

San Quentin News

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U.S. Prison Reform Commission Proposed

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS
Editor-in-Chief

Everyone is either directly or indirectly affected by crime, increasing rates of recidivism, costs of incarceration, and having those who have the penalty prescribed by law for their crimes barred from effectively being reintegrated into society as productive citizens.

In the spring of 2009, U.S. Senator Jim Webb, D-Virginia, introduced the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2009 on March 26. His proposal on criminal justice reform received generally wide support from senate leadership, the Senate Judiciary Committee and the White House. The blue-ribbon commission would be charged with a thorough, 18-month review of the criminal justice system and responsible for determining reforms for reducing the incarceration rate, identifying ways to effectively



U.S. Senator Jim Webb

“With so many of our citizens in prison compared with the rest of the world, there are only two possibilities: Either we are home to the most evil people on earth or we are doing something different and vastly counter productive. Obviously, this answer is the latter,”

—U.S. Senator Jim Webb

impact international and domestic gang violence, restructure policy on the adjudication of drug crimes, provide for appropriate treatment of mental illness, improve prison administration and establish a system for the effective reintegration of ex-offenders.

“The rate of incarceration in America has dramatically in-

creased over the past 17 years. The United States has the world’s highest reported incarceration rate. With less than 5 percent of the world’s population, it has almost one-quarter of the world’s prisoners,” said Webb.

See Prison Reform Page 6

Patch Adams Shows S.Q. His ‘Healing With Humor’

By ALY TAMBOURA

“When I see a prison, I ache,” medical doctor and humanitarian Patch Adams commented during a recent visit to San Quentin. “I see massive inequality and massive injustice.”

Adams visited San Quentin during the last week of March as part of the Arts and Corrections Program. He talked with staff and inmates about his mission supporting free global health care as well as enlightening the prison community on societal compassion.

Hunter Campbell “Patch” Adams is a world-renowned speaker who has spent a large portion of his life as a true humanitarian. His inspiring life story was the basis for the Hollywood movie “Patch Adams,” starring Robin Williams.

Adams was born May 28, 1945 in Washington, D.C., the son of a military professional. He spent most of his childhood growing up around the world.

“I grew up overseas on Army bases,” said Adams. “I was orphaned in 1961.”

After his father was killed in the Vietnam War, Adams



Officer Berry and Patch Adams at the Max Shack

moved back to the states where he describes being beat up by his peers and falling into a state of depression, leading him to hospitalization for two suicide attempts.

“At 18, I decided that I’m never going to have a bad day,” said Adams.

He attended the Medical College of Virginia where he earned his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1971. After graduation, Adams and some close friends founded the Gesundheit Institute in West Virginia, part of his dream to offer free medical treatment to anyone in need.

The hospital, which according to Adam’s web site has served over 15,000 patients, has no support from health care insurance and doctors do not have malpractice insurance.

“One-fourth of the \$2 trillion American medical budget goes to administration costs,” said Adams, who humbly takes pride in his career in helping others free of charge. “For 38 years, I have paid to be a doctor.”

Part of Adams larger-than-life character is what he calls “healing through humor.”

See Patch Adams Page 2

Federal Judges Say ‘No’ to State Control

By DAVID MARSH
Staff Writer

Federal judges have handed a pair of setbacks to California officials in their long-running battle to regain control of health care in the state’s chronically overcrowded prison system.

In a 24-page ruling released March 24, U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson rejected Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s request that he remove the federal receiver and return control to the state. Henderson in 2006 appointed a non-profit corporation headed by a receiver to manage the prison health care system after finding that the level of medical care violated the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Attorneys for Schwarzenegger have argued that the level of health care has improved to the point where a receiver is no longer necessary.

Henderson, in rejecting the state’s arguments, wrote, “Based on the entire record in this case, the court is far from confident that (state officials) have the will, capacity, or leadership to provide constitutionally adequate medical care in the absence of a receivership.” He stated his intention was to return control to the state once he is satisfied that the level of care has improved.

The state is protesting plans by the current receiver, law Professor Clark Kelso, to spend \$8 billion to build seven health care centers to treat and house up to 10,000 medically and mentally ill prisoners. Kelso has since proposed a scaled down plan which would provide half the beds at half the cost.

California officials initially cooperated with the upgrades ordered by the receiver, spending millions to improve existing facilities and services throughout the 33-prison system. When the state budget deficit last summer ballooned to \$42 billion, the state Legislature refused the receiver’s demand for a \$250 million down payment to finance his construction plans.

Henderson immediately announced plans to hold Schwarzenegger and state Controller John Chiang in contempt of court, and to fine the state up to \$2 million for each day the state failed to provide the \$250

million to the receiver. State Attorney General Jerry Brown promptly appealed and won a temporary stay from Henderson’s ruling.

Following Henderson’s ruling, a second federal judge, U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton of Sacramento, said he has also considered appointing a receiver to take over prison mental health services.

Karlton angrily berated state attorneys and gave them 60 days to present him with a plan for improving care for thousands of mentally ill inmates or face contempt proceedings.

In a second court setback for the beleaguered state, a federal appeals court reinstated contempt-of-court proceedings against Schwarzenegger and Chiang for defying Henderson’s ruling.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, of which both Henderson and Karlton are members, issued its own 15-page ruling on March 25, the day following Henderson’s ruling, regarding removal of the receiver. The appeals panel said the state’s appeal was premature, coming before Henderson had yet ruled on the issue of contempt of court.

Lisa Page, a spokeswoman for Schwarzenegger, has indicated that both decisions will be appealed.

Miseries for the state’s officials are compounded by a previous ruling in a related case. Another three-judge panel, which included both Henderson and Karlton, has concluded that prison overcrowding is the primary cause of substandard medical care, and has issued a tentative ruling ordering the early release of between 37,000 and 58,000 inmates.

Schwarzenegger has vowed to appeal any order for releases directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Following the court rulings, Kelso issued a statement expressing a desire to work closely with state officials and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary Matt Cate in an effort to resolve the impasse. Kelso recently replaced three of his long-time top aides, noted for their adversarial approach in dealing with the state, and replaced them with former state government employees.

Cronk Paroles After 26 Years

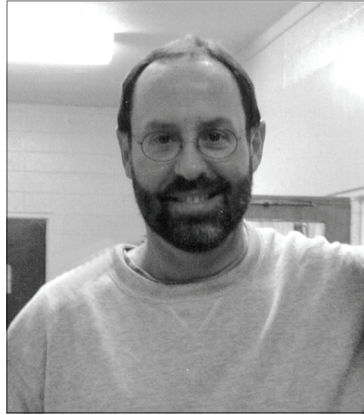
By KEITH LETTIER

One of San Quentin's pioneers to the multitude of self-help / therapeutic programs that are in place today was paroled on April 13.

Don Cronk has been a fixture in helping himself by helping and serving others throughout the 25 years that he resided in San Quentin (1984-2009).

Cronk answered a series of questions, in which he has imparted the following: "I never thought for one moment when I rode through the sally port on the Grey Goose (Bus) in 1984, that I would serve my entire life sentence in one prison. Except for medical/legal reasons, I have been in San Quentin for 25 years continuous. I had served almost four years in county fighting my case, so all in all after almost 29 calendar years, I go home.

"My hope for all those I leave behind is that the process, after being found suitable by the BPH, is that your freedom comes quickly and not as difficult and often heart-breaking as it has been for us who have gone before you. My only advice is this, nothing truly good in life is free.



Don Cronk

One must always pay the cost and work hard, but faith and perseverance will get you what your heart desires. You know what it is you need to do, do it and you will be set free. I will miss many and others I hope to never see again (staff & inmates alike), although I wish no harm to anyone. I was not perfect and often failed my walk, but I believe Jesus Christ set me free. My life-changing scripture is 1 Timothy 1:12-18.

"I hope to help bring about change from outside and I am already committed to several projects you don't yet know about, but soon will. Take care, good luck, and never, ever, give up! Don Cronk."

Patch Adams



Patch Adams with San Quentin Film School student

Continued From Page 1

Adams, who considers himself a clown, bounced through the corridors of San Quentin sporting red clown pants, a blue and purple shirt and his hair pulled back in a waist length blue streaked pony tail.

"Put me on the yard, they're not ready for me," said Adams while holding what can only be called the world's largest pair of underwear.

During his visit, his silliness infected every prisoner who crossed paths with Adams. If a prisoner didn't initially think he was funny, he pulled out a slew of props including a dental cheek spreader and a nasty looking

green booger which he hung from his nose. His props, vivacious personality, accompanied with hilariously funny faces, seemingly melted away the stress of prison from his audience of men in blue prison uniforms.

Silliness aside, Adams is a self-proclaimed liberalist and advocate for prison reform, a very forgiving position from a man whose best friend was murdered by one of his patients in the late 1960s.

Asked about what he thinks of San Quentin, he replied: "I didn't see any criminals. I don't even know what criminals look like. I saw a bunch of men with an overabundance of time."

National News Briefs

SACRAMENTO – 3-27-09 – A Sacramento-based federal appeals court judge has blocked a key part of Proposition 9; the Victims' Bill of Rights Act of 2008, or **Marsy's Law**, passed by California voters by a narrow margin. Senior Judge Lawrence K. Karlton ruled that the state must continue to abide by a court approved consent decree from 2004 requiring the state to provide parolees with attorneys during parole revocation hearings.

CHINO – 3-30-09 – An outbreak of **gastroenteritis** sickened 18 inmates at the California Institution for Women, causing the prison to temporarily bar visitors and new inmates from entering the facility, which houses up to 2,400 women. The illness, an inflammation of large and small intestines, can cause diarrhea and vomiting.

IOWA – 4-4-09 – In a unanimous decision, the Iowa Supreme Court legalized **same sex marriage**. Iowa joined Massachusetts and Connecticut in allowing gay marriages.

VERMONT – 4-7-09 – The Legislature voted to override the governor's veto and become the fourth state to legalize **same sex marriage**.

NEW YORK – 4-3-09 – Suffolk County in New York has enacted the first ban on the suspected cancer-causing chemical **bisphenol A**. The chemical is used in the manufacture of plastic items such as baby bottles and sippy cups. Several states are considering their own bans on the chemical.

ALASKA – 3-28-09 – Mount Redoubt continued to erupt and spew a plume of ash 65,000 feet into the sky. The last active period for the **volcano** was a four-month period in 1989-1990.

ITALY – 4-6-09 – An early morning, 6.3 magnitude **earthquake** in Laquila, 70 miles northeast of Rome, left at least 300 dead and more than 100,000 homeless.

FRANCE – 4-4-09 – Dozens of doctors combined their efforts in Paris to perform the world's first simultaneous partial **face** and **double hand transplant**. The recipient is a 30-year-old burn victim injured in a 2004 accident.

PITTSBURGH – 4-6-09 – A mentally disturbed gunman shot and killed **three police officers** responding to calls of a domestic disturbance.

Christopher 'Bert' Boatman Freed



Bert receiving his diploma

By FRIENDS OF BERT

After 23 years of prison, Bert Boatman has gained his freedom and has reunited with his family.

With skills as a journeyman machinist, welder, plumber and sheet metal, to name a few, Bert is the guy that you wanted on your team to get the job done right. Bert openly and willingly shared his knowledge with anyone. Although, a very conscientious worker you could always count on having fun while working with Bert.

In the words of his peers and staff alike, Bert is known as a fun-loving kind of a guy, who is good-hearted, very dependable, well-rounded, funny and a good family man. As a positive role model for so many people, it is bittersweet not seeing Bert playing tennis, being a pillar in the church and self-help groups, vocational shops and missing his infectious laughter, ha!

A few words from our friend: "Wow! Knowing that I will soon be in the free-world, one of the first things to come to my mind is what a responsibility and blessing it is to be a representation for so many other men. Most of you are just as, if not more, deserving as I to be given a chance to prove our

worth, rehabilitation and value to our family, friends and community. I will never forget the love, support and guidance, which helped me to achieve this physical freedom. I thank each and every one of you from the bottom of my heart and the depth of my soul for not giving up on me. You taught me a lesson in compassion, patience, and tolerance that goes beyond anything else that I have ever known. I am a much better person because of you all. I especially thank God for putting some good men in my life. Thank you Hector, Stephen, Noel and Mr. Hill for all the work you have each done in my case and in others. You brought me hope and showed me how to hold my head high. I also need to thank Father Barber for being a strong spiritual guide and adviser. To Curly Joe, I love you man and I will never forget you.

We are all so happy that Bert has taken this big step forward in the next chapter of his life. A good friend says of this "country boy with a city attitude," that, "anyone who knows Bert will miss him very much." How true! Bert, we all love ya' and you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

S.Q. Hosts Sentencing Reform Lectures

Starting the last week of April, the College Program will launch a series on sentencing policy and sentencing reform. These lectures will take place at designated locations Friday afternoons from 1-3pm. The first lecture took place April 24; several others are scheduled throughout May and June. More information about the schedule of presenters will be available at the first lecture.

The lectures will address a variety of issues, including an overview of sentencing guidelines in California and the political climate around sentencing reform; the three-strikes law; mandatory minimum penalties; sentencing juveniles as adults; and the

recent ruling on overcrowding. Experts from Stanford, UC Berkeley, Santa Clara University, the Drug Policy Alliance, and other organizations will present research and lead discussions. The lectures are intended to provide opportunities for students and volunteers in the College Program to learn about sentencing and to gain access to resources on criminal justice policy in California.

The lectures will allow for some discussion, question, and answer, but the presenters will not be able to give legal advice.

*Provided By Jody Lewen & Jennifer Scaife
Patten College
Program Coordinators*

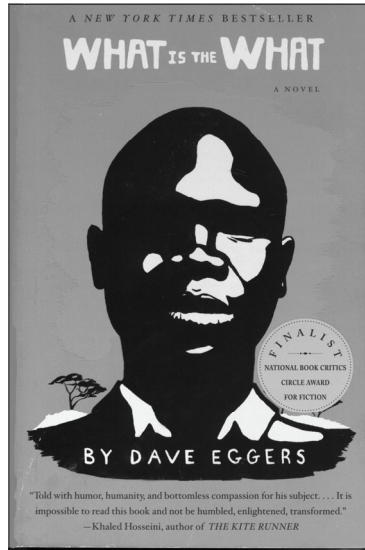
Author Dave Eggers Speaks On the Sudanese Struggle

By Juan Haines
Journalism Guild Writer

More than 40 San Quentin prisoners were afforded the opportunity to hear the acclaimed New York Times best-selling author Dave Eggers, review one of his novels.

Eggers's introduction by prisoner Teiimu straightened backs and let the San Quentin audience, including staff from Patten University, know that they were privileged to hear something rare in today's times, uncut truth and reality.

Eggers's 2007 novel, *What is the What*, was read by many of the prisoners who came to listen to this humble man give an account of the plight of the Dinka people in war-torn Sudan, which inspired him to write the book. The book is an epic account of one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, Valentino Achak Deng as his heart-felt voyage from Marial Bai, a small village in Southern Sudan, to a refugee



camp in Kenya.

Eggers's biographical narrative took him over four years to complete. "The book is bigger than me," said Eggers.

It is not difficult to understand this sentiment, as he explains that the proceeds of the novel go to helping the children of East African strife.

"Each book sold represents three bricks for Valentino's non-

profit organization dedicated to assisting poor Africans throughout the region," said Eggers.

Educated at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Eggers is a talented writer. He took the oral history of Valentino and developed a spirited, witty, emotional, epic story of real life events that give the reader deep empathy for Valentino enduring his 800 mile quest across East Africa.

The New York Times Book Review wrote, "Eggers's generous spirit and seemingly inexhaustible energy...transform Valentino and the people he met on his journey into characters in a book with the imaginative sweep, the scope and, above all, the emotional power of an epic...Eggers has made the outlines of the tragedy in East Africa—so vague to so many Americans—not only sharp and clear but indelible. An eloquent testimony to the power of storytelling."

Lifers Benefit From Decision

By MICHAEL R. HARRIS
Editor-in-Chief

The attorneys for Uncommon Law have won a significant victory concerning the procedures in the recently voted in Marsy's Law.

A deal was agreed upon with the Board of Prison Terms, on March 27 regarding the Lifer class action lawsuit concerning late parole hearings. (*In Re Rutherford*, Marin County Superior Court No. SC135399A). In this agreement the board admitted that approximately 700 lifers are entitled to "Pre-Proposition 9" hearing decisions. However, lawyers for the prisoners are striving to make sure that no eligible lifers are left out.

The specific relief is limited to initial and subsequent parole consideration hearings that were due to be held any time prior to Dec. 15, 2008, but were not held before that date for reasons that were not the prisoners' fault. For example, an inmate is eligible if the hearing was postponed until after that date because the board failed to provide the inmate or his/her attorney with a complete board package, including a psychological evaluation, "in a timely manner." Also if an inmate voluntarily postponed his or her hearing for a period of time that expired prior to Dec. 15, then they are eligible.

If your hearing has already been held and the inmate received a post-Proposition 9 mandatory 3-to-15-year denial. Now the board shall use its authority to review postponed decisions [Title 15, 2041, subd. (h)]. and convert those denials periods to what was available before Proposition 9 (1-to-5 years in murder cases and 1 or 2 years in non-murder cases). Some prisoners whose hearings were overdue on Dec. 15, 2008, stipulated to unsuitability, possibly out of fear of a 7-, 10- or 15-year de-

nial under Proposition 9. The board will convert those stipulations to whatever was available before Proposition 9.

In murder cases:

- 15-year stipulation will become 5-year stipulations
- 10-year stipulation will become 4-year stipulations
- 7-year stipulation will become 3-year stipulations
- 5-year stipulation will become 2-year stipulations
- 3-year stipulation will become 1-year stipulations

In cases other than murder:

- Stipulations of 5 years and above will all become 2-year stipulations
- 3-year stipulations will become 1-year stipulations

This relief is limited to hearings that were overdue on Dec. 15, 2008. Prisoners eligible for relief described here may still challenge the constitutionally on its face or as it applies to them. Also, prisoners whose denial periods the board will convert to a "Pre-9" decision may still challenge the board's decision to deny parole in the same way they could before the agreement was made. Nothing in this class action can prevent such challenges.

Within the next couple of months, the board will provide notice to every prisoner whose hearing decision or stipulation is changed pursuant to this agreement. Uncommon Law said it is providing this notice now so that inmates know what to expect.

"We have already heard some very disturbing reports of how prisoners and their families are reacting to bad hearing outcomes under Proposition 9, said Keith Wattley, an attorney

with Uncommon Law. "We did not want to waste any time getting the word out to relieve at least some of that suffering."

Wattley added there will be town hall meetings in May on "California's Broken Parole System."

Topics include:

Are you sentenced to **Life with the possibility of parole?**

Are you being **denied parole** after decades of incarceration, despite preparing for a successful release?

Has the governor denied parole to you **despite being found suitable** by the Board of Parole Hearings?

Do you have **felony convictions** that put you at risk of a 3-Strikes sentence (25-Life)?

Do you want to **challenge** California's broken criminal justice system (parole, sentencing laws, and courts)?

The purposes are:

Lay out the current state of parole in California

Understanding Proposition 9 ("Marsy's Law")-how it affects Term-to-Life prisoners and parole

Develop strategies to assist in Lifer releases-preparation for the board, legal remedies, and community organizing

Support loved ones when they are released

When: 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Where: Goodwill, 1500 Mission St., San Francisco.

Also on Saturday, May 30, 1-4 p.m.

Where: Watts Labor Community Action Committee, at 10950 South Central Ave., Los Angeles.

Contact: Manuel La Fontaine (415) 255-7036 x 328

manuel@prisonerswithchildren.org

1540 Market St., Suite 490
San Francisco, California 94102
ATTN: Parole Townhall

Health and Wellness Corner

The San Quentin News "Health and Wellness Corner" column runs every month. A University of California, San Francisco, health professional student will answer questions that you submit about health issues. Inquiries will be answered in the next month's paper. Feel free to ask us questions about any medical concern that you have, and it may be answered so that everyone can benefit. If you have a question, put it in a U-Save-Em envelope addressed to: **Health and Wellness Corner, UCSF Doctors** (Dr. Shira Shavit) – **Medical Box**. If you include your name and number, they will be kept confidential. Note that this column is for general medical questions.

This edition, we will address the following question:

Why is it Dangerous to Take Other People's Medications?

Your health care provider may prescribe you medicine to keep you strong and healthy. Medications you get from your doctor are specially chosen for **you** to use and there **may be serious consequences when someone else uses them**.

One type of medication that should not be shared with anyone else is an antibiotic.

What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics are medicines that attack bacteria, a type of germ that can make you sick. Your immune system is usually strong enough to fight off bacteria that try to get into your body. If your immune system can't get rid of the bacteria alone, your health care provider will give you antibiotics to help your body to kill the bacteria.

You might wonder why antibiotics that help us get better when we're sick shouldn't be shared with someone else who might have the *same symptoms*. It is **dangerous to share antibiotics because**:

- Some people are *allergic* to certain kinds of antibiotics. Allergies to antibiotics can be serious, and can even cause death. Your provider will work with you to prevent you from taking the wrong kind of antibiotic.

- Different sicknesses sometimes look the same. You and your cellie may have the same symptoms, but you could have *totally different sicknesses*. When you take the wrong kind of antibiotic, you might get *worse*.

- Antibiotics don't work when *viruses*, another type of germ, makes you sick. If you take antibiotics when a virus is making you sick, they will not help you get better. Only your provider can make sure if you're sick because of a bacteria or a virus.

- When bacteria are exposed to an antibiotic over and over the bacteria can become strong enough that the antibiotics don't work on them anymore. This is called *resistance*. Taking other peoples antibiotics can lead to resistance.

If you feel like you might need medication, submit a sick call slip to your provider. He or she will work with you to make sure that if you need medication, you get the **right kind of antibiotic**.

Asian and Pacific Islander Reps to Visit Health Fair

Greetings! We invite you to meet with us at the San Quentin Health Fair on Friday, May 1. As health care workers and Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage (API) community members, will share health information and also discuss issues facing API prisoners at San Quentin. Some topics that we will cover include:

- Information about reentry and health services in Oakland and Alameda County, with an emphasis on language/cultural competence for APIs.

- What are the major issues

facing APIs at S.Q. and upon reentry? How does cultural stigma about incarceration impact API prisoners? In what ways can the API community better support prisoners and reentry populations?

- Sharing API prisoner-led projects including the book "Other: an API Prisoners' Anthology" and a letter-writing to youth 'zine project.

Ben Wang, Sun Hyung Lee, Sauliloa Niumeitolu, Donna Jung, and Kasi Chakravartula. (*Asian Health Services/Asian Prisoner Support Committee*)

Rotary Club Makes Donation

By RANDY COUNTRYMAN
Journalism Guild Writer

The Tiburon Belvedere Rotary Club donated \$300 to the Journalism Guild of San Quentin on March 18th, for office supplies and related equipment. The office equipment, specifically Neo Word Processors, will be used by Guild members to write and process newsworthy stories for publication in the *San Quentin News* and eventually in the Guild's own publication.

In keeping with a long-standing tradition of aiding and supporting community efforts, Tiburon Belvedere Rotary President Michael Heckmann authorized the \$300 donation to the Journalism Guild.

"This is not necessarily a



Don Pino receiving the donation from Michael Heckmann

one-time donation from the Rotary Club. More donations may come later on," said Donald Pino.

Pino is the chief sponsor of the Journalism Guild of San Quentin, as well as a member of the Tiburon-Belvedere Rotary. He solicited the Rotary Club for donations. Pino is also a Bridging instructor in the Education Department at San Quentin.

The Neo Word Processors, which Guild members have been authorized to use by the administration, range in price from \$65 to \$199 each.

Journalism Guild Chairman Jeff Brooks suggested

that the group seek donations and sources of revenue from outside organizations known for their generous support of educational and rehabilitative programs.

So the Journalism Guild will continue to reach out to potential donors, ranging from prison staff to outside organizations, in order to enhance and develop their educational program. According to chairman Brooks, donations being sought may be anything from money, time and journalism training to classroom space and refurbished furniture and equipment.

California Pays Millions To House Foreign Prisoners

By KAMAL SEFELDEEN
Journalism Guild Writer

The California budget is burdened by the cost of imprisoning foreign nationals, prompting Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to sign an executive order March 1, which will mandate turning over foreign national state parolees to the federal government, thus removing them from the state parole system.

FOREIGN NATIONALS

According to Gov. Schwarzenegger's office, California is housing at least, 10,000 foreign nationals in its prison system. The cost of housing an inmate in a state prison is approximated at near \$49,000 per year according to Jeanne Woodford, former acting secretary of corrections. In addition, it costs the state another \$14,000 a year for health care costs, which makes the total cost of keeping 10,000 foreign prisoners in state custody approximately \$630 million per year.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The federal government used to pick up half of the cost due to their interest in offender deportation. George W. Bush removed the funding by an executive order because California doesn't honor the exchange treaty most of the time, according to corrections officials.

The governor's figure on how many foreign prisoners

are in California prisons is disputable, because, Section 1 of Stats.1992, (A.B.2519), which provides the legislature's findings that: as of March 31, 1994, there were 13,558 persons in the Department of Corrections facilities that were subject to United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) holds potentially an additional 5,415 persons in these facilities were also subject to INS holds. Based on these numbers, it is estimated that the real number of foreign nationals in the California's prison system is twice as much as the governor's figure. The issue, if considered by the legislature during the state budget crisis may end up saving the State \$1.2 billion a year.

CALIFORNIA LAW

California Penal Code Section §2912, "Foreign Prisoner Transfer Program," provides for notification to foreign born inmates concerning eligibility to serve term of imprisonment in their nation of citizenship. Subsection (b)(1) & (2) mandates that The Board of Prison Terms shall actively encourage each eligible foreign national inmate to apply for return to his or her nation of citizenship, and that the Board shall adopt the model program developed by the State of Texas for encouraging participation in the federal repatriation program.

None of these laws as of yet have been set into action, and none were considered by the

legislatures during the last state budget negotiations.

WAITING TO GO

"I have been filing requests for prisoner transfer to my native Kosovo for nearly 10 years, but received no response from the Parole Board. Now, after 27 years I'm found suitable for parole and the governor did not object, I'm only waiting for ICE to pick me up to go all the way home. As far as I'm concerned, these laws are created only to be applied to some people, not to everyone," says a former state prisoner, Ali Pertsoni, 56, a citizen of Kosovo.

Another foreign national lifer inmate says, "I even signed a waiver challenging deportation in federal court in order to expedite my return to my homeland now that I exceeded my minimum eligibility for parole. It seems neither the Board nor the prison counselor knew any of these procedures, one of my former counselors never heard of the Prisoner Transfer Treaty. I obtained the form from other inmates who have similar interest."

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's yearly report to the Legislature doesn't include any statistic regarding foreign nationals in the custody of the state. There are a number of inmates who meet the minimum eligibility of parole (MEPD) and many are seeking repatriation.

Appeals Court Rejects Order for Parole Board Revisions

By KEITH LETTIER

On March 13, 2009, the Sixth District Court of Appeal reversed Judge Condron's unprecedented order against the state parole board on behalf of five Santa Clara County inmates who committed murder and are seeking parole release.

In a San Jose Superior Court, Judge Condron made a ruling that the Board of Parole Hearings (Board) was violating the constitutional rights of inmates serving potential life terms by issuing typical boilerplate parole rejections of their requests for release.

She supported her findings and order by supportive statistical evidence (2,700 selective board denial decisions) that the Board members were issuing "formulaic" decisions without regarding an inmate's rehabilitative reform. She concluded her findings on the fact of the Board's arbitrary and capricious reliance on unchanging circumstances of the nature of the original crime, and not providing specific reasons for the denial.

In addition, Condron ordered revisions to the Board's

procedures and for members to undergo specific training to correct the apparent problems of its "malfunctioning" process of deciding an inmate's sentence in a term-to-life case.

The Sixth District Court of Appeal's three-justice panel unanimously found Condron's incomplete and undetailed evidence for the Board's reasons to deny inmates with term-to-life sentences unreliable. They found that Condron's order was wholly unsupported due to a lack of evidence and exceeded the scope of the Board's arguably capricious policy.

Donald Lewis paroled after serving thirty-years for a 1977 killing. The other four inmates (Arthur Criscione, Viet Ngo, Morris Bragg and Donnell Jameison), who all have twenty plus years incarceration, will most likely continue their appeal. They will argue the Sixth District's ruling in an effort to correct the complex and dysfunctional problems of the Board, and that they are suitable for parole under a just and timely California Supreme Court ruling on August 21, 2008. (See *In re Lawrence*, 44 Cal.4th 1181).

S.Q. News Inspires Formation of Guild

By JEFF BROOKS
Journalism Guild Writer

Every Friday morning between 8-9:30 a.m. you can find a group of prisoners hammering out policy, working stories and in general trying to set guidelines in which to operate the Journalism Guild of San Quentin (JGSQ), a new activity group under the Education Department that has the support of Warden Wong. The group's objective is to train writers and reporters and help provide stories for the San Quentin News.

The Journalism Guild is the result of the efforts by Kenny Brydon, former editor of the SQ News, and Ted Roberts, education principal, for more inmates to participate in the writing of stories for submission and publishing in the SQ News.

The Guild, sponsored by bridging teacher Don Pino, has been meeting each week since February and has recently elected its executive officers: Jeff Brooks (chairman), Ar-

nulfo Garcia (secretary), Michael R. Harris (treasurer), and Troy Williams (sgt-at-arms) to represent the Guild's members.

The Guild's mission statement in part states: "The Journalism Guild of San Quentin's mission is to provide an honest, professional and balanced account of the events and issues that occur both within penal institutions and the communities they serve."

The Guild doors are open to anyone who wishes to join. The Guild has a limited amount of space so membership is limited to 20 student journalists.

If you are interested in joining, contact one of the members: Kenneth Brydon, Randy Countryman, Juan Haines, Darrell Hartly, Ronin Holmes, David Marsh, Julian-Glenn Padgett, Kamal Sefeldeen, Aly Tamboura, Daniel Treviono, Doug Wynn, Mai Van or send a request for interview to the SQ Education Department.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry

Cadence

*My daughter who I long to see
To hear, to hold, and to be with thee
I wait in chains to be set free
Each second away eternity.*

*Your birth the promise of hope reborn
The debts I owe, the vice forsworn
From despair to hope my heart is torn
Beneath the mask of shame I've worn*

*Invest in you my broken pride
My heart, once closed, now open wide
From dark to light you've turned the tide
Revealed the good that grows inside.*
—David J. Lista

Sweetheart

*Sweet and kind, I love you so much
Wonderful and warm is your gentle touch
Exciting and alive is how I feel
Enthroned in my heart your love so real
Together with you, I'm waiting to be
Holding you close, your beauty to see
Ecstasy and bliss build each day
Anticipating release my heart pounds away
Restored once again to my one true love
Together for ever we'll soar the heavens above*
—Joseph P. Broadway

Anyway

*People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;
Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of
selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends
and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be honest and frank anyway.*

*What you have spent years building, someone could
destroy overnight;
Build anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you have anyway.*

*You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God
It was never between you and them anyway.*
—Mother Theresa

Snippets

Rice paper actually has no rice in it.

Exploding beetles, known as bombardier beetles, have a chamber at the tip of its abdomen where they mix chemicals that set off an explosion.

Found outside of Baghdad in 1850 on a 3,800 – year old tablet was the oldest surviving recipe. It is a formula for beer.

Originating in Northern Italy in 610 A.D., Pretzels were invented as rewards to be given to children for learning their prayers.

Ring finger gets its name from Roman times. The Romans believed that a nerve from the fourth finger was directly attached to the heart.

Mr. Potato Head was the first product to be advertised on T.V.

You know you're a Con When...

- You wash your clothes in the toilet.
- You call your mother “Dawg” or “Holmes”
- You tell your wife it isn't your draw when she asks you to go to the store.
- You put things in your sock instead of your pocket.
- You end your letters with, “I send mine.”
- You have to remind yourself, “She is still a man.”
- You use sriracha sauce for everything, including deodorant.
- You make a spread out of everything on your dinner Plate.

By George Leite

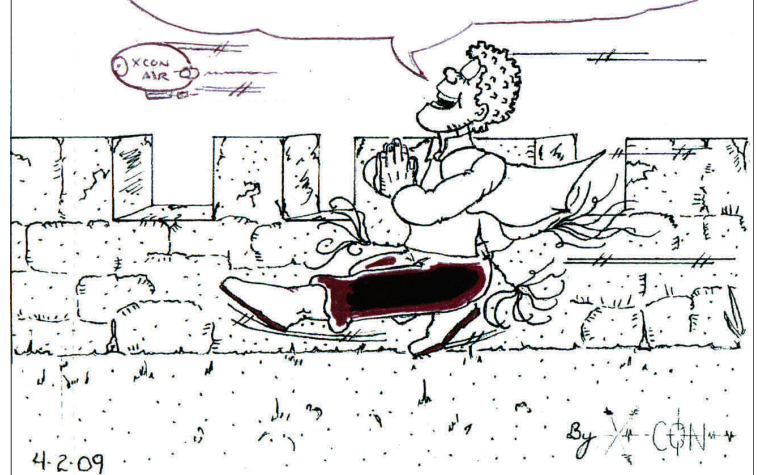
LAST MONTH'S SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Furious Khan, 32 ta' Life ©

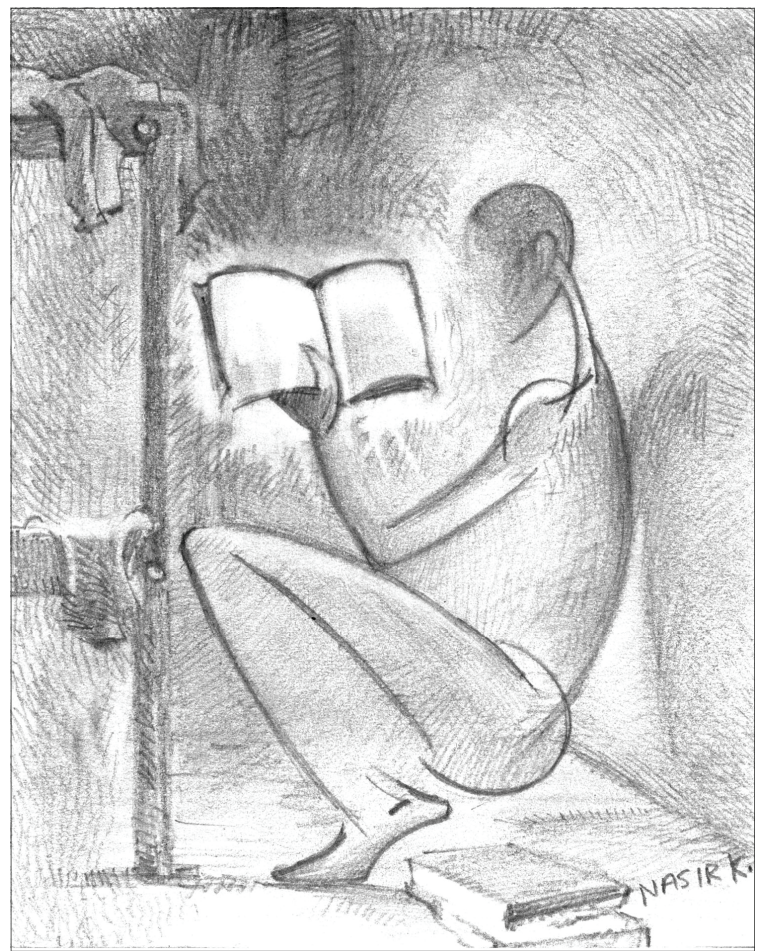
These prisons are so overwhelmingly overcrowded that I wrote a musical about it. It's called Furious on the roof

If I were a free man 'zidle-vidle-biddy-bidle-wide-didle-zeedle-beedle-dee'. I would starta Green tech compa-ne-ey because the recidivistrates for lifers is less than one per-cent you-see-eee. Ooyy-va-aay! The economy would grow sens-ib-lly and you'd cure prison overcrowding smart and eas-ill-lyyy! If I were a fre-ee man 'zidle-vidle-biddy-bidle-zeedle-beedle-deee



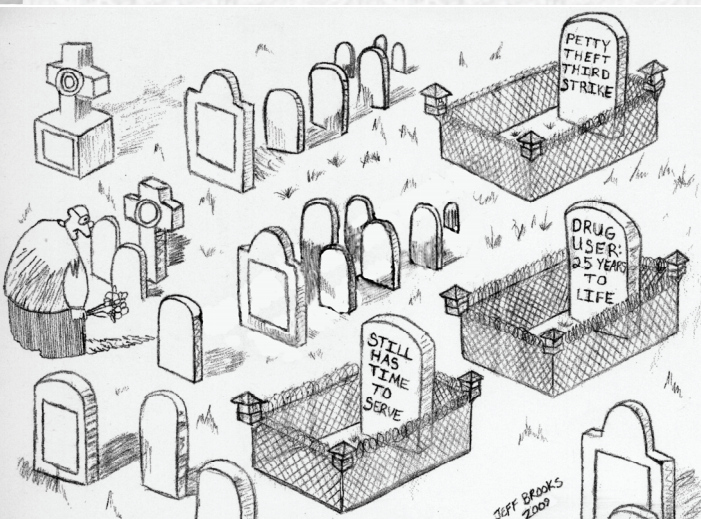
'Light in Prison'

By Nasir Khan



SUDOKU By GEORGE LOWE

1					7			9
	6	8		9				
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	2		3					
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9			2					1



RELIGION

Former Virginia Attorney General Visits S.Q. Chapel

By **KENNETH BRYDON**
Journalism Guild Writer

"I'm the most unlikely person to be here," Mark Early told a group of inmates in the San Quentin Garden Chapel. He was on hand to dedicate new chairs and sound equipment for the chapel.

SENATE TERM

During almost 10 years in the Virginia Senate, Early presided over building new prisons, increasing prison terms and the removal of the possibility of parole for some inmates. After four years as Virginia attorney general, he ran as a conservative republican for governor, losing to the democratic nominee. He watched approvingly as the United State's prison population exploded.

His attitude, he explained, was, "The longer they were there (in prison), the better off the rest of us were."

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Shortly after his defeat, Early said Chuck Colson of Nixon/Watergate fame telephoned. Colson asked Early

to become president and CEO of Prison Fellow Ministry (PFM), which Colson started after serving seven years in a federal prison.

"I didn't want to do it,"



Mark Early former Virginia Attorney General

Early said, bringing laughter from the S.Q. audience. "I didn't want to give my life to those who couldn't make an impact for Jesus Christ; to those who no one in society had any respect for."

He described PFM's reputation as excellent, operating in 114 countries

"I made the mistake of telling Chuck I'd pray about

it." For the next few months, he said he gave the idea half-hearted reflection until a sudden revelation shook him.

That revelation involved Moses of the Old Testament, and Saul who later became the Apostle Paul of the New Testament. He pointed out that Moses was a murderer and Saul persecuted Christians prior to his transformation into Paul the Apostle.

MESSAGE OF HEALING

Early said he was troubled by God's choice of Moses to lead the Jewish people. As for Paul, he asked, "Why pick a man who had hurt people to bring a message of healing?"

His answers came in the form of an epiphany of how each would have their pasts weighing upon them. Moses and Paul would never forget those they hurt, and this would be the forge to make them into humble servants.

"God I'm sorry," Early said he prayed, reliving the moment, "I repent; I was wrong. It's just like You (God), to put them back together again and to raise those up to be the noblest and best leaders in your Kingdom."

NEW LEADERSHIP

Early has led the world's largest prison ministry seven years. Standing before the S.Q. crowd, which included many men serving Life terms, he shared toward the end, "I'm here because I know that God is raising up a whole new leadership of men behind these prison walls."

Early received a standing ovation; with many prisoners eager to greet and speak with him afterward.

S.Q.'s Sweat Lodge First In the Nation

By **DANIEL TREVINO**
Journalism Guild Writer

In the spring of 1972 San Quentin became the first state prison in the United States to build a Sweat Lodge on Prison grounds, achieved through a long and arduous process beginning with a 602 and culminating in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Herb Sample, a life-term prisoner, argued before the courts that Native Americans should be allowed to practice their religion.

Previously the only options for a Native American prisoner to practice religion were through the Catholic or Protestant chapels.

Sample, a California Indian and a member of the Yokut Nation, argued equal protection and infringement of religious rights.

Three themes are central to Native American religion: purification, offering, and vision. The Sweat Lodge ceremony accomplishes all three.

The Sweat Lodge is an integral part of Native religious practice, which consists of heated rocks being brought into a dome-like structure, built from willow saplings. Water is poured upon the super-heated rocks as prayers are said in Native tongue.

The sweat lodge has been used for prayer since time immemorial in the United States.

The first Sweat Lodge in San Quentin was built with the help of Archie "Fire" LameDeer, a well-known and respected Lakota Sioux medicine man and healer, who wrote a 20-page blueprint for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation explaining the procedures and

protocols for building and maintaining a Sweat Lodge. These protocols are still adhered to.

The Sweat Lodge at San Quentin and indeed all Sweat Lodges statewide are considered sacred ground and have been designated as such by the federal court order issued in 1972.

LameDeer, obeying his vision, came to California in the 1960s to build a "Western Gate," a Sweat Lodge in the Western part of the United States. In order to fulfill a prophecy foretold by ancient ancestors long before the Europeans arrived.

After the first Sweat Lodge was built at San Quentin, one was built in state prisons in Nevada and Arizona. Later Sweat Lodges were built in prisons throughout the United States.

Sweat Lodges outside of California were not personally built by LameDeer, but by Native American spiritual leaders associated with Native spiritual practices who followed LameDeer's protocols and procedures.

The Sweat Lodges in California as well as countless lodges throughout the United States have served to keep Native American prisoners in touch with their cultural roots and spiritual practices.

It would be next to impossible to tabulate the countless Native men and women who have changed their lives in a positive manner due to the influence of the Sacred Sweat Lodge ceremony. A Native practitioner believes that the water poured on the super-heated stones extorts pain locked within them. This essential belief has helped many Native American's lead clean and sober lifestyle with the purification that comes from the Sacred Sweat Lodge.

Prison Reform

Continued From Page 1

The unprecedented increase in imprisonment is attributed to the incarceration of more people for non-violent crimes, acts committed by the mentally ill or acts prompted by alcohol and drug dependency.

"Post-incarceration and re-entry programs vary in effectiveness. And often programs and services are non-existent in many communities. After having fully served the just sentences imposed for their crimes, ex-offenders must than confront a wall of laws and private policies that effectively bar them from employment," Webb said.

He points out that effective services and programs for the formerly incarcerated have the potential to reduce recidivism rates and increase public safety. Without being provided the opportunity and support for reintegration into society, many resort again to the patterns of criminal activity that they have known just to survive. Most elected officials,

afraid of being tarred as soft on crime, ignore these problems.

Webb has enlisted the support of top-ranking Democrats, including majority leader Harry Reid, and influential Republicans like Arlan Specter, the ranking minority member on the Judiciary Committee, and Lindsey Graham, the ranking member of the Crime and Drugs Subcommittee. A bipartisan national consensus has emerged that the criminal justice system is broken." says Webb, a former Marine and Secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration.

"There are few things rarer than a major politician doing something that is genuinely courageous and principled, but Sen. Jim Webb's impassioned commitment to fundamental prison reform is exactly that," wrote Glenn Greenwald, a writer for the website *Salon*. Webb's interest in the issue was prompted by his work as a journalist in 1984, when he wrote about an American citizen who was locked away in a

Japanese prison for two years under extremely harsh conditions, for nothing more than marijuana possession," Greenwald said.

Brown University Professor Glenn Loury describes America as "a nation of jailers whose prison system has grown into a leviathan unmatched in human history."

In his two years in the Senate, Webb has held hearings on the costs associated with mass incarceration and on the criminal justice system's response to the problems of illegal drugs. He also has called attention to the need to provide released inmates who have paid their debts to society more help getting jobs and resuming productive lives.

THE WAR ON DRUGS

If drug-legalizers are slowly gaining traction, drug-war-enders appear to be moving more swiftly to fix things from their end. Politicians in New York state recently reached a deal to repeal the state's hard-line Rockefeller drug laws, passed in 1973, which imposed mandatory 15-years-to-life sentences for possession of small amounts of

cocaine and heroin. Webb announced his intention to take that kind of reconsideration nationwide by introducing his National Criminal Justice Act Commission of 2009.

Although politically popular and expedient over the past several decades, the "tough-on-crime" stance promoted in reaction to escalating crime rates has not reduced crime and the rate of incarceration overall.

Alternative, effective approaches that provide both for intervention and rehabilitation through cost-effective programs and services that allow for the restoration of the formerly incarcerated to return to their communities have been documented to be effective in reducing crime and recidivism. Support is needed from the leadership of both major political parties as well as from our communities across the nation, according to Webb.

TIME TO CHANGE THE LAWS

The National Commission task is to look at every aspect of the criminal justice system with an eye toward reshaping the process from top to bot-

tom. Webb intends to bring together the best minds in America to confer, report, and make recommendations about how we can reform the process, with clear answers to hard questions such as: Why are so many Americans currently in prison compared with other countries and our own history? What is the policy costing our nation, both in tax dollars and in lost opportunities? How can we reshape our nation's drug policies? How can we better diagnose and treat mental illness? How can we end violence within prisons and increase the quality of prison administrators? How can we build workable re-entry programs so that communities can assimilate former offenders and encourage them to become productive citizens? How can we defend ourselves against the growing scourge of violent, internationally based gang activity?

Senator Jim Webb is a PARADE contributing editor and the author of nine Books, including "A Time to Fight." For more information visit: parade.com or WWW.Webb.Senate.Gov.

SPORTS

Giants Capture Opener, 12-11

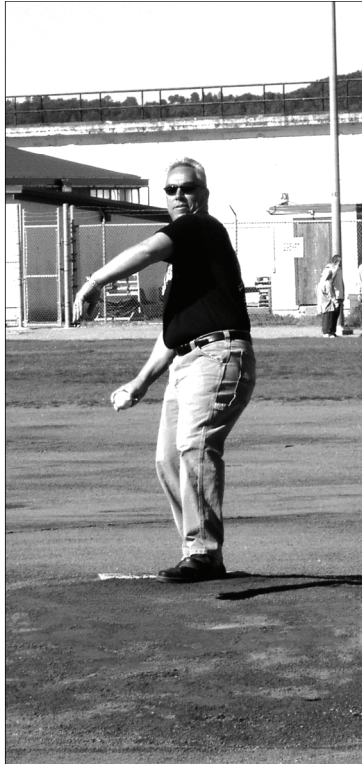
By Juan Haines &
Jeff Brooks
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Giants pulled out a ninth-inning victory over the Oakland Oaks to open their 2009 baseball season, 12-11, on April 4.

The opening day match-up between the two teams has been a long standing tradition. Marching in unison from right field, the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin opened the game by presenting the flag. Larry "Popeye" Faison led the baseball players, outside guests, camera crews and inmate fans in the playing of the Star Spangled Banner.

Acting Warden R. K. Wong, threw out the opening pitch, a perfect strike from the pitcher's mound. "It's been 35 years since I've thrown a baseball, I was worried I might bounce it," he said later.

After walking the leadoff batter, the Giants made quick work of the Oaks, holding them to no runs. Giants second



(A) Warden Wong throwing the opening pitch

baseman James Bautista led off the inning with a double, followed by Mario Ellis' inside the park homer, for a 2-0

lead after one inning.

The Giants defense held up to shut down the Oaks, and after five innings of play the score was 10-0.

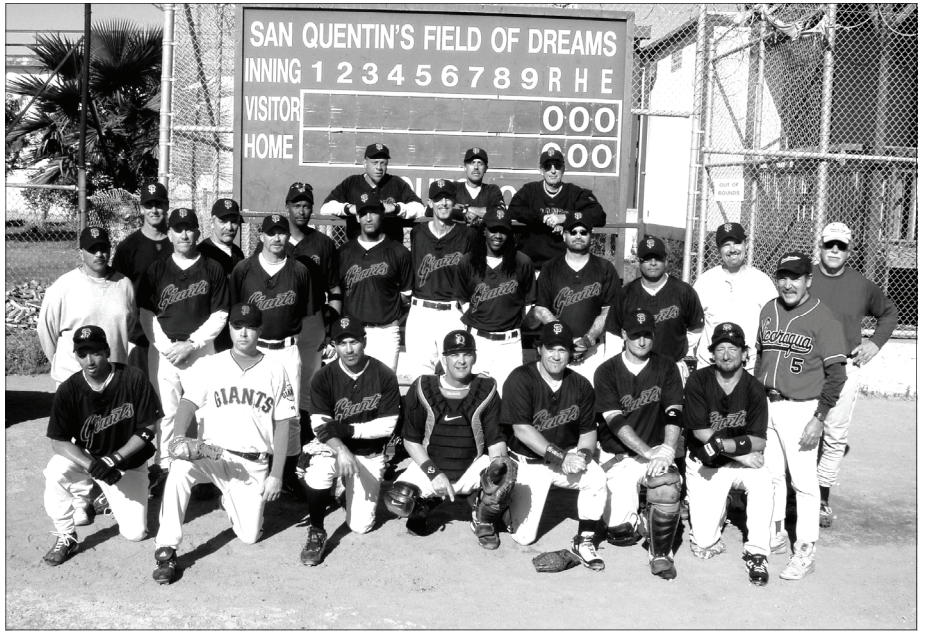
After substitutions and pitching changes by Giants manager Kevin Loughlin, the Oaks made a comeback, scoring nine runs in the sixth, and one in the top of the seventh to tie the game at 10-10.

Tied 10-10, Frankie Smith, coach for the Giants said, "The Oaks are all veterans, they're a good-hitting team, but we'll prevail in the end I'm sure."

In the bottom of the seventh, an error allowed Giant Steve Negrete to get on base, and with two outs, an error by the Oaks shortstop allowed Negrete to score the go-ahead-run.

In the top of the ninth, the Oaks roared back with Davis scoring the tying run, making it 11-11.

Looking to avoid going into extra innings, Eli Sala hit a single and stole second base, and with a passed ball by the catcher he advanced to third. Negrete, who is known for getting hits in crucial situa-



2009 Giants Baseball Team

tions, grounded to Smith at third, who held Sala at third and threw out Negrete at first base.

With one out, the Oaks chose to walk Bautista, hoping to turn a double play and to take the game into extra innings.

Bautista, one of the fastest runners on the Giants squad, immediately stole second base to break up any attempts at the double play.

Bottom of the ninth, one out, runners at second and third, infield playing in, Jeff Brooks drove in the game winning run with a base hit between the shortstop and third baseman for a 12-11 victory.

The Giants swarmed the field congratulating Brooks on

his hit, and each other for a hard-fought game.

Asked about his game winning hit, Brooks said, "The coach just told me to win it, and I did. I really needed that because I hit poorly last season."

Mike Deeble, a volunteer assistant coach for the Giants, said, "I love this game, I came in here six times last year to play, and now I'm lucky enough to be able to coach. I like coming here because all the guys always show up for the games (he laughs), unlike some of the teams I've played for outside."

Some days later the Giants shut out a Mission team, 18-0, to remained undefeated in the young season.

S.Q. 1000-Mile Club Holds Track Meet

By FRANK RUONA

On the afternoon of Feb. 20, San Quentin State Prison's lower yard was again a buzz with inmates cheering for inmates as the second San Quentin Track Meet was contested between some very fast and talented young, and not so young men.

The first track meet held in August of 2006 was the brain child of inmate Ralph Ligons, a former 200M runner back in the early 1970's. Ralph thought that there was an abundance of athletic talent amongst the inmates of San Quentin and wanted to give the inmates the opportunity to show their stuff! Ronnie Goodman, who participated in four of the races held was the driving force behind this year's track meet.

For the past three and a half years San Quentin has had a running club, the San Quentin 1,000-Mile Club, meeting twice monthly to train the inmates and give them the opportunity to enjoy the competition and comradeship of running longer distances together. The San Quentin 1,000-Mile Club was formed under the direction of Laura Bowman, with the purpose of helping to rehabilitate the inmates through recreation.

The February Track meet was finally held after several previous postponements due to bad weather. The track meet was supported by Laura Bowman, Jill Friedman, Frank Ruona,

Steve Pascacio and several other inmates who were happy to lend a hand.

The first event of the day was a new event, the five Kilometer Run (3.1 Miles). Goodman took the lead early and stayed all of the 12-1/2 laps of the race. Ronnie established an excellent new record time of 19:19. Stephen Liebb showed much fortitude in trying to hang with Goodman and finished second with a time of 21:39. Drew Mearis finished third in a strong 23:43. Ronnie Richardson kind of ran out of gas a couple miles into the run, but hung on and finished the race in fourth place.

Another new event, the 200-Meter Dash, was the next race that was run. This race was slightly downhill and the leaders took advantage of the downhill portion of the course and screeched to a very fast 22:01 time for winner Joseph Jones and 22:46 for second place finisher Abraham Glasper. Geronimo Washington ran a strong 26:43 for third place even though he was running in his work boots!

Next was the same 200 Meter Dash, but this one was for runners who were over 50 years of age. This event was won by Jerome Black in a time of 27:52. Malcolm Jones finished second in 36:13.

The one mile run was next. O. Camacho took off like a rabbit being chased by greyhounds on the first lap. Ronnie Good-



San Quentin 1000 Mile Club members and sponsors (2009)

man having already run the 5 Kilometer Race took off at a more moderate pace. By the second lap, Ronnie had closed the gap and he took the lead on the third lap. Ronnie hung on for the victory in 5:55, with O. Camacho 100 yards back in 6:19. Bill Pillars and Geronimo Washington battled it out on the last lap, with Pillars catching and passing Geronimo in the last straight-away to take third place with a time of 7:00.

The next event was the quarter mile. Floyd Lockett took off like he was going to leave everyone in the dust. He held the lead for about 300 meters and then the monkey climbed on his back and he really started to fade. Goodman, running his third race of the day, finished very strong and tied the meet record set by

Pete Herndon in 2006 with a swift time of 1:01. Lockett hung on for second place with a time of 1:07. Franklin finished third with of 1:21 and Geronimo Washington ran 1:35 for fourth place.

Now it was time for the sprinters again. An open 100 Meter dash was held first and Alhondro Myers won the race

with a time of 11:98. Joseph Jones, the winner of the 200 Meters, was second with a time of 13:42, while Geronimo Washington finished third in 14:01. The old-timers got their opportunity next, as the 100-meter dash for men 50 years and older was held. Jerome Black repeated his 200-meter victory with a time of 13:62 and broke Alan Eaton's record of 13.76 set in 2006. Malcolm Jones finished second in 27:46.

The final event of the meet was the four by on quarter mile relay. Two teams were entered and this was a race to the finish. The team of Jerome Black, Malcolm Jones, Anthony Starks and Geronimo Washington just held off the team of Mearis, Floyd Lockett, Goodman and Pillars in a time of 4:46 to 4:48.

We lucked out and had beautiful weather for the meet.

The inmates have another year to work on their speed to see if in 2010 they can break one of the records at the Third San Quentin Track Meet.

The following individuals are now listed as the San Quentin record holders:

1. 5 Kilometer run	Ronnie Goodman	19:19	2009
2. 200 Meter Dash	Joseph Jones	0:22:01	2009
3. Over 50 200 Meter Dash	Jerome Black	0:27:52	2009
4. One mile Run	Mike Villanueva	5:24	2006
5. 1/4 mile Run	Pete Herndon	1:01	2006
	Ronnie Goodman	1:01	2009
6. 100 Yard Dash	D'Angelo Boone	0:11:17	2006
7. Over 50 100 Yard Dash	Jerome Black	0:13:62	2009
8. 4x1/4 Mile Relay	Steve Pascacio	4:30	2006

1. BUTNER, N.C. — A former California prison guard, Jose Ramon Garcia, 55 died in a North Carolina federal prison hospital while serving a six-year sentence for orchestrating fights and stabbings among prisoners at Pelican Bay State Prison from July 1992 to August 1996.

2. CARSON CITY, Nev. — Legislation to reform Nevada's parole system has been introduced by a Democratic assemblyman and prison reform advocates. The bill, AB424, would amend the existing parole system which considers the severity of an inmate's crime as the chief factor in parole decisions, to a more broad determination, which includes allowing prison staff to contribute in inmate parole determinations.

3. SACRAMENTO — Corrections Secretary Matthew Cate has revealed a plan to expand three existing prisons. The plan will add space at Kern Valley, medium-security North Kern, build a re-entry center in Stockton for 500 inmates, and convert a juvenile center close to Paso Robles into a prison for 1,000 older men. The funding would come from \$7.8 billion in bonds approved by the Legislature in April 2007 for prison and jail expansion.

4. ARIZONA — Sen. John McCain made a visit to the "Hanoi Hilton" prison where he spent more than five years as a POW during the Vietnam War. McCain's A4 fighter bomber was shot down by the North Vietnamese while on a mission over Hanoi. The crash resulted in severe injuries to McCain, including breaking both arms and a leg. According to McCain, he was captured, beaten and tortured.

5. KANSAS — Ex-Atlanta Fal-



cons quarterback Michael Vick was transported from lock-up in Kansas to attend a bankruptcy hearing in Virginia. In July Vick filed for bankruptcy producing documentation which shows he has assets of about \$16 million and debts of more than \$20 million. Vick, who is serving a 23-month prison sentence for funding an illegal dog fighting ring, is expected to be released from custody in July.

6. AUSTIN, Texas — The Department of Criminal Justice has ended the state of Texas's control on prisoner phone calls which has been called the most restrictive in the nation. The new rules will allow approximately 120,000 Texas inmates to have up to 120 minutes of phone calls each month. The Texas prison system, the country's second-largest corrections agency, will phase in the new prisoner phone access program over the next year.

7. RICHMOND, Va. — The Obama administration won a request from the Supreme Court to stop a federal appeals court order which had invalidated a state law allowing for indefinite prison sentences for "sexually

dangerous" offenders. At least 77 sex offenders who have served their initial prison sentences will remain in prison until the Supreme Court makes a decision on whether to hear the case.

8. SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO — Gov. Bill Richardson signed legislation abolishing the death penalty in New Mexico. The state joins New Jersey as the only two states to have banned capital punishment since it was reinstated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976. The repeal affects only crimes committed after July 1, 2009. Fourteen other states do not impose capital punishment.

9. LOUISIANA — The annual Angola Prison Rodeo was held April 18 and 19 at what was at one time billed as "the bloodiest prison in America." Sellout crowds are routine at the 10,000 seat stadium located at the 18,000 acre sprawling prison which also boasts an inmate produced magazine, radio station, vocational training program and a degree program in theology. As many as 1,000 of the prison's 5,200 inmates assist in producing the rodeo.

A Change to Medication Auto Refill Policy

By DR. CRENSHAW

Effective September 1, there will be a change in procedure to the medication auto refill policy at San Quentin (S.Q.). Certain drugs will not be refilled automatically. These include over the counter drugs, (OTC's) such as antacids, vitamins and allergy medications. Also excluded from auto refill will be topical medications such as creams, ointments and lotions. These drugs are used at variable rates (people come in different sizes) and it is impossible to accurately predict when someone would need a refill. As before 'PRN' medications will not be automatically refilled. These are drugs ordered on an as needed basis by the prescriber. A clue to this type of drug are the words "as needed" in the directions of the prescription.

Any and all of these medications can be ordered via Health Care Services Request Form CDCR 7362. This form should be completed by the inmate patient and turned in to the med pass nurse or designated area in the housing units. These requests will be processed by pharmacy provided refills are available and the orders have not expired. The drugs will be issued to the inmate patient by the nursing staff, usually within 24-48 hours. The change in the auto refill policy should help to prevent receiving large amounts of drugs which may not actually

be needed by the inmate patient. As you may have noticed personal storage space is at a premium around here. Also, this will help nursing and pharmacy staff by alleviating the processing of unnecessary refills, returns and restocking of drugs

Certain prescriptions are refilled automatically by the pharmacy at S.Q. These medications are considered maintenance drugs and are necessary for the optimal health and welfare of patients. Included as maintenance drugs are drugs for blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, mental health and other chronic health conditions. These drugs are refilled automatically by the pharmacy until the original order is expired or discontinued by the prescriber. No notification is required on the part of nursing or the inmate patient to receive these orders on a regular schedule (usually monthly).

Pharmacy and nursing staff at C.S.P.-S.Q. look forward to more effectively serving the inmate population by allowing you to decide when you need something and when you don't. Remember that maintenance medications won't be affected by the policy and you don't have to do anything for them to be dispensed to you. Being a partner in your own health care will ultimately provide for the best of care. And of course if you need something ... just ask.

San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/San_Quentin_News/SQ_newsletter.html

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Administration, or the inmate population, and should be considered solely the opinion of the individual author unless specified.

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5H18U	D. Saxton	Representative

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Johnson, S.	2-N-81L	Chairman
Sefeldeen, K.	1-N-96L	Vice-Chairman
Mancinelli, T.	5-N-87U	Secretary
Tindall, M.K.	4-N-37L	Parliamentarian
Pena, E.	3-N-24L	Sgt at Arms

East Block Advisory Council

J. Van Pelt	1-EB-75	Chairman
D. Carey	4-EY-17	Yard 1
K. Lewis	2-EB-76	Yard 2
B. Williams	4-EB-71	Yard 3
R. Marshall	1-EB-65	Yard 4
P. Henderson	4-EB-79	Yard 5
W. Noguera	4-EB-77	Yard 6

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Health Fair Coming

Greetings San Quentin, we of The San Quentin T.R.U.S.T. would like to invite you to our sixth annual Health Fair on **May 1**. This health fair is being brought to you in a collaborative effort which includes the Alameda County Health Department, Center Force, the Prison University Project and San Francisco State University.

We will have numerous

booths set up in varying areas of health related issues. As well as health professionals from many different fields, all here to help us in helping ourselves. It is our intent to bring as much awareness to the greater San Quentin community surrounding their health, as a means of ensuring that we are given the opportunity to live long and productive lives.

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 may be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. Use the prison appeals process.

However, we do encourage submitting stories and/or articles which are newswor-

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

**Send Submissions to:
Education Dept. / SQ
News**

San Quentin, CA 94964
(No Street address required)

[www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/
San_Quentin_News/
SQ_Newsletter.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Visitors/San_Quentin_News/SQ_Newsletter.html)