A Victory For America

By ALY TAMBOURA

In an election that is truly one for the history books, Barack Obama spent his last day on his bid for the White House in a sweeping victory, capturing an overwhelming number of the nation’s electoral college votes in a fashion which the nation has rarely seen.

By 7:30 pacific time, Fox News had announced Obama the victor and president-elect. The other major networks followed suit of the announcement, forecasting Obama as the next president. Over the next few hours, as the vote counts were broadcast on television, it became evident that Obama had overwhelmingly won the election.

Obama made his victory speech to a quarter of a million supporters in Chicago’s Grant Park shortly after the networks announced him the victor. The speech moved many in the crowd to tears of joy, including celebrities such as Jesse Jackson and Oprah Winfrey, who were both in attendance. Obama’s choice of Chicago was clear in his speech, along with a direct appeal for help from the American people.

“The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there,” said Obama.

Obama used the story of 106-year old Ann Nixon Cooper as a symbol of the African-American struggle.

“Born just a generation past slavery, but for many years could not vote for two reasons, because she was a woman and because of the color of her skin.

See Obama, Page 5

California Officials Openly Defy Federal Judge

By DAVID MARSH

California officials face fines of up to $2 million per day for refusing a federal judge’s order to turn over more than $250 million in state funds. The money is needed to jump-start construction on more than $8 billion in improvements ordered to bring the medical facilities in its state prisons up to constitutional standards.

The state’s long-running battle with U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson heated up Oct. 25 when lawyers for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and State Controller John Chiang questioned the judge’s authority to force the state to hand over the funds. They also questioned his authority to order the changes in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s medical facilities.

Henderson, in 2006 appointed a federal overseer to manage the state’s beleaguered prison health care system. He renewed his appeal to the state to give him the authority at the hearing with an order that the funds be transferred by Nov. 5. Failure to comply with his directive will result in both Schwarzenegger and Chiang facing a hearing for contempt the following week, the judge said. That raises the potential for as much as $2 million per day in fines, he said.

Deputy Attorney General Daniel Powell told Henderson that although the state has the funds, it is the state’s position that Henderson has failed to provide sufficient information regarding his plans for the money. He said that any plans that Henderson has for state prison construction must be approved by the Legislature before the state will release any funds.

Plans submitted by the federal manager, law professor Clark Kelso, call for the building of seven prison health care centers, a dental care center and improving some existing facilities.

The state faces a trial in federal court Nov. 17 before a three-judge panel that will include Henderson. Among the issues to be decided during the trial are claims that chronic overcrowding has led to unconstitutionally sub-standard medical care.

Centerforce Holds 2008 Prison Reform Summit

By NANCY HANCOCK

Pen Center on the States has stated that there are now more than one in 100 adults incarcerated in the United States – more than any other nation.

Centerforce, whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for individuals, families and communities impacted by incarceration, hosted its 9th Annual “Inside/Out Summit” on Oct. 6-7 at the Double Tree Sonoma Wine Country in Rohnert Park, California. The theme, More Than One in One Hundred: the Crisis, the Issues, the Solutions, was in response to the report that came out.

The successful two-day event included 15 workshops on a variety of subjects: Reentry, Employment and Mental Health, Employment for Veterans, Substance Abuse Treatment, Eliminating the Death Penalty, California Prop. 5 (NORA), Prop. 6-9, Inside Arts Programs, Visititation Programs, Restorative Justice, HIV Programming, Supporting Children and Families, Making, Mending and Maintaining Relationships, and Advocacy.

Special panelists and speakers included, Secretary of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Matthew Cate, actor of M*A*S*H fame Mike Farrell, Chief Medical Officer Receiver Clark Kelso, Dr. Terry Hill, and Centerforce Executive Director Carol F. Burton. The keynote speech was delivered by Supreme Court Judge and author Norbert von Ehrenfreud who was a journalist at the Nuremberg Trials in 1945. His powerful and emotional message resonated through the hall as he spoke passionately about the legacy of Nuremberg and its effects on due process and fair trial. He also addressed the audience as an influential force – a large group of people who understand three words: “people can change.”

Special plenary sessions included: The 2nd Annual Sociological Dialogue, Incarcerated Medicine Session, Sentencing Reform Caucus, and Ask-a-Funder. Phillip Jay Seiler, a formerly incarcerated Lifer at San Quentin Prison participated on the Socratic Dialogue panel along with representatives from 10 organizations: California Inspector General, David Shaw; CCPOA, Pam Douglas; Stanford Criminal Justice Center, Kara Dansky; Prison Law Office, Don Specter; Prison Legal News, Paul Wright; Crime Victims United of California, Nina Salarno-Ashford; Probation-Parole and former Warden of San Quentin, Jeanne Woodford; author of 3 books on incarceration, Sasha Abramyski; Vaca- Police Chief, Rich Word; and Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety, David Warren.

President-Elect Barack Obama

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

Vol. 2008 No. 4 November 10, 2008

San Quentin, California 94964

Population: 5,435

Fuel Sources, Proposition 8—Protect Marriage Act, and Proposition 9—Victims’ Rights and Protection. Classrooms became voting stations and community volunteers became poll workers and election monitors. Inmates lined up for voting, each presenting his prison I.D. with picture identification at the check-in table where a volunteer and an inmate marks his name in the official print-out provided by the administration.

“Just to make sure nobody votes twice,” says Red, 57, an inmate with a big smile.

“I voted against Proposition 8, because I don’t think they should amend the Constitution. I voted against Proposition 9, because it’s a vengeful bill,” says Red.

See Mock Election, Page 2

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San Quentin News
**Student Injured in Print Shop**

By ALY TAMBOURA

Andre Taylor, a vocational student, was seriously injured while operating a paper cutter in the San Quentin Print Shop. Taylor’s hand was caught in the clamp which holds the paper for cutting, as a result, three of the fingers on his right hand were crushed and partially severed.

The seriousness of the injuries warranted emergency response by the San Quentin Fire Department which arrived on the scene within minutes of the accident. Taylor was stabilized and transported to an outside hospital for emergency surgery. Taylor was returned to the prison after the surgery where he is recovering.

According to the infirmary staff, Taylor’s fingers were reattached and he is expected to make a full recovery and is expected to retain the use of his hand.

Print shop instructor John Wilkerson says, “All students are trained to safely operate the equipment in the Print Shop and are constantly reeminded of safe-operating procedures throughout their vocational training.”

The paper cutter involved in the accident has been taken off-line until completion of the investigation by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The accident remains under investigation.

**Centerforce Summit**

**Continued from Page 1**

The moderator was Ron Clement, formerly of the Haigh-Scatena Foundation. The format of the Socratic Dialogue involves revealing a hypothetical scenario in which the participants must discuss outcomes in order to foster positive solutions.

The Incarceration Medicine Session was moderated by Dr. Jacqueline Tulsky and featured an update on the Receivership by Dr. Terry Hill, chief medical officer under Receiver Clark Dunne. Panelists who posed questions to Dr. Hill were Doctors Lisa Pratt, MD of San Quentin and Demie Taylor, MD of California Men’s Colony. The session was followed by an audience question and answer period.

The Sentencing Reform Caucus was moderated by Carol F. Burton and included panelists Mike Farrel of Death Penalty Focus, Dan Abrahamson of Drug Policy Alliance and Elizabeth Gaynes of Osborne Association.

This session was unique because it included questions for the panelists that were blogged into the Centerforce website prior to the Summit.

This year the “Jeanne Woodford Award,” for recognition of Outstanding Leadership in Pro-Active Correctional Community Collaboration, went to San Francisco. By DOCTOR ELENA TOOTELL, CMO

Flu Season is here once again. On Nov. 7 and Nov. 8, vaccinations were given out to those who wanted them. Flu is spread easily, and the older we get, the worse it can affect us.

If you have any kind of health issue, like heart disease, lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, diabetes, HIV, or seizures disorders, getting the flu can be much worse. Last year a prison in Southern California didn’t vaccinate everyone, and some died from complications.

“I don’t want a shot; it’ll make me sick,” is what many people say. You CAN’T get the flu by getting a flu shot. You need vaccination.

If you have had an allergic reaction to the flu vaccine, or if you’re allergic to eggs, you need to tell that to the nurse.

Our nurses are trained to give injections properly, and IT WON’T HURT for longer than a second. It’s worth the small inconvenience.

**Mock Election**

Candelaria Podesta registering prisoners to vote (Photo by Troy Williams)

**Continued from Page 1**

Scott, an inmate standing by the voting classroom conducting an exit-poll said, “I’m doing this to see how close our thinking process aligns with the outside community. It shows, even though we are not allowed to vote, that we are still involved and pay attention to the issues affecting our community.”

Mike Dunne, a community volunteer in S.Q. Film Makers Project, followed by a handful of inmates with expensive TV cameras, believes in rehabilitation instead of incarceration. “This idea of conducting voting here at S. Q. at the start of the absolutely ridiculous California election, an idea and a project by the inmates themselves. It has historic elections.” It’s voting on the un-counted. It’s training for the inmates to follow the issues and to form independent decisions based upon what is real, and objectively caring rather than subjective interests,” says Dunne.

According to Dunne, the ballots will be tabulated and sealed until Nov. 4. Similar voting will take place for inmates in H-Unit. Today’s designated for the 743 inmates of North Block. The check-in records reflect that 66 percent of the population voted in this mock election.

“In Europe over 75 percent of eligible voters vote. I know how it feels to be disenfranchised. I’m one of the disenfranchised. I can’t vote because I’m not a citizen. This election is about the men here. There are too many issues at stake in this election. I would like to have hope by connecting to common issues,” says Doris, a German citizen and a graduate of San Francisco State University with a degree in psychology. Doris, who refers to S.Q. inmates as the “men,” believes that Prop. 9 is catastrophic.

“We ought to direct our social education toward building a society of citizens rather than a lot of consumers,” said Doris, before paying full attention to the entire football team, arriving in their team uniforms to vote. Someone said, “They may run out of ballots.” Another inmate shouted “Florida, Florida.” Laughter and comments before Doris responded, “We have the ballot template, and if we need more we will get copies.”

Kathleen, a seventh-grade teacher who teaches English to S.Q. inmates participating in Patten University, believes that a great number of the inmates are more aware of the socioeconomic issues than many people on the outside. She finds it frustrating that inmates knowledgeable, engaging and seeking redemption by trying to learn and make changes in society.

“When asked if this mock election would make any difference, she responded with deep earnestness, “There is a man who came and voted, and after he was done he said, ‘I don’t feel like a criminal right now.’ The fact (that) people don’t understand that people can change is a crime,” says Kathleen.

In Switzerland, the government faces pandemic drug addictions. They don’t consider it a criminal problem, but they consider it a health problem that requires a health solution.

The advocates of the Swiss solution say that criminalizing similar problems in the U.S. would enlarge the problem, that sending adolescents and adults to prison for drug use would expand the power of a corporate vigil-istice driven by a rich lobby. Others advocate Prop—5 as a solution.
A Portrait From the Past

Clinton Duffy: Mr. San Quentin 1940-51

By DON (COACH) DENEVI

No one would have believed that as late as the summer of 1940 San Quentin was on the brink of deadly riots certain to reverse efforts in rehabilitation by 100 years.

San Quentin was considered a "modern" prison where Warden Jimmy Johnston had ended officer barbarism in 1919 and Warden Daniels Holohan imprisoned men with new dignity and inspiration in the 1930s.

Now the tough, hard-boiled Warden Court Smith had adamantly refused to end the "shame of San Quentin," a 50-foot long dungeon that was constructed under the old hospital with seven niches cut into the subterranean rock on each side to serve as cells. Hundreds of convicts trembled with so much hate and fear that some were arming themselves to escape or kill as many guards as they could.

With the growing crisis no longer a threat from a public well aware that the "Big House By the Bay" was a city of night and murder, Governor Culbert Olson was called before the new board of supervisors since a number of official heads were about to end. Clinton Truman Duffy, a 42-year-old parole board secretary who was born, bred, married and now lived on the prison grounds, was summoned along with several other witnesses for questioning about the increasing abuses and chaos.

"I sat on a long polished bench outside the meeting room for an hour, tapping my foot, listening to the wildest kind of tales." Duffy later entered and exited the conference room, someone called out, "Duffy, you're wanted inside." Duffy walked in and sat down, wiping his glasses to conceal his nervousness. He didn't want to get fired; he wanted to quit. After all, his father had been a highly respected guard for more than 40 years. Suddenly someone said, "We have not agreed upon a new warden. You've been around here all your life and you know all the spots. We understand your dad taught you the cardinal rule of reform: no man can ever be redeemed by using the whip. How about taking over for the next 30 years?"

Duffy, from his autobiography, writes, "I could have crawled under the rug. 'Taking over?' I asked mechanically. "Yes, as acting warden.""

It was about six o'clock when Duffy called his wife Gladys about the news. They reflected upon how their old life for so long was out the door without a word.

After several other flushed faces had crowded into the room for what seemed like hours long official heads had already been løpped off that morning. Then and there I made up my mind. I'd replace the warden for good. Warden Smith was called before the new board and fought for several hours loud voices filtered out into the hall. Smith emerged with four o'clock and clamped down what little life was left out the door without a word.

PROPOSITIONS 5 & 6

By DAVID MARSH

In an election that was quite clearly overshadowed by the uncertain economic times, Americans voted against tax hikes and voted their pocket books in sending Propositions 5 and 6 down to decisive defeat. Prop. 5, known as the Non-Violent Offenders Act, would have diverted drug and non-violent offenders into rehabilitation and diversion programs, making it much more difficult to incarcerate them. According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the initiative could have essentially cost the state over $1 billion a year, off by set an additional $1 billion a year in savings from reduced parole and prison expenses.

Voters who participated in exit polls cited the certainty of the projected expenditures in deciding to reject the initiative.

More on the Healing Circle next issue.

Healing Circle

Continued from Page 2

I felt the genius of the program was that men who had been the mentors for positive change and healing. They re minded me of some special individuals who took time to mentor me in my youth and turned me from the path of self destruction. NMT allows me to give back, to those who helped me, to serve my community as I did, as I did, as I did, it gives me hope.

SQN: What is the Mission Statement of NMT?

D.B.: NMT: Mission Statement: To curb violence and detrimental behaviors within targeted communities by utilizing the specialized knowledge and experience of former perpetrators.

These former perpetrators hold themselves accountable to bring solutions to the communities, where once they had contributed to the problems.

SQN: Where do you see the group going in the future?

D.B.: I see NMT reaching out to other institutions of social change, where mentors have successfully overcome the negative to model positive change and offer guidance and hope to our youth. Our communities are suffering from a terrible disarray at the core, the result of racism, classism, social injustice, economic imbalance and the systemic destruction of hope. I believe NMT's greatest value will be in collaboration with groups such as the Healing Circle, enabling our efforts to provide forums for healing, growth and positive change. For any of our programs and efforts to have a lasting effect, we must learn to value each person and what they bring to all lines, to create a strong, unified, diverse community that can develop and sustain the well-being of all our children and all of our people.

SQN: Who/How many people are involved in NMT?

D.B.: Who: Inside: Incarcerated men who, through word of mouth, have been intrigued to contact NMT's co-ordinator, Marcus Williams, Eugene "MC" Montgomery and Michael Lewis.

SQN: If someone were interested in becoming a part of your group, how would they go about doing this?

D.B.: Those interested in joining NMT should speak to one of the Steering Committee Members. We are currently in a balance of long-termers and short-termers (sentence), so that we know a good percentage of our mentors will still be going home in the next few years to bring what they've learned from NMT into their communities.

SQN: What is the Healing Circle and how does it relate to your group?

D.B.: The Healing Circle for the Soul Support (HCSS) is a group of individuals who have lost loved ones to murder; many of them have lost one or more children. The founders of the HCSS, and the chief sponsor, George Jurand, formed the group to provide culturally appropriate and sensitive support to communities of color who traditionally have entered into criminal justice systems by existing services. The format and the methods are so effective because they remove the barriers across all cultures participate and find solace in the HCSS. NMT began collaborating with the HCSS in 1999, in a series of dialogs that examine all aspects of violence and its impact. Side by side "victim" and "offender" have found empathy and common ground. We have learned to cross the lines we imagine divide us to create a forum for support, healing and empowerment. From our initial collaboration, we also developed additional workshops such as "Reconnecting the Community Through Communication," where young incarcerated adults and community membersrediscover the value in each other, and explore breaking down barriers and creating solutions in an effort to rewire the community.

SQN: What do you expect out of a relationship between the two groups?

D.B.: NMT and HCSS are currently working to broaden the scope of our collaboration and develop a solid curricula to make this powerful forum available to other communities and venues.

SQN: What are some of the things you would like our readers to know about your group?

D.B.: I would like your readers to know that everyone you meet is valuable and necessary. No matter what previous experience you have had (and we all have done wrong, sometimes), you have talents that you can develop and use to make your life a good life, to help yourself, your family and your community.

SQN: Are there others in training for Leadership positions?

D.B.: Yes, we have other co facilitators, Lonnie, who is in recovery, and others in training, each in his own, unique way: Marvin Mitchell, Marquis Wiliams, Eugene "MC" Montgomery and Michael Lewis.

SQN: Contacted NMT's co-founder Jerry Elston for comment,

Jerry Elston: Our original intent at NMT was to expose perpetrators to victims, and victims to perpetrators. And in that way to put a face on crime. It's a lot harder to commit crime when you put a face on the victim. Our goal to make everybody accountable for public safety.

SQN: Could you comment on the healing circle?"


"Songbirds in a Golden Cage"

By RONNIE COHEN

Jaimee Karroll shares her tale of violence with a dozen of San Quentin's most violent.

As a teenager and young adult, Jaimee Karroll sang. She played guitar and sang mostly dark folk songs. She later realized that she used her voice to dissociate from herself, a coping technique she says she learned in the wake of a childhood kidnapping and rape.

Karroll, now 53, quit singing more than 20 years ago. She put away her guitar and never picked it up again until last week, when she changed the strings and tuned it up to sing to a group of San Quentin State Prison convicts.

In her deep, melodic voice, Karroll explains that she had to quit singing to begin healing. "Why would I stop singing?" she asks, sitting on a floral futon next to her Labrador retriever and her cat in her El Cerrito home overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge. "In order to use my voice, I would lose awareness of myself. I fled my self in order to not be conscious of what happened. I wanted to become whole." So, after a psychiatric hospitalization, she stopped singing completely. Not even in the shower. In the meantime, she underwent intensive psychotherapy and sought to regain and process repressed memories of the 62 days when she was abducted and assaulted.

She joined Bay Area Women Against Rape during her therapy and, a few years ago, began working inside San Quentin with men serving time for crimes like the one she says silenced her. Inside the prison looking over San Francisco Bay in Marin County, Karroll met a woman who told her life story. The three women she says abandoned and assaulted her when she was 9 years old.

This weekend, the Marin-based Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance will give Karroll a Hero of Forgiveness award. Forgiveness can not be achieved in a single moment but has unfolded over two decades," she says. First Karroll had to remember a crime she had long tried to forget. Though some have questioned the claims of people with repressed memories of crimes, Karroll's story has been heartfelt enough to earn not only the forgiveness award but the trust of her colleagues working in the prison and the prisoners themselves.

At a recent dinner party with the leaders of the Insight Prison Project, a nonprofit program Seiler founded, Karroll told to run a weekly prison group, Rochelle Edwards invited Karroll to sing to her 11-year-old daughter. She sang "My Songbird," a 1977 ballad that Jesse Winchel wrote and Emmy- lou Harris made famous.

As she heard Karroll sing, Jacques Verduin, Insight Prison Project executive director and founder, asked her to sing for his prison group. Karroll hesitated. But another event nudged Karroll to more openly confront her past and begin healing herself. About a year ago, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. All at once, she says, she realized she was a day of complete violation. In that day, I totally lost myself. I broke in so many ways.

"I just couldn't tell my parents anything about what happened. Basically, I came home and went to war with my family," Karroll says. "The prisoners state come temptatively and empathetically. Karroll says that she married, became a singer and tried to bury her pain. "When I was a performer," she says, "I still didn't have a voice. In order to have a full experience of myself, I had to let go of that." "You never actually feel what happened to you," she says, "I can't think of a better way to inter

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An advocate's character is important. Justice Scalia writes, "All of us are more apt to be persuaded by someone whom we admire than by someone we detest... Your objective in every argument, therefore, is to show yourself worthy of trust and affection. Trust is lost by dissembling or conveying false information not just intentionally but even carelessly; by mischaracterizing precedent to suit your case; by making arguments that could appeal only to the stupid or informed; by ig

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How to Persuade a Judge

By STEPHEN LIEBB

Know your case.

Never overstate your case. Be prepared for anything. If possible lead with the strongest argument. Select the most easily defensible position that favors your case. Don't try to defend the indefensible. Draw the sting out of unpleasant facts by presenting them yourself. Consider how your opponent will portray you, and prepare with words that do not help. Appeal not just to rules but to justice and common sense. Reason is paramount with judges and overt appear to their emotions is resisted. Assume a posture of respectful intellectual equality with the judge. "An advocate should be instructive without being condescending; respectful without being obnoxious. You really know what happened to me," she says. "I can't think of a better way to inter

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Obama
Continued from Page 1

She was there for the busses in Montgomery, the hoses in Birmingham, a bridge in Selma and a preacher from Atlanta who told people that they shall overcome. "Yes, we can," said Obama to an exuberant crowd.

John McCain watched the voter results from his campaign headquarters in Arizona, where he graciously conceded the election. "I wish Godspeed to the man who was my former opponent and will be my president," said McCain to a sympathetic crowd.

McCain's speech was the defining point which ended his decade long quest for the White House. He praised his support and his running mate, Sarah Palin, calling her, "one of the best campaigners I have ever seen, and an impressive new voice in our party for reform."

Pundits are crediting Obama's defeat of McCain to what is being called the best run political campaign in modern history. By early Wednesday morning Obama had an astonishing 338 electoral votes with McCain's tally at a diminutive 156, with Obama winning the popular vote by over 7 million.

"Countries across the globe celebrated Obama's victory with Americans. In Kenya, his father's home country, President Mwai Kibaki proclaimed that Thursday would be a public holiday. Desmond Tutu of South Africa praised Obama's victory. The Iraqi foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari told the press that he thinks Obama "will not have the same enthusiasm and moment for this situation," speaking of the on-going war in Iraq.

George W. Bush commented that Obama's victory is "especially uplifting for a generation of Americans who witnessed the struggle for civil rights with their own eyes and four decades later see a dream fulfilled." He also invited the president-elect to visit the White House, while vowing to keep him informed during the transition of power.

"At this defining moment change has come to America..." Said Barack Obama, president-elect.

Condemned Row Inmates Form Advisory Council

By SAMUEL CAPERS

East Block's Condemned Row which is a world of its own. It's known to house the worst of the worst. It is a man's final stop before his United States fate is to be carried out. But many out on the mainline do not know that there are quite a few changes taking place here on the row. And, though there may be no hope for the condemned, the eyes of others, we see things a lot differently. We no longer sit under rocks and simply accept the fact that many of us may never see the streets again.

There were many issues that needed to be addressed within the East Block unit and absolutely no kind of communication when it came to staff and prisoners. This, of course, caused many difficulties and gaps that to this day remain, except for the reality that these issues are "Fixable." With that said, the East Block Advisory Council came into play. The "EBAC" members work along with the unit staff and administration on the row to make life easier and the program run smoother, for both staff and prisoners. It is a council of the condemned that have been here anywhere from upwards of many years to just a few. We are all working together to make this program more suitable and beneficial to all.

There are six "Grade A" yards here, and on each yard there are four EBAC representatives, one for each of the basic four ethnic groups, and one yard chairman who goes to the scheduled meetings with the staff. The issues brought up vary such as: canine, medical, property, and general unit issues that involved the condemned population as a whole. The staff needs to know that we are willing to work out issues with them on an advisory level, instead of using the Inmate Appeal Process (CDCR 662). Thru the EBAC reps speaking to their constituents, we can now bring to the staff's attention issues that have an adverse affect on a certain group of prisoners, or a single person.

On many occasions, the individual issue could turn into a population issue. By being able to address the staff using the EBAC process, we can now be at ease to know that most problems will be worked on out a timely basis and resolved.

Condemned Row has a history of not being able to function as others do out on the mainline. By working to resolve the problems on the row, we have now shown that not all inmates are program failures and many are willing to function like any other person housed in the CDCR. It's the EBAC's hope that the line we now have to the staff and administration can remain open so that programs can continue to run smoothly.

Condemned Row is now stepping out.

"He who opens a school door closes a prison." —Victr Marjive Hugo (1802-1885)
Religion

Chaplains Serving Hope on All Levels

By KENNETH R. BRYDON

Just as the U.S. military hires spiritual counselors, so does the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The makeup of San Quentin’s five chaplains is as diverse as the population: Catholic, Islamic, Jewish, Native American and Protestant. The Chaplains serve Condemned Row, Reception Center, North Blocks, and H-Unit, as well as the Hospital.

San Quentin Chaplains go through extensive theological training and education in their respective beliefs. Each Chaplain conducts religious services for those of their faith in areas appropriate for the prison security, and, when necessary, becomes the bearer of bad news for family tragedies to many who aren’t expecting to hear it.

Each chaplain brings a focus to their religious convictions, with an interest in providing a depth of understanding and ability to participate and practice in their chosen faith. Interviews with the five chaplains: Father Stephen Barber, Imam Rafeeq S. Hassan, Rabbi Hyman, Hector Heredia and Pastor Morris Curry were quite revealing as to how each approaches his or her responsibilities.

Father Stephen Barber

Father Stephen Barber started at San Quentin as a volunteer in 1996 along with other Jesuit priests from Berkeley where he attended the School of Theology and received his Master of Divinity degree. He entered the Jesuit Order in 1989, and was ordained a priest in 1999.

Upon being hired as a chaplain for San Quentin, former Warden Jeanie Woodford told him, “You are the priest and chaplain for San Quentin.” After being appointed to San Quentin by Archbishop Le- vada, he was told the same thing by the Archbishop.

When asked what was the most difficult issue that he had to deal with, Father Barber pointed to seeing his parishioners in blue who had passed on. He pointed to the death of Ricky Earl, a three-strike Lifer. Ricky had grown to embrace the Catholic faith, and many saw in him a caring and sincere individual. Father Barber voices Ricky’s desire to see the Condemned Row program at California Medical Facility before his death.

In serving the San Quentin community, Father Barber says he seeks to be of help wherever he can. He recognizes the diverse ethnic and age group here that represents California as a whole. One of the joys he receives in this job is seeing people enhance their own dignity and hope as they grow in their walk with God.

Looking into the future, Father Barber wants to be around to see the very first Native American population housed in the new building being constructed. He continues to work on his Spanish to better serve the Hispanic population. He hopes to be an example to all who have become a part of the priesthood.

Rabbi Carol Hyman

In November 2004 Carol Hyman came to San Quentin part time as the Jewish Chaplain. She brings a background of institutional experience to her work. First at Napa Hospital, and then California Medical Facility and Solano, she now has a Masters of Divinity from Graduate Theology University in Berkeley, and continues work on her Doctorate in Ministry. When asked why her interests had taken her in this direction, she spoke of an intense desire to see people change in life’s path.

“Teshuvah” is the Hebrew word, for the process of repentance. Rabbi Hyman says, “I seek a balance of being honest about the past in a factual way, while living under the circumstances which prisoners find themselves.” She recognizes that living on death row facing very difficult issues, and many have sunk into depression. Her focus is in helping them to find a balance without trying to justify mistakes they made.

Rabbi Hyman’s goals for the future are to improve the San Quentin image of being a place where redemption can and does take place. She sees her duties as a chaplain and a rabbi as being over a single congregation rather than each being isolated from the others. “They have a sense of being a part of a larger whole,” she says. Whether it’s Condemned Row, Reception Center, or the Mainline, she intends that each one see themselves included.

“This is my vocation,” Rabbi Hyman concludes, “and I’m in the right place.”

Chaplain Hector Heredia

At age 57, the Native American (AMI) chaplain, Hector Heredia has been involved in Indian Spiritual affairs for 40 years. He was brought up in the Navajo and Pueblo traditions, which prisoners find them- selves.” He recognizes that living on death row facing very difficult issues, and many have sunk into depression. Her focus is in helping them to find a balance without trying to justify mistakes they made.

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Chaplain Herbert Morrie Curry

In the early 1990s, Pastor Morris Curry began teaching “Biblical Counseling Foundation” (BCF) as a volunteer. Recommended by then Protestant Chaplain Earl Smith, who saw a group of Lifers eager to learn.

With an interest in Prison Ministry inspired from his congregation, Pastor Curry began teaching the program to Lifers who passed on their understanding to short-term prisoners being released. Today, many students went on to eventually teach the program themselves.

Pastor Curry has done his best to keep the prison and prisoners continued to grow over the years. He continued teaching the program of 120 prisoners from across the state.

In March of 2006, he was at the prison to renew his volunteer status when he discover- ed that Chaplain Earl Smith had retired. His friend and fellow BCF teacher, Dave Haggy, pressed him to apply for the position. In September, 2006, Pastor Curry was the new chaplain.

He brings to San Quentin 22 years of service, and set about to make the incarcerated church no different than the outside congregation. “Everything is done decently and in order,” he said. Moving forward, he is developing ties with churches who are interested in meeting the needs of those about to parole. A major project is the “Meet Me at The Gate” program.

He sees himself as pastor for all of San Quentin, he has a vision of the many Lifers leaving prison and going on to be of service in their communities. Pastor Curry ran for mayor of a city in Napa County, but lost to the incumbent.

Forgiving

By DOCE CHILDRE and HOWARD MARTIN

The incoherence that results from holding on to resentments and unforgiving attitudes keeps you from being aligned with your true self. It can block you from your next level of quality life experience. Metaphorically, it’s the curtain standing between the room you’re living in and a new room, much larger and filled with beauti- ful objects. The act of forgiveness removes the curtain. Clearing up your old accounts can free up so much energy that you jump into a whole new house. Forgiving releases you from the punish- ment of a self-made prison where you are both the inmate and the jailer.

Testigos de Jehova

Las Reuniones en español para los Testigos de Jehova, son cada Segundo Sabado y cada cuarto sabado del mes.

Para dichas reuniones se van a realizar a las 12:00 p.m. el medio domingo a la 3:30 p.m.

Lugar de reunión es dentro de la Liberia de la Iglesia Protes- tante.
In America Slaves Have No Voting Rights

By LAMONTA McBROOM

The newly formed Legislature of the fledgling state of California authorized the state’s first prison system. The merchant ship, Waban, was purchased by the state for $35,000 and anchored in the waters off Point Quentin, the 13-year-old wooden vessel was outfitted and remodelled to improvise up to 40 inmates in its dark, dank hold. Within months the state was to encounter its first prison overcrowding as the nightly total of inmates chained in the Waban’s bunks exceeded 60 men. Four men at a time typically occupied each of the Waban’s tiny 8’ x 8’ cells.

San Quentin today sprawls over 432 acres of prime real estate at Point Quentin on the shores of San Francisco Bay. The average daily population of approximately 5,250 inmates is housed in a variety of accommodations from cells to dormitories. California’s Condemned Row, as well as its execution chamber, are located behind the walls at San Quentin. With an annual budget in excess of $210 million, it is the world’s most expensive prison per inmate.

By January 153, 1850, 150 cons were packed in deplorable conditions on the tiny Waban, and the state’s first prison expansion project was undertaken. The Legislature authorized the state to purchase 400 to 500 bay sides near Mission San Rafael. An additional $135,000 was set aside to build a new prison designed to hold 250 inmates. Inmate labor was to be used during the construction of the new prison, which was built on the warden’s residence, also utilizing inmate labor, was completed at a cost of $14,453.75. State prison expansion projects are alive and booming in our state as Gov. Schwarzenegger signed a 2007 bill providing $7 billion to build new prisons and $3,000 additional beds to the system which currently cons- titutes 155,000 male and female inmates.

December 27, 1853 witnessed the prison system’s first major prison break when 22 convicted felons broke through the walls at Point Quentin, on Marin Island. A number of the fleeing inmates were killed in the running gun battle which ensued.

Records reflect that the new Corte Madera Prison was a cos- ted facility, with the women, of course, housed separately from the male inmates. In 1853, amidst allegations of drunken guards, well-heeled inmates enjoying daily excursions outside the prison walls, and charges of cohabitation between guards and female inmates, the state stepped in to look into opera- tion of the prison from its con- tractor/operator.

By LAMONTA McBROOM

Voting Rights

By E.P.KIE

Somehow this year has managed to slip by, one day at a time. Birthdays & many other special days. Some that hurt more than most. Father’s day is a biggie for me, not one single word mutually shared this year. It’s not like we didn’t think of each other on that special day. In years past we sent letters and words to each other. Some good, and some not so good. But letters and words - none the less. My son, is my son - the son of my youth and my strength. Number two was born in the local Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, kept in home and away from school, but in the home of his grandfather. Number three was born in the local hospital, started school, baseball & catch - fishing & camping - building that all-important fort! Times of imagination in an attic over the garage. Trips to airports and visits to space ports. Satellite’s made in your room and opened together upon their return to earth.

Building model airplanes & crashes of those that didn’t fly all that well. Bird feeding & learning to fly in a model airplane. Fixing cars, trips to see fishes in a huge tank - Disneyland and birthdays...
Parolee Arrested in Carjacking

By ALY TAMBOURA

A man recently paroled from San Quentin is accused of stealing a truck and crashing it into another car, killing one woman and injuring two others, while being chased by the Richmond police, say officials.

The suspect, Jordan Taitano, took police on a high speed chase which ended on San Pablo Dam Road in El Sbrante where the crash occurred. The truck, which Taitano was driving, smashed into a Mercedes, hurting it into several parked cars.

The rear seat passenger in the Mercedes, a 57-year-old woman, was killed from the impact of the crash. The driver and front seat passenger were both seriously injured.

A woman who tried to get away from the suspect before the chase started was also seriously injured, said the police. Taitano is accused of robbing a husband and wife at a local inn were the couple was staying. Police said the husband fought with the suspect while his wife escaped by jumping through a closed window. The woman suffered significant injuries from the escape.

Police said the suspect left the scene of the robbery on foot and carjacked a passing motorist. The Richmond police recognized the carjacked vehicle minutes later and gave chase. The chase began at relatively low speeds but eventually progressed to very high speeds prior to the crash.

Taitano killed the site of the accident and was apprehended shortly after. He was booked into the Contra Costa Jail on suspicion of vehicular homicide, carjacking and robbery, said authorities.

Taitano was paroled from San Quentin one week before the incident, according to authorities.

Condemned Inmate Found Dead

By GARY KLIEN

A condemned inmate at San Quentin State Prison was found dead in his cell Thursday in an apparent suicide, authorities said.

Edward Dean Bridges, 55, had been on death row since 1992, when he was sentenced for a kidnapping and murder in Riverside County. Bridges was found unconscious in his cell early Thursday morning in an apparent hanging, said Darrell Harris, a Marin County coroner’s investigator.

“Our pathologist didn't have anything to indicate it was anything other than self-inflicted asphyxiation by suicide,” Harris said.

Bridges was housed in a cell by himself. He left no suicide message and had no history of suicidal behavior, Harris said.

Since California reinstated capital punishment in 1978, 41 condemned inmates have died of natural causes, 15 committed suicide, and 13 were executed in California, one was executed in Missouri and five died of other causes, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

There are now 677 inmates on California's death row, said Terry Thornton, spokeswoman for the CDCR.

We Want to Hear From You!

The San Quentin News welcomes and encourages inmates, free staff, custody 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 will be edited for content and length.

• The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances, use the prison appeal processes. However, we do encourage submitting stories and/or articles which are news worthy, and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.

• Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.

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State High Court: Governor Erred in Parole Denial

Behavior in prison wasn't considered

By PAUL ELIAS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – A divided state Supreme Court has ruled Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was wrong to deny parole to a murderer who was model prisoner during the more than 23 years she served behind bars.

In a 4-3 decision, California's high court said the governor must consider more than just the nature of the crime when he overturns Board of Parole Hearings' decisions granting parole.

The majority decision, written by Chief Justice Ronald George, said the governor must show “some evidence” the parolee is a danger to public safety.

The governor's legal affairs secretary, Andrea Hoch, said the decision looks like an inappropriate level of review, which unnecessarily limits the governor's discretion to decide the parole of a convicted murderer based on... the best interest of public safety.

The court's ruling stems from the board's decision to grant parole in 2005 to Sandra Davis Lawrence, 61, who after rejecting a plea deal for a two-year prison sentence was convicted of first-degree murder in 1983 and sentenced to a life term for killing her lover's wife 12 years earlier.

In August 2005, the parole board for the fourth time in 12 years rejected her parole because it found her to be a well-behaved prisoner who accepted responsibility for the killing, expressed remorse and showed no signs of being a danger to the public.

Lawrence volunteered for many prison organizations and earned a master's degree in business administration.

Still, Schwarzenegger reversed the panel's decision as he did 22 others, finding the killing to be particularly egregious.

Lawrence shot and stabbed Rhoby Williams to death in 1971 and then spent 11 years as a fugitive before turning herself in to police accompanied by the late Los Angeles attorney Johnnie Cochran.

Schwarzenegger said in his 2006 veto that Lawrence's crime was "a cold, premeditated murder carried out in an especially cruel manner and as an incredibly petty reason."

Governors Pete Wilson and Gray Davis made similar reversals when they were in office, likewise determining the nature of Lawrence's crime made her a danger to society.

In a second, related case, a unanimous court upheld Schwarzenegger's denial of parole to an El Cajon murderer it said remained a danger to public safety. Using the legal standards spelled out in 1993, George wrote that Schwarzenegger was right to deny parole to Richard Shaputis because the prisoner failed to take responsibility for killing his wife, and there was "some evidence" he remains a danger to society.

Shaputis was convicted of second-degree murder in 1987 for shooting his wife, Erma Jeanne Shaputis, 47, and was sentenced to 17 years to life in prison.

Reprinted with permission from The Associated Press.

Remembering Matthew Solomon

Matthew Solomon, a former student in the San Quentin College Program, was shot and killed in San Francisco on Thursday, September 4 while standing on the street, talking to his friend Noel Espinoza, who was also killed. Matthew was 23 years old. He was an extraordinarily kind and creative person who had been building a life and working hard to support his two small children. Articles about his death (and the overwhelming number of shootings that have occurred in San Francisco) appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle and in the Goodwill Industries newsletter, where he worked and had recently received a promotion. Those who knew him will always remember his sweet smile and his extraordinary, brilliant spoken word poetry.

In case any one should like to send a donation, Goodwill has established a designated account at Wells Fargo to help defray burial costs and provide support for the children.

Matthew Fund
c/o Goodwill Industries
Mission San Carlos Borromeo
San Francisco, CA 94103

Attention: Vince DeVicor

By Prison University Project

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