

THE WORD IS OUT

: a newsletter of the Prisoner Correspondence Project.

Welcome, all, to our first anniversary issue and the first issue of 2010!

Our deepest apologies on the delay for this issue. After a nasty surprise with the mailing costs for the last issue, we were forced to take a little time strategizing and readjusting. Needless to say, this issue is our biggest yet.

Due to the process, we've dubbed it "The Recessionista Edition" and taken up this theme of Style On A Budget throughout. Whether it's pieces like a report-back on our visioning session of how to accomplish the goals of the project on a limited budget, or the panel on prison abolition addressing how to realize the dream while working within the everyday. Or even the beautiful back cover, reminding us how in these troubled times less truly can be more.

Our heartfelt thanks to Paco from Dallas and James for providing the art for this issue. And to Sha'uri, Amazon and Michael for their thoughtful and thought-provoking articles.

In solidarity and struggle,

Your friends at the Prisoner Correspondence Project



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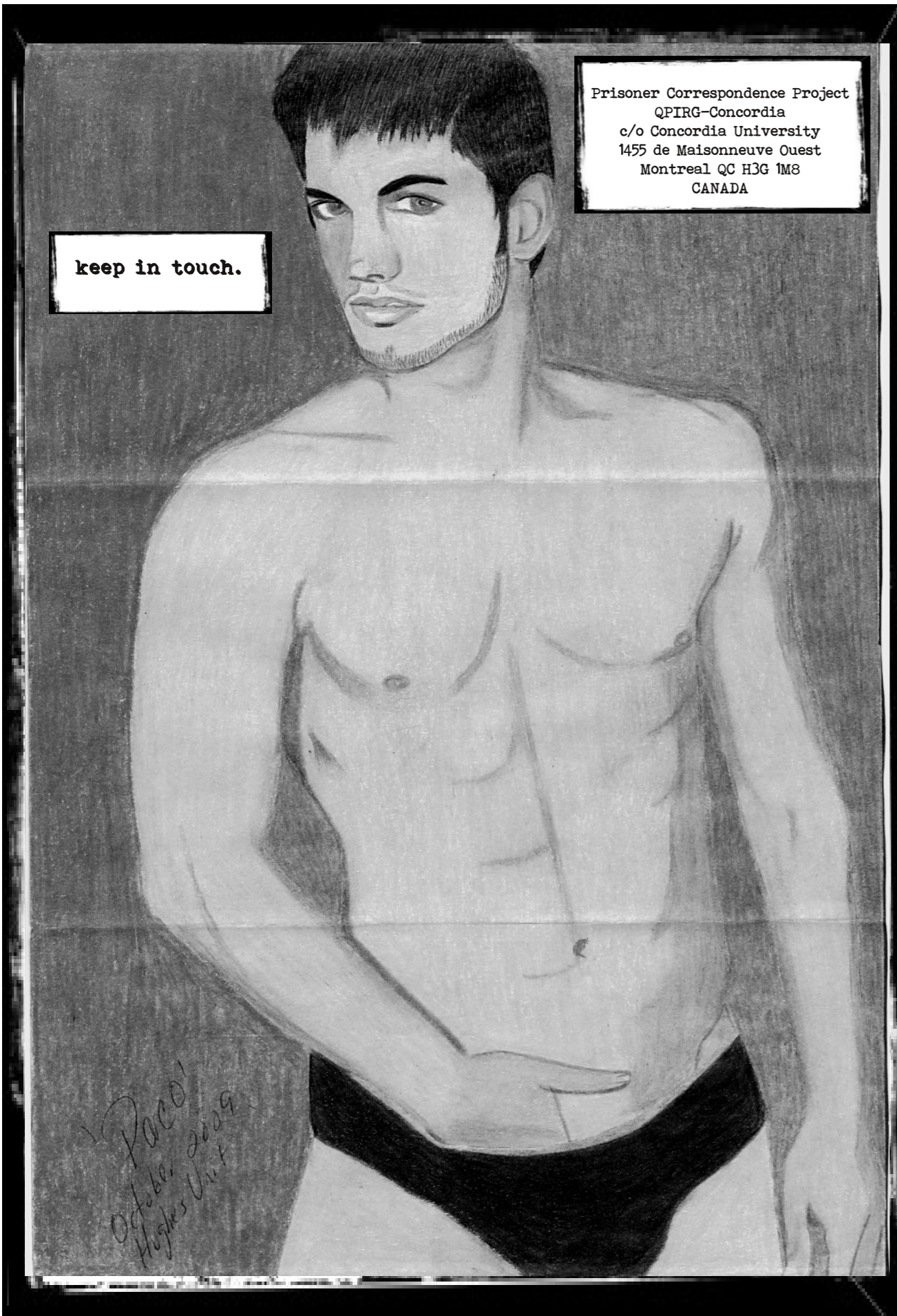
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keep in touch.

PACO!
October 2009
Highes Unit



SINCE WE'VE

BEEN GONE

A fair bit has happened since the last time we checked in; in September, we presented two installments of our workshop "Kings and Queens and Criminal Queers," about queer and trans youth and criminalization, a workshop we're hoping to build and expand upon with your help and contributions (something we wrote about in the last issue, when we asked "If you were given the opportunity, what would you say to a roomful of gay and trans youth?") We'd still love to hear from you on this topic.

September was also a busy month for us because it's the time of year we have to re-apply for funding to keep the project going. QPIRG Concordia is once again continuing to support us this year, and we're happy to have the newly formalized support of another Concordia-based group, the 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy as well.

In October, we were very busy planning and promoting our panel event "Beyond Prisons," which was a huge success and which you'll hear about in more detail later on in this issue. That month we also did two smaller discussions with Montreal-area community organizations, AIDS Community Care Montreal and Action Santé Travesties et Transsexuelles du Qu@bec (a local trans support group downtown). Two collective members, Marty and Liam, hosted the event at ACCM, where they facilitated a discussion about the criminalization of HIV and showed a film called "Acting Up for Prisoners," about a California-based ACT-UP chapter confronting medical neglect and segregation of

HIV+ prisoners at a California state prison. A few weeks later, just following the big panel event, Liam and another collective member, Ashley, facilitated a discussion at ASTTEQ, where we introduced the project to a number of the group's members, discussed some of the factors leading to such high percentages of transfolk behind bars, and we also read some excerpts from a written submission from a longtime project member, Amazon, who had prepared a piece for us for the "Beyond Prisons" event.

Both of these smaller discussion nights helped us to reach a broader audience of people potentially interested in becoming penpals or contributing to the project in other ways. We hope to continue to foster these kinds of links to other community groups in and beyond Montreal. Connected to this kind of relationship-building is our goal to develop a better, more comprehensive network of referrals so that we can provide all of you with as many useful resources and contacts for the various types of important questions and support being asked for that is often beyond our own capacity and knowledge base. The "featured resource" section of the newsletter is one way that we are trying to accomplish this goal.

In November, the project co-hosted California filmmakers Eric Stanley and Chris Vargas, and showed the Canadian premiere of their new film "Criminal Queers," which is a very hilarious and campy movie that imagines a world beyond prisons and proposes some creative ways to keep or get our queer and trans friends out of the prison system altogether. We also did a lot of internal work as a collective in November and Decem-

ber, including developing some new resources to support our penpals on the outside, such as a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, as well as an online discussion forum to help non-incarcerated penpals in different cities keep in touch and support one another virtually. A number of other new and exciting ideas and directions for the project came up at our visioning meeting this month, something else that's discussed in much more detail later in the newsletter. Finally, we continue to try to translate more and more of our project materials into French to become more locally relevant in the Quebec context, something that thus far has really prevented us from making serious inroads into Quebec prisons.

As we look forward into 2010, we're all incredibly excited about the speed at which the project is growing and the increasing amount of feedback and contributions we're getting from all of you, whether it be artwork or writing for this newsletter, suggestions for new resources you'd like us to get for the library, or other ideas for new directions for the project and ways we can better take guidance from all of you in the decisions we make. We hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter and we look forward to hearing from you in the future!

A CONTRARY COMMENTARY

by Michael

a response to "Identity Politics"

"Been there; Done that." That, qualifies me to make the following statements. I grew up in, 'The Struggle'; a conscious lever in The Black Liberation Army; and, I remain in 'The Struggle.' However; then, as now, I understand that The Struggle is Universal; a universal struggle for 'Justice,' 'Peace,' and all 'Well-Being.' Although at that time, (and, I guess, even now), The Black Struggle was, and should have been, pre-emptive to other facets of The Universal Struggle. It should not then, now, or ever, preclude The Universal Struggle. In fact; The Enlightened know, it can not. Need I point out; at the same time The Black Civil Rights Struggle/ Power Movement was in its prime, there were 'women' denied 'civil rights' (of all so-called 'races'); 'Chicanos' being denied 'human rights'; 'Japanese,' 'Chinese,' and all other 'Asians,' denied 'civil/human rights'? And; yes, 'sex,' itself, was unjustly codified. I'm very mind, also, that may of the venerable heroes/heroines of the Black Liberation Movement became 'Apes of the Oppressor'; i.e. became arrogant, self-centered, exploitative of black people, oppressors of and subverters of women, etc. Okay; who's perfect?

'Revolution.' From the perspective of that word's application to The Black Struggle, it's rhetorical bullshit. It is now; and, back in the day, it was for a lot of those claiming to espouse it. However; it implies, explicitly, a change for those who want a better way. A 'change' in itself, can be duplicative. Take, for example, the Obama Drama. For The Enlightened, the "change" was simply a superficial face-change; i.e. they gave the world a black puppet to replace the white puppet; and, as a result, folks proclaim a revolution. Okay; yea; for starters, they've stolen more money in his 10 months than they did in 2 years under the other pawn. Come; let us, reason (to gather); yes, to gather together as (one) (force for change).

Now; most people, (especially; in relation to The black Struggle), to fundamentally view (revolution) as implying, and demanding, (violent confrontation), alone; or, rather, not 'alone' but 'primarily.' Ahhhh; (The Romanticism of Nat Turner). (Okay; Been There; Done That Too.). Ah; But, That's called 'Revolt'; (or; if you want to be catty, it's called (insurrection).) 'Justice/ Human Rights,' or 'destruction'; which, is truly desired? Let me point out what will be an unpalatable truth to some; yet, seeable to The Rational. The infamous demonstration by my beloved Black Panther Party, where they stood on the steps of the courthouse in 'California' armed-to-the-teeth, was (God-Damned-Foolish). You see; they were (duped) into that

shenanigan, by (moles), to incite even passive (white folks), and even (black folks), that they posed (a threat of violence); and, the 'rhetoric' augmented (the visual tomfoolery). I.E. It was after that, that the (targeted assassinations) began. Although a (revolution) sometimes may entail (violence), a (revolt) always entails (violence). And; although a (revolution) may conclude in effectuating (positive change), most often a (revolt) does not. It is paramount, that those who want (positive change) realize that it's (the unsung heroes/heroines), and (unsung actions), that invariably make things better. The food programs, clothing drives, and encouragement to show love, were/are the most effective (weapons).

Do (queer), or (gay), people, have any less claim to (human/civilrights) than anyone else? No. I, am, foremost, (human), likewise, everyone on earth. (Yea; I know, a lot of folk act otherwise.) Can I, who doesn't want to be discriminated against, discriminate against someone else who desires, and/or demands, (justice)? I don't think I can, without nullifying my own claims. Of course (the queer nation) is, and should be, a 'reality.' It's a (movement), that began way back in the early part of (the 20th century). There are networks, like Lambda, and ACT-UP, etc. What; because they're advocates of (queer rights/ justice/ well-being), they don't deserve to be called (revolutionaries)? Well; the so-called (Black Revolution), was not, and is not, the only (revolution) known to (humanity) that had valid aims/claims. In fact; the only major differences between (the Queer Nation) and (The Black Struggle) is that some in (The Black Struggle) formed (armed groups), and (The Queer Nation) advocates for (Queers). Yet; from personal experience, I know you don't have to be (Queer) to receive from (the Queer Nation); nor, does being in (The Black Struggle) preclude my advocating (Queer Rights). Okay; so, some people don't agree with some of the things that go on during (Pride Week). Neither do some people agree with what used to transpire at (Freaknic, or (Mardi Gras). Yet; one of the sentiments that led to the inception of (pride Week), is "Yea; I'm Gay. But; I like to do my thing, and have a goodtime,asmuchasanyoneelse!"

Is it not (A social change), that now (Queer folks) can have sex with one another, in (the Land of Demockery/ America), without 'breaking the law'? Not, to mention; now, (Queer Adults) have the (civil right) to exercise their (human right) to marry each other if they so desire? Such (changes), came about thru 'the determined struggle' of (the Queer Nation). And; They not only (verbally

advocate/d) for (health initiatives) for (queer people), but put their hands to that wheel; and, have kept it to that wheel; evolving more, and more, ways to be (effective). Yes; something, that (The Black Liberation Army), etc, also did/do. The fact is; anyone who is denied (justice), has the duty to strive for it. Yet; in seeing that we all populate this (uni-verse), we have to see that (human rights) extend, unequivocally, to every (one). (Queer people), should have the (law), to protect them; and, thus (the Matthew Sheppard Law). (queer people) are (citizens of Amerikkka); and, they're robbed of (taxes); thus, have the right to demand (the civil right to marry). I mean; if you just base it on a belief in (the Great Demockery Propaganda) of "Liberty & Justice for All", then every claim they make is (Fundamentally Valid). I mean; the average person doesn't know, even when a heterosexual couple was 'eating pussy', and 'surfing the Hershey highway', there were (Laws) against it; the same (Laws) that applied to (queers); (Sodomy Laws).

(Revolution). (Changes). Well; A (revolution), is also a 'turn'; i.e. when something goes 'a round'. It's (the queer nation's) turn on center-stage. I hope, they stay (focused); and, don't allow (the superficial gains) to ever cause them to become lax. Let every (one) be aware, in (Revolution) there is (Evolution). In (Deter-My-Nation), there can be no (stagnation). Also; it should be recognized that (Matthew's Law) did not nullify (the malicious haters). Let there be vigilance, and pro-activism, in all things; always. (the so-called Black Revolution)? Was it not the same (gang) that (rapper50 Cent) belongs to, ((The Black Guerilla Family)), who killed (Huey P)? Oh; but, today, that (sucka) is a (Black Icon). (Revolution); an (Octaroon President)?! I never suspected, that was what (the struggle) was/is about; putting a (coconut), in (The Oval Office), no more/less. Naw, I didn't think it, ever; but, I heard a (Gospel Singer) sang he's claiming it under (God's Power). Yea; but what about those in the (ghettoes), (oops; I mean, (the urban areas)), having the beds snatched from under them in the names of (urban renewal), (eminent domain), (welfare reform), and (The War on Drugs)? I know, this; the opposite of (evolution), is (devolution). And; the devil is in, manipulating folks with (Ill-usions)/tosufferfrom(delusions).

To (The Queer Nation), I say strive on; because, (The Struggle) must never (Cease & desist). One Love. I am 'senwamadi'.

THIS IS RADICAL

by Amazon

a response to "Identity Politics"

We take notice of the presentation of Countess Sha'uri ("Identity Politics," last issue). The Countess remarks on an aspect of the Transsexual, Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay (Translesbigay) panrama, specifically the character of a group identifying itself as Queer Nation. Countess offers a critique of Queer Nation's sense of identity and questions its place within the political landscape. Gender Anark collective embraces, advocates, and engages in active ideological struggle not only as a means of dissecting the issues and their correct alignment or realignment but also, and equally important, as a means of unity among activists and organizations in the interest of our fight. It is in this spirit that we apply the following.

The comments of Countess are revealing of her developmental shortcomings in political arena.

In alleging a reformist orientation within Queer Nation the Countess unfavorably compares the group to the Black Panther Party. The Panthers are and have been from the beginning (1960s) a reformist organization, all revolutionary rhetoric and cultural fanfare aside. The excerpt from their agenda that Countess quotes is 100% reformist: any hint at violent opposition to the government, less its ultimate disintegration, is projected in the form of a Plan-B, not as their *raison d'être vis-à-vis* a violent, heavily armed and entrenched opposition. Thus, (and yet and still) there was never a Panther insurrection. Panthers seek only to coexist with the government, and they are coexisting with it. Any political objective short of the ultimate deconstruction of the government is reform and coexistence, political delinquency. Reformists make "demands" of the opposition. Radicals, who are the true revolutionaries, demand nothing and take everything: there is no negotiation. They do not fight in order to coexist with the enemy or to reform and integrate into its institutions. The institutions of the enemy government can never be reformed or rehabilitated and must be destroyed.

As a footnote, Panthers splintered because of their past and prevalent reformist and liberal program, and other contradictions within the group. On the East Coast, this was marked by the appearance of the Black Liberation Army, which engaged in armed struggle against the government. On the West Coast, we saw the emergence of the Black Guerilla Family. It was the BGF that executed the Panther leader Huey Newton who, among other things, continued to promote the reformist program of the Party. Briefly. ("Briefly," because there is so much more dynamic to all this that goes beyond the point.)

In any struggle, but especially in multiethnic, multidimensional struggle, a platform of oppressed people is concrete when it is inclusive. Fahizah, Mizmoon, Gabi, Zoysa, Gelina, Cinque and Cujo (five White women, one African man and a White man, respectively) are examples of revolutionary organization (Symbionese Liberation Army) in this land that implemented revolutionary program unto martyrdom via revolutionary violence, a program toward the liberation of all oppressed people, including the liberation of oppressed Translesbigays ("the gay liberation movement") not just the liberation of one oppressed people. The only

solution to government oppression of Translesbigays is the deconstruction of the entire governmental socio-political reality that is the foundation of our oppression as Translesbigays. There is also the danger of others who wish to harm us or who contribute to extreme hardship on us - such as the right-wing element and certain left-wing element, religious fundamentalists and crusaders, Nazis - and must be opposed and neutralized for our collective well-being Panther program is not concerned with liberation of oppressed Translesbigays - it is a nationalist agenda of a nationalist movement. It has the character of narrow nationalism, which is reactionary, not revolutionary. To hold that Panthers are not cultural is delinquent. There are Panther martyrs and all due regard is given to their honor, but these resulted from defensive engagements or enemy assassinations, not offensive military operations against the government.

Countess contends "the idea of gays as a nation or national liberation for gays is a manufactured idea with no historical basis." This displays a striking political undevelopment and is reactionary as well as incredulous. It is anti-Translesbigay. The entirety of her presentation is virulently anti-Translesbigay. It must fail. Translesbigays across any geography are a Nation. We have a common history, a common culture, common inherent traits, and common daily and life experiences that arise from them. We have a flag and symbols (multicolored banner, inverted pink triangle, the caduceus) Nationhood is not solely the domain of geography and ethnicity. Being Translesbigay is not a pigeonhole that we are stuffed into or some kind of stereotype. We are not mannequins. We are live, whole, kicking. We have a distinct culture and language, and a history that goes back millennia on every continent. We are historic, ancient, modern, and contemporary, worldwide, everywhere, open and concealed. Our oneness, Our Nationhood, is found in Pan-Translesbigayism. No one can credibly deny that Translesbigays are oppressed and persecuted around the world because of our personal disposition as Translesbigays, by individuals, groups, governments, religion and politics. With Roma (Gypsies), Jews, and others during World War II, we were arrested and imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps because of our orientation, victims of genocide, tortured and murdered in cold blood - for nothing. We have been the subjects of genocidal religious "Inquisitions," on more than one continent, through the centuries. This attitude of genocide towards us continues today, all over the world. Oppressed Translesbigays must confront the oppressor until we are free, liberated, nationally and internationally. We have been martyred doing so! This is down-to-earth hands-on reality, not a "manufactured idea with no historical basis."

The analysis of Countess must be rejected for other reasons as well. In capsule, her reflection on "identity politics," "nation," "nationalism," "colonialism," "national liberation," "political prisoners," "prisoners of war," is askew and romanticized. Her ingredient for nationhood is obsolete. She expounds reactionary political correctness.

Countess complains that Queer Nation insults "real revolutionaries" (who she

does not identify) when they declare that the act of gays kissing each other is a revolutionary act. Panthers Minister of Information once declared "political power comes from the lips of a pussy" and called on women to withhold "pussy" from men if they did not act in a revolutionary manner. It is not an offense against the government to withhold sex from a partner, but where there is government legal or moral code against persons of the same gender kissing or having sex with each other, it is certainly an act of rebellion to so behave. Standing alone, it is a natural act. By the government outlawing the act legally or morally, the act becomes political and performing it becomes a political act vis-a-vis the government. There is nothing "cultural" about it. The act acquires a revolutionary quality when used as a weapon against the oppression of a tyrannical government that has outlawed it. This is radical. Deconstruction is necessary on all levels - social, political, military, moral, legal, psychological, cultural - any and all ways necessary. This is best. Here we have a case of the enemy's conduct morality and social etiquette that pointedly targets our way of life, our happiness, our humanness, a personal intimate expression, stigmatizes it and persecutes it, makes it "illegal," "immoral," "criminal." As can be seen, the sense of morality of the enemy is quite putrid! Immediately let us vomit it up! We must have nothing but utter contempt for all of the enemy's conventions, a cold and passionate disregard. This is best. This is radical. And after we bury the enemy's stinking corpse someone must spit on its grave.

The confrontation with the oppressor is a perpetual growth experience, forever transforming, as long as it does not stagnate, become inert, derail, regress, or compromise. These are the enemies of resistance. In struggle we are transformed. Often a struggle begins haltingly, stumbles, and regains balance, acquiring keener vision as it encounters new and different situations, circumstances, and thought. We are radicalized. Permanent revolution has no ultimate plateau but is infinite, continuously maturing, from generation to generation and age to age. We must forever be in-movement. Radicals analyze ourselves and apply constructive self-criticism where warranted. We are militant. We vigilantly sharpen the tip of our program and zealously, jealously carry out our fight, even unto martyrdom. We vie in militancy. Life is cyclic; that is, history repeats itself: there will be learning and progressive cadre and movement and there will be those that are merely coasting and those redundant of bygone times. We will expand our consciousness and outlook in the course of struggle and accordingly adjust our agenda and course of action and methods as we learn from each other, our practice, and the reality on the ground toward the crystallization of our fight.

Amazon Ice Queen,
Founder & Guide, Gender Anarky
Corcoran Prison
November 2009

BIGGER GAY CAGES

At the end of March 2009, Tom Ammiano (gay Democratic member of the State Assembly) introduced bill AB 382, a proposal to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to factors considered in the housing of state prisoners. The idea is that if people can be housed according to their sexual orientations and gender identities, then LGBT people might experience less homophobic and gender-identity-based sexual assault.

A study from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shows that 67% of people who identify as LGBT report being sexually assaulted in prison, a rate that is 15 times higher than that reported by all prisoners. What's more, Miss Major from the TGI Justice Project (Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project based in San Fran-

cisco) says that "transgender women in California's prison system are 13 times more likely to be sexually assaulted in prison, and that half of all transgender women in prison in this state have been raped." So, gay and trans prisoners are especially vulnerable to sexual assault; Ammiano argued that if these facts are officially recognized and kept in mind when classifying and housing prisoners, perhaps some of the violence can be prevented. The bill passed in the State Assembly, and then went along with several other LGBT-related bills to be signed or vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

On October 11, Arnie passed two bills catering to the more mainstream LGBT community: first, May 22 is now Harvey Milk Day, and second, all legal same-sex marriages that occurred out-of-state before Prop 8

was passed are now officially recognized by the state of California. The Governor vetoed a bill that would have allowed transgender people to go to the counties of their birth to get a new birth certificate reflecting their name change and changed gender identity. And, he vetoed AB 382 with the proposed changes to prison housing policy, saying that it "was unnecessary" and that sexual orientation was already taken into account in the current policy on risk factors to be considered when classifying and housing prisoners. The current list of factors includes age, gender, type of offense, and prior time served.

Disappointing news from a disappointing governor.

LONGER QUEER CHAINS

Italy is to open one of the world's first prisons for transgender inmates, reports say. The prison, at Pozzale, near the Tuscan city of Florence, is expected to house inmates who mainly have convictions for drug-related offences and prostitution.

Gay rights groups in Italy welcomed the move

to convert an almost empty medium security women's prison into a specially equipped detention centre. It is thought that Italy has a total of some 60 transgender prisoners. The centre will house about 30 people, according to reports. The BBC's Duncan Kennedy, in Rome, says that until now transgender prisoners have been located in women's prisons

where they are often segregated for their own safety. Leading gay rights groups say they welcome the new prison as a dedicated space providing the psychological support transgender prisoners need.

(from the BBC)

VISIONING REPORT BACK

At the beginning of December 2009, the eleven or so core collective members that coordinate the Prisoner Correspondence Project sat down together for a full-day meeting to discuss a long-term vision for the project. Our goal was to make the space to step back from the day to day work of filling resource requests, matching folks' up with penpals, and coordinating events, and reflect on the work the project has done since it started two and a half years ago.

We've had a busy year. Over the course of the past year, the core collective has grown quite a bit, we've expanded our resource library significantly (check out the section on resources in this newsletter!); we launched a workshop series called 'You Improvise to Survive' which centered discussions of risk and sexual safety in prisons which we presented in Ottawa, Montreal, and Chicago; we started the process for our Fucking without Fear resource series on HIV/AIDS, safer sex, and sexuality in prisons. The inside and outside penpals / broader members of the project has also grown extensively - over the course of the past two years we have paired up close to two hundred inside penpals with someone on the outside.

Some of the questions we were hoping to address in particular were: How do we build our capacity as a small non-paid organization to support gay and trans folks' inside when that need is only growing? How do we build ways of operating as a core collective of entirely non-prisoners and establish a direction set by gay and trans people living inside prisons? How can we continue to expand the support that we offer to include a more solid system of referrals, advocacy, and legal advice? How do we - as an organization that is mostly English-speaking, but based in the province of Quebec which is mostly French-speaking - ensure we're connecting with prisoners locally, and that our work is relevant to people facing imprisonment in our own neighborhoods and city?

Out of the visioning session, we identified several key priorities for the up-

coming year: to look into longer-term sources of funding (including the possibility of having a paid staff person a part of the organization) that will allow us to grow to meet the ongoing needs for penpals, resources, and support among gay and trans prisoners; to forge links with organizations in/around the Montreal area and in the province of Quebec to create stronger networks and working relationships with groups doing work around, for instance, HIV prevention, LGBT rights, health promotion, or legal support; and finally, to step back a bit from the programming and events-coordinating we've been busy with the past year, and work on building our own capacity, skills, and knowledge, as members of the organization, in order to build a basis for work and support that is more sustainable, longer-term, and meaningful!

None of this work would be possible without the guidance, leadership, and support from all of you. We hope that all of our contacts, friends, and allies inside prisons continue to take the time to write us, share your thoughts and ideas, and provide us with the leadership and feedback that is critical in making this project relevant and meaningful. We also hope you continue to stay in touch once you're released; there are tons of ways to get involved and support the project once you're out. If you are interested in being more involved in the core-functioning of the collective and potentially being a part of the in-prison advisory committee, get in touch with us, and we'll keep you posted with updates.

In struggle and solidarity,

The core collective of the
Prisoner Correspondence Project

Bridget, Ashley, Josh, Noam, Liam, Julia,
Alex, Kim, Kristin, Cee, Marty

LESBIAN ART

by the Countess Sha'uri

Lesbian art is intellectual art, the art of women are clear and lucid thinkers, and therefore plain art. Artists whom the world has never seen greater, women endowed with the spirit's best gift, found their natural method of expression in the simplicity and clarity which are the endowment of the unclouded reason.

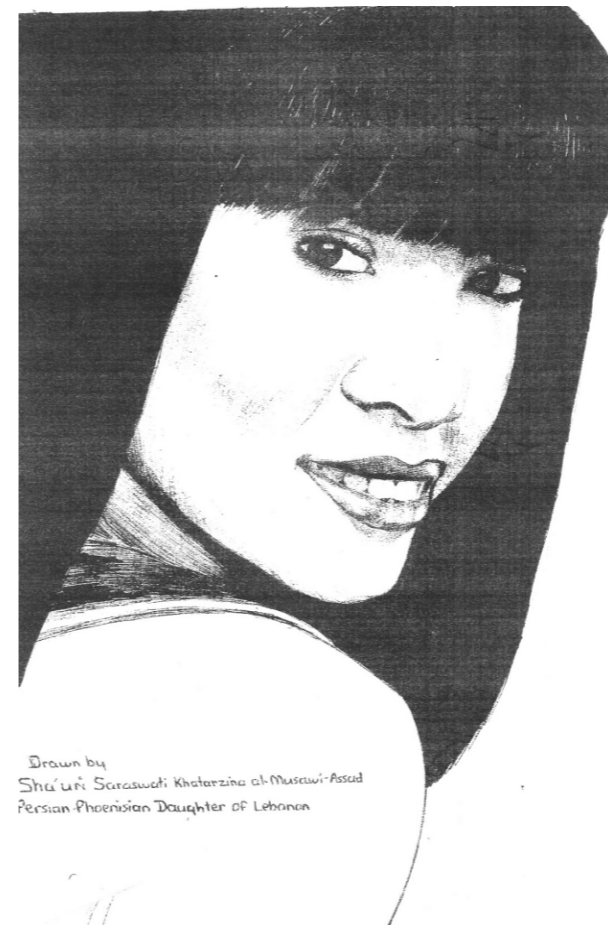
Nothing in excess, the lesbian axiom of art, is the dictum of women who would brush aside all obscuring, entangling superfluity, and see clearly, plainly, unadorned, what they wish to express. Structure belongs in an especial degree to the province of the mind in art, and architectonics is pre-eminently a mark of the lesbians.

The power that makes a unified whole of trilogy of a lesbian's tragedy, that envisions the sure, precise, decisive scheme of the lesbian statute, found its most conspicuous expression in womens architecture. The lesbian temple is the creation, "par excellence," of mind and spirit in equilibrium.

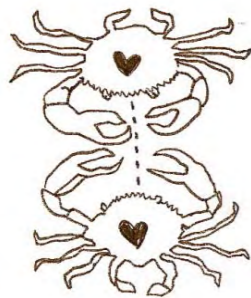
Lesbian artists, of the great age is the expression of women who are, first of all, intellectual artists, kept firmly within the visible world by their mind, but, only second to that, lovers of the human world. The lesbian temple is the perfect expression of the pure intellect illumined by the spirit. The endless struggle between the flesh and spirit found an end in lesbian art. The lesbian artists are unaware of it sometimes. They are spiritual materialists, never denying the importance of the body and ever seeing in the body a spiritual significance.

Lesbians are the figure upon which much romantic pity and sympathy have been expended - the champion of a dying cause. The women who fights for a new cause does not receive that tribute. She is up against the immense force of stubborn resistance the new always arouses. She must give battle without drums and without the probability that she will not live to see the victory. She can not be sure that there will ever be a victory. Nevertheless she is far more to be envied than the "man" who "tries" to turn the tide back.

To judge her fairly one must consider what the ideal was that produced the movement. It is founded upon a conception altogether different from the one behind male tyranny, of all power in the hands of a single man. The male tyrants left from home unlaminated and never to be revived again even in wishful thinking, except for Lesbians who were to be given absolute power only upon the condition that they did not want it, a curious parallel to the attitude prescribed by men. But the case for the lesbian is different. In the power is to be held by women who alone are immune to temptations that beset, on the one hand, those struggling to be powerful and, on the other hand, those struggling to survive.



Drawn by
Sha'uri Saraswati Khatarzina al-Musawi-Assad
Persian Phoenician Daughter of Lebanon



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Your whole life, Cancer, people have been begging you to come out of your shell. And for some reason, it totally worked! You've been defensive and reclusive and guarded, but those days are over. You're Out. You're Proud. And Cancer, you're shockingly beautiful. There's nothing more rewarding than getting to know a former hermit so people will flock to you by the millions. Let them admire you all they want- they'll learn what you already know: that Cancer, you are IT.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Lovely Leo: It seems you are having so much fun out there, you've forgotten that sometimes people (fine, maybe not you) need to slow down for a moment and spend some quality time relaxing and things. What fun it would be to have you one-on-one. No one's gonna put out that glint in your eye or that big gay fire in your pants. Just try to remember that if you throw a ball right now, your only guests will be other Leos and you know what that means: Drama. It's not that this is partytime is necessarily negative, but seriously, please let the rest of us catch the eff up.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

For you, Virgo, an Acrostic:
V ery Fabulous
I rresistible, especially in bed
R etrograde Mercury must not set you back
G ot a Rocket in your pocket
O nly you can do it so splendidly right

Libra (September 23- October 24)

You are a true Unicorn, Libra. And you know you've got what it takes to make it through till summer. Crazy but true, Jupiter and Neptune conjunct 3 times in your 5th house. This is the stars saying to you, "Libra, its time for a change." Broaden your horizons. Try something new. Make a friend with someone you couldn't find more different from yourself. Try something completely out of your comfort zone. Don't miss this rare chance to blow your own mind this spring. You Libra, will be nothing but glitter and jewels. So shine on.

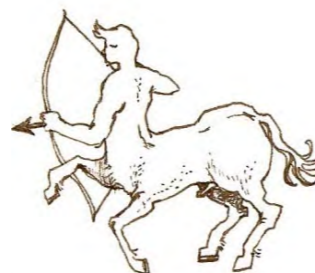


Scorpio (October 24-November 22)

Scorpio, yikes! You are completely ablaze. You are smoking up everybody's breathing room, but of course, that's your style. Dazzling as always, you act as though nothing can stop you, which is probably true. Let me just pass on this tiny bit of advice: Venus is moving right through your solar second house so you'll want to do a few things to make yourself feel secure. It's the little things that'll carry you through the next couple of months. Get organized. Make a routine. Find some constants to your constant and your fabulous self will continue to smolder and burn. In a good way, of course.

Sagittarius (November 23-December 21)

Sagittarius, I must say that you are looking lovelier than ever before. Dashing and bright-eyed, no one could bump into you these days without being completely taken by your absolute physical perfection. But seriously Sag, don't let all those people drooling and fussing at your feet slide by without a piece of your mind. You have the insight and advice we're all constantly seeking. And no one should ever overlook your brilliance for even a second, regardless of how smitten we may become with your face.



Capricorn (December 22- January 19)

Due to some changes in Jupiter's movement this spring, creativity and education become fundamental themes for you, Capricorn. Educate yourself. And don't let this term limit you- learning can happen in all aspects of your life- read more, love more, listen harder and fine tune all those skills that make you the Homo Darling Champion of the stars. We, indeed, have many life lessons to learn from you. Everything you touch, Capricorn, is completely golden. Winter without you would be one dark time.



BEYOND PRISONS, TOWARDS COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

supporting work within and beyond prisons

On October 24, 2009, the panel "Beyond Prisons, Toward Community Strategies: supporting work within and against prisons" took place at the Comité Social Centre-Sud in Montréal, Canada.

It was co-presented by three organizations: the Prisoner Correspondence Project, The 2110 Centre for Gender Advocacy and Action Sante Travist(e)s et Transsexuel(le)s du Québec (ASTTeQ). The presenters included Peter Collins, HIV/AIDS activist and prisoner Bath federal prison in Ontario; Giselle Dias from Prisoners with HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN) in Toronto; Farah Abdill, a community activist from Montreal; Amazon Contreras, jailhouse lawyer and prisoner at Corcoran, California; and Sadie Ryanne Baker of the DC Tans Coalition in Washington DC. The panel was moderated by Liam and Kristin, two collective members of the Prisoner Correspondence Project.

The goal of the panel was to

create a space where community organizations and individuals could come together to discuss the ways we can expand our existing models of support and service provision as prisoners, ex-prisoners and allies. The panel sought to highlight existing work done against prisons or imprisonment, both outside of prison and by communities on the inside. The guiding questions of the afternoon were, how do we move beyond a politics of damage control? How do we redirect our current work against prisons as strategies, rather than just responses? How do we reconcile our commitment to work that is rooted in personal relationships and day to day support with a longer term commitment to undermining the source of this harm?

Peter Collins, via audio recording, began his presentation by asking why advocacy work in prison has remained largely ineffective. He identified several reasons for

this. Efforts against the failures of the prison system have mostly occurred in isolation, and prisoners have little resource in furthering their own cause. The prison system is currently established as the only viable justice system, and it is well-funded, with a lot of public support based on the sensationalized response to crime in mainstream media. At the same time, Peter also recognized the strengths of the anti-prison movement, particularly in that it is consisted of people who are dedicated, creative, and open-minded. Talking about strengthening the anti-prison movement, Peter stressed the need to reverse the culture of fear in the mass media while also pushing for legislative change. He spoke about the importance of collaborations between prisoners and community organizers, while emphasizing that we need to work against prisons within a larger anti-oppression framework, or an understanding that we have to fight our struggles alongside one another simultaneously.

Giselle Dias spoke about her work with Peter Collins at PASAN in preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in prisons. Out of this work, it became clear that in order to address these issues, the entire incarceration system needs to be reconsidered. Giselle talked about prison itself as a concrete barrier in work supporting prisoners. She shared some approaches based on her own experiences. Supporting prisoners emerged as the most important strategy, both as a decarceration tactic to get people out of the prison sys-



The packed room.



From left to right: Sadie, Giselle, Liam and Kristin keeping it all together, Farah, and Nora (reading Amazon's statement).

tem and as a way of making political work easier for prisoners. Giselle also talked about US-style proposals to expand the Canadian prison system. In response, Giselle and several other community organizers are working to create a national network.

The focus of Farah Abdill's talk is on the different experiences of incarceration, from the perspective of a trans sex worker who has been in and out of prisons. She gave examples of prison guards and correctional officers using physical and verbal violence as tools for control. Queer and trans prisoners, in particular, are humiliated based on their bodies—they are seen as sick by both guards and other prisoners, and this understanding affects their housing and treatment within prison. Farah notes that queer and trans people are not the only groups facing discrimination the prison system, and that the prison experience takes on different meanings for differently marginalized people. It is only through understanding these different experiences that we can mobilize them in our fight against the prison system itself.

Amazon Contreraz sent in two written documents for her presentation, which were read by Nora Burk from ASTTeQ. In the first document, "Six answers to six questions", Amazon

discussed her recent work, and the principles and strategies guiding this work. She has been working towards better conditions for transpeople in prisons, such as improving the prison hormone program. Amazon warns against a rights-based approach to anti-prison work and instead advocates working to dismantle the government. In the second document, "Activists and activism: some points and authorities", Amazon emphasized the need for confrontational anti-prison activism that takes works with other anti-state movements. Sadie Rynne Baker, the final presenter, spoke about her experiences working with the DC Trans Coalition. After the coalition was formed, it set up



Julia, Noam and Josh at the back: Equal parts enthralling and enthralled.

a consultation forum to identify priorities in issues affecting trans people. Incarceration and the police came out on top as the most pressing problems facing the community. The Coalition came up with a list of demands for the police about their treatment of trans people, and through intensive campaigning, ensured the right for trans people to determine their own housing. The Coalition also put together an educational campaign in the community, teaching people their rights in dealing with the police. For Sadie, this kind of work is important because it allows people to fight—being in and out of jails makes it difficult for a community to mobilize. Focusing on incarceration also forces the organization to look at interlinking oppressions that affect specific segments of the trans community more than others.

The Prisoner Correspondence Project is almost done putting together a resource for our inside penpals which includes all of the presentations that were part of the panel. If you would like a copy of this, get in touch. If you would like to participate in future events such as the Beyond Prisons panel, write to us with your ideas.

HOMOSCOPIES

OR

HEY! WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?



Aquarius (January 20–February 18)

Oh Aquarius! I bet you thought this past winter was one big celebration of you and everything about you. Well, if that was the case, winter would be no different from summer, fall, and spring! Kidding aside, what I'm trying to tell you, Aquarians, is that rather than seeking affirmation of how important and winning you certainly are, look for those things that might pose real challenges and stimulants for your kinetic mind. If you search past the obvious, you never know how brilliantly gay you might become with the Spring.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)

Pisces, you may get a lot of flack for having your head in the clouds but this spring you're going to finally get some of the respect you deserve. While daydreaming may distract you from getting down to the task at hand, your fantastic visions and secret fantasies are just the ticket to helping everyone around you survive the long stretch before summer. So don't be shy, share what's on your mind because your superb sense of vision and your smooth way of operating makes you an even bigger Dreamboat than anyone could possibly conceive.



Aries (March 21–April 19)

You are the leader of the zodiac, Aires, and this spring you are about to meet your match. Now I know what you're thinking— you are dead certain that no one's worth even one ounce of your boyish good looks, willful ambition, or meticulous flare for detail. And you know what Aires, that's completely true! But before you decide that no lover or friend is worth the bat of that eyelash of yours, just remember that two can play your games, Aires, and when you let your soulmate in, your force will become simply unstoppable.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)

Dear Taurus, you have an admirable flair this spring for all sorts of activities from poetry to fashion and beyond. Most people who know you are extremely impressed by your no bull (pardon the pun) attitude toward pretty much everything. Once again, Mercury is going retrograde and this means you'll have a lot of reconsidering to do. Now is the time to think about where you put your energy and what your priorities are. Don't get too stressed out about it though, because come summer, you'll be sitting pretty and Taurus, with a fine self like yours, that's certainly not hard to do.



Gemini (May 21–June 21)

I was having breakfast with friend of mine who realized that she was dating six Gemini's at once. And you know what, Gemini, that's like dating 12 people! The moral of this brief but important story is that you, Gemini, require a LOT of attention. And don't pretend like you don't. Showing only your humble, low maintenance side is simply unsustainable. Get what you deserve Gemini, and if it means widening your circle of friends and using your charm to achieve proper doting, then do it! Making a new friend or two might be a time consuming task but there's absolutely no reason you can't have a lot of fun in the process.

Tattooing

Tattooing and You: the safe-guards within prison walls - a guide on safe tattooing inside prisons, things to consider, and materials to use.

Hormones

Hormones Without a Doctor - a comprehensive guide to street hormones / 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.

Guide to Hormones and Self-Injection - a resource sheet that includes info about where to inject, preparing the shot, and safely doing the injection.

Gender Anarchy: a translesbigay? 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.

TransLezbos - 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 - (aussi disponible en francais) a pamphlet about how you can transmit hepatitis C while injecting hormones (not specific to prisons).

MTF Hormone Therapy (aussi disponible en francais) some basic information about taking hormones for people who are thinking of transitioning male-to-female.

"FTM Hormone Therapy" (aussi disponible en francais) some basic information about taking hormones for people who are thinking of transitioning female-to-male.

FAQ on Transitioning (aussi disponible en francais) a basic guide that answers frequently asked questions about transitioning, hormone use, and gender transition.

Resource Lists

The Word is Out! Issues 1, 2, and 3
Cellcount: A newsletter by PASAN
A Resource List for the Incarcerated Native American
The Criminal's Handbook
Bisexual Resource List
Queer and Trans Zine Resource List
Prisoner Resource Guide
Prison Book Programs

Locked Out: Resource for LGBTQ prisoners
Canadian Publications for Prisoners
Writing and Publishing Behind Bars
Penpal Resources for Straight and Non-Queer Prisoners
Back Issues of Prison Focus:
Stella's Info Pamphlet on their Services
(En anglais et en francais, MTL-specific)

Coming Out/LGBTQ Identity

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

A Resource Guide to Coming Out (not prison specific).

FTM International - the resource and organizational issue of the magazine FTM International, includes resource list for female-to-male trans folks.

Trans Factsheets - general info about trans identities and terminology.

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 identities and intersex activism.

Out of the Closets and into the Libraries: a collection of radical queer moments - a 'zine put together archiving different moments in queer history and snapshots of queer struggle (not prison specific).

Being Gay / Being Lesbian - a pamphlet (not prison specific) on the basics of gay and lesbian identity.

Drug Use

My Crack Kit - a short guide (pamphlet size) showing how to safely use crack, and reduce the risk to your body and your lungs.

TIP Guide to Hormones and Self-Injection - by the Trans Health Information Project.

Guide DOPE: Travail du sexe, drogues, alcool et autres substances (Français seulement) un guide (non particulier au milieu carcéral) comprehensif au sujet de la reduction des mefaits en utilisant les drogues et des autres substances.

Trippin' - a comprehensive guide to drug use, and ways to reduce the risk of overdose, and other harm to your body. Also describes which drugs are safe and unsafe to take in combination with HIV meds. Not prison specific, but useful in showing what drugs counteract with others.

Safer Shooting - a postcard with short descriptions about how to shoot up safely with injection drugs.

Be Kind to Your Veins - a guide to caring for your veins while fixing in prison, where to shoot up, etc, put out by PASAN.

Keeping Fit - a prisoners guide to syringe care, cleaning your needles, and what to do to take better care of your body while shooting up in prison.

Legal Resources

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network - Information about the work AIDS LAW does and how to contact them (Canada).

TGI Justice Project - A brief overview of the programs and services offered by the Transgender, Gender-variant, and Intersex justice project, and how to contact them (USA).

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project - An overview of SRLP, its mandate and programs, and ways to contact them for more information (USA).

The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual - a handbook of legal rights and procedures designed for use by people in prison. 36 chapters informing prisoners of their legal rights and how to secure these rights through the judicial process.

Sex Work

Audacious: the reality of being a transsexual or transvestite sex worker (Aussi disponible en francais) An article written by a member of the Prisoner Correspondence Project about her experiences as a transsexual sex worker dealing with the Montreal policing, court and prison systems.

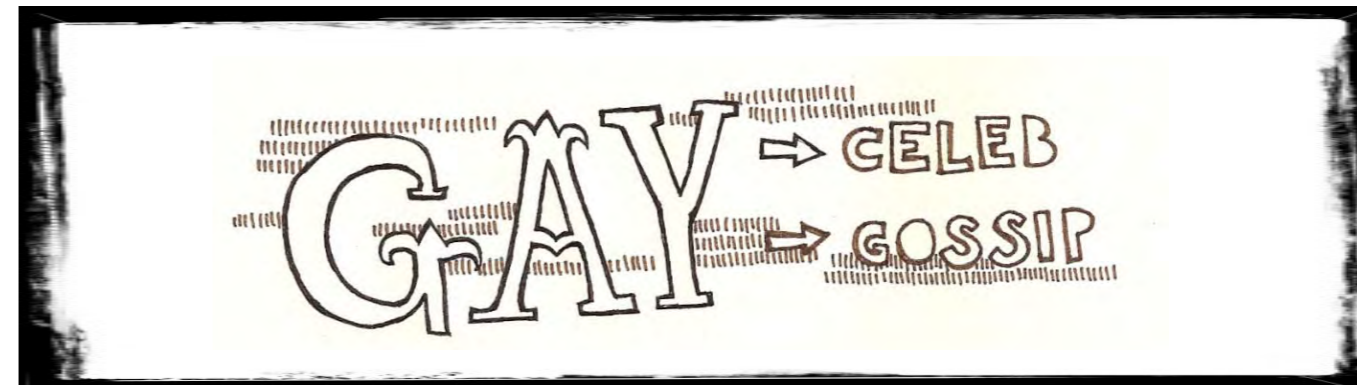
Hey Girls! Safer Sex for Sex Workers (Aussi disponible en francais).

Tenacious: Art and writing by women in prison.

Smut

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

Reversed Seduction - a new piece of erotic short fiction by our longtime correspondent and contributor sha'uri. a younger female inmate develops a plan to seduce her beautiful friend, with a titillating surprise ending.



Rosie O'Donnell is in loooooove. Or maybe just in a relationship. That's right, her rep has officially confirmed that Rosie has a new girlfriend, artist Tracy Kachtick-Anders. This lady is fierce! She's a writer, a doula, a bunch of other things, and she has six kids! Add that to Rosie's 4, and you've got a real wonderful family (or a new circle of hell, depending).

Who here was obsessed with A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila??? Anyone? Anyone? Okay I guess it was just me. Who here has heard of Johnson & Johnson, the all-powerful manufacturer of toiletries, board games, etc? Okay hopefully now I've got your attention. **Casey Johnson**, 30 year old heiress to the Johnson & Johnson fortune, was a troubled kid who did lots of drugs, stole her ex-girlfriend's jewelry, and then a few weeks ago, got engaged to **Tila Tequila!** Tila really is bisexual!



Tragically, Casey Johnson was found dead on New Year's Day in L.A. Cause of death unknown. Tila has been taking it pretty hard, refusing to believe that Casey is dead, buying a mansion in her memory, and only giving Casey's dogs back to the Johnson family after police intervened. Tila, we're so sorry your shot at true love was so short-lived! R.I.P. Casey Johnson.

Former Wales and Lions rugby player **Gareth Thomas** just came out of the closet! When Thomas publically declared that he was gay this past December, he became the first openly gay professional rugby player still playing the game. He says, "It's been really tough for me, hiding who I really am, and I don't want it to be like that for the next young person who wants to play rugby, or some frightened young kid... I want to send a positive message to other gay people that they can do it, too." Right, that's why we want him gay. For the children.

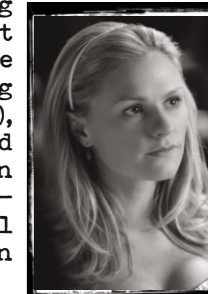


Anyways, **Sir Elton John** and his partner **David Furnish** tried to acquire a baby named Lev in the Ukraine, but then the Ukrainian government rejected their petition because of their sexuality. Ukrainian Elton John fans (if there are any left after his latest Face to Face reunion tour with Billy Joel), speak out! Anyways, the happy couple went to Venice for Christmas, to explore their options for adopting. Why? Because "that's what Christmas will be about -- a chance to get off the treadmill and chill out", Furnish says. Dude, if my concept of chilling out was talking about adoption, my hairline would have receded too! (But truthfully, David Furnish is smoking hot and his receded widow's peak just adds to the charm)

In the biggest non-story of the year, **Ricky Martin** has come out. Posting on his website, he writes "These years in silence and reflection made me stronger and reminded me that acceptance has to come from within and that this kind of truth gives me the power to conquer emotions I didn't even know existed. I am proud to say that I am a fortunate homosexual man. I am very blessed to be who I am."

Of course for anyone paying a modicum of attention the clues were all there: the children through a surrogate mother, the sometimes "cousin" sometimes "trainer who accompanied him to the beach, the rumours of a relationship with Mexican superstar Eduardo Verastegui, and, of course, that pelvis.

And **Anna Paquin**, star of The Piano, X-men (as Rouge), and more recently True Blood, where she plays a vampire-loving southern belle (now that vampires have come out of the coffin and are campaigning for vampire equality rights), has recently come out. And not just any coming out. On national TV. In an anti-homophobia ad. "I'm bisexual and I give a damn." Daaaaaam girl!



FEATURED RESOURCE: NATIVE YOUTH SEXUAL HEALTH NETWORK

The Native Youth Sexual Health Network is a North America wide organization that works with Indigenous communities on issues of healthy sexuality, sex positivity, youth empowerment, cultural competency and reproductive justice. They have a few different Two-Spirit projects, including The Lesbian Gay Bi Trans YOUTHLINE which provides support and resource referrals for Two Spirited and LGBTQ youth under 26 in Ontario. As a peer-based network of individuals, families, communities, and Aboriginal society at large, they are affiliated with lots of other organizations that do work with Two-Spirited people. While their focus is not on prisoners, they do have a prison in-reach project at the Youth Custody Centre in Prince George, BC. They do not currently have other active prisoner focused programs but they are able as staff to enter prison or jail facilities to do outreach and programming. They also accept all information requests.

To contact the Native Youth Sexual Health Network by phone, you can call their 24-hour toll-free information and referral line at 1-888-642-2725. Unfortunately they do not currently have a mailing address for information requests. For those located in Ontario, you can contact the YOUTHLINE for confidential, free and non-judgmental support at 1-800-268-9688, Sunday-Friday, 4-9:30 Eastern time.

Submissions

We need your submissions! Anything you're able to send is appreciated, whether it's sketches, political ramblings, or responses to things you've seen in the newsletter. A few things to keep in mind when submitting:

- If you can't make copies, you can send us the original, and we can scan in a copy and return the original.

- Please let us know if you want your name to appear (and if so, which name - legal or chosen).

- Please let us know if we can use it in other materials for the project (articles, posters, promo) or just for the newsletter.

- Line drawings and black and white images work best when being photocopied.

- Written submission should be under 500 words. Articles over 500 may be edited for length.

- Don't be shy to send writing or drawings with sexuality or nudity!! But since some won't be allowed into certain prisons, they will likely be used for materials on the outside.

New Resources This Month

The Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual - a handbook of legal rights and procedures designed for use by people in prison. 36 chapters informing prisoners of their legal rights and how to secure these rights through the judicial process to address specific problems related to their treatment in prison, or their unfair convictions/sentences.

The Bottom Line - 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 damage (not prison-specific).

His Albatross Flew When He Pulled the Covers - a 1977 interview with David Rothenberg, out Broadway producer and founder of the Fortune Society, a prisoners' rights advocacy group.

Reversed Seduction - a new piece of erotic short fiction by our longtime correspondent and contributor sha'uri. a younger female inmate develops a plan to seduce her beautiful friend, with a titillating surprise ending.

HIV and Pregnancy - a pamphlet addressing health considerations for HIV+ pregnant people. keeping yourself healthy during pregnancy and some options for keeping your baby HIV-.

Tintum - a trans jew zine. written by micah. a zine exploring themes of building a jewish identity alongside a male identity, working through tradition, prayer, family, and an homage to claude cahun.

RESOURCES ON HAND

All resources are provided free of charge to prisoners. To request resources, please send a list to the Project clearly writing the name and how many copies of each item you would like to receive. If you are requesting more than five or six, they will be sent in batches over several weeks so please indicate which are the highest priority. As always, if there is something you would like to see in the resource library that is not there, don't hesitate to ask and we will do our best to track down a copy.

Emotional Self-Care

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 - for prisoners, sex workers and other "high risk" communities, on HIV/AIDS issues, including prevention. (disponible en francais aussi)

C. It's No Joke - a guide explaining how to transmit hep c, including tips on safer tattooing, sex, and drug use. (disponible en francais aussi)

Queersafe - a zine (not specific to prisons) about safer sex for queer men and women, different sexually transmitted diseases, and taking care of specific body parts.

Turnover - a collection of HIV prevention comics that explore issues of youth and HIV transmission, barebacking, and physical and emotional wellness.

Risk in Prison - two articles written by matthew jones (incarcerated) and liam and bridget from the prisoner correspondence project (non-incarcerated) talking about the concept of "risk", and "risky sexual behavior" in prison.

You Improvise to Survive - a short compilation put together by the prisoner correspondence project of the first submissions we received for the fucking without fear resource series.

What if I'm HIV Positive? - a general, non-prison specific resource about what you should know if you test HIV positive.

AIDS and Hepatitis C: Straight-up Facts - a one-page overview of how you can transmit and avoid transmission of Hep C and HIV/AIDS in prison.

Safer Barebacking - An article (not prison specific) about how to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV/AIDS and other STIs 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 prison.

The Bottom Line - 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 damage (not prison-specific).

Writing About HIV/AIDS

If We Have To Take Tomorrow - a collection of writing about same-sex and same-gender desire, and HIV/AIDS by and for gay black men.

To Be Left With the Body - This collection, put out by AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) is dedicated to poetry, prose, and photography written by and for HIV positive folks about the marginalization and criminalization of queer and HIV positive communities.

Corpus - an HIV prevention publication that brings together health information, politics, creative work, and essays on issues related to HIV/AIDS, and where it intersects with other other issues faced by gay and queer communities.

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

Issue 5 - rural gay identity and AIDS;

Issue 6 - the shifting global responses to AIDS among gay and queer men.

The De-gaying of AIDS & Reclaiming Culture - Available in both Spanish and English, these short essays speak to how AIDS has been de-gayed, and the effects of this on, among others, prisoners and communities of colour.

Gay Boy Talk - stopping HIV infections among young gay men (Also available in Spanish). Not prison specific.

Our Events

Imprisoned Pride: - a zine put out from an event we organized in summer of 2008, during Montreal Pride festivities about how queer and trans prisoners get written out of mainstream pride movements; an an-

thology of writing by queer and trans prisoners about pride.

You Improvise to Survive - an article about the development of our Fucking Without Fear series written by the project an appearing in the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons.

Erased Histories: Community Responses to HIV/AIDS - the transcription of a panel of different (mostly gay and lesbian) community activists about their work around HIV and AIDS in the earlier days of the epidemic, including how AIDS issues interact with courts, cops, and prison issues.

Beyond Prisons, Toward Community Strategies: the transcription of a panel we held in the Fall of 2009 on supporting work within and against prisons.

General Queer and Trans Prisoner Writing

Building Bridges - short article written by Lin Elliot in the mid 1990s that provides a brief overview of the realities of being queer in prison

Prisons and Closets - an article written by Jason Lydon about his experience being in prison as queer, and about negotiating outness.

The Case of the Jersey 4 - a small newspaper about the case of the new jersey 4 - four black lesbians convicted for defending themselves against a homophobic assault.

A View from Treblinka Dungeon, Pelican Bay - an article written by Lofofora Contreras about her time spent incarcerated at the SHU (Security Housing Unit) at Pelican Bay as a transsexual woman, and about communities of trans prisoners coming together to support one another in the face of torture.

Wiener Society - a gay punk zine put together by Neil, prisoner in the US, includes poetry, music reviews, etc.

Left Back: Issue 3 - gay punk prisoner zine distributed by Fanorama; includes poetry and writing about prison life.

One Woman's Journey - by Kebby Warner, a short zine about one woman's struggle with the DOC, medical neglect, and about being a mother.

Thoughts of My Liberation: Issues 4 and 5 - a zine put together by two-spirit Native American prisoner Iron Tipi Warrior about his experience of prison.