



Issue No. 7

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Labor Day



The staff of *LostVault: Unlocked* would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Labor Day!

LostVault Anti-Death Penalty Graphic Contest!

LostVault is soliciting art submissions from **Death Row** inmates for an anti-death penalty graphic. We want to see capital punishment from your eyes, so give us your view of what the death penalty means to you. This art will be featured on various merchandise including T-shirts, note cards, and eventually mousepads, and coffee mugs. Proceeds from the sale of these items will go directly to LostVault and continue to keep our services free. We will be offering cash prizes for first and second place. The top 4 pieces will be featured in the December edition of our newsletter and both of the winning pieces will be featured on the items for sale. The prizes are as follows:

1st Place - \$100
2nd Place - \$50

The contest rules are:

- You **MUST** be a death row inmate to submit art for this contest;
- No more than 2 submissions per person;
- The artwork must be no larger than 8½” x 11”. Any submissions larger than 8½”x11” will be disqualified;
- No nudity or overtly sexually suggestive pieces, please;
- Medium is not an issue (pen, pencil, watercolor, etc.); and,
- Color choices are yours (the art need not be in color).

The prize money will either be deposited into your inmate account or sent to the recipient of your choice. Please specify how you would like your winnings distributed should you be chosen as one of our 2 winners; if your institution requires a deposit slip for your inmate account, please include one with your artwork to expedite the distribution of the prizes. All submissions must be postmarked by November 15, 2004. Winners will be notified via mail approximately 2 weeks following the deadline. All submissions become property of LostVault.com and will not be returned. Thank you and good luck!

Your friends at LostVault.com
 Morigayn Johnson
 Newsletter Editor

ANNOUNCEMENT



LostVault

Who We Are and What We Do

LostVault.com is the biggest and best completely FREE prison pen pal site on the internet. Founded in September of 2003, we are dedicated to creating and maintaining a free place for inmates to find pen pals. Unlike many of the other prison pen pal sites, we do not charge the inmate OR free world people for this service. Our services are free for everyone, all the time, with no exceptions. We exist solely on donations from our members and by receiving donations in the form of postage stamps from inmates; however, we will never ask or expect anything from you in return for our services.

Want a FREE Pen Pal Ad on our Site?

To streamline the process of applications for our pen pal services, effective June 1, 2004 inmates began having a loved one submit the application via an online-only form, available on our website (www.lostvault.com). All information and photos (if applicable) will be the responsibility of the person offering the ad to LostVault.com. LostVault does not assume responsibility for any ad submitted via the internet.

LostVault: Unlocked is a monthly publication of LostVault.com, a volunteer-based website offering free pen pal ads to inmates incarcerated worldwide.

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Dee (Lucidity) - Spirituality

Joanna L. Massing (Libbie) - Dear Libbie

Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi) - Death Row

Lisa Maurer (WVGirl) - A View From Inside

~~Matthew Allen (Kibgoethout)~~ - Rant & Rave with Matthew and Motty

Morigayn Johnson (Motty) - Rant & Rave with Matthew and Motty

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None

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Please do not mail anything to this address other than items for the newsletter!

From The Editor's Desk

Letters to The Editor



Welcome to another issue of *LostVault: Unlocked*. I hope you have had a wonderful month, and are looking forward to Fall as much as I am.

We have a special anti-death penalty art contest just for our readers on Death Row. We are going to use the winners' art on anti-death penalty T-shirts, notecards, etc. All of the money from it will go directly back into LostVault, to help keep us free and to continue to offer you all different contests to win some money. *smile* We all like and need money, so be sure to read the rules and send us in your entries! I can't wait to see more beautiful art work from you all!

I would like to thank you all, both incarcerated and freeworld for your entries for our "Why Do You Value Your Pen Pal?" contest. You can read the entries on page 8, where we normally feature inmate art and writing. I am so inspired by the way we all feel about our pals.

We want everyone to be involved with the production of this newsletter. Feel free to write in with questions, comments, suggestions and story ideas for our columnists. Please send all letters to the address on the bottom left of this page; make sure you note who you are writing in your correspondence.

I wish you each a very happy and wonderful Pen Pal Day, and great beginning of fall!

Best Wishes Always,
~Motty~

REMINDER!



Please remember that LostVault does not accept ads via snail mail any longer! We have received quite a few ads to our newsletter address and unfortunately we are not staffed to handle ad mail. Please have an outside friend or loved one post your free pen pal ad for you. Thank you!



Prison News

News From Around the Globe

By Dawna

Manson Family Disciple Denied Parole

LOS ANGELES — For the 15th time - Charles Manson follower Leslie Van Houten has gone before the parole board - and for the 15th time - she is denied. She took part in one of Charles Manson's infamous murders. Today Leslie van Houten was up for parole— something she's been denied 14 times before. The 54 year old is serving a life sentence for the 1969 murders of grocers Leno and Rosemary La Bianca. Since then, her attorneys say she's been a model inmate. Her hearing took place Wednesday afternoon at the Women's State Prison in Frontera.

Old Leavenworth Prison to be Demolished

August 16th marked a day when history was buried. The Civil War era prison, often called the "Castle," at Fort Leavenworth, KS is no more even though many tried to save it for its historical value. As Janet Wray of the Leavenworth public affairs office said, "A reuse study was done for the Castle, but none of the options proved feasible and all were very costly".

Some of the buildings in the complex built in 1877 will remain, the rock walls and guard towers being included. While it's all part of the Fort Leavenworth Historic Landmark district, some things just can't be saved.

There have been no inmates housed at the facility since 2002 when they were dispersed to other prisons. Not that all went far, the most serious offenders are now held at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks. A brand new (opened in 2002) state-of-the-art facility, with a price tag of 69 million dollars. It is located on a 51-acre plot that was the old prison's farm area.

Connecticut Lawmaker Strikes Plea Deal in Sex Case Involving Minor

State Rep. Jefferson Davis pleaded guilty to a charge of risk of injury to a minor, and accept a 10-year suspended sentence, registering as a sex offender, probation and receive counseling. His plea falls under the Alford Doctrine: He does not admit guilt but concedes the state has enough evidence to find him guilty. "I know who I am and what I am not," said Davis in a written statement that was given to reporters outside of court. From the allegations read in court, prosecutors said Davis admitted masturbating in front of the child, exposing himself and teaching the boy how to masturbate. Previously Davis had plead not guilty to charges of sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor.

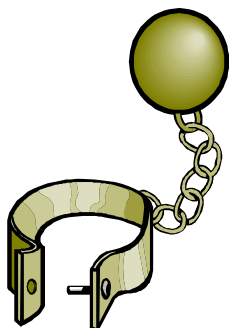
Davis is a six-term Democratic lawmaker, and announced in May he would not run for reelection. Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz said that Davis submitted his resignation earlier this week.

Man Wrongly Convicted of Rape Freed

NORFOLK, VA. —A man who served nearly 22 years in prison for two rapes he did not commit has been released from prison based on new testing of DNA evidence. "Thank God for DNA," a soft-spoken Arthur Lee Whitfield said Tuesday, a day after being released from prison and sent home to his family in Norfolk. Whitfield, 49, was convicted in 1982 of two rapes that occurred within 45 minutes on Aug. 14, 1981. Each woman was walking from her car to her apartment in the evening when attacked. Both testified that Whitfield was the attacker.

But Commonwealth's Attorney John R. Doyle III concluded Whitfield did not commit the crimes, citing DNA samples collected for his trial that were kept at the state lab in Richmond. The samples came from the files of a scientist whose practice of saving evidence exonerated another Norfolk man last year of a 1981 rape conviction. In the Whitfield case, Doyle said the samples point to a man who is serving a life sentence for an unrelated rape.

Whitfield received a total sentence of 63 years, becoming eligible for parole in 1991. His mandatory parole date was 2015. Whitfield said he prayed a lot while in prison, "so I didn't really lose hope." He said he stayed active, earning his GED and developing skills such as brick masonry.



The 2001 Virginia General Assembly changed a state law that restricted inmates' ability to submit DNA evidence to prove their innocence. In October 2003, acting as his own lawyer, Whitfield filed a petition for DNA analysis of the evidence from his trial.

At the time of the trial, DNA testing was not available, although state scientists conducted forensic analysis on the samples taken from the victims and Whitfield.

Inmate Attempts Suicide

An inmate in Knox County, TN tried to kill himself by beating his head into the metal shelf attached in the cell and then shoving a pencil into his skull as officers tried to get into his cell. "It was awful, there were chunks of his skull stuck to the shelf, I've never seen anything like that" said by an officer that wishes to remain anonymous.

The inmate was taken to the hospital, treated and sent to a mental facility for approximately 5 days. He is back at the jail now with over 100 stitches, but he is recovering. "He says he's hearing voices that tell him to pull out the stitches," says the officer, "he's on close watch and so far hasn't pulled out any stitches."

Wisconsin Inmate Impregnated by Guard, Punished with Solitary

The State Department of Corrections has made a commitment to revamping its policies on sexual misconduct toward inmates, but those changes have been slow in coming.

In the wake of a scandal in which a mentally ill inmate was impregnated by a guard — then punished by being placed in solitary confinement — the department sought help from the U.S. Justice Department in creating new policies aimed at stopping such incidents and providing proper punishment if infractions occur.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel obtained a report showing the Justice Dept. recommended Corrections take several steps, including clearly defining sexual misconduct and requiring staff to report such misconduct by fellow employees; develop a policy for initiating and conducting investigations into sexual misconduct; train staff properly on the state law that makes sexual contact between inmates and prison employees a crime and notify inmates of the law and review policies toward inmates who have made allegations of sexual misconduct.

While implementing new policies can sometimes take time, it's been over a year since Corrections received this report and recommendations, and to date, no changes have been made.

Corrections Secretary Matt Frank has said changes are in the works. It's time they are put on the fast track.

Man Sentenced in Death at Wisconsin "Exorcism"

A church elder was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison Tuesday for abusing an 8-year-old autistic boy who died in what prosecutors called an exorcism at a storefront church.

Prosecutors say Ray Hemphill lay on Terrance Cottrell Jr.'s chest for at least an hour while trying to release "demons" from him, before the boy died Aug. 22, 2003. "It was your unreasonable and reckless conduct that caused this child to die," Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Jean DiMotto told Hemphill.

Last month, a jury found Hemphill, 46, guilty of physical abuse of a child recklessly causing great bodily harm.

Hemphill's attorney had argued his client was trying to help the boy, and that Cottrell died after an overdose of medication. The medical examiner ruled the boy died of suffocation.

Terrance died at the Faith Temple Church of the Apostolic Faith in Milwaukee, where Hemphill was a church elder and where the boy and his mother were members.

The judge also sentenced Hemphill to 7 1/2 years of extended supervision and ordered him to pay about \$1,200 in restitution. He had faced a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.



Death Row

Capital Punishment Talk

By Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi)

Prison is a Dangerous Place to Be

To be a prison guard can't always be easy. They are surrounded by people who committed crimes and many of them violent crimes. Some inmates have nothing to lose by injuring or taking their lives, because they can not receive harder punishment then they've already got - the death sentence.

This is why rules and regulations are so important. Escorting an inmate to and from his/hers cell could be a dangerous situation for the guard. Anything could happen. This is why inmates get handcuffed before they leave their cells, whether that is a visitation cell, recreation, shower and so forth. The inmates are also escorted by more than one guard. All for safety reasons. Not only for the guard I'm sure, but also for the inmates.

Sometimes we hear stories that guards are attacked by inmates even though they have strict procedures to ensure everyone's safety. I have one particular news story in mind and what I read raised some questions. Not only by me, but others who knows the escorting procedures in this particular prison. So far we have only heard the story from one side. Maybe if we get the story from the other side, some of the question raised will be answered.

When inmates are handcuffed behind their back, how can they swing their hand and then stab someone several times? I know I can't swing my hands if they are tied up behind my back. So it is easy to draw the conclusion that if the inmate can swing his hands, he wasn't handcuffed. And that leads to the second question. Why wasn't the inmate handcuffed? What made the guards break their own safety rules? It is also to my understanding that in this prison every inmate is strip searched before leaving their cells - to be sure they don't bring contraband in or out of their cells. How could the inmate bring a weapon with him if the guards followed procedure? And how could the inmate stab a guard several times without anyone interfering?

"When people are treated inhumane, when you take away their dignity, what is created? What is left to take away? Maybe their sanity."

We are all glad to read that the guard is doing well, and that all needed to be done was to cleanse the wounds. There is no excuse to injure a person by stabbing him or her, but sometimes there might be explanations to why bad things happen. Sometimes people get pushed to a certain limit and they can cope, but when pushed over that limit, they simply cannot handle the situation and "snap." This is when things can get out of control. When people are treated inhumanely...when you take away their dignity, what is created? What is left to take away? Maybe their sanity.

Prison is a dangerous place to be, for both inmates and guards. When people get injured it is time to review the procedures, and see if any changes should be made. Taking away from the ones who have nothing left isn't the answer.

In Memorium - May They Rest in Peace

- 08/05/04 - James Hubbard (AL)
- 08/12/04 - Terry Jess Dennis (NV)
- 08/18/04 - James Hudson (VA)
- 08/25/04 - Jasen Shane Busby (TX)
- 08/26/04 - Windel Ray Workman (OK)
- 08/26/04 - James Allridge (TX)



News From Death Row

Ryan Matthews is 115th Inmate Freed from Death Row

On Monday, August 9, 2004, Ryan Matthews became the 115th death row inmate to be freed, and the 14th exonerated with the help of DNA evidence. Matthews was sentenced to die in 1999 and spent nearly five years on death row before being cleared of a murder that occurred just two weeks after his 17th birthday.

Matthews' appellate attorneys had physical evidence from his trial re-tested for DNA, and the results excluded Matthews, pointing instead to another inmate at Angola Prison. A new trial was ordered in April 2004 based upon the new DNA results and findings that the prosecution withheld evidence. Released on bond in June, Matthews was exonerated when prosecutors dropped all charges against him.

The U.S. Supreme Court will consider whether death sentences for 16- or 17-years-olds are constitutional in October (Associated Press, August 11, 2004).

Houston Crime Lab Scandal Escalates

The possible exoneration of a man convicted of rape in 1987 has led investigators of the Houston police department crime laboratory to conclude that the lab's reliability crisis may be worse than was first anticipated. This revelation could lead to re-testing of evidence in thousands of additional cases from the past 25 years. Six independent forensic scientists said that a crime laboratory official either lacked the basic knowledge of blood typing or knowingly gave false testimony leading to the conviction of George Rodriguez for rape nearly two decades ago. Rodriguez's case led the panel to conclude that the official, who later became head of crime lab's DNA unit, might have offered "similarly false and scientifically unsound" reports and testimony in other cases. Their conclusion escalates the number of crime lab cases to be reexamined from 360 to an estimated 5,000 - 10,000 cases, a number that would surely include some capital murder trials from Harris County. According to forensic expert Barry Scheck of The Innocence Project in New York City, "We know already that they couldn't do DNA testing properly. Now we have a scandal that calls into question many thousands more cases. And this jurisdiction has produced more executions than any other county in America." Of the 323 people executed in Texas since the death penalty was reinstated, 73 have been from Harris County. The Houston DNA lab was shut down shortly after a state audit found that DNA technicians there had misinterpreted data, were poorly trained and kept shoddy records. In many cases, the technicians used up all available evidence, making it impossible for defense experts to refute or verify their results (New York Times, August 5, 2004).

Time to Review the Costs of the Death Penalty

A recent San Jose Mercury News editorial recommended including the death penalty in the California Performance Review prepared for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to reduce public spending. The paper stated that the abandonment of capital punishment would save valuable taxpayer dollars in the state and praised local efforts to support a temporary halt to executions while capital punishment is reviewed. The editorial noted:

Termination of the death penalty would add immeasurably to the \$32 billion in savings projected if all of the recommendations in the review are adopted. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, **"The death penalty is escaping the decisive cost-benefit analysis to which every other program is being put in times of austerity."**

The center asserts further that "the death penalty is much more expensive than its closest alternative — life imprisonment with no parole. Capital trials are longer and more expensive at every step than other murder trials."

The Board of Supervisors of Santa Clara has wisely adopted a resolution recommending a moratorium and study of the death penalty in California. This is a step in the right direction (San Jose Mercury News, August 8, 2004).



A View From The Inside

An Inmate's Perspective

By Lisa Maurer (WVGirl)

During the months that *LostVault: Unlocked* has been published, there have been many changes. We are constantly striving to improve the quality of your Newsletter. This most recent change is another change to "The View" column. I will be writing Connie's column because Connie is expecting twins! Congratulations Connie, but I have to say, better you than me. This column was set aside to share your thoughts, ideas and stories. Whether you want to talk about the sports teams at your facility, the jobs and pay rate or your culinary creations, I want to hear from you.

A topic that is of interest to me... becoming "institutionalized." Everyone has heard it. "He's been locked up so long, he has become 'institutionalized'." This term has such a wide range of meaning. Each inmate or ex-inmate that you speak to will probably give you a different definition of what it is to them. Years ago, I was visiting a friend in a West Virginia prison. He introduced me to an older gentleman in the visiting room who began to tell me his story. Upon his latest release from prison, the man robbed a jewelry store. I asked him why would he do such a thing after all the years he had already spent in prison. He explained to me that the prison was his home. He told me that he didn't feel locked in, that the rest of us were "locked out." Statistics say that 60% of inmates have served time previous to their current incarceration. What happens when a man is released that would cause this to become a pattern?

Psychologists talk about Post Incarceration Syndrome (PICS). PICS is a set of symptoms that are present in many currently incarcerated and recently released prisoners that are caused by being subjected to prolonged incarceration in environments of punishment with few opportunities for education, job training, or rehabilitation. The symptoms are most severe in prisoners subjected to prolonged solitary confinement and severe institutional abuse. In an article I read by Terence T. Gorski, he talked about PICS and it's relation to recidivism.

Stage 1 of this Post Release Syndrome is marked by Helplessness and hopelessness due to inability to develop a plan for community reentry, often complicated by the inability to secure funding for treatment or job training;

Stage 2 is marked by an intense immobilizing fear;

Stage 3 is marked by the emergence of intense free-floating anger and rage and the emergence of flashbacks and other symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;

Stage 4 is marked by a tendency toward impulse violence upon minimal provocation;

Stage 5 is marked by an effort to avoid violence by severe isolation to avoid the triggers of violence;

Stage 6 is marked by the intensification of flashbacks, nightmares, sleep impairments, and impulse control problems caused by self-imposed isolation. This leads to acting out behaviors, aggression, violence, and crime, which in turn sets the stages for arrest and incarceration.

Major changes to the system would have to be implemented in order to eliminate this very real problem. Are there things an inmate can do to reduce the "institutionalized" mindset? Are there things you are planning to do upon release to help your adjustment? **If you would like to share your thoughts on this or any other topic of interest, please write to the LostVault newsletter address provided on page two and mark it to the "View" or "Lisa." 'Til next month...**

Spirituality

Inspirational Words

By Dee (Lucidity)



Mabon

Autumn Equinox, 2nd Harvest, September 21st

Mabon, (pronounced MAY-bun, MAY-bone, MAH-boon, or MAH-bawn) is the Autumn Equinox. The Autumn Equinox divides the day and night equally, and we all take a moment to pay our respects to the impending dark. We also give thanks to the waning sunlight, as we store our harvest of this year's crops. The Druids call this celebration, Mea'n Fo'mhair, and honor the The Green Man, the God of the Forest, by offering libations to trees. Offerings of ciders, wines, herbs and fertilizer are appropriate at this time. Wiccans celebrate the aging Goddess as she passes from Mother to Crone, and her consort the God as he prepares for death and re-birth.

Various other names for this Lesser Wiccan Sabbat are The Second Harvest Festival, Wine Harvest, Feast of Avalon, Equinozio di Autunno (Strega), Alben Elfed (Caledonii), or Cornucopia. The Teutonic name, Winter Finding, spans a period of time from the Sabbat to Oct. 15th, Winter's Night, which is the Norse New Year.

At this festival it is appropriate to wear all of your finery and dine and celebrate in a lavish setting. It is the drawing to and of family as we prepare for the winding down of the year at Samhain. It is a time to finish old business as we ready for a period of rest, relaxation, and reflection.

Deities of Mabon:

Goddesses-Modron, Morgan, Epona, Persephone, Pamona and the Muses. Gods-Mabon, Thoth, Thor, Hermes, and The Green Man

Mabon is considered a time of the Mysteries. It is a time to honor Aging Deities and the Spirit World. Considered a time of balance, it is when we stop and relax and enjoy the fruits of our personal harvests, whether they be from toiling in our gardens, working at our jobs, raising our families, or just coping with the hussle-bussle of everyday life. May your Mabon be memorable, and your hearts and spirits be filled to overflowing!

September 6 ~ Krishna Janmashtami

September 12 ~ Day of Ascension (Isra and Miraj) (Islamic)

September 16 ~ Feast of Trumpets (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)

September 16 - 17 ~ Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) 2 days (Jewish)

September 17 ~ Ganesha Chaturthi (Hindu)

September 25 ~ Day of Atonement (World Wide Church of God, United Church of God and Global Church of God)

September 25 ~ Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) (Jewish)

BY CHANGING YOUR THINKING

By Changing Your Thinking, You change your beliefs;
 When you change your beliefs, You change your expectations;
 When you change your expectations, You change your attitude;
 When you change your attitude, You change your behavior;
 When you change your behavior, You change your performance;
 When you change your performance; You Change Your Life!

~Author Unknown



Rant & Rave with Matthew and Motty

Voices with Flavor

By Matthew Allen (KilgoreTrout) and Morigayn Johnson (Motty)

This month to coincide with LostVault's first ever Pen Pal Day, we would like to discuss just why we personally value our pals and writing.

Matthew's Rant.....

It is a well known fact that there are more people in prison looking for pen pals than there are people readily available to write them. It has also been said that contact with the outside world helps those inside better adjust when they are released. Those are a couple of things that got me started, but what I found over time is that I value writing prisoners because it has given me an opportunity not only to give a bit of hope to someone down, but the pen pals I have are so much more real to me than a lot of the people I know outside. Speaking of which, I have some writing to do....

Motty's Rave....

My pals are not just that, they are my friends and confidants. My friends give me advice, though sometimes unwanted *smile* but they are always willing to give me their opinions and not think twice. OK OK, so I do get the occasional "I only mean this to let you know this is how I see it," and "I don't mean to sound like your daddy but..." I wouldn't have it any other way though.

I get to see a life I have never, nor want to ever experience. Some of my friends are great conversationalists and really make me sit and think about life and random things. Some are great artists, and I sit in total awe at their art. My friends are varied in everything from age to reasons incarcerated and each has a perspective all their own on life and "the system."

I have had the chance to love someone whom I never would have met otherwise. I have also had my heart trampled on. I have been scammed and I have learned. I have become a better person from knowing these people, these ones that society wants to throw out, but I and many others embrace with open arms. Second chances come so few times in life and who am I to say that a stupid, bad and even completely wrong choice in life means someone should never get a second chance?

To me, writing to my friends is about being free. Free to express myself in any way I please and to be able to cry, laugh, grieve and live with someone that is just as imperfect as I am.

The "Rant & Rave with Matthew and Motty" column is about life. Please submit things to use as inspiration, or even things to make Matthew & Motty ponder. Their opinions are gladly shared as long as the subject is "PG-13." Matthew & Motty want your input!! Page 2 for mailing address, please note on correspondence you are writing to Matthew and Motty. Thank you!

Vaulter of the Month

One of LostVault's Finest



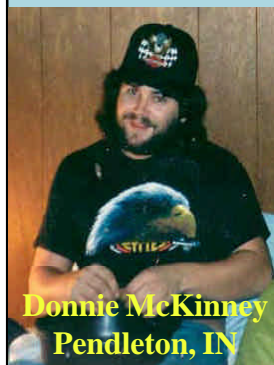
Dana (known to us as Dana71) is always a friendly edition to any post on LostVault! Dana is a 32 year old nurse who enjoys spending time with her son, going to the beach, camping and just being outdoors. She is from New Jersey and started writing to inmates 4 years ago. Unfortunately the reason she started writing inmates was because her cousin was incarcerated, but it has turned into a blessing in disguise as now many inmates benefit from her kind heart.

Septmeber 5th is the first official LostVault Pen Pal Day! Don't forget to celebrate your pal by sending a special card, letter, drawing or something orange to commemorate our first anniversary!



Pen Pals of The Month

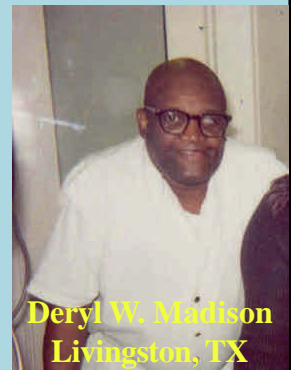
Inmates Desiring Mail



Donnie McKinney
Pendleton, IN

Donnie is a 41 year-old easygoing guy that loves Harleys, tattoos, movies, rock music and travel. He's good at making people laugh and loves to have fun. Donnie would like to meet the right girl, but friendship is first for him.

Deryl is a 46 year-old gentleman (08/29/58 - Happy Birthday Deryl!) residing on death row in Texas. Being there has awakened him to the real world; "I (realised) wasn't the only person in the world and I took living for granted and did things I shouldn't have done." He loves and accepts all people. His hobbies are reading books, newspapers, and magazines, and corresponding with people all over the world.



Deryl W. Madison
Livingston, TX

If you would like to write either Donnie or Deryl, please visit the pen pal section of our website at www.lostvault.com/penpals or send an email to penpals@lostvault.com for more information.



Dear Libbie

Advice for the Lovelorn

By Joanna L. Massing (Libbie)



The end of Summer is near and the start of the Autumn weather is here along with all the holidays that come with it. During these times it is hard to be jovial and celebrate while your loved one cannot be with you and has to celebrate alone in their concrete and steel homes. It can be a very depressing time when you might be physically with your family and friends but your heart is elsewhere with your incarcerated loved one. I think the best thing to do during these times is to try and boost the spirits of your loved one by making him/her a part of your holidays as best as you can. It will require some extra brainpower and creativity on your part but the end result will make you and your loved one feel closer to one another and will give you two a few extra laughs, smiles and tugs on the heartstrings.

I think also a way to alleviate the stress and tension that the holiday season might cause is to celebrate other holidays that are fun and cheerful and even maybe a little naughty. Other than the main commercial holidays such as Valentines Day, Christmas, New Years Day, etc, below are a few holidays that you and your loved one can share. Maybe a nice card on "Say I love you day" or "Pen Pal Day" or perhaps a risqué photo on "Booty Call Day"! Whatever it is make the time special for the both of you. Happy celebrating!

- January 10th - Hug Someone Special Day
- January 19th - Say I Love You Day
- January 25th - Booty Call Day
- February 15th - Residual Horniness Day
- February 16th - Kinky Exploration Day
- March 26th - Spank Your Lover Day
- April 9th - America's Sweetheart Day
- April 25th - All You Need is Love Day
- May 4th - Significant Other's Day
- August 23d - Hug Your Sweetie Day
- August 25th - Kiss And Make Up Day
- September 5th - Pen Pal Day!
- 3rd Saturday of October- Sweetest Day
- December 4th - International Hug Day
- December 14th - Opposites Attract Day



~ Never Miss A Chance To Let Your Sweetie Know They Are Special!

This month's questions:

Dear Libbie,

My pen pal and I have been writing for about 8 months and I have gone to visit him a few times. He asked me to start writing a cellie of his because his cellie had nobody. The problem is that my pal has said he is falling in love with me but I am starting to have feelings for his cellie...my new pal. I don't want to hurt anyone but I also don't want to lead him on. I don't want to hide my feelings also but I know it will cause problems with the two since they both are cellmates. What should I do?

~Carol, Houston, TX

Dear Carol,

You said you were "starting to have feelings" for your new pal even though your old pal has confessed his feelings of love for you. I really don't think you should do anything hasty. "Starting to have feelings" for someone is very different from "having feelings" for someone. I think you should give it some more time, get to know your new pal some more before you decide to destroy a friendship, cause animosity between the two and make enemies out of two men who have no other alternative but to live 24/7 with each other. While you are getting to know your new pal better maybe you should make sure it is mutual as well as also strongly reiterate to your old pal that you have feelings of only "friendship" for

him. I think you are going to cause a major problem if you tell your pal you are crushing on your new pal and you don't handle this situation very delicately. Good luck.

Dear Libbie,

I started posting on a site where my boyfriend had an ad. He has since taken his ad off and has told me that I am the only one he is writing to. I wouldn't mind if he wrote to others as "friends" but I would be upset if he were lying to me. I noticed that one person in particular has been posting about my boyfriend. At least I think it is about him. The person refers to him by his name and has mentioned things that are similar. She has also mentioned the state where her "pal" is and I am getting a bit suspicious. How should I confront him or am I making a big thing out of nothing? Since at one time he did have an ad up but since then he said he is only writing to me.

~Suspicious in Florida

Dear Suspicious,

Simply ask him. Why go through all the what ifs and what nots, sleuthing, hypothesizing when all you need to do is ask your boyfriend. If you two are in a committed relationship and love each other then he should be honest with you. I find the direct approach is so much better and if you are still not satisfied then shoot off an email to this poster and ask point blank. Between the two I am sure you will be able to surmise what is the truth and what is not.

Got a burning question you need answered? Have a story idea you'd like to see featured? Feel free to write me - I would love to hear about your ideas or any questions you may have. You can submit your questions, thoughts, stories to Libbie by either visiting www.lostvault.com, by private messaging me (username Libbie), by email: Dearlvlibbie@yahoo.com, or by snail mail to the address on page 2. Please note that you are writing to the Dear Libbie column.

Staff Spotlight

Meet Motty!

I have yet to write a "formal" introduction of myself, so here goes!

I currently spend most of my time volunteering in my community and LostVault. I am now a columnist for the local newspaper as well as teaching 4th-12th graders once a month on different aspects of living (such as how to manage your money and things like that).



I'm 22 years old and have been writing those incarcerated for over 6 years. I first started writing to a friend of my cousin who was in a juvenile facility. Once he was released I stopped for a few months until another friend had someone else inside. This path has continued until I was introduced to someone who rapidly became and is my best friend

- and I dare say soulmate. While things with him and I are a bit rocky now, I still cherish him to say the least. Writing to him has led me to LostVault, and to my many other wonderful pals.

I have done quite a few things in my short little life span, including scaring a few people with my ever-changing hair color (currently I'm blonde getting ready for sliver or purple). I guess all I can hope for is to be around a few more years and hopefully make a few more people smile. That really is what makes me happy more than anything on Earth.



Why do You Value Your Pal?

LostVault's First Pen Pal Day - September 5, 2004

In honor of our first Pen Pal Day, in our August edition of *LostVault: Unlocked* we invited inmates and freeworld people to submit their reasons why they value their pen pal(s). Below is what everyone had to say.

Inmates to Their Pals

Thank you, thank you so very much for the care, trust, love and support. For someone to accord me these qualities, not from selfish expectation, but pure friendship and compassion is beyond a mere gift. It is a boon that I'll carry inside now and always wherever life leads me.
~Sean O'Brien - Livingston, TX

She strengthened me in the time of my weakness, she guided me in during the period of my blindness, she uplifted me during the time of my downfalls. Her friendship, support and presence in my life has truly made me not only believe in myself, but also made me believe in what I can become.
(Thank you so much Christine.)
~Milton D. - Bushnell, FL

She possesses a spirit that is strong, she has a heart of gold, is more than a woman, and her friendship is priceless. Her letters brighten my days and her words inspire me to be the best man that I can be. Thank you!
~Damien Morris - Tamms, IL

She care's enough to try and make a difference in this supermax hell. Without her friendship these past couple of years...I don't even want to imagine. She's a very special person and I'm lucky to of met her, of course she can be a really big pain in the butt too! Ha!
~Bruce Fearing - Tamms, IL

Taking a chance and writing my pen friend for the first time was easy. Being open and honest from the begin-

ning has enabled us to become true friends. Now I have someone to talk to about anything and everything, both good and bad. My pen friend opens my eyes and brightens my days.
~John Troy VII - FL State Prison

If I had a pen pal, I would cherish their friendship. Anyone who takes their time to write and share their freedom with me, is definitely a unique and caring person who deserves to be cherished. Will that special someone write me?
~Leonard A Nava - Lamesa, TX

A distinctive individuality that can never be repeated nor replaced, my pen pal is irrefutably essential to the prosperity to my collective sentiment. Her worth is empirical as well as incalculable, for she endeavors to love what so many reprove. I can only hope to revive a pen pal soon.
~J. Catangarite - Crescent City, CA

She is the best one around and number one on my list. She lives in the South and I in the North. She keeps my heart beating will all her kind thoughts, like when she went on vacation and sent me postcards from where she had been. I felt like I was with her and her family all along. So Christine this poem does out to you and your family for letting you do as you do. I was over the word limit a while ago, but I just had to let them know that when it comes to pen pals you are the best and the highest value one could ever get.
~Keith - G.C.F NY

She gives me a sense of being a real person. Valuable time is taken to write me. I'm no longer just a

lonely number, sitting here. This is a gift not easily repaid. My pen pal is truly cherished.
I deeply thank her.
~Zap - Tenn. Colony TX

You bring me laughter, friendship, the world and you care. You are special because you take time out of you day to write and trust someone you don't know when others I know won't even send a postcard. You have your own problems and children to car for and you think of me. That's why your very special and besides...I don't go sending gifts to everyone! *Smile*
~JR - Florence Crane Corrections MI

They teach me strength and substance, when failure comes my way.
They teach me hope and courage, that helps me face each day.
They offer their forgiveness, for the wrongs I may have done.
MY FRIENDS mean the world to me, In each and every way.
~C.L. (DR) - Mansfield, OH

Each of you are one of a kind. You all hold a special place in my heart. Life would definitely not be the same without you and your companionship. All out thanks to the worlds greatest friends, Matthew, JoAnna, Morigayn, Kerri, Connie and all of my friends at LostVault! Love you so much!
~Chris A. - Walsenburg, CO



Freeworld People to Their Pals

When I receive a letter from my pal I know I have to get a box of tissues ready. I always have tears streaming down my face, half the time tears from laughing so hard and the other half 'cuz he writes real deep very moving stuff.
~Moni - Amsterdam, the Netherlands

I value my pals because each one has their own way of making me happy and smile. Knowing I can bring a smile to their face with my letters is such an amazing feeling. They're all special in their own ways!
~Tammie Evans - Eastbourne, England

MY PALS ROCK.....
You're all very special to me. Even though there's a few I'm only just beginning to get to know, your letters always makes me smile. You all bring so much to my life. Thank you for being such sweet friends. Keep smiling!!!!!!
~Carol - Canada

M ~ I may act like a hillbilly d-nozzle at times, but I really do value your friendship.
~Lisa - West Virginia

I am so happy to have my pen pals in my life. They have showed me trust, friendship, and loyalty. My life would not be full without them...
~Dee - Massachusetts

Bobby Hines, you are the best friend a girl can have. We have been friends for two years now and you have literally changed my life. You know that, don't you? I

value our friendship more than you probably know. Love ya, buddy!!
~Lene - Norway

I value my pal for his endless love, respect, and encouragement. He is my sounding board, my shoulder to cry on, and my own personal cheerleader. He is my best friend and I love him more with each new day that he blesses my life.
~M.D.

Buck Gorby is my pal. He makes me feel alive again after the trial with my son. He has helped me to understand the trials and tribulations the inmates go through on DR and that has assisted me with understanding what my child is enduring. Buck tells me the truth while keeping a positive attitude. He does not fear death. His faith is strong and he is an inspiration to me and to my son. I met him for the first time recently and found him to be a real gentleman and a very intelligent and sexy man. He is a real blessing in my life and I look forward to many more letters and visits with him in the future.
~Debra Troy - mother of John Troy at FSP

I can not pick and chose who is my best pal/friend. Each one of bring a different joy to my life. You say I take time out of my life to write but...ya'll take time out of your lives to share your hearts. Some give me more heart than others but I could never express how much I appreciate how much YOU have given me. All I can say is Thank YOU for Being YOU!!
HUGS to all!!
~Christine - Florida

My pals are my friends. Each bring their own bit of sunshine and joy into my life. I am thankful they forgive me for my slow mail all the time! Take care, and to those I owe mail, it's on it's way!
~Motty - Tennessee

My pals are like brothers to me. When my life became stressful and my mail slowed down to a trickle, my guys understood and didn't complain at all. This is what true friendship is about - extending an ear/shoulder and unrelenting support to those important to you. They all have enriched my life more than words can express, but they already know this... I thank them for being my friends; my life is definitely better with their friendship.
~Michelle - Maryland

I value my pal because he makes me feel so not alone in this world, he gives me strength to face my problems and the knowledge that I don't have to face them alone. Though he is miles from me his love surrounds me like a warm, protective blanket day in an day out, I feel his presence in me, in my heart. He has opened my eyes to a future that we will share one day together, he is my best friend, my confident, he is not just my pal...he is my love. I cherish and value him simply because he accepts me for me and loves me for who I am, who I will become and not what I can give him. He is simply my other half.
~Joanna - New York



Vault Jokes & Junk

...The Fun Side of Life

~Joke of The Month~

“Those four-letter words”

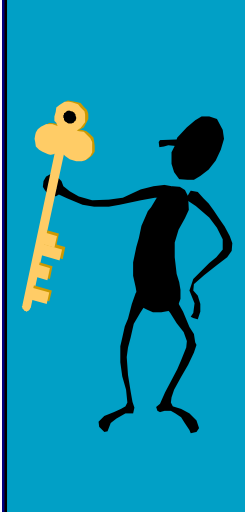
A young couple got married and left on their honeymoon. When they got back, the bride immediately called her mother. Her mother asked, “How was the honeymoon?” “Oh, mama,” she replied, “the honeymoon was wonderful! So romantic...” Suddenly she burst out crying. “But, mama, as soon as we returned Sam started using the most horrible language...things I’d never heard before! I mean, all these awful 4 letter words! You’ve got to come get me and take me home... Please mama!” “Sarah, Sarah,” her mother said, “calm down! Tell me, what could be so awful? What 4-letter words?” “Please don’t make me tell you, mama,” wept the daughter, “I’m so embarrassed they’re just too awful! Come get me, please!” “Darling, baby, you must tell me what has you so upset.... Tell your mother these horrible 4-letter words!”

Still sobbing, the bride said, “Oh, mama...words like DUST, WASH, IRON, COOK...!”

~Fun Facts~

- Every square inch of the human body has an average of 32 million bacteria on it.
- On average women say 7,000 words per day. Men manage just over 2000.
- The average American will eat 35,000 cookies in a lifetime.
- The average cup of coffee contains more than 1000 different chemical components, none of which is tasted in isolation but only as part of the overall flavor.
- An ear of corn averages 800 kernels in 16 rows.
- Average number of squirts from a cow’s udder needed to yield a gallon of milk : 345.

Answer to Last Month’s Puzzle



PLACES, PLEASE

L	A	C	I	D	O	I	R	E	P	O	I	G	N	A	N	T
T	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	H	E	A	L	O	S	T	O	A
R	Y	H	A	E	I	R	O	E	N	E	R	G	N	E	N	O
A	S	D	C	R	I	T	R	S	I	S	R	A	L	G	A	C
T	O	A	E	T	O	W	R	B	C	G	R	G	S	R	C	I
S	R	T	T	G	O	E	O	Y	I	E	H	C	I	I	U	T
P	L	E	R	C	A	N	M	E	L	B	B	I	R	D	T	T
U	N	A	B	L	E	R	O	O	L	R	I	M	E	U	E	E
P	P	O	T	E	E	R	T	N	I	M	R	E	P	P	E	P
H	O	R	L	C	L	E	A	R	N	E	M	D	O	E	A	R
O	L	P	E	N	L	A	N	A	O	E	U	A	D	G	U	E
L	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	I	M	M	C	E	A	D	S
D	U	E	G	I	N	L	R	E	T	A	B	A	S	S	E	I
G	M	R	E	C	U	I	U	E	A	S	N	O	N	E	E	D
N	A	R	A	S	I	M	M	E	R	T	N	R	N	G	R	E
M	C	Y	O	I	A	T	H	O	U	I	S	T	L	E	S	N
E	G	D	I	R	B	W	A	R	D	E	C	A	D	E	N	T

SYLL'LA-CROS'TIC

Fill in the answers to the clues by using all the syllables in the Syllabox. The number of syllables to be used in each answer is shown in parentheses. The number of letters in each answer is indicated by the dashes. Each syllable will be used once. When the words are correctly filled in, their first and last letters, reading down, will reveal an epigram preceded by its author’s name.

- Courteous (2) G R A C I O U S
- Cowboy’s rope (3) _____
- Teach (3) _____
- Guacamole fruit (4) _____
- Beef dish (3) _____
- Best (3) _____
- Southwestern Indian (3) _____
- School fee (3) _____
- Waver (3) _____
- Unoccupied (2) _____
- Zodiac Twins (3) _____
- Type of room (2) _____
- Refined (3) _____
- Pedro’s pal (3) _____
- High-collared shirt (3) _____
- Dodge (2) _____
- “___ Street” (3) _____
- Rutabaga, e.g. (2) _____
- Hawaiian resort area (3) _____
- Circus gymnast (3) _____

* SYLLABOX *

A	A	A	AC	AT	AV	BAT
CA	CATE	CI OUS	DO	E	E	
ED	EL	EMP	GA	GANT		
GEM	GO	GRA	HES	I		
I	I	I	JO	KI	KI	LAR
LUDE	ME	MI	MUM	NAV		
NECK	NI	NIP	NOFF	O		
OP	PUS	RO	RUM	SES		
STRO	TATE	TI	TION	TLE		
TU	TUR	TUR	TY	U	WAI	

Solution next month



LostVault Ads

To place an ad in our monthly newsletter, please see our website for pricing information. If you are an inmate and wish to place an ad, please send a SASE and your request for information to:

LostVault: Unlocked

P.O. Box 294

Washburn, TN 37888

Ad prices range from \$5 to \$30 (we will accept postage stamps from inmates); all proceeds benefit LostVault.com and help keep us free. Your ad may not contain sexually explicit wording and ads soliciting products, services, or legal advice are not permitted from inmates.

 <p>Happy Anniversary To My Michael!</p> <p>To our first year together and many more to come, you are what my dreams are made of.</p> <p>I love you.</p> <p>Love, Your JoBanana!</p>	 <p>Listen to the Prison Show with Ray Hill KPFT Houston - 90.1 FM Friday Nights 9PM-11PM CST Show information: www.rayhill.info/PrisonShow.html Listen live on the web: www.kpft.org -or- www.kpftx.org</p>	<p>Tarot Card Readings By Lucidity \$10.00 donation 100% of the proceeds benefit LostVault.com Any 3 Questions Answered</p>  <p>Hello everyone, I'm Lucidity and I have been reading Tarot Cards for close to 30 years. I work with many different decks, along with gemstones and crystals. I am a self taught Astrologer and Reiki practitioner.</p> <p>For your reading I will need 3 handwritten questions, your birthday, a photo (not required) and a SASE. You will receive a typed reading shortly in the mail, or email if you prefer.</p> <p>Astrology Charts by Lucidity \$10.00 donation I will need your date of birth, time of birth and city of birth. I will send you approximately a 10-15 page read-out. For either of the above services, please make your money order made payable to "D. Martin" or see our website for PayPal information.</p> <p>Mailing address: Dee Martin P. O. Box 63095 New Bedford, MA 02746</p>
 <p>Happy Birthday To My New Friend Oso!!</p> <p>Hope you have a great day! ~Michelle</p>	<p>We have LostVault merchandise available for sale*! We currently offer T-shirts and notecards, and will be adding other items soon.</p> <p><i>*See our Fundraising Forum for details.</i></p> <p>Michelle & Morrigayn, A small thanks for always being there for me and showing me friendship. We will have a blast in IN!! But should I take my Dramamine for HS's driving skills???? I love you guys, uh some tongue? Lol! Love, ~Libbet</p>	

Horoscopes A Future Glimpse

~September 2004~

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) - Your family needs to spend some time with you, too. If they don't like the plan, suggest that they contribute a little. Snap out of it. You will enjoy getting together with friends.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) - You can make some money if you get involved in a conservative financial prospect that is presented to you. You'd be wise to control your spending so your debts don't get out of hand. You will be able to get to the bottom of things this month. Your added discipline will help you complete the impossible at work.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) - Your involvement with groups will raise your self esteem. Be prepared to lose friends or alienate other people if you insist on being stubborn. Offer consolation, but don't give them any direction. Try to make your lover understand that you need to do things with your friends.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - Don't waste this exciting day by sitting at home. Your self confidence will attract members of the opposite sex Don't give in too quickly. Lay your cards on the table regarding your personal direction.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) - Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for those who attend. Travel will be fun and entertaining. Try not to allow others to burden you with additional responsibilities. You will get drawn into groups that are not favorable to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) - Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Beware of individuals who are not that reliable or well known to you. Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Be sure to take care of the needs of youngsters.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) - Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. Your high energy will help you through this rather hectic day. Spend time getting into physical activities with your lover. Dig deep to find out how costly a new venture will be before you sign on the dotted line.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) - Invite people home to discuss your plans for group fundraising events and outings. Communication will be your strong point and you should be able to persuade others to see things your way. Anger could lead to problems. Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) - Try not to take everything so seriously. Don't hesitate to voice your ideas and opinions. Your attitude is changing rapidly and your plate is overloaded. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) - Your boss won't be too thrilled if you leave things unfinished. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together. Pleasure trips will bring you into contact with new and interesting people. You may find yourself changing plans for some form of entertainment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) - You need to spend some time getting to know this person all over again. Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement. Do not let in-laws upset you. Moves or the possibility of having someone different living with you may be difficult at first.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) - Be careful when dealing with female members of your family. You will be in the mood to socialize. Don't overreact if your partner has a poor attitude. Don't make promises.

