THE WORD IS DUT

: a newsletter of the Prisoner Correspondence Project

Welcome welcome to the winter issue of The Word Is Out. This time around we have a special edition, "The DIY edition" where we've set more space aside for members' art and writing and poetry. The Resource Library is still here, as are our updates on what we've been up to since we were last in touch, but the rest of the newsletter is work by all of you.

So a big thank you to all who submitted for this issue: Rodney, Catherine, George, Billy, David Jr, James, Nicole, and of course Promethea. Your stories and pictures continue to be a source of inspiration and conviction for the project.

If you'd be interested in submitting work for the next issue, then check out the submission guidelines that can be found on page three.

We hope you enjoy it.

In Struggle and Solidarity,

Your friends at the Prisoner Correspondence Project

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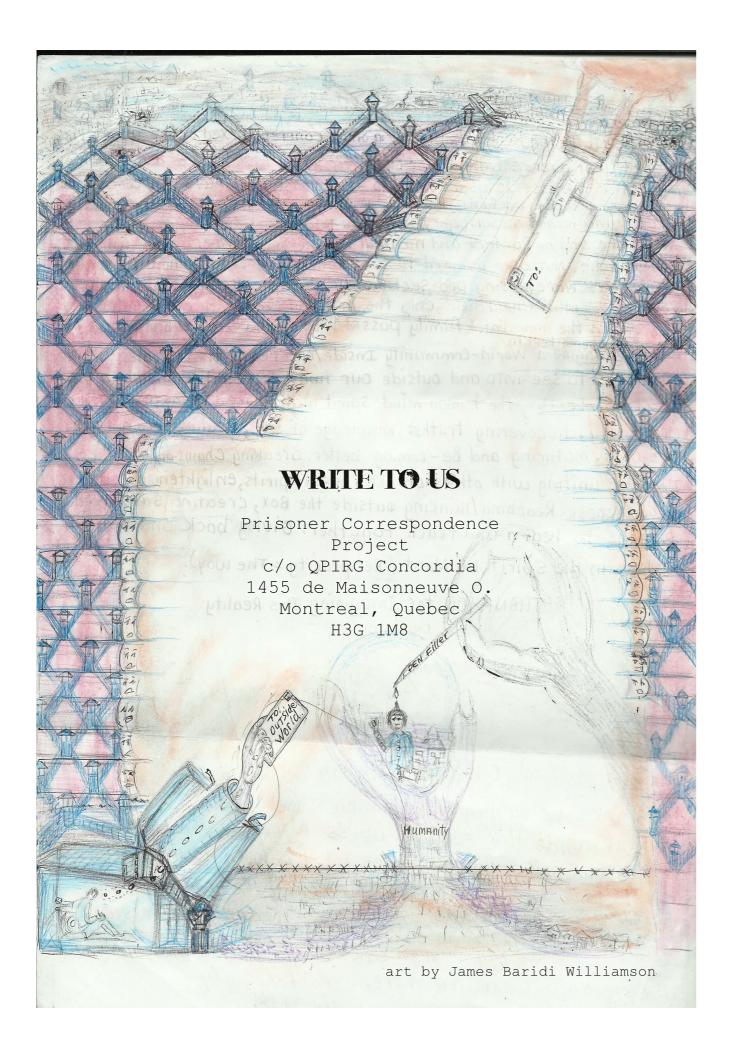
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SINCE WE'VE BEEN CONE

Since our last spring publication of the Word is Out, lots and lots has happened at the Prisoner Correspondence Project. First of all, the student movement has gone to hibernation for now, which has given all of us at the PCP a little bit of a breather. Quebec has a new Primier, Pauline Marois, the first woman premier the province has seen. Her party, the Parti Quebecois, promised a reversal of the proposed tuition increase that the Liberal party had put into motion, and as a response the student movement went pretty

More directly about the project, though: for a while during the summer months we had only five collective members, so we felt very under capacity and began recruiting new members. We have been getting more letters from new folks than ever, which is amazing and inspiring but has also been hard to keep up with! If you tried getting in touch with us lately, especially over last summer, and wondered what was taking us so long to get back to you, probably it was mostly the fact that we were only five! Currently we have eight collective members, and three interns from the HIV/AIDS course at Concordia University. The interns have really been helping us get on top of resource requests and new penpal matchups, as well as helping us to digitize our resource library! It's been great. We regained one collective member we had thought we had lost, who came back to us after a while of being on hiatus. However, we lost a different member when she moved from Montreal to Toronto. She is in the process of starting a PCP chapter there! This is a big deal for the PCP in general, because we have dreamed for a long time of having chapters in different cities who can network and share ideas, but ultimately will work autonomously and focus their efforts locally. It's pretty exciting! We recently had a visioning day, during which we in Montreal and our ex-collective-member in Toronto had a speakerphone call so that we could touch base, ask each other what was up, laugh together and of course cry big, rolling, gay tears.

The PCP has started putting into motion a project we are calling the Inside Advisory Committee, which we have also dreamed about for a long time. It looks like it will be a small group of our inside members, being in touch together to discuss, strategize, and write about incarceration from their own perspectives. They will be sharing their thoughts will the broader PCP members in the form of a new newsletter.

In terms of events, since last issue we had a dance party fundraiser in the Spring that brought in over four hundred dollars! It was a sexy drag cabaret and a lot of people had a really good time at this event. We also tabled at the Philly Trans Health Conference for the first time, and made some networking friends in different cities. We have rewritten a workshop that will be given next week, that we are calling Penetrating the General Population. It will explore the criminalization of HIV transmission in Canada, and aim to draw links between some recent Canadian legal shifts and the history of government policies in both the U.S. and Canada during the AIDS panic of the 1980s. Lastly, many of us were at Montreal's first screening of United In Anger, a film by Jim Hubbard about the organizing work of ACT UP in New York in the late 80s and early 90s in response to the AIDS crisis. It was so incredibly inspiring to be in that room!

We can't wait to get this edition of The Word is Out to you. Stick with us & enjoy one another's writing, and take care of each other too.

sions of love, in its deepest meanings.

deepest knowledge.

and the first is in providing the power that comes sharers that can be the basis for understanding much into sunlight against the body of a woman i love. of what is not shared between them, and lessens the threat of their difference.

i sense also opens to the erotically satisfying ex- used is abused. perience, whether it is dancing, building a bookcase, writing a poem, examining an idea.

religion, nor an afterlife.

This is one reason why the erotic is so - the abuse of feeling. feared and so often relegated to the bedroom alone, ity, projected from within each of us, not to settle to the pornographic, the abused. for the convenient, the shoddy, the conventionally expected, nor the merely safe.

kind of energy that heightens and sensitizes and possible before. strengthens all my experience.

We have been raised to fear the YES within mode of living and sensation. ourselves, tour deepest cravings. But, once recogtheir power and can be altered. The fear of our deaccept many facets of our oppression as women.

When we live outside ourselves, and by that i

attention to our erotic knowledge. For the bridge from those erotic guides from within ourselves, then which connects them is formed by the erotic - the our lives are limited by external and alien forms, and sensual - those physical, emotional, and psychic ex- we conform to the needs of a structure that is not pressions of what is deepest and strongest and based on human need, let alone on an individual's. But richest within each of us, being shared: the pas- when we begin to live from within outward, in touch with the power of the erotic within ourselves, and Beyond the superficial, the considered allow that power to inform and illuminate our actions phrase, "It feels right to me," acknowledges the on the world around us, then we begin to be responsstrength of the erotic into a true knowledge, for ible to ourselves in the deepest sense. For as we bewhat that means is the first and most powerful quid- ing satisfied with suffering and self-negation and the ing light toward any understanding. And understand- numbness that so often seems like their only alterning is a handmaiden that can only wait on, that ative in our society. Our acts against oppression beknowledge. The erotic is the nurturer of all our come integral with self, motivated and empowered from

In touch with the erotic, i become less willing to accept powerlessness, or those other supplied states of being which are not native to me, such as The erotic functions for me in several ways, resignation, self-effacement, depression, self-denial.

And yes, there is a hierarchy. The is a diffrom sharing deeply any pursuit with another person. ference between painting a back fence and writing a The sharing of joy, whether physical, emotional, poem, but only one of quantity. And there is, for me, psychic, or intellectual, forms a bridge between the no difference between writing a good poem and moving

This brings me to the last consideration of the erotic. To share the power of each other's feelings is Another important way in which the erotic different from using another's feelings as we would connection functions is the open and fearless under- use a kleenex. When we look the other way from our lining of my capacity for joy. In the way my body experience, erotic or otherwise, we use, rather than stretches to music and open into response, hearten- share, the feelings of those others who participate in ing to its deepest rhythms, so every level on which the experience with us. And use without consent of the

In order to be utilized, our erotic feelings must be recognized. the need for sharing feeling is a That self-connection shared is a measure of human need. But within the european tradition, this the joy that i know myself to be capable of feeling, need is satisfied by certain proscribed erotic comings a reminder of my capacity for feeling. And that deep - together. These occasions are almost always characand irreplaceable knowledge of my capacity for joy terized by a simultaneous looking away, a pretense of comes to demand from all of my life that it b lived calling them something else, whether a religion, a within the knowledge that such satisfaction is pos- fit, mob violence, or even playing doctor. And this sible, and does not have to be called marriage, nor misnaming of the need and the deed gives rise to that distortion which results in pornography and obscenity

When we look away from the importance of the when it is recognized at all. For once we begin to erotic in the development and sustenance of our power, feel all the aspects of our lives, we begin to de- or when we look away from ourselves as we satisfy our mand from ourselves and from our life-pursuits that erotic needs in concert with others, we use each other they feel in accordance with that joy which we know as objects of satisfaction rather than share our joy ourselves to be capable of. Our erotic knowledge em- in the satisfying, rather than make connection with powers us, becomes a lens through which we scrutin- our similarities and our differences. To refuse to be ize all aspects of our existence, forcing us to conscious of what we are feeling at any time, however evaluate those aspects in terms of their relative comfortable that might seem, is to deny a large part meaning within our lives. And this is a responsibil- of the experience and to allow ourselves to be reduced

The erotic cannot be felt secondhand. As a Arab lesbian feminist, i have a particular feeling, and I find the erotic such a kernel within my- understanding for those sisters with whom i have self. When released from its intense and constrained danced hard, played. This deep participation has often pellet, it flows through and colors my life with a been the forerunner for joint concerted actions not

> But this erotic charge is not easily shared by women who continue to operate under an exclusively white male tradition. I know it was not available to me when i was trying to adapt my consciousness to this

Only now, i find more and more women-identified nized, those that do not enhance our future lose women brave enough to risk sharing the erotic's electrical charge without having to look awaw and without sires keeps them suspect and indiscriminately power- distorting the enormously powerful and creative nature ful, for to suppress any truth is to give it of that exchange. Recognizing the power of the erotic strength beyond endurance. The fear that we cannot within our lives can give us the energy to pursue grow beyond whatever distortions we may find within genuine change with our world, rather than merely ourselves keeps us docile and loyal, and leads us to settling for a shift of characters in the same weary

For not only do we touch our most profoundly mean an external directives only, rather than from creative source, but we do that which is female and our internal knowledge and needs, when we live away self-affirming in the face of a racist, patriarchal, and anti-erotic society.

THE EROTIC AS POWER

by Promethea

There are many kinds of power, used and un- nor from others. Such a demand incapacitates everyone oppressed that can provide energy for change. For that fullness. women, this has meant a suppression of the erotic as

one hand, the superficially erotic has been encour- and from which i rise up empowered. aged as a sign of female inferiority; on the other hand, women have been made to suffer and to feel both contemptible and suspect by virtue of its ex-

As women, we have come to distrust that power giving substance for their masters.

and provocative force to the woman who does not fear to impossible, it is also profoundly cruel. its revelation nor succumb to the belief that sensation is enough.

the confused, the psychotic, sensation. For this move toward and through them. reason, we have turned away from the exploration and sensation without feeling.

The erotic is a measure between the beginnings of our sense of self and the chaos of our strongest feelings. It is an internal sense of satpower, in honor and self-respect we can require no less of ourselves.

This internal requirement toward excellence that we learn from the erotic must not be misconstrued as demanding the impossible from ourselves

used, acknowledged or otherwise. The erotic is a re- in the process. For the erotic is not a question only source within each of us that lies in a male and of what we do; it is a question of how acutely and spiritual plane, rooted in the power of our unex- fully we can feel in the doing. Once we know the expressed or unrecognized feeling. In order to per- tent to which we are capable of feeling that sense of petuate itself, every oppression must corrupt those satisfaction and completion we can then observe which various sources of power within the culture of the of our various life endeavors bring us closest to

The aim of each thing that we do is to make a considered source of power and information within our lives and the lives of our children richer and more possible. Within the celebration of the erotic We have been taught to suspect this resource, in all our endeavors, my work becomes a conscious devilified, abused, devalued within society. On the cision - a longed-for bed which i enter gratefully

Of course, women so empowered are dangerous. It is a short step form there to the false So we are taught to separate the erotic demand from belief that only by the suppression of the erotic most vital areas of our lives other than sex. And the within our lives and consciousness can women be lack of concern for the erotic root and satisfactions truly strong. But that strength is illusory, for it of our work us felt in our disaffection from o much is fashioned within the context of male models of of what we do. For instance, how often do we truly love our work even at its most difficult?

The principal horror of any system that which rises from our nonrational knowledge. We have defines the good in terms of profit rather than in been warned against it all our lives by the male terms of human need, or that defines human need to world, which values this depth of feeling enough to the exclusion of the psychic and emotional components keep women around in order to exercise it in the of that need - the principal horror of such a system service of men, but which fears this same depth to is that it robs our work of its erotic value, its much to examine the possibilities of it within them- erotic power, and life appeal and fulfillment. Such a selves. So women are maintained at a distant posi- system reduces work to travesty of necessities, a tion to be psychically milked, much the same way duty by which we earn bread or oblivion for ourselves ants maintain colonies of aphids to provide a live- and those we love. But this is tantamount to blinding a painter and then telling her to improve her work, But the erotic offers a well of replenishing and to enjoy the act of painting. It is not only next

As women, we need to examine the ways in which our world can be truly different. I am speaking here The erotic has often been misnamed by typical of necessity for reassessing the quality of all the men and used against women. It has been made into aspects of our lives and of our work, and of how we

The ver word EROTIC comes from the Greek word consideration of the erotic as a source of power and EROS, the personification of love in all its aspects information, confusing it with its opposite, the - born of Chaos, and personifying creative power and pornographic. But pornography is a direct denial of harmony. When i speak of the erotic, the, i speak of the power of the erotic, for it represents the sup- it as an assertion of the life force of women; of pression of true feeling. Pornography emphasizes that creative energy empowered, the knowledge and use of which we are now reclaiming in our language, our history, our dancing, our loving, our lives.

There are frequent attempts to equate pornography and eroticism, two diametrically opposed uses isfaction to which, once we have experienced it, we of the sexual. Because of these attempts, it has beknow we can aspire. For having experienced the full- come fashionable to separate the spiritual from the ness of this depth of feeling and recognizing its political, to see them as contradictory or antithetical. "What do you mean, a poetic revolutionary?" In the same way, we have attempted to separate the spir-It is never easy to demand the most from itual and the erotic, thereby reducing the spiritual ourselves, from our lives, from our work. To encour- to a world of flattened effect, a world of the ascetage excellence is to g beyond the encouraged me- ic who aspires to feel nothing. But nothing is furdiocrity of our society. But giving in to the fear ther from the truth. For the ascetic position is one of feeling and working to capacity is a luxury only of the highest fear, the deepest immobility. The the unintentional can afford, and the unintentional severe abstinence of the ascetic becomes the ruling are those who do not wish to guide their own des- obsession. And it is one not of self-discipline but of self-abnegation.

The dichotomy between the spiritual and the political is also false, resulting from an incomplete

BODY LANGUAGE

by Promethea

The thing that makes me crazy is how much I wanted her the simple act of longing year after year, till finally she took my hand and held it pressed to her small right breast. That kind of longing turns your whole torso into a cavern where despair echoes wall to wall and hope leaps like a foetus. My complicity confuses the issue. How to say the word: abuse when my body tells another story not a tale of clenched self-protection but an epic, my young arm reaching out for her breast, my back spreading wide to her touch?

The thing I go back to is the rain on the window water washing all over the pane as hand moves to breast and someone seduces someone else. My complicity clouds the definitions like that misted window, one side of its thin old glass steaming with the heat of breath and skin while the other leans into the storm, weeping.

SEND US YR SUBMISSIONS!

We have a number of upcoming projects in the works and need your art and submissions! A few things to keep in mind when submitting:

- -The art will be used in upcoming issues of our newsletter, for posters promoting the project, for upcoming events and workshops, and for resources the project puts out. Anything you're able to send is appreciated, whether it's sketches, doodles, simple drawings, or anything else! Even if you've never drawn before, we would love to receive something.
- If you can't make copies, you can send us the original. We can make copies, and return the original to you right away
- Please let us know if you want your art used for a specific purpose (ie. In the newsletter, etc.), or if there are specific purposes you don't want your art used for.
- When submitting art, line drawings and black and white images work the best when being photo-
- Don't be shy to send drawings with nudity or of sexuality! But since some won't be allowed into certain prisons, they will likely be used for materials on the outside .
- Please let us know if you want your name credited where it is used, and what name you want to appear (chosen name or legal name)
- When submitting prose (written submissions) for the newsletter, we want it to be a forum for discussion, so we tend to print more essays and opinion pieces than poetry and fiction.
- For written submissions over 500 words, we may edit for length.
- For all submissions, we won't print anything racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic.

AS TIME COULD ONLY TELL

by David Jr.

listen to my plea:

As time could only tell were it all become

For neither of it, cause it all remains the same As time could only tell like when it first ever rained Now than you'll find a way to change your hurt and pain If not you might stay deep insane As time could only tell, But always remember Stay strong in every way Just like when you were a child full of love and peace As time could only tell, like the way I've always thrived To keep my pride, from the darkness of evil that comes my way. So now I must say, Thou shall not fear, from now till the end of my time.

As time could only tell, cause growing up to become a father was no easy way.

Trying to stay alive was a must. As time could only tell Because some days and some nights, I find myself going out of control Can't even think why I feel so cold, As time could only tell Like the sun when it appear way above, only soon to disappear, Into bright shinning stars, that lay before the darkness of our time. As time could only tell, so let us all be patient in finding ourselves, In peace with many nights and days, to be filled with our Pride and Joy, With lots of blessings from above, cause time could only tell

TWINKIE TIME

by P.N. Champion/Catherine Lynn Quick

Twinkie Time Who can resist, that tasty treat. On it you can subsist, and the flavor can't be beat.

and the state of the same of the

Spongy light cake, with a vanilla filling, for heaven's sake, it fits the billing.

I share them to, With my lover Tim, it something we do, thats between me and him.

Then we lay nude, and I see his hard sign, this may be crude, but it's Twinkie Time.

THE LIMITE BRRI'S GUIDE TO STYLE

by Promethea

Well my little brrl. Some time will get married. Your cousin will have her mithak. Maybe you will get to go to a circumcision. But at some point you are going to have to dress and behave like you mean it. And that means following my simple guide to life and style.

I don't claim to have all of the answers. I do claim to have 90% of them though and that 90% comes down to this: If you, my little brrl, and i are going to be masculine then we need to make certain that we are not likely to mimic the absolute worst aspects of masculinity. And i am not talking about crotch grabbing here. I am talking about loving women without caring about what happens to them. Or treating them like whatever you do has more meaning. I am not talk- and terrible things for. ing about wearing a tie because Marlene the sex appeal factor of that. I am talking about not being loathsome. I am talking about take all of the models of masculinity that you have been given and holding them up to hot icons and forging something new. Little Judy in the book "Female Masculinity" has a lot to say about masculinity if you are into this, but she also thinks a lot of herself too, and so far i haven't gotten past that to get into the heart of the book so anyhoo... here we go.

Here's the thing. Women probably were way more masculine at some point in history. When i think about paintings of homes pouring their little cisterns of olive oil gracefully i wonder if that wasn't some kind of campaign to show women how men thought they should be. What if all women started out as masculine and men stole it from us? What brand of masculinity would that be? The point is, don't be what you've just known, be what you are. Search a little bit. Try to you have seen played out over and over.

I have suffered a lot under this recently. I get offered when my coworker line. When i ask why not she names the criteria I almost wretch. It sounds like a bare assed baboon i say. "What about a gav man? Am i masculine like a gay man?" She ponders because it sounds right but isn't sure. I think my new brand of woman or brrl might go through many kinds of evolutions but a few basic things for you to cherish below.

said "The unexamined life is not worth wearing me living." What he also should added was the unexamined impact of a life over impacting ties and prefer to wear other kinds of others is not worth living. Men get away male dress just keep in mind that men's with only having to think about themselves clothes are really meant for us as usual. When they allot their time they girls/women so that men can have a have no problems allotting 95% of it to $\,$ model to learn from so that they can their interests figuring everyone else stop dressing monkey-faced baboons. will fall into step with them. This is not Remember we are twice the men they the example you will follow. As i learned are.). painfully from losing someone i seemed to only be aware of me as though i were stuck basic things i think every human should in some kind of myopic vacuum. Now that i really experience in this lifetime and have that part down i am learning part 2. one of them is an extraordinary meal you will have to do it. Your best friend Which is how to listen. So far i have savored with someone you care about. failed at every attempt to do that well so And barring that, the next best thing we'll leave that for next time.

> wear men's clothing, please for all of us; eat in your panties and hog an entire wear it better than they do. The worst bottle of wine while reading women's thing to happen to masculine dress was magazines. Never show up to anyone's men. They have no style; they treat color house empty handed if you go out. It like it was a disease. They are stuck in a has been so long since i had more than monochromatic rut without it being even my greedy appetite sautéed with extreme slightly ironic. Men do not deserve men's gratitude but in most cases that was clothes. Take it from them, and wear it enough. The point here is to have a bit better than they do. I was stopped passing of savvy about the way you live. Live through some bourgie upscale four-star well alone. Be ready to impress any restaurant after a wedding by a man who gal/brrl/boy who asks you if you would wanted to know about the suit i had on. like to go out for a glass of wine. That's the kind of dress we want - dress that men envy and girls will do luscious this matter is to manage it well in

Dietrich beat both women and men out in size you are in everything you wear before in public or in private unless you are you go to were you shop. Find a woman at a having a candid moment after 8 black men's clothing store to measure you. In Russians and you can't contain vourgeneral they are better at measurements self. A brrl should never take advantthan the boys. This way if you are not age of anyone's state of mind, or their comfortable trying on men's clothing you emotions in any way. This is a burden will already know your inseams, and you we sometimes share with other masculine can buy with confidence. And the plus is mammals: baboons, monkeys, and men. We when some snotty nosed Docker wearing women need to look at how we inhabit mismatched frat boy comes up to you to ask shared space and check ourselves if we if you need help you can respond: "As a are dominating that space. We don't matter of fact you can!" Then you can rabidly go after people in a moment of watch his trap fold up and seal shut as he weakness to even the scales unless you looks around to do your biddings. As a are a man and "trying" to control me. consolation i tell them they good in In that case, i will emasculate ou and something they are wearing. It might be a publicly humiliate you until you have a feminine women on the walls in Roman stretch to think of something but give minus sperm count.

this is the mark of individuality. I my- masculine but here is where we get to self just figured out a new and wide tie steal a little selfishness from the knot that when seen from underneath the boys the baboons. That means not taking tie mimics the labial folds. I call it the pleasure not like it is unquestionably "Joan of Arc" for distinction in public ours but that it is there for us to and the "cho-cho knot" in private. I wear have if we can show up for it and make my ties high, like fat blokes in the 40's. ourselves just as vulnerable, as we are discover masculinity beyond the roles If you really want to know the "cho-cho" asking our partner to be. And wow, does

many pairs of pants have you bought from wondered why? Just go ask your girl, or tells me she doesn't think i am mascu- these stores that do not fit? It's because someone you don't know but want to know you need to know your measurements and what feels good about sex with you. carry a measuring tape with you. A couple Imagine feeling that with her. Oy, need of things you should know are what is i say more? worth taking to a tailor and what is not. Flee from anything that has shoulder pads. ment on the guide to being a supa savvy Flee from anything that looks cool but and smart little brrl. If i have missed doesn't fit. Just because you like big any territory it is because i am tired Kelly green gingham check pant suits does of writing. There will be more as i will not change. And these, my brrl, are not mean that they look good on you. I figure it out. Or get my little butt don't war what i like but i wear what slapped trying. Live a life worth living. So- shows respect to me and that i look like crates or one of those dead white guys i'm wearing the clothes and they are not

(If you do not like to wear

Food and Wine: There are a few

is to be able to make a dinner all for Style and the Brrl. If you want to yourself after a shitty day that you

And my last piece of advice on case it gets ugly. Never, ever, ever, Follow my simple step 1) Know what bad mouth a woman you dated to others

Sex. Little brrl's need love As far as trying your tie...well, too, and though it might not sound knot" write me and i will teach it to you. sex feel good. I mean they keep us Step 2) for the thrift store how wanting to do it, haven't you ever

SO there is my first install-

Feel the difference hrrls

PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT TRADITIONS & BELIEFS By Rodney Rockhard

and organizations like the Prisoner you can not do it alone. Correspondence Project may always ated LGBT inmates have lived for so 3) Always feel psychologically incarcerated community what we comfortable living in.

beliefs, you learn the objectives, for tomorrow. intentions and desires of the 4) In the LGBT community nothing sexual or transgender inmate.

must accept ourselves for better or away. for worse [as LGBT people]. That can come to us but through our toil yourself. bestowed on that plot of ground 6) When we refuse to judge oth- the Prisoner Correspondence Prountil we have tried. Therefore want us to wear. bravely let us spear the utmost pondence project.

Personal change, social change, the alienation. The way out is to let the sake of simply being myself. birth and death of LGBT communities others in. You alone can do it, but

- be traced to a series of personal ships in/out of prison based on live in the insecurities of others demonstrations. For the inner self personal authority, trust and because I am lesbian, gay, biknows that the consistent applica- demonstration. Learn to effect sexual or transgender. I have made tion of a kept promise combined change without violence and build the personal choice to remove all with healthy traditions and beliefs your personal self-esteem by ac- doubt about who I am and therefore are the road out of the emotional cepting in your heart that your self have nothing to hide. prison in which so many incarcer- worth as a LGBT person is priceless.
- long, and in doing so have become safe to express the reality of your want for ourselves, we naturally personal experiences without fear, begin to make better choices and However, through honest con- for as a LGBT people together we better decisions concerning the viction, demonstration and by ad- examine who we have been, who we are outcome of our future in as well opting the following traditions and today and what our intentions are as out of prison.
- Prisoner Correspondence Project and and no-one is secondary, everyone ally but with the Prisoner Corthus begin to reach for your own has something to teach and everyone respondence Project by our side full and actual potential as an in the LGBT community of incarcera- socially and mentally, we begin to incarcerated lesbian, gay, bi- tion has something to learn-we teach move forward toward self-improveand learn everything from each oth- ment, behavioral management and It was Ralph Waldo Emerson in er. Remain forever mindful that a understanding, personal acceptance his essay on self reliance that learning LGBT person is alive and a as it reflects our LGBT identity said, "There comes a time in learned person is dead. We cannot and the full and actual potential everyone's life that one arrives at integrate what we have learned and we truly deserve and desire. We the conviction that envy is ignor- are learning unless we can teach it. learn to free ourselves even while ance, imitation is suicide, that we We can't keep it till we give it in prison from the grip of a so-
- though the wide universe is full of in the LGBT prison community that begin to discover solutions that good, no kernel of nourishing corn you yourself are not willing to do meet the needs of us all as a
- which is given to us to till. The ers we begin to examine and discover ject and all the hard work they do power which resides in us [as LGBT who we really are ourselves, and on our behalf, but more importpeople] is new in nature and none because of such we learn to no antly let us love and support each of us know what it is we can do longer exist behind the masks others other and above that ourselves for
- 7) It is important to tell syllable of our conviction" and ourselves each and every day of our With love & solidarity, live by the traditions and beliefs lives that despite my sexual ori- Rodney Rockhard set forth by the prisoner corres- entation or gender identity, despite my place in life's history I as one 1) The Prisoner Correspondence of the LGBT community remain useful Project is the antidote to personal instead of useless, even if it's for

- 8) I will no longer live in the closet about who I am or who 2) Develop authentic relation- and what I desire. I refuse to
 - 9) When we want for the LGBT

We might be in prison physicciety that would rather enslave or 5) Don't ask people to do things deny or reject our existence. We people. Let us continue to support

THE MAN BEHIND THE WORDS

Wrice August 8, 1966 in St. male transgender of any race pondence Project and the incar-Louis, MO, is an African Amer- with just as much conviction cerated LGBT community is ican male who refuses to adhere and commitment as any woman I endless. Rodney Rockhard is also to racial separation and divide. have ever loved in the past." He stands 6 feet tall, weighs Rodney Rockhard as he is known published book Switch Hitters 190 lbs, slender build, dark is one of California's most complexion, sexy ball head and engaged and involved LGBT describes his passion for meet- prison activists. He has been love, have a question or comment ing new people and finding a unjustly sentenced and thus send it to us here at the Prislife partner by saying "I can imprisoned for the past 25 oner Correspondence Project. equally love a loyal, faithful years and counting. His com-

Rodney Rockhard, born Rodney and compassionate male to fe- mitment to the Prisoner Corres-

the author of the soon-to-be-Inside Prisons LGBT Community. If you want to show him some

A PLACE FAR AWAY

by P.N. Champion/Catherine Lynn Quick

As I lay me down, at the end of the day. I find myself drifting, to a place far away.

I see you smile, and hear your sweet voice. In this place far away, I can forget that horrible choice.

Yes I chose to walk away, and I lost your loving heart. But in this place far away, I can have a new start.

I know it's not real, as I hold you close to me. I was stupid and wrong, and to blind to see.

It is all I have left, of our loving life. So I can still hold you close, and call you my wife.

As I lay me down, at the end of the day. I'm with you my love, in this place far away.

TAKE NOTICE by Billy

Picture the snow slowly falling, beauty for all to see A man stands at his window, alone but not lonely No one knows when the snow will stop, or when it will come again The man in the window knows his battle will come Whether by sword or by pen

No one can ease the forces of nature We know it's beyond our control

The man in the window meets a man in the street

Two singles that now form one whole Powerless to the needs instilled at birth

Fighting the odds for a peaceful calm earth

When is a choice no longer a choice

Listen to me I too have a voice

Not looking back or too far ahead, I've already made my choice

Frustration bottled up deep inside

Ready to raise my voice

I've dealt with persecution for far too many days I say this "Nothing will change the course of my ways, I'm gay." People "take notice", it's time you heard my cry No longer will I be denied, it's my turn to try

NASTY REMAND "BURRITO"

By C George Winsor

Ingredients:

- 2 instant noodles, beef (mama brand is best) lightly crushed (3/4" pieces)
- 2 packets Beef soup base mix
- 2 packets cheezies (Hawkins is best, Cheetos work) crushed to a coarse "flour"
- 2 small bags BBQ potato chips or spicy Doritos (Nacho, etc) crushed
- 2 single servings hot sauce (I like Wing's Hot Chili as it has sweetness)
- 6 single servings Cheez Whiz (or real cheese/ knock-off cheese sauce) Hot/boiling water

Equipment:

At least 2 bags from ingredients

At least 3 hefty novels/books (Larry McMurtry or Robert Jordan work well)

Instructions:

- 1. Place one bag inside another (longest inside if different) this is the "oven" so be careful no holes are made by crushing.
- 2. Mix dry ingredients thoroughly in bag.
- 3. Mix wet ingredients if possible in a separate container
- 4. Add water to bag until just visible along sides of mixture
- 5. Fold bag top over (careful, that water is HOT!)
- 6. Knead lightly (a little more to mix the wet ingredients if not in other container) DO NOT CRUSH!
- 7. Place horizontal (folded edge up) with books at either end to hold form (rough square, about 1" thick)
- 8. Add a book on top to hold heat in and "pressure cook"
- 9. Wait a few minutes
- 10. Unwrap and enjoy (you MAY have to mix a little more)

Optionals:

2 single servings honey

Salt

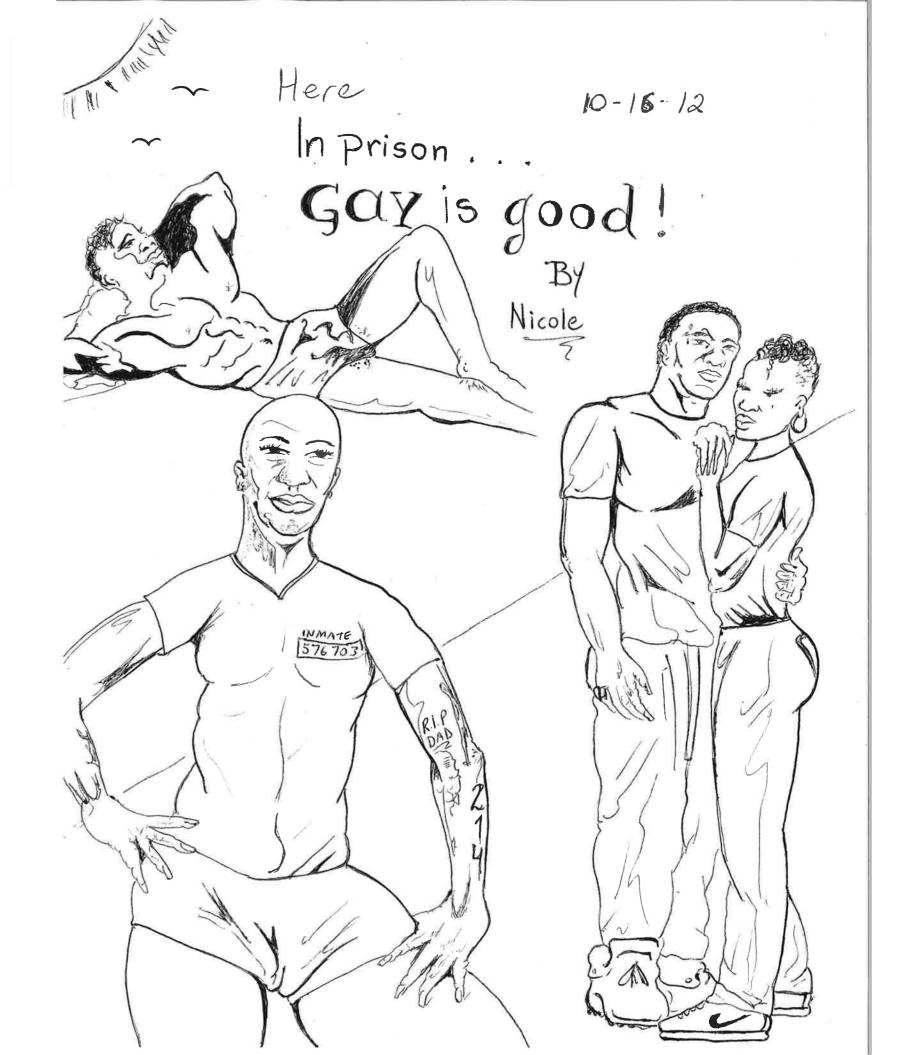
Pepper

Ketchup BBQ sauce

Hope you have a heart condition, because this thing can only give you one! Hehheh. Seriously, though, this is the most popular recipe for a "Remand Burrito" I have ever seen.

RECIPE CALL OUT: A PRISONER COOK BOOK

One of our inside members had an amazing idea to collect recipes from folks on the inside. If we get enough submissions, we could publish the recipes in future newletters or eventually make it into a zine. So if you have creative and tasty ideas to share of what people can make on the inside, please send them to us!



hormones for people who are gistries ans protection in a thinking of transitioning female- prison nation (by Erica R. Meinto-male

frequemment posees sur la based activists who are working transition de genre - A basic against the prison industrial quide that answers frequently complex, this article links prison asked questions about transition- abolition to feminist frameworks ing, hormone use, and gender to question escalating sex oftransition

struggles - An article about kink state's response to sexual violand radical politics written by a ence against children and women. trans woman

Trans health information pro- women in prison ject: TIP Guide to hormones and Women Prisoners'

Smut

Penetration - A short story about fisting

Meatus: A pornzine for queers outside the box - A collection of erotic writing about gay bio

Reversed Seduction - short erotic fiction by longtime correspondent and contributer premothea. A younger female inmate develops a plan to seduce her beautiful friend with a titillating surprise ending

Read me a story - new pieces by Promethea

FagPunk - a collection of sexual experiences of a gay boy that digs boots, bondage and mohawks.

Straight to Hell - one of the longest-running smut zines out there.

Women / Feminism

with HIV (not prison specific) estie, c'est loin d'etre des -A pocket guide for HIV-positive droleries qui nous amusent a women that provides up-to-date in- la tele dans la serie Cover formation in plain language about $\mbox{\ensuremath{\mbox{Girl:}}}$ - An article written by a a wide range of issues often faced member of the Prisoner Corresby women with HIV. Topics include pondence Project about her experhealthy living, nutrition, getting iences as a transsexual sex worker care, treatment basics, relation— dealing with the Montreal poliships and pregnancy. It also ad- cing, court and prison systems. dresses street drugs and touches Hey Girls! Safer sex for sex on hepatitis C co-infection. (by workers/ He les filles! Le se-Positive Women's Network)

Corpus: volume ${\bf 4}$ - Corpus, is an $^{\rm sexe}$ HIV prevention publication that brings together health information, politics, creative work, and Write to us at: essays all on issues related to HIV/AIDS, and where health and AIDS intersects with other other issues faced by gay and queer communities: incarceration, racism, policing.

Issue 4 is about women's relationships to gay men and AIDS;

Never Innocent:

Feminist

basic information about taking trouble with sex offender reers) Using recent work by anti-FAQ on transitioning/Questions prison theorists and communityfender registries and community Tracing this body & new flesh notification laws that are the

Tenacious: art and writings from

Resource Guide - a list of addresses and contact information for incarcerated women

One women's struggle - By Kebby Warner, a short zine about one women's struggle with te DOC, medical neglect, and about being a mother

Women in Prison: How It Is With Us - Author, Assata Shakur was a member of the Black Panther Party who went underground to evade police repression, joining the Black Liberation Army. She was captured in 1973 and held as a political prisoner until 1979 (one year after this article was written), when she was broken out of prison by a unit of the Black Liberation Army. She made her was to Cuba where she lives to this day, despite increasing pressure from the United States for her extradition.

Sex Work

Audacious: the reality of being a transsexual or transvestite sex worker/ Audace: Pocket guide for women living etre transsexuelle ou trav-

curisexe pour les travailleuses du

Prisoner Correspondence Project QPIRG-Concordia 1455 de Maisonneuve O. Montreal QC H3G 1M8 CANADA

New This Issue!

SAFER SEX

Women Lovin - Developed, designed and written by women: solid information on sexual health issues for queer women combined with practical tips and risk-reduction strategies. Only sent to women's

LIVING WITH HIV/HEP C

Hepatitis C: Managing Common Symptoms and Treatment Side Effects - for people living with

Hepatitis C: Get the Facts all the info in plain language and detailed illustrations

Living with HIV and HepC Coinfection - offers key information on living with both viruses, covering useful topics such as HIV and hepatitis C basics, the effects of co-infection, ways to stay healthy, treatment strategies and preventing transmission.

Our Events Hell No, We Won't Go: In Conversation with Laura Whitehorn - The transcription of an interview we conducted with former political prisoner Laura Whitehorn, on

anti-prison organizing, HIV mobil-

izing, and being gay in prison.

Coming Out/LGBTQ Identity Bisexuality 101 - A great collection of articles compiled by PFLAG on history and on bisexuality and biphobia along with some answers to frequently asked ques-

How to be an Ally to a Bisexual Person - Bisexual Resource Center - A brochure of tips and conversation starters for bisexual people for talking to people about bisexuality with straight and gay people alike.

I Think I Might Be Bisexual, Fluid, Pansexual or Queer-Identified (So Now What?) -BiNet USA - An article about bisexual, fluid, pansexual, and queer experience, with quotes from bisexual people, safer sex tips, and thoughts on confronting biphobia.

Smut

FagPunk - a collection of sexual experiences of a gay boy that digs boots, bondage and mohawks.

Straight to Hell - one of the longest-running smut zines around.

Resource Lists

Updated Prisoner resource quide: a collection of organizations and services offered to prisoners(USA)

RESOURCE LIBRARY OF THE PRISONER **CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT**

The following is a list of the resources available through our resource library as of Winter 2012. All resources are provided free-of-charge to prisoners and are yours to

We are constantly in the process of updating the resource library, so please forward any suggestions of things you would like to see available or resources you have access to that you would like to share

Please note that we are only able to send five or six at a time. If you request more than that, they will be sent in batches over several weeks, so please indicate which are the highest priority and we will attempt to send them in that order.

Emotional Support

Support (sexual abuse & survivorship) - In a time when sexual assault and abuse are an increasing problem and when most women have been sexually abused in one way or another, Cindy Crabb (Doris Zine) brings us a document showing ways to prevent sexual violence and support survivors of sexual abuse.

Taking care of Your Body and Mind - A pamphlet on safer slashing / safer cutting in prison put out by PASAN

Survival in solitary: a manual written by and for people living in control units by California Prison Focus - A collection of writing, poetry, and information about coping with solitary confinement and life sentences

Trying to understand self-injury - A short zine written by Black Ice Press, about disassociation, and the reasons why folks might choose to use self-injury to cope

Safer Sex

Beyond Appearances/Au Dela des apparences - For prisoners, sex workers and other "high risk" communities, on HIV AIDS issues, including prevention. Pour des prisonniers/eres, des travailleurs/euses du sexe et les autres communautes a risque elevee, sur le VIH, y compris la transmission. C it's no joke: Hep C/ C'pas un joke: Hep C - A guide explaining how to transmit Hep C, including tips on safer tatooing, sex, and drug use. Un guide en expliquant comment transmettre le Hep C, y compris la tatouage, le

securisexe, et les drogues

to prisons) about safer sex for prisons. queer men and women, different Hepatitis C Infosheet - basic sexually transmitted diseases, and information on the virus taking care of specific body parts Reading this can save your ass put out by Head and Hands in - Safer rimming tips Montreal

prevention comics - Turnover, stract) through comics and illustration, explores issues of youth and HIV transmission, barebacking, and physical and emotional wellness.

Risk in prison - Two articles written by Matthew Jones (incar- A guide to HIV drug side efcerated) and Liam and Bridget from the Prisoner Correspondence Project (non-incarcerated) talking Living with HIV: starting

dressing sexual 'safety' for you, next steps Queers Inside and Outside of Pozitively healthy (not prison together by the Prisoner Corres- sex and health in Canada pondence Project of the first A practical guide to comple-Fucking without Fear resource

What if I'm HIV positive? - A general, non-prison specific re- with HIV source about what you should know A practical guide to HIV drug if you test HIV positive

Safer barebacking" (not prison with HIV/AIDS specific) - An article about how A practical guide to HIV drug to reduce the risk of transmitting **treatment** - for people living HIV/AIDS and other STD's/STI's when fucking without condoms

VIH y el joint" (Spanish only) - A basic resource sheet put together by PASAN about reducing the chance of transmitting HIV in

The Botton line (not prison specific) - A gay man's guide to anal health: how the ass works, what it does, how it relates to other parts of the body, and how to get maximum pleasure from sex with minimal pain or dammage

Women Lovin - Developed, designed and written by women: solid support group sues for queer women combined with diagnosed, the basic facts,

practical tips and risk-reduction Queersafe - A zine (not specific strategies. Only sent to women's

50 things you should know Turnover: A collection of HIV about hiv & safer sex (ab-

Living with HIV/Hep C

fects - for people living with HTV/ATDS

about the concept of "risk", and points - information on HIV and "risky sexual behavior" in prison AIDS, how to stay healthy, what You Improvise to Survive: Ad- does CD4 count and viral load tell

Prisons - A short compilation put specific) - a gay man's guide to

submissions we received for the **ment therapies** - for people living with HIV

> A practical guide to herbal therapies - for people living

> side effects - for people living

A practical guide to Nutrition - for people living with HIV

HIV and Hep C coinfection answer some basic questions about living with HIV and hepatitis C HIV disclosure - a legal guide

for gay man in Canada HIV viral load testing - introduces the viral load test and answers basic questions about how

it fits into a treatment plan. Hepatitis C Peer support group manual (non prison specific) tips and tricks for starting a

information on sexual health is- Hepatitis C Pamphlet - Newly

treatment options

Symptoms and Treatment Side

Hepatitis C: Get the Facts all the info in plain language and detailed illustrations

Living with HIV and HepC Coinfection - offers key information on living with both viruses, covering useful topics such as HIV and hepatitis C basics, the effects of co-infection, ways to stay healthy, treatment strategies and preventing transmission.

Writing/ Literature on HIV/ AIDS

What causes/defeats AIDS - AIDS project Los Angeles, Annual report

If We Have To Take Tomorrow same-sex and same-gender desire, and HIV/AIDS by and for gay black

To be left with the body - This collection, put out by AIDS Proiect Los Angeles (APLA) is dedicpositive folks about the marginalization and criminalization of on the outside queer and HIV positive communit-

Corpus: volumes 4, 5, 6 - Corpus, put out by AIDS Project Los the fall of 2009 on supporting Angeles, and Gay Men's Health work within and against prisons Crisis, is an HIV prevention pub- Erased Histories: Community TGI Justice Project - A brief lication that brings together Responses to HIV/AIDS - The overview of the programs and serhealth information, politics, transcription of a panel of dif- vices offered by the Transgender, creative work, and essays all on ferent (mostly gay and lesbian) Gendervariant, and Intersex issues related to HIV/AIDS, and community activists about their justice project, and how to conwhere health and AIDS intersects work around HIV and AIDS in the tact them (USA) with other other issues faced by earlier days of the epidemic, in- The Sylvia Rivera Law Project gay and queer communities: incar- cluding how AIDS issues interact An overview of SRLP, it's mandate ceration, racism, policing.

Issue 4 is about women's relationships to gay men and AIDS; Issue 5 is about rural gay identity and AIDS;

Issue 6 is the International issues, and explores shifting global responses among gay and queer men

The De-gaying of AIDS & Re-

to how AIDS has been de-gayed, and $_{
m HIV}$ mobilizing, and being gay is the effects of this on, among prison. others, prisoners and communities of colour.

Gay boy talk: stopping HIV infections among young gay men (Also available in Spanish) Not prison specific - The purpose of this article is to discuss The Word is Out! Issues 1 to the importance of influencing 8: Our very own Prisoner Corres-

Hepatitis C: Managing Common HIV-prevention efforts targeting art and writing, callouts for our young gay men. The discussion is different projects, and a list of Effects - for people living with based on Sexual Stories, a study all our services. which sought to understand the Cellcount: A general newletter / interpersonal, social, and cul- list of services and resources tural contexts in which behavioral offered by PASAN, the Prisoner risk for HIV infection occurs HIV/AIDS Support Action Network. among young gay men.

Our Events

Imprisoned Pride: how queer and trans prisoners get written out of mainstream pride movements - A zine put together by the Prisoner Correspondence Project that is a transcript and photos from an event we organized in summer of 2008, during Montreal Pride festivities; an anthology of writing by queer and trans prisoners about pride.

You Improvise to Survive: Neist a collection of writing about **gotiating Sexual "Safety" for** queer and trans folks, inside and out - A short compilation put prisoner resource list: expanded together by the Prisoner Correspondence Project of the first submissions we received for the Fucking without Fear resource ated to poetry, prose, and series. These submissions were the photography written by and for ${\ensuremath{\mathtt{HIV}}}\xspace$ focus of several workshops and events we have put on with folks

> Beyond prisons, towards community strategies - the transcription of a panel we held in

with courts, cops, and prison is- and programs, and ways to contact

Building abolition futures _ Jailhouse Lawyer's manual - A the transcription of a panel from handbook of legal rights and prospring 2010 about how sex offender cedures for use by people in panic is linked to homophobia and prison. 36 chapters informing the recent oush for sex offender prisoners of their legal rights registries

Hell No, We Won't Go: In Con- through the judicial process. versation with Laura Whitehorn Pennsylvania Legal aid and claiming Culture / La desho- - The transcription of an inter- pro bono organizations remosexualization del SIDA - view we conducted with former source list Available in both Spanish and political prisoner Laura White-English, these short essays speak horn, on anti-prison organizing,

Resource Lists

discourse about homosexuality at pondence Project newsletter. In-

the social and cultural levels in cludes featured resource, prisoner

Also includes tips on safer drug use, etc. We will send you the most recent edition, though you can also request backissues (Canada)

A resource list for the Incarcerated Native American: Includes listings for newspapers for Native American prisoners, book program listings, legal resources, and education programs for prisoners (USA)

Queer and trans zine resource list: a list of addresses and contact information for self-published 'zines

Prisoner resource guide: a collection of organizations and services offered to prisoners (USA) Prison Book Programs: National version of the prisoner resource list (USA)

Locked out: resource for LGBTO prisoners (USA)

Resource list for Straight/ non-queer inmate Canadian publication prisoners

Legal

them for more information (USA)

and how to secure these rights

Tattooing

Tatooing and you: the safequards within prison walls - A pamphlet / quide on safe tattooing inside prisons, things to consider, and materials to use Think Before You Ink - prison-

Drug Use

showing how to safely use crack, sexual groups. Highlights being a care, information, and referrals. and reduce the risk to your body boy in Jewish American culture, Ultraviolet: The case of the et le dommage au corps et aux inappropriately. poumons.

des autres substances

short descriptions about how to that do not fit into the current Wiener Society - A gay punk zine drugs.

to caring for your veins while detailed analysis of the forms of **Left Back: Issue 3** - Gay punk up, etc, put out by PASAN

Keeping fit - A prisoners guide gendered people. to syringe care, cleaning your Sex que(e)ry - Que(e)ry is a Thoughts of my liberation: Isshooting up in prison

de droits fait « Par et Pour » ies or coming out in prison les personnes qui consomment des **Getting Together** - The ins and drogues. Au-delà des thèmes re- outs of dating & relationships latifs aux infections transmiss- for gay and bisexual men. ibles sexuellement et par le sang Bisexuality 101 - A great coll'art, l'histoire, la spiritual- tions. ité, l'alimentation, le sexe, la How to be an Ally to a Bi-

Coming Out / LGBTO Identity

African Americans Coming Out -A basic, non-prison specific guide to coming out for gay and lesbian African Americans

FTM International: the chest resource issue of the magazine source list for female-to-male biphobia. trans folks.

Intro to intersex activism: a guide to gay, lesbian and bisexual allies - A short guide for people who are interested in knowing more about intersex iden- Building Bridges - A short arttities and intersex activism

the libraries: a collection of overview of the realities of being radical queer moments - A 'zine queer in prison. put together archiving different **Prisons and Closets** - An article

and snapshots of queer struggle queer, and about negotiating out-(not prison specific)

Safer shooting - A postcard with broad term for a range of groups another in the face of torture. Be kind to your veins - A guide through developing research and a views, etc.

at the University of Chicago

L'injecteur - Un outil de pro- Bent bars - from our sister org ience of prison motion de la santé et de défense in the UK, a compilation of stor-

(ITSS) et aux drogues, l'Injec- lection of articles compiled by teur aborde d'autres sujets qui PFLAG on history and on bisexualintéressent les personnes UDII, ity and biphobia along with some comme: la culture, le cinéma, answers to frequently asked ques-

> sexual Person - Bisexual Resource Center - A brochure of tips and conversation starters for bisexual people for talking to people about bisexuality with straight and gay people alike.

I Think I Might Be Bisexual, Fluid, Pansexual or Queer-Identified (So Now What?) -BiNet USA - An article about bisexual, fluid, pansexual, and issue - The organizational and queer experience, with quotes from bisexual people, safer sex FTM International, includes retips, and thoughts on confronting

LGBTQ Prison Literature

icle written by Lin Elliot in the Out of the closets and into mid 1990s that provides a brief

moments in queer / gay history written by Jason Lydon about his experience being in prison as

ness

Tim Tum, a trans jew zine - Still We Rise: A Resource Concentrates on the struggle with Packet for Transgender People being a transgender young man, in Prison (From the TGI My crack kit/Mon kit crack" - issues of identity, and visibil- Justice Project)- A comprehens-A short guide (pamphlet size) ity among both queer and hetero- ive guide on access to medical

and your lungs. Un guide dé- and the struggle for identity jersey 4 - A small newspaper about montrant comment utiliser du when interfacing with normalizing the case of the new jersey 4 crack, en minimisant les risques power that attempts to gender you four black lesbians who were convicted for defending themselves Making he lives of transsexual against a homophobic assault

Guide DOPE: Travail du sexe, people visible: Addressing the A view from Treblinka Dungeon, drogues, alcool et autres politics of social erasure - Pelican Bay - An article written substances (Francais seule- An examination of how social in- by Lofofora Contreraz about her ment) - Un guide (non particulier stitutions and theoretical ap- time spent incarcerated at the SHU au milieu carceral) comprehensif proaches have led to the erasure (Security Housing Unit) at Pelican au sujet de la reduction des me- of transsexual (people who Bay as a transsexual woman, and faits en utilisant les drogues et identify as members of the other about communities of trans prisongender) and transgendered (a ers coming together to support one

shoot up safely with injection two-gender system) experiences put together by Neil, prisoner in and begins to counter this the US, includes poetry, music re-

fixing in prison, where to shoot marginalization and oppression fa- prisoner zine distributed by Fancing transsexual and trans- orama; includes poetry and writing about prison life

needles, and what to do to take collaborative zine on queerness, sue 5- A zine put together by twobetter care of your body while sexuality & gender. It was made spirit Native American prisoner Iron Tipi Warrior about his exper-

Hormones

Hormones without a doctor - A comprehensive guide to street hormone use / hormone use without a doctor. Includes a pill and patch identification guide, what dosage to take pills, and other general tips about safe hormone use. Mostly MTF

Gender Anarky: a translesbigay 2 spirit zine" Issues March 2007 or December 2008 - A short zine put together by US transsexual prisoner about trans issues and hormone access in US and California prisons

TranzLezbos - A short zine, including poetry, for transsexual lesbians, put together by trans lesbian prisoner Lofofora, who is on the inside in California.

Hepatitis C and hormone therapy (Ausse disponible en francais) - A pamphlet about how you can transmit hepatitis C while injecting hormones (not specific to prisons)

MTF hormone therapy/traitement hormonal homme a femme - Some basic information about taking hormones for people who are thinking of transitioning maleto-female

FTM hormone therapy/traitement hormonal femme a homme - Some