



Issue No. 8

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WE ARE ACCEPTING SNAIL MAIL ADS AGAIN!

LostVault ceased accepting snail mail ads in June of 2004 due to lack of funds and few volunteers. We have since implemented a webform where internet users may post a pen pal ad free of charge for their incarcerated loved ones. However, the request for us to continue taking pen pal ads via snail mail has been immense, but we cannot afford or handle the amount of free ads we received. As much as we would like to remain free for mail ads, this is not an option for us being a volunteer-run and donation funded organization. Thus, we have the choice of offering mail ads for a nominal fee or no mail ads at all.

Should you wish to have a free pen pal ad on LostVault, fill out the form on the bottom of this page and send it to your loved ones requesting they post your ad free of charge on our website. They may do so by going to our pen pal page: <http://www.lostvault.com/penpals/register.asp> and registering for a pen pal account. There is no fee for this service and they may post unlimited ads from their computer as well as one photo for each ad. If you

prefer for us to post your ad and photo (if applicable), please see below for the fee schedule:

FEE SCHEDULE

Inmates (other than Death Row) - \$5 for up to 150 words and one photo. Your ad will run for one year. A self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) is required if you want your photo returned and/or a printed copy of your ad.

Death Row Inmates – Free for up to 150 words and one photo. Your ad will run indefinitely or until you notify us in writing of wanting your ad removed. A SASE is required if you want your photo returned and/or a printed copy of your ad. It will be renewed for free, with written notice from inmate.

Fees are to be made payable to Julia Bowes and need to be on a Money Order ONLY.

By charging a fee for our mail ads, we are in no way out to make a profit from the inmates. The money generated from these mail ads will go toward administrative, advertising and operating costs, which are currently paid by the owner. Every penny above and beyond those costs will be put back into the website for additional advertising (the more advertising we have for our site, the more potential writers for your ads); site upgrades; mailing out our newsletter LostVault: Unlocked; and funding more contests in the newsletter, where we offer cash prizes for inmate artwork and writing. If you have doubts as to our financial goals, remember that if we were out to make a lot of money, we would charge \$20 or \$40, which is what you would have to pay to get a proportional ad on a comparably sized website.

AD RULES:

- You may not update your ad for free during the 1 year on our website, except for address changes, unless we make an error on your ad. The only exception is for death row inmates, who may update their ad after each 1-year anniversary. If any inmate wants to update the text or photo in his or her ad prior to the 1-year date, the ad will be considered new and the \$5 fee will be imposed for a rewritten ad, death row included. If you do not have a photo when your ad is posted and you wish to add one later, no fee will be assessed and the ad will run for the remainder of the 1-year cycle.
- Your ad must be under 150 words and not contain sexually explicit or suggestive language.
- You may send us one photo for your ad. Note that ads with photos are viewed 10 times more than those without.
- If you know an inmate who wishes to send us a mail ad, they must send a SASE or stamp for an application, as applications are REQUIRED to place and ad through LostVault

Please note that we cannot issue refunds under any circumstances and the use of our service does not guarantee you will receive a pen pal.

To request a pen pal form please send a SASE, or stamp to cover mailing to the following address:

LostVault
P.O. Box 261
Washburn, TN 37888



LostVault

Who We Are and What We Do

LostVault.com is the biggest and best FREE* prison pen pal site on the internet. Founded in September of 2003, we are dedicated to creating and maintaining a free/inexpensive place for inmates to find pen pals.

Want a Pen Pal Ad on our Site?

Send a SASE to us at the address below for an application. Please note that applications are required to place an ad through LostVault; your ad posted via a family member or friend may be posted without a LostVault application. Should your outside loved one wish to request an application, they may do so by snail mail by sending a SASE to the address below, by downloading it from our website, or by sending an email request to LVMotty@yahoo.com.

You may also have a loved one register at <http://www.lostvault.com/penpals/register.asp> and submit your free pen pal ad. **Please note that we cannot take free ads any other way directly sent to us.** The address to send all requests for pen pal application (required):

LostVault
PO Box 261
Washburn, TN 37888

** Ads posted via the internet by free world people are completely free; we charge a \$5 fee for ads placed through LostVault Staff members.*

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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Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi) - Death Row
Lisa Maurer (WVGirl) - A View From Inside
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LostVault: Unlocked mailing address:
LostVault: Unlocked
P.O. Box 294
Washburn, TN 37888

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

From The Editor's Desk

Letters to The Editor



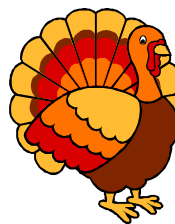
Welcome to another wonderful month, though we are a bit late *frown* but hey, at least we made it! This is a "special" edition with October and November combined. It's not going to be a regular thing to combine two months, but as most of you readers know, crap happens and there are times when you have to drop kick and punt! Let's move on to the things we need to talk about!

As you can see on page 1, we have starting taking pen pal ads via mail again. Yes, we are now charging a small fee, but it is the only way we can keep helping the many inmates who write to us monthly. There just aren't enough volunteers or donations to keep us completely free, as much as we have tried. We are still the best (ok, maybe I'm a tiny bit biased) and least expensive pen pal site on the web! If you or someone you know would like a pen pal application form, please send a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to the address on page 2 (PO Box 261, Washburn, TN 37888). We have some other special things this month, including a straight from the heart "article" written by Michelle in our new column, "A View From The Outside," and a nice piece sent in by J. Kendan Bullock for "A View From The Inside."

A reminder about the DR art contest! It is still going on! We need your entries! I have gotten few entries for the contest. It's free cash if you win! We have backed the deadline up a little, in case someone interested didn't get the Sept issue when it was announced. The date that entries MUST be postmarked is by December 15 and mailed to the address at the bottom of page 2. The winners will be featured in the January issue of *LostVault: Unlocked*.

There is one more thing I'd like to mention. Sometimes, I get letters from you all...and I really just wish that I could hug you. Tony and Gary, thank you. Tony for giving me a reality check on "needing an ear" and Gary for your selflessness. Thank you, to all of you reading.

Best Wishes,



The staff of *LostVault: Unlocked* would like to wish everyone a Happy belated Halloween and a Happy Thanksgiving!



Prison News

News From Around the Globe

Attempt Slayer's Pals Seek Mercy

Numerous friends and family members crowded a small courtroom to watch the sentencing hearing of Harold Ferguson, 53, described as a kind and compassionate man but one who sat convicted of attempted first-degree intentional homicide for strangling his girlfriend, almost to the point of death.

Even the woman he nearly killed and the woman he left after a long marriage were on hand to tell the judge that this was a man worth saving, and that he should not be locked up with no hope of release.

Prosecutors urged Dane County Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser to send Ferguson to prison, saying the horrific nature of the crime called for punishment and there was a need to deter others from such actions. They conceded Ferguson was not your normal criminal and "does have the support of the community, that's obvious."

Prosecutors asked for a six-year prison term to be followed by 14 years of extended supervision, while defense attorney Dennis Burke asked Moeser to impose a three-year prison term to be followed by a lengthy period of extended supervision.

"I keep thinking I've seen it all, but this case makes me think I haven't seen anything," said Burke, a public defender in Dane County for more than three decades. "I don't know anybody who I've represented who has so many people who care about him," he said. The outpouring of support for Ferguson clearly impressed Moeser.

"It is so rare to have a defendant in front of me like Mr. Ferguson who has done something so terrible and yet have so many people who write and tell me what a good person he is," the judge said. He also said he could not remember a case in which someone had committed such a horrible crime and was "so sincerely remorseful."

"It's a horrible, horrible crime," the judge said, adding that only luck prevented it from becoming a murder in which Ferguson would have faced life in prison. But, the judge added, "I don't think I've seen anybody whose committed so horrible a crime who has as much potential for rehabilitation as you do."

Moeser ordered a total sentence of 20 years, with 3 of that to be served in prison, and the remaining 16 years on extended supervision. Ferguson gets credit for the 187 days he has been in jail, reducing that prison term to just under three years. The judge, noting that when Ferguson drinks he also starts using drugs, ordered complete sobriety during the entire 20 years and no possession of any drugs. He also ordered Ferguson to perform 50 hours a year of community service. "I think you have the ability to do so much for this community," the judge said. "I hope when you are out of prison you can find a way to do that."

Strengthening Bonds Behind Bars

Every other Saturday, about 40 other inmates in the Coffee Creek minimum- and medium-security facilities gather in the dining room and visiting room, respectively, for a 2 1/2-hour visit with their daughters. This mother-daughter time is part of a program called Girl Scouts Beyond

Bars (GSBB), a partnership between the Columbia River Council Girl Scouts and the Oregon Department of Corrections that seeks to break the cycle of intergenerational criminality by strengthening relationships between incarcerated mothers and their daughters. GSBB serves girls ages 5 through 17.

In traditional prison visitation, movement and physical contact is limited. GSBB combines physical and emotional bonding with crafts, singing and other interactive activities. To be eligible for the program, inmates must have completed a parenting class offered through Coffee Creek. The moms also participate in biweekly leadership training to plan activities for their children and discuss parenting issues.

On this Saturday, many of the inmates seem happy to sit and kiss their daughters, stroke their hair and interlock hands. But there is also a lot of catching up to do. "The rabbit is going to have babies," one girl tells her mom. "I lost a silver tooth," another girl says, opening her mouth wide. As for the planned activity: it's two weeks before Halloween, and the moms have decided to decorate pumpkins and trick-or-treat bags.

GSBB, which operates in 20 states, is "almost a perfectly designed program," said Arlene Lee, director of the Federal Resource Center for Children of Prisoners, a partnership between the Department of Justice and the Child Welfare League of America.

"We have 30 years of research from juvenile justice that the most long-lasting, enduring way to make sure kids don't have bad outcomes is to strengthen the parent and parent-child relationship," Lee said.

According to the Columbia River Council Girl Scouts, more than half of the mothers in GSBB report not having any visitation from their daughters until joining the program. For all of the participants, GSBB increased visitation by 76 percent.

Federal Help For Former Prisoners

U.S. Attorney Susan Brooks' announced that Indiana joins six states in the federal prisoner re-entry coordinator program.

It's a move designed by the U.S. Department of Justice to centralize help for ex-prisoners and cut back on the number of people who leave jail, commit crimes and end up back behind bars.

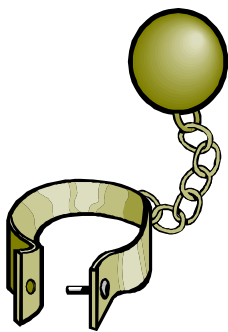
"The Department of Corrections has indicated that 40 percent of the offenders released from the Department of Corrections return to the Indianapolis area," says Brooks. "They do deserve a second chance. They have paid their debt to society."

As part of the effort to keep neighborhoods safe across the state, Indiana's re-entry coordinator will pull together federal, state and local law enforcement to plan and discuss the coordination of inmate releases.

It's not the easiest task. According to the department's Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than 600,000 criminal offenders are released from prison every year and returned to neighborhoods across the country. Two-thirds of them are rearrested within three years, many for committing violent crimes.

"There is hope. Although we all make mistakes, you can change your life around by making better choices and getting better consequences." As director of the Christamore House, Olgen Williams knows. He's had his own troubles and he's turned his life around.

The hope is that this new coordinator will help others do the same. The state hopes to fill the position of prisoner re-entry coordinator by the end of November. Since it's a federal position, the salary is paid by the Department of Justice.



Death Row

Capital Punishment Talk

By Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi)

In our first newsletter I wrote an introduction of myself, but I am sure this newsletter reaches a lot more people now than it did then. So, I thought I'd tell you a little bit about myself and chat away like I'm known to do. I'm Norwegian, 31 of age and a proud mother of five children. (Three girls – so help me God – and two boys) I am in school these days to prepare for college/university next fall.

I have been asked many times why I have such an interest in the death penalty when it isn't an issue in Norway. I have been asked how I came about to write people on death row. Years ago I read a book called "A friend in death". It is a Norwegian book and it is about a beautiful friendship between a Norwegian woman and a death row inmate in Texas. The story touched me deeply and I decided to find out what had happened to this man. I found out that he was still on death row and I decided to let him know how his story moved me and compelled me to see if I could help in any way. I also wrote the author of the book to let her know what I thought about her story. By doing that I found two people I consider friends today. One thing led to another and here I am.

This newsletter is for you – something that we hope can make your day a little bit brighter, and to show you that there are people out here that care. Feed back from you is welcomed, because without knowing what you would like to read I have to guess. I have friends who aren't on death row also, and I know some of them will be reading this. I can't close without saying peek a boo Billy and Thomas.

Take care everybody, stay safe and out of trouble!
~Lene

Love On The Row

Several reporters have written about ladies who fall in love with incarcerated men, and they have all questioned why and how that can happen. I don't question why or how when it comes to the ladies I have in mind. They have asked themselves that so many times and always come with the same conclusion – it wasn't anything they initially wanted – it just happened. And when it 'happens' it's out of their control.

Their men are on the Row – sentenced to death. The ladies don't want to think about execution dates and the possibility that the State will end their relationship. One of the ladies (let's call her K) was forced to face it last year when her fiance had an execution date. They came close to an end, but before the final goodbye, he received a stay. K and I talk regularly and we started to communicate because her fiance is a friend of mine. I have followed them both to where they are today. That is the main reason as to why I don't need to ask some of the questions reporters ask. I already know the answers. K says that just thinking about losing her loved one makes her heart beat uncontrollably. She says it is scary to love someone as much as she loves him, because everything is out of her hands. She has no say in what's in the future for them. She hopes, she dreams and he gives her strength to keep on. In a letter to her he says: "It may sound funny when I say that you are "MY PROMISED LAND" for you are where I want to be... my love, I don't talk about my pains with you very often, it's just that you make them all go away when I'm with you. In my heart and soul you make me happy".

Standing on the outside looking in I can tell that they offer each other something they both have been looking for: unconditional love.

I asked K what she would do if he dies and she said, "I hope I will not last much longer around here after he is gone". He says he thanks God for every day she is in his life and prays that he will get the chance to get a free life with her.

T is a woman in her early forties. She is well educated and holds a good job. A few years back she decided to write a man on death row in hopes to brighten his day, little did she know that she would fall in love with A and spend her nights dreaming about the day they will be together. She never thinks "if" he comes home to her, she always thinks "when." I wonder if she might feel the pressure of the "if" and choose not to talk about it, because then the "if" becomes more real.

These women know that a big majority think they go too far for their own good. Those for the death penalty can't even begin to comprehend, nor do they desire to do so. And even some that fight against the death penalty look at the women a bit amazed and ask why they would sacrifice a 'normal' life over something that looks so hopeless? They can't touch their loved ones, they can't call them, they can't go out on a date – everything has to be lived through letters and visits. And most death row inmates visits their loved ones behind glass.

I asked T what she would say to those claiming she gives up a normal life and she says, "But I do live a normal life. I get up in the morning and make breakfast for my child and me. I go to work, come home, make dinner, I visit friends and family, I go to the movies, theatre, the zoo, you name it. When I talk to my man it isn't face to face, but we discuss and talk about every day life just as we would had he been here. I didn't choose to fall in love with A. It happened. It isn't something you can control. I can't find someone like A out here, because there is only one A. You don't 'just find' your one and only and you don't choose where they are to find. He could be a crown prince or a DR inmate, it is his personality that makes him my one and only, not where he is. The Lord works in mysterious ways and you can only try to ignore His crystal clear signs for a limit of time. Then you have to deal with them and I had to embrace them."

When two people fall in love, why should the rest of the world understand the chemistry existing between the two? Love is a personal matter and it doesn't seem fair that anyone should have to justify their love because others can't understand. How can we define normal when life isn't black and white? Isn't it part of the world's problems that we can't accept each others differences? In my personal experience I can only say that my friends on the inside are no different from my friends on the outside. They all have something in common. They fall in and out of love. They laugh and cry. They all have human feelings. Being confined controls the human body, but it doesn't control the human mind.

In Memorium - May They Rest in Peace

09/09/04 - James Reid (VA)
09/21/04 - Andrew Flores (TX)
09/30/04 - David Kevin Hocker (AL)
10/05/04 - Edward Green III (TX)
10/06/04 - Peter Miniell (TX)
10/08/04 - Sammy Perkins (NC)
10/12/04 - Donald Aldrich (TX)
10/13/04 - Adremy Dennis (OH)
10/20/04 - Ricky Morrow (TX)
10/22/04 - Charles Roache (NC)
10/26/04 - Dominique Green (TX)



A View From The Inside

An Inmate's Perspective

By Lisa Maurer (WVGirl)

Hello LostVault,

My name is Kendan. I am 27 yrs old and have been locked up since 94. I am currently incarcerated at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, IN. I am writing to you in regard to pen pals, speaking to both inmates and any wonderful person willing to look past the obvious hurdles placed on the situation. I have over 10 years insight from a perspective unlike many.

I have seen fellow convicts go through the whole range of emotions connected to this raw and unknown situation. I have seen guys invest themselves only to have unrealistic expectations which leads to certain disaster or polar opposite sides. I've seen guys try to get hold of as many pen pals as possible and say anything they can think of to use and take advantage of those who reach out. These men or just may loose the most important thing anyone in life could hope for, a person that will stand by them be that person everyone hopes to find. No one wants to be alone.

The people who write to inmates have to face reality that some men are just hunting the kind, seem to them as weak, be careful and look for anything that may raise red flags in your mind. I myself didn't write anyone for several years and in 2003 I finally decided it may be nice to find people to share life experiences with. Little did I know one of the first people who initiated contact with me would turn out to be the person I never thought I would meet, and realize that if I wasn't out here for her to find she could very well be with some jerk and the worst part about it is he would be blinded by his own selfish motives that the most amazing woman in the world was right before him.

Once I realized we had feelings for each other I was afraid to invest myself but she had none of it and put her feelings right on the table. I made sure and let her know by falling in love in love with me she was in a sense imprisoning part of herself. I made sure no doubts of the normal stereotypes would enter her mind by introducing my family to her via emails with my mother and niece. I told her I'd never ask for money and that any money she wanted to spend on me to put on phone calls. She in turn told her two sons, who she loves tremendously, about me. I knew she was the one.

Its been over a year now and I love her more than ever. Of course ups and downs are for every relationship, even more so with these types. Communication is paramount and if you need something you are not getting you must voice this. She sent me a copy of this sites newsletter and I thought LostVault was just great, and maybe I could contribute something positive and if I could just help open the eyes of just one person on either side of the bars, I would love it. So you guys realize and appreciate the words, and the people behind them. They just might be the person you never thought you would find. And for those of you writing a person locked up please understand the emotional and mental situation and how fragile it is, no matter how tough and resilient they claim or appear to be, it is a factor and if you do decide to move on in life for whatever reason, don't just disappear, the unknown or uncertainty of a situation is so much harder on the mind of one incarcerated.

Thank you for reading this and any feedback, stories of situations, or questions about anything, I would love to receive. All letters will be read and answered. I truly hope you all find that ideal person, they ARE out there.

~ J. Kendan Bullock

**You can write Kendan at the Newsletter address and it will be forwarded to him.*

A View From The Outside

A Free World Perspective

By Michelle Bean (Sewergrrl)

An Execution "Volunteer"

I once knew an inmate on Texas death row (we used to write occasionally, I'll call him "A") who has recently dropped his appeals and has volunteered for execution. We wrote briefly when I was taking snail mail ads from inmates, but with my very hectic life and so little time for my regular pals, he slipped through the cracks of my mind. I did manage to find him a pen pal, but she proved to be unreliable and eventually stopped writing - yet I did nothing more for this man. One cannot imagine the guilt I feel when faced with this, knowing I could have possibly helped him understand that someone out here does care and wants him to live. But I sat idle and let time pass and his spirit dwindled into hopelessness and despair.

I know I can't save the world and I know this really has nothing to do with me, but I still feel incompetent in my duties as "pen pal fairy" and have considered hanging up my wings. Although I have helped many, I let down A when he needed me, or SOMEONE more than anything in his life.

All I can ask myself is "why?" Why would a healthy human being WANT to die? It's something I cannot imagine no matter how hard I try. Perhaps it is the realization of knowing he's most likely going to be murdered by the state? Are the conditions he must face on a daily basis living on Texas death row too much for him to handle? But I must ask - why help the state along in his murder? Guilty or not and no matter what they have done, NO ONE deserves the inhumane treatment those guys at Polunsky experience. The guards and officials are sanctioned by the State of Texas to protect society from the "monsters" on death row and to simply keep them from harming another human. However, they take it one step further and act as if they are some sort of "divine intervention" attempting to break the inmates down by forcing them into submission. Even with sleep deprivation, gassing, abuse, mental torture, and things I cannot bring to imagine, I still cannot fathom someone wanting to miss a chance at experiencing the beauty of Life and all She offers, no matter the surroundings. Underneath all the detrimental attributes of prison, Life is there waiting for them, even behind the bars that hold them captive. The prison may withhold their mail, feed them putrid bologna sandwiches, and keep them under their proverbial thumb, but they have something the system can NEVER take away - they have themselves. No matter what they are subjected to, they still have something to call their own...the unwavering sense of self and the truths and dreams in their hearts.

I cannot imagine A's mindset knowing he will be murdered next year, and quite frankly, I don't want to ever feel that alone and desperate; no one should ever have to feel that way. Should he change his mind and decide to continue his appeals, he can contribute SOMETHING to the world and his memory. I will never forget him and I hope he reconsiders fighting for his life. A LOT can happen in the time that it would take for his appeals to become exhausted.

I have a regular pal at Polunsky - my best friend on earth, and he was a juvenile when the alleged crime happened that led to him death row. I am convinced the Supreme Court will decide this upcoming session that the murdering of juveniles is unconstitutional; he says that even if that happens, he will die in a cell much like his current one at Polunsky, just later and as a "different" type of inmate. I know even if the Supreme Court rules favorably, the board granting him parole in a few years (if ever) is not likely, but hope I am wrong, as he has so much to offer society. But I *know* him, probably better than I know anyone and I'm sure he wants to live and holds hope for his future - and so do I. His spirit is that of a fighter...a powerful tiger gnawing his prey one moment and the next, basking in the sun belly up and vulnerable. He has this way about him, of making me see things in a

Continued on page 10



Rant & Rave with Matthew and Motty

Voices with Flavor

By Matthew Allen (Kilgore Trout) and Morigayn Johnson (Motty)

This month holds the great trick or treat holiday Halloween! So, we are writing about some of our favorite Halloween memories!

MATTHEW'S RANT:

It was a dark and stormy night, and I was maybe 6, and my parents decided to dress me up like Raggedy Andy. Now I personally cannot tell you the difference between Ann and Andy - So I felt pretty bad about looking like a girl. My older brother had a cool costume, I don't remember what it was but he was more of the Count Dracula/Cool Monster style that year; and my dad was dressed up like a monkey-man from the "Planet of the Apes". OK, so I lied. It wasn't stormy. In Colorado almost every year it snows on Halloween, so it was freezing. Well, that has never stopped us; we hit our block and started going house to house. We were doing pretty well, but it was getting very dark - so dad had us start heading home. There weren't a lot of kids out, but we saw a couple coming. My dad said something like, "Having fun kids?" And they both freaked, started screaming and running away - one kid dropped his bag. It was awesome. We doubled our candy load that year...all thanks to Planet of the Apes.

MOTTY'S RAVE:

My earliest memories of Halloween have always been of lots of hay bails decorated, corn stalks, bonfires, hot wassle and being surrounded by loved ones. Halloween to my family is what Christmas is to most, it's our time to get out all the coolest decorations on the block and celebrate life, new life and good times. While I of course did go trick or treating, it wasn't that which has left all the memories. OK, there was the one time when we all doused our-

selves in cem-light juice (the inside of glow stick things) and then decided to scare our parents and make our mouths glow with it also. It said nontoxic! We really didn't think we'd get that much of a scared reaction...after much talking with poison control, the children involved went home with scolding parents right behind, but over all no worse for the wear. That taste took a few days to get out of my mouth though.

Back to my favorite memories! I think the best was the year that I was the story teller for the haunted hay ride. I was only 13, but it was an adventure! I had to plan a 20 minute long "speech," make it scary and memorize it! There were goblins and wild things popping out of the woods now and then...but over all I had to set the mood. It went well, and I'll leave it at that. *Smirk*

My most favorite thing that has been the same, every year is drinking hot wassle by the bonfire. Hot wassle is basically apple cider and tang. You can add cloves or orange slices also, and the "adult version" which I only recently found out about is to add some rum, brandy or the alcohol of choice around here "corn juice" often known to others as moonshine. Wow! What a kick! I realize that my Halloween's aren't really the "norm" but then...my family isn't really the "norm" either. *smile* I say it's all about life, though you'll find many who think it's about death....but then, everything in life is just what you make of it!

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

Meet our wonderful Russ, a 40 year old Leo who's a "struggling" screenwriter and documentary film producer. He has only one "child," a blond Lab named Thor. He enjoys Rugby and American Football, loves to go kayaking and is a competitive sailor, hoping to one day compete in an around the world race as part of a large crew.

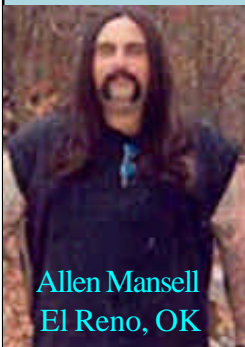
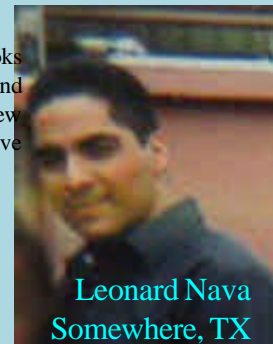


Russ started writing inmates about 2 years ago, when he came across some internet ads and some of them really stood out. He picked up a pen and started writing long-hand, which was something he'd almost forgotten how to do! Needless to say, he's hooked and has been with LV for over a year now. He is someone that always has something witty and intelligent to say. Thank you Russ for being one of the family!

Pen Pals of The Month

Inmates Desiring Mail

Leonard is a Hispanic Male that always looks for the positive. He likes to write poetry and also enjoys drawing. He's looking for a few friends, ones who are "sincere and positive thinking" are preferred.



Allen is a Harley riding, tattoo loving, easy going kind of guy. He's a non-smoking Libra, looking for a good hearted female pen pal to help him out through this bumy time. As he says "Like an old dog at the pound, I'm free to a good home." If nothing else, Allen will keep you in stitches!

If you would like to write Leonard or Allen, 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)



Being in love and committed to a person who is away for years can wear and tear even on the strongest willed people. Coming home after work to an empty home, waiting desperately for those phone calls that don't come through because of asinine blocks, saving up for those oh too short visits and of course the snail mail...appropriately named I might add. After a while it gets old and it begins to gnaw at your insides first like an after-thought, then to an annoyance and further to a full bloom "wanna rip open my chest" to find the source of pain but you know you won't find anything there. It's just a part of the feelings we in the free world feel when we miss our loved ones. We plod through everyday doing our daily tasks, trying not to look too far into the future, not wanting to expect much so that in the end we can be pleasantly surprised if parole was made, if the time cuts were granted, if their sentence was reduced...our hope is always there, sometimes it waivers and the light dims a bit but other times it glows in it's full strength and brightness.

With winter banging at our door, a certain melancholy extends and hangs in the air like the curling wisps of hot vapor that escapes your mouth on a freezing January day. The white curling wisps hang heavily in the air and vanish as quickly as they appeared just to be replaced with new ones as we continue to breath, hope, dream and wish. Sort of like the way we conquer each hill in our relationships with our incarcerated loved ones, they are replaced with another obstacle but each time we get over it we become stronger and better able to face what lies ahead. The loneliness and lack of companionship must affect our loved ones just as much as it affects us in the free world maybe more so because where they are, any show of emotion can signal weakness to others. We out here can turn to our friends and families to give them a hug or a kiss. We find our temporary Band-Aid solace for our lonely hearts with our loved ones out in the free world but what can our incarcerated loved ones do? For some fortunate inmates they are lucky to be able to have pets. This is true such as in a few inmates at Michigan City, IN where cats are allowed to a certain amount of inmates that meet the strict criteria on owning a cat. Other facilities have dog-training programs and the dogs will stay with their inmate trainer and even some inmates have been known to befriend the wild birds and wild beasts. Anyway you look at it human beings are not meant to be solitary creatures. We crave companionship, friendship, love in all levels so when we "out here in the free world" are down in the dumps over missing our loved ones just remember how they must feel with practically no outlet for their emotions and nobody to turn to for comfort in their steel & concrete homes. The only thing we really can do is to be there for each other, pay attention to one another, do the best we can and hopefully we can cajole a few laughs along the way. If I could find the solution to alleviate the loneliness we feel out here and in there I would have long ago bottled it and given it out for free! Oh how I wish, I wish I could!

This Month's Question:

Libbie,

Do you think sex with a person I am not in love with will affect my relationship? My boyfriend is going to be away for years and I do love him but I am still young and one part of me says I should stay faithful but another part of me sometimes whispers otherwise. Am I wrong to think like this? I feel guilty sometimes and other times I am just like "I didn't get myself into prison!" Then I look at my sweethearts big, brown eyes and feel the guilt rolling in...

Missing in Action, CA

Hi MIA,

Sex, love & companionship are human wants and I would even dare to say needs. No we don't need it to sustain life such as we need food and water but I think to remain emotionally and mentally healthy we do need them. Each situation regarding remaining monogamous when your loved one is in prison is different. A lot of times in a situation like this my heart will say one thing while my head says another. I think you definitely need to discuss this with your boyfriend so you both know where the boundaries lie and from there you can discuss and see what is comfortable and acceptable to both parties. What I would do might not necessarily be what you would do.

One thing I do feel is that though it is natural for your boyfriend to not want you to be with anyone else, if he doesn't already he needs to understand also that as you say you are young and you cannot let your life just sit still while he is away. You are still out here living life, so if you choose to take care of needs that you may have, then I don't think he can fault you for doing that. I would suggest not rubbing it in his face but this is something that should be discussed with your significant other and in depth so no misunderstandings can occur in the future.

I can say in my life right now I know what I want and what I might be feeling but further on down the road, a few years from here things might change. I don't mean your feelings for your boyfriend will change, I mean the commitment of you wanting to remain a lone might change. It's all really different for each individual and really a matter of what is important to you in priorities. I personally feel that if your boyfriend or girlfriend is down for a long time, they shouldn't expect you to do what they want you to do., they should accept that you will do what you want to do and that you know what is best for you. But again communication with your loved one is the key here.

~Libbie

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.

REMINDER!

**LostVault Anti-Death Penalty Graphic Contest
date extended to December 15, 2004.**

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, mousepads, coffee mugs, etc. Proceeds from the sale of these items will go directly to LostVault and continue to keep our services free to internet users posting your ads! We will be offering cash prizes for first and second place. The top 4 pieces will be featured in the January edition of our newsletter and both of the winning pieces will be featured on the items for sale. See our September issue of *LostVault: Unlocked* for guidelines.

Please send your non-returnable submission to:

LostVault: Unlocked

P.O. Box 294

Washburn, TN 37888



The Way

I would sit in a room, day after day
 Having thoughts, I'd dare not say
 Feeling low, feeling grim
 The thoughts of the future always dim
 Will it get better? I would think at last
 Would all of my troubles remain in the past?
 Who would know? Who could tell?
 This stage of my life, on the fringe of Hell
 Searching for a way to make things right
 I was having trouble seeing the light
 This way or that. Which way to go?
 I questioned myself, I did not know
 My head in my hands, not a word to say
 Drowning in despair, I would begin to pray
 As I prayed, things were extremely bright
 I knew at that moment, I was seeing the light
 In my life, a new page was found
 Had my head out the clouds, my feet on the ground
 No more troubles on this new day
 Putting my trust in God, I found the way.

Jason Cook, Unadilla, GA



Carl Lindsey - Mansfield, OH



Charles Hood - Livingston, TX

Nostalgic October

It's mid-October...68 degrees... some feeling, a smell... it's change.
 I saw the stars tonight... it's been forever.
 I got the feeling that their entire purpose was to instill wonder and amazement... diamonds... a gift.
 I notice my own hands... fascinating... the precision of my own movements.
 Though there are many things I don't understand, I'm certain, without a doubt... that I am not along.
 I think of Aristotle and I'm reminded that, "Friendship is two souls dwelling in one body."
 For within my body the love and compassion of another dwells... the connection is undeniable.
 I realize that no walls, or doors, or bars can contain what I feel... a love for the human spirit.
 Just as they turn out the lights, I close my eyes and smile.

David Collins - Florence, SC



Vault Jokes & Junk

...The Fun Side of Life

BRICK BY BRICK

Rearrange this stack of bricks to form a crossword puzzle. The clues will help you fit the bricks onto their correct places. Row 1 has been filled in for you. use the bricks to fill in the remaining spaces

ACROSS

1. Shoo!
Musical symbols
Airport
abbreviations
2. Bathe
Treasure ____
Tablet
3. Russian tsar
4. "____ Dawn"
Great Lake
Wide shoe width
5. Donkeys
Stool
6. Noise
Labor
Directed
7. Bow
Biblical village
Ear parts
8. Thai monetary unit
Dissect
Cleave
9. Prophets
Arrangement
Lobster coral
10. General police call:
abbr.
Seltzer
Place of retreat
11. Tried a bit of
____ rabbit
(cheese dish)
12. Hoopla
Akkadian god
Of Zeno's philosophy
13. Object of Ponce
de Leon's quest
14. Marine flier
Aquarium fish
Confused
15. Make over
Build
Quiz

DOWN

1. Slipped
Specks
More secure
2. Spelunker's milieu
"Dies ____"
Worship
3. Deluge
Hill
4. Wigwams
Golf hazard
New: pref.
5. "A ____ of Honey"
Banana creation
6. Utmost degree
Ages
Scold
7. Mined matter
Aspects
Less moist
8. Type of bag
Cherishes
Stake
9. Tennis's Chris ____
Haul again
Grampus
10. Done in
installments
Brazen
Obese
11. "____ Without a
Cause"
____-walsy
12. Outer: pref.
Stench
Ermine
13. River in Italy
Aviary
14. ____ couverte
Bacchanal's cry
Inhabitants: suff.
15. Precipitation
Witnessed
Rap

Answer to Last Month's
Puzzle



SYLLACROSTIC

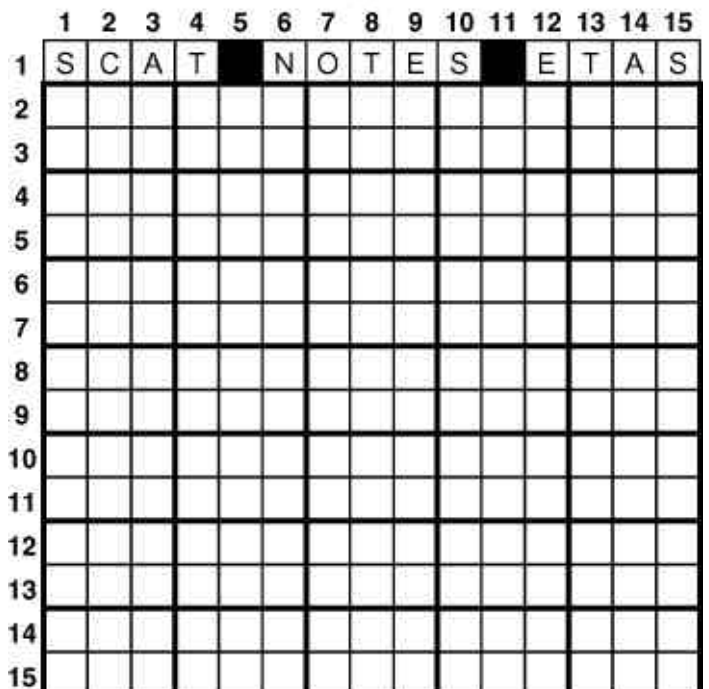
(Jackie) Gleason: The greatest waste of money is to keep it.

1. Gracious, 2. Lariat, 3. Educate, 4. Avocado, 5. Stroganoff, 6. Optimum, 7. Navajo, 8. Tuition, 9. Hesitate, 10. Empty, 11. Gemini, 12. Rumpus, 13. Elegant, 14. Amigo, 15. Turtleneck, 16. Elude, 17. Sesame, 18. Turnip, 19. Waikiki, 20. Acrobat.

BRICKS

ST	IL	EP	DIN	ADO
FYO	DOR	RRI	ARC	FOU
APB	OIC		DA	EEE
PLE	UTH	SAM	ELS	RET
TO	DEN	RR	LAV	SO
EN	H	UP	IVA	DW
ET	ETR	LED	IVE	SEA
NTH	REC	LO	ROE	EST
IR	EVE	ER	RA	ILL
NTA	SET	ST	INO	BLE
IE	AA	ROV		ERN
ABO	TT	ETE	BES	RED
DEL	BAH	TS	TA	ET
A	SEE	RS	SSE	OE

DIAGRAM



LostVault Ads

To my favorite stripper,

My heart beats faster hearing your news, but I am optimistic. Please never fear that anything you say would cause me pain. I am here for you, no matter what you need - you can count on me. My outstretched hand is yours forever.



I love you,
Grasshopper



Danny,

To my very own oasis in the desert, thank you for the nourishment you bring to my life. Keep shelter in my heart, whilst I cradle your soul. You are amazing and no longer alone. Have the happiest birthday possible sweetie. Je t'aime.

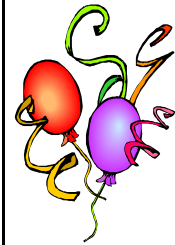
Your Angel,
Tams {*mwah*}



Hey Monkey,

Over the past seven months, you've become such a blessing in my life, and you can always make me smile. Thanks for being such an amazing friend, and never stop being your wonderful self. Happy 25th Birthday, Papi (there, I said it). Much love as always,

Dez



Nov. 1

Happy Birthday Sugar
I'll be thinking of you on your special day.

Hugs and Kisses

Carol



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

Hector,

Just wanted to let you know that I am thinking about you. Take care and hope to hear and see you soon.

Love,
Gloria



Horoscopes

A Future Glimpse
November 2004

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You probably aren't getting straight answers to your questions. Try to be considerate in your personal obligations. Don't waste this exciting day by sitting at home. Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21) Take the time to close deals that have been up in the air. Valuable information can be yours if you listen to those with experience. You may not have the same ideas when it comes to what you both enjoy. You may have taken on a little too much, but you will enjoy every minute of it.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Try not to be overly generous. Look into ways that you can make extra cash. You'll regret every word for some time to come. Regardless of your first reaction, the outcome will be favorable.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Loss or theft may occur if you are careless with your belongings. You can ferret out secret information if you just listen to what others have to say. Either way, you're up for a passionate encounter with someone special. Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You should be able to tie up loose ends this month. You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Don't bend to the pressure. Someone you work with could have a personal interest in you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. You have a lot to offer. Be prepared to neutralize any threats. Don't overspend on entertainment, on children, or make poor investments.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Concentrate on work. Reevaluate your motives. Get busy on those home improvement projects that you've been procrastinating about. Socialize with friends, but don't overspend on lavish entertainment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Don't give in too quickly. Don't push your mate if you want to keep this union going. Try to control your irritability if you're experiencing emotional problems with your partner. Organize all the responsibilities that have to be attended to and make sure everyone knows what to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Stabilize your own position by locking up your savings. Compromising could be on the agenda this month. Your flair for dramatic appeal will unleash itself at social functions. It is best not to upset the apple cart if you learn information that may damage a colleague's reputation.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will be in the doghouse if you are being. Sudden changes could result in estrangements. Romance will unfold through business trips. Make sure that you get legal matters checked out thoroughly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) Deception may cause disputes you can do without. In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. Problems with relatives and friends could surface. Dig deep to find out how costly a new venture will be before you sign on the dotted line.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You can make headway if you share your intentions with someone you care about. Be careful not to push your luck or take too much for granted when dealing on either a personal or professional level. You could be misinterpreted if you're not careful. Don't take advantage of your expense account.

An Execution "Volunteer" Continued from page 5

different perspective and taking a second appreciative look at a field of flowers, a rainstorm, or a child laughing with ice cream all over his face. He is my soulmate, my mind, and my heart. Although we are just friends, I love him more and more with every breath I take. I have never met someone as incredible as he is and my life has invaluable changed since reaching across the razor wire and concrete and asking for his hand in friendship.

My best friend said to me in a recent letter: *"I wish sometimes I could tell you all that your letters mean to me, about how they always find me when I most need them, and how they always contain 'something' which makes me desire for more days, for more Life. Of how sometimes I read them as if they were written to someone else, and yes, as if they were messages from Life itself. I know that you are there for me, I know it more fully than your words could say or make me believe. Flowery words do not give 'meaning' nor do they make evident, all the truths that you give me. I understand the language of your soul, and decipher all the sincerity, compassion, strength and love that your words radiate, and their power is not lost to me. I know I gripe and moan, but inwardly I send silent thanks for your ability to read and hear my needs through my mute lips."*

What does that have to do with anything? That in itself is my reason for LostVault. I started taking ads from death row inmates long before LV was even a dream and posted them on PTO (<http://www.prisontalk.com>), another prison support website. I found pals for so many prisoners and felt like I was doing something and giving back for all the joy they gave to me. Perhaps with one letter, a budding friendship could flourish and give those death row inmates a reason to WANT to live. I never intended to "save their souls" but if my ads could help even one person realize how precious the entity of Life is and fight harder to save his or hers, then I would accomplish more with that one person than most could in an entire lifetime. And I did...

Although I have helped many death row inmates get that breath of Life back in them, I feel I failed my "overlooked" friend A. He needed ME and I wasn't there. I know I'm not to blame for him dropping his appeals, but I feel that I could have given him the strength and that breath of hope for his future, no matter how short or long it would be...either myself or by actively searching for a friend for him. He's on death row and I know there's nothing he or I could do to change that situation, but maybe, just maybe, had someone given him the few minutes it takes to write a letter, then he would be yearning "for more days, for more Life."

