



Issue No. 9

IN THIS ISSUE

Ads	10
Dear Libbie	7
Death Row	4
From The Editor's Desk	2
Horoscopes	10
LostVault - Who We Are And What We Do	2
Motty's Porch.	6
Pen Pals of The Month	6
Prison News	3
Vault Jokes & Junk	9
Vaulter of the Month	6
View From The Outside, A	5
Inmate Art and Writing	8

**Administrative Segregation -
Necessary Evil?**

by Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi)

The purpose of Administrative Segregation (Ad Seg) is to separate a group of offenders from general prison population. People with drug/gambling problems, gang members, or people associated with gangs, child molesters and people from minority groups are often placed in Ad Seg for institutional safety reasons. Inmates may also be confined to Ad Seg for their own safety (Protective custody).

Those in segregated population often have small cells and are locked up 23 hours per day. The condition of the cells can vary from institu-

tion to institution, and reports show that the better the surroundings are, the easier the inmate will cope with being in segregation. It is also important to note that there are different levels of segregation, and that this article will only touch a few points on a very large topic, and in a very general manner.

Several authors argue that segregation has severe negative psychological effects on inmates. These authors, primarily lawyers and clinical psychologists, have mainly relied upon interviews of segregated inmates and anecdotes to draw their conclusions.

Studies done on female inmates in segregation show signs of depersonalization, denied individuality, sexually abuse, humiliation, rage, claustrophobia, severe depression, withdraw and they are forced into hopelessness. The concern for all segregated inmates is the lack of human touch and contact, without it they may suffer from sensory disturbance, perceptual distortions and loss of perceptual constancy. In general, we can't say that all segregated inmates will suffer as noted above, but very few will escape unscathed by the experience.

It is understandable that prison facilities are in need of an option for the most violent offenders, or those who cannot or will not adapt to the rules and regulations within a prison. News stories about how inmates attack officers and other inmates are not rare. The results done on inmates in Ad Seg aren't always conclusive because one doesn't necessarily know if the characteristics come from isolation or prior mental illness. Mental illness in prison raises many new questions. Shouldn't mentally sick persons be in medical facilities where they could get the proper treatment? Wouldn't that lower the risk for staff and other inmates if they were? It would also be safer and more human for persons suffering from mental impairments .

Many inmates in Ad Seg have done everything possible to improve themselves, but face repeated denial by parole boards quite often due to the fact that they housed where they are. It's easy to assume that a prisoner segregated from the others must be a risk to society. Shouldn't there be work programs, educational programs, treatment programs and so forth for Ad Seg prisoners also? How can prison officials, politicians and others refuse to see what seems so clear? There is no rehabilitation in Ad Seg. The inmates are pretty much left to themselves. Sooner or later several of those housed in Ad Segs around USA will be released, and I wonder if there will be any programs picking them up when they are. I hardly think so. It makes me wonder which way will be easiest – the road back to life or the road back to prison?

There is no doubt in my mind that segregation is needed in some cases. It just seems unreasonable that some get a permanent stay there without any offers to work against something – a goal. There are be enough studies done on the human race to prove that the healthier the environment, the better we behave and strive to reach our goals. Who can better or prove to themselves and prison officials that they have changed when locked up in a cell 23 hours per day?



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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Michelle Bean (Sewergrrl)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Morigayn Johnson (Motty)
LAYOUT AND DESIGN: Michelle Bean (Sewergrrl)
MONTHLY COLUMNISTS:

Joanna L. Massing (Libbie) - Dear Libbie
 Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi) - Death Row
 Lisa Maurer (WVGirl) - A View From The Inside
 Michelle Bean (Sewergrrl) - A View From The Outside
 Morigayn Johnson (Motty) - Motty's Porch
LOGO ART: Steven Alvarado - Livingston, TX

CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS:

Juan Aguilar - New Boston, TX
 Chris Binch - Lovelady, TX
 Milton Henry - Hardwick, GA
 Joe Paul - Huntsville, TX

LostVault: Unlocked and its monthly columnists collect all of its information contained in the articles from a vast array of sources using the internet and other parties. *LostVault: Unlocked* cannot be held responsible for the contents or accuracy and does not necessarily share the opinions of its columnists. This Newsletter is published and distributed for the sole use of prisoners, prisoner's families and friends, LostVault members, potential members, and is strictly for amusement and educational purposes only. The articles contained herein are no substitute for legal research and the columnists are not legal professionals. Prisoners seeking to use any of the information in this newsletter should consult their attorney. The articles contained herein are not a substitute for legal advice, nor does *LostVault: Unlocked* provide legal guidance. The use of any portion of the newsletter is prohibited without written consent of a *LostVault: Unlocked* representative. *When submitting articles, poems, artwork or letters to the editor, please include how you would like your name credited. Also indicate if you wish to have your facility listed. For example: Chris B. ~ Beaumont USP, Beaumont, TX*

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 the merry month of December! At LostVault, we've done a lot of growing the past month, both with pen pals and members of the free world. This is a good thing and hopefully that means that any inmate looking for a pen pal on our site has one or will have one soon.

If you look over the left, you'll see that we women have driven off the testosterone we once had. *sigh* I guess that's just how we clingy women are. Matthew is still around, but just doesn't have a lot of spare time to write for us. And I think there was a comment about me being too demanding or something. *smirk* Maybe we'll find us a bit of "maleness" (my own word) to get back in the Newsletter in some form.

I'm sure you've read the feature for this month on Ad Seg by Lene, and I'd say you are just stopping here to see what little I have to say this month as editor before you move on. All I really have left is to thank all the contributors, readers and supporters of *LostVault: Unlocked*. Oh...and one more thing, SEND US ART! Or poems, or something for "The View from the Inside" or a suggestion of what you hate or love about the newsletter. I will nag and nag until I can get this into you all that this newsletter IS for you, the inmates, just as much as us in the free world...I dare say more for you all really. We can't tailor it to you if we don't hear from you. *hint hint hint*

I want to apologize whole heartedly for this month being late. It really was going to be on time, but I have had 3 weeks of morning sickness. It's no excuse for not getting the Newsletter done on time, but I hope that I can squeeze a little forgiveness out of you all this last month of being late getting it published. My New Years goal is to have the Newsletter out "closer to the first" every month. :)

Well, I guess I leave you this month as editor with Happy and Blessed Holidays!

~Motty~



Happy Holidays from the Staff
 of *LostVault: Unlocked*



Prison News

News From Around the Globe

Inmates Display Their Talent

PRINCESS ANNE, MD. - Many of the men working at a Lower Eastern Shore prison art shop say they wouldn't trade jobs with anyone, at least not with any of the other 3,500 inmates at the Eastern Correctional Institution in Princess Anne. Over the holidays some of their best work will be on display in small-town Christmas parades all over the Lower Shore.

Though the inmates will not be operating the floats they make, they are proud to be able to have their work shown. Their latest entry, 62 feet long and featuring a cast of cartoon characters, flashing lights and a "flying" reindeer with a red nose, is scheduled to roll down Market Street in Pocomoke City 's Christmas parade and will be operated by prison staff.

Dad's Attempt to Teach Lesson Backfires

NEWARK, N.J. - A father's attempt to teach his daughter a lesson about drinking backfired when the teen led police to a stash of drugs and weapons inside their home.

Kevin Winston, 46, called police at 2:45 a.m. on a recent Friday after his 16-year-old daughter came home drunk and unruly. When police arrived, however, the girl told them she feared for her safety because her father stored drugs and weapons in the home.

The girl led officers to a crawl space above the ceiling where they found four semiautomatic guns and more than 600 vials of cocaine. Winston was charged with numerous weapons and drug charges. His five daughters were placed in the custody of a relative. "He called us on her and ended up getting locked up himself," said Newark Police Director Anthony Ambrose.

Man arrested for Shooting Cell Phones into Prison

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Authorities in Sweden arrested a man who shot mobile phones into the yard of a high-security prison with a bow and arrows, police said. The 25-year-old man is charged with planning to aid a prison escape and could get up to a year in jail, police said.

The suspect, whose name was not released, taped two cell phones and a battery charger to three arrows, and fired them over the 12-foot wall into Mariefred prison outside Stockholm on Friday night, police spokeswoman Susanne Abrahamsson said. It was unclear which inmates were supposed to receive the phones, Abrahamsson said.

Using a bow to get phones into prison seems to be a new technique, Abrahamsson. "As far as I know, this is a first," she said.

Inmates Serving Life Make Quilts for the Homeless

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Dozens of homeless people in Columbus were given quilts over the weekend made by lifers at the Ohio Reformatory for Women near Marysville.

Most of those huddled under the quilts for this

winter won't know or care that the first piece was stitched into place when first lady Hope Taft visited the 2003 Ohio State Fair.

Taft asked members of the Goodtime Quilters of Circleville if they could provide materials and instruction to Marysville inmates. Then she contacted Wings of Hope, a Columbus group run by Diane and Cordell Robinson which helps feed and clothe the homeless.

The 71 inmates serving a life sentence for murder or complicity to murder who helped make the quilts also tapped into their meager inmate accounts from prison jobs to contribute \$1,000 to Wings of Hope. The prison staff chipped in an additional \$280.

Gloria Vasquez, offender program administrator for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, said the charity work is good for the prisoners and, as a fringe benefit, keeps them calm and out of trouble.

"It was from their heart, without a doubt. It made them feel good, to know they could possibly save a life." Emotions ran high on Nov. 8 when Taft visited the prison to thank the inmates.

"It was overwhelming to think that these women had such compassion and worked so hard and (had) done so much with so little," she said.

Stephanie O'Bell, 48, of Euclid, a Marysville inmate serving a life sentence who helped make quilts, tearfully recalled the visit. "That was the most awesome day," she said. "When she got up there and said, 'You are all angels,' never could anyone imagine, after all the things we've taken from society, that anyone would call us angels.

"I looked back and the women's faces were all lit up" said Taft.

Martha Inmates Stewing

Seven weeks after her arrival at a West Virginia women's prison, Martha Stewart is still sleeping in digs meant for new inmates — leading fellow inmates to gripe that she's getting preferential treatment, jail sources told The Post.

Stewart, who in October began serving her time on charges of obstruction of justice for lying to investigators about her stock trades, lives in a dormitory-style cottage that's meant for 80 women but actually houses far fewer, prisoners said.

The doyenne of domesticity has access to a kitchenette there, where she practices her culinary craft with a microwave. She regularly boasts about wanting to write a microwave cookbook after leaving the Big House early next year, inmates said.

"The inmates are starting to grumble. It's getting to the point where she should have been moved already," said one.

Besides her housing situation, inmates also cite Stewart's cushy work assignment — maintenance duty in the prison's administrative offices — as evidence of the special treatment.

But officials at the Federal Prison Camp in rural Alderson, W.Va., have repeatedly denied doing anything special for their celebrity prisoner

One inmate says Stewart has gotten notice for some rudeness in the chow line — including dipping her eating spoon in the salad dressings, grabbing items from the salad bar with her hands and cutting in line.

And once, a prisoner says, Stewart angered another inmate by eating with her elbows on the table. "She told Martha, 'We're not savages,'" the source said.

But Stewart has done many favors that have made her welcome with her fellow inmates — including preparing meals and advocating improvements to the prison library.

As a guest speaker for an Oct. 16 event hosted by the prison's Women in Islam group, she expressed her disdain for the library's collection.

"She complained about the books she's received," a letter said. "She told the women if she could help them in any way, she would."

Stewart also spends much of her limited free time these days exercising, teaching yoga, reading mail, typing letters, crocheting and watching television with her fellow inmates. Her daughter, Alexis, visits regularly on weekends.



Death Row

Capital Punishment Talk

by Lene Gabrielsen (Cassi)

Where are you Christmas?

It's December again. It must be a sign that I'm getting older since one year seems like a blink of an eye. When I was a child I loved Christmas. Waiting for the big day was almost unbearable. I knew where my parents "hid" the presents, and I would sneak in and try to guess what was in them. And now, I have children of my own, and they are doing the same thing. I still love Christmas - not because of presents for myself anymore, but I love my children's excitement and happiness for everything that's happening. I love to prepare for Christmas with them; we bake and decorate the house. I love the colors and brightness of all the lights Christmas brings with it. But since I'm no longer a child I know Christmas is more than presents and joy. It's also about separation, longing and loneliness. I'm thinking about my friends behind bars and everything they are missing out on. It must be harder to be confined this time of year. There is no way to really escape Christmas unless you don't turn on your TV, radio, open a magazine, newspaper or open any mail at all. Many of you have loved ones out here and you know that we are thinking about you, and that we wish that we could share Christmas with you, or at least make it a more pleasant time for you. Most of us are trying to the only way we know how to - by telling you that you are thought of. You are loved. And as we tell you, we know that maybe the person next to you have no one. It's not only inside the walls this time of year is the loneliest one. Many people around the world - in the free world experience it too. Maybe because we get so reminded that this is a happy season, a family season? For me it is a family time, because I am surrounded by it, and that makes it a happy time. But - my friends - you are with me in my heart and mind.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a better New Year!

In Memorium - May They Rest in Peace

- 11/02/04 - Lorenzo Morris (TX)
- 11/04/04 - Robert Morrow (TX)
- 11/09/04 - Demarco McCullum (TX)
- 11/10/04 - Frederick McWilliams (TX)
- 11/12/04 - Frank Chandler (NC)
- 11/17/04 - Anthony Fuentes (TX)



Justices Refused to Hear Appeals of Two Alabama DR Inmates

The U-S Supreme Court rejected appeals from two Alabama death row inmates. Justices, without comment, refused to hear the case of a death row inmate of Montgomery. He was sentenced to die for gunning down Montgomery police officer Anderson Gordon during a chase in September 1997. Prosecutors said [the inmate] was attempting to flee from a bail bondsman when Gordon was shot five times on a west Montgomery street.

In another case — the high court also turned away the appeal of a 52-year-old of Anniston. He was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to die in the August 1998 shooting death of his estranged wife and wounding another woman, who has since recovered. Both victims were shot inside a car at a residence in Anniston.

Lawmakers Look At Death Penalty Study

The surprise House vote last week to require a study of Ohio's death penalty system reflected both a national debate over moral values as well as old-fashioned legislative maneuvering.

The bill by Democratic Representative Shirley Smith collected dust in Republican-controlled committees the past 4 years.

Then conservative Republican Rep. Tom Brinkman unexpectedly tried adding it to an unrelated bill on criminal sentencing. Brinkman is a Roman Catholic who opposes abortion and capital punishment.

His ploy gathered enough last-minute Republican support to give it the votes needed to pass. Doug Berman is an Ohio State law professor who studies the death penalty. He says the vote could reflect the conversation about moral values during the just concluded election.

117th Innocent Person Freed From Death Row

Ernest Willis became the eighth person exonerated from Texas's death row on October 6, 2004, and the 117th person freed nationwide since 1973. Willis was sentenced to death 17 years ago for allegedly setting a house fire that killed two people.



U. S. District Judge Royal Ferguson held that the state had administered medically inappropriate antipsychotic drugs without Willis' consent; that the state suppressed evidence favorable to Willis; and that Willis received ineffective representation at both the guilt and sentencing phases of his trial. He ordered the state to either free Willis or retry him. The state attorney general's office declined to appeal, and prosecutors dropped all charges against Willis.

The district attorney hired a new fire expert to examine the evidence, and his conclusion was that "[t]here is not a single item of physical evidence in this case which supports a finding of arson."

District Attorney Ori White, concluded that Willis "simply did not do the crime. ... I'm sorry this man was on death row for so long and that there were so many lost years."



A View From The Outside

A Free World Perspective

by Michelle Bean (Sewergrrl)



A Reflection...

I've been thinking a lot about my life & where I've been and where I'm going. It's amazing when I look back at my past how different I am today from a year ago...even a few months ago and how much better of a person I have become. I always so desperately wanted to be different - in a different place, doing something else, actively working toward something — anything, and I wanted to be happy. I thought I was content and comfortable, but I never felt truly happy and never had a reason to smile *just because*.

The events leading up to the present find me shaking my head as to what I was thinking and why I stayed somewhere that was holding me back from progressing. Perhaps I was afraid of change or scared of failing if I pursued an alternate avenue? For so long I lacked confidence and the drive to do anything. Seeking betterment, I enlisted the help of acupuncture and that proved to be a useful tool in changing some aspects, but there was still the situation in which I lived. For so long I knew I wasn't happy and I wasn't in love with the person who was supposed to be my future. I refused to admit my Truth, lying to myself, my friends/family and lived my days as if everything was fine. I endured this day after day for what? **I don't know!!!**

Some background for those that aren't aware of my recent trials and tribulations: I caught my boyfriend of 4 years cheating on me (actually doing the deed!), beat him up, and promptly left that situation and ventured into an unknown world alone. After about 8 hours of remorse for my years lost to this man, I began to wonder why I sat idle as long as I did. I wasn't happy and I wasn't where I needed or wanted to be. I was finally going to do what I wanted — I was going to LIVE! While most people would feel hurt and betrayed, I have no animosity toward the ex because he did me a huge favor: he freed me and forced me to take total control of my life and happiness. I actually thanked him for what he did to me and meant it wholeheartedly.

I deserve to be happy and damn it, I AM HAPPY! I am so happy because the sun shines into my office in the morning, I like my job/boss/coworkers, I have a great family, my friends are odd yet lovable, I buy myself fresh flowers and presents often. It's a combination of everything and nothing specific! Each day is new and different with the potential to be better than the last. I'm incredibly giddy, laughing at most things and enjoying myself. I thought Life was meant to be "gotten through" and then you might get what you want later, but now it's all at my feet and I can do whatever the hell I want. And I am!

As I sit here reflecting, I suggest that you, my readers, do the same. Are you happy? I don't mean with your situation, as I imagine prison life sucks, but are you happy with WHO you are? Can you look in the mirror each morning and say to yourself, "I may not like who I was, but I like (or am liking) the person I am (or am becoming)"? If your answer is yes, congratulations — you've taken at least the first step to being happy. If you're like I once was, then I can imagine there are a lot of long faces. Change is hard and scary — trust me, I know! But if you don't change your life, then who will change it for you? Your Mama can't do it and your friends can't do it...only YOU possess the ability to change any aspect of your life. Believe that and you can take control and make yourself happy. I know some of you are saying that I had it easy, as I was pushed along back into the world and forced to face this situation. You're right to an extent, but I could have sat here whining and crying and flat out refused to alter myself because I was afraid of what I may or may not have found. We've all been put in situations that either we deserved or didn't deserve — it's how you use your time that makes the difference to being happy. I grabbed Life by the proverbial balls and it has proved to turn out in my favor. YOU can do the same.

As I go through my days, I find out new things about myself I never knew and things I didn't care to admit. Many are good and some are bad; I take the unfavorable attributes and either change them or acknowledge them as part of me and accept that I'm not perfect. I have noticed that time seems to be going so slow these days as I notice everything around me. I am in love with sunrises & sunsets, Diet Pepsi, my new apartment, the fact that my cat "Beast" snores, daisies and the trains that pass by my office building every morning and afternoon...they go southbound in the AM and northbound in the PM! There were 23 refrigerated Tropicana train cars the other afternoon, so I'm noticing the smallest things and they make me happy. I still cannot believe orange juice trains made me smile, but I'm taking it all in and loving every second of my "new" life.

Even existing in a situation you can't change, you can still change yourself. Make every day count and take the time to notice the little things and realize the beauty they hold. Relish a breathtaking thunderstorm, a letter from your pen pal, the food you have to eat, a caterpillar crawling on a stick — anything! Life is entirely too short to let it lead you and to be truly happy, you must make *yourself* happy. Realize you aren't perfect, never will be perfect and at best, you will always be a work in progress.

Want my view on something specific? I'm always looking for suggestions for new articles and would love your input. Send me a letter at the address on Page 2 - make sure you specify you are writing to Sewergrrl and our wonderful Editor Motty will make sure I get your mail.



Motty's Porch

Ramblings from the South

by Morigayn Johnson (Motty)

This being the month of holidays, I decided that I just didn't know enough about holidays that some of my friends celebrate and wanted to learn. I set out on a quest...to learn more about Boxing Day, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Yule. While all of these holidays are about giving thanks...they each have their own meanings, and origins. I could never fit all of the research I've found in this short space (and probably not the whole Newsletter) so I'm going to share a little about each. I feel it's important to learn about "our neighbors" if it be literally the Jewish family next door, or as in case with Boxing Day and Kwanza (the same as Kwanzaa, but the original African spelling) our neighbors from over seas, so if you want to learn a little this month.....

Boxing Day falls on December 26 and is mainly celebrated in Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand. No one know for sure how it started, but most people agree to an extent that its origins come from one of the following: The day after Christmas was the day that churches opened their "alms boxes" (boxes used to collect money for the poor) and gave out the money or bought food for the poorer community and handed it out. The other is Nobles used to open up their homes and throw a party or give gifts to the servants and working class of the land. Boxing Day is now to many "just another day off work" but some still do be sure to give left overs or other goodies to the poor.

Christmas was originally the pagan holiday of Yule (Winter Solstice, when Pagans celebrate the rebirth of the "Sun God" or Male Divinity since after the Solstice days start getting longer again) to convert Pagans over to Christianity. From Yule it evolved into a holiday to celebrate the birth of

Jesus, helping the poor and giving cards and gifts. It's celebrated by Christians (and others) on December 25th, though now as most of us know, is based upon Santa (who comes from St. Nicholas) and gifts. "St. Nick" was a man from 4th century Turkey (then called Myra) who wanted to give gifts and money to the poor without them knowing. It's said that he used to climb on houses to drop the gift down the chimney.

Chanukah (or Hanukkah) starts on December 7th and lasts for 8 days. It is the Festival of Lights and is a celebration of the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. It also commemorates the miracle of the small amount of oil that burned for 8 days. Hanukkah is celebrated all over the world by people of the Jewish faith.

Kwanzaa, meaning "first fruits of the harvest" in Kiswahili, is celebrated for seven days starting on December 26th. It is a celebration with focus on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce, and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious and despite some misconceptions, is not a substitute for Christmas. It is celebrated by approximately 18 million people world wide, most being of African descent.

The "Motty's Porch" column is about life. Please submit things to use as inspiration, or even things to make her ponder. Motty's opinion is gladly shared as long as the subject is "PG-13." Motty wants your input!! Page 2 for mailing address, please note on correspondence you are writing to Motty.

Vaulter of the Month

One of LostVault's Finest

Jackie is known to us as "BrooksAngel" a '20 something' mom of 5 boys ages 3-12 (heaven help her!) who's in the entertainment field and has a love who is incarcerated. She has 1 cat named Phoenix, and "too many dust bunnies to name!"

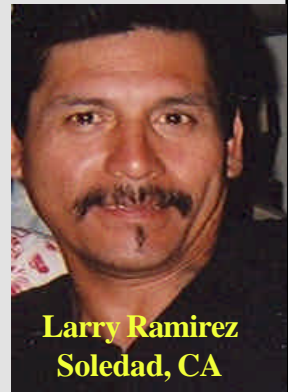
Jackie started writing to inmates other than Brooks about 5 months ago, to help her to be more supportive of him and to get a better feel for what life on the inside is like. She now has a few very close friends and wishes she would have started writing sooner for each of them have brought something new and wonderful to her in their own ways. About her pals she states, "I wouldn't trade any of my pals for all the world!"



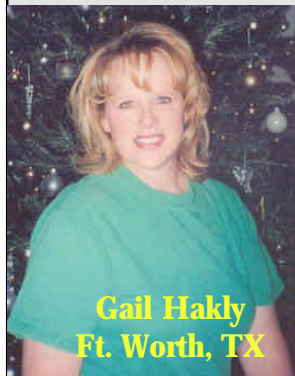
Pen Pals of The Month

Inmates Desiring Mail

Larry is a 46 year old Hispanic male in search of a friend to pass the time and to share laughs together. He likes to work out, fish, and listen to Tejano music. He describes himself as considerate, caring and very passionate about his family and those he cares about.



Larry Ramirez Soledad, CA



Gail Hakly Ft. Worth, TX

Gail is an "over 29" year old (what lady likes to tell her real age) *smile* white female looking for a pen pal or long term relationship. She loves the outdoors, romance and has a great personality. She is a widow with two grown children.

If you would like to write Larry or Gail, 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)



When we think of Christmas we think of the Yuletide season full of good spirits, laughter, love, a ton of presents to give and receive; a winter wonderland where Santa, Rudolph and the elves all scurry about to make Christmas a special time to all. Unfortunately as we became adults we realized that Santa isn't real and we have to help create our own happiness and to make the holidays special for ourselves and the ones we love. It would be easy if we could do as we do with our friends and family out in the free world and express our seasons good spirits by showering our incarcerated loved ones with all the bright, exciting, fantastic gift ideas that we are thinking about. Coinciding with this thought, I recently received an email and this person asked the question, "How can I make this holiday season special for my guy since most everything I would want to give him would be unacceptable and denied by the mailroom?" I thought about that and even though the holiday season is about much more than materialistic, monetary gifts and what we can buy for our incarcerated loved ones, like the rest of the world buying that one, special gift for them is something we would really like to do. It would be such a good feeling to be able to send our guy a nice warm sweater that is in any other color other than the tans, blues and whites that overrun the prison uniforms. Tickets to their favorite sporting game, the latest & greatest electronic gadget, or to our gal a spa treatment to bathe her from head to foot in luxury or perhaps just a big barrel of their favorite penny candy. Just anything that is not on the commissary list. But we can't and this puts us in a position to become more creative and try to come up with a wonderful idea to express our love, show them how special they are to us and just to say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Feliz Navidad, in our own special way without them getting those annoying mail room confiscation letters. And boy are they annoying!

One way we came up with to say Happy Holidays to our guys, gals & pals is the dedications that readers sent in expressing their thoughts and feelings for their loved ones. Merry and Safe Christmas to all and Happy 2005!

To Nick, I just want you to know that I love you and will always be here for you. I am going to be here by your side and will be until you are out no one can change that! Will you marry me?!

~Love, Rochenda

Danny, a new year is about to start and I look forward to spending every day of it growing closer and more in love with each other. Thank you for making 2004 so memorable for me and I'll be seeing you very soon for our anniversary. 2005 is going to be an even better year for us, I can tell. I love you.

~Tams { *mwah* }

Mr. Chavis, this is our first Christmas as a married couple and I hope for many many more to come my papi chulo!

~Love your wife Katrina Michele Chavis

MLM you mean the world to me, all my days will never be fulfilled until the day you come home.

~Love, JYL

Michael,

Another Christmas time and my heart still overflows with love for you, I glory in the love and warmth you surround me with though it is a hard time for the both of us, just know you are forever in my heart and more so when the day comes and I am in your arms and you are a free man. Merry Christmas baby!

~Always & Forever your Goofy :)

Eric, I miss you and wish you were here for the Holidays. I love you.

~Buffy

To the love of my life, my husband Randy,

Baby I just want to tell you I love you with all my heart and Merry Christmas & Happy Chanukah! You are my sweet baby and I thank God for blessing me with you!

~Forever, your wifey, your Cel Baby

To my Dr. Dangler, I want to wish you a wonderful holiday season filled with much joy and love. Always remember I love you and miss you.

~Love, Shannan

Bubba,

This is the last Christmas you'll be spending there! A world of wonderful opportunities are before you now, thank you for always being my special friend and for filling my life with the smiles you've brought to me over the miles. You are indeed very special to me and will continue to be.

~Love Always, Bubbles

Merry Christmas to a man that has become a very special friend to me and has been a supportive and wonderful friend. I wish you Carl nothing but the best always & treasure our friendship.

~JL

To my PDH,

Merry Christmas baby. I hope those naughty reindeer don't nibble off your toes. I love you lots, even sans toes.

~Yours to love always, PMK

Chris-

It's hard to be where you are especially this time of year but know you got me as your friend always and just wanted to wish you a Merry Christmas.

~With Love, Your 1st pal :)

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.

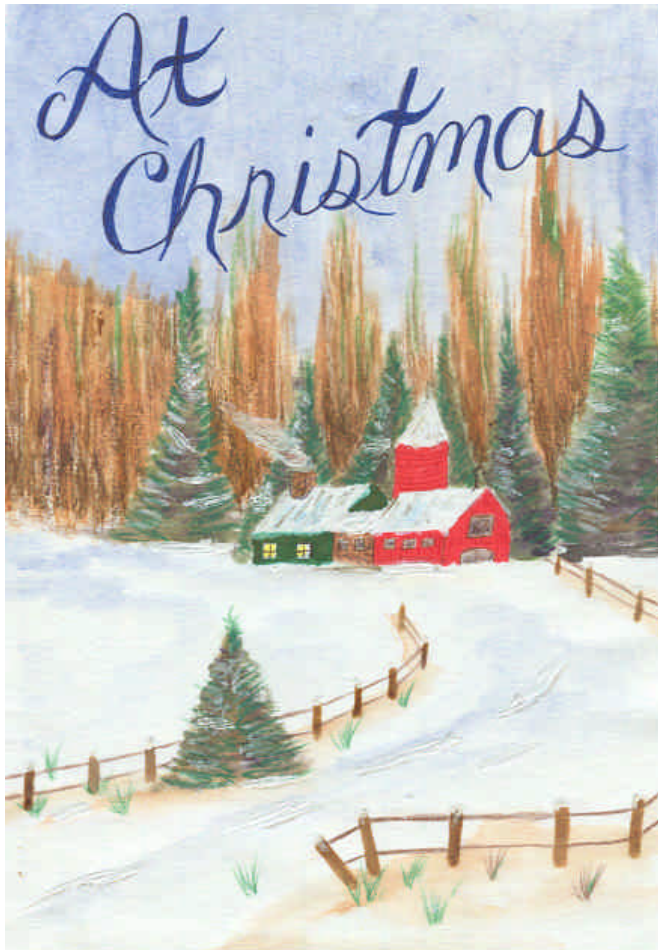


Paint a Picture for me
by Milton Henry -- Hardwick, GA

Paint a picture of your heart.
Help me see within you.
Let me commune with your spirit:
To reinforce my feelings;
To rejuvenate my faith;
To bring sunlight to darkness;
A smile to my face;
Warmth to my heart...
Paint words that accentuate your feelings.
Words that reflect your inner stance.
That display your dynamic emotions:
If there's sadness, use words that are blue;
Happiness, use words with a brighter hue.
Describe you thoughts, your pain,
But be truthful and sincere.
Use vivid strokes that express your sensitivity.
Allow me to see and hear "all" you have to say.
Use disdainful expressions if you'd like to.
Or soft, slow, rhythmical speech.
Paint me hate, anger, love or whatever comes to you.
Just let your expressions be "real".
Show me the essence of your heart.
Project your thoughts my Love:
Tell me what you want; what you need; what you feel!



Chris Binch - Lovelady, TX



Joe Paul - Huntsville, TX



Juan Aguilar — New Boston, TX



Vault Jokes & Junk

...The Fun Side of Life

~Jokes~

The Leaning Tower of Pisa

Did you hear the Italian Government is going to put a clock on the Leaning Tower of Pisa? They figure what good is the inclination, if you don't have the time.

Golf and Funerals

Two guys are golfing on a course that is right next to a cemetery. After they tee off, one of the golfers notices that there is a funeral procession passing by. So he takes off his hat, and places it over his heart. When the funeral is over, the other golfer looks at the guy and asks, "Why did you do that?" The man replies, "Well we were married for almost 40 years. It's the least I could do."

Answer to Last Month's
Puzzle



BRICK BY BRICK

SCAT	NOTES	ETAS	
LAVE	TROVE	PILL	
IVAN	THE	TERRIBLE	
DELTA	ERIE	EEE	
	ASSES	TABORET	
DIN	TOIL	LED	
ARC	ENDOR	LOBES	
BAHT	SEVER	RIVE	
SEERS	SETUP	ROE	
	APB	SODA	DEN
SAMPLED	WELSH		
ADO	IRRA	STOIC	
FOUNTAIN	OF	YOUTH	
ERNE	TETRA	ASEA	
REDO	ERECT	TEST	

~Riddles~

- 1 - President Clinton is listed as our 41st president, but only 40 men have held the office. Why?
- 2 - You are in a cold house in the winter. It is dark. You have one match. There is a candle and there is a wood burning stove. Which do you light first?
- 3 - A man while looking at a photograph said, "Brothers and sisters have I none. That man's father is my father's son." Who was the person in the photograph?

Answers next month

FLOWER POWER

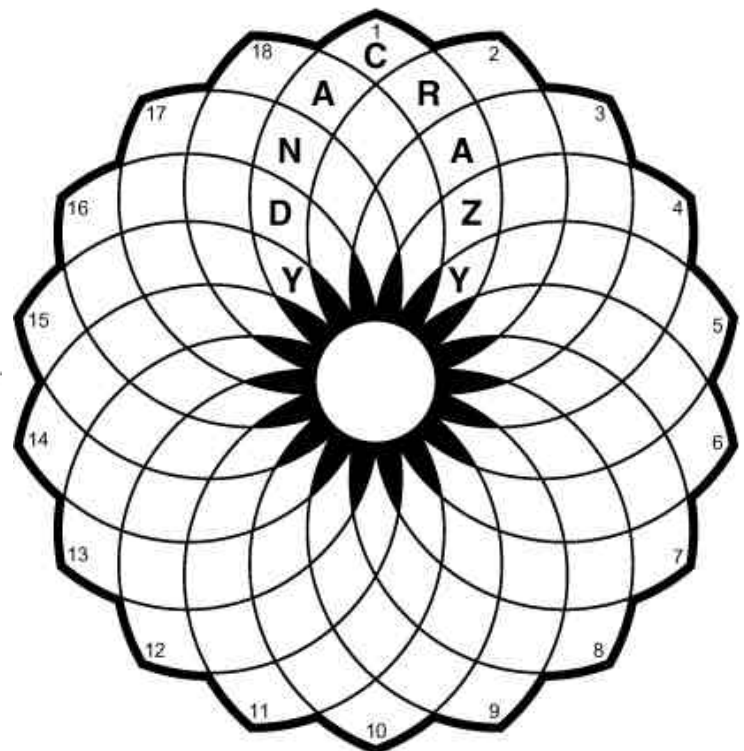
The answers to this petaled puzzle will go in a curve from the number on the outside to the center of the flower. Each number in the flower will have two 5-letter answers. One goes in a clockwise direction and the second in a counterclockwise direction.

CLOCKWISE

1. Maniacal
2. Cheesy pie
3. Name
4. Ms. Ladd
5. Sparrow's seat
6. Islamic holy book
7. Counterfeit
8. Great Lake
9. Redolent lumber
10. Less polite
11. ___ up (tense)
12. Preserves
13. Parisian waterway
14. Michigan city
15. ___-baloney
16. Unrefined
17. Bearlike mammal
18. Hirsute

COUNTERCLOCKWISE

1. Sweet treat
2. Lion group
3. Regal headpiece
4. Baseball's Dean
5. Swanky
6. Australian marsupial
7. Pat or Debby
8. Steed
9. Bandleader Xavier _____
10. Encore showing
11. Praise
12. Car type
13. Singer Leo _____
14. Intense excitement
15. Wielded
16. Goatee sites
17. Lying flat
18. Frequent



Answers next month



LostVault Ads



To all of my Friends, incarcerated and free world, I wish you happy days each and every-day of the year! I know my mail has been so slow, and I'm sorry, but I am thinking about you all!

Much Love
~Motty

Brooks -

Know that even though I am not there in person - I am with you in spirit! You will forever have my heart! I love you - I'll still be here waiting for you to come home! Merry Christmas!
~Jackie



To our pals & LV - Merry Christmas!! Glad we have you as friends!!

Steven - Te estoy extendiendo mi mano, estare aqui para cuando me necesites.
Brandy - I can't help it if you're a nut magnet!
Oso - No te preocupes pro mi, estoy bien.
Joe - Thank you for the *gorgeous* card.
David - I am filling those jewelry boxes!
Sean - I don't need any wine, I have painkillers :))
Don - How's the ASCE going?
And anyone else I didn't mention specifically...

I know I have not been the best writer lately. I am enjoying myself and what I am receiving in return for embracing Life and her precious treasures. I will be back to normal sooner than later.

I care for you all very much. Know you are all in my thoughts this holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

All my love,
~Michelle



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends and family at LostVault! May you all have a safe holiday and may all your dreams come true!

Love,
~Libbie



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

Horoscopes

**A Future Glimpse
December 2004**

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Don't rely on others to handle the workload. Your determination and stamina will make your work look less and effortless. The distance may make you both appreciate each other more. Opportunities to pamper yourself may unfold.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21) You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas. You can elaborate on your creative ideas and get involved in groups that relate to the arts. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Things at work have been moving quickly and you may be feeling a little uncertain about the changes taking place.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) To avoid any minor health problems, don't get too stressed. Relationships may be hard to handle. Misunderstandings could cause confusion and upset. You can bet that situations will get out of hand if you allow others to interfere.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. Your ability to help others will win you points. Use your head and do things to your liking. Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Business trips might prove unproductive. Your ability to take hold of a situation will surely bring you popularity and leadership. Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Don't overindulge in anyway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Your fight for those less fortunate is not likely to end in sweet victory. Avoid letting family get involved in your personal life. There's a good chance that they won't come back. Be professional, and you will advance much more quickly.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Get together with friends and do something entertaining but not too expensive. You have a lot to offer. You may find your self in a romantic situation. Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 -Nov. 22) Outings with relatives or good friends will provide you with stimulating conversation. Romantic relationships could be under pressure. Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception. Don't spend too much in order to impress others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Don't hesitate to present your unique ideas. Good friends will give you honest answers. Make those phone calls and pay your bills. Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You will gain a lot if you listen. Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. Do something together and you'll be surprised how sweet a deal you can make.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) A long discussion is in order if you wish to clear the air. Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted. You can make financial gains if you are prepared to take a risk. The great outdoors will allow you to teach youngsters some of the things you learned when growing up.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Travel and entertainment will be pleasurable. You are exceptional at presenting your ideas. You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs. Your lack of interest in your partner is a problem.

