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By Andrew Beale Contributing Writer

Florida hosts prison reform conference

CA leads nation in women on Death Row

By Marcus Henderson Journalism Guild Chairman

California leads the nation with 23 women on Death Row, but the condemned women are largely invisible and forgotten behind bars, and their stories rarely see the light of day.

The women on California’s Death Row are housed in Central California Women’s Facility (CCWF) in Chowchilla. Until 1953, they were housed in San Quentin in the Women’s Ward. They were relocated to California Institution for Women at Tehachapi, which opened that same year.

“There is far less conflict between the women on Death Row than with men,” Linda Fox, a paralegal who recently retired from the California Appellate Project, told San Quentin News. “They look out for each other—they have a different sort of experience. They interact in a different way; it’s a different community.”

Fox worked with attorneys on death row cases and had the opportunity to visit the women.

By Rahsaan Thomas

Advocates are mounting a fight to end the other death penalty—life without the possibility of parole.

These “hidden death sentences” mean prisoners must live the rest of their lives in “prisons with extraordinarily high suicide rates, with substandard medical, dental, and mental health care and with scant rehabilitative programs. Prisons rifle with gang violence, racism, and despair,” said Kenneth Hartman in a Truthout article.

Hartman was recently released from a life without possibility of parole sentence by the California Parole Board, which approves or disapproves commutations.

A sentence of life without the possibility of parole, known as LWOP, translates to staying in prison until you die and, some argue, wastes resources.

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A sentence of life without the possibility of parole, known as LWOP, translates to staying in prison until you die and, some argue, wastes resources.

“It is not ‘tough’ to imprison people long past their proclivity—or even physical ability—to commit crime; to the contrary, it is wasteful of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use. For those incarcerated for a poor use of resources that could be put to better use.
Pow Wow celebration sees return of Native leader

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

Lee Polanco was a correctional officer in San Quentin from the late 1990s to the 2000s. He still has family working within the prison.

“I worked Death Row, the housing blocks and the gun tower,” Polanco said. “But being a CO wasn’t my calling. The Creator had bigger plans for me.”

Now 81, Polanco returned to San Quentin Sept. 7 to bestow the ceremonial blessing to open the Native American Religious Group annual Fall Pow Wow.

Tribal drums and coordinated dances echoed in San Quentin’s visiting room, as Polanco, draped in a blue and red shawl, danced with an eagle feather fan in his left hand and a gourd rattle in his right. As a gourd dancer, Polanco is the one who blesses the ground before a Pow Wow takes place. He is also a Sun dancer and keeper of the fire for the National Native American Church sweat lodge.

“We are a sacred people. We pray for everything,” said Hector Heredia. “We have been doing these things for thousands of years, and we are a generation that needs to still identify our culture.

“We don’t sing our songs for entertainment — our songs are spiritual.”

At the ceremony, much of the sacred rituals had to be done symbolically due to the prohibition against smoke or fire within the visiting room.

A circle was formed with family, friends and guests, as Polanco unwrapped the Canupa (Cha-nu-pa) sacred ceremonial pipe and passed it around.

“We bless our food, and we are spiritual.” Polanco added, “We bless our food, and we wipe down our people with sage (for purification).”

The strains of Polanco’s Native American customs in prison have encountered resistance in many prisons throughout the country.

After leaving the duties of a correctional officer, Polanco became an advocate for Native Americans behind prison walls. He was successful in bringing sweat lodges and native religious services to numerous California and Nevada institutions.

“It’s not who you know or what you’re doing but what you leave behind, and that’s the next generation.”

Polanco said. “You are your identity. At first, I couldn’t even pray in my language. Now I wake up every morning and pray in my language.

“If you don’t know the language of your songs — dig them out and learn them,” he added.

The Fall Pow Wow is grounded in the revered tradition of sharing a meal as a community to help everyone get through the winter months.

But celebration of Native American customs in prison has encountered resistance in many prisons throughout the country.

Native performing on tribal drums in the SQ visiting room

“Plant some seeds and make more rattler out of them,” he told Heredia, urging him to carry on the tradition. Then Polanco turned to the audience.

“If you give somebody something — give them something good,” Polanco said. “Also show respect and appreciation when someone helps you. “All you brothers are special because you come from a woman,” Polanco added, “I have learned from you all.”

Greg “White Eagle” Coates serving up a meal

Lee Polanco does stay in lock-step with each other. Chaplain Heredia then presented Polanco with a spear-headed wooden plate from the Native American prisoners. In true tribal tradition of gift giving, Polanco gave Heredia the gourd rattle.

“Plant some seeds and make more rattler out of them,” he told Heredia, urging him to carry on the tradition. Then Polanco turned to the audience. If you give somebody something — give them something good,” Polanco said. “Also show respect and appreciation when someone helps you.

“All you brothers are special because you come from a woman,” Polanco added. “I have learned from you all.”

Photo by Dina Durano

Photo by Dina Durano
Tennessee’s largest prison, Trousdale Turner Correctional Facility, is at the center of three lawsuits filed on behalf of about 60 other diabetic inmates. The inmates were allegedly unable to access insulin prescribed for their condition. In his complaint, filed inmate Douglas Dodson described several nights in which he and other diabetics at the facility were locked down because they were unable to receive insulin shots. In his complaint, Dodson said the insulin was locked in the nurse’s station and not at all. “I keep my insulin alive, and I really need it every day. This has gone on long enough at this prison,” Dodson wrote. The complaint, which was filed in July, says that the prison, which is operated by a “skel- eton crew,” also goes into lock-down every time the prison into lock-down because of a lack of manpower.

The Tennessee reports that diabetic care is “poor” during lockdown.

Biometric PRIVACY RIGHTS NEEDED

“Privacy is shorthand for self-development,” writes Po-Zu. “It means society, not just a society of individuals, but a society with a criminal justice system that is focused on individuals.”

The privacy is uniquely harmed when biometric information is taken from a person without their consent. This is a threat to individual rights and privacy. So the government law enforcement agencies do not have the right to take biometric information.

In a biometric system, each person has a unique set of biometric characteristics, such as iris patterns and fingerprints. These characteristics are used to identify a person. The government can use biometric information to identify people, but it cannot be used to control or monitor people.

The government law enforcement agencies have never had the right to take biometric information.

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Courts may be better than parole board at determining parolee risk

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

When a court orders the release of a lifer on parole, sometimes the parole board does not return to prison. But the Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) releases a lifer, some wind up back behind bars.

Why this discrepancy exists is unclear, as it is confirmed by recently released statistics from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

Some inmates serving life sentences were later denied release by the state parole board eventually took their cases to court and successfully gained their release. Those lifers released by court order have a zero percent rate of recidivism.

Two reports on recidivism published late last year by CDCR found that 42 percent of lifers released by court order in fiscal year 2012-13 were not returned to prison.

When the minimum length of sentence was completed, inmates went before a parole board that determined their release date. In 1977, the Indeterminate Sentence Law was replaced by the Determinate Sentence Law (DSL) under Penal Code Section 1170.

After the enactment of the DSL, only lifers and third-strikers are considered “indeterminate” sentenced, because the BPH determines their release date.

Overall, recidivism in California’s prison system has dropped. For example, CDCR numbers for fiscal year 2002-03 show 103,934 inmates released from state custody. In the three-year follow-up period, 68,810 were still incarcerated, bringing the state’s recidivism rate to 68.2 percent.

Chambers made it clear, “everyone is not going to agree, but we’re going to be respectful.”

He opened with, “When law enforcement officers go home they’re a part of a community. We’re all a part of the community.”

He added, “When you get out of San Quentin, we want you to be a part of that community.”

Chambers joined San Quentin News Executive Editor Richie Richardson and said, “Why is it important to have the San Quentin Barbershop Dialogue?”

Smiling, Richardson said, “Simple—to just set the record straight and address the importance of revealing our growth.”

Bryson began the dialogue by addressing the parolee who died and the community as he named people murdered in Oakland—not by police officers. He was troubled that the only time there was outrage was when the police killed someone.

“Why is that? He questioned, “I think that it’s important to have this conversation to move things forward.”

Bryson said regarding senseless killings in the community.

Several formerly incarcerated people gave their reasons for participating in the dialogue.

David Bailey, 74, incarcerated 26 years, spent 10 years at San Quentin. He joined the Barbershop Dialogue to “rebuild families and rebuild community and clarity” in the conversation. “I thought that it was important to be here first, but these people had a great amount of respect from the people. I respect for myself,” Young said.

He added regarding law enforcement personnel. He suggested that people who were formerly incarcerated needed a new “community should ‘get involved’.”

“With the right kind of guidance,” he added.

An翇young 62-year-old Glenn Bailey spent 52 years of his life incarcerated—mainly at San Quentin. Bailey released from prison in 2014, now spends Sunday evenings returning to San Quentin as a volunteer, mentoring inmates in how to present themselves to the parole board.

Bailey said he felt very comfortable talking to law enforcement people at the Barbershop Dialogue. Bailey, however, admitted he was in the room for about an hour before I knew that I was in with law enforcement. “I had been in prison so long,” Bailey said.

There was no discussion of race or ethnicity, nor was there any mention of terms like ‘criminal justice system’.

Lewis said he recalled going to family visits, between the ages of five and nine, to see his incarcerated mother. He said that his daughter was “caught up in the criminal justice system.” She is charged with the same crime as her father and is facing 25 years to life.

Lewis is serving a sentence of 20 to life for assault with a deadly weapon. “It’s not a mistake that we made to come to prison. We broke the law,” Richardson said.

He added that the first step toward change is being accountable for your past actions.

Chambers said that he was impressed, “Everyone at San Quentin is the best person for what they did. Everyone later rejected, and the court ordered their release.

The report was extracted from CDCR's Strategic Officer (SOMS), to identify inmates released in both fiscal years “to determine which released offenders returned to state prison during the three-year follow-up period.” The report for the 2012-13 fiscal year stated:

The BPH reported that it “presents the 2017 Outcome Evaluation Report, part of an annual series, which examines arrest, conviction, and return-to-prison rates for offenders released from CDCR adult institutions during a given fiscal year.”

“I hope is that this information will provide new insights to policymakers and correctional stakeholders that will be useful in moving the state forward with regard to efforts that publish critical public safety through the reduction of recidivism,” said CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan in a memo last year.

The Indeterminate Sentence Law was established in 1917 under Penal Code Section 1170. When the minimum length of sentence was completed, inmates went before a parole board that determined their release date. In 1977, the Indeterminate Sentence Law was replaced by the Determinate Sentence Law under Penal Code Section 1170.

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Advocates mount fight to end life without parole sentences

LWOP

Continued from Page 1

LWOP terms have quadrupled since 1992 despite a historically low crime rate and falling prison populations, according to research. Evidence shows blacks receive such sentences disproportionately. Blacks make up two-thirds or more of the LWOP population in Alabama, Illinois, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey and South Carolina. Also, half of all LWOPs are held in Florida, Pennsylvania, California, Louisiana and the Federal prison system, according to DPIC.

Moreover, in 2016, 53,290 or 1 in 28 incarcerated people were serving LWOP sentences. The push to end LWOP sentences has increased.

“LWOP has been on Death Row who were not convicted of having committed a life crime,” Fox said about the women she worked with. “They killed their children, Fox noted. “...but for the women, it’s like a family.” But change the method of execution to death by lethal injection, according to the DPIC article. States with LWOP sentences have access to parole, but for the women, it’s like a family.”

Continued from Page 1

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Women

Continued from Page 1

Since 1993, “Cathy is probably 60 now. She’s African American; she has a son who is pretty successful; she’s a very articulate woman. She is college educated,” Fox said.

Thompson was convicted as the mastermind of her husband’s murder. But there was no direct evidence presented by prosecutors that proved her involvement, according to “Women on Death Row in California,” an article in ThoughtCo.com. But the jury found her guilty, and she was sentenced to death.

All her accomplices received lesser sentences, including the shooter, who was found guilty and received a life sentence.

“There’s a great sadness in your heart knowing you’re going to die and going to leave the people you love,” Maureen McDermott, the first woman in California to be sentenced to the death penalty since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, told the Los Angeles Times back in 1992. “But I’m not afraid to die. If they want to murder me, let them murder me. My life is ruined anyway.”

At the age of 44, McDermott became the first woman condemned to death in California since its reimplementation in 1978. She is in now her seventies.

The last woman executed in California was Elizabeth Ann “Ma” Duncan, 58, on Aug. 8, 1962. She was convicted of hiring two people to murder her pregnant daughter-in-law. There have only been four women executed in California since 1983.

The Chowchilla prison, which was opened in 1996, converted a housing unit to hold 10 women on a top floor, and the bottom floor became a common area and an exercise area.

Since the increase in the number of women on California’s Death Row, the bottom floor now houses more women, and they have their own exercise yard.

“Women are not animals, they are human beings. If there’s a family and a woman can’t come home to it, some of those women have become the heads of their families,” Maureen McDermott, the first woman in California to be sentenced to the death penalty since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, told the Los Angeles Times back in 1992. “But I’m not afraid to die. If they want to murder me, let them murder me. My life is ruined anyway.”

LeeDous holds the distinction of being the first woman ever sentenced to death in California in 1906. In 1907 she complained about her notoriety: “It seems that it is not enough for people to crowd and block the streets to stare at me, as if I were some sort of a Fourth of July horrid. Now they must start these rumors,” LeeDous said. “In justice to myself; I’m glad you came.” But she avoided the hangman when she was granted a retrial after appealing her case. She was eventually released to parole in 1926 but wound up back in prison in 1931, where she died in 1941.

LeeDous holds the distinction of being the first woman ever sentenced to death in California in 1906. In 1907 she complained about her notoriety: "It seems that it is not enough for people to crowd and block the streets to stare at me, as if I were some sort of a Fourth of July horrid. Now they must start these rumors," LeeDous said. "In justice to myself; I'm glad you came." But she avoided the hangman when she was
By Kevin D. Sawyer

Associate Editor

The Journalism Guild of San Quentin held its first formal graduation in the prison on Friday, Jan. 19, 2018. More than 50 people attended the ceremony, including current and former students from UC Berkeley, who worked with the men in the Gulf of California Community College’s Journalism Guild. Kane thanked Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson for the program and acknowledged staffer Phoebe Godby for her work. Kane also thanked new journalism-in-chief Richard Richardson for his leadership, the UC Berkeley students’ commitment to the class and advisor John Eagan, who is the first Journalism Guild instructor. She said the class is the first ever for prison journalists and includes people with different levels of writing. She said the class wasn’t easy, but the students persevered.

Kane was also the keynote speaker.

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The importance of good character and integrity in prison

A Republican congressman is calling for life-without-parole sentences for children who are deemed "beyond rehabilitation." Kid CAT is committed to inspiring humanity through education, mentorship, and restorative practices.

Kid CAT curriculum now available

HR 6011 federal bill to end life without parole for children

Dear Kid CAT

I'm sending this letter to you today to inquire about the curriculum. I know generally speaking, your program is available for all, and not Death Row inmates. There are many of us who were sentenced to death as youth. Myself included. I just turned 20 when I received my sentence. My question is this: Could we begin now to start classes that your program offers to youth offenders? We also have a group of individuals who would start taking classes now if you were to make that available to us. The only thing we would need is a sponsor, and I'm sure we could arrange for that to happen.

Lynne Beyett and Marty Walters at the Brothers' Keepers graduation ceremony.

The curriculum's objective is to provide assistance to youth offenders affected by the root causes of criminal thinking, childhood trauma, and drug addiction. It accomplishes this by helping participants navigate three phases of their lives:

- Past (childhood and adolescence)
- Present (current incarceration)
- Future (post-release)

The 26-week curriculum is broken into eight modules:

- Masculinity
- Self-identity
- Identifying emotions
- Problem-solving
- Communication
- Environmental awareness
- Compassion
- Empathy and forgiveness

A typical session consists of written assignments, self-exploration, lectures, and group discussion.

Kid CAT and The Beat Within hold monthly writing workshops. The Beat Within conducts writing workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout California. If you would like to know how to contact your local program, please let us know. We will send you a free copy of our publication. Your writing should reflect a positive message that helps the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of our publication. Your writing should reflect a positive message that helps the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of our publication. Your story can make a difference. Tell The Beat Within you read about them in Kid CAT Speaks!

Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam

Attention Readers: Kid CAT, the San Quentin News, and community partners have created a writing workshop for youth offenders in custody. If you are interested in creating a Kid CAT chapter at your institution, please contact your school's or community partner's contact person. Kid CAT speaks to San Quentin News, 51 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964 for a copy of our curriculum and facilitator's manual.

The Beat Within

P.O. Box 34310
San Francisco, CA 94134

Kid CAT Speaks to us about a person or place you thought you knew quite well but to your surprise, you didn't. I thought I knew you, but...
Pastor Pham extends his message of love in and outside of SQ

By David Dittre and David B. Lê
Staff Writers

Decades ago, in the midst of preaching the gospel, Pastor Tom Pham exited the pulpit, hopped on a motorcycle and escaped the sanctuary to the sound of ringing church bells. He then eluded authorities for six years, returning only after the threat of federal charges was lifted.

Pham, now 49, was born in Vietnam, where he grew up in a family of Christian leaders. As a youth, Pham was recruited by a Bishop to help start a church inogenic youth group and care for Vietnamese prisoners. Pham has since grown into a group of several of the incarcerated students, even beyond their incarceration. During his five years at San Quentin, he firmly believes that the hour-long drive is worth it, said Pastor Lê, an American family who has been visiting Pham for many years. He is en-couraged by “Vietnamese—speaking the way I love.”

Pastor Pham is a pastor at a Vietnamese Missionary Baptist Church in Oakland. At Pastor Pham’s invitation, Kim Lam first visited San Quentin in December 2016 for a Sunday night Easter service when Pastor Pham delivered the message in Vietnamese. Sister Kim recalls the angelic voices and beautiful angel overlooking everyone. “I was amazed!” she said after her first visit.

Pastor Pham and his colleagues continue their way into San Quentin by following their hearts. They volunteer as teachers in the Bible study group for the glory of God. They encourage the message of love and hope encourage incarcerated students and families as they share the promise of a new beginning, Phirak Nguyen reflected. As a Vietnamese Missionary student, he is continuing to learn and grow in faith and hope that Pastor Pham shares the positive message to San Quentin prisoners. Another former Bible study student, Gary Vong, who was released from prison a couple of months ago and is continuing to share the positive message to the Bible in the Second Chance Life ministry group in San Francisco that Pastor Pham teaches.

The group meets Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Protestant chapel. All are welcome to attend and hear the message of promise.

Lôp Hộc Kinh Thánh Văn Nam Tấn Sài Gòn

By David Dittre and David B. Lê
Staff Writers

Sông “Sonny” Nguyen reflected appreciatively. Nguyen recognized the change of growth within himself, requested the message of love and hope, and to serve them a place for sharing that love and hope with the men inside. He said God called him to San Quentin five years ago. He came to San Quentin’s Protestant Chapel as a guest and met the family of Vietnamese men.

He has returned ever since. Since then, Pastor Pham, along with the students in the chapel area and now meets in the main chapel, has been visiting the men and providing them with a place where they can share that love and hope with others. The group outnumbered the small room in the chapel area in which it now meets in the main chapel, inviting Vietnamese groups to come to visit. Pastor Pham said that God called him to San Quentin five years ago. He came to San Quentin’s Protestant Chapel as a guest and met the family of Vietnamese men.

“Pastor Pham extends his message of love in and outside of SQ. He is a beautiful angel overlooking everyone. ‘I was amazed!’ she said after her first visit. Sister Kim returned to San Quentin for a Sunday night Easter service when Pastor Pham delivered the message in Vietnamese. She felt that she was being called to serve and, at that moment, she knew she wanted to answer by teach-ing San Quentin prisoners by following their hearts. They volunteer as teachers in the Bible study group for the glory of God. They encourage the message of love and hope encourage incarcerated students and families as they share the promise of a new beginning, Phirak Nguyen reflected. As a Vietnamese Missionary student, he is continuing to learn and grow in faith and hope that Pastor Pham shares the positive message to San Quentin prisoners. Another former Bible study student, Gary Vong, who was released from prison a couple of months ago and is continuing to share the positive message to the Bible in the Second Chance Life ministry group in San Francisco that Pastor Pham teaches.

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Beso Negro performs in the final yard show of the year at SQ

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Chairman

The Ray Area's gypsy swing, band Beso Negro (black kiss) treated San Quentin prisoners to acoustic music mastery at its Sept. 29 event, which was San Quentin's final yard show of the year.

Loud applause and whistles greeted the group, as head singer/guitarist Adam Roach's swinging vocals opened the 90-minute set. Bassist Cheyenne Young, guitarist Eli Carlton-Pearson and drummer Ethan Turner filled out the ensemble.

"They were seasoned," Roach said. "They were self-taught, with the prison house band Continuum. They were phenomenal. They were seasoned.

"Music brings out a lot of emotions and can touch people in different ways."

Watched by a crowd of prisoners, Roach joked, "Thank you, it's a great feeling the band continued to merge musical genres, such as blues and country, metal, salsa-soul and a dash of jazz.

Beso Negro provided more than a dazzling performance. The musicians left behind a set of concert speakers, paid for by a benefit show the group put on for the prison music program.

The group, along with the band Thie Old Earthquake, rocked the Sweetwater Music Hall in 2014 to raise funds for the Williams James Assoc. Prison Arts Project and the San Quentin Music & Arts program.

"We packed that show," Turner said. "It's nice to give the musicians here the instruments they need to grow."

In fact, "Gauss" was one of the tunes the band performed at the yard show. The song had a churning bass line with a bluesy feel. Carlton-Pearson added traditional jazz riffs that mimicked a piano key-board synthesizer that gave off sounds of bells and space-age notes.

"We've been playing together for so long that I can play a chord high and he can play low and we can create these different sounds," Roach said.

The group performed "Down to the Water," a slow, beautiful song of a down-home country folk tale situated in vintage soul music.

"I'm going down — down to the water and I'm not coming back," Roach crooned, as the listeners bowed their heads in reflection.

"This was my lifelong dream, to play here," Roach said. "I feel happy to leave this as a mark on my musical career."

Roach cited Johnny Cash, B.B. King and other legends who have played in San Quentin or Old Folsom. The band sang "Folsom Prison Blues," paying tribute to the 60th anniversary of Cash's iconic 1968 concert in San Quentin.

"[Roach] is talking about doing a prison tour," Turner said.

The band performed "Scrambled Eggs," which threw the crowd into a frenzy. The energetic mixture of Gypsy jazz and rock had some prisoners waving their gray beanie hats in the air.

"Music brings out a lot of emotions and can touch people in different ways."

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

The day before inmates Thathan Tran, Eric "Maserati-E" Tran, Gregg Sayers and "G" Sayers, created Real

ity Check—a song that describes the human condition—they sat in a small room in San Quentin to rehearse it for their first time on-stage performance as a group.

As Sayers softly plucked his guitar, Maserati-E sang Reality Check's hook. Tran chimed in with harmony. They made small corrections as they had only put the song together the day before, in a matter of hours.

One of San Quentin's radio producers, inmate Louis A. Scott, brought them together. After meeting Sayers, Tran and Sayers, also known as "the Scared Three," and Tran got his beginning in music by writing poetry when he was 12 years old. His inspiration came after he heard his friend's music, which he said moved him in a positive way. Following their Aug. 1 performance, Tran commented, "I never had a standing ovation. It was amazing looking into the crowd—how the music resonated with them."

"In a recital, what he did is very different. But I couldn't talk about emotions in the gang life," Tran said. "I could only write about them. But I couldn't share them—not even with my foster mother—not to anyone."

Tran that between the ages of 12-18, he was in juvenile hall nine times.

"Each time I'd write music, I was thinking about doing a prison tour," Turner said.

The group's song "C'est la Vie"—"That's life"—captured the emotions of the day.

"If this is the last time that I see you face, I will take a trip—if only in my mind—just to see you again."

The trio also rehearsed Break the Mold, composed by Maserati-E. Maserati-E has performed at numerous events and occasions at the Q, including for the prison's podcast, Ear Check.

About a dozen people regularly volunteer at San Quentin attended the Aug. 1 event as well as 20-25 people from the San Francisco Bay Area—several said it was their first time inside a prison. The men-in-blue numbered about 35-40.

After the performance, an inmate walked up to Say - ers and said, "You got talent, man!"

My main goal is to touch the people with music," Maserati-E said. "I'm just a vessel wanting to make a dif - ference—wanting to break this cycle of incarceration. That's what drives my music.

Maserati-E attends mic-sessions for Aim for the Heart, an organization led by Leila Steinberg, who was Tonye Shalaku's first manager.

The 25-year-old Maserati - E has been incarcerated since age 17. He will be re - turning to society next year.

Sayers, a songwriter and singer, has been playing the guitar for about three and a half years.

He was inspired to play guitar after seeing another prisoner, Antonio Giovanni, playing on a prison yard.

"I asked him if he'd teach me how to play," Sayers said. "Antonio Giovanni said that it was his duty to teach Sayers.

"I think music has a pur - pose," Sayers said. "When you have music that people are listening to, you have to pay attention to what you say. Are you going to say something to help people, or are you going to be selfish?"

After spending nearly seven years behind bars, Sayers, 26, will return to the Sacra - mento area next year. He said that his prison experience taught him "his worth and how to appreciate things."

Once out of prison, Sayers looks forward to continue producing music that moves people in a positive way.

Drummer Ethan Turner

"I thought I left it all behind / I see the grind of their feet / I'm not coming / I need the music / I need the music / I'm going down — down to the water and I'm not coming back," Roach crooned, as the listeners bowed their heads in reflection.

"This was my lifelong dream, to play here," Roach said. "I feel happy to leave this as a mark on my musical career."

Roach cited Johnny Cash, B.B. King and other legends who have played in San Quentin or Old Folsom. The band sang "Folsom Prison Blues," paying tribute to the 60th anniversary of Cash's iconic 1968 concert in San Quentin.

"[Roach] is talking about doing a prison tour," Turner said.

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Adam Roach with bassist Cheyenne Young on stage

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The conference drew around 1,000 people, almost all of them system-impacted in some way, whether formerly incarcerated themselves or family members of formerly and currently incarcerated people. Asha Bandele, one of the hosts of the conference, said the FICPFM is unique among criminal-justice reform movements because it is led by people who are directly affected by the criminal-justice system.

“As somebody who worked in funding, I saw the majority of criminal justice dollars be handed over to people who were not directly impacted. That would never be the case in any other movement,” she said. “You’re not going to organize the largest movement you need if you don’t have people who are directly impacted, because nobody else is going to have skin in the game.”

The conference featured an array of groups working on different aspects of criminal-justice reform, from family visitation to banning the box (prohibiting employers from asking about previous felony convictions on job applications). Groups representing formerly incarcerated women, LGBTQIA+ people and undocumented immigrants shared ideas and strategies at the conference.

On the second day of the conference, organizers bused attendees to a local community center, where they phone banked, sent mass text messages and went door-to-door asking people to vote yes on the amendment. Conference organizers said participants contacted over 80,000 voters in less than four hours.

Desmond Meade, the executive director of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, has been instrumental in getting Amendment Four on the ballot. Meade, who is formerly incarcerated, said his wife ran for office last election cycle, and he wasn’t allowed to vote for her because of his felony conviction. He said that although he could move to another state in order to get his right to vote, he doesn’t believe people should have the right to move to gain their rights in 21st-century America. His conviction to stay in Florida and fight for voting rights for all Floridians was reinforced during a plane ride several years ago.

“What we know is that victims become offenders. Victims become perpetrators.”

“When I looked out of the plane, I said somewhere down there’s an imaginary line that divides Florida from Georgia. And it reminds me of the days of slavery when all a slave had to do was cross an imaginary line to get to freedom,” Meade said. “And I say there is no way in Hell in the 2000s should any American citizen have to escape another state to experience their freedom and their democracy.”

Kenneth Glasgow, of The Ordinary People’s Society (TOPS), registered voters inside Alabama jails leading up to last year’s special election in which Democrat Doug Jones beat Republican Roy Moore. Glasgow said that his group registered more people inside the jails than the total number of votes that Jones beat Moore by, meaning that if most of the people TOPS registered voted for Jones, his group’s efforts changed the outcome of the election.

But Glasgow said he has paid a price for his efforts. He is currently facing a capital murder charge in Alabama in the shooting death of Alabama resident Brennia Jennings. Glasgow is not accused of pulling the trigger but rather of giving a ride to the man who shot Jennings. Similar to the former law in California (which was recently amended by SB 1437), anyone found guilty of “aiding and abetting” a crime is just as guilty as the person who committed the crime. Glasgow maintains that he had no idea the man he gave a ride to was involved in the crime. He is currently in pre-trial detention and is awaiting trial as his case is set for May 2019.
a ride to was planning to kill Jennings, and the judge over - seeing the case told prosecu - tors he didn’t understand why Glasgow should be charged with a crime.

Other groups and indi - viduals at the conference fo - cused on topics such as over - coming childhood trauma in order to break out of a cycle of violence.

Eddie Grijalva, a licensed clinical therapist with Son Life Ministries in Tucson, Az., said childhood trauma is a major factor in illegal and violent behavior and must be addressed as part of any com - prehensive criminal-justice reform measure.

“What we know is that victims become offenders. Victims become perpetra - tors. And hurt people hurt people,” he said. “People act out what they haven’t learned how to say... if you step back and say what are they really trying to say? What’s really going through their mind, or their feelings right now? And then we begin to see behav - iors differently.”

Grijalva and his wife, Lori, are both formerly incarcer - ated, and the criminal-justice system has impacted the next generation of their family, as well. Lori Grijalva said family members of incarcerated people are critical for build - ing and shaping a movement like the FICPFM.

Tiffany Johnson speaking to the crowd

“…if you step back and say what are they really trying to say? What’s really going through their mind, or their feelings right now? And then we begin to see behaviors differently.”

Tate said one of the main benefits of having so many people from diverse organi - zations together at the same conference is the ability to share knowledge and form relationships.

Dorsey Nunn, the founder of the San Francisco-based nonprofit All of Us Or None and a member of the FICPFM steering committee, said the movement has a broader goal beyond prison reform or vot - ing rights for formerly incarcer - ated people.

Nunn’s story serves as an inspiration for the formerly incarcerated people he works with at All of Us Or None and its sister organization, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. After a stretch of incarceration at San Quentin State Prison in the 1980s, Nunn was able to build a nationally recognized social justice organization. He now fights for the rights of other currently and for - merly incarcerated people. In 2015, he and other FICPFM members were invited to speak to President Obama, and Nunn credits that meet - ing with Obama’s later sup - port for nationwide ban the box measures, including a rule prohibiting the federal government from asking prospective employees about their incarceration record.

“You know, I’m one of those people that can actually tell you I walked through the gates of San Quentin and the gates of the White House,” he said.
Jim Lopez staying dry reading SQ news while listening to The Prisonaires' “Just Walkin’ in the Rain” in Sun Studio in Memphis

SQN Adviser Jan Perry at the Leaning Tower of Pisa

Aly Tamboura & Andrew Beale at the FICPFM conference in Florida


THE HAT ROUND

All the battles of the Hundred Year’s War were fought in France. Vanadium isn’t found as a singular, pure metal; it’s found in about 65 different minerals and in fossil fuel deposits. Only one Japanese soldier was actually arrested during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Roughly one in four of the 697,000 U.S. veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf War suffer from Gulf War Syndrome.

The journey to the United States at the time of the potato blight cost the equivalent of $10.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across
1. Unwanted pop-ups
2. Sacred song
3. Trojan’s org
4. Passage (Fl)
5. Type of salt
6. Computer electronics brand
7. City in W. European Russia
8. Object of her affection
9. Use fraudulently
10. Amy of “Shark Object
11. Enlisted person (Abbr)
12. Type of coin
13. Type of loan
14. Type of disease
15. Tropical fruit
16. Type of code
17. Italian sausage
18. Force
19. Laid test for cancer
20. Trojan’s org
21. Peaches
22. Country in S. Honshu, Japan
23. Tupee
24. Guardian spirit in ancient Rome
25. Universal law
26. Letter to read the word. It may read clockwise, but the letters are in the proper order.
27. Lab test for cancer
28. Fault in a road
29. Angle accessory
30.处 physician
31. Make some one sad
32. Perfect pairing of 16 & 36 Across
33. Computer electronics brand
34. Type of story
35. Computer electronics brand
36. Angel accessory
37. Type of loan
38. Type of code
39. One of the Jackson 5
40. Parts of a blind
41. Singer James
42. Italian sausage
43. Angel accessory
44. Angle accessory
45. Type of code
46. Type of code
47. Former president Ismet
48. Horny plate on some fishes
49. Lost dog
50. Actor Ryan O’
51. Furniture wood
52. Curved structure
53. Honda’s luxury line
54. Shoe designer Jimmy
55. Enlisted person (Abbr)
56. Perfect pairing of 16 & 36 Across
57. Trojan’s org
58. Former English weight for wool
59. SW Asia sea
60. Eastwood of...
61. They’re ... you
62. ___-Lussac’s Law
63. Decided
64. Precedes diligence
65. Good name

Down
1. 1st Indian ruler to embrace Buddhism
2. Comforter
3. Solved to Centrella directional
4. Precedes diligence
5. Type of lie
6. Tennis player Stevens
7. A focusing lens
8. Mila Kunis character
9. Type of code
10. Precedes code or rug
11. Furniture wood
12. Water
13. Actor Baldwin
14. Italian sausage
15. Unlever product
16. Rupture of testicle
17. ‘s Inferno
18. Tract of open wasteland
19. Youngster
20. Amy of Sharp Objects
21. Seaport in S. Honshu, Japan
22. Lang. spoken in SW France
23. L.A. nightclub Whiskey ___
24. Trebek of Jeopardy
25. ___-Lussac’s Law
26. Earnhart Sr or Jr.
27. Lab test for cancer
28. Food additive (Abbr.)
29. Unwanted pop-ups
30. Richard of...
31. Singer James
32. Kneen of The Amazing Race
33. Places
34. Parts of a blind
35. Adjust
36. Back
37. The palm of the hand
38. Angel accessory
39. Improve the electrical power rating of a nuclear plant
40. Clapton song
41. Gay Pride Parade
42. Former Turkish president Tumet
43. Horny plate on some fishes
44. Lost dog
45. Actor Ryan O’
46. Country club org.
47. Going strong
48. Curve structure
49. Shoe designer Jimmy
50. Trojan’s org
51. Former English weight for wool
52. Eastwood of...
53. Precedes diligence
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61. They’re ... you
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65. Good name

HINTS ON A LAWSIDE

ADIA ARAI ALOHA

RECK BOTS SIREN

MAKESOMEONEESDAY

ONTOLYR

LEAVEBALALTMLB

EMCEEFLOATA

ABARRELOFLAUGHS

SASSAINTSNEAK

EYEERTETIERS

ESTTHEBEEST

PASSTHEHATROUND

ELOPEGOTHREHA

POLYPISHAMORT

TESSSEENSHOE

PARSLEY

SARDINE

EMBLEM

Snippets

California lions are believed to be the most intelligent of all the sea lions.

The coin is in B. Let’s assume that inscription A is true. If the inscription is true, the B’s inscription ("The coin is not in here.") is false. Since this does not lead to any contradiction, it can be safely concluded that the coin is not in A. That makes C’s inscription true, since it merely confirms that the coin is not A. Since at most one of the inscriptions is true, the B’s inscription ("The coin is not in here.") is false. Since this does not lead to any contradiction, it can be safely concluded that the coin is in B. By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964

This month’s Brain Teasers answers:

How many triangles are in this drawing?

The circle below contains eight letters with one letter missing. Replace the letter to read the word. It may read counterclockwise, but the letters are in the proper order.

If you would like to submit a photograph to be placed in SQ News just because, please send it with name(s) and a brief message to go with your photo. Please understand, we may not be able to return your photo so send a copy and address the letter to...
La separación de niños de sus padres causa traumas irreparables

Por Tarek Beltran

Escribiente contribuyente

Un niño de 18 meses de edad llora en brazos de su madre. "Siento tanto miedo", dice una mujer, que pide que su hijo pueda quedarse con ella, pero por orden de separar familias se lo llevan. "Me da pena, me da rabia", dice另一个女人."No se lo haga nunca, por favor..."

Las asociaciones que dirigen Kraft, junto con el Colegio de Médicos, la Asociación Americana de Psiquiatría, están pidiendo que se detenga la separación de familias en las fronteras, junto con los estudios de los Doctores en Estados Unidos. "De acuerdo a Katz Annand, abogada de la Organización Kids in Need of Education, "las separaciones pueden causar daños irreparables, incluyendo más de 100 niños menores de edad..."

El final de la revolución mexicana fue marcado por el asesinato de Carranza en 1923 y de Oviedo en 1928.

México celebra 107 años de la revolución de 1910

Por Juan Espinosa

Diseador gráfico y escritor

Desde que México consiguió su independencia en 1821, el país no ha tenido un momento tranquilo. Durante varios años, el poder, trazando consigo diversos problemas internos como la desestabilización, México, ante la lucha por una democracia que trajera paz y progreso a la nación, se vio afectado por sus guerras. Ese fue el escenario del 20 de noviembre de 1910 que consolidó el inicio de una guerra revolucionaria que fue conocida como la Revolución Mexicana.

La guerra revolucionaria fue causada por la forma en que el gobierno de Porfirio Díaz, un dictador porfirista, trató de controlar a sus ciudadanos. La población mexicana estaba cansada de la corrupción, la falta de oportunidades económicas y la destrucción del país durante la Revolución de 1905.

En ese contexto, el 20 de noviembre de 1910, Díaz fue derrocado y se inició el primer acto de la revolución. Los revolucionarios, liderados por Francisco I. Madero, destruyeron el poder porfirista y establecieron un gobierno provisional.

En el año que se cumplen los 107 años de la revolución, México celebra un nuevo comienzo de libertad y progreso. Las consecuencias de la Revolución Mexicana han sido duras, pero han dejado un legado de gracia que ha permitido a México evolucionar.

En este día, es importante recordar los sacrificios de los revolucionarios y los hombres que lucharon por una nación mejor. La lucha por la democracia no ha terminado, pero el legado de la Revolución Mexicana nos insta a seguir luchando por un México mejor.

México celebra 107 años de la revolución de 1910

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Sugerencias de cómo contribuir a la revolución

1. Cuando se trata de expresar remordimiento por nuestros crímenes, los que causamos. Empezaremos por el momento en que cada día y semana de nuestro crimen se convierte en una vida diferente a la que estábamos viviendo cuando cometimos nuestro crimen (es el caso de los criminales). Como expresar remordimiento por nuestros crímenes, el momento de nuestro crimen se convierte en una vida diferente a la que estábamos viviendo cuando cometimos nuestro crimen (es el caso de los criminales).

2. Los anónimos al llegar a las distintas instituciones deben de hacer una introspección personal de su culpa (crimen) en su vida. En esta etapa, el anónimo debe de entender que lo que ha pasado es irreparable e inconvertible en otra cosa. En esta etapa, no se deben hacer decirles, como expresar remordimiento por nuestros crímenes, el momento de nuestro crimen se convierte en una vida diferente a la que estábamos viviendo cuando cometimos nuestro crimen (es el caso de los criminales).

Responsabilidad significa más que una simple palabra. Por ejemplo, “asumo responsabilidad por mis acciones” Lo más importante es que los comisionados del BPH sean detalles por lo que la asumimos. Las comisionados de Protección Infantil (en el Board of Prison Hearings) y en que en realidad las comisionados quienes escuchan. Aunque verdaderamente sintamos remordimiento. Por lo tanto muchos reclusos deben de hacer una introspección personal de su culpa (crimen) en su vida. En esta etapa, el anónimo debe de entender que lo que ha pasado es irreparable e inconvertible en otra cosa. En esta etapa, no se deben hacer decirles, como expresar remordimiento por nuestros crímenes, el momento de nuestro crimen se convierte en una vida diferente a la que estábamos viviendo cuando cometimos nuestro crimen (es el caso de los criminales).

La asociación que dirige Kraft, junto con el Colegio de Médicos, la Asociación Americana de Psiquiatría, está pidiendo que se detenga la separación de familias en las fronteras, junto con los estudios de los Doctores en Estados Unidos. "De acuerdo a Katz Annand, abogada de la Organización Kids in Need of Education, "las separaciones pueden causar daños irreparables, incluyendo más de 100 niños menores de edad..."

"Un niño de 18 meses de edad llora en brazos de su madre. "Siento tanto miedo", dice una mujer, que pide que su hijo pueda quedarse con ella, pero por orden de separar familias se lo llevan. "Me da pena, me da rabia", dice另一个女人."No se lo haga nunca, por favor..."

Arthur Evans Jr., CEO de la Asociación Americana de Psiquiatría, señaló que los niños al ser separados de sus padres "están conmovidos y padecen un sufrimiento intensivo..."

El final de la revolución mexicana fue marcado por el asesinato de Carranza en 1923 y de Oviedo en 1928.
I believe hope means a number of different things,” said McCarver. “When a child falls in a park and the parent of the child doesn’t run to help, but all the prin- cipals run to help that one child, this is hope. “When you’re in the grocery store and you meet someone short $10 to run to help, but all the prin- cipals run to help that one family, this is hope.”

“Hope is healing, stay- ing inspired, and encour- aged through trying times,” she added, “fore- lying a walk away with pep in her step.”

The next day in the Garden Chapel a Time of Re mem - brelance was held for those lost by suicide. Their names were read out loud. After the reading of the names, several prisoners who knew some of the deceased shared memo- ries.

One name read was Thomas “Charlie” Henderson, who commit- ted suicide in 2014. A guy stood up and said, “I knew Charlie. He always smiling and brightening the day with that smile. Then he just stop coming out. We was wondering what was up with him, and then he hang himself.”

Andress Yanee, the ma - ster of ceremonies, shared a time he noticed a guy who was hanged on a lower tier, but he was standing on the fifth tier in West Block. It was out of the ordinary to Yancee, who saw this guy looking over the rail at the ground. Yancee said he felt eerie. “Hey man you can use some coffee,” he offered. The guy was started by the friendly gesture of Yancee, who just wanted to help. He took the coffee. Later the guy was transfer- ring to another prison and approached Yancee.

“Thank you for saving something to me that day. That was about to jump,” the guy said.

Yancee prevented the guy from committing suicide.

Photo by Harold Meeks

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Photo by Harold Meeks

L. Williams playing the drums

By Lloyd Payne
Journalist and Copy Writer

A drum call to gather the population on San Quen tin's Lower Yard was made on Sept. 9 for the “Hope” themed opening of Mental Wellness Week.

Incarcerated men an- swered the drum call of L. Williams, who works in SQ's mental health department, visiting San Quentin and sat down in a drum circle. They learned the second-ary African rhythms like the Senegalese and Dan, Dan Dun Ba on by hand on a con- gos.

“Drumming is recrea- tional therapy, and it helps the an- cient memory, so I thought it could help men in here and wanted to bring it here,” L. Williams said.

Optimistic about the work, suicide prevention coordina- tor Jina Thomas gave two- tone turquoise and purple ribbon stickers to the partici- pants. Oneutherland prisoners in solidarity wore black T-shirts with the suicide prevention ribbon design as a symbol of hope.

Remarks about changes in the mental health service in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilita- tion (CDCR) were made by mental health administration personnel. Many of them had practiced the things to say about life, philosophy and mental health for years.

Chief of mental health at San Quentin, Dr. Shannon Mc- Carver, added to all those gath- ered, “I live so that you can live.”

Dr. McCarver is at an age where the volunteer is on his way to walk. When she looked at the men she aimed to help, deep concern showed across her face.

By Juan Haines
Journalism Guild Writer

The Last Mile Works buzzed with excitement when two filmmakers and a for- mer incarcerated graduate returned, accompanied by several prison inmates and Zack Zuckberg Initiative (CZI), to tour the prison and get stories for their website.

Code:73070 teaches inmates the fundamentals of coding, while The Last Mile Works (TLM Works) is composed of seasoned coders who work on paid contracts as part of a joint venture between Cali- fornia Prison Industry Authority (CPIA) and private compa- nies.

Aly Tamboura, a graduate of Code:73070 and former em- ployee of TLM Works, parler from San Quentin about two years ago. He returned to show his co- workers at CZI the newest stu- dents enrolled in Code:73070.

Tamboura currently leads a team that seeks to advance so- cial justice and criminal justice reforms across the nation.

CZI came to San Quentin to get video stories from inside prison to show the free world first-hand accounts of what it is like to be incarcerated and have access to state-of-the-art training.

The Nantucket Project be- gan documenting inmate Chris Schumacher about six months ago to show that providing in- mates jobs skill prior to release is in the best interest of taxpay- ers as well as offenders.

Nantucket toured the prison to get a better understanding about Schumacher’s incarcer - ation experience. They follow the church, a prison cell and the dining hall. They also in- terviewed several inmates who knew Schumacher.

When Schumacher earned parole, Zach Bower moved into the cell that left vacant. “Danny Phackett said he was looking for a cellie because Chris just went home,” Bower said. “Danny told me that this was a lucky cell. Chris was found suitable; he was found suitable and now I’ve been found suitable—all from this cell.”

Another filmmaker from Google came to the class to interview inmate Jason Jones, 34, and what he’s doing to pre- pare himself for release after spending 13 years incarcer- ated.

Google’s film crew got an up-close look at what Jones learned from the program. The objective of creating a documentary about Jones, the director said, is “to show that incarcerated people are capable of redemption through positive social actions.”

In addition, the film aims to show the relationship between providing incarcerated people training and lower recidivism.

Jones signed an employment contract with a technology firm, Wika, making him the first coder to do so before leaving prison. While Jones is ending his prison term unlike any other incarcerated American, Schum -acher continues to show that investing in first-rate programs while incarcerated pays off for society—both are graduates of The Last Mile and Code:73070.

Exciting the three groups inside the prison were The Last Mile co-founder Beverly Parenti, CDCR Public Infor- mation Officer Michelle Kane, and from the San Quentin Public Information Office, Sgt. R. Garde.

Former coder Harry Hemp- hill sent Schumacher a mes- sage: “Chris, I am so proud of you. Keep up the good work.”

He added, “Give him my best.”
Texas warden demoted after instituting disciplinary quotas

By Harry C. Goodall Jr. Journalism Guild Writer

A Texas warden was de-
moted and transferred fol-
lowing the discovery of a
disciplinary quota scheme
used in the Ramsey Unit
of the Texas prison system,
as reported by the Houston Chronicle.

The Texas Department of
Criminal Justice terminated
more than 500 disciplinary
cases after an investigation
revealed that four state off-
cials implemented a disci-
plinary quota in which of-
cers were required to
write up a certain number
of inmates or potentially face
punishment themselves. The
discovery of these quotas has
led to a statewide audit
and multiple demotions of
prison officials. The officers
involved could face criminal
charges, according to offi-
cials.

The investigation was
sparked by the complaint af-
er it obtained leaked emails
from Capt. Reginald Gilbert of
the Ramsey Unit. Gilbert
wrote, “Effective March 10,
2018, each sergeant will be
required to turn in at least
two (2) cases written by of-
ficers for a Level 2 Code 35
commission’s charge of ethics
violations.” The commission did
not immediately issue a ruling
in Griffin’s case but is expected
to hold a full hearing this fall
on its findings, during which
it could advise the State Su-
preme Court to suspend or re-
move the judge.

Griffin has appealed the
initial decision and asked for
full review in the 8th Circuit
Court of Appeals pertaining to
his case.

“Some 70 million Americans have a criminal record – a number equal to Americans with a college degree,”


Arkansas judge faces sanction for blocking lethal injection

By Harry C. Goodall Jr. Journalism Guild Writer

An Arkansas judge faces ju-
dicial sanction for blocking
the state’s use of a lethal injection
drug on the same day he pro-
tested the death penalty out-
side the governor’s mansion, reported The Associated Press.
The judicial Discipline and Disability Commis-

sion charged Judge Wendell
Griffin, a Pulaski County
Circuit Judge, with violating
ethics rules in June. The three-
member panel cited the judge’s
calls for executive clemency
remedies against the death pen-
alty as evidence of an ethical
violation.

Griffin asked a judicial eth-
is commission to dismiss the
complaint against him in Au-

tumn. “This is a case really
about optics and not about ethics,” said Assistant District Atty. Greg Johnson.

Porter also said the case
“runs afoul” of a U.S. Supreme
Court decision that permitted
courts to speak out on social
and legal issues and a separate
decision that bars excluding
juries from capital-punishment
cases based on their moral
or religious objections.

Arkansas executed four
inmates last year using lethal injection. Judge Griffin had blocked this method of execution earlier in the year, which led to the judicial
commission’s charge of ethics
violations.

The commission did
not immediately issue a ruling
in Griffin’s case but is expected
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“ sponsoring any unusual trends.”

Possible changes in policy
bring hope to advocates.

When you do mass pun-
ishment like that, you put
people in danger because it
involves retaliation,” Smith
told the Chronicle. “I’m thrilled that this reporting has uncovered some dangerous
and ineffective policies, and I’m thrilled that people are going to be treated justly and fairly because that’s how you foster rehabilitation.”
PEN America releases Issue 21: "Chuck" Adams

In loving memory of fellow Brother "Chuck" Adams

Walking inside San Quentin’s Potentate Chapel on August 10, a visitor watched usherers standing and handing out programs that read “In Loving Memory of Brother Chuck Adams.”—Rejoice in Heaven, Chuck. Loving Memory of Brother Charles "Chuck" Adams

The ceremony began with the 21-member Worship Team, to which Adams had belonged, taking the stage while an audience of about 50 inmates stood. They sang This Is Why I Sing. Incurrated veterans brought the American and POW-MIA flags into the chapel to honor Adams’ service in the U.S. Air Force.

The mood was somberly set by the soft melody coming from Alto Flair II, organ and Greg Dixon on bass.

“He was an old country boy who’d be out mentoring,” showed Holloway said. “There was a depth in his voice that let us know he was speaking for the lost. We were all blessed by it. I am so glad that I have known a man like that while on this earth.”

Chaplain Max Hinton, who welcomed Jackson then eulogized Ad-ams.

“When I saw him in the hospital, I had a confidence in him,” she said before reading Psalms 23. 

Poet Trinity C. Moore, the church clerk, Trent Caprell, described Adams as follows:

“He became a father figure for me. He was an example of man of integrity.”

“He made these little pies, and gave them out to the people. He’d never sell them. He’d make about four to five a week and give them out. He’d also sell people’s clothes. He sewed all mine. He wrote to young men that were walking around the prison, like orphans. He’d befriend them and share some good old-fashioned wisdom on how to navigate this place with a positive perspective. He’d encourage them to let religion be the foundation of their program.”

Adams was part of a quartet called the Prodigal Sons. The trio sang with his friend Sam Cook. "I knew Chuck for 15 years,” youth minister Funki Figgins said. “Chuck was an example of what love is truly man of integrity.”

"In our prayer circle, he’d always keep his family’s name. He’d say, ‘Put your voice out and talk to Chuck about...’”

CHUCK Adams

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Chuck singing in the choir

U.S. News Briefs

1. USA—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case United States v. Texas that Texas could not bar women from getting an abortion if they were minors.

2. South Carolina—In two cases, the Supreme Court refused to hear cases that challenged the state’s anti-obstetric-gynecologist laws.

3. New York—A federal judge has ruled that New York City’s ban on plastic bags is constitutional.

4. Nebraska—On Aug. 14, Carey Dearman Moore was executed by lethal injection. Moore was convicted of murdering two fast food employees.

5. Hawaii—On Oct. 9, Troy Clark was sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a man in 1996. Clark’s latest statement was that he did not do the killing.

6. Houston, Texas—State prison officials are reviewing grievances denoting inmates seeking dentures. Prison officials plan to clarify when dentures are needed as well as create a review board to recommend who gets dentures. The policy had said chewing wasn’t a medical necessity and that inmates could eat pureed food.

7. Richmond, Va.—Prison officials have suspended a new policy that would have barred inmates from wearing women’s or men’s undergarments or menstrual cups from women in prison. The policies were a result of an inmate complaint that said they were causing an imbalance.

8. Pennsylvania—A non-profit organization that sends free reading material to incarcerated people used the word “peculiar.” However, after recognizing his dedication to it, the parole board opened up the possibility of the things said:

“...For Chuck, to know him, I realized that he stood on the edge of his humanity opened up.”

Chuck would always encourage us. ‘We’d sit in silence for hours. He’d say, ‘Put your voice out and talk to Chuck about...’”

9. If there was a brother in ministry, Chuck Adams was the one for me. He was a man of integrity.”

—Juan Haines

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www.sanquentinnews.com

Rejoice in Heaven, Chuck.
Loving Memory of Brother Charles "Chuck" Adams

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

No matter the restriction, the control, restriction, or oppression, PEN America is a platform for authentic stories—voices that ring loud and free on the page.

Jennifer Finney Boylan contributed to PEN’s latest publication, How to be Transfigured, through conversations with incarcerated readers as she writes. “For a long time, I thought I didn’t exist. It was like walking on a long-deserted beach with no one else around. A struggle for identity is not limited to incarcerated people — agency is a normal, human want and need — it’s the de-

Biography

Joe DeSoto was convicted of murdering two fast food employees. He took 30 years to show that he did not commit the murders, according to the Helena In- dependence on the death row in Montana.

Hinton is the 152nd person exonerated from death row in the United States.

Charles "Chuck" Adams

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**San Jose Earthquake staffers show they can kick it on Lower Yard**

By Rahsaan Thomas

Prison Sports Ministry

King's reign continues as Outsiders team battles back to win

By Timothy Hicks

Staff writer

On a picture-perfect Sept. 9, the Prison Sports Ministry hosted a match to try and finally get to celebrate a second victory this season against the San Quentin Kings, 64-32. The Hardtimers had triumphed over the Outsiders in the first two contests of the season.

Staff writer Markelle Taylor hugging Eddie Herena after 2017 Marathon

“I’m just happy to be here, and I’d do it with him so he’d have somebody with joy,” Herena said. “It’s great to run with somebody—“

Almost everyone who started the race coming out of the Lower Yard to enjoy the energy of the race. Twenty four out of 24 men ran for two hours with the marathon. For the Outsiders, the following runners were:

Maxim (15:16), Jonathan Chiu (14:11), Mark Palomarez (14:08), Wells (14:09), Levin (14:09), Keyes (13:56), Tommy Wicker (13:56), Contreras III (13:56), and Eren Solero (13:52).

“I think we both hit the ball, but he had a fingernail on it more than me,” Thompson said.

Running with the 1000 Mile Running Club at San Quentin State Prison

Meza said. “But in prison you never have somebody to jog with, so I’d do it with him so he’d have somebody with joy,” Herena said. “It’s great to run with somebody—“

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San Jose Earthquake staffers show they can kick it on Lower Yard
San Quentin Warriors take visiting Lincoln Hill in overtime

By Rahson Thomas
Staff Writer

The visiting Lincoln Hill basketball team took the San Quentin Warriors into overtime but fell short, 77-66. “Great game; one of the best games we had,” Lincoln Hill center Dominic Thomas said. “It’s a lead changes—till the end.”

Lincoln Hill, named after the church of pastor Miguel Rodriguez, visits the court on the prison yard more to win over souls than to win the game. In fact, Rodriguez had just returned from a trip to Japan, a country he says is less than 1 percent Christian, to speak about the gospel. Still, Lincoln Hill goes hard every game. The Warriors almost went against a team that has a lot of experienced players State Warriors staffs a few days prior.

The Warriors jumped out to an 18-5 lead after the first quarter, but Lincoln Hill climbed back after they heated up in the second half. With five seconds left on the clock, Lincoln Hill guard Ramon Ronquillo made an inside pass to Thompson, who made the basket to take a 25-24 lead into the break.

Thompson led all scorers with 31 points, 11 rebounds, five blocks, four steals and an assist.

Both teams gathered at center court for a message about seeking help to change from Lincoln Hill coach Cornell Swain.

“We can’t grow in isolation or on our own,” Cornell said. “We need a connection. Grow within the fellowship of brotherhood. Don’t be a stranger.

First year Warriors guard Emmanuel Kemp-Acquéy, who played for McMinnville High School, addressed the guests about what a baseball program means to him.

“I don’t get visits and I don’t go to church, so this is my church,” he said. “I got caught up in the streets and now I’m trying to make the best of it.”

Just before the third quarter started, Warriors Coach Rafael Cueva expressed his concerns about the score.

“You guys have us worried, right now,” Cueva said. “ Nobody plays harder, and nobody prays harder than you.”

In the second half, the lead went back and forth as Warriors veteran Allan Mckinhs turned his jumper up. He ended up leading the Warriors with 24 points.

With eight minutes left in the game, the Warriors were down 52-46.

“We have to hold this lead; you know how that third quarter is,” Thompson said. Mckinhs hit a jumper and followed with a three pointer. By the five-minute mark, both teams were tied at 54-54.

With 2:30 on the clock Ronquillo put Lincoln back on top with a spin move past two Warriors for a layup that made the score 59-57. With 47 seconds left in regulation, Lincoln Hill led 60-56.

The Warriors defended the paint hard as Ronquillo tried to get to the rack. He disguised the ball to teammate Chase Russell, who shot a three-pointer. It clacked off the rim but did not count.

“We were stomping on the clover, but y’all came quarter,” Thompson said. Mckinhs nailed both free throws for the tie at 65-65 with 8.6 seconds.

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“We have to hold this lead; you know how that third quarter is,” Thompson said. Mckinhs hit a jumper and followed with a three pointer. By the five-minute mark, both teams were tied at 54-54.

With 2:30 on the clock Ronquillo put Lincoln back on top with a spin move past two Warriors for a layup that made the score 59-57. With 47 seconds left in regulation, Lincoln Hill led 60-56.

The Warriors defended the paint hard as Ronquillo tried to get to the rack. He disguised the ball to teammate Chase Russell, who shot a three-pointer. It clacked off the rim but did not count.

“We were stomping on the clover, but y’all came quarter,” Thompson said. Mckinhs nailed both free throws for the tie at 65-65 with 8.6 seconds.

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50 men graduate from California Re-entry Institute

By Wayne Boatwright
Staff Writer

The idea behind the California Re-entry Institute (CRI) is to begin the reintegration process in prison and continue support services once released. The 18-24-month-to-the-gate program recently graduated more than 50 men in San Quentin State Prison’s Garden Chapel on Sept. 7 from its two programs of Crime Impact Awareness and Empowered Re-entry.

“It’s amazing the work they’ve done,” CRI executive director Collette Carroll said. “They come every Saturday. They work hard. They share. They ask for case management. They’re dedicated to being the man who I know they are.”

Vincent Russo who was born the same year (1993) that his father went to prison, spoke of the potential of CRI at the graduation.

“From basically my birth until 18, he was in prison,” said Russo, an invited guest and former speaker at various CRI events. “He’s been out for six years, and we actually live together now.”

Russo explained the cost/impact of incarceration on the family. Russo’s message is that the shame of a criminal history need not limit the potential of a returning citizen.

“When we visited, I remember waiting until the end to try to take my dad home with me,” he added.

Quinton C. Walker, a CRI inmate-facilitator explained how to apply for CRI.

“You go to education and fill out the form for CRI,” he said. “The average wait is now about two years. We respect those that wish to join and strictly follow our wait list.”

“I’ve been a facilitator for two years. CRI is about making and keeping commitments. If anybody wants to know more, you can find me at the ARC Trailer all day on Saturday.”

“Empowered Re-entry Program (ERP)’s curriculum uses individualized case management and personalized parole planning to assist participants on issues such as emotional needs and addictions, as well as personal empowerment and financial literacy.

“What makes CRI’s Empowerment Re-entry Program unique is not only does it help its participants understand emotional intelligence while bringing community resources to them, upon release offers a safe place at Roland’s House,” said CRI inmate-facilitator Eddie Herena.

CRIME IMPACT AWARENESS PROGRAMS (CIAP)

“The crime impact statement taught me about the pain and suffering that I caused my victims and society,” he added. “This gave me an opportunity to look at the worst choice I made in my life and take full responsibility for my crime.”

CRI looks to the past as well as the future in helping participants with personal transformation through its curriculum. CIAP helps offenders understand the impact of their crimes upon victims.

For Carroll, CRI is a legacy that reaches back to her husband, who volunteered at San Quentin for nearly 30 years before he passed away. She shared this moment with the new graduates of CRI.

“If it was not for my husband, who volunteered me to come in to start a self-help program here, the fire would not have been ignited, the spark would not have been lit, and I would not have had the experience to share with you men,” she said. “When I was in my darkest moment, when Roland passed away people said I was a light in your dark place. You were the light in my dark place.”


Empowered Re-entry Program: Anthony Faulk, Carlos Smith, Christopher James, Craig Wimberly and Reginald Wimberly.