

# GAY → CELEB → GOSSIP

Remember Top Gun, that unbelievably macho movie that was just so perfect? Motorbikes, fighter jets, leather jackets, Tom Cruise? Boy did I ever wanna ride into the danger zone with that duo, Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis. Well, we all know Tom Cruise is a major homo. But did you know that Kelly McGillis, who plays that hot blonde military expert named "Charlie" is a total lez?!? She came out in 2009, and just married her longtime girlfriend Melanie Leis on September 15 in New Jersey (well, it was a civil union). The lucky Melanie is apparently a business executive with Independence Communications, a corporation that sells Muzak to other businesses. Weird! Hope Melanie likes to listen to better muzak in the sack. Like, Highway to the Danger Zone?

**Queen Latifah!!!!** Everyone's always known that you are a real and true lesbian, but you've never shown it like this before!!! And how happy we are. The royally lovely Queen Latifah was spotted getting up close and personal with her "personal trainer," Jeanette Jenkins, on a yacht in August. They bought a house together this past May, but Queenie is still not actually out. But the yacht trip was clearly a date - in fact it was a double date with Alicia Keys and Alicia's new husband, Swizz Beatz. And it was in France! So I wonder who was training who in the language of love? CHECK OUT THE PIC.

Okay, I know it's from the National Enquirer and so not all that reputable - but the latest rumour about John Travolta being a big gaylord is too good to ignore. Apparently, Johnny (that's his name, don't wear it out) has been cheating on his wife Kelly Preston just months before their baby is gonna be born. With who you ask? With many, many men in Hollywood's "secret gay spa subculture!" That's right, Robert Randolph, the source of this rumour, is telling all in his upcoming memoir, You'll Never Spa in This Town Again. Oh, Johnny T...you can come spa in my town!

The celebrity to end all celebrities, Fidel Castro, is not gay. Or say they say. But in mid-September, he apologized to all those who are gay, and who had to suffer at the hands of his revolutionary government in the 60s and 70s. Why Fidel loves the gays at this time is unclear. But in an interview in the Mexican newspaper La Jornada, Fidel apologized for his regime's treatment of gays and lesbians, saying, "They were moments of great injustice, great injustice! If someone is responsible, it's me. We had so many and such



terrible problems, problems of life or death, that we didn't pay it enough attention." There are many who can attest to the fact that the oppression of gay folks under Castro was awful, involving segregation camps and routine imprisonment - it wasn't simply a case of the government not 'paying enough attention' to the issue. But anyways, some gays in Cuba are touched by the apology all the same; one gay professional dancer said, "It's a belated gesture, but a brave and necessary one if we're ever going to make progress." But another homo in Cuba, Mario Delgado, really doesn't feel the same way: "Fidel's apology means nothing as long as the police don't leave us alone." Well, fair enough Mario. Viva the GAY revolution!!

Nicki Minaj, part of Lil Wayne's Young Money crew (and btw, Lil' Wayne should be out of jail in November) gave an interview to Paper Magazine in early September talking about how much she loves the gays! First of all, she is smoking hot! Second of all, she sometimes talks about how she's "bi-curious", and that she is generally supportive of the gay community! She says, "I just like to put a spotlight on the people who support me, and it just so happens, you know that the gay community has supported me." So here we have it, support for the homos from a member of Young Money. No homo.



## RESOURCE LIBRARY

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 EASAN.

**Survival in Solitary** - a manual written by and for people living in control units by California prison focus.

**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.

other STI's when fucking without condoms.

**VII y el joint** - (Spanish only) a basic resource sheet put together by 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.

**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

collection of writing about same-sex and same-gender desire, and HIV/AIDS by and for gay black men.

### Safer Sex

**Beyond Appearance** - 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 well-being.

**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.

**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-gayng of AIDS & Reclaiming Culture** - Available in both Spanish and English, these short essays speak to how AIDS has been de-gayng, 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

**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.

**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 anthology 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.

**Criminalizing Risk**: the transcription of a panel we held during Pride 2010 on the recent trend of criminalizing non-disclosure of HIV.

**The Trouble with Protection in a Prison Nation**: the transcription of a panel from Spring 2010 about how sex offender panic is linked to homophobia and the recent push for sex offender registries.

### Tattooing

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

### 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 Trablunka 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.

### 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).

**FIM International** - the resource and organizational issue of the magazine FIM 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.

### 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 translesbian/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.

**Translesbos** - 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 français) a pamphlet about how you can transmit hepatitis C while injecting hormones (not specific to prisons).

**MTF Hormone Therapy** (aussi disponible en français) some basic information about taking hormones for people who are thinking of trans-

itioning male-to-female.

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

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

### 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, it's 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.

### Drug Use

**My Crack Nit** - 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) compréhensif au sujet de la réduction des méfaits 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.

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

### Resource Lists

The Word is Out! Issues 1, 2, 3 and 4  
Cellpoint: 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 français, MTL-specific)

### Sex Work

**Audacious: the reality of being a transsexual or transvestite sex worker** (Aussi disponible en français) 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.

**Gay Girls!** Safer Sex for Sex Workers (Aussi disponible en français).

**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.

**Read me a story** - a new smut story

Request resources at:

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

# TROUBLE WITH PROTECTION IN A PRISON NATION

A community discussion on sex offender panic

On March 18th of this year, we organised a community discussion and panel about sex offender registries, and how anxiety or panic about the threat of "sexual predators" comes up in the day to day work of the Prisoner Correspondence Project. Erica Mainers, a prison abolition activist and teacher from Chicago spoke about the growth of sex offender registries in the US. Marty, Josh and Liam spoke about what sex offender registries look like in Canada and how homophobia and transphobia links queer people to ideas about sexual offenders and sexual predators, and how this comes up in our work as a project through dealing with mailrooms, talking to prison administrators, and hearing from all of you.

About thirty people came to the event, and we all felt it was a success. Erica, who has collaborated with the Prisoner Correspondence Project in the past,

spoke about how sex offender registries, and community notification laws don't actually protect people from sexual violence, but actually, most often just result in locking more people up and expanding the prison system. Marty, Josh and Liam all spoke about how we've seen this come up in the project. From project members on parole being accused of exchanging child pornography and violating parole when exchanging pictures of men with their shirts off, to people facing charges before they're even 18 for having sex with other minors, to those of you facing huge obstacles accessing housing or services after you get released because of post-release conditions, to mail rooms refusing HIV prevention materials that have nudity because "per-

verts" and "child molesters" will use them, we talked about how this panic affects gay and trans people especially, and is linked to homophobia. And how the prison system relies on this hysteria and fear to grow.

This was one of the few events where we did not have prisoner participation or presentations by participants and members of the project on the inside, something we always try and make sure our events include. If you have experiences around dealing with sex offender registries or laws, serving time as a sex offender, or restrictive release conditions related to these laws, and want to share, don't hesitate to write us and share your experiences - we would love to hear them, and possibly down the road include them in our transcription / written copy of this event!

## FEATURED RESOURCE: PASAN

PASAN (Prisoner's HIV/AIDS Support Action Network) is a community-based network of prisoners, ex-prisoners, organizations, activists and individuals working together to provide advocacy, education, and support to prisoners on HIV/AIDS, Hep-C and related issues. PASAN formed in 1991 as a grassroots response to the AIDS crisis in the Canadian prison system. Today, they are the only organization of their kind in Canada.

Striving to work for all prisoners and youth in custody and against all forms of discrimination and oppression, they work to ensure that the fundamental human rights and dignity of prisoners are protected. With the help of many, they aim to make a significant change in the quality of life for all prisoners, people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C, and society as a whole.

Services offered include:

-Individual support counselling, advocacy, pre-release planning and referrals for prisoners and young offenders living with HIV/AIDS, primarily in Ontario region institutions. -Prison visits to Kingston Pen, Warkworth, Collings Bay, Bath, Frontenac, Millhaven, Fenbrook, Beaver Creek and Pittsburgh. They see people individually and in group settings; contact them to find out when

they'll be at your institution.

-National AIDS Hotline specifically for prisoners. They accept collect calls from prisoners across Canada at 416-920-9567 and can help answer your questions.

-Emergency financial assistance fund which provides limited financial support for both provincial and federal prisoners and young offenders living with HIV/AIDS. They can help with things like replacement fees for birth certificates, S.I.N. cards and other necessary ID, vitamins, and travel costs. The availability of these funds vary, and they require proof of HIV status for people accessing the fund.

-A quarterly bulletin free for prisoners and people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada entitled 'CELL COUNT'. It is written and edited primarily by prisoners and ex-prisoners, and provides an uncensored forum to explore and share experiences, ideas, and fears about HIV/AIDS.

Contact:  
1-866-224-9978  
416-920-9567

314 Jarvis St. #100  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 2C5

# HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

As President Obama today signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the following 31 organizations issued this joint statement:

## History in the Making

It took much too long, more than a decade. And it came at too great a price: the brutal killings of Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. are just two among the thousands of crimes motivated by hate and bigotry.

But this week, the president put pen to paper and fulfilled a campaign promise, the signing of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, extending the federal hate crimes statute to include sexual orientation and gender identity along with race, religion, gender, national origin and disability.

....  
We have worked long and hard for this and its passage is historic.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, there are nearly 8,000 hate crime-related incidents annually, and more than 1,200 of those incidents involve violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity. And even more alarming, while the overall occurrence of hate crimes is declining nationally, hate crimes against LGBT people have been increasing. This year alone, we saw hate crimes trials in the brutal killings of two transgender women, Angie Zapata and Lateisha Green.

As a result of this legislation, if local jurisdictions are unable or unwilling to investigate or prosecute hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity, the Justice Department can now step in. And that's why the LGBT community never stopped working for this historic day.

....  
Just as the time has finally come for stronger hate crime protections, it is also time to pass an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and ensure that health care, economic policy and immigration reform incorporate the needs of LGBT people.

The time for debate is over.

Signed by:

AFL-CIO Pride at Work, Centerlink: The Community of LGBT Centers, Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals, DignityUSA, Equality Federation, Family Equality Council... [and 25 other high profile LGBT and anti-violence organizations].

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act signed into law in October 2009 was the result of a major effort on the part of national LGBT organizations to secure the recognition of gender identity- or sexual orientation-based violence as a hate crime. In the left hand column, you can read the press release of 31 major organizations endorsing the passage of the Act. On the right hand side, please read the statement put out by the Sylvia Rivera Law Project of New York City, explaining why, though hate crimes should be condemned, the passage of the Act is no cause for celebration. What do you think?

## SRLP OPPOSES THE MATTHEW SHEPARD AND JAMES BYRD, JR. HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project does not see this as a victory. As an organization that centers racial and economic justice in our work and that understands mass imprisonment as a primary vector of violence in the lives of our constituents, we believe that hate crimes legislation is a counterproductive response to the violence faced by LGBT people.

....  
What hate crimes laws do is expand and increase the power of the same unjust and corrupt criminal punishment system. Evidence demonstrates that hate crimes legislation, like other criminal punishment legislation, is used unequally and improperly against communities that are already marginalized in our society. These laws increase the already staggering incarceration rates of people of color, poor people, queer people and transgender people based on a system that is inherently and deeply corrupt.

....  
The evidence also shows that hate crime laws and other "get tough on crime" measures do not deter or prevent violence...e the joining of a law that is supposedly about "preventing" violence with the funding for continued extreme violence and colonialism abroad. This particular bill was attached to a \$680-billion measure for the Pentagon's budget, which includes \$130 billion for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Killing people in Iraq and Afghanistan protects no one, inside or outside of U.S. borders.

We continue to work in solidarity with many organizations and individuals to support people in prison, to reduce incarceration, to end the wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, and to create systems of accountability that do not rely on prisons or policing and that meaningfully improve the health and safety of our communities--especially redistribution of wealth, health care, and housing.

For these reasons, we believe that a law that links our community's experiences of violence and death to a demand for increased criminal punishment, as well as further funding for imperialist war, is a strategic mistake of significant proportion.

# HOMOSCOPIES

OR

## HEY! WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?



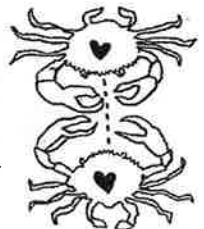
ARIES (March 21-April 19), many have labeled you childish and some have labeled you proud, but today I am going to reclaim those labels for your fabulous self.. Nothing is more gay than proud, and childish is a slur launched only by the immature. So do your thing and strut your stuff and remember that labels are for luggage anyhow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20), with Scorpio amiss this fall, things are going to start throwing you for a loop. Remember, Taurus that communication is key, and I do not mean a kick of the hoof or a grunt of the bull. I know you are eloquent and wonderful with words. Choose them wisely with those you love and your winter will be smoother sailing than even the gayest sailors could ever imagine.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21), you present a puzzling problem for everyone on the astrological map: how could you possibly be so timid while primping yourself for the party but so fiercely magnificent when you arrive? How could you worry so about how well you are liked when in the next hour not a word of slander could ever knock you off your wings? It is duplicitous Gemini, but go with it- your most important crushes and conquests will find these traits charming to say the least.

CANCER (June 22-July 22), right now your razor tough exterior is very intensely hiding some utterly lovely stuff at your core. What if people found out how much you like baking muffins or how movies about penguins make you cry? If Saturn is attempting to tell you just one thing, it's to break out your inner Sissy this fall. Your sensitivity combined with your studly veneer of resilience will be just the ticket for overcoming obstacles of all stripes and sorts.



LEO (July 23-August 22)! You must be doing something right, because your enemies have become your friends and your friends have become your lovers. Watch out because this balance could shift again. A little extra effort this fall will go along way in solidifying and nurturing relationships, reach out and the rainbows will coming streaming in every door.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22), never has there ever been a better time to be a Virgo. Your attention to detail and your ability to keep all the pesky little things under your control will pay off this month both in business and in pleasure. You have what it takes to blow everyone's mind and then some. Those who have underestimated you in the recent past will be very sorry they did. Let them grovel a little and win back your respect; you deserve some hero worship and some unicorns and just a little more fun.

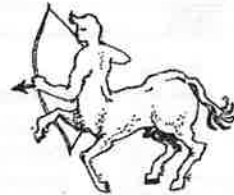


LIBRA (September 23- October 24), I hate to say this but you are at great danger of making some truly wild and irrational choices this month. I can't pretend to have any insight into how stressful it must be for a Libra to make a decision but I urge you wholeheartedly to return to the drawing board and make it again. You are gay as nails and tough as a bear. Mercury is in a rotation that commands you refuse easy answers or the easy way out, or easy in general. You have your scales lined up, now get out there and really use them.



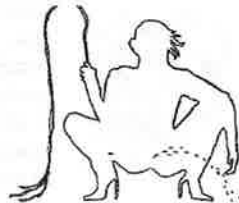
SCORPIO (October 24-November 22), when did you become such a breaker of hearts? I ask you to please reconsider your position of self-preservation and open yourself up to comets and fire and mythical things. If you let those close to you onto your team, they will break batting averages and fill your life with homeruns. If you bench them, you will have no one to high five your pansy-butth self when you come sprinting home all alone.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21), being a wildcard of the most winning sort, you have a tendency to run far from their comfort zones in search of a challenge or risk. Lucky for you, thrill-addicted Sag, you will find that your biggest adventures this season will come right to your door. Let them in and take a ride, you have nothing to lose but boredom itself.



CAPRICORN (December 22- January 19), it's time for a change. I recommend the self-motivated kind, like a new nickname or a different swagger in your step or a fresh tune to perform in the shower. It's not a major shift that the stars are pulling you towards but they are certainly tempting to instill a blip in your routine, a glittery spin on something you have worn out. Just a few small changes will allow you to make everything golden, sparkling, and freshly anew.

My, my, AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18), are you ever naughty. Never have your thoughts been dirtier, your mind been further in the gutter, or your intentions less pure. Now don't blush or get the wrong idea- this sort of base debasement is just what the astrological Doctor ordered. Keep up the good work and try to spread a bit of the fun wherever you go, we'll all be mighty thankful for it.



PISCES (February 19-March 20): the dolphin is your spiritual guide this fall, because Pisces, the Dolphin is a gay, gay shark. If you swim to be kinder, cuter, friendlier and increasingly Earnest, you will have at your command all the fish in the sea. Homo is the perfect state for any mammal. And besides, Jaws is just so 1992.

## SUBMIT TO THE NEWSLETTER!

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.

## THE CRIMINALIZATION OF RISK

This August, as a part of Persepolis / Montreal gay Pride and Prisoners' Justice Day on August 10th, which commemorates the lives of people who have died in prison, the Prisoner Correspondence Project held a community panel discussion and public event on the criminalization of HIV transmission, something which is growing in the US and Canada. (By the criminalization of HIV transmission, we're talking about how more and more HIV positive people are facing charges of assault, manslaughter and murder, for not telling their sexual partner that they are HIV positive, even if HIV isn't transmitted.) The event was about how criminalizing HIV positive people's lives, decisions, and sexuality actually spreads the virus more, and also results in locking more people up inside prisons.

Sébastien Savan (from Politi-Q) introduced the discussion with the general global landscape of HIV criminalization and prosecutions of HIV + (or "poz") people around the world. Stéphanie Lorange (a lawyer from COOQ-SIDA) spoke about the legal impacts and repercussions of HIV criminalization. Doug McColeman (from AIDS Community Care Montreal, one of the groups co-presenting the event along with the Corres-

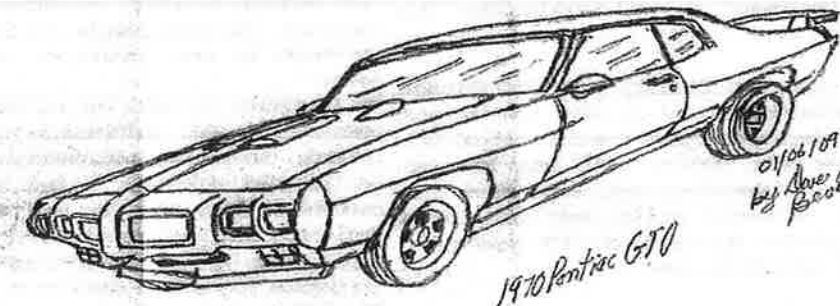
pondence Project) spoke to the costs that this has on HIV prevention work, and about the impacts of serophobia and discrimination against HIV people as an HIV positive gay man. Mikiki (from Toronto, who works doing peer support with other HIV+ people) spoke about what this means for sexuality and relationships between gay men.

Denis Carriere and Douglas Foreman, both incarcerated at La Macaza federal prison in Quebec just a few hours from Montreal, also presented, via written submissions, which were read aloud to the audience. Denis Carriere spoke about access to treatment and medication for HIV and Hepatitis C, in particular for First Nations communities, and how racism and hostility toward prisoners work together and result in worsened health conditions for prisoners living with Hep C and HIV. Douglas Foreman spoke about the importance of harm reduction policies and the failure of the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to live up to its obligations and promises around HIV prevention, and treatment for HIV positive prisoners. Douglas closed his presentation, saying: "So for those of you who are too sick to fight, or too discouraged to

screen out against what must seem like overwhelming odds, take a minute and look around you. There are amongst you, those who are doing the screaming on your behalf. Take a minute to thank the front line workers who come to the prisons and spend time listening to you, share your suffering with you and speak out for you when the time comes".

It was a huge honour for us to work with and collaborate with each Douglas and Denis on this event. We encourage anyone who has experiences around surviving with HIV or Hepatitis C inside prison, who have faced discrimination because of being HIV positive, or who are looking for resources, support, to get in touch. We would love to hear your stories and experiences if you are willing to share, collaborate for similar events in the future, and help where we are able.

If you would like us to send you a transcription / written copy of the presentations given at this event, just write us and ask us to send it along! (Note that while there are no images in this written copy, there is gay content / discussion about being gay).



# SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE

Well folks, we've been gone for too long and quite a lot has happened since the last time that you heard from us.

For starters, just in time for a hot new season we printed a hot new set of outreach posters featuring neat and notable quotes from pen-pals on the importance of correspondence. Around that time we also put out the second edition of the audio CD "It's War in Here". The CD is an audio anthology archiving the work of inside and outside members of the project. The CD includes excerpts from public events and panel discussions along with statements and music recorded with collaborators on the inside.

Beyond our printing projects we had a busy summer putting on a number of different panels and workshops. We kicked things off in June with a workshop called "The Trouble With

Protection in a Prison Nation: a workshop on queers, sex crimes, and state responses to sexual violence" that we facilitated at Trigger, a queer arts festival in Toronto.

As the summer rolled on one collective member found himself in the gay ol' town of Halifax where he facilitated a workshop called "Criminalizing Risk and Strategies for Decarceration: a workshop on sex panics, HIV criminalization, and tough on crime." This informal workshop was about the criminalization of HIV transmission in Canada, hysteria around non-hetero and public sex, the growth of tough-on-crime policies in Canada, and how these three trends work together to secure gay / trans marginalization and vulnerability to prisons.

In August we participated in Montreal's annual Pervers/cite, the radical summer pride festival, this time putting on the panel discussion: Criminalizing Risk. Held August 10th in honour of Prison-

er Justice Day, it brought together many people involved in HIV prevention and HIV legal issues. Panelists discussed the recent legal shifts in Canada that have contributed to the deepening criminalization of HIV transmission, risk, and nondisclosure. Speakers also spoke about the costs and harms to HIV positive communities brought about by these shifts, as well as how we could confront and reverse these trends.

Don't worry though, it hasn't been all nose to the grindstone -- we have also thrown some killer fundraising parties. Since the spring we've hosted three dance parties including a Querelle-inspired party as well as a speed dating and auction extravaganza. Our collective now boasts several talented djs!



## G.R.S. S.O.S.

On November 19th, the Canadian government announced that it would no longer be providing Gender Reassignment Surgery for trans prisoners in Canadian prisons. This abrupt announcement appears to contravene several recent human rights rulings in Canada that deem Gender Reassignment Surgery as a medically necessary" procedure.

This announcement is not supposed to affect anyone who has already started the process. Those cases are supposed to be followed to completion, but no new trans inmates will have it approved.

If this recent change affects you or someone you know, please get in touch and we'll do our best to put you in touch with people on the outside working to reverse this decision.

# GUILTY RENDEZVOUS

by Kirk Oldham

Jack Frost, as they say, is nipping at my nose. And my lungs. It's so cold out tonight that I couldn't help but cough when I stepped out of the lobby of my apartment building. I wouldn't ordinarily linger outside in weather like this, but tonight is special. I'm out here to meet him. He always wants me to meet him out in front of the building, rather than buzz him in from the comfort of my apartment upstairs. That always struck me as conceited, and I wish I could tell him to go to hell, but I can't. I need him so bad.

As I often do while I'm waiting for him, I start thinking of what it was like the last time. So hot I felt like I was burning up. Crammed so full I was sore afterwards. But a good kind of full; fulfilled... satisfied.

But just as with the end of each experience, the end of the thought process brings with it the heavy luggage of guilt. I know I shouldn't do this. At least, that's what some people say. I know it's not good for me. "It's not healthy,"

they would say. I know I should be more responsible. I should have more self-control; more self-respect.

The thing that bothers me most is that it doesn't mean nearly as much to him as it does to me. I know he doesn't do it to make me happy, and I'm pretty sure he doesn't even do it for his love or enjoyment of doing it. Sometimes he seems downright bored, and he always leaves the moment after we're done. I'm sure he only does it for the money. But every time I've called, he's answered. He always comes. And every time, it's every bit as good as the time before.

So here I stand, dressed thick against the outside world, but still getting cold. One hand clutching his money, the other holding the phone in case he calls, and both fists thrust hard into the pockets of my parka. I watch my breath swirl in the still air in front of my face like the spectre of Jacob Marley, hounding me to feel ashamed, and repent. But then, I see his car pull up.

As he gets out and walks toward me, there is no more shame or guilt. There is only fevered anticipation, which actually grows with each step he takes in my direction. Let others say it's forbidden. Let others deny themselves of guilty pleasures. But me? I'm about to get me some.

As he gets closer, I see he has a smile on his face. Maybe it's not first about the money for him after all. Maybe he really does take pleasure in giving people what they want most. Maybe, as one of his regulars, he's grown to like me. Now he's within polite talking distance, and I have to ask him: "Did you come for me?"

"Yep!" he chirps. "Large meat-lover's with extra sausage, bread sticks, and a six-pack of root beer?"

"Oh god, yes!" I reply hungrily. As I hand him the money, I groan, "Dude, you have no idea how bad I need this!"

- The end -

## FROM THE LEGENDARY QUEEN SOCIETY

First and Foremost greetings to all my queens out in the prisons. My name is Esmia Iuv & I've been down for 11 years. I have seen the worst of the worst. I have been shot, stabbed, etc etc...But that's not here nor there. I have been corresponding with the project for awhile now & I swear to you they're real lovable & careable people. There is a saying I always say: "Don't Bite the Hand that Feeds You!" That means the prisoner correspondence project is not to be used or messed with. Anywho time for daily briefings here in CSP/SAC/New Folsom State Prison:

Lots of Queens here at CSP/SAC have got on hormones & actually it's real easy all you have to do is speak to your psyc. They are real cool about it. Old Folsom had a riot 200+ inmates -- 7 wounded by the Mini-14, 1 died by the Mini-14. It's sad cause people waste their life fucking with gangs & shit. They are also talking about giving all transgender-male to female sports bras, it'll be nice to have

them. Also they said that we should be receiving 1 transgender doctor & 1 transgender psyc, in all California prisons cause someone put a civil complaint in due to we were not being able to speak openly about our issue with regular psycs & we were not going to Tele Med. (Tele-Med is a transgender clinic through a T.V. screen.) Now they call the Tele-Med appointment void cause the regular medical doctor is not present & they also want a certified transgender psychologist to be a part of the appointments now. TGLJP (Transgender, Gendervariant/Genderqueer, and Intersex Justice Project in San Francisco) is trying to get South v. Gomez 2000 9th circuit ruling printed out for distribution. That's the case where we as transgenders, whether its MTF, or FTM, we now have the right to hormone treatment no matter what. If the person has a mental health history, then they're required to see a psych first, but if not then no. The mental health psychologists and Coleman monitors are trying to make Vacaville (offi-

cially called California Medical Facility, which is like 75% Trans, Bis, Gays, and Translesbos) all department of mental health, but I doubt that will happen in our back yard girls.

Well that's all the news I have for you. But to get into the South v. Gomez 2000 9th circuit ruling, like I said, that ruling states that all transgenders, or anyone who wants testosterone or estrogen, he or she has the right & is entitled to it by law now, no matter what the case is (if you've never been on hormones or don't have any proof any more). Now this is a person who stepped up & all transgenders in & across the world thank you. I have seen the case on the computer but have not read all of it. It sounds good.

I want to close now with love respect & warm greeting

I close

Esmia Iuv  
Founder of Legendary Queen Society

# THE WORD IS OUT

: a newsletter of the Prisoner Correspondence Project.

You now have in your hands the year-end issue of 2010! As we enter the dark days of winter, we present to you the work we began when the days were longer and the nights were spent dreaming up featured resources and gay celebrity gossip.

It's been a long year, and the membership of the Prisoner Correspondence Project keeps getting bigger, so welcome to all the new folks involved in the project! And to those who've been reading this newsletter for awhile now, welcome back!

One thing about gaining new members, everyone: we have more letters to write back to, and still the same number of us! So, we really, sincerely apologize for the amount of time it's been taking us to get back to you. Please, please bear with us.

This holiday season, we thought we'd mix business with pleasure - so while reading about our panel on HIV criminalization and the newest legislation on Hate Crimes, please also enjoy the pagan pleasures in life, be they homosopes or cats laying around peacefully.

A big thank you to Esmia, Kirk, Catherine, Sha'uri, and Toby for contributing their talent to this issue. We really appreciate all of your feedback and submissions to the newsletter, and we welcome any news items you want to throw our way!

In solidarity and struggle,

Your friends at the Prisoner Correspondence Project



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Hope your holidays are naughty and nice.



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