San Quentin News

The Men of Death Row Speak Out

First in a series of interviews with San Quentin’s Condemned Row prisoners. The interview was conducted by Editor-in-Chief Michael R. Harris, Managing Editor Juliangunn Padgett, Staff Writer Arnulfo Garcia and former News Editor David Marsh.

For the first time in nearly two decades San Quentin News reporters were allowed to interview prisoners on Condemmed Row, better known as Death Row. The eight prisoners interviewed are members of the East Block Advisory Counsel (EBAC). The interview was conducted in the East Block Chapel, a small area with benches. A fence separated members of EBAC and San Quentin News reporters.

EBAC was created to represent the Death Row community. It is a group similar to the Men’s Advisory Council (MAC) of the general population that addresses inmate concerns. EBAC was formed in 2008 with the approval of now-retired Warden Robert Ayers Jr.

San Quentin News reporters interviewed EBAC Chairmen Lumar Barnwell, Vice Chairman Dwayne Carry, Secretary James Robinson, Dexter Williams, Bob Williams, Ryan Marshall and Paul Henderson. Also participating was L. Samuel Capers, contributing writer for the Souce News column “Voices from the Row.”

San Quentin Lt. Rudy Luna, Administrative Assistant to the Warden, arranged the interview and explained, “Each prisoner is elected from their assigned yard by their S.Q. News column “Voices from the Row.”

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Judge Henderson: Catalyst of Change

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS
Editor-in-Chief

It was a bright, sunny day at San Quentin for the June 3 ceremony formally celebrating the new $136 million Central Health Services Building — a milestone in California’s court-mandated effort to improve unconstitutionally poor healthcare in its prisons. Perhaps the true jewel in the crown of this special day was the unexpected, unheralded appearance of the man whose tenacity and commitment to this cause made the building possible: U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson.

Well noted at the ceremony was the role played by Federal Receiver J. Clark Kelso, who was also on hand to christen the first step in the Herculean construction efforts to bring California’s inmate healthcare up to acceptable standards. It was Judge Henderson who hired Kelso to lead this unprecedented, multi-million dollar effort. However, the ceremony ended with Judge Henderson insisting that his role be down played. And thus, while one involved person after another – from Kelso to the building’s locksmith – stepped forward to receive accolades, Judge Henderson stood quietly in the front row, observing with a serene smile.

Judge Backs Kelso’s Rule

San Quentin faces a projected budget shortfall of $19 billion through June of 2011. Prisons chief Matthew Cate claimed Henderson had no authority to appoint Kelso, and that Kelso then had no authority to order the construction of 10,000 additional beds, at a cost of approximately $6 billion.

With the onset of the state’s financial crisis, Cate appealed the quiet nature of the proposal to two new hospitals

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Slain Activist Mourned by S.Q. Inmates

By JULIANGALEN PADGETT
Managing Editor

David Lewis was shot in the back and killed in the parking garage of a San Mateo shopping center in June. His death shocked and saddened a vast number of people, but nowhere more so than in San Quentin.

His example changed the way many inmates do their time. Lewis was a drug addict and dealer at age 15 and by age 19 was serving a 10-years-to-life sentence. He paroled in 1991 and afterwards was one of the few ex-prisoners to return to San Quentin often to give advice and encouragement.

Lewis was recognized throughout the United States and parts of Africa as a lightening rod for positive change, yet San Quentin was where his inner journey towards his own self transformation truly began.

Lewis, 54, a father of four, co-founded Free at Last in East Palo Alto. It is a model substance abuse intervention program that included AIDS prevention and prisoner rehabilitation. He was a Certified Master Facilitator for

See Legacy on Page 4

Graduation Message Of Hope, Confidence

By ARNULFO GARCIA Staff Writer
JUAN HAINES Journalism Guild Writer and JULIANGALEN PADGETT Managing Editor

“Achieving the Vision” was more than the theme of the 2010 graduation ceremony at San Quentin State Prison. It was a message of hope and confidence that improvement was possible for these incarcerated students of academia.

This triumph signified optimism in the future of men who graduated from various vocational trade programs still available in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, in addition to the Robert E. Burton GED (General Education Development high school equivalency) program, and the Patten University Associate of Arts degree program.

Acting Warden Vincent Cullen opened the ceremony by acknowledging the loss of valuable personnel within the Educational Department due to budget cuts. Cullen emphasized the importance of the volunteers who entered the prison committed to continue San Quentin’s unique educational programs for prisoners.

Cullen ended his inspirational speech to the graduates and their families by declaring, “The last thing I want to say about this event...As the men’s names are announced...watch the reaction of the family members as they receive them...It’s worth the price of admission, because to me, it’s the brightest moment in the 365 days of their lives.”

See Pattern on Page 13

By DAVID MARSH Contributing Writer

A federal panel has refused to eliminate the receiver overseeing California prison health care. The ruling clears the way for federal Receiver J. Clark Kelso to proceed with his $1.9 billion construction plan to add medical beds to the state’s 32 prisons.

The decision was announced by a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on April 30.

Kelso was appointed by U.S. District Judge Thelton E. Henderson of San Francisco under authority of the federal Prison Litigation Reform Act. The move came as a result of a decades-long class action lawsuit filed by inmates challenging poor health care in the state’s adult prisons.

Kelso’s job was to bring prison health care up to acceptable constitutional standards. Initially the state did not object to the appointment of a receiver in 2006, and admitted that it was unable to remedy the problem within its prisons. Only when the state’s economy collapsed did legal efforts begin to rid California of medical malpractice.
Incarceration renders some people so dependent on others that they gradually lose the capacity to rely on themselves to maintain ties between prisoners, their families and the rest of society, compromised prison adjustment has furthered the psychological isolation of prison from society, compromised prison conditions, and has contributed to a lack of plans, but with the state's ability to execute them, "the least intrusive way to ensure that many prisoners are forced to undergo in order to survive the penitentiary experience and the psychological impact of incarceration and its implications for post-prison adjustment back into society.

The rapid influx of new prisoners, serious shortages in staffing and other resources, and embracing of an openly punitive approach to corrections led to the "de-skilling" of many correctional staff members who often re-occur to control inmate behaviors. The criminological justice system has transformed the natural and normal emotional reactions to events prisons in February, it brought an openly punitive approach. The term "prison life" is used to describe the process by which inmates are shaped and transformed by the institutional environments in which they live. Institutionalization has taught most people to cover their feelings or not to openly or easily reveal intimate feelings or reactions. Prisoners struggle to control and suppress their own internal emotional reactions to events around them.

Prison culture preys on both mental and physical weakness and is designed to discredit and discourage the expression of candidate emotions or intimacy. It is important to emphasize that these are the natural and normal adaptations made by prisoners in response to the unnatural and abnormal conditions of penitentiary life, according to Haney's study.

Because many institutions are dangerous places, prisoners learn quickly to become highly vigilant and ever-alert for signs of threat or personal risk. To be continued...

The CRP was founded by West in 2000 and is entirely funded through grants from charitable foundations and private donations of just five or ten dollars. Each 30 states which have outlawed the use of tobacco products by staff and inmates on prison grounds.

A number of the other 25 states that still permit tobacco products on prison grounds have some sort of partial ban in place, with some sort of exception such as staff smoking areas. Georgia will become the next state with a total ban, as its ban takes effect in December.

Most states have relied on a phased-in approach in order to avoid a total ban, and some have decided to phase out tobacco products in prisons, states hope to realize huge savings in health care-related costs for inmates, as well as an eventual reduction in insurance premiums for healthier staff. Attempts by Arizona lawmakers to outlaw smoking in prisons were defeated last year. But state Representative Bill Konopinski, the bill's sponsor, said plans were underway to re-introduce the legislation this year.

The American Civil Liberties Union supports some bans through its National Prison Project facilities. "Citizens have a right to breathe non-toxic air, for some reason, states along the country's southern border from New Mexico to Florida still allow some form of smoking in prisons. — David Marsh
S.O. Veterans Group Gives To 4 Students In a Big Way

The Manly Maryle inspiration- al $1,500 award was presented to Julia Cratty of Casa Grande High School in Petaluma, who highlights her learning disabili ty, became a true scholar/athlete through strong and rigorous aca demic achievement. While being a standout varsity basketball player and coach to junior hopefuls. She also became a Gold Award Girl Scout, a level earned by less than one percent of all young women in scouting. Further, Julia created a basket- ball clinic for elementary school girls to aid them in preparing for Junior High tryouts. She plans to attend California Lutheran University in the fall with a goal of becoming a sports psychologist. In her essay, Julia wrote, “My dad has taught me that a person has to face their struggles with a positive attitude in order to come out with a positive outcome.”

Steven Sigley Jr. of Vandenberg High in Fairfield won a $1,000 award. He completed a U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala bama. Last year he designed and built robots that play soccer. He plans to study engineering at the University of California at Davis. Steven’s essay noted being in a military family meant moving frequently. “I have a better ap preciation for my family since they’re not always there... That loss of a family member, while temporary, leads you to appre ciate them more when they are around.”

Another $1,000 winner, Elise Kerner, was unable to attend because her graduation was sched uled simultaneously with the banquet. She graduated from Vaca ville High School, where she was a standout in academics, band, and gymnastics, as well as certificates of high accomplish ment in the study of French. Elise plans to use her scholar ship to attend Cornell University in Tompkins, N.Y. Her goal is to achieve her doctorate and serve a surgeon or physical ther apist. Elise wrote in her essay, “As a military child I was brought up on many traditions; some simple like the monthly commissary trip, others more complicated. These traditions strengthened our fam ily, because whether my dad was deployed or at home with us, these traditions remained the same.”

Due to escalating costs, televi sion evangelist Melissa Scott re ports she is dropping her TV pro grams. To those who’ve watched her on KRON and the IGN Net work, Pastor Scott said she will use other means of reaching out with her ministry.

On a visit to San Quentin’s Garden Chapel in June, she ex plained the financial dilemma that’s been replayed in almost every other sector of life. “We’re the only television ministry that doesn’t tell people to give to us. The station raised (its) fees six times! When we stopped, they offered us a discount for six months, but that wasn’t going to be enough.” Much of her nationwide audi ence has turned to the streaming video. She said she doesn’t intend to return to broadcasting at this time.

Pastor Scott is known for her skills in 27 languages. “I grew up speaking French, Italian and English,” she said, and later found she could quickly grasp many other dialects and languages.

She visits 15 prisons regularly to share of her faith. She com mented that she has found signifi cant degrees of sincerity among inmates. “This is real,” she said of the incarcerated. She reported there is more of a focus on wor shiping and coming to know God.

Asked what verse she would share with those who don’t read the Bible, she cited Matthew 4:17: “Repent, for the kingdom of heav en is near.”

To build Christian faith, Past or Scott suggested, “Study the Bible every day; it has unsearch able riches one could never mine completely.”

The San Quentin of today is both a relic of the past and a stan dard for the future of rehabilita tive activity in California. With its roots dating back to 1852 and the dank, musty hold of a ship moored in the harbor, the place is much more that just a prison—it is an icon, a symbol of what has come before, and a lighthouse illuminating the future. Just as when Duffy took the first bold steps towards a modern, more effective approach to corrections, San Quentin maintains the tradi tion of being at the vanguard of California’s rehabilitation move ment. Duffy knew that in order to have both a safer environment, and an institution that provided actual rehabilitation, he needed to have a system of positive in centives to go along with the plethora of punishments. How ever, Duffy was a wise man, and knew not to confuse fairness with softness. He remained war den for a little over 11 years, but his legacy persists to this day. As it turns out, the hobby pro gram grew into the model rep licated throughout the rest of California’s 112 prisons. Unfortunately, San Quentin now is one of only two o perational hobby shops in the state. With the exception of women’s prisons, Desal Vocational In stitution (DVI) operates the only other shop. Several other institutions have limited in cell programs allowing men to paint, assemble pre-cut models, do beadwork and other, non-tool oriented handicrafts.

If nothing else, one can walk through the doors of the Hobby Shop and perhaps see the shade of Warden Duffy maintaining a watchful eye over his creation.

Sources: California State Prison-San Quentin Operational Procedure SOP-101050-2, March 2009.

Part 2 of 2 parts

REGULATIONS

By COLE M. BIENEK

Journalism Guild Writer

Part 1 of 2 parts

H-UNIT VIRUS

Because of an outbreak of flu like symptoms, inmates in San Quentin’s H-Unit were placed on quarantine on June 25. The chief medical officer identified five in mates as affected. Because of a state-wide budgetary crisis, virus testing had already been suspended for June 26 and 27. Because of the outbreak, visiting for the July 4th weekend was also canceled. All work and education programs outside H-Unit were off-limits for that population.

All inmate movement was can celled, including all medical ap pointments. By July 2 medical personnel identified the culprit as Norovirus. The quarantine ended July 9.
Thelton Henderson: Quiet, Powerful Catalyst of Change

Continued from Page 1

breaking barriers and Program Planner for Gordon Graham and Company.

He was widely known for his chameleonic-like ability to work with everyone from substance abusers to ex-president Bill Clinton and ex-Mayor Willie Brown. Lewis assisted police in implementing ceasefires to stop gun violence. He counseled drug addicted men and women in the mean streets of East Palo Alto.

Sentenced to 10 years to life, Nathaniell Rouse has been at San Quentin for 16 years. He has the Muslim name of Shahid, which means, "Bear witness to truth." He remembers Lewis as a man who believed in his quest and lived his life by helping others live up to their own potential.

I met David Lewis in 1996," said Shahid. "He came in with the Imam during the month of Ramadan. Yet the most miracu- lous part for Shahid was when Lewis had told the men how he was tired of using drugs and the way he changed his life through Al Islam.

"Living Al Islam and his return to the institutions gave weight to his change," Shahid said. "Your record has to reflect true change."

At San Quentin Lewis started a program named Katargos, a Greek word that means putting behind that which binds you. In Katargos meetings incarcerated men talked about how to cope with the rigors of prison.

Lewis was keenly focused on the pulse of substance abuse. He recognized the connection between drug use and the AIDs epidemic in the African American community.

"He was relentlessly driven," said Michael R. Harris, Editor in Chief of the San Quentin News. "I met David at San Quentin shortly after I arrived in 2005, 2006."

What affected Harris most was a conversation he had with Lewis after Harris had been denied by the Parole Board. "David asked me a question which ultimately made me go deep into a situation. He said, 'Instead of focusing on what they didn't do, did you focus on what you didn't do?' With that I went into myself and it created clarity for me," Harris said. "And I believe talking to David ultimately helped me in getting my parole date the following year.""Over time, Lewis and Harris's friendship took on a more profound meaning. "David Lewis was my late brother's name," Harris said. "And that alone cre- ated a deep bond between David and myself."

Harris fell quiet, remembering his friend.

"All of the work he had done on himself and the energy he put into helping others had me thinking," Lewis said. "I thought about the people who witnessed him being slain. They had no idea of what type of man, what type of example was slipping away from in front of their eyes."

"They had no clue."

Legacy of David Lewis Will Carry On

Continued from Page 1

him as the first black attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Henderson had been distressed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 to sit in the Northern Dis- trict of California, becoming the first black chief judge in 1990 and served in that post until 1997.

Throughout his distinguished career on the federal bench Judge Henderson has ruled on many of the critical issues of our time. In the late 1980s, Judge Henderson presided over a long-running case concerning the fishing industries' practice of snaring dolphins in their tuna nets. Judge Henderson ruled in favor of environmental groups' charges that millions of dolphins were drowned because of the industries' refusal to follow existing safety regulations. He also rejected attempts by the Clinton and Bush administra- tions to relax legal standards on fishing practices and loosen dolphin-safety labeling on tuna. And Judge Henderson's decision placing California's prison health care system under federal receiv- ership followed a lengthy battle. Judge Henderson says he acts from a conviction that the U.S. Constitution belongs to every- one..."I'm determined to see better health in prisons... Even those at the bottom of the social heap nonetheless have human dignity," said Henderson in Soul of Justice. In a landmark 1995 civil case, Madrid v. Gomez, Henderson ruled that the use of force and level of medical care at the notorious Pelican Bay State Prison was unconstitutional. During a subsequent oversight federal process, Henderson vis- ited the prison personally. "Pris- oners are human beings, too, and the guards decided not to honor that anymore..." he said in Soul of Justice.

On one visit Henderson be- lieved that a prison riot had been staged for his benefit to further the guards' point that prisoners are animals. In 1999 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that affirm- ative action was indeed constit- tutional. However, in the year fol- lowing the appeal court ruling the enrollment of people of color in the UC system plummeted by 60 percent. Said Judge Hen- derson: "There was only one Afri- can-American to graduate from Boalt Law School that year."

David Marsh was a Contribut- ing Writer to this story.
Visit to Death Row

Continued from Page 1

peers to assist in conflict resolutions between inmates. These meetings are held every Tuesday with a sergeant or lieutenant, and also once a quarter with the warden.

EBAC’s council members represent two sections of Death row, North and South. The North-South line is the main line for Death row and to be considered for N-Sec it must be an individual for more than two years.

At first the Death Row inmates were reluctant to talk but they opened up after the subject was brought up, especially the execution of Stanley “Tookie” Williams in December, 2005. Death Row inmates believe that Williams, co-founder of the Crips and convicted of four murders, was rehabilitated himself with his anti-gang books for adults and children.

Inmates feel that if despite this change Williams was executed anyway, then there is scant hope for them. As to how they live on Death Row, many prisoners have their own distinct philosophy. One of them equated Death Row to a dysfunctional retirement home.

They believe that the public is given inaccurate information about the lives of the condemned inmates. For instance, Robinson protested that the medical community. Tookie Williams was still “hanging out” with gang members up until his execution, which Robinson said was not true. He said, “In this place we wonder if compassion, kindness and love exist.

“It’s a big circus while it [execution] is happening. And you’re sitting there talking to someone who’s about to be executed. The whole [execution] was so calm and positive,” said Robinson. “He was trying to make it better for me. This man who was scheduled to die was doing what could calm me down.

According to the men, what affected them most was how Williams was de-humanized during the execution process. Kevin Fagan of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, “The first catheter slid in messily at the crook of Williams’ right elbow, taking just two minutes to seat but spurring panic and outrage as the emotionally twisted individual who, as I have reached during more than a decade at San Quentin. ‘I feel sometimes as if I have been in a never ending deep red before it was taped off.”

PRONOUNCED DEAD

“Why am I still here? Who’s responsible? I have developed genuine capacity for self-control. We execute fixated juveniles who in the way it is applied to the rich and to the poor. ’”

Tookio with their dad, still wanting to know who, he felt, had been rehabilitated while waiting to die.

He also maintained some executed men were clearly insane, but not within the legal definition of insanity.

One case was Leanderess Riley. When Riley’s time to die arrived on Feb. 20, 1953, Eshelman writes, “A guard discovered he had been long beheaded. He was a bone chilling wordless cry. The guards needed all their strength to hold him while the doctor taped the end of the stethoscope in place... Leanderess had to be carried to the gas chamber, fighting, wrenching all the way.

After he was strapped into the death chair in the gas chamber, Leanderess managed to force his hands and feet, and had strapped in again, tighter this time. Again struggling to free himself, the gas finally did its job and Leanderess breathed his last.

Reviewing his report of the death penalty, Eshelman wrote: “We do not execute truly messed up people, responsible people who have developed genuine capacities for making decisions and exercising self-control. We execute fixated juveniles who in many areas of their personality cannot be held responsible for their actions... Only when we develop the sensitivity to appreciate the compassionate nuance of immaturity will we have sufficient insight to abandon the grim, grotesque line of capital punishment.”

After he retired from San Quentin, Eshelman became marriage counselor and public speaker. He died in 1989.

Eshelman’s son, Carlton, and daughter, Bonnie, who lived many years at Alcatraz and San Quentin with their dad, still live in Northern California. He is a carpenter who worked on the new San Quentin medical building.

Death Row Chaplain Recalls S.Q. Executions

By JOHN C. EAGAN

San Quentin News Advisor

It was a time when the San Quentin gas chamber was busy, when men were executed sometimes two at a time.

The Rev. Byron E. Eshelman was the spiritual advisor to many of those who breathed their last in the famous prison’s gas chamber beside San Francisco Bay.

After witnessing numerous executions, Eshelman was an advocate of capital punishment. He explains his reasons in a book he wrote, “Death Row Chaplain,” published by Prentice-Hall, Inc. in 1962. (A friend found an autographed copy in a used bookstore and gave it to the writer of this article for Christmas.)

“I have come to believe that the death penalty is fundamentally a symbol of hatred, of disharmony and confusion in society,” wrote Eshelman, the San Quentin prison’s resident chaplain from 1951-71. He had formerly been chaplain at Alcatraz federal prison.

“A culture that resorts to the death penalty as a method of coping with its troubles is evidencing the same desperation, panic and outrage as the emotionally twisted individual who, in his instability, kills a fellow human being,” he added.

“In the 12 years that Lewis E. Lawes was warden at Sing Sing from 1920 through 1932, he escorted 150 men and one woman to the death chamber,” Eshelman wrote. “His conclusion was that’s been drawn in the sand is clear,” said Bryan Liang, a law professor at California Western School of Law and a professor of anesthesiology at the University of California, San Diego. “They’re definitely letting doctors know, if you cross it, we’re coming for you.”

THE THREE-DRUG COCKTAIL

From 2007 to 2008 executions were stopped in the United States, then, the United States Supreme Court issued a case about the widely used three-drug cocktail. The court ruled its usage did not violate the 8th Amendment’s constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Death penalty critics argue people being injected may go through horrible pain because one of the three doses used in many states paralyzes you while creating a powerful burning sensation. This makes it impossible to scream out for help.

Thus far no doctors have been disciplined,” AMA Board Secretary Mark Rockoff said. Although numerous anesthesiologists who have assisted as execution consultants or testified in capital punishment cases, he stated the AMA’s actions have had a chilling effect.

The anesthesiologist board’s decision raises several questions by death penalty opponents who feared this could be used to end capital punishment. Supports of capital punishment believe doctors are not needed during the process; they contend the dosages can be done by prison employees.

DOCTOR MUST BE PRESENT

“If I were lying on the gurney and someone was pumping me with a paralyzing drug, I would want somebody there who knew what they were doing,” stated Ty Alper, associate director of the Death Penalty Clinic at UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. 3,200 prisoners are housed on death rows in America. Several of the 50 executions done each year from 2008 all have used lethal injection.

Almost half of the 35 states doing executions, such as Virginia and North Carolina, have mandatory ‘doctor’ be present during executions. In others, doctors insert catheters and insert the three-drug cocktail. Many states recruit both doctors and anesthesiologists, permitting them to take part of the lethal injection process, but the identities of executioners are hidden.

“Many think it’s a sound argument, saying you need a doctor to do this,” stated Michael Rutherford, president of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, supporters of the death penalty. “Actually you really don’t need a doctor to do this.”

Rockoff concluded, “Always remember we are healers not executioners.”
Hello and Goodbye
For ‘Stretch’ Rich
After a long search for sports coverage to match San Quentin’s powerful interest in the subject, the S.Q. News thought it has scored big in the appointment of Chris “Stretch” Rich to the post of Sports Editor. But no sooner had he generated several great stories than he was transferred to Dual Vocational Institute at San Quentin.”

For the 2010-11 fiscal year the expected outlay for this equipment is $7,042,941. During the past year over 45 inmates passed through or are currently housed at San Quentin. This workouts to a sports and recreation expenditure of less than 50 cents per inmate, which includes the General Population, Condemned Row, the Reception Center and specialized housing units.

What’s the Point of Prison Sports?

Many people ask, “Why should prisoners be allowed to play sports when schools in the community are cutting sports programs?” The answer is there is no good reason why sports in the community should be cut at the expense of prison sports, but that’s not why they are being cut. Furthermore, I know it’s true that most prison sports partici- pants would give up playing and competing in the sports they enjoy if it were not for what a deprived youth could participate in his stead.

SPORTS ARE NEEDED

Here is why I believe sports are necessary in prison. Sports foster self-esteem. Low self-esteem is a big reason why people perpetrate the acts that cause them to end up in prison. People who don’t feel good about themselves generally don’t care much about others. Even moderate success in a sport can help increase self-esteem. Sports help promote and main- tain physical health. Physical activity reduces stress and strengthens muscles and bones, thereby leading to better mental and physical health. Healthy long-term inmates cost taxpay- ers less money due to reduced healthcare issues. Sports also provide a neces- sary outlet and distraction for the spectators. Sports help the ob- server feel they are part of some- thing bigger than themselves and a team’s success becomes their success. By keeping the un- nerving and un sportsmanship like as it can be, provides the hecker with a sense of purpose as well as an outlet for built-up anger and stress. Sports help people learn to interact with others. You’re so- cial creatures and sports provide many opportunities for positive interaction and socialization with others, very important in a prison environment with so many ways of negatively channeling energy. Team sports are integrated with people of different races, colors and creeds working as a team towards a common goal. People

Chris ‘Stretch’ Rich

me (aren’t they the same) to play with the Giants baseball team as a coach and the softball team as a score-keeper.

- Physical activity
- Physical fitness and wellness
- Movement skills and movement knowledge
- Social development and interaction
- Self-image and self-realiza- tion
- Individual excellence

That’s the description included in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Operations Manual. Prison sports and recreational programs are administered by the education departments with-in each institution – similar to the way interscholastic sports are provided and delivered by public schools. A recreation coordinator is on staff to oversee recreational scheduling, ensuring that departmental and institutional goals and requirements are met. Budget reductions within the past fiscal year have resulted in major cuts in prison education statewide, including San Quen- tin’s Robert E. Burton Adult School. The cuts resulted in the layoffs of many teachers and exten-sive realignment of staff and educational programming.

STILL THRIVING

Yet our sports programs seem to thrive. San Quentin has teams that play against outside compe- tition in the following sports:
- Baseball (two teams)
- Basketball (two teams – un-restricted, and over 40)
- Flag football
- Softball
- Tennis

many of them on its points on slam dunks.

I promise that none of this will get in the way of my duties as sports editor and will try to help produce the best product possible. I welcome all those reading this paper to submit to the San Quentin News, starting with this issue.

What’s the Point of Prison Sports?

I write this column from the Education Depart- ment: San Quentin News, Sports Editor, to see me in North Block.

I welcome comments or criticism, and try to field ques- tions and different views with San Quentin athletes, keep you updated on sports and recreational programs and tour-

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SPONSORED BY DONATIONS

Sports also include more than just players. Referees and umpires, equipment personnel, scorekeepers and scoreboard op- erators, and others are vital parts of the teams and are given a sense of belonging.

Sports are a privilege, not a right. Persons who are disciplin- ary problems and/or safety or security concerns in the prisons are not permitted to participate in sports. These activities must serve a higher purpose or they are irrelevant and should be cut. When players grumble and complain about their coaches, teammates, and playing time they are removed from the teams. Sports teach conformity to rules and discipline.

FUNDED BY DONATIONS

Before anyone thinks this must be costing the State of California millions of dollars and causing the budget deficit, read on.

Team sports in San Quentin are funded by donations from various agencies around the Bay Area and are staffed and coached by volunteers from the surround- ing communities, and inmates. Equipment and uniforms have been donated by local profession- al sports teams, church groups and other sources.

No additional paid staff is re- quired to supervise any sporting or recreational activity occur- ring within prison. The minimal monetary outlay by the State for sports and recreation, aside from the salary for the recreation co-ordinator, is for the purchase of various small items to provide for those who are unable or not in-

by volunteers from the surround- ing communities.
Was He the Best Ever?

By CHRIS “STRETCH” RICH
Former Sports Editor

Sixty years ago, a former major league pitcher played baseball for San Quentin. He has been called the greatest prison baseball player that ever lived.

Ralph Richard “Blackie” Schwamb was born in Los Angeles in 1926. In his late teens and early 20s he was considered one of the best pitching prospects of his time. The word was that he threw a baseball as fast as major league strikeout-artist and Hall-of-Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax, who was regarded by most as the hardest thrower of his generation.

After a nearly two-year stint in the Navy during World War II, which he spent mostly in the Pacific, Schwamb returned to L.A. Unfortunately, he loved alcohol, women, and the nightlife and was involved in the gangster scene in Los Angeles, collecting debts for the mob in a heavy-handed manner.

A New York Giants scout saw Schwamb in 1946 and the team signed him as a free agent. He was the best pitching prospect he ever saw, but knew he couldn’t sign a hoodlum like him for fear of getting fired. In 1946, the Brooklyn Dodgers paid a $5,000 bonus to Schwamb.

Schwamb was the best pitching prospect he ever saw, but knew he couldn’t sign a hoodlum like him for fear of getting fired. In 1946, the Brooklyn Dodgers paid a $5,000 bonus to Schwamb.

In 1949, Schwamb was called the greatest prison baseball player that ever lived. He had been involved in a string of robberies. In October, he and a partner killed a doctor in a robbery-gone-bad, for which he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison and five-to-life for another robbery.

In 1950, he arrived at San Quentin in March. He quickly became the star of the team. During that era semipro teams usually had seven to eight prospects, and major-leaguers staying in shape during the off-season, on their squads, and Bay Area baseball was at its apex.

Schwamb, now known as “Sticky,” was so dominant he had an arm so effective, major league scout Williams arrived at San Quentin to face him to see how he measured up. Three- to four-thousand inmates and staff routinely gathered in the yard to watch him pitch. He also was one of the team’s best hitters.

In 1950, Schwamb pitched for San Quentin through the 1954 season when the team was renamed the Pirates. He got sick of the place because of gangs and pressure from gamblers to throw baseball games, so he requested a transfer to Folsom, pitching there through 1958, and closed out his prison baseball career at Tehachapi, paroling in January 1960.

It is believed he compiled a prison record of 131 wins and 35 losses, while amassing 1,565 strikeouts in approximately 1,494 innings with a 1.80 ERA. He also played one-third of his prison games at shortstop and led the league batting in three categories.

In 1960, just six months after paroling, Schwamb attempted suicide. He managed a brief return to professional baseball in 1961 with the Pacific Coast League AAA team in Honolulu, but the game had passed him by.

Blackie went in and out of various low-paying jobs and never shook the desire for alcohol, and continued to land in jail on occasion. Schwamb later battled cancer in December 1989 at the age of 63. A few years after he died, Blackie stated, “I was a lousy gangster, but I was a great pitcher.”

Author Eric Stone wrote a marvelous biography of Schwamb, titled, “Wrong Side of the Wall,” from which this story was derived. The book was published by The Lyons Press in 2004.
Four Proud S.Q. Graduates Of G.G. Seminary Program

Four Proud S.Q. Graduates

By KENNETH R. BRIDON Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin's Garden Chapel was filled with shouts and applause for graduates: Mark A. Baldwin, Robert L. Butler, David Cowan and Darrell C. Hartley. On the evening of June 10, the four were being honored for over two years of study and hard work to become the first incarcerated individuals to receive Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's Certificate in Leadership Development (CLD) Diploma.

In addition to the San Quentin graduates, paroled San Quentin students Billy Green and Jesse Reed also finished their studies outside and had received their diplomas with many other students. To students enrolling at San Quentin, the seminary has agreed to allow them to finish the diploma studies without charge. On a more somber note, Vernis Brown's family was given his diploma posthumously. He died earlier this year.

"It's about being in the things of God," said Baldwin of his diploma. Golden Gate has issued CLD diplomas for more than 25 years. More than 800 students and 286 certificate-level students in studies to receive this widely recognized certificate of Christian leadership.

"There were two purposes of bringing this program here to San Quentin," said Pastor Morris A. Curry, Ph.D. "One was to provide sound doctrine, and the second was to prepare these men for parole." After volunteering for over 20 years, Pastor Curry became a San Quentin chaplain in 2006.

With the support of the retired Golden Gate professor Jerry Stubblefield Ph.D., Curry proposed making San Quentin an off-campus study program. "I've known Jerry Stubblefield for 30 years, and he introduced me to Dr. Michael Martin," Curry said in the interview. "With all of the major difficulties worked out by 2007, the program began to run. But instead of the reasons he entered the program was "to see if I had the discipline and skill to go to the next program. I eventually want to go on to receive a bachelor's degree, and even a Master of Divinity."

Hartley said he will use his training to "build a Jehovah Rapha Temple for the global incarcerated and war-torn individuals who truly seek to remain in God's presence."

Cowan said the class which impacted him the most was "the Ethics Class with Chris Foreman. Mostly I'm interested in looking at things from a broader perspective, and this class challenged me to do that."

The ceremony included the traditional possession of faculty in academic regalia to the music of Pomp and Circumstance. Golden Gate President Dr. Jeff P. Iorg commented, "I think this is one of the most significant moments of Golden Gate Seminary history. These four graduates were held to an identical standard as all other of the individuals enrolled in our five other campuses."

Addressing the gathering, Baldwin said, "I thought about giving up. God lifted me up, helped me. For over a year he has taught the third and final stage of the Garden Chapel's Christian 'Boot camp' program." Butler said, "Someone once said that the journey is always better than the destination...This diploma will help a person to be a pastor, a leader of Bible studies, a preacher, and be a part of Pastoral Care,"

Father Barber Retires

By WILLIAM CÓRDOBA Journalism Guild Writer

16 Años como S.Q. Capellán Catolico

16 Years as S.Q. Catholic Chaplain

After 14 years of service, Father Barber's tenure in San Quentin ended June 13. He came to S.Q. as a volunteer in 1996, after serving in the same capacity at Dub- lin's women's prison, the County Juvenile Facilities. Father Barber was appointed as San Quentin's Catholic chaplain by Archbishop William C. Levada of San Francisco, and hired by Warden Jean Woodford in 2002. Since then his door and his heart have gone beyond San Quentin's grounds. For instance, at the request of staff, he makes himself available to officiate at funerals, baptisms and weddings. On occasion he directed his vaca- tion time to an employee in case she needed to take a few days off from work to recover from an ill- ness.

JUSTICE PROGRAM

Asked the highlight of his San Quentin service, he said, "It was the creation of the Restorative Justice Program in 2005 that came about as a result of a California Conference of Bishop..." Then he looked sad and the tone of his voice dropped as he remembered Ricky Earle.

Earle was diagnosed with cancer when he was in North Block in 2005. He was transferred to the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, where he died three years ago.

In a place where seems to be no room for a sense of remorse, by being a teacher, a confidant and a com- forter, Father Barber has found ways to show us that anyone can find the path to redemption. As God leads him to serve others in Jerusalem and Rome, we thank him for sharing 14 years of his life with prisoners."
By JULIANGLENN

Richard Poma promised his brother that he would do everything in his power to break the chain of crime that has fouled their family for years.

He became a truly changed man after his young daughter visited him in prison in 1988. “Angelique was just a baby then and she kept trying to touch me through the glass,” Poma recalled.

“She told her mother, ‘Let me talk to Daddy.’ Her mother said, ‘If you can’t touch him, you can’t talk to him.’” Poma said, “Baby I’ll do my best, I’ll do my best.”

That moment had him reeling with a guilt he had never experienced before. “I felt the weight of the world smashing me,” stated Poma. “How could I have ever gotten so messed up?”

As his daughter grew up, some of her friends wanted to steal some treats from a refreshment stand. “Before we go steal, she told them, ‘I want you all to read something that I was told to share before I thought about committing a crime.’”

The documents were legal transcripts and police reports about her father’s crimes.

To this day, the kids that read his transcripts have never broken the law, he said. “I love Angelique,” Poma said. “She is one of my heroes and I’m proud and honored to have her as my daughter.”

Angelique Poma graduated from college 13 years ago. Her law degree and works at the U.S. District Court of Appeals in Reno.

Poma is a five-year resident at San Quentin who entered the California Department of Corrections 30 years ago. His brother has since died of cancer.

The 50-year-old Poma is known around San Quentin for his famous train whistle sounds and his long bushy handlebar moustache.

Richard Poma and his fiancée Susan

Words to My Daughter

By JULIANGLENN

Managing Editor

Richard Poma

Rafael “A1” Losno Jr. came to prison during the era when phrases like “battle gym” and “gladiator schools” were the norm. After spending almost three decades inside California’s toughest penitentiaries, Losno paroled from San Quentin this June as a changed man.

“Here I was just a kid, slammed with 15 years-to-life with the possibility of parole, and I wasn’t even 90 days from my 19th birthday,” he said. At sentencing the judge recommended Losno be sent to the California Youth Authority (CYA), because he had never been in trouble before. But the judge warned that if (CYA) did not accept him, he would go to adult prison. It was adult prison.

SUITABLE TWICEx

“That was 29 years ago. I was arrested June 5, 1981 and this was my 29th year being incarcerated, and I did not ask for it on any level. I was nervous and curious but the honest truth is, I was scared,” Losno admitted.

Over the years Losno had appeared before the parole board 11 times and was found suitable twice.

The time, in 1989, his date was taken due to what he called a non-existent 128-counseling chrony. “They said I had refused to participate in an interview and later included information that I had only been disciplinary-free for eight years,” Losno said.

He reported an in-depth investigation proved afterwards that he had attended the interview and he had been disciplinary-free for 22 years. “When I went before board commissioner Anthony Kane, he respected the Lawrence decision and my right not to discuss my crime.”

When his date was reversed; he felt shame and learned a new level of pain. “I suffered for my entire family. Even the young kids from Havens Court, who I’ve mentored; they cried for me too.”

He mentored them in a program called R.E.A.L. Choices, an acronym for Reaching Expanding Adolescent Lives.

“My prison years have given me the ability to listen and really hear a kid when they’re at that beginning stage of being wrong. I think it’s the right path, I thank God for that, because I’ve learned from them and they’ve taught me a lot too.”

5-foot-8, with Hollywood leading-man features, Losno is a mixture of quiet strength and ecclesiastical wisdom. He reports much of what he learned was while doing time in prison.

TIME AT SOLEDAD

“My first prison was Soledad Central,” which he described as a “soul crushing experience.”

“Back then it was a very political, racist and violent world,” he stated.

The 51-year-old Losno grew up in the San Francisco Mission District, where his childhood friends Benjamin and Peter Bratt filmed their movie, “La Mission.” Benjamin acted in the film and his brother, Peter, directed and produced it.

By CAROLE HYMAN

Jewish Chaplain

“The destruction of Jerusalem came through a Kamza and a Bar Kamza.” (Babylonian Talmud, Gittin 55b)

Tisha B’Av, the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av, falls this year on July 20. On this day Jews mourn the destruction of the first and second temples. Why does the Talmud blame it on Kamza and Bar Kamza?

The Talmud explains it this way: A man was giving a party. He had a friend, Kamza, and an enemy, Bar Kamza. He told his servant to go find Kamza and invite him to the party. His servant even offered to pay for the whole party! The man said “No” and Bar Kamza said, “As long as I’m here, let me stay. I’ll pay for what I eat and drink.”

The man said “No,” Bar Kamza offered to pay for half the party – he even offered to pay for the whole party! The man said “No” and “No.” Bar Kamza was very unhappy at the behavior of the man. But what upset him even more was the behavior of the others at the party. Why didn’t they intervene? They must agree with what the man! This made Bar Kamza very angry, and his revenge was to set in motion the chain of events which resulted in the Romans invading Jerusalem and destroying the temple.

How do we observe Tisha B’Av? This varies from community to community. The two most common rituals are fasting, and reading the Book of Lamentations while seated on the ground.

Rituals are physical actions designed to facilitate an inner spiritual change. Whether we are fasting or praying, we should contemplate what this tragedy teaches us about ourselves, and how our pride, anger and lack of compassion destroy whole worlds.

But we should not do this without hope! Our tradition teaches that the messiah will be born on the Ninth of Av.

Inmate Found Dead

According to prison authorities, on July 10, 2012, custody staff found inmate Lay G-3768 unresponsive in his cell and not breathing and without pulse. Staff immediately sounded their alarm and started CPR. Medical staff was called and responded to the scene. A Code 3 ambulance arrived. Paramedics arrived to the scene and through attend- ing physicians via an outside hos- pital, inmate Lay was declared dead at 2022 hours. Inmate Lay was 63 years old and came to San Quentin on October 23, 2008.
Push for Private Prisons

By JULIAGLEN PADGETT
Managing Editor

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is upbeat on the prospect of the public-private prison industry. The relationship between the two parties is an important one, as it is public-administration. Schwarzenegger’s plans to amend the California Constitution to require the state to spend more on universities than on prisons. This has led to billions of dollars being spent in California. More than 700 inmates were housed in private facilities.

A TIGHT BOND

However, this arrangement would also benefit Corrections Corp. of America. In 2006, Schwarzenegger signed a bill that created a tight bond with the governor’s administration and increased spending on California’s prison system. The state Corrections Inspector General, David Shaw, reported in June that the state would spend more than $20 million per year on private prisons. And as a single father with Becky, David and Nolan, I can attest to the fact that the relationship benefits both parties.

I would like to believe that I am not yet truly ready, because I still have no idea what I will say to them, even now after all I’ve had to think about it. I will be seeing my little girl soon, and her name is Becky. A wonderful child who has never caused her dad a bit of trouble. Hard to believe in today’s world, but I swear it’s the truth. Always and still her Daddy’s girl, but no longer Daddy’s little girl now because while I’ve been gone, my Becky has grown up. She’s a truly beautiful young woman now. While Becky was in prison my little girl has grown up, turned eighteen and become a young adult. A very young person, my Becky has become.

WHAT I MISSED

There have been many eventful moments that were particularly important to this exception. Some of these events included: the state’s death row execution, the closure of the prison in question; the state’s Attorney General office’s stance on the matter; and the state’s public administration. It is also important to note that the state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has been hit by a series of lawsuits and federal judges.

The relationship between the governor and the Corrections Corporation of America is one of the most important relationships in California. The state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation budget would be used to privatize prisons, the governor has said.

Tying the state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the Corrections Corporation of America is important for a number of reasons. One of the most important reasons is that it helps to ensure that the state’s prisons are well run. The state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has been hit by a series of lawsuits and federal judges.

The state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is tasked with the responsibility of maintaining the state’s prisons. This includes maintaining the state’s prisons in a manner that is consistent with the state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation budget. The state’s Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation budget would be used to privatize prisons, the governor has said.

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MUCH TO LEARN

But still, I am aware that I can learn much from my Becky. About letting go. And about forgiving. And I think that maybe we will teach something about forgiving myself, which has to be the key to the healing. Maybe we can really begin healing the process, she and I. For as I have already noted, she is very special. That’s my Becky! She is waiting, as are my beloved sons, David and Nolan, for a very special role. And, God willing, it’s time for me to go. Please, God, help me be ready!

$13 Million Wasted

The state’s Department of Corrections Inspector General, David Shaw, reported that California wasted $13 million in the way it provides medication to inmates. The Associated Press reported that the waste stemmed from costly prescriptions being discarded through sloppy record-keeping, inmate transfers or release from prison.

Death Row Yard Shots Fired

According to prison authorities, on June 25, 2010, staff observed Grade B condemned inmates fighting with one another on the Condemned Re-Integrated Mix Yard. Both inmates failed to comply with orders to get down. Staff utilized 40 MM launchers and OC Pepper Spray to quell the fight. One of the inmates attacked the other with a homemade weapon was used during the fight and recovered. According to the Public Safety Realignment Office, one of the inmates had active bleed on the top of his head due to a laceration to his head and right forehead. The inmate received lacerations to the back of his head, both shoulders, upper and lower back and redness to his entire chest and stomach area. One of the inmates was treated for a possible punctured lung.

I would like to believe that I am not yet truly ready, because I still have no idea what I will say to them, even now after all I’ve had to think about it. I will be seeing my little girl soon, and her name is Becky. A wonderful child who has never caused her dad a bit of trouble. Hard to believe in today’s world, but I swear it’s the truth. Always and still her Daddy’s girl, but no longer Daddy’s little girl now because while I’ve been gone, my Becky has grown up. She’s a truly beautiful young woman now. While Becky was in prison my little girl has grown up, turned eighteen and become a young adult. A very young person, my Becky has become.

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It's Time to Choose: JUNE - JULY 2010

Central Los Angeles near the city
looking at me with a big smile and
ful judge, this human rights fight
Building I softly hummed our
state take the position
ing our state take the position
er – an uninvolved representative
Matthews understands this simple
a working knowledge of math-
any alarming rate. Anybody with
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of Watts and attended the same
on the same city blocks in South
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by three decades, we were raised
population while closing schools
principle: never can you spend
money on. If
most about by looking at what
research for the Judge Henderson
story I came across information
story from the start. While doing
Demos…”from opposite sides in this exag-
any action. We have committed
SANE QUENTIN NEWS

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS
Editor-in-Chief

My position with San Quentin News as Editor-in-Chief affords
me a unique vantage point to take a close look at the way we look at
people from all walks of life, from the imprisoned to the free and notable alike. As a
reporter my role is that of observ-
er – an uninvolved representative
of the readers.
But I find another interview was different. I became a part of the
story from the start. While doing
research for the Judge Henderson story I came across information
that was both disturbing and in-
spiring. What I found pertains to
his position as a judge, but also to
my own story and the story of so many
reveling reflections about myself.
I learned that this power-
ful judge, this human rights fight-
er that I would be meeting for the
first time, was my homeboy in every
sense of the word.

SAME CITY BLOCKS
Even though we were separated by five decades, we were raised
on the same city blocks in South
Central Los Angeles near the city
of Watts. Judge Thelton Henderson, the same
high school, Thomas Jefferson.
As I approached Judge Hender-
son after the June 3 ceremony at the
new Central Health Services Build-
ing I softly hummed our
rightful tune. “So Hard to Be a Demo.” Judge Henderson
looked at me with a big smile and

It's Time to Choose: Classrooms or Cells?

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS

It is often said that one can tell what a person or a society cares most about by looking at
what they spend their money on. If that is true then it is absolutely clear that Californians are more
concerned with locking up and punishing their citizens than ed-
ucating their children. California spends billions of dollars on its
prison system even as education is increasingly
shortchanged.
The principal candidates running
for governor of California have chosen to run campaigns
based on fear and ignorance as opposed to knowledge and
courage. They want to continue spending money to incarcerate
the non-violent criminals that make up 60 percent of the prison
population while closing schools and withholding funds from
kindergarten through college at an alarming rate. Nobody with
a working knowledge of math-
ematics understands this simple principle: never can you spend
the same dollar twice.

And if candidates for govern-
ment state the take the position
that the prisons and criminal justic
system should remain as
status quo, then it stands to rea-
son that California's children are being
left out of the game.
The San Quentin News wants to
flush out these pressing ques-
tions in the next several issues leading up to the election by ask-
ing pertinent questions of the
candidates.

Tax-paying parents of course
have an interest in this outcome.
But corporate America also has a
powerful interest. Without a pool
of educated young people to draw
from businesses will increasing-
ly seek their workforce from the
better educated other nations that
prioritize education over exces-
size and mindless punishment.
Concerned Californians with
comments on this issue or ques-
tions they would like us to ask
the candidates should write
to San Quentin News, Education
Department, San Quentin State
Prison, San Quentin, CA 94964.

Michael R. Harris

After the ceremony closed
there was a heartfelt scene as
men from diverse backgrounds
approached Judge Henderson’s words, “our
old stomping grounds.” It turned
out that not only did we both
come from the same neighbor-
hood, but also both our families
had migrated from Louisiana to
California. I said that this
was crazy, this was unbelievable.
Judge Henderson responded
in kind and added, “This is a small
world.”

DIVERSE ROUTE
Henderson’s visit to San Quen-
tin sparked continuous thought
and pressing questions for me.
What if more people from my
community had taken the same
route that the Judge Henderson
took, instead of the route myself
and so many others choose?
What would justice look like in our
na-
tional communities?

As a sideline, even though
name was not listed on the com-
paring program for the event,
it was Judge Henderson who gave
birth to the process that created
the building. I would think at the
appropriate time, when it comes to
naming the building, that
Thelton Henderson, now age 76,
should be the only candidate. It is
only right. Go Demos…”from the bottom up.”

And still later, after I had
worked my way up at a large
highly successful electrical supply company, the
owner fired me because he said
I was so good that I was a “threat”
to the other workers. After that
I vowed that I would never depend
on others and I drifted, wrongly,
into the drug business.

Judge Henderson and I grew
up in the neighborhood called
South Central and later, trying
to paper over its reputation, the city
officially “renamed” South
Los Angeles. When Judge Henderson
grew up, and until a court deci-
sion in 1948, it was the only area
in L.A. where African-Ameri-
cans could legally own homes.

RISING TIDE OF DRUGS
Thirty years later, when I
grew up, the area turned
much more violent. Gangs were
formed, at first to protect local
residents from marauding
white groups coming in from
nearby areas. Then, with the rising tide
of crack and other drugs, the
gangs became a harsh presence of
town.

The area produced many great
talented people, from Tyra
Banks and Kevin Costner to
Barry White and the Williams
sisters of tennis fame. Jefferson
High’s roster of former students
includes choreographer Alvin
Ailey, diplomat and Noble Peace
Prize winner Ralph Bunche, ac-
tress Dorothy Dandridge and Jazz
saxophonist Dexter Gordon.

But by the 80s and 90s the
district had grown violent. It was a
dific
ficult place for an unconnected
African-American, such as my-
self, to pick a life’s path.

Which way to go? I went
both directions. On the legal side
I was a successful owner of
a dozen businesses, landowner
and music and theatrical producer.
While producing “Checkmate”
I worked with Vanessa Williams
and Denzel Washington, giving
him his first exposure on Broad-
way. I co-created the gangster rap
cbo label Death Row Records with
artists such as 2Pac and Snoop
Doggy
But I was also on the dark side,
becoming a major drug dealer and
windng up in prison. In fact,
Death Row Records was created
while I was actually in San Quen-
tin on Death Row’s East Block
section, which was being used
as overflow for Thé Hole.

The six months I spent in the close
proximity of the condemned men
on Death Row allowed me to see
what they could look like for
so many other like-minded
people that grew up as I did.

The lessons for me are many. It
would be nice for people to ac-
cept the fact that I broke the promise that I
made to you as a young man,
which was that I would never
abandon my children if I was
ever blessed to have any. There
is no act that will ever justify me
depiving my two daughters of a
responsible, caring and protec-
tive dad. Like Judge Henderson
I had a mother who gave uncondi-
tional love, but there the paral-
el ended. In many ways I paid
back by going against everything
she taught me.

In the conclusion I ask myself
is, what happened to me that al-
lowed me to lie to myself, telling
myself that it was okay to become
a major urban drug dealer? Yeah,
I know “the movies made me do it.”
That was one I used to use but
this kind of excuse doesn’t work
for me anymore. I know better
now.

OLD FASHIONED WAY
The fact is I did not have the
confidence and the insight to do
tings the old fashioned way.
Which consisted of hard, smart
and legitimate work. And so I
was struck with the law of grav-
ity: “What goes up must come
down.”

There is a lie that myself and
like-minded people tell ourselves
when we say, “We must eat by
any means necessary…If I don’t
do this and I don’t do that, then
my family will starve.” We must
learn to think outside of the box-
es that we have limited ourselves
and our families and friends to,
the boxes that allow our actions
to continue to feed the cycle of de-
struct.

When the men gathered around Judge Henderson af-
ter the ceremony, apologizing
for what had brought them to
San Quentin, he said, “It’s never
too late to change.” I certainly
agree. I have accepted the facts
that followed the choices that I
made. Now I also know it’s nev-
er too late to make a difference.
I have found that if you look at
things differently then they be-
gin to transform into different
things.
Warden Duffy Tells How He Started the San Quentin News

Clinton Duffy, the son of a San Quentin guard, grew up to be warden from 1940 to 1952. Among the humane changes he instituted were the end of corporal punishment, improvement of food, start of vocational training, founding of Alcoholics Anonymous and desegregation of the dining hall. Another of his enduring "firsts" was the founding of the San Quentin News. Here is how he happened to be warden from 1940 to 1952.

By WARDEN CLINTONuffy

One afternoon many years ago, when I was a boy growing up behind the walls of San Quentin, I sneaked up the hill behind the warden's house and sat on a bridle path and looked back into the yard. I was forbidden to go there because there were prisoners fighting the blaze unseen and I had to keep watch on the guards and also for the more pressing reason that my mother was afraid I might burn my new school suit.

I was about twelve then, that day I sneaked nonchalantly through the backyard gate, my mother stuck me with folded arms and an accusing eye.

INTO THE FIRE

"Clinton," she said coldly, "do you disobey me and go to that horse fire?"

I had been forbidden to go there because there were prisoners fighting the blaze unseen and I had to keep watch on the guards and also for the more pressing reason that my mother was afraid I might burn my new school suit.

Took that day, when I sauntered nonchalantly through the backyard gate, my mother met me with folded arms and an accusing eye.

THE CLOWN 

"Clinton," she said coldly, "do you disobey me and go to that horse fire?"

That's arson.

"No, I didn't, Mom," I said.

"That's just a rumor you heard on the grapevine."

"Oh, it's just a rumor, is it?" she mocked. "It must be a pretty hot one, because it's smoking. Take a look at yourself, young man."

I took a look, and I knew I was sunk. My pants were on fire.

The moral of this quick knock probably was exchanged at the time, but it was brought back nostalgically after I was named warden. Shortly after I took office I started walking through the big yard alone two or three times a week, because I wanted to see what the new parole policy was. When would the prison camps open? What could be sent home? What about visits from their loved ones? How much tobacco was allowed? And a thousand and similar questions were being answered by cellblock oracles who claimed to know better than to go into the office. Further, many old-timers clung stubbornly to the idea that in prison you had to whisper everything, or you would be smugly and frankly skeptical when I said as long as I was warden there would be no more secrets in San Quentin.

WENT RIGHT AHEAD

There were also some doubts among the older members, and when they heard about the prison newspaper they said derisively that half the prisoners couldn't read and the other half couldn't fill the news columns with material about the prison and news of the outside. This was sheer cowardly, of course, and I went right ahead with the plan.

On the second day of November, with the help of several former newspapermen who were doing time, an artist, a make-up man, and the inmate workers in the prison print shop, we were ready to publish.

GREEN PAPER

The first edition of the San Quentin News, hand-set and printed on green paper, was published December 10, 1940. The paper was not exactly a sensation, but it was a revelation to the permanent tenants who thought they had seen everything in prison. Those first issues were tough in spots, full of slang and even a little bawdy at times. We printed poetry, quizzies, cartoons, short stories, gags, and news.

The letters-to-the-editor column, among other things, was a safety valve for all sorts of worries. No one said it was a panacea of all curiosities simply because it raised the spirit of the men. One of these stories, which I like to read to an outside audience occasionally, was called "The First Offender, and — and I think is a light Assembly Bill To Boost Ex-Felon Jobs

Serving time in prison is supposed to cancel the debt owed for social indiscretion. Unfortunately, ex-felons do not have fair access to jobs, education, employment after being released from incarceration. They are frequently barred from work primarily due to a felony conviction. California’s recidivism rate is the highest in the nation (71.3%). A major contribution to this problem is a lack of employment opportunities.

Each month the Department of Corrections releases approximately 9,500 inmates from California’s prisons. Nearly two-thirds of those freed serve time for non-violent crimes.

The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EOCC) has a policy statement on conviction records. The commission recognizes that "an employer’s policy or practice of excluding individuals from employment on the basis of their conviction records has an adverse impact on ex-felons."

Assembly bill 2727 (Re-enter Employment Opportunity Act), authored by Assemblyman Steven Bradford (D-51), would codify the EOCC policy statement into state law by preventing employers from discriminating against an applicant solely based on a prior conviction unless

• There is a direct relationship between the conviction and employment sought
• The relationship between the conviction and the employment sought is such that granting employment would involve an unreasonable risk to property or to the safety of the welfare of the general public.

The bill aims to empower employers to determine whether a prior record would have a significant effect on future job performance, while also maintaining public safety by performing a criminal background check.
Jennifer Scaife Leaves SO After Four Years

By DAVID COWAN and FELIX LUCERO
Contributing Writers

For the past four years, Jenni-
ifer Scaife has become a fixture in San Quentin inmate educa-
tion, enhancing the lives of some 1,500 students and generating $100,000 worth of donated

"I've learned such a huge amount
of human interaction here that I
should know about San Quen-
tin."

Efrain Suarez realized he had
earned $100,000 worth of text books,
"I think what drew me toward
organizations step up to take on
consequence is a concentration
for getting meaningful work and
supporting themselves.

By RAPHAEL CALIX
Contributing Writer

Dancing Into San Quentin's Hearts

Jennifer Scaife
(35x1149) Leaves
1,500 students and generating

Jennifer Scaife
(35x1008)
The following year she replaced
walked through the entrance
working inside a prison in the
ways – in addition to working
with the college program – that

healing the youth against gangs, and

with an educational delivery.

I've accepted a position with
the region Council of San Fran-
cisco. The purpose of the Reen-
try Council is to coordinate local
efforts to support adults exiting
San Francisco County Jail, San
Francisco juvenile justice, home-
placements, the California Depart-
ment of Corrections and Rehabili-
tation facilities, and the Federal
Bureau of Prison facili-
ties.

Jennifer Scaife
(35x659) Leaves
what I'm say-
ning, that apprenticeship of abu-
sive families, of the hopeless-
ness a child must face alone in the
world. Yet we were able to discern
that there was a way to make
it stop, to find that small
portion of self-worth in our
heart, and the freedom to live on
life's terms was available through
Christ Jesus.

'In the Shining Light' ministry
showed through their songs that
"You can make it in this thing called
life.
"With a pow-
erful and soulful rendition they
sang up to now. The entire audience
stood to clap, swing and sing along with the 'Shining Light' teens.

Jennifer Scaife
(35x647) Leaves
"I've literally, really, would not be
himself, just as he was created by
the creator.

We witnessed testimonials of
abusive families, of the hopeless-
ness a child must face alone in the
world. Yet we were able to discern
that there was a way to make
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Romeo and Juliet
Enthrall San Quentin

By ARNULFO T. GARCIA
Staff Writer
and FERNANDO LEMUS
Design Editor

Inside the walls of San Quentin State Prison, there was an unusual announcement over the intercom, “The Protestant chapel will be open for Shakespeare after dinner, and all are welcomed to attend!”

For the seventh year in a row, the Marin Shakespeare Company and the William James Association have sponsored the production. Suraya Keating directs Shakespearean plays at San Quentin.

This year 11 men, who must maintain their prison jobs or are enrolled in the prison’s educational program, carved out time for rehearsal on Friday evenings, and Sunday morning on the yard. The result of their dedication and study was a production of Romeo and Juliet.

The prison’s Protestant Chapel is the perfect stage for theater, with a seating capacity of 150–200. All seats were filled with excited prisoners and dedicated staff members including Laura Bowman, Steve Emerick, Pastor Curry, Lt. Samuel Robinson, Acting Warden Cullen, who thoroughly enjoyed this classic love story and tragedy unfold flawlessly before them.

The play positively impacted North Block where the prisoner/actors are housed, as the men who participated in the play received pats on the back, and compliments from their fellow prisoners. One prisoner said, “I was happy to see all the races come together and do something positive.” Prisoners who missed the performance were clearly disappointed, wanting an encore performance.

Erlin L. O’Connor played Romeo. He commented, “What strikes me about this play is how deep lies the extent to which one will go to only proved their love but also to make sure that love stays strong.”

Lesley Currier, who played Juliet, gave an inspirational anecdote, “The men who participate in this program are courageous, intelligent and talented. Shakespeare at San Quentin gives them an unusual opportunity to learn many life skills, while exploring the great literary art of William Shakespeare.”

Director Suraya Keating composed the following statement for the audience: “As you watch our performance today, I invite you to reflect on your own thoughts about love and violence, and how we may create together a more peaceful world.” The performance received coverage from KFPE, a local television station affiliated with CBS, and Nancy Mullany’s radio show, Cross Currents, which airs at 5 p.m. weekdays on 91.7 KALW, a National Public Radio affiliate. For additional coverage, one may contact the Marin prison at (415) 877-4270.

Sponsors

San Quentin News

RELIGION

Ramadan Feasting
Is Nearly Upon Us

By MICHAEL COOKE
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of Ramadan is fast approaching, which is the period of obligatory fasting for Muslims around the world. Ramadan is an Islamic holy month when Muslims may not eat or drink from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Because the Islamic calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls at different times of the year. This year, it is anticipated that Ramadan will begin on August 11.

Muslims celebrate Ramadan as the month during which the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) received the first of the revelations of the Quran, the holy book of Islam.

Fasting during Ramadan is the fourth of the five pillars of Islamic faith, the primary religious duties of a Muslim. All Muslims must fast if they have reached puberty and are sound of mind. Exceptions are made for some, such as the sick, the elderly, pregnant nursing women, and travelers on a journey of more than 50 miles. Those who are able, however, must make up the missed fasts at a later time. A Muslim who deliberately breaks the fast must atone by fasting two continuous months or feeding the poor.

Fasting begins at dawn and lasts until sunset. During this time, Muslims cannot ingest food or drink, smoke, or engage in sexual activity. The daily fast is broken by eating iftar (three dates and drinking water) followed by the evening prayer. At night, Muslims may eat, drink and resume other normal activities.

Ramadan is also a time for other religious activities. The nights are often devoted to special prayers and to recitation from the Quran. Muslims are encouraged to read one-thirtieth of the Quran each day.

Muslims fast to practice spiritual reflection, self-restraint, concern for others and obedience to God.

The end of Ramadan is celebrated by a great festival called id al-fitr. Id al-fitr means Feast of Fast-Breaking.

Imam Returns From Mecca

Imam Kawsar Hossain has returned to San Quentin after a nearly two-month leave of absence to the Middle East.

The purpose of the Imam’s trip was to fulfill the Islamic religious obligation of hajj, (visiting the Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia), as well as other religious study. In actuality, the Imam performed the Islamic ritual of umrah, which is performed the same as hajj at any time other than the first several days of the 12th month of the Islamic calendar. Hajj is a religious obligation on every Muslim who is financially and physically able to attend at least once during their lifetime.

Muslims were eager to hear about his trip and to benefit from the lessons he learned during his sabatical.

Imam Hosssein appeared fit and well rested and he blessed everyone with his usual radiant smile and humble demeanor. He seemed enthusiastic to be reunited with the San Quentin Muslim community and has stated he would relate his experiences over the next several weeks to the congregation.

The San Quentin general population is invited to attend Jumah prayer services on Friday to hear the Imam speak.

– Michael Cooke

Inmates Win a Throwdown

By R.F. GILLIAM
Journalism Guild Writer

Six San Quentin inmates defeated a group of professional writers in a “Literary Throwdown” competition recently.

The event, hosted by authors Keith and Kent Zimmerman, in association with Litquake. The Litquake event is the largest nonprofit literary festival on the West Coast.

It enlisted the likes of Alan Black, Jace Boulware, David Corbett, Joe Loya, Anne N. Manno and Bucky Sinister. Judges included novelist/screenwriter/director Michael Tolkin and Noah and Logan Miller.

Regular attendees of “Finding Your Voice on the Page,” the Zimmerman’s writing workshop, consisting of 25-30 inmate authors, competed with the guests in a timed writing competition. The entries were then judged and the best six from each group were read aloud, with the winning entrants announced on June 18. The six finalists and winners, inmates representing San Quentin, were: Earl Banks, Tim Dufore, Tim Gordon, Mark LeMelle, Delbert Lennox and Buckshot Maples.

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Snippets

THE CORDOBA RIGHTS

By WILLIAM CORDOBA

You are being placed above the rest
You have the right to smile, to wink at me, to blow me kisses, and to remain silent; any words you whisper, can and will be used against you in a court of love.
You have the right to be represented in said court by a man who loves you.
You have the right to be anointed with sweet smelling oils, extract from the most beautiful red Colombian roses; you will be covered with kisses from my lips, while you hold a picture of me close to your heart so that everyone will see us as a symbol of romance.

POETRY

OMETRAN.createFromCITY

By DAVID MARSH

You are my memories of free- dom
You are my dreams of freedom
You are my visions for the future
You are my life right now, however, I will appoint myself to represent you, accuse you, judge you, and sentence you to perpetual happiness, for your kindness, for your loving heart, and for your uncommon beauty.

Look Who Made It:

By JOY C. RICHARDSON

Contributing Writer

I had the pleasure of getting to know a little about Flozelle Woodmore. She served 20 years of a life sentence for killing her abusive partner. After 10 parole hearings, at six of which she was found suitable, she was finally released in August 2007. Flozelle now works with A New Way of Life Reentry Project in Watts and spends her spare time with her daughter and grandchildren. Flozelle was there when her youngest grandchild was born.

Here are her comments in a recent interview:

What have you been doing since you got out?
I have been working to improve the education of the loved ones of the incarcerated in hopes they can and will assist their loved ones serving life sentences to receive parole grants and release as they had back when they were young.

What was finding work difficult?
For me, due to the support of Susan Burton, Founder and Executive Director of A New Way of Life Reentry Project. How is the world different for you now that you are back on the streets?
Many people I knew and loved have passed away, including my mother and oldest brother.

What was the most difficult thing to adjust to when you were first released?
Facing my son’s situation (he got a life sentence as I was being released). Then I learned his case lacked the evidence to uphold the conviction.

What goals have you achieved since you got out?
I have achieved some of my goals - obtain work, get my own lease date. Not for me, due to the support they did to make it happen. I have quite a few, one being to face the seces of families and friends as they see their loved ones be released, all due to the work they did to make it happen.

What sort of things do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
My spare time is scarce; however, I try to spend time with my grandchildren and my daughter. Flozelle recently received a Soros Justice Fellowship award for her work with A New Way of Life in Watts. Would you elaborate on what the Soros Fellowship is about?
The Soros Fellowship is sharing with families offiers my experience of incarnation, and the steps that I took to free myself, in hopes it can be utilized to free their loved ones who are well over due for receiving a re- lease date. Mike Foss Appointed A,W, General Population

Warden Vincent Cullen (A) has announced that Mike Voss will assume the position of Associate Warden, General Population Division, until the return of K. J. Williams.

Cullen said, “I want to express my sincerest appreciation for all the hard work and dedication Mr. Foss demonstrated during his time as Facility Captain of North Block. In his new role he will continue to be an asset to San Quentin State Prison and CDPCR.”

“It’s a pleasure to welcome him to his new assignment,” thanking him for his continued dedication to the Department and wishing him well.”

Indian Country

By DANIEL TREVINO

Journalism Guild Writer

Tobacco has been used by American Indians for millennia. It is used as an offering to Mother Earth. Burned as a prayer, it is used as an offering to Mother Earth. Burned as a prayer to the American Government to this day. Sovereignty has been respected for centuries, first by the British, then by the American Government to this day.

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**Those Mighty Mallards Can Bust the Speed Limit**

By DAVID MARSH

Contribute Writing

Mallard ducks are the usually affable, sometimes feisty little fowl who waddle around the prison campuses for the years 1943 through 1974 have been apprehended. The rate for women escapees for those same years was 56 percent.

**JUNE 13, 1980** – Ranch inmate Fred Bunker, 33, from San Bernardino County, received a deep cut on his forearm during an altercation last Sunday. Bunker claimed he injured his arm to avoid a search.

**JUNE 20, 1980** – A prisoner only 21 days from his parole was stabbed four times on the lower yard. Russell Salinas, 34, is in good condition at the prison hospital after the attack by several Mexican-American convicts.

While the male is the slightest larger of the two, mallards tend to grow to about two to three pounds in weight, and are 20" to 26" long. In the wild, their lifespan is generally five to ten years.

JULY 4, 1980 – A warning shot fired Friday on the upper yard stopped an inmate who ran from an officer to avoid a search.

**JULY 4, 1980** – A disturbance involving eight cons broke out on death row Saturday night. The cons – protesting conditions on the row – wrecked TVs, burned mattresses and sheets and destroyed a typewriter.

The Mallard is by nature a migratory bird but changing global weather patterns and increased warming seem to be affecting the birds’ willingness to stay in one place throughout the year. They are primarily carnivores and eat plant food, insects, mollusks, crustaceans and, of course, PIA bread.

The breeding season, males take on vibrant coloring with a bright green head, white neck-band, chestnut-brown breast and gray body. Female mallards are brownish all over with streaks of darker brown, white and black in their feathers.

Inmates within San Quentin. It is printed by Marin Sun Printing, and encourages inmates, free students, staff, volunteers and people and entities outside of the institution to submit articles for this publication.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News welcomes and encourages inmates, free students, staff, volunteers and people and entities outside of the institution to submit articles for this publication.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Please limit your submitted articles to no more than 350 words.
- Articles may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to handle grievances, use the prison appeals process. However, we do encourage submitting stories and articles which are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Art work is welcomed (i.e. Poems, songs, cartoons, drawings, etc.).
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Lee County, South Carolina

Former Lee County sheriff E.J. Melvin faces possible federal and state drug charges which allege that he sold drugs from his police vehicle. Melvin is accused of extorting money from drug dealers and tipping them off.

Mexico – Mexican authorities are extraditing drug suspects to the United States for prosecution on a pace in 2010 that will exceed last year’s record of 117.

Sacramento - The California Highway Patrol has arrested one of its own on a variety of drug and weapons charges. Ruben Salgado, 37, a 12-year veteran of the dept., was charged with six felony counts, including possession and transportation of a controlled substance and possession of a weapon during the commission of a felony.