

Paper to PEN

A SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT FOR
THE CURRENT'S
INCARCERATED
READERSHIP

Dear Offender,

I've heard that you don't trust the media. I don't blame you. Crime sells newspapers like summer sells popsicles. Readers love to pore through the gritty details of your mistakes, and they love it even more when they read about how hard you've been punished. Reporters thrive off your arrests and trials; the cameras adore prosecutors and police chiefs. It's no wonder you perceive the news as unbalanced and exploitative. In pursuing their sensational headlines, the media forgets that you are a human being and much more than the sum of your crimes.

Allow me to introduce our publication: We're the *San Antonio Current*, what's called in our industry an "alternative newspaper." We've been called a "ragazine" and a "yellow newspaper" by our critics, but we see ourselves as a small staff of independent thinkers who write for other independent thinkers. We publish weekly and we're available for free on racks all over San Antonio and on the internet at Sacurrent.com, which I know you don't have access to at the moment. Like all media, we understand that writing about crime can be popular. However, we also realize it's even more in our interest to treat you with respect and dignity. With one in 20 Texans behind bars or on probation or parole — 152,000 individuals in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in 2006 — you're a population to be reckoned with. And if you don't mind me saying, you're also a valuable market share.

What you hold in your hands, however and whenever it may reach you, is what began as a project generically titled "The Jailhouse Newsletter." I think "Paper to Pen" is more poetic. It's our attempt to touch base with you, the inmate, and let you know what's waiting for you on the outside. Sometimes mailroom coordinators get a bit rude when it comes to the strip clubs who advertise in the back of our publication, so we've designed this special section to be mailed separately from the rest of the book. If you've only received these four pages, you should know that we're also pretty good at keeping folks up to date on film, music, and art.

So, what's waiting for you on the outside? To tell you the truth, the numbers are out to get you. According to researchers hired by our lawmakers, once you're released you have a 30-percent chance of being re-incarcerated within the next three years. If you're a juvenile offender, you've got about a 50-50 chance of getting sent back. Those numbers are down slightly from a few years ago, but they still aren't great, especially when more than half the time offenders are sent back for technical parole violations.

When you're released you'll also be facing life in a state where the governor doesn't want you to know that once you're off paper you're eligible to vote, as contributor Scott Henson explains in his legislative wrap-up. The good news is that Texas is at the forefront of a new movement called "restorative justice," which you can read about in my article about a recent conference in Kerrville. There are dozens of organizations willing to help you out, including the Texas Inmates Families Association, whose San Antonio chair wrote a step-by-step guide to creating a parole packet. We've also included contacts for some of these organizations you can write to for assistance from inside prison, or call when you've found your way back into the free world.

In short, the *Current* is waiting for you on the outside, and we're available at no cost in over 800 locations around San Antonio. We're looking forward to having you back.

Sincerely,

Dave Maass
Staff Writer
San Antonio Current
1500 N. St. Mary's St.
San Antonio, TX 78215

PS. Feel free to write to us if there's something you think we ought to know about how you're being treated by the system. Just make sure you seal the envelope and write "media correspondence" on the outside; under TDCJ policy our correspondence is privileged and confidential. We can't guarantee a response, but we do read everything we receive in our mailbox.

Cut pages 13-16 on the dotted lines.
For mailing instructions, turn to page 67.

Dear Inmate's Family Member,

If you've got a loved one behind bars whom you think would benefit from this special section, you can do one of two things:

- 1) Follow the mailing directions on the inside back cover of this publication and send it to him or her directly.
- 2) Contact me at djmaass@sacurrent.com or leave me a message at 210-228-0044 ext. 234. Be sure to give me the inmate's name and TDCJ number. We've set a little money aside for postage.

Thank you, and good luck.

Sincerely,

Dave Maass

CHUCK KERR

What did the 80th Texas Legislature do on prisoner issues?

BY SCOTT HENSON

This spring the 80th Texas Legislature decided to build three new prisons that will cost Texas taxpayers more than \$100 million per year to operate. But what did the lawmakers do to improve conditions inside existing Texas prisons? Tight finances and shifting attitudes converged this year and changed priorities in Austin, making possible several long-sought reforms that surprised many observers.

Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) and Representative Jerry Madden (R-Richardson) led the Legislature through a dizzying set of corrections-related reforms, including an overhaul of the state's broken probation system and diverting non-violent offenders from prison. Although Whitmire chairs the powerful Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and Madden is chair of House Corrections, ultimately the Lege accomplished less than it could have to reform the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, in part due to Governor Rick Perry's veto power.

Let's run through the legislative highlights for Texas prisoners:

Phones coming to Texas prisons:

Without question, the biggest legislative victory for most inmates was the decision to install phones in Texas prisons, at a minimum ratio of one phone for every 30 inmates. Security systems already used in federal and other state prisons will monitor conversations, restrict whom each inmate can call, and use biometric identifiers to enable officials to block calls by offenders with disciplinary problems. Not only should this feature help inmate discipline (because access to phones can be used as a good-behavior incentive), it will improve inmates' communication with the outside world about poor conditions, health problems, corruption, misconduct, and other prison problems. New phones should be installed and running by September 2008.

In-prison treatment should boost parole rates:

The Legislature approved nearly \$200 million in new treatment funding, including several resources for in-prison treatment programs, especially for repeat DWI offenders and drug-addicted felons for whom treatment is a condition of parole. Currently many offenders are ready for parole save completion of a mandatory treatment program but languish many months (sometimes more than a year) on waiting lists to enter these programs. Eliminating those waiting lists would make parole decisions more fair and predictable, reducing prison overcrowding and ensuring that prisoners won't spend long stretches still incarcerated after their parole is approved.

Rape-elimination bill creates ombudsman:

Another new law will allow the Department of Criminal Justice to appoint an ombudsperson to coordinate TDCJ's efforts to eliminate sexual assault in correctional facilities. Honestly, there's not a lot of meat on this bone thrown to anti-rape advocates. The ombudsperson has no staff, no funding, no formal power, and may only "monitor" and "coordinate" activities of others who aren't under the ombudsperson's chain of command, issuing an annual report on TDCJ compliance. Perhaps it shouldn't have been called the "rape elimination act," but rather "rape awareness act," because the best-case result will be that policymakers have more information about the problem; the first report will come out in January 2009. That's a good thing, since in 2004 Texas led the country in reported prison rapes (550 total allegations), according to a U.S. Department of Justice report. But let's not kid ourselves that an ombudsman will eliminate rape at TDCJ.

Good time restoration vetoed:

The Legislature passed a bill by Dallas Representative Terri Hodge, HB 44, that would have allowed TDCJ to restore good time taken away from offenders for conduct violations. Wardens and prison officials wanted the bill as much as prisoners' advocates, because the ability to restore good time is an excellent tool for influencing inmate behavior, giving TDCJ a carrot to use along with their well-stocked arsenal of sticks. But perhaps unsurprisingly, Governor Perry vetoed the bill, claiming

"this bill could endanger public safety by triggering early release of convicted felons who act out in prison."

You can vote when you're off paper, but the government won't tell you: In Texas, ex-felons can vote as soon as they are "off paper," or when their parole or prison sentences finally end. But laws on felon voting differ in every state, and a voting drive last year found that many ex-offenders don't know when or if they're allowed to exercise the franchise. The legislature passed HB 770 by Houston Representative Harold Dutton, which would have required TDCJ to notify offenders when they become eligible to vote and send them a voter-registration card. Unfortunately, Governor Perry vetoed the bill.

So prisoners won't be notified they can vote, but if you're reading this then you already know! Today one in 20 Texas adults are in prison, on probation or on parole — that would be a large voting bloc if each of them consistently votes when their supervision ends. So register and vote, or do so as soon as you're off paper. These new laws (and vetoes) show that who represents us in government really does matter. ●

Scott Henson blogs on Texas criminal-justice politics and practices at Gritsforsbreakfast.org.

Restorative Justice, Texas-style

BY DAVE MAASS
djmaass@sacurrent.com

Who can say when the phrase "Justice, Texas-style" was first uttered? What is certain is that since the state declared independence from Mexico 171 years ago, the term has become synonymous with swift, hard retribution, often accompanied by the cinder-block-splitting end of one of Chuck Norris's reverse roundhouse kicks.

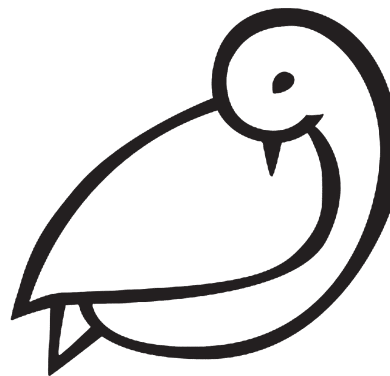
For the incarcerated, Texas-style justice may indeed feel like a kick in the teeth. Politicians (and since district attorneys and judges are elected in Texas, we include both in that category) sell themselves to voters with a tough-on-crime image, which often translates into cheap-on-rehabilitation policies and practices. The result: Slow case processing, trials weighted in favor of the prosecution, harsher sentences, overcrowded jails and prisons, a high recidivism rate, and so on, so forth, so what? After all, why should law-abiding citizens care about criminals?

In the last few years, a small but growing contingent in Texas has been pushing for a shift in criminal-justice priorities. While our current system of "retributive

justice" serves to punish and alienate offenders from society, "restorative justice" is an inclusive theory that aims to repair the harm inflicted on society through offender rehabilitation and victim reconciliation. Under this paradigm, the victim is at the center of the justice process, offenders are held directly accountable, and the community as a whole is urged to participate in the healing process, which is directed at both the victim and the offender.

In late June, proponents of this new approach held the first-ever National Conference on Restorative Justice at Schreiner University in Kerrville, of all places, and it wasn't just bleeding-heart activists behind it. Organized by the College of Public Policy at the University of Texas at San Antonio and the Source of Light Center at San Antonio's University Presbyterian Church, the conference featured speakers from across the nation and globe, as well as regional policymakers such as Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle and Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson.

"The most clear, distinct, measurable, internationally used and empirically grounded form of this movement is what I call 'restorative justice dialogue,' and that involves a process where the families most affected by the reality of crime and conflict — communities, victims, offenders, families — have the opportunity to come together to talk about the



A small but growing contingent in Texas has been pushing for a shift in criminal-justice priorities.

real human impact of this stuff," said Dr. Mark Umbreit, the founding director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking.

Many of the techniques embraced by the restorative justice movement — including victim-offender mediation, family-group conferencing, and community peacemaking circles — were developed in post-conflict countries, such as South Africa, which pioneered victim-offender mediation after the end of Apartheid through their "Truth and Reconciliation Commission." These techniques were further developed in international contexts, such as Irish-British and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts. Minnesota and Wisconsin are currently hotspots for restorative-justice initiatives, whether it be prison-based programs or reconciliation projects involving Liberian refugees.

Texas may indeed be the next vortex for the movement as professors at UTSA and St. Mary's University push for restorative-justice curricula and local officials add it to their priorities. As a result, in the next decade, Texas-style justice may become less Chuck Norris and more Nelson Mandela. ●

For more information on restorative justice, see the list of resources at the end of the special section.

Interview with a prison-rape survivor

BY JESSICA RAMOS
jnramos@yahoo.com

In September 2000, Garret Cunningham, then an inmate at the Luther Unit in Navasota serving time for a probation violation, says he was raped by a TDCJ officer. He was returning from work in the prison's laundry room and was heading for the showers when the guard allegedly knocked Cunningham off balance, pulled down his boxer shorts, and forcefully penetrated him. Afterwards, Cunningham told a Congressional committee in 2005, the officer threatened to have other officers file false charges against him and to transfer him to a more violent unit where he'd likely suffer the same treatment at the hands of inmate predators.

Although Cunningham complained to prison officials about the assault — itself the culmination of months of sexual harassment, which he'd also reported — no charges were brought against the officer until the next year, when another inmate reported a sexual assault and produced DNA evidence. Cunningham filed an official complaint in 2003, but investigators told him it was too late.

According to the national human-rights organization Stop Prisoner Rape, one out of every five male prisoners, and one out of every four female prisoners incarcerated in the U.S. prison system is raped.

Cunningham's story is similar to that of the Texas Youth Commission scandal in that both show that the perpetrators of rape in prison can be corrections officers, the individuals hired to guard and protect inmates.

Cunningham talked with the *Current* via telephone from his home in Amarillo about his experience in the Texas prison system.

Your initial encounters with [the officer] began with sexual harassment. Did you suspect his actions would lead to more violent behavior?

Oh, God no ... I never would have imagined anything like that would have happened ... During pat searches ... he always reached up and, you know, grabbed my groin. The first time he did it I thought it was an accident, but the second time I was like, "Whoa!" ... I'd already heard a lot of other offenders complain about it also. I was talking to the psychiatric department ... I complained about him for months ... They kept telling me they can't do [anything] about it ...

Do you think that intervention could have prevented your attack if someone helped you when you first reached out?

Oh, yeah. I definitely think it could have ... A program should be in place where [a report is filed] secretly. If you have a

problem with the officer and you're complaining about them, you go through certain people and they'll reassign you to another job, rather than complaining and being exposed all over the unit, which could cause more problems.

What kept you from immediately telling someone about your attack?

I was on this emotional rollercoaster. I had suicidal thoughts; I didn't want to live anymore ... You know, it takes a lot away from you as a person ... There were a bunch of feelings and emotions that I was having a hard time dealing with. I finally went back to the psychiatric department and told the psychologist what happened ... He got me a job change from the issue room, under [the officer's] direct supervision, to the laundry, which I was still under [the officer's] indirect supervision. So, I was still being subject to pat searches, sexual harassment, comments and stuff on a daily basis ...

You can't be compensated by the state for anything you've endured or receive any therapy or rehabilitation. How do you cope?

"I was on this emotional rollercoaster. I had suicidal thoughts; I didn't want to live anymore."

— GARRET CUNNINGHAM

[I founded a nonprofit organization] Pens Friends and Services. It provides resources for everybody all over the United States who is incarcerated ... [It's] a list of legal resources, after-care programs and pen-pal contacts ... So, if a prisoner wants a place he can get free books, or Bibles, or correspondence courses, he can write in with a request for a free booklet. Everything is free.

How do you feel about our culture's perspective on prison rape, specifically references made for humor purposes, for example don't-drop-the-soap jokes?

Before I went in, I heard the expression ... I really didn't think a whole lot of it until time progressed and things happened, I didn't find it a joke anymore. I don't think it's anything to laugh about ... It's kind of disgusting when you look at it, the overall view of society, their perspective of prisoners and how they should be treated.

Why do you think that brutality aimed at inmates isn't taken seriously? Do you feel that people look at it like it comes with the territory?

There's not enough exposure on it ... There's a lot of media that won't touch it ... I was going to get on Montel Williams, and he refused to touch it. Because I was a male, I guess I didn't matter. A lot of it is how the media [portrays prisoners]. You can tell by their body language when a newscaster is talking about a prisoner ... You catch a little glance or a smirk at their coworker.

After everything you went through, how are you doing?

I'm engaged [and have three kids] ... Life is great, and I don't take anything for granted anymore. ●

BOOK REVIEW: A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS

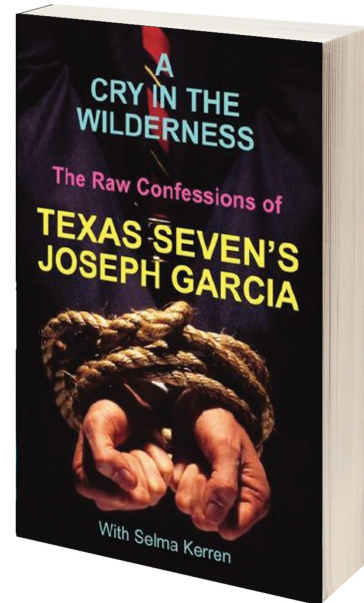
BY DAVE MAASS
djmaass@sacurrent.com

Over the last 10 months or so I've developed a bit of a reputation as a writer sympathetic to the plights of the incarcerated. On one hand, it's a blessing: I score interviews with inmates that the mainstream media cannot. On the other hand, it can be heart-breaking; at least once a month I receive a desperate request from an inmate asking for help writing/publishing their autobiography or novel. Most of the time I'm forced to write back that I simply don't have the time. Sometimes, however, I have to bite my tongue, as was the case last month. How do you tell an author that no one will ever publish a children's fairy tale written by a convicted child rapist?

And so, it was especially gratifying to receive a review copy of *A Cry in the Wilderness*, a self-published memoir by Texas inmate Joseph Garcia (TDCJ #999441). Originally convicted of murder in San Antonio in 1996, Garcia became one of the Texas Seven who made corrections history in 2000 by participating in a complicated jailbreak from the Connally Unit near Kenedy, Texas. The killing of an Irving police officer during the ensuing crime spree landed Garcia and five others the death penalty (the seventh committed suicide), and he is currently housed at the Polunsky Unit in Livingston.

With the help of California-based writer Selma Kerren, Garcia tells the tale of his troubled youth, adolescence, and young adulthood. The themes of the book will be familiar to many inmates: As the child of a drug addict, Garcia grew up unable to distinguish between love and pain, and crime became one of the few ways he could please his often absent and frequently negligent mother. He also describes how he lost his closest friend — his younger sister — who was ripped away from him first by Child Protective Services, then by cancer.

Overall, the strength of the book lies in the way Garcia's voice develops: The story is about losing his innocence, but the pro-



A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS: THE RAW CONFESSIONS OF TEXAS SEVEN'S JOSEPH GARCIA
By Joseph Garcia with Selma Kerren
Outskirts Press, 156 pages.

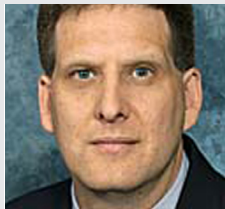
Mail Order:
\$12.95 plus \$4.10 s/h
Outskirts Press
10940 S. Parker Road #515
Parker, CO 80134

cess of writing seems to have helped him recover some of it. For the aspiring prison author, the book is a strong example of how well a memoir can turn out when an inmate finds a ghostwriter/editor/co-author on the outside. Kerren's voice, however, does intrude upon the larger narrative from time to time. Her position and influence becomes clear both in the introduction and postscript, where she lays much of the blame on Garcia's mother.

The plot concludes with an account of the murder that landed Garcia in prison, leaving the story of his prison time and the escape for, perhaps, a future installment. At 156 pages, the book seems incomplete without the story of the Texas Seven, but this omission may mean that the TDCJ Director's Review Committee, which judges the appropriateness of books ordered by inmates, won't ban the book if you try to order it from behind bars. ●



SHAKING YOUR HEAD: Normally, you see bobblehead dolls modeled after sports heroes — the Spurs, the Astros, the Cowboys. Now, thanks to the Texas Prison Museum in Huntsville, Texas inmates may too claim a place on Texas's most tasteless drivers' dashboards. The Texas Prison System bobblehead doll is available at the museum's gift shop for \$15.



MR. LIVINGSTON, I PETITION: Texas inmates are not the only ones frustrated with TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston. In late April, TDCJ employees started an online petition (Petitionspot.com/petitions/tcdj) to fire Livingston, formerly TDCJ's chief financial officer. "Remove the bean counter! We need representation that has worn the uniform!" the anonymous petitioners exclaim. So far only 38 employees have signed on.

Planning your parole packet

BY ROSIE CAMPOS LOPEZ
WITH DAVE MAASS

You can increase your chances of parole if you start putting together a parole plan — a packet of information arguing your case — at least six months prior to your first eligibility date. Parole plans aren't mandatory, nor do they guarantee you'll earn parole, but parole-board members have told me that a plan does help inform their decisions. A plan allows them to efficiently recognize all of your accomplishments and all of the support awaiting you on the outside. Remember, parole is a privilege, not a right.

As the mother of a son who's been incarcerated for the past 15 years, I researched parole packets on his behalf and met with attorneys — only to learn that their fees ranged from \$5,000 to \$15,000, with no guarantee of success. At that juncture I realized that there were many families like mine who could not afford to go that route. I decided to do the job myself, and for the last eight years I've helped many inmates and their families construct parole packets for a fraction of the cost.

No two parole plans are alike, however. I speak to an offender's family to collect the details of their case and situation, and I discern what needs to be included in the parole plan, in what order. My son's parole pack, for example, is split into eight sections, and contains nearly everything that could possibly be presented to the parole board. Here are a few elements you may consider for your own (or your loved one's) parole pack:

PREFACE

In addition to a table of contents, the parole plan should begin with a short summary of the information contained within.

In my son's pack, the preface is half a page, typed, and single-spaced.

LETTER FROM THE OFFENDER

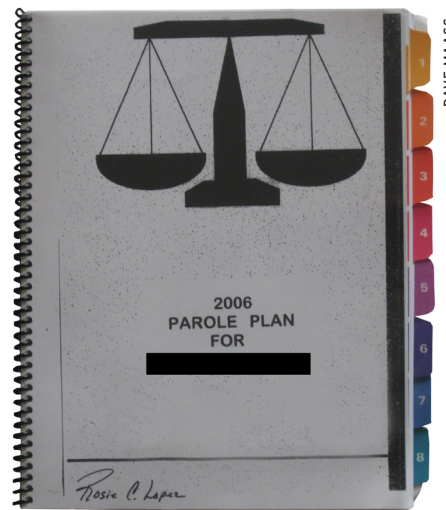
Every offender should write a letter to his assigned parole board, which is comprised of one board member and two commissioners. (You're assigned a board based on the region where you're serving your time; find out which board will look at your case by visiting Tdcj.state.tx.us/bpp or writing to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, P.O. Box 134501, Austin, TX 78711.) Board members I've spoken to say this letter is the first thing they read. In the letter, discuss your accomplishments and the support waiting for you outside. Most importantly, talk about the remorse you feel. But stick to the crimes you were convicted of; you don't want to open another can of worms.

"TEN FACTORS"

I've identified 10 factors that a parole board is most likely to consider in parole deliberations. My son compiled a short "fact sheet" addressing the following issues with one paragraph each: 1) his criminal record, 2) his personality, 3) the adequacy of his parole plan, 4) his attitude towards work and ability to earn a living, 5) his family status and other "constructive associates," 6) the type of residence and community he'll be living in, 7) his history of alcohol and drug abuse, 8) his mental and physical health, 9) his conduct record in prison, and 10) all other factors specific to his circumstances.

EMPLOYMENT

If you can get an employer to promise you a job in advance of your parole, your parole board will be impressed. However, a letter on its own may not be enough. I've offered my son a job with my own company, and so the board doesn't doubt the legitimacy of my claim, I've attached proof, including photographs of the business along



Lopez's eight-tab parole plan for her son.

with a copy of the company's registration.

EDUCATION

You should include your level of education both before and after you were incarcerated. The parole board may not take your word for it, so be sure to include copies of certificates, diplomas, and transcripts.

AWARDS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

You should definitely include the results and certificates from any treatment programs you enrolled in while incarcerated, such as anger-management and substance-abuse therapy. You'll also want to include any certificates you earned through voluntary education or job-training programs or correspondence courses — basically, all the positive activities you participated in during your incarceration, including religious study. I've included in my son's packet the first-place ribbon won by his prison volleyball team.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

You'll want to include letters from individuals on the outside pledging to help and support you in your transition to the free world. Most importantly, incorporate letters showing that you've been offered a place to live and assistance, both moral and financial. For example, if a family member is willing to lend you a place to stay, help you with transportation to work or school tuition, definitely include that letter. A recommendation from a state legislator or other public official may be attached, but it's unnecessary. As one parole commissioner recently said at a Texas Inmate Families Association meeting: One strong letter from a family member is worth more than a stack of letters from senators. My son's pack includes letter from his grandparents, his two brothers, his wife, and me.

PHOTOGRAPHS

If you've got photographs that show the best parts of your life on the outside, you may include them in the packet. A picture speaks a thousand words, and often a good image will leave a lasting impact in the mind of a board member (who has to consider hundreds of offenders each week). My son's pack includes 11 pages of color photocopies of photographs of our family, including his childhood Boy Scout outings, his brother's wedding, and Polaroids of our family visiting him in prison. That's a lot, of course, but I hope to show the Parole Board what type of family my son came from and will be going back to. ●

Rosie Campos Lopez has been the San Antonio Chair for the Texas Inmate Families Association for the past six years. She also helps families put together parole packets for their incarcerated loved ones for a small fee. She may be reached by mail at P.O. Box 27664, San Antonio, TX 78227-6664.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

GOVERNMENT

TDCJ Correctional Institutions Division
Ombudsman Office
The ombudsmans deals with issues from the public relating to secure facilities and any specific concerns regarding offenders confined in TDCJ facilities.
P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, TX 77342
Phone: (936) 437-6791
Email: ci.div@tdcj.state.tx.us

Representative Jerry Madden
Madden is the chair of the Texas House Committee on Corrections.
Room CAP GN.7
P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768
Phone: (512) 463-0544

Senator John Whitmire
Whitmire is the chair of Senate Committee on Criminal Justice.
P.O. Box 12068 Austin, TX 78711
Phone: (512) 463-0115

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Bridges to Life
This faith-based nonprofit's mission is to reduce crime by reducing recidivism.
P.O. Box 19039 Houston, TX 77224
Phone: (713) 463-7200
Website: Bridgestolife.org

Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking
The Center encourages mediation between victims and offenders and the involvement of the community to restore justice.
University of Minnesota
1404 Gortner Ave, 105 Peters Hall St.
Paul, MN 55108
Phone: (612) 624-4923
Email: rjp@umn.edu
Website: Rjp.umn.edu

Restorative Justice Initiative
The organization focuses on victim impact and offender accountability, as well as a dialogue between the two.
Marquette University Law School
P.O. Box 1881 Milwaukee, WI 53201
Phone: (414) 288-7924
E-mail: yolanda.toral@marquette.edu
Website: Law.marquette.edu/jw/restorative

Restorative Justice Ministry
Network of North America
The organization creates a dialogue among citizens, church and criminal justice leaders, and influences government policy.
1232 Avenue J, Suite 360 Huntsville, TX 77340
Phone: (936) 291-2156
Email: esolomon@rjmn.net
Website: Rjmn.net

INMATE ADVOCACY
Texas Inmate Families Association
This organization provides support to the families of inmates and can act as an intermediary with the criminal justice system and state government.
P.O. Box 300220 Austin, TX 78703
Phone: (512) 371-0900
Email: tifa@tifa.org
Website: Tifa.org
San Antonio Phone: (210) 680-3505
Email: santonio@tifa.org

Stop Prisoner Rape
SPR is an organization that seeks to end sexual violence committed against men, women, and youth in all forms of detention.
3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel: (213) 384-1400
Email: info@spr.org
Website: Spr.org

Texas Innocence Network
TIN focuses exclusively on investigating claims of actual innocence raised by inmates in Texas or elsewhere.
100 Law Center Houston, TX 77204
Telephone: (713) 743-7552
Email: innocence@central.uh.edu
Website: Texasinnocencenetwork.com

Texas Civil Rights Project
TCRP's prisoner-rights attorney Scott Medlock investigates civil-rights claims on behalf of Texas inmates.
1405 Montopolis Drive Austin, TX 78741
Phone: (512) 474-5073
Email: questions@texascivilrightsproject.org
Website: Texascivilrightsproject.org

OTHER
Offender Preparation & Education Network Inc. (OPEN Inc.)
A correctional service agency that prepares offenders to adopt a socially responsible and personally rewarding lifestyle.
P.O. Box 472223 Garland, TX 75047
Phone: (972) 271-1971
Email: info@openinc.org
Website: Openinc.org

Prisonersolidarity.org
Prisonersolidarity.org facilitates communication between prisoners and people on "the outside." It publishes updated research, news, opinion pieces and educational material from activists, writers, prisoners, and the concerned public.
P.O. Box 422 The Plains, OH 45780
Email: prisonersolidarity-owner@yahoo.com
Website: Prisonersolidarity.org

Pens Friends and Services, Inc.
The organization provides inmates and former inmates with a number of resources including free contacts and educational materials.
P.O. Box 4076 Amarillo, TX 79116
Website: penfriendsservices.com

The Prison Show
Broadcast on Houston Pacifica Radio KPFT 90.1 FM on Friday's from 9:00 to 11:00 PM, Ray Hill's prison show reaches Texas prisons in Walker, Brazoria, Galveston, Ft Bend, Liberty, Montgomery and Harris Counties.
P. O. Box 3624 Houston, TX 77523
Phone: (713) 523-6969
Email: hillray@sbcglobal.net
Website: Theprisonshow.org

The Prisoner's Literature Project
PLP is an all-volunteer project that sends free books to prisoners all over the United States.
C/o Bound Together Books
1369 Haight St. San Francisco, CA 94117
Phone: (510) 332-2120
Email: prisonlit@yahoo.com
Website: Prisonersliteratureproject.com

SAN ANTONIO CURRENT

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT FOR THE
CURRENT'S INCARCERATED READERSHIP

Paper to PEN

HOW TO MAIL THIS ISSUE TO AN INMATE

1. Use scissors to cut along the dotted lines on pages 13-16.
2. Reverse the cover so that this page is now on the front. Insert pages 13-16 inside.
3. Fold in half along the dotted line below. Using small strips of tape, seal the newspaper where marked.
4. Address it to the offender. Make sure you include the inmate's TDCJ or SID number. To track down an inmate, you can use the TDCJ's search system online: 168.51.178.33/webapp/TDCJ/index2.htm

For addresses of TDCJ units:
Tdcj.state.tx.us/stat/unitdirectory/all.htm

Bexar County Jail:
200 N. Comal, San Antonio, TX

5. Important: Apply regular mail postage.



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