

# THE WORD IS OUT

: the newsletter of the Prisoner Correspondence Project

## Issue Ten!!!

Back when we first started the newsletter, we told ourselves that we really had to push to make it to Issue 3. Volunteer-run organizations are always starting newsletters or zines and they make an enthusiastic first issue, an obligatory second, and then fold. If we could just make it to the third issue then we'd be in it for the long-haul. And here we are. Four years and ten issues later! And what a tin anniversary it is!

In this issue we brought back the ever-popular celebrity gossip and homo-scopes, new resources, current events, and some call-outs for upcoming projects.

Once again, thanks to everybody who submitted art and writing for this issue: Aiden, Brian, Georgia, Patrice, Rodney, Sidney, and Todd. We're constantly torn up that we don't have space to include everything, but we've tried to include as many as possible and some space to new authors and artists in this issue.

In Struggle and Solidarity,

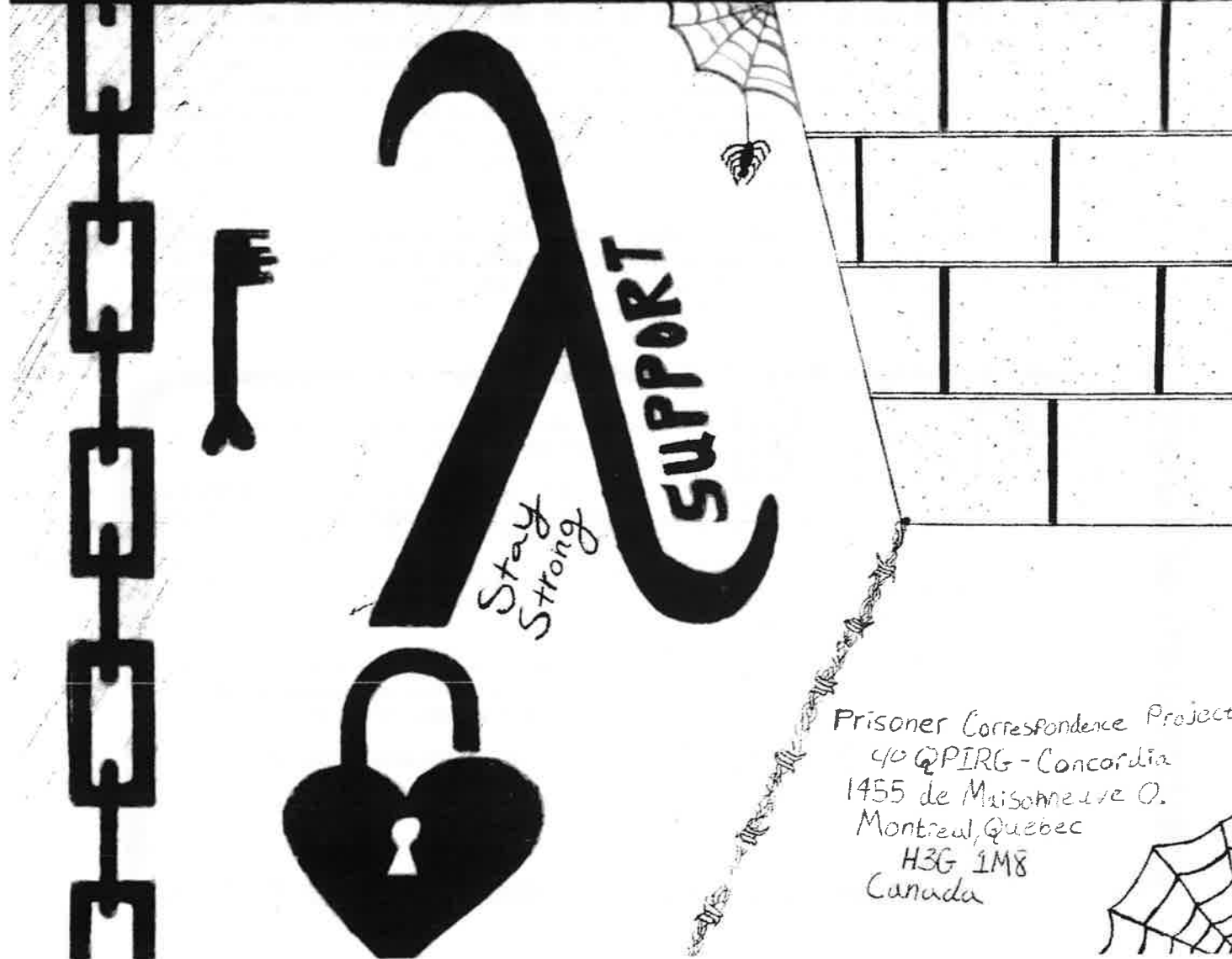
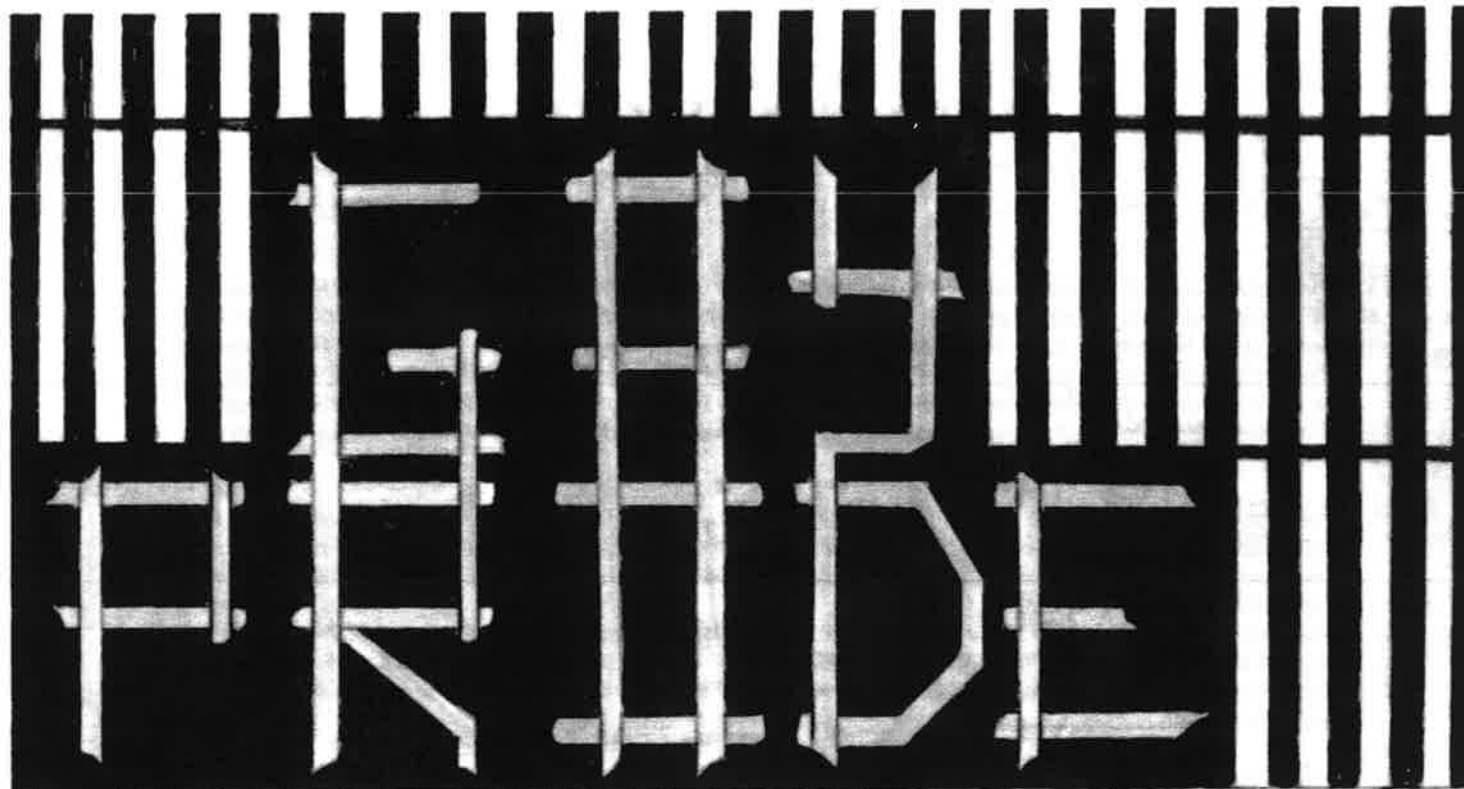
Your friends at the Prisoner Correspondence Project

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# SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE

Well it's been a few months since our last newsletter and we have a few things to report.

In late January, we co-sponsored a book launch of PRISONS WILL NOT PROTECT YOU, put out by the Against Equality collective. It's a collection of queer critiques of hate crimes laws and prisons, and features an article by Bridget, Josh, Liam (a former member), and Erika, a professor in Chicago. That same week we presented a film night in conjunction with AIDS Community Care Montreal featuring the PRISON HEALTH NOW short films in support of introducing needle exchanges into prisons in Canada. In late March we hosted two California-based prison activists for a discussion as part of Radical Queer Semaine here in Montreal: Toshio Meronek, a writer and former editor of The Abolitionist, the paper of Critical Resistance; and Eric Stanley, co-editor of Captive Genders. You can find more details of that event a little later in the newsletter.

To try to boost our finances, we've started a new party night, on a bit of a larger scale than the ones in the past, and bringing some new people on board to help out. It's entitled DRAMA and the first one was this past March 15. We had a ball, as you can see from some of the pictures. We're taking a bit of a pause before the next one to try to figure out a space where we can operate our own bar to make more money off the night, but planning for it is well underway.

In internal news, our collective member Charli has had to take a step back from organizing in order to focus on an increasing school workload, but like the mythic Hydra, two more have come forward to fill her place. We're thrilled to welcome Akki and Caitlin on board to the collective.

Other than that, we're keeping on, trying to stay on top of your letters and requests, as we move

forward on some longer-term goals. We're working on rejuvenating an Internal Advisory Committee, doing some anti-colonial internal education, and we're piloting a project to try to do match-ups online as part of our strategy to get more outside penpals.

Also, we've been having some trouble getting Straight to Hell through mailrooms, so if you've successfully gotten a copy, drop us a line to let us know.

As always, write to us with your ideas, suggestions, gossip, and rants. We love every minute of it.

In struggle and solidarity,

Akki, Alicia, Bridget, Caitlin, Cee, Josh, Marty, Ncam, Patrick, Rae, and Tanya

Bottom left: Lady Gaza and Ludovic. Bottom right: Dillon and Mini Maul. Top right: Rae and Cee.



# open

by Todd M.

I have been in the Pennsylvania state prison system for 9 years. I am a sex offender who hid my sexuality for a long time before getting arrested. After being arrested some friends helped me to "come out of the closet" and I have been open ever since. There was a year between my arrest and being sent to prison due to being bailed out until my sentencing. During that year I learned a lot about myself and how it felt to be open about my sexuality. It was such a good feeling to finally say that I enjoyed the touch and company of another man, it felt as if the world was taken off my shoulders and I was free of all the lies I had lived for so long in my life.

The reason I am sharing my story is because, if I can help even one person to be able and express their true feelings and maybe prevent another person from going thru what I have, it would be a blessing. I hurt many people that I truly love because of not being honest about my sexuality. I was not honest to my family, friends, or even myself.

That has all changed for me now, I do not hide my sexuality or the crime I committed and it has helped me to grow into a better man. Part of my crime was because I was not able to be open about my sexuality and I do not want to see anyone else come to prison or harm people because they are scared to say they are gay or bi-sexual.

I want people to know that if you hide your true sexual feelings, it can and will hurt others. Once I opened myself up it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be, people still love and respect me and the gay community opened their arms to me. I have met many guys here in jail who are scared to be open about their true sexuality, many of them are ashamed or let their pride get in the way. I have learned that by me being honest I have earned more respect than those who hide it. There are no secrets in prison, if you have done things with another man believe me someone else knows about it. Yes, I was scared at first but as I have seen others ridiculed and picked on, that did not happen as much to me, because I was honest on who I really am. And yes, people still say things that can be hurtful, but now I know that most of them are the ones who are hiding who they really are.

I have met so many guys who are struggling with their sexuality, especially here in prison. I just want those to learn to be comfortable with who they really are and stop caring what others think of them, if others hate gays it is probably because they struggle with the thought of being with another man themself. Be honest to yourself, being gay is ok, and it feels so much better than trying to be someone you're not.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

-The art will be used in upcoming issues of our newsletter, for posters promoting the project, for upcoming events and workshops, and for resources the project puts out. Anything you're able to send is appreciated, whether it's sketches, doodles, simple drawings, or anything else! Even if you've never drawn before, we would love to receive something.

- If you can't make copies, you can send us the original. We can make copies, and return the original to you right away

- Please let us know if you want your art used for a specific purpose (ie. In the newsletter, etc ), or if there are specific purposes you don't want your art used for.

- When submitting art, line drawings and black and white images work the best when being photocopied.

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

- Please let us know if you want your name credited where it is used, and what name you want to appear (chosen name or legal name )

- When submitting prose (written submissions) for the newsletter, we want it to be a forum for discussion, so we tend to print more essays and opinion pieces than poetry and fiction.

- For submissions over 500 words, we may edit for length.

- For all submissions, we won't print anything racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic.

## COMING OUT, BEING STRONG, AND REFUSING TO CONFORM TO THE SOCIAL NORMS OF PRISON CULTURE

by Rodney Rockhard

"It seems to me that we live in a society in which science, religion, and government have consistently conspired to keep many exceptional people (like those within the incarcerated lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender prison community) on the bench. Yet for me being left out, casted out, and viewed as different because of my beliefs, sexual desires, and chosen lifestyle, has always been a luxury to some degree because it has allowed me to evade the rules governing what we now know to be social conformity."

While it is true many inmates throughout the correctional system of prison incarceration seek acceptance from their incarcerated peers or the crowd of that prison room from which they are housed in. You know the inmates who are known by everyone on the yard either because their messy, prison rich, outwardly social in the gang and drug scene, or spend their time in prison fighting and getting everyone to believe their hard as if to suggest that violence is the key to real intelligence because they themselves lack human common sense. I elected to embrace the realities of my difference because they help me to discover the courage to repudiate self-contempt and recognize their view of me as a precious gift of freedom from arbitrary norms. In fact, at the very moment a person like you are me questions the validity of the rules or the reason they have chosen to view us as outsiders the victim (meaning you or I or the LGBT community) are no longer a victim. Truth is by their own mythology of reason they have become the victim.

I, like I hope for all of you to do made the gradual transition from outsider to individualist. I, like I will continue to hope for all who struggle with who they truly are stopped fearing what abusive words meant to describe the LGBT lifestyle or identity or even me for that matter and started to question what the words meant about those who shouted them. The words, ideas, and thoughts designed and therefore were supposed to intimidate me because instead a challenge to resist humiliation by understanding why some people feel such satisfaction and empowerment when they succeed in humiliating others. People in as well as out of prison take up indifferences with the LGBT lifestyle mostly in part because of what they have been falsely taught by others or the stories they have been told about the darkness that terrifies those who cannot see in the dark. If this is so, then we as a community must understand that they are passing judgement against us not because of what they themselves believe but rather what they have been forced and told to believe. This on its surface then suggests that they are looking in the mirror through the eyes of someone else's beliefs because they themselves have proven to be blind and so they are frightened by what they thought they saw lurking somewhere in the unknown regions that lie beyond the great wall of their narrow lives. When we look at this over hundreds of years we learn that at some point the falsely taught grew up and were put in charge to teach these falsehoods to others in the general social society be that society behind the walls of prison or in the open mainstream in which we all long to live freely and unjudged. In order to teach these lies passed on to them they created the idea to form what we now know to be ethical codes, religions, and scientific concepts to justify their anxiety about the unknown also considered to be that place beyond the boundaries of their falsely practiced minds.

They try and make us feel bad about ourselves or as if we're doing something wrong for discovering love and happiness and or because they themselves lack the courage in being comfortable with who they are. They from what I can tell view their own identity and thus treat it like a passing stranger they do not know because they are too busy trying to be the person everyone else wants or said they should be. Conformity like addiction can be very powerful and furthermore soothing, not to mention it can also smother all human

thought of recovery as it reflects who others wish for you to be and who you truly were born to be. It can in addition an will prove to become the imminent demise of a person's real true self which we often see in the LGBT prison community. You yourself I am sure have seen LGBT inmates throughout your time in prison who for no other reason than to please the lifestyle of the in crown or others they wish to be liked by, rather than embrace who they really are and the lifestyle of the inner emotional desires stay in the closet in fear that they will be outcast or judged by the people in which they seek acceptance. Coming out seems out of their reach, not because they don't want to come out but rather because they have not been shown or told that it really is alright to be their true selves as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person. I for one will tell you there is no need to fear or care what people who disagree think, they are unimportant because if they don't care about your happiness why do you care about their opinion? You deserve to be you and you deserve the right to feel comfortable and safe being your true self. Trust me you are not alone despite what the conformist crowd may suggest and want you to believe. You are not sick or any more different than the rest of us within the LGBT community, you're not going to die or go to hell because you enjoy being with someone of your same gender, you're not crazy and again which I will repeat in as many of my writings as need be—you are not alone. I for one am rooting for you every step of the way. So even when it seems like the darkness surrounds you and there's no one there to turn on the lights or hold you and tell you it's ok to feel what it is you feel, know that I am always here for you, to comfort your emotional state of mind and remind you that you are never alone and that it is alright to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender even if you are in prison. Yes before you think it I am fully aware and further understand that this can be easier said than done but I believe in you and your courage to be strong more importantly than that always be mindful of the truth which is no one and I do mean no one can or has the right to rob you of who you truly are other than you. Rejection only matters when you yourself allow it to define who you are or wish to be. People who reject you simply because you are of the LGBT community do so as proof that they never deserved to be a part of your life to begin with, you are too special of a person to fill your life full of worthless people who want you to live a lie and be something or someone other than who you truly are. There is a reason why they call your desires yours, but as much as can be said to that, what makes you far more beautiful and worthy is unlike those seeking to change, reject, or outcast you for who you are, you have the heart and compassion to share your human desires with others so that they do know that they are not alone...

A final reader's note! While some of you who are incarcerated may not believe so, I want you to know that true love and loyalty really does exist amongst your incarcerated LGBT peers, there are men like myself who truly want the best for you and all to whom are a part of the prison LGBT community. I don't just say this as an LGBT prison activist and facilitator, I say this because it's true. Because I am a man who stands firmly on the principles of communication, trust, love, and loyalty. Truth and faithfulness being the key that holds our foundation together, so that we may forever enjoy the spoils of our desires rather than the selfless acts of selfishness. Like always I as well as the entire Prisoner Correspondence Project is always interested in what you think, your thoughts and opinions are what make these articles take shape, without your voice our LGBT community in prison cannot be heard, so write in and let our LGBT voice break to walls of our social and emotional incarceration. If you wish to contact me personally send your letters to the Prisoner Correspondence Project c/o Rodney Rockhard, they will see to it that I get them. And yes I will respond as soon as I am able to do so.

## RESISTING CARCERAL NATION STATES:

### THE FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PENAL ABOLITION

(ICOPA 15) - JUNE 13 to 15, 2014

### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

People currently or formerly imprisoned, victims of state violence and interpersonal harm, activists, advocates, artists, activist scholars, journalists, professionals, along with others from around the world are invited to take part, in person or by proxy, in ICOPA 15 on Algonquin Territory / Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. During this international conference participants will come together to: 1) share their first-hand experiences of state brutality and tactics of resistance; 2) exchange ideas on how to think about and respond to complex community issues that are often met with costly, unproductive, unjust, and violent interventions; and 3) build international alliances and develop strategies to struggle against state repression and work towards social justice.

The organizing committee invites proposals for individual submissions and sessions at ICOPA 15 featuring art, film, music, photography, plays, poetry, short stories, spiritual and healing activities, essays, papers, reports, workshops, proposals for ICOPA policy positions and resolutions, and everything in between. Proposals can address any theme related to imprisonment, the penal system, other forms of carceral control and the prison industrial complex, including those listed above.

As part of ICOPA's community-led re-visioning exercise, ICOPA 15 will not be a traditional academic conference. Instead of academic panels, we will prioritize both individual and groups contributions made by those who have been most impacted by carceral state violence.

Got Ideas For a Contribution? The Prisoner Correspondence Project is hoping to collaborate with folks on the inside to create a presentation for ICOPA 15. This could mean us working with you to develop a workshop that we would present in person on your behalf, us reading some of your essays, poetry, showing artwork, or however you'd like things to work! Please send us your ideas with your name, address, contact information, short 100-word bio statement, proposal title and a summary of 150-250 words describing what you'd like to do. If you are submitting original artwork, poetry, etc., please indicate how you would like us to present and distribute your work, as well as how you prefer we return it to you. Financial compensation may be available to aid with extra mailing costs/phone conversations. Please send us your proposal by August 15, 2013. Thanks!

### A New Resource in the Works! Prison Litigation Manual for Canada WANTS YOUR OPINION!

For our members in Canada, We recently got an email from someone who is a part of the Law Union of Ontario. He and others have formed a committee to produce a manual for prisoners on how to deal with their own legal issues, similar to the *Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual* that exists in the United States. So this would be a resource to help Canadian prisoners manage their own litigation, and he wrote us to ask what kind of manual we thought would be most useful. So we thought we'd ask you!!!

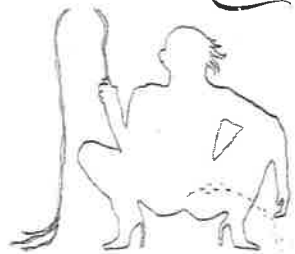
- 1) From your experience, how much prison litigation do you see happening? What kind of litigation is it? What is its extent and scope?
- 2) Should a manual focus more on civil litigation (how to launch a Charter claim, how to sue a prison, etc.) or should it focus more on criminal procedure (how to handle an appeal, what is bail, etc.)?
- 3) What particular issues do you think they should focus on?
- 4) What general feedback or thoughts do you have about this project?



# HOMOSCOPIES

OR

## HEY, WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?



### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Did you think I'd crumble? (Sorry to hear about the tough times, later baby) Did you think I'd lay down and die? (Hey, things will turn round soon) Oh no, not I - I will survive. (You tell 'em, unicorn!) Oh as long as I know how to love (& you do) I know I'll stay alive. Sharing is caring) I've got all my life to live. (So look on the bright side) I've got all my love (the love of 14 rainbows) to give and I'll survive. (& thrive) I will survive. (You're gonna be OK sweet pea) I will survive...! (Hey, hey!)

### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Sweet dreams are made of Pisces. Who am I to disagree? Ahhh. Hey, Pisces, please keep doing your thing. You might have a cosmic bod, you might have the stars in your eyes, but it's your mind that is really out of this world. Not to mention your gargantuan heart, which I've heard should soon have a few extra reasons to beat extra hard. Can you hear me sighing from so far away? Care to save some fairy dust for the rest of us? Who am I kidding? Come down from your dreamcloud and drop a line when you have a chance, Pisces. Or don't. Do what you want. You're here in all our dreams anyhow, oney pie.



### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Aries I apologize on behalf of the cosmos for making your winter so horrid. The fall was no picnic but all those lonely winter nights were doubtlessly the fault of the stars. The good news is that I will also take credit for the enormous rainbow that will emerge as a token of a) the sincerity of this apology, b) the promise of better times ahead and c) how unbearably gay you will feel in the coming months. Enjoy it bigtime because you have earned far more than just your keep.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

My dear Taurus it seems that you have been looking for answers in the strangest places these days. I notice how you are creatively searching past the clutter in the closet, beyond the obvious nooks and crannies and into the depths of the deep rectum of possibility for the secrets you need to unfold. While I do commend you for your adept display and willingness to delve beyond the obvious, I also read in your charts a note of refrain. It seems, cosmically, that what you will find in these tucked away places might just be a map guiding you helpfully back to what is right in front of you. For it could just be that in the well-lit brightness of your impeccable self you will find something truly worth digging for.



### Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Darling Gemini, make a decision. Your floundering, roundabout, ishy-washy, ketchtag self is making even your greatest admirers cramp their necks, rock their heads, and even eventually lose their devotion for what your ordinarily charming, fast talking, sweet toothed, high caliber brain usually compensates in hiding the weighty subjects that occupy your astonishing mind. My advice is this: the choice you need to make is going to fall into your lap as soon as you stop with the back and forth, to remove yourself from the clutches of Libra and just try to enjoy what this time of stress and frustration might actually have in store. The results will doubtlessly be a sparkling bed of crescent moons, emerald dust, and unicorns sashaying daintily into the sunset.

### Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Hayyyyyyyyyy Cancer! You may notice you are getting a lot of attention lately. You are like the femme in the cutest dress. The bear in the shortest shorts. The twittering fox in a sea of fox puppies all clad in ballet slippers and tiny minks. The point, conspicuous Cancer, is that now is your cosmic chance to find something productive about limelighting through crowds, flashing your style, and being your all around sequin-studded self, even if you do not customarily take to this high profile sort of escapade. Because, gorgeous Cancer, if you allow yourself to enjoy the spotlight for what it now holds, you will find the post-show retreat is filled with a respite offering the most unconceivable types of private delight.



# BAROQUE AMOUR

by Sidney Alexander Teerhaus Moar

Bach's Lab mein Herz die Münze sein, echoed throughout the candle lit room as I played it on the harpsichord. I didn't see him enter. Without saying a word he placed his hand upon my right shoulder, then kissed my right ear. A fine dust of flour descended from his powdered wig onto the black keys of this superb musical instrument.

Rising from the tiny bench I kissed his tender lips. They tasted of the sweet wines from England. I felt true to myself in this elaborate apartment that once belonged to Bach. He was now in Leipzig writing his sonata da chiesa, when he arrived in 1726.

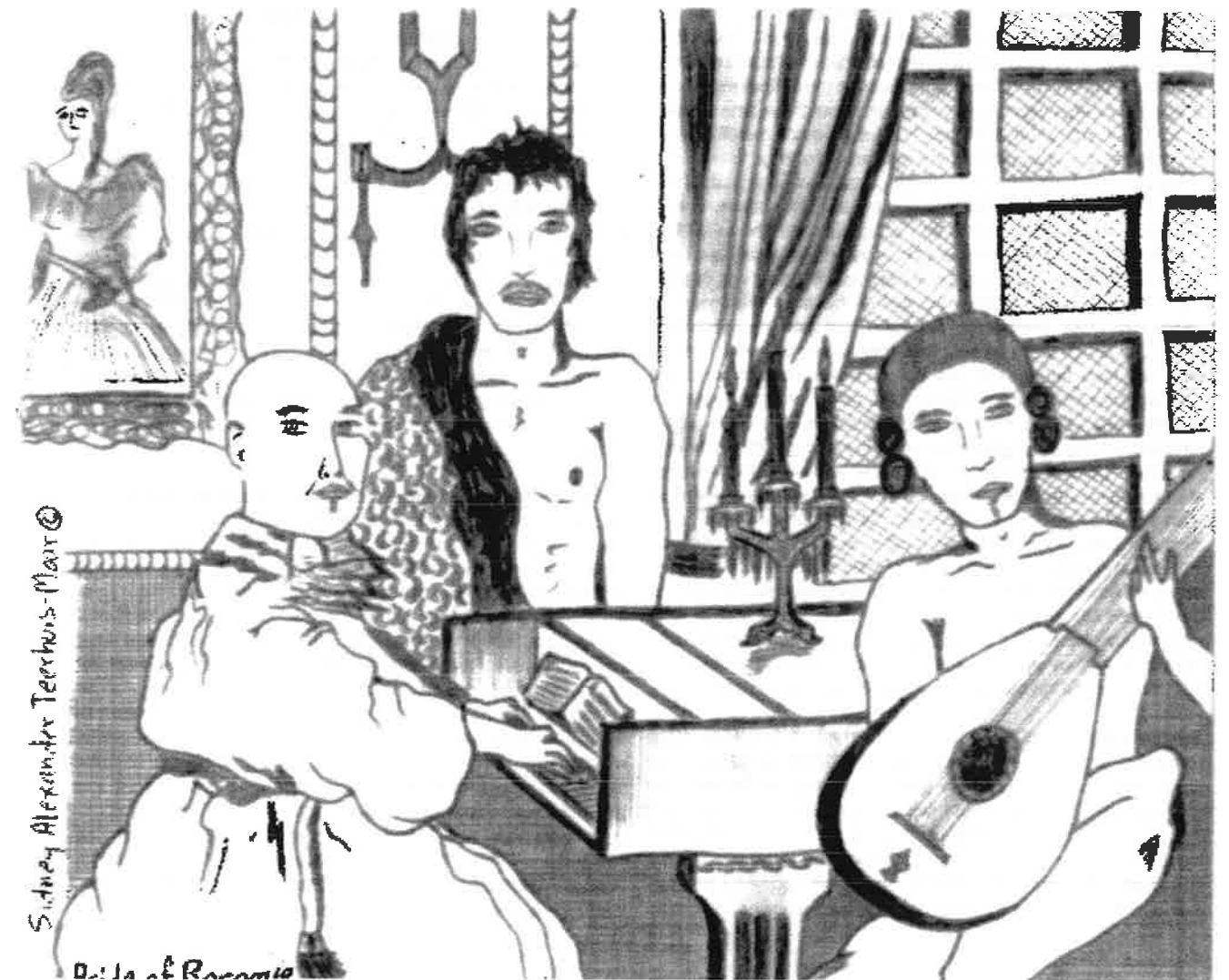
I enticed my male companion with the Nipples of Venus. An Italian delight of roasted hazelnuts coated in sugar then dipped in Brandy. Lounging himself upon the settee he slowly bit into the Brandied confection and took off his powdered wig. Then he kicked off his shoes and stockings leaving his gold silk britches to me. Indulging in another Nipple of Venus he held his head back letting out a passionate sigh. One by one I undid each handmade pearl button of his gold britches.

Lain on our stomachs, scantily covered beneath the sheets, my left foot caught in one of the bedcurtains, I could hear the distant melody of Telemann's basso continuo. He was now Capellmeister for Court Erdmann von Promnitz, everyone played his music, his Tafelmusik the toast of Hamburg.

My companion and I smoked opium and shared a bottle of cognac that was given by a local monastery. Gazing at his sculpted male form, he said to me "I've always loved you". I wanted this moment to last forever. In the last days spent in the bastille, I wondered about my beloved's fate.

As I was about to reminisce our time together the last thing I heard was the sound of the guillotine, thus ending my short life in 1733.

I had just finished decorating our Christmas tree when Miguel came home from work. He presented me with a gold chain and locket. Inside was a clipping of his hair. He held me in his arms and said "I've always loved you." Talk about déjà vu when our old player played Bach's Lab mein Herz die Münze sein.



Sidney Alexander Teerhaus-Moar ©

Della & Rasmus

## CAPTIVE GENDERS & THE ABOLITIONIST

This March, we helped organize an event with Eric A. Stanley and Toshio Meronek for the Montréal event series Radical Queer Semaine.

They were in town from San Francisco to discuss a book Eric edited with Nat Smith called *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex*, and Toshio's work as an editor of *The Abolitionist*, a newspaper produced by the prison-justice organization Critical Resistance. In particular, we discussed the challenges local prisoner solidarity work faces when the prison system deliberately moves people far from their communities and support networks. Toshio also discussed an article he recently wrote about the practice of transferring Hawaiian prisoners, mostly native Hawaiians, to private prisons in Arizona, making visits far too expensive for many prisoners' loved ones. This one example says a lot about the kinds of cross-border and trans-local organizing we have to do as prisons seek more and more to isolate trans and queer people from the communities of support we've managed to build.

By our next newsletter, we should be able to give details on how to get the book Eric co-edited, *Captive Genders*, sent to you in prison for free.

You can also subscribe to *The Abolitionist* in English or Spanish, free of charge, by writing them at:

**The Abolitionist**  
1904 Franklin St, Ste 504  
Oakland, CA 94612

## AGAINST EQUALITY

Also in January, we helped with the launch of the last book in the *Against Equality* series, called *Prisons Will Not Protect You*. The book draws the links between hate crimes legislation, which supposedly protects trans and queer people, and the expansion of the prison system, arguing that enhancing the punishing power of the criminal legal system won't make us any safer—especially when it decides to target us. (Just so you know, a few of our collective members contributed an article on queer responses to sex offender registries to the anthology, so it's especially worth checking out!)

To get a copy of this book (free for prisoners), or their earlier books *Queer Critiques of Gay Marriage* and *Don't Ask to Fight Their Wars*, write to them at:

**AE Press**  
C/O Karma Chavez  
60 S Bryan St.  
Madison, WI 53714

## PRISON HEALTH NOW

In January, we co-hosted a screening of videos about health in Canadian prisons, called *Prison Health Now*, with AIDS Community Care Montreal. One of our founding members led a discussion afterward about on-the-ground strategies toward getting people access to clean needles and condoms in prisons, as well as about a legal challenge being mounted by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network to force prisons into providing healthcare equal to that available in the outside community.

## THE LOVE OF \$

By Mr. Patrice Lumumba Daniels

American corporate crony capitalism is rife with greed, monopolization, and economic exploitation. (1% owns 70% of the economy). It also seeks to reinforce the de facto effective permanence of marginalizing the poor and working class citizenry. The disenfranchisement of millions is indeed, the offspring of diehard capitalism in its rawest form, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

The question that I repeatedly pose is "What's so bad about communalism?" Since when did words like shared wealth or equality become blasphemous?

Any objective economist without an ideological ax to grind or philosophical point of view to advance, would have to concede, if they are honest, that capitalism in its 21st century form, is doomed to fail. There's no future in the almighty dollar. It even continues to depreciate as I write this essay or commentary.

The film "Wall Street" got it wrong. Greed IS NOT good, and before I am cast off as a Marxist socialist, let me say this: I am not a fan of Karl Marx. I am a champion of common sense. Common sense says that monopolizing wealth and resources under the umbrella of corporate capitalism and "free market" economics means that those not able to compete equally with those interests, will undeniably suffer as a result. The vast majority of this planet's population falls into the suffering category—and it is on their behalf that I espouse the views that I do.

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)

A puzzle for you, Leo: If the ability to grow wings and fly turns a horse into a Pegasus, then what do wings and flight do for the Unicorn? The answer to this riddle can be multifold but if you are envisioning a Pegasus with an enormous glimmering horn strapped onto its face, my cosmic sources would argue that you are on an excellent track. I advise you in the coming months to envision the flying unicorn as a creature who is quite like yourself. Pay attention to what it is, Leo, that makes you so uniquely great: is it a magetical ease of movement? A willingness to leave the ground for something more fantastic? A refusal to let fear of the unknown cockblock the potential for fun? If you can figure out the cause of what makes something already uncontestedly terrific even more so, then you might reach all the potential that the planets have in store.



### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Prepare now Virgo to slip into the abyss. You are about to leap out into a period of uncertainty that may just feel like nothing. Your senses and wits will be direly understimulated as you open up to a world that lacks luster among other things. This reality can only be classified as unbearably boring, and as such it is important to look inward at all the rainbow frosted cupcakes, pear headed labrys battleaxes, mushed-faced kittens, and time honored resiliencies that you know are waiting for emergency use at your core. It is only as you fine-tune, meticulously hone, and call explicitly upon the greatness inside of you that your outside will start to match the priceless beauty of the Virgo flamer within.



### Libra (September 23- October 24)

Sweet lil' Libra, make no mistake – your admirable (some would argue: ridiculous!) dedication may have been taken for granted the past few months. But with Pluto in your 4th house this year, you can expect your reliable groove to continue, his time with those around you starting to remember what a queer-ass superstar of a human you are. Remain patient and assertive, dreamboat, or your efforts aren't in vain. Some electrifying options may be coming your way shortly so remember: slow & steady wins the race – but letting yourself get a bit freaky with the racy winds of change – that's the key to enjoying the journey.



### Scorpio (October 24-November 22)

A word for all my Scorpios: You've been overthinking it! Remember that intuition of yours? Yeah? Well, start paying attention to it again! You can strut your stuff. You can brood in a corner, sensual as a stallion. You can smolder all your thoughts into a big lustful ball. Yep, you can do all that, but wouldn't it be better if you stopped obsessing and went back to trusting your instincts instead of thinking so hard? Trust me, we're all over here envying your intensity and your heart-wrenching good looks. That ain't gonna change. So give yourself some peace of mind. You'll look moody, mysterious and magnificent no matter how you resolved you feel inside, so stop worrying and let us get on with cleaning our drool up off the floor.



### Sagittarius (November 23-December 21)

Hey Sagittarius, have your ears been ringing? 'Cause I heard through the grapevine that you've been stealing homo hearts, left, right, and center. Been getting more glances than usual (even for a babe like you)? Well, little bird told me that the sunsets have been getting jealous and spreading their envy 'round town. Been wondering why all those jaws keep dropping,itty kat? Well, there's a rumor saying you're so sweet that the local candystand is going to go out of business. So, you glittery Sagittarius, you, keep it up. It would be wise to reflect on how you've been coming across to others lately and take a moment to remember any special people around you, but otherwise... Well, you're still breaking our hearts (and only in the very best of ways, of course).



### Capricorn (December 22- January 19)

Do you have any clue as to just how dazzlingly sugary your next few months are going to be, Capricorn? Talk about drama, suspense, and passion! This steamy season is not the time to dwell on matters that lie far from the heart. Forget your plan for once, Capricorn. C'mon, look at what's already right under your nose! Focus those energies on the projects you've been daydreaming about, and you just might find that they leave you with a cheeky smirk, butterflies in your tummy and accomplishments that, if measurable, would be well worth their weight in gold. Not so bad, huh?



# GAY CELEBRITY GOSSIP

THE SPORTS EDITION: THE DOMINO EFFECT

That's right, this guy. Jason Collins is NBA center with the Washington Wizards and due to become a free agent July 2013. He wasn't too well-known until April 29, when Sports Illustrated ran a personal essay that he wrote. It began, "I'm a 34-year-old NBA center. I'm black. And I'm gay." (He's also a twin!) It has thrown the rest of The Big Four (basketball, baseball, hockey, and football) into a frenzy as everyone thinks about, sounds off about, and tweets about WHO WILL COME OUT NEXT, or, as our Cold War compatriots would say, THE DOMINO EFFECT.



This edition of celebrity gossip is dedicated to the big ol' gays in sports, then and now:::

First of all, over to the WNBA. Lots of people are drawing a comparison to how casually Brittney Griner spoke of her sexuality in an interview just a couple of weeks before Jason Collins' big reveal. Brittney Griner, the \*\*#1 draft pick\*\* in the WNBA for 2013, Phoenix Mercury rookie, has been getting a lot of attention lately. For what? For how damn incredible she is at the sport that she plays. This kid is 22 years old, 6'8", can dunk like hell. She's the second all-time scorer in women's NCAA history. During one of her interviews this April, she casually mentioned that she is out, and that she always has been. This was just no big deal. Not for her, not for her fellow players either. Also, Brittney is not the first WNBA player to come out, as we all know. Sue Wicks came first, then Sheryl Swoopes. None of these women's sexualities has mattered to the media. Not Sheryl Swoopes, and not Brittney Griner. Most people say that it's because they're women. Maybe everyone expects women jocks to be dykes. They're women, they're jocks - obviously they're dykes!!

Well you know what? BRITTNEY BABY, WE CARE!



Okay so moving on to hockey... No individual homos taking the stand here, YET. But if we want to talk Domino Effect, the NHL was really the first (of the big four) to do the big work here. Patrick Burke, a Flyers scout, started up "You Can Play," an initiative that promotes awareness and acceptance of hockey players of all sexualities in memory of his gay brother Brendan who died in a car crash. This past April 11, Commissioner Gary Bettman of the NHL officially partnered with You Can Play, saying, "the official policy of the NHL is one of inclusion on the ice, in our locker rooms and in the stands." After this and the story of Jason Collins, shit is gonna heat up on that ice!!!

Here we are. That sport with the most to lose and the hottest outfits - FOOTBALL...

There really is something inherently homoerotic about all of that bending over in tight pants. The huddles, the extreme masculinity, the tackling. Maybe that's why they're so scared of being gay. But since they're the focus of all of our gay fantasies whether they like it or not, football players are going to have to get used to it. Wade Davis of the Seattle Seahawks came out back in 2011 but only AFTER he retired. Since Jason Collins came out, everyone's been talking about whether football is ready for a currently-playing homo to out himself, and how exactly that would go down. Some players aren't being all that nice about it, but two shining exceptions to this have been Chris Kluwe, former Minnesota Vikings punter who just signed with the Oakland Raiders, and Baltimore Ravens linebacker. Kluwe's very public support of gay rights may have gotten him fired from the Vikings, but he just got signed to the Raiders, and I guess we'll see what supporting the gays really means in football. These two guys were even singled out by Jason Collins in his Sports Illustrated essay.

But also, Chris and Brendon, no disrespect to your own happy marriages, but why don't you just try out the gay side? Practice what you preach! I promise you'll like it.

x.o.x.o.



# CURRENT EVENTS

in Canada & the world

This past winter saw an incredible uprising of Indigenous peoples from Canada and across the globe, demanding sovereignty and self-determination, in the form of Idle No More.

The movement was led by Native women, in response to yet another omnibus bill from the Harper government, Bill-45, which will have grave consequences for all people and the environment in Canada. Changes to the Navigable Waters Protection Act remove protections from millions of lakes and rivers in Canada, allowing oil, mining, and other corporations to further exploit the land through pipelines and tankers. An amendment to the Indian Act now gives Band Councils more power, and the broader aboriginal community less power, to decide whether or not to lease aboriginal land to outside companies (Band Councils have historically not represented their communities well- it was recently discovered through an access to information request that the Assembly of First Nations colluded with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to survey a national aboriginal day of action in June 2007). This law continues a legacy of Canadian government-imposed laws on aboriginal communities, and stifles input from the people most affected by these measures.

Protests, blockades, round-dances, hunger strikes, teach-ins, and other actions including a global day of action on January 28th, brought popular education, visibility, coalition-building, and renewed energy and progress for Native struggles. While the movement has now subsided from mainstream media, it is far from over, as events such as the Idle No More Grassroots Forum, June 29th & 30th at

Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatchewan, and a constitutional challenge of these laws by the Mikisew Cree and Frog Lake First Nation bands continue to give us hope and inspiration for justice.

A small but significant victory for California prisoners took place during the November elections, as 69% of voters decided to amend California's infamous three strikes law. Proposition 36 means that people arrested for "non-serious or violent crimes" (with some exceptions, such as firearm possession) as a third strike will no longer be automatically sentenced to life in prison, and the estimated 3000 people currently serving life for "non-violent/serious crimes" who were sentenced under the old three strikes law can apply for a reduced sentence. However, mandatory life sentences are still in place for those with a "non-serious, non-violent third strike if prior convictions were for rape, murder, or child molestation." Hopefully this will be just the start to ending unjust three-strikes sentencing.

On May 9th, the city of Philadelphia passed laws requiring all newly built or renovated city-owned buildings to contain gender-neutral bathrooms! As well as tax-breaks for business that provide equal benefits for same-sex partners of employees and their children, and trans specific healthcare benefits. Mayor Michael Nutter said he hopes to make "Philadelphia one of, if not the most LGBT-friendly cities in the world..."

On April 23rd, France became the 14th and most populated country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.

FEATURED RESOURCE:

## TRANS\* IN PRISON JOURNAL

Did you know that the Gender Identity Center of Colorado publishes a journal for transgender people in prison? They have changed the name from Transgender in Prison to Trans\* in Prison, to indicate that they're not only speaking to transwomen or transmen, but to anyone who identifies as gender different in any way: this includes transgender, transsexual, transvestite, genderqueer, genderfluid, non-binary, genderfuck, genderless, agender, non-gendered, third gender, two-spirit, bigender, and trans man and trans woman. Anyway, the journal started in 2000, and underwent a couple of different changes, stopped for a little while, and is now back in action! And, you are encouraged to contribute to it! Here is what they say:

"The T.I.P. Journal is a creation of the Gender Identity Center of Colorado. It is meant to show support for those who are currently incarcerated and to share news and hope in prison systems across the country.

The T.I.P. Journal was first launched in the year 2000 in response to the overwhelming number of letters sent to the Gender Identity Center of Colorado from trans\* individuals in the prison system. Since then, the T.I.P. Journal has gone through numerous evolutions to become what it is today. After a hiatus of some time, the T.I.P. Journal has acquired a new editor who will strive to provide helpful and hopeful information to the hundreds of individuals on our mailing list. We read all of your letters and are happy to incorporate relevant content upon request. After all, this is your journal!

The journal is mailed quarterly in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter to over 600 individuals! Because postage costs have risen, please keep us up to date on your mailing address and/or if you are able to access the T.I.P. Journal digitally."

Write to the Trans\* In Prison Journal at:

**T.I.P. Journal**  
1151 S. Huron St.  
Denver, CO 80222

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

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

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

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

**FTM hormone therapy/traitement hormonal femme a homme** - Some basic information about taking hormones for people who are thinking of transitioning female-to-male

**FAQ on transitioning/Questions frequemment posees sur la transition de genre** - A basic guide that answers frequently asked questions about transitioning, hormone use, and gender transition

**Tracing this body & new flesh struggles** - An article about kink and radical politics written by a trans woman

**Trans health information project: TIP Guide to hormones and self-injection**

## Smut

**Penetration** - A short story about fisting

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

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

**Read me a story** - new pieces by Promethea

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

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

## Women / Feminism

Pocket guide for women living

with HIV (not prison specific) -A pocket guide for HIV-positive women that provides up-to-date information in plain language about a wide range of issues often faced by women with HIV. Topics include healthy living, nutrition, getting care, treatment basics, relationships and pregnancy. It also addresses street drugs and touches on hepatitis C co-infection. (by Positive Women's Network)

**Corpus: volume 4** - Corpus, is an HIV prevention publication that brings together health information, politics, creative work, and essays all on issues related to HIV/AIDS, and where health and AIDS intersects with other other issues faced by gay and queer communities: incarceration, racism, policing.

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

**Never Innocent: Feminist trouble with sex offender registries and protection in a prison nation** (by Erica R. Meiners) Using recent work by anti-prison theorists and community-based activists who are working against the prison industrial complex, this article links prison abolition to feminist frameworks to question escalating sex offender registries and community notification laws that are the state's response to sexual violence against children and women.

**Tenacious:** art and writings from women in prison

**Women Prisoners' Resource Guide** - a list of addresses and contact information for incarcerated women

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

**Women in Prison: How It Is With Us** - by Assata Shakur was a member of the Black Panther Party who went underground She was captured in 1973 and held as a political prisoner until 1979 when she was broken out of prison by a unit of the Black Liberation Army.

## Sex Work

**Audacious:** the reality of being a transsexual or transvestite sex worker/ **Audace:** etre transsexuelle ou travestie, c'est loin d'etre des droleries qui nous amusent a la tele dans la serie Cover Girl - 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/ He les filles!** Le securisexe pour les travailleuses du sexe

## New This Issue!

### LGBTQ PRISON LITERATURE

**GLBT? Going to a Federal Prison?** - A booklet put together by Catherine Lynn Quick, a longtime member of the project, on what to expect for LGBT people when first going a federal prison.

### COMING OUT / LGBTQ IDENTITY

**My Gender Booklet** - a short booklet introducing terms, concepts and history around gender and transsexuality.

### WRITING ON HIV/AIDS

**Latino Sexual Rebellions** - art and writing by Latino men on family, sexuality, and HIV.

### EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

**Freeing the Human Spirit through Meditation and Yoga** - a one-page guide to some basic yoga poses that can be done in prison

**Prisoner Rape Support Package** - put together by the Preventing Prisoner Rape Project in Australia

**Hope for Healing: information for survivors of sexual assault in detention** - a kit put together by US group Just Detention

### LEGAL

**Texas Legal Aid** - a resource list of legal aid and pro bono organizations in Texas.



Write to us at:

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

# RESOURCE LIBRARY OF THE PRISONER CORRESPONDENCE PROJECT

The following is a list of the resources available through our resource library as of Summer 2013. All resources are provided free-of-charge to prisoners and are yours to keep.

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

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

## Emotional Support

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

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

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

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

**Freeing the Human Spirit through Meditation and Yoga** - a one-page guide to some basic yoga poses that can be done in prison

**Prisoner Rape Support Package** - put together by the Preventing Prisoner Rape Project in Australia

**Hope for Healing: information for survivors of sexual assault in detention** - a kit put together by US group Just Detention

## Safer Sex

**Beyond Appearances/Au Dela des apparences** - For prisoners, sex workers and other "high risk" communities, on HIV AIDS issues, including prevention.

**C it's no joke: Hep C/ C'pas un joke: Hep C** - A guide explaining how to transmit Hep C, including tips on safer tattooing, sex, and drug use. Un guide en expliquant comment transmettre le Hep C, y compris la tatouage, le securisexe, et les drogues

**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 put out by Head and Hands in Montreal

**Turnover: A collection of HIV prevention comics** - Turnover, through comics and illustration, explores issues of youth and HIV transmission, barebacking, and physical and emotional wellness.

**Risk in prison** - Two articles written by Matthew Jones (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: Addressing sexual 'safety' for Queers Inside and Outside of Prisons** - 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

**Safer barebacking" (not prison specific)** - An article about how to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV/AIDS and other STD's/STI's when fucking without condoms

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

**The Botton line (not prison specific)** - A gay man's guide to anal health: how the ass works, what it does, how it relates to

other parts of the body, and how to get maximum pleasure from sex with minimal pain or damage

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

**Hepatitis C Infosheet** - basic information on the virus

**Reading this can save your ass** - Safer rimming tips

**50 things you should know about hiv & safer sex (abstract)**

## Living with HIV/Hep C

**A guide to HIV drug side effects** - for people living with HIV/AIDS

**Living with HIV: starting points** - information on HIV and AIDS, how to stay healthy, what does CD4 count and viral load tell you, next steps

**Positively healthy (not prison specific)** - a gay man's guide to sex and health in Canada

**A practical guide to complement therapies** - for people living with HIV

**A practical guide to herbal therapies** - for people living with HIV

**A practical guide to HIV drug side effects** - for people living with HIV/AIDS

**A practical guide to HIV drug treatment** - for people living with HIV

**A practical guide to Nutrition** - for people living with HIV

**HIV and Hep C coinfection** - answer some basic questions about living with HIV and hepatitis C

**HIV disclosure** - a legal guide for gay man in Canada

**HIV viral load testing** - introduces the viral load test and

answers basic questions about how it fits into a treatment plan.  
**Hepatitis C Peer support group manual (non prison specific)** - tips and tricks for starting a support group

**Hepatitis C Pamphlet** - Newly diagnosed, the basic facts, treatment options

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

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

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

## Writing/ Literature on HIV/ AIDS

**What causes/defeats AIDS** - AIDS project Los Angeles, Annual report 2006.

**If We Have To Take Tomorrow** - is 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: volumes 4, 5, 6** - Corpus, put out by AIDS Project Los Angeles, and Gay Men's Health Crisis, is an HIV prevention publication that brings together health information, politics, creative work, and essays all on issues related to HIV/AIDS, and where health and AIDS intersects with other other issues faced by gay and queer communities: incarceration, racism, policing.

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

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

**The De-gaying of AIDS & Reclaiming Culture / La deshomosexualización del SIDA** - 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** - The purpose of this article is to discuss the importance of influencing discourse about homosexuality at the social and cultural levels in HIV-prevention efforts targeting young gay men. The discussion is based on Sexual Stories, a study which sought to understand the interpersonal, social, and cultural contexts in which behavioral risk for HIV infection occurs among young gay men.

**Latino Sexual Rebellions** - Art and writing by Latino men on family, sexuality, and HIV.

## Our Events

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

**You Improvise to Survive: Negotiating Sexual "Safety" for queer and trans folks, inside and out** - A short compilation put together by the Prisoner Correspondence Project of the first submissions we received for the Fucking without Fear resource series. These submissions were the focus of several workshops and events we have put on with folks on the outside

**Beyond prisons, towards community strategies** - the transcription of a panel we held in the fall of 2009 on supporting work within and against 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.

**Building abolition futures** - 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

**Hell No, We Won't Go: In Conversation with Laura Whitehorn** - The transcription of an interview we conducted with former political prisoner Laura Whitehorn, on anti-prison organizing, HIV mobilizing, and being gay in prison

## Resource Lists

**The Word is Out! Issues 1 to :** Our very own Prisoner Correspondence Project newsletter. Includes featured resource, prisoner art and writing, callouts for our different projects, and a list of all our services.

**Cellcount:** A general newsletter / list of services and resources offered by PASAN, the Prisoner HIV/AIDS Support Action Network. Also includes tips on safer drug use, etc. We will send you the most recent edition, though you can also request backissues (Canada)

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

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

**Prisoner resource guide:** a collection of organizations and services offered to prisoners (USA)

**Prison Book Programs:** National prisoner resource list: expanded version of the prisoner resource list (USA)

**Locked out:** resource for LGBTQ prisoners (USA)

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

## Legal

**TGI Justice Project** - A brief overview of the programs and services offered by the Transgender, Gendervariant, 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)

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

**Pennsylvania Legal aid** - a resource list of legal aid and pro bono organizations in Pennsylvania

**Texas Legal Aid** - a resource list of legal aid and pro bono organizations in Texas.

## Tattooing

**Tattooing and you: the safe-guards within prison walls** - A pamphlet / guide on safe tattooing inside prisons, things to consider, and materials to use  
**Think Before You Ink** - prisoners perpetual calendar

## Drug Use

**My crack kit/Mon kit crack"** - A short guide (pamphlet size) showing how to safely use crack, and reduce the risk to your body and your lungs. Un guide démontrant comment utiliser du crack, en minimisant les risques et le dommage au corps et aux poumons.

**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

**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

**L'injecteur** - Un outil de promotion de la santé et de défense de droits fait « Par et Pour » les personnes qui consomment des drogues. Au-delà des thèmes relatifs aux infections transmissibles sexuellement et par le sang (ITSS) et aux drogues, l'Injecteur aborde d'autres sujets qui intéressent les personnes UDII, comme: la culture, le cinéma, l'art, l'histoire, la spiritualité, l'alimentation, le sexe, la santé etc.

## Coming Out / LGBTQ Identity

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

**FTM International: the chest issue** - The organizational and resource issue of the magazine FTM International, includes re-

source list for female-to-male **My Gender Booklet** - a short trans folks. booklet introducing terms, concepts and history around gender and transsexuality,

**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 / gay history and snapshots of queer struggle (not prison specific)

**Tim Tum, a trans jew zine** - Concentrates on the struggle with being a transgender young man, issues of identity, and visibility among both queer and heterosexual groups. Highlights being a boy in Jewish American culture, and the struggle for identity when interfacing with normalizing power that attempts to gender you inappropriately.

**Making he lives of transsexual people visible: Addressing the politics of social erasure** - An examination of how social institutions and theoretical approaches have led to the erasure of transsexual (people who identify as members of the other gender) and transgendered (a broad term for a range of groups that do not fit into the current two-gender system) experiences and begins to counter this through developing research and a detailed analysis of the forms of marginalization and oppression facing transsexual and transgendered people.

**Sex que(e)ry** - Que(e)ry is a collaborative zine on queerness, sexuality & gender. It was made at the University of Chicago

**Bent bars** - from our sister org in the UK, a compilation of stories on coming out in prison.

**Getting Together** - The ins and outs of dating & relationships for gay and bisexual men.

**Bisexuality 101** - A great collection of articles compiled by PFLAG on history and on bisexuality and biphobia along with some answers to frequently asked questions.

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

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

## LGBTQ Prison Literature

**Building Bridges** - A 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 out-ness

**Still We Rise: A Resource Packet for Transgender People in Prison (From the TGI Justice Project)** - A comprehensive guide on access to medical care, information, and referrals.

**Ultraviolet: The case of the jersey 4** - A small newspaper about the case of the new jersey 4 - four black lesbians who were 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 Panorama; includes poetry and writing about prison life

**Thoughts of my liberation: Issue 5** - A zine put together by two-spirit Native American prisoner Iron Tipi Warrior about his experience of prison

**GLBT? Going to a Federal Prison?**

A booklet put together by Catherine Lynn Quick, a longtime member of the project, on what to expect for LGBT people when first going to a federal prison.

## Hormones

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