Rahsaan “New York” Thomas: [00:00:00] My name is Rahsaan Thomas, sports editor of the San Quentin News, and this episode of Ear Hustle contains language and some very violent content that some listeners may find disturbing. This is about prison life, and sometimes, upsetting things happen. Discretion is advised.

[00:00:18] [Beep, phone ringing]

Susie: [00:00:23] [Over the phone] Hey y’all, my name is Susie, and I’m calling from Austin, Texas. I am a formerly-incarcerated woman. My question for y’all is this: what is the one misconception about prisoners and/or prison that you wish the greater public did not hold? Or what is a myth about your existence or daily prison life that you wish you could debunk? [Phone beeps, echoes]

Earlonne Woods: [00:00:48] Hey, Susie! Thanks for tapping in with us, and congratulations on being a formerly-incarcerated person. We’re going to get your question in just a moment. [Theme music begins] You’re now tuned in to San Quentin’s Ear Hustle from PRX’s Radiotopia. I’m Earlonne Woods. I’ve been incarcerated for 21 years, and I’m currently housed here at San Quentin State Prison in California. This episode, we’re going to answer a few questions from our listeners. [Theme music continues]
Earlonne Woods: [00:01:41] This is our “Catch a Kite” episode, where we answer questions from listeners. “Kites” is prison slang for sending a message. We do this every season in response to your questions in letters, postcards, and emails. But this season, we’re doing it a little different. A few months back, we put out a request and asked listeners to call and leave a message with a question, and we got a gang of responses. At least 150, all the way from Australia, South America, and of course, these United States. My co-host Nige is out this week, she’s in the midwest getting her photography exhibition on. The work is called *Nigel Poor and the Men of San Quentin*, and it’s up at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Be sure to check that out if you’re in the area. Me and Nige worked on this episode together, but since she’s not here now, I’m going to be flying solo. [Music stops] Well, almost solo.

Rahsaan “New York” Thomas: [00:02:37] My name is Rahsaan Thomas, otherwise known as New York.

Earlonne Woods: [00:02:41] Rahsaan helped us out with some of the interviewing. He also took a crack at answering some of the questions. Some listeners might remember him: he’s the guy with the record for the slowest marathon ever run inside of San Quentin. [Chuckles] [Sound of onlookers cheering]

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:02:53] It took me six hours, 15 minutes, 23 seconds. So I got the longest marathon time ever at San Quentin State Prison. [Laughs] [On the mic post-marathon] I survived. I’m still alive. Lieutenant thought I couldn’t do it… [Fades out]

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:07] [Laughing] Alright, back to Susie’s question that we heard at the top of the podcast.

Susie: [00:03:11] What is the one misconception about prisoners and/or prison that you wish the greater public did not hold?

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:20] Well, Susie, I’m not trying to avoid your question, but I’d like to think that on every episode of *Ear Hustle*, we try our best to debunk as many misconceptions about prison life as we can. Hopefully, in today’s episode, we’re going to debunk some more for you. Let’s get started. [Chopped phone noises, industrial whirs]
Chris: [00:03:42] [Over the phone] Hi, this is Chris from Somerville, Massachusetts, and I was wondering, what is the strangest or most inexplicable thing you’ve ever seen in your time in prison? Buh-bye. [Phone beeps]

Earlonne Woods: [00:03:53] Thanks, Chris. I’d have to say the craziest thing I’ve ever seen was a burglary taking place in prison. [Jaunty cinematic starts] It was back in like 1993, and a bunch of guys was looting the package room, and the last guy to come out had a big old TV in his hands. And the police just so happened to be walking up at the same time, and he was like, “Hey, what are you doing?” And the guy just looked at him, dropped the TV, and took off running. [Laughs] I don’t know where he thought it was running to, but it was the funniest shit I’d ever seen. That’s the first thing that comes to mind, but in my 27 years of prison experience, it hasn’t all been something that I can laugh at. I’ve seen stabbings, shootings, beatings, deaths. I’ve seen a lot. But I’ll tell you: I’ve never seen anything quite as brutal as what Trevor once saw.

Trevor Woods: [00:04:50] I seen a… an attack on another person. And what was strange about it, he didn’t attack him with a knife or an object or nothing like that. He had a potion. And what I heard the potion consisted of was baby oil and Magic Shave. You know that gold-and-black can Magic Shave? And he mixed them up, put ‘em in the microwave, and called his victim and threw it on him, burnt the whole half of his head off almost. I was like, “Wow.” And it stuck to him. And you know, it’s not like you’re getting stabbed, you’re trying to get something off you, you know what I mean? He was trying to get it off, and it was… there was nothing he could do. So I looked at him briefly and I just turned off and went about my business, ’cause it wasn’t my business. But I saw it take place. And then I just looked at it for a couple of seconds and walked off. So it just is what it is, you just gotta watch your ass in here, that’s all. [Music starts]

Earlonne Woods: [00:05:50] By the way, just so you know, Trevor’s my brother, and my current cellie. [Music continues]

Andrew Hardy: [00:06:04] [Voices in the distance] The strangest thing I’ve seen since I’ve been in prison...

Earlonne Woods: [00:06:07] This is Andrew.

Andrew Hardy: [00:06:08] …Is living in a dormitory and seeing five men sitting side by side, on toilets, with their pants down, doing their business, carrying on conversation, with no privacy, barriers, or anything standing in between them.
Earlonne Woods: [00:06:21] [Music stops] Yeah, kind of a shitty deal there. Here’s Bootsie.

Anthony Bootsie Coleman: [00:06:27] The strangest thing I’ve seen in prison? Oh, there’s a lot of strange things. I seen condoms of the wall today. That’s strange to me. I was assuming that we was in a man’s prison, that having sex with mens is a violation, and why would you put condoms to have sex with a man?

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:06:48] So you didn’t just think that they just didn’t want you to get the women here pregnant?

Anthony Bootsie Coleman: [00:06:52] I don’t… I believe that that’s a rule violation too. So, to have sex with anyone is violating the rules. So why would you give me something to break the rules?

Earlonne Woods: [00:07:08] Okay. This needs to be explained. There’s a condom dispenser in the education building, right across from where the CO sits. There’s also one on the stairs, and a couple of others sprinkled out throughout the institution. I don’t know what they’re being used for, all I can tell you is that those dispensers get empty, and then they get full. Here’s Rahsaan again with some other prisoners.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:07:36] What’s your name?

Lawrence Udukobraye Pela: [00:07:37] My name’s Lawrence Udukobraye Pela.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:07:40] What is the strangest thing you’ve seen since you’ve been in prison?

Lawrence Udukobraye Pela: [00:07:43] So, we get in our lunches this bologna that’s not real bologna. And I seen a guy open the pack and I was thinking he was gonna put like the bologna on his sandwich. He didn’t do that. He took the bologna out the pack and drank the little juice that is filled up at the bottom of that little plastic, and he slurped it up like it was schmackin’. It was the craziest thing I’d ever seen in my life.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:08:13] Ernie Cuadras, what is the strangest thing you’ve seen since you’ve been in prison?

Ernie Cuadras: [00:08:16] So I walk into the restroom, and you know, it’s a dorm, so there’s a couple of pods sitting there. And I go, and I know this guy, I know this cat. He’s a cool dude. I go, and I go and mess with him. I flush the toilet. And he’s sitting there, he
goes “Ahhh,” and I’m like, “What?” He goes, “I’m trying to get my shit out.” I was like, “Yeah, I know, I realize that, and I helped you, I flushed the toilet.” He goes, “No.” He pulls his hand up and he’s got his glove on. And he’s trying to get out what he stashed. [Laughs] So I look at him and I was like, “My bad.” [Sound of toilet flushing, door shutting]

**Thomas Ford:** [00:08:53] My name is Tom Ford. Strangest thing I’ve seen since I’ve been in prison is an inmate putting on a captain’s uniform and walking out of patrol of the level two yard into the parking lot, getting into a truck, and driving off.

**Rahsaan Thomas:** [00:09:15] You saw that?

**Thomas Ford:** [00:09:16] I was that. [Both laugh, hard]

**Rahsaan Thomas:** [00:09:25] How long did you manage to stay free?

**Thomas Ford:** [00:09:27] I managed to stay free for four months, returning with a write-up of being out of bounds. [Jagged synthy music]

**Earlonne Woods:** [00:09:39] Oh man, that sounds like a story right there. We’re gonna have to ask Tom to come back and tell us a little more about that one. But, we don’t have time to get into it now. We do have time for a few more of these questions.

**Pat:** [00:09:53] [Over the phone] Hi, this Pat from Nebraska. Here is my kite: Does all of the laundry go into one big batch to be washed and distributed randomly, or do you have your own designated clothing? I hope you don’t have to wear someone else’s undies. [Phone beeps]

**Earlonne Woods:** [00:10:08] [Laughs] We’re going to get to the undies. Nice one, Pat. Now this is one of those good crossover questions, ‘cause no matter where you live at, you gotta do your laundry. But of course in prison, we’ve got our own way doing it. I asked Rahsaan about this in a roundabout way. [Speaking to Rahsaan] So, how do you shower, Rahsaan?

**Rahsaan Thomas:** [00:10:31] I typically get in the shower wearing my t-shirt, my boxers, and my socks. The water hits me like that, and then as it starts to hit me, I kinda wash the clothes as if they’re part of my body. And then I soap ‘em up real good, and I take them off and rinse them out and ring them out. And then I’ll definitely have a clean pair of underwear for the next day.
Brian Asey: [00:10:51] Sometimes I wash my clothes in the shower, and sometimes I wash them in a bucket. It all depends on how I feel.

Earlonne Woods: [00:10:58] That’s Brian Asey. He works on video down in the media lab with me and Rahsaan.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:11:04] So when you wash your clothes in the shower, how does that happen?

Brian Asey: [00:11:08] Well, I get in the shower, I take my underwear off, and then I wash them.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:11:14] So you don’t wash fully dressed?

Brian Asey: [00:11:17] No. I take off my underwear and then I wash my underwear.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:11:22] How many people shower at the same time as you?

Brian Asey: [00:11:26] Well, usually when I shower everybody get out the shower, so. [Laughs]

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:11:30] Why does everybody get out when you get in?

Brian Asey: [00:11:32] I don’t know. Why don’t you tell me, ‘cause I don’t know why. [Laughs]

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:11:36] Have you noticed that most people, when they shower, they shower with their boxers on, and you shower with your boxers off?

Brian Asey: [00:11:42] Yeah, I noticed that. That’s probably why everybody get out, huh? Yeah.

Earlonne Woods: [00:11:49] When guys in San Quentin don’t shower naked, it’s not just because of lack of privacy, or ‘cause they’re doing their laundry. There’s something else in the water. Here’s Adrian Johnson, but we call him AJ.

Adrian Johnson: [00:12:00] You have these guys called “Shower Sharks,” right?

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:12:05] What is a Shower Shark?
Adrian Johnson: [00:12:06] A Shower Shark is a person, uh… I’d like to say they’re predators. So they like to overtly and covertly scrutinize men, you know… naked. But I know everybody has their preference, right? So I respect preferences, and whatever they into they into. It’s just that.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:12:33] Would you go ahead and keep your boxers on though?

Adrian Johnson: [00:12:34] I keep my boxers on, man, ’till I get out, you know?

Earlonne Woods: [00:12:40] [Laughs] Alright, Pat, you asked an innocent question about laundry, and you ended up with Shower Sharks. Go figure. But we’re not done with your laundry question yet.

Travis Westly: [00:12:50] My name is Travis Westly.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:12:52] So, talk about creative ways of washing your clothes in certain prisons.

Travis Westly: [00:12:59] I’ll say often times most people don’t have buckets. So what they do is take some form of cleaning agent, whether it’s disinfectant or soap, and they scrub the inner part of their toilet, rinse it out a little bit, and do their laundry in their toilet for their big stuff like your pants, your jackets, your sweatpants, stuff like that. But for the smaller stuff, you can clean your sink out. Like t-shirts, boxers, socks, stuff like that. I could see how it would come off as unsanitary [Laughs], but unfortunately we’re creatures that must adapt to our surroundings, and I think that was something I would still do today if I needed to do it.

Earlonne Woods: [00:13:40] Not everyone here does their own laundry.

David Ditto: [00:13:44] My name is David Ditto.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:13:46] And how do you do your laundry?

David Ditto: [00:13:47] Well, I use the state laundry. So I basically put my dirty clothes in a bag and drop it off at the entrance of the building, and it comes back about four or five days later, clean and in the bag.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:14:02] Have you ever lost anything with the state laundry?
David Ditto: [00:14:04] Yes, for sure. Sometimes the laundry bags get worn out, they’ll get holes in them. And you can lose something small like a sock, couple socks, maybe a pair of boxers, but sometimes a hole just gets ripped in the cycle and you just get an empty bag back. So you do lose some laundry for sure. [Music starts]

Earlonne Woods: [00:14:24] Okay, we’re still not done with laundry. Hygiene’s a top priority here, and we spend a lot of time on our clothes. Now Pat, you asked if we wear other people’s undies, and as much as I wish we didn’t, it happens. To get more on that, we took a stroll over to what’s called the laundry exchange.

Various Voices: [00:14:49] [“Two sheets, pillow case, and a towel,” “More more more,” miscellaneous inaudible chattering.]

Shawn Garth: [00:14:57] We’re the clothing exchange and we service new arrivals. New arrivals get here, we give them the clothes that they are authorized to have. You get two pair of blue pants, two blue shirts, three t-shirts, three pairs of boxer briefs, three pair of socks… [Fades out]

Earlonne Woods: [00:15:10] Shawn’s been in prison about 30 years, and he works down at the laundry exchange.

Rahsaan Thomas: [00:15:16] What’s the most difficult thing about your job?

Shawn Garth: [00:15:19] When there’s nothing in here to give out, everybody wanna have attitude and get upset. If the warehouse doesn’t have it, it’s not gonna be here.

Voice: [00:15:30] Sheets, towel, pillowcases only.

Second Voice: [00:15:33] Oh, sheets, towel, and pillowcases only?

Voice: [00:15:37] Yeah, come on.

Second Voice: [00:15:38] I don’t have any of those.

Voice: [00:15:40] You got a towel in your hand, and you got sheets right here. You don’t have any of them?

Second Voice: [00:15:42] These are clean, I…

Voice: [00:15:44] Okay, alright, fine. Alright, next! Next!
Second Voice: [00:15:46] You don’t have no socks or…?

Voice: [00:15:47] [Overlapping] Next! Come on, next!

Second Voice: [00:15:49] When are you gonna have socks and underwear?

Voice: [00:15:52] Come on, next. You’re holding the line up. [Dial tone echoes]

Kerry: [00:16:00] Hi, this is Kerry, I’m calling from Fairax, Virginia, a D.C. suburb, and I’m wondering what mental health services are like in San Quentin. I’m sure there are people who come in with mental health issues, and there are probably people who suffer a lot of mental health stress and mental health issues while they’re there. What’s the services available to the guys that are there? Thanks. [Phone beeps]

Earlonne Woods: [00:16:23] Thanks for your question, Kerry. This is a tough one. Before Nige left town, we went out to the yard and talked to some guys about how the prison deals with mental health issues. [Chatter]

Ventrell Johnson: [00:16:34] You know, there are certain areas in the yard where people have their area. And everyone’s welcome but the EOPs.

Earlonne Woods: [00:16:45] EOPs. He’s talking about Enhanced Outpatients.

Male Voice: [00:16:49] EOP is a program where you see a psychiatrist once a month, you see a psychologist or a clinician once a week, and then you go to groups in and out throughout the week. Now, there’s triple CMS, which are people that just take medications, and they see a psychiatrist once a month. And then you go to group… [Fades out]

Earlonne Woods: [00:17:06] Out by the tennis court, the EOPs have their own table. It’s near where the Dungeons & Dragons guys hang out, and it’s also a spot for the LGBTQ folks. We went and asked some questions in the EOP area.

Darren Shoemake: [00:17:18] The problem with the whole level of care system is that it doesn’t separate the types of needs that people have. So you have people with post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal ideations sharing a rack next to somebody, or sleeping…
Ventrell Johnson: [00:17:36] [Overlapping] That’s totally paranoid about everything in life.

Darren Shoemke: [00:17:38] [Overlapping] …Next to somebody who is literally psychotic. Seeing things, hearing things that aren’t there. Literally last night, I saw a guy not far from my bunk leaning over his neighbor’s bunk, making all kinds of aggressive hand gestures as if he was directing air traffic.

Ventrell Johnson: [00:18:00] And then he went and licked the window.

Earlonne Woods: [00:18:03] So out on the yard, people with mental health classifications are socially segregated. As far as where they sleep at night, a lot of the EOPs are all housed together in a big dorm.

Darren Shoemake: [00:18:14] Honestly, I’d like to know who in Sacramento came up with this idea of throwing a hundred people with, you know, a huge spectrum of different types of issues to deal with, from psychosis and delusions all the way to simple depression and anxiety issues, and put them all into one big barracks. Some of the guys that I live with can’t even perform their, what do you call it, the ADLs? The activities of daily living? Brushing their teeth and taking a shower every day and things like that. It’s crazy. That’s crazy.

Mike Adams: [00:18:55] I’m actually seeing a psychologist once a month, and she had to stop seeing me because there was an increase of inmates here, and they had to be doing some sort of divvying up of people because the case overloads got so high. And you just wonder in cases like that what is being lost.

Nigel Poor: [00:19:16] Is there anyone that’s incarcerated who wouldn’t benefit from talking to a counselor?

Mike Adams: [00:19:22] That wouldn’t benefit?

Nigel Poor: [00:19:23] Yeah.

Mike Adams: [00:19:24] People who just don’t wanna talk to them. It’s a place where human contact in and of itself is healthy. [Bars slamming, chatter]

Lt. Sam Robinson: [00:19:42] So we’re entering into the medical facility. We entered on the third floor, and now we’re walking down to the second floor, which is our mental health department.
Earlonne Woods: [00:19:51] That’s Lieutenant Sam Robinson, San Quentin’s Public Information Officer. A few weeks ago, Lieutenant Robinson took Ear Hustle on a tour of the facility, including the mental health department in San Quentin’s hospital.

Lt. Sam Robinson: [00:20:05] [Door closing] This is a group therapy room. It’s a group therapy room for different inmates throughout our prison that we can’t put in the same area together without incurring drama. So what we designed are what we call these therapeutic modules, which is individual booths we place people in so they can safely come into a room together. Our staff can actually vacate the room, their clinicians will be right in the middle, it provides all the safety and security necessary to provide group therapy to a higher security inmate. It’s one of the ways we provide mental health services here inside the prison.

Earlonne Woods: [00:20:35] [Inaudible dialogue underneath narration] When we were in the group therapy room, there was a prisoner worker there named Ant mopping the floors. We asked him what he thought of the therapeutic modules.

Anthony “Ant” Ammons: [00:20:45] For me, it looks like a dog cage. And we call it cages as guys in blue. “Therapeutic module” is a technical term that the courts want people to call it, but for us it’s a cage. “Hey man, I just got out the cage,” you know, and everybody understands in blue what that is. It’s sad. It’s very sad to describe getting in it. To describe getting in it, you have to get in, close it, lock it, and you’re still handcuffed. And then you have to turn around and put your hands out this little tray slot that’s about, okay, I’m six foot two, so this is about four foot something. So you have to squat down, put your hands through the tray slot as you turn around, which is an open portal, and get uncuffed. So when I look at men inside of it, I’m for one thankful that I’m mature enough not to put myself in a situation to where I’m in it again, because I’ve been in it before. But I feel sad for them.

Nigel Poor: [00:21:42] Oh you have been in there?

Anthony “Ant” Ammons: [00:21:43] I’ve been in them before, when I was bad. When I was being… [Laughs]

Lt. Sam Robinson: [00:21:49] Ask me how these things work.

Nigel Poor: [00:21:52] [Laughs] Lieutenant Robinson, how the heck do these work?
Lt. Sam Robinson: [00:21:55] In my experience, and what we’ve found, is that these things open up the world to guys who are incarcerated. In that if you’re someone who lives in a cell environment, and you’ve destroyed the relationships with the people around you, many of those guys who are in that situation lock themselves away from the population, meaning that they don’t leave their cells unless they’re mandated to. That creates isolation. And so what we’ve found is with the therapeutic modules, we’re able to bring that guy outside of that setting that has become his safety zone, and bring him into another place where he’s able to be secure and have another safe space, but look around and be able to see the voices that are next to him. Be able to see the faces that are next to him. And have some structured therapy in place. And what we’ve found is we have a higher-functioning inmate, and we have a facility that’s a much safer place for our staff and our inmates. [Music starts]

Earlonne Woods: [00:22:55] We’ll be right back after the break to answer a few more questions. [Music continues]

[00:23:07] [Dial tone, industrial noises, chatter]

Nigel Poor: [00:23:14] [Over the phone] Hey E, I’m in Milwaukee, so I can’t be there, but I do have a question for you. Can you find out why we can’t get correctional officers to talk with us? I really want to know, this question has been bothering me ever since we started. Alright, thank you, and I’ll see you in about ten days. [Phone beeps, beep echoes] [Music starts]

Earlonne Woods: [00:23:30] That would be the one and only Nigel Poor, my co-host. Yep, getting officers on the program has been a problem. But do I have a surprise for you, Nige. I went to talk to an officer that I know without the mic, C.O. Thomas, and after a cool little conversation, and weeks of persistence, he rounded up a few of his fellow officers to talk to me.

C.O. Rojas: [00:23:55] My name is Ricky Rojas, and I started in the department in 1995. I became a C.O. not for the job or to be around inmates or the rehabilitation part of it, it’s all for money. All for money. It’s the only reason why I’m here.

Earlonne Woods: [00:24:09] What do you think the misconception about correctional officers is?

C.O. Santos: [00:24:14] They think that we just sit on our butts all day, but we’re really walking around every day taking care of business.
C.O. Smith: [00:24:20] Correctional officers are bad, you know, don’t have a heart, really don’t have a concern as far as convicts and inmates, whatever. That’s not true.

Earlonne Woods: [00:24:27] Why do you think officers get a bad rep?

C.O. Gil: [00:24:30] I think some officers get bad reps, some officers deserve bad reps.

C.O. Smith: [00:24:34] Some of them, I don’t think they… They don’t treat people like people sometimes, you know what I mean? They have power here. I think sometimes they can misuse it, you know what I mean? And get at people the wrong way. Personally, guys on the main line that I’ve got to know, they’re good people and I’ve been around them for a long period of time and I’ve got to write some good letters for them as far as trying to get out of here. I think that’s probably the most positive thing for myself.

C.O. Santos: [00:24:59] You know, some of the things we deal with, it may harden you a little bit, but we’re people just like inmates. We’re people just like civilians. We’re not cold-hearted, we’re here to do our job. [Music starts]

Earlonne Woods: [00:25:15] Well, that’s a start. We’re gonna make an effort to get more C.O.s on Ear Hustle because they are a big part of life in prison. Hopefully, we’ll hear from more soon. [Music continues, gives way to dial tone]

Kevin: [00:25:33] Hey team, this is Kevin from Aberdeen, South Dakota, and I’m just wondering: what makes for a good joke in prison? Like, what’s something that would be funny in prison, that we may not get on the outside? Hope you have a great day. [Phone beeps, echoes]

Earlonne Woods: [00:25:59] Thanks, Kevin. Yep, prison humor can be pretty specific. It’s not for everybody. I don’t know if other prisons are like this, but in San Quentin, we actually have stand-up comedians. They’ll perform at functions when visitors come in. We got one of the comedians, Jonathan Chiu, to come try out some jokes on us.

Jonathan Chiu: [00:26:08] There’s a lot of stuff you can’t do in prison I found out. You know, you can’t drink, can’t do drugs, can’t smoke. You can’t even have sex. Not even with yourself, I found out. [Laughter] Like, I don’t get it. Like CBCR wants us to rehabilitate—how am I supposed to do that if I can’t even get in touch with myself? [Laughter]
Earlonne Woods: [00:26:27] [Mimics drum set, laughs] Comedy is always funnier in front of a big crowd. This is Eric Lamont Durr onstage up at the chapel.


Jonathan Chiu: [00:27:04] Uh, you know, I had a lot of different cellies. You know, early on, I had really crazy-ass cellies, and one morning, I woke up and he’s sitting naked right next to me on my bed. And I’m like, “Wow, he really cares about how I sleep.” [Laughter]

Nigel Poor: [00:27:20] [Distant] I don’t get that one either!

Jonathan Chiu: [00:27:22] You don’t get that? Like—it’s prison! These are prison jokes. That’s why these guys get it, because you’re… [Fades out, funky music comes up]

Earlonne Woods: [00:27:32] I’ll explain that one to you when you get back, Nige. [End music begins] Big thanks to everyone who called in and dropped us a line, we really appreciate it. Thanks to Rahsaan “New York” Thomas for helping us with this episode. And big thanks to all the correctional officers and Lieutenant Robinson. And a major shoutout to all the guys inside who told us their stories. You can find the full list of everyone involved on our website, earhustlesq.com. Ear Hustle is produced by myself, Earlonne Woods, and Nigel Poor, with help from outside producer Pat Mesiti-Miller, who also comes in to work with our sound design team. This episode includes music from Antwan Williams, David Jassy, and E. Phil Phillips. Curtis Fox is our story editor, Erin Wade our digital producer, and Julie Shapiro is our executive producer for Radiotopia. We want to thank Warden Ron Davis, and as you know, every episode has to be approved by this guy here.

Lt. Sam Robinson: [00:28:37] This is Lieutenant Sam Robinson, the Public Information Officer at San Quentin State Prison. And we finally get some people in uniform who are just like me who are stepping up in front of the mic and are sharing their perspectives, it’s an honor to be able to say that I’m no longer the only uniformed voice that’s a part of this. So, as I always do, I approve this episode.

Male Voice: [00:29:03] I remember being so happy to see her. Like I was really looking forward to it, right? And I was biting my lip because I didn’t want to walk in with this really stupid, shitty smile on my face.

Earlonne Woods: [00:29:16] *Ear Hustle* is a proud member of Radiotopia from PRX, a collection of the best podcasts around. Hear more at radiotopia.fm. This podcast was made with support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, working to redesign the justice system by building power and opportunity for communities impacted by incarceration. Nigel will be back for the next episode. I’m Earlonne Woods, and for all of us at *Ear Hustle*, thanks for listening. [Music continues, fades out]

Jonathan Chiu: [00:29:50] My first couple nights in prison, I woke up in the middle of the night, and the guy was screaming. And you know, my first thought was “Man, this guy really loves it here.” [Mix of laughs and “boo”s]