Realignment Switch Hurts Female Inmates

By Kevin D. Sawyer

Journalism Guild Chairman

Female inmates in California state prisons are suffering a disproportionate number of indignities as a consequence of the state’s plan to reduce prison overcrowding by shifting the responsibility for low-level offenders from state to county authority.

According to an article, Too Many Women, written by Matthew Fleischer, female inmates have only benefited from this plan by small measures. For example, some mothers—primary caregivers—serving time for non-serious, non-violent, and non-sexual crimes, are allowed to complete their sentences in community facilities or at home.

Close to one-third of the female inmates in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) were imprisoned for convictions related to drugs, wrote Fleischer.

Because of the plan new low-level offenders are kept in county jails, and “the women’s district) wrote, “Defendant’s terminal cancer patient Bill Lambie refused to sign off on his release.

After the California parole board granted 81-year-old terminal cancer patient Bill Lambie a compassionate release last July, Superior Court Judge Rodney A. Cortez refused to sign off on his release. Without further explanation, Judge Cortez of San Bernardino County (Joshua Tree) wrote, “Defendant’s motion to be released is denied.

As an octogenarian, Lambie would not pose a threat to public safety if released from prison, according to state prison officials.

San Quentin’s Dr. John W. Cambourne told the audience in 2012 that Lambie was eligible for parole.

San Quentin Celebrates the Second Annual Veterans Day

By Skuleys Lewis

Richmond Confidential

It was an early Monday morning—the fog lifting in the salty air and the cries of seagulls echoing over the lap of waves against a rocky beach. Two sea otters tumbled through the water about 20 feet from shore. However, 200 yards from this idyllic setting, 4,186 men live behind steel bars.

For example, some mothers—primary caregivers—serving time for non-serious, non-violent, and non-sexual crimes, are allowed to complete their sentences in community facilities or at home.

Close to one-third of the female inmates in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) were imprisoned for convictions related to drugs, wrote Fleischer.

Because of the plan new low-level offenders are kept in county jails, and “the women’s district) wrote, “Defendant’s motion to be released is denied.

As an octogenarian, Lambie would not pose a threat to public safety if released from prison, according to state prison officials.

San Quentin’s Dr. John W. Cambourne told the audience in 2012 that Lambie was eligible for parole.

San Quentin Celebrates the Second Annual Veterans Day

By Skuleys Lewis

Richmond Confidential

It was an early Monday morning—the fog lifting in the salty air and the cries of seagulls echoing over the lap of waves against a rocky beach. Two sea otters tumbled through the water about 20 feet from shore. However, 200 yards from this idyllic setting, 4,186 men live behind steel bars.

Approximately 450 of these men are veterans of America’s wars. On Nov. 11, San Quentin Prison celebrated Veterans Day. The mood on the yard was solemn as primary caregivers—serving time for non-serious, non-violent, and non-sexual crimes, are allowed to complete their sentences in community facilities or at home.

Close to one-third of the female inmates in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) were imprisoned for convictions related to drugs, wrote Fleischer.

Because of the plan new low-level offenders are kept in county jails, and “the women’s district) wrote, “Defendant’s motion to be released is denied.

As an octogenarian, Lambie would not pose a threat to public safety if released from prison, according to state prison officials.

San Quentin’s Dr. John W. Cambourne told the audience in 2012 that Lambie was eligible for parole.

San Quentin Celebrates the Second Annual Veterans Day

By Skuleys Lewis

Richmond Confidential

It was an early Monday morning—the fog lifting in the salty air and the cries of seagulls echoing over the lap of waves against a rocky beach. Two sea otters tumbled through the water about 20 feet from shore. However, 200 yards from this idyllic setting, 4,186 men live behind steel bars.

Approximately 450 of these men are veterans of America’s wars. On Nov. 11, San Quentin Prison celebrated Veterans Day. The mood on the yard was solemn as
By Aruminda Garcia

Officer K.A. Davis Retires

When an opportunity presents itself, sometimes you have to act. That is how Correctional Officer K.A. Davis began his career with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

“When I heard that San Quentin was hiring, I didn’t think twice; I joined CDCR,” C.O. Davis said.

Before becoming a correctional officer for Department of Corrections, Davis was working with Bank of America.

“My brother’s bank was a good job, but I needed a job with real security for my growing family,” Davis explained.

Davis said his brother, Richard Davis, began working at the prison about 40 years before him and was happy working at the Vacaville State Prison.

“I saw Richard’s overtime check of $1,800, I knew I had to join too. So in 1985 I went to the Academy, and I joined the San Quentin staff on October 28, 1985. This place was close to my house; it was just too good to turn down, said Davis.”

Yet his transition from bank employee to correctional officer was not that easy, he said. Besides having a brother working in the department, he had another issue.

“My brother, Jerry Davis, was serving 18 years for a bank robbery,” said Davis.

In addition to having both brothers involved in the system, Davis found a number of his street associates were incarcerated.

“I started working in the H-Unit dorms, and ran into 10 guys I knew,” Davis said. “CDCR has a policy that you cannot talk, not even in passing, to any inmate you know. I chose not to, and when I asked if that presented any problems, he said it hadn’t.”

“The inmates knew not to ask for anything from me, I just knew,” Davis said.

On his first day of work, Davis said there was an inmate who taught him some of the ropes when he was put in charge of feeding over 100 men.

“When I got to work, they handed me a set of keys and told me to go to the fourth tier. An inmate also showed me how to set up the food cart,” said Davis. “Although I had gone through training, they didn’t teach us how to feed the men.”

Having no idea exactly what he was doing that first day, it took him about an hour to feed 53 men. The team also needed to escort from 40 to 60 men in East Block to one of six yards on the back side of the academy. “I relied on inmates to show me what to do,” explained Davis.

“I had a Blood in the first cell, that was my first introduction to the Bloods, Crips, Mexicans, and White gangs,” said Davis.

“A lot of them in those early days and I gained a lot of people skills working with so many inmates,”

Davis and his brother Richard, who recently retired from Emerville Police Department, have been speaking at high schools, and county jails for several years, trying to make a difference in the students’ lives.

“Recently they spoke at Castlemont High School for Career Day. Many of the guys just need direction, he said. Unfortunate, some are into a ‘get rich or die trying’ philosophy.”

“When we first started public speaking, people were very skeptical. But we were trying to bring them around because they had no guidance or direction, Davis said. “Yes, I got bored, but people began to listen because we knew they were the change of the criminal justice system,” Davis said. “Their families and the community were supportive of the you.”

Today the climate in San Quentin has changed, says Davis. When he first began working here, 60 percent of the prisoners were locked down.

“Although there were education programs here at San Quentin back then, there were not as many as there are now,” Davis said. “I think it’s good that the men have a link to education themselves.”

He also thinks CDCR did not train him or other officers to recognize those that were new to the system, and those that were institutionalized.

“Now some of the younger officers are bringing in a mentality that prisoners are scum. That puts the department in a bad light and it’s not a producive belief system,” Davis said.

Whether it is studying for a GED, AA, seminary credential or degree, he said, once a person knows better, they will treat others better.

For almost three decades, Davis has gone through a variety of challenges with CDCR but a personal tragedy caused him to rethink his position with the department.

“One day when I was at work I got a call from a friend who said, ‘your baby’s dead,’” Davis said. “I tried to get someone to work for me because I had to leave and they couldn’t get a relief officer.”

Davis said he left anyway.

“My son Keith Davis was killed in a case of mistaken identity in 2012,” Davis said. “I was 19 and had just graduated out of the Youth Authority.”

Davis explained while in Youth Authority, Keith had met someone who closely resembled him. Keith was murdered while he was at the house of an associate he met in Youth Authority.

“The killers came around the corner of the house with AK 47’s and they thought my son was someone else who had been in YA,” Davis explained.

“The investigation is still ongoing even though the murder happened two years ago,” said Davis.

Davis said the tragedy of his son inspired him to keep going, and talking to kids.

“The kids today are in a difficult situation,” Davis said. “There are no each other as our brother’s keeper, or as helping each other.”

Davis often speaks at the Catholic Charities in Oakland where he talks to kids regularly. He wants these kids to know that he is speaking to them out of love.

“As a black man, I love my race, however we men of color must tell our children that they are loved and validated. Each gives them a sense of who we are whether they are Iblack, Hispanic, or Asian,” said Davis.

He wants young men and women to know that often there will be only seconds to make a decision that could put them in prison.

“Things have changed a lot. Nowadays, my community wants to know more and more about San Quentin because they don’t see it as a threat,” Davis said. “I am very proud of my uniform, and I wear it in my community,” he adds.

Davis will be retiring after 28 years with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

JuliaGlen Padgett contributed to this story
Gov. Brown Vetoes Bill to Lower Drug Charges

By Wesley R. Eisninger
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown returned to the Legislature a bill that would have reduced the amount of jail time offenders serve for possession of certain drugs. Senate Bill 649, introduced by Sen. Marc Leno (D-San Francisco), would have allowed prosecutors to charge a simple possession for personal use of drugs like cocaine and heroin as a misdemeanor.

Under current law, an offender could spend from 18 months to three years in jail for possession of these types of drugs. Proponents of the bill said it was an important step in dismantling the “war on drugs.” Potentially it would save millions of dollars, making more funds available for drugs and mental health treatment.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimated that if all counties charged possession as a misdemeanor, it would save $160 million annually.

The bill would have allowed judges to impose probation and a $1,000 fine or community service for the first offense, and $2,000 or community services for the second offense.

If a defendant did not have the ability to pay the minimum fines, it specified the defendant would be ordered to do community service in lieu of fines.

In the governor’s veto message, he wrote, “We are going to examine in detail Califor- nia’s criminal justice system, including the current sentencing structure. We will do so with the full participation of all necessary parties, including law enforcement, local government, courts and treatment providers. That will be the appropriate time to evaluate our existing drugs laws.”

Population Cap Pushes Shafter Jail to Reopen

‘CDCR should reopen four more facilities’

In order for state prison officials to meet a court ordered population cap, the once closed Shafter City Community Corrections Facility will reopen, reports The Californian.

The deal has been approved by the city council, said, City Manager John Guinn, adding that 86 workers have been hired to staff the facility and that bids for construction work to meet CDCR needs are being submitted.

City Manager John Guinn in The Californian report. “It is my understanding the CDCR is already in discussions to reopen a number of CCFs in the state and I believe that CDCR should reopen four more facilities.”

The Californian quotes State Senator Andy Vidak, R-Hanford, as urging Jeffery Beard, secretary of the CDCR, to reopen CCFs in Coalinga, Delano, Shafter and Taft to meet the inmate population cap.

Guinn said reopening the correctional facility would be a big boom to Shafter by adding nearly 90 good jobs, which translates to $14 million a year to the city.

The added money would be channeled into a school development project aligned with Richland and Kern County School District, Guinn said.

The project is designed to promote early literacy and improve high school graduation rates.

—By Wesley R. Eisninger

‘State Still Responsible for Shifted Inmate Care’

State still responsible for its inmates in county jails who need ‘basic necessities of life’

By R. Malik Harris
Staff Writer

In court papers, state officials said they are no longer responsible for the care of the offenders affected by the state’s plan to relieve prison overcrowding by shifting the responsibility of lower-level offenders from state to county control.

A three-judge federal court disagreed, ruling that the state still owed a duty to disabled offenders in county jails.

Justice Stephen Reinhardt, speaking for the court, said the state is still responsible for the care of individuals who need in the need of “basic necessities of life” such as “wheelchairs, sign language interpreters, accessible beds, toilets, and tapping canes.”

Although the court did not require the state to provide financial assistance to inmates or to county lockup facilities, the court found the state responsible for tracking those inmates and providing them with the means to file grievances.

The court pointed out that the state is already assuming responsibility for disabled life-term parolees and out-to-court inmates housed in county jails.

By Wesly R. Eisiminger

The Californian

The Californian

‘CDCR should reopen four more facilities’

In order for state prison officials to meet a court ordered population cap, the once closed Shafter City Community Corrections Facility will reopen, reports The Californian.

The deal has been approved by the city council, said, City Manager John Guinn, adding that 86 workers have been hired to staff the facility and that bids for construction work to meet CDCR needs are being submitted.

City Manager John Guinn in The Californian report. “It is my understanding the CDCR is already in discussions to reopen a number of CCFs in the state and I believe that CDCR should reopen four more facilities.”

The Californian quotes State Senator Andy Vidak, R-Hanford, as urging Jeffery Beard, secretary of the CDCR, to reopen CCFs in Coalinga, Delano, Shafter and Taft to meet the inmate population cap.

Guinn said reopening the correctional facility would be a big boom to Shafter by adding nearly 90 good jobs, which translates to $14 million a year to the city.

The added money would be channeled into a school development project aligned with Richland and Kern County School District, Guinn said.

The project is designed to promote early literacy and improve high school graduation rates.

—By Wesley R. Eisiminger

‘State Still Responsible for Shifted Inmate Care’

State still responsible for its inmates in county jails who need ‘basic necessities of life’

By R. Malik Harris
Staff Writer

In court papers, state officials said they are no longer responsible for the care of the offenders affected by the state’s plan to relieve prison overcrowding by shifting the responsibility of lower-level offenders from state to county control.

A three-judge federal court disagreed, ruling that the state still owed a duty to disabled offenders in county jails.

Justice Stephen Reinhardt, speaking for the court, said the state is still responsible for the care of individuals who need in the need of “basic necessities of life” such as “wheelchairs, sign language interpreters, accessible beds, toilets, and tapping canes.”

Although the court did not require the state to provide financial assistance to inmates or to county lockup facilities, the court found the state responsible for tracking those inmates and providing them with the means to file grievances.

The court pointed out that the state is already assuming responsibility for disabled life-term parolees and out-to-court inmates housed in county jails.

The court did not believe that the recent order would cause any extra burden on the state beyond what it was already doing.

“California’s ambitious restructuring of the crimi- nal justice system should not merely push state prison ills onto county government,” The Press Enterprise editorial re- ports. The editorial points out that county jails are now being sued for the same issues plaguing its prison system surround- ing mental and medical health care. “County jails were not designed for long-term stays with the health care, education and other services such con- finement requires.”
Words to my Father

I’ve Tried to Make Up for the Pain

By Julian Glenn Paggett
Staff Writer

Brian Shipp’s incarceration began with him in a state of humiliation. After his arrest for kidnap and robbery, he was taken to the hospital and placed in shackles. His father, Walter, later came to visit him, and Shipp recalled seeing his eyes filled with pain.

While growing up, Shipp’s father, a man who grew up during the Great Depression, had always been a big influence in his life, but at one point, he chose to go the other way. His troubles began at age 17, when he was hanging out with the wrong crowd and not listening to his father.

“After sentencing, the counsel- seler at the California Men’s Facility gave him two op- tions: either Old Folsom or San Quentin State Prison. I chose San Quentin and I arrived here on Dec. 9, 1980. I started my life sentence there. It was the same day that John Lennon was killed,” said Shipp.

Cancer Patient Bill Lambie Denied a Compassionate Release

His friend disagrees; says release would have been a ‘win/win situation’

Walter and Brian Shipp

Lambie suffers from lung cancer that has spread throughout his body. Chemotherapy has failed to abate the cancer. According to medical reports, Lambie’s condition has been deemed “severe and irretrievable.”

This is the first time Judge Cortez blocked a compassionate release of a terminally-ill prisoner. In late 2011, the Desert Times reported that Virginia Woolf in 2011, a 52-year-old woman, had just been denied a compassionate release by Judge Cortez.

“Two years ago, I was able to get out of prison and run,” he said. “Now I’m stuck here with the cancer.”

Lambie was in his 60s when he was released from prison. He has served 14 years and has been charged with a crime. He has a clean prison record before coming to San Quentin’s North Block. “I was hop- ing the judge would sign the recommendation by the California Medical Parole Board, and he didn’t,” said Lambie.

Lambie’s wife of 52 years, Anita ardently equipped their home with a “live-in” house, and she did not listen to him. “I was not going to cut your hair,” said Shipp.

Lambie returned home with his father, but the peace was short-lived. Shipp first got in trouble with the law in high school, when he was busted for possession of marijuana. In 1989, he was sentenced to seven years to life—a sentence which, to this day, is still not over.

Shipp still finds it difficult to talk about how he came to prison, because of a deep re- gret that he still has for the choices that he made and the harm that he caused to those around him.

“I was the worst day of my life and for all involved when I went up and they took Bill Shipp. ‘But I’ve tried to make up for the pain I’ve caused with ev- eryone, especially my dad.’

After sentencing, the coun- seler at the California Men’s Facility gave him two op- tions: either Old Folsom or San Quentin State Prison. I chose San Quentin and I arrived here on Dec. 9, 1980. I started my life sentence there. It was the same day that John Lennon was killed,” said Shipp.

He entered prison with no high school diploma, but he quickly buckled down and enrolled in Bay View High School, here at San Quentin, in 1981.

“I told myself I was going to get straight A’s and show my father that I could do bet- ter and he better than what I had explained to him. I graduated valedictorian of my class and gave a speech in a San Quentin family meeting room and my dad was there.”

Shipp could not ever remem- ber feeling prouder than he did on that day, not only be- cause of his own accomplish- ment, but because of the pride he could see in his dad’s eyes. Growing up, Shipp’s father taught him to work hard, be honest, have integrity, not to burn your bridges. And God to always be a man of your word— things Shipp finally began to feel as if he has repudiating.

“I haven’t always liked what he’s said, but I’ve striven to be that man. I’ve always been— a man true to his word. And these are traits that I want to instill in my sons,” said Shipp.

Through the struggles of their lives, Shipp said that they were many good times and many sad times. Shipp still feels as if he needs to see his father one more time. “There is no longer a point of con- tention between the two of us.”

“Still our relationship has grown into one that’s loving and caring and I know my dad will always have my back and that I’ll cherish for eternity. I love you pops!”

Lambie, who converted to Catholicism after being a crew- member and gunner on B-29 fighter-bombers completing his service with an honorable discharge. He had a private pilots license, sailed the South Pacific for many years in a 34- foot Yawl sailboat.

For a time, Lambie worked as a Navigator for the National Geographic Society on the research ship Pelé, a 90-foot converted Coast Guard Cut- ter. This journey took him all over the South Pacific including the Philippines, Indone- sia, Australia, and dozens of other “great ports around the world,” said Lambie. Many of his friends and family refer to him as “Captain Bill.”

On Nov. 15, Lambie was transferred to the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, to be admitted as a patient of Hospice care. “I’m getting into the transportation bus, Lambie told several friends that he would not give up trying to get back to his family.

Compassionate releases are monitored by the Human Rights Watch http://www. hrw.org organization that investigate and expose hu- man rights violations and hold abusers accountable. For more on compassionate release, go to Families Against Mandatory Minimums http:// www.famm.org.
Children of Incarcerated Parents Get Visit From Sesame Street’s Elmo

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

On Nov. 14, San Quentin’s visiting room became a place of hugs and fun for the children of incarcerated parents in San Quentin when Sesame Street’s Elmo came to play.

“I think it’s wonderful, the department being involved in rehabilitation,” said Warden Kevin D. Chappell. “This is the first time an event of this magnitude has occurred that reaches out to incarcerated men and children. I’m excited that Centerforce and Sesame Street chose us to launch this event.”

Carol F. Burton, Executive Director of Centerforce, explained that she teamed up with Sesame Street to develop a method for incarcerated parents to stay in touch with their children after noting how children’s behavior is affected because they do not understand incarceration.

Through the collaboration, the team created an advice sheet called, Tips for Incarcerated Parents that gives incarcerated parents specific ways to help their child adjust to their circumstances.

“California is a pilot state for the project. If we can get greater support and financial backing of course, we’ll go to every prison with at least one event to announce the material,” said Burton.

When inmate Gerald Salas was asked about his daughter, Aviana, he said, “I’m sitting in the cell one day thinking about her when I received notice that a Sesame Street program for 3-8 year olds was coming to San Quentin.”

He contacted his mother and wife and told them about the program. Aviana was 8 months old when he received notice. She was 2 years old when she came to see me in prison; I had tears in my eyes. It left me with mixed emotion,” he said. Salas said, “She never asked why I’m in prison, but she knows that I am somewhere I should not be.” His wife was extremely upset when he started this prison term. She knew that he would be missing being part of her every day life, but he believes the tool kit provided by Sesame Street, Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration has given them a new approach to handling Aviana’s questions.

Little Children, Big Challenges: Incarceration is designed to:
• Support, comfort, and reduce anxiety, sadness, and confusion that young children may experience during the incarceration of a parent.
• Provide at-home caregivers with strategies, tips, and age-appropriate language they can use to help communicate with their children about incarceration.
• Inform incarcerated parents about loved-ones.

Children need to know they can parent themselves that they can parent.

“Often times she’ll be sad and I have to tell her that Daddy is coming home soon, but this program has given my wife and me new tips on how to explain my separation from her. She’s too young to understand what’s really going on,” he said.

As Aviana played with Elmo, kissing and hugging him, she looked into her father’s eyes and said, “Daddy I love you.”

Nearly 2.7 million children have a parent in state or federal prison, according to Centerforce, yet resources exist to support few young children and families with this life changing circumstance.

Centerforce began in 1972 by establishing a visitors center at San Quentin State Prison and now has a center at all California state prisons. Serving children and families is central to Centerforce.

Centerforce is one of few non-profits dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for individuals, families, and communities impacted by incarceration. For over 40 years, Centerforce has been a national leader in providing groundbreaking, evidence-based programs to incarcerated people and their loved-ones.

Centerforce is a California-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for individuals, families, and communities impacted by incarceration. For over 40 years, Centerforce has been a national leader in providing groundbreaking, evidence-based programs to incarcerated people and their loved-ones.

Centerforce is one of few non-profits dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for individuals, families, and communities impacted by incarceration. For over 40 years, Centerforce has been a national leader in providing groundbreaking, evidence-based programs to incarcerated people and their loved-ones.
Dr. John Cranshaw Leaves S.Q.

For Rehabilitation Hospital

By Byond Woodard
Staff Writer

For the past five years, Dr. John Cranshaw has administered his experience and knowledge treating prisoners inside San Quentin.

In 1990, the federal court became involved with California's prison overcrowding issue when Coleman v. Brown was filed. Chief Justice O'Connor ordered that prisoners who had been denied adequate treatment for tuberculosis be transferred to other facilities. In 1995, Dr. John Cranshaw was assigned to San Quentin's Intensive Care Unit. The MAC wants to improve medical care for such action, with the general inmate population.

One of the MAC's principal goals is developing a working relationship between inmates and staff to improve the living conditions for San Quentin inmates. The MAC serves a dual purpose, both equally important. The first is to provide inmates of San Quentin with representation and a voice in administrative deliberations and decisions affecting the welfare and best interest of all inmates. The second is to provide the Warden with a means to communicate administrative actions, and the reason for such action, to the general inmate population.

REMEMBRANCE

On Oct. 16, two members of the inmate community died. One inmate resided in the North Block Housing Unit and the other inmate resided in the North Block Housing Unit. The Mac wants to acknowledge and recognize the exhaustive efforts of the North Block supervisory staff, medical staff, correctional staff, and the emergency responding staff (Med 1) in attempting to save the life of the North Block inmate, who later died. Unfortunately, the inmate residing in West Block had expired by the time potential help arrived.

Seeing a doctor outside of prison is easier said Cranshaw. "A patient can go to a clinic, see any doctor they choose. If they aren't satisfied there, they can always go to another hospital or clinic."

"For me, Dr. Cranshaw is one of the most thorough, caring doctors I've met since my incarceration. Every time I sat with Cranshaw, it was different from any doctor I've dealt with in the free world. He heard me out and to see correctional staff, inmates, medical staff and work together feverishly trying to save the life of that inmate.

"When I started working at San Quentin, I worked in the modular trailers on the side of North Block," said Cranshaw. "I preferred the trailers because it was an easier and faster way to see patients."

When asked if there were any disadvantages working outside of prison, "no, because you always have a ready-made medical facility", said Cranshaw.

"The biggest downside I see about the [medical] setup now is access. A patient here has to fill out a sick-call slip, call out 'man down,' etc. before they are in a position to receive treatment. There is a chance sometimes be a problem."

The MAC serves a dual purpose, both equally important. The first is to provide inmates of San Quentin with representation and a voice in administrative deliberations and decisions affecting the welfare and best interest of all inmates. The second is to provide the Warden with a means to communicate administrative actions, and the reason for such action, to the general inmate population.

REMEMBRANCE

On Oct. 16, two members of the inmate community died. One inmate resided in the North Block Housing Unit and the other inmate resided in the North Block Housing Unit. The MAC wants to acknowledge and recognize the exhaustive efforts of the North Block supervisory staff, medical staff, correctional staff, and the emergency responding staff (Med 1) in attempting to save the life of the North Block inmate, who later died. Unfortunately, the inmate residing in West Block had expired by the time potential help arrived.

Seeing a doctor outside of prison is easier said Cranshaw. "A patient can go to a clinic, see any doctor they choose. If they aren't satisfied there, they can always go to another hospital or clinic."

"For me, Dr. Cranshaw is one of the most thorough, caring doctors I've met since my incarceration. Every time I sat with Cranshaw, it was different from any doctor I've dealt with in the free world. He heard me out and to see correctional staff, inmates, medical staff and work together feverishly trying to save the life of that inmate.

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In his medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday.

Cranshaw said the new position allows him to spend more time with his family. "It's been awhile since I've had a lot of time to spend with my family."

In a medical examination room, sated with a backbone replica, charts, diagrams, and other informative medical bits and pieces of information, Dr. John Cranshaw neatly arranged workstation, going over one of the 13 to 14 medical files he will review and evaluate this workday. 
United Nations Human Rights Committee Reviews U.S. Disenfranchisement Laws

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A September 2013 report on United States disenfranchisement laws, their history, rationale, and the disproportionality impact they have on minorities has been submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

A coalition representing several non-profit, civil rights organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union, and The Sentencing Project, authored the report.

“The Committee expressed concern that the country's felony disenfranchisement practices have 'significant racial implications,'” the report said.

According to the report, felony convictions have an unequal impact on African Americans and other groups of minorities with similar felony convictions.

Such laws that disenfranchise (deny voting rights to) American citizens, due to felony convictions, have existed since the founding of the United States, the report said.

“These laws were born out of the concept of a punitive criminal justice system -- those convicted of a crime had violated social norms, and, therefore, had proven themselves unfit to participate in the political process," it was reported.

AMENDMENT

Disenfranchisement laws have been used, with an array of other methods, “to circumvent the requirements of the Fifteenth Amendment,” which is supposed to forestall states from preventing individuals from voting based on “previous condition of servitude," among other criteria, the report said.

According to the report, at one time there were “leaps of the ‘parity of the ballot box’ and concern that allowing certain current or even former inmates to vote would ‘pervert’ the political process.”

SUPPORTERS

The coalition's report said supporters of disenfranchisement laws suggest that, “if allowed to vote, individuals with felony convictions would constitute a cohesive voting bloc, which would distort criminal law.”

The Supreme Court, however, has said that “locking out” from the franchise a sector of the population because of the way they may vote is constitutionally impermissible.

During the twentieth century, perceptions about criminal behavior have slowly changed. We now recognize the possibility to rehabilitate inmates, and the ability to reintegrate them into society once they are released.

“In the past fifteen years there has been a general trend toward liberalization of felony disenfranchisement laws,” the report said.” Proponents of felony disenfranchisement argue that such laws may deter crime, though disenfranchisement has not been shown to actually accomplish the goal of deterrence.”

LAWS

The report went on to say that these laws “extend punishment beyond the walls of the prison,” for persons who are on parole or probation, and for those who have completed their sentences.

According to the coalition's report, there are 5.85 million American adults who are unable to vote due to disenfranchisement laws. Of that number, only 25 percent are in prison.

Public opinion surveys, according to the report’s conclusion, show that “eight of every ten Americans support the restoration of voting rights to persons convicted of felonies who are no longer under state supervision.”

Several recommendations were submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Committee:

1. That the U.S. Government publicly support the automatic restoration of voting rights to citizens upon their release from incarceration for a non-violent crime.

2. That the U.S. Government investigate the disproportionate impact of felony disenfranchisement laws on minority populations and issue a report of its findings.

3. That the U.S. Government encourage states to inform criminal defendants of the voting rights implication of an arrest or felony conviction and to provide information on voting rights restoration process upon release from prison and completion of criminal sentences.

Female Inmates Suffer the Consequences of Realignment

Continued from Page 1

population numbers plunged faster than those of the men,” said Fleischer.

“From 2011 to 2012, California’s female inmate population dropped from 9,038 to 6,142, while the number of inmates in female prisons, compared with the design capacity of those facilities, plummeted from 170 percent to 116.9 percent,” Fleischer wrote.

CDCR reached the U.S. Supreme Court’s mandated population cap of 137.5 percent of design capacity in women’s prisons. However, in 2012, the CDCR converted Valley State Prison for Women (CCWP) into a men’s prison to reduce overcrowding in women’s facilities.

CDCR, in particular, is suffering. According to the most recent population report from the CDCR, CCWP is operating at nearly 175 percent capacity,” said Fleischer.

“Historically, people in women’s prisons have tended to self-harm instead of riot. So CDCR probably felt like it was okay to overcrowd there because they can keep the repercussions quiet,” said Courtney Hooks of Justice Now, a prisoners’ rights organization.

According to Fleischer, eight women are placed in a cell that was built to house four women. He said along with that, the population demographic has changed since the construction of a dangerous inmates has increased in the last two years. “I have never experienced this amount of violence and unsafe environment as I have since being transferred to CCWP,” said an inmate, who did not want to be identified for fear of retribution by corrections officers. Fleisher said CDCR spokesperson Dana Simas concedes that the impact of realignment has been felt much more by women inmates than their male counterparts.

Fleisher also reported that advocates for female prisoners say this overcrowding is producing problems the Supreme Court said was cruel and unusual punishment.

“The system can’t accommodate the number of women they’re trying to service. A shortage of staff leaves women functionally locked down. So women are losing out on any possibility of rehabilitation,” said Misty Rojo, program director for the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP).

Simas said the concerns about prison overcrowding in women’s prisons in relation to capacity, are “overstated,” in Fleisher’s report.

“By our definition, there is no overcrowding like you saw before realignment,” said Simas. “There is no one being housed in triple bunks, or gyms and day rooms. If you were to go in to a male prison, or female prison, you would not see any disparate treatment between the two.”

According to Simas, “capacity concerns should ease when the newly opened Folsom Women’s Facility becomes fully operational,” Fleischer reported.

CCWP’s Rojo said, “Every person is happening in every happening for the men. None of that focus has been brought to bear. We see no sustainable plan to reduce overcrowding in [women’s prisons].”

Fleisher’s article concluded, saying that women who are locked up will have to “endure housing conditions and other harm of overcrowding while the larger system slowly cases into compliance with the Supreme Court’s mandate.”
Recapping Years of Accomplishments

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to all our readers in this, our last edition of the year. How quickly the year has passed. During 2013, San Quentin News diligently attempted to capture the pulse of San Quentin, while also providing voice to the voiceless—the incarcerated.

With several years under our belt, one might think putting our news would be routine. Although there has been much progress, we have also struggled this session to gain enough capacity to give incarcerated men and women a voice. Even though San Quentin News has made great strides forward, the typical convoluted operations of publishing a newspaper from inside a prison continue to stretch our deadlines. As the only fully prisoner produced newspaper in North America, San Quentin News staff will have to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and tolerance of our shortcomings.

In our fifth year we have continued expansion to other California prisons. At this writing, San Quentin News maintains limited circulation into 16 other prisons.

Las Vegas, for the first time in this San Quentin tradition, the newspaper was printed in color: We have created a Journalism Guild with a set curriculum. Our staff and our writers are lobbying to become members of the Society of Professional Journalists. Principal to our mission is continued professionalism and pursuit of excellence in journalism.

We are in the process of looking for more space and have to have it soon. The additional space is an important part of our growth. That goal is commensurate with our intention to provide a copy of San Quentin News to every prisoner in the state and many outside California.

Expansion of San Quentin News includes scaling the paper’s distribution to reach all of California’s prisoners. It also includes enhancing our capacity to provide comprehensive transparency in criminal justice. All this involves a high level of discipline, planning, and execution on the part of the staff.

Currently San Quentin News receives about 150 letters per week from our readers. We get letters, requests, and writing contributions from other prisons and other states. We get online requests, comments, and e-mails from across the country and around the world.

Despite all this, we are still only a voice for but a few. Although we have enjoyed a degree of success, San Quentin News will continue to report on all aspects of criminal justice. San Quentin News staff considers it our mandate to be objective, seek transparency in implementation of policy, and reveal the effect of such policies on all prisoners.

With that in mind, students in the University California at Berkeley’s graduate school of business, Haas Business School, are proving to be an important asset upon which we can rely.

The business school team has worked with us in developing a roadmap and phasing plan to accomplish our goals. Among these initiatives, we are hoping for a substantial subscriber base. As most readers know, the newspaper is supported with gifts and donations from friends, family and others interested in criminal justice transparency.

The San Quentin News team, its advisors, staff and readers are very gratified for the continued support and effort of those partners who have contributed to this year’s present operations. We are especially thankful to the Marin Sun, which is a critical and trusted partner. With the expected growth, we will need more staff, contractors, and partners like the Marin Sun.

The coming year we need to remain focused on building a substantial subscriber base. One of our critical partners is the Columbia Foundation. Columbia’s funding has greatly facilitated our possibilities, is to be applauded for its contribution to criminal justice education through our paper. We would like to thank them very much for aiding the San Quentin News. While we are thankful to Columbia, as are many prisoners who have received the Columbia’s gifts, we still need to ask others to assist us as well.

We thank all who have made the paper possible during the past year and in prior years.

It would be dismaying for me not to thank Kevin Chapman, Warden of San Quentin. His support, commensurate with our intention to provide a copy of San Quentin News to every prisoner in the state and many outside California.

San Quentin News maintains core values which we seek to propagate throughout. It is honest, accurate, and timely. San Quentin News is objective and does not take sides. We report activities of criminal justice, whether good, bad, or indifferent.

San Quentin News values stories on proactive activities that show criminals changing into socially responsible members of society. These stories demonstrate the importance of education and rehabilitation – a central component of criminal justice policy.

The dedicated team in our newsroom is committed to achieving the goal of giving voice to prisoners everywhere. We have a very, very long road ahead. Nevertheless, while we are not there yet, we have our top men (and volunteer women), working on it.

The next time you are sitting at a table, walking the yard, yelling down the tier or in a day room be the one to stir the conversation. Those of us who are members of the San Quentin News is doing to make a difference for you.

I want to wish all of you a Happy Holiday, and I pray that your year will bring you much joy in your endeavors. Take the time and share a story with those around you. Let us all help you make the transition to a positive way of life whether you are in the community or in prison. When you get back home to your families and live a productive life giving back to your communities.
$500 Million on the Table
Counties Vie for Share of Realignment Funds

By Haro Agakian
Journalism Guild Writer

California’s plan to reduce its overcrowded prisons by shifting the responsibility for low-level offenders from the state to county governments has created competition for the more than $500 million allocated for the plan.

Orange and Sonoma Counties plan to build new jails.

Orange County is asking for $80 million, out of $240 million reserved for larger counties, to expand one of its jails. Sonoma is a smaller county. It has already received $36 million, and is asking for an additional $24 million to build a new 160-bed detention and probation facility.

The new facility would combine minimum-security housing and halfway house-type lodging for offenders transitioning out of jail under alternative sentencing methods or for those sentenced to probation.

That order would be the first of its kind in California, according to the Press Democrat.

The plan would result in a hefty, ongoing financial commitment for the county. The jail expansion comes as national crime rates are on a historic downward trend. The Press Democrat reports that the county’s jail system has yet to hit its maximum capacity as 1,156 out of 1,476 available beds were occupied on Oct. 13.

Some problems regarding the Orange County plan are coming from Irvine city officials.

According to the Voice of Orange County, city officials are “troubled” by the county’s expansion plan, noting a pending lawsuit about a nearby housing development. To ease concerns, Orange County officials say the expansion would be limited to 384 beds.

County officials expect to learn in January whether Orange County will receive the grant.

Orange County law enforcement officials say the new jail facility is another tool to reduce crime, ease the burden on courts, and help avoid the prospect of jail overcrowding.

“I worry,” said Chairman Shawn Nelson. “The state doesn’t love us as much as I wish they did. It seems like they’re looking for reasons to not favor us, and I don’t want to give them one.”

The construction cost is about $200,000 per inmate, reports the Voice of Orange County.

Death Penalty Statistics Across the United States

Continued from Page 1

most 60 percent of the executions. The South has carried nearly 82 percent of the executions. The South has carried nearly 82 percent of the executions.

It was reported “Over half of the California’s death-row inmates come from just three counties (Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside), even though the state’s rate represents only 39.5 percent of the state’s population.”

Professor Steven Shatz of the University Of San Francisco School of Law found in that both aggravated murder cases and ordinary murder cases, the District Attorney of Alameda County initially sought the death penalty significantly more often for Southern California murders (91 percent of the city’s Hayward, where victims are mostly white) than for Northern California murders (6 percent of the city of Oakland).

Alameda ranks fourth among California counties in the number of inmates currently on death row.

“Texas has the well-deserved reputation as the capital of death penalty punishment. Since the reinstatement of the death penalty, Texas alone has accounted for 38 percent of the nation’s executions,” DPIC reports.

Four counties account for nearly half of Texas’ 292 executions. These counties include Harris, Dallas, Tarrant and the County of Bexar, around Houston, carrying out 115 executions.

“Other counties that prosecute a volume of capital cases include St. Louis in Missouri, Maricopa in Arizona, Tulsa and Oklahoma counties. There are wild disparities between counties, DPIC reports.

In Baltimore County (Maryland), Orange County (California), and DeKalb County (Atlanta, Georgia) show an aggressive use of the death penalty and high reversal rates.

“The correlation between the high use of the death penalty and a high rate of errors means that courts in these states will be occupied for years with costly appeals and retrials,” DPIC reports. “The cost to U.S. taxpayers amounts to almost $25 billion.”

Despite the high cost to prosecute capital cases, the national trend found state attorney generals often use the death penalty on lower-level offenders.

The report states that a disproportionate number of these cases are likely to follow that course, DPIC reports.

“The public is voicing its evolving opinion toward jury verdicts, elections of candidates who don’t favor the death penalty, and even in selecting prosecutors who refrain from frequent use of the death penalty, DPIC reports.

The 85 percent of counties in the U.S. has no one on death row and has not had a case resulting in an execution in over 45 years, according to DPIC.

$44.7 Million Needed for New Jail Focused on Rehabilitation

By Seth Rountree
Journalism Guild Writer

Stanislaus County will need $40 million in state funds to create a new jail focused on the rehabilitation and education of inmates.

Sheriff’s Department officials say it will take up to $44.7 million to fund the jail’s new infrastructure, with $4 million coming from local funds.

The proposed jail will include vocational and transitional education programs to reintegrate inmates back into society, according to a report by the Modesto Bee.

“We want to give them tools and resources needed to be successful and not reoffend,” Sheriff Adam Christianson told the Bee.

If county supervisors seek state funding and their proposal is approved in January, the new jail could be completed by 2018.

The services would be focused on job-skills acquisition training, education/rehabilitation programs and addiction/mental health services. All of these programs are to help lower level inmates fit back into society more productively, according to the Bee.

The new jail project, called REACT (Re-Entry and Enriched Alternative to Custodial Training) would be constructed near the Public Safety Center on Hackett Road in Stanislaus, the Bee reported.

Personnel from the downtown jail will staff the new 28-bed center, according to Christianson. Combined with other expansion projects, the new complex would allow the Stanislaus County to house an additional 444 inmates, the Bee reported.

The new jail is consistent with California’s plan to reduce its prison population by shifting the state’s responsibility for lower-level offenders to county governments, according to the Bee.

Recent CDCR appointments

By Governor Brown

Michael Stainer, 50, of El Dorado Hills, has been appointed director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Institutions by Gov. Jerry Brown. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays $136,200 annually. Stainer is a Republican.

Millicent Tidwell, 52, of Sacramento, has been appointed director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitation Programs. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays $155,436 annually. Stainer is a Republican.

Rodger Meier, 49, of Rescue, has been appointed deputy director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitation Programs. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays $140,292 annually. Meier is a Democrat.

Brian Duffy, 54, of Sacramento, has been appointed warden at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. This position does not require Senate confirmation and pays $200,000 per year.
Michael Endres Finds Many Ways to Do His Time

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

In prison, there are many ways to pass the time. Staying busy is one way to redirect the boredom of incarceration into something that leads to peace of mind. There is one person at San Quentin who exemplifies utilizing hard work and a strong resolve to overcome the daily challenges of prison setting. His name is Michael Endres.

Endres is serving time as a “second-striker” and received a seven-to-life sentence. He has been incarcerated for 10 years. Beginning his time at Calipatria State Prison and CSP-Ironwood in southern California, Endres arrived at San Quentin eight years ago.

“As ironic as it may sound, I was glad to come to San Quentin where there are so many more programs to occupy your time. I can’t sit around doing nothing; it just don’t make sense to me,” said Endres.

Endres spends some of his time searching for projects around the prison that need attention, such as cleaning, polishing, buffing, carrying, lifting, painting, delivering, painting and unloading. The list is long. He recently paint-ed a little brick building in the upper yard shack adjacent to the main canteen. From trimming windows, detailing baseboards, and laying an intricate tiled floor, Endres can restore any dull location into something brighter.

Endres worked for several years with no pay number and has never complained. He is a “firm believer in God” who he said has always provided for him. When Endres’s new super-visor learned he did not have a pay number, he sought a change. Endres would like to be able to use the small amount of money that might be made to send pictures to his elderly mother who he hopes to care for after his return to society.

I recently became interested in the old, brass fire hydrants scattered all around the prison of San Quentin. They looked very old, some weighing more than one hundred pounds,” said Endres.

Endres’s San Quentin’s fire hydrants were installed, but a consensus based on photos and stories date them at about 60 to seventy years old. San Quentin’s fire hydrants are solid brass. Most of them are less than one hundred pounds,” said Endres. “I spent this past summer painting the north chow hall wall and the beams under the old canopy that cov- ers the upper yard, the canteen façade, and the yellow caution lines along the upper yard drainage system.”

Every now and then, Endres seeks help from friends to lend a hand. “Joseph Thureson and K. Augustine have often as-sisted me.”

Endres also maintains the solid brass memorial plaque in prison. “I know that memorial means a lot to many people. Visitors entering San Quentin should be able to see that memorial in its pristine state—the way it was intended.”

I do what I can to keep it that way, some people call Endres a habitual volunteer. Endres calls it, “Staying busy,” with a smile.

FCC Praised for Dropping Interstate Phone Costs

‘The faith community can assist inmates and their families’

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

Religious communities are celebrating the recent action of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) decision to end the price of interstate phone calls made by inmates.

According to The Crime Report, prisons are able to make phone calls because of security monitoring, which is problematic, compared to regular rates that average citizens are charged.

“If we believe that corrections contains an inherent value of supporting change for incarcerated men and women, then we must value the role of phone calls to friends and families,” the Crime Report said.

“The faith-based initiative which I direct, we place a premium on the role that phone calls can play in an inmate’s rehabilitation,” said Harold D. True-lear, director of Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Reentry Initiatives.

The Crime Report provides a few examples of how three Philadelphia churches and their members support inmate rehabilitation with phone calls.

At holiday time, Berean Baptist Church places money on the books of inmates who have family members in the church.

Bellant and Glory Tabernacle has one member of its congre-gation who offers the use of her home phone to families in the church with loved ones who are incarcerated, so inmates can call and speak to their families on a regular basis.

Moore’s Memorial Baptist Church accepts phone calls every evening from one incarcerated young adult from its neighborhood.

“The faith community can assist inmates and their families through the creative use of phone calls to keep them con-nected to sources of social sup-port,” The Crime Report said.

In a heard in July 2013, the FCC voted 2-1 to place a limit of 25 cents per minute on the amount charged for interstate calls, while also eliminating prohibitive con-nection fees.

ACLU Pushes for Lower Rates on Intra-State Calls

‘Prison phone companies shouldn’t be able to profit off families and prisoners’

By By Chaplain Carter
Free Bible study material available from Network USA Ministries.

Write to:
National Incarcerated Veterans
Network USA ministries
P.O. Box 324
Bells, Texas 75414-0324

The American Civil Liber-ties Union (ACLU) is spon-soring a petition that urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to place a cap on the rate charged for interstate phone calls originating from jail and prison.

The petition is in the wake of the FCC’s limitation placed on the rate prison phone companies are able to charge for inter-state collect calls made from jail and prison.

“The FCC took an impor-tant first step last August by capping the rates that originate phone calls made from one state to another at 25 cents per minute,” The Nation magazine said.

An intra-state telephone call occurs when the call origi-nates and terminates within the same state, as opposed to interstate calls that originate in the state and terminate in a different state.

According to The Nation, the majority of prisoners in the states where they reside. “Prisoners have yet to profit off families, and prisoners trying to be good parents and good family members.”

The petition to the FCC says, in part: “When prisoners keep in touch with their families, they are less likely to reoffend later, and kids are better off.”

It’s time to cap in-state prison phone rates at a price families can afford.

The Nation reported that some prisoners, or their fami-lies, are charged up to $17 dol-lars for a 15-minute phone call. The same call made outside of prison might cost $2 dollars. The Nation said if the price of intra-state calls are not reduced, “that’s bad for public safety.”

By Kevin D. Sawyer

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

The Crime Report provides a few examples of how three Philadelphia churches and their members support inmate rehabilitation with phone calls.

At holiday time, Berean Baptist Church places money on the books of inmates who have family members in the church.

Bellant and Glory Tabernacle has one member of its congre-gation who offers the use of her home phone to families in the church with loved ones who are incarcerated, so inmates can call and speak to their families on a regular basis.

Moore’s Memorial Baptist Church accepts phone calls every evening from one incarcerated young adult from its neighborhood.

“The faith community can assist inmates and their families through the creative use of phone calls to keep them con-nected to sources of social sup-port,” The Crime Report said.

In a heard in July 2013, the FCC voted 2-1 to place a limit of 25 cents per minute on the amount charged for interstate calls, while also eliminating prohibitive con-nection fees.
S.Q. and Marin Shakespeare Collaborate
On Play Inspired by ‘Merchant of Venice’

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

As the fog descended upon San Quentin in the early hours of Nov. 8, anxiety rose among the men and women waiting to enter the gates of San Quentin to see “Parallel Play: Stories from San Quentin Inspired by ‘The Merchant of Venice.’”

Several weeks ago, the play was canceled because of an institutional lockdown. On this day, the play was delayed due to a hanging fog over the prison. By afternoon as the fog lifted so did people’s spirits as more than 100 outside guest began filling the Protestant Chapel, which served as a theater.

An ensemble of prisoners and members of the Marin Shakespeare Company performed 13 one-act plays, which engaged audience members from first to last. The entire production was directed by Suraya Susan Keating and produced by Lesley Currier. The Marin Shakespeare Company and the William James Association have supported San Quentin Drama Club’s performances for the last 11 years.

LeMar “Maverick” Harrison began the first play “The Mis-Motivation of Maverick” with a musical performance. “Before you desire to do anything you have to be inspired,” sung Maverick.

Maverick then told the story of his step-father and the murder of his brother. Maverick felt himself pulled into the gang life. In his monologue, Maverick finds himself in prison for murder, and asks, “Wonder what life would have been like if you wasn’t born a fool?”

The play transitions to a fantasy scene of Maverick graduating from high school, leaving the viewer with the thought, what would this man’s life have looked like if he had been inspired to do great things?

“Salt on a Bleeding Wound,” by Reese emphasized a grandmother’s death and the pain of losing one loved one after another.

“Just Another Part of Growing Up,” by James Mays told the story of how Mays left home after an argument with his mother over the piercing of his ear. As he set out on his own he gets involved with drugs and guns. It’s a poignant story of how a mother’s love is not enough to keep a child out of trouble sometimes.

“Reflection,” by Larry Moses highlighted the different aspects of the self.

Nythell “Nate” Collins rapped in his performance titled “They Come Free.” The line “Nothing is perfect on earth’s surface,” was repeated to emphasize that we all make mistakes. Collins rapped, “Different paths but the same purpose,” reminding the audience we all live our lives in different ways, but none of us live forever.

“Redemption of a Faust,” by Tristan Jones brought laughter to the audience. Jones told the audience he only had 90 days left in San Quentin, which somehow seemed bittersweet.

In a unique play written by Julian Glenn Padgett and Ron “Yana” C. Self titled “The Untouchables,” veteran suicide was exposed. Survivor’s guilt is a real problem for veterans, and when the words “I just want the pain to stop,” were spoken by Padgett, the moment became tense. “If a man is trained to kill another, they are already trained to kill self,” Padgett reminded the audience—a cryptic message three days before Veteran’s Day.

In “For My Father” John Neflet said his play was a memorial to his father who died last year.

“What is the act of forgiveness?” asked Rodney “RC” Capell in his play titled “Forgiveness.” The performance included an apology to all the women he cheated on in his life.

Julian Glenn Padgett performs ‘The Untouchables’ dedicated to the Veterans

The San Quentin and Marin Shakespeare cast finishing the play

Tristan Jones entertains the crowd

Actors looking into a mirror from ‘Reflections’

The play was delayed due to a hanging fog over the prison. By afternoon as the fog lifted so did people’s spirits as more than 100 outside guest began filling the Protestant Chapel, which served as a theater.

The entire program was performed by the San Quentin Drama Club and the Marin Shakespeare Company. A transcript of the play will be offered to students so they can perform the stories of the men also can be viewed at this site. Past performances of Shakespeare at San Quentin also can be viewed at this site.
GRIP Graduates Celebrate the Beginning of a New Quest for Peace

**Head of Rehabilitation Services, Millicent Tidwell addressing the crowd**

"GRIP taught me that you have to keep moving forward, to always have the courage to push forward, because the future is not going to be easy. GRIP has taught me that the healing is in the process, and that by keeping to my pledge that I would not turn to Sacramento, I will bring hope and healing to those who are in need." 

**Miquel Quareda, of Tribe 62**

"I had to sit in the fire to learn about my original pain and to understand how it hurt people hurt people. What GRIP taught me is that people heal people. The healing begins by learning to get to know myself. I am still in recovery, still healing. I have a long way to go, but I am committed to peace."

**Richard Rodriguez, of Tribe 936**

"I come to understand that hurt does not mean you are weak, but it means you have the strength to heal. GRIP has given me a sense of community, where I feel safe and supported. I have learned that the only way to overcome the pain of being in prison is to learn how to be in healthy relationships and how to move forward with a sense of purpose."

**Cleo Cloman, Zituee Lee, Phyl Chhin, Benjamin Osburn, Nick Lopez, Melika Mikaio and Anthony Gallus**

"The tools I learned from GRIP have been invaluable. I have been able to overcome my past and move forward. GRIP has taught me to live a non-violent life."
Snippets

EGgnog is often consumed around Christmas. It is a thick drink made of beaten eggs, milk, sugar, nutmeg and often containing whisky, rum, wine, etc.

Great blizzards of 1888 caused fifteen thousand subway passengers to be trapped on New York City’s elevated railroad. Some of the men provided ladders to help passengers escape.

Getting together on Christmas Eve, the Lithuanian serves 12 traditional dishes—one for each apostle. Everyone must try the food or it is deemed bad luck.

No land exist under the ice of the North Pole. The ice cap is between 6.5 to 10 ft. thick. In the winter the ice grows to the size of the United States.

On December 30-31, 2004, there was record breaking donation for the most money donated online in 24 hours. The donation was for the Tsunami Earthquake in southeast Asia.

Gibraltar of the Pacific is one of the nicknames for Pearl Harbor. The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Sudoku Corner

Last Issue’s Sudoku Solution

Book Review

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON MUSIC (By Daniel J. Levitin) Examines our attachment to music in their “science of a human obsession.”

FE MALES GANGS IN AMERICA (Edited by Meda Chesney-Line & John M. Hagedon) Assorted academic essays on “girls, gangs, and gender” in the United States.

RATINGS:

Top responses are four trophies progressing downward to one. Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!

If it takes five fishermen five minutes to catch five fish, how many fishermen are needed to catch one hundred fish in one hundred minutes?

The answer to last month’s puzzle is: fifty percent, just like every other time. Each flip has no influence on the next outcome.

The winner to last month’s puzzle is: Brent Hayashi. Congratulations to the following contestant who also got it right: Hyungjin An.

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 drawing a name from that hat.

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

The answer and the winner’s name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.
As someone who has spent nearly two decades in prison, I approached Piper Kerman’s book about her 15-month stint in a federal prison with some trep- ticism. After all, here’s a middle-class white woman, turned convict, talking about the “the prison world.” How might this influence family and friends, including a well-connected fiancée, while sounding like the “the D.C. political” institution. But Orange is the New Black, Kerman’s brilliant, intelligent, and heartfelt recount of what these years are about, surprised me.

I felt Nancy Mullane’s Life After Murder tapped into reality with, “No one really goes to prison alone. An invisible rope stretches from the heart and mind of a person out through the bars of his cell, up into the sky, over the hills and water, and beyond the globe far away, inside the lives of the people left behind. As the years pass – five, ten, 20 – the fibbers of that rope become frayed, and sometimes they snap.” That one simple passage in Life After Murder exposed what a long prison sentence does to a person. It’s the only way to keep it together; socially speaking. Having experienced the distancing effects of estrangement first-hand, it’s poignant to read about it from someone who witnessed the results.

Yet another writer is Jack Black who lived the life in You Can’t Win. Based on his long arduous time and life as a criminal, convicted of weapon and drug offenses, he really could talk about what prison is. Black described the sickening reality of his experi- enced nearly nine decades ago: “You start doing time the minute the handcuffs are on your wrists. The first day you are locked up is the hardest, and the last day is the easiest. There comes a feeling of helplessness when you are about to be released. You let you – cut you off from the sunshine and flowers out in the world, but that feeling slowly wears away if you have guts.”

Kerman echoes Black by not talk- ing about productivity, about the numbers of books read, but in the prison world. “Prison is reality” where “ producción and tries to crush any genuine emotion, but everyone, jail- ers and prisoners alike, is still crossing boundaries left and right.” These small situations where the human element cannot be ignored makes one fight to be yourself, notably as Ker- man writes, “Yet you still had to resolve not to believe what the prison system—the staff, the rules, even some of the other prisoners—wanted you to think about yourself, which was the worst.”

It’s a sad fact when free and incarcerated people take note of Kerman: “No one who worked in corrections ap- peared to give any thought to the purpose of our being there, any more than a warehouse clerk would consider the mean- ing of a can of tomatoes, or try to help those tomatoes under- stand what the hell they were doing on the shelf.”

Kerman’s ability to choose the right words resonates with incarcerated readers and gives her credibility. Free people should trust in her overall mes- sage, “What happens in our prisons is completely within the community’s control.”

After only a few pages into her saga, I was drawn and com- pelled to read about me through Kerman’s pen.

On Dec. 11, the federal three-judge panel extended the time for California to cap its 34 prisons at 112,164 inmates to April 18, 2014. On Nov. 11, the state’s 34 prisons held 119,841 inmates, according to prison official numbers.

Corrections:

Last month’s issue on page 10 the photo of Bruce Lisker should be credited to amapix.com.

Also in the same issue on page 17 Jack Jacoba was misidentified as Jack Omegha. In the same story SQUIRES counselors should be identified as SQUIRES mentors. The story about Sergeant Dennis “Dubbah” Wright should also be credited to Raphael Chais.
Prisoners Asked to Relive a Past Winter Holiday

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The nipping and chilly air of winter has come to San Quentin which is a reminder to many of us of the holiday seasons of long ago.

As asked on the Line, conducted a brief informal interviews with men on the mainline and asked: If you could go back in time and experience a winter holiday season, how old are you again? Where are you? Who are you with?

“I remember that me and my brother got motorbikes for Christmas and I started mine up, right in the living room with my pajamas on”

This question brought up many joyous holiday memories for the men in blue.

Of the 16 men interviewed, 12 would go back to a time in their childhood. Jesus Flores would go back to when he was five years old, Kevin Sawyer and Christopher Scull would go back to when they were seven, and Amanda Hill would go back to when he was eight.

“I remember Christmas when I was five,” said Flores, who was in Palo Alto with his parents and siblings. “That’s the year I got the most presents!”

Sawyer was in San Francisco with his parents and siblings. “Those were the days of humble beginnings,” said Sawyer.

Scull was in Fontana, California with his parents and brothers. “I had gotten my first BMX bike!” said Scull.

Wesley was at home in Richmond with his two brothers and his two sisters. “I remember that there was glitter on the floor and we were watching the Charlie Brown Christmas and roasted marshmallows in the fire.”

Steven Pascascio would go back to when he was 10, Adrianna Ramirez would go back to when he was 13 and Orlando Harris would go back to when he was 16 years old.

Five men would want to be 12 years old again: Valeray Richardson, Fannon Figgers, Arturo Avalos, Rico Rogers, and Eddie Delapena.

Four men would return to when they were younger adults. Billy Terry would be 18 again, Lawrence Patterson would be 24, Darryl Hill would be 36, and Dwight Kritzman would be 42 years old again.

Pascascio was in Belize with his family opening presents. Rogers was in San Francisco with his parents, and Avalos was in Guadalajara, Mexico celebrating Christmas with his parents.

Delapena said, “I remember I was with my parents and relatives in the Philippines. We gathered on Christmas Eve and we ate at midnight.”

Richardson was in Los Angeles with his siblings. “I remember that me and my brother got motorbikes for Christmas and I started mine up, right in the living room with my pajamas on!” said Richardson.

Figgers remembers being in Chicago. “I was visiting my father for Christmas. It was a turning point in my life.”

Ramirez was celebrating Christmas with his family. “We had decorated the house and had helped mom cook tamales, posole, menudo, and persimmon cookies.”

Orlando Harris was in East Oakland with his mom, Harris said, “I remember that a family friend had come over for Christmas. She was a childhood friend that I had a crush on. She had come into my room while I was asleep and woke me up to spend the day with me.”

Kritzman was at his in-laws house in Farmington, New Mexico. “He was with his five-year-old son. “He saw me in the snow for the first time. We helped him on a treasure hunt in the snow. Santa and the elves had hid presents in the snow!” said Kritzman.

Hill was in Oakland with his wife Felicia and their four children. “We were all home together for Christmas. It was the last time I got to spend Christmas with my wife before she passed away, said Hill.

Patterson celebrated Christmas in Wasco, California with his daughter Vanessa and his daughter’s mother Esther. Terry celebrated and enjoyed Christmas alone in San Francisco.

Wellness Corner

By Kris Himmelerberger
Staff Writer

The ultimate upper body exercise is the push-up, says Convict Conditioning author and coach Paul Wade. It’s no secret that push-ups build and strengthen muscles, strengthen tendons and train the upper body to work in coordination with the midsection and the lower body. Wade advocates going back to the basics. He suggests a progressive variation of 10 different push-ups:

- Wall push-ups
- Full push-ups
- Lever push-ups
- Incline push-ups
- Close push-ups
- One-arm push-ups
- Kneeling push-ups
- Half push-ups
- ⅓ one-arm push-ups

Each of these push-ups is designed to work a different part of the muscle. Push-ups build the pectoralis major, anterior deltoid, pectoralis minor, and all three heads of the triceps. When doing push-ups, you should find a comfortable hand position. Keep your torso, hips and legs aligned.

The wall push-up

Wall push-ups are a good form of physical therapy. However, if you have any medical problems you should consult your physician. Find a wall, facing the wall (with your feet together), place your palms flat against the wall. Your feet should be straight and shoulder width apart with the hands at chest level. Bend the shoulders and elbows until the forehead gently touches the wall. This is the finishing position. Press to the start position and repeat. Beginning: 1 set of 10; Intermediate: 2 sets of 25; Advanced: 3 sets of 50.

Incline push-ups

Find a secure or stable object (desk, tall chairs, work surfaces, or cell basin) that is about half your height and reaches the midpoint section of your body. With your feet together, lean over and grasp the object with your arms straight, shoulder-width apart. If the object reaches your knees, bend at the elbows and shoulders, lower yourself until your torso gently touches the top of the object. Pause briefly before pressing back up to the start position and repeat. Beginning: 1 set of 10; Intermediate: 2 sets of 20; Advanced: 3 sets of 40.

Kneeling push-ups

Kneel on the floor with your feet together and your palms flat on the floor in front of you. The arms should be straight, shoulder-width apart, and in line with your chest. Link one ankle around the other, keep your hips straight and in alignment with the trunk and head. This is the start position. Bring your shoulders and elbows approximately one fist’s width from the floor. Place and press to the start position, then repeat. Beginning: 1 set of 10; Intermediate: 2 sets of 15; Advanced: 3 sets of 30.

Half push-ups

From the kneeling position, place your palms on the floor and stretch your legs out behind you. Your hands should be about shoulder-width apart, directly below your upper chest. Your feet and legs should be together. Tighten your supporting muscles, so that your back legs and hips stay locked inside. Start with your arms straight. Lower yourself approximately half the length of your extended arms or until your elbows form a right angle. An excellent way to establish how far to descend is to use a ball directly below your hips. This is the start position. Bend at the shoulder and elbows until your hips lightly make contact with the ball. Pause before pressing back to the start position. Beginning: 1 set of 8; Intermediate: 2 sets of 12; Advanced: 2 sets of 25.

The remaining exercises in the push-up series will be covered next month. We would like your input on this column and welcome any suggestions, including future topics.
**Oriagami Cranes Decorate San Francisco City Hall’s Holiday Tree**

By Boston Woodward

Staff Writer

Every December, San Francisco City Hall displays a huge holiday tree in its rotunda. The tree is decorated with thousands of origami cranes and stars inscribed with people’s wishes and hopes for a better world. The tree is called The World Tree of Hope.

Fifteen members of San Quentin’s American Indian Culture and Spiritual Group (AICSG) have volunteered to create and assemble hundreds of Origami Cranes for this great cause. The group of volunteers meets at the Interfaith Chapel every Thursday night, their “culture night” as it’s called, with the goal of giving back to the community.

San Quentin self-help volunteer Jun Hamamoto sponsored the origami project and taught origami to the class. One recent Thursday, staff member Vivienne Florendo also stopped by to help. AICSG origami project coordinators Tony Alto and Andrew organized and managed the occasion by ensuring tables, chairs and materials were available to the volunteers.

The Spiritual Group divided into several smaller groups to construct the cranes. Hamamoto and Florendo also created cranes of their own for the tree-decorating project. This is the first year Native Americans from San Quentin have assisted in The World Tree of Hope project but they have participated in other projects, such as crafting origami cranes, stars, birds, and rabbits, which were handed out to the kids at Oakland’s Children Hospital.

For several months, Hamamoto has been working with the American Indian Culture and Spiritual Group coordinating their Thursday night program. “This is our second origami project. We spent two evenings making cards for kids at Children’s Hospital—one evening learning origami basic models and one evening folding origami for the children,” said Hamamoto.

Alto and Andrew told the San Quentin News that all the crafts constructed and donated to Children’s Hospital were chemical and toxin free. “We are mindful of the materials we use to make the cranes and other items we donate,” said co-coordinator Andrew. “We want to make sure they receive items that are safe and healthy and that will hopefully bring smiles to their faces.” “Origami is meditative,” commented Hamamoto. “When you concentrate on folding, you are in the present moment. I learned origami from my parents as a child.”

According to Hamamoto, “The group loved the first origami project and asked for more. This made me deeply happy. When I was asked by Jeff Cotter of the World Rainbow Fund to contribute this year, I thought it was a great opportunity for the AICSG to be involved, giving them an opportunity to give back to the community.” The Rainbow World Fund (rainbowfund.org/tree), which sponsors The World Tree of Hope event, calls it a “symbol of global unity.” The organization accepts wishes from anyone, which will be printed out, folded into an origami crane, and placed on the tree.

Founded in 2000, the World Rainbow Fund is an all-volunteer international humanitarain service agency based in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) and friends community. The fund works to help people who suffer from hunger, poverty, disease, natural disaster, oppression, and war by raising awareness and funds to support relief efforts around the world.

RWF’s philosophy is that we are all “One Human Family” and that we are living in a time that tells us that our survival on this planet is dependent on us all giving more to each other. When asked what it means to the men of AICSG to assist in this event, coordinator Alto said, “It’s great. It’s an opportunity for our community to help out fellow human beings in a small but sincere way.”

As San Quentin’s AICSG members labored on twisting, turning and shaping material into holiday ornaments replete with their hopes and wishes for the New Year, their sincerity and dedication was apparent. “We wanted to do our part to help others during the holidays. This means a lot to us,” said one volunteer while concentrating fully on his creative task.

---

**San Quentin Prisoner Writes Unique Obituary Before His Passing**

Editor’s Note: George Burns passed away on Oct. 16, 2013. Burns was one of the eight inmates honored at a memorial service held in the Protestant Chapel on Nov. 15, 2013. He was the youngest of the inmates. Last year he took a journalism class held by Patton College. One of his assignments was to write his own obituary. Here is what he wrote:

Mr. Burns went to Highlands High in Sacramento. He participated in track and played football his freshman year for Highlands High.

He loved to cook different types of food. He was a very good cook. He enjoyed reading, writing, fishing, fixing up old cars, and listening to music. His favorite music was rap, which Tupac was his favorite rapper. He was also good at drawing.

Mr. Burns’ funeral will be held June 18, 2012, at 10 a.m. The burial will take place at Sunset Lawn, 1900 Sunrise Blvd. in Sacramento, California 95678.

George was born in Sacramento on Nov. 29, 1971, to Don Weatherpoon and Shirley Smith. He married Cheri Projector in Sacramento, where they lived with their son.

Mr. Burns was a student in Patton College, where he was trying to achieve his A.A. degree in basic education. Also, he was a writer for the San Quentin Guild Journalism class.

He was able to make the following achievements in his life: George attended high school diploma and completed a course in business. He finished top of his class in janitorial duties, and in computer class.

He worked at San Quentin’s kitchen where he was a leads man and was the founder of Fathers Doing Positive Things (FDPT), where he worked hard giving back to the community.

He was also a big brother sponsor to the Boys Club. He was the heart and soul of his family. His love for family and friends was evident in his daily life, and he touched the lives of many. He was known to his family and friends as a good guy who spoke his mind. George was the type of person that loved helping those that were less fortunate and needed help. His heart was made of gold, and everyone who crossed paths with him enjoyed having him around. He was very protective of those who were close to him.

Mr. Burns was always trying to find something positive he could do to help others.

Mr. Burns’ early life was rocky; he was in and out of jail. He was the founder of the North Highlands Gangsta Crips in which his gang involvement led him to commit a shooting that landed him in prison for 31 years and 8 months.

During this time is when he started changing his ways and attitude toward life. George begun to get involved in things that would benefit his future. He enrolled in Patton College and started writing for San Quentin Journalism Guild. His going to college and putting articles together for San Quentin News is how he spent his leisure time.
Editor’s note: For security reasons, The San Quentin Educa-
tion Staff requests San Quentin News use only the first names of the college students in this article. We have honored that request.

For more than a dozen years, students from a prestigious California university have been venturing inside a state prison, tutoring inmates who do not have high school diplomas. Each semester University of California, Berkeley, sends between 60 and 100 students into San Quentin State Prison’s Education Department through its Teach in Prison (TIP) program. The impetus of the program, which began in 2000, is to educate inmates in order to reduce recidivism and end mass incarceration, say its supporters. Two hours a week, TIP has classes on campus about criminal justice reform.

“It’s the most amazing program that I’ve been involved with,” said TIP co-president, Natrina. “It taught me a lot about education. I think that if more people had the opportunity to work inside a prison, justice reform would be more possible.”

Inmate Jeff McAuliffe has been at San Quentin four years. He has been a teacher’s aide in the TIP classroom for about a month. He said Mr. Shimel, hired him after he passed the GED test.

“I help the students in their educational goals, McAuliffe said. “One of my teaching points is that I was in the class. I can see, I can understand.”

McAuliffe said having the Berkeley students around helps a lot. “The more the better,” he added. “The inmates tend to ask for help, because it’s an opportunity for them to interact with someone from the community that’s going to be on this world, you are going to be on this world, it’s your reflection of men and women in this world. I realized upon their world is needed in our generation is a Praxis,’ stuck out to me. I graduated, earning my GED is rewarding.”

Stimel has been teaching in the California prisons for 15 years, 10 of those years at San Quentin. As for the Berkeley students, “I like their different areas of interests. They bring a fresh perspective from around the world to my classroom, which is a good thing.”

“I like lightening the mood in a place where it’s hard sometimes not the way things re-

Notice:

• Vocational Electronics is scheduled to begin January 6, 2014.
• Computer Literacy is scheduled to begin early January 2014.

Educational assistance is available to Spanish speaking inmates in the Education Department, Building C2.

Robert E. Burton Adult School Voluntary Education Program (VEP)

“The beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you.”

B.B. King

Send your information in a U-Save-Em envelope to the Education Department/Att. VEP and you will be contacted.
As an example, he said, when Idris Amin rose to power in January 1975, he and his regime were extremely intolerant of Jews. People were calling the Abuyadaya, Christ Killers. They were trying to get us to even more forcibly dissuade them from being Jewish.

That didn’t work because we were so committed to our roots. We were committed to our heritage. It was a war to defend the Jewish identity and culture, and we had no choice but to fight back.

In 2003, Gershom Sizomou was sentenced to life in prison by a federal judge at the San Quentin State Prison in San Rafael, California. Sizomou had been found guilty ofobelies, disabilities, and reading difficulties. The purpose of this tool is to facilitate learning and comprehension.
Continued from Page 1

Healing Veterans, 18 veterans a day were killing themselves. Today that number has jumped to 24 per day. Self pointed out that more veterans commit suicide each year than are killed in combat.

As Self spoke, the litany of names continued in the background, underscored his words. The inmates recited not only the name of each vet killed in military action; they also read the names continued in the back -

As Self spoke, the litany of names continued in the back -

“PTSD—it’s not just veterans suffering from it. It’s also people in urban communities,” said Vaughn Miles, chairman of the Richmond Project. Miles has a wide smile and white teeth. He laughs easily, but his life has been far from easy. He described abuse in his home, seeing his friends killed in the streets, and taking to the streets himself at young age.

Thanks to Self’s curriculum, Miles has begun to understand that he, like many veterans, is suffering from the psychological injuries of trauma. He sees these events as contributing factors that ultimately led to his committing the crime he profund regrets: first-degree murder.

“It’s no excuse,” he said of his background, but understanding the violence that he’s witnessed in the context of PTSD has helped him accept responsibility for the violence he has committed.

Self pointed out that veterans have a lot in common with prisoners who have experienced this kind of street violence. “Some people say you can’t compare inmates to our honorable veterans,” he said. “But when I was 17, Harrison’s brother was killed. ‘He was the main source for me of what a man was supposed to be.’ Harrison committed a murder robbery and ended up in prison at age 19.

Many of the other guests who attended the Vet- eran’s Day event echoed this same theme. “They are real people,” said Emilio Rojas, one of the facilitators for Veterans Healing Veterans. “They are human. I connect with these guys. I am not different from them at all. I’m just luckier.”

As he spoke, the names of the dead continued to echo across the yard. Reprinted by permission of Richmond Confidential

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.

Brent McKinnon

Director of VHV-FTIO
Lt. Col. Sunny Campbell

The group is also collaborating with independent sources to help the platform grow space for a catharsis of these deeply held issues that are unresolved.
4. Tellahawde—A year after the state shut down prisons, they must be reopened because of the increasing inmate population. Prison officials are seeking nearly $60 million to open two prisons, five work camps and two reentry facilities.

5. Tulsa, Oklahoma—During the last 10 years, the percent of jail booking for warrants issued for failure to pay court fines and fees has more than tripled, according to Tulsa World. The highest percentage of inmates taken into custody for failure to pay was July 2013 at 29 percent, which factored into the problem of overcrowding in the jail, a sheriff’s spokesperson said.

6. Santa Fe, New Mexico—Kentucky—Whether a group of 25 supervisors at the Marion Correctional Center in St. Mary’s should be paid overtime is scheduled to go to trial in 2014, reports The Republic. The group claims that the private prison “forced them to work extra hours, denied them meal and rest breaks and refused to pay overtime.”

7. St. Louis—Gov. Jay Nixon stopped the execution of Allen Nicklasson on Oct. 23 after a doctors’ protest “along with threats from the anti-death pen-alty European Union to limit the ‘export’ of the anesthetics propho-rel, reports the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Nixon ordered prison officials to find another lethal injection protocol and instructed the state attorney general to set a new execution date for Nicklasson.

8. Phoenix, Arizona—If the state’s supreme court approves the next two scheduled execu-tions, the seventh executions this year would match the most since instituting the death penalty in 1910, reports the Huffington Post. Nationwide there were 43 executions in 13 states.

9. Pennsylvania—The state’s Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that juveniles serving mandatory life without the possibility of parole would not be able to apply for a re-lease. U.S. Supreme Court land-mark decision banning such sen-tences, if their appeals ran out, reports The Morning Call.

10. Jackson County, Florida—The private prison company, Geos, is schedule to take over operations of the Graceville Cor-rectional Facility in early 2014, reports the Jackson County Flor-idian. Another private prison company, Corrections Corpor-a-tion of America, lost the bid to continue running the prison, which it has run the last three years.

11. Connecticut—The state’s 18 prisons have gardens that pro-duce more than 35,000 pounds of produce for inmate consumption, reports ABC News. Food is also donated to charities. The program is expected to save $20,000 a year.

12. Virginia—Gov. Bob Mc-Donnell has restored the vot-ing rights of 6,874 Virginians, reports The Sentencing Project. The number includes 1,577 non-volent felons whose rights were automatically restored. The re-port finds still around 350,000 disenfranchised Virginians.

13. Stanford University—Joan Petersilia, PhD, has won the 2014 Stockholm Prize in Criminology for research on prison and community corrections based on of-fender reentry, reports Stanford University. Petersilia is credited for providing evidence that supports redirecting resources away from prison programs instead of incarceration.

14. Los Angeles—The state’s inmate population plan that shifts low-level offenders from prison and re-directing time in state prisons to county jails has created a shortage of inmate firefighters. In response to the shortage, the Sheriff’s De-partment is sending 528 offender-s doing time in its jail system to fire suppression training courses at the Santa Clarita Valley Signal.

15. Stockton—More than a dozen organizations, companies, trade unions and education re-presentatives provided awareness booths at a resource fair conduct-ed by a day reporting center for state parolees, reports The Stock-ton Record. The center opened in 2008 and conducts re-entry services that include substance abuse treatment, job development services, educational services, parenting and housing services, according to the reps for center and parolees.

16. Los Angeles—Five inmates were awarded $740,000 by a fed-eral jury for excessive force used by sheriff’s deputies in its Men’s Central Jail. The lawsuit claimed the deputies “beat and brutal-ized” one of the inmates and “rang up to skull fractures,” repor-ts The Associated Press.

17. Montgomery, Alabama— The state board of pardons and paroles unanimously agreed to pardon three of the Scottsboro Boys, reports The Montgomery Advertiser. In 1931, nine Afri-can-American boys were falsely accused of raping two white women. Full and unconditional pardons were granted to Hay-wood Patterson, Charlie Weems, and Andy Wright. “This decision will give them a final peace in their graves, wherever they are,” said Sheila Washington, director of the Scottsboro Cultural Center in Scottsboro, who helped initiate the petition, the Montgomery Advertiser re-port.

18. Harris County, Texas— Transgender offenders will now be housed according to their gender they identify with, and their biological sex, reports Opposing Views, an on-line news source. Only Chicago’s Cook County and Los Angeles has larger county jails than Harris County, the report states. Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia was inter-viewed on National Public Radio and said, “The reality is that the federal government doesn’t have a lot of what is called PREA, the Prison Rape Elimination Act. And to get compliant with that particular law, we have to comply with all of the laws and that makes sense, resolves any issues and prevents us from getting our- selves in court. It’s very expensive to pay people’s money when we could’ve developed a comprehensive policy to contend with this popula-tion.” Of the 125,000 inmates in the jail system, Garcia said he does not know how many iden-tify as transgender. However, he said after the new policies are in place, he’ll have a good idea.
By Jerry Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

A soccer tournament began in San Quentin to find talent for an official 21-man team.

It’s the best way of organizing and getting sponsored to play teams from the streets.

In Nov. 2, the San Quentin Ministries, Alianza Football Club defeated Team International, 3-1, and Street Kickers and Kings in a double header.

As an addition, the Warrior and the Alianza made a key play to gain the victory. He moved up the field, displaying a mean cross, using only his feet. With the score tied 1-1, Ramirez went coast-to-coast right into a triple team. With eight minutes left, he kicked a no-look pass to 70-year-old Manuel Flores, who kicked a goal, leaving the score 2-1.

“They had to focus on our forward, leaving Chris open. Ramirez scored two goals,” said Ruiz.

“At this point in the man to victory in the final minutes, but fell short.

“We lost our focus on our primary objective—to win,” said Banks.

The Green team refueled between games by eating chocolate chip cookies. “Y'all ain't tired? What you give those guys, Biff?” joked Kings Assistant Coach Ishmael Freelon.

During the OT, McIntosh put home a double-double with a lay-up on a drive to the hole.

The Warriors made a great comeback effort. Franklin put back a shot a teammate missed and Hanks hit another three-pointer, bringing the score to 68-65.

The Green team has its sights set on the Green team’s win in the Nov. 2 game to “just do what you have to do. Just do your job. It’s fun-- the weather, the hecklers. I love it. I slide left, right, forward, backward. It’s not what they do; it’s what you do.”

Next up were the Kings. Hahs, King and Ivy had to leave, but the rest stayed, with Andrew Strong added and Smith and Epling acting as the Green Team reserves.

The Kings trailed the whole game, never getting closer than six points. Lacey led Ministries with 37 points and 19 rebounds.

Ramirez scored two goals,” said Ruiz.

“At this point in the man to victory in the final minutes, but fell short.

“We lost our focus on our primary objective—to win,” said Banks.

The Green team refueled between games by eating chocolate chip cookies. “Y’all ain’t tired? What you give those guys, Biff?” joked Kings Assistant Coach Ishmael Freelon.

During the OT, McIntosh put home a double-double with a lay-up on a drive to the hole.

The Warriors made a great comeback effort. Franklin put back a shot a teammate missed and Hanks hit another three-pointer, bringing the score to 68-65.

The Green team has its sights set on the Green team’s win in the Nov. 2 game to “just do what you have to do. Just do your job. It’s fun-- the weather, the hecklers. I love it. I slide left, right, forward, backward. It’s not what they do; it’s what you do.”

Next up were the Kings. Hahs, King and Ivy had to leave, but the rest stayed, with Andrew Strong added and Smith and Epling acting as the Green Team reserves.

The Kings trailed the whole game, never getting closer than six points. Lacey led Ministries with 37 points and 19 rebounds.

Ramirez scored two goals,” said Ruiz.

“At this point in the man to victory in the final minutes, but fell short.

“We lost our focus on our primary objective—to win,” said Banks.
It was a perfect, sunny day as the No Soup For You outside flag football team stopped San Quentin’s All-Madden at the goal line to win, 32-25.

Above the Rim won the Half-Court Championship Basketball Tournament, featuring outstanding play by Jahkeem Stokes and Andre Quinne. They defeated No Fair Ones, 25-18, to win the Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

Only Stokes, Tercero, Vines and Montrell Vines.

Cloman tried to run it twice in a row. No Soup almost didn’t All-Madden at the goal line. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

Then Stokes stepped up, hitting it and made the winning 25th pointer. He followed that up with a shake and bake to the hole for the And-One, but the refs’ calls disapproved of the And-One. On the ground from the contact, while Franklin flopped, the ball was dead. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

“Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

It was a perfect, sunny day as the San Quentin News December 2013.

Above the Rim consisted of Fully Loaded, which won the last CBL championship. It was a perfect, sunny day as the No Soup For You outside flag football team stopped San Quentin’s All-Madden at the goal line to win, 32-25.

Above the Rim won the Half-Court Championship Basketball Tournament, featuring outstanding play by Jahkeem Stokes and Andre Quinne. They defeated No Fair Ones, 25-18, to win the Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

Only Stokes, Tercero, Vines and Montrell Vines.

Cloman tried to run it twice in a row. No Soup almost didn’t All-Madden at the goal line. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

Then Stokes stepped up, hitting it and made the winning 25th pointer. He followed that up with a shake and bake to the hole for the And-One, but the refs’ calls disapproved of the And-One. On the ground from the contact, while Franklin flopped, the ball was dead. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

“Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

It was a perfect, sunny day as the San Quentin News December 2013.

Above the Rim consisted of Fully Loaded, which won the last CBL championship. It was a perfect, sunny day as the No Soup For You outside flag football team stopped San Quentin’s All-Madden at the goal line to win, 32-25.

Above the Rim won the Half-Court Championship Basketball Tournament, featuring outstanding play by Jahkeem Stokes and Andre Quinne. They defeated No Fair Ones, 25-18, to win the Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

Only Stokes, Tercero, Vines and Montrell Vines.

Cloman tried to run it twice in a row. No Soup almost didn’t All-Madden at the goal line. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

Then Stokes stepped up, hitting it and made the winning 25th pointer. He followed that up with a shake and bake to the hole for the And-One, but the refs’ calls disapproved of the And-One. On the ground from the contact, while Franklin flopped, the ball was dead. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

“Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

It was a perfect, sunny day as the San Quentin News December 2013.

Above the Rim consisted of Fully Loaded, which won the last CBL championship. It was a perfect, sunny day as the No Soup For You outside flag football team stopped San Quentin’s All-Madden at the goal line to win, 32-25.

Above the Rim won the Half-Court Championship Basketball Tournament, featuring outstanding play by Jahkeem Stokes and Andre Quinne. They defeated No Fair Ones, 25-18, to win the Aaron “Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.

Only Stokes, Tercero, Vines and Montrell Vines.

Cloman tried to run it twice in a row. No Soup almost didn’t All-Madden at the goal line. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

Then Stokes stepped up, hitting it and made the winning 25th pointer. He followed that up with a shake and bake to the hole for the And-One, but the refs’ calls disapproved of the And-One. On the ground from the contact, while Franklin flopped, the ball was dead. No Soup For You outside flag-grabbing dive. Two plays later, Martinez threw his second touchdown pass to Born. Both extra point tries failed.

“Imam Jeddi” Taylor tourney.