



File Photo

Professor William J. Drummond's John Gardner Legacy of Leadership Award medal on a White House table

White House Award For SQ News Adviser

In honor of his years of volunteer work at California's oldest prison, University of California Berkeley Journalism Professor William J. Drummond was invited to the White House on Oct. 22, as part of an award ceremony for serving his community.

Drummond was presented the John W. Gardner Legacy

of Leadership Award on the 50th anniversary of The White House Fellows Foundation program. The award is given in "hopes to draw attention to the depth and breadth of contributions to the nation made by White House Fellows and to highlight the return on

See on SQ News on Page 4

Golden State Warriors Defeat SQ Warriors, 99-76

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

"Worth its weight in gold," read a sign made from a newspaper article about the Golden State Warriors' 2015 NBA Championship. It was attached to the fence surrounding San Quentin's

Lower Yard, which was packed with hundreds of prisoners eagerly awaiting the arrival of the champion organization for the annual community basketball game.

The game had been postponed since its original date

See on Golden Page 13



Photo by Eddie Herena

Bob Myers snatches the rebound from Jason Jones and Brad Shells as Chris DeMarco watches

Condemned Inmates Face New Execution Drug



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

San Quentin State Prison's death chamber

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

The public will have a chance to be heard on California's plan for a one-drug execution procedure at a public hearing in Sacramento, scheduled for Jan. 7 next year.

Executions have been on hold in California since 2006, when a federal judge invali-

dated the state's three-drug "cocktail" then used for lethal injections. The judge said executions could continue if the state switched to a one-drug method. Presently around 750 males are confined on San Quentin's Condemned Row. Twenty-one females, confined at a women's facility in the Central Valley, are under death sentences.

In 2011 a Marin County judge rejected a new three-drug procedure proposed by the state, saying it did not explain why it had not chosen a one-drug method.

The controversy about execution methods comes amid a nationwide shortage of lethal injection drugs.

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Delegation From Nepal Courts Look at San Quentin in Search of Restorative Justice



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Top Row: Taonga Rolando Ngoma De Leslie, Bimal Pondel, Ashley Clark, Rajan Kumar KC, Ramkanta Tiwari and Karena H. Montag, Bottom Row: Sujatha Baliga, Rajendra Khare, Devendra Gopal Shrestha, Keshari Raj Pandit and Sonya Shah

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Six high court judges from Nepal visited San Quentin to learn about its restorative justice practices in prison and to

take part in a group dialogue.

In November, the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) and the Insight Prison Project (IPP) hosted a roundtable discussion with the justices, 12 inmates and other

guests.

With the help of Ashley Clark from Asia Foundation and Karena Montag, IPP program supervisor, inmate

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Departing C.O. Plagman Aimed to Gain The Respect of Inmates

By Arnulfo Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

When an inmate first comes into the prison system, the demeanor of correctional officials generally gives him an indication of what prison is going to be like. Rarely is that demeanor upbeat or positive.

Correctional Officer E. Plagman is one of those rare people with a different outlook. His is the voice North Block inmates hear over its PA system on many mornings.

Plagman's last day at San Quentin State Prison was Nov. 4. He is scheduled to transfer to Old Folsom State Prison.

"We are going to be sorry to lose him. He is definitely going to be an asset at Folsom," Correctional Sgt. O. Nollette said. "His move to Old Folsom is a step in the right direction."

Plagman replied, "Since arriving at the San Quentin, where I was first assigned to Badger section back in 2000, I've learned and grown so much under the watchful eyes of my mentor Sergeant Nollette."

The key to being a good officer, he said, is being able to use good communication skills rather than being confrontational.

"I am willing to talk to somebody without judging a book by the cover," Plagman said. "My word is my bond. I'm an honest person. I'm more willing to work with people and give everyone respect," he added, "There is that line where I can help people but I can't go beyond that."

"I feel like I could walk down the tier and do my job professionally," Plagman said. "That's because of the respect that goes both ways," he added, "But, I do know this is prison."

There have been times where he witnessed violence. His worst day as an officer occurred in 2005. Approximately 250 men rioted in Dining Hall Four as he looked on with his partner.

"We watched these inmates throw trays, kick other inmates, run around swinging at anything and everything that got in their way," he said. "That experience was a real eye opener. I didn't get hurt, but it was scary."

Plagman talked about better days, too.

"My most memorable experience came when I graduated from the academy," he said. "I knew this life experience would make me a better person at home for my family."

When asked about the difference between the mainline and the reception center at San Quentin, Plagman said, "I feel like on the mainline, there is progress. When I work with inmates from the mainline, they are respectful. They have goals. It's easier to do my job. It's harder to talk to young guys. They haven't learned the value



Photo by Raphaelle Casale

Correctional Officer E. Plagman in front of Tower 1

of respect yet. However, with time and education, I'm sure they will eventually mature."

Plagman said he sees the importance of offering programs to inmates or at least making them available.

"I am willing to talk to somebody without judging a book"

"Reception inmates aren't offered enough programs to help them get their heads straight," he said. "It would be helpful to provide books to help educate them. We shouldn't give up on them. This will make it safer for everyone involved. Rehabilitation works, that's my belief. I've seen it with my own eyes."

When asked about the Death Penalty, Plagman replied, "I believe in capital punishment. If the law states that you are convicted of a crime, my personal feelings are that the consequences are based on the crime. The law is the law."

He further elaborates: "Richard Allan Davis' crime brought the Three Strikes law, which increased the prison population. A lot of people were punished for petty crimes and given long sentences. It's my belief when someone commits a heinous crime, that individual

should pay for what he did, not the rest of the population. I believe Three Strikes works if you punish the most violent, not the drug addict who steals to support his habit. I believe balance needs to be in play."

Summing up his time at San Quentin, Plagman said, "My experience at San Quentin is a hit and a miss. I've seen good things. I've seen staff have babies, grow their families; I've seen inmates turn their life around. I've seen the other side; officers throw their careers away, and I've seen inmates continually do wrong. It's a reminder to go down the right path. Watching people change helped me change for the better."

"The one thing I can say is that I made friends, and I appreciate the people around me with integrity. I also appreciate the people who had experience and were able to give me advice, like Sergeant Nollette, who guided me through my roughest patches. I really appreciate the fact that there were times when I was able to help him through his hard times."

"I am excited to work in another historic prison to further my adventure and knowledge in this career quest," said Plagman. "It's important that I take these experiences learned here and trade them with other staff members and inmates."

Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY Graduate School of Journalism



Journalism Guild of San Quentin

San Quentin News strives to report on forward thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.

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.

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San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94974
The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

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

San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:
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New Bill Tackles ‘Grotesquely Long Sentences’

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Congress is working on what supporters call a long-overdue reform bill for federal prison sentencing.

“Federal prisons are filled beyond capacity with people serving grotesquely long sentences,” Antonio Ginatta, US advocacy director for Human Rights Watch, said in a news release.

To counter effects of the

“tough on crime” era that began back in the 1980s, the Safe, Accountable, Fair, Effective Justice Act (SAFE) has been introduced by Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner and Bobby Scott.

The bill focuses on pretrial, over-criminalization, post-confinement probation, mandatory minimum sentencing, reform of sentencing statutes, and retroactive application of sentence reductions.

One example of the legislation

would be to prevent sentencing enhancements that can turn 10-year sentences into life sentences for prior drug crimes.

SAFE was introduced on June 25, 2015. The Human Rights Watch report states it would eliminate disproportionately long and unfair sentences being threatened by prosecutors.

It would also make changes in the underused “compassionate release program” for “extraordinary and compelling” cir-

cumstances, says Human Rights Watch.

Prisoners could petition a court directly for a compassionate release, including release because of the death or incapacitation of their child’s primary caregiver. Currently the U.S. Bureau of Prisons must approve such releases.

The SAFE Justice Act would also require federal correctional staff to attend training seminars. Procedures would be required

on how to use force, de-escalation techniques, detection of and response to prisoners with mental disabilities.

Reform legislation has also been introduced in the U.S. Senate, the report noted.

“Congress should pass the SAFE Justice Act as well as additional reforms to bring federal sentencing in line with principles of proportionality, fairness, and respect for human dignity,” Human Rights Watch said.

3-Strikes Reform Measure Moves Forward

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

The November 2016 ballot could have a measure allowing California voters to reform, once again, the 1994 Three Strikes Law.

Twice before, in 2012 and 2014, Californians changed the Three Strikes Law, allowing non-violent offenders to be re-sentenced, after a court found they were not a danger to public safety.

The latest proposed reform would require re-sentencing

of those individuals currently serving a Three Strikes sentence whose prior convictions were committed before March 7, 1994. Upwards of 9,000 three-strike prisoners might be affected by this change. It would also affect two-strike prisoners, numbering in tens of thousands. If the measure passes, it would be retroactively applied to all strikers.

The Act was drafted to address the following issues:

- Prevention and protection efforts concerning public safety.
- Save hundreds of millions of

taxpayers’ dollars every year as the state will no longer finance long-term health care and housing of aging low-risk offenders in state prison.

- Re-invest annual savings into high poverty middle schools and high schools, universities, community colleges and prison rehabilitation programs.

- The reinvestment savings would be distributed as follows:

- Twenty-five percent to the high poverty middle schools and high schools in California
- Twenty-five percent to the California Community Colleges to offset tuition
- Twenty-five percent to the Universities of California to offset tuition
- Twenty-five percent to prison rehabilitation programs

The proposed Three Strikes Reform Act of 2016 would “ensure that sentences for people convicted of violent crimes such as murder, rape and child molestation are not

changed.”

Proponents of the measure must get 365,880 signatures of

registered voters by March 14 to qualify for the November 2016 ballot.

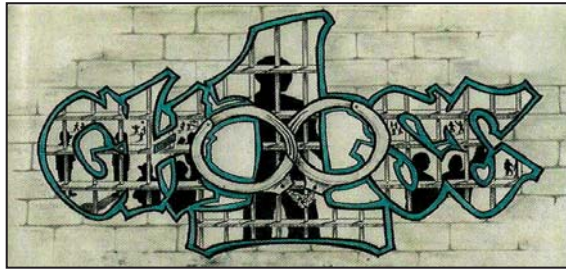
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Report: Maximum Security Needed in San Diego Jails

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Realignment has caused a significant increase in the number of inmates housed in San Diego County jails and has increased maximum-security housing needs, an advisory group reports.

“Compared to five years earlier, the adult inmate population at sheriffs’ detention facilities was at 113 percent capacity in 2012, up from 102 percent in 2011. These increases reflect the addition of the realigned offenders, which now make up about one-third of all inmates,” states the report.

The information was compiled by the Criminal Justice Research Division of SANDAG, a coalition of 18 cities and county governments.

AB 109

“Prior to the implementation of AB 109, individuals could only be held in local detention facilities (or jails) pre-sentence...and post-sentence if convicted and sentenced for 12 months or less for misdemeanor or granted felony probation and ordered to serve up to 12 months of custody as a condition of that probation,” the report noted.

The Realignment legislation provided more than 500 felony offenses that may be served in local county jails. The longest full sentence being served at the time of the report was 16 years.

“As a result of Realignment, the number of total individuals in state institutional custody de-

creased 22 percent from 170,283 on Dec. 31, 2008, to 132,768 on Dec. 31, 2012,” stated the report.

Realignment did not result in any early release of prisoners, the report added.

There was a general decrease in adult bookings in county jails since 2008, and the number of inmates who need “protective custody increased dramatically over the past five years, from 108 in 2008 to 275 in 2012. In addition, those placed in administrative segregation increased from 428 to 727” in the same period, the report stated.

The majority of realigned offenders under supervision at the county level are mostly for property crimes at 40 percent and drug/alcohol offenses at 54 percent, the study states.

SERVICES

Inmates who are housed in San Diego County jails may have access to mental health services and reentry services that include substance abuse treatment, vocational training and education.

The annual fiscal year budget for detention services in San Diego is over \$226 million, and the average cost for housing an inmate per day is \$136.48, the report states.

San Diego is building a 1,216-bed facility slated for completion in 2016 that will house women, along with plans to take back control over a private vendor-run facility, which will add an additional 200 beds when the contract expires with the vendor in December 2015.

Mothers Loiter Together To Curb Chicago Violence

A group of concerned mothers from the South Side of Chicago is fighting against bloodshed and murder through peaceful loitering.

The group of parents formed a coalition against violence called Mothers Against Senseless Killings (MASK).

“As a mother, you will do whatever you can to protect your kids, even if that means sitting out on the corner for the entire summer,” says MASK founder Tamar Manasseh, 37, a rabbinical student raised in Englewood who has a 16-year-old daughter and a 19-year-old son.

MASK is a response to a shooting that killed one woman and injured two others on 75th and Steward on the South Side of Chicago. Members “planted folding chairs on the southeast corner of the intersection and spent the afternoon chatting with passerbyers and dispensing hugs. The next day, they were there again. They plan to return...until the public school year resumes.” So far, no shootings, *In These Times* reported.

Some neighbors questioned the effectiveness of the group’s effort to prevent violence, but membership has doubled from 10 to 20.

Preventative community programs can reduce crime rates, according to Nicole Porter of Washington, D.C.-based prison reform group The Sentencing Project.



“It’s about psychology, about why (kids commit crimes) in the first place,” says Manasseh. “They’ll tell you, ‘I have a record,’ and it just sounds so hopeless. And I hate to hear that in a 19-year-old kid. You have so

long to live...You want to find a job? We’re gonna go look for a job. You want to get something off your record? Let’s find a way. That’s a mother’s job – we’re unpaid social workers.”

–John Lam

Reaching Beyond the Future and Walls of San Quentin

EDITORIAL

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

As we reflect upon a year's worth of hard work, the writers of *San Quentin News* renew their commitment to the state's prison population. We recognize that finding a solution to California's reliance on mass incarceration is a mission that both our staff and readers must take seriously. The vision of the *San Quentin News* is to lead the way toward a better future for California's criminal justice system.

Warden Clinton Duffy created *San Quentin News* in the 1940s to dispel prison gossip about prison policy. This gossip led to conflict among prisoners and the administration, as inmates were misinformed about policies that impacted their lives. He believed that an inmate-run newspaper would give incarcerated individuals a way to spread accurate information.

Since its inception, the newspaper has been shut down several times and for various reasons. But in 2008, Warden Robert Ayers, Jr. brought the paper back in order to disseminate positive information to the inmate population at San Quentin.

San Quentin News is the only prisoner published newspaper recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists, and

it received the Freedom of Information Award in 2014. The newspaper is distributed to 22 other prisons, making it the farthest-reaching inmate produced media source for the inmate population in the state.

San Quentin News has informed inmates across the state of California about the types of rehabilitative and professional programs available at San Quentin. As a result, there is growing demand on part of our readership that other institutions implement similar programs.

Today, *San Quentin News* has exceeded the expectations of Wardens Duffy and Ayers.

San Quentin News was introduced to the Obama administration at a reception celebrating public service in October. Thanks to our adviser UC Berkeley Journalism Professor William Drummond, *San Quentin News* has achieved significant attention among policymakers in Washington D.C.

We now have 14 staffers working daily for the newspaper and a growing class of journalism guild writers ready to contribute to our continued success. As our slogan goes, we are moving forward.

Our staff of creative and intelligent writers are reporting on incarceration, rehabilitation and reentry through the lens of their own prison experience.

We bring a unique perspective to the coverage of criminal justice policy that is unmatched

by any other news agency. Our coverage includes, but is not limited to, politics, arts culture, journalism, and social justice.

The past four years that I have served as editor-in-chief of *San Quentin News* have been incredibly formative. This duty is enough to keep me pushing forward in my personal endeavors.

I came to prison as a heroin addict. I have made the choice to change my ways and give back to our community. I have learned so much from being a voice for the voiceless.

It has also been a challenge. We must consistently strive to do better. On occasion, I'll receive a letter from an inmate who feels we don't do enough, and as a result of that input I look for ways to improve.

We will continue to shape the discussion and perception about those who are incarcerated. We must remove the stigma that comes with being a convicted felon. Society should no longer associate the label "convicted felon" with failure, and must recognize the value of second chances. *San Quentin News* staffers know it will take an enormous amount of patience, diplomacy and perseverance to meet these objectives. But, we also know that it is within our ability to take significant strides to do so.

Over the past year, *San Quentin News* has reached several of its milestones. However, there's



Grant Gutierrez, Rhona Bitner, San Quentin News staff
CDCR PIO Krissi Khokhobashvili and Associate
Governmental Program Analyst Michelle Mraule

much more to accomplish in the coming year.

A major challenge to our ability to circulate the newspaper across the nation and around the world is our lack of adequate funds. We continue to receive donations on a monthly basis, but are in pursuit of alternative sources of financial support.

Recently, a major foundation has granted *San Quentin News* \$50,000; money that will be used to produce a quality monthly publication with relevant and insightful stories affecting every prisoner in the state of California.

Soon *San Quentin News* will be embarking on a new project to publish a quarterly 24-page *San Quentin Magazine*. It is my intention to have the first publication ready for distribution by March 2016.

In its preliminary stages, the

magazine will be distributed to a limited number of California prison libraries. However, by 2017, we hope to increase the number to more libraries.

It is our ultimate goal to make the newspaper accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

We would like to give special thanks to Mr. Paul Cobb, publisher of the *Post News Group* for helping *San Quentin News* Staff become members of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Finally, I want to thank all of our journalist advisers who have worked tirelessly to improve our journalism skills. Without them, we would not be where we are today.

Happy holidays to all the incarcerated and to our financial supporters. May the new year bring you a new beginning.

SQ News Adviser Returns to White House to Receive Award

Continued from Page 1

the investment made in each person chosen to be a Fellow."

Drummond said he had hoped that his fellowship from 1976 to 1977 would give him an understanding of the inner workings of government so he could go back to his community to better serve the people.

"In my 50 years in journalism I have written thousands of stories. I am at a loss to remember any story I ever did that made anybody better off," Drummond said in his acceptance speech to more than 600 former White House Fellows and other dignitaries. "But in the work I've been doing at San Quentin since 2012, I can see the changes for the better."

The White House Fellows program was created in 1964 by President Lyndon B. Johnson with the belief that a genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society. Each year a presidential commission selects a handful of young men and women to come to Washington and work in government. The program teaches participants about leadership as they see the nation's leaders at work and meet with leaders from other sectors of society.

Drummond was assigned to the White House Press Office in 1976 and worked as associate press secretary to President Jimmy Carter. His main assignment was liaison with the Washington Press Corps. He says the experience was an eye-opener because he got to experience the press as someone who was not a reporter, because he was on a leave-



Professor W. J.
Drummond holding up a
San Quentin News

of-absence from his reporting position at the *Los Angeles Times*.

"I had to deal with a lot of former colleagues who were more interested in 'gotcha moments' and sound bites," Drummond said. "That experience took journalism off the pedestal. Up until then, I thought journalism was the answer to big government. Instead, I saw it was big media companies that had a lot of influence over government."

Drummond said he was asked to stay on after his fellowship, but he decided not to. After his fellowship, he went back to the Washington bureau of the *Los Angeles Times* and eventually moved to NPR in 1979.

He began teaching at the UC Berkeley Journalism School in 1983.

In 2012, Drummond volun-

teered to teach a college course in basic journalism at San Quentin. Several writers for the *San Quentin News* enrolled and showed Drummond a copy of the newspaper. Subsequently, the inmates invited Drummond to the newsroom, introduced him to its staff and operations and soon after asked him to join the newspaper's team of journalist advisers. Without hesitation, Drummond accepted.

Since then, Drummond has established a relationship of friendship and mutual respect with the staff. Three times a week, Drummond, along with a few of his Berkeley students, make their way across the bridge to the prison to help the inmates research and write their stories for the *San Quentin News*, one of the few remaining prison newspapers in the country. Drummond often says he knows more people on the Lower Yard of San Quentin Prison than he does on the vast UC Berkeley campus.

Participating students note how significant this experience is to their understanding of the purpose of journalism and service.

"I feel that journalism is very important just by bringing an issue to the public's attention," said UC Berkeley student Knowles Adkisson. "There's something powerful in that you can change people's circumstances in a positive way."

Charlotte Jacquemart, a visiting scholar from Switzerland in residence now at UC Berkeley, has found significant variations between the American criminal justice system and that of her own country.



John W. Gardner Legacy
of Leadership Award

"The work with the inmates at San Quentin opened my eyes about how much the U.S. justice system is screwed up and how racist it is on top. In my country, we focus on rehabilitation and try to integrate wrong-doers back into society as soon as possible," Jacquemart said.

Drummond feels that bringing UC Berkeley undergraduate and graduate journalism students provides them with a rare opportunity to learn.

"Having my UC Berkeley students visiting and working with prison journalists, I have seen stereotypes break down and young reporters gain confidence in their abilities to relate to people from entirely different circumstances and backgrounds," he said in his Washington acceptance speech.

Before going to the White House, Drummond gave *San Quentin News* staffers the opportunity to write a short memo about their incarceration, which he incorporated into the acceptance speech.

San Quentin News Design

Editor Richard "Bonaru" Richardson wrote: "As an African-American, equality doesn't exist because I've never experienced it. But I do know forgiveness because that's all I have."

Staff Writer, Columnist and Spanish Translator Miguel Quezada said: "At 16 I was tried, convicted and subsequently sentenced as an adult. I grew up in the adult prison system. My question: When do children stop being children in America?"

Drummond's acceptance speech was a hit among the audience at the White House.

"As I left the hall, many people approached me and said it was moving and the best thing on the lengthy program," Drummond said. "One death penalty lawyer said she wept."

A program officer from a big national foundation approached Drummond and asked him if the paper needed funding. He explained to the program officer how vulnerable the paper is to state budget cuts. However, Drummond felt that his visit to the White House was significant for purposes other than catching the attention of potential funders.

"The reason San Quentin inmates should care about the newspaper being recognized at the White House is that the people whom I met and talked to have zero understanding or appreciation of incarceration or its consequences," Drummond said. "What I was able to do is bring authentic voices to them. The people who read the newspaper said its contents were a revelation to them."

-Juan Haines

TEDx Is Coming to San Quentin

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Delia Cohen is setting the stage for a TEDx Talk conference inside State Quentin State Prison in January 2016.

Scheduled speakers include: Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, former combat veteran Ron Self, Warden Ron Davis, and outside guest former Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Robert E. Rubin and California Inspector General Robert A. Barton.

"This is a place where TED could help. It's an invisible population represented by false TV shows," said Cohen, a former Clinton administration White House staffer and the event's sponsor. "I think it is important to get outside people in so they can meet the men and be moved like I was."

Cohen was clueless as to what an inmate population was like, until attending a TEDx event at an Ohio prison.

"I thought inmates were a

waste of time," said Cohen. "I was so wrong. It blew my head wide open to see we are all human. Now lifers are my favorite incarcerated people."

She's been trying to replicate that TEDx experience ever since.

"I'm using my connections on a mission to bring as many people in here as I can," said Cohen.

The original TED talks began in Southern California as an annual conference of "big idea" speeches. Social justice attorney Bryant Stevenson gave one about mass incarceration. Jessica Munoz, a founder of the non-profit organization Hoola Na Pua which means "New Life for Our Children," spoke out against sex trafficking. There have been TED talks about everything from a better way to tie your shoes to respecting the tenacity of a "rose (person) who grew through concrete (hardships)."

TED licenses people to use their principles in TEDx events.

If a TEDx talk resonates, it will be placed on the main TED website, which receives millions of views. No incarcerated male speaker has made the main site.

The theme for the San Quentin TEDx event is Life Revealed. Carroll will give one of his famous talks about the importance of financial literacy. The *Wall Street Journal* has called him the Oracle of San Quentin for his stock-picking ability.

Incarcerated combat veteran Self plans to talk about a solution to stop the alarming rate of veterans committing suicide.

"Six thousand eight hundred thirty-one, that's the number of Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan...73,000 plus, that's how many have committed suicide in the same 14-year period."

Barton has spoken on hope in redemption in the past.

Rubin is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *In an Uncertain World: Tough Choices from Wall Street to Washington*.



Rubin has given a TED talk on the moral duty to end poverty.

Members of SQPR have been trying to organize a TEDx inside San Quentin since 2012. After many trials, tribulations and a change in sponsors, the date is set for Jan. 22.

"This is the furthest we have

gotten," said inside organizer Brian Asey. "I had an opportunity to talk to Robert Rubin and that was big."

"I think they are going to be impressed by the pure creativity that people in prison have to offer," said Shaded Wallace-Stepter.

Jazz Fest, a Melting Pot of Musical Flavors

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Gumbo Classic Jazz Fest on Oct. 17 served up spicy tunes and a mixture of musical flavors.

The group *We Just Came to Play* headlined the show. It consists of lead guitarist Greg Dixon, drummer Dwight Krizman, bass Darryl Farris, Howard Milton on congas and volunteer Denali Gillaspie on keyboard.

They performed eight original jazz pieces composed by Dixon with three spoken-word poems featuring Chris Marshall.

The crowd swayed when they played a saucy Latin tempo song called "Geniene."

"That's my wife's name," said Dixon. "No matter what, she's still got my heart."

The band hypnotized the crowd with songs like "Outer Drive" and "Plaza Lafayette," which are based on two places in Detroit that are special to Dixon.

"I want to thank everyone who participated in the 2015 yard shows for all the hard work and dedication the bands showed in all their rehearsals during the year," said sponsor Raphael Casale. "I also want to give a shout-out of thanks to *San Quentin News* for highlighting the music shows in the newspaper. Music is a positive, uplifting event on the yard and we look forward to 2016 with more fresh ideas from solo artists and bands alike!"

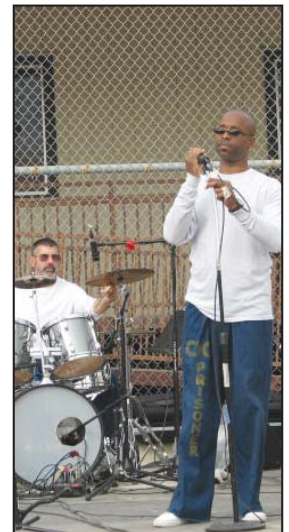
Gillaspie added, "These are some of the most talented people I ever played with. Music helps you heal your soul and work out your differences. I come here and get healed off of everybody's positivity."

The day kicked off with three Hip-Hop acts. Arthur "A.R.-Da-Superstarr" Snowden played guitar on Emil "Tears" Acolatse's "Product of the Universe" and "My Grind," moving the crowd with his lyrical prowess.

"Just four months ago I was reading how to play guitar. Now I'm performing in front of a



We Just Came to Play performing live and Denali Gillaspie on keyboard



Drummer Dwight Krizman and Chris Marshall

large crowd. The cheers made me want to perfect my craft," said Snowden.

George "Mesro" Coles-El and Harun "Jeddi" Taylor kept the party rocking with "I'm the One to Call," an inspirational free-style.

"As a West Coast veteran Hip-Hop artist, I feel good passing the baton to a person like 'Tears' (Acolatse). I'm retiring with a smile. That was my last public Rap performance," said Taylor.

J. "Killa Clown" gave some food for thought with his anti-drug song about his struggles with Meth, titled "Can't Escape the Bubble." His rap reflected, "I thought I used it, but it used me."

The *New Syndicate of Funk* lead singer Rico Roger, soulful voice-over Matthew Jaspas (last) guitar riffs and Charles King drums bought the crowd to its feet, singing along to the '70s and '80s covers.

They added a personal touch with an original called "I Can't Stand It." They blended the old with the new, when Parrish Foster Rapped over an Isley Brothers

classic "Foot Steps in the Dark" titled "Top Notch."

"It's amazing how you can form an opinion about somebody, then see them on stage and they have all that talent. It truly shows you can't judge a book by its cover," said Eric Deric.

Allen "Squirrel" Ware showed why he is a professional on the keyboard when he performed "Little Sunflower" by Freddie Hubbard and "Chameleon" by Herbie Hancock.

The gospel group Unique Echoes members Foster and Terry "Madea" Farr gave an uplifting rendition called "We Win the War Against Evil."

The icing on the cake came from Rapper "Maverick" Harrison, letting the crowd into his life with "Don't Cry for Me," a song about choices that led him to prison, and "Hope You're Proud of Me" about his transformation.

Jose Ortega represented the Spanish speaking community with "Vida Dura" (Live Heart) about how Jesus Christ changed his life in the midst of his hardships.



Arthur "A.R.-Da-Superstarr" Snowden played guitar and Emil "Tears" Acolatse on vocals

‘Es Tiempo de Cerrar Estas Carceles’

‘Un niño menor de 5 años vino hacia mi y me abrazo la pierna... y me pregunto, ‘esta usted aquí para sacarnos de la cárcel?’”

Por Wesley R. Eisiminger
Editor de Equipo de Trabajo

Un congresista al visitar una prisión de inmigración, menciona que la encontró en pésimas condiciones e hizo un llamado

para que se efectúen grandes cambios de como América debe tratar a los indocumentados.

“Es tiempo de cerrar estas prisiones y ofrecer un trato digno a las vidas de mujeres y niños quienes vienen en busca

de la humanidad de la cual carecen en su país,” el representante Raul M. Grijalva escribió en un artículo para el periódico *The Guardian*.

“Personalmente fui a mirar la clase de condiciones que enfren-

tan las mujeres y niños encarcelados y me partió el corazón,” menciona Grijalva, D-Arizona. En compañía de una delegación del congreso Grijalva visito el South Texas Family Residential Center en Dilley, Texas.

Acaso es justo detener en prisiones a mujeres y niños que arriesgan sus vidas al huir de la violencia y pobreza solo para obtener ganancias, Grijalva preguntó. “Proclamamos al mundo que aquellos que enfrentan verdaderos peligros en su patria, podrán encontrar refugio en América”.

Grijalva escribió, “Pequeñas casas de un piso albergan a varias familias por cuarto, compartiendo una bañera sin ninguna privacidad.” Carecen de cuidado médico. “Algunos niños de 7 a 8 años se ven con la necesidad de usar pañales como resultado de su cautiverio”.

“La Inmigración y la Aduana (ICE) pagan por día por cada detenido \$325.69 a la Corrección Corporation of America,” el congresista reportó.

“En los últimos 11 años, 32 personas han muerto en el ‘cuidado’ de Corrections Corporation of America’s Facilities. Siete fueron suicidios, y el resto fue ocasionado por la falta

de atención médica”. Grijalva agregó.

“Llegan aquí solamente buscando refugio, huyendo de las terribles condiciones. Buscan a los agentes de la patrulla fronteriza – caminan hacia ellos para pedir ayuda,” Grijalva escribió.

Hasta que no hayan obtenido una audiencia legal, las personas buscando asilo político se les permite vivir en los Estados Unidos; “Se supone que no deberíamos mantenerlos detenidos en facilidades de prisión bajo ningún motivo,” Grijalva dijo.

“Para arreglar esto, debemos remover las ganancias que provee la encarcelación en nuestra sociedad. Para la Corrections Corporation of America, estas personas no son percibidas como individuos buscando asilo, sino son consideradas literalmente el objetivo primordial de la compañía por las ganancias que obtienen. Menciono el reporte.

Grijalva menciona mientras se disponía a retirarse, “Un niño menor de 5 años vino hacia mi y me abrazo la pierna... y me pregunto, ‘esta usted aquí para sacarnos de la cárcel?’”

-Traducción por Miguel Quezada

Prisiones Privadas Detienen a Menores

Por Thompson-Bonilla
Escritor del Gremio Periodístico

Niños inmigrantes acompañados de sus madres al cruzar la frontera de México-Estados Unidos son detenidos en facilidades privadas sin licencia, violando un acuerdo impuesto por las cortes federales hace 18 años. Reporto *The Associated Press*.

La Juez Dolly Gee del U.S. District, emitió una resolución manteniendo un acuerdo provisional que Gee hizo en Abril. El acuerdo fue una victoria para los abogados que pelean por los derechos de los inmigrantes, quienes fueron los que presentaron la demanda. La Juez Gee solicitó al departamento Homeland Security y a los abogados de inmigración a llegar a un acuerdo. Sin embargo, después de dos semanas de negociaciones, ambas partes no llegaron a una solución.

Una resolución en 1997 prohibió que niños inmigrantes fueran detenidos en facilidades

sin licencia. Gee encontró que Oficiales Federales estaban violando el acuerdo, refiriéndose a que todos los niños en custodia de Oficiales Federales de inmigración no deben ser detenidos en tales instituciones, ni siquiera al estar acompañados por sus padres.

“Oficiales Federales saben que están quebrantando el acuerdo. Detienen a niños en facilidades no seguras; Así de sencillo,” menciona Meter Schey, Director Ejecutivo de Derechos Humanos. Schey es uno de los abogados que presentan la demanda.

Los nuevos centros construidos en Texas para mujeres y niños dio lugar a una nueva demanda. A pesar de ser supervisados por el gobierno federal, las instituciones son administradas por operadores de prisiones privadas. Un reporte reciente de la A.P. menciona que 2000 mujeres y niños fueron detenidos a consecuencia de una oleada de decenas de miles de inmigrantes procedentes de Centro Améri-

ca que entran a los Estados Unidos.

El gobierno argumento que es necesario modificar el acuerdo, debido al gran número de inmigrantes que atraviesan los centros de detención de la frontera, los cuales son usados como medio disuasivo. Se menciona también que el método de detención era una manera de mantener las familias juntas mientras sus casos de inmigración eran examinados.

Gee ordeno al gobierno que mostrara una razón del por que ella no debería someter una orden que tendría como resultado el cumplimiento del gobierno dentro del periodo de tres meses.

Debido al arreglo provisional en Abril, la inmigración y la aduana declararon que mejorarían sus facilidades, de acuerdo a las necesidades de los niños y ofreciendo una mejor supervisión, informo la A.P.

-Traducción por Marco Villa

Historia, Cultura, Y Tradición Latina: Posadas Mexicanas

Por Tare Beltranchuc y
Marco Villa

Las posadas es la celebración más esperada y celebrada en México; con un festejo de nueve días en víspera de la Navidad. A pesar de que las posadas son originarias de España con raíces católicas, actualmente la celebran en gran parte de México, tanto católicos como protestantes latinos por igual.

Las posadas comienzan el 16 de Diciembre y terminan el 24 del mismo mes. Las posadas conmemoran la interpretación de la trayectoria de José y María buscando refugio antes del nacimiento del niño Dios. Los nueve días de celebración representan los nueve meses de embarazo en los que María llevo en el vientre a Jesús.

Los mexicanos comienzan esta típica tradición con una procesión dirigida por individuos representando a María y José, con la futura madre montada en un verdadero burrito, seguido por una multitud de gente vestida de ángeles y pastores que van agregándose en el recorrido. Al acercarse la multitud a la casa designada a la primera posada, la gente comienza a cantar villancicos

llevando cada quien una vela encendida.

Al llegar a la casa todos cantan la antigua canción tradicional “os pido posada”. Durante la interpretación los anfitriones de la posada actúan como los dueños de la casa mientras que los invitados actúan como los peregrinos. Tanto los anfitriones dentro de la casa como los invitados afuera cantan alternadamente versos de las canciones tradicionales. Los que se encuentran dentro de la casa les niegan albergue a los que piden posada, mas los peregrinos siguen insistiendo. Cuando los dueños de la casa salen decididos a correr definitivamente a la gente, reconocen de inmediato quienes son los peregrinos y cambiando de parecer les abren las puertas de su casa dándoles la bienvenida felizmente. Seguidamente, adultos y niños se preparan para romper la tradicional piñata.

Las piñatas en forma de estrella con siete picos forman parte muy importante en la celebración. Los siete picos representan los siete pecados capitales que deben ser destruidos por el “pecador” (un niño a quien le vendan de los ojos simbolizando la fe siega). Uno por uno los niños son vendados

de los ojos y mareados al darles varias vueltas, después los guían hasta la piñata. Mientras los niños se turnan para pegarle a la piñata, los demás cantan una canción tradicional “Dale, dale, dale no pierdas el tino”. La piñata llena de dulces es suspendida por una cuerda de algún árbol o techo. Usualmente se necesita darle muchos golpes a la piñata para romperla. Cuando finalmente se rompe la piñata, todos los niños se alegran y corren a recoger los dulces. El niño que llega a romper la piñata es considerado un héroe porque es el que provee las “bendiciones” para todos (dulces).

Los platillos y las bebidas auténticas de México, junto con el festejo familiar son parte de las posadas. Aunque ciertas comidas varían de región a región, los platillos tradicionales mas comunes son: Tamales, chiles rellenos y menudo. En cuanto a las bebidas son: El atole, ponche con piquete y la cerveza Mexicana “Noche Buena” (disponible solo en los días festivos a la Navidad).

Así que en esta Navidad celebra en grande con la familia y amigos sin que falte el brindis con ponche y una cerveza “Noche Buena” bien fría.

Seres Humanos Se Convierten En Cuotas

Por Salvador Solorio
Escritor del Gremio Periodístico

La directiva del congreso conocida como “La orden de camas” requiere que la U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) mantenga un promedio de 34,000 detenidos por día en su custodia, reporta el Washington Post.

“Los gastos federales para la detención y deportación ha incrementado a \$2.8 billones por año”

Oficiales de Homeland Security han encarcelado a un número record de inmigrantes durante los pasados cinco años, de acuerdo a un reporte del mes de Octubre en el periódico Post. La cuota ha aumentado desde que fue establecida en el año 2006 por legisladores conservativos quienes insistían que la agencia no estaba haciendo el esfuerzo suficiente para deportar inmigrantes ilegales, reporto el Post.

Aunque la inmigración ilegal ha recaído a sus niveles mas bajos desde 1970, el ICE ha ido cumpliendo con sus metas al extraditar a los residentes legales nacidos en el

extranjero que han sido culpables de crímenes que los hace elegibles para ser deportados, dice el reporte.

Oficiales de Homeland Security argumentan que no están encarcelando a inmigrantes ilegales simplemente para cumplir la cuota o porque son amplios candidatos a deportación, sino que se enfocan en criminales que representan una amenaza para la sociedad.

Los críticos del mandato han señalado que la mayoría de los detenidos no son criminales violentos. Jueces de inmigración permiten que muchos permanezcan en los U.S. sin embargo, muchos detenidos pasan meses bajo una custodia federal costosa, aun cuando alternativas mas baratas están disponibles, tal como brazaletes de tobillo.

Los gastos federales para la detención y deportación ha incrementado a \$2.8 billones por año, lo cual duplica la cantidad del 2006, afirmo el artículo del periódico.

El Homeland Security enfatizo al Congreso durante el debate de “Restricciones Presupuestarias” que la agencia podría ahorrar dinero si reducen la orden de camas a una cantidad de 31,800. Sin embargo La Cámara de Republicanos rebatió exitosamente la orden de camas y fijo dicha orden a 34,000 detenidos, así mismo ordeno a oficiales del ICE a destinar alrededor de \$400 millones mas de lo solicitado, argumento el reporte.

-Traducción por Miguel Quezada

Local Police Departments Want More Minorities

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

Minorities remain largely underrepresented in many local police departments despite efforts to improve their diversity programs, a federal report says.

The report published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics says this is particularly true in jurisdictions where there are racial tensions within communities experiencing rapid demographics shifts.

"Racial and ethnic minorities were underrepresented by a combined 24 percentage points on average when shares of police officers were compared to census population estimates for each of the 269 jurisdictions reviewed," the 2015 report said.

This disproportion was greatest among Hispanics. Their numbers are nearly 11 percentage points below the census population estimates.

Report: Jail is Gateway To Rising Problems and Criminal Justice System

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Winding up in jail, even for a minor infraction, increases the chance of getting sentenced to incarceration, loss of income, getting out and returning to crime, and worsened health, a *Vera Institute of Justice* report finds.

Jail is a gateway to "deeper and more lasting involvement in the criminal justice system," according to the report, *Incarceration's Front Door: The Misuse of Jails in America*, February 2015. The report concludes jail also exacerbates problems for the mentally ill.

THE REPORT NOTES

On any given day, there are about 731,000 bookings in nearly 3,000 jails across the country. Nationally, annual bookings nearly doubled, from 6 million in 1983 to 11.7 million in 2013.

Not only are more people ending up in jail, the length of stay increased from an average of 14 days in 1983 to 23 days in 2013.

Nearly 75 percent of sentenced offenders and pretrial detainees are in jail for nonviolent traffic, property, drug, or public order offenses.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports 60 percent of jail inmates reported having had symptoms of a mental health disorder in the previous 12 months.

At a rate four to six times higher than in the general population, an estimated 14.5 percent of men and 31 percent of women in jails has serious mental illnesses, according to *Vera*.

Seventeen percent of jail inmates with mental illness were homeless in the year before their arrest, compared to nine percent

Blacks and Asians, two smaller minority groups, also remain underrepresented, the report adds.

"In 35 of the 85 jurisdiction where either Blacks, Asians or Hispanics make up the single largest racial or ethnic group, their individual presence in police departments was less than half their share of the population. Asians were most underrepresented, averaging 33 percentage points below Census population estimates in the seven jurisdictions where they accounted for the single largest demographic," it was reported.

According to the report, "about 27 percent of officers in all local police departments in 2013 were racial or ethnic minorities." In 1990 the number was only 17 percent. Despite these increases, the report said, diversity efforts still haven't kept pace with the country's shifting demographics. "In fact, total minority

of the rest of the jail population. Nearly a third of jail inmates with mental illness were unemployed in the month before arrest, compared to less than a quarter of the rest of the population.

"Fifteen percent of jail inmates with mental illness were using drugs and alcohol"

Thirty-four percent of jail inmates with mental illness were drug users at the time of arrest compared to 20 percent of the rest of the jail population.

Fifteen percent of jail inmates with mental illness were using drugs and alcohol at the time of arrest, compared to seven percent of the rest of the jail population.

The *Vera* report cited the "constant noise, bright lights, an ever-changing population, and an atmosphere of threat and violence...coupled with the near-absence of mental health treatment" to show that jails are damaging to people with mental illness.

According to the latest data available to *Vera*, 83 percent of jail inmates with mental illness did not receive mental health care after admission.

Vera reports that most people with serious mental illnesses enter jail with minor, nonviolent crimes, yet they end up staying in jail for longer periods of time than offenders without mental illnesses.

Breakdowns in "care is likely a large part of the reason why people with mental illness tend to cycle in and out of jail," according to *Vera*.

representation in local law enforcement agencies trails the U.S. population more so now than two decades ago."

The report shows there are a variety of reasons why police departments have failed to recruit minorities. Some of these agencies have been accused of "unfair hiring practices over the years." Departments with low turnover are slow in keeping pace with these changes. California law enforcement agencies have been slow in hiring minorities (minus 32 percentage points) among those departments re-

viewed.

Smaller jurisdictions with fewer officers tend to show slightly greater levels of minority under-representation as well. In the city of Simi Valley minorities represent only 12.3 percent of the total population. However, Hispanics represent roughly 6.6 percent, Blacks 1.6 percent and Asians represent 4.1 percent of that police department's minority staff, the report adds.

Minorities make up 64.6 percent of the Los Angeles Police Department. The police department comprises

43.4 percent Hispanics, 11.6 percent Blacks and 7.1 percent Asians. Accordingly, this is one of the agencies in the report that stepped up its recruitment of candidates after the White House Task Force made several recommendations regarding this issue.

In the report, police diversity is perceived to be a problem mostly in poor and low-income communities; however, more affluent areas with poverty rates below the national average have levels of under representation roughly equal to the poorest jurisdictions.

What Leads to Harsher Sentences for Black Youth?

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

Black youths are more likely than White youths to be tried and sentenced as adults, suggesting they are often seen as older and less innocent than White children of the same age, according to a recent university study.

The Black children make up 58 percent of all children sentenced to adult facilities and are 18 times more likely than White children to be sentenced as adults, the research team reports.

The study titled "The Essence of Innocence: Consequences of Dehumanizing Black Children" was published in February 2014 in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

The researchers explore the idea that traditional prejudice may have different implications from that of "dehumanization," which they define as the "denial of full humanness to others."

"This conception of preju-

dice and dehumanization would predict that, whereas prejudice may prompt one to devalue a job candidate from a disliked group, prejudice would not predict endorsement of genocide or extreme violence toward that individual or group. Dehumanization, on the other hand, would," the research team notes.

"Black children make up 58 percent of all children sentenced to adult facilities"

Dehumanization equates to a "reduction of social considerations afforded to humans for those who are dehumanized," and in the case of the dehumanized child, the implication is especially troubling, the report says.

"This reduction violates

one defining characteristic of children – being innocent and thus needing protection – rendering the category 'children' less essential and distinct from 'adults.' This may also cause individuals to see Black children as more like adults or, more precisely, to see them as older than they are," the study explains.

The researchers utilized historical overview, detailing the observation that for decades, if not centuries, some individuals have associated Blacks as nonhuman animals, specifically apes.

"The logic of this assertion is that dehumanizing groups morally excludes them, making it permissible to treat people in a way that would be morally objectionable if they were fully human," the researchers said.

The research team hypothesized that this sort of race-based perception, even when considering an adolescent, may very well explain why Black children, especially boys, receive harsher treatment in courts of law and society in general.

35 States Aim for Justice Policy Based on Results, Not 'Toughness'

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Thirty-five states are working to implement a new strategy called Justice Reinvestment expected to reduce crime and incarceration and save money.

"This is a new way of doing business," explained Adam Gelb of the Pew Charitable Trust's Public Safety Performance Project.

STRATEGY

The strategy was the focus of a 35-state conference in San Diego in November 2014.

"In the view of Gelb and many at the San Diego summit, the challenge now is to make criminal justice policy based on reliable data on what works to prevent crime, not on ideology – such as a belief that longer prison terms solves the problem," wrote Ted Gest, president of Criminal Justice Journalists and Washing-

bureau chief of *The Crime Report*.

Gest reported the U.S. Justice Department invested \$27 million in Justice Reinvestment and a major concern among delegates was how to fund efforts when federal money ran out in October.

OFFENDERS

Low-level and historically high repeat offenders are occupying very expensive prison cells. These are primary targets for the Justice Reinvestment program.

"Stop making the justice system the default (remedy) for at-risk youth," said one of the summit's participants, Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason.

"Let's not allow the pendulum to swing back," Gelb said.

"Mason ticked off a long list of examples, such as pretrial policy changes in Delaware and Kentucky, problem-solving courts in Arkansas and

West Virginia and probation and parole improvements in Louisiana, Ohio, Oregon and South Dakota," Gest reported.

MEDIA

The conference sponsors revealed successes, but Pew barred the news media from most of the workshops involving roles of prosecutors, judges and public opinion. Pew felt participants might not speak as openly on certain subjects with reporters present.

A Pew report states that prison numbers in many states will continue to rise in the coming years, due to the daunting task of reforming the current justice system.

It was a mistake for conservatives to measure the success of anticrime policies by "putting more people in prison," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. Conservatives should have looked at outputs, not just inputs, Norquist added.

Families and Friends Being Misled About JPay

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Families and friends of inmates do not have to use JPay to deposit funds in California state prisoners' trust accounts, state regulations show.

However, effective since October 2014, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) entered into a pilot program called Lock Box with the JPay company, according to CDCR Public Information Officer Kristina Khokhobashvili.

"The Lock Box program was started to reduce hold times on incoming inmate deposits," said Khokhobashvili. "Inmate deposits handled through Lock Box are processed within a 14-day timeframe."

Inmate deposits received through institution mailrooms can take up to 45 days to process because it includes a 30-day hold to ensure the funds clear the bank, Khokhobashvili said.

CDCR officials said prison staff takes negotiable instruments and/or coins (deposits) to the bank on a weekly basis.

However, families and friends may opt to send the funds directly to JPay where processing is faster.

JPay has multiple methods of depositing funds to an inmate's account: Online electronic funds transfer service, telephone calls to customer service and walk-in store cash payments. Each of these methods has a related fee.

The Lock Box program provided by JPay is the only service that does not charge a fee, but

that has not been widely publicized.

Adding to this confusion, San Quentin prison previously broadcast in English and Spanish a series of JPay video slides on closed-circuit television (SQTV). The videos informed inmates: "SQSP Inmate Trust Office will not accept inmate trust deposits after Jan. 31, 2015; they will be returned to sender at the expense of the receiving inmate."

Another video said, "Effective Jan. 1, 2015, all money orders and cashiers checks, must now be sent to JPay" at an address provided in Los Angeles.

And another video informed inmates that forms are available "online at www.JPay.com and in the SQSP visiting area to submit with your deposit." All videos displayed CDCR and JPay logos.

"CDCR does not receive a share of any money routed through JPay"

According to prison regulations, "Funds may be mailed to an inmate in the form of a money order, certified check, personal check or any other negotiable means, except cash and Travelers Check."

Many inmates have complained that their families have had their money orders returned.

An SQTV video painted a rosier picture, saying, "The hold

for money orders and cashier checks will be approximately five business days from receipt. Personal checks will be held for 10 days before deposited into the inmate's account."

The process could take longer.

In October, the CDCR Regulation and Policy Management Branch (RPMB) published a Notice of Change to Regulations (NCR, 15-09, CCR Title 15, Section 3140) which places further restrictions on money orders and certified checks.

Currently these deposits can be mailed to an inmate's trust account without the sender's name or return address on it.

"The department has made a determination to hold these funds until the sender can be identified," the NCR says. "Correspondence containing funds without a sender and return address is an administrative problem when an inmate parolee, or cannot otherwise be specifically identified because of an insufficient inmate address."

Citing the possibility of criminal and gang activity the NCR says, "Unidentified senders could be another inmate, parolee or probationer, trying to circumvent current regulations, which require a warden's permission in order to correspond with inmates inside of the CDCR system."

Meanwhile in the outside world, electronic banking has eliminated wait times for checks to clear.

According to the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (or "Check 21") passed by Congress in 2003, the recipient of a

JPay Rates for CDCR Electronic Funds Transfer Services

Online			
\$ 0.01 -	30.00	\$3.95	
\$ 30.01 -	75.00	\$6.95	
\$ 75.01 -	200.00	\$9.95	
\$ 200.01 -	300.00	\$11.95	
By Phone			
\$ 0.01 -	30.00	\$4.95	
\$ 30.01 -	75.00	\$7.95	
\$ 75.01 -	200.00	\$10.95	
\$ 200.01 -	300.00	\$12.95	

Note: Walk In Store Cash Payment Fee is \$5.95

paper check can create a digital version of it, an electronic "substitute check," to do away with a physical check. The act makes it legal to scan checks into computers to make remote deposits to banks.

Khokhobashvili said remote deposits made by the CDCR are not possible at all prisons, "but we are actively implementing remote deposit to go out to all institutions in the future."

"As of July 31, there are currently four institutions active with remote deposits," said Khokhobashvili. "San Quentin is scheduled to begin using remote deposits this fiscal year."

"The new service, Lock Box, has handled \$263,621 since its inception began in October 2014," until May 2015, said Khokhobashvili. "CDCR does not receive a share of any money routed through JPay."

CDCR's contract with JPay is

due to expire on June 30 in 2016.

In 2014, Ryan Shapiro, JPay's founder and CEO, said in a *CNBC* article, "Our goal is to become the nation's digital consumer app company for prisons."

Shapiro started JPay in 2002. Today it is the largest money transmitter for correctional departments in 31 states, according to the *South Florida Business Journal*.

"In 12 years, JPay says it has grown to provide money transfers to more than 1.7 million offenders in 32 states, or nearly 70 percent of the inmates in U.S. prison," the online website publicintegrity.org reported.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, JPay handled nearly 7 million transactions in 2013, generating more than \$50 million in revenue. This year the company expects to transfer more than \$1 billion.

James Kilgore Gives Instructions on Mass Incarceration

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

James Kilgore's instructional breakdown about mass incarceration in America preaches to the choir. That being said, doesn't every choir need a strong melody and a conductor who knows what he or she is doing?

Understanding Mass Incarceration: A People's Guide to the Key Civil Rights Struggle of Our Time (2015) is a well-orga-

nized analysis of the far-reaching aspects of U.S. criminal justice policies.

The book examines lock-up policies, root causes of mass incarceration, gender biases in laws and those who profit off prisons. It also offers solutions.

Kilgore looks at key indicators that contribute to mass in-

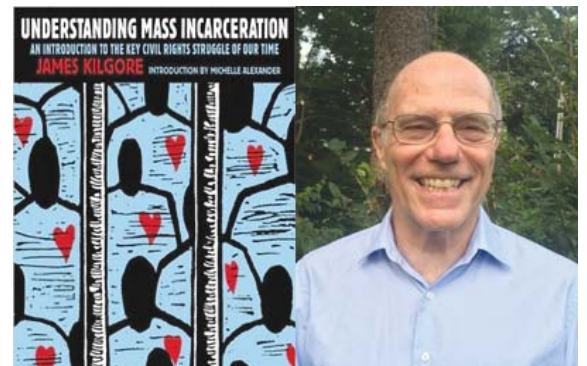
carceration such as prison and jail expansion, deportation of immigrants, punitive school discipline, harsh sentencing laws, the use of solitary confinement and juveniles sentenced to life without parole.

There is an assumption in the U.S. that it's fair to lock up criminals as long as they're given treatment and education while incarcerated. Therefore, shouldn't those leaving prisons reflect this rehabilitation policy? High recidivism rates show either this assumption is not true or that incarcerated Americans are not getting the services they need.

On the other hand, Michelle Alexander argues in her 2010 book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* that treating criminal behavior more compassionately might yield better results.

"We could seek for them the same opportunities we seek for our own children; we could treat them like one of 'us.' We could do that," Alexander writes.

Marie Gottschalk, author of *The Prison and the Gallows: The Politics of Mass Incarceration in America* (2006) said *The New Jim Crow* was one of the "most interesting original books" she'd ever read. "It thoroughly explains the consequence of today's mass incar-



James Kilgore

ceration policies and the lasting effects of being labeled a felon."

The Prison and the Gallows examines long-term crime rates and finds no direct relationship to incarceration rates, noting, "Deviance is not a property inherent in any particular kind of behavior, rather, deviance is a property conferred upon a certain behavior by the majority or by the powerful."

Angela Davis addresses how Americans think about prisons in her 2003 book, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* "We take prisons for granted but are often afraid to face the realities they produce," she writes.

When California courts began to investigate people in segregated housing units, "they found it wasn't inherently cruel or unusual; but it was devastating for (individuals) suffering from

mental illness to be put in solitary—they became the 'walking dead,'" author of *Mass Incarceration on Trial: A Remarkable Court Decision and The Future of Prisons in America* (2014), Jonathan Simon said in an interview with *The Crime Report*.

Kilgore prods at the ethical dilemma of hyper-lockup policies by citing a May 2014 *New York Times* editorial.

"The American experiment in mass incarceration has been a moral, legal, social and economic disaster. It cannot end soon enough," the editorial states.

The effort Kilgore puts into *Understanding Mass Incarceration* shouldn't be taken for granted. It's useful information every concerned citizen needs to have in order to talk about and understand the future of public safety in America.

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Youth Offenders See Benefits in SQ Programs

By Miguel Quezada
Staff Writer

Jared Elkins was 13 years old the first time he found himself behind bars for burglary. At 14, he was placed in a group home. The 20-year-old San Quentin State Prison inmate said, "Since then I haven't been out of prison for longer than six months."

Elkins, serving a sentence of 10 years for a gang-related firearms violation, is one of several young prisoners designated eligible to be transferred to a medium security prison like San Quentin through the Youth Offender Program (passed as Assembly Bill 1276 in 2014). The

Kid CAT Speaks!

program is designed to keep offenders under the age of 22 away from high security prisons, where opportunities for programs are few and typically more violent than lower security prisons.

Elkins said that if he went to a higher level prison, he felt like he would have gotten into trouble and gotten more time added to his sentence. However, once he got to San Quentin he quickly got onto the waiting list for self-help programs. "When I get out,

I hope I can establish myself in a career and take care of my son who is two. To do this I need job skills and other help."

"I'm signed up for Restorative Justice and a Kid CAT Youth Offender Support Group," Elkins said. "I'm interested in college and taking vocational courses like welding, plumbing and construction. I earned my GED in the juvenile hall. Now I really want to learn things that will help me when I get out. I don't want to come back to prison."

"We are one of the few prisons that are open for the youth offender program. The warden is very supportive of bringing young men here," said Steve Emrick, San Quentin State Prison Community Partnership Manager. "We are also relying on men in programs that see them [the young men] to encourage them to get involved in these programs."

Most other Youth Offender Program participants who arrived at San Quentin are seeking to better themselves with educational and self-help classes.

Rodolfo Medina-Barragan, 18, serving 21 years for an attempted murder he committed at 17, said he has earned his GED and is on a waiting list for Patten University Project. "I am glad to be here. So far a lot of guys have spoke[n] to me and invited me to different programs. When I get out I would like to continue to go to school."

Efrain Lara, 19, convicted of assault with a deadly weapon that he committed at the age of 17, was sentenced to seven years. "At 12 years old I was working in the fields with my dad. My only job at 17 was in the grape fields. If I have to, I'll do that when I get out, but I need an education and trades so I can get better jobs."

"When I came in to prison at 20, I went directly to level four maximum security," said Kid CAT Chairman Tommy Winfrey. "I realize now that I was looking for role models in my life, and I was influenced by the violence and negativity I saw around me."

Louis Scott, 47, incarcerated 19 years, is one of several Restorative Justice Group facilitators who are helping these young men navigate the opportunities available at San Quentin. "Amazingly I find them very receptive," said Scott, who is serving 199 years to life. "It's important to capture them right now while they are fresh inside the system and give them a positive path to follow, as opposed to the negativity that a lot of us [were] subjected to when we first came in."

The Rand Corporation found that when prisoners receive correctional education while incarcerated, it improves their ability to stay out of prison by 43 percent compared to prisoners who do not get an education in prison.

San Quentin has a large juvenile lifer population that has been incarcerated for an average 20 or more years. They understand the challenges of entering the prison system at a young age and are eager to help the participants of the Youth Offender Program have a different experience.

Medina-Barragan illustrates the point: "All I know about the level three is that there is a lot of violence and people can die there. I've never been there, but since I was in the juvenile hall and county jail that's all I heard about prison."

"The department and the inmate population recognized that these young men need to be supported and redirected from trouble to receive a second chance in life," Emrick said.

From Prisoner to Advocate Attorney

'Youth in adult jails and prisons are more likely to be assaulted sexually and physically'

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs serious reform in the juvenile justice system, according to Francis Guzman, a former youth offender turned youth-advocate attorney.

"At age 15, I was arrested for robbing a liquor store with a handgun. Although this was my first offense, I was sentenced to 15 years – the maximum time allowable by statute – and committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA), the state's juvenile prison system," says Guzman.

"Approximately 250,000 youth under age 18 are tried in the adult criminal system each year, with nearly 100,000 incarcerated in adult jails and prisons. These statistics are the aftermath of a narrative dating back to the early '90s," the *Slate Group* reported.

Guzman said, "When I arrived in 1996, the CYA had over 10,000 youth in a prison system designed to hold only 6,000. There were unconscionable levels of violence and corruption. Many of the youth committed to the CYA had long histories of abuse, abandonment, and neglect; many

more suffered from developmental disabilities."

Currently, California's Department of Juvenile Justice has less than 700 juveniles in custody.

"I was committed to the CYA to be rehabilitated, according to the judge who sentenced me. Instead, I came out of the justice system in far worse shape than when I went in. I learned to distrust authority, and to deal with conflict through aggression and violence. For years after my release I suffered from post-traumatic stress, anxiety and depression stemming from my experiences inside," Guzman adds.

The *Slate Group* reported, "Youth in adult jails and prisons are more likely to be assaulted both sexually and physically by other inmates and by guards. They have little to no access to...mental health care tailored to their age."

Guzman said, "It wasn't until I enrolled in Oxnard College that I found compassionate mentors who provided me with the education, support, and services that I needed to grow and heal. Eventually I transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, and earned a B.A. in English. Later I graduated from UCLA School of Law with a specialization in public interest law and policy.

"Today I am an advocate and staff attorney at the National Center for Youth Law. My work focuses on challenging the practice of prosecuting and incarcerating youth in California's adult criminal justice system, while advocating for local treatment."

"We must break the stranglehold that law enforcement has over the treatment of youth in trouble and allow families and communities to play a larger role. Today, juvenile crime rates are at historic lows. This is not a public safety issue; it's a public health issue."

Prop. 47 Gave Juveniles Same Sentence Reduction as Adults

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

Juveniles have the same right to reduced sentences as adults under Proposition 47, a three-judge state court has ruled.

The ruling came in the case of a 15-year-old identified only as Alejandro who was given a felony sentence of three years in juvenile custody for trying to steal a bag of chips and three bottles of vodka, reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

Proposition 47 reduced shoplifting felonies to misdemeanors if the value of items stolen were less than \$950. In Alejandro's case, this would have meant a maximum sentence of eight months.

"Under what rationale do we select out a 15-year-old for a more condemnatory consequence than a 32-year-old?" asked Robert Fellmeth, law professor at the University of San Diego and Children's Advocacy Institute.

Alejandro's public defender

petitioned for the change to a judge in the Superior Court. The judge approved the change and had the felony stricken from his record, and had his DNA sample removed from the state's database.

San Diego County District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis appealed and lost to a 3-0 vote by the state's appeals court. The viewpoint of Dumanis means juveniles could serve more time in custody than adults with the same crime," according to arguments by the ACLU.

"We've always believed it applied to juveniles," said Los Angeles prosecutor Kerry White, who supervises the county's juvenile division. Prosecutors did not wait until the San Diego case was decided," according to White.

Alejandro is back in high school and has not been rearrested, according to Maryann D'Addezio Kotler, the assistant supervising attorney for public defenders in San Diego juvenile delinquency branch.

Trauma-Focused Therapy Helps Children With Incarcerated Parents

More than 2.7 million children had a parent incarcerated, and a Brooklyn organization is working to help some of them deal with the post-traumatic stress disorder and related anxiety that can result from it.

That's the report of the Pew Charitable Trust, which said the number of parents in jails and prisons has skyrocketed since 1980.

"One of the best treatments for these children is trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy [CBT], which Children of Promise uses in its clinic," *BuzzFeed News* reported.

"Trauma-focused CBT, which can take weeks or months with a trained therapist ... helps kids and parents find what triggers their strongest feelings and worst behaviors and teaches them how to redirect that energy in a more positive direction."

"These traumas are similar to what's experienced by the children of soldiers, whose parents leave and then come home changed. A flood of research over the past decade has focused on the mental health of military kids, and in 2012 President Obama issued an executive order to expand mental health services for military members and their families," *BuzzFeed* reported.

"After three years spent fundraising, hiring staff and screening and training mentors, the organization opened its doors in a church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, a Brooklyn neighborhood with one of the city's highest incarceration rates. It's the only after-school program for this population in New York," *BuzzFeed* reported.

Sharon Content founded the organization in 2006 with government grants and donations from individuals and companies. The group provides after-school and summer programs, along with access to a mental health clinic that is staffed by three clinicians, two psychiatrists, a psychologist, seven master of social work interns and 20 non-clinical staff members.

"As an after-school and summer program, Children of Promise tends to fit with the busy schedules of working parents. For some of the kids, if they act out in school, their guidance counselors will call (staff at Promise) instead of their parents. That takes some of the stress off parents who can't afford to take time away from work to fish their misbehaving child out of trouble," *BuzzFeed* reported.

- John Lam

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Att: Kid CAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94974

Prominent Americans Tackle Country's Mass Incarceration Problem

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Almost two dozen prominent Americans collaborated recently with essays suggesting solutions to the country's problem of mass incarceration. "We need to quit locking up all the people that we are mad at and lock up the people that truly deserve it," former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee wrote, citing the state's corrections director.

American Leaders Speak out on Criminal Justice has 22 contributors, including governors, U.S. senators, the CEO of the NAACP, U.S. and state attorneys general, a college professor, and a former president of the National Rifle Association.

The U.S. criminal justice system fails to provide sufficient law-and-order to communities; it creates laws driven by fear rather than facts and the system is fiscally irresponsible, according to Huckabee.

"The ultimate purpose of the system — beyond establishing

guilt, assigning responsibility, delivering justice, and extending punishment — is to correct the behavior that led to the crime. Major first steps include treating drug addicts, eliminating waste, and addressing the character of our citizens and children," Huckabee wrote.

FUTURE CRIMES

Former President Bill Clinton cited research showing that criminal justice policies that focus on locking people up as a first choice increases the offenders' tendency to commit future crimes. "...letting certain people out of jail, or never putting them there in the first place, may be the best thing we can do to make our country safer," reads the introduction of the *Brennan Center for Justice* publication.

"Something is fundamentally wrong with a criminal justice system that imprisons millions of men, women, and even children for more crimes than any of us can imagine or count, subjects them to terrible conditions

in overcrowded prisons that tend to harden them for far longer than necessary, and creates barriers that minimize their chances of succeeding once outside," wrote David Keene, former NRA president.

Keene is also the former chairman of the American Conservative Union. He added, "...those arrested, convicted, and incarcerated should be treated humanely and prepared to return to communities as responsible and productive citizens."

Keene called for six fundamental reforms in the U.S. criminal justice system:

REBUILD

- Rebuild and strengthen the nation's mental health-care system by ensuring the mentally ill are treated in hospitals or public treatment centers.

- Reduce the number of criminal offenses.

- Reduce the number of crimes punishable with prison.

- Revise mandatory minimum and three strikes laws that keep people in prison far longer than

necessary.

- Reform how and when people on probation and parole get sent back to prison.

- Reduce the stigma attached to those who have served their time.

JURY TRIAL

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas scrutinized the over-criminalization of certain acts, severe mandatory minimum sentences and how the purpose of jury trial is being weakened.

Cruz wrote that the plea-bargaining system gives prosecutors extraordinary power that allows them to be "the proverbial judge, jury and executioner in the mine-run of cases," which is "nudging both judges and juries out of the truth-seeking process."

"Although there is nothing wrong in principle with mandatory minimums, they must be carefully calibrated to ensure that no circumstances could justify a lesser sentence for the crime charged," Cruz wrote. "The current draconian manda-



File Photo

Former Arkansas Gov.
Mike Huckabee

tory minimum sentences sometimes result in sentencing outcomes that neither fit the crime nor the perpetrator's unique circumstances."

"Instead of a one-size-fits-all justice system that responds to all crime as equal, we need a 'Smart on Crime' approach — one that applies innovative, data-driven methods to make our system more efficient and effective," California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris wrote.

All information in this story is copyrighted 2015 by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. www.brennancenter.org.

Rand Paul Attacks Bill Clinton's Prison Policies

By James R. Abernathy Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Presidential hopeful Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., has attacked former President Bill Clinton for incarcerating large numbers of Black men.

"I'll ask Hillary Clinton, 'What have you done for criminal justice?' Your husband passed all the laws that put a generation of Black men in prison," Paul said in a May 18 story in *Business Insider*.

Paul is reaching out to minority communities to discuss issues surrounding reform of the criminal justice system.

In doing so, Paul said such effort makes him a stronger nominee against Hillary Clinton, the leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Both of the Clintons have distanced themselves from the tough-on-crime laws implemented during the Clinton administration.

In an April op-ed, former

President Clinton discussed the anti-crime measures of the 1990s as an honest reaction to a very real and violent threat.

However, he suggested that some of those policies may have placed too much emphasis on incarceration.

Hillary Clinton has made criminal justice reform one of the important platforms of her campaign. In a speech in April, she passionately lambasted racial inequities prevalent in the justice system.

"There is something profoundly wrong when African-American men are still far more likely to be stopped and searched by police, charged with crimes and sentenced to longer prison terms than are meted out to their White counterparts. There is something wrong when a third of all Black men face the prospect of prison during their lifetimes," said the former first lady.

"We have allowed our criminal justice system to get out of

balance, and these recent tragedies should galvanize us to come together as a nation to find our balance again."

"She's changing her tune because people like me have been speaking out against these injustices. I'll also ask her what she's going to do for poor people in Philadelphia. I have a specific plan that would dramatically lower the taxes for people who live in ZIP codes of poverty and high unemployment," declared Paul.

Solano Inmates Start Own Newspaper

SQ News Alums Lead Effort to Produce a New Quarterly Publication

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Prisoners at California State Prison-Solano are developing and publishing a newspaper, the *Solano Vision*. The newspaper began when Cole Bienek, editor-in-chief, rounded up a team of writers to contribute stories.

The new publication's story is reported by Krissi Khokhobashvili in a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation newsletter. Bienek explained he just went around and grabbed these guys and said, "Please write."

The *Solano Vision* is published quarterly. Its first edition, January 2014, contains articles about Solano's education programs, self-help programs and book reviews.

Advisers for the *Solano Vision* include Solano's education principal, Kenya Williams, and teachers Rudolph Muldong, Tara Foster and Catherine Resurreccion. Williams stated the importance of prisoner populations having a voice, "The *Solano Vision* is that voice. It is

my hope that the *Solano Vision* provides information, becomes a resource to reference and a voice in the night. I want it to be a meaningful and thoughtful publication."

Bienek and the writing team want to give prisoners a voice to express concerns, hopes and dreams represented in a meaningful way.

The *Vision's* team of writers and editors includes Bienek and former *San Quentin News* Staff Writer Kris Himmelberger. The staff also includes Photo Editor Steve Drown, Managing Editor Wendell Bigelow, who offers legal expertise, and Copy Editor Greg Coglianese. A journalism guild also contributes stories of sports, entertainment, and commentary on prison life.

One notable *Vision* article featured former Solano prisoner James "Alex" Alexander. He paroled and later was recognized by the Dalai Lama as one of the "Unsung Heroes of Compassion." This story was subsequently featured in a CDCR newsletter and by the



Photo by CDCR

The staff of *Solano Vision*

Alternatives to Violence Project.

Prisoner-run newspapers are not new in California. The *San Quentin News's* roots date back to the 1920s. California Men's Colony of San Luis Obispo once had a newspaper, R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility

and Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla also publish a newsletter.

Newsletters are reviewed by prison officials and are recognized by CDCR as "... positive programs that help prepare inmates for successful returns to their communities by fostering

writing and communication skills."

Like the *San Quentin News*, the *Vision* operates without state funding, so donations of equipment and time are welcome. To learn more about *Solano Vision* call (707) 451-0182.

Joint Venture Winds Up With Final Checks

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

Victim advocacy representatives came into San Quentin, accompanied by Marin County District Attorney Edward Berberian, to receive the last victim compensation checks from Joint Venture company Labcon.

"This is the last check presentation for us. We stopped working up here about eight to nine months ago because the company moved from San Rafael to Petaluma," Labcon president Jim Happ said at the Oct. 19 ceremony.

For 23 years Labcon was a successful Joint Venture program in San Quentin. Joint Venture legislation—passed in 1990 under Proposition 139—provides incarcerated Americans the opportunity to learn job skills, earn comparable wages, give back to the community and prepare for reentry, according to California Prison Industry Authority Administrator Rusty Bechtold.

"Our number one product is offenders who don't come back. That's why I do what I do," Bechtold added.

Joint Ventures participants' paychecks are divided into five slices, including federal, state, and local taxes, 20 percent room and board, 20 percent Inmate Trust Account, 20 percent Mandatory Savings and 20 percent Victims Compensation.

"It's not just about the mon-



Photo by Sam Heames

Labcon joint venture and Warden R. Davis present checks to D.A. Edward Berberian and victims' advocacy organizations

ey we raise for the victims," said Happ. "For a guy to get out with \$8-10 thousand in the bank, that's a big difference from \$200 bucks."

Representatives from three victims' advocacy organizations attended the small ceremony and received \$3,700.76 each from the mandatory victim compensation deductions. The funds must be spent on services for the victims of crime.

Warden Ron Davis said, "I selected them because they met our criteria and requirements."

"Our program will use these funds to continue bringing program services to the children," Dr. Michael Grogan, executive director of Jeannette Prandi Children's Center.

Berberian said, "It is so important to get to these kids and help them. Money such as this will go to services to support them in that therapy context."

The Children's Center is a child-abuse-intervention program located in San Rafael. Grogan works with Berberian and the police to guide where

cases go.

Co-chair volunteers Natasha Singh and Kim Tsuchimoto represented the Center for Domestic Peace.

"This really gives us tremendous hope because we can't end violence unless we do it together. This check will buy women and children months of safety, and it buys something more profound—hope," Singh said.

"The money would help stop Marin County's number one crime, domestic violence," Tsuchimoto said.

New Execution Drug to Receive Public Comment in January

Continued from Page 1

Since the 1980s many states in the U.S. have conducted executions using a three-drug "cocktail." However, the European Union has forbidden manufacturers to sell their products to the U.S. if the drugs are to be used in capital punishment.

The botched 2015 execution of Charles F. Warner in Oklahoma, along with lawsuits in various states against three-drug executions, has led states across the country to switch to one-drug executions. All this comes after the U.S. Supreme Court, earlier this year, refused to block Oklahoma from using a controversial chemical as part of its three-drug protocol for lethal injections.

California's proposal for a one-drug procedure was submitted on Nov. 6 in order to meet a court-imposed deadline on the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), which had been sued by the families of murder victims who accused the state of dragging its feet on executions.

If the proposed one-drug procedure is implemented, 16 condemned men who have exhausted their appeals could be issued death warrants. The condemned men's convictions occurred between 1981 and 1989. They range in age from the oldest, 78 (Royal Hayes), to the youngest, 49 (Tiequon Cox).

The proposed execution method would require San



CDCR Photo

Tiequon Cox

Quentin's warden to choose one of the following lethal barbiturates: pentobarbital, amobarbital, secobarbital or thiopental, depending on which drug is available.

One-drug executions might cost slightly more than \$185,000 per condemned prisoner, including the cost of drugs and the staff time needed to carry out the procedure.

The CDCR commented that the 2005 execution of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, founder of the "Crips" gang, was the costliest in the state's history. Before the execution, all state prisons were "placed on lockdown alert status and extra security measures were implemented," due to William's high-profile status. According to the department, while it is possible that future executions could require this level of cost, it is not indicative of the average cost associated with an execution.

Prior to a scheduled execution, a sanity review of the condemned prisoner is conducted. Thereafter, the

prisoner receives his or her requested last meal, gives instructions on what to do with personal property and disposal of remains, along with burial arrangements. If the prisoner resists the execution, a use-of-force procedure is set in place.

In order to carry out executions, CDCR must create and train a Lethal Injection Team that comprises a minimum of 12 members.

The Intravenous Sub-Team (IST) would have a minimum of four members. The IST places the one-drug injection needles in the appropriate veins and places the heart monitor on the condemned prisoner.

The Infusion Sub-Team prepares the one-drug barbiturate according to the manufacturer's directions. At least one of the four members must be a physician, physician's assistant, pharmacist, registered nurse, emergency medical technician, paramedic or medic.

The Record Keeping Sub-Team (RKST) consists of a minimum of four members and is tasked with the countdown to beginning the injections, keeping a log and documenting each step of the execution.

Inside the execution chamber will be three color-coded trays, consisting of 7.5 grams of the one-drug barbiturate chosen by the warden.

Tray A, color-coded red, is the primary source of the lethal injection drug. Tray B, colored-coded blue, is a backup tray. Tray C, color-coded

yellow, is an alternate backup tray.

Each tray has six color-coded syringes, five of which contain the one-drug barbiturate and one syringe containing a saline flush.

According to the proposed procedure, if all six syringes from Tray A have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the warden orders the backup syringes from Tray B. If the syringes from Tray B have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the alternate backups from Tray C would be administered.

In the event all six syringes from Tray C have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the warden orders the preparation of five additional syringes of the one-drug barbiturate.

In the event all five syringes have been administered, 10 minutes have elapsed and death has not been declared, the warden orders the preparation of a second set of five additional syringes of the one-drug barbiturate for the execution to be carried out.

After the condemned prisoner expires, the warden reads a prepared statement via the public address system notifying the witnesses the execution is complete.

The media is to be notified by the warden about an hour after the execution that the sentence has been carried out,

including the time of death, along with any statement by the condemned prisoner.

There are procedures to "ensure the inmate's body is placed with care and dignity into a postmortem bag pending removal as pre-arranged with the contract mortuary."



CDCR Photo

Royal Hayes

Public Comment Period:

Written comments about the proposed regulation must be submitted by January 7, 2016, 5:00 p.m. to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and RPMB, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001, by fax to (916) 324-6075, or by e-mail to LL.comments@cdcr.ca.gov.

Public Hearing:
January 22, 2016 - 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Department of Health Care Services
East End Complex - The Auditorium
1500 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95814

Shakespeare Inspires Inmate Plays on Prison Life

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

A prison chapel served as a theater for San Quentin inmates as they revealed some of the hardest parts of prison life through performances inspired by Shakespearean plays.

Inmates performed a total of 16 acts in their October showcase, "Parallel Play: Original Theater Inspired by Shakespeare," in the San Quentin State Prison Protestant Chapel. About 100 Bay Area community members and 50 inmates and prison staff made up the audience.

"These performances are ripe with vulnerability, honesty, creativity and wisdom," director Suraya Keating wrote in the play's program. Keating noted that the plays invited the audience to reflect on the men's real-life experiences through Shakespearean themes like manhood, loyalty and betrayal.

Inmate Eric Durr opened the show with comedy based on themes from Macbeth and Julius Caesar. After some laughs, the stage was set for serious drama. Performances included *Highs and Lows* by Le'Mar "Maverick" Harrison and *Growing Pains* by Andres Yancy.

Some inmates served as both actors and writers. Chris Marshall Sr. was incarcerated in 2001 and arrived at San Quentin in 2010. He is serving a life sentence under the Three Strikes Law. His third strike was forgery. He never considered pursuing the arts until joining Shakespeare at San Quentin and deciding to write a piece for performance.

"With the arts, I must open

myself thoroughly to an audience," Marshall said. "I've never done that before. It caused me to be authentic."

Marshall wrote a piece titled *Power of the Pronoun* about transgender inmates.

"The most disadvantaged people in the prison system are transgender females," Marshall said. "I got to know two transgender females, and they allowed me to tell their story."

Actor Jarvis "Lady Jae" Clark, a transgender inmate, said *Power of the Pronoun* conveyed a message of tolerance and acceptance — "to look beyond the person's appearance and see the spirit, not just the shell of the person."

Clark said the theater group offers her an opportunity to humanize herself to other inmates.

"I'm not this transgender just running around here," she said. "I have emotions. This allows me to show that I'm human."

The event inspired audience members who visited from outside the prison walls. Bay Area native Stan Urban said the first time he came inside San Quentin was on a field trip in 1971 as a high school student.

"It was a very different place than it is today," Urban said. "What I see here today is incredible."

Steve Emrick, the prison's community partnership manager, was happy that community members were able to witness the inmates' success.

"When I see guys come to San Quentin from other institutions — higher levels — and perform here, it's a big reward for me," Emrick said. "Also rewarding is to see people who've never been in here see the talent and energy and be able to

compare it with what they see from the outside. The arts allow inmates to address these issues and say, 'I'm an actor. I'm an artist.' They are finding who they are at their core."

The show ended with a question and answer session. Many audience members asked about the interaction between the inmates and women volunteers, since the Shakespeare at San Quentin program is conducted by females.

"It seems that it takes a lot of courage," said Lisa from the audience. "Were you worried about saying something controversial?"

Lesley Currier of *Marin Shakespeare* a volunteer, responded to these queries, saying that the program allows inmates to practice male/female working relationships.

"In here, it's a hard life," inmate/actor Azraal Ford said. "Theater is like stepping out of the comfort zone. You begin to question yourself. They are used to seeing me as a brutal Viking type of person. Doing theater allows me to return to myself. However, I still question myself: How will my peers see me when I'm known as the tattooed monster? So what I've done to step out of my comfort zone is not to just stick my foot in the water; I just jumped in."

Another audience member asked about the common themes of violence and masculinity in many of the performances.

"It's how we've learned masculinity," inmate/actor Adnan Khan said. "We've learned masculinity through violence. After being in this program, we're learning that masculinity is being sensitive and caring — which are definitions that we didn't consider before."



Photo by Sam Hearnes

An improv scene of "What Would You Do" depicting a friend (Antwan Williams) robbing (Azraal Ford)

Inmate/actor John Windham added, "Masculinity comes from understanding self. It's not about what other people think of me; it's what I think about myself. In the past, we let other people define who we are. Now, it's about who I know I am. It's time for me to be me. Masculinity includes loving, care, empathy, respect — it's all these that defines being a man for me."

San Quentin's theater program is sponsored by *Marin Shakespeare Company*. Currier hosts training workshops, *Shakespeare for Social Justice*, where community members learn to guide inmates to

use their performances as a form of therapy and rehabilitation.

Shakespeare at San Quentin was established in 2003. It can be supported by contacting Currier at (415) 499-4485 or lesley@marinshakespeare.org or Marin Shakespeare Company; P.O. Box 4053; San Rafael, CA 94913; www.marinshakespeare.org.

Music for the event was provided by: John Holiday, congas; Allen "Squirrel" Ware, keyboard; Charles "Ceeboo" King, drums; "Funky" Walker, bass. *Don't Cry For Me* was performed by Maverick and Banks.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Andres Yancy (middle) throws his hands up to signify that not speaking about AIDS doesn't make it less real

The 16 original acts were:

- Razed by the State*: Ronell Draper
- Highs and Low*: Le'Mar "Maverick" Harrison
- Power of the Pronoun*: Chris Marshall
- The Downfall of Relationships in America*: Jason "Jay" Green
- Crossroads*: Le'Mar "Maverick" Harrison
- Unbreakable Bonds*: Antwan "Banks" Williams
- Carry On*: Richie Morris
- Growing Pains*: Andres Yancy
- Cooking with Hope*: Nicola Bucci
- Life or Death*: Le'Mar "Maverick" Harrison
- A Man's World*: Emile DeWeaver
- The Phoenix Rises, The Phoenix Falls*: Azraal Ford
- When All Is Said and Done*: Nythell "Nate" Collins
- Dancing with Demons Under a Pale Moon*: Maurice "Reese" Reed
- Changing Face*: Anouthinh "Choy" Pangthong and Jason "Alias" Jones
- The Voices From Within*: Belize Villafranco

Golden State Warriors Return With an Attitude

'Their biggest accomplishment is letting everybody know who the real Warriors are'

Continued from Page 1

in September. After news reports of Head Coach Steve Kerr's injury and back surgery, it wasn't clear if the game would happen at all. Later, the whole team was cleared to come in Oct. 23. Word spread like wildfire on the yard.

San Quentin Warriors Montrell Vines and Brad Shells were shooting jump shots at 9 a.m. Point guard Joshua Burton swept the surface of the blue-green basketball court, equipped with uneven opposite rims. San Quentin's play-by-play announcer, Aaron "Harun" Taylor, scrambled to get the PA system working with the help of Ben Ford.

At around 11 a.m., Bob Myers, the Golden State Warriors general manager, led his team onto the Lower Yard with a glint of determination in his eyes. After losing last year's game by four points, this year was his. By the end of the game, Myers had dropped 43 points and subbed out with six minutes still on the clock.

The Golden State team had just returned to the Bay Area at 1:30 a.m. from a week-long pre-season road trip. Still, many of them showed up.

"We love coming in. So, we made it work. I think for us to show up lets everyone here know you are important, no matter where you are in life," said Myers pre-game.

The San Quentin Warriors lost 99-76 to Golden State, the team that has won everything this year including the D-League Championship and NBA Championship. Additionally, player Stephen Curry won League MVP, Myers won NBA Executive of the Year and Andre Iguodala won the Finals MVP.

"We were ready. We were hungry," said Kirk Lacob, the Golden State assistant general manager. "We wanted the Triple Crown—the NBA title,



Photo by Eddie Herena

Golden State Warriors and Staff with the San Quentin Warriors and referees

the D-League title and the San Quentin title."

Before the game, San Quentin Warrior Head Coach Daniel Wright welcomed Golden State's crew, including former NBA players turned coaches Luke Walton and Jarron Collins, Marreese "Mo Buckets" Speights, Kent and Kirk Lacob, Julian Mills, James Laughlin, Nick Uren and Chris Demarco. Collins coached the game.

"Their biggest accomplishment is letting everybody know who the real Warriors are," joked Wright.

San Quentin started off strong with the support of over 300 inmates and about 20 staff members. They won the opening tip and Harry "ATL" Smith made their first two baskets as turnovers.

Then Myers picked up his game. He nailed six three-pointers against the zone de-

fense and scored inside. Myers also had 5 blocks and 2 steals on defense.

However, Myers had help. Kirk Lacob made 4 three-pointers and finished with 13 points and 4 assists. Kent finished with 11 total points. Demarco added 23 points and 11 rebounds.

San Quentin's Allan McIntosh answered with back-to-back long-range shots. He made 6 threes, finishing with 25 points. Teammate Jason Jones added 12 points with 8 assists and 4 steals.

At halftime, Myers addressed the crowd.

"(Iguodala) was selfless and humble and ready when called and became the MVP of the Championship. I have a saying now 'Beware of the fury of the patient man.' So be ready when your time comes."

Then Myers, Walton, Spei-

ghts and the others chatted with fans like old friends, signed autographs and posed for photos.

"Just having this day and game shows that anything in life is possible," said Vines

While the game was in full swing, Fresno City College basketball Head Coach Ed Madec was touring with his team. They watched for a few minutes.

They saw Walton miss a 10-foot shot, get his own rebound and then miss again.

"Non-shooter!" they heckled.

Walton finished with only 2 points from free throws and 7 assists.

The Fresno team got to see professionals play against incarcerated men, which proved to be a very humbling experience.

"It goes to show how one bad move could land you here," said Jaffery Stillman, a Fresno City forward.

Brittany Owens, a secretary who works on Death Row, said, "It gives incarcerated men hope. It creates a positive vibe, gives them something to look forward to."

Walton shared this sentiment.

"It's great. People in here are locked up but it's great for the mind and heart to do some regular stuff," said Walton.



Photo by Harold Meeks

Kirk Lacob and Bob Myers defending Allan McIntosh



Photo by Harold Meeks

Jason Jones trying to score on Bob Myers

Parole Board Looks Again...OKs Inmate Release

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

A letter from the Board of Parole Hearings saying, "The decision to deny your release has been vacated and your release approved," was how Kacy Lloyd heard the good news.

"I was elated. I couldn't even read the paper; I thought it said the wrong thing. I had to have a neighbor read it to me," said Lloyd.

Lloyd is a non-violent second-striker who has been eligible for parole since a federal court ordered the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to start considering men in his category for release on Jan. 1, 2015.

It wasn't until March 13 that the classification committee reviewed his case. They determined Lloyd met the criteria

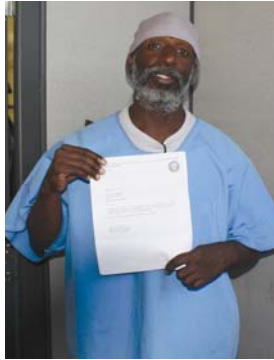


Photo by Brian Asley

Kacy Lloyd

for relief and his file was sent to the board for review—without him being present, which is part of the new process for non-violent second strikers (NVSS).

The BPH denied Lloyd release on April 30 based on its

erroneous finding that he had 10 prior felony convictions, according to a BPH 1047 form. However, in reality, Lloyd had four priors.

"It felt like a door collapsed on me. After doing all the work that I had done, I wondered what else could I do to be considered a candidate?" said Lloyd.

He has completed several self-help groups and vocational programs.

He didn't know what the appeal process was for a second-striker board decision, which is different from regular lifer parole hearings.

Lloyd says he wrote a letter to Jennifer Shaffer, the head of BPH, expressing that he shouldn't have been denied parole based on the period before he was rehabilitated and that the denial was based on inaccurate facts.

Finding there was a mistake

of fact, a new non-violent second-striker hearing was held on Sept. 11 and relief was granted.

"I feel like somebody really took the time to look into what was going on and I feel vindicated and exonerated," said Lloyd. "I was accused of having all these felonies and I knew it wasn't true. I was happy someone impartial stepped up."

"He didn't know what the appeal process was for a second-striker board decision"

The *San Quentin News* published a story about Lloyd's board denial in its September

edition.

Lloyd credits Tony Bebee, principal of the S.Q. Education Department, for taking the time to help him get all his records scanned into his file so it would be there for the board's second review.

Lloyd says he plans to stay out of prison.

"I'm a certified welder now. The first thing I'm doing is going back to my old job with my certifications," said Lloyd. "I don't see for myself anything other than working and having a family. When I was younger, I thought there was something out in the streets that I was missing, but it was just a lot of hype. Hype is only momentary."

He believes that every group he completed will help him on the outside, saying, "The pieces added up from each group I've taken."

Restoring Rap Music Back to Its Original Purpose

'It's a 700-lb gorilla that is out of control'

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

What can be done to return mainstream rap music back to its positive roots? The Yard Talk panel discussed how this could happen.

Eric Curtis: "We understand someone will always do what others want for enough money, but there is a way to force them to produce positive music. They either go with the flow or we close their doors."

Antwan Williams: "You can't take it back. It needs a re-birth; it needs to start all over. What you can do is start fresh, start a whole new buzz, a new crowd. If your car is broke, buy a new one. Don't try to fix something that don't want to be fixed."

Marcus Henderson: "It's

Yard Talk

about getting back to our true nature which is our community."

John "Yahya" Johnson: "It's a 700-lb gorilla that is out of control and the guns we working with are ineffective. You have to change society's thinking and make the life they're glorifying look less shiny. Products go in and out of season. We change the thinking and the industry will go with it."

Williams: "You change the game by telling your story. I don't care about how much you talk about killing; if you are on the street, you ain't killing people. Really living that life consumes you. If you're work-

ing hard to feed your kids, talk about that. If you just lost your mother and father, talk about that. There are more people who relate to that than who has the newest Bentley or 'I'm popping this bottle.' That's how you change the game."

Johnson: "All the materials on the web have made the world smaller so people are able to see clearer. They are more enlightened."

Marcus Henderson: "We lost control of the stations. BET sold out. We can always buy something else."

Rapper KRS1 said that rap music was the voice of Black people, back in the early '90s on his *Edutainment* album.

Maybe that is becoming true again.

Several music superstars, led by Jay Z, have created Tidal, an online music streaming service. They include Paul McCartney, Beyonce, Rihanna, Kanye West, Madonna, Pharrell and others. Online streaming gives artists the opportunity to deliver their music straight to audiences. However, the question remains: what are they going to do with that ability? Will the music focus on more responsible, positive themes or remain the same?

Kendrick Lamar has taken a step in the right direction with his album, *To Pimp a Butterfly*. Despite the explicit language used, he speaks on real social issues. In *The Blacker the Berry*, he raps about being

a hypocrite for crying when Trayvon Martin was killed, while gangbanging had him trying to kill Black men too. On "I" he argues that using the N-word is justified because it stems from the Ethiopian title Negus, which means king, ruler, or emperor.

In conclusion, the panel anticipates the *All Lives Matter* movement will take rap music along with it. They see promise in songs like "Feeling Black" by the Dream and "Glory" by John Legend and Common. Talent rappers like Lecrae and San Quentin's Williams ("Banks") demonstrate that the music can be aggressive and real without being negative.

There is hope yet.

-Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story

Revisiting the Most Memorable Winter Holidays

By **Angelo Falcone**
Journalism Guild Writer

"If you could go back in time and repeat a winter holiday season, how old would you be? Where would you be? Who would you be with?" The men on the mainline had interesting responses:

Sam Johnson: "I would be eight years old again. I would be with my brother in Charleston, South Carolina. We were trying to see Santa Claus, but we had fallen asleep the previous year. We were determined that year and stayed up late. At about 12 midnight, we found out who Santa was. It was our mom and dad. All our lives, we thought Santa was a White guy with a beard. We found out that everything we got was from mommy and daddy. Raising my kids, I told them that Santa Claus is mommy and daddy."

Philip Senegal: "It would be 1986. I would be 19 years old again. It would be in Oakland, California. I was with a young lady named Philis. I would go

Asked On The Line

back not just to relive that time, but to go back to make it better for her. She was pregnant with my first daughter."

William Tolbert: "I would be 10 years old again in Oklahoma. I would be with my mom during Christmas time. She had a tradition of telling us folk tales and we'd drink hot chocolate. The scene would be a Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights. It was the most carefree time in my life."

Matthew Nguyen: "I estimate that it would be 1993 or 1994. I was in second or third grade, eight or nine years old. It was Christmas Eve at a Catholic Church with my family and Santa Claus was giving out toys to all the kids."

Raymond Bodine: "I would go back to New Year's Eve in 1982. I was totally alone at my farm in Tulare County. I had met my wife on a New Year's Eve, but my wife and kids had left me a year earlier in 1981

and moved to Oregon. I would change that moment and be with someone instead of being alone."

Somdeng Thongsy: "I would go back to 1993. I was 13 and it was Thanksgiving. I was with my family. Everyone in my family was there and I was very happy."

Syren Hong: "I was nine years old in Long Beach, California. I was with my mom, sister, my younger brother, my four aunts, three uncles, and my grandparents. I was happy because we had three turkeys."

Sam Hearn: "It's 1995, Christmas Day. I was 18 years old and my dad dropped me off at my daughter's great-grandmother's house. If I could go back and relive that day again, I would spend time with grandmother in Fresno, California."

Christopher Marshall: "It was 1995. The first time I had

Christmas with my daughter. I was in Long Beach, California. We visited my parents and grandparents."

Eddie Herena: "I would go back to when I was 21. I was living in San Jose with

my girlfriend. It was my first Christmas living independently and not confined or having to answer to anyone. I had my own place and my own money. It was the best Christmas ever."

December is the last of seven months in the year with 31 days. This year, December has five Tuesdays, five Wednesdays, and five Thursdays.

According to the World Almanac, December is Universal Human Rights Month, National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, National Tie Month, National Colorectal Cancer Education and Awareness Month.

The Winter Solstice, or first day of winter, is on Mon., Dec. 21, Christmas Eve is on Thu., Dec. 24, Christmas Day is on Fri., Dec. 25, Kwanzaa begins on Sat., Dec. 26 and New Year's Eve is on Thu., Dec. 31. A full moon is expected on Fri., Dec. 25 (Christmas Day).

For members of the Jewish community, Hanukkah begins at sundown on Sun., Dec. 6 and for the Christian community, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, is observed on Tue., Dec. 8, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe takes place on Sat., Dec. 12, and the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph takes place on Sun., Dec. 27.

There are two astrological signs in December: Sagittarius, the sign of the Archer (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) and Capricorn, the sign of the Goat (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). The Birthstone for the month of December is the Turquoise or Zircon.

The Bad and Good News About 'Empire'

Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

MOVIE REVIEW

The most popular show on FOX widens the racial divides in America every Wednesday at 9 p.m. *Empire* tells the story of Lucious Lyon, a hip-hop music mogul played by Terrence Howard, who's as cold and murderous as a Roman emperor conquering continents.

Some White viewers may not have another frame of reference for marginalized groups struggling to escape poverty. When these viewers contemplate what it is to be a minority in America, they can only draw their knowledge from what they've observed regarding minorities.

That's true even if their observations come from a ridiculous television show. The show's portrayals are a greater disservice to minorities because studies show that viewers of color are in danger of internalizing the negative stereotypes glorified by *Empire*.

Members of S.Q. Reviews have talked about *Empire* on the *Justice Show* (90.7 KALX), a project from the University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Many



of us feel conflicted about the show.

Though we object to how *Empire* characterizes minorities, we're grateful that the popular show employs so many actors of color in an industry that historically excluded minorities from central roles.

S.Q. Reviews meets in the lot between the Education Department and the *San Quentin News* to discuss *Empire*.

"The last scene was stupid," says Juan Meza. "Why would you put a dead body in the district attorney's car?"

Meza refers to the scene where

the district attorney, who is out to bring down Lyons' empire, finds a dead body in her passenger seat and screams. Raasaan Thomas explains that the dead man is a former witness against Lyons. She hid the fact that he was missing, so that she could execute search warrants under the premise to harass Lyons.

"Now that the D.A. has the body, she can't say he's missing," Thomas says.

"Yeah ..." Meza shakes his head. "If it's about that, they could've dropped that body anywhere."

"They could have done that," Thomas says. "But then, it wouldn't have been *Empire*."

"Exactly!" I shoot forward on my seat. I rant about how irresponsible it is to frame an African-American's struggle against a historically hostile authority with a dead body that reduces a district attorney to hysterics.

"It would be a regular soap, just like *Dallas*, if they had better writing," says Meza. "I think it's the dialogue. They're stereotyping the way people speak. His kids didn't grow up poor or struggling. They've had the best education money can buy, but two of them talk and act like

they're from the hood."

"You're onto something," I say. "Last week, after listening to me for 30 seconds, a well-intentioned volunteer told me that I don't talk like I belong in prison. I thought to myself, 'has diction become the standard of criminality?'"

I then say how I meet many people who think I am the exception to the rule of the kind of people who live in prison. I explain how they don't realize how many people with my same story have transformed themselves.

"My exceptionalism in comparison to other incarcerated Americans revolves around my ambition and articulation, but my drive and diction cannot be the measurement of human worth and redemption; yet for many it is," I say. "I'm angry and impotent, and so, yes, ranting about *Empire* and the way Lucious' kids talk has become my outlet."

I fear that if nothing is done to change the kind of images that become popular on television, then there is no chance for changing the result of such portrayals in the streets and among viewers.

Nepal Delegation Embraces Restorative Justice Practice

'I didn't know what forgiveness looked like'

Continued from Page 1

Phoeun You welcomed the group. Prior to the discussion, participants meditated before "checking in" to share how they want to be remembered.

The comments ranged from "kindness," "honesty," "forgiving and forgiven," "lived without judgment" and "forgiveness."

For several hours, the Nepali delegation listened to incarcerated Americans talk about the impact their crimes had on victims, society and themselves. The men also discussed how to heal their victims and themselves in the wake of their offenses.

"I came into the program with an open heart," said Dwayne "Kairi" Reynolds. "I wanted to be open and honest. I was ashamed of the person I had become."

Reynolds said in 1990 he killed his work supervisor. He said his victim's survivor wanted to know who he was.

"I didn't know what forgiveness looked like," said Reynolds. "I was afraid. But when I shook her hand, I cried." He said the victim's survivor forgave him.

"I think satisfaction of healing of the victim is a good outcome and I'm impressed," said Rajendra Khare. "At the last moment when she forgives him that's important, and that he takes responsibility."

Khare listened to Reynolds' story and those of others intently. He studied the group as he jotted down notes to take back with him to Nepal.

"That's just so moving," said Sujata Baliga of Reynolds. "I felt grateful."

IPP Replication Director Sonya Shah said some victims'



Nepal delegation and inmates listen to stories of transformation and solutions to criminal justice problems

Raphael Casale

family members have "mixed feelings" about survivors engaging in dialogue with offenders.

Shah described how victims might sometimes attend a parole hearing and influence how the denial of a release date takes place.

Bimal Pongel was curious about the system of parole, the process of hearings with the parole board and victim-offender reconciliation. He asked, "What does it take to bring victims in here?"

"Victims don't always come to parole hearings," explained Baliga. "Sometimes they send a letter."

Tommy Ross, who has been incarcerated 30 years, said the legal process sometimes leaves victims and offenders faceless and voiceless. By connecting with one of his victims, he was able to relate to the harm he had

caused and to learn empathy.

"It's validating to hear him (Ross) say he needed to hear from his first victim," said Baliga.

"Prior to San Quentin I had no idea what restorative justice was," said Ross. "Restorative justice has allowed me to connect with others. I'm able to see and be seen; hear and be heard."

Isaiah Thompson has been incarcerated for 16 years for attempted murder. He said everyone should be dealt with, victim and offender.

"Our justice systems are retributive, and they're not working," said Thompson. He explained how coming face to face with victims is sometimes therapeutic for both parties. "I saw the look on those people's (victims) faces and realized I was broken," he said.

Thompson shared a story

with the judges: In San Quentin he met the perpetrator of a crime in which his great-uncle was murdered. "I was conflicted," he said. Instead of exacting vengeance, he used restorative justice practices to connect and forgive. "I began healing," he said.

Thompson said the example in his story was important for everyone. "I realized it's no longer our story but the world's story," he said.

Taonga Rolando Ngoma De Leslie asked the men, "What did it take to change?"

"I didn't want to face myself," said Nghiep "Ke" Lam, who has been incarcerated 17 years for murder.

Lam quoted his victim's mother as saying, "Though I laugh and have fun, I'm not truly happy. When I visit my son, I visit a grave."

Lam explained what took

place at his first parole hearing. He was denied parole and told he would be reconsidered in five years.

Lam said VOEG helped him to gain insight, and a victim survivors' panel made him feel the impact he has made on the family of his victim. It was then that he applied himself to making the changes necessary to turn his life around.

At his next parole hearing Lam said his victim's parents made their sentiments known again.

Lam said the mother of his victim wrote a letter to tell him that he "will never know what happiness is." Lam was surprised when he read further, "I want you to know I forgive you," she wrote.

Lam said his victim's father wrote, "I truly believe you are remorseful. I forgive you," adding, "I hope you do well out there."

"The mechanism proves to be so important," said Keshari Raj Pandit. "What happened in the second parole hearing?"

Lam said by applying what he learned in VOEG and restorative justice he has been able to turn his life around. The Board of Parole Hearings recognized it and granted Lam a parole date.

"I've forgiven myself many years ago," said Lam.

At the end of the discussion, everyone stood up from their seats, formed a circle and held hands for a closing thought.

"We don't need a circle to do this," said You. He said it starts at home. He then asked everyone to "check out" and express what they were feeling.

The first comment made was about feeling a "new dimension," the last was on feeling "hopeful."

'Houses of Healing' Helps Transform Lives

By Kathleen Jackson
Contributing Writer

A program called Houses of Healing has helped transform the lives of more than 100 men at San Quentin State Prison.

Chris Gallo, a recent graduate, describes it this way:

"Houses of Healing is a comprehensive look into the self. With discussions on self-understanding, healing relationships, and stress management, this 30-session class instructs on being true to one's core self. Participants learn to identify and deal with their sub-personalities, such as anger, selfishness, control, insecurity, and low self-esteem."

"The Houses of Healing book and course written by Robin Casarjian over 20 years ago are currently implemented in over 200 men and women's prisons across the country," said facilitator Susan Shannon.

"This course is a great class to take for seasoned programmers who would like to go deeper into some of the core teachings of other foremost San Quentin self-help groups, as well as for men new to any program at all."

Some graduates have become master facilitators of other programs. The Houses of Healing groups are limited to 15 or less, and run approximately seven to



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Kathleen Jackson (middle front row) with Houses of Healing participants

nine months.

Father George Williams, the Catholic chaplain at San Quentin, brought the program into The Q. More than 100 men have completed the course and more are on a waiting list.

Here are some comments from students:

"Houses of Healing is a *must* for any lifer who wishes to be

able to express himself better on the impact of his crime, anger, abuse and self-worth." -- Allen

"The program...took me by the hand and led me to my past, which helped me understand the grief, pain, and suffering I created." -- Flavio

"It helped me to maintain an attitude of introspection. It has reinforced my emotional aware-

ness and allowed me to develop relationships I might not have had otherwise." -- Ray

"I learned how to forgive myself. Before I learned that I walked the Earth feeling shame, guilt, and a lot of fear. Once I learned the value of self-forgiveness and how to forgive the sun got brighter and the air cleared. I became whole again." -- Glenns

"It helped me have further understanding in accepting responsibility for my actions." -- Richard

"Houses of Healing is really life-changing." -- Harry

"Thanks to House of Healing, I have been able to connect my childhood trauma to my criminal behavior. I'm filled with joy from what I've learned in this class, and now my life feels very complete." -- Darnell (Mo)

"I know the pains that I have caused will never go away, but now I have a better understanding of where it started from as a child, and I can heal that inner child." -- Lee

"I've learned forgiveness plus how to breathe, to watch the sky, and to meditate. I now think cool thoughts, not just hot ones. I've learned that Houses of Healing isn't just about short time or short-term fixes, but a life change that I must use each day. I thank Houses of Healing for giving me more tools for my tool box of life." John

"The biggest impact for me has been the acknowledgement of those sub-personalities and the realization that they are not a part of my core-self. I am not broken or distorted, but pained by the echo of my past. By following the guided steps, I have been able to resist and re-write my story." -- Chris

Rapper Hercules Cuevas vs. the Raiders Game

By Rahsaan Thomas
San Quentin News Staff

Visiting Christian rapper Hercules Cuevas and inside Graced Out members drew nearly 200 men away from their TV sets, when the Oakland Raiders' was game on.

"Forget the football game, we gonna give God some time," remarked San Quentin resident and Graced Out member Fanon Figgers, the host of the event in the Protestant Chapel.

Cuevas is part of the Victory Outreach Church in Santa Rosa. He is also part of a youth ministry called God's Anointed Now Generation ("GANG").

"God's gang doesn't incarcerate; it sets people free," said Cuevas.

He performed three songs in a passionate fast-paced delivery.

"I don't bang, but I proclaim His name like a gang-banging maniac," rapped Cuevas, using references to his old life of growing up around drugs and gangs.

"Don't come looking for the old me; I killed him, homie," he sang on a song called, *The Old Me is Dead*.

Cuevas also performed raps about doing everything big for God and *Who said Gospel Rap Don't Slap*.

Antwan "Banks" Williams and Lemar "Maverick" Harrison opened the event with *Amen*.

"Thank God I'm not in the cemetery, living only in their memories..." rapped Williams.

At one point, Figgers called Chaplain Mardi Jackson and Graced Out members Derrick Holloway, Dwight Kennedy and Brandon Perez up to the stage.

Perez was due to parole, and

Jackson used the moment to remind him of his calling.

"God has called you to spread the word. We charge you today to go out and take the land. No more old lifestyle; no more old places. God is calling you to newness. There are souls waiting to hear his voice," preached Jackson.

"It's a privilege to be here," said Cuevas. "Not too many

people are able to see this side of San Quentin. You picture gang violence and rape happening, but it's amazing to come in here and see none of that is in this place."

Graced Out's James Metters preformed a rap song called *God is Love*. It talked about transformation through struggles.

"I'm a Christian on a mission,

out the Town (Oakland), out the game. God saved me when I called on His name," rapped Metters in an old school style.

In between the rap acts, Antoine Watie preached from the book of Joshua.

Graced Out's Ferrari Moody closed the event with a sermon about the cost and determination it takes to be a disciple of God.

"The cost of following God may be your reputation," Moody said. "You can't be a gangster and a disciple of God. The very thing you spent building up has to die. If you're going to be in the army of God, you will have to give up something."

Chaplain Jackson said, "I have seen this ministry grow and grow. God is moving in a mighty way with these men."

Fixed Up Bikes Boost At-Risk Kids

By Nyerere Jase
Contributing Writer

A group of women prisoners is refurbishing bicycles to reward at-risk kids who improve grades and school attendance.

"It's a win-win situation," said Kimberly Hughes, warden of the California Institution for Women where the bike project is housed. The women are thrilled about giving back to the community, Warden Hughes added

The prison teams with the Riverside Unified School District, the Riverside Police Department, and other agencies to reward Monroe Elementary kids, reports the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation newsletter.

Recently an event was held at the Central Registration Center in Riverside to honor Monroe Elementary students, which included the Ramirez family's four children who each received refurbished bicycles, helmets and bicycle locks.

Schools Superintendent Dr. David Hansen stated, "In the face of varying circumstances, our students work extremely hard to stay on track. It's great to know that we have

community partners who care so much about the student families of Riverside that they

would reward our students with donations like this."

As of July, the prisoners

have donated 20 bicycles to kids who earned better grades and improved attendance.



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Riverside School District Superintendent David Hansen, Retired Lieutenant Roy Mabry, Associate Director Carrie Antrim, CIW Warden Kimberly Hughes and Mrs. and Mr. Ramirez with children holding their bicycles

Son, Here's the Toast I Could Not Give You...

An OG's Perspective

By Watani Stiner
Contributing Writer

My eldest son turns 50 today (October 25th) and I wrote this in his honor. He celebrated by having a big gathering of family and friends which I would have loved to attend. However, as I am still on parole, I was denied permission to travel to Los Angeles for this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Some of you may not know that once you get out of prison, you're not as "free" as you might think. Parole can last from one year to the rest of your life, and it means you continue to be beholden to the state in many ways. For instance, I can't travel outside of a 50-mile radius from where I am living. I have to submit to a urinalysis test every month even though I have never been convicted of any drug-related charge. I am subject to parole checks where my parole officer comes to inspect how I am living—looking at who I'm hanging out with, assessing my moral rectitude. I have restrictions on who I can or can't associate with. And if I am found in violation of any of these restrictions, I can be immediately returned to San Quentin.

It was a great disappointment to me to not be able to celebrate Larry's 50th birthday in person, but I am hopeful that in this coming year I will be granted passes out of the county to visit not only Larry but my other children and grandchildren. There's no substitute for sitting in a loved one's kitchen, sharing laughter and conversation in person.

A Toast To My Eldest Son on His 50th Birthday!

Maybe some of you don't

know but shortly after Larry Jr. was born, I gave him the special name Kalima. When he got older, he didn't like the name because he felt self-conscious about it; he thought it was a little weird. When his mother started calling him "Lee-Lee" that was the end of it. He decided to just go back to using Larry. Kalima in Swahili means: "One with the spoken word." What I now realize, looking back upon these 50 years, is that what I should have named him is Nzuri Moyo, which means ONE WITH THE BEAUTIFUL HEART!

LIFTING THE GLASS TO BEGIN THE TOAST!

Larry Jr., Nzuri Moyo, first son of Larry Joseph Stiner Sr. (Baba), I am trying to express to you just how proud I am that you were born MY SON, and how much I truly do love you. This cannot be captured in just

a few words or expressed in such a limited amount of space and time! I would need a forum more beautiful than a toast and I certainly would need to be there in person. But since this is your 50th birthday and I am moved to say something of significance and value, let me just say this:

You were born during a turbulent period in history... October 25, 1965—born during the heat and fire of revolutionary social change in this country. It is certainly no secret to you that I spent much of my time as your young father focusing on the big picture, on the "revolution," and not nearly enough time on being a father to you and your brother Shambulia. Imbued with revolutionary zeal and ideals, I left you and went off to save the world! No, I was not there when you and your little brother Shambu-

lia needed a father the most.

By all odds, and verified by so many analyses and statistics, you and your younger brother were doomed to be counted among the casualties of this society. You were predicted to either become addicted to drugs, consumed by the criminal justice system, or found dead from an unsuspecting bullet. Yes, the social deck was stacked against you. You were certainly predicted to be just another defeated young Black man, cast aside, lost or dying on the uncaring streets of Los Angeles.

However, you are one of the survivors!... But you are more than just a survivor. You are one of the too few success stories in the inner cities of America. I cannot (and won't pretend to) take credit for the strong Black man that you have become today. You are someone who has defied and defeated all the odds. I am so very proud of you!

Let me name just a few of the ways I see that beautiful heart in

action: It was you, my son, who, after many years, opened your heart and embraced a father who was not there when you needed him most. It was you who cared for, comforted, and protected your younger brother Shambulia when your father was thousands of miles away, always lifting him up and nurturing his spirit. And it was you who became a big brother to six younger siblings from South America whom you had never met. Yes, it was you, and your big beautiful heart, who have cared for them, given them loving counsel and unselfish advice. And it was you who unashamedly and uncompromisingly have supported and inspired me throughout my 21 years of re-incarceration. Perhaps rarely said by a father to his son, but I truly do consider you my hero!

Now I would LOVE to attribute some of that strength and smartness and good-looks to genetics. But I can only take credit for half of those. For the rest, I have to lift my glass up to my high school sweetheart, mother of my two sons, and give much praise to the woman who not only contributed her excellent DNA but—much more importantly—had to endure and shoulder all of the responsibility. A strong Black woman who sacrificed so much, and who had to be both rock and pillow during my absence. I want to honor your mother "Hodari," without whom you could not have become the wonderful human being you have become. And after the wonderful example she set, you went on to choose another strong and extraordinary woman to be your partner in life, Diane. I lift my glass to both of those praiseworthy women.

So, I wish you blessings without number and all good things without end. Happy 50th birthday KALIMA, my Son!



Photo provided by Watani Stiner

Watani Stiner and his son Larry Stiner Jr.

...Thanks, Dad, But How Far Have We Come?



Photo provided by Watani Stiner

Larry Stiner Jr.

By Larry Stiner Jr.
Contributing Writer

Happy 50th Birthday: But How Far Have We Really Come?

On October 25th of this year, I joined Club 50 as my born day arrived and a large group of family members and friends launched into a soulful rendition of the happy birthday song.

It would be the 50th time in my life that this song would be sung in my honor. My father would miss 46 of those times not by choice but rather due to circumstances. You see, prison and exile had kept him away from those he loved as he paid a heavy price for confronting a racist, discriminatory and unjust part of society. So even as I sipped champagne, posed for photos and danced the night away in celebration of my special day, I thought of my father while questioning how far we had really come in terms of racial equality over the five decades of my life.

Born shortly after the Watts revolt in 1965, I came into the world just as the smoke from the burning Los Angeles area buildings cleared and a new type of fire was sparked in the spirit of young men and women who were ready to fight for change. The Black Power movement swept my father up and eventually led to my mother raising my younger brother and I alone as Dad focused almost exclusively on the necessary task of fighting to make things

right for our people. That revolutionary struggle landed him in San Quentin State Prison in 1969 with a life sentence and left me growing up wondering if I'd ever see him again. In the years that followed, he would escape from prison, flee the country and start a new family while living for 20 years in exile. In 1994, he would voluntarily surrender and return to prison in an attempt to save that new family from a life of extreme hardship as times grew drastic in the third world country he had made his home. He would serve another 21 years of incarceration in the same prison he had escaped from. That brings me to the milestone year of 2015. During this year, I celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary, my 30th year of employment with the City of Los Angeles and my 50th year on this Earth. And just after turning 50 years old, I found myself being most thankful for my father being released from prison nine months before I blew out the candles on my birthday cake. Yes, it had been a wonderful year full of incredible high points. Still, I couldn't

help but feel like more progress should have been made over the 600 months of my life. How far have we really come in the last 50 years?

The Watts rebellion had been sparked by police officers' mistreatment of a Black motorist and others at the scene of a traffic stop on August 11, 1965. More than 26 years later, on the night of March 3, 1991, the brutal beating of Black motorist Rodney King by several White police officers was caught on tape. With every television news station airing the recording, I watched in utter disbelief and anger as the police batons repeatedly slammed against all parts of this man's defenseless body. As Rodney rolled about in slow motion on the street taking this harsh beating, I noticed there were also many cops standing by and simply watching this battering take place. As if it were just a normal occurrence on the job, no attempt was made to by any of these badge-wearing onlookers to stop this atrocious act. Despite this all being captured by the camera lens of a filming citizen, a jury

acquitted the officers who faced charges of assault with a deadly weapon. This verdict set off the L. A. Rebellion on April 29, 1992. Eventually, the National Guard was called in to deal with the uprising just as it had been called in to do the same during the Watts rebellion. And today, more than 20 years after Los Angeles was set ablaze for a second time in protest; we are still seeing police brutality and the use of excessive force time and time again in Black communities. Once more, I ask, how far have we really come in the last 50 years?

As disappointed as I am with the slow process of change, I must still salute those who have sacrificed so much and sought to make a difference. So as others sing happy 50th birthday to me, I deem it necessary to say happy belated 50th birthday to the Watts revolt and to the revolutionary spirit that was born out of that uprising. Fifty years from now, whether I'm blessed enough to blow the candles out on another cake or not, I pray that things will be vastly different for the generations to come.

HIGHER EDUCATION GAINS TRACTION

By Forrest Lee Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

New emphasis is being placed on educating prisoners to help them succeed when they are freed the *Wall Street Journal* reports.

"It's a worthwhile use of money, and it's going to do what we want it to," said philanthropist Doris Buffett. Her Sunshine Lady Foundation and the Ford Foundation have contributed millions of dollars to programs that allow prisoners the chance to earn a college education.

A 2013 study by the Rand Corp. found that inmates who participated in education programs, including college courses, had significantly lower odds of returning to prison than inmates who didn't.

San Quentin State Prison serves as a model for college classes that are making a difference in prisoners' lives and are viewed as a wise invest-

ment by corrections educational staff and students.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation in June that includes \$12 million to promote statewide priorities, including college classes in state prisons. These classes could begin as soon as this fall.

"Spending money on college education of prisoners is a practical use of funds; it's a sound investment. Many students have graduated from these programs and are pursuing higher education," said Grant Young, college coordinator for San Quentin inmates.

Young oversees correspondence courses for Coastline Community College, Feather River and Lassen Community Colleges that offer Associate of Arts degrees, and The Ohio State University and Colorado State University that offer bachelor's degrees.

"It's very important to invest into (California) prisoners. A good way for that to happen is



Photo by
Dr. Jody Lewen

through our academic and vocational programs," said San Quentin Vice Principal of Education Michael Wheelless.

The renewed emphasis on prison education comes on the heels of Congress cutting public funds for prisoners in the 1990s. Prisoners received \$34 million in Pell Grants in

1993, the year before Congress made inmates ineligible for them based upon information provided by the Department of Education to Congress.

Critics say cutting those funds seems to have a link to an increase in the prison population because of parolees returning to prison. Between the mid-1990s and 2013, the U.S. prison population doubled to more than 2 million inmates, many of them repeat offenders, according to Justice Department figures.

A Volunteer Educational Program and college student, Michael Calvin Holmes, is enrolled in Feather River College correspondence courses. The college offers Business Certification and Associate Arts and Behavioral Science Emphasis degrees.

"It gives me direction in my life, and has opened up doors of opportunity for me," Holmes said in an interview. "After I receive my degree, I will start

a business, which will give me and my family stability."

Jody Lewen, founder of the privately funded Prison University Project at San Quentin, sees more dialogue increasing around funding college education in prison.

"All these things are coming together and creating a higher tolerance for this conversation," said Lewen.

An example of the benefits of a college education in prison is Patrick Mims, 51. He received an associate degree through PUP in 2009.

He was paroled after serving 20 years for fatally stabbing a man during a fight. Since his release, Mims created a program in Contra Costa County to combat human trafficking at a nonprofit group and now helps ex-offenders transition back into communities.

"I wouldn't have been able to do that if I hadn't learned how to write and critically think," said Mims.

'Education Is Essential for Jailed Juveniles'

James R. Abernathy Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Incarcerated juvenile offenders are in great need of high-quality education, a federal report says.

Notre Dame Lecturer Speaks on the Effect Of Mass Incarceration

By Lee Jaspas
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 2 million people are locked up in seriously flawed American prisons that need extensive reforms, says lecturer Martin F. Horn.

"The consequence of imprisonment goes well beyond the walls of the prison. They affect the children, families and neighborhoods in which the imprisoned live and the political and economic dynamics of these communities as well," Horn said in a lecture on human dignity given in the Center for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

"More than 10,000 children are in adult prisons and jails, and over 2.7 million have a parent in prison or jail," Horn added.

"Crime and imprisonment affect discrete sections of our communities. Prisoners in every jurisdiction come from just a small number of communities, mostly concentrated in the poorest neighborhoods with the least resources and the most problems of health, housing and nutrition," Horn said.

"One cannot divorce the discussion of imprisonment from the discussion of race in our country. As a result of federal census rules and federal funding schemes, we redirect money away from communities in need to prison communities and through discriminatory voting rules we diminish the

"Providing youths with quality educational services during incarceration is essential to keeping them engaged in their education and focused on their futures," reported the U.S. Department of Education (ED), and

the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). There are more than 2,500 juveniles in residential facilities across the U.S. This presents unique challenges to administrators, teachers and staff who are responsible for the rehabilitation and welfare of youths committed to their care, the December 2014 report states.

The ED and DOJ have recommended guiding principles conducive to providing high-quality education in juvenile secure-care settings such as:

A safe, healthy facility-wide climate that prioritizes education for learning and encourages the necessary behavioral and social support services that address the individual needs of all youths

Necessary funding to support educational opportunities for all youths within long-term secure facilities

Recruitment, employment and retention of qualified education staff with skills relevant in juvenile justice

Rigorous and relevant curricula aligned with state academic and career and technical

education standards that utilize instructional methods, tools, materials and practices that promote college and career readiness

involvement in the child welfare system," reported the ED and DOJ.

Research provides compelling evidence of the negative effects on youths of long-term commitments to juvenile justice secure care facilities.

For example, experiencing incarceration as a youth greatly increases the likelihood of re-offending.

The change in focus to strength-based positive youth development approaches could represent a major organizational shift for juvenile justice agencies.

It is the responsibility of government at every level to work with communities and secure care facilities to ensure that youths are provided every opportunity to rehabilitate and successfully re-enter society.

"This report is but a first step toward mobilizing collective action to ensure that all secure care settings can become true engines of hope, opportunity and advancement for some of our most at-risk young people," said the ED and DOJ. "As a nation, we must do no less."

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"Providing youths with quality educational services during incarceration is essential"

Formal processes and procedures through statutes, memoranda of understanding and practices that ensure successful navigation across child-serving systems and smooth re-entry into communities

In 2011, there were more than 60,000 youths detained or committed to juvenile justice residential and secure care facilities.

"Many of these youths have experienced abuse or neglect, unsafe neighborhood environments, homelessness and/or in-

Report Highlights Congress Push for Bipartisan Criminal Justice Reform

By Tommy Bryant
Journalism Guild Writer

A bipartisan push for criminal justice reform is echoing through the halls of Congress.

Democrats and Republicans are realizing that drug rehabilitation programs could have avoided ballooning costs and saved many lives ruined by lengthy prison terms, *The New York Times* reports.

Nearly one in three Americans have an arrest record, and one in every 132 Americans is in prison or on parole, said Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J. "No nation on Earth has imprisoned this many of its own people," Booker added.

Former Democratic President Bill Clinton addressed an NAACP gathering recently, saying legislation he signed went too far for far too long. He disavowed part of a crime bill that sent criminals with minor offenses to prison. At the time he signed the bill, it was considered a major achievement for domestic policy, the newspaper reported July 28.

"We've got a lot of people in prison, frankly, that don't really in my view need to be there," stated former House Speaker John A. Boehner, a Republican.

The rise in prisoners has been a direct outgrowth of changes in sentencing laws,

said Shannon Dolovich, a law professor and sentencing expert at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Democrats and Republicans dropped up the "War on Drugs" and increased in crime throughout the 1970s and '80s, which created tougher sentencing, the newspaper noted.

The ideas suggested for the "SAFE Justice Act" is evidence-based with data from "32 states that have already reduced both their crime rate and their prison rate in the last five years, with a cumulative cost savings exceeding \$5 billion," according to Reps. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wisc., and Robert C. Scott, D-Va.

1. Bismarck, N.D.— “There are too many inmates and not enough capacity,” said Leann Bertsch, director of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, *The Associated Press* reports. Prison administrators blame the state’s overcrowded prisons on people coming to the state to work on the oil fields. The prisons are holding 500 more inmates than they are designed to hold, topping 1,800 prisoners. Negotiations are under way to send some inmates to a private prison in Colorado.

2. Oklahoma — Execution of prisoners on the state’s Death Row has been suspended until at least 2016 because of a botched lethal injection last January, *The Associated Press* reports. Attorney General Scott Pruitt has agreed not to seek any execution until 150 days after an investigation is concluded regarding compliance with the state’s protocol for lethal injections

3. Oklahoma — The state’s overcrowded prison system is switching its reliance on private prisons, news.ok.com reports. The state spent \$92.2 million last year, a 16 percent increase over the year before, according to the state Corrections Department. The private prison companies, GEO Group, Inc., and Corrections Corporation of America own or operate five prisons in the state.

4. Marysville, Ohio— [Melissa Etheridge](http://MelissaEtheridge.com) performed a show for about 2,300 women at the Ohio Reformatory for Women after



seeing a video of the women singing one of her songs, *The Columbus Dispatch* reports.

5. Columbus, Ohio — Executions are suspended until at least 2017 while prison officials seek supplies of lethal injection drugs, prison officials reported to *The Associated Press*. Gov. John Kasich extended all executions for 11 inmates scheduled for next year and one scheduled for early 2017. The state’s last execution was January 2014.

6. Augusta, Maine—Prisoner advocates and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union of Maine are protesting

prison rule changes that would limit the ability of inmates to communicate outside of prison, *Bangor Daily News* reports.

7. Richmond, Va. — Seven men awaiting execution on Virginia’s Death Row are receiving more recreation time, *The Associated Press* reports. In addition, the condemned men will be able to go to a room to watch TV, make phone calls, play games, send emails and have contact visits.

8. Washington, D.C. — When prosecutors in a Georgia murder case used racially coded notes, the U.S. Supreme Court was asked to

determine if dismissing potential jurors as a way to discriminate is legal, *The Washington Post* reports. A 2014 *Washington Post-ABC News* poll revealed only one in 10 African-Americans believes minorities receive equal treatment with Whites in the criminal justice system. Six in 10 White Americans had confidence that police treat the races equally.

9. Washington, D.C. — Reductions of pork from the federal prison menu led to cutting it all together for a few weeks, Edmond Ross, a spokesman

for the federal prison system told *The Washington Post*. In the last two years, bacon, pork chops and sausages, were eliminated from the menu, leaving only pork roast.

10. Washington, D.C. — Hillary Clinton, Democratic presidential candidate, said her campaign would no longer take money from private prison companies, campaign spokesperson Xochitl Hinojosa told *ThinkProgress*. The Clinton campaign said the money it has already received from private prison companies will be donated to charity.

11. Montgomery, Ala. — [Beniah Alton Dandridge](http://BeniahAltonDandridge.com) was released from prison after serving nearly 20 years in prison for a 1994 murder. Court records show that there were credible claims of innocence, including his co-defendant’s sworn testimony saying Dandridge was not present at the murder.

12. South Carolina — Seven prison inmates have been sentenced to a combined more than 7,000 days in solitary confinement for a rap video that was placed on the Internet. They made the film in 2014 while in a cell, nydailynews.com reports.

13. Florida — A coalition of 14 human rights groups asked the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate Florida’s prisons, contending that “immediate intervention” is necessary to stop the widespread abuse, neglect, torture and deaths of inmates, the *Miami Herald* reports.

Humane Approach to Solitary Confinement

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Washington State has adopted innovative approaches to treating solitary confinement prisoners more humanely, *The Slate Group* reports.

The changes spearheaded by Bernie Warner resulted in an almost 50 percent drop in the number of people in segregation, from 612 in January 2011 when the program for violent inmates started, to 286 in March 2015, the story reports.

Warner, head of state prisons, was first exposed to inhumane treatments at Walla Walla State Penitentiary 35 years ago, the story notes.

At any time an estimated 80,000 Americans are being held in segregation units for 23 hours a day, in some cases up to 28 years, *The Slate Group* stated.

Solitary confinement is reserved for the “worst of the worst – irredeemable monsters with irrepressible violent tendencies that led officials to conclude it was too dangerous to keep them with the prison’s general population,” the article reported.

“Ultimately 95 percent of (those in solitary confinement) will be released into the community,” said Warner.

Inmates who experience extreme sensory deprivation can start to experience hallucina-

tions, chronic depression and suicidal thoughts, according to a research study conducted by David Lovell, then a professor at the University of Washington.

His study found that 25 percent of the inmates who experience segregation were released back into society directly from solitary confinement – meaning they were going directly from total isolation to freedom.

Every prisoner, even the so-called worst of the worst, deserves a chance to improve himself, instead of being left to waste away in a tiny, windowless cell with no human contact for months or even years, Warner said. “How people are treated in the deepest end of the

correctional system is what really defines it.”

His program includes behavioral courses offered to inmates administered by correctional staff in makeshift classrooms transformed from a lieutenant’s office and two old food pantries.

“Because the inmates taking the courses are considered extremely dangerous, they are restrained at their desks with shackles but allowed enough room to move around that they can turn toward each other and participate in role-playing activities designed to teach conflict resolution and the social

skills required to deal with other people peacefully,” Slate reported.

“In Walla Walla, violent offenders with possible gang ties are coached in suppressing aggression. In the Monroe Correctional Complex, mentally ill inmates with inclinations toward chronic self-harm are put through group therapy and stabilized through medication. In the Clallam Bay Corrections Center, people with nonviolent behavioral issues and impulsivity problems are taught self-control and coping mechanisms,” Slate reported.

New Florida Law Gives A Break to Juvenile Offenders

Florida juvenile offenders could get second and third chances to avoid arrest under legislation that took effect in October.

The new law provides for more than one civil citation from law enforcement. It offers the option of “diverting young offenders into mandatory community service for some offenses, such as getting in fights or smoking pot. Offenders are also required to write letters of apology to their victims and assessed to see if they’re likely

to re-offend,” *News Service of Florida* reported.

“To me, it’s all about making the good decision,” Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said. “It’s less important the number of civil citations a kid gets – it’s the circumstances surrounding it.”

The use of civil citations has grown quickly in Florida over the past four years, going from seven to 60 of the state’s 67 counties. Advocacy groups released a study that found a 25 percent increase in the use of

civil citations would save taxpayers as much as \$61 million, *News Service* reported.

Supporters include the Children’s Campaign, the Center for Accountable Justice at Florida State University, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the James Madison Institute. They urged lawmakers to invest \$2 million to expand the programs through officer training, a statewide information network and seed money for poorer counties.

—John Lam

Dear Reader(s):

Our message of rehabilitation and criminal justice reform is spreading because of your support. Thank you.

We’ve expanded into 22 prison libraries in California where the *San Quentin News* is distributed to inmates for free. We are moving closer to our goal: making it accessible to every prisoner in the state of California.

One way you can help us get our rehabilitative message to more prisoners is to donate any amount. Donors who contribute \$40 or more will receive *San Quentin News* for one year.

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Thank you again for your continued support.

Arts & Entertainment

Peyto Lake



Photo by P. Jo

"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we could find in each man's life a sorrow and a suffering enough to disarm all hostility." -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Snippets

Christians believe the main causes of cruelty are avarice, contempt for nature and unkindness.

On equal grounds: the word man is written in the Quran just as many times as the word woman.

Group together: Judaism is considered the original of the three Abrahamic faiths. Christianity and Islam are the other two.

In reference to the name Jesus, no one called him that in his lifetime not even the Romans. His name was Y'shua according to the Hebrews.

The 98 foot statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro was revealed on Corcovado Mountain.

Aztecs built a great temple in Tenochtitlan, where they honored Huitzilopochtli, the Sun God and God of War, with human sacrifices.

The name God is spelled with four letters in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Syrian, Arabian, Persian, Irish, French and Spanish.

Elder Tree was the wood of the cross of Christ's crucifixion.

Sudoku Corner

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Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

Howard met an Elf and a Reindeer in the woods and asked them what day it was. Knowing that the Elf always tells lies on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the Reindeer always lies on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, Howard asked the Elf first. "Well, yesterday was one of my lying days," the Elf said. Howard then asked the Reindeer and he said "yesterday was one of my lying days too." So what day is it and who lied?

The Answer to Last Month's Trivia is:
I am a hole.

The winner to last Month's puzzle is: Leroy Lucas
Congratulation to Robert Bacon and E. Vick for also getting last month's puzzle correct.

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 correct answer from that hat.

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

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

SQ News Is Read Around the World



The SQ News appreciates the Masai Mara tribe of Masai Mara in Kenya holding our newspaper on a cloudy day

Photo by Dr. Shannon Cooley



The San Quentin News finds its way to Denmark with Lise McNamara. The girl in the background is The Little Mermaid, Copenhagen's noted waterfront symbol.

Photo provided by Lise McNamara



Eric and Joseph (two of the Masai Mara safari guides) reading the San Quentin News at the Maasai Mara National Reserve

Photo by Dr. Shannon Cooley



Susan Shannon with SQ News on Orcas Island, Wa.

Photo provided by Susan Shannon



Judy McDermott Holding the SQ News at the "Trees of Mystery" in Klamath, California

Photo provided by Judy McDermott

New L.A. Project Targets Recidivism Rate

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

A conglomerate in Los Angeles is embarking upon a project that will focus solely on reducing the recidivism rate. The conglomerate includes private foundations, city and county organizations, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department and others.

State Attorney General Kamala Harris attended a meeting at the Pitchess Detention Facility to introduce her "Back on Track" program to the Los Angeles area, according to a California Department of Justice news release.

In 2005, when Harris was San Francisco district attorney, she created a reentry initiative, Back on Track. In November 2013, as Attorney General, Harris created the Division of Recidivism Reduction and Re-entry. The program was designed and geared toward reducing recidivism through a collaborative partnership utilizing counties' district attorneys, investigat-



File Photo

State Attorney General Kamala Harris

ing and implementing practices and initiatives to foster a viable outcome.

Since becoming state attorney general, Harris' vision to reduce recidivism has continued. "Reducing recidivism is key to a smart-on-crime approach to criminal justice. Instead of only reacting to crime, we must also focus on prevention, to shut the revolving door of the criminal justice system," Harris said.

The program, "Back on Track L.A.," is designed to hold offenders accountable. Offenders will address the harm they inflicted upon their communities, their families and themselves.

The attorney general also talked about the importance the program has with helping the participants build the skills necessary to become active law-abiding citizens. These practices will ulti-

mately enhance public safety, which essentially makes the program a win-win for everyone, she said.

L.A. Sheriff Jim McDonnell said there are people incarcerated who could be productive citizens if alternative sentencing programs were available.

"We have too many people in jails who can and should be contributing members of our community," McDonnell said. The Back on Track program offers the participants an opportunity for continuing their education as well as beginning a vocational program to develop marketable skills for employment. Also available is a mentoring program and support network for both in-custody and out-of-custody participants.

The program usually operates at a capacity of 90 participants, who fall under a special category, which has been named "triple nons." Triple nons represents those offenders that have non-violent, non-serious and non-sexual offenses and are currently housed in

L.A. County.

The in-custody program has four modules, which includes cognitive behavior training, education (academic and/or career technical), life skills and re-entry training.

The out-of-custody program has three phases: housing, continuing education and employment. Once a participant is released, there is an Employment Advisory Board that will assist the inmates in attaining employment.

Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice Second Chance Act and also by private foundations such as the Ford Foundation, California Wellness Foundation and the Rosenberg Foundation, the report said.

The Recidivism Reduction and Re-Entry (RRE) program, which was created by Harris, is currently developing a division that will define what recidivism is statewide. The RRE will also be searching for attainable grants to fund the creation and expansion of anti-recidivism programs.

Imago Dei Gets Last Laugh Over Warriors, 75-63

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

It was the last game scheduled for the visiting Imago Dei team to play the San Quentin Warriors this season. They had lost the last five meetings, but this time was different. Former San Francisco Rumble Teohn Conner's 35-point performance combined with teammate Mike Kehrig's 21 earned them a 75-63 victory.

"It has been a year wait. I forgot what it feels like to win," joked Kehrig. "Our coach was great. He played me a lot."

Conner added, "On the way here, I said we have to win be-

cause we won't see them again until next season."

Imago took off in the first quarter, gaining a nine-point lead at 17-9, with one-minute left, but the Warriors rallied back.

Jason Jones nailed a three-pointer, followed by Anthony Ammons rebound put back and then a layup while keeping Imago scoreless. The Warriors took the lead, 18-17.

"Great quarter; terrible last minute," commented Imago's three-point specialist, Steve Diekman.

By half time, the Warriors were up 38-33.

Imago's Nate Mihem gave a



Photo by Eddie Herena

Sean Donahue and Tony Thomas boxing out Anthony Ammons and Rafael Cueves



Photo courtesy of Tony Thomas

Sean Donahue celebrating an Imago Dei win over the SQ. Warriors with a dip in the Bay

talk about the power of prayer. He was part of Oakland Community Organization, which is a network of clergy, who went to the capital in an effort to convince Gov. Jerry Brown to sign AB 953. The bill would help stop racial profiling by requiring police to keep records of everyone they stop and to document why. Mihem left after hearing Brown was not going to sign the bill. However, they prayed in front of his office before leaving, and Brown signed the bill after all.

"With God all things are pos-

sible," said Mihem.

Last time Imago won, team member Sean Donahue took the plunge in San Francisco Bay because he was so happy.

"Shaun was the original coach of the San Quentin Warriors. It makes me happy that they can get that much joy from coming in here with us," said San Quentin Warriors' Coach Daniel Wright.

In the second half, Conner was guarded by Ammons. Both athletic men gave each other trouble, but Conner came out on

top.

"I think he (Conner) scored 20 in the fourth quarter. He turned it up in the end," said Diekman.

Ammons led the Warriors with 19 points. Allan McIntosh added 14. Harry "ATL" Smith was given the day off.

The Oct. 24 game was the day after playing the Golden State organization.

"I think we were still winded from yesterday. They wanted it more than we did today," said Warriors Head Coach Daniel Wright.

Trailblazers' Return Visit Drops Kings, 64-52

After the visiting Bittermen basketball team lost by one-point the week before, several players returned to San Quentin as Trailblazers and topped the Kings, 64-52.

"They played the better game. It was their day," said Kings shooting guard Marvin Cosby.

The Trailblazers may have been motivated by teammate Antwan Capla's passionate opening.

Pre-game he talked at center court about losing a brother to Sickle Cell Anemia and fighting to bring awareness and resources to stop the disease that primarily affects Black men.

"I don't want to see any more family trees affected," said Capla.

King three-point sharp shooter Aubra-Lamont "Coocoo" McNeely spoke about being found unsuitable by the parole board due to historical factors. They gave him a three-year denial.

Maintaining a positive demeanor, he thanked everyone for their prayers.

"And we still have to guard



Photo by Eddie Herena

Trailblazers Aidan Coffino, Steven Lamb, Will Wheatley, Ryan Williams, John Taylor, Pete Johnson and Antwan Capla.

the corner three," joked Bittermen/Trailblazer Ted Saltveit.

The Trailblazers started out in the hole. They were down 23-13 early in the second quarter. However, by the second half, they were ahead 28-24, aided by the two three-pointers dropped by Aidan Coffino.

The Kings settled for jump

shots that clanked off the rim, and they fell behind, 40-33.

"We need to be aggressive on offense. That doesn't mean throwing up everything. We have to attack the basket," advised Kings Coach Orlando Harris.

The Kings respond, starting with Thad Fleton making his

patented post-up move, followed by Oris "Pep" Williams's point-blank jumper, closing the gap to 40-39.

"Pep" Williams led the Kings with 15 points. Fleton added seven.

In the fourth, former San Francisco Rumble Will Wheatley and teammate Ryan Wil-

liams turned it up. They finished for a combined total of 30 points (16 and 14, respectively), putting the Trailblazers on top, 57-52, with 1:19 left in regulation.

"We have a solid team," said Wheatley about the key to victory.

The Kings tried to come back by fouling to stop the clock and making quick baskets. They got the fouling part right but couldn't purchase a basket.

Capla hit two of four free throws, and Aidan Coffino nailed three of four to seal the Trailblazers' victory.

Coffino said he was a 91 percent free-throw shooter at The Urban School in San Francisco.

"I would have made all four but Aubra whispered in my ear," joked Coffino.

Capla finished with 10 points, Coffino 9 in the Oct. 17 game.

Teammate Steven Lamb had 6 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal and a block.

"That's my game. I play an old Draymond game," said Lamb.

—Rahsaan Thomas

Hardtimers End Season Over Christian Ministry, 16-12

'We have been coming here for so long, these guys are like family'

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Hardtimers softball team ended the season on a high note by beating the Christian Prison Sports Ministry, 16-12.

The Hardtimers jumped to a 7-0 lead in the first inning with a series of singles, and Cory Woods doubled for two RBIs.

"This is my last season. I'm glad I had a chance to play with a great group of guys and against some wonderful visitors. I feel blessed to start the next phase of my life," said

Woods, who had earned a parole date.

Christian Ministry was down 7-1 when they rallied to tie the score in the third with six runs. They scored two runs with five straight singles. The power play came when Tyler Smith smash a triple with the bases loaded. The next batter popped out to close the inning.

"We have been coming here for so long, these guys are like family. Christ united us with our brothers who are being redeemed," said visitor Brian Watts.

Adam Nieting of the Ministry

added, "We appreciate the competition, but our bigger purpose is to share the word of God."

The Ministry scored three runs in the fifth, putting them ahead 10-7.

The Hardtimers took the lead back in the fifth with four runs, including a double smacked by DuPriest Brown, making the score 11-10. The Hardtimers added three runs in the sixth.

Christian Ministry scored twice in the seventh before they were shut down.

"It's been a great season. We went 11-5 (on the season). We face great competition. I

appreciate these guys' dedication to this program. We will do this again next year," said Hardtimers Sponsor/Manager Don White, after the Oct. 4 game.

Ke Lam Nghiep, the Hardtimers power hitter and all around Mr. Baseball, was also given a parole date.

"I will miss this team dearly. I'm thankful to have played with such great coaches and men. I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world," said Nghiep.

Don Smith of the Ministry added, "The last game is al-

ways the hardest because we're not only leaving friends, but family, our brothers in Christ. We use this time as our divine calling and God is guiding us to His glory."

Additionally, the Hardtimers beat the North Bay Bombers on Sept. 27.

"All we have to say is we are going to get us some big hitters and do some spring training. So don't get soft," said Brian Palozola.

Katie Scull added, "We're going to miss everybody. Stay positive. We're coming harder next year."

New Member Smashes Two-Hour 1000 Mile Club Record

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

Markelle Taylor broke the five-year-old two-hour run record after only being in the 1000 Mile Club for six months by completing 18-11/16 miles.

"I really went hard the first hour. Then the guys started encouraging me to keep the pace and that I could break the two-hour record. I was in pain; but I just thought about my kids and family. That's when I relaxed and ran free," said Taylor.

The two-hour run scheduled for Aug. 21 was cancelled due to a Legionnaires' Disease lockdown. It then combined with the Oct. 9 three-hour run. Most runners chose to compete for two hours.

Glen Mason came in first in the three-hour category, by completing 23-1/2 miles, followed by Reynaldo Campos with 22-5/6 miles and Simon Liu with 19-1/4.

Coach Frank Ruona added, "I've seen many guys go for



Markelle Taylor leading the pack

Photo by Eddie Herena

that record over the years. He ran well; I want to see what he does in the coming marathon."

The runners enjoyed a beautiful sunny day, as they zig-zagged through crowds of people on a raggedy track.

First-time runners Chuan Pang and Oscar Arana gave big smiles as they ran on fumes to complete the two-hour course. Pang ran 7-1/2 miles.

"I learned I could push myself past my limits. The most I ran was five-miles, today I did 12. I just focused on what I wanted to do when I got out and my family. That was my motivation. I love them very much," said Arana.

Pang added, "This was the hardest exercise I ever done. I just kept my head down to block out distractions and kept running."

Chris Skull and Carlos Moreno came in second and third out of the two-hour runners, completing 15-1/4 miles and 15 miles, respectively.

Carlos Ramirez was the last

of the only four runners who finished the three-hours.

"Like with anything you have to train for these events. I did the three-hours, but we didn't have a lot of training time, and I was struggling at two," said Ramirez. He completed 19-1/4 miles.

Tone Evans added, "Being down due to the Legionnaires' thing, cut into our training. So our mechanics had to kick in, but we learned to push each other."

"I thank the coaches and the volunteers for their encouragement and support. They helped us to be more positive and understanding. That is what we need in this environment," said Al Yaseng.

Volunteer coach, Kevin Ramon concluded, "You have to find something that puts you in the spot you want to be in life. Unfortunately, a lot of people don't find that spot. So whatever you like doing, be it art or running, you have to find that zone and get above the noise."

Fox Sports News Team Films Lower Yard Action

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

San Quentin's music program filled the air with jazz and rhythm and blues Oct. 17 as inmates enjoyed sporting activities on the prison's Lower Yard.

Soccer, basketball, softball and tennis balls were flying around that Saturday morning, while in a corner of the yard, inmate-veterans practiced for November's Veterans Day ceremony.

Amid the hustle and bustle, a film crew from Fox Sports News ventured inside to interview the San Quentin Tennis Team while they played with and against some local players from the free world.

"I wanted to do a story about how race segregation works inside prison," Fox producer David Brand said. "Awhile back, I read about the tennis court in the San Francisco Chronicle and saw that it was desegregated. I thought a story about it would resonate with a lot of

people."

On the tennis court, African-American, White, Asian, as well as other inmates, were mingling with each other and with men and women from the Bay Area who came inside to play tennis. They tested racquets, matched teams, set up games and then played doubles and mixed doubles.

"I think it's a great way to get exercise and stay away from the negative influences of prison life," said inmate Chris Schuhmacher. "I get to socialize with inmates I'd normally not be able to, along with playing against the outside tennis community."

Inmate Terry Slaughter said he's been incarcerated 30 years and played tennis at several other prisons for the last 20 years.

Slaughter arrived at San Quentin in 2011.

"The tennis program here is special," Slaughter said. "The mature attitudes and amount of cultures cannot compare to other prisons." He added: "San Quentin has a more natural



Camera man capturing Inside Tennis Team player Terry Slaughter returning a serve for Fox Sports

Photo by Eddie Herena

environment. There's respect and sportsmanship because the players come from self-help programs that demand rehabilitation."

Slaughter is a member of

several self-help programs, including TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training), Restorative Justice, Criminal Gangs Anonymous and Narcotics

Anonymous. He has completed courses in Addiction Recovery Counseling and Non-Violent Communications. He is also a Peer Health Educator. Currently, he's enrolled in Vocational Electronics. Slaughter said he is eligible to apply for parole in 2017.

"Tennis for me is an opportunity to experience a very natural, easy feeling inside of me. In other words, it's stress free," said inmate Raphael Calix, 59. "There's a free spirit in tennis that allows me to get away from the stresses of prison life. Any worries that I have during the day are gone when I step on the court and get into the game. On the San Quentin court people are no longer defined by race or color. They are persons playing the game with me."

In summing up his day, Fox producer Bland commented that getting cleared by prison authorities to do this story "wasn't as hard as I thought it would be. Public Information Officer, Lt. Sam Robinson was great."

Former Doubles Champs Happy to Visit Inside Tennis Team



Photo by Eddie Herena

Robert Neyses, Raymond Bodine, Ronnie Mohamed, Max Eliman, Clay Long, Rafael Calix, Ilya Gendel, Charlie Cutter, Paul Oliver, Paul Alleyne and Noel Scott

Two-time tennis champions Max Eliman and Ilya Gendelman served up nothing but love to the San Quentin tennis team.

Eliman and Gendelman won the NCAA National Doubles Championships in 2007 and 2009 for the University of Santa Clara team.

"I wanted to experience this. I saw a video with my friend Charlie Cutler who was here with his University of San Francisco team. Everyone has made me feel comfortable. I recommend this to everybody. I'm a tennis pro and coach and this experience helps you keep appreciation for the game," said Eliman.

Cutler added, "These guys appreciate the sport like I never experience in other places. I love being a part of this program. This game helps you to

focus your energy and to get out of your head. You can also be creative. I'd like to have more guys come out."

The tennis team members expressed what they get out of the program.

"I used to train in boxing; now I'm addicted to tennis. When these guys come and give us lessons, I take it to heart," said Clay Long.

Chris Schuhmacher added, "It's great these guys come out to teach and spend time. When you feel everybody might be against us, playing them makes you feel more connected to the outside."

Raymond Bodine concluded, "Being out here is a more normal environment than a class or self-help group. You really get to see yourself in a competitive environment."

- Marcus Henderson



Photo by P. Jo

January

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 <small>New Years Day</small>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <small>Martin L. King Day</small>	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

February

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 <small>Presidents Day</small>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 <small>Cesar Chavez Day</small>		

April

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <small>Memorial Day</small>						

June

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

July

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 <small>Independence Day</small>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

August

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 <small>Labor Day</small>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

November

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 <small>Veterans Day</small>	26	27	28	29
30						

December

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <small>Christmas Day</small>					