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Voters Amend Three Strikes Law

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT UPHELD BY A NARROW MARGIN OF STATE VOTERS

By John C. Eagan
Senior Adviser

Voters have approved major changes to the Three Strikes Law, but rejected attempts to abolish capital punishment in California.

With most of the Nov. 6 votes tallied, the Three Strikes Law, Proposition 36, won 69.1 percent to 30.9 percent. The vote total was 7,943,034 yes to 3,556,723 no. The death penalty initiative, Proposition 34, lost 47.8 percent to 52.2 percent, which was 5,517,414 yes and 6,034,428 no.

The death penalty initiative would have abolished capital punishment, and retroactively substituted life without the possibility of parole for the more than 700 men and women on Death Row.

Proposition 34 also would have directed \$100 million to law enforcement agencies for investigations of homicide and rape cases. The state voter guide estimated it would have saved about \$130 million annually within a few years. It also would have represented costs of \$100 million for local

law enforcement grants. Three Strikes changes permit an estimated 3,000 prison inmates to petition courts for sentence reductions.

The official voter summary says Proposition 36: "Revises law to impose a life sentence only when new felony conviction is serious or violent. May authorize re-sentencing if third strike conviction was not serious or violent."

The summary estimates ongoing state correctional savings of around \$70 million annually, with even greater

savings (up to \$90 million annually) over the next couple of decades.

Proposition 36 supporters said the initiative "restores the original intent of the Three Strikes Law by focusing on violent criminals...Nonviolent offenders get twice the ordinary prison sentence."

The legislative analyst says of Proposition 36: "The measure limits eligibility for re-sentencing to third strikers whose current offense is non-serious, non-violent and who have not committed specific

current and prior offenses, such as certain drug-, sex-, and gun-related felonies."

The analyst adds, "The court would be required to re-sentence eligible offenders unless it determines that re-sentencing the offenders would pose an unreasonable risk to public safety. In determining whether an offender poses such a risk, the court could consider any evidence it determines is relevant, such as the offender's criminal history, behavior in prison, and participation in rehabilitation program."

Secretary Cate Leaves CDCR

BROWN APPOINTS MARTIN HOSHINO AS ACTING SECRETARY OF CDCR

By San Quentin News Staff

Matthew Cate has announced his resignation as head of California's prison system to lead the organization representing the state's 58 counties.

Gov. Jerry Brown chose Martin Hoshino as acting secretary to replace Cate. Hoshino has been undersecretary of administration and offender services since May 2011. He previously served as executive officer for the Board of Parole Hearings and as chief assistant inspector general.

Cate says under his four-and-a-half-year leadership recidivism rates were reduced, spending was decreased, the percentage of prisoners and parolees receiving rehabilitative services was increased, and five class-action lawsuits were ended.

He also said, "The federal receiver is winding down his operations and our medical and mental health care is vastly improved."

His resignation was effective Nov. 11. His new job is executive

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Photo By Sam Hearnes

Incarcerated musician Reginald Austin grooves on piano with guest jazz musicians

Musicians Honor Jazz Artist

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

It was a night of music when a San Quentin prisoner took the stage with several renowned musicians to pay tribute to former inmate and jazz artist Frank Morgan, who died last year.

The Protestant Chapel was filled with sound on Oct. 12 when prisoner and jazz pianist Reginald Ausin performed with bass player Ron Carter, alto sax-

ophonists Grace Kelly and Mark Gross, trombonist Delphius Marcellus, pianist George Cable and Marvin "Smitty" Smith on the drums.

"Being on that stage and playing in tribute to my friend Frank Morgan with Marcellus and the crew was just amazing," Austin said. "For me, heaven couldn't get much better."

Austin said it was an honor to play in memory of Morgan and speak the language of mu-

sic without ever having to say a word.

"I thank God I was ready when the opportunity came," said Austin. He said that Morgan was a major influence on his style and development in music.

While Austin was playing, Cable was listening and watching over Austin's shoulder.

"At that point I knew my music was saying something that he

See *Jazz Musicians* on Page 4



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Secretary Matthew Cate and California's First Lady Anne Brown during a recent visit to San Quentin

Prisoners Seek Racial Peace

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

A multi-racial group of prisoners is calling for an end to all racial hostilities in California prisons and jails, and a "return to a rehabilitative-type system of meaningful programs/privileges, including lifer conjugal visits."

The group said, "all racial group hostilities need to be at an end...and if personal issues arise between individuals, people need to do all they can to exhaust all diplomatic means to settle such disputes; do not allow personal, individual issues to escalate into racial group issues!!"

Terry Thornton, CDCR deputy press secretary, said the de-

partment "is hopeful that the inmates are sincere in their desire to reduce violence in prisons. CDCR's mission to operate its prisons safely and humanely is paramount and offenders should also be accountable for their own behavior and take responsibility for reducing violence."

See *Coalition* on Page 4

Felix Lucero Paroles, Aiming for S.F. State

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

A lifer well known for his cheerful attitude paroled after serving 18 years in prison. Felix Lucero had been a 16-year-old high school student and a part-time museum maintenance worker before he was sentenced to an 18 years-to-life term.

Today, at age 34, with both a college degree and a certification in drug counseling in hand, he leaves a kitchen maintenance prison job to start a new life in a different world he never saw as an adult.

Before arriving at San Quentin, Lucero did time at two

other institutions: Mule Creek and Folsom. But while at San Quentin, he embarked on a mission to prepare himself for his future.

"I am taking San Quentin with me.."

"I think I was seriously involved in about 10 groups while at San Quentin," said Lucero. He listed his top five groups as SQUIRES, TRUST, Arts In Corrections, Alliance, and ARC. Lucero also graduated from Paten College, operated by the Prison University Project, earn-

ing his Associate of Arts degree in 2009 as that year's valedictorian.

As for the future, "I'm planning on paroling to the city of Berkeley and enrolling at San Francisco State University through Project Rebound," said Lucero. "I have a job offer to be a drug addiction counselor and I want to continue to work with The Last Mile."

He is especially proud of maintaining a close relationship with his daughter, Desiree.

As he headed out the gate, his parting words for the men at San Quentin: "I am taking San Quentin with me as a place that has a spirit of change."



Photo By Tom Bolema

Felix Lucero playing guitar during a recent yard event

Realignment Falls Short of Expected Goals

By San Quentin News Staff

California's realignment plan alone will not be enough to fix its overcrowded prisons and reduce its high recidivism rate, according to *California Prison Realignment One-Year Anniversary: An American Civil Liberties Union Assessment*.

Realignment diverts some newly convicted felons to county jails, instead of state prisons. The plan is also designed to bring down recidivism by changing the state parole system and local probation programs. The state has the second-highest recidivism rate in the country, at 65.1 percent.

The state prison population has dropped by nearly 25,000 as

a result of realignment, according to the report.

Part of the intention of realignment was to encourage counties to use and expand evidence-based alternatives to incarceration.

However, many counties are expanding their jails. Since realignment began, county jail capacity has increased by more than 7,000 beds, and one billion dollars in state lease-revenue bonds are "in the pipeline" for the construction of an additional 10,000 county jail beds, according to the report.

"Building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns is not sustainable, and will not result in improving public safety," the report says.

The report warns that realignment has the potential to become just a shell game of shifting inmates from doing time in state facilities to county jails.

"Realignment has the potential to become just a shell game.."

The state should institute modest sentencing reforms that would decrease the numbers of people sentenced to prison and jail — reforms which has saved money in other states, including Michigan, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Virginia, the report recommends.

It also recommends that state officials should "discourage counties from repeating the same failed policies that led to California's prison overcrowding and recidivism crises."

The report examined two senate bills that would have saved money for the state and counties without jeopardizing public safety. Neither bill was enacted in spite of strong public support.

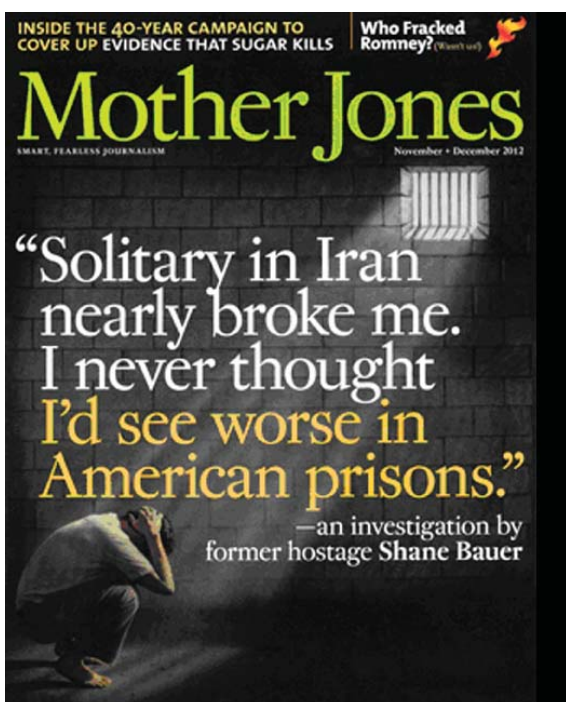
Senate Bill 210 would have required judges to consider whether pretrial detainees with minimal risk could be released for community monitoring if they could not afford bail.

Senate Bill 1506 would have added California to the list of 13 states, the District of Columbia, and the federal gov-

ernment that treat possession of drugs for personal use as a misdemeanor instead of a felony.

The report made the following recommendations:

- Reduce the penalty for possession of small amounts of drugs
- Reduce the penalty for low-level, non-violent property offenses
- Limit the amount of time someone can spend incarcerated in county jails
- Release detainees from county jails who are awaiting trial who pose no risk to public safety
- Institute standardized data collection and reporting methods to record how counties are budgeting realignment funds



Mother Jones has agreed to mail a copy of the magazine containing Shane Bauer's story to each prisoner who requests it. Write to Mother Jones Magazine, Attn: Customer Service, 222 Sutter St., Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94108

'Public Defenders Do Better Job'

PHILADELPHIA COURTS STUDY FINDS BIG DIFFERENCE

By Ted Swain
Journalism Guild Writer

The outcome of criminal cases is significantly affected by the resources and competency of legal counsel, according to a Rand Corp. study of Philadelphia courts.

"The differences in outcome are striking," says the report issued in December 2011. The report studied the Philadelphia Public Defender's Office because it is the only defender's office in the country where the office is randomly assigned every fifth murder defendant, while the remainder receive court-appointed private attorneys.

The report concluded that, compared to the court-appointed attorneys, the Public Defender legal team reduced the murder conviction rate by 19 percent. They reduced the probability that their clients received a life sentence by 62 percent. Furthermore, they reduced the

overall expected time served in prison by 24 percent.

This suggests that the "defense counsel function makes an enormous difference in the outcome," says the report for the National Institute of Justice.

The study suggests that public defenders may spend more time preparing each case than the private attorneys, in part due to financial incentives. In the Philadelphia system, independent appointed legal counsel receives a flat fee of \$2,000 for pre-trial preparation if the case goes to trial. While on trial, independent attorneys receive \$400 per day.

By comparison, the report says federal court attorneys earn \$125 per hour in non-death penalty cases and \$185 per hour in death penalty cases. Rand reports that "many respected attorneys refuse to be on the list to accept court appointments."

The Philadelphia Public Defenders, however, are on a fixed salary and can spend as much time on a case as required. The

defender's office had also developed a team specializing in homicide cases, and the team had its own investigators and expert resources.

The 47-page document concludes, "a defendant's time imprisoned may dramatically change as a function of the ordering in which cases are brought, a fact which raises troubling questions about the fairness and arbitrariness of the current system."

The report concluded that had the 2,459 defendants who were not represented by the public defender's office actually been represented by them, 270 of them would not have been convicted. If the public defender legal team had represented all defendants, the aggregate prison terms would have decreased by a total of 6,400 years, saving \$200 million, according to the report.

"The criminal justice system should mete out fine justice," the report concludes. "Our findings suggest how far from this goal we are."

Prisoners Benefit From Artist's Workshop

By Adam Barboza
Journalism Guild Writer

Renowned artist David Lefel spent two days teaching San Quentin inmates the fine points of painting with oils.

"Most beginners try to transfer what they see on to canvas with exactness, and that's not a reality," Lefel told the students.

"Don't get stuck in the middle, where you can't see where you're going, worrying too much about details," he added. "You should keep it simple and work with big strokes, then finish by moving values and paint around to make your painting come alive."

Lefel came to San Quentin as part of the Prison Art Project workshop, sponsored by the Williams James Association.

He gave the inmates painting tips, from basics like how to hold a paint brush to more complex points like being aware of light and shadows.

During the first day, Lefel painted a portrait of an inmate named Fred Tinsley, while explaining to inmates what they

should keep in mind when they are painting.

"Just sitting there watching David paint my image was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Tinsley. "The intensity in his eyes had a master's look. What a privilege."

On the second day, two inmates modeled as students practiced what they had learned the first day. Lefel went around helping and encouraging each student individually.

"He's a very profound man with a passion for art. For two days it was like being at a university," said inmate Gary Harrell.

"It was inspiring to see an artist who's made it," said Josh Locke. "It gave me an idea of where I am and where I want to be. He brought it all together. That was his gift to me, to view a painting in a different light."

Lefel came with Carlos Grasso, his friend, publisher, assistant, agent and student who is also an artist. At age 4, Lefel contracted a bone disease which kept him bed-ridden until age 15, getting around



Artist David Lafelle offers Paul Stauffer instruction on painting techniques

with crutches and a wheelchair. The disease left him with a bad leg, yet for two days he only sat down for a quick lunch with the inmates.

"To see a painting in a photograph or magazine is one thing,

but to actually see the paint applied to canvas the way David did was sublime," said Scott McKinstry.

"David Lefel's workshop was a thrill to watch. To see the model's face emerge from the

dark background was magic. His use of paint was brilliant," said art instructor Pat Maloney.

"I had always wanted to work with oils, and David made it all look easy," said Kalifah Christiansen.

DNA Evidence Frees 300 Prisoners Nationwide

By Jason McGinnis
Contributing Writer

Damon Thibodeaux confessed to raping and killing his 14-year-old cousin and spent more than 15 years on Louisiana's Death Row, but was cleared by DNA evidence earlier this year and has now been released from prison.

He was the 300th prisoner freed nationwide by DNA tests—18 of whom were on Death Row, according to lawyers from

the New York-based Innocence Project.

Crystal Champagne was last seen on July 19, 1996, as she left to go to a local supermarket and never returned. An investigation ensued and her body was found the next evening under a bridge with her pants down and a wire around her neck.

Detectives began interrogating potential witnesses, including Thibodeaux. He insisted he was coerced into giving a false confession after nine hours of

interrogation. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 1997.

In 2007, Thibodeaux's legal team persuaded the local district attorney's office to investigate the case. After thousands of dollars spent on further investigation, which was shared by both sides, DNA testing proved that Thibodeaux was not Crystal's killer and that she was not raped.

"It feels good. I am still processing it," Thibodeaux, 38, said in an interview with the

Los Angeles Times. "I feel great sympathy for the Champagne family," he said. He hopes Crystal's killer "is found and tried."

"It's hard to put myself in Thibodeaux's shoes," said San Quentin prisoner Frankie Prater. "I cannot comprehend having to go to Death Row knowing that I am innocent." Prater said that DNA evidence is a good tool for determining innocence. "The truth will always set you free."

"The criminal justice system has always worked in the system's favor," said another San Quentin prisoner, Allen Webb. "They have been doing stuff like interrogating witnesses and coercing them into confessions for years. DNA evidence is great and could have made a big difference many years ago."

Thibodeaux will receive approximately \$250,000 in compensation for his wrongful conviction and imprisonment.

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

S.F. Juvenile Prisoners Dislike Outdoors

By San Quentin News Staff

About two-thirds of the boys and girls detained at San Francisco's Juvenile Justice Center say they do not like outdoor recreation, according to a poll by the San Francisco Youth Commission, reports the Bay Citizen.

The commission has been concerned with the amount of fresh air, sunlight, and exercise the youngsters were receiving. In February, they drafted a resolution calling for detainees to have regular access to a large outdoor space at the hall that had sat unused since it was built in 2006 as part of a \$47 million renovation. By law, juvenile detainees are entitled to one hour of outdoor "large-muscle" exercise each day.

William Siffermann, chief of juvenile probation, said then that most of the yard could not be used due to security concerns and staff shortages. Siffermann also pointed out that, "Some kids don't want to go outside, and I can't force them out there."

According to the poll, only 10 of the 53 respondents said they participated in outdoor exercise every day. "When they did participate, nearly a third reported spending less than an hour outside," the Bay Citizen reports.

The lack of interest in outdoor recreation took the youth commission by surprise, they said.

"It's pretty clear that young people are not getting their hour a day outdoors," commission director Mario Yedidia told the Chronicle. "The culture of the institution seems like it's not re-

ally encouraging of outdoor exercise."

All but one of the detainees surveyed said they liked visiting the indoor gym, but almost half said they used it fewer than four days a week.

Subsequent inquiries by the commission raised questions about the hall's compliance with state regulations. Although a 2010 state inspection found no compliance issues at the facility, the commission and Board of Supervisors asked Siffermann to provide documentation showing how often individual detainees go outside.

Until now, staff at the hall has not recorded that information, but Siffermann told The Bay Citizen that he would report those numbers to the youth commission on a quarterly basis.

Innocent Man Freed After Nineteen Years

By Ron Koehler
Journalism Guild Writer

Charges have been dismissed for a Los Angeles man who spent 19 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

"I had good days and bad days, I stayed hopeful and that's all I could do," John Edwards Smith, 37, said outside the downtown jail. "I'm not bitter at all, because that ain't going to get me nowhere. I've got to move on."

Smith was freed after a group called Innocence Matters gathered evidence that the man who testified against Smith lied under police pressure.

Smith's lawyer, Deirdre O'Conner, said the sole witness was the shooting victim who had survived the incident that left one man dead. His testimony helped convict Smith.

Smith always maintained he was not in the area or involved in the shooting.

O'Conner, who heads the Torrance-based public interest firm Innocence Matters, reported in papers filed with the court that Smith's accuser, Landu Mvuemba, said he falsely identified Smith as the shooter under police pressure.

San Quentin prisoners responded to the AP article referring to Smith's case, which began by identifying Smith as a former gang member.

One said, "Gang member? What's up with that? Why is 'gang' mentioned first?" Another said, "What do you expect? The prosecution always chooses their suspect first."

Another proclaimed that gang members are prime targets for the authorities. Still another said that a prime suspect is always chosen first, and evidence is built around that suspect to confirm that suspect's guilt. Another explained that prosecutors were like jaguars, and picked out the weak as prey.

Another S.Q. Teacher Lost to Budget Cuts

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

Education staffer Hazel Koons has been laid off amid budget cuts, but she says she has learned how important learning is to prison inmates.

After she began working here two years ago, Koons said she began noticing her students excelling in their academic learning. She says tutoring prisoners of San Quentin has been very rewarding.

"They were taking their life experiences and relating them to what they were learning. I was seeing the lights," she said.

One thing Koons said she learned while working at San Quentin is the media misrepresents the whole picture of the person in prison; the character of the person going to prison stops with the headline when he or she is found guilty.

"Inmate identity is very generalized, meaning that within

the prison you're differentiated by your sentence and the time you're doing," Koons said. "But the media and the legislation portray inmate identity as one blanket person, that being a criminal."

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

When asked how her friends and family responded to her decision to work at San Quentin, she said her friends did not want to talk about it but her family was supportive.

"Once I made the choice they wanted me to have physical exposure," she said. "It's called immersion, getting in there and doing it."

For Koons, immersion is also a part of being a community activist: "I've always had a strong identity in standing up and taking in what I've learned then speaking about it."

She said being a community activist prepared her to work in this environment. "There were

times when it was tough, but once I got into tutoring, the men were eager to learn, (and) I knew I could handle it," she said.

In the beginning, the person who guided her was Ted Roberts, who was the principal when she started.

"When I started here two years ago, Roberts was the biggest getter. He would definitely make phone calls," Koons said. "Roberts was a man who thought outside of the walls and made positive things happen here."

However, what troubled Koons were supervisors whose agendas were not aligned with education.

GREAT TUTOR

Tom Bolema, literacy coordinator for the Robert E. Burton School at San Quentin, said Koons is on her way to becoming a great teacher because she was such a great tutor.

"Hazel's a natural," said Mr. Thomas, a teacher for Robert E.



Photo By Phil Phillips

Hazel Koons happily at work in education at S.Q.

Burton Adult School of Education. "She had an ability to check for understanding when working with students. Many teachers will teach a lesson and expect the student to understand, and they do not."

San Quentin resident Orlando Harris, who worked with Koons, said she was smart and always wanted to help.

"She always wanted to affect positive change in the classroom and in our lives," said Harris. "She'll be sorely missed."

Koons said her plans definitely include continuing as an educator.

"I love being a teacher," said Koons. "I'm a trans-national feminist. I believe education is important for all who are incarcerated, especially women."

WOMEN'S ISSUES

"Women's issues cross borders, meaning that one woman's struggle here is no different from another woman's struggle in another country. The same goes for rehabilitation," said Koons. "I felt that rehabilitation was important, so I applied here, and after I got the job, I moved up here."

Changing Guard

Continued from Page 1

director of the California State Association of Counties. His 2011 state salary was \$215,471; his new salary will be \$288,000 and he will be eligible for a state pension, reports the Los Angeles Times.

Cate acknowledged much more is left to accomplish, admitting, "Implementation of public safety realignment has been very challenging for everyone and we must continue to work through the remaining operational issues, while taking



Official Photo

Acting Secretary Hoshino

care of the impacted employees."

Part of his new job will entail helping counties find ways to cope with the influx of prisoners and parolees resulting from the state's prison realignment program, as well as lobbying the state Legislature for the money to do so.

Coalition Calls for Peace

Continued from Page 1

The advocates are serving time at California's super-max facility, Pelican Bay. Some were part of a class-action lawsuit against Gov. Jerry Brown and the state's top prison official, Matthew Cate, alleging their living conditions produced "harmful and predictable psychological deterioration" by keeping them "for an unconscionably long period of time without meaningful review of their placement solitary confinement."

In the letter intended to reach all California prisoners, the group wrote, "we must

all hold strong to our mutual agreement from this point on and focus our time, attention and energy on mutual causes beneficial to all of us and our best interests."

The prisoner advocates inside Pelican Bay are:

- Todd Ashker, C58191, D1-119
- Arturo Castellanos, C17275, D1-121
- Sitawa Nantambu Jamaa (Dewberry) C35671, D1-117
- Antonio Guillen, P81948, D2-106
- Danny Troxell, B76578, D1-120
- George Franco, D46556, D4-217

- Ronnie Yandell, V27927, D4-215
- Paul Redd, B72683, D2-117
- James Baridi Williamson, D-34288 D4-107
- Alfred Sandoval, D61000, D4-214
- Louis Powell, B59864, D1-104
- Alex Yrigollen, H32421, D2-204
- Gabriel Huerta, C80766, D3-222
- Frank Clement, D07919, D3-116
- Raymond Chavo Perez, K12922, D1-219
- James Mario Perez, B48186, D3-124

Jazz Musicians Visit San Quentin to Remember Legend

Continued from Page 1

wasn't used to hearing," Austin said.

As a child, Austin took lessons from Kathryn Muller, a piano teacher who was a Holocaust survivor and a concert pianist in Germany until World War II.

"Muller taught me music, etiquette and to have pride in myself. She taught me to be a man of culture," Austin said. "What she shared with me never goes out of style."

PRISON

Austin began his prison term in 1977, and he said he was looking for something to keep his spirits up while pursuing his love of music.

"I met Morgan here at San Quentin in 1981 through my friend Luke Oliver, a bass player, when I was just beginning my life sentence," Austin said. "My background was in classical mu-

sic, but Morgan introduced me to bebop."

Soon after meeting, both musicians began playing in a band called Brothers of Soul, formed inside San Quentin. As his friendship with Morgan grew, they had conversations on Bach inventions, and Austin learned to incorporate bebop into his classical training.]

"Bach inventions for a pianist are short pieces, and when they're expounded upon, each piece evolves with every interpretation," Austin said. "Eventually, I incorporated the bebop that Morgan gave me with my classical knowledge of Bach."

Austin has been able to develop his own style of playing, which has become a mainstay in his music.

"But that night was special," Austin said. "We played in memory of a great alto jazz saxophonist, a man who was my friend, Frank Morgan."

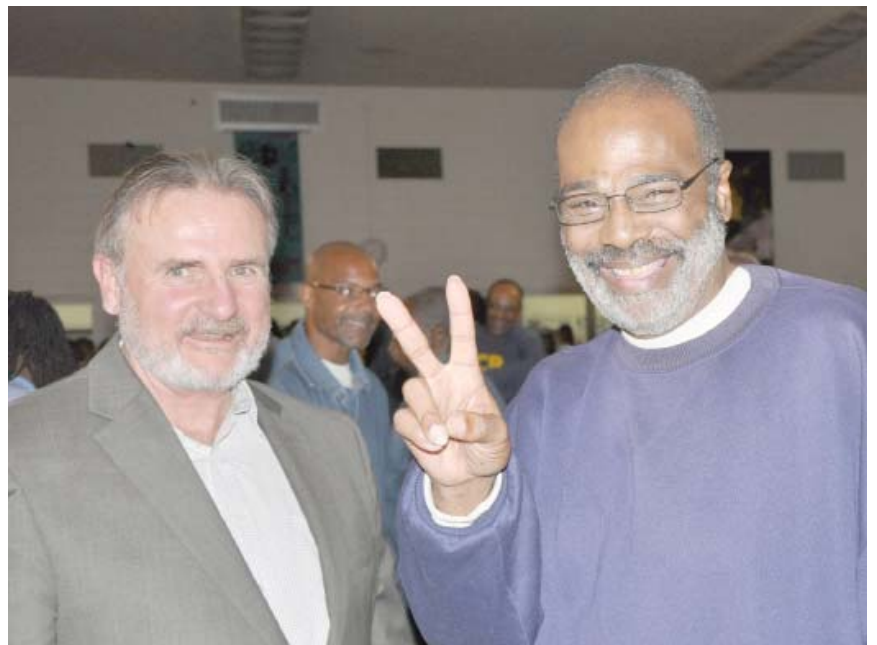


Photo By Sam Hearnes

Reginald Austin displays a message of peace with a guest after an evening of jazz

Language Creates Barrier To Rehabilitation for Some

By Miguel Quezada
Journalism Guild Writer

Language barriers are preventing some prisoners from participating in many of the self-help programs at San Quentin State Prison.

Although prison staff and the Community Partnership Manager make a concerted effort to bring bi-lingual volunteers into the prison, it is not proportionate to the diversity of San Quentin's general population.

San Quentin's recreational yard reveals a melting pot of cultures, ethnicities and languages. Many are of Latino descent and other origins and are unable to fluently speak, read or write in English.

"This is a big issue for Latinos that needs to be addressed," says Gustavo Pureco, a Spanish-speaking inmate. "There is no English as a Second Language (ESL)

class in San Quentin's education department. The tools to help us solve this problem are not available."

Due to across-the-board budget cuts made in California in the past years, ESL classes have been eliminated at many of its institutions, creating a void of resources specific to addressing the language barrier.

"This is a big issue for Latinos that needs to be addressed"

A concern, especially among the Latino men serving life sentences, is that they can't progress in their educational endeavors, such as earning a GED, or complete self-help programs like anger management-oriented groups, "that the parole board has asked me to complete before my next

consideration," said Santos Rene Flores.

To illustrate the problem, the standard education department classes available are Adult Basic Education 1, 2 and 3. Placement in each depends on the students' score on the English formatted Test of ABE.

The result is that when non-English-reading, speaking or writing students have low TABE scores, they will be placed in ABE 1, a class not designed to address the underlying language barrier. Such students must struggle to learn in a language other than their own.

"I take advantage of every opportunity given to me where I can practice speaking and hearing English," said Jesus Manzanares. "But it falls short of what I need in order to learn English and earn the education that I need so that I can be successful when I re-enter into society."

Problems in Classrooms Could Lead to Incarceration in Prison

By Charles Brooks
Journalism Guild Writer

Suspensions and expulsions from schools create a "school-to-prison pipeline," according to the American Civil Liberties Union. Such policies and practices disproportionately affect those of color, according to the ACLU.

"The 'school-to-prison pipeline' refers to the policies and practices that push our nation's schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This pipeline reflects the prioritization of incarceration over education," the ACLU report states.

"One out of every three black boys in Oakland's public school system was suspended during the 2010-2011 academic year for bad behavior," according to Oakland Tribune columnist Tammerlin Drummond.

Drummond said that to find out the details that lead youngsters away from school and into the criminal justice system, "just ask the men at San Quentin."

The San Quentin News did just that. Here are some responses:

Donovan Norwood said he was suspended from Calvin

Simmons Jr. High School for "playing in the rain," and the San Quentin inmate admits it was not the first time. Simmons also said he was suspended "plenty of times for fighting and coming to class late."

Many prisoners who read about the racial disparities had the same response: "No surprise."

Some of the men had tearful memories of their experiences with school discipline.

A Los Angeles man, Paul Davenport, said not being able to talk to anyone about his mother's death caused him to act out in school. His misbehaving was treated with a spanking by a teacher and vice principal. He said it was the beginning of his fighting days. "Eventually I dropped out of school," Davenport said.

Todd Jones said he was once suspended for throwing a basketball at a sea gull. He said he was only trying to run the bird off so he could play basketball. Jones said he was on probation at the time of the suspension.

The incident led to a violation of his probation, so he was sent to juvenile hall. After that, "I became acclimated to 150th" (the location of the Alameda County's juvenile hall lock-up in San

Leandro, on 150th Avenue), said Jones.

"I quit going to Oakland High school after becoming a target, after being expelled for disobedience," said Norwood.

"Life is a test and you get your final grade when you die," said one prisoner who wishes to remain anonymous. "Imagine if God was as cruel as some of these unsympathetic teachers who don't consider some students have to duck bullets just to attend class," he said.

"I was expelled by choice," said Al McInnis, a 21-year-old Oakland native. "I was deliberately being disobedient at Low Junior High. I wanted to hang in the street."

Dropping out of school led him to prison, he said. "A solution to the problem is to bring ex-cons to the youth, and have us talk to them."

"Instead of flooding our communities with guns and drugs, we need to invest in new books," said one prisoner.

"Teach the teacher how to give a damn enough to ask what's wrong before resorting to expulsion," said another.

--Kevin D. Sawyer, San
Quentin Journalism Guild,
contributed to this story.

EDUCATION CORNER



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Bill Reeves addressing the 2012 graduation class

Respected Educator Leaves San Quentin

By Aly Tamboura
Design Editor

After eight years as a San Quentin teacher and administrator, William J. Reeves has been transferred to Solano State Prison as vice principal.

Reeves started out at San Quentin as a volunteer in the Kairos religious program and took a full-time position in the Education Department in 2004. At one point he was vice principal in charge of vocational programs.

Before teaching in prison, Reeves taught students in an alternative education program. He said alternative education program students typically suffer from behavioral problems. Inside prison, students usually experience motivational problems.

"I enjoy teaching people who want to learn. That's what the 'R' in CDCR is all about," said Reeves, referring to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

As a facilitator of Academic Program Counsel, Reeves oversaw a group of prisoners who discussed educational issues and concerns at the prison. The group met once a month and produced recommendations for the administration on making

the educational process work better for prisoners and staff.

"I like working with students on one level, but I also like working with teachers to help at the organizational structure of the system," said Reeves.

After statewide funding cuts to prison education in 2010, Reeves vacated the vice principal position and returned to the classroom as a teacher in H-Unit, a change that he said he welcomed.

He could have taken a career path that would have made a rich man, Reeves said. But he knows he has a greater impact on society by helping incarcerated people receive an education.

"Follow your passion," said Reeves, referring to how a Steve Jobs' commencement speech at Stanford University motivated him. "The speech made me think of how I should lead my life. I thought of the last line in my favorite poem, by Robert Frost, 'The Road Not Taken.' 'I took the road less traveled, and that has made all the difference.'"

His last day at San Quentin was Sept. 14.

"I am not closing the door on coming back to San Quentin," said Reeves. "However, my career path is just going in a different direction right now."

David Lewis Case Dismissed

By San Quentin News Staff

Murder charges have been dismissed against a man accused of fatally shooting noted community activist David Lewis in 2010.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Stephen Hall tossed the murder charge and a related gun charge on Nov. 8. He ruled police inappropriately obtained a confession from Gregory Elarms, 60, and violated his Miranda rights.

District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said his office will review the case to decide whether to

appeal the dismissal or file new charges.

Wagstaffe said the case holds particular community interest because of Lewis' decades of work in East Palo Alto and the Bay Area, advocating for "the downtrodden" and working to reintegrate former inmates and parolees into productive roles in society. A community building was recently named in Lewis' honor.

"We have to do everything in our power to make sure Mr. Elarms faces justice," Wagstaffe said.

Where to Find 12 Step Programs at San Quentin On the Main Yard

A.A. Monday and Wednesday 6:20 p.m. (Education Bldg)

Friday at 1:30 p.m., Saturday at 6:20 p.m. (ARC Module)

N.A. Tuesday and Friday at 6:20 p.m. (ARC Module)

In H-Unit

A.A. Tuesday and Thursday (Education Bldg)

All are welcome. Simply show up!

S.F. Approach Towards Realignment Effective

By Ron Koehler
Journalism Guild Writer

San Francisco officials are boasting the city's lowest jail population in 40 years, while 32 other counties are building more jail beds to accommodate Gov. Jerry Brown's realignment plan.

"The sky is not falling," said San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, referring to realignment critics.

San Francisco has been touted as a model for rehabilitation programs, according to Wendy Still, the city's Adult Probation Department chief. She said each prisoner is individually assessed

to determine what services may best help in eliminating further criminal behavior.

"Probation officials now responsible for low-risk parolees are doing extensive prerelease planning," reports Still.

The city is building a \$1.3 million service center to match convicts with social services,

the San Francisco Examiner reports. The newspaper reported the Department of Public Health, Sheriff's Department, Public Defender's Office, and District Attorney's Offices have all implemented realignment plans.

Rather than the traditional approach to incarceration, San Francisco probation officials

said every prisoner is individually assessed to determine what services will best help prevent further criminal behavior.

Former convicts are being connected to job training, housing, substance abuse and mental health services, and also basic necessities such as identification cards, officials report.

Realignment Causes Population Spike in L. A. Jail

By Forrest Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

California's realignment plan has caused a 23 percent increase in Los Angeles' jail population, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The plan shifts some newly convicted offenders to county jails, instead of state prisons. It

is also intended to reduce recidivism by changing the state parole system and local probation programs.

The state prison population has dropped by nearly 25,000 because of realignment, according to a report by the American Civil Liberties Union. Part of realignment's intent is to persuade counties to use and expand

evidence-based alternatives to incarceration, the report says.

However, the plan has created an additional burden on county officials — dealing with a flood of detainees with a history of mental illness, the Times says.

Officials are using LA county's realignment funding to implement mental health and re-entry programs, the Times

reported. Implementing realignment gives county officials more time to help inmates with mental issues and gain stability in the community once released, mental health providers say.

"It used to be that we saw people short term," said Francesca Anello, overseer of the county Mental Health Department. "So it was difficult to get

them hooked up in the community if they're going in and out so quickly. And so we'd miss an opportunity sometimes to work with them long-term," said Anello in the Times report.

Realignment is motivating social service agencies to work with local law enforcement in innovative ways, the Times reported.

Illinois Prisons Stay Open Despite Governor's Plan

By Paul Stauffer
Journalism Guild Writer

A state arbitrator has stymied Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's plan to close two prisons, saying that state officials must first properly negotiate with union representatives about the impact of the closures, reports The Associated Press.

The governor wanted the prisons closed by late October, but Arbitrator Steven Bierig found prison officials violated its contract with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union, reports the AP.

The governor's communications director said the decision is being appealed.

State lawmakers disagreed with the prison closures and set aside money in the budget to keep them open. Quinn vetoed the budget, saying the state

could not afford the prisons' operating cost.

When corrections officials began moving prisoners out of the Tamms facility to the Pontiac Correctional Center in August, union officials filed a lawsuit asking the judge to declare the arbitrator's decision binding and order the state to comply, according to the AP.

The union's executive director said the Legislature funded the prisons because they recognized closing the prisons would "destabilize the entire prison system, worsen dangerous overcrowding and put the safety of employees, inmates, youth and the public at risk."

The union has since filed another lawsuit claiming that mixing prisoners they deem dangerous with other prisoners, coupled with the overcrowding, would violate a health and safety clause in the union contract.

Letter to the Editor

Editor:

I was a little surprised upon opening the September issue of San Quentin News and seeing the article "Restorative Justice Program Marks Eight Years at S.Q."

Unfortunately, the program has not quite been around that long. In the fall of 2004, I persuaded Fr. Dennis McManus, to permit a restorative justice symposium to take place in the Catholic Chapel in January of 2005.

With the help of Jack Dison, and numerous others, we were able to organize an introductory symposium that opened up many minds and hearts to the opportunities and responsibilities that men behind the walls have as a result of the choices they (we) have made in their (our) lives.

In preparing for the first symposium, I read a text by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops by the title of Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration.

Leonard Rubio,

Founder: Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration Interfaith Roundtable

President, Board of Directors

Insight Prison Project

Editor's Note: The San Quentin News article reported, "San Quentin began holding Restorative Justice Symposiums in 2004."

Nine Ways to Reduce Overcrowding

A business internet site is recommending a series of ways to reduce prison overcrowding in the wake of last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

BusinessInsider.com said its suggestions listed below would not jeopardize public safety.

1. Relax Truth-in-Sentencing laws. The law requires offenders to serve 85 percent of their prison sentence. States that resist implementing the 85 percent standard became ineligible to receive federal block grants that were authorized by the Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.

2. Replace mandatory minimum sentencing laws with

more flexible and individualized guidelines.

3. Make full employment a domestic policy goal. Nearly 70 percent of ex-offenders were unemployed at the time of their arrest and 60 percent were living at or below 50 percent of the poverty line at the time of their arrest.

4. Eliminate private prison companies, which rely on an increasing prison population for its continued survival.

5. Expand prison education programs and provide offenders with incentives to participate in them. Doing so could reduce recidivism by 5 to 20 percent.

6. Expand milestone credits to provide that all prisoners are eligible to earn up to six weeks of early-release credits each year.

7. Provide incentives for employers to hire ex-convicts.

8. Eliminate "zero tolerance" policies that lead to expulsions that disproportionately affect youth of color, who then have a higher likelihood of going to prison.

9. Support community-policing efforts, which could dramatically reduce the crime rate.

—Kris Himmelberger
Staff Writer

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

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

JPay Looks to Expand Clientele by Providing MP3 Players to Inmates

By Kris Himmelberger
Staff Writer

An electronic money transfer company is looking to become the Apple of the prison industrial complex, with the introduction of an MP3 player for inmates.

JPay, a private company that handles money transfers, electronic communications and video visitation for inmates, recently expanded its service to offer a tamper-proof MP3 player — called a JP3 player.

The prison does not pay for the service; rather, JPay installs kiosks in common areas of a prison, from which inmates can browse a library of more than 10 million songs. They can purchase a player for \$40.

CALIFORNIA

The company has yet to offer its JP3 player to California prisoners, but it is not for lack of interest.

San Quentin inmate Boston Woodard said he thinks the Cal-

ifornia Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should allow the company inside its institutions.

"The player doesn't have any means of accessing the internet, so I think the administration should consider them," he said.

Woodard said he would not pay the price the company is asking — \$1.99 per song — but he thinks there would be willing customers if downloads are affordable.

Another San Quentin prisoner, Sam Hearn, believes the price is reasonable. "Considering the price per song recorded on CD is double that, I would definitely use the service," he said.

TABLETS

JPay also has plans to offer a mini tablet — similar to a Kindle reader, but without wireless capabilities — in prisons by the end of the year.

"It's got an e-mail application, music, e-books; it's got anything

you can imagine," said Ryan Shapiro, founder and chief executive officer of JPay. "Think about education, think about games. It's endless where we could go. We think it's as big, if not bigger, than the money-transfer business."

Recently, a group of Bay Area residents contacted the San Quentin administration about the possibility of donating Kindles for prisoner education. The administration is considering the request.

Watchdog Group Blasts Federal Practice

HOUSING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN PRIVATE PRISONS PRESENTS A HOST OF PROBLEMS

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

The federal government has come under fire for its use of private prisons to house people who enter the U.S. illegally, according to Colorlines. Detainees have filed various complaints, including neglect, abuse, overcrowding, riots, unsanitary conditions, insufficient food and interference with access to attorneys.

Recently, advocates tried to intervene on any further use

of private prisons to detain or incarcerate non-citizens of the U.S. A group of human rights supporters went on Capitol Hill to halt a nearly \$26 million expansion of privately managed prisons proposed in the 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. But according to Colorlines, the government plans to move forward.

The federal Board of Prisons plans to add about 1,500 inmates a year during the next eight years. The increase would bring the number of detainees housed

in private facilities to 36,000 by the year 2020.

“... about half of federal prisoners are now Latinos.”

Prosecutors filed criminal charges against persons arrested for illegal reentry after previously being deported, the article states, which significantly increases the prison population.

Illegal reentering was the most recorded charge brought by federal prosecutors during the first half of fiscal year 2011, which has resulted in big business for private prisons, according to data released by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

These practices add to the number of federal prisoners, and significantly change incarceration demographics, the article reports. “These policies have led to the point where about half of federal prisoners are now Lat-

nos,” said Bob Libal, author of Operation Streamline Cost and Consequences. “We are clogging the justice system with this astounding increase in unnecessary prosecutions of people who merely sought to reunite with their families,” Libal wrote.

There are more than 24,000 illegal immigrant inmates in 13 federal prisons, according to the report. All these detentions come with a significant price tag: Since 2005, the government has spent \$5.5 billion incarcerating undocumented immigrants.

Literary Tradition Maintained by Prison Writing Group

By Boston Woodard
Contributing Writer

American prison writers have been around since there have been prisons in America. During the 18th century, debtors were sentenced to ‘debtor’s prisons’ when they failed to pay their creditors.

These early American prisoners — an eclectic group of politicians, merchants, educators, lawyers and landowners — wrote about their personal plights and issues of the day. There was no shortage of literary flow from behind prison walls.

Today, San Quentin hosts a program to promote the prison writer and encourage the art of creative writing: The Brothers In Pen Creative Writing Group, instructed by Zoe Mullery.

On October 13, Brothers in Pen showcased a reading of 17

stories written by students. Approximately 25 outside guests were invited by Mullery to witness this annual reading.

“While we didn’t have nearly as many guests this year as we would have liked, all in attendance were—as usual—blown away by the quality of the reading and by the friendliness and intelligence of the students,” said Mullery.

Julian Glenn “Luke” Padgett emceed the event. Padgett’s zeal for the creative writing group made for an upbeat presentation as the students took to the podium to read their stories to the guests who hung on their every word.

“I’m in prison and I’ve heard some amazing stories about anger, loss, hate, redemption, forgiveness and love,” said Padgett. “The significance is that we learn to write and communicate



Photo By Peter Merts

The Brothers In Pen creative writing group showcase their work at the reading

in a place that does not promote meaningful forms of communication.”

There were “stories from their past, from imagined pasts, from the future, from fantastical worlds,” said Elaine W. who attended a previous reading. “Stories that make us laugh a little. Made us cry. Such eloquence, stories of loss, of themselves, of their families. Pain, regret, struggle, self-knowledge.” Her observations of the writers’ work mirror the amalgam of thoughts and comments shared by the visitors during and after the reading.

“Thank you for a really intense and important event. I’m still unpacking it,” said one guest. “I’m still thinking about those stories. There are a lot of people I wish could have been there,” said another.

A program intermission allowed students and guests to discuss the significance of mind and opportunity coming together via the Brothers In Pen group.

“Writing is a thing that brings you freedom...it also allows [students] to discover their potential in being creative,” said writer Arnulfo Garcia.

One visitor was so attentive and enthralled during the readings, she gave each student brief praise and a personal critique on their stories. The students were extremely grateful for her comments.

“My goal for myself is to be a midwife of stories. A story is a difficult thing to define. But there are some things we know. It has a shape, a feeling, and a direction,” said Mullery, who wants her students to “be engaged in what stories are, be

aware of how each of us live in and shape and are shaped by stories—the stories we have lived and observed, and the ones we create.”

Giving prisoners a voice and an outlet for creative self-expression has the potential to make an enormous difference in their attitudes. As Mary Belle Harris, who ran a women’s prison in West Virginia, said in 1927, “Unless we have built within them a wall of self-respect, moral integrity, and a desire to be an asset to the community instead of a menace, we have not protected society—which is ourselves.” Her words ring as loud today as they did 85 years ago.

Interested readers can learn more about Brothers in Pen at brothersinpen.wordpress.com, and buy collections of their short stories at lulu.com.



Photo By Peter Merts

Watani Stiner captures the attention of the audience

Questionable Stop and Frisk Tactics Adopted by Cities Across the Nation

By Jason McGinnis
Contributing writer

Police are using a strategy known as “stop and frisk” to reduce crime in New York City and other major metropolitan areas around the nation. The policy involves police officers stopping and patting down people they consider suspicious in an effort to preemptively stop crime, reports the New York Times.

Critics of this practice say the majority of the stops do not re-

sult in the discovery of illegal possessions or evidence of any wrongdoing. New York City police strongly defend this tactic as an effective way to bring down crime and get illegal guns off the streets, according to the Times.

In the first quarter of 2012, there were 203,500 street stops, up from 183,326 in the same quarter last year, the Times reports. Of those stopped and frisked, 85 percent were black or Hispanic

men, which has caught the attention of civil rights groups, city council members and minority community leaders.

In 2011, New York City police stopped 46,784 women and frisked nearly 16,000, according to a New York Times analysis of police records. Guns were found in 59 frisks — about one third of one percent of the time.

Civil rights leaders have argued that the low gun-recovery rates strongly indicate that

the stop and frisk encounters are unjustified.

A federal judge has said the city’s records indicate that many of these stops did not meet constitutional standards for searches. Police officers are not allowed to search the pockets of citizens based on a hunch or job performance quota; however, they may pat someone down if there is a reason to believe that the person is carrying an illegal weapon.

Several groups, including the NAACP, labor unions, religious groups and several ethnic and cultural organizations, continue to organize protests and marches to rally against the practice of stop and frisk.

One particular demonstration in June 2012 was led by Rev. Al Sharpton and other civil rights leaders. More than 299 organizations endorsed the silent march, which was noted for its size and diversity.

SPORTS

Wild Cats Win The Crown

By Gary Scott
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Wild Cats basketball team won the first ever Intramural League basketball championship in a three-game series over the San Quentin Kings.

After getting hammered in the first game, the Wild Cats rebounded to win back to back comeback games on game winning shots. With seconds left in game two, Richard "Mujahid" Munns buried a three pointer to win the game. In game three, Aubra McNeely drained a left corner three pointer with 19 seconds left in the game, which proved to be the game winning shot.

"We stepped up when nobody thought we were going to win," said guard Asa Punefu. "We came back from a large deficit to win the game at the end."

Trailing big in the second half of game three, Munns realized that he had to make an unpopular decision to motivate his teammates. "I knew something drastic needed to happen in order to overcome a 21 point deficit, so I took the big tech to get the attention of my teammates," he commented. "We came together and they never gave up. It was really sweet victory as an underdog."

"I felt like in an elimination game my attitude and my teammate's attitude was that we re-

fused to lose. The pride and the heart of our team would not let us be eliminated," said Daniel Wright, the leading scorer during the regular season for the Wild Cats.

The Wild Cats finished the regular season with a 7-7 record and was an underdog in every game. Coach Vihn Nyugen expressed his confidence in his team going into the playoffs. He said, "I felt good about our chances. I noticed during the season we had talent, it was just a matter of can they play as a team. I maintained confidence after the loss to the Kings. We just needed to communicate. We weren't playing as a team. We came back to win playing as a team."



Photo by Ernest Woods

Giants' player Marcus Crumb on deck and ready to bat

S.Q. Giants Cut Down

Coach Macari of the Lumberjacks baseball team smashed a grand slam home run in the fourth inning, leading the visitors to a 6-2 victory over the San Quentin Giants.

The game was tied 2-2 going into the top of the fourth inning. The Lumberjacks drew a walk and crushed singles up the middle and to center field to load the bases. That's when Macari smashed a fastball over the right-center field fence.

"I kept extra focus on staying back," Macari said. "I got an outside fastball, and I hit it."

The Giants' only offense came in the third inning. They rallied as Marcus Crumb got an infield hit and stole second, and Dwight Kennedy crushed a RBI single to center field. Dave Baker singled Kennedy home to tie the game, 2-2.

"I had a great experience, and we will be coming back," said Macari, who played college baseball at the College of Marin and Missouri Valley College.

Demetrius Adam of the Lumberjacks said, "I want to say thanks, and we're grateful," said Adam.

—Gary Scott



Photo by Ernest Woods

The Wild Cats hanging out with Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green

San Quentin Hosts 9th Annual Marathon

By Ron Koehler
Journalism Guild Writer

Blaring reggae music egged on 25 runners around the Lower Yard of San Quentin Prison for its ninth annual marathon. The prison's 1,000 Mile Club sponsored the event.

"All different races come together for the common goal of running the marathon, 26.2 miles," said Stephen Pascasio, the club's public relations coordinator.

Pascasio said the runners trained all year long for the event.

Two green lines painted around the lower yard guided the runners around the prison yard.

"Respect is shown by stepping out of the way," said Pascasio, referring to the courtesy those prisoners walking the lower yard track showed the runners.

Louis Hunter won the marathon with a time of 4:18:37. Glenn Mason followed him with a time of 4:19:45. Third place went to Andre Battle with a time of 4:20:28.

Marathon participants included prisoners Ricky Dotson, Andrew Gazzeny, Alton McSween, Derrick Smith, Larry Ford, Paul Madeira, Morcelli Abdel Kader, Bill Pillars, Alberto Mendez, Clifton Williams, Dee Whitaker, Jerry Gearin, Tristan Jones, Malcolm Williams, Dom Brasseley, Tone Evans, Lorenzo Hopson, and Ralph Ligons.

"I want to include all generations," said Dominique Brassey, a San Quentin teacher with Paton University. She ran the first 13 miles with the prisoners.

Dominique acknowledged the importance of the lap counters for their encouraging words to the runners and the volunteers who supplied water to the runners.

Volunteer lap counters and race supporters included Frank Ruona, Diana Fitzpatrick, Kevin Rumon, Evert Spells, Steve, Pascasio, Angel Gutierrez, Eddie Herena, Dennis Barnes, Jill Friedman, Cory McNeil, Malcolm Jones, and Ruben Ramirez.

KQED reporter Judy Campbell also attended the event.



Official Photo

The marathon runners pose for a group photo after the event

Cardinals Serve San Quentin

By San Quentin News Staff

The Stanford Cardinals overwhelmed San Quentin's Inside Tennis Team in every facet of the game.

Nolan Paige and Matt Kandath won their match with players of the San Quentin team 4-1. "It was a hard-fought battle," said freshman Paige, from Fairfield, Connecticut.

Paige seemed surprised by the hospitality of the San Quentin players. "I did not know what to expect," said Paige, "Everybody seems so nice."

San Quentin's doubles teams seemed overmatched by Stanford's in every game. The day didn't become competitive until the teams mixed up, with two San Quentin players each matched with a member from Stanford. Chris Schuhmacher from the Inside Tennis Team played with Kandath and Orlando 'Duck' Harris played with Paige from Stanford.

Harris and Paige jumped out to a 3-0 lead when Schuhmacher and Kandath dug in and fought back to a 3-3 tie.

In the final play, Schuhmacher let his serve rip. Paige sent back a deep return. Schuhmacher tried to send a lob over Orlando who lived up to his nickname and "ducked" as Nolan smashed a game winner, giving them the 4-3 set. "We shared max court

time and max fun," said Schuhmacher.

Assistant Coach Brandon Coupe, who brought the team to San Quentin, expressed his satisfaction in his team's final ranking last season. "I felt good," he said. "We finished ninth in the country as quarter-finalists in the NCAA championship."

Coupe played in the ATP tour for ten years and competed against Rodger Federer.

Sophomore John Morrissey of Ireland expressed how he enjoys his California experience.

"The weather is definitely better here. It's going to be tough to leave," said Morrissey.

Stanford Freshman Anthony Tsodikov, Junior Jamin Ball, Juniors Fawaz Hourani and Walker Kehrre also played against the San Quentin team.

Paige described his team's approach to the upcoming season. "Every year the goal is to win a championship. We have to work hard in practice and take it day to day."

"It's cool to share the game of tennis with top college athletes. Only in a place like San Quentin can something like this be possible," said Schuhmacher. "When we're out there on the tennis court, it's almost like we're not in prison."

— Vihn Nyugen
contributed to this story-

Report: Smart Crime Policies Possible

LOWER PRISON POPULATIONS SAID ATTAINABLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING PUBLIC SAFETY

By San Quentin News Staff

It is time for lawmakers to use "reason, rather than politics and emotion, to guide criminal justice policymaking," according to a report by American Civil Liberties Union.

Longer sentences and mandatory minimums, fueled in part by the war on drugs, have led to an explosion in prison-building over the last 40 years. In 2009, nearly 1.7 million people were arrested in the U.S. for non-violent drug charges — almost half were for marijuana possession. Individuals imprisoned for drug offenses make up 25 percent of the U.S. prison population, the report finds.

Staffing and maintaining these prisons have contributed to huge budgetary deficits in many states, the report finds.

These financial woes have led many political leaders to adopt smart-on-crime strategies that use evidence-based programs — such as diverting people charged with low-level drug offenses to treatment instead of incarceration. In addition, smart-on-crime policies do not automatically send people to prison who violate the technical terms of their probation and parole, according to the report.

The 2011 study is titled *Smart Reform is Possible: States Reducing Incarceration Rates and Costs While Protecting Communities*. It details how several states with long histories of instituting tough-on-crime policies have led to a 700 percent increase in the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. over the last four decades.

New York and Texas are pointed out in the report as examples of how to depopulate prisons while keeping crime rates low.

Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Ohio and Kentucky obtained bipartisan support for prison reform, while Louisiana, Maryland and Indiana have shown they are willing to move in the same direction, according to the report.

"We have to look at what works"

California is in the first year of its plan to reduce prison overcrowding and spending, called realignment. Realignment shifts some prisoners from doing time in the state prison system to county jails, and diverts most people from state parole to county probation. Officials

say keeping offenders close to home would keep them better connected with their families and communities.

At a recent conference in Sacramento, sponsored by Capitol Weekly, panelists recommended additional ways for California to be smart-on-crime.

"We need to put money into the community in jobs, housing and substance abuse treatment. If (an inmate) does not have a job or home in 30 days (upon being released from prison), there is an 88 percent chance they will go back to prison," said Jim Gomez, president and CEO of California Association of Health Facilities.

Author Sasha Abramsky, whose latest work is *American Furies: Crime, Punishment and Vengeance in the Age of Mass Imprisonment*, concurred. "We

need proper drug treatment and proper education. We have to look at what works. There is nothing soft about this. There has to be a balance of punishment and rehabilitation. We also need to fix the juvenile system. We may not be able to fix the family, but maybe we can fix the child."

The ACLU report identifies some of the disturbing trends that might undercut the potential for long-term success of reforms. For example, it says too many states are rejecting reforms that require short-term investment of resources. Over the long-term, these programs will be "cost-effective for states, keep families and communities intact, and allow otherwise incarcerated individuals to contribute to society and the economy," the report states.

Investing Towards a Lower Cost of Crime and Crime Rate

By Samuel Hearnese
Journalism Guild Writer

Investing in police forces would lower the crime rate and cost of crime, according to a study conducted by the Center on Quality Policing of the RAND Infrastructure, Safety, and Environment Center.

The six jurisdictions named in the study are Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, and Miami-Dade County. The crime cost exceeded \$1 billion annually in each county. Homicide generates the most expense, costing more than \$8 million per case, the study reported. Victims bear 77 percent of tangible violent crime-cost,

with taxpayers paying 14 percent, and employers covering the remaining 8 percent.

There are three primary methods used to estimate the cost of crime.

The first method, the accounting-based method, measures the cost of crime by attempting to identify the cost paid by individuals and society as a whole. These costs include installing lighting or other defense products, property loss, medical cost for injuries, investigations, prosecutions, and incarceration.

However, the Accounting method is deficient because it fails to account for intangible cast, such as the psychological effects of victimization. Failing

to account for intangible cost leads to the underestimation of crime cost.

The second method, Contingent Valuation, is a survey-based strategy that elicits information about citizens' willingness to pay for hypothetical programs that reduce crime.

Contingent Valuation, unlike the Accounting method, identifies the intangible cost of crime.

The Hedonic Valuation examines the relationships between neighborhood crimes and the housing prices within those neighborhoods to measure the value of the neighborhood. However, citing numerous methodological problems, the RAND study excluded all research re-

sults employing Hedonic Valuation.

There are four isolated factors used to identify the effects of increased police presence on crime rates and the subsequent cost of crime.

The first factor, hiring programs, increases police staff through federal initiatives and funding. The second factor, election cycles, found that police forces were significantly increased during state and local elections. The third factor, reallocation, is the increase of police presence do to circumstances such as terrorist threats. The final factor is the timing of police personnel changes. Personnel changes are a typical response to

crime rates. When crime rates demonstrate a need for more police presence, departments respond by training new officers.

Over an 11-year period, spanning 2,074 U.S. cities, studies showed that a one percent increase in police staffing led to a decrease in violent crimes by one percent. Further, a 10 percent increase in police staffing generated a reduction of up to five percent, the RAND study said.

However, increased staffing does not impact rape or larceny rates, the study notes. Additionally, some police activities, such as excessive use of force or racial profiling, generate social costs, the study said.

Nancy Mullane Tells San Quentin Inmates About Her New Book

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

San Quentin's Catholic Chapel was filled with hope for about 60 prisoners when independent reporter Nancy Mullane spoke to them about how newly released lifers are having positive effects on their home communities.

Her book, "Life after Murder," chronicles the journeys of five convicted murderers before, during and after their release from prison.

Mullane followed the inmates from the time the California parole board found them suitable for release, to the 150-day period that the governor has to approve or reverse the board's decision, to their actual release

and adjustment to freedom after decades behind bars.

"Why don't we know about these people?" Mullane asked the San Quentin group. "Why don't we know what they've become? People on the outside want to know, but they don't know who to ask. That's what I see myself as the person who gathers the information about you and gives it to the public."

The audience for Mullane's talk was an inmate activity group named Hope For Strikers.

In 2010, San Quentin inmates created Hope For Strikers for inmates sentenced under California's Three Strike Law.

The group meets weekly to address lifestyle addictions that led to criminal behaviors and to

pursue meaningful methods of mitigating those behaviors.

Hope For Strikers developed a 12-step recovery process that examines the root causes of recidivism. Its curriculum teaches individuals how to identify triggers to impulsive reactions, and provides them with coping techniques to minimize destructive thinking.

"Why don't we know about these people?"

One of Mullane's observations was that self-improvement programs helped the men in her book readjust to society, and

now the men share those concepts with juvenile offenders.

"The youth counselors were able to see positive changes in the juveniles from the impact the men had on them," Mullane said. "The counselors were amazed."

Mullane's message encouraged San Quentin inmates to continue with self-improvement programs, said Julius "Kimya" Humphreys, a member of Hope For Strikers.

"These programs give us the opportunity to show the public that we have changed, and we are no longer dangerous," Humphreys said.

According to Mullane, the negative impression of prisoners was developed by the public

through a process called "othering." Othering occurs when people in a society dehumanize other groups of people by not seeing and understanding the groups' position in life, she said.

"I have hope that, as a reporter, I can stop the public from othering you by talking and writing about your development and contributions to the community."

Mullane has a new FM radio show on KALW 91.7 called "Life of the Law," in which she discusses prisoners' access to courts to challenge their convictions. Her latest project tracks the lives of three men who benefit from the change in the state's Three Strike's Law.

Court Rules the Name 'New Afrikan' is Unrelated to Prison Gangs

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

The California Supreme Court has ruled that a prison inmate can call himself a "New

Afrikan Nationalist Revolutionary Man" without being treated like a dangerous gang member.

Professor James Campbell explained in a declaration filed

in the 1st District Court of Appeal on behalf of inmate James Crawford that the phrase "New Afrikan" was a self-determination movement unrelated to a prison gang.

A prison guard at Pelican Bay State Prison intercepted a letter with information about this new political movement from an inmate while he was in solitary confinement. Prison officials

referred to the "New Afrikan National Revolutionary Man" as Black Guerilla Family coded messages, used to promote gang activities. Crawford said his "message was entirely political."

San Quentin Offers Youth Mentorship

Troubled children visit San Quentin SQUIRES group in hopes of changing their lifestyles

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

It was lunchtime in one of San Quentin's historic chow halls, the site of violent uprisings in years past. One visiting guest was Christian Hernandez, a troubled youngster from Santa Cruz. He did not like what he saw and vowed that he would never go to prison.

"I learned how horrible it is and how horrible the lunches are," Hernandez said. "What scared me the most was when that guy was talking about murdering someone and going to Death Row, and seeing guys being escorted by the guards wasn't a good feeling."

The young visitor to San Quentin was a product of a new approach toward dealing with at-risk youth.

In the 1960s and '70s, several state prisons tried the "Scared Straight" method in trying to reach youth who were headed for a life of crime, but "Scared Straight" was halted due to the controversy it generated after national news exposure. The up-front, in-your-face approach of confronting youth fell from favor. Instead, communication, not intimidation, became the

preferred way to handle disruptive youngsters.

The communication approach is what brought young Hernandez to San Quentin. He came under the auspices of the Terrence Kelly Youth Foundation (TKYF28.ORG).

One of the groups using the new approach toward prevention of juvenile crime in America is the San Quentin Utilization of Inmate Resources, Experiences and Studies, better known as SQUIRES.

PURPOSE

The purpose of SQUIRES is to communicate with troubled teens who have engaged in juvenile delinquent conduct and self-destructive activities. The prisoner/mentors of SQUIRES require new members to go through a training and screening process before admitting them to the group.

The youth referred to participate in the SQUIRES workshop are involved with outside groups and organizations like the TKYF that are responsible for youth offenders.

Landrin Kelly, CEO and founder of TKYF, said he hopes to leave an indelible mark of the lives of young people. Kelly was

inspired by the memory of his son, Terrance, who was shot to death two days before he was to attend the University of Oregon on a scholarship.

For the last eight years, TKYF has provided services to youth through the High Achievers After-School program. The program includes culinary arts, computer lab, violence prevention, along with assistance in self-expression and voice development.

Twenty-two youths from the TKYF and the 21st Century Mentors Foundation (www.21stCenturyMentors.org) participated in a SQUIRES workshop on Oct. 20.

One of their escorts was Robert Turner, executive director of the 21st Century Mentors Foundation. He has been assisting kids for more than 30 years. For the past 15 years, Turner has been bringing kids to the SQUIRES workshops.

"I feel there's a need to help these kids in the community, and even though there are a lot of programs, there's never enough to address all the troubled kids," said Lona Kelly, Terrance's aunt. "We have to try, and their foundation tries to get kids before they go all the way wrong. The

solution isn't to bring in more police because they have been trying that for years. What we need is more mentors."

Alex Bennett, who participated in the October workshop, has never been locked up but asserts that his visit to San Quentin helped him focus on turning his life around.

"These mentors are really good. They have made a difference for my son, and I want to say thank you to all the mentors," said Christie Bennett, Alex's mother. "They are effective in their communication with the boys. It takes courage to open up their lives to these boys."

CELLS

During the workshop, the youths were placed in cells, and the mentors spoke to them from outside the bars to give them an impression of prison life and what it's like to spend long amounts of time, even life, in a room no bigger than a small bedroom closet.

"I felt trapped," said Diego Cardona, 17. "When I get home, I'm going to obey my parents and the law."

Rodrick Parker, 12, said, "I feel trapped and I can't get out. I'm going to do good things to

stay out of trouble. I don't want to live like this. This is ugly."

Kyree Hall, 12, commented, "This is horribly dirty and scary. It really bothers me that I'm in a cell. This will help me be a better person—especially to my parents."

Andrew Phan added, "I learned how people's lives can be changed and they start losing their family after they are locked up. The mentors from this program are giving us some really good advice and it is working."

Also attending the workshop were Joe Hernandez, a Santa Cruz police officer, and Henry Michel, assistant principal at Santa Cruz High School. Both work in community youth programs. Bob Michels, a professor at Santa Clara University, has been visiting San Quentin for 20 years, working with youths participating in SQUIRES. Michels brought in 15 graduate students who will also be working with at-risk kids.

Thanks to staff support and volunteers, SQUIRES conducts the best youth diversion program in the country, said Lt. Rudy Luna, chief sponsor of the group.

—*Boston Woodard contributed to this story*

1. FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

— An interim commission has begun to examine racial disparities in North Carolina's criminal justice system after a task force reported that African-Americans and Hispanics are "systematically searched at much higher rates than whites," reports The Fayetteville Observer.

2. NEW HAMPSHIRE

— State officials are seeking to expand New Hampshire's prison bed capability even though the prison population has fallen by 13 percent since last year, reports Business Insider. Corrections Corporation of America, the GEO Group, Management and Training Corporation, and the Hunt Group/LaSalle Corrections have submitted bids to build and house nearly 3,000 prisoners.

3. ARIZONA

— State prison officials have recently completed one of the first steps required to award a contract to build and operate a private prison by asking private prison companies to submit bids, reports the Arizona Journal. In response, LaSalle Corrections Company submitted a plan and bid to build a 1,000-bed male facility.

4. VACAVILLE

— Solano County officials say 95 felons were sent to state prison in the third quarter of last year, reports the Vacaville Reporter. Since realignment began one year ago, there has been a 51 percent reduction in new admissions to state prison. The county only sent 70 new felons to state prison in the past year.



5. MACON, Ga.

— The FBI is investigating allegations of prisoners abused by guards at Macon State Prison. In the past 16 months, two guards have pled guilty to federal civil rights and conspiracy charges related to the beating of prisoners, the Huffington Post reports.

6. NEW YORK

— A new program that takes private money to improve social outcomes has been put into place by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, reports The Huffington Post. Global investment bank Goldman Sachs will invest \$10 million in a program to assist adolescent prisoners released

from Riker's Island. Goldman Sachs will only make money if the program reduces recidivism.

7. TEXAS

— John Soules Food, Inc. mislabeled thousands of pounds of "meat trimmings" intended for animals and sold it to an East Texas jail, reports The Huffington Post. An investigation showed prisoners ate the pet food. The company has agreed to terms that will pay \$392,000 to the federal government to cover the cost of the three-year investigation.

8. KERN COUNTY

— Since realignment went into

effect, the numbers for burglary, larceny and auto thefts are going up, reports the South County Reporter. Law enforcement officials say they are "wondering if it's a direct result of prison realignment," the report states.

9. LINCOLN, Neb.

— A man convicted of first-degree murder in 1956 for killing his wife was freed after another man on Death Row confessed. Darrel Parker spent 14 years in prison. He was paroled in 1970, and received a full pardon in 1991. Parker, now 80, has been offered \$500,000 and an apology by State At-

torney General Jon Bruning for the wrongful conviction.

10. CLEVELAND

— A man who spent 25 years on Death Row was freed after a judge dismissed the murder charges against him, reports The Associated Press. Michael Keenan, 62, was convicted in the 1988 killing of a man found dead in a brook in a Cleveland park. The judge ruled that the prosecution withheld evidence that could have benefited the defense.

11. LOS ANGELES

— Movie star Tim Robbins is giving acting lessons to prisoners doing time at California Rehabilitation Center, Norco. The Actors' Gang, a theatre company, set up the classes. "They're asked to do things they've never been asked to do in their life — open up emotionally, and put on make-up and costumes, and pretend to be people. It's weird stuff," Robbins told CBS TV in Los Angeles.

12. SACRAMENTO

— A doctor at California Medical Facility made more than \$410,000 in 2011. A nurse at High Desert State Prison made nearly \$236,000. A pharmacist at Corcoran State Prison was paid more than \$196,000. Of the top 100 highest-paid state employees outside the University of California system, in 2011, 44 worked for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, according to an Associated Press analysis of state payroll data. They were paid an average of nearly \$379,000. The top pay went to a Salinas Valley State Prison psychiatrist at \$803,271.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Snippets

Grapefruit will taste a little sweeter if you add a pinch of salt before eating it. The salt reduces the acidity of the fruit, giving it a sweet taste.

Iced tea makes up 80% of all the tea sold in the United States.

Best when stored at temperatures above 55° F, tomatoes should never be refrigerated because the cold causes them to lose their flavor and nutritional value.

Looking to increase sales, Fruit was first added to commercial yogurt by the Dannon Yogurt company.

Eating more today than a few decades ago, Americans consume about 20% more calories than they once did. They consume about 63% more fats and oils, 43% more grains and 19% more sugar than they did only one generation ago.

The giant clam, *tridacna gigas*, can produce up to 100 gallons of chowder. It can weigh over 500 pounds and grow to over four feet in length.

Sumerian herdsman around 4,000 years ago stored their daily milk rations in the dried stomachs of slaughtered calves. It is believed that cheese first developed from this process, as natural enzymes remaining in the stomach would curdle the milk, producing cheese.



Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



CHANGE YOUR BRAIN, CHANGE YOUR LIFE (By DANIEL G. AMEN) *Assessment Guide to diagnosis and treatment options for mental health issues for the average reader.*



OBSESSIVE LOVE (By Susan Forward) *Entertaining case studies illustrating the causes, symptoms, and solutions for this common malady.*



OPEN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY (By Andre Agassi) *Easy reading on the life, loves, and career of this elite tennis player.*



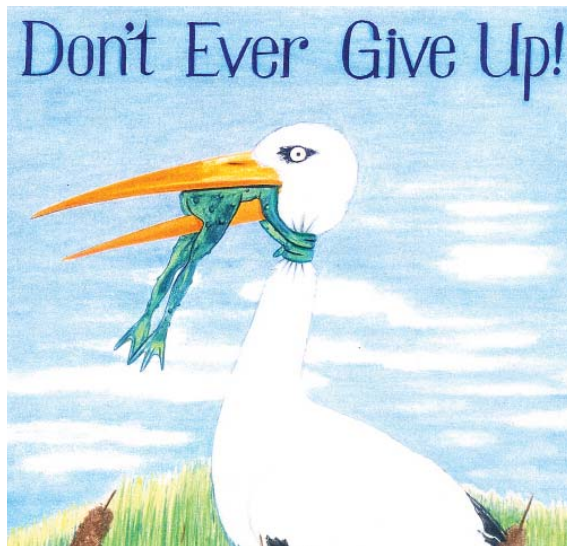
THE CASES THAT HAUNT US (By John Dennis) *Summaries of infamous serial murder cases from Jack the Ripper to the Zodiac.*



NAUSEA (By Jean-Paul Sartre) *Over-rated "classic" where disjointed diary entries illustrate a French writer sickened by over introspecting his own life.*

RATINGS:

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



Artwork of "V", an inmate at CMC

Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!



If Mamma were to bake a pie that was round, how many different pieces of pie can she make by dissecting the pie with only five cuts. Momma cannot move any of the pieces as she is cutting the pie and the pieces do not need to be the same size.

The answer to last months puzzle is: \$31.63

Congratulations to: Bernie Castro and Binh Vo for winning last month's puzzle.

Congratulations to: Chris Schuhmacher, Mike Tyler, for correctly answering last month's puzzle.

The two winners were picked for a hat containing all the winning answers.

Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

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

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

Sudoku By ANTHONY LYONS

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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



Cartoon by Orlando Smith

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

As the 2012 Thanksgiving holiday approached, the hearts of many people in the San Quentin community flooded with thankfulness. "Asked On The Line" conducted 31 random informal interviews with 14 men in blue, a program volunteer, and 16 teachers of the Prison University Project and asked two questions: Who is the one person or group of people you are most thankful for having in your life? What is the one thing, tangible or not, that you are most grateful for having?

For the men in blue, the most popular answer for the first question was "parents." Shon Ruffin was thankful for having the

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in his life, Michael Lewis was thankful for his sisters, Pedro Espinal was thankful for his "amiga," Robert Morales was thankful for the "support group of friends," and Ronald Davenport was thankful for having Jesus Christ in his life.

Joe Spinelli, a volunteer tutor with Free to Succeed, was thankful for his beloved wife.

The PUP teachers were thankful for their families and partners. Dan Martell was thankful for his grandchild, Kara Urion was thankful for both her family and adopted family and Sean Alexander was thankful for having his mom and his girlfriend in his life.

As to the second question, the most popular answer for

mainliners was "life." The rest were thankful for a variety of things. Eric Womack was thankful for music, Robert Morales was thankful for his sanity, Alex Ortega and Tom Saevang were thankful for their health, and John Neblett was grateful for his talent.

The top three replies from PUP teachers were health, education, and life. Elizabeth Ferrell was grateful for having love in her life and Chas Gillespie was grateful for nature. Kara Urion was grateful for her "ability to try again" and Oliver Kroll was grateful for Dorothy, his 6-month-old Bernese Mountain dog. Maria Joseph was grateful for having her goats and her farm.

Christmas Toy Program Returns

VETERAN'S GROUP SET TO DISTRIBUTE TOYS TO CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

By Chris Schuhmacher
VVGSG Chairman

The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin is gearing up to bring a touch of Christmas to San Quentin with their 24th annual Toy Program.

Members of the VVGSG will once again show off their elf ears as they join forces with members of the inside S.Q. community to deck the halls of the mainline and H-unit visiting rooms with Christmas trees, tinsel, and festive yuletide decorations.

The VVGSG has already begun to prepare to receive donations of toys and stuffed animals from outside organizations like Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army. These toys will then be

passed out to inmates' children from infant to age 14, who come to visit Dec. 15, 16, 22 and 23.

Toy program co-squad leader Barry Spillman said, "I do it because it's my way of giving back to the community...of being part of Christmas again."

"There's no better feeling than to see genuine happiness on children's faces"

George Caffale, another co-squad leader and long-standing member of the group, comment-

ed, "During my time in the military, from '76 to '84, I was deployed out of country and know what it feels like to be away from home and miss the holidays. There's no better feeling than to see genuine happiness on children's faces as they visit with their fathers for Christmas and go home with a bag full of toys."

Inmates and ILTAG organizations can donate by filling out Trust Withdrawals made payable to VVGSG ILTAG account SQP # 634, and send them directly to the Trust Account Office. Outside donors of toys, stuffed animals, or monetary contributions, can contact Lt. K. Evans at San Quentin State Prison. (415) 454-1460 ext. 5205.

Author Provides Unique Perspective

BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

One would not expect to read fiction and learn about American history, math, early childhood development, and ethics. However, Christopher Paul Curtis provides these teaching tools through his novels so that parents and schoolteachers may better connect with youngsters.

Curtis uses his storytelling to give adults an inkling of how children think, and to subtly place bits of advice sprinkled through his stories for children to use in dealing with the adult world.

Elijah of Buxton, and *Bud, Not Buddy* do these things sharply and in such a fashion that the generational gap between the novels' characters serve as guideposts for both young and old.

Elijah of Buxton even provides readers with "Literature Circle Questions with Activities," while the "Afterward" in *Bud, Not Buddy* puts the story in historical context. Both receive an "A" as a teaching tool for parents and teachers.

Bud, Not Buddy is set in Flint, Mich. during the Great Depression.

Times are hard for 10-year-old Bud; however, he has a suitcase of special things. He's the author of his own rules to life, and he knows his father is a famous bandleader. The adventure is Bud's willingness to go through hell and high water in order to find his famous father. What readers learn is that even though the American economy was in shambles, there was a thriving middle-class of African-Americans.

Both novels touch on social issues relevant to the past, present and future of childhood problems in America. Curtis' characters articulate ideas as

preteens would, making it easy to relate to the confused state of mind that a youngster may have under the circumstances of these stories.

Elijah of Buxton is a story that every American should read.

Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border.

Elijah is the first person born free in the town. He thinks he should be famous for this; however, his temperamental disposition sheds light on the emotional pressure that being a celebrity can put on a young mind.

Elijah of Buxton is a story of responsibility that exposes the hopes and dreams of an oppressed people. Most Americans have read history books that reference the Underground Railroad; however, many do not know the redeeming quality of a place like Buxton and what it represents. Curtis sheds light on that place not well known to most Americans.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

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

Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
CSP - San Quentin
Education Dept. / SQ News
San Quentin, CA 94964
(No street address required)

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San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94974

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

San Quentin News

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