

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY: November 27
 WORLD AIDS DAY: December 01
 CHRISTMAS: December 25
 NEW YEAR'S EVE: December 31

December 2009

POST-ELECTION EDITION—MORE ON PAGE 6!

PROP 83 EXAMINED BY SUPREME COURT *Constitutionality Questioned*

Three years after California's voters approved Proposition 83, the "Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act," the state's High Court heard arguments and is now considering the law's retroactivity.

At question are the residency restrictions now in effect, barring all sexual offenders from living within 2,000 feet of schools and parks. Lawyers for the state argue that Prop 83, also known as "Jessica's Law," was intended by the voters to be fully retroactive, applying to all of California's 65,000 registered sexual offenders. An attorney for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Kenneth Mennemeier, argued that the intent of voters was to create "predator-free zones" and "to protect children from the threat of recidivism that sex offenders pose." Prop 83, he said, should be so broadly interpreted as to apply to every person ever convicted of a sex crime, whether their crime involved children or not.

Mennemeier seems to make mountains out of molehills—a tact
(Cont'd—See "Prop 83" on page 13)

OBAMA HONORS AMERICAN INDIANS

Public Law 111-33 was signed by President Barack Obama on June 26, 2009, establishing Native American Heritage Day. Ernest L. Stevens, Jr. [Oneida-New York], chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, called it "a true milestone... The president and Congress encourage the people of the United States to recognize the historical status of Native American tribal governments; the rich culture, traditions and languages of the Native people; and the diverse cultural legacy of Native Americans that all Americans enjoy today."

Interesting--and, to some Native Americans, ironic--is the designation of Heritage Day as the Friday following Thanksgiving.

Historically, Thanksgiving is a celebration of the autumn's harvest, a feast when the earth's produce has been collected and the work is mostly done. As taught to school children, Thanksgiving was originally established in the 1620s, at a time when Native Americans helped early settlers survive when they would otherwise have perished from starvation. The "Pilgrims and Indians" history is a story that, although mostly accurate, for the most
(Cont'd—See "Heritage" on page 12)

4th DISTRICT ORDERS NEW EVALS

Ronje Decision Draws Mixed Emotions at CSH

California's civil detainees both rejoiced and lamented on November 19th as the state's Fourth Appellate District granted a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by Edward C. Ronje, remanding the case back to the trial court with instructions to order new evaluations and a new probable cause hearing. The habeas petition was based upon last year's determination by the Office of Administrative Law that the standardized assessment protocol in use by the Department of Mental Health was an illegal, "underground" regulation.

(Continued—See "Ronje" on page 14)

2009 H1N1 Influenza Concerns

The 2009 H1N1 Influenza (also called Swine Flu) is caused by a new strain of influenza virus. It has spread to many countries.

Like other flu viruses, 2009 H1N1 spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing, and sometimes through touching objects contaminated with the virus.

Seasonal flu viruses change from year to year, but they are closely related to each other. People who have had flu infections in the past usually have some immunity to seasonal flu viruses because their bodies have built up some ability to fight them off.

(Continued—See "Flu" on page 3)

AD 818 REVISED

Sources Say Not To Worry

The revision of Administrative Directive 818 has had our population up in arms in recent weeks. The heart of the conflict centers on a portion of the AD's Contraband List, Attachment "A," revised on October 21, 2009.

Attachment "A" includes several classes of contraband, numbered in descending order of restriction. Class 1 items are not permitted on the grounds of the hospital; Class 5 items are used by the hospital's long-term care residents, but are monitored for accountability.

The Class 2 category lists items "not allowed inside the secured area" and includes, specifically, "Personal electronic devices. These items include, but are not limited to...MP3 players, PDAs...electronic media of any type." According to the Class 2 description, these items "shall not be brought inside the secured areas of the hospital or in possession of individuals served."

At first glance, then, it looks like the administration might soon be collecting
(Cont'd—See "AD 818" on page 18)

**Looking Back:
3 Years Since
Proposition 83
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**Honoring The Past:
The Rich Culture of
Native Americans
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The Ally

By Andrew "Boots" Hardy

CIVIC DUTY... AND OTHER REFLECTIONS

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Now that the elections are complete and we have a hospital-wide council seated, the Ally wants to extend a very warm welcome to our new representatives. They have been in office just a few short weeks, and overall, I am already very impressed with the energy and industry with which our reps are tackling their jobs.

It is the nature of civic duty to attract altruists and idealists, hard workers, men and women of ideas and follow-through. The downside of civic duty, of course, is a combination of politics and personal agendas. Thankfully, the process itself weeds out the "problem children," and as America has proven for a couple hundred years, representative democracy ultimately goes on thriving. November's elections, in one day, managed to weed out several You-Know-Whos, leaving us a Council with a lot of potential. I can't wait to see what the coming year brings us.

I also want to welcome the Ally's new staff. I am always surprised by the support I get from people stopping me all over Coalinga—in hallways, at the library and the mall, in class, at Town Hall, etc.—to offer insights, submit articles, and just to thank me for the Ally. I guess last month's editorial rant [*I Can't Stand It*, page 18] made an impact, because within just a few days, the Ally went from being a one-man circus to having a full staff of dedicated and talented people.

Bill Hester and Douglas Gaines are both educated and experienced in Journalism and have already done a lot of work. Robert Bates has been a supporter of the Ally for some time now, and I have leaned on him more than once for guidance; he now joins us as a consultant to our editorial team. Michael Seaton has been involved in Coalinga politics in some way since just about the beginning, and is even now serving on the CSH Quality Council; Mike comes on board for political analysis with this month's debut of his column, *Michael Seaton: In Focus*. Billy Redding has long been a part of the Phase SOCP program and runs the PCLS newsletter; his contributions to the Ally in past editions have led to the creation of *Billy Redding's Treatment Treatise*, covering news and events of interest to Phase participants.

These guys answered the call and stepped up to the plate, recognizing that all of us—not just our elected reps—have a civic duty. A duty to be of service to one another, to the population, and to those who will come after we are gone.

As a very direct result of the Ally's expansion, this month sees the addition of several sections. Aside from *In Focus* and *Treatment Treatise*, this edition introduces the Special Features section, which will cover events and happenings in the world outside our borders which nonetheless have an impact on Coalinga residents. You will also find the Ally's new Resource Center, where readers and their families will find lists of websites, non-profits, community organizations, legal assistance programs, and articles geared toward our pursuit of liberty, freedom, and civil rights. Residents can post announcements seeking help or assistance, and we will also begin printing an advice column for residents to seek answers to legal questions or clarification of legal concepts.

As ever, I remain grateful to the populace for their encouragement and the community's collaboration. I had no idea when I started the Ally that it would be so immensely popular, and even though I caught a lot of grief last month on Mr. Anonymous' behalf, I received a lot more positive feedback than negative. The Ally gives me purpose and helps me go to bed an night feeling like I've accomplished something—so believe me, I do this for myself as much as for you. Thanks for your support!

SIDEBAR: Because the Ally's presence—and our very existence—has been called into question by certain elements among the new Council, let me take a moment to clarify our position.

To our elected representatives serving on UACs and the HWAC:

If you do something wrong, you can expect to be held accountable. When you do something right, don't expect to be lauded or praised. In politics, praise should be viewed as nothing more than a byproduct of personal professionalism and personal responsibility, and its pursuit has landed many a public servant in hot water. And so please, simply do what is right. All that is asked of you—not just by the Ally, but by the population as a whole—is that you represent our small microcosm of society to the best of your ability, in honesty and in fairness. Misdeeds and failures will be reported impartially—as will good deeds and accomplishments.

On that note, this month's debut of *Michael Seaton: In Focus* [page 8] will no doubt get the population talking. The Ally was founded last July on a commitment to impartiality; while I want to again confirm that promise, I also recognize that political analysis can often be seen as anything but impartial. In order to maintain the integrity of this publication, then, I am forced to compartmentalize things: *In Focus* will remain the exclusive domain of Mr. Seaton. The column will be a regular feature, and Mike will have free reign to report whatever he feels is appropriate. His analyses may—or may not—reflect my personal feelings or perceptions, but either way, I won't interfere, other than to fact-check and edit for length and format. I'm sure I'll catch hell—in fact, the backlash has already begun.

Lucky for me, I'm no stranger to adversity. :-]

Guidelines for Submission
All submissions to the Ally are subject to editing for proper syntax, grammar, punctuation, length, language, and clarity. Submissions may not include hate-speech, inciting or inflammatory language, or unnecessary profanity. Submissions may be returned to the individual author for revision or may be rejected outright. Please note: We want your voice to be heard; please work within these guidelines in order to have your work published.

The Ally is published monthly at Coalinga State Hospital, in Coalinga, California. The Ally is dedicated to fair and impartial reporting of news and events that are of interest to civil detainees committed or awaiting commitment to the California Department of Mental Health. Correspondence can be addressed personally to the editor:

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Boots

FLU

(Cont'd from page 1)

The 2009 H1N1, though, is a new flu virus. It is very different from seasonal flu viruses. Most people have little or no immunity to it, and their bodies are not prepared to fight it off.

Signs of the 2009 H1N1 can include: Fatigue, Fever, Sore Throat, Muscle Aches, Chills, Coughing, and Sneezing.

A vaccine is available through Coalinga State Hospital. Many patients have already signed consent forms and as of November 9th, the vaccine has arrived at CSH. The hospital will prioritize vaccine distribution to ensure that individuals with higher risk are vaccinated first.

The vaccine is made like seasonal flu vaccines and are expected to be just as safe and effective. The H1N1 vaccine is an "inactivated" vaccine, meaning that it contains flu virus that is already killed. The vaccine is administered by injection into the muscle, just like seasonal flu vaccines.

The H1N1 vaccine will not prevent seasonal flu or "influenza-like" illnesses caused by other viruses. The Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services recommend that patients should also get vaccinated against seasonal influenza.

Information contained in this article was reprinted from the Vaccine Information Statement issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please contact your unit health care provider, nursing staff, or contact the Centers for Disease Control at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

Ernie Marshall Speaks Up

By Bill Hester, Assistant Editor

I recently sat down and had a conversation with Ernie Marshall regarding the Enhancement Plan that is being used by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). We addressed the effects that it will have and is having on Coalinga State Hospital.

Ernie Marshall is part of the executive administration as the CSH Treatment Enhancement Coordinator for CSH. He has done work here for several years and is both knowledgeable and open about what he sees as a program that can help everyone here, in treatment or not.

The Enhancement Plan was developed as a result of action taken by the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding treatment in the DMH that was below the standards of community programs. In a Consent Decree between DOJ and DMH, changes were proposed to bring the level of care for patients up to community standards. It should be noted that all of the violations noted and changes suggested were geared toward the patients in the other hospitals (since Coalinga did not exist yet). As a result, many of the issues dealt with misuse of restraints and forced medication and were not specific to this commitment. However, there are parts that can be of benefit for the patients here who choose to work on improving themselves, either through treatment or not.

The duties of the Treatment Enhancement Coordinator cover a broad range of areas in the hospital. The program is working to evaluate all areas of the hospital's operations that effect patient care and conditions. This includes assessments, medical and psychiatric care, treatment plans, and barriers to discharge. The main focus of our conversation was the barriers to discharge; however, other information was included.

One emphasis of the Enhancement Plan discussed in our conversation is that staff will solicit, respect, and show concern for our input in our treatment. This information is gathered either by individual input in your WRP Team, in surveys, or other communications that are held with staff members. One of the tools being used to get our input on problems and issues is the survey form. Recently one was distributed asking how we feel due process issues are handled. The information received is being evaluated and changes will be developed. It should be noted that although the survey form is a valuable tool, it isn't going to do much good if people don't return

(Continued—See "Marshall" on page 18)

HEEEERE'S BILL!

My name is William Hester (please call me Bill). Some of you know me, most of you don't, except as another face in the hall. I have joined the editorial staff of the Ally, as an Assistant Editor and Writer, because I believe that we, as a community, need to have the ability and outlet to express our thoughts and opinions in a constructive manner. I also firmly believe in the duty of the press to present information in an unbiased and honest manner. There is always something going on here, either patient-generated ideas and activities or Administrative actions and ideas, and this is the best vehicle that I have seen to communicate that. I will do everything I can to get you truthful, useful information and occasionally my own opinions and views in an editorial. It is my hope that I can contribute to our community.

A little about me: I am somewhat vocal and opinionated about our treatment at CSH—I don't approve of a lot of it. I'm in Phases, but not actively participating in its fringe benefits or By Choice. I am loyal to my friends, the Inyana Native American Circle, and our commitment as a whole. I'm an advocate of people bettering themselves through whatever means they are comfortable with: NA, AA, Medicine Wheel, arts and music programs,

(Continued—See "Bill" on page 19)

THANK YOU, TRUSTED SERVANTS

Submitted by Ken Herman

This population tends to focus on the negative—especially where it concerns each other. Regrettably, I have fallen into that frame of mind, too. The good news is that I don't have to stay there. I can choose not to focus on the negative, and by making that choice, my eyes are opened to some positives. Acknowledging the positives that I am aware of will hopefully inspire more positives. So I want to acknowledge a few of our peers for the positive contributions that they have made.

Thank you, Michael Leon Seaton. You have given great quantities of your time, energy, and skills in service to this population. You have given of yourself again and again, even in the face of negativity. I am grateful to you and hope that you will continue to bring out the best of yourself in all that you do.

Thank you, Robert Bates. You, too, have given vast amounts of time, energy, resources and skills for the betterment of our community. Your selfless service, especially in the face of adversity, indicates a pro-social character. I am grateful to you and wish you the best in

(Cont'd—See "Servants" on page 19)

TREATMENT NEEDS

Submitted by T. Smith

First, I congratulate those who have taken positive steps toward obtaining freedom. As we all know, freedom isn't found down a one-way street with a sign posted saying, "This way to freedom through SOCP."

I applaud those who have taken this route, but from personal experience and personal observation, I have come to an obstacle which remains hard to climb and I am seeking your support because it affects all of us and you individually.

There will come a time when you will appear in court—without your homeboys, friends, associates, lovers, or comrades. When that day comes, you won't be able to get by on fooling your group facilitators.

There are many CSH groups and classes with facilitators who pass out educational materials to students—then tell them it's not homework and doesn't need to be turned in for grading. There are those among us who are happy with not having to do any work; we know that all the facilitators do is write progress notes—where they lie, falsify documents, and claim that you have been a focused individual in their class. But in truth, you have not earned that title. Where am I going with this? Well, let me tell you: When you end up in a courtroom and the DA asks what you learned in your classes—what will you tell them? What do you know about substance abuse or whatever topic it is? How will your facilitator verify what you learned when s/he never reviewed or graded the work that you never turned in? The DA will not only make you look bad, but your star witness—the facilitator—will look even more stupid. And you wonder why people are relapsing out there?

Everyone has a plan for obtaining their freedom; for those in Phase programs—Good! And especially for those who are not—Great! Because there are problems with relying upon educational facilitators. They have been too lazy, making easy money off tax-payers while doing nothing. I don't know how anyone can make progress without having a teacher who will take the time to review a student's work.

Lastly, there are certain patients among us, in treatment or in other classes, who give facilitators undue credit. They enjoy trying to impress their facilitators and trying to tell the next person what he should or should not be doing. The advice is good to a certain degree, but it becomes spooky when you continue babbling and trying to speak in every group on every topic. I get to wondering what your true aim is. And how can you tell me what I should be doing when you can't get yourself out of here? What's wrong with this picture?

If the facilitators have no experience with an individual student's geographical background, dialect, or lack of education, then regardless of whether you're in SOCP, how can they help you return to society as a changed man?

PS: If we can all just stop hating on each other...

FOLLOWING UP:

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Matt Hedge Returned to Custody

On December 9th, San Diego Superior Court Judge Michael Wellington will hold a hearing to determine whether Matthew Hedge should have his freedom revoked and be returned to the custody of Coalinga State Hospital.

Dana Littlefield reported on signonsandiego.com, a Southern California news website, that Hedge was taken into custody at his home, a trailer near R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, where he had been living since April. Hedge was ordered released four years ago and was the first 6600 commitment ever released to San Diego County. He was returned to custody after only two months, and in October of 2008 he again earned his freedom. For the second time, he was released under the supervision of Liberty Healthcare.

In the first week of November, Alan Stillman, Liberty's community program director, wrote in a letter that Hedge had "violated several of his terms and conditions" by admitting that he had watched women's volleyball on television, and had taken a photograph of a woman's legs.

Hedge is currently in San Diego County Jail awaiting his hearing. He stands accused of no new crimes.

Kenny Davidson Wins Release

On November 10th, Orange County Superior Court Judge David Thompson ruled against the District Attorney's office and ordered the release of Kenny Davidson.

Imprisoned under the SVPA since a parole violation brought him under the law in 2005, Davidson was known as one of the baddest-ass drummers in CSH music programs. He regaled resident-fans with percussion solos and provided the backdrop for his band, The Condemed, at quarterly jam sessions, concerts and special events.

After spending several years in the Phase SOCP program, state SVP evaluators in 2008 concluded Davidson had no current diagnosis and therefore did not meet the criteria for civil commitment. Ignoring the question of statutory requirements, the DA opposed Davidson's release and introduced witnesses to provide testimony which was prejudicial but no less irrelevant to the criteria outlined in the SVPA statutes.

Finding that there was not enough evidence to proceed to trial, Judge Thompson ordered Davidson released, and he regained his liberty that evening. The District Attorney, of course, promptly stirred up public outrage with an immediate press release. "The man was just released from exile, just got his life back, and already they try to destroy it," said the *Ally's* Editor, Andrew "Boots" Hardy. "I guess in the world of politics, some people just can't lose gracefully."

LONG-DISTANCE FROM WASHINGTON

Sam Donaghe, MBA, from Washington, writes: "For five or more years, I typed up the "Gulag" for the guys at ASH. They used to send all the articles, and then I would type them up, send them out for printing... The point of this letter is to tell you how impressed I am with the Ally... Your comment about the many hours you spend on it rang a bell with me and I thought I ought to let you know that when I receive a copy, *it is always appreciated*. I know the hours and the dedication it takes and applaud you for your efforts... For years, I wanted to get a newsletter going here, but the staff would throw me in segregation and not one person would stand up and say anything about it—so I have deferred."

Thanks for the support, Sam! John LaBlanc and others here have a lot of good things to say about you and the guys up in Washington. Your letter got me to thinking—maybe the Ally can expand beyond Coalinga to serve civil prisoners in other states as well. [See the article on page 16]. Maybe we can get together and cross state lines to unite this fight. Keep your head up, and thanks again! --Boots

Submitted by Paul Vehar

VEHAR VENTS

Part I: OOPS!!

Okay, so I was wrong. I'll admit it; can't deny it. I told everyone that this Hosprison Administration had already made the stupidest, most hare-brained decisions it could make. I said it would not be remotely possible to take a more moronic course of action, or make up policies that were more pin-headed than those already in effect. *Boy was I wrong!* Just when you think they *can't* do anything dumber, they surprise the hell out of you and *do*.

What am I talking about, you ask? Let me tell you a story to illustrate: As you know, we are in the middle of an influenza epidemic. No news there. But let's go back to early November, when this outbreak first began to rear its sickly head here at CSH. Imagine, if you will, Unit 12 at Coalinga State Hosprison. Fifty men, interacting all day long with each other on the unit, mingling in the dayroom, sharing space in the common areas—dayroom, restroom, shower—eating together and sleeping four to a room, and in contact with hundreds of other inmates from other units.

Now imagine a couple of those men taking ill: fever, chills, ague, and all the other flu-like symptoms. "What shall we do?" cries the administration. "Let's ask the Medical Department; they'll know!" "Quick: isolate them so they don't get others sick too!" Answers the CMO. So that is what they decide to do. So, now we have these two sick men on the unit (although in reality there are at least five others with varying degrees of symptoms—some more severe than the two cases the medical department now knows about) who need to be quarantined.

Does the administration tell the U.S. to move the sick men on the unit to the Medical Unit? Nope, they might make the sick people sicker. Do they tell her to move them to one of the empty, unused units so they would have no contact with other inmates? No. Instead, they tell her—and this is where it gets good—to move two men out of their single cells on the unit and swap beds with the sick men in their four-man cells. That's right; take healthy guys and move them into the spaces where the sick guys have been living, sneezing, coughing and blowing their noses for days! Then take the *sick* guys and put them in the single cells and leave them *(Continued—See "Vehar" on page 17)*

VETERAN'S GROUP EXTENDS INVITE

Coalinga's Veteran's Group would like to extend an invitation to all Coalinga residents who have served in America's Armed Forces. Already 73 members strong, the Veteran's Group has a color guard and an honor guard, and performs many services to CSH's many Vets.

The group strives to aid its members at every opportunity. Forms and assistance are on hand to help Vets upgrade their discharge; get DD-214s; seek or renew medical benefits; and apply for other Veteran benefits, including compensation, pension, and death benefits. Additionally, full military memorial services are performed for all Veterans who pass away, including flag-folding ceremony with a casket-sized flag.

The aim of the group is to "prove to Coalinga State Hospital and DMH that we take the Veteran's Group very seriously," said Wallace E. Rogers, the group's president. Indeed, the Veteran's Group is an example to other organizations being proposed to serve long-term care residents at CSH. Social meetings are held every Tuesday at 1500 hours in VE-125. The last Tuesday of each month is a Business Meeting, and all Veterans are encouraged to attend.

TPC LODGES OBJECTION

In a memo to Executive Director Pam Ahlin, dated December 3, 2009, The People's Committee objected to what is seen as a lack of equal representation in the CDAC structure.

"We in the African American Community feel that there is inadequate representation on the Spokesman-Level," said the memo. "[W]e believe an amendment to the bylaws is in order so that...a cross-representation of the entire patient population will be represented to the Executive Administration."

On December 8, the Ally was approached by TPC Chairman Muhammed Shazier and Vice-Chair Curtis "Tech" Canada with an additional complaint regarding the Quality Council. "After all the mud-slinging against the TPC, how can this Quality Council exist autocratically and in secret, with its resident-members hand-picked by the administration?" asked Shazier. "It's quite simply unacceptable, not to mention complete hypocrisy."

The Quality Council is a committee formed to implement improvements in the treatment and training programs offered at CSH. Members of the Quality Council include the hospital's Executive Administration and CSH residents Michael L. Seaton, who has represented the leadership of both the PCDG and the Council of Six; and Niles Carr, who was among the first residents of CSH and has done vast amounts of work to improve CSH living conditions.

Coalinga State Hospital's First Annual PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Ring in the new year with style and class, the *Ally* is proud to sponsor Coalinga's First Annual *People of the Year Awards*. It's high-time we recognize those awesome people whose outstanding contributions make our community a better place. We will be honoring talented resident musicians, artists, volunteers, mentors, and more! We would like to recognize those men who have done legal work to improve our conditions of confinement and those who have taken our fight to the courts. Awards will also be given to those who have been released in the last year and are "Most Likely to Succeed." Staff members can also be nominated for awards for exceptional service, such as the chaplains and nursing staff. If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please stop by VE-181 any day of the week (except Wednesdays) and speak to Boots. *Any and all suggestions and ideas are welcome!*

Letter to the Editor

Rasul Replies

With Allah's name, The Merciful Benefactor, The Merciful Redeemer

Dear Editor:

My commitment name and number is, Dwight Jackson #160-2. I am not "A lot of people;" I am an individual. Maybe I do sometimes complain, moan and might even gripe at times. But, until we have at least 90% dissatisfaction in the total population among the residents here, regarding our fair-treatment in living conditions, putting work in, as you say, may not amount to much, that is, other than you complaining, moaning and even griping about those you accuse of doing the same.

With that said however, I truly do love your work, and you obviously do have a sharp mind. I have no criticism for your skills and abilities for writing or expressing the issues and situations we face every day in our struggle as an oppressed community trying to win our freedom or at least fair treatment. So, by all means, keep up the good work. My concerns or one of them which I addressed in my last article was: "...then whose Ally are you?" Maybe I wasn't clear enough and I apologize for that. The word "you" in the above quote, was not directed at you personally. It was meant to be addressed to the newsletter title itself or the word "Ally".

The word "ally" is commonly used to form an alliance with two or more forces joined together in order to fight a common foe or rival. And since at this point in time, the Administration has not allied itself with the residents of this hospital, in our fight for all our rights and privileges as civil detainees and commitments, its not clear in the name of this newsletter, which rival group it has allied itself with. Now it's okay to take the high ground and be a newsletter that expresses the concerns of both groups or the good intentions coming from all good intending people, no matter if it's expressed by a resident or staff. However, words and language can be confusing, and what we (residents) don't need is to confuse ourselves or lose ourselves in words or language that soften our stance on what we are up against in negotiating our existence here in this hospital (not prison).

In my opinion, if this newsletter's objective and purpose is in the interest of taking that higher ground, which I believe it is, as expressed in the Editor's note on page 6, I suggest a name change. No one is above criticism, I take it constructively or otherwise, it's all food for thought to me. I am sure that this newsletter, and its Editor with time will gain more and more experience and their vision will grow warp speed. Personally, I feel that "The Ally" should be a business, it has good quality and great vision already. But again, and this is only my opinion, instead of "The Ally" my suggestion would be something like "The Civic Bull (TCB)".

If this publication is to be the avenue or vehicle for the strong voices amongst us (resident or staff), for or against, then let's keep it real. We are in the trenches here and we are fighting for things that should have been allowed to us from Day 1. These anonymous articles submitted by residents, praising members of this administration for little trinkets received thus far, gives far too much credit to those in authority over us (the captives). Remember: we are here for no crime. We should not have to fight or negotiate for any of these small convenient items that afford the comfort or our inconvenient stay here. We have the human right to be outraged against this double-jeopardy incarceration to which we have been subjected. Too many of us are beginning to feel like, we have to earn the appreciation of these staff members' kindness. I am not mad or living my days here in anger. I acknowledge the fact that I am a victim, I know what a victim is, I have created more than one in my past. You can call it "poetic justice" or "reap what you sow", but I'll be damned if I apologize for fighting for my liberty and fair-treatment.

Every resident and staff person should know, that we are here only because our liberty has been taken away from us. Nowhere else in this law is it written that we will be penalized against our properties too.

(Continued—See "Rasul" on page 19)

The GOLDen Rule... Take Two!

Submitted by Shawn O'Malia

I'M BAAAAACK! In a previous edition, I wrote an article titled "The GOLDen Rule". The words continue to ring loudly in my ears: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. My story continues: On September 18th, 2009, I received my second-level response from Sacramento regarding the confiscation of my jewelry. I filed on two separate issues: The classification of my jewelry as "contraband," and the mess made of the Denial of Rights process. I quote Sacramento's findings here in relevant part:

I. Regarding Jewelry: *The idea that theft of property constitutes threat to the safety and security of others is questionable. This line of reasoning could lead to the confiscation of virtually any property, as any personal property is potentially subject to being stolen. Title 9 §884(b) provides that you have the right to keep and use possessions as space permits except items and materials that are listed as contraband by the facility. "Watches, Rings and Miscellaneous jewelry" are not contraband. To the extent that A.D. 644 allows the confiscation of non-contraband property, it conflicts with Title 9 and is therefore problematic. Further A.D. 644 speaks of advising individuals "that the hospital is not responsible for loss or damage of personal valuables in the possession of the individual." (Section V.D.3) from this it clearly appears that the hospital anticipated circumstances under which individuals would retain control of their valuables. Also Title 22 § 71555(b) does not convey to the hospital the authority to take away the property from individuals, it merely requires the hospital to safeguard that property that has been entrusted to it by the individual. Finally, as you reside on an RHU rather than a Licensed unit, it is questionable whether the Title 22 regulations even apply.*

II. Regarding the Denial of Rights: *First, Ms. Ahlin's response appears to be internally inconsistent: She initially states that you were issued a Denial of Rights when your jewelry was confiscated and explains the reasoning behind this, then later asserts that a Denial of Rights is not necessary in this situation. As jewelry is not contraband and you did not voluntarily entrust it to the Hospital for safekeeping, it should only have been taken from you upon a finding of good cause and a Denial of Rights issued consistent with Title 9.*

In your complaint you state that you did not receive a Denial of Rights until five days after your jewelry was confiscated, the Denial of Rights was filled out improperly by HPO, it included no plan for restoring rights and it failed to describe less restrictive alternatives. In response to your complaint about the Denial of Rights, the Advocate wrote a detailed memo to Ms. Ahlin outlining those problems.

Based on the foregoing, I find that there is evidence to substantiate that your right to keep and use your own possessions has been abused, neglected, punitively withheld, or unreasonably denied by Coalinga State Hospital. This office will write to the Department of Mental Health and request that they address this issue with the hospital.

Those were the findings of the Investigator who handled this case. Now, consider a few additional details: First, property entrusted to the hospital for safekeeping is not subject to Denial of Rights. However, my jewelry was confiscated in March, and was not ordered into trust until August 27th; was my property not subject to a Denial of Rights in the five+ months between? Pam Ahlin's response attempts to cover up botched procedures by implying that the jewelry was sent to trust upon its arrival, thereby nullifying the Denial of Rights along with it's many violations.

Lastly, Sacramento's findings make it clear that the CSH Administration should, quite simply, return what is mine. But hold your horses, Cowboy! When I provided copies of Sacramento's response to the Unit Supervisor, she replied, "We are going to have to inventory it first." That was the last I heard.

Well, guess what, Pilgrims—We're back to square one, and here we go again, looking for someone—*anyone*—with the Huevos to do their job. But have no fear: I'm back in Sacramento, at the third and final level of the appeals process with my grievance resting in Dr. Stephen Mayberg's hands. I'll keep you posted.

6 Elections Recap

A DONE DEAL

Submitted by Ken Herman

The 2009 C.D.A.C Hospital-wide Elections are now a done deal. Personally, as well as in the role of the Elections Officer, I found the procedure and what actually happened to be "interesting".

This being the first hospital-wide election pursuant to the new C.D.A.C. By-laws, I didn't expect things to go 100% smoothly. That was a good thing, because they didn't! Ironically, I, both as Elections Officer and as a person, learned more from what didn't go smoothly than I learned from what did go smoothly.

I learned that some things need to be added to the by-laws so that the integrity of the election process is fundamentally protected. I learned about people – both candidates and general population – you revealed more of your character and what matters to you.

I also learned a little bit more about myself, so for me, the process and my involvement in the process was "worth it". I hope that the population in general feels the same way.

A note about the Administration and this election process. To the Executive Director's credit, the Administration really stayed out of our nominations, campaigning and election day process – except where the by-laws required the SLO to perform duties and when asked for qualification speeches to be recorded and shown on the PIN channel. The SLO, Ms. Kanaley provided logistical support, but the decisions about how to handle situations or problems that arose were our responsibility.

I want to acknowledge some of the assistance and support that I received as Elections Officer.

Andrew "Boots" Hardy served as Assistant Elections Officer. Robert Bates provided support & feedback as a Council of Six member who was not a candidate. The Council of Six & Unit Chairmen who didn't just appoint an elections officer, but also empowered & supported that position.

Not at all least in importance, the many of you who stopped me in the hallways and offered a words of support and or acknowledgment of the service.

So maybe this election process wasn't "perfect", however, it is time for the real work to begin, I hope and pray that the level of interest and effort, from so many of us continues so that our business is addressed thoroughly and timely.

THANKS!

Submitted By Steven Force

I personally want to thank the following persons for their efforts in making the November 4th elections such a resounding success:

Mr. Kenneth Herman, whose dedication, determination, and vast knowledge helped lead the gigantic task of deciphering the past patient bylaws and formulating the present. Ken spent numerous hours making solid inroads to improving upon past language, and working diligently towards the bylaws as ratified by the population vote last month.

Mr. Robert Bates, whose time and energy was greatly appreciated. Robert was instrumental in spearheading many of the changes necessary in making the bylaws a reality. The ratified bylaws inception could not have happened without Bob's help.

Mr. Michael Starrett, whose dedication to detail and vast amounts of time and energy was akin to the energizer bunny. Michael's help was invaluable and cannot be understated by this writer.

A special thanks to: Michael Seaton, Jorge Rubio, Carnot "No-No" Lyles, and the seated 6, for their time, energy, and dedication in making the by-laws a reality.

I watched from the edges of the elections on the 4th mindful of the great strides we, as a population, made on this historic day. I was pleased in noting a general self-acknowledgement amongst the patient population that we have come to a place where our collective voices could be heard.

Thank you to all. I hope that we, all of us, will someday look back on November 4th as our day, the day our voices reached the ears of the administration.

SOUNDBITES!

CDAC Officers Sound Off

In the aftermath of the 2009 CDAC Special Elections, the Ally caught up with a few of the victors—not a monumental task, given the size of our community—to get their reactions. Each of them had a few words for the voters.

Star Lopes, Contraband Advisor: *"Thanks to the population for your faith in me. I will dedicate all of my time to serving the needs of this population. If you need anything at all, I'm always here for you, so stop me in the halls or find me on Unit 3 anytime!"*

Michael St. Martin, Spokesman: *"I'd like to thank everyone for their support and for electing me. If I can pay back a portion of the support they have shown me by trying to improve our quality of life, I will do my damndest to get it done! We have a big fight, and we have a long way to go to get what we are entitled to. We need much support to win that victory. Thank you!"*

Eric K. Dannenberg: *"To those who voted for me, Thank you! To those who didn't, I hope to change your minds over the coming year. To the entire population, We will continue to fight these SOB's and force them to do the right thing."*

David P. Green, Health & Safety Advisor: *"I want to thank all the residents who voted for me and feel that I am able to do the job for which I was elected. I want to thank Brian Cooke for running a great campaign, and I want to let the population know that the door is always open for suggestions and ideas."*

QUOTES QUOTA

...On Public Duty

No personal consideration should stand in the way of performing a public duty.

-Ulysses S. Grant

Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less.

-Robert E. Lee

If we believe a thing to be bad, and if we have a right to prevent it, then it is our duty to prevent it—and damn the consequences.

-Alfred Milner

O hard, when love and duty clash.

-Lord Alfred Tennyson

To persevere in one's duty and be silent is the best answer to calumny.

-George Washington



CDAC: In Brief

GENERAL: CDAC's General Advisor, Daniel Cebada, is currently working on two items of importance to the CSH population: The creation of additional jobs in various areas for the hospital's long-term care residents; and the addition of regularly scheduled spiritual services for the hospital's Buddhist residents. Danny is open to additional suggestions and proposals, which can be dropped off during regular CDAC business hours at VE-181.

CONTRABAND: Since taking office in mid-November, Contraband Advisor Star Lopes has made a number of advances regarding CSH's contraband and allowables policies. Her first order of business was to establish and staff several subcommittees to deal with specific items, such as sports and musical equipment policies. Additionally, a number of items have now been approved for CSH residents, including personal pillows, table lamps for individual purchase, gloves of all types, etc. Another round of items remains on the Contraband agenda, including bathrobes and underclothing, state-issued khaki sweatshirts and sweatpants, projection devices, and more. Addressing the entire resident population, Star said, "Thank you all for your awesome support during the elections! The campaign season was a great opportunity to get even more input from our community, and I have taken every suggestion to heart. I feel very strongly that it is our community that empowers us. I will continue to do everything I can to serve as your hospital-wide Contraband Advisor."

HEALTH & SAFETY: H&S Advisor David Green is currently working on 5 proposals affecting all areas of CSH health & safety. Issues being addressed include access to condoms; the placement of emergency equipment in the GMR & gymnasium; the need for caution stripes around doors which open into the main corridors of the hospital; a request for eye-wash stations on all units; and restroom access on the Main Court Yard. Additionally, Advisor Green is currently staffing six subcommittees and is seeking volunteers in the following areas: Hospital Clinic; Patient Rights; Emergency Procedures; Public Health; Health Education; and Personal Health. "On a personal note, I want to thank all of the residents and staff who supported our efforts to educate our community and celebrate the lives of those affected by HIV and AIDS on December 1st. I especially want to thank Ori Cruz for being our sponsor and taking the time to make sure everything went smooth. I want to also thank Dr. Sandhu for allowing us to set up for World AIDS Day in the clinic foyer."

TREATMENT NEEDS: Chris Lawrence, CDAC Treatment Needs Advisor, is pleased to announce that his pledged "seven-part plan for success was implemented within 24 hours after taking office. I am now moving forward to further address your mental health and educational needs." Mr. Lawrence has already formulated and staffed four area-specific subcommittees: Assessment and Documentation; SOCP Improvements; Community Resources and Re-Entry; and Mall Improvement (Laubach Literacy).

CANTEEN & NUTRITION: In the short time since the elections, Advisor Eric Dannenberg has achieved an interim policy for hot meals on the unit. Present policy requires a doctor's order, but Eric is working to modify this to allow any unit staff to order hot meals for long-term care residents who are unable to attend the PDR. He is also working on: restoring previous vendors for coffee and breakfast juice; getting printed menus for alternative diets (vegan, pork-free, Healthy Choice, etc.); replacing Maxwell House coffee with Folgers at the store; dealing with Union Square Grille prices and portions. Eric has begun holding open meetings Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:00 in the Grand Meeting Room to discuss Canteen & Nutrition issues.

SEMENECK ADDRESSES CSH POPULATION

Submitted by John P. Semeneck, CDAC Secretary

When I ran for the position of Secretary, I did so on the platform of transparency, and that I would keep everyone informed as to what was going on. Since the CDAC Advisory Council took office on November 16th, things have been hectic and non-stop. There is now posted in the glass cases a copy of all of the proposals that have been submitted as well as their present status.

Devising the proper method to keep track of all of these—plus all of the memos and other related paperwork—has been an enormous task to say the least. If it weren't for the help and tireless effort of Ken Herman, we would be in much worse shape. Fortunately everything is now falling into place.

As to the advisors you voted into office, I must admit that they are working in an incredibly diligent manner to address all of the issues that are being presented. I went to the last Contraband meeting held with staff, and I was impressed with the way Star Lopes presented the issues. I think most of you will be pleasantly surprised at some of the items that Star got approved, as well as those that are in the pipeline close to approval.

I've heard a lot of rumors that the Spokesmen (and the rest of us for that matter) aren't doing enough, or are not doing it properly. Well, that's just bullshit, plain and simple. Everyone who was elected, plus Steve Force (Research Clerk) and Ken Herman (Records Clerk) are busy every moment they're in that office—which is not as often as we need to be. It seems like every time we're in the middle of doing something, we have to pack up and leave because a group is being held in our office and we have to vacate. (We are being told that, starting in January, VE-181 is going to be used as a classroom only as a last resort.)

I have never participated in any type of ward government in my eleven years in the DMH, and have in fact, been an outspoken opponent of them. But this is not a government—we are your elected advisory council—*period*. We do what you want us to do, not what we want to do. I mention this because of the few people

(Continued—See "Semeneck" on page 19)

Civil Detainees' Advisory Council

Michael St. Martin, Spokesman

Jorge L. Rubio, Spokesman

Phillip Martinez, Spokesman

John P. Semeneck, Secretary

Daniel Cebada, General Advisor

D. Star Lopes, Contraband Advisor

David Green, Health & Safety Advisor

Chris Lawrence, Treatment Needs Advisor

Eric K. Dannenberg, Canteen & Nutrition Advisor

Timothy Weathers, Activities Advisor

Kenneth Herman, Records Clerk

Steven Force, Research Clerk

WEATHERS KICKS OFF CSH ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Tim Weathers, CDAC Activities Advisor

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who supported me in the recent CDAC elections. I would also like to thank the people who ran against me and their courtesy during the elections. Mr. Carter, Mr. Zavala and myself are willing to work together for the better of the population, and they have taken important positions on Activities committees. I feel they can do a great job for our community. Thanks also to Rico Ramirez for all of his hard work and his continuous efforts to get new equipment. Alan Rigby and Frank Juarez have also stepped up and I want them to know that they are bringing a new freshness to all of the sports going on at CSH.

As far as sports goes, first of all, I will be in charge of the softball league. This year, I will not coach, play, or umpire home plate—except during the championship series, when I will ump. We will again have a draft, but this year we will have 18-20 games, depending on the number of teams.

As for activities, I have already started the paperwork for a few things. First, we'll hopefully have a pilot concert series like we had at ASH. Second, I contacted Darryl Mansfield and he wants to have a concert here in late March or early April. He is an avid softball and baseball player—in fact, he was once the Chaplain for the LA Dodgers—and I am thinking of tying the concert in with the opening of softball season.

[Writer's Note: I love my job!]

Finally, I have also started the appropriate paperwork for access to the softball field. It only takes one officer to run the main yard. I am presenting this to the staff as a pilot program for weekends only (to start) to see how it works.

Thank you again for all of your support. We will prevail!

On November 4, 2009, CSH held its first-ever hospital-wide elections to choose representatives it was felt could best represent the needs of the resident population as members of our Advisory Council.

According to the CDAC Bylaws, the Council is supposed to represent the hospital-wide agenda, including items that are generated at the program level, which would be the "resident population's business" [CDAC Bylaws, section III (F) (a-f) page 23], as well as those items that need to be addressed at the hospital-wide level by the Triad of Spokesmen, and which may call for "specialized duties that are required for the accurate and effective conduct of the resident population's business" [Section III, (F) (g)]. These duties require our reps to possess specialized knowledge of civil law and administrative law, and specific knowledge of negotiation relative to the particular rights of each person held as "Civily Detained" or as "Civily Committed" in an environment such as we have here.

Of particular interest during this next year will be the performance of these elected representatives and whether or not they represent our best interests, or just their own. So now they become the focus of a brand-new political watch. As part of this news column it will be the responsibility of this reporter to examine with a fine-toothed comb the activities of those who make up our Council—those who have entered into a fresh, pristine political era invoking every false promise and misrepresentation of fact imaginable, while looking forward to the false calling of protests, boycotts, and other devices that have already harmed the population, redirecting the thinking of everyone to gain nothing but notoriety for the person invoking these measures.

IN FOCUS

The focus of this column's debut are three of CDAC's elected officers in particular:

- Michael St Martin ■
- Chris Lawrence ■
- Star Lopes ■

Respectively, these three campaigned on promises and falsehoods that were not representative of truth, honesty, transparency, or the acquirement of knowledge needed during these "Critical Times" where our rights are at stake, and their knowledge in specific areas of law are sorely lacking, as are their skills and abilities in such areas as people management, the by-laws, council meetings, meetings with administrative staff, and effectiveness in governance—as witnessed by the false statements they presented during the campaign season.

First up:

Mr. Michael St. Martin: You are the focus of *In Focus*, and we will be reviewing your good and your bad over the next year of your service as Spokesman on the Advisory Council.

THE BAD:

Mr. St. Martin began the campaign season by gaining ground upon the issue that is most near and dear to the hearts and minds of this population, namely, computers and personal electronics.

He gained a sort of notoriety in 2008 by riding the coattails of Mr. Tom Watson of Unit 3. Mr. Watson was going to file a complaint to the Office of Administrative Law in his own name, but then acquired his freedom and filed instead on behalf of Mr. St. Martin. The document he filed challenged the nature of the Standardized Assessment Protocol used by the state's evaluators. For his part Mr. St. Martin did little research, rarely put pen to paper, and relied upon others to effectively fight a fight that he was made privilege too. He acted solely as the mouthpiece for the complaint, though, to his credit, Mr. St. Martin funded a large part of the complaint's costs. His name was affixed to the complaint essentially as nothing more than a proxy. When he went back to court he was unable to acquire his freedom because he lacked the knowledge needed to argue his case—which was based upon the OAL's ruling that the Standardized Assessment Protocol was an Underground Regulation. He lost and thus, upon his return to CSH, his voice was effectively silenced

for a period of time. How surprising is it that on November 20th, Mr. St. Martin appeared at the weekly Town Hall Meeting and declared that the case of *In Re Ronje* [see article on the front page] is a great boon for the population, and inferred that this supposedly wonderful ruling was an accomplishment of his own?

More recently, the Council of Six, together with the Hospital Wide Unit Representatives, planned to poll the CSH population to determine what direction the hospital, as a whole, wanted to take to address DMH's new regulations concerning computers and personal electronics. Mr. St. Martin, of course, was aware of the regulations several months before the DMH actually filed, having received notice directly from the Department; however, as he admitted to one of our own, he failed to notify the populace and instead he tucked this little nugget into his "bag of secrets." Having failed us in a time when we could've potentially derailed these "emergency regulations," he decided to use the device of holding up the count to bring good notoriety to himself, so that the truth of his failures would have no effect upon him. He has done a disservice to the population already, even before the transition of the People's business to the new Advisory Council; let's hope that there is no more misdirection or false representations to come during this critical time.

THE GOOD:

There is nothing good to report as of this writing because he hasn't done or had the chance to do anything of note, and his lack of skills (*other than his ability to move his lips*), does not lend credibility to his chances. He presents as a work in progress, where the bad thus far outweighs the good.

MIKE REPLIES: "If the author wants to mask his story behind anonymity until the last possible minute, why should I give him the respect of a comment when he won't give me the opportunity to know who I am defending myself against? If I have something to say, I don't hide until the last possible minute. You ask me a question, I answer it. I don't sandbag."

Next up:

Mr. Chris Lawrence: You are the focus of *In Focus*, and we will be reviewing your good and your bad over the next year of your service as Treatment Needs Advisor on the Advisory Council.

THE BAD:

During the recent campaign Mr. Lawrence represented to you that he had done great swelling things, all of which he did not do. For instance he stated in one of his position papers that he had been instrumental in getting electric razors for every resident placed in the units. **WRONG.** In fact it was Mr. Robert Bates who did the research and found out that, according to the Nursing Directives, every person must have his own personal razor. It was Mr. Bates' hard work that Mr. Lawrence claimed as his own, and then sold to you at his now-infamous Town Hall meetings, where he allowed Mr. St. Martin to tell you his infamous state secrets—which no one else seemed to know about—that for the most part were eventually found to be untrue or misleading. He was biased, and harbored personal agendas that he has carried over into his new position, where he wants you to believe that he is working for you. Even before he took office, he refused to abide by the ratified CDAC bylaws, ignores any opportunities for diplomatic solutions, and he is quick to call for strikes, boycotts, or anything else that can deflect away from his inability to perform his duties. At a time when ground has been gained concerning proper Clinical Assessments—which will have a significant impact on your freedom—his lack of knowledge and ability to deflect away from his failings and shortcomings could potentially—and very likely will—do irreparable harm to the population and the progress we had been making up to now. We need someone who understands the meaning and implications of such concepts as Clinical Psychosis versus the lack of psychosis in WRP Team assessments, as well as the legal aspects associated with diagnoses of false mental disorders. Mr. Lawrence's lack of any legal intellect whatsoever is a major deficit, and his inability to elaborate upon any issue with either clinical staff or clinical administrators will harm the population at a time when this ability is imperative. At this time more than ever, knowledge is power—and Mr. **(Continued, next page)**

Lawrence lacks it.

THE GOOD:

As of this writing he has not been able to cause any specific harm, but a year in office will tell the tale and we will keep a close eye on either his progress or his lack thereof. He also is a work in progress.

CHRIS REPLIES: "I want to convey my thanks to Mr. Bates, Mr. St. Martin, and the various spokesmen of the PCDG and the HWUR who helped facilitate the electric razors implementation into the hospital. At no time have I ever suggested that I was solely responsible for the implementation of the razors policy. However, anyone who has listened to any of my speeches has heard me repeatedly thank people for their assistance—including the entire population in a letter writing campaign to licensing which greatly aided in bringing in the electric razors. However, the author of this article has been very irresponsible in not coming to me to examine the actual written proposals which I furnished to both the PCDG and the HWUR; and he has neglected to inform the readers of my presentations directly to the administration on the issue of electric razors and that the final approval was granted directly to me in a meeting with the director of the hospital, most of the HWUR, as well as most of the administration officials. Furthermore, the staff member directly in charge of the implementation, Mr. Meeks, can attest to my persistence in this matter. If anyone has any questions, I

can be found either in VE-181, or on Unit 10, and I can provide them with actual documentation as well as the final proofs and corroborating dates in which this topic was discussed and finalized. I will also provide the supporting documentation and research that I conducted using the National Centers for Disease Control and the Mayo Clinic, which was instrumental in winning this battle to obtain electric razors."

Next up:

Star Lopes: You are the focus of *In Focus*, and we will be reviewing your good and your bad over the next year of your service as Contraband Advisor on the Advisory Council.

THE BAD:

During the campaign season, it was represented that Star would save your computers and personal electronic devices. Absent knowledge of specific constitutional and statutory law—namely the Fourth Amendment (regarding *property rights*, defined here as a state-created, *vested right*), as well as the Fourteenth Amendment Right (*Due Process of law*)—there is no possible way such an empty promise can be fulfilled. DMH has already moved on us, so it is going to take comprehensive legal knowledge, skill, ability, and meticulous preparation just to help keep what we already have. Posturing or threats of strikes, boycotts, or sit-ins will not save our property. Advisor Lopes is clearly the wrong person for this job. For instance, when approached by Mr. Jorge Rubio on an item that had been prepped by the HWUR (concerning new diabetic devices to help those needing relief from the finger sticks) Star went so far as to falsify documentation to make it appear that the item had been presented on the contraband agenda, when in fact it had not. There are many other examples of Star's short-comings and duplicity, but let's wait and see exactly what gets done—or does not get done—over the next year.

THE GOOD:

Advisor Lopes hasn't yet had the opportunity to do much. It is certain however, that the next year will reveal Star's true worth to the whole population, and which of the many personal agendas (which are certainly maintained) will be asserted. Like the others, Star is a work in progress and only time will tell the full story.

STAR REPLIES: "I didn't promise to save electronics—I promised to *fight* to save electronics. I have not stopped fighting yet, and I will *never* stop fighting for this population and the people who elected me to serve them. I have not falsified anything, and any allegations to the contrary are fabricated and deceitful. I am saddened and disappointed that there remains a small handful among us who would mislead the population and continue to sow division for their own selfish gain. My hope is that, as a community, we can come together, put an end to the divisiveness, and support our elected advisors and representatives—because we can accomplish so much more as a united body than we can when we are separate. As the saying goes: 'There is nothing that can't be done—if we use our voice as one.'"

It is the purpose of the *In Focus* political news column to educate each person of this hospital about those who say they are here to represent you. We will present the good and the bad, whether flattering or not. As always, the *Ally* will refrain from presenting a biased view, and must adhere to and maintain only the standards of truth, fairness and responsibility when presenting the news to its readers.

Because these elections were the first ever of their kind in the history of Coalinga State Hospital, and because the impact of these elections will ultimately be felt across all of the state's mental health facilities, it is very important that each of us become better acquainted with those that would step up to represent us as part of our Advisory Council. In the next column we will focus upon the bylaws and just what they have to say about the job responsibility of each person elected to that position.

Until the next edition of the *Ally*, keep learning, keep gaining, and strive hard to maintain your sense of direction in a society that honors good deeds performed by those who seek the best.

Respectfully submitted,

M.S.



10 Comic Relief

go right ahead...

knock yerself out...

laugh until ya pee!

I can't think of anything worse after a night of drinking than waking up next to someone & not being able to remember their name, how you met or why they're dead.

**My friend Larry went to jail for something he did not do.
He did not run fast enough.**

The American colonists said, "We discovered America's land & territories." Well, if that's true, then the next time I go to Court I'm gonna say, "Your Honor, I was exploring fire escapes and I discovered an Apartment, I planted my ass and my flag in the living room and now everything there belongs to me. A couple hours later, when these people showed up, I had every right to shoot them—they were savages!!!"

They say married men live longer. Truth is, it only SEEMS longer.

When Nancy Reagan was saying "Just say NO!" ...
...the CIA was saying: Just Fly Low.

I was driving along the street and saw a sign that said: CAUTION—SMALL CHILDREN PLAYING. I started to slow down, but then it occurred to me: "I'M NOT AFRAID OF SMALL CHILDREN."

I always give homeless people money and my friends yell at me,
"He's only going to buy alcohol and cigarettes."
And I'm thinking, "Oh, and like I wasn't."



WE IS FRIENDS!
Me and You is friends
You smile, I smile...
You hurt, I hurt...
You cry, I cry...
You jump off a Bridge
I gonna miss your E-Mails.

S	5	6	1	9	8			
U	4	8				3		
D			5			6		
O	6			4				
K	9							2
U			2			7		
		1			2			
		4				7		6
			7	8		2		9

[Solution on page 19]

CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT... YA GOTTA LOVE IT!

Monday:

Wednesday:

Friday:

M E M O

TO: Pam Ahlin, Executive Director
FROM: CDAC Spokesmen
RE: Landscaping Tools

The Landscaping Department has an urgent and immediate need for shovels and other digging implements. These items are needed A.S.A.P., along with diagrams detailing the most efficient and expedient tunneling routes to the nearest highways. We would appreciate it if the CSH administration could fill these requests at the earliest possible opportunity. Thanks.
Michael St. Martin

M E M O

TO: CDAC Spokesmen
FROM: Pam Ahlin
RE: Landscaping Tools Request

Very funny, guys!
But seriously... Aren't there more appropriate uses for the CDAC proposal process?

Sorry.

Pam

So what did she say, Mike?

Oh, she went off on another one of her irrational tangents again...



HANSON: STAY IN TREATMENT

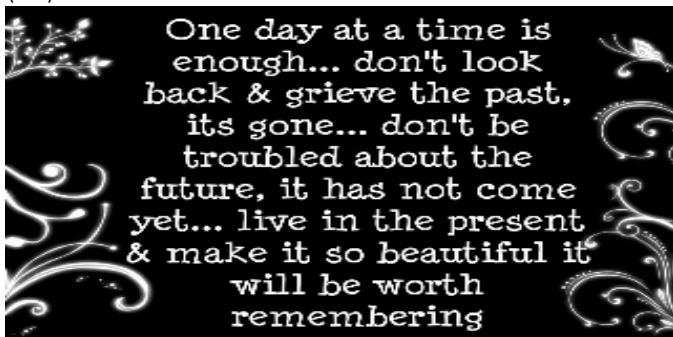
He did it before, he will do it again: Such is the belief of our society when it comes to sex offenders and criminals in general. It's a belief that is not necessarily true. In April's edition of the APA's Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 61 studies were reviewed and found that sex offenders have among the lowest recidivism rates...*period*. For the minority which do reoffend, deviant sexual preferences, criminal lifestyle and dropping out of treatment were the biggest risk factors.

Many studies have pointed out that recidivism rates among sex offenders are far lower than among other types of offenders. The United States Department of Justice cites recidivism rates around 5%; other studies cite figures as low as 3% and as high as 13%, depending on the length of time and the specific types of sexual offenses covered by the various studies. "This is an underestimate. Many offenses are undetected and the rates can only increase with longer follow up periods. Nevertheless, these findings contradict the popular view that sex offenders inevitably reoffend," said psychologist R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D., and Monique T Bussiere, Ph.D., of the Corrections Research, Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

"Those that did re-offend were found to have more prior sex offenses, deviant sex interests—being interested in boys and victimizing strangers—and had not completed their treatment," said Dr. Hanson. "Treatment programs can contribute to community safety. We now have reliable evidence that those who attend and cooperate with treatment programs are less likely to re-offend than those who reject intervention."

"It is only through a collective effort of past and future research that we can now improve our ability to distinguish between those sex offenders likely to re-offend and those who have stopped for good," said the authors.

Reference: "Predicting Relapse: A Meta-analysis of Sexual Offender Recidivism" by **R. Karl Hanson Ph.D., and Monique T. Bussiere, Ph.D.**, Department of the Solicitor General of Canada Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Vol.66, No 2. **R. Karl Hanson Ph.D.** can be reached at (613) 991-2840.



CHARTING / DISCIPLINARY BOARD

There is a proposal being pushed forward in the Phases which is trying to address unfavorable and negative charting procedures. As everyone of us knows, it only takes one angry staff person to go write 'What-The-Heck' in our charts... and not much we can do about it. Some of these reports can conceivably influence juries and judges adversely. The proposal is asking that a committee be formed which can hear and make decisions on items in our charts and have the power to drop the offending material from even getting into our charts in the first place. This committee would act very much like CDC's "Disciplinary Hearings". Dr. Virginia Greer, Senior Psychologist, believes that TEAM is a good vehicle for viewing charting issues and provides a vehicle for grievances. Mr. Jose Valencia, Clinical Administration said that while this seems reasonable, staff availability might be stressed given heavy work loads on all concerned. He will take this matter to the next Clinical Management Team when they meet.



INTRODUCTIONS

I am Billy Redding, and I have been asked to try and fill space in our *Ally* with information concerning Phases and SOCP treatment. Knowing that so many readers simply are not interested in Phase-related matters, this presents some rather interesting challenges to my days, let me tell ya... I am known to a small handful of readers. I have participated in just about every rally for a worthy cause in here, but I've never pretended to represent anybody other than myself and what I believe in: I am responsible for helping this community become a better place to be stuck in for the Next Guy. Of course, getting out is paramount for all of us—and I have my own legal woes on that score that I *could* bore all of us with... But primarily, when I get out of here, I will be a part of yet another community. I have learned a lot over the many years. I started doing time at age 19 in 1973 in San Quentin with 3-to-life and have been paroled three times since those humble beginnings; as a result, I have discovered that, whether I am in here or out there, I have changed and grown myself a bit of a social conscience—as well as a newly-discovered moral integrity to stand for something in whatever community I am a part of, inside or out.

The "issues" are what they are. Some are important and major and some seem trivial and minor, or the concern of a certain few with their own particular needs or agendas. I have little interest in most of the political slants of egos

here. As I said, I try to give my own ego a 'Step-Aside' and focus a bit more on what will I leave here for the man behind me who'll still be fighting his battle to get out. I only know that sitting on the sidelines and letting others stand up for me isn't right for me.

That's my introduction and I am no clearer on what to do with the opportunity and responsibility of filling my column with information that might spark interest in you readers. If you see me wandering aimlessly about, drop me a hint or two, will ya!?

THE OVERLAP

The following bits and blurbs are being reprinted from *Phase News*, the monthly PCLS newsletter, in a collaborative effort to keep Coalinga's population informed regarding SOCP matters.

Valentine's Event

If you have any interested visitors wishing to meet your Phase Facilitator and have a nice meal at one point during that meeting, sign them up for Valentine's Weekend, Saturday, February 13, 2010. We have requested to start at 0800 and finish the event at 1400 hours. We need your help in asking your facilitators to volunteer a bit of their day to come in and meet with our visitors. Ask your Phase staff to email Dr. Greer if they plan to attend. Look for flyers about how and what to donate soon. For more information or to sign up, see Mr. Billy Redding in the GGC.

An idea is developing for the meal on our Valentine's Event: Put the talents of some of our residents to work and make a "spread" that can enhance a more intimate and personal touch for our visitors.

STAFF RESPONSE: Dr. Greer believes this to be new ground that will set precedent if it is approved. Ms. Smith would like clearer details on what do we expect CSH to provide, to match funds, and other issues on this matter. Mr. Valencia will take this proposal to the next Executive Committee for discussion prior to approval. Mr. Bigot and Ms. Smith are preparing documentation on the Valentine's Event. Mr. Catano believes an alternative plan might be prepared in case this idea does not get administrative support. He suggests the possibility of outside catering as an example.

GOLDEN GATE CENTER

Several recent difficulties have arisen with the use of GGC computers where individuals who own their own PCs are working on computers necessary for people who do not have their own PCs. It is respectfully requested that if you own a computer, allow those who don't have one the use and time on GGC PCs.

12 Special Feature: Native Heritage

REMEMBERING INDIAN ISLAND

Andrew "Boots" Hardy

In 1860, the Wiyot people gathered for the last time on Indian Island, in the middle of what is now known as Humboldt Bay, in Northern California, to celebrate the renewal of the Earth. February: the end of winter, the prerequisite of spring.

They arrived at the island in canoes that seemed a mile long, shaped and crafted from massive, majestic redwoods. They carried their infants, sang songs to their children, laughed and told stories. They shared their history with each other, passing down to the younger generations the teachings that had been taught for thousands of years.

The first to arrive were the women and the children and the elders. Hunting parties would bring food and hides to the island in a day or two, or maybe three. The others would make camp on the island, preparing for the celebration of another year, a brand new season in its infancy, of life itself and the many gifts that the People had already received from Cherumdelidl, the Old Man Above.

My mom's grandfather was just a baby that year. His clan were the Bear River Wiyot, who made their home not far from Table Bluff. He would be one of the small handful of Wiyots who survived a brutal and bloody massacre that February.

In the early hours of the morning, the local militia made their way to the Island. The men came with guns and clubs and knives, and any kind of home-made weapon that was near at hand. They were fishermen, loggers, gold-crazed miners, army men from the fort, local merchants...

They killed indiscriminately. Unarmed women and children were killed as if they were enemy combatants on a battle field. Honored elders were torn from where they slept and murdered. Some were beaten to death, others shot or stabbed. The hunting parties were themselves tracked down and exterminated. On the island, a precious few managed to get away, including my great-grandfather, clutched in the desperate arms of his mother.

Seventy years after Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the state of California finally recognized Natives as human beings. By that time, Andrew Jackson "Jack" Spear, the man for whom I was named, had lived a life so full of accomplishments and achievements that I would feel very small and ashamed of myself
(Continued—See "Island" on page 19)

NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC REVIEW

NAKAI & EATON: Winter Dreams

Nakai & Eaton do an awesome job of blending traditional Christmas carols with traditional tribal sounds in this album. Combining harp-guitar with the melodic cedar flute, this CD gives listeners a whole new perspective on such timeless classics as Silent Night, I Saw Three Ships, and What Child Is This? plus seven more awesome songs.

NORTHERN CREE: True Blue

True Blue is an incredible album of traditional Pow-Wow songs recorded live at Red Mountain, performed by renowned GRAMMY-nominee Northern Cree. This new album takes fans on a roller-coaster ride of super-charged, cascading voices boldly proclaiming the traditions of their people.

SMITH, TOPPAH, & LANDRY: Rain In July

Louie Gonnig and Anthony Wakeman feature on Rain In July, an exhilarating recording that is rich in choral harmonies built upon the foundation of the vocalists' tribal backgrounds.

NAKAI & SARDE: Enter >> Tribal

This album is a passionate fusion of modern electronica well-blended with the traditional drums, vocals, and flutes of America's First Peoples. Enter >> Tribal provides fans with a window into the soul of the Peoples' heartbeat. Featuring talented artists including Delphine Tsinajinnie, Robert Tree Cody, William Horncloud, Blackstone, and Jay Begaye.

These albums and many more are available at Canyon Records: 800-268-1141.

INYANA POWWOW A RAVING SUCCESS!

Submitted by Star Lopes: Winkte, Inyana Circle

Friday, November 20, 2009, marked the Fourth Annual Powwow celebrating the diverse heritage of our Inyana Circle. This awesome Native American celebration was a great success!

Many months of hard work, intense dedication, prayer and preparation went into this event. Our Spiritual Advisor, Dr. Michael Raymond, deserves a very special "Thank You!" His unwavering leadership and guidance made it possible for our dancers (who all did a fabulous job!) to put long hours into their colorful, elaborate, and authentic dance regalia. He also worked diligently with the Administration to ensure that our guests were treated with the respect and honor that they deserve, and that all were treated to a very special meal, featuring Grandma Jewel's famous fry bread.

I also want to thank Elder Frank Enepi Sisneroz for taking the time to pass on and teach the ways of our tribal heritage to all of the members of the Inyana Circle. We will add them to the ways of our People and treasure them in our hearts always. You might be small, but in my eyes, you are a "giant powerhouse" full of wisdom and knowledge. Thank you, Enepi!

Special thanks also go out to our drummers, our dancers, our storytellers, flute-player Michael Languien, our set-up crew, our servers, and YOU! We are still receiving phone calls from the guests who came in, giving many compliments on all of the beautiful work that went into this joyful event. I also commend the resident population for the respect and courtesy shown toward our friends, family members, and supporters. Our guests were allowed to come into the facility and join us in this wonderful celebration, and on behalf of the Inyana Circle, I would like to thank you for that respect.

This event could very well be the key that opens the door for other family events here at Coalinga State Hospital. We are all looking forward to next year's Powwow, with the hopes that every year will see an even greater event than the year before!

HERITAGE *(Continued from page 1)*

part ignores the painful history of this continent's First Peoples and the genocide that nearly wiped out aboriginal races from the Arctic Circle south to lands far beyond the Yucatan Peninsula.

Differing perspectives on the historically brutal treatment of North America's original inhabitants has led to some division on whether Heritage Day is a positive step toward healing—or a really bad joke.

"Establishing Native American Heritage Day on the day after Thanksgiving is a slap in the face," said Jimmy Tree [Pomo/Hupa-Northern California]. "It's like saying, 'Let's celebrate Indian achievements on the day after we celebrate how close we came to killing off your entire race.' Next, our leaders should tell the survivors of Nine-Eleven that our country is going to have some celebration on September 12th."

Layne Johnson-Artry [Northern Cheyenne-Wyoming] sees things a little differently. "What our people have gone through—that's the stuff nightmares are made of," she said. "It's scary to think of what some Indians are going through even today. Some of our Elders are still living on reservations right here in America—the richest nation on Earth—without running water, without electricity or telephones. Sometimes our old people die and nobody knows about it for days or weeks because they live in the middle of nowhere, with none of the services that non-rural people take for granted... Maybe this new holiday is a good thing, I don't know. I mean, recognition of Indian contributions to our society is way overdue, for sure. But what we really need is a way to help our people out of welfare and poverty. We need programs to teach our people about diabetes. We need medical care for our elders and our kids, jobs and training programs on our reservations... There are just so many things we need that some new holiday can't fix."

"As all Americans know," Stevens says, "the United States often ignored its promises to Indian tribes, and in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries committed removal, land theft, economic destruction and devastation upon Indian nations. Further, the full impact of genocide upon Native Americans is scarcely known. Our original population in America was roughly 50 million people, yet by the end of the 19th century, disease, starvation, warfare, relocation and forced assimilation had reduced it to about 250,000."

Instrumental advocates for the passage of Public Law 111-33, Stevens and NIGA say that these atrocities are the very reason that Heritage Day is so important. "Sadly, American history does not acknowledge the legacy of hatred, prejudice and annihilation of the Native American people... While this is an unfortunate fact, Indians are a proud and humble people who continue to look forward with honor and dignity. Native American Heritage Day will serve an important purpose in educating the public about Native Americans...bring[ing] new honor and energy to Native art, performing arts, cultures and traditions, while steering us away from age-old stereotyping, racism, and misunderstanding... In truth, the new public law is a victory for all Americans."

SEX SELLS, FEAR PROMOTES

Submitted by Joseph Christner

With California in a financial disaster, can the state afford the current direction it is going? *No!* Which is why it is crucial that our state legislators and tax payers pay very close attention to California's Sexual Violent Predator Act. The nature of the SVPA has been misrepresented to society since its passage. The purpose of this statutory scheme is to involuntarily, indeterminately, "civilly" commit a citizen to potentially life-long imprisonment in one of the state's "psychiatric" lock-ups. But the citizen does not have to stand accused or convicted of any crime, and is not required to suffer from any form of psychosis or psychotic disorder. Imprisonment, or "commitment," is based solely upon the likelihood that a sex offender—who has already served his sentence and paid his debt to society—might possibly reoffend at some vague and distant point in the future. The "likelihood" predictions come from crystal ball assumptions, stripping God of his exclusive domain with politically- and financially-motivated declarations of what a human being's future behaviors will be, with less reliability than the weather forecast. The difference is that the state's fortune-tellers are the only ones permitted to take away a citizen's God-given, Constitutionally-protected liberty on nothing more than their say-so.

For this, California's tax payers have been duped into paying billions.

The state's legislature justifies the SVPA by placing committed citizens in what those detained call a "hosprison," where they are offered the Department of Mental Health's version of sex-offender treatment—nevermind the many studies concurring that long-term hospitalization dramatically hinders any type of recovery.

Since the program's inception in the mid-nineties, out of literally hundreds of participants, only nineteen individuals—*total*—have ever been released. And even then, after subjecting themselves to years of intensive, intrusive "therapy," each of the program's lauded graduates gained their freedom only after the courts stepped in and forced the state to release them. With treatment costs exceeding \$140,000 per
(Continued—See "Christner" on page 19)

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

From September 28, 2006

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

This is to respectfully petition for permission to form a place of refuge for those of us made homeless in the event that Proposition 83 passes this November. According to officials in your office, the number that will be affected by it will rise to 50,000 when police serve 'knock and notice' of the law's existence to everyone who comes under it. As the following will attest, without such a voluntary colony, the public safety of California could face devastating consequences:

Criminal defendants will not plead guilty to any offense where registration is required, escaping punishment and registration while remaining within the towns and cities on lesser offenses.

Most on probation will no longer have anyone nearby to supervise them.

Some registrants will undoubtedly become so discouraged by this measure that they will relapse and commit new crimes. Others have already threatened to do so, out of vengeance.

As many as half of all registrants, will disappear from the rolls, if Iowa's experience is any guide under a similar law passed there. Megan's Law in California would collapse.

Women and children in rural areas, where police resources are fewer, will be placed at much greater risk of harm as all of the cities' former offenders come to reside near them making the countryside into a place of terror...

...[S]ome registrants may secretly defy the measure and continue to live in the cities by stealth. What name will they go by, when they can no longer be found? What are they likely to do if discovered? ...When California has its next major public disaster, what
(Continued—See "Letter" on page 18)

Editor's Note: The following quotes are being reprinted from the Registered Sex Offenders' Forum, dating back to the passage of Jessica's Law. For more information, email: jake@calsexoffender.net.

How Much Do We Have To Pay?

"... after thousands of dollars, five years of weekly intense therapy and graduating, I have paid for my crime. I should not have to pay a second time."

Not everyone should be condemned for life!

"Why is it that no other law has affected offenders based on past offenses? If someone was convicted of murder before the death penalty was allowed, do they go back and seek the death penalty for someone who received a lesser penalty? As long as someone has served his time and paid his dues as the judge saw fit, he should be able to return to society and prove himself to be a productive citizen. He should not keep being condemned."

And justice for all?

"I was wondering whether or not this state has ever come out the Dark Ages, since this proposition is nothing but a modern form of witch hunting... Segregation of this sort has no room in our society, if we are indeed a democracy and a free country that believes in equality, justice for all... Who is next?"

May our children and our family have their freedom?

"We have paid for our mistakes and have served our time. May our children and wives have their freedom? We would like to be a family again."

Making the whole state into a prison!

"California: witch-hunting at its finest. Do we segregate people by the mistakes they made in prior years or are we now segregating for the most elite? Many thousands of people have paid the price for their mistakes and have worked extremely hard to get re-established so they can support their families and be accepted in society once again. Now, with this new proposition, it will destroy all the hard work and force their families to suffer for no reason. If this society keeps going like this, soon we'll just build a wall around California and make the whole state a prison. Where does it stop? Wake up California, it's the beginning of the Nazi segregation at its absolute best."

PROP 83 *(Continued from page 1)*

that out of the 6,800 registered sex offenders now on parole in this state, less than 350 will reoffend¹. Of that number, less than 170 have ever committed a crime involving a child². Of that number, less than 50 committed a crime against a child who didn't know them and trust them³. And, of that number, it's a safe bet that only a tiny fraction ever lived anywhere near a school or park where children congregate. Which means that, in a state of 36 million people, the "threat of recidivism" that Mennemeier cites appears statistically very small.

The law's restrictions are nonsensical, argued Ernest Galvan, attorney for the four paroled offenders challenging the law's retroactive application. "It is not rationally related to the harm the voters were trying to prevent," he said, noting that offenders may be restricted in where they can live, but there is nothing to prevent offenders from visiting or frequenting parks or schools.

Jake Goldenflame, author and registered sex offender, implies that the end result of Prop 83's residency restrictions will be to drive former offenders out of the cities in a kind of mass exodus. Goldenflame and others have long argued that the law is not only unnecessarily restrictive, it is cruel and inhumane.

Many fear that the court will find that the residency rules are to be applied retroactively, as encouraged by Mennemeier. Ex-offenders who committed their crimes decades ago will be forced to relocate. Thousands served their sentences and got on with their lives, and now have families of their own. Many are property owners who may lose their homes.

The Supreme Court is expected to make its final ruling by February.

¹ 6800 Parolees @ 5%

² Assuming 40% of sexual offenses are committed against children

³ Assuming 30% of child sexual abuse cases are committed by strangers

The misleading hyperbole of Mennemeier's statements to the Court leads the Ally to question his involvement with the case. Our state prison system stands only to profit from the proliferation of so-called tough-on-crime laws. The California Correctional Peace Officers Association threw buckets of money behind Prop 83, encouraging voters and taxpayers to send more people to prison, for longer sentences, at tens of thousands of dollars per head per year. California's prison budget nearly tripled between 2002 and 2007, ballooning to over \$12 billion. Why is Prop 83 being defended by a CDCR lawyer instead of the Attorney General?

MIKE CARRELL IS A BONEHEAD

Washington State Senator's Idiocy Exposes The Bull

Back in September, seven prisoners at Washington's SVP "hosprison", McNeil Island Special Commitment Center, were indicted for possession of child pornography. State Senator Mike Carrell, naturally, immediately jumped on the good ol' bandwagon.

Washington's SVP center falls under the Department of Social and Health Services. Twice so far, Senator Carrell has proposed new legislation to restrict McNeil Island residents' access to computers. And twice so far, Senator Carrell's proposal has dropped dead in the state House of Representatives. His proposal would limit computer access "by only allowing it if DSHS representatives deem it necessary for an individual's treatment..."

...Which is a bit like saying that nobody should be allowed to own a car because a drunk might get behind the wheel. Unless, of course, the government says its okay.

Senator Carrell said that, in working with DSHS officials, "I've learned that some residents have child porn smuggled in from the outside..."

Well, Senator, the Ally has some questions for you:

- McNeil Island's inmates cannot leave the facility. Who then, *besides the facility's own staff*, has the means to smuggle illegal pornography in to the Center's residents?
- You report that, over the last two years, more than one hundred charges have been filed against McNeil Island residents. Which leads one to wonder, How many DSHS personnel have been indicted for distributing the porn?
- How can these residents be charged criminally? Aren't you one of the people who justifies their incarceration by claiming that they are so mentally disordered that they can't stop themselves?
- Sex offenders are easy targets for fear mongers such as yourself. How can you claim that your proposed legislation--which failed in 2008 and 2009--is anything more than the same old political maneuvering?

Repeat: Mike Carrell is a bonehead.

LOOKING @ LARNED

Larned State Hospital in Kansas: The Mirror of CSH?

They are called the worst of the worst. They are convicted sex offenders who have served their sentences and have paid their debt to society. And most of them will never see freedom again.

They are just like us.

They are the residents of Larned State Hospital in Kansas, one of twenty states in the US that allows "civil" commitment of sex offenders after their sentences have been served. Like California, Kansas' commitment scheme provides for indefinite incarceration. And, also like California, Larned's officials say that their primary concern is to fuse societal safety with the rehabilitation of former offenders.

The comparisons between Larned State Hospital and Coalinga are interesting. **TREATMENT:** There are, of course, those who refuse the state-ordered treatment: about 80% of Coalinga's population, and Larned's total of three. **POPULATION:** Population density, too, is a stark contrast: Larned's residents number less than 200, while Coalinga's population is nearly five times that. **FINANCES:** Average cost per head at Larned is about \$100,000 per year; at Coalinga, cost per head exceeds \$140,000, with some of the more "medically-challenged" residents costing the taxpayers over half a million.

Nearly identical is the public relations campaign being waged by officials in both states. "We can offer all the treatment in the world, but until they make a decision that they want to change their behavior, it's not going to happen," said Austin Des Lauriers, Clinical Director at Larned, in a 2007 interview with Anderson Cooper. "There's no cure for sex predators... It's not something that can be cured in the sense that once it's a part of your behavior, you're always going to be capable of it."

Even still, more and more critics are seeing through the "Campaign of Fear" and are questioning many aspects of civil imprisonment. Dr. Fred Berlin, of the Johns Hopkins Sexual Disorders Clinic, told Anderson Cooper in a 2007 interview, "We need to get past the hypocrisy. You know, we have a situation where a man goes into prison. And if he says he's ill and needs treatment, the attitude is, 'Who is he kidding? He's trying to beat the rap.' Then he serves his time, and then 20 years later, at that point, we now say he needs treatment and we can't let him go... I'm very worried that when it comes to civil commitment, this could be a ruse for preventative detention, keeping people in prison longer when they've already served their time. And if we're going to do that, let's talk about it openly. But don't pretend it's treatment if indeed that's not the intent."

RONJE *(Continued from page 1)*

Pursuant to California's Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6600 et seq., people subject to civil commitment must first be assessed by two evaluators who must independently agree that the individual is so mentally disordered as to constitute a danger to society. Section 6601 specifically requires that these evaluations be conducted according to a "standardized assessment protocol." Standardizing the evaluation process should, in theory, create an efficient procedure by which the state can both identify candidates for civil commitment *and* protect the constitutional and civil rights of those persons being evaluated. If the state's experts agree that the person meets the requirements for civil commitment, the district attorney can petition the courts to incarcerate that person indefinitely.

Unfortunately, the protocol in use by the Department of Mental Health through August of 2008 was illegal, according to the Office of Administrative Law. Following a simple train of logic, then, any evaluations conducted pursuant to that protocol were also illegal.

Hundreds of civil detainees are being held across the state in county jails and at Coalinga State Hospital pending trial. Evaluations have already been conducted under the now-unusable protocol, and probable cause has been found, based upon those tainted evaluations, for these detainees' continued imprisonment.

Additionally, since the passage of California's SVPA in 1996, many hundreds more have been through the evaluation process, have already gone to trial, and have been handed what now amounts to a life sentence.

Pretrial detainees for the most part laud the Fourth District decision, saying that new evaluations may help them regain their freedom. Post-trial detainees, who have already received indefinite commitment to the DMH, express disappointment that the Ronje decision does nothing to grant them relief.

"The courts can fix procedural and due process errors before you go to trial," said one patient at CSH. "But once your trial is complete, any illegalities are simply written off as 'harmless errors.' The real heartbreaker in the Court's opinion is their finding that use of the underground protocol was anything but unconstitutional."

The Court recognized that "Involuntary commitment to a mental institution is subject to the due process protections of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution." The Court goes on to cite several cases, illustrating that "civil commitment for any purpose constitutes a significant deprivation of liberty that requires due process protection," and that "[a]n SVPA commitment unquestionably involves a deprivation of liberty, and a lasting stigma." [*Addington v. Texas; People v. Hurtado. See footnote for case citations.*]

However, the Fourth District opined that, "[W]e find little risk of an erroneous deprivation from use of the invalid assessment protocol. The 2008 OAL Determination...does not address the assessment protocol's accuracy or reliability..." Furthermore, "After a commitment petition is filed, the trial court must hold a [probable cause] hearing...where the person named in the petition has a right to counsel. If the court finds probable cause, it orders a trial to determine whether the person is an SVP under [W&I] Section 6600. *These procedures provide adequate protection against erroneous deprivation from the invalid assessment protocol.*" (Emphasis added.)

"Without a violation of due process, there is no violation of the constitution," said Michael L. Seaton, staff columnist for the *Ally*. But there is still hope, he explained. "These issues are still being fought in the courts by others among our population. The constitutionality factor will have its day in court."

Pretrial detainees are encouraged to contact their attorneys **(Continued, next page)**

(Continued from previous page)

and file a motion for new evaluations. Attorneys and pro per respondents can obtain the Fourth District's opinion from Westlaw:

In re EDWARD C. RONJE, on Habeas Corpus

2009 WL 3858606 (Cal.App.4 Dist.)

Opinion Filed 11/19/09

RONJE IMPACT ON CSH RESIDENTS: Already, private law firms and public defenders are working on filing motions for new evaluations and Probable Cause Hearings for Coalinga's WIC-6602 residents. CDAC's Research Clerk, Steve Force, has prepared a boiler-plate habeas packet that can be used by any pretrial detainee held under the SVPA. Included in the packet is a cover letter with instructions, a sample Form MC-275 habeas corpus, and a 7-page Ronje writ. Detainees filing on their own behalf will need to simply fill in the blanks and file the petition. Copies can be obtained at the CDAC computer VE-181 or through unit representatives.

SULLY UPDATES AT TOWN HALL: On Friday, December 11, Manse Sullivan appeared at Town Hall and spoke for 30 minutes, clarifying many of the issues and dispelling rumors surrounding the Ronje decision. Sully did the work and developed Mr. Ronje's motions, and knows the issues inside and out. He recommends that each pretrial detainee contact his attorney immediately and request that a "Ronje Motion" be filed.

New evaluations, combined with a revised Static-90 actuarial assessment, may be beneficial to many Coalinga residents, especially those over age 50.

Several issues have now come into play, Sully told the audience of about 140 residents. First of all, once probable cause is removed, then the petition process starts over. Secondly, at that point, all of the time constraints start afresh as well. The third issue, he said, is economics.

"This is the biggest opportunity we have right now. They gave us the keys—now let's find our way to the front door."

The evaluation process used to imprison citizens in state hospitals—not only in California, but in 19 other states across the country—has come under fire numerous times in recent years. Some critics point out the exorbitant compensation being paid to state evaluators—some of whom bill the state over a million dollars per year—for assessments. Some expect a major outcry as taxpayers learn that millions upon millions of dollars have been spent on civil imprisonment and SVP evaluations which have now been rendered essentially null and void.

FOOTNOTE: *This article, and all others like it, are published with the sole purpose of sharing information. The Ally encourages everyone to maintain contact with their attorneys and to be involved in their defense; however, the Ally does not dispense legal counsel or advice, and we assume no responsibility for the decisions made in any individual's case. If you have articles or ideas for the Legal Beagles, Inc., department, please submit them to any member of the Ally's staff, or feel free to drop them off at VE-181 during business hours.*

MEGAN'S LAW NO DETERRENT

In the state that gave the law its launch, a federally-funded study formed specifically to study sexual offenses concluded that Megan's Law had done little—if anything—to deter repeat offenses.

The report, released early in 2009, determined that sexual-offender registration laws in New Jersey made it easier to locate those suspected of new sex crimes; however, the study suggested that the costs of implementing and maintaining the registries may be unjustified, because there was no evidence to suggest—much less to demonstrate conclusively—that the law had any preventive value.

In 1994, a seven-year-old New Jersey girl named Megan Kanka was raped and murdered by a sex offender with two previous convictions. Since then, sexual offender registries have swept the nation, culminating in registration and community-notification laws in all 50 states. The estimated cost of implementing Megan's Law in 1995 was over half a million dollars; maintaining and updating the sex offender database costs the state about \$4 million. These funds, says public defender Michael Buncher, could be better spent on improving supervision of sex offenders and rehabilitating them prior to their release from prison—which, unlike Megan's Law, would increase public safety.

"There's no way to increase public safety other than to decrease the likelihood of these crimes taking place," said Kristen Zgoba, one of the report's lead authors and research supervisor for New Jersey's Corrections Department.

New York and Arkansas have recently seen reports with similar conclusions, the three states among very few to use hard empirical data—rather than primarily anecdotal evidence—to examine and evaluate the effects of sex offender registration laws upon public safety and the crime rate.

COMING NEXT MONTH:
The Ally reviews "Registering Harm," a special report from the Justice Policy Institute covering the failures of offender registries.

Opinion

The Case for Videotaping Interrogations

A suspect's false confession to a murder opened an officer's eyes.

By Jim Trainum

I've been a police officer for 25 years, and I never understood why some people would admit to a crime he or she didn't commit, until I secured a false confession in a murder case.

I stepped into the interrogation room believing that we had evidence linking the suspect to the murder of a 34-year-old federal employee in Washington. I used standard, approved interrogation techniques – no screaming or threats, no physical abuse, no 12 hour sessions without food or water. Many hours later, I left with a solid confession.

At first, the suspect couldn't tell us anything about the murder, and she professed her innocence. As the interrogation progressed, she became more cooperative, and her confession included many details of the crime. The suspect said she had beaten the man to death and dumped his body by a river. She said she made purchases with the victim's credit card and tried to withdraw cash using his ATM card. Surveillance video from the ATM showed a woman who resembled the suspect, and an expert said the signature on the credit card receipts was consistent with the suspects handwriting.

Even the suspect's attorney later told me that she believed her client was guilty, based on the confession. Confident in our evidence and the confession, we charged her with first degree murder.

Then we discovered that the suspect had an ironclad alibi. We subpoenaed sign-in/sign-out logs from the homeless shelter where she lived, and the records proved that she could not have committed the crime. The case was dismissed, but all of us still believed she was involved in the *(Continued—see "Interrogations" on page 17)*



Pardon My Metaphor

THE COALINGA COALITION?

A Call to Arms for Coalinga's Legal Wizards

Last month's submissions by "Mr. Amazing" and "Mr. Points" seem to have stirred up a lot residents, prompting people to proclaim, "Stop complaining and do something about it!" One of the suggestions inspired by our anonymous brethren was the formation of an organized coalition of legal-minded locals to collectively litigate such issues as conditions of confinement, the constitutionality of the SVPA, and other issues affecting the rights of civil detainees. Such a coalition could even coordinate with other legal teams in SVP hospitals across the United States on legal issues of national concern, and work collaboratively to effect a real change in the statutes. Every resident would have the opportunity to participate, whether by doing research or drafting motions and writs, or by donating copy cards and postage. What do you think?

THE ALLY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Since last July, the Ally has gotten bigger, growing in size, popularity, and support. As we expand, community interest also grows, and now we are at the point of bringing the Ally to the public. Numerous residents have offered their assistance and donations, and we now need to take you up on your offers!

First of all, we are currently compiling a mailing list to include contacts at county SVP tanks and Public Defenders throughout California, SVP hospitals across America, and others. Please submit contact names to any member of the Ally's staff at VE-181 or on their units, and include any pertinent information available—ID number or department, agency, street address, title, etc.

Secondly, we will be needing monthly donations to make sure our supporters get their copy of the Ally every month. We will need not only postage stamps and copy funds, but we also need your help in recycling monthly editions. When you finish with your copy, please return it to one of our staff so that we can send it to someone on our mailing list. You will be helping us save money, and you will be helping the environment as well!

Third, we'd like to appeal to the CSH community for the donation of a 4GB USB thumb-drive. We have already exceeded the space available on the 1GB thumb-drive issued by the hospital and need more storage.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Ally's success. There are all of those who contribute articles and letters, and the Executive Administration makes our publication possible by footing the bill for printing. Most of all, we would not exist without our community—THANK!

NETWORKING & CONTACTS

The following is a list of telephone numbers and web addresses that may be useful to California's civil detainees and their families and friends. These resources are oriented toward both civil and criminal cases. Readers may feel free to submit additional resource listings anytime. Good luck!

- Legal Aid Society of San Diego: Pro Bono Programs 877-534-2524
- Post-Conviction Justice Project 213-740-2586
Gould School of Law, University of Southern California
- Public Counsel Law Office (Civil Rights Issues) 213-385-2977
("The Largest Pro Bono Law Office in the United States!")
- Stanford Community Law Clinic 650-475-0560
- Legal Services of Northern California 707-445-0866
- PrisonNewsNetwork@yahoogroups.com

ADVICE COLUMN COMING SOON

Starting next month, the Ally will be printing questions and answers from residents who need legal advice regarding their cases. This will be sort of a "Dear Abby" for legal issues, and submissions will be printed anonymously. Questions will be answered by one or more of Coalinga's many legal minds and will be printed (space permitting) in each Resource Center.

RONJE CASE CITINGS

The following sources were cited by the 4th District Court in the Ronje case and may be of interest to those researching similar issues. Entries and citation numbers which include [---] reflect information that is not available at the time of printing. References are listed in the order in which they appear in the text of the opinion. Please refer any questions to your law librarian.

Statutory and Regulatory References:

- Welfare and Institutions Code Section 6600 et seq;
- California Code of Regulations, Title 1, Section 250;
- California Government Code Section 11340 et. seq. [the Administrative Procedures Act];
- 2008 OAL Determination No. 19

Case Law References:

- People v. Pompa-Ortiz (1980) 27 Cal.3d 519
- People v. Glenn (2009) --- Cal.App.4th --- [2009 Cal.App. Lexis 1714]
- Morning Star Co. v. State Board of Equalization (2006) 38 Cal.4th 324
- Grier v. Kizer (1990) 219 Cal.App.3d 422
- Tidewater Marine Western, Inc. v. Bradshaw (1996) 14 Cal.4th 557
- People v. Hayes (2006) 137 Cal.App.4th 34
- Abelleira v. District Court of Appeal (1941) 17 Cal.2d 280
- People v. Superior Court (Ghilotti) (2002) 27 Cal.4th 888
- People v. Superior Court (Preciado) (2001) 87 Cal.App.4th 1122
- Addington v. Texas (1979) 441 U.S. 418
- Vitek v. Jones (1980) 445 U.S. 480
- People v. Hurtado (2002) 28 Cal.4th 1179
- Mathews v. Eldridge (1976) 424 U.S. 319



CSH PUBLIC NOTICES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAUBACH TUTORS NEEDED!

We have a new and rewarding opportunity for residents to lift each other up and to come together as a community. We will train you to teach literacy using the world's largest and most respected reading program. Prior experience is desirable, but not required, as we will provide you with all of the tools you need to be a successful tutor. Laubach Literacy is an "each one teach one" program, and favorable charting will be afforded to all participants.

REWARD OFFERED

Most of the hospital has heard of the recent theft on Unit 4. Some low-life scumbag ripped off Kurt Parker for over a thousand bucks' worth of electronics, including a PSP, numerous memory sticks, UMD games and movies, etc. Kurt is one of the nicest guys in Coalinga, never says "boo" to anyone, and he doesn't deserve to get ripped off. Please—if you have his stuff, turn it in. If you know who has it, please let somebody on Unit 4 know. And if you're the sorry piece of crap who stole Kurt's stuff, be on notice: When (not IF) we find out who you are, you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: If you know who stole Mr. Parker's belongings, or if you know who has possession of them, you don't have to be personally involved. You can let me know, and I give my word, you will remain completely anonymous.]

VEHAR *(Continued from page 4)*

there for a week. Okay, now at least they are isolated. But wait! It gets better! They seem to have forgotten that the sick men are not bedridden or confined to their (new) cells. They are still sharing the dayroom (where they now have to eat their cold sack-lunch meals, since they are confined to the unit) still using the same toilets, sinks, showers, and air space as the other, uninfected inmates. The only time the sick men were “isolated” was when they were in bed. The rest of the time they were in constant contact with the unit population.

So, what was accomplished by this ill-considered, panic induced, knee-jerk, bed-swap decision? I’ll tell you. Let’s look at the results one at a time: (1) Healthy men were forced to move into an infectious environment; (2) Clean, ostensibly uninfected rooms were exposed to a highly communicable virus; (3) Sick men remained on the unit to mingle with and infect the other inmates; (4) The sick men were deprived of hot food, fresh air, and exercise for the duration of their “isolation”; (5) It was demonstrated conclusively that this Hosprison has no viable emergency plan to deal with an epidemic; (6) The CMO showed us that he is apparently under the ludicrous impression that diseases can only be passed to others when the infected person is in bed. (Where the HELL did he get a license?!!)

There is no doubt that this was an absurd, senseless decision on the part of the Hosprison Administration, so I’m going to go out on a limb here. I now say that *this* is the stupidest, most hare-brained decision that could ever be made here. But, hey, I’ve been wrong before. Maybe they’ll surprise me again. Stay tuned.

Part II: I’m Amazed Too!!

An open letter to “Mr. Amazing” regarding your article in the *October Ally*, with a P.S. to “Mr. Point by Point.”

I suspect that you are absolutely right. I didn’t do any time at any prison you were ever at. I did all my time on the Level II *Mainline*, so we probably never met. At the prison I was at, if you had an opinion, you expressed it and stood up for it. Everyone is entitled to have an opinion on any subject. Then people can decide for themselves if that opinion has any merit. But if we don’t know whose opinion it is, how do we know whether or not to give it any serious consideration? If an opinion is expressed by someone I trust and respect, I will weigh that opinion accordingly, and maybe even adopt their point of view if their argument is compelling. But if I don’t know where or who an opinion is coming from, how do I know if I should give it any weight? I will evaluate an opinion from Stephen Hawking, Nelson Mandela, or the Dalai Lama, differently than one from David Duke, Rush Limbaugh, or Adolph Hitler (gas-bags, all). I give differing weight to an opinion from Carl Marx than from Groucho Marx. An opinion is just an opinion, but the *holder* of that opinion determines if we give it any credence.

An anonymous tirade carries with it no weight, no influence, no impact, and no authority. This does not mean I necessarily agree or disagree with anything you said. It only means that I cannot give your opinion any validity because I don’t have anything to judge it by. When I have an opinion, I state it, stand behind it, and put my name on it. (See my article below yours in the *October Ally*.) It’s too bad you didn’t have the same courage of your convictions.

Point Number Two: You ask, “How come you dudes were not fighting for my right to have a computer a couple of months ago?” In response, I ask, “How come you were not fighting for your rights? At least ten different times in your article, you complain about “you guys” or “you dudes” not accomplishing anything. Not once do you state that you have ever tried to get anything done yourself. It’s easy to cry “Someone should do something!” when you’re standing on the sidelines doing nothing but complaining. You state that no one cared about your right to own a computer before. I ask, where have you been? If you cared about this issue, or any other issue, maybe you should have stood up and tried to do something about it yourself. Did you even bother to do that? Maybe you did, but I don’t know, because you hid behind your weak excuse of anonymity. If you had tried to do something about the computer moratorium/ban, you would have quickly discovered that are people working their asses off on this issue, and have been since the first days of the moratorium. Drop by the library some time. You will find groups of “you dudes” up to their elbows in legal work, law suits, appeals, writs, etc., on the computer issue. Maybe you could even offer to help, but I know that complaining and doing nothing is so much easier.

I am tired of hearing people whine, “You dudes have not accomplished squat!” when they themselves are doing exactly nothing on their own behalf. If you had ever tried to work within this system to effect change, then you would understand how difficult, frustrating, time consuming, and costly it is. “Those dudes” have been working for you and everyone else here for months (or years) without any help from you. Maybe it’s time you stepped up and offered help rather than criticism. “Those dudes” give of their own time (literally hundreds of hours every month) and their own money (copies, filing fees, court costs, etc.) everyday. What are you doing?

This is just my opinion, and my name is Paul Vehar

P.S. to “Point by Point” You make some very good points. Some I agree with, some I don’t. But that is a debate for another time. You wind up your “tirade” with the words, “Please do not take my word for it.” Believe me, I won’t, since I don’t know who you are.

INTERROGATIONS *(Cont’d from page 15)*

murder. After all, she had confessed.

Even though it wasn’t our standard operating procedure in the mid-1990s, when a crime occurred, we had videotaped the interrogation in its entirety. Reviewing the tapes years later, I saw that we had fallen into a classic trap. We ignored evidence that our suspect might not have been guilty, and during the interrogation we inadvertently fed her details of the crime that she repeated back to us in her confession.

If we hadn’t discovered and verified the suspect’s alibi – or if we hadn’t recorded the interrogation – she probably would have been convicted of first degree murder and would be in prison today. The true perpetrator of the crime was never identified, partly because the investigation was derailed when we focused on an innocent person.

The case was a turning point for me. Personally and professionally. I still work as a police officer in Washington, but I also teach a class on interrogations and false confessions, and I work with law enforcement agencies nationwide to help them prevent false confessions.

I’ve learned that this is a nationwide problem. Of the 220 wrongful convictions in the U.S. that have been overturned based on DNA evidence, nearly 25% involved a false confession or false incriminating statements, according to the Innocence Project. In each of those cases, DNA proved that the confession was false.

Threats and coercion sometimes lead innocent people to confess, but even the calmest, most standardized interrogations can lead to a false confession or admission. Those who are mentally disabled may be particularly vulnerable, but anyone can be dazed when confronted by police officers who claim to hold unshakable evidence of one’s guilt. ***Some confess to crimes to crimes because they want to please authority figures or to protect another person.*** Some actually come to believe they are guilty, or confess to do penance for some unrelated bad behavior. Innocent people come to believe that they will receive a harsher sentence – even the death penalty – if they don’t confess.

Videotaping interrogations is proved to decrease wrongful convictions based on false confessions. When the entire interrogation is recorded, attorneys, judges and juries can see exactly what led to a confession. Police officers become better interviewers over time, as they review tapes of their interrogations, and confessions are easier to defend in court. The only police officers I’ve met who don’t embrace recording interrogations still wrongly believe that recording interrogations will be logistically difficult and expensive, and that guilty suspect won’t confess if they know they’re being recorded.

More than 500 jurisdictions nationwide record interrogations, but only 10 states, plus the District of Columbia, mandate the practice. California’s Legislature passed bills in 2006 and 2007 that would have required interrogations to be recorded. Both were vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. A third bill died in committee this year. California legislators should not give up. They must make this issue a priority and pass legislation to make our criminal justice system stronger and more accurate.

It may be impossible to fully understand why innocent people confess to crimes they didn’t commit. What is undeniable is that some do -- and that we need to enact reforms to prevent more wrongful convictions and ensure that the right people pay for these crimes.

Jim Trainum is a detective in Washington’s Metropolitan Police Department.

MARSHALL *(Continued from page 3)*

responses that are useful.

In the near future, a new survey regarding Treatment Needs is going to be coming out. This one has been tied to a spreadsheet so that all the information gathered will be readily available to any department needing or affected by it. It is hoped that by getting the information out in this way to all involved, changes will be easier to make. If you receive a survey form, it is requested that you fill out all the information you can in an honest and respectful manner. Mr. Marshall commented on the fact that when inappropriate responses are submitted, it only fuels arguments that our opinion can be disregarded because we are not taking issues seriously.

Another project under way is the examination of the treatment programs provided here. Coalinga State Hospital is evaluating the programs it currently has in use here. Among the issues being reviewed are the length of time to proceed through Phase 2, non-SOCP groups that will address patient's dynamic risk factors, and other groups that might serve the needs of this population better. There is talk of examining alternative sex offender specific models to improve treatment. CSH has already conferred with state authorities on issues related to making the needed changes and are now working toward the development of new groups and programs.

The area that Mr. Marshall was the most enthusiastic about in our discussion was the Barriers to Discharge tab on the Wellness and Recovery Team Report. In the last few months, the Barriers to Change were developed as a means of addressing dynamic risk factors identified in evaluator's reports.

First off, for those of you who aren't up to speed on the terms (I was one), I will briefly define the two risk types. The first type of risk is the Static Risk. These are the factors involved in your past criminal acts and are used in assessments like the Static 99. Examples would be age, family history, historical factors, and other things that you can't do a thing about.

The other type of risk is the Dynamic Risk. Dynamic risk factors are things that can be changed through current action. Since the past is, unfortunately, beyond our reach, the only risk factor that you can change is the dynamic one. Dynamic risks include lack of empathy, intimacy deficits, poor social skill, and other things that you can change through so action.

For the hospital, the Barriers to Discharge is a guide to what they need to provide you to reduce your risks. The hospital acts in the interests of both the public (we're here because the public says that the risks in us being free are too high) and the interests of the patients (by providing groups that reduce our identified risk factors to improve our chances of being deemed an acceptable risk). Whether you agree with the risks as identified or not, the hospital uses them to help get you ready to re-enter society. If you have an identified risk, the hospital is obliged to provide you with the means (by groups usually) of reducing that risk. Even if you don't agree with the stated risks, it works to your advantage to take something that addresses it. If you don't have a problem there, at worst you have addressed an evaluator's claim. If you do have a problem, you might just learn something that will allow you to better manage your risks as identified.

One advantage from the patient's point of view to having the Barriers to Discharge on the WRT Report is that you now can work to counter exactly what the evaluator is saying you are at risk for. If the evaluation says that you have poor social skills, you can join any number of groups here that will improve your social interactions and provide you with a counter to the identified risk. If you return to court and have, for example, taken groups involving team sports, playing in a band, and the Reader's Theater, you will have something to show in response to the evaluator's identified risk.

Each item on the Barriers to Discharge tab is something that the evaluator's feel needs work. By utilizing this information, you have a tool that empowers you to make whatever changes you want to fight for your freedom. Many groups are offered outside of the Phases that can help people who are not interested in joining up. Each and every one of the dynamic risks that you address through some group or activity is one more thing you can use in your defense to respond to the evaluator's judgments.

In closing, I would like to thank Ernie Marshall for his time. If all goes well in the future, the *Ally* hopes to provide you with regular updates about changes being made and surveys that are coming out. Mr. Marshall is involved in a process of change to make this place work better for us. As we all know, change, especially in a government run facility, doesn't happen overnight.

Also, if the hospital sends out a survey, remember, the information you put on that survey can help to shape this place for us all.

LETTER *(Continued from page 13)*

will such rootless men do? Public safety requires a colony; but if the government created one, undoubtedly the term "internment camp" would be hurled at it. And should government not permit us to form our own, how long will it be until a terrified public demands our round-up and containment?

We must remember that the people affected by this new law have done nothing wrong. Whatever crime they committed previously was paid for, in some cases decades ago. They are being deported from cities only for having obeyed the law and registered, and nothing else...

...I am not asking for this [colony] merely for myself. Fortunately, I have the means to leave the state and reside elsewhere. Most of my fellow registrants do not, however, and since I have been the one who has urged them, often in conjunction with efforts by your own offices, to obey this law for ten years now, if its consequence is that we all be made homeless it seems only right that I stay with them and join them in such a colony.

As you know, I am in my 16th year of being re-offense free since returning to the community and I now conduct recovery workshops for convicted sex offenders inside prisons. I hold a law degree and am known to large parts of the community as a spokesman for recovery.

The Victims' Community has now offered onsite help and I will welcome its assistance.

California is too great a state to simply banish people who have obeyed the law and registered. Moreover, without such a colony, some of its new laws cannot become operational, such as its law placing many members under the supervision of a Sex Offender Management Board and another mandating placement of GPS device on some of our members. For, if we are merely made homeless, then when our GPS devices have to be re-charged, we will have no place to charge them; it would seem rather difficult to 'manage' people whose location is apt to vary from day to day, as there may be times when they cannot be found since they are in transit as permanent transients.

For all of these reasons, then, I pray that you, your successor and our legislature will accept this proposal and let good order continue in our state if this measure passes. I am available to discuss this matter with anyone on your staff, asking only that enforcement of this measure be stayed, if it passes, until we can have a place of refuge ready and supplied by emergency services.

Most respectfully submitted,
Jake Goldenflame, Registrant

Jake Goldenflame is a registered sexual offender residing in California. He is the author of a book meant to help parents and potential victims reduce their risk of sexual assault. This letter was published on the Internet and is being reprinted here in its current form, edited only for space considerations.

AD 818 *(Continued from page 1)*

anything that plugs into a wall socket or operates on batteries. Technically, a wrist watch could be considered a "personal electronic device." Not to mention televisions, DVD players, stereos, video games, fans... "Electronic media of any type" would have to include CDs and DVDs, thumb drives, SD cards, Memory Sticks and card readers... The list goes on.

But hold on a second, says one member of the CSH staff, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It's just a mistake in the wording." The staff member explains that Class 2 establishes what items CSH personnel are not permitted to bring to work with them, and stuff they can't give to a resident." It was further explained that this section has nothing to do with patients' allowable property, and does not address what is allowed in a patient's possession, which is governed by Classes 3 through 5.

Will the wording be changed? Chances are, it already has been.

George Maynard, one of the hospital's executive administrators, promised that the wording would soon be changed to reflect to actual intent of the administration. "This was meant to address what staff are allowed to bring in. This section has nothing to do with patient property issues. It's just a minor mistake in the wording."

CHRISTNER *(Continued from page 13)*

individual per year, one wonders if the existence of the Sexually Violent Predators Act is justified. Unwittingly entering the fray, the United States Department of Justice added to the confusion when it was found that, of all criminal categories, sex offenders have the lowest recidivism rates. It is quickly becoming apparent that the costs of this program and its duplicitous origins far outweigh any supposed benefits. You see, although the statutes require that DMH provide treatment to all citizens committed, there is no requirement that the treatment be *effective*. Treatment must only be consistent with "current institutional standards for treatment of sex offenders." The question remains, of course, *Whose standards?* The DMH's?

The civil commitment proceedings themselves bog down California's budget with enormous costs. Because there are no real time constraints for the completion of trials, and with trials being regularly postponed for years, these proceedings are costing tax payers millions without the individual ever being committed. Many of these citizens are in custody on unrelated, non-sexual charges—DUIs, property crimes, drug-related offenses; they are now categorized as potential SVPs for a sex crime they were adjudicated and punished for decades ago; they returned to society and went on with their lives, are no longer on parole or probation, and have completed their sentence—and yet their civil rights continue to be violated, because there is no statute of limitation on how far back the state can go to find a reason to commit.

Our society is being hampered, not helped, by this statutory scheme. People are rattled by *sex*, which sells, and *fear*, which promotes. Just ask *MSNBC*. Add to the equation a pronoun like "*PREDATOR*," and you just established a billion-dollar campaign. Our state's tax payers have their fears used against them, to back them into a corner, where they are forced to cough up their hard-earned money to pay for a program that protects no one. If our legislators' desire to protect our society was genuine, they would take a look at other states that have had success in rehabilitating sex offenders through programs that are more effective, more efficient, and run at a much lower cost.

RASUL *(Continued from page 5)*

In fact, what is written, is "less-restrictive". So, if that is part of the administrative policy, why do we have to fight or negotiate for that. Why do we have to thank these people for these little trinkets that we have a right to? We don't thank them for giving us food to eat, nor do we thank them for their state clothes, toothbrush, soap, etc. So tell me why we have to thank them for these things we have to buy ourselves with our own monies.

This is our existence we are allowing to be played with. These small items are no threat to anyone, yet we somehow feel overjoyed at getting little pieces of this, little pieces of that, when our aims should be much higher. Electing resident members to office should be about bringing concert shows to the hospital, negotiating joint-venture work programs with outside businesses, creating hobby-shop stores in the hospital to sell our Arts and Crafts, not tied-up fighting for these little toys.

For the majority of us, they create this lie of a mental disorder and attempt to put us away for life, after serving our time with no other crime committed, only out of fear for what we might do. They deny us the life of society, well we should want the life of society in here until we can win back our life out there. And once we become 90% dissatisfied with this cruel and unusual treatment, all of the above and more, we can have.

BILL *(Continued from page 3)*

treatment, spirituality. Like most of us, I am a fallible human being. If we print something in error, please feel free to present us with the correct information and we will make certain that a retraction is printed with the correct information.

I believe that the Ally is a great tool for us to come together and share information and thoughts. Mr. Hardy has created something that I believe we have needed and that hopefully in the future will become as important to us as any newspaper from the outside.

In closing, if you think of something that you would like to read about or have information of general interest, please pass the information on to one of us (I am on Unit 13) and we will see what we can do about including it. No promises, but we'll do our best.

I look forward to helping keep you informed.

SERVANTS *(Continued from page 3)*

whatever you do from here.

Thank you, Carnot "No-No" Lyles. Your honesty, energy and leadership have done wonders for this population. You have stepped up over and over again to fight for us all, putting your personal needs on a back-burner for the good of CSH residents, and I hope everyone appreciates what you have done for them as much as I do.

I can't speak for the population, but in my opinion, these three men, among others, deserve our gratitude, support, and respect.

SEMENECK *(Continued from page 7)*

who like to spread discontent. There are those who now say that one of the spokesmen should be Black. This issue is being given serious attention—lest anyone should start shouting "*racism!*" But the problem I have is this: Elections were held and there were Blacks on the ballot; from what I've been told, nearly as many Blacks voted as did whites, and lets not forget the Hispanic vote and the Oriental.

But the biggest problem I have with those spewing forth this divisive talk is this: If you appoint someone, it's no longer an election—its an appointment. That's what we had before, and no one I know was happy with the administration appointing those who should represent us. No matter how good a job they tried to do. That's what the elections were about: YOU—making your voice heard.

A memo will soon be out announcing that, in March, there will be amendments made to the bylaws. If you think something should be changed, put it in writing and submit it to me in VE-181. I will log every suggestion made, along with those given to General Advisor Daniel Cebada, and make sure they are posted weekly for everyone to read. Please keep this in mind: We are all wearing khaki, and I can honestly say that all of the people you voted for are so far doing the best they can.

I promised to keep you informed about what's going on. This seems to be the best method, and if Boots is willing, I'll try to write an update monthly—at the risk of boring everyone to death.

"Christmas is supposed to be the birth of Christ, right? What a paradox! Celebrating the birth of spiritual freedom in a place of worldly imprisonment..."

ISLAND *(Continued from page 12)*

were I to stand next to him. From the beginning of his life, he was regarded by the world around him as second-class, third-world, less than human: A dirty Indian. The ugliness of the times surrounded him. But he rose above the ugliness and spent his life creating and teaching.

Would the Carson Mansion be standing today were it not for the hands of Jack Spear? Would the town of Freshwater, California, exist without Jack Spear, its first settler? And what would I be if my mom had not sat at the feet of Jack Spear, soaking up the knowledge and wisdom of a quiet man of greatness?

I don't know. A million differences have long stood between my mother and I, but there is one story my mom used to tell us that will never leave my memory.

When she was a little girl, her "Grampa Jack" took her up to the widow's walk, a small room at the very top of the Carson Mansion. The grand old house still stands rooted at the edge of Humboldt Bay, a hundred and some years after Grampa Jack brought it to life. Its ornate Victorian peaks soar over Eureka, the beacon of another era thrusting skyward. Up in the widow's walk all those years ago, the four walls around my mom were mostly windows, and she could look out breathlessly into what seemed like forever. Looking far enough east, she could see tomorrow beginning to dawn; looking far enough west, she could see yesterday crawling into bed.

From their perch, Indian Island seemed right at their toes. Bear River and Table Bluff, to the south, were smudges on the horizon. The Trinidad Head, to the north, was a sweet invitation. To the east were the hills of Kneeland and, beyond, Berry Summit and Willow Creek and the peaks of the Coastal Mountain Range like protective sentries standing guard. "Look all around you," Grampa Jack told her, "and remember everything you see. Because all of it was once ours."

.....

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

20 Parting Glances

Some people come into
our lives and then
quickly go...
Others stay and leave
footprints on our
hearts that last
forever...
And we are never the
same after that.

A promise to our
fallen comrades:
We won't forget.

Memorial



Name	Passed
Robert Cloverdance	June, 1995
Carl Coleman	June, 1998
Jim Davis	June, 1999
Don Lockett	January, 2000
David Stansberry	May, 2000
Charles Rogers	May, 2000
Larry Goddard	June, 2001
Ed Samradi	June, 2001
Dean Danforth	July, 2001
Craig Bauwens	July, 2002
Wayne Graybeal	October, 2002
Donald Hughes	November, 2002
Lloyd Johnson	November, 2002
Robert Alperin	March, 2003
Tim McClanahan	March, 2003
Patrick Brim	March, 2003
Wayne Porter	August, 2003
Cash O'Dowd	December, 2003
Elmer Bock	May, 2004
Dave Goenick	August, 2004
Jose Vlahoitis	December, 2004
Corwin Weltey	December, 2004
Ross Washington	January, 2005
Richard Bishop	February, 2005
Alton Robinson	August, 2005
Robert Canfield	September, 2005
Jerry Sanchez	September, 2005
Gerald Brooks	November, 2005
James Aceves	July, 2007
Frank Valadao	November, 2007
Donovan Myrick	February, 2008
Paul Rael	March, 2008
Paul Pedersen	June, 2008
Kenneth Edmonton	January, 2009
Jimmy Guthrie	February, 2009
James Rosenberg	February, 2009
Charles Grecien	February, 2009
James Wallace	May, 2009
Jare Stevens	July, 2009
John Martinez	October, 2009
Delbert Smith	October, 2009
David Harney	March, 2009
Dennis Boyer	December, 2009
Ruben Garcia	December, 2009
Wilbur Perryman	December, 2009

Please help us keep this information up-to-date and accurate. Information and corrections can be submitted to the Ally at VE-181. Thanks to Tony and the Gulag News for sharing.



The Ally wants to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, with prayers and lots of hope for **FREEDOM** with the coming New Year. Our hearts go out to everyone who is being *un-civilly* detained, and to the families and loved ones of the men and women throughout California—and across America—who are being held as civil detainees. Our day will come, brothers! We just have to come together, work hard, and have faith. Let's all strive to keep our heads up, and believe that **JUSTICE** is inevitable.

Cory Koch Rob Bates **Doug Gains**
 Billy Redding **Bill Hester**
 Michael Seaton **BOOTS**

Coalinga's Premier Power-House Rock Band

the condemned

Comin' Atcha Live!

Saturday, December 19, 2009

3:00 PM in the Downtown Mall!

Rockin' the house again at the Quarterly Jam!
You don't wanna miss it!

Featuring:

Andrew Hardy (Guitar/Vocals), Don Hale (Bass Guitar),
 Red Ransom (Guitar/Keyboards), and JD Sheppard (Drums)