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WINTER

88 - 89

ISSUE 2



WIMMIN • PRISONERS
SURVIVAL • NETWORK

W . P . S . N . 2

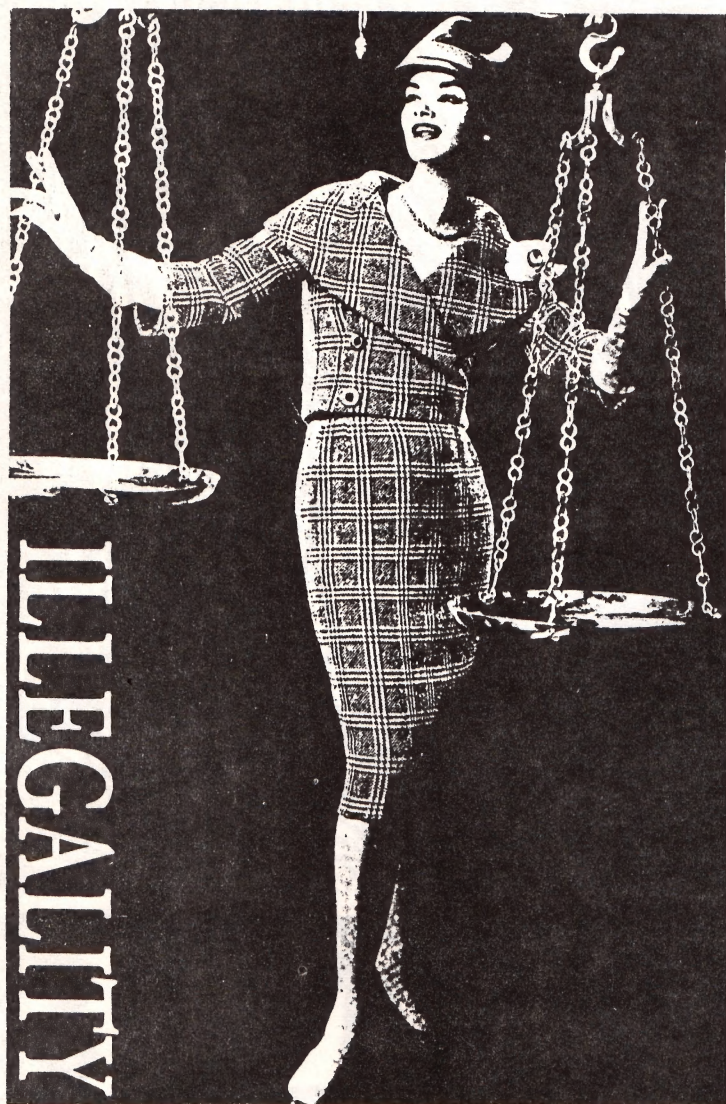


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial	3
Big Hugs and Thank You's	3
P4W	4
Crisis in Corrections	5
Now More Than Ever	6
Washington State Correctional Center for Women	6-7
Uplift the Spirit and the Rose will Blossom	7
AIDS in Prison	8-9
HIV Positive Prostitute Charged with Attempted Manslaughter	10
MTHA	10
Call for Submissions	11
Valeena Marishka Institutionalized	11
Bedford Hills - On Site Nursery	12
Letter from Gayle Bezaire	12
Appeal from Linda Couch - Imprisoned Mother	13
Motionless Sight - Cora Whitmore	14
Can't Kill the Spirit	15
Victory in Lexington Lawsuit	15-16
SCUM	16-17
Solidarity Statement for IWD from the Women of Ohio 7	17-18
Ohio 7 Update	18
Testimony Wanted: on Violence Against Lesbian and Gay Prisoners	18
IWD Action at Pleasanton Federal Prison	19
Flying Lesbians in the House of Lords	19
Ona MOVE!	20
Zina: The Hudood Ordinance and its Implications for Pakistani Women	21-22
Women in the Canadian System	23
Resources for Wimmin in Prison	24-27
Write to These Wimmin Political Prisoners	28
Money Please!	28



reetings! Welcome to Issue Number Two of the Wimmin Prisoners' Survival Network. Well it's finally here, 6 months late but it's here! Were sorry to have taken so long to publish, but various personal commitments and severe lack of \$\$ hindered

this issue's birth. But hopefully it's worth the wait.

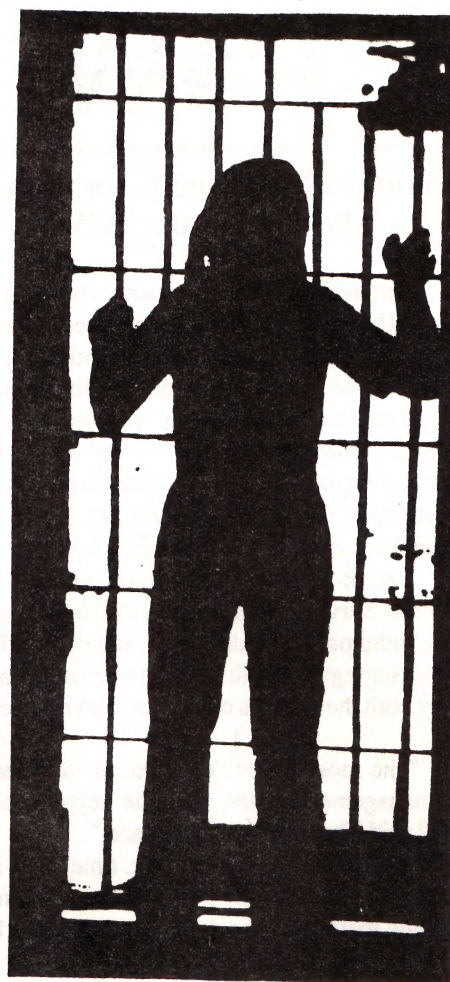
This issue will cover diverse topics, and reflect in part the different aspects of wimmins' lives in the prison system. Our future plans are starting to take seed. From this issue on, we will publish 2-3 times per year; smaller issues, but more frequent. This will make it easier for us to fulfill our commitment to networking and communicating with people(s). Working together, learning of our different needs and situations, and being quicker to respond with action to the ever increasing pressures from the state, inside and outside their walls, will better empower ourselves against the isolation and brutality of the 'just-us' system.

We are also starting a book program due to begin this summer. So we'll send out more info in the spring.

We welcome submissions for the upcoming issue(s), and any or all comments and suggestions you may have. (See submission, subscription and other info in this issue. Our address is on the back page.)

For an end to all the pain and suffering.

**In Sisterhood,
*The Wimmin Prisoners' Survival Network.***



Big Hugs and Thank You's

Gay Community News, Phoenix Rising, Toronto Anarchist Black Cross, New York Anarchist Black Cross, Friends of the Sara Lee Society for Deodorized Tampons and Weight Loss Clinics, Kick It Over, Outaouais Outrage, Fifth Estate, Radical Fairy Directory, Blackbird Design Collective, Reality Now, Overthrow, Through the Looking Glass, Androzine, No Picnic, Vancouver Anarchist Black Cross, Prison News Service, Justice Group, Open Road, Thunderbird Prison Alliance, and everybody who helped in all the different ways people do.

- In Sisterhood the WPSN.

P4W

Tribute to Marlene Moore from the Wimmin from P4W

Marlene Moore, known to her friends as Shaggy, chose to end her pain and suffering on December 3rd, 1988 here in the hospital ward after nearly 3 months in segregation here at Prison for Women. That conditions in segregation are inhumane and unjust was verified by our former Citizen's Advisory Committee Chairman, Dr. Barry Thorne who resigned Wednesday, November 30, 1988. Dr. Thorne stated in an interview with Mary Lasovich of the Whig Standard, Friday, December 2, 1988:

"But he expressed frustration with the failure of Correctional Service administrators to take steps to improve the "inhumane" conditions of the prison's (Prison for Women's) segregation unit - the source of repeated complaints by both the citizens committee and inmate committees."

"The most serious example of the need for improved management is the way the segregation unit is handled," said Thorne. "It's a disgrace."

Shaggy had done more "seg. time" than any other woman in Canada that anyone here can remember. The traumatizing memories of a dear friend hanging herself to death, along with the pain and trauma suffered by the women caged in adjoining cells where three women attempted hanging on November 25, 1988 was the final amount of "seg. time", Shaggy could handle.

The exemplary courage and dedication to better conditions for all imprisoned creatures that Shaggy represented to all of us who knew her and loved her, will never be forgotten.

Her final days were filled with courage and love, but she was just so tired.

WE ALWAYS WILL LOVE YOU, SHAGGY.
(From Tightwire, the publication of P4W)

Prisoners at the Prison for Women here (Kingston, Ont.) said yesterday (Jan. 5 '89) that the federal correctional service has denied them their constitutional rights by failing to provide accommodation equal to that of men prisoners.

"We're not whining and snivelling women," said Sandie Nord, chairman (sic) of an eight-member prisoner committee that was allowed access to the media. "We're still human beings.

"We're here because of our own actions, but we're only asking for humane treatment."

The Prison for Women, with 105 prisoners, is the only

federal women's prison in Canada. It houses more than half of the women serving penitentiary terms. The rest are serving their sentences in provincial reformatories.

Jo-Ann Mayhew, editor of the prison's newspaper, Tightwire, and a member of the committee, said that in a men's prison, a prisoner can expect to move through the system from max. security to medium and then to minimum, but this does not happen for women. They can spend 25 years in the same building, and the resulting mental strain is incredible, she said.

The guards have said that "we'll charge you if you stand up for your rights," she said, adding that the correctional service must recognize that it has to ensure equal treatment. Inmates who have simply asked for the right to be clean and to be allowed exercise have been charged with committing "an act that prejudices good order in the institution," Ms Mayhew said.

The prisoners' complaints stem in part from an incident on New Year's Eve when warden Mary Cassidy cut short a dance because home brew and a hand-made weapon were found in the prison the day before. Some prisoners refused to go back to their cells at 10:50 p.m., saying they wanted to remain out to welcome in the New Year. When negotiations (sic) failed, a guard and a dog from nearby Kingston Penitentiary were called and the women were moved into their cells.

The prisoners regarded their act as a minor infraction, but prison authorities responded by "locking down" - confining to their cells - all of the 21 prisoners housed in the A Range where the incident took place.

A written statement from Ms Mayhew, says the range was locked down for 2 and 1/2 days, and this affected those who returned to their cells as ordered as well as those who tried to stay outside and celebrate.

Ms Cassidy, the warden, acknowledged that all the prisoners on A Range were locked down, but she said that because of the brew and the weapon it would not have been good management to proceed with the dance.

Ms Nord said she has witnessed four officers stand idle while prisoners fought. "The staff says they are not willing to put their life on the line," she said. "Security is a mess."

The prison is trying to change some of its procedures to limit prisoner movement, and changes bring about tensions, Ms Cassidy said.

"They prefer freer movement; that's quite understandable. But I don't sense that we're violating anybody's rights."

She also said she did not believe there was a power struggle between her and her staff.

(From the Globe and Mail Jan. 6/89.)



THOMAS SZLAKOWSKI/The Globe and Mail
Prison for Women in Kingston.

Crises In Corrections

-by Monaca White Rabbit

All across the United States, crises exist in overcrowded correctional facilities. Inmates are housed in prisons and jails designed in an era when modern conveniences, which we consider everyday items, were not envisioned. The \$45.6 billion spent by the (in)justice system in 1985 was barely enough to maintain warehousing space for the human packages the government has stored.

Crisis: In Oklahoma City, on April 8, 1987, prisons were so crowded that release for 500 inmates up to 60 days before their normal release was proposed.

Crisis: In Marshall County, West Virginia, expenses had so overburdened the jails that the sheriff attempted to charge two people \$42 for room and board. The State Supreme Court found this practice unacceptable.

Crisis: In King County Correctional Facility, Seattle, Washington, 250 of the 1,576 inmates slept on the floor in February, 1987. In March, 36 beds were added and plans were reviewed for 36 more.

Crisis: On January 27, 1987, prison officials in South Dakota stated that the current count of 1,087 inmates over the projected 1,020, resulted in their \$285,000 shortfall.

Crisis: Boise, Idaho, Sheriff Vaughn Killeen stated the need to expand the 205 inmate jail within five years because of expected increase in prisoners. Governor Cecil Andrus approved the construction of a new, 248-bed, maximum security prison.

Crisis: On February 14, 1987, Florida passed an early release law to avoid a federal contempt order about prison overcrowding. Sixty-one inmates were freed on February 26, 1987, and another 73, on March 26. These few are a minute percentage of the total Florida prison population.

Crisis: On March 2, 1987, Howard County Maryland, courts were forced to double the number of jury cases tried every two weeks, in an attempt to clear the backlog.

Crisis: A newly built prison in Bullock County, Alabama stood empty until March, 1987, because of lack of funding to operate it.

Crisis: In Topeka, Kansas, a recent audit showed that prison crowding was caused by inadequate counselling and fewer paroles. By March, 1987, Kansas prisons housed 5,387 inmates in buildings designed for 5,015.

Crisis: In Texas, Governor Clements has used the Prison Management Act to speed the release of inmates. On March 10, 1987, the Texas Corrections Board approved a \$1.37 billion request for 1988-89, including funds for two new prisons and five new trusty camps. Prisons had closed thirteen times by summer and had faced \$24 million a month fines by Judge William Justice for lack of prison reform.

Crisis: The sheriff of Texarkana, Arkansas, has attempted to get \$70,000 he says the state owes the county for housing prisoners. The Arkansas DOC (Department of Corrections)

has maintained that the state does not have the money. In midsummer, prisoners were chained out of doors, during the dispute over where to house them.

Crisis: As of March, 1987, in the Oregon prison system, 4,000 inmates were held in a space for 2,815. In 1986, the system averaged over two escapes daily.

Crisis: In Carson City, Nevada, the state assembly approved a \$45.5 million bond issue for two new 500-bed prisons, only to be asked the following week for \$22.1 million extra for prisons for the next biennium, because of 20 percent (20%) underestimation of inmates.

Crisis: On March 6, 1987, lawmakers in Raleigh, North Carolina, approved a \$29.6 million emergency prisons bill. By March 27, 1987, a state of emergency was declared, as prisons exceeded the 18,000 population limit for the fifteenth consecutive day.

Crisis: Montana DOC estimates that their budget must more than triple from their present \$18.6 million 1987 budget, if inmate count grows at only half the present rate.

Crisis: On November 1, 1987, a Federal sentencing guidelines bill will take effect unless both houses of congress vote against it. This law will attempt to end disparate sentencing, but will also almost end parole in already overcrowded Federal prisons.

What inmates have known for years is now becoming known to the general public. The American penal system **does not work!** Research shows that crime is expected to rise and become more sophisticated. Offenders are coming from even younger age groups. If they are not criminal when they enter the government's warehouses, chances are they will be by the time they are released.

The ground has been broken in San Francisco for a \$26 million headquarters for the Delancy Street Foundation, a rehabilitation center for addicts, ex-convicts, and homeless youth. Project Restoration, in Alabama, is attempting to open a halfway house funded largely by the inmates themselves, to give ex-offenders a place to begin life again. Corrections Alternatives and Concepts, in Oregon, HELP of Southern Nevada, and the Missouri Coalition for Alternatives to Imprisonment are among the groups working toward alternative sentencing programs.

Hard work and money are needed to make any alternative a success. Unless YOU offer help, it will not be done. The time has passed for talking. Active involvement with your local group or with one of the national organizations working to end our prison injustices, is a start at making change happen.

Sources: USA Today, Jan. 27, Feb. 26, 27, March 2, 6, 10, 17, 24, 26, 27, 30, April 6, 7, 8, June 23, 24, 1987. Statesman-Journal (Salem, Oregon), The Anniston Star (Alabama) and the Houston Post (Texas)..

NOW MORE THAN EVER!

The following is the editorial to the last issue of the magazine 'Through the Looking Glass' - a 13 year old support group for wimmin, in prison and psychiatric prisons.

It is with sadness and regret that we tell you that we recently published the last issue of Through the Looking Glass (Summer 1987). For the last year, we have been going through a dropping off of women willing to work on the paper, until there were only two of us left. We held two community meetings, trying to recruit new members to TTLG, but could not get enough women to commit to carry on with all the work involved with putting it out, which also includes fundraising, publicity, doing the mailing list, and innumerable other tasks.

The **Women Prisoners Support Committee** of TTLG will continue doing their advocacy work for women inside (in the Washington State area). Their address is the same as TTLG's: P.O. Box 22061, Seattle, WA 98122.

If anyone out there (in Seattle or anywhere else) is interested and able to carry on with the newspaper part of TTLG, please get in touch with us - we have supplies, resources and a mailing list of women inside and out who desperately need and want contact with other women, both inside and out. You can write to us at our P.O. Box about that, or about anything else!

For all of you who have supported TTLG over the years with contributions of articles, poetry, graphics, letters, suggestions, all the many, many tasks of putting out a newspaper, and, of course, money, thank you very, very much.

Sincerely,
the members of TTLG

Washington State Correctional Center for Women



WCCW and the Total Control Philosophy

A variety of policies and programs have been designed to work together to create a total control environment by use of psychological manipulation from which there is no escape. These practices, powerful and destructive, are kept hidden from the public while they are well known to the Dep't of Corrections, who continue to approve their use against female prisoners.

The combined effect is staggering, and the result is a complete breakdown of individual will, enforced dependency and loss of self-esteem, loss of decision making skills and loss of coping ability, all of which does not end with the incarceration. The combined use of psychologically manipulative tactics leaves the Washington State Correctional Center for Women a unique prison experiment not only in the state of Washington, but unique to other prisons, male and female, across the country.

The total control technique is employed by forcing WCCW prisoners to work excessively, provide them with just enough pay so they cannot meet even minimal needs and do not provide them, placing all prisoners on the phase level behavior modification program which dictates everything from allowable items to bedtime, denying such items as sugar vitamins, and fruit as security concerns, belittling and juvenilizing by crushing into powder all medication and soaking all capsules into water, humiliating with harrassing strip-search and digital body cavity searches (using opposite sex guards in some cases), discouraging family and community visits, keeping prisoners in a constant state of confusion never knowing what is acceptable behavior from one day to the next (there have been in excess of 100 written policy changes in the first six months of 1988 and innumerable unwritten changes) and many other inter-locking policies and practices developed to enhance the total control concept.

One of the WCCW's "make work" programs is in grounds maintenance. The attention of community groups and other visitors is focused on the grounds and diverted from the control practices. Only certain prisoners are allowed to talk with these visitors regularly, and groups are not allowed into several areas of the prison.

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Black & Blue

WCCW con't...

Medical Mis/Treatment

Women prisoners at WCCW are to notify corrections officers (guards) at 5 a.m. if they are ill and under escort are taken to the prison's clinic for official diagnosis. Often their illnesses are ignored by attending nurses and they are denied "excuse" from their mandatory program work duties. Thereby they are either punished by infraction for refusing to work or they work in spite of their illness.

Those women that repeatedly seek medical treatment and are mis-diagnosed for ongoing conditions are prescribed psychotropic medications that are hazardous to their health and may sometimes result in death.

Accidental miscarriages have occurred due to faulty medical records checks, wherein improper medical treatments were performed. Mastectomies that may have been avoided, have resulted from medical negligence. Women with pre-cancerous symptoms have been ignored and their conditions have escalated to malignant cancer which riddled their body causing death. One woman with extremely swollen neck and lymph glands was told to gargle with salt water. Later, outside doctors diagnosed throat cancer. She is now on radiation treatment; her condition fragile.

Routine refusal to follow outside doctors' medically prescribed treatments are an ongoing problem.

The use of force by guards to hold down prisoners who resisted psychotropic medications, for injections of psychotropics is an ongoing tactic to shut women up.

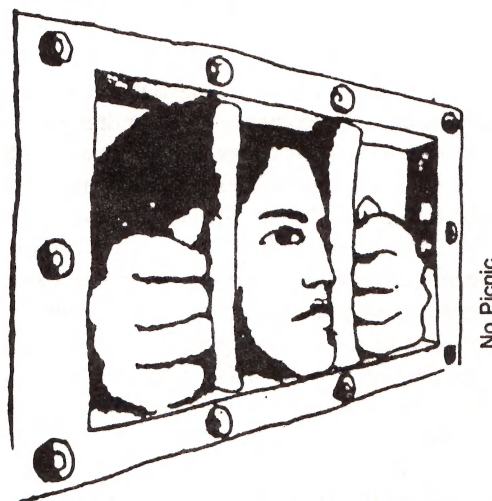
For more info. write:

Women Prisoners Support Group
P.O. Box 22061, Seattle, WA. 98122

Fighting against the shitty state of affairs
in Washington State Prisons

write: Washington Prisoners/Family Support Group
P.O.Box 28227, Seattle, WA. 98118

(Taken from "No Picnic".)



Uplift the Spirit and the Rose will Blossom

Remember Our Sisters Inside (ROSI) is a prisoners' art network, reproducing art from women behind bars as stationery, greeting cards, postcards and posters.

ROSI is attempting to elevate the creative spirit of the female prisoner-artist by lifting her artwork over prison walls into public visibility. Our purpose is to provide prisoners and former prisoners with an outlet for their creativity and provide the public with knowledge of convicts as productive human beings.

ROSI was conceived in prison at **California Institution for Women**, and founded by former prisoners in the San Francisco Bay Area in June, 1984.

ROSI's publishing, distribution and communication efforts are sustained by fund raisers from such groups as **Through the Looking Glass** (now defunct) and membership donations (\$10-50 sliding scale) and sponsors (\$100).

Contributions are tax deductible, checks can be made payable to ROSI/c/o S.F. Women's Building (address at the end of article).

We are now seeking new friends and financial backers who appreciate ROSI's unique potential. We are a 'grass roots,' prisoner-based shoestring operation in need of your help.

You can help ROSI in many ways:

Donate Stamps, to be sent to the women in prison. Contribute paper, pens, pads, ink and other art supplies to send to artists inside. Donate Money to help produce pamphlets, greeting cards, and posters. Offer your group's mailing list for fund raising and publicity purposes, or include ROSI material in your mailings. Have art exhibitions of the artist's work, and sponsor fund raising benefits.

If you can help in any of these ways, don't delay. Become a ROSI member today. Your help will allow us to increase the quality, quantity and regularity of our printing. Our archives are overflowing with original prisoners' creations. Because of prison life negativity, what is needed is encouragement of creativity.

To help ROSI grow and help prisoners help themselves, join us, uplift us and the rose will blossom.

REMEMBER OUR SISTERS INSIDE

A Women Prisoners' Art Network
2144 Shattuck Ave.,
Berkeley, CA. 94704

AIDS in Prison



**"PRAY FOR
THE DEAD,
BUT
FIGHT LIKE
HELL FOR
THE LIVING"**
Mother Jones

What do we do to protect ourselves against AIDS in the prison system? Little information about AIDS gets in, and often, what is sent in is censored at the mail room level. The information provided by the administration is of little use in most cases; it is homophobic, racist, and gives very misleading information on how to avoid getting the AIDS virus. As prison authorities loudly deny the existence of sex or drug use within prisoners, it is not in their interest to provide prisoners with safe sex/drug use resources or guidelines. Of course to give such info. would be to 'sanction' such 'illegal' activities.

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is thought to be caused by HIV, the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. When people are tested for AIDS, what is being looked for is the presence of the HIV antibody, which develops in response to the existence of the AIDS virus. It takes between 2 weeks to 3 months to develop the antibody, but it can take as long as 18 months. People who test HIV positive will not necessarily develop AIDS. Approximately 50% of HIV positive people will contract full-blown AIDS. Others may develop ARC, AIDS Related Complex, which is usually seen as a less severe form of AIDS, and some may not get any symptoms at all. It can take up to 10 years for symptoms to appear.

The virus basically attacks the immune system so it becomes more and more difficult to fight off other infections. People who do die as a result of contracting the AIDS virus will usually do so because they have pneumonia or some other disease.

Approximately 7% of the people with AIDS in the U.S. are wimmin. 50% of these wimmin are Black, 23% Hispanic, and 26% Caucasian. These figures omit wimmin in prison. The prison administration usually refuses to make statements concerning 'inmates' who have AIDS or who are HIV positive. However, the Massachusetts Department of Corrections tested 250 wimmin (voluntarily) for the AIDS virus. Out of these wimmin, 100 tested HIV positive; almost 40% higher than the 7% national average.

Wimmin in prison will be more likely to contract infections if they are exposed to AIDS, because of the poor health standards and generally bad living conditions within prisons. It seems, from the little information that has made it out from behind the walls, that the main 'care' for wimmin with AIDS is segregation and 24 hour lockdown. Drugs, like AZT, which have been known to help curb symptoms of AIDS, have been denied. Wimmin are not able to participate in programs

to earn 'good time'; credits for early release. Hysteria and the old (in)famous 'divide and rule' tactics are used by prison authorities to foster mistrust and fear of wimmin with AIDS or who are HIV positive.

You can only contract the AIDS virus by 2 means. 1. If someone's blood goes directly into your bloodstream; 2. If a man's cum is mixed into your bloodstream.

YOU CAN'T GET AIDS FROM:

- a toilet seat
- a bathtub
- a telephone
- sharing food, utensils or cosmetics
- sharing living space
- working with someone
- a sneeze
- hugging or kissing

How to avoid AIDS safe sex/safe drug use

(Complied from Gay Community News, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, AIDS Action Now! etc.)

We realize a lot of things mentioned in these guidelines will not be available to wimmin in prison, so please write and let us know how useful this information has been and especially if you've been able to find alternative things that are more available in prisons.

SAFE DRUG USE

Remember, ear and nose piercing and tattooing also use needles. Don't share these needles, and/or clean them with bleach as described.

- If you can, the best thing to do is never share needles with anyone. The most common way for the AIDS virus to be transmitted between wimmin is if they are IV drug users. If you can't get clean needles, or you can't be sure you're the only person using one needle, then the following methods are fairly safe.

- Clean works and anything that pierces skin with one part bleach to 10 parts water. Pull up 3 times with the bleach and water solution and rinse at least 3 times with water, since bleach can kill if injected.

① PULL UP
3 TIMES



② PULL UP 3 TIMES
- TO RINSE



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AIDS con't...

- If bleach isn't available, alcohol is better than nothing, although you can't be sure that it will kill the virus. If you can wait, exposing needles etc. to clean air for 3 days will also do the job of wiping out the AIDS virus. Make sure you take everything apart so the air can get to all of it.

WOMYN TO WOMYN SEX

- The virus can be transmitted during cunnilingus (oral-vaginal contact) if you have an open sore in your mouth. You can use some sort of barrier like a thin piece of latex (dental dams). Brushing your teeth opens small, hard to see sores, so don't brush first.
- Try to use gloves, especially latex (surgeon's) gloves, during hand/finger to genital contact or vaginal/anal penetration with finger(s) if you have open sores/cuts on your hands. Trim your nails, making sure there's no rough edges as these can cause small undetectable cuts in the vagina.
- You may want to avoid sex during your or your partner's period. Menstrual blood is a carrier of the virus as much as any other blood. So if you do have sex at this time, avoid blood contact with your mouth or open sores.
- Don't share sex toys that come into contact with any body fluids unless they've been disinfected in a 1 part bleach/10 part water solution first. You can also use condoms on things like dildos, and if you have more than one sex partner at once, make sure you don't exchange body fluids, eg. don't finger fuck with one partner and then the other without cleaning.
- Don't get urine, feces, menstrual blood, vaginal fluids or breast milk into your or your partner's body - through the mouth, rectum, vagina or broken skin.
- Don't do: unprotected rimming (anal/oral contact)
unprotected fisting (hand in vagina/rectum)

Lesbian sexual contact is relatively safe!

Wimmin and AIDS

Making It, A Women's guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS

In Spanish and English!

This book is available to wimmin in prison/institutions for **FREE** by writing to **FIREBRAND Books**. 141 The Commons, Ithaca, New York, 14850



HETERO-SEX

- With men you have to worry about cum. The best way to have safe sex with a man is to make sure he wears a condom. Cum should not come in contact with your body fluids, blood, or open sores. This is really important, as during penetration, the vagina can often be torn/cut slightly.
 - Condoms can break, so, pulling out before cumming, while using a condom, or using 2 condoms is safer. Always use latex, not lambskin, as lambskin is porous and lets sperm and the virus through.
 - Use water based lubricants like K-Y or ForePlay. Oil based lube like vaseline, handcream, butter and crisco break latex condoms.
 - Using Nonoxyl-9 spermicide with a condom should provide better protection, as the spermicide can kill the AIDS virus. Never just use the spermicide alone.
- To use a condom:
1. Make sure you don't tear it.
 2. A dab of lube in the tip will increase sensation without causing slippage.
 3. If man has foreskin, pull it back before putting condom on.
 4. Squeeze tip before rolling it down to leave space for cum. Make sure no air is trapped inside as air bubbles can cause breakage.
 5. After condom is on, lubricate it and your vagina.
 6. If you fuck for a long time, add more lube often and replace the condom occasionally. Make sure the condom is held at the base when pulling out so it's not lost.
 7. Only use a condom once.
- During blow-jobs the man should also be wearing a condom. He can also withdraw before cumming so you avoid getting cum or pre-cum in your mouth.
 - Anal sex is very risky because of the high likelihood of getting cuts/tears in your rectum. If you're doing this, a condom should definitely be used.

TESTING - YES OR NO?

It might be a good idea to get tested if you're pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant, because your child can inherit the virus or you can pass it onto her/him through your breast milk. It is best to get confidential testing if possible. Authorities, especially prison authorities, use the AIDS test as another form of oppression and coercion and use forcible AIDS tests as a form of harassment.

HIV-positive prostitute charged with attempted manslaughter.

A judge set bail at \$204,000 for Elizabeth Kay Sherouse after her arrest on two charges of attempted manslaughter for practicing prostitution with knowledge that she is infected with "the HIV virus".

According to Montrose Voice, the charges include two counts of attempted manslaughter because only two of her clients are willing to co-operate with the prosecution. Both men said they used condoms.

People arrested on prostitution charges are tested three times before they are labelled as carriers.

Sherouse was notified last year of her antibody status and was arrested for prostitution in July and August. A warrant for her arrest was issued in October, after investigators and state prosecutors researched the legal basis for bringing such charges against HIV-positive prostitutes.

Note: The State is seriously considering branding (with tattoos) hookers, and who *THEY* say are members of 'high risk groups'. In British Columbia, Can. Bill 34 was recently adopted as legislation, which gives the B.C. government the legal right to quarantine a person who is HIV-positive or has AIDS, and who they determine is not mentally competent. In the Government's eyes, continuing to fuck (safe or not), after diagnosis, is mental incompetence. Bill 34 and other AIDS hysteria legislation is seen by the community as blatant facism; the tattooing and quarantining of people because they carry or might acquire a virus is something that the Nazis practiced against the poor, les/gay people, and prostitutes. It should also be noted that prostitutes earn a living (or try to) with sex, so it would seem to make sense that we are probably the most careful. **Safe Sex is our business!!**

Source: Gay Community News, January 17-23. '88

- When approx. 30 male hookers were busted in Toronto, the cops said they had no condoms. In reality, all but one had condoms.

CORP

Canadian Organization for
the Rights of Prostitutes
Box 1143 Station F Toronto
ON M4Y 2T8

588-9037



In early February, the Toronto Metro Housing Association (TMHA) attempted to evict eight single mothers from their apartments in a North York housing project because of drug charges against their sons. The charges were a result of police raids in July '87.

A lawyer representing six of the mothers facing eviction, said that her clients were busy with jobs, school and the care of their other children, and not able to monitor all of their older sons' activities. All sons charged were over eighteen.

John Sewell, chair of the TMHA, said "We are taking very strong action where there are drugs involved. We try and evict people where they are allowing that action to occur.(sic)"

One mother said that her son was arrested in his girlfriend's apartment, and police never entered her home during the raid.

The first mother to go to court, on Feb. 12, '88, had her eviction notice turned down. The court refused the notice as it believed she was not aware of her son's 'illegal' actions.

However, Judge Hudson told the womyn that she is responsible for watching over her son, to ensure he does not deal drugs in the future.

Source: Globe and Mail (Feb. 11&12 '88)
Toronto Star (Feb. 12'88)

The mother of a youth arrested for car theft has been sentenced to 10 days in jail for failing to help "authorities control her son (sic)", as reported in the Toronto Globe and Mail, Oct. 22, 1987.

Amy Gordon, 35, went to jail because she failed to turn her son in when he failed to abide by court orders to stay home at night.

The article continues with, "Ms. Gordon said she was unable to supervise her son while trying to care for her other eight children and hold down a job at the same time."

Institutionalized

Valeena Marishka (Ishka) is 15 years old and for the past five months has been held against her will in Texas in a mental hospital unit for kids from troubled homes. For the past ten years she has been forced to live with her maternal grandparents, the Moores, who won custody of her after two trials during which her parents, Arthur J. Miller and Kamalla Laqueta, were told by the judges they were not fit people to raise children because they were avowed anarchists. They also had another child, a son, Jason, (who had cerebral palsy and required alot of special care) who died by asphyxiation while under his grandmother's "care". (He smothered to death in two plastic dry-cleaning bags). Kamalla eventually became the first person in California to be charged with child stealing when she took her daughter away from the Moores and fled away with her to another state. After a year they were found and Kamalla arrested.

After much public, private and institutional abuse, (Kamalla was imprisoned for a year, during which she was put in the hole, the rat tank, physically abused and raped) a second judge ruled that even though Ishka's parents had been jerked around, perhaps unfairly, by the judicial system, he still ruled in the grandparents favour. Kamalla was put on probation. Not once was Ishka ever asked what she wanted. At the time she told her social workers repeatedly that her grandmother had killed her little brother and if she had to live with them she would run away. Both social workers asked that Ishka not be returned to the Moores, whom Kamalla said had a history of abusive behaviour towards Kamalla and her sister. Despite this, and testimony of what a good, loving parent Kamalla was, the Moores, a conservative, middle class couple, took Ishka away, moving so Arthur and Kamalla could not trace their whereabouts.

Now Ishka has been located, and after writing to her, Arthur has received a letter. Ishka has told him she is a radical, and that they are still telling her what she saw her grandmother do is not real. What she wants is to be with her father, and not at the mercy of the hospital or her grandparents.

Arthur and Kamalla have been active in labour, peace, anti-nuclear, Native American and environmental struggles for the past twenty years. They have had the State come crashing down on them in its bitterest form for being openly anarchist. Now their child continues to be ground down by that same force. Please write letters protesting Ishka's confinement and demanding that she be free to go where she wants to go. They may be sent to Arthur at his publication's address: Bayou La Rose, P.O. Box 2576, San Diego, CA, 92112, USA. For more information, write to that same address.

-Reprinted from Toronto ABC

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The W.P.S.N. is open as a voice, in print, to all wimmin locked down by the State. We will print submissions such as poetry, articles, drawings, essays, correspondence wanted ads, notices and updates. Submissions don't necessarily need to be typed, nor does the spelling or grammar have to be 'perfect'. We will not print anything that is sexist, homophobic, racist, classist, etc... For all you artists (scribblers, doodlers) are you in need of art supplies? We have a few that were donated to us: some markers, pens, and pencil crayons, two sketch pads. For any of these things or questions, etc... our address is on the back page. We can send your article(s) back, but it would probably be good to photo-copy the stuff you send us if possible. The post people have a tendency to borrow our mail and never return it. Hope to hear from you soon.

For a world without bars,
The WPSN



Bedford Hills - On Site Nursery

There are approximately 28,000 wimmin in prison in the US; about 75% of these wimmin are mothers. Despite this, out of all the US prisons, there is only one on-site nursery, at Bedford Hills Corr. Facility, a maximum security prison just outside of New York City. The usual practice in US prisons is to take the child away from his/her mom after birth but at Bedford the child can stay for one year. Exceptions are made (up to 18 months) if mom's due for release in that time.

Yvonne Acevedo relates the importance to her of having her daughter Nicole with her at Bedford

"This year's important to me because my daughter will know me when they bring her to visit (after her one year stay - ed.) She'll call me mommy. Otherwise, she'll be calling someone else mommy."

Life in prison could never be considered rosy for those incarcerated between its walls. As could be expected, life's not the easiest for baby 'civilian'. The children are considered civilians by the prison officials and must be escorted every where by a prison guard with mom.

The prison officials really haven't made conditions at Bedford the most pleasant for bringing up a child, and as well make it hard for mom, when she tries to improve conditions. The faculty is not clean but if any hand washing is done in the cells, the women will get written up by an officer, for *sanitation reasons*.

There are cockroaches, lack of fresh air and it's cold for mom and child.

On top of those obstacles, there are only two sitters provided by the prison. With so many children to look after the wimmin established a system of taking turns looking after each others children, to give moms and sitters a bit of a break.

The civilian/prisoner set up does not allow the wimmin to go to the doctor or hospital with her child if s/he gets ill; a nurse or prison official goes with her/him.

Wimmin released from Bedford get \$40, to "start a new life"(sic).

- Source: The Christian Science Monitor
- Vol. 8 #90. 05-04-88.

Letter from Galye Bezaire

Dear WPSN:

I'm really excited about the Wimmin's Prisoners Survival Network being in existence. When I was in maximum security awaiting my bail review, I was terrified of being forgotten about. I was facing a maximum sentence of fifty years imprisonment for child abduction and harbouring. We built a strong solidarity with each other in maximum and continue to keep in touch with each other. A lot of horrors are happening to wimmin in prison. We have to inform others of the injustices which are occurring in our (in)justice system. While I was in custody the police abused me every chance they got, resulting in an injured leg (torn achilles tendon) which went untreated for four days because I refused to sign a release saying my injury was not the result of police brutality. Many wimmin had medical problems which went untreated.

My trial took place in Toronto in May and June, 1987. My jury found me guilty on all five counts. The judge, however, said it was her opinion that I did what I had to do to protect my children from further abuse in their father's home. She therefore, gave me an absolute discharge on the abduction charge. She sentenced me on the four "harbouring" charges. I was sentenced to three years probation, three years suspended sentence and three hundred hours community service work. My "community service work" consists of writing a wimmin's legal handbook.

I still need to raise \$2000 to cover the costs of the trial. Donations can be sent to the **Gayle Bezaire Defence Fund**, 151 Gerrard St. East, Toronto, Ont.

- Gayle Bezaire

Ed Note: Gayle Bezaire is a lesbian mother of two children whom she took from a physically, sexually and mentally abusive household. The father charged her with harbouring and abducting the kids.

**Wimmin and children have the humyn right
to live in safe and supportive
environments.**



Tamiko Tate and 3-week-old Tiffany in the nursery at Bedford Hills prison

Appeal of Linda Couch - Imprisoned Mother



I AM A WOMAN
GIVING BIRTH
TO MYSELF.

Is anybody not too busy to hear what I've got to say? I am a mother, I am in prison, and the state has taken three children away from me. If you are not a mother you can't understand the rage I feel, the torment and the torture that are driving me to insanity. They are my children and I love them! I gave them birth!

You may say, "so what?" There's hundreds of mothers in prison. I am facing twenty years. That's what I got for killing my husband in self-defence.

Some of you feminists will be real quick to blame me because he was beating the hell out of me, it sure wasn't the first time! It's easy for you to say what you'd have done, and it's easy for me too, in retrospect, but when you're getting the shit beat out of you, and he was definitely bigger and stronger, and I never have been one to call the police anyway, it came to a day when I fought back for my life, and suddenly he was dead and I was rushed from one nightmare directly to another, and now even a worse hell (prison).

I was broke, and the bureaucracy took my children from me, filled them with lies and hate for their mother, and then threw me in hell.

I did not mean for it to happen, I can't even stand violence!

I'm not a murderer! I promise you. I promise, I am not a murderer. But everyone says I am and worse. And this is a nightmare.

No, I'm not going to tell you I have always been an anarchist-feminist and I'm not going to bullshit you in any other way either. But I do sort of identify with the logo of the WPSN (Wimmin Prisoners' Survival Network) that "I am a woman giving birth to myself".

There are hundreds of mothers in prison, but I'm not going to use that as an excuse to be silent! I'm going to fight to be reunited with my children, that's what you see me doing right here.

I need an attorney to get me out of prison and back with my children. That is what I need. Even with the phony one that the state provided, it took them a second jury trial before they could railroad me! And that state attorney said I was convicted because I wouldn't testify against my dead husband and allow

my children to be dragged into testifying.

Lots of prisoners need attorneys, and I don't expect any of you to be rich enough to run out and get me an attorney! I wish it were so.

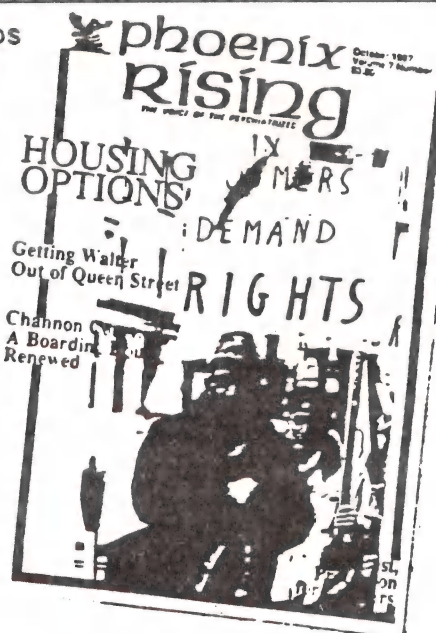
So this is an appeal for anyone anywhere to help me organize and maintain a defence fund, to raise the money to get an attorney to get me out of this hell and back to my kids who I love with all my heart. I am seeking a special friend, or friends to help me succeed. And when I am free I'm going to dedicate all my energies to helping free other women both before and after they are thrown into prison.

This is also an appeal for pre-embossed envelopes to be used to work for my freedom!

I am indigent and any envelopes at all will help! Also, I would appreciate any letters of support, and suggestions. Honestly, I fear for my very sanity!

Linda Couch
17943 J.G.
1479 Collins Ave.
Marysville, Ohio
USA 43040

Phoenix keeps
coming out



Phoenix Rising has been there for us and now they need our help to 'stay afloat'. All financial contributions would be greatly appreciated. Canada's only Anti-Psychiatry Magazine, bringing us much needed information that the world would rather ignore. Support our Sisters and Brothers locked down. Write for more information.

Subscriptions are free to Psychiatric Inmates.

Phoenix Rising

P.O. Box 165, Station A Toronto, Ontario M5W 1B2

Motionless Sight

I sit here motionless
Without the crime of occupation
With perception borne of long suffering
Calmly accepting your crimes of motion.

You are a country
A mob killing for wealth and power;
Your possessions;
Houses, private vehicles;
Sheltered worlds;
Fortresses against pain
And mortality
Paid for with blood and starving bodies.
You are America's employed.

Stop killing
Stop eating
The body of Christ;
Supermarket flesh;
Other sentient beings.

Wasting away. . .
Little food
Bits of poison dropped silently therein
To eliminate the homosexual
In the mirror
A gaunt face
Staring at me with unblinking eyes. . .
Behind them Spirit Light; Sightless Sight.

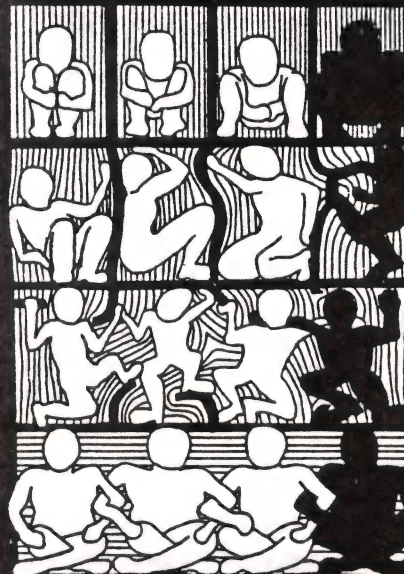
I no longer need to see
The air I cannot breathe.
The old woman standing at my door, 2 AM:
My own death watching me sleep
With murderous eyes.
The black widow spider
Woman luring me into a web
For another casual killing.
The doctor's miniature tape recorder
Pinned to her new white blouse
Blown to bits when the war begins.

Cora Whitmore 12-18-87

Cora is a lesbian who has been incarcerated in a mental institution since Nov. 1981.

SHRINK RESISTANT

**the struggle against
psychiatry in Canada**



Bonnie Burstow & Don Weitz, editors

Bonnie Burstow & Don Weitz, editors.
Soft Cover. \$11.95 (New Star Books, 1988.)

Anthology of personal accounts of psychiatric inmates and ex-inmates, in Canada. 39 contributors, telling their stories and accounts of being inmates in the psychiatric institutions in Canada. Also includes poetry, drawings, and graphics. Resource section contains proposed Bill of Rights for psychiatric inmates in Canada, and a Anti-Psychiatric movement Statement of Principles. A very informative and moving book.

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Can't Kill The Spirit



Open Road

In the beginning of October, the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) publicly announced that it would make a few modifications in the restrictions on Alejandrina Torres, Silvia Baraldini, Susan Rosenberg, and the other two wimmin held in the Control Unit of Lexington Federal Prison for Women. While acknowledging that conditions in the Control Unit are not livable, the BOP maintained that it would nevertheless take nine months to find a replacement for Lexington. At the same time, and more ominously, the BOP stated that a survey of the federal prison population indicated that there were between 150 and 200 wimmin who "had greater security needs than could currently be provided for in the system," and that the five wimmin currently in the Control Unit would eventually be moved to a new maximum security unit housing a much larger number of wimmin.

This announcement came in response to a growing campaign to shut down the Control Unit. The most recent development was a scathing report issued in September by the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. ACLU staff attorneys had toured the unit and spoken with the wimmin and prison staff, examining administrative policies of isolation, sensory deprivation, constant monitoring, harassment and humiliation, repeated strip searches, severely restricted visits and threats of perpetual confinement to the unit. The conclusion of their report argued that "cosmetic changes will not alter the reality of this unit that, as it was designed and operates, is a living tomb for women who are assigned to it." The ACLU report supported the charges that the unit targets political prisoners with the goal of breaking them physically and psychologically.

Dr. Richard Korn, a correctional psychologist and criminologist, also toured the Control Unit. He reported that the goals of the unit are first, "to reduce the prisoners to the state of submission essential for their ideological conversion. That failing, the next objective is to reduce them to a state of psychological incompetence sufficient to neutralize them as efficient,

self-directing antagonists. That failing, the only alternative is to destroy them, preferably by making them desperate enough to destroy themselves."

The BOP decision reflects the tremendous pressure which has been brought to bear by the National Campaign to Abolish the Lexington Control Unit. Concretely, the Bureau has promised to stop the daily strip searches, replacing them with random strip searches and daily pat-downs by male guards. The conditions of isolation will not change but the authorities have said they will build another visiting room so that two visits can occur simultaneously. They also indicated that Alejandrina would be allowed to see her grandchildren and that applications for other visitors would be entertained. At press time, however, the first request had been denied.

While these changes, if they occur, are victories for the five wimmin and their supporters, it is important to keep up and intensify the pressure. We need to demand that they be transferred immediately to general population in a regular wimmin's prison. There is also the danger that the BOP will use this opportunity to build a new prison which will function as a gigantic Control Unit for many more wimmin, a wimmin's version of Marion.

The National Campaign to Abolish the Lexington Control Unit is calling on everyone to write letters expressing their concerns to the new Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, J. Michael Quinlan (320 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20534). The urgency of the campaign to shut the unit down is underscored by the news that the wimmin are already beginning to suffer from lethargy, inability to concentrate, weight loss and eye and other medical problems. They also stress that it is critical to help break through the isolation by writing to the wimmin directly. (See addresses at back of issue).

- Reprinted from the **Prairie Fire Organizing Committee**: P.O. Box 14422, San Francisco, CA 94114.

VICTORY in Lexington Lawsuit

A historic victory has been won in the lawsuit against the Lexington Control Unit. On July 15 a federal judge in Washington D.C., ordered that political prisoners Susan Rosenberg and Silvia Baraldini be moved into general population.

Judge Parker determined that the two women had been singled out for harsh isolation and harassment in Lexington solely because of their radical political beliefs. He barred the Federal Bureau of Prisons from "considering a prisoner's past political associations or personal political beliefs" in deciding prison assignments.

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LEXINGTON con't...

This ruling is unprecedented in that for the first time in modern history a federal court has proclaimed in the clearest of terms what the Justice Dept has always denied: that the U.S. govnmnt not only *holds* political prisoners, but *cruelly violates their human rights*.

In his written opinion, Judge Parker said that the government "may be concerned that the two plaintiffs will persuade inmates within the general prison population to share their political views, but those fears cannot be accommodated at the expense of constitutional rights."

He expressed outrage at the conditions the women experienced in Lexington: "The treatment of the plaintiffs has skirted elemental standards of human decency. The exaggerated security, small group isolation and staff harassment serve to constantly undermine the inmates' morale."

But despite this sentiment, Judge Parker failed to rule that the Lexington unit itself was a violation of the 8th Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. He was apparently constrained by narrow Supreme Court and appellate court guidelines on the kinds of prison conditions that may be considered unconstitutional.

For this reason his order excluded Sylvia Brown, an inmate in Lexington and co-plaintiff in the lawsuit, who had not been placed in the prison for her political activities. Sylvia's friendship and solidarity with the other women in Lexington will not be forgotten, and our campaign will continue to demand that the unit be shut down for all prisoners.

Alejandrina Torres, because of her position as a Puerto Rican Prisoner of War, had declined to participate in the lawsuit. As a member of the colonized Puerto Rican nation, she does not accept the authority of the U.S. legal system to pass judgment on her. Alejandrina also apparently will remain in Lexington until the unit itself is closed.

"Consigning anyone to a high-security unit for past political associations they will never shed unless forced to renounce them, is a dangerous mission for this country's prison system to continue," Judge Parker said. "This court is afraid the Marianna facility will automatically assume many of the problems haunting the Lexington unit."

-Reprinted from "The Outside Agitator"

Susan Rosenberg



Insurgent

SCUM

The following are responses to letters of protest about Lexington.

Dear Mr./Ms. Bassnett:

This is in response to your recent inquiry regarding the Female High Security Unit at the Federal Correctional Institution, Lexington, Kentucky.

Recently, there have been a number of various publications and other sources of information which have seriously misrepresented the conditions of confinement at the Lexington High Security Unit.

The High Security Unit for female offenders is designed for a small number of female offenders who require more security than can be provided by our other institutions housing women. We have ensured that inmates in the unit have access to educational, religious, medical, and mental health programs, a leisure and law library, and we have established a small industries program. There are daily opportunities for inside and outside recreation. With the exception of a short period during the day, prisoners in the unit are permitted out of their cells from 7:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. and participate in regular job assignments. Additionally, they are allowed full correspondence privileges, access to personal and legal visits, and outside telephone calls.

The prisoners incarcerated in the High Security Unit are currently serving sentences ranging from twenty years to fifty-eight years, and all have been involved in very serious offenses which include convictions for *Seditious Conspiracy to Commit Offenses Against the United States Government, Unlawful Storage of Explosives, Possession of Unregistered Destructive Devices, Armed Robbery, Kidnapping and Escape.* (our italics)

We are satisfied that the inmates in our custody are being confined in a humane and proper manner. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,
L.E. DuBois
Warden

January 25, 1988

Dear M. Bassnett

This is in response to your recent inquiry regarding the Female High Security Unit at the Federal Correctional Institution, Lexington, Kentucky. In your letter, you voice concerns regarding the conditions of confinement alleged to exist in the unit. Additionally, you demand the unit be closed.

Recently, there have been a number of various publi-

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SCUM con't...

cations and other sources of information which have seriously misrepresented the conditions of confinement at the Lexington High Security Unit.

The High Security Unit operates well within the parameters of statute, policy and sound correctional judgement. The unit functions in a safe, secure and humane fashion. Our agency has determined this unit meets a very specific and necessary purpose with regard to our responsibility for maintaining the security of all offenders committed to our custody.

A new facility is under construction at Marianna, Florida. A decision has been made to designate one unit at this institution for housing female offenders who, as a result of their offense, criminal history, institution behavior or other appropriate management variables, require incarceration in a high-medium security institution environment. Construction is on schedule and the facility should be operational in mid-1988. The female unit at Marianna will be physically separated from the designated male population and, in essence, will function independently from the main institution. Once the Marianna facility is opened, the Female High Security Unit at Lexington will be phased out.

The conditions of confinement described in your correspondence are inaccurate and do not exist in the High Security Unit.

Thank you for your interest in the Bureau of Prisons' operations.

Sincerely,

John M. Hurley, Executive Assistant
Correctional Programs Division



Reality Now

Solidarity Statement for International Women's Day, from the Women of the Ohio 7

We send our love and solidarity to all of you here today on this International Women's Day (1988). We wish to take this opportunity today to salute our beloved sisters and fellow political prisoners who are locked down behind the walls of America's prisons. We extend our hands to you all - for you are us and we are you.

Of the three of us women from the Ohio 7, Carol Saucier Manning is already designated to the Lexington Control Unit for (ed: wimmin) political prisoners. As political prisoners we all recognize that at any time any one of us can and will be re-designated to the control units of this country. The U.S. continues to refuse to recognize the political status of its POWs and political prisoners, while pointing arrogantly to other countries, particularly the Soviet Union. The fact is that human rights violations flourish in this country in the form of inhumanly long prison sentences for political prisoners and many social prisoners, strip searches, overcrowding and the development of more and more repressive and isolating control units. Public pressure can have an effect on BOP decisions, as it appears to be through the "Shut Down Lexington" campaign. Pressure cannot be eased up for a minute because the BOP's intentions are to get around the public outcry and still meet their own goals. If Lexington is ever shut down they will replace it with something that has the same damaging effects, but has a better facade and is harder to confront. As we face Marianna (see Lexington Update section, ed.), there is the reality of the men's prison at Marion, Ill. where the 23 hour a day lock down continues. Where everyday human rights are forgotten. When the brutality that is at Marion has been challenged in the courts of this land it has been upheld and sanctioned again and again.

We continue to resist the insidious program of the BOP that has as its "mission" the isolation and destruction of our spirits, our unity and our commitment to Women's Liberation and Socialism. Resistance for us has meant REFUSING TO RELINQUISH:

OUR WILL TO FIGHT CRIMINALIZATION,
OUR DIGNITY, OUR HEALTH, OUR
SISTERHOOD
OUR SENSE OF HUMOR AND
OUR HUMANITY.

For political prisoners, doing a push up can be an act of resistance, strengthening us as women as we push up against the inertia of oppression behind these walls.

Through our experiences as mothers and conscious Revolutionaries in our time, we have a great love and respect for the people of the world. We have hope that we can continue to contribute to the struggle towards a world of justice, where all people can develop to their full human potential. As women

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OHIO 7 con't...

who have given birth and nursed our children, we know in our souls that self-determination is as natural a drive as seeking nourishment, love and learning. We want a world where a Black mother in South Africa can nurse her own child and know those tiny hands won't ever be chained, or denied their full rights as human beings. We want a world where the people of Nicaragua can use their energy, their lives, building their country, their schools, hospitals and homes instead of fighting u.s. backed contras, the CIA and american mercenaries. We want a world where Puerto Rico can be free of u.s. military and corporate exploitation - A Free and Independent Puerto Rico. We want real change in our country, for all oppressed peoples. We feel a responsibility to work for that change. Responsibility - to effect the world our children must inherit.

Now as we begin our trial in Springfield, Mass. charged with Seditious Conspiracy, Rico Conspiracy and substantive Rico, our dignity and strength remain intact. We know we are not criminals but political prisoners who have always stood for life affirming principles. Our spirits are stronger because we also know that you are all here with us.

**DARE TO STRUGGLE - DARE TO WIN
STOP POLITICAL REPRESSION - SHUT DOWN THE
CONTROL UNITS
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POW's.**

Patricia Gros-LeVasseur
Barbara Curzi-Laaman
Carol Saucier-Manning

OHIO 7 Update

In a letter from Carol Manning, March 6, 1988, she told us of the exciting news that Pat Gros-LaVasseur was released on bail on March 7. She was granted bail with very restrictive conditions, after serving a five year sentence for harboring a fugitive (her husband!). As well the letter stated that their trial begins on March 14th., in Springfield Mass. The WPSN sends our love and solidarity to the Ohio 7 in their fight with the (in)justice system, and happy bail release to Pat.

Testimony Wanted: on violence against Lesbian and Gay prisoners

The National Lesbian/Gay Task Force (U.S.) is doing a big report to the congress and others about violence against lesbians and gay men. This report may help to change people's minds about paying no attention to prisoners. If you have seen or been in a situation of violence due to anti-lesbian/gay or AIDS prejudice, please send these testimonies to Kevin Berrile, NGLTF 1517 U St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20009

He's writing the report now, so send things soon! He needs to know these kind of things: verbal or physical assault? 'authorities' helpful or not? related to lesbian/gay or to AIDS, or both?



Woman maced: An Israeli soldier in the West Bank squeezes Mace, a paralyzing spray, into the eyes of a Palestinian woman yesterday. She had argued with him about leaving the area

after an international woman's day protest called by the Palestine Liberation Organization. Two more Palestinians were killed yesterday, one a policeman accused of helping Israel.

International Women's Day Action at Pleasanton Federal Prison

Over 300 women from the San Francisco area mobilized at the Pleasanton Federal Prison and Army Reserve on Sat., March 5 to celebrate **International Women's Day**. The women were protesting the horrible conditions inside of Prisons and for the release of women Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the US and at Pleasanton. Inside Pleasanton are Laura Whitehorn and Linda Evans, two North American political prisoners imprisoned for their actions in solidarity with the Black Liberation Movement. There are over 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war in the US., 25 of whom are women.

The IWD protest had a balloon release that carried a banner saying "**FREE OUR SISTERS!**" over the fence and high above the prison walls where the prisoners may have been able to see it.

The women protesters chanted and drummed out their demands and words of solidarity. Among their demands were:

- the freedom of political prisoners and prisoners of war in the US and around the world.
- the shutting down of maximum security control units, like Lexington, Ky., and the one slated for Mariana, Fl.
- Women's Liberation and Lesbian Liberation.

- Taken from an article by *Emily Rosen*.



Protesters demand freedom for political prisoners

Flying Lesbians in House of Lords.

Two Wimmin Arrested for Kissing in Public

Two wimmin were arrested, for kissing, at the Jan. 9th demonstration in opposition to Clause 28, the latest homophobic legislation in the U.K. More than 12,000 people gathered in the streets of London to protest the repressive piece of legislation.

On Feb. 2, three lesbians swooped down on ropes into the government chambers on the day the Bill was passed. The 50 or so demonstrators were seated in the viewing gallery of the House of Lords, and just after the Bill was passed, becoming law, the protesters jumped up shouting "We are gay! We are angry!". Simultaneously, the three lesbians pulled out ropes hidden in their jackets and attached them to the balcony rails. They shimmied down into the "Distinguished Strangers Gallery" where one womyn was tackled. The wimmin and some protesters were held by security officers until the close of the day in the House of Lords. No further charges are expected by the 'authorities'.

Clause 28 forbids local governments from spending funds on anything that "promotes homosexuality." It also forbids teaching the "acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship." The Bill was passed with a 202-122 majority vote.

While C-28 specifically excludes funding cut-offs for "treating or preventing the spread of disease," AIDS phobia has combined with the right-wing tone of the Thatcher administration to create a "general climate ...of homophobia" according to one member of Crusaid, a London-based AIDS group.

The wording of the clause is so vague that the bill could be used to invalidate employment and housing rights for gay people, ban library books by gay and lesbian authors and curtail artistic freedom of regional theatres.

Accordingly, the legislative strategy had been to focus on the weakness of the bill's language as much as it had been to attack the entire concept of the bill. Nowhere, for instance, are the key terms "promoting homosexuality" or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship" defined. British law does not have the legal concept of "constitutionally vague" legislation, on which U.S. civil libertarians have relied to attack repressive laws.

Clause 28 went into effect on May 24, 1988, with strong resistance. The night before the law went into effect four wimmin burst onto the set of the BBC Six O'Clock News and chained themselves to cameras and to an anchorwoman. The announcer told viewers, "*we have rather been invaded.*"

Source: *Gay Community News*, January 31-Feb., 6.'88.
Feb. 28 - March 5, '88.
June 12-18, '88.

ONA MOVE!

-Update on MOVE wimmin

Ramona Africa and Sue Africa are presently in Muncy, PA. (prison for wimmin) and have been denied parole. In a letter (12-7-87) Ramona explains that the parole system wants her and her sister Sue to become "traitors to John Africa and the MOVE organization" by agreeing to certain *special conditions* of parole.

Included with the letter were copies of the Board of Probation and Parole decision in the matter. For Sue and Ramona one of the major reasons given for denying parole was "unwillingness to comply with special conditions of parole that you not associate with the MOVE organization in any way including visiting the premises of MOVE households."

Sue was also required to agree that she "not contact or associate with co-defendants." Sue was tried by herself in Feb. 1978; she has no *co-defendants*.

Ramona was given this *special condition* at a Dec. '86 parole review, then again on Oct. '87. At her Oct. review, she was told that she will not go up for parole again until she agrees to this "special condition." Sue Africa was also told this in her only parole review, June '87.

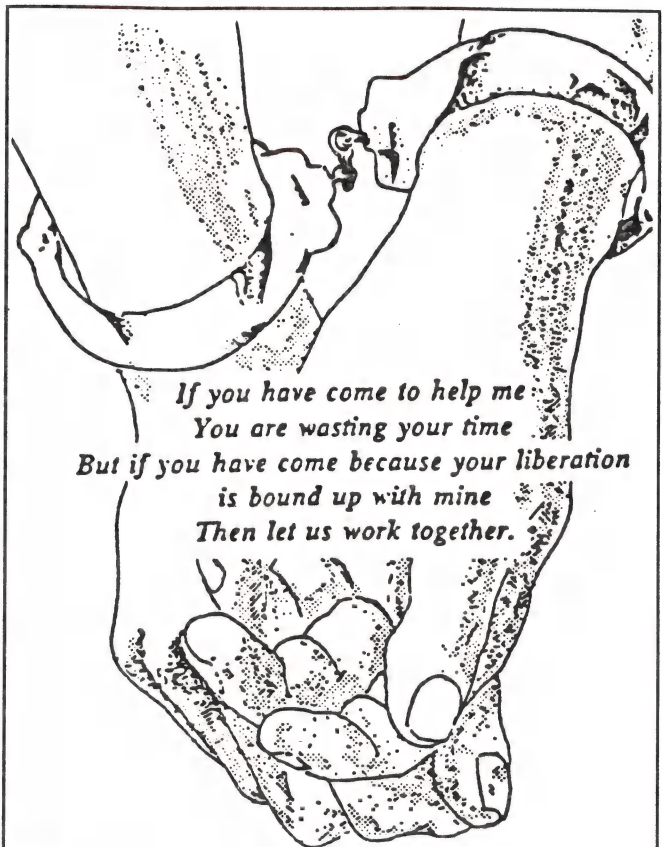
"...our priority is not simply to get out of this crystalized prison. MOVE's priority is to expose the unjust system that put MOVE people in prison and is conspirin to keep us in prison despite our innocence and that can not be done by submittin to the injustice of politics. Because of John Africa, MOVE people ain't political, MOVE people are honest - loyalty to what you know is rite is honest. MOVE ain't tryin to weedle our way around the filthy politics of this rotten system, we are committed to eliminatin this poison with the unfaillin strategy of John Africa..."

-Ramona Africa

For more information about MOVE please send about a dollar for a three page article from **Overthrow magazine** and other info from us. (The dollar is for mailing costs, Free to prisoners).



Reality Now



*If you have come to help me
You are wasting your time
But if you have come because your liberation
is bound up with mine
Then let us work together.*

The Justice Group

"TRUTH IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NOT SIT, IT SHOULD SET OUT AND DESTROY ERROR."

**THINK ABOUT CANADA'S POOR PEOPLE.
THINK ABOUT THE SITUATION OF CANADA'S INDIAN AND METIS PEOPLES.
THINK ABOUT THE FAILING PRISON SYSTEMS, THE VICTIM, THE CRIMINALITY AND THE PRISONERS KEPT THIS WAY.**

**IN ALL THESE ISSUES...
WHY THE PAIN?
WHY THE HARDSHIP?
WHY IS THERE SO MUCH BLOOD?**

JOIN OUR COALITION OF NEED. (3 ISSUES)

WE EDUCATE OTHERS. WE EDUCATE OURSELVES.

THE JUSTICE GROUP

P.O. Box 9250
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3W9 Canada



ZINA: The Hudood Ordinance and Its Implications for Pakistani Women.

By: Sabiha Sumar & Khalid Nadvi

On 7 November 1987 a court in Karachi, Pakistan, sentenced a woman of twenty-five (Shahid Parveen) and a man of thirty (Mohammed Sarwar) to death by stoning. The crime for which these two had been charged and have met such punishment is that of **zina-bil-jabr** (which is considered close to rape). The case is not however so simple. The woman had been divorced by her first husband. Divorce papers had been signed in front of a magistrate. The document however had not been registered in the local council office by the husband as required by law, and was therefore not legally binding.

Unaware of this, Shahida, meanwhile, sat out her period of **iddat** (the traditional period of ninety-six days a woman cannot remarry following a divorce, as laid down in the **Quran**) with her parents in Lahore. She subsequently remarried. Shahida had an affidavit attested by a magistrate in Lahore to confirm her status as an adult free to marry whosoever she wished. As far as she was concerned, she was on safe ground.

Her first husband, rebounding from a failed attempt at a second marriage, decided he wanted his first wife back. Given that he had not registered the divorce documents, his marriage to her was still legally binding. Hence, **zina/zina-bil-jabr** (adultery/rape). Hence stoning to death.

Clearly, whatever the legal details of the case may be, there has obviously been a serious miscarriage of justice. Not only is the sentence reprehensible, but by all norms of social behaviour and justice, the woman and her second husband are innocent.

Such miscarriages of justice have been quite common since the then martial law government in Pakistan introduced the **Hudood Ordinance** in 1979 by a promulgation. The present elected government confirmed the law on the statute books on coming to power in 1985.

The background to the **Hudood Ordinance** lies in the desire of the Pakistani Government to bring laws in Pakistan to conformity with a certain interpretation of the **Quran** and **Sunnah** (the sayings and deeds of the Prophet). It is an integral part of the much heralded Islamization process presently taking place in the country.

The **Hudood Ordinance** deals with the offenses of prohibition (consumption of drugs and alcohol), **zina** (rape, adultery, fornication), theft and **Qazf** (perjury). It is with regards to **zina** that the **Hudood Ordinance** has been most controversial.

Prior to 1979, adultery and fornication were not crimes against the State. Under the **Hudood Ordinance** both are now serious offences liable for the heaviest of punishment - death, and that also by stoning.

Zina is defined as willful sex between two adults who are not validly married to each other. Sex taking place against

the will, or consent of a person (either man or woman), or by use of force, or where one person is falsely led to believe that his/her partner is validly married to him/her, is defined as **zina-bil-jabr**.

Both types of **zina** are liable to the **hadd** punishment (stoning to death in public) if either a confession is obtained, or if the actual act of penetration is witnessed by four pious and forthright male adults. Failing this, the lighter punishment of **tazir** (rigorous imprisonment and whipping) applies. **Tazir** punishment is given when despite there not being witnesses, or confession, the court is convinced that **zina** or **zina-bil-jabr** took place.

The implications arising out of the **Hudood Ordinance** are severe, and its interpretation by the courts has led to serious miscarriages of justice for women. Whilst **zina** applies to adultery or fornication and **zina-bil-jabr** to rape (either by the man or the woman), the onus of providing proof in a rape of a woman rests on the woman herself. If she is unable to convince the court of being raped, her allegation that she has been raped is considered a confession of **zina** (sex outside of marriage) and the rape victim implicates herself and is liable to punishment. Furthermore, the women can be categorised as the rapist herself since it is often assumed that she seduced the man.

In fact, such cases have occurred where a rape victim is herself punished for **zina**, while the rapist is set free. In July 1983, Safia Bibi, an eighteen year old blind girl, raped by her landlord and his son, and subsequently pregnant, was sentenced by the courts to 15 lashes (to be given publicly) plus 3 years imprisonment for **zina**. She was unable to positively identify her assailants, because she couldn't see them.

Similarly, a thirteen year old orphaned girl was raped by her uncle and his son and became pregnant. Unable to convince the court that the rape had occurred, she was instead given the **tazir** punishment of 100 lashes plus three years of rigorous imprisonment for **zina**; the fact that she was pregnant being proof for the court that sex outside of marriage had occurred.

Various other types of miscarriages occur in practice. A husband can file a **FIR** (First Information Report) with the police alleging that his wife has left him for another man. On the strength of this allegation the wife and her alleged lover are arrested and sent to jail to await trial. This is an extremely powerful lever of control that a man can, and often does, use to subjugate his wife.

For example, if a woman files for a divorce against her husband and leaves her home (as required by law), her husband can file an allegation (**FIR**) of **zina** against his wife if she moves into a household which has a man other than her blood relatives.

Even if a divorce document is attested by a magistrate,

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Zina con't...

if the husband fails to register it with the chairman of the local council as legally required, the divorce is invalid. If the woman is unaware of this and remarries she can be prosecuted for zina. Furthermore, in such a case, the woman can be accused of 'raping' her second husband on the grounds that she misled him into believing that she was validly divorced.

One of the most frequent circumstances under which zina is alledged to have occurred is in the case of elopement. Of the forty-four women in Karachi jail charged with zina, over half are accused of having committed zina due to abduction. The assumption being that with any couple who elope, sex must have taken place, and they are thereby liable to prosecution.

If the accused parties in a zina case cannot be found, it is quite common for the police to arrest close relatives (usually elderly parents) who are charged with being accomplices to zina. They are thereby liable to the punishment of tazir. Naikan Bibi (sixty years) is an illustration of such an accusation. After her son eloped with a woman, the woman's family lodged a complaint against Naikan and her husband as accomplices to zina. Both she and her husband are now in jail, and under the threat of whipping.

Of the forty-four women in Karachi jail accused of zina, at least thirty-six are cases with circumstances similar to those described above. Of the forty-four, at least seventeen have been in jail for over a year, some even for five years, awaiting trial. Bail in cases of zina is usually set at Rs. 20,000-30,000 (U.S. \$1,000-\$1,500), a sum which is beyond the reach of most of these women, given that they are all poor. As it is, bail could realistically only be furnished by the husband or the father, and it is they who are often the complainants, the women are left in jail. In cases where the husband pays the bail, it becomes a powerful weapon to threaten their wives into submission. If the wife 'steps out of line' they will withdraw the bail and she will be sent back to jail.

According to the data collected in 1982 by the Women's Division, Government of Pakistan, there were a total of seventy female convicts in the whole of Pakistan. Today there are sixty-seven in Karachi jail alone and a further twenty-four in Sukkur jail. This rapid increase in numbers, and the building of a new jail solely for women in Larkana, shows the increasing awareness amongst men of the powers that the Hudood Ordinance has placed in their hands. Although the Hudood Ordinance was promulgated in 1979, it seems that now, eight years later, men have become more confident of the manner in which they can get away with the sexual exploitation of women, rape and the ways in which they can control the lives of their wives and daughters. Furthermore, men and women who have found that they are unable to make their choice concerning marriage, with the consent of their parents, have eloped and found themselves in jail facing the threat of death punishment for zina.

It is also clear that all these women presently in jail share a low income social background. It is commonly acknowledged that women from low income communities face

the greatest degree of sexual and social oppression. Most of them are unaware of their civil and legal rights, and for that matter the stipulations of the Hudood Ordinance. It is precisely because of their lack of awareness that women in jail are more vulnerable, and prone to harassment in every way. The jail authorities have in their own minds already convicted these women and they are treated unfairly. The ponderous legal system and lack of legal aid perpetuates these conditions for women under trial.

The Hudood Ordinance has without a doubt weakened the position of women in Pakistani society. It has taken from them their dignity and their ability to decide their own lives and left them as pawns in the hands of an oppressive legal order. The manner in which it has been used, coupled with the ambiguities within it, clearly show that women's security and rights are far lower today than ever before. The Hudood Ordinance unquestionably hangs like the sword of Damocles over the head of all women in Pakistan. This repressive legislation must therefore be repealed and the evils perpetuated by it rectified.



Wimmin in the Canadian \$ystem

The following list of facts has been compiled from various sources, such as the Elizabeth Fry Society (a women's governmental agency which assists women on all levels of dealing with the Canadian 'justice' system.), Phoenix Rising (a Anti-Psychiatry group and magazine in Toronto.), and books written about the 'female offender' in Canada. These facts are **not** meant to detract and distance the reader from the personal lives and hardships of women in Canada. Hopefully these facts will begin to form a clearer picture of our place as women in Canadian society, our 'crimes', our punishments, and the bullshit that prevails at all levels of this so-called justice system.

To get a better understanding of our status in the 'justice' system, we first have to look at our standing in society.

- 1 out of every 3 Wimmin will or have been raped in her lifetime.

- Upon divorce a Womyn's income goes down 40%, but a man's goes up 70%.

- 80% of all Wimmin are or have been married, or living common law.

- 1 parent families have gone up 60% in 10 years

- The average income of Womyn-headed single families is half that of the male-headed family.

- 45% of Womyn-headed single families live below the poverty line and a majority of the remainder border quite close.

- Only 10% of the male headed single parent families live below the poverty line.

- In 1981 75% of min. wage earners were Wimmin.

- Wimmin earn less than 2/3 that of a man.

All of these factors lead to the 'ghettoization' of Wimmin in society.

It is quite difficult to get accurate data on sentencing in Canada since the disbanding of the Courts Program at Statistics Canada. Many of the government agencies who work with wimmin in prison release their findings so this is where most of the following facts originate.

- 40% of Wimmin in the Provincial system are incarcerated for non-payment of fines.

- In 1965 45% of Wimmings' charges were property related and by 1985 this had gone up to 60% of the bulk of convictions.

- There has been a drastic increase in Wimmin being charged with shoplifting, cheque forging, and welfare fraud. In 1983, 65% of Criminal Code charges against Wimmin were for shoplifting or fraud.

- Approximately 3,000 charges were laid in 1986 stemming from the various drug and alcohol laws.

- In 1985, 60% of violent offences by Wimmin were domestically related, the victim was usually a spouse or common law partner.

- Violent offences constitute only 6% of all charges against Wimmin.

- There are approximately 40 Wimmin serving life

sentences (25 years) in the Federal Prison for Women (P4W), in Kingston.

- Approximately 15 Wimmin are serving life sentences (25 yrs.), under the *Parties Act*, which states in part that "anyone is guilty of murder who commits murder, does or omits to do anything for the purpose of aiding or abetting any person to commit murder **OR** anyone who knew or ought to have known that a murder would occur."

- Of Wimmin sentenced to provincial jails:

- 40% receive less than 14 days;
 - 66% are sentenced to less than one month;
 - Over 80% are under the age of 25;
 - About 33% are under age 20;
 - 50% have been previously incarcerated.

- Of Wimmin sentenced to federal penitentiaries:

- About 60% are over 25 years of age;
 - 50% have been married;
 - 20% have served a prior federal prison term;
 - 16% are Native Wimmin although they represent only 3% of the whole Canadian population.

- Twice as many Native Wimmin serve time as Native Men.

- The prison system shows a total lack of respect for Native Spirituality and Native Autonomy. Assimilation is its game.

- The State spends \$56,713 per year to lock Wimmin in Cages, at P4W. This is almost 5 times more than the average income of someone at the 'poverty line'.

There are many more facts and figures, some of which are in the paper advertised on this page, or as well, write to the Elizabeth Fry Society (address in Resource section). I think that the facts speak for themselves, and help us get a better understanding of the State and how it 'deals' with the lives of Wimmin in Canada. All comments and additions to this would be greatly appreciated.

Another lengthy Article ...

One of us at the WPSN gave a tutorial at one of the Toronto area Universities on "Wimmin and the Canadian 'Justice' System". It is too long to publish in a magazine format, so we have it as a supplement to this issue, available on request. It's free to wimmin in prison, but \$2 is asked of others to offset production costs. The article mainly covers statistical information on the status of womyn in society, what 'crimes' we commit, and our lives in the federal and provincial level prisons in Canada. The Racism and Sexism on all levels of the 'Just-us' system, and the Abolition of the Prison System. Feedback on the article is greatly appreciated. To get one just write us at: WPSN, P.O. Box 770 Stn. P, Toronto Ontario, M5S 2Z1. Canada.

Resources for Wimmin in prison

This list has been compiled with help from various sources, mainly the Red-book Store, Prison Book Program, who have put out a very concise resource list (write to them or us for it), and as well from Reality Now and Overthrow. Many thanks to these people, and many others. The list has 4 different types of resource material, free to wimmin in prison, free to lesbians in prison, free to all prisoners, and things that cost money. All titles are listed in either category.

News/News Analysis

The Front Page

Box 65642, Raleigh, NC 27611. USA
Gay paper free to prisoners in the states of NC, SC, GA, and TN only.

Gay Community News

GCN Prisoner Project, 62 Berkeley St., Boston MA 02116 USA
A national gay and lesbian weekly. Welcomes letters, poetry, artwork and 'whatever else gets out your feelings' from prisoners. Free subscriptions to gay or lesbian prisoners and to people with AIDS or ARC.

The Guardian

The Guardian, 33 West 17 St., New York, NY 10011 USA
International progressive weekly. Free single issue only. Free to all prisoners

The People's Daily World

235 West 23rd. St., New York, NY 10011. USA
Free to all people in prison.

Radical America

1 Summer St., Somerville, MA 02143. USA
Journal of culture and politics. Free to prisoners, but limited supply.

Seattle Gay News

704 East Pike, Seattle, WA 98122. USA
Gay/lesbian news and feature stories. Free to gay/lesbian prisoners in the states of WA, OR, ID and AK only.

TS Newsletter

TS Foundation, C.S., Box A-0084, Oklahoma City, OK 73162. USA
Newsletter for transsexuals. Free to transsexuals in prison.

Journals of Stories, Poems and Essays

Black/Out

NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. USA
A quarterly publication of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. Includes stories, poems, drawings and some penpal ads. Free to prisoners.

Wimmin's Publications

B.O.A. Bevy of Anarchist/Feminists
c/o Librarie Alternative, 2035 St-Laurent, Montreal, PQ, H2X 2T3. Canada
Magazine "drawing on anarchist/feminist ideas to form a socio-political, and cultural analysis that is relevant to womyn." Free.

Common Lives (Common Lives/Lesbian Lives)
PO Box 1553, Iowa City, IA 52244. USA
Stories, poems and essays. Free to lesbians in prison.

Connexions

4228 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609. USA
International women's quarterly free to women in prison.

Heresies

280 Broadway, Rm. 412, New York, NY 10007. USA
Women's political journal. Free to women in prison.

Hurricane Alice

207 Church St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455. USA
Free to women in prison.

Kinesis

Vancouver Status of Women., 301-1720

Grant St., Vancouver, B.C. V5L 2Y6. Canada

"News about Women that's not in the Dailies." Feminist. Free or what you can afford.

LES/CON (Lesbian Contradiction)

584 Castro St., Suite 263, San Francisco, CA 94114. USA
Free to lesbians in prison

Sojourner

143 Albany St., Cambridge, MA 02139. USA
Monthly women's paper. Free to women in prison.

Off Our Backs

2423 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. USA
A women's liberation journal. Free to women in prison.

Outrageous Women

P.O. Box 23, Somerville, MA 02143. USA
A feminist quarterly of woman to woman S/M. They would like contributions of erotic short stories, drawings and poetry from women behind bars. If your submission is printed, you will receive a free copy of the publication.

Review of Women

Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE),
130 East 16th St., New York, NY 10003. USA
Free to women in prison.

Sinister Wisdom

PO Box 3252, Berkeley, CA 94703. USA
Women's poetry and prose. Free to lesbians in prison.

Woman of Power

Box 827, Cambridge MA 02238. USA
Free to women in prison

Womanews

PO Box 220, New York, NY 10014. USA
Free to women in prison.

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Resources for Wimmin in prison

Book Programs

Prison Book Program

92 Green St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.
USA

Books for Prisoners

5241 University Way, NE, Seattle, WA
98105. USA

Both of these programs send books to state and federal prisoners throughout the US at no charge. You may request reading material on a particular subject. Sometimes they are 2-3 months behind on filling requests, so please be patient. Not a source for penpals.

The Prison Reading Project

c/o Paz Press, Box 3146, Fayetteville,
AR 72702. USA

This project makes books available to incarcerated women. Write with request for information.

Books and Calendars

The Lesson of Marion

AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia,
PA 19102. USA

About the failure of Marion, a maximum security prison.
Free to people in prison.

Making It: A Woman's Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS

Firebrand Books;
141 The Commons, Ithaca, NY 14850.
USA

In both Spanish and English. Free to women in prison.

The Non Violent Activist

WRL, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY
10012. USA

The War Resisters League has a limited number of free copies of this book available to people in prison.

Peace Calendar

War Resisters League (see above address)

Calendar devoted to writings by and for peace activists.

Free to prisoners, but limited supply.

U.S. Criminal Justice Publications

Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM 87504. USA
Newsletter on politics and prison conditions free to prisoners. The staff are volunteers and are not able to be penpals or answer all letters, but they will try to publish a short statement about conditions where you are if you send them one.

National Prison Project Journal

American Civil Liberties Union
1616 P St., NW, Suite 340, Washington,
DC 20036. USA

Prisoner rights news and case law. \$2/yr.

Legal Information/Self Help Resources

ACLU Handbook: The Rights of Prisoners

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU),
132 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036
A guide to the legal rights of prisoners, parolees, and pre-trial detainees. Contains citations. Free to prisoners, but not always available.

NOLO News

950 Parker St., Berkeley, CA 94710.
USA

A legal self-help paper. One copy sent out free.

GCN Prisoner Project Information Packets

GCN Prisoner Project, 62 Berkeley St.,
Boston, MA 02116

Information packets on the following topics:

Physical Safety; Your Right to Protection; Protective Custody: Getting In/Getting Out; Defending Yourself at Disciplinary Hearings; A Brief Guidebook

for Jailhouse Lawyers; Some Info on Jobs and Housing for Prisoners Coming Out of Prison; Censorship; AIDS: Medical/Political Issues; Transvestite/Transexual Issues; and Eric Mann's essay on how prisons divide and conquer. All of these packets are free to prisoners.

Jailhouse Lawyers Manual (Booklet)

Prison Network News, National Lawyers Guild,
853 Broadway, #1705, New York, NY
10003

The National Lawyers Guild has published a new and up-to-date Jailhouse Lawyers Manual (1988). Free to prisoners. Get your name on the waiting list. There is a limited supply. As well they are beginning a publication of a newsletter for jailhouse lawyers and outside lawyers to "get in touch". This is free to jailhouse lawyers.

Prison Links

Progressive Prisoners Movement
462 1/2 Granville St., Newark Ohio,
43055.

New magazine that wants to call attention to and move for action on many prisoner issues, including the death penalty, wages for prisoners, overcrowding and AIDS. Write them with ideas and stuff - (for publication or not).

AIDS Information

AIDS Information Line

Call 1-800-342-7514 for talk and facts.
Call 1-800-221-7044 for info pamphlets.
These calls are free. Spread these numbers around.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Box 1983, San Francisco, CA 94101
415-864-8186

If you are a person with AIDS or ARC, this organization can provide you with legal help - either at a reduced cost or for free.

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Resources for Wimmin in prison

American Civil Liberties Union: National Prison Project

1616 P St. NW., Washington D.C. 20036 USA.

Free basic information on AIDS and prison.

People with AIDS Coalition Newslines 263AW, 19th St., New York, NY 10011 USA

A monthly newsletter free to people with AIDS who can't afford it, including prisoners.

Support for Wimmin in Prison:

Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (AIM)

c/o St. Paul's, 138 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111 USA. 617-423-6886

Aid to women prisoners in Massachusetts only.

Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto

215 Wellesley St. East, Toronto, Ontario, M4X 1G1 Canada

Aid to Toronto area wimmin

ROSI (Remember Our Sisters Inside) 2144 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704, USA

ROSI is an art network for women in prison. They reproduce art for women in prison, as stationery, greeting cards, posters, etc.

Kinesis - Issue 'Aug/87' - Sisters Inside.

Wimmin in Prison Supplement.

\$1.75/ free to wimmin in prison.

Write to WPSN or Kinesis directly, address in women's journal section.

Gay Community News - Issue 'Aug/87'

Lesbian Prisoners' Supplement. "A special supplement for and from lesbians in prison and their friends outside. Defying these cages, breaking down these walls." \$1.50/ free to wimmin in prison. Available from the WPSN.

Tightwire Publications

P.O. Box 515, Prison for Women, King-

ston, Ontario, K7L 4W7. Canada

Publication by women in the Prison for Women, subscription are \$10/yr. Free photo copies of the magazine, available to womyn in prison from the WPSN.

'Making It, a Womens Guide to Sex in the Age of AIDS'

Available in both English and Spanish. Firebrand Books

141 The Commons, Ithaca NY 14850 USA

Free to women in Prison.

Women's Jail Project

310 S. Ingersoll St. P.O. Box 1592, Madison, WI. 53701-1592. USA

A women's support group for women in Madison area jails.

The Wimmin Prisoners' Survival Network

P.O. Box 770 Stn. P, Toronto Ontario, M5S 2Z1, Canada

A publication for wimmin in prison, articles, poetry, etc. Anarchist. Free to wimmin in prison, see subscription info. on last page.

Anarchist/Anti-Authoritarian/Alternative Media

Aqua

P.O. Box 1251, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013. USA

"On a queer day you can see for ever." Queer Anarchist. Free to lesbian/gay men in prison.

Androzone

c/o B. Peuportier

B.P. 192, 75623 Paris, Cedex 13, France
Queer anarchist magazine. Free to lesbians/gay men in prison.

Committee to Fight Repression

P.O. Box 1435, Cathedral Station, New York, NY. 10025. USA

Publishes "The Insurgent" which covers anti-imperialist, Black Liberation, Puerto Rican Independence, and Prisoners. Free to Prisoners.

Bayou La Rose

P.O. Box 6130, Kansas City KS. 66106. USA

anti-authoritarian, prison news. Free to prisoners.

Breakthrough

P.O. Box 14422, San Francisco CA. 94114. USA

Journal of the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee. Info on Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War. Free to prisoners

Black Flag

BM Hurricane, London England, WC1N 3XX

Anarchist Resistance, magazine of the London Anarchist Black Cross. Free to people in prison.

The Californian Prisoner

1317 18th St., San Francisco CA. 94107. USA

A prisoners' union publication. Free to prisoners

Death to the Klan

P.O. Box 406, Stuyvesant Station, New York NY. 10009. USA

Newspaper of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee. Free to prisoners.

Emancipation

P.O. Box 840, Benjamin Franklin Stn., Washington, D.C. 20044. USA

Free to prisoners.

Fifth Estate

P.O. Box 02548, Detroit MI. 48202. USA
Anarchist. Free to prisoners.

Indiannerkommun

Postfach 810361, 85 Nurnberg, Germany
A youth liberation commune in West Germany, publishes many pamphlets on youth liberation, etc.. Free to youth

Justice Group

P.O. Box 9250, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3W9 Canada

Covers Native Prisoners Autonomy, Prison Abolition, Etc. Free.

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Resources for Wimmin in prison

Kick It Over

P.O. Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario,
M5W 1P2. Canada

Anarchist news and articles. Free to prisoners

No Picnic

P.O. Box 69393 Stn. K., Vancouver B.C.
V5K 4W6. Canada

Anarchist news, prison news, articles,
etc. Free to prisoners.

Overthrow

P.O. Box 392, Canal St. Station, New
York, NY 10013. USA

Free to prisoners.

Phoenix Rising

P.O. Box 7251 Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario,
M5W 1X9. Canada

'Voice of the Psychiatrized'. Free to Psychiatric Inmates.

Prison News Service

P.O. Box 5052 Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario
M5W 1W4. Canada

News on prisoner resistance and prison
repression. Also publishes 'The Mari-



World Record

Denmark now boasts the world record for prisoners held in custody; about one-third of all detainees in Denmark never have a sentence pronounced. Over 4000 people are taken into custody each year, and the average time spent in custody is two months. The Danish government pays out approximately 300,000 pounds annually for damages charges of wrongful arrest.

-- Anarkistisk
Federation

onet' publication out of Marion prison.
Free to prisoners.

Project 1313

P.O. Box 1313. Lawrence, KS. 66044.
USA

Info on anarchist political prisoners,
news and articles. Free to people in
prison

Open Road

P.O. Box 6135 Stn. G, Vancouver B.C.
V6R 4G5

Anarchist, feminist, prison news and
articles. Free to people in prison.

Thunderbird Prison Alliance

Thunderbird Free Press, P.O. Box 193,
High Bridge, NJ, 08829. USA

"International coalition of prisoners' culture groups, political activists, watchtower support networks, medicine societies, etc." Native American Rights. Free to people in prison.

Anarchist Black Cross

The Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) is an international support network, made up from autonomous groups, for anarchist and class war prisoners. Most of the different contacts have a publication or news service. The ABC is active on many levels on behalf of comrades who are locked down. Write to them for more info. All information and publications are free.

Toronto ABC, P.O. Box 6326 Stn. A,
Toronto Ontario M5W 1P7. Canada
Publishes pamphlets etc.

Vancouver ABC, Box 2881, Vancouver,
B.C. V6B 3X4, Canada Publishes
pamphlets etc.

California ABC, P.O. Box 215, San
Lorenzo Ca, 94580 USA

New York ABC, c/o Left Over, 983
Metropolitan Ave. #D3, Brooklyn NY,
1121 USA Publishes a newsletter.

London ABC, BM Hurricane, London
WC1N 3XX, England. Publishes a
magazine, 'Black Flag'

Oxford ABC, Box A, EOA Books, 34
Cowley Road, Oxford, England

Midlands ABC, 70 High St., Leicester,
England

Bolton ABC, 16 Wood St., Bolton,
England.

Leeds ABC, Box JAG, 52 Call Lane,
Leeds 1, England

Sheffield ABC, c/o Palm Tree Box,
Sheffield Peace Shop, 5-7 Exchange
Place, Sheffield S1 England

Liverpool ABC, P.O. Box 110, Liver-
pool L69 6AU, England

Manchester ABC, c/o Raven Press, 75
Piccadilly, Manchester 1, England

Plymouth ABC, P.O. Box 105, Ply-
mouth, Devon, England

Denmark ABC, c/o Tordenskjoldsgade
38, 4200 Slagelse, Denmark

Greece ABC, 8 Aristidou Street, 10559
Athens, Greece

Finland ABC, c/o Aki Riekkinen, Riian-
tie 3D 39, SF-02780, Espoo, Finland

Sweden ABC, c/o A.S.F. Box 5088, S-
291 05 Kristianstad, Sweden

Melbourne ABC, P.O. Box 257,
Collingwood 3066, Australia

It's About Breaking Free

of all the nightmarish institutions which make life a living hell for the majority of the world's population; it's about people organizing together in the streets, the prisons, the factories, the wilderness, the schools and our communities to take back control of our lives from all the parasites that seek to rule us; it's about fighting back ... and winning; it's about working for freedom against overwhelming odds, and the freedom we manage to create in our everyday lives and beyond. *Reality Now* is a magazine by and for activists working towards a world without masters.

Subscriptions and donations to *Reality Now* help us keep this work going. Subs are \$8 in Canada and \$9 (US) International for 4 issues. Sample issues are \$2 for our latest or \$3 for the last two. (Please make cheques and money orders out to Reality Now)

Reality Now. For Defense of Life on Earth
P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto, Ontario,
M5W 1P7 Canada



WRITE TO THESE WIMMIN POLITICAL PRISONERS!

Puerto Rican Prisoners of War

Dylcia Pagan #88971-024
Lucy Rodriguez #88973-024
Haydee Torres #88462-024
Carmen Valentin #88974-024
FCI Pleasanton
5701 8th St., Camp Parks
Dublin, CA 94568, USA

Alicia Rodriguez #NO7157
PO Box C
Dwight, IL 60420, USA

Alejandrina Torres #92052-024
HSU Lexington
PO Box 2000
Lexington, KY 40512, USA

MOVE Prisoners

Debbie Sims Africa #6307
Consusuela Dotson Africa
Ramona Johnson Africa
Alberta Wicker Africa
Sue Savino Africa
Janine Phillips Africa
Merle Austin Africa
Janet Holloway Africa
PO Box 180
Muncy, PA 17756, USA

Native American Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners

Rita Silk Nauni
Box 11492
Mable Basset Cor. Inst.
Oklahoma City, OK 73136
USA

North American Political Prisoners

Linda Evans #233-411
Susan Rosenberg #233-412
Laura Whitehorn #220-858
D.C. Detention Facility
1901 D St. S.E. Washington,
D.C. 20003, USA

Kathy Boudin #84-A-171
Bedford Hills Corr. Facility
247 Harris Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507
USA

Judy Clark #08627-054
FCI Tucson
8901 S. Wilmott Road
Tucson, AZ 85706, USA

Marilyn Buck
MCC 150 Park Row
NY, NY 10007, USA

Silvia Baraldini #05125
PO Box 4600
Rochester, MN 55903, USA

Ohio 7

Barbara Curzi-Laaman
#18213-053
Carol Manning #10375-016
Federal Detention Center
PO Box 178
Hartford, CT 06101-0178
USA

Plowshares Prisoners

Jean Gump #03789-045
WFCI, Box A
Alderson, WV 24910, USA

Helen Woodson
c/o The Greenhouse
622 Water Street
Ashland, WI 54806, USA

Katya Komisaruk
PO Box 19202
Spokane, WA 99219, USA

Vancouver 4

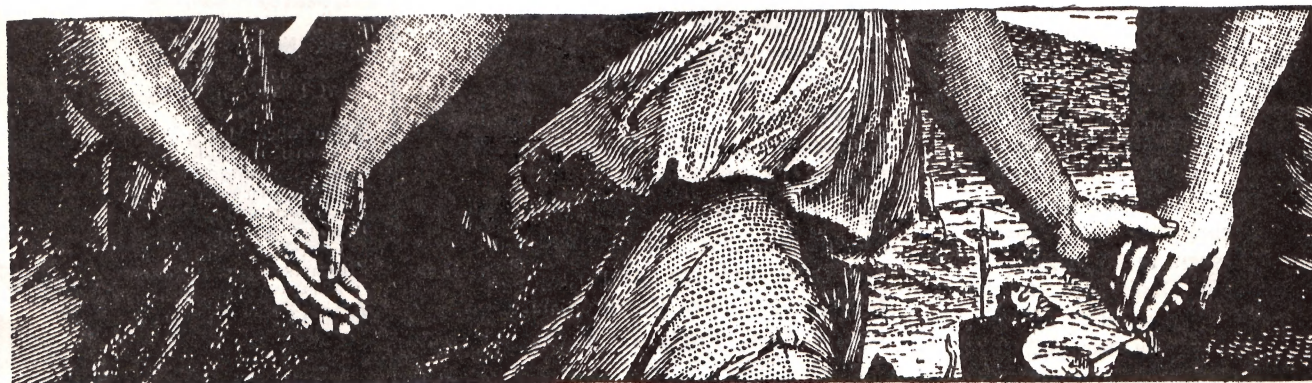
Ann Hansen
Prison for Women
Box 515
Kingston, Ont.
Canada K7L 4W7

Listings taken from
The Insurgent.

MONEY PLEASE

The publication of this magazine depends on the financial support of those working in solidarity with wimmin in prison. We are in desperate need of funds. We now must ask people who want the magazine to pay for it. The rate for a subscription is \$6/yr (2-3 issues/yr), or \$2/issue. Free to all wimmin in prison. There are low income/no income rates, and we would like to exchange our mag. with other publications. For our work to continue, we need your financial support. All donations and subscriptions help cover mailing costs to wimmin in prison and on-going prisoner solidarity actions.

In Sisterhood,
the WPSN



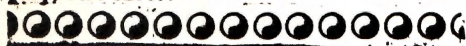
Rites

W.P.S.N. P.O. Box 770 Station P. Toronto Ontario M5S 2Z1

COALITION FOR PRISONERS RIGHTS
Newsletter is available for FREE to prisoners. \$5 donation requested from non-prisoners. Info on prison conditions. Good political info. They are volunteers and not able to be penpals or answer all letters, but they will try to publish your short statement of conditions where you are. Write them at CPR, Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM 87504.



OUTLOOK ON JUSTICE is a prisoner support newsletter produced by the American Friend Service Committee & available FREE to prisoners (donations gratefully accepted if you like!); \$5 to outsiders. Write: AFSC, 10 Putnam Ave, Roxbury, MA 02119.



Prisoner LEGAL AID!!
A GREAT new book is now available to prisoners on prisoners rights! There are chapters on: legal research, outline of the legal system, overview of prisoners' rights, how to litigate in federal court, parole, federal post-conviction remedies, detainees, civil rights forms, law library requirements, habeas corpus and protecting yourself from prison officials. It is aimed specifically at FEDERAL litigation, but most state litigation follows similar patterns. Send \$16 (special price to prisoners) to OCEANA PRESS, 75 Main St., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.



RIGHTS OF PRISONERS-FREE!!

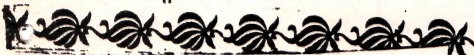
Once again, the ACLU has FREE copies of the Rights of Prisoners available for prisoners. Write to: ACLU, 132-W.43rd, New York, NY 10036.



RESISTERS!

Remember, they haven't got ROOM to put you ALL in the hole (if you stick together). Think about it.

(This is something outsiders seem to forget when doing CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE: there isn't ROOM in the 'holding' facilities to put large numbers of people away more than momentarily. And the court dockets are too full to deal with large numbers too!)



MINORITY PRISON PROJECT & TRANSEXUALS IN PRISON (TIP) announce that they have moved to: MPPP/TIP, 1973 Sipes, Memphis TN 38127. We are looking for some office space and some people-power. Please contact John Gypsy Prowett at the above address and give us your support. Thank you.

TS Information/Support!

The TS Foundation provides nonprofessional counseling, referral services, information about transsexualism and related subjects and job placement help. Write them at: TS Foundation, C.S. Box A0084, Oklahoma City OK 73162.

The ACLU has a FREE!! booklet on AIDS and Prison. Just ask for one. Their address is: ACLU Prison Project, 1616 P St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!
Put this info on the Walls (bathroom etc)



PAROLE HELP

Contact Referral Center assists prisoners in preparing for release. It takes 3-4 months; costs \$5. Write: Contact Center Inc, Box 81826, Lincoln, NE 68501. (GOOD LUCK!)

PAROLE & SENTENCING INFO!

National Legal Services, provides help on sentencing alternatives and parole representation. Write them at: NLS, 710 Lake View Ave NE, Atlanta GA 30308; or call 1-800-241-0095.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. GCN will be doing many articles, letters, poems, drawings and more, to celebrate the experience of ALL Black gay and lesbian people.

If you want to help us out by writing or drawing something, please do. Be sure to send your thing BEFORE January 15, so it can be on time. (Don't be shy now!)



FREE PRISONER NEWSPAPER!

All prisoners can get a FREE subscription to the Fortune News (it comes out every 3 months or so) by writing: Inmate Subs, Fortune News, 39 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011.



EXERCISES

A GCN Prisoner Project member (Tiyu) has put together a great pamphlet on exercising (no machinery needed). If you want one (FREE), just write.



FAG RAG only comes out once a year. It is VERY lewd, sexy and generally disliked by mailroom and other strait (narrow) jerks. It is NOT like 'Blueboy' with pics of squeaky clean young things standing around in front of colored paper looking bored, so if your cage-keepers don't like QUEER-FAGGOT contact (stories, poems, pics, etc) then DON'T ask for FR (we ain't rich and haven't got postage to burn!)

Please check with your mailroom to see if they open plain brown wrappers coming from "FR Publications". If not, and you can get such fine trash, then please write Mike at GCN and be ready to be PATIENT & WAIT until postage & \$ & the next issue come together.

Two back issues are available now (42 and 44) and later this fall No.45 will be ready. Write now and I'll put you on "the list". (smile)



PRISONERS writing PRISONERS: Remember, federal prisoners are not 'supposed' to be writing other federal prisoners, although they MAY be allowed to write state prisoners. Here are some of the federal prisons that appear most often in this space [CUT THIS OUT OR COPY IT: it may save you some postage money!]. Danbury, CT; Raybrook, NY; Lewisburg, PA; Alderson, WV; Tallahassee, FL; Memphis, TN; Lexington, KY; Terre Haute, IN; Milan, MI; Sandstone, MN; Marion, IL; Springfield, MO; Leavenworth, KS; El Reno, OK; Texarkana, TX; Bastrop, TX; Phoenix, AZ; Anthony, NM; Lompoc, CA; Camp Parks (Dublin), CA.

And besides, they don't always follow their rules, do they..!

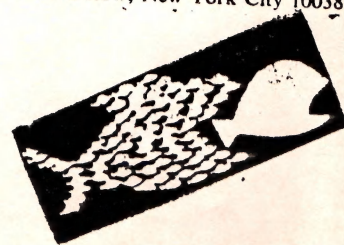
It makes me sad to see a prisoner complain about another prisoner not writing, and not even consider the fact that his mailroom or the other's mailroom might have just tossed the letter. The screws have scored their biggest successes when they make us suspect and not trust each other, rather than not trusting them.



USEFUL ADDRESSES:

[Let them know gay prisoners exist!]

Nat'l Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1517 U St. NW, Wash. DC 20009
Nat'l Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays
Box 19641 W. Seven Mile, Detroit MI 48219
Just Us (legal aid)
Box 13673, El Paso, TX 79913
ACLU National Gay Rights Proj.
633 So. Shatto Pl, Los Angeles, CA 90005.
ACLU National Prison Project,
1616 P St. NW, Wash DC 20036
Gay and Lesbian Advocates
and Defenders (GLAD)
Box 218, Boston, MA 02112
(Massachusetts prisoners)
Gay Rights Advocates
540 Castro St, San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 863-3624
Lambda Legal Defense
666 Broadway, NYC 10012
Nat'l Alliance of Mental
Patients, c/o Box 618
Sioux Falls, SD 57101
Lawyers for Human Rights
(California prisoners only)
PO Box 480318, LA, CA 90048
Black and White Men Together (BWMT)
(an interracial gay men's group with chapters
in 30 cities; political and social programs)
BWMT, 584 Castro St.
San Francisco CA 94114
MACT (Men of All Colors Together)
Box 1518, New York NY 10023
North Amer. Man/Boy Love Assoc.
(NAMBLA)-Bulletins for persons imprisoned
for sex with 'minors'
c/o Rock Thatcher, PO Box 70810
Ft Lauderdale FL 33307
Prisoners Union (for Cal. prisoners)
1315 18th St, San Francisco, CA 94107
Prisoners Rights Project/Legal Aid Society
(for New York state prisoners)
15 Park Row, New York City 10038



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