quentin: Northern Segregation, East Block and the Adjustment Center.

Condemned prisoners are classified as Grade A or Grade B, based on the vague standard of whether they present a "high risk" of violence or escape or are "difficult management cases," according to the lawsuit.

Grade A classified prisoners can work, get an advanced education, call their families every day, touch their loved ones during 2 1/2-hour visits, receive quarterly packages and special purchase orders, order additional food and recreation items from the commissary, create art, recreate with equipment, access the vast San Quentin Library and worship in group settings while on Death Row.

Prisoners classified as Grade B are denied all possibilities for work, enrichment and so-

cialization. They receive only minimal recreation; limited, non-contact visiting; access to a book cart; and only an annual package and special order, the means by which they can receive new clothes, a radio or a television.

All the prisoners in the Adjustment Center are Grade B.

The lawsuit alleges that there is no meaningful review of plaintiffs' Grade B classification and there is no reasonable means of earning their way into Grade A.

Plaintiffs live with the constant knowledge that, despite their compliance with rules, prison officials have almost complete and unchecked control over their release from the Adjustment Center, the lawsuit states.

As of April, there were 93 condemned men housed in the Adjustment Center.

Nearly 78 percent of the condemned population has been on Death Row for a decade or more.

Between 1976, when the national death penalty moratorium was lifted, and 2006 when it was put back in place, California executed 13 men. California has not executed a condemned prisoner since 2006. The average time they spent on Death Row was 17.5 years.

It takes approximately 25 years to exhaust death penalty appeals.

## 3 Newsletters From Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi

By Chung Kao  
Staff Writer

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department's Five Keys Charter High School was named a finalist for the prestigious Innovations in American Government Award by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

"This is a huge honor made possible by our visionary and hardworking staff, who are pushing the envelope to meaningfully lower recidivism," Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi wrote

in his June newsletter.

"Historically, within the U.S. prison and jail systems, opportunities prove few in providing ex-offenders hope through a working skill. However, those times are changing, as evidenced by the durable reach of the SFSD's Five Keys Charter High School whose common sense approach to improving public safety is by not letting incarcerated minds decay," he added.

Founded in 2003, Five Keys is the first public charter high school in the U.S. to operate

in an adult detention facility. Its impact has reached beyond the jail walls to 21 community centers throughout San Francisco and 13 in Los Angeles, serving over 9,000 students annually, the sheriff noted.

The newsletter reports that the recidivism rate for inmates who go through the Five Keys program is 28 percent based on re-arrest for a new felony charge — 33 percent lower than the statewide recidivism rate for fiscal year 2008-2009.

"Providing inmates with an education helps create safer communities, reduces tax

dollars spent on incarceration and affords the incarcerated with the skills they'll need to rejoin communities and their families upon release," the sheriff wrote.

Five Keys won the 2015 Pioneer Institute Better Government Competition and was awarded the Hart Vision Award for Charter School of the Year (Northern California) in 2014. The San Francisco Sheriff's Department's Resolve to Stop the Violence Program won the Innovations in American Government Award in 2004.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Ross Mirkarimi

San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi has announced his plans to outfit the deputy sheriffs in the county jail system with body cameras.

"There is no other jail system in California with body cameras," Mirkarimi said. "I believe this will be the wave in the future."

Thirty body cameras will be worn by deputy sheriffs

on all shifts at San Francisco County Jail #4, announced the sheriff. The devices will record the interactions between deputy sheriffs and inmates to ensure the safety of inmates and to protect deputies against unfounded allegations.

The sheriff said the pilot program is the first of its kind in the state. He said the de-

partment has assumed a leadership role in creating policies and protocols concerning the use of the devices, such as rules governing application and use, data storage, privacy rights, ramifications for failure to adhere, personnel training and public records requests.

Mirkarimi said other efforts are also necessary to ad-

dress abuse of power.

"People under our lock and key deserve respect and humane treatment or else we risk fueling the criminality we strive to abate," Mirkarimi said. "I don't believe body cameras alone satisfy the greater call unless they are accompanied with modernized training, policy reforms that dissuade misconduct and

the political will to correct abuse of power."

Mirkarimi pieced together funds for the body camera pilot program from the sheriff's department's budget after requesting funds from the city budget in 2013 and 2014 to no avail.

The pilot program will launch this summer, the sheriff said.

## Jane Kim Looks for 'Smarter Ways' to Run County Jails

San Francisco sheriff's officials say they are continuing to seek out and implement innovative ways to manage the county jail system.

The efforts are necessary in the wake of the state-wide Realignment, which confines many low-level felons in county jails instead of prison, and

the nation-wide public sentiment against police brutality.

"We are looking for smarter ways to run our county jails. I'm here hopefully to learn more about the issues of incarceration from you guys," said county Supervisor Jane Kim at a symposium inside San Quentin's walls on June 26.

Kim, a civil rights attorney, is the first Korean-American elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

The San Francisco Sheriff's Department holds several records and honors ways it manages the county jails, Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi said.

"It is well established that

inmates who have the opportunity to learn both academics and skills while incarcerated have more opportunities when they leave," said Mirkarimi in his June newsletter. "Jail is punishment, removal from society, but it can also be a time of self-improvement and self-reflection."



File photo

Jane Kim

# Lower Yard Music Program Features 'Spirit of Freedom Rockfest'

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

Michael Adams revealed how prison has affected his life when he sang an original song during a July 25 performance on San Quentin State Prison's Lower Yard.

"I wrote that song when I was in the hole, and everybody I trusted had left me," Adams said. "I prayed to God to change my focus."

Adams said he was able to perform the song after fellow inmate Robert Jerrett wrote the music for it.

The San Quentin Music Performance Program put on its second Summer Series Concert with the Spirit of Freedom Rockfest.

"I see how music inspires creativity and imagination; it increases confidence and improves self-esteem," said Raphaela Casale, the staff sponsor. "At the same time, it demands each artist show determination, discipline and professionalism in order to reach a proficient level of musicianship and to perform."

The yard shows are scheduled to highlight four musical genres -- rhythm and blues, rock, jazz and hip-hop -- over the course of the summer months, according to event coordinator Dwight Krizman.

The headliner rock group Continuum consists of bass and bandleader Darryl Farris, drummer Joe Thuston, guitarists Joe Mason and Robert Jerrett and lead singer Micheal Adams.

Continuum performed original songs *Who Told You* and *Set Me on Fire* in front of a crowd of about 50 inmates seated in front of a make-shift stage.

Jarrett performed *Looking Out the Window*; later Farris sang some cover songs. When asked about a Black guy leading a rock band, Farris replied, "We don't see color; we see music."

Quentin Bleu took the stage and preformed nine original songs having an Eagles/Carlos Santana sound.

The crowd jumped to its feet screaming when Quentin Bleu preformed *You Should Be With Me* and *Longtime Up the River*.

*Quentin Bleu* members are lead singer Richie Morris, guitarist Alan Brown, bass player Isiah "Zeke" Daniels and drummer Krizman.

"Some songs I write are there before I get there; I just tap into it. I appreciate my band members. We just want to put some good vibes in the air," said Morris.

Daniels added, "It was a lovely day. Only thing missing was my wife."

The event also showcased some newcomers.

J. "Killa Clown" Medvin and Jose "El Guerero" De Cristo performed a Christian rap, *You Should Give God a Try*, off of slain rapper Tupac Shakur's *Hail Mary* instrumental. De Cristo had heads bobbing when he did his verse in Spanish.

"I wanted the Spanish people in S.Q. to hear the messenger of God. Jesus truly changes lives,"



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Richie Morris and the *Quentin Bleu* perform "You Should Be With Me" and "Longtime Up the River" at the Summer Series program on the Lower Yard

said De Cristo.

Medvin added, "We were inspired to get up there when we saw one of the other shows. We talk to the right people, and they gave us a chance to debut."

Bill Hazleton featuring Jans Brazwell also made their debut performing some rock and blues and oldies.

"We are in an infant stage. We are glad to get stuff out there. My partner is younger, but he is a good guitarist and knows all the old stuff," said Hazleton.

Krizman added, "The music program gives you a chance to create. It's very physical, and we have really good musicians and writers here. We just want to give back to our fellow inmates who are willing to listen."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Drummer Joe Thuston, guitarist Joe Mason and lead singer Michael Adams entertain the audience

## Kamau Bell Shines Light on Rehabilitation

Continued from Page 1

has been incarcerated more than 40 years on a seven-years-to-life sentence. Bell asked Alexander if his conduct was good. He answered, "Not during the first half. Back then, I was in survival mode."

Bell joined into many activities inmates are involved in during his visit, such as playing pinochle, attending the Guiding Rage Into Power self-help group meeting, watching a baseball game and he even ate prison food. The chow hall served chili mac, carrots, green beans, Jello and cornbread that evening.

"The food isn't that bad; it's just bland," said Bell.

Bell is well established as a "sociopolitical comedian and community activist," according to *Wikipedia*.

He once stood on a New York City street and stopped random Black people to ask them if there was anything that they wanted to say to a White man. Bell recruited a White man just for venting purposes and brought him along for the occasion. It was all part of a comedy skit for the FX TV show *Totally Biased with W. Kamau Bell*, that ran for two seasons.

"I have led my career in a



Photo by Jenna Lynn Sasso

CNN's *United Shades of America* film crew with the San Quentin News staff

very untraditional fashion," said Bell. "In 2007 I wrote a one-man show called the *W. Kamau Belle Show*, *Ending Racism in About an Hour*. It didn't sell any copies, but it led to a TV show called *Totally Bias*....it was really rewarding

for me; it put me in places I never thought I'd be."

Bell co-hosts the podcast *The Field Negro Guide to Arts Culture* with Vernon Reid (*Living Colour* guitarist), writes the blog *Kamau's Komedy Korner* for the *San Fran-*

*cisco Weekly* and is on the Applied Research Center board, according to *Wikipedia*.

Bell is the founding member of *Laughter Against the Machine*, a comedy collective, has been in "WTF with Marc Maron, Citizen Radio and is

a regular on *Current TV The War Room with Jennifer Granholm*.

Bell was named one of the Top 10 Best Comedy Albums of 2010 by iTunes and *Punchline Magazine* for *Face Full of Flour*.

He was San Francisco's best comedian in 2012, according to *S.F. Weekly*, the *S.F. Bay Guardian* and *7x7 Magazine*.

Bell was also named the American Civil Liberties Union celebrity ambassador on racial justice in 2013.

He believes in doing comedy that he can stand behind.

"I've turned down a lot of gigs," said Bell. However, "If they offered me the role in *Mission Impossible 19*, I'll take it. I have two kids. If they need a Denzel, I'll take it."

What Bell wouldn't take is a movie "that Black people were negatively portrayed. I don't even go down those roads. A lot of avenues aren't open to me. I don't act; I don't audition. I am trying to find out who I am. I only do things where I can be myself."

Bell is launching a new podcast called *Denzel Washington Is The Greatest Actor of All Time Period* along with comedian Kevin Avery, according to Spotswood's blog.

—Rahsaan Thomas

# Death Penalty in 'Legal Limbo' Over Use of Lethal Injection

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

Even though the state's death penalty is in "legal limbo" over the use of a three-drug lethal injection procedure, Gov. Jerry Brown has ordered the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to convert existing cells at San Quentin State Prison to create room for condemned inmates, according to a Marin Independent Journal (IJ) editorial.

According to a short editorial released in early June, \$3.2 million is the price tag the state must pay to expand Death Row at the prison. The governor wants to convert existing cells at the institution to

create 97 more for its growing condemned death row inmate population. He called this space crunch "critical."

In 2010, Brown scrapped the plan of building a new complex. But, according to the Marin IJ, "San Quentin estimates that Death Row becomes the address for about 20 new inmates every year ... Even with those inmates who die behind bars or those who successfully overturn their sentences, the state has to find cells to house about 13 more inmates every year."

Nearly 70 percent of the residents in Marin want to do away with Death Row. However, statewide voters, by a narrow margin of 52 percent, rejected the 2012 proposition that would

have abolished the death penalty in California.

Backers of Proposition 34 argued with the time and legal cost of inmates' appeals of execution rulings. Most condemned inmates wind up dying behind bars without their sentences being carried out. There hasn't been an execution at the prison since 2006. It is less costly to punish them with life sentences than condemning an individual to death, the Marin IJ adds.

Moving condemned inmates to other correctional facilities might be significantly less expensive than housing them at San Quentin, but that was not in the governor's plans.

In the final analysis, the fact



File photo

San Quentin's lethal injection chair

that San Quentin reduced its population by 25 percent, the state has the space to expand. However, until Brown's legal

and political Death Row quandary gets resolved, his current proposal makes sense, the *Marin IJ* concludes.

## PREA Under Scrutiny by Advocates and Legislators

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), passed by Congress 12 years ago, has come under scrutiny by advocates, legislators and some governors, says Deirdre Bannon, reporting for *The Crime Report*.

The advocacy communities have found themselves at odds with each other over some of the amendments to the law. Some advocates argue that the existing law will be strengthened by the amendments, while others say that the amendments will only deprive the law of its vital contents.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, spearheaded one of the controversial amendments, as he moved to have the financial penalties for non-compliant states reduced. The provision that linked funding to state programs under the 1984 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) would be affected and place the existing programs under the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) guidelines.

Advocates against the amendment believe that enacting these

new guidelines under PREA will weaken the current law. Another group of stakeholders and advocates argues the amendment will strengthen the existing law as it keeps in place the penalties for non-compliance.

The stakeholders and advocates, with approximately 20 members, are led by Elizabeth Pyke of the National Criminal Justice Association and Chris Daley of Justice Detention International. Pyke emphasizes that the amendment will strengthen the requirements for annual reports state by state. What this does is make more information public and removes the option for states to file a pledge in 2018 to comply, when all states will be required to be in compliance with PREA.

The stakeholders see this amendment as an immediate necessary implementation to fully cover and document prison rape. "For organizations like ours, who are continually documenting incidents of prison rape, there is a great sense of urgency. We want PREA implemented yesterday," Daley told *The Crime Report*.

While there is a compromise being discussed by the two sides, finding a legislative sponsor from the Senate Judiciary Committee has been a challenge not yet overcome.

In the meantime, Pyke and Daley are working in collaboration with Cornyn's office to sponsor their own compromise to the amendment and then present it to the Judiciary Commit-

tee, the report disclosed.

The report also mentioned other components of interest concerning the need for PREA, such as the 5 percent penalty that will penalize a state 5 percent of its federal funding for corrections programs if they are in non-compliance. Others include audit data, which is missing, and the threat of lawsuits.

Although there have been sev-

eral governors who have rejected PREA standards, correctional officials from those states have been working to come into compliance.

Daley said, "There is a sexual assault crisis in detention facilities around the country, and there is an urgent need to end such abuses. PREA represents the best tools we've ever had to end this abuse."

### GOT CONDOMS?

#### NOTICE OF PRISONER PROTECTION FOR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH ACT (Pen. Code § 6500)

State law requires CDCR make condoms available in all state prisons. Per Operational Procedure #0-1109, general population and reception center inmates at San Quentin State Prison now has access to condom dispensers in the following locations: entrances to the Library, Gym, Central Health Services Building, Education Building, Alpine section, and Badger section; South Block stairwell third tier landing; Upper Yard restroom; Lower Yard stairway; and 13 Wall Pedestrian Gate.

Inmates may possess up to three condoms at any given time. Though the law makes condoms available for the protection of prisoners and the community, sexual activities while incarcerated are illegal and subject to disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution.

—Chung Kao



## U.S. Supreme Court Justice Criticizes Solitary Confinement

*'Even for prisoners sentenced to death, solitary confinement bears 'a further terror and a peculiar mark of infamy'*

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisons abuse and overuse solitary confinement across the country, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy says.

It may be time to limit the use of long-term solitary confinement in prisons, according to Kennedy.

"Years on end of near-total isolation exacts a terrible price," Kennedy wrote. He cited 19th century Supreme Court opinions that recognized "even for prisoners sentenced to death, solitary confinement bears 'a further terror and a peculiar mark of infamy.'"

"In a case that presented the issue, the judiciary may be required to determine whether workable alternative systems for long-term confinement ex-

ist, and, if so, whether a correctional system should be required to adopt them," Kennedy continued.

"It's a remarkable statement," ACLU National Prison Project attorney Amy Fetting told the *Los Angeles Times* in June. She said Kennedy's comments came as a welcome surprise. "The justice is sending a strong signal he is deeply concerned about the overuse and abuse of solitary confinement."

In cases involving crime and punishment, Kennedy is usually conservative, but he also has expressed concern over prison policies that he deems unnecessarily harsh, such as life terms for juveniles and long mandatory prison terms for nonviolent drug crimes, *The Times* reported. Four years ago he condemned California's prison overcrowding and said it result-

ed in unconstitutionally cruel conditions.

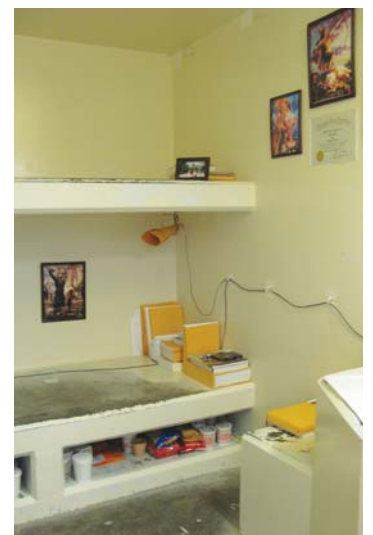
The case of Hector Ayala was before the court when Kennedy joined a 5-4 decision rejecting Ayala's bid for a new trial. Ayala committed his crime 30 years ago. Ayala has been on Death Row since his conviction. California courts upheld his conviction, but the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the conviction and death sentence. The appeals court cited the trial judge's decision allowing removal of all Black and Latinos considered for jury. The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court decision and restored the conviction and sentence.

Kennedy was troubled to learn that Ayala had been kept in solitary confinement. Kennedy wrote, he has "been held for all or most of the past 20 years or more in a windowless cell

no larger than a typical parking spot for 23 hours a day."

Kennedy criticized the widespread use of solitary confinement, which affects at least 25,000 inmates in the United States. The court cited the 1890 *Medley* case, which acknowledged that solitary confinement can lead to madness and suicide. Modern studies by psychologists have noted the effects of isolation can result in anxiety, panic, withdrawal, hallucinations and self-mutilations.

"Kennedy all but urged the legal community to bring a solitary-confinement case before the Supreme Court as soon as



File photo

Pelican Bay's SHU

possible," *The Atlantic Monthly* reported in June.

# Barrios Unidos Sheds Light on Incarceration

By Arnulfo T. Garcia  
Editor-in-Chief

The founder and executive director of Barrios Unidos, Daniel "Nane" Alejandre, came to San Quentin on July 19 to discuss his commitment to the community, prison and county jail reform, and the California criminal justice system.

Alejandre's life story is no different from that than many men of color who grew up in low-income communities.

He said that he struggled as a youth; at age 13, he stabbed a young man, and at 17 he shot someone. He later became addicted to heroin and used drugs while serving in the Army in Vietnam. Heroin also affected other family members. He suffered from addiction until 1986 at age 37.

His life turned around after he was exposed to the words of peace and human rights from Cesar Chavez while harvesting melons.

"In 1977, I had 11 family members in prison," Alejandre said. "Over the years, 35 members of my family went to prison, and today, 20 of them are still in prison, including my grandson."

"Prisons are not the answer," Alejandre said. He said he wants to break the cycle of perpetual incarceration.

"We had a prison cell on display for an art exhibit by inmates from Pelican Bay Prison Security Housing Unit that received much attention," Alejandre said. "In constructing an interactive prison cell, we hope to bring insight and awareness of the realities of incarceration. It will provide an opportunity for individuals to step into the environment and get a sense of what it's like to be incarcerated."



File photo

Daniel "Nane" Alejandre

Barrio Unidos plans to take the prison model to schools, universities, courthouses and other educational events.

Barrios Unidos, formed in 1977, is a multi-cultural non-profit organization based in Santa Cruz. Its aim is to stop acts of youth violence by promoting self-worth and value. The organization addresses conflict resolution in the community through education and awareness as techniques to unite people.

"We hope to encourage people to support alternatives to incarceration policy and legislation," Alejandre said. "It's a major undertaking, I know, but I'm pushing to rebuild my community. There are so many things wrong in our community today. I travel all over the world to promote the work of Barrios Unidos."

Alejandre has been going into jails and prisons like Tracy, Vacaville, Soledad and Salinas Valley "to educate those who think that they are forgotten."

"When I go into those prisons, I wear Pachuco clothes, like Stacy Adams shoes and

Pendleton shirts, so that those who still struggle can relate to me," Alejandre said.

Once while walking out of Soledad, a captain told him, "I don't understand why those guys listen to you, but they won't listen to me."

Alejandre believes safer and stronger communities can happen only through leaders who will face today's challenges, such as gang activities and violence.

"Advocates and leaders of these troubled communities must build coalitions to overcome these acts of disruption," he said.

Alejandre's cultural, spiritual and non-violent principles come from César Chavez's fundamental tenets and dedication to social justice and economic equity. He says the voice and words of César Chavez still echo with him today.



Photo by Juan Molina

Former inmate Juan Molina designed a model of a prison trailer at Pelican Bay

"Barrios Unidos is devoted to non-violence," Alejandre said. "We are connected all over the United States, despite the fact that we are small. We must teach the youth to face their challenges every day."

"My organization will not accept contributions or any support from beer companies because their values and beliefs destroy the moral fiber of a healthy community," Alejandre said.

Recently, Danny Glover's *Profiles Series* and *Stone Soup for the World* featured stories that brought national attention

to the Barrios Unidos program. "We have established silk-screening businesses that put money back into the community to stop the violence," Alejandre said. "We are helping the young kids turn their lives around. We are building positive self-esteem and cultural pride through meaningful activities."

Alejandre is a graduate from University of California, Santa Cruz, with a degree in communication and media.

For information about Barrios Unidos, write to: Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos, 1817 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

## 37 Years After the Notorious Jonestown Massacre

By John C. Eagan  
San Quentin News Adviser

Jackie Speier was catapulted into national prominence when her congressman boss was murdered, and she survived five gunshot wounds in the notorious Jonestown massacre 37 years ago.

As a staffer for *The Associated Press*, I wrote many stories about Speier and Jonestown then and over the years, but I met her face-to-face for the first time on her recent visit to a San Quentin News Forum.

I was able to fill in a gap in her view of how the Jonestown story began. It happened this way:

After a half-dozen years in other AP bureaus, I returned to the San Francisco office in 1978.

One of the first people I encountered was Robert "Sammy" Houston, a long-time friend and AP colleague who was the bureau's photo darkroom guy.

"How you doin', Sammy?" I asked.

"Not very well," he replied. Since I had seen him last, he had surgery for throat cancer and used a gadget pressed to his neck to talk. But that wasn't his main concern.

Sammy explained that his son had become involved with the Jim Jones cult based in San

Francisco. The son was a probation officer who also had worked a night job in the Southern Pacific rail yard. At one point, he tried to break ties with the Jones cult.

Then one night the son was run over by a rail car and died. Suspicions linger to this day as to whether it was an accident or murder.

Not long after that, Jones became concerned about investigations into some of his activities and by stories in the *San Francisco Examiner* by Tim Reiterman. Jones fled, moving his flock of about 1,000 men, women and children to a jungle site in Guyana, South America.

The group included the widow of Sammy's son and Sammy's two young granddaughters.

"I've tried everything to reach them, but they don't respond to phone calls or letters," Sammy told me. "I'm worried sick, and I don't know what to do."

"Well," I replied, "if I were you, I'd ask my congressman to look into it."

"That's a great idea!" Sammy enthused. "My congressman is Leo Ryan. I know him, and he knows me because he taught my son and daughter in high school."

So Sammy contacted Congressman Ryan, who put together

a group to go to Jonestown, Guyana, on a fact-finding mission. Ryan's group included Sammy's wife and daughter and several people from the news media, including journalist Reiterman, who is now AP news editor in San Francisco.

After visiting Jonestown, Ryan told the residents that anyone who wanted to leave could go with him. A few did, but when Ryan's group reached the airplane landing strip, some of Jones' thugs showed up with guns blazing.

Ryan and several of the group died, and several others were wounded, including Speier and Reiterman. The survivors, including Sammy's wife and daughter, hid in the locked airplane and in the jungle, flying out the next day.

When investigators returned to Jonestown, they found 911 bodies, including Jones and Sammy's two granddaughters and their mom. The hundreds died from cyanide-laced Kool-Aid. Jones died of a gunshot to his head.

After her recovery, Speier served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the California Assembly and is now in the U.S. House of Representatives, in the seat once held by Leo Ryan.

## Congresswoman Supports SQ News

<p><b>JACKIE SPEIER</b> 11th District, California</p> <p>2485 RAYBURN DRIVE, DREDD BISHOP WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0514 PHONE: 202-225-3211 FAX: 202-225-4143</p> <p>185 BRANT ROAD, SUITE 100 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062 PHONE: 310-343-0200 FAX: 310-343-0270 WWW.JACKIE-SPEIER.CA.GOV WWW.CONGRESS.GOV/JACKIESPEIER</p>	<p><b>Congress of the United States</b> <b>House of Representatives</b> Washington, DC 20515-0514</p>	<p>COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES</p> <p>SUBCOMMITTEE: Foreign Military, Operations and Inspection</p> <p>Member: Patricia M. Miller</p> <p>PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE</p> <p>SUBCOMMITTEE: Foreign Terrorist Risk and Countermeasures</p> <p>Staffer: White</p>
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June 25, 2015

William Drummond  
Graduate School of Journalism  
121 North Gate Hall #5360  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720-5860

Dear Bill,


Thank you very much for your invitation to visit San Quentin State Prison last week! It was truly a privilege to have such a personal and intense conversation with twenty inmates during the News Forum. To hear these men - whom many in our society simply write off as hardened criminals who deserve to be locked up for the rest of their lives - take accountability for their crimes, show remorse and strive to be better people was deeply touching. It gave me renewed confidence that programs to rehabilitate inmates can work and are morally the right thing to do.

I applaud you for your contributions to these educational programs. Your work with your UC Berkeley students and the San Quentin News staff are making a difference both for the inmates and for your students who see a part of our legal system that is invisible to most of their peers.

The terms hyper-masculinity and hyper-empathy will always remind me of this remarkable visit. I look forward to coming back.

Thank you for the invaluable work you do.

All the best,

  
Jackie Speier

# Human Rights Watch: Alison Parker Addresses Juvenile Lifer Policies Across America

By Alison Parker  
Director of Human Rights  
Watch, U.S. Program

*Kid CAT banquet Keynote  
Speech May 6, 2015, San Quentin.*

Back in 2004, when I first started working on the problem of children being sentenced to life without parole (LWOP), a lot of people told me “no.”

Lawyers in the juvenile death penalty case *Roper v. Simmons* told me not to work on juvenile lifers without parole (JLWOP) – they thought drawing attention to the human rights abuse of sentencing kids to life without parole would make it harder to convince the Supreme Court to end the human rights abuse of the juvenile death penalty.

The other groups that told me “no” were national and state-based statistical experts on prisoners in the United States.

Having lawyers tell me “no” was a problem I could work with. I certainly didn’t want to foul up the chance we had to overturn the juvenile death penalty. I figured I could wait until the Court made its decision. I had already started traveling around the country, meeting with young people serving life without parole sentences, and the research was clearly going to take some time.

The lawyers in the juvenile death penalty case agreed that I should quietly release a report on Colorado in February 2005 because I was the first to interview two dozen young people serving life without parole there, and the state was considering repealing the sentence. One month later the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the juvenile death penalty. Christopher Simmons was moved off death row and resentenced to life without parole. Six months later, I published the first national investigation of children sentenced to life without parole throughout the United

## Kid CAT Speaks!

States.

But that second group of people who had been telling me “no” was more of a roadblock. Although this is slowly changing, in 2004 most states would “lose” the fact that an offender was a child at the time of his or her crime once he was admitted to adult prison.

**“Human Rights  
Watch will  
continue to stand  
by you... to ensure  
that no child is  
thrown away,  
that no child’s  
very existence  
and humanity  
is denied”**

Consequently, publicly available statistics on prison populations often gave the impression that there were no inmates in adult prisons who were children at the time of offenses. In other words, these datasets indicated that the people I wanted to learn more about – people serving juvenile life without parole sentences – did not exist. I knew they did. I fought back. Eventually obtaining evidence that at least 2,500 children were serving life without parole in the United States in 2004 and at the time just a handful – soon to be zero – juveniles were serving the sentence elsewhere in the world.

To this day, I am angered and incredulous about the fact that public officials, to say nothing of the general public, have had

very little access to information about the child offenders, who were tried and sentenced as adults in their states. How can we deny the existence of an entire category of people?

But I’m also amazed by the fact that this category was created in the first place, that lawmakers – with the stroke of a pen – have deliberately gone about erasing and denying an entire phase in human development – childhood. The point is not that children don’t commit crimes, and the argument is not that they should never be held accountable. But the bottom line is that children are different from adults and are able to grow and change. Children who commit crimes should be tried in courts that accommodate their needs, and should be held accountable in settings that punish them but that also help them to realize their human potential.

I’ll never forget what a young man serving LWOP in a super-max prison in Colorado told me. “You can’t just tack a label on a kid and throw him away in a box.” The label that was placed on him – that he was an adult at age 16 – and the box he was thrown in – a prison built on solitary confinement in which the only human contact he had had for several years came when a food tray passed through a slot in the door and a guard’s hand touched his own – were denials of his status as a child and of his humanity.

We don’t let teens under 18 vote. We don’t let them buy cigarettes or beer. Yet we have no problem treating them like adults when they are sent to jail or prison for crime. Dismantling that hubristic act of pretending a child is an adult continues to fuel my work at Human Rights Watch. In the past decade, we



File photo

Alison Parker, U.S. Director of Human Rights Watch

have worked on:

The experience of children tried as adults being held in solitary confinement to “protect” them from predators and violence behind bars is common. That so many incarcerated teens are treated this way is a tragedy and a gross violation of human rights. Solitary confinement is a common practice in U.S. jails and prisons, and one that has been the subject of increasing scrutiny in recent years due to its cruelty. An estimated 95,000 people under 18 were held in adult jails and prisons in the United States last year. Many are held in isolation for 22 to 24 hours a day, in some cases for weeks or months at a time. While there, they are often denied exercise, counseling, education and family visits. The practice raises serious human rights concerns. Our investigation on the solitary confinement of youth was published in 2012. And our work has not ended. The special rapporteur on torture has found that there should be a ban on placing juveniles in solitary confinement. And just last year, the New York Civil Liberties Union helped to secure widespread reforms in the state of New York on the use of solitary, including against children.

Florida has very harsh laws allowing for the direct prosecution of kids in adult court. Last year, we published a hard-hitting investigation highlighting how every year, the state of Florida arbitrarily and unfairly prosecutes hundreds of children as adults. Our investigation showed how, if convicted, Florida’s children suffer the lifelong consequences of an adult felony record for what

are often low-level, nonviolent offenses. We have since led a coalition to change this policy giving prosecutors sweeping powers to prosecute kids as adults in Florida, and while our bill to reform direct file did not pass this year, our efforts to reform the juvenile life without parole sentencing in that state did succeed.

And then, here in California, under the extraordinary leadership of Elizabeth Calvin, and with the advice and collaboration of so many groups, both inside prison and outside prison, we have seen SB 9 and SB 260 passed into law – two groundbreaking reforms that have provided children serving life without parole and all people under the age of 18, who were prosecuted as adults, a chance at resentencing and specially tailored parole procedures.

All of this work wouldn’t be possible without the input and efforts of people on the inside, including the men in this room, who have shown through your actions that you also won’t take “no” for an answer – that you believe in your own personal power to shape your life in a way that is meaningful and constructive. Human Rights Watch will continue to stand by you, as will many other groups across the nation, as we work together to ensure that no child is thrown away, that no child’s very existence and humanity is denied, that as a society we can ensure justice for victims of crime and ensure that people accused and convicted of crime are treated fairly and with respect for who they are. That is what human rights law calls for and we should accept nothing less.

## Fewer Juvenile Offenders In Residential Placement

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

The number of juvenile offenders in residential placement is decreasing, a national survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice reveals.

“Findings of the 2011 survey are generally positive -- the population of juvenile offenders in residential placement has declined 42 percent since 1997,” the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement 2014 report found.

California leads the nation in the number of juveniles in placement, the majority of which had committed first offenses that include criminal homicide, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault, the report said.

Detention centers make up 86 percent of “residential placements,” followed by shelter, group homes and camps.

The vast majority of those held in juvenile residential placement are for (delinquency offenses), behaviors that would be criminal law violations for adults.

About three percent of those held in these residential programs are for (status offenders) youths who ran away from home, truancy and for having behavioral problems.

These residential facilities are half-owned by non-profit and for-profit corporations.

“Although there are more private than public facilities nationwide, public facilities hold the majority of juvenile offenders on any given day,” the

report states.

Allocation of juvenile offenders to privately owned residential placement or government residential placement is determined by a court.

The report further determined that those held in private facilities typically stay longer than in public facilities.

“Compared with public facilities, private facilities had larger proportions of youth with less serious offenses, (e.g. simple assault, drug and status offenses).”

Females make up 14 percent of those held in these facilities, Black males make up 40 percent of all males held, 32 percent are White, and 23 percent Hispanic.

In Nebraska, youth placement rates per 100,000 residents were 1,476 for Black, 197 Whites, and 340 Hispanics.

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

# Using Food to Combat Mass Incarceration

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Writer

A new group aims to use food as a key to Restorative Justice in Oakland and to combating mass incarceration.

Restore Oakland plans to start a multipurpose hub that trains food industry workers, has a restaurant, and is a center for Restorative Justice organizing and justice reform.

"We are trying to raise the visibility of Restorative Justice and believe connecting it to a place people come to regularly will help. We know having difficult conversations about harm and accountability is hard, but easier over food. We want to utilize the concept of breaking bread and making amends," said Executive Director Zachary Norris of Restore Oakland.

"We have a choice: continue to expand surveillance, prisons and poverty, or reinvest in people, health and prosperity," said Emily Harris, state field director of the Ella Baker Center.

"As long as we continue to spend on failed approaches that lock people up, we won't be able to afford the vital resources that actually set up youth and families for success—such as



File photo

Executive Director of Restore Oakland, Zachary Norris

schools, job training programs and funds for business innovation at local and regional levels," Harris commented.

The Restore Oakland Center also plans to offer a cooperative food-enterprise, healthcare and childcare programs.

"Community members will get to use the kitchen to create their own worker-owned and worker-run food enterprises," said Harris.

"Through these integrated programs and services, Restore Oakland will create opportunities for Oakland residents, par-

ticularly formerly incarcerated people and their families, to achieve economic stability and self-empowerment through an industry that can offer security and long-term growth.

"Restore Oakland will be a space to help people get out of the system and stay out," said Harris.

"It will be a space for people to get a job and move up the career ladder. It would help build the community's capacity to solve problems and their capacity to build their own enterprises. As a result, East Oakland

will be safer and more prosperous.

"Restore Oakland will also serve as a home for campaigns that redirect resources toward employment opportunities and away from the criminal justice system that burdens low-income families."

Restore Oakland is the brainchild of Ella Baker Center Executive Director Zachary Norris and his spouse, Saru Jayaraman, who is the co-founder and co-director of Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC).

The Ella Baker Center is 20 years old and was founded by Van Jones and Diana Frappier, according to Harris.

"We (EBC) currently have a Jobs Not Jails campaign that is fighting to get 50 percent of public safety realignment funds moved away from the sheriff and probation and toward community-based programs and alternatives to incarceration," said Harris.

Jayaraman and Fekka Mamdouh, the co-founders of ROC-NY, organized the country's first national restaurant workers' convention in Chicago in August 2007, where ROC United was born, Harris said.

"Since its founding after 9/11,

ROC-NY has successfully conducted restaurant workplace justice campaigns, provided job training and placement, opened its own cooperative restaurant, and conducted research and policy work. They consist of 13,000 restaurant workers, 100 high-road employers, thousands of engaged consumers united for raising restaurant industry standards," said Harris.

"EBC and ROC are engaging a wide range of Oakland and East Bay partners in the Restore Oakland project," said Harris. "With regard to restorative justice and peace promotion programming, EBC is working with Community Works West, Restorative Justice for Oakland's Youth, Urban Peace Movement and United Roots.

"These partners are bringing their experience and relationships to bear on the project; for example, Community Works West's Restorative Community Conferencing Program (RCCP) relies on referrals from police, the District Attorney's Office and Juvenile Probation Departments."

Harris thinks Restore Oakland will be open and running by the spring or summer of 2016.

## Prisoner Denied Parole Because of Facebook Picture

By **James R. Abernathy Jr.**  
Journalism Guild Writer

After California prison officials discovered that San Quentin inmate Kimani Randall's Facebook profile was created by a contraband cell phone, the California parole board took away his 2014 parole grant, according to the inmate's official transcript of a subsequent hearing.

"My Facebook profile was created by a friend of mine on the outside who I sent a picture to in 2010 with a cell phone I had at another prison," said Randall in an interview.

In California prisons contraband cell phones are illegal, but rampant.

Statewide, prison officials reported discovering 11,788 cell phones in 2012; 12,151 in 2013; and 2,809 in the first three months of 2014.

"There were 103 cases in 2014 where an offender contacted a victim or family of a victim directly. Of those cases, 74 involved Facebook," the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) press office reports.

"I can understand why prisons don't want inmates to have contraband cell phones, but I can also understand why inmates do this for reasons that have absolutely nothing to do with crime," said journalist Dave Maass in a June 4 story for the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), a San Francisco-based digital civil liberties nonprofit.

"I used the cell phone to communicate with my wife and friends. It made me feel included in the outside world," said Randall.

Since 2011, U.S. prisons have had a special arrangement with Facebook. Prison officials

would send links to inmate profiles that they wanted Facebook to take down, reported Maass.

Facebook made it easy for prisons to censor inmates by creating an "Inmate Account Takedown Request" page that allowed prison officials to file requests, the story said.

"When we began to look into this about a year ago, it seemed that Facebook was taking down inmate pages whenever a prison requested it, no questions asked," said Maass.

"It's more complicated than that," CDCR Public Information Officer Krissi Khokhobashvili said, "Typically, social media accounts are reported to CDCR's Office of Victim and Survivor Rights and Services by a victim or concerned citizen. Once OVSRS receives a report they contact the prison where the inmate is housed to stop any harassment or threats. After the investigation is complete, we contact the Facebook security team to delete the account."

Facebook representatives told EFF that they only removed inmate profiles that violated the social network's "community standards," which are part of its terms of service.

Emails between Facebook and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) reveal Facebook's willingness to take down inmate profiles for not following prison regulations or simply being incarcerated, according to Maass.

"As a private company, Facebook can do whatever they want, but when they are collaborating on behalf of a government entity, that's censorship," says Maass.

In 1999, Randall was sentenced to nine years to life for a kidnap-robbery conviction.

According to California law, inmates sentenced to life terms are required to go before a review panel called the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) for consideration of being released.

As part of BPH requirements, inmates must undergo psychiatric evaluation, demonstrate insight concerning the cause and effects of their crime, show remorse for their victims, provide a record of rehabilitative efforts, a relapse prevention plan, valid employment offers, verified living arrangements and outside support from family, friends and community sources.

In 2010, Randall received a disciplinary write-up for possession of a contraband cell phone.

At his initial BPH hearing in 2012, Randall was denied parole based upon the write-up he received.

"For my misconduct, the parole board recommended that I remain disciplinary-free, write a relapse prevention plan, write some book reports, and then they would reconsider my parole," said Randall.

Randall fulfilled all the requested recommendations and more, he said, which eventually compelled the parole board to grant him a parole date two years later.

Before being released, prison officials decided to conduct a social media search on Randall, which led to the discovery of his Facebook profile and the withdrawal of his parole date.

Randall's parole date withdrawal is currently under review by the BPH for possible reconsideration.

The BPH informed Randall that they will be conducting social media searches on all lifer inmates being considered for parole, according to his official



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Kimani Randall

documents.

In South Carolina, a prisoner received 37 years in solitary confinement for just posting on Facebook, reported Maass.

"This is an exaggerated fear of new technology," David Fathi of the American Civil Liberties Union told Maass.

In February 2015, EFF publicly called for Facebook to overhaul how it handles inmate profiles. By March, a new set of practices were implemented by Facebook.

The "Inmate Account Takedown Request" page has been re-titled "Report an Inmate's Account."

Facebook now requires prisons to include links to applicable law or legal authority regarding inmate social media access.

If there is no law barring inmate access to social media, then prisons must provide specific reasons why granting Facebook access to this particular inmate poses a serious

safety risk.

"We have to remember that more than 95 percent of prisoners are getting out. Disabling them from what has become a basic skill in our society is not in anyone's interest," said Fathi.

"By the parole board rescinding my parole date, it made me feel sad, ashamed and helpless for my past and post behavior," said Randall.

"From experiencing this ordeal, I now know that I have the coping skills to maintain a positive attitude when dealing with the challenges of life."

As an example, Randall continues his participation in various self-help groups and educational programs at SQ – programs aimed at reformative criminal thinking, victim awareness and helping at-risk youths – while pursuing his college degree in social and behavioral science.

Randall takes full responsibility for his actions.

"If I never had the cell phone in 2010, the Facebook profile would have never existed," he said.

The BPH told Randall to inform the inmate population that a social media search will be conducted on all lifer inmates being considered for parole, according to his official transcript.

Randall has the following message for the CDCR inmate population:

"For those of you who are indulging in the use of cell phones, especially lifer inmates – if you value your freedom, the risk is not worth using a cell phone or being on social media."

"Our family, friends and community need us in society to help with the prevention of recidivism, and to be positive examples for at-risk youths."



# Alliance for Change Reaffirms Its Goal to 'Change the Narrative'

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ner. Also, we make sure when people leave prison, they have the resources they need to be successful," said R. Malik Harris, the inside finance and development co-leader.

These resources include a Welcome Home backpack with a starter cell phone, a Clipper card (public transportation pass), toiletries and assistance in obtaining birth certificates and Social Security cards.

Alliance has campus organization at the University of San Francisco and San Francisco State University, according to Nathaniel Whitaker.

The event started with Kasravi. The Iranian native spoke of being surprised to find America's criminal justice system broken. Kasravi said she takes comfort that you can advocate against injustices in American, while exercising dissent in Iran puts your life in danger.

Kasravi took the podium at San Quentin's Protestant Chapel and said, "The Narrative (tough on crime) we knew was the course to self-destruction. It leads to the U.S. having five percent of the world population but 25 percent of prison population with African-Americans bearing the brunt.

"The new coalition wants to focus on non-violent and drug offenses, but they are missing the point... no one is talking about addressing the racial inequality, the dehumanization. I don't think they go far enough to discuss why people ended up here in the first place. People need an opportunity for redemption. Do everything you can to never come back and don't lend credibility to this narrative," she said to the crowd of about 150 inmates and guests

Rouse spent 30 years incarcerated, but now he's a registered voter and a married man.

"He's a case worker, helping marginalized people find affordable housing and health care. He coordinates Alliance's Bridge Project which offers a support group for newly paroled people in the Bay Area," said Richman, introducing Rouse.

It was Rouse's first time back inside after being one of the founders of the group, along with Erin O'Connor and Harris.

"I am looking at a bunch of men who have made the decision to be better men than who they were and the things around them," said Rouse. "I never expected the crowd I see today, the many faces, the new members. Having a person stop me and say, 'Thank you for starting this group for the changes it has made in my life is huge.'"

A delicious meal was served and cooked by John "Yayah" Parratt, Karl Freelon and Jerry Williams.

Then Thompson-Bonilla spoke.

"Changing the narrative doesn't mean changing the conversation; it means action," said Thompson-Bonilla. "The prob-



Photo by Harold Meeks

Co-founder Nathaniel "Shahid" Rouse

lem with the negative perception is that it stains reality. I'm looking at the men in blue, and I know that it doesn't fit."

Afterward, the men in blue gave awards to Marisol Beaulac (case worker), Berklee Donovan (case worker), Lovaaas, Nate Whitaker (SFSU Alliance president), Lily O'Neal (re-integration team), Nick Macker, Nathaniel Moore (co-leader of education) and President-founding member Dr. Richman.

"It means so much to be recognized," said Donovan.

"Thank you. This means a lot to all of us, but more than the piece of paper, we appreciate the space that makes this possible," said Moore.

"We have access to the leaders of tomorrow and today. I think we should take advantage of that," said Ricky Gaines, the inside event coordinator.

Also honored was Alliance's chief sponsor. "Mana Jaundoo works an eight-hour day, then comes and sponsors our program. She's not here because of a terrible family tragedy. We are with her in spirits," said Richman.

Raphaele Casale was thanked for filling Jaundoo's shoes, which kept the event from be-



Photo by Harold Meeks

The graduating class of Cycle Nine of the Alliance curriculum

ing canceled.

"She's my sister from another mother with a heart of gold and no agenda. Her cause is my cause," said Casale about why she answered Jaundoo's call.

Richman also thanked the administration and Chaplain Mardi Jackson.

The graduates of Alliance for Change, cycle nine, were honored for completing the course on July 13. The Social Justice class is Monday through Thursday for two hours a day. It was the first group for many participants.

Charlie Spence completed the group and became a Pro Team co-leader. He spoke about Alliance's concept of justice.

"Our relationship with justice is how we treat other people, how we feel about ourselves. Not as a single event in time but as a continual journey over the course of your life -- a living and thriving concept in which we are all connected," said Spence.

The other graduates were Alex Bracamonte, Anthony Clark, Anthony Denard, B. Raheem Ballard, Carlos Smith, Chuck Nicholson, Charles A. Ross, Conrai D. Jackson, Dan Kramer, Darryl Schilling, Gary



Photo by Harold Meeks

Guests line up to receive their special dinner

Contreras, Gary Roberson, Jaime Sanchez, James Brady, Jason Samuel, Kenneth Donaghe, Kenneth J. Vernon, Ladelle Jackson, Ralph Brown, Ramon Watkins, Rodney Roberts, Salvador Zapien, Wayne A. Boatwright, and William Barnhard Jr.

Contreras was recently found suitable for parole.

"If I am lucky enough to get out, I want to thank everybody," said Contreras.

Darnell "Moe" Washington's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and Donte Smith's birthday two days later were celebrated by Richman who lead the singing of "Happy Birthday."

Inmate Shadedee Wallace-Stepher, executive secretary/of public relations, was acknowledged for graduating from Coastline Community College earlier that day as was Travis Westly.

"Great day...a graduation, a proposal and a banquet...it's as good as a day gets in prison," Westly said.

He earned an AA degree in social and behavioral science from Coastline Community College, plus his girlfriend accepted his proposal.

Harris gave a speech about six degrees of separation.

"We need to expand this out. You may not think that you know people but you do. You are all connected to Obama through six people. Kim Richman knows Joan Peter-Cilia, who knows Condoleezza Rice, who worked for George Bush, who has been hanging out with Bill Clinton, who knows Obama," said Harris.

Alliance member Anouthinh Pangthong closed with this comment: "Each and every one of us has a story, a song. How can the world know about us if we stay quiet?"



Photo by Harold Meeks

R. Malik Harris, Flavio Ruiz and Dr. Kim Richman

# Students Achieve Educational Goals



Photo by Sam Hearn

C.J. Patterson on far left with Todd Williams and his fiancée, Charlotte Walker, in the middle, and two daughters in front

*Continued from Page 1*

ates earned Associate in Arts degrees from Lassen Community College.

Andrew M. Vance earned his GED and is now attending Paten College classes.

He is currently enrolled in a self-help program called GRIP (Guiding Rage Into Power) and is taking a program to certify him as a domestic violence prevention counselor. He intends to apply to apply for a new hearing before the parole board next year.

Shadeed A. Wallace-Stepter received a Business Certificate from Coastline Community College.

"It's a payoff to taking these classes," Wallace-Stepter said. "Now, I know how to develop a business plan, mainly for The Last Mile."

The Last Mile is a training program at San Quentin that focuses on technology entrepreneurship.

"For my fiancée, [Bambi Williams,] this was a different setting than just the visiting

room," Wallace-Stepter added. "It showed her another aspect of who I am in this community."

Tare N. Beltranchuc graduated from the Construction Technology program.

In addition to learning how to install solar and wind energy systems, solar thermal energy systems, refrigeration, fire alarms and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems using smart technology, the graduates are certified in various fields of construction such as masonry, roofing and pipe-fitting.

"Even though people make mistakes, this type of event reminds us of the humanity of us all," said Miguel Salazar, who Beltranchuc describes as a father figure to him. "I'm proud of him. It's good for everyone to spend time in harmony," Salazar added.

Tare told his family in Mexico, "Me gustaría mandar un caluroso saludo a toda mi familia de Cancún y decirles que los extraño mucho y este Certificado se los dedico a todos ustedes, especialmente a mi hijo Tare Jr

y America."

"It's important, once a person earns a degree or makes an accomplishment in here, that there is a tangible and useful purpose on the outside," said CJ Patterson, who came to see Todd Williams graduate.

Williams earned an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies/Social Science from Lassen College.

"Don't send the people through these tasks and not make whatever they learn useful," Patterson said. "People need to be looked at differently when they leave these places. They have to stop being penalized after they leave these places."

Williams' fiancée, [Charlotte Walker,] said, "It was exciting. I'm proud of him. This is showing that they want to improve their lives and it is rehabilitation."

"You have become the ambassadors of this educational system," Mirkarimi told the graduates. "You are the definition of what this country is doing right toward prison reform."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Tare N. Beltranchuc, left, and Miguel Salazar



Photo by Harold Meeks

Photo by Sam Hearn

Eusebio Gonzalez

Duane Holt



Photo by Sam Hearn

Photo by Harold Meeks

Shadeed Wallace-Stepter and fiancée Bambi Williams

Ruben Harper and his family

## "The Cuff 'Em and Feed 'Em Mentality Has to Change"

By James R. Abernathy Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

California's prison system is working to increase vocational, educational and rehabilitative services to inmates, but it is a long-range and difficult job, two top officials say.

"We have big cultural changes to make as a community. People need to realize that today's inmate is tomorrow's neighbor, and it benefits society as a whole when we provide opportunities to offenders," said Millicent Tidwell, director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs.

"If all we do is lock inmates up every day and don't let them out to do anything, they will have the same thoughts over and over again. You've got to get them to do something different if we want to expect them to act differently when they leave," said Rodger Meier, deputy director of the division. "The cuff

'em and feed 'em mentality has to change."

In November 2013, Tidwell was appointed director of DRP to complete the implementation of the Blueprint, a plan adopted in 2012 by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. It aims to cut billions in spending, improve prison and parole operations and to meet court-ordered constitutional standards for medical, mental health and dental care needs of inmates.

They reported the division has developed partnerships with the Division of Adult Institutions (DAI) and the Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) to create more programs for inmates and parolees.

"Building these partnerships is making these programs more successful. Due to increased partnerships between DRP and DAPO, our parolee programs went from a 40 percent enrollment to a 93 percent enrollment," said Meier.

Not everything goes smoothly, Meier noted, saying, "CDCR as a department has changed its focus to rehabilitation, lawmakers have changed their focus to rehabilitation, but when you get down to the actual folks on the line you have many pockets of excellence and you have places that are still resistant."

"It is hard to change something that has been ingrained for decades, if not centuries, to get them to look at this differently."

"Some inmates are resistant, but once they are in the program, they realize how much they actually needed it. One female inmate felt she didn't need to be in the substance abuse treatment program. She was kicking and screaming. She had a long history of drug abuse but she didn't feel like she was addicted. After being in the program for about two weeks she said, 'This is the best thing for

me.' Many of the other inmates have been waiting for these programs to come and are just happy they are here now because they really wanted to make a change."

Tidwell and Meier discussed CDCR's recent shift from being "tough on crime" to being "smart on crime" in an interview with Dana Simas, CDCR public information officer.

Tidwell credits building up CDCR's Office of Correctional Education as her biggest accomplishment so far.

"We were able to bring in a new superintendent and a deputy superintendent to really build up our correctional education component. It's something that has been lacking focus for a very long time, so I am really proud of the work they are doing to pull our schools together."

Tidwell noted, "I've received several emails from officers in the field who have said 'Thank you' for these programs because



Photo by Sam Hearn

Millicent Tidwell

the yard is quieter, more peaceful and a better place to work without the stress levels they've had in the past."

# Avon Walk Reaps \$1,500 From Prisoners



Photo by Harold Meeks

Volunteers and prisoners walk the first lap in unity to honor breast cancer survivors

*Continued from Page 1*

a better person, which makes the community I'm involved with a better community," Capell said. "When I walk away from this event, I feel empowered."

The two-day event attracted a crowd of about 75 donors, including inmates, community members and prison staff.

The donors gathered around a makeshift stage on the prison's Lower Yard to receive prayers on the first day from Protestant Chaplain Mardi Jackson, followed by inmate Kevin Valvardi for the Catholic Church and SQ staff member Hector Frank Heredia, the Native American spiritual leader at San Quentin.

Inmates Ronnie Cooper for Buddhists and Mike Loftin for Native Americans led prayers on the second day.

"What inspired me to do this is that I have a mother and six sisters who could be affected by breast cancer. And, I had an aunt who had cancer," said San Quentin CARES co-founder and inmate Stephen Pascascio, who said, "It seems like the right thing to do. So far the inmates donated about \$1,500 in two and a half weeks."

Some of the inmate donors make as little as 18 cents an hour.

"They still help out by giving what they can," Pascascio said. "Their hearts are so compassionate."

"This event shows that San Quentin does care," said Community Partnership Manager Steve Emrick. "It sheds a good light on the men to show that they support the community."

Planning Committee volunteers Shannon Gordhamer and Berklee Donovan said they have been planning for this day since February.

"The biggest challenge was navigating the many, many layers and channels of the prison system to get things done," Gordhamer said. She added that San Quentin State Prison walkers are registered as a single

walker with Avon 39 The Walk to End Breast Cancer fundraisers.

In the six years San Quentin CARES has sponsored the walk inside this prison, more than \$42,000 has been raised, Gordhamer said.

"Many people find out that their loved one has cancer and it makes them feel powerless," Gordhamer said. "So, involving themselves in the walk is something tangible they can do to show their support. It's very inspiring—coming out to walk 39 miles in two days is a huge personal accomplishment." She added, "Even though we're in separate places we're a part of something together."

Gordhamer said the goal for outside donations is \$10,000.

Outside donations may be made to San Quentin CARES by going to: <http://info.avonfoundation.org/goto/SQCARES7>.

Donovan said the biggest challenge for her was getting outside volunteers to participate.

"I was asked to help and did not hesitate," Donovan said.

"The walk brings out the humanity inside this place. People ask me whether I walk with the inmates and when I tell them that we walk together, they seem somewhat surprised. I tell them that the men inside here have families who are affected by cancer just like people on the outside," she said.

As the walk went on, SQ staffer Kim Bailey took the stage, talking about her sisters and mom who did not survive cancer.

Before her mom passed away, Bailey experienced a walk at San Quentin while sitting in a chair with her mom, taking in the event. "Some of the guys came up to my mother and gave her support," Bailey said, "Anybody who did that, I thank you, because it made her very happy."

After hearing a couple of community members take to the stage and give support for the walk, Pascascio resumed the walking by playing music by lo-

cal Marin County musician Audrey Auld, who, Pascascio said, is battling cancer. The first song, *Hey Warden*, was developed in a songwriting workshop Auld held at San Quentin last year.

## INMATES SAY WHY THEY DONATE AND WALK:

**San Quentin CARES co-founder, Sam Johnson:** It gives me the opportunity to be a part of the community. My dad, Chris; sister-in-law, Pam; and brother-in-law, Anthony, died of cancer. It's good to see people supportive and contributing to defeating this disease. It affects millions of people. It's an honor and privilege to be a part of this, so that the outside people can see what we do.

**Darnell "Moe" Washington:** I'm walking for my auntie, Me-Me, and my uncle Michael who died of cancer. In spite of being behind bars, I really like to be able to give back. It goes to show no matter where you're at, you can be a part of helping others.

**Jerome Boone:** I believe in the cause. I know it affects people, almost all of us, in some kind of way. I just want to be a part of a greater thing.

**Antwan "Banks" Williams:** My grandmother is a survivor of breast cancer. It's not about us. It's about showing support. People need us. They need us in the right frame of mind.

**Rodney Capell:** Even though this negative thing brings us together, it is not a negative event. We are sharing a burden. We are finding comfort in each other.

**Lamar "Maverick" Harrison:** This is an opportunity for me to make amends and feel like I'm doing something.

**Kevin Pryor:** This is my third walk. I'm walking on behalf of my mother, Eunice Collins. I used to send her the pink wristband. My mom lost her battle to breast cancer last year on April 10. I shared this with a friend in Atlanta, Vanessa V. Love-Hudson. She shared that she

is a breast cancer survivor. This year, I'll send her the wristband.

**Dennis Crookes:** There's been people in my family who had cancer. I'm walking for my mom. There was this kid who died of cancer when I was young. That affected me.

**Habib Watkins:** I'm walking for my sister, Thelma Thomas who passed away in 1987.

**Lionel Bradley:** I'm walking for my mother, Maggie and my daughters, Juannsha and Juanneka. They are women and I'm concerned about them having to face breast cancer as all women do.

**Mark Tedeschi:** I'm walking for my mom and all breast cancer survivors. My mom had breast cancer and died from complications following surgery at age 52.

**Anthony Thomas:** I'm walking to help find a cure for cancer, and to help people understand that there's all kinds of cancer and it involves everyone. I'm just trying to give back.

**Ronnie Cooper:** My mother died from cancer, so this walk is personal. It makes me feel like I'm doing something worthwhile.

**Doug Ingham:** I'm doing this to support the men I'm walking with. I lost my mom to lung cancer 10 years ago. When I called my daughter this weekend and told her what I'm doing she got excited and told me that she's making a donation, too. There's three of us who are walking as a team (myself, Ronnie Cooper, and Ted Potter) for San Quentin's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Elena Tootell, and we are the Moving Meditation Team, which is a program designed to help the diabetics.

**James Metters:** Coming from the perspective of a rehabilitated inmate, the walk gives me an opportunity to give back and makes me feel a part of the community.

**Mesro:** I'm walking for all the survivors everywhere. I want them to know that I'm fighting with them. When they survive, I

survive, too.

**Alliance For CHANGE, Pre-President, Isaiah (Abdur Raheem) Thompson-Bonilla:** It's time we stop talking about the problem and start doing something about it...walking for a cure. It's time to change the narrative.

**Alberto Mendez:** I walk for my little nephew who was born with cancer. Where I come from in Mexico, there's a lot of toxic waste. I also walk for all the women who will have to face breast cancer at some time in their life.

**Tommy "Shakur" Ross:** I'm walking because I think it's a beautiful thing to do for breast cancer awareness. It's a sense of community, and awareness. It's a beautiful day with the music. It's about honoring the women.

**Brian Asey:** I'm walking because it is the first time I'm able to donate. My mother expressed to me that she's been going to the doctor, but she hasn't told me that it might be breast cancer. It's different when it affects you personally.

**Morgan Tyson:** My mother and brother had cancer. Not only that, I have a great deal of respect for women today, which is different from the person who I used to be. Our mothers are the rock of the house. They are the ones that teach us. I have to respect women as someone who walks beside us, not behind us.

**Brian Shipp:** My sister is fighting breast cancer as we speak. This is a disease that's widespread, that needs funding and for people to understand that it hits all families. I have a long-time friend, Jamie, who has had a double mastectomy—she's still living. It changed her life to the point where she doesn't want to have boyfriends.

**Richard Zorns:** I'm walking because I care.

**Joga Sandher:** I lost four members to cancer. I walk to support the cause any way—to be a part of the breast cancer walk.

—Juan Haines

# Job Fair Sponsored by TRUST Program

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Several Bay Area employers visited San Quentin State Prison in June to interview inmates at a first-of-its-kind job fair hosted by the inmate group TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training).

Employers came from Caltrans, Anders & Anders, Every Dog Has Its Day Care, Home of Chicken & Waffles, Aaron Metals and Planting Justice.

Prior to the job fair, Nelson "Nobel" Butler, 46, a TRUST inmate, and sponsor Diana Williams conducted employment readiness seminars over a five-week period to prepare the men to meet the employers.

"I started it because I was in the middle of going to the Board" (of Parole Hearings), said Butler. He wanted to know how to get a job because he has been incarcerated since age 19. "Men in prison have no way of finding out how to get a job," he added.

"It was very helpful," said William Anderson, 51. "I was very nervous when I first sat in front of an employer because I thought he'd ask personal questions."

The inaugural class session focused on teaching inmates to get to know themselves, work values, identify career options, transferable skills, strengths and various forms of administrative communication.

"I really liked the groups in the seminars," said Robert Butler III, 56. "For me, this is a course that leads to success. I built a notebook for reference in the future."

The second class taught the men how to present themselves on paper. They also learn how to write different types of resumes, create cover letters and master applications and Job Information Seeking and Training (JIST) cards.

An employer, Planting Justice, spoke with the men about building urban gardens. It's a



Photo by Nigel Poor

Diana Williams and Nelson "Nobel" Butler

nonprofit, grass roots, holistic re-entry organization based in Oakland. Its program teaches ex-felons empowerment through farming food.

"Planting Justice also participates in a rehabilitation program called Pathways to Resilience, which brings organizations together to provide services for people coming out of prison," the *East Bay Express* reported in April.

The men prepared by doing mock interviews, learning to write follow-up letters and prepare turnaround packets containing documentation on what they have accomplished in prison. "The person you were when you committed the crime is not the person you are today," a class handout says.

Also attending the job fair were career development professionals from Centerforce, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) parole agents and Bob Wright, owner of the marketing company Firebrick.

Wright told the men to "find something that you're really good at doing and do it well."

"Our agency will pay your union dues," said Glenn Bell, an employment services specialist with Private Industry Council.

He said PIC will also help the men get tools and other items once they are released on parole.

"We will guide you to a professional case manager," said Donald Hom, parole agent with the CDCR. He also provided material on programs available through the parole office.

CDCR parole agent Roy Welcholz told the men that he believed they will do well on parole, but he said the inmates he is most concerned with are the ones who were not at the job fair. He urged the men to reach out to other inmates and convince them to take the seminar.

"Your initial interview with your parole officer is like a job interview," said Tyrone "T-Bone" Allen, 56, an inmate who co-facilitated the TRUST seminars. He said the pilot project went well enough to create a demand for it.

"We make it a routine to hire people who have been incarcerated," said Jesykah Forkash, one of the owners of Aaron Metals. She said when her company trains the formerly incarcerated, it wants them to remain with the company. "We want them to go from being a lifer in prison to being lifers with us."

Myeast McCauley, an office chief with Caltrans, demonstrated a level of professionalism many inmates are likely to emulate. His demeanor was calm, and he seemed genuinely connected to each inmate's urgency to find employment.

Working in tandem with McCauley was Debra Smith, from Caltrans external affairs. The men, many who have never been on a job interview, appeared to be very comfortable in her presence.

"I liked the employers coming in," said Markelle Taylor Sr., 42. He said the class taught him about the support employers in the community are giving to reduce recidivism. He said that he has never had a problem finding employment, but he did not understand it from the perspective of a convicted felon. "The refresher on interviewing was good."

In the final weeks leading up to the job fair, the men formed small groups to review and critique resumes, applications and JIST cards. They also learned how and where to look for employment with ex-offender-friendly businesses.

One of those businesses is Derrick Johnson's Home of Chicken & Waffles restaurant. According to a July 2012 blog posted by JailstoJobs, Johnson "hires ex-offenders with the help of the City of Oakland's Measure Y program." It provides \$20 million a year to fund programs such as violence prevention, which includes young adult re-entry services.

"Hearing these guys' stories made me want to help them transform their lives," Johnson is quoted in the blog. "We all make mistakes. Some of us get caught with our mistakes. Some of us don't."

According to a January report by the National Employment Law Project, "Reflecting the growing political consensus behind 'smart on crime' reforms, elected officials from across the ideological spectrum have embraced 'fair chance' hiring policies."

Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, D-Alameda, selected Johnson in 2009 as an honoree in his district. He praised Johnson's practice of hiring and training local workers, including many

at-risk youth. Johnson has also been honored by the California Small Business Association.

In 2013, the *Post News Group* reported, "One of the initiatives Johnson wants to implement is the 'Hire one, Teach one, Love one' program for ex-offenders," which he now implements at his restaurants.

Chung Kao, 54, said the highlight of his training was doing his inventory interest assessment. "It told me more accurately about myself than I could do about my own interests. That stuff is very accurate if you follow it step by step."

"I like working with people who are really trying to change their lives," said Williams. "I'm inspired by the commitment the men had doing all the work." She said jobs are the number one factor to prevent recidivism. In regard to the employers that came to the prison, she said, "It gave me a lot of hope."

In an email sent to Williams after the job fair, one employer wrote: "Thank you for the opportunity to meet the members of TRUST - they are an impressive group of men. All of the men I spoke with were poised, articulate, and genuine, characteristics that are lacking in the majority of the individuals I interview as part of my regular day. Please pass on to them my admiration. I would gladly take part in other job readiness events in the future. Please keep me in mind."

Williams said TRUST hopes to have another seminar ready by October.

"The federal government has been encouraging employers to be more forgiving," according to a June Pew Charitable Trusts article.

Williams has been a volunteer sponsor with TRUST for 10 months. She also volunteers with California Re-entry Institute and VOEG Inside Prison Project and is a former director of development for fundraising. She has an M.A. in counseling psychology and is a Certified Professional Co-active Coach.

## First Sitting President to Visit Federal Prison

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

A presidential visit to a prison has ignited a national conversation about what it means.

"President Barack Obama became the first sitting president to visit a federal prison. While that may seem surprising, there's actually a really simple, if cynical, explanation: Not only

are prisoners generally reviled by society, but a great majority of them can't vote, reducing the incentive for a politician to care about them," according to [www.vox.com](http://www.vox.com).

Forty-eight states have various laws that bar those with criminal records from voting; in only two states, Maine and Vermont, does everyone have the right to vote, regardless of

criminal record, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

"In 2012, more than 5.8 million Americans were not legally allowed to vote due to prisoner and felony disenfranchisement," the Sentencing Project reported.

Hardest hit by disenfranchisement laws is the African-American population — in Florida,

Kentucky and Virginia, Black disenfranchisement was more than 20 percent, according to data by the Sentencing Project.

The purpose of the visit by President Obama to the federal medium-security prison near Oklahoma City was to push for criminal justice reforms that would decrease incarceration, according to the *Washington Post*.



File photo

President Obama

## 'Ban the Box' Movement Gains National Traction

By Nathan Hall  
Journalism Guild Writer

Efforts are underway to help former prisoners find jobs. The focus is to "ban the box" on job applications that would disclose any criminal convictions.

Tamisha Walker recalls her first encounter with the box.

"Right then and there, it was like the air went out of my tires," Walker told reporter Lydia De-

Pillis, who was writing for the *Washington Post's* online feature Storyline.

Walker said she got an interview but didn't get that job; however, she did get another job as a community organizer.

Since then, Walker has helped pass a law in the city of Richmond that bans city government and its contractors from asking about criminal history on initial job applications.

Soon after, California passed a law requiring state agencies to delay asking the question until after determining the applicant meets the basic requirements of a job.

"Meanwhile, the 'ban the box' movement was sweeping the country," DePillis reported. "Since Hawaii became the first jurisdiction to protect the employment prospects of people with criminal records in 1998,

12 more states and 97 cities and counties have passed some version of 'fair chance' hiring."

In September Walker attended a White House meeting to urge the federal government to take similar action. A number of community-based organizations have joined the effort, asking President Obama to "ban the box" for federal agencies and their contractors.

"Now is the time for President

Obama to act boldly to open up employment opportunities for the large numbers of Americans who have been unfairly locked out of the job market because of a criminal record," says a report drafted by the National Employment Law Project.

DePillis is described as a reporter focusing on labor, business and housing. She worked previously at *The New Republic* and the *Washington City Paper*.

# Raising Our Children in the Struggle

By Watani Stiner  
Contributing Writer

I was somewhat surprised that my children born in South America don't seem to share my passion for fighting for racial justice in the United States, that they don't even see its injustice the way I do. Because of this, it throws into question my assumptions about how they thought about me when we were apart. I wonder what my children were thinking about me when they were in foster care...so young and knowing so little of my story and what had happened to me. Why was I in prison? What was their narrative about me?

After all, they didn't grow up in this country; that wasn't the context they were immersed in. They had no conception of the rising intensity of racial antagonism within this country that continues today. Nor had they ever heard of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or Malcolm X. All that my children knew was that they

## An 'OG's' Perspective

had a loving daddy and then he left, and when he left, things turned into a nightmare.

As a young activist fighting for social justice during the tumultuous 1960s, I was focused on wanting to make a difference for the very reason of wanting children – my children, everyone's children – to be able to grow up in a just and safe world. I had a big picture view, a revolutionary vision that was a kind of love for them.

Would I do it all again the same way, knowing the huge emotional toll it has taken on my children? I was not there when they needed me most. But my choice was not just about making a difficult decision to join the struggle for social change. It was also about a racist system and the actions of COINTELPRO that limited my choices. I can't honestly say that there are

no regrets. But if I had to do it all over again, I would. However, this time I would be mindful of the collateral damage done to my children. I would never forsake or take for granted the small picture for the big picture.

In a strange way, the ironic outcome of me not being there for them is that my children don't see or understand the issues like they might have if I had been teaching and dialoguing with them all those years. Sadly but truthfully, being in prison for so many years, separating them from their children, is the plight of so many Black fathers. Because my life was sacrificed for the struggle, *the big picture*, I didn't get to raise my own children to see critical social issues as I would want them to. And in fact, a few of my children have some beliefs that are really shocking to me. That is a hard

outcome to have, given my life for the struggle.

A thing that feels so poignant to me is that my pregnant daughter Latanya, with her unborn son, proclaims passionately how she will never abandon her child. She will care for him above and beyond any and everything else. She will always be there for him, to comfort, protect and support him in all his dreams and aspirations. For Latanya, there is no issue more compelling and important to her than raising her child. She says, "I can name a million and one incidents where I would rather have had you there than you being where you were because of what you were doing for 'your people'! So like I said, Dad, the price you paid was not worth it! It's not that I don't care. I just care more about my child!"

I realize that Latanya is just as passionate about her unborn

child as I was in my passion for revolutionary social change in this country. But I also understand that if the society in which she lives is not just, and sees her son as less-than, then all the love she pours into him and all the protection she offers will not be enough. She will long for changes in society so that he can thrive and grow in the ways every mother wants to see.

It feels tenderly naive to me that she thinks that she on her own can make his world. She can do a lot, but he will have to live in this society. She can "choose him above everything else," but he and all of us still need activists fighting for justice. My grandson also needs the social justice work I care about. If I have come to any conclusion at all about family and social struggle, it is this: It is not a question of *either/or* but must be a balance of *both/and*. My hope for my unborn grandson is that he cries out into a world where justice prevails and Black lives truly matter.

## Reflections on Corrections Policy and Ethics

By Juan Haines  
Managing Editor

By reviewing *The Bet* by Anton Chekhov and *Consensus of Death* by Kenny Brydon, I was able to delve into what it's like to live behind bars from the perspective of the incarcerated.

With Chekhov, it's a philosophical juggling act, while Brydon faced the stark reality of experience.

Ursula Le Guin gives me the chance to reflect on corrections policy and ethics in *The Ones Who Walk Away From the Omelas*.

I received Le Guin's short story from a friend who used to come inside this place and teach me how to write. She's never abandoned her inspiring and awesome support in what my pen produces.

Lizzie Buchen, who has just begun a new job with Californians United for a Responsible Budget as Statewide Advocacy and Communications Co-coor-

## BOOK REVIEW

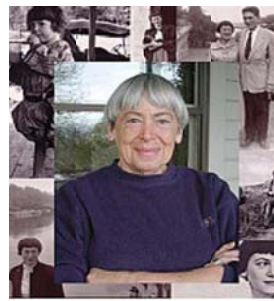
inator sends me reading material all the time so that I better understand the psychological and social impact of incarceration.

After taking in this story, I weighed upon what Fyodor Dostoevsky says: "Man is a being that can get used to anything, but don't ask us how."

Le Guin confronts Dostoevsky by asking "How?" in her fascinating and beautifully crafted narrative *The Ones Who Walk Away From the Omelas*.

The story contains picturesque and descriptive language of a place where I'd love to live—a *place of swallows soaring—where you can see the rigging of the boats and the streets between houses with red roofs and painted walls*. Yeah, this is an enchanting sight in my mind's eye.

Everything about *The Ones*



File photo

Ursula Le Guin

*Who Walk Away From Omelas* gives me a deep-rooted feeling of comfort.

"I loved Le Guin's juxtaposition of images and ideas," Emile DeWeaver of *SQ Reviews* said. "She contrasts 'grave master workmen' with 'quiet, merry women,' and mountain snow burns with 'white-gold fire.'"

which the autumn light could come to him."

In this truth, I question what extent societies will undergo in order to maintain a nicely pictured life. Moreover, what we, as Americans, are willing to tolerate in order to maintain "Law and Order."

Le Guin challenges readers' morality by presenting an argument: the most good for the most people in the community is a price that could be sufficiently paid by the suffering of one.

This is a moral question for each citizen of Omelas—individually.

"Often it is just such an exceptionally difficult external situation which gives man the opportunity to grow spiritually beyond himself," Viktor E. Frankl, author of *Man's Search for Meaning* remarked.

And so did the ones who walked away from Omelas.

Write to *San Quentin News* if you're incarcerated and want a copy of the story.

## Dehumanization of Humans in Selma, Alabama

By S. Q. Reviews

In *Selma*, director Ava DuVernay portrays Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s (David Oyelowo) struggle to get the Voting Rights Act passed.

Although DuVernay touches on King's human flaws – his infidelity, his pride – she focuses on King's contribution to civil rights in America.

An early scene where children die in a church bombing reminds S.Q. Reviewers of recent hate crimes in places like Charleston, South Carolina.

"It's sad that it's happening today," Jonathan Chiu says after we meet outside the San Quentin Newsroom. "I compare Obama to Johnson. When people look back on Obama's presidency, what are they going to say about what Obama did while churches were burning

## MOVIE REVIEW

and Black children were being executed in the streets?"

Juan Meza says, "There's something going on that hasn't stopped. Churches still burn; something in our neighborhoods is still foul. If a Chicano were in office he would send money to schools in the hood, like: We're changing this."

Meza looks to the reviewers seated in a circle around him before he continues. "Do you feel like Obama holds back, so he doesn't appear biased?"

"He said that he's not a Black president, he's the American President," says Rahsaan Thomas.

"He's supposed to be a Black President!" Meza says. "Why

isn't he focused on the problems that plague the Black community?"

Chiu says, "Hillary is going to get in office and work for women's interests. You can believe that."

"And you'd get lynched if you criticized her for it," Emile DeWeaver says. "So what does it say about American progress when Obama must tip-toe around Black issues for fear of stirring up a racial crap-storm, but if Hillary champions women's interests, she'll be seen as just that: a champion?"

"It's bullshit," says Thomas, "but it's where society is at. It's good that society has become more accepting of women with

power, but it seems like we have a way to go to overcome the racial hatreds of the past. Obama is just doing the best he can in the face of history." Thomas turns to DeWeaver and says, "It's no different than the practicality you admired in King."

Earlier, DeWeaver talked about how King didn't use non-violence just because King was a morally good person.

"It wasn't just a moral stance," DeWeaver said. "It was practical because they couldn't win a gun war with the U.S. But it was a war. And King was very intelligent with the way he conducted it."

"I have a new-found respect for King's type of non-violence because it was systematic," said Meza. "It wasn't *let's just go sit down*, it was *let's provoke*."

"King knew his case for in-

justice was better illustrated by people seeing cops beating innocents on TV instead of viewing a Black rebellion," said DeWeaver. "That is part of what brought about the change because the narrative of that era dehumanized minorities, and that dehumanization is what allows human beings to mistreat others. But those scenes on TV showed humans screaming in the street."

"Yeah, King was responsible," Thomas said. "I feel like we have to think that way, as prisoners. A lot of stereotypes keep the public scared of us. We've gotta show them we're human."

We rate *Selma* 4 out of 5 dinner cookies.

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

# Arts & Entertainment

## Snippets

Uncommon to most people that the Native American gave the Americans language words like "squash, raccoon, bayou, and suffering succotash," as well.

Performing the lighting of the Olympic torch represents the fire stolen from the Greek God Zeus. Prior to beginning the Olympic games the torch is lit in ancient Olympia as a tradition.

Racketeering, bootleg alcohol, prostitution, and gambling was how Al Capone earned his income during the prohibition era. Capone's annual salary was \$10 million, tax-free.

Immigrants from Mexico and Asia called the brazeros were contracted by the United States to build the railroads. After the railroads were completed, they were not paid, instead, they were deported.

Stones were taken off the walls of the Taj Mahal by the British during the Indian uprising of 1857.

Eventually by 13 years old, Tina Turner was abandoned by both parents. Her mom left when she was 10 and her father at 13 leaving her and her sister to live with her grandmother and extended families.

*"On the occasion of every accident that befalls you, remember to turn to yourself and inquire what power you have for turning it to use"*  
-Epictetus

## Sudoku Corner

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

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



Photo courtesy of Richard Lindsey

Jessie Lau in Hong Kong with the San Quentin News

## Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

You're on a plane and the plane runs out of gas. Your next move is to gather supplies before you parachute, knowing you're going to land on a desert. Bear in mind that a man should never carry more than one-third of his weight and a woman should never carry more than one-quarter of her body weight. You weigh your pack before you leap. But your pack is big and lumpy, and you can't get it to stay on your scale without falling off.

How can you accurately weigh it?

### 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 placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

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

### Last Month's Trivia Answer:

The answer is 6. There were 12 prisoners before the escape, making 40 people total on the ship, and 15 percent of 40 is 6.

The winner of last month's puzzle is: E. Vick.

Congratulations to the contestants who also got the puzzle right: Edward Wycoff, Richard Hirschfield, and Javier Victorienne.

Thank you for playing!

The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

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

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



Photo courtesy of Richard Lindsey

Members of the Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael in Todos Santos, Baja Sur, Mexico, on a volunteer trip to provide new housing for the staff of The Hogar del Niño (children's home). L to R: Jack Wilkinson, Susanne Karch, Jim Ring, Vic and Patty Baldrige and Sandra Gordon.

## Save Our Water



Learn easy ways to save water during California's drought at

[SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com)

# Twenty-Four Graduate From ELITE's Intensive San Quentin Self-Help Program

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

It was a day of smiles and pride for 24 San Quentin inmates who graduated from an intensive self-help program aimed at helping them improve themselves and their lives.

The program is Exploring Leadership and Improving Transitional Effectiveness' (ELITE) 16-week program. The ceremony was held in the Muslim/Jewish Chapel.

The ELITE training program was established at San Quentin in 2012 to assist individuals in their everyday personal endeavors. The program enhances an individual's emotional intelligence, social competences, self awareness, motivation, commitment, empathy and social skills. All these personal developments improve communication skills, intrapersonal and inter-relational proficiency.

During the June 17 graduation ceremonies, the audience and staff were given an opportunity to hear how ELITE's rigorous curriculum and workshop transformed an individual's thinking and behavior. These are practices incorporated into the leadership paradigm expected from all graduates who complete this self-help format.

"We believe by acquiring these skills, one is able to alter his behavior and thinking in such a way he can turn his situation around to yield benefit and deter harm," said Chairman Tommy "Shakur" Ross.

This multi-ethnic group received hands-on training in the concepts of emotional intelligence. These self-help skills

give the individual the ability to gauge and assess his own personal strength and weakness, enhance communication, interpersonal communication and managerial skills, the program noted.

Richard Mayer, a recent graduate, read a short story about how Thomas Edison inspired him. Edison was the inventor of the incandescent lamp, better known today as the light bulb. Soon after his invention became recognized throughout the world, reporters came to his home in East Orange, N.J., to interview him about the invention.

*"These self-help skills give the individual the ability to gauge and assess his own personal strength and weakness"*

One reporter asked Edison, "How does it feel to have failed 350 times to create the incandescent lamp?" Edison paused for a moment to reflect on the question and replied, "I didn't fail. I found 350 ways not to make the lamp and one way to make it."

Mayer said he is encouraged by this story because it speaks volumes about ELITE's training program. "It inspires a shared vision."

David "Da'ud" Coulson Sr., ELITE's secretary, associates



Photo by Sgt. Sino

ELITE's graduates, facilitators and sponsors smile to celebrate the graduating class

this training program to a curriculum that strengthens the understanding of the individual's unique leadership qualities.

Aaron Martin, another recent ELITE graduate, spent 16 weeks filled with self-worth. "I've been encouraged to access areas in my life that could use some personal, family or community leadership, so in these regards I could use leadership in my personal life to discipline myself, to make life-changing

decisions in regards to God, family and myself."

A highlight of the graduation came when "Da'ud" introduced ELITE's sponsor, Vivienne Florendo. Speaking on behalf of the 24 graduates, he told her, "We the combined groups had this oversize card made. We were dared to be different and unique, so we met this challenge. The size of this card metaphorically speaks to and represents the size of your

contribution, dedication and the amount we appreciate you, which is immensely, thus the size of the card. Thank you, Vivienne, for all you do."

When asked why she chose this group to sponsor, considering her distinct and unique background and work experience, Vivienne, said, "My life and work has revolved around helping others become the best they can be physically and mentally."

## Before a Parole Board Hearing, Be Sure to Check Your File

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Writer

Kacy Duane Lloyd says non-violent second-striker parole program applicants should carefully check their files to ensure the information is accurate. He says he didn't, and he was denied a parole date because his file contained wrong information.

"Do not depend on your counselors or UCC (Unit Classification Committee) to make sure the facts presented to the board are accurate," said Lloyd. "You should request an Olson review."

During an Olson review, an inmate's counselor allows him to see the information contained inside his file, except for confidential sections, under California Code of Regulations Title 15, 3370(c).

Inmates do not appear before the board under the non-violent second-strikers (NVSS) parole process. The early release program was implemented under the federal court's Plata decision requiring the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to reduce the prison population to 137.5 percent of design capacity by February of

next year.

The classification committee reviews inmates' files and refers those eligible to the parole board, which makes their determination by evaluating the prisoner's paperwork.

*"If my rehabilitation is the most important factor, why would they use my past when they know I wasn't rehabilitated then?"*

Lloyd had been eagerly waiting for a chance for his paperwork to be reviewed by the board since February 2014.

That's when the federal court ordered the state "to create and implement a new parole process through which non-violent second-strikers (NVSS) will be eligible for parole consideration by the Board of Parole Hearings

(BPH) once they have served 50 percent of their sentence," according to the Prison Law Office.

After a second court order and other delays, the classification committee saw Lloyd in March and referred his case to the BPH.

Lloyd's case went before the board on April 30. Marc Remis of the BPH recommended denying release because: "The current offense for transportation or sale of a controlled substance while a member of a street gang is an aggravating factor."

Lloyd pointed to his abstract of judgment that does not mention being convicted of a gang allegation in regard to the controlling offense of sell/transport of a controlled substance.

Remis also found that Lloyd had 10 prior felony convictions "presenting a repetitive pattern of robberies and/or weapons felonies..." according to a copy of the BPH 1047 form.

However, Lloyd's felony complaint lists three prior convictions, not 10. However, his file does list numerous arrests, mostly as a juvenile.

While in prison, Lloyd has

taken advantage of the rehabilitative programs and earned his GED.

Remis did mention Lloyd's institutional record as a mitigating factor.

"Mr Lloyd's institutional record shows some compliance with institutional rules and programs by participating in GED, CCCMS Programming, anger management and re-entry, as well as working as a porter. However, there are two counseling chronos for failing to report to work and inciting a group of other inmates. Mr. Lloyd's institutional record is a mitigating factor," said Remis on the BPH 1047 form.

"If my rehabilitation is the most important factor, why would they use my past when they know I wasn't rehabilitated then?" asked Lloyd. "This is an incentive program based on current rehabilitation efforts for non-violent second strikers. My California Risk Assessment is a "one" (low-risk score), according to what my counselors have told me."

Lloyd says there is no 602 appeal process to a NVSS BPH denial; however, he has filed a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

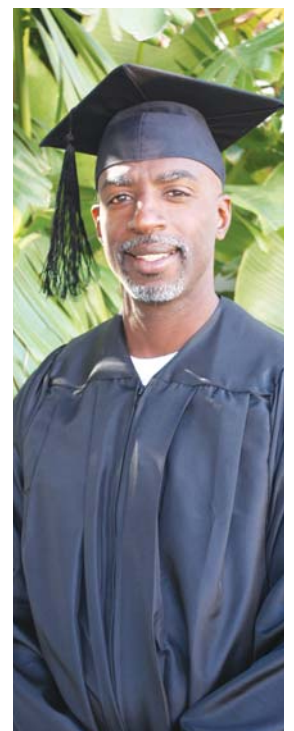


Photo by Sam Heames

Kacy Duane Lloyd earned his GED inside prison

# What Would You Do With Education if Money Wasn't an Issue?

## Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

Asked on the Line conducted random interviews with the men in blue and asked, "If money or time was not an issue, what type of degree would you like to obtain and why?"

Antwan Williams: Sound Engineering. I am so into the production of music; it's fascinating. Everything that goes into it is out of this world. You have to literally have an ear for it.

Michael Calvin Holmes: Behavioral Science, so I can better understand society as a whole and understand myself better and ultimately help improve so-

ciety.

James Metters: Theology. Theology is a course that at my age I can complete and then I can go on and earn a doctorate degree and help the community like Martin Luther King did for his community. I would like to help improve the moral issues of the community. You can cut a lot of corners and get to the meat of the social issues with theology.

Kerwin Jackson: Seminary or Theology. Because of my faith and because of what God has put in my heart, to go out and help people build a solid foundation in Christ Jesus.

Quinton Walker: Social Be-

havioral Science. It deals with people and society. It's important because as an Alcohol and Drug Addiction counselor it would help me better understand people.

Tommy Ross: Social Sciences with an emphasis in psychology. My whole thing is being able to give back to my community. By being book smart and street smart, it would give me credibility to reach out to my community.

Brad Carney: Environmental Sciences. If you don't take care of the planet, we will stop existing as a species.

Jesse Alvarado: A medical degree. I would like to be a physician and make medical services available for poor people and for immigrants without access to medical insurance.

Vincent Blackburn: Medical degree. There would be unlimited things I can do. It's vast. I can go to many levels in medicine, like neurology and psychiatry.

Joel Moore: Mechanical Engineering. I like working with my hands and working with ma-

chines like car engines.

Walter Johnson: Marine Biology: I love animals. I love fishing. Ever since my daddy put a fishing pole in my hand, I have been drawn to fish. I want to help animals. I am fascinated by marine animals.

## Finding Employment for Ex-Felons



File photo

Joe Paul, shown speaking at an earlier event

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Lifers can overcome all the obstacles to succeeding on parole if they empower themselves, former prisoner Joe Paul advised a San Quentin audience.

"If you can walk off a life sentence, you can get a job," said Paul, program manager at Jericho Vocational Service Center, which is part of the Shield for Families Program.

The dynamic speaker walked into San Quentin's Protestant Chapel June 29 dressed sharply in a gray pinstriped suit, red tie with white polka dots and shiny black leather slip-on shoes.

He said he served four years on a voluntary manslaughter sentence. Now he's on a reentry and rehabilitation committee out of California Attorney General Kamala Harris' Los Angeles office called Back on Track.

"I'm looking at success and what success has done is bring one of ours back to show us what it looks like in a suit," said prisoner Antony Waldrup.

Paul came in to speak to TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) and Project LA members about the resources he can help parolees utilize.

With him was Regina Banks, a staff services manager for California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Rehabilitation Programs, Employment Development Unit.

"Realignment has meant that we have more long-term, harder-to-place inmates in society that are coming out and need services," said Banks. "CDCR has been trying. They started 13 re-

entry hubs and beefed up community reentry programs based on new needs. Every time a yard changes over, it affects all 35 institutions. Things may be slow, but in the last three years, things have been moving more so."

Around 50 members of Project LA and TRUST heard Paul talked about how his program is a counterpart to Project LA. It helps parolees succeed by educating them to the services available and preparing them for reentry. The curriculum starts with 90 days inside prison with Project LA and continues with another 90 days with Jericho Vocational Services Center in Compton.

"You don't have to fit the program; the program will fit you. Project LA is about wrapping your head around what is takes to come back home to South LA," said Paul.

Project LA fills the gap in Los Angeles County for reentry services like job preparation, 12-week vocational training programs, transitional housing and job opportunities.

Paul further talked about the self-efficacy an ex-con needs to be hired.

"Pigeons flock to eat the bread crumbs off the ground. They have no power in causing that resource or keeping it," said Paul.

When an inmate expressed doubt over whether he could be hired because of old age, being a felon and losing the right to work in certain fields, Paul said, "That's a pigeon mentality. Federal law says you can't discriminate over age. They have business necessity reasons, but they can't discriminate. The older you are, the more experience you

bring to the table."

"You can't tell them, 'I'm too old.' Tell them, 'I know what I know,'" added Banks.

"An employer cares about how you can make him money. Iron Man was right at CMC West prison. Do you think Hollywood cares when he is making them millions? What can you bring to the table?" said Paul.

"You bring more to the table than people in the street could ever imagine. You go see the board, and they say come back in five years," said Paul. "Most people in society can't take getting a parking ticket. Ain't nobody on the streets dealing with this kind of stuff, and you mean to tell me you can't get a job?"

He recommends filing for positions that bar felons.

"Criminal records have become a civil rights issue. I have gotten five lifers their (union) cards. If you want to do something, apply. They are going to turn you down; then we go for an individual assessment," said Paul.

Banks was questioned about CDCR's failure to provide services for non-violent, non-serious, non-sexual offenders, who leave state prison under Realignment on probation instead of parole.

"CDCR funds programs for those on parole through the 1502 process," said Banks. "But we do know a lot of people are going to be on probation; we partner with others to handle that. We are working on more coordinated efforts. That's why we work with Shields, but CDCR isn't funding them," said Banks.

Shields for Families is a 25-year-old not-for-profit that serves South-Central LA, Compton and Watts. It started in the late '80s or early '90s to deal with the crack epidemic and evolved to mass incarceration and reentry, according to Paul.

For parolees "We do fund a transitional house where employment is your first need. Take advantage of the programs and services that they offer, because they do work," she continued.

"If you don't get out of here and do something with your lives, what is the point?" asked Paul. "I'm hiring people who have done long terms in prison to show the world what we can do."



Drawing Time...

the freedom to create

We invite you to participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> art show by the Partnership for Re-Entry Program (PREP). Please spread the word and get your artist friends involved! We welcome art in any size and all media. Art lovers enjoy famous portraits, nature, animals, and landscapes just to name a few. Poetry, beadwork, yard work, sculptures, etc. are welcome.

PREP ART SHOW 2015

October 10, 2015

Home boy Industries, Los Angeles, CA

Because of our faith perspective, we want to stay away from gang, sex or violent pieces. Please do not write notes or letters on your artwork. Proceeds will help PREP continue to serve parolees through counseling, education housing referrals in efforts to combat the high recidivism rate.

Artwork submission is ongoing and the deadline is Sept. 20, 2015. Please include a statement about your work, title and a brief biography. If you have difficulty shipping the art, please let us know and we can work with the chaplains. Please note artwork cannot be returned. Please send your artwork to:

PREP

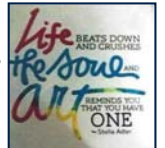
P.O. Box 77850

Los Angeles, CA 90007

PREP Contact: Sister Mary Sean Hodges

Office (323) 299-9547

Cell (323) 371-0757



## Self-Restraint And Self-Discipline During Ramadan

By Michael Cooke  
Journalism Guild Writer

For Muslims the observance of Ramadan is the most holy time of the Islamic calendar. It is a month of both contemplation and celebration.

Ramadan is the once-a-year opportunity for Muslims all over the world to rebuild, rejuvenate and renew their faith. It is the time of the year when Muslims purify both their bodies and souls to be as close to Allah as humanly possible. It is a time of renewal, commemorating when the Holy Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

It is a very special time that Muslims look forward to eagerly. Although fasting is beneficial to the health, it is principally regarded as a method of self-purification. It is a time to take control of our lives by learning to exercise self-restraint and practice self-discipline. But it is also a time when we are very thankful and celebrate because we feel very close to Allah.

Ramadan this year, however, may be different from any other in recent history. Nerves run short and tensions are high as we see many Muslims freeze, starve and suffer from insurgent attacks and military aggression in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, as well as many other atrocities taking place around the planet.

For 30 days, from sunrise to sunset, observant Muslims, that are physically capable, abstain from taking anything by mouth, including food and water. But the month is about more than just fasting. A fasting person gains true sympathy with those who go hungry frequently.

To purify the mind and heart, Muslims engage in reading and studying a minimum of one thirtieth of the Holy Quran every day during the month-long fast. Special prayers are offered, good deeds are performed and amends are made with anyone we've held animosity toward.

Celebrating Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam. According to the Holy Quran, Muslims must try to keep fit physically, intellectually and spiritually. The physical manifestations occur throughout the fast during the month of Ramadan. The spirit is served by study, nightly worship and special prayers. For the intellect, one must establish complete justice in the community in order to attain peace.

To those who understand the significance of Ramadan, I hope it was a fulfilling occasion in your lives and that you received every benefit you sought. May the peace and blessings of Allah's infinite Grace and Mercy be upon everyone at this time and throughout the rest of the year.



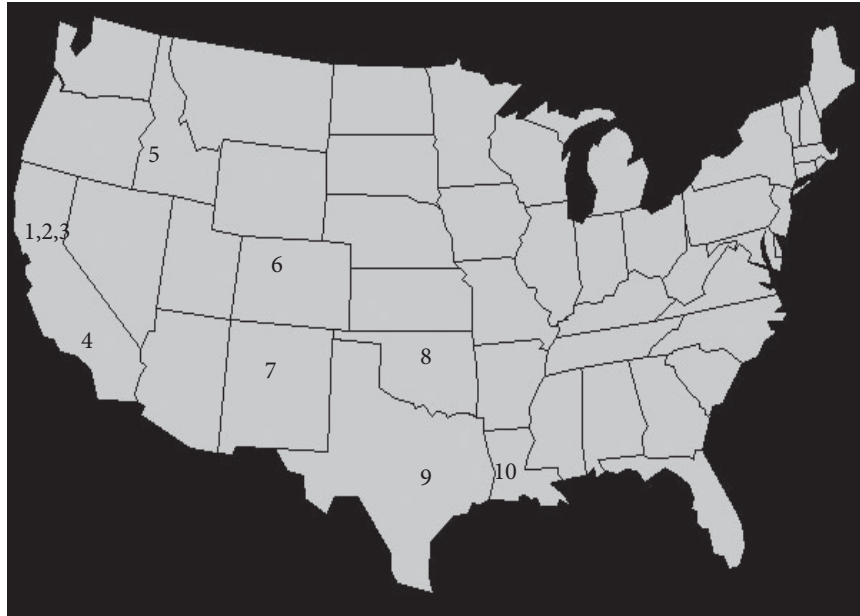
**1. Sacramento** — For the first time since 2006, California has regained full control of the inmate healthcare system in one of its prisons, *The Associated Press* reports. J. Clark Kelso, the overseer of prison medical care and spending, returned responsibility for the health of some 2,400 inmates at Folsom State Prison on June 8, to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

**2. Sacramento** — **Dean Borg**, 52, has been appointed deputy director of the Division of Facility Planning, Construction and Management at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where he has served as acting deputy director of the division since 2013 and was associate director from 2007 to 2013.

**3. Sacramento** — **Eric Arnold**, 54, has been appointed warden at California State Prison, Solano, where he has served as acting warden since 2014 and was chief deputy warden from 2013 to 2014.

**4. California Rehabilitation Center, Norco** — Medical care at this prison has been deemed adequate despite claims that the facility is unsafe, *The Associated Press* reports. Democratic Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, says the prison is so dilapidated that it threatens the health and safety of inmates as

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well as employees. Hancock has asked Gov. Jerry Brown to close the prison.

**5. Boise, Idaho** — Inmates claim that the state officials are deliberately misleading a court-appointed examiner on prison health care by tampering with medical records and hiding problem inmates, *The As-*

*sociated Press* reports. Prison officials contend the inmates' claims are without merit and little more than exaggerations based on unsubstantiated hearsay.

**6. Colorado** — Nine current and former immigrant detainees are allowed to file a lawsuit against a private prison con-

tractor that paid them \$1 a day for forced labor at a detention center owned by GEO Group, *The Associated Press* reports. The lawsuit claims GEO randomly picked six detainees and forced them to clean rooms at the Aurora Detention Facility.

**7. Albuquerque, N.M.** — The state's "three strikes" law is

weak and doesn't do enough to take violent criminals off the streets, *The Associated Press* reports. Gov. Susana Martinez said, "We have one. But as a prosecutor for 25 years, I was never able to prosecute anyone who had committed three different violent crimes" under the law's set timetable.

**8. Oklahoma City** — The Department of Corrections is misinterpreting state law by prohibiting thousands of inmates from qualifying for earned credits that could allow them to be released from prison earlier, Gov. Mary Fallin wrote in an executive memorandum publicly released by *The Associated Press*. The change would affect about 6,000 inmates and result in savings of about \$2.3 million in the first 18 months.

**9. Austin, Texas** — Prison officials are looking for emergency capacity to handle 4,000 more inmates at the same time they are trying to cut spending, *UPI* reports. The prison population is at nearly 98 percent of current capacity with 147,565 inmates.

**10. Angola, La.** — Forty-nine students boarded school buses for a 172-mile round trip to and from the Louisiana State Penitentiary. "You see it on TV," said Marvin Richard Jr., 18, "but when you see it in real life, it's an eye-opener," *The Associated Press* reported.

# Norway Prisons Taking Rehabilitation to Another Level

By Anouthinh Pangthong  
Journalism Guild Writer

The United States and Norwegian penal systems could not be more opposite from one another, according to American journalist Jessica Benko.

In Norway, the practice of capital punishment was banned in 1902 and life sentences were abolished in 1981; the maximum sentence for any crime is 21 years. In addition, unlike its American counterpart, the Norwegian correctional system is based heavily on rehabilitation.

An example is the construction of Halden Fængsel prison. Its perimeter is devoid of electric fences topped by razor wires. Nonexistent are the armed towers like those across prisons throughout the U.S.

Halden Fængsel houses some 251 of Norway's 3,800 inmates and uses non-conventional approaches in a non-conventional setting.

Benko visited Halden Fængsel and describes the prison as "the physical expression of an entire national philosophy about the relative merits of punishment and forgiveness.

"Better out than in" is an unofficial Norwegian Correctional Service motto. In 1998, Norway's Ministry of Justice recalculated the goals and methodology of the Correctional Service, putting forth a new approach to rehabilitation and incarceration. It included education, job training, skills development and therapy.

Norway's criminal justice system emphasizes rehabilitation and reintegration and assisting inmates with housing and job



File photo

A look inside where prisoners are housed

placement before they are released from prison.

Benko says of Halden, "Every aspect of the facility was designed to ease psychological pressures, mitigate conflict and minimize interpersonal friction."

In 2011, Anders Behring Breivik attacked a government building in the capitol city, which resulted in hundreds of injuries, followed by a bloody massacre at a summer camp where 77 students died.

Due to magnitude of this crime, Breivik was sentenced to "preventive detention," which means that after 21 years his sentence can be extended by five-years. These extensions can go on indefinitely if he is determined to be a danger to public safety.

Breivik is not at Halden Fængsel; he is in a high-security wing at Ila Prison (by himself in three rooms, according to his recent biography).

There are approximately 2.2

million people incarcerated in America's prisons. The U.S. makes up 5 percent of the world's population, and has 25 percent of the world's incarcerated.

In a 1967 report, *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*, concerns were raised about correctional facilities. "Life in many institutions is at best barren and futile, at worst unspeakably brutal and degrading...The conditions in which they live are the poorest possible preparation for their successful re-entry into society and often merely reinforce in them a pattern of manipulation and destructiveness."

Robert Martinson, a sociology researcher at the City University of New York, authored a 1974 article in which he argues the rehabilitative effects of programs. He writes, "With few and isolated exceptions, the rehabilitative efforts that have been reported so far have had no appreciable effect on recidivism."



File photo

Norway's supermarket where inmates do their grocery shopping

As a result of that report, several media organizations used Martinson's claims to discredit rehabilitation in America's prisons. California Gov. Jerry Brown, in 1975, said of rehabilitative programs, "They don't rehabilitate; they don't deter; they don't punish, and they don't protect."

Critics quickly challenged Martinson's "choice to overlook the successful programs and their characteristics in favor of a broad conclusion devoid of context." Martinson published a new report in 1979 from new analyses that adamantly retracted his earlier summation.

He states in this report, "Contrary to my previous position,

some treatment programs do have an appreciable effect on recidivism." A 1984 Senate report demanding tougher sentencing guidelines cited Martinson's 1974 report; however, Martinson's retraction did not appear in the Senate report.

Norway's Halden Fængsel, with its non-imposing architectural design and rehabilitative setting, represents a stark alternative to the retributive component in America's criminal justice system.

Ragnar Kristoffersen, an anthropologist, quotes a verse thought to be by Dostoyevsky, "The degree of a civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons."

# Pure Talent Fends Off Net Zero Comeback

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Sports Editor

It was close down to the final minute, but clutch free-throws boosted Pure Talent to a 61-55 victory over Net Zero in the San Quentin Intramural Basketball League.

"I knew Pure Talent was going to bring it through. We work better under pressure," said guard Javonte Mathis.

Pure Talent led the game from the first half with the awesome performances of Maurice Gipson and Jamal Green.

They dominated the boards. Gipson had 16 points, 17 rebounds, 5 blocks and a steal. Green added 16 points, 18 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals and a block.

"Maurice was very effective," said Pure Talent player/Coach F. "Dot.Comm" Hicks. "He had a great game."

"My coach motivated me. He told me he needs me on the boards and to get back on defense," said Maurice Gipson.

With 7:04 left on the clock, Pure Talent led by 11 after Altin Jefferson nailed a three, his only made shot of the game, making the score 48-37.

Net Zero's Tommy Nellon kept his team within striking

distance, battling Green and Gipson on the boards, racking up 15 rebounds, 14 points, 2 assists, 3 blocks and a steal.

With 2:25 until the final buzzer, (or duck call, for a prison game), Net Zero's D. "Frog" DeWitt went to the rack and scored inside on several defenders.

Then teammate Johnathan "Cee" Cannon stole the ball and took it to the rack. He missed the layup, but DeWitt was there to clean it up, leaving Net Zero down 52-51 with 2:10 until the final buzzer.

Cannon stole the ball again and passed it to DeWitt, who went up but missed the layup with 1:52 left in the game. DeWitt finished with 15 points, 7 rebounds, 5 steals and 1 assist. Cannon added 11 and 6 steals.

Gipson was fouled on the next play and hit both clutch free-throws, putting Pure Talent up 54-51.

Veteran Net Zero player Paul Oliver crashed the boards, grabbed a rebound and tipped it back in to keep the game in reach, 54-53.

With 1:11 left, both teams were in the bonus. A foul sent Hicks to the line where he made one of two.

Then Pure Talent turned up the defense to build on its 55-53 lead.

Mathis stole the ball from



Photo by Michael Nelson

Maurice Gipson boxing out Michael Tercero in a 2014 Intramural League game

a Net Zero guard and was fouled. He made one free throw, leaving his team up three. Mathis finished with 13 points.

Then Hicks stole the ball and dished it to Green for a floater, making the score 58-53. With time running out, Net Zero stopped the clock by fouling and Pure Talent in-

creased the lead from the free throw line.

Hicks led the league in scoring from May 3 - June 21 with an average of 21.75 points per game. Allen McIntosh replaced Hicks as the league high-scoring front-runner at 22.8 point per game as of the week of June 27.

Hicks played a different role

in this game. He contributed 8 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals and a block from the guard position.

"It's all about my team. We have to get in there and make effective shots and rebound; that's been our focus," said Hicks. "What gets us a win is getting the whole team involved."

## Hot-Hitting S.F. Expos Down San Quentin A's, 8-4

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Writer

The visiting San Francisco Expos put on a hitting exhibition to defeat the San Quentin A's 8-4.

After not playing for two weeks due to teams' scheduling issues, the A's struggled with their timing and defense.

The Expos bought their skills and sharpness from the Bay Area Men Seniors Baseball League to the Lower Yard baseball field.

"We always look forward to playing these guys. The competition helps prepare us for our games," said Expo Matt Claussen.

The Expos scored two quick runs in the second. Claussen led off with a single, when the ball bounced off the glove and shoulder of the A's shortstop.

Peter Casey belted a line drive to deep center field for a double to score Claussen.

Next Nick Tannura found a gap between left and center field for a single to score Casey for the 2-0 lead.

The Expos scored two more runs in the fourth off a walk and a single from Josh Caulfield when the bases were loaded for the 4-0 lead.

The Expos were not finished. They put up three runs in the fifth, widening the lead to 7-0.

After Casey hit another double, Alex Williams smashed a line drive to left field to score Casey.

Next Caulfield singled, setting up Brendan King, who hit a line drive to center field, but the A's fielder was playing too deep, took too much time to get to the ball and allowed two runs to score.

"This game is all about pitching and good communication. So it doesn't matter who I pitch against, be it professional or inmates, I'm going to give them my all," said Casey.

The A's scored two runs in the fifth. Cariyle "Otter" Blake hit a single and stole

second base. Cleo Cloman singled to right field.

Expos pitcher Casey walked the next two batters, which scored Blake. The A's Bilal Coleman laid down a bunt to score Cloman, making the score 7-2.

The Expos regrouped and turned a double play to get out of the inning.

The Expos added a run in the sixth for the 8-2 lead.

The A's answered with two runs to closed the gap 8-4, but that was the closest they got that day.

"It was one of those nights were a lot of things weren't going our way. This is the first time we played this team and

we didn't bring enough energy," said A's Coach John "Yah Yah" Parratt.

Steve Reichardt, A's manager, added, "Being off for those couple of weeks showed, but we should have more steady games for the rest of the season."

First-time visitor Caulfield said, "I didn't know what to expect; everybody was nice. I look forward to coming back. Those guys play hard and have some fresh gear."

Claussen added, "I just want the guys to know that they should always have love for today, but never forget about tomorrow and what they building their futures for."

## Softball Hardtimers Take Early Lead, Subdue Northbay Bombers Coed Team, 7-1

Solid hits, great catches and defense earned the Hardtimers a 7-1 victory over the Northbay Bombers, a co-ed visiting softball team.

"The Hardtimers are a very good team -- definitely very good defense," said Northbay's Brian Palozola.

The Hardtimers took the lead in the second inning. DuPriest Brown set the stage with a triple to deep center.

Angelo Ramsey banged another triple that tipped off the glove of Northbay's Kyle Dunlap near centerfield, bringing in Brown.

Hardtimer Juan Arballo singled into left field, setting up another score.

Northbay got out of the

inning down 2-0 when Joe Huang snagged Isiah Daniels' grounder before it could reach the outfield. He made the short throw to Lindsey Sakasitz, who fired to first to complete a double play.

The July 12 game was the first for Sakasitz this year. No other women members have come to any of the games this season.

"I miss coming in here. Life catches up though. Sometimes you have to put what you love to do off," said Sakasitz. "I just got married, had a daughter and I'm raising my little sister now."

She made several great plays, including doing a split in an attempt to catch a throw

and make the tag at second.

In the third inning, Hardtimer Eric Post knocked in two more runs with a triple.

Northbay scored in the top of the fifth on a sacrifice fly, making the score 4-1.

Hardtimer John "Dunnie" Windham snagged everything Northbay knocked into left field.

Northbay played good defense, too. Bottom of the sixth, Brown smashed a hard line drive directly at Randy Ferino, coach, player and organizer of the Northbay Bombers. Ferino made the catch for the out and then shook off the sting of the ball pounding his gloved hand with an audible thud.

Then Ferino made another

stop and got the ball to Brooks at second who completed the double play with a throw out at first.

The Hardtimers still slowly piled on runs, including a one RBI double by John "Hawkeye" Fleming in the bottom of the sixth.

By the top of the ninth, Northbay was down 7-1.

Palozola went up to bat with two outs and no one on base. He smacked a long fly deep into the outfield that looked like it would at least be a double. Then Angelo Ramsey ran toward the ball and dived under it to make the sliding catch.

"I had to meet it where it was going," said Ramsey.

"That was a hell of a catch," said Palozola.

The Hardtimers' coach credits the win to the pitching techniques taught to Daniels.

"He looks at where the batter stands. If the batter is close to the plate, he pitches inside. If the batter is far off the plate, he pitches outside to keep the batter off balance. That makes the batter lose power," said the Hardtimer coach.

Regardless of the outcome, Northbay enjoyed the game.

"It's a combination of competitiveness and camaraderie. They separate themselves from what's going on (in prison) and give us a good game," said Ferino.

-Rahsaan Thomas

# Mission Edges Out San Quentin Giants, 8-7

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Writer

A controversial call ended a last-inning comeback from the San Quentin Giants, giving Mission the 8-7 win.

The Giants had the bases loaded and Rasheed Lockheart at bat with a 3-2 count. The batter watched the next pitch cross the plate and the umpire called a strike. Mission catcher Chris Powell threw out the runner on third base, who was on his way home thinking the call was a ball for the walk.

The umpire ruled both outs stand, leaving the Giants upset.

"I don't think the umpire called the strike out loud enough for the third base runner to hear it. He wouldn't have gotten off base if it was clear what the call was," said Giant Micheal "Sparky" Lain.

The Giants had come alive in the ninth, down 8-3.

Giant Rubin Harper hit a line drive past third base for a single and Angelo Mecchi flied out to right field. Troy Bird walked, setting up Calvin "CJ" Johnson, who smashed a deep ball to center field for a double, scoring Bird and Harper.



Photo by Sam Hearn

Sponsor Mike Deeble, John Appley, Mike Tyler, Christopher Williams and Nico Vargas

Now down 8-5, Mission pitcher Guibert Gaston walked the next two batters to load the bases. Mission called a time-out for a short conference on the mound.

Gaston walked in two more runs, allowing the Giants to close the gap 8-7 with the bases still loaded.

"Closing out any team is a challenge. I had some jitters, but I settled back into my mechanics. These guys are some good hitters. I enjoy being a part of

this. I want to tell the guys to keep hope alive and to remember there is life after prison," said Gaston.

Both teams had solid pitching and defense until the fifth, when Giants first baseman Damon Cooke dropped a pop-fly with two outs and bases loaded, giving Mission a run.

The error generated boos from the small group of on-lookers.

"I trucked. I'm the only guy that can get booed in prison. That's OK. I will make up for it.

That's what leaders do we take responsibility," said Cooke.

But Mission scored again for the 2-0 lead off a single from Daune Harris.

The Giants answered when Shon Ruffin belted a double to left field to score Bird, who walked earlier.

The Mission scored four more runs in the sixth for a 6-1 lead. John Nero struggled at bat all game, but came up big when he hit a line drive up the middle for a double to score two runs.

After back-to-back singles to load the bases, Abe Zuckerman stepped to the plate and found the gap between center and left field for two runs.

Mission added two more runs in the seventh for an 8-1 lead. Ruffin dropped a fly ball while falling to the ground, trying to avoid second baseman Mecchi, who was also chasing the ball.

"Too many of our guys don't have their heads in the game. For us to win, we have to fix that, but right now nobody's hitting or catching the ball," said Coach Elliot Smith.

The Giants listened and added two runs in the seventh to close the score to 8-3. With singles from Rasheed Lockheart and Harper, John Appley smashed the ball to deep left field for an easy double and the two RBIs.

The Giants defense didn't give up any more runs and it did fight its way back into the game but too many mistakes and a possible mental error cost the hosts the game.

"I really love coming here. This is an amazing baseball program and these types of games keep us on our toes. I'm going to keep coming here until I can't come no more," said Harris.

# Bittermen Earn Third Victory Over Kings

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Sports Editor

Teamwork earned the visiting Bittermen basketball squad a sweet 78-68 victory over the San Quentin Kings.

"It's amazing what we can do when we all work together and nobody cares who gets the credit. Teamwork, hustle and ball movement got us the win," said Aidan Coffino of the Bittermen. Coffino normally plays for the Trailblazers.

The Bittermen started out hot. They made crisp passes to the open man, who knocked down his shots. Will Wheatley led his team in the first quarter, which ended with the Bittermen up, 24-14.

Led by Oris "Pep" Williams, and Marvin Cosby, the Kings came charging back, taking a 31-29 lead by halftime.

From there the game was a dogfight with the lead changing back and forth until the fourth quarter. Bittermen's Tim Hall played hard, ending up on the concrete several times fighting for position and loose balls.

With eight minutes left in regulation, the score was 53-52 Bittermen. Then Bittermen Tom Tunny stole the ball, made the pass to a teammate, who made a layup inside despite being fouled. He missed the free-throw.

Then Coffino, the youngest and shortest member of his team, nailed a three, his third

of the game, making the score 58-52. Coffino is in his 20s and stands about 5-foot-6.

Just as Wheatley, the former San Francisco Rumble basketball player, went cold, Bittermen Ryan Williams came alive in the final quarter. He stole the ball after it was inbounded, went to the rack and made a hook shot while being fouled, completing the and-one with the free-throw. He scored 8 points in the last quarter for a total of 14, along with 4 steals, 3 assists and 6 rebounds.

"It was a good team effort. The team really picked me up today," said Wheatley.

The Kings' Larry "TY" Jones hit a late three-pointer, but there wasn't enough time left on the clock to complete

a comeback. Jones ended with 11 points and 8 rebounds. Oris Williams led all scorers with 21 points, 8 rebounds and 2 assists. Cosby added 14.

"They out-played us in every facet. They were more physical, and we were out-coached and out-played," said Kings Coach Orlando Harris.

Four Bittermen, in addition to Ryan Williams, scored in the double-figures. Will Wheatley dropped 19, Hall and Coffino added 11 each and Tom Tunny had 13.

"When everybody scores, we win," said Bittermen's Ted Saltviet, the only Bittermen who didn't score. "That was the strategy," he jokingly claimed while smiling after gaining his third victory this

season.

Normally, the Bittermen only win one or two games a year. This season they combined with players from a new team called the Trailblazers, including Wheatley. The combination has given the talented Kings a run for their money, which they appreciate.

"I can't sleep the night before each game. I keep waking up, looking at the clock to see if it's time yet. We appreciate ya'll coming in here," said King Charles Sylvester during a pre-game huddle with both teams and referees standing around half-court on The Lower Yard surrounded by barbed wire.

"We're still trying to get a road game," he joked at the July 18 game.

# Warriors Overcome Short-Handed Imago Dei Despite Conner's 39 Points, 91-64

The San Quentin Warriors' depth and teamwork secured a 91-64 victory and overcame visiting Imago Dei's Teohn Conner's 39-point performance.

"He's a beast," said Warrior Allan McIntosh about Conner. "If they had one or two more of him on the team, we'd be in trouble."

Conner, 35, is a former semi-pro. He said he played for the S.F. Rumbles and East Bay Pit Bulls. He also played for St. Mary's, a division one college. He now coaches basketball.

"There are good people in here. On the outside, you hear different. I met a lot of good people, and it's all through basketball," said Conner.

Imago Dei came in with only six players because four were injured, including Steve Diek-



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Conner brings the ball up

mann, a three-point specialist. Diekmann played for Grinnell College in Iowa when the Division 3 team led the NCAA in national scoring average. He broke his foot playing basketball

on July 4. He also had to have surgery on his retina, said teammate Tony Thomas.

"They came in here undermanned," said Warriors coach Daniel Wright.

McIntosh set the pace early, leading the Warriors to a 10-2 start. He made three of his first four shots and dished out two assists.

"The stop and pull-up jumper is mean," said Conner about McIntosh.

At the half, the Warriors were up 45-33.

Thomas delivered a half-time message about changing God's mind with the power of prayer. He told a story of his daughter being born deaf and doctors saying she would never be able to hear. His daughter was anointed, and he prayed for her to be

granted hearing. Four months later, she was.

"Don't underestimate the power of prayer," said Thomas.

Imago Dei closed to 38-47 in the third quarter with 9:45 left on the clock.

"We kept it to within nine until we got tired, and then they ran away with it," said Imago's John Appel, their 6-foot-9 center.

Within nine was the closest they got as every single Warrior who suited up played in the game and scored. The Warriors finished with 24 assists and four players in double digits.

McIntosh dropped 14 with 10 boards, 3 assists and 3 steals. Montrell Vines contributed 13 including nailing 3 treys. Rafael Cuevas scored 10 points with 6 assists, going 4-4 from the field and Miguel Sifuentes came off

the bench and added 13 with 3 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal.

"I'm happy to show what I could do," said Sifuentes.

Imago had many open looks and made strong moves to the paint, but, except for Conner, they didn't complete the plays.

Appel scored six points with 13 boards. L.J. Wilkerson scored seven points on 3-17 shooting.

On one play, Wilkerson was on a fast break, but Warrior Jason Jones pinned his lay attempt to the backboard.

Will Willow missed every shot he took but grabbed 10 rebounds and 4 steals.

"It's frustrating doing all the right things but shots not falling," said Willow. "Good thing is that you always have another game."

-Rahsaan Thomas

# Firefighters Up for Wildfire Challenge



Inmate firefighters during a tool inspection

Photo by Eric Owens

**By Krissi Khokhobashvili**  
CDCR Public Information Officer

The firefighters were sitting on the ground, sweaty, dirty and tired. They had just hiked 4.2 miles along a rugged trail, the sun beating down on them as they trudged along. Each man was dressed head to toe in flame-retardant gear, lugging heavy tools and drinking water. The break was welcome, but short, and after 10 minutes they were gearing up once more, preparing for the grueling work of clearing brush for another hour.

They were all up to the challenge, and eager to put their training to the test.

Meet the inmate firefighters of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), men and women selected to join CAL FIRE and local crews in battling wildfires throughout the state. CDCR's Conservation Camps program started in 1946 with the opening of Rainbow Camp in Fallbrook, and today more than 4,000 inmate firefighters work from 42 adult camps and one camp for juvenile offenders throughout

the state.

"I've learned a lot – I've learned skills here I can use when I get out," shared Mike Jones, a firefighter at Ishi Conservation Camp #18 in Tehama County. "It teaches you accountability. You get with your crew and you learn how to work together, and all different races come together and it doesn't matter."

Because inmate fire crews work in communities, inmates must meet certain criteria to be eligible. This includes not being convicted of any sexual or arson offenses, no escape history and no life sentence. Inmates accepted into the program undergo intense physical fitness and firefighter training, provided by CAL FIRE, to prepare them for their work conditions.

Each year, CAL FIRE holds the annual Preparedness Exercises at Ishi Camp, where nearly 50 inmate fire crews undergo drills on safety, physical conditioning and firefighting knowledge. Throughout the day, crews are tested on their knowledge of tools, ability to deploy emergency shelters and their physical ability, culminating in the 4.2-

mile hike and brush-clearing exercise.

The crews are also tested on safety, from wearing the appropriate gear to packing enough drinking water. While the crews are expected to complete the hike within 75 minutes, they must also take care not to over-exert themselves.

"You can't do the hike too quickly, because then you get penalized," explained CDCR Lt. Dan Billeci, who works at Trinity River Conservation Camp #3 in Lewiston. "If you hike it too fast, you're going to be exhausted by the time it's time to start cutting line for the fire. So there has to be a happy medium."

During a fire, inmate crews are primarily tasked with clearing brush to stop the flames from spreading. Crews use picks, shovels, axes and chainsaws to tear intensely flammable brush down to bare mineral soil, fighting the clock as flames spread.

"Without these guys out there cutting that line, a lot of fires would get a lot bigger," observed CAL FIRE Capt. Tim Rader. "They go into areas that nobody else wants to go into, or that dozers are not able to get into. With-



Photo by Eric Owens

Each inmate on the fire line has a responsibility, from cutting down brush to clearing the line of debris

out them, these fires would not stop."

Rader, who has been working with inmate crews for six years, said when the men and women first arrive at camp, it's often the first time they've ever seen the woods. Training begins with getting crews acclimated to being outdoors and exercising, beginning with short hikes and working up to longer treks.

In the classroom, inmate firefighters learn the terminology of the trade, how to stay safe on the job, first aid, map reading and fire behavior, followed by 29 hours of field training in tools, fire shelters, mop-up and fitness. Inmate firefighters are paid for their work, and earn extra credit for time served when on the fire line.

"It's very helpful to have the crews there assisting us," said Fire Prevention Specialist Cheryl Buliavac. "The manpower that they bring is unbelievable — the hard work, just having them there to help with cutting a hand line, getting the brush clear so the firefighters can get the hose in."

"The crews are really motivated," Buliavac added. "They take a lot of pride in their work."

When not fighting fires, inmate fire crews participate in community service and conservation projects such as clearing

fire breaks, restoring historical structures, park maintenance, sand-bagging and flood protection and clearing fallen trees and debris. This work, combined with manpower on the fire lines, saves California taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

"They're the backbone of our department when we get to our large incidents, because as the incidents grow it takes a huge workforce," said Dave Russell, CAL FIRE Division Chief at Ishi Camp.

Robert Shelton, a firefighter at Intermountain Conservation Camp #22 in Lassen County, said that for him, fighting fires and doing service projects is a chance to give back.

"I've been a liability for a lot of years, and it finally feels good to give something back to the community and improve myself," he shared.

Shelton commented on the brotherhood of camp, where racial and social backgrounds fall away. Living and working together, the firefighters become a family of sorts, relying on one another to get the job done.

"You get to work together a team, and it's no longer Black, White or Mexican," he said. "It's all one unity. You're just one orange caterpillar and you have to work together to get up the mountain."

## 'Keeping it Real' With Gangster Rap

**By Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Why isn't gangster rap music viewed simply as entertainment? In a discussion about why gangster rap has such a harmful impact on the identities of young men, the Yard Talk panel considered artists' self-imposed need to "keep it real."

Eric Curtis: "In the early '80s there was positive rap; people spoke with messages about how we can make things better. It just went bad when Mix Master Spade and Master Tee's *Batter Ram* came out. It was about drugs and armored vehicles ... was it the industry or the rappers that brought about this shift?"

Some argue that rapping about violence is fine for entertainment purposes. However, the danger is when people follow the music literally and buy into the violence.

Antwan Williams: "If you ain't a gangster, you can't rap about it."

John "Yahya" Johnson: "Rappers claim they are getting legal and illegal money...it's synonymous with the question, Are you really doing this? If so, for what reason? You have clothing lines, why sell drugs?"

Author Michael Eric Dyson talks about the issue of rappers' self-imposed need to be authentic in an interview with Meta DuEwa Jones. (Hip-Hop Music and Culture)

Dyson said, "The intellectual merit of hip-hop artists is not on par with artists of other fields. Nobody thinks Arnold Schwarzenegger or Bruce Willis or Sylvester Stallone literally engages in the behavior they act on screen."

Many on the panel agreed that rappers' self-imposed need to appear authentic translates into fans trying to be just like the artists they adore – carrying guns, selling drugs and driving fancy cars.

Johnson: "Some rappers are giving a voice to people who do



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Demond Lewis

live like that and are glorifying them. Look at all the rappers who are gang affiliates."

Demond Lewis: "Nobody is teaching the kids that what you see in rap videos isn't real. How come we aren't holding rappers accountable for the lies they're telling? They put extras in their videos like rented cars and guns, but that's not the life they really live or a life that is really worth living. You definitely can't go around shooting people. That's a fantasy I got a real 109-years-to-life in prison for."

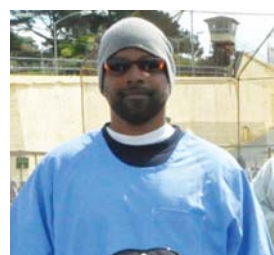


Photo by Sam Hearnes

John "Yahya" Johnson

Johnson: "During the 'free love era,' hippies braided their hair and wore no shoes. The difference is that they were able to say 'it's time for a paradigm shift, time to clean ourselves up and get into corporate America.' We are doing things that are almost irreversible."

Lewis: "No matter where you go, the ghetto is the ghetto – lights out, tennis shoes hanging from power cords – and we put it out there like we proud of that. If you are proud of being from nowhere, then you won't strive

to go anywhere."

Johnson: "The ghetto can't be my role model. The industry is supposed to show Jay-Z helping kids in school instead of glorifying the projects. Racism is being reinforced through entertainment and politics."

The panel concluded that mainstream rap music motivates a criminal mentality. Gangster rap portrays itself as the only way of life available for inner city youth, and that being a hooligan from the ghetto is something to aspire to. In following gangster rap music's directions, listeners who take the genre literally end up making permanent mistakes, like catching a felony charge, killing someone or getting tattoos on their face. Why is mainstream radio promoting this negativity?

In part four, the panel will discuss the effect that money has on the direction of rap music.

*-Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story*